St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

711 & 805 W 5th St., Neillsville, WI 54456

Member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

"Welcome Visitors & Members!"

To those who are visiting us for the first time, we extend our sincere welcome; to our friends who know us we renew our welcome; to those who seek a church home we invite you to be part of our family and enjoy fellowship with our Savior.
For further assistance in worship and information on our church, please see the back cover.

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 5, 2026

This weekend is the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America. American citizens from many backgrounds are celebrating in many ways. What makes Christian citizens different? Christian citizenship is not connected to a particular political party. Christian citizenship is not connected to particular civic activities. Christians understand that they live in two kingdoms. God does not need our good works, but our neighbors do. God's Word informs our choice of political activities as we seek to be faithful to our calling as Christian citizens.

Our focus today: WHAT MAKES CHRISTIANS DIFFERENT-CHRISTIANS LIVE IN TWO KINGDOMS

Communion: *We will celebrate the Lord's Supper today at the rail.*

St. John's practices "member communion." We ask, therefore, that only those who are members of St. John's or another WELS/ELS congregation partake of the sacrament.

Hymn 776 With the Lord Begin Your Task CW 21

Text: Morgen- und Abend-segen, Waldenburg, 1734, abr.; tr. W. Gustave Polack, 1890–1950, alt.
Tune: Peter Frank, 1616–1675
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Tune: Public domain

Service of Word and Sacrament CW 93

M: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

Confession of Sins

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie

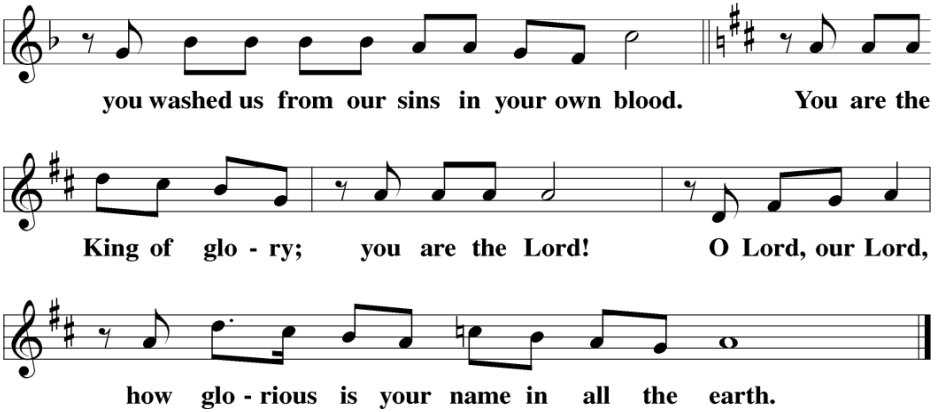
M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.



M: Let us pray.
Mercifully grant, O God, that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts, for without your help we are unable to please you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

First Reading: Daniel 1:3–21

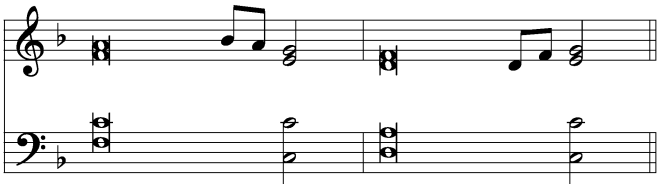
3The king told Ashpenaz, the chief of his court officials, to bring some young Israelite men from the royal family or from the nobility. 4He was to choose young men who had no blemish, who were good looking, who had insight into all kinds of wisdom, who possessed knowledge, understanding, and learning, and who were capable of serving in the king's palace, in order to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans. 5The king assigned them daily rations from the special royal food and from the king's own wine. He ordered that they should be trained for three years. At the end of training they were to serve the king. 6In this group of young men were the Judeans Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. 7The chief of the officials gave them new names. He gave Daniel the name Belteshazzar, Hananiah the name Shadrak, Mishael the name Meshak, and Azariah the name Abednego.

[8]Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the special food of the king or with the wine that he drank. So he sought permission from the chief official, so that he would not have to defile himself. [9]God made the chief of the officials favorable and sympathetic toward Daniel. [10]Then the chief of the officials said to Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who assigned your food and your drink. Why should he see your faces looking less healthy than those of the other young men who are your age? You put my life at risk before the king."
[11]Daniel said to the superintendent whom the chief of the officials had placed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, [12]"Please test your servants for ten days. Tell them to give us only vegetables, and we will eat them and drink water. [13]Observe our appearance and the appearance of the young men who eat the special royal food. Then deal with your servants based on what you see." [14]So he listened to what they said about this and tested them for ten days.
[15]At the end of ten days, their appearance was noticeably better than that of the others. They were healthier than any of the young men who had been eating the special royal food. [16]So the superintendent permanently took away the special royal food and the wine they were to drink and gave them only vegetables. [17]As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and insight into all kinds of literature, as well as wisdom. In addition, Daniel also understood every kind of vision and dream.
[18]At the end of the time which the king had set for them to be brought to him, the chief of the officials brought them before Nebuchadnezzar. [19]The king spoke with them, and none of the others were found to be comparable to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. So they served the king. [20]In every matter concerning wisdom and understanding that the king sought from them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and spell casters in his entire kingdom. [21]So Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

Psalm 96A *CW 21*

Refrain

Tone



Sing to the LORD a / new song;
sing to the LORD, / all the earth.
Sing to the LORD, / praise his name;
proclaim his salvation day / after day.
Declare his glory among the / nations,
his marvelous deeds among all / peoples.
Ascribe to the LORD the glory / due his name;
bring an offering and come in- / to his courts. ***Refrain***

Let all creation rejoice before the LORD, / for he comes,
he comes to / judge the earth.
He will judge the world in / righteousness
and the peoples in his / faithfulness.
Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. ***Refrain***

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Second Reading: Romans 13:1–7

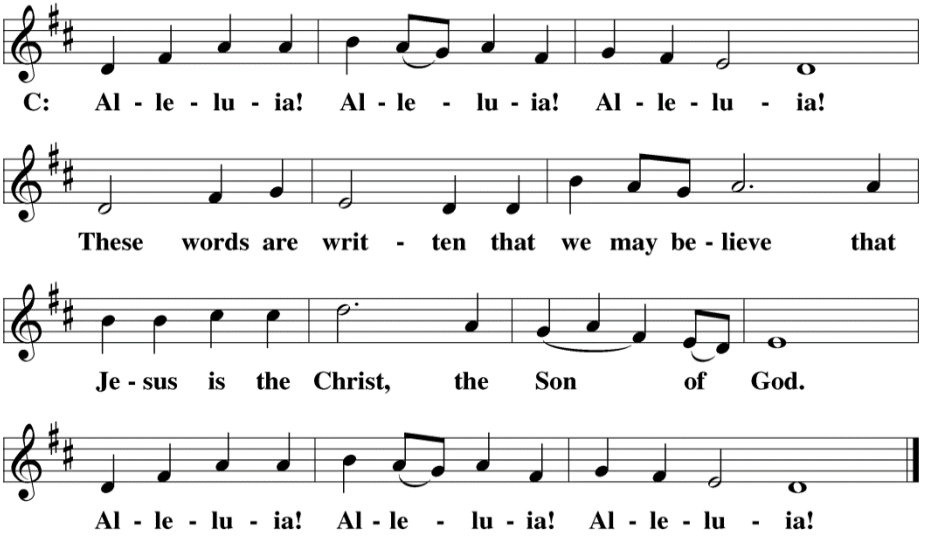
[1]Everyone must submit to the governing authorities. For no authority exists except by God, and the authorities that do exist have been established by God. [2]Therefore the one who rebels against the authority is opposing God's institution, and those who oppose will bring judgment on themselves.

[3]For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to evil. Would you like to have no fear of the one in authority? Do what is good, and you will receive praise from him, [4]because he is God's servant for your benefit. But if you do wrong, be afraid, because he does not carry the sword without reason. He is God's servant, a punisher to bring wrath on the wrongdoer. [5]Therefore it is necessary to submit, not only because of wrath, but also because of conscience.

[6]For this reason you also pay taxes, because the authorities are God's ministers, who are employed to do this very thing. [7]Pay what you owe to all of them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, and honor to whom honor is owed.

Verse of the Day: Colossians 2:10

Alleluia! And you have been brought to fullness in him. Christ is the head over every ruler and authority. Alleluia!



Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:15–22

15 Then the Pharisees went out and plotted together how to trap him in
his words. 16 They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians.
"Teacher," they said, "we know that you are truthful and teach the way
of God in accord with the truth. You are not concerned about gaining
anyone's approval because you are not swayed by appearances. 17 So
tell us, what do you think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"
18 But Jesus knew their evil purpose and said, "Why are you testing me,
you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin used for the tax."
They brought him a denarius.
20 He asked them, "Whose image and inscription is this?"
21 "Caesar's," they replied to him.
Then he said to them, "Therefore give to Caesar the things that are
Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."
22 When they heard this, they were amazed. Then they left him and
went away.

Hymn 775 Before You, Lord, We Bow CW 21

Text: Francis Scott Key, 1779–1843, alt.
Tune: John Darwall, 1731–1789
Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON TEXT: Romans 13:1-7
GOD BLESS OUR NATIVE LAND: THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN LIVING IN TWO KINGDOMS

I. **Citizens of a heavenly kingdom, a kingdom of grace.**
II. **Citizens of an earthly kingdom, a kingdom of earthly governments.**

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING *The members of St. John's have joined together, in gratitude for God's grace in Jesus, to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world and support this gospel ministry with their time, talents, and treasures. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry, but please use this QR code to fill out a short form giving us a digital record of your attendance. Visitors may also fill out our guest register by the drinking fountain in the entryway.*

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

M: Almighty God, we acknowledge with thanks that all we have and enjoy is a gift from your gracious hand. We come before you today in heartfelt appreciation for our nation and its people.

C: We thank you for enabling us to worship you in freedom and to serve you without fear.

M: You have enriched us with the bounties of farm and factory, the beauty of forest and mountain, and the marvels of medicine and science.

C: For all these blessings, we praise and glorify you.

M: Look with favor upon our nation, and preserve our cherished liberties. Enable our leaders to govern with wisdom, honesty, courage, and justice. Protect those who serve in the armed forces and those who maintain peace and safety in our communities.

C: Give us willingness to obey our nation's laws and to work for the common good.

M: Keep our financial institutions secure and our economy strong. Bless our fields that they may produce abundant harvests. Guard us from calamities of nature and accident, and spare our land from the ravages of disease and epidemic.

C: Teach us not to worry but to cast all our cares on you.

M: Strengthen the homes of our nation. By your Spirit lead husbands and wives to love each other, parents to nurture their children, young adults to assume responsibility, and children to show respect.

To you, O Lord, we bring our thanks and our requests.

C: Hear our prayers for Jesus' sake. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing.

He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Sanctus

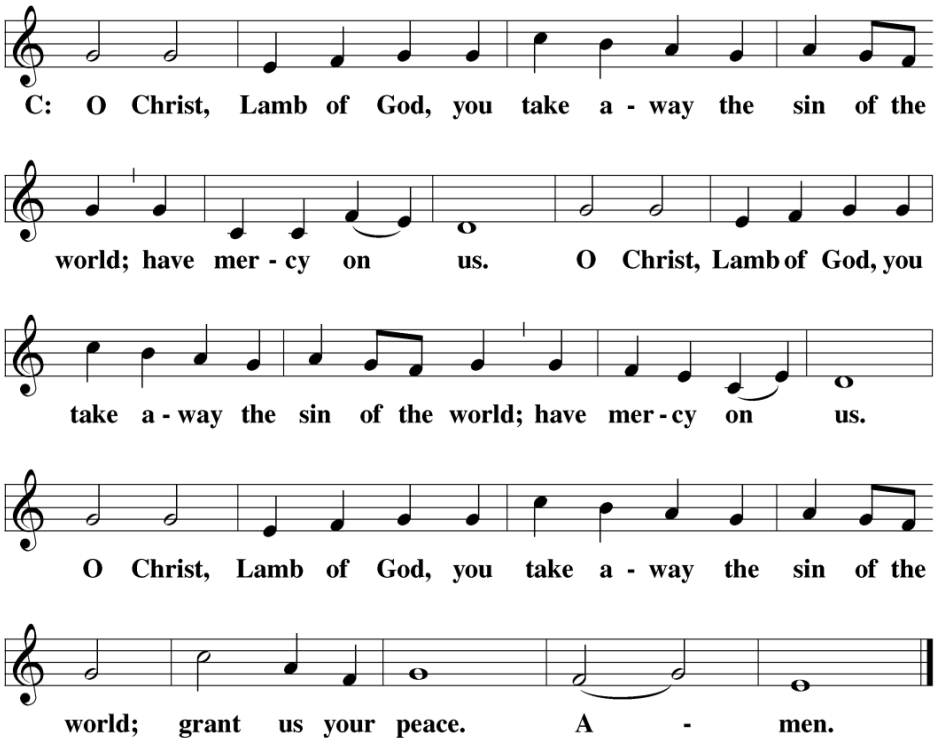
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

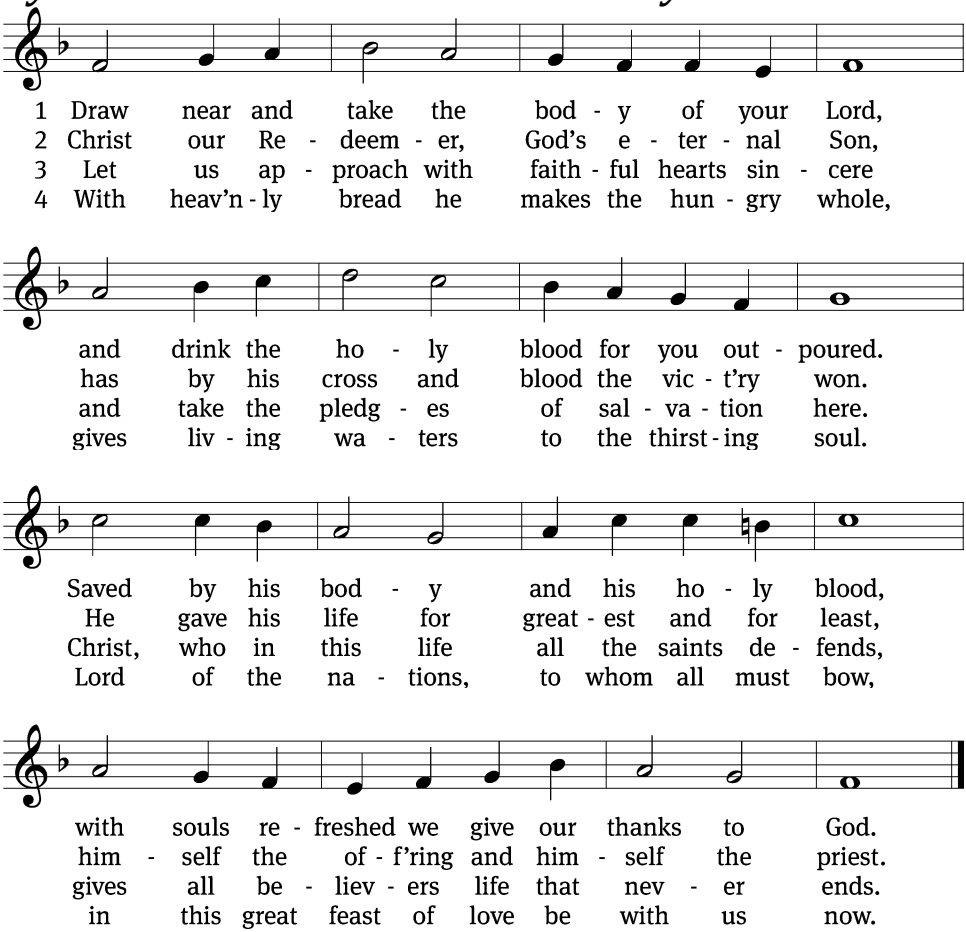
M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



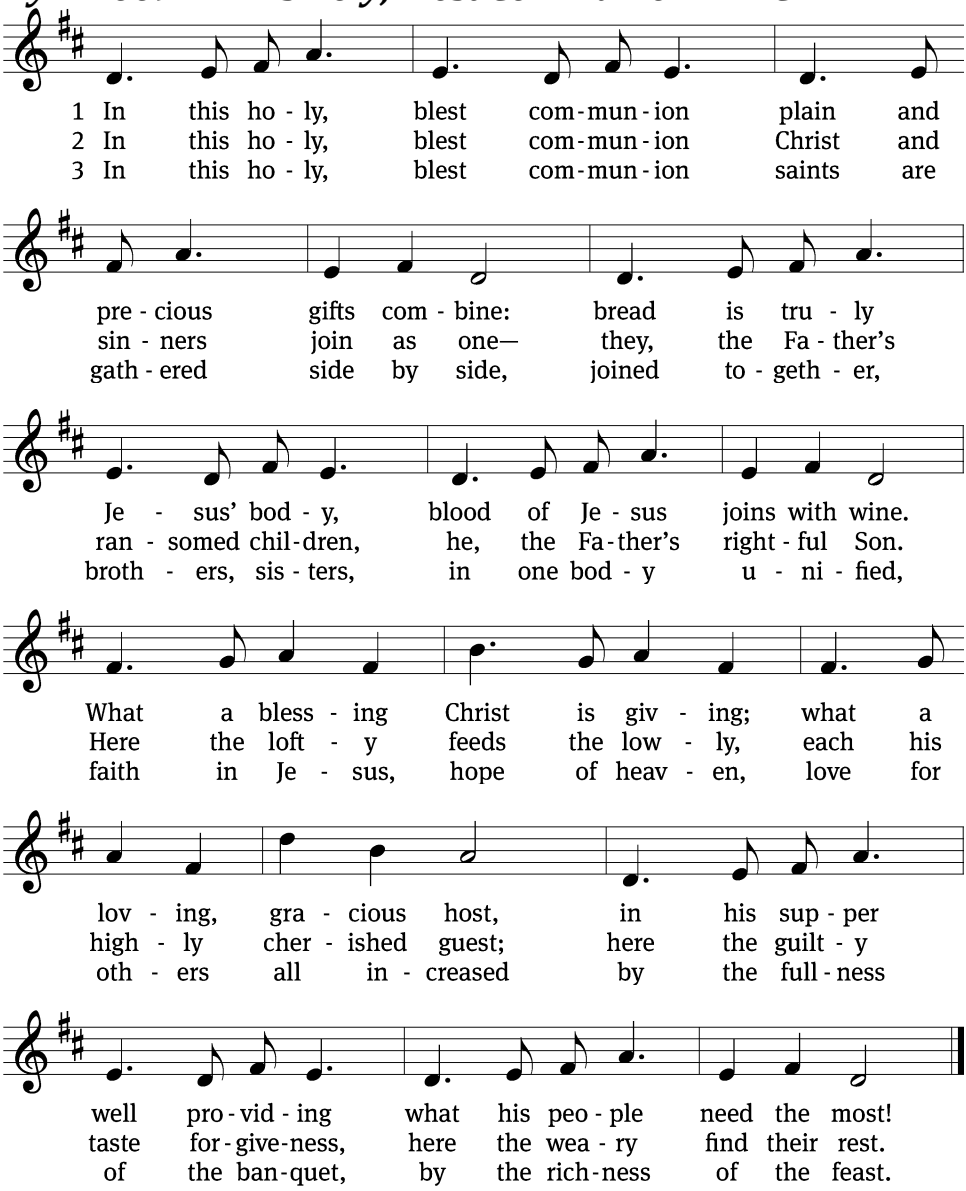
DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: 661 & 669

Hymn 661 Draw Near and Take the Body *CW 21*



Text: Latin, 7th cent., abr.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois
Text and tune: Public domain

Hymn 669 In This Holy, Blest Communion *CW 21*



Text: Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963
Tune: Welsh
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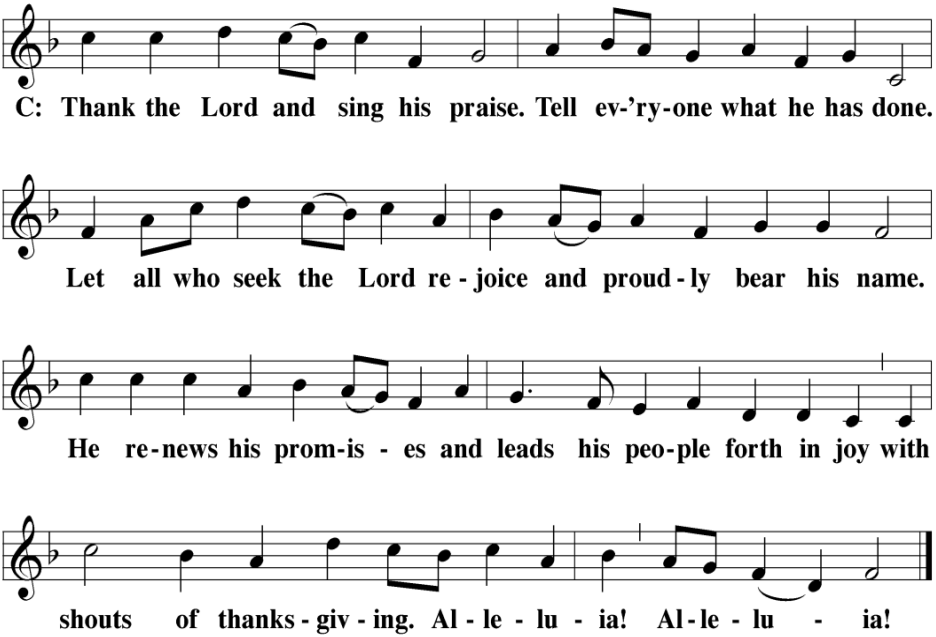
Tune: Public domain

THANK THE LORD



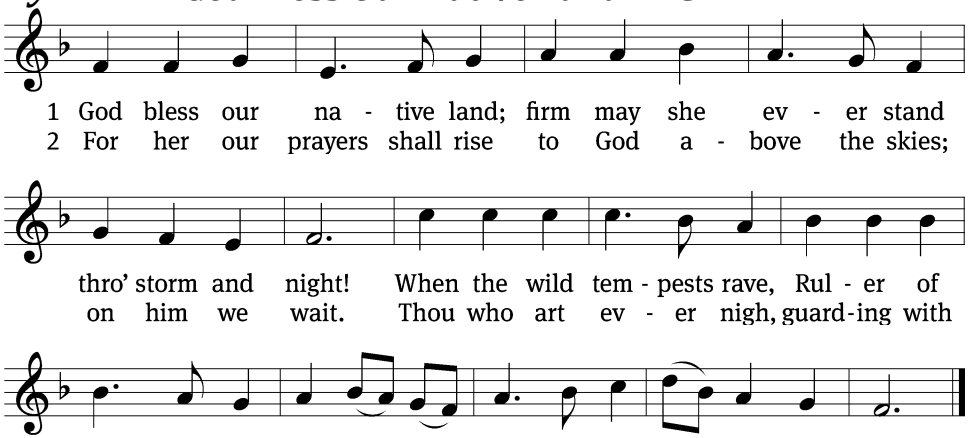
M: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
C: **his mercy endures forever.**

M: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
C: **We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

Hymn 774 God Bless Our Native Land CW 21



Text (st. 1): Charles T. Brooks, 1813–1883, st. 1, alt.; (st. 2): John S. Dwight, 1813–1893
Tune: Thesaurus Musicus, London, c. 1740
Text and tune: Public domain

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This Week at St. John's: July 5, 2026

SERVING US TODAY

Pastor: Pastor Ron Baerbock
Greeters: Lynda Urban & Tonia Urban
Ushers: Team 3-Dick Urban's team
Altar Guild: Judy Trunkel
Bulletins: Pat Strangfeld
July Website: Betty Nemitz in thanks for God's Blessings

SERVING US NEXT SUNDAY

Pastor: Pastor Ron Baerbock
Greeters: Marilyn Shaw & Alice Glinski
Ushers: Team 4-Rex Roehl's team
Altar Guild: Megan Allard

~OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW & SERVE~

TODAY	9:00 AM Communion Service
TUESDAY	7:00 PM Church Council
NEXT SUNDAY	9:00 AM Communion Service
	3:00 PM Installation Service
	4:00 PM Pot Luck Supper

Worship the Lord with Gladness:

June 21: 96
June 28: 87

Worship with Our Care of God's Wealth:

Thankoffering Given June 21:
$4,882.70 (Home); $221.00 (Missions)
Needed per week for Home: $9,035.00

Thankoffering Given June 28:
$8,213.20 (Home); $291.50 (Missions)
Needed per week for Home: $9,035.00

Owed on line of credit: $49,153.28

CHURCH NEWS

Guest Pastor: *We thank Pastor Ron Baerbock for leading our worship service this morning and look forward to hearing his message from God's Word. Thank you for your willing service, Pastor Baerbock!*

Vacancy Notes: *Pastor Baerbock will be leading our worship service next Sunday as well.*

Pastor Wilke *of Globe & Christie has been called to serve as our* ***vacancy pastor****. He will be visiting shut-ins, making hospital calls, and conducting any funerals we may have during the vacancy. If you or a loved one is hospitalized, please call Pastor Wilke at* ***308-660-2648****, or you can email him at* ***pastorwilke@gmail.com****.*

Communion during the vacancy: In order to make things as stress-free and uncomplicated as possible for our guest pastors, the council decided that we would have communion at the rail all of the remaining communion Sundays during the vacancy (today and July 12).

Pastor Walsh Installation: *The installation service for Pastor Walsh will be held at* ***3:00 p.m. next Sunday, July 12th****. We hope many of our members can attend this very important service.*

Pot-Luck Meal: *Following the installation service, we will be having a pot-luck supper in the school gym. All of you are invited to attend. Please bring a dish to pass.*

Gift Card Shower: *Since Pastor and Ruth Walsh already have household supplies, we thought a gift card "shower" would be a good idea. If you'd like to give them a gift, please consider purchasing local-area gift cards. This will help them to get used to the area as they shop. You can give them your gift personally, or you can bring your gift to the pot-luck meal on July 12th.*

Welcome to the Walsh Family: *Pastor Tim Walsh, his wife Ruth, and their three children Eliana, Henry, and Levi, arrived here in Neillsville this past Friday. We welcome them to Neillsville and to St. John's!!*

Note from Pastor Walsh: *"Hello, brothers and sisters at St. John's! I am eager to arrive and begin serving you all. Over the next year, I hope to visit all our members at home. Please start thinking about when your schedule would allow for a short visit from me. God richly bless you all!" – Pastor Walsh*

St. John's Church Apparel Order Now Open! *It's time to update your wardrobe with new church apparel! Whether you are looking for t-shirts, long sleeves, hoodies, or polos, we have a variety of logo styles and sizes and colors available. Please visit https://jbc.chipply.com/stjohns/ to view the options and place your order. Orders must be submitted by* ***midnight tonight****. If you have any questions, please contact the church office or Mr. Allard.*

Day Camp: *Day Camp this year is scheduled for July 13th-17th. The theme for this year is* ***Ride the Wave!*** *with our theme passage taken from* ***Isaiah 43:2 "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze."*** *Kids will enjoy all the fun of summer camp such as games, crafts, songs, snacks, Bible stories, and skits.*

We will once again be hosting Camp Phillip Staff to help run camp and to bring something new to our community! We are running low on funds this year in the Day Camp account and could use monetary donations. Also, to help camp run smoothly- we need volunteers! We will need a couple individuals willing to lead a section. We will also need counselors to help lead children through each activity (these can be teenagers or adults) Please consider helping with this exciting outreach opportunity!

If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions about camp, please contact Megan Allard (715) 937-7535. If you are interested in donating any needed items, please take a look at the donation sheets on the table in the entryway.

FIC: *The July edition of "Forward In Christ" is available in the entryway.*

Semi-Annual Voters' Meeting: *Our semi-annual voters' meeting will be held on Sunday, July 26th, right after the worship service. Please mark your calendars and make plans to attend.*

Reports for the semi-annual meeting will be available next Sunday, July 12th. Please look for those.

Council Positions: Elections for officers and elders will take place at the semi-annual meeting. Please consider whether the Lord has given you the gifts to serve His church. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to have your name placed on the ballot, please contact any of our current church council members or talk to John Hagedorn.

Offering Encouragement: *God is the ultimate giver, and Christians are called to reflect His generosity. As His children, we have received many gifts from Him, the greatest being the gift of salvation. Everything we own belongs to God, and He cares about what we do with our money. Giving offerings in the church is a tangible way to mirror God's character and participate in His work. When we give, we are expressing trust in His continued faithfulness and provision, even when it requires sacrifice.*

"Bring the complete tithe to the storehouse so that there may be food in my house. Just test me in this, says the Lord of Armies. See whether I do not open for you the windows of heaven and pour down blessing on you, until there is more than enough." – Malachi 3:10

(If you are on vacation or traveling during the summer, you can make use of our online giving option, "MyEOffering.")

ELECTRONIC GIVING AVAILABLE through myEoffering

1)Go to our website at www.stjohnsneillsville.com

2)Click on the Church button.

3)Once you are on the Church page, scroll down a little and click on the picture "donate now-myEoffering" (on the right side of the page.) This link will take you to the Eoffering page.

4)You will need to set up an account for yourself. You can choose to have your payment taken from your bank account or from a credit card. Once you get through the set-up process, you will be emailed a verification link that you will need to click on.

5)Once your account is created, you will need to search for and select St. John's Lutheran Church. Look for the 711 W 5th St. address to be sure you are in the right spot.

6)Once you have found our church page, you will see a list of funds from which to select. You will be able to determine the amount and frequency of your offering.

7)There is a 30 cent processing fee per transaction. You will be given a choice whether or not you want to add that 30 cents to your offering. That is completely up to you. If you don't wish to add that to your offerings, it will be covered by the church.

8)As soon as you have finished the process, it shows up on our administrative page, and your offering will be recorded as soon as it is deposited into our account (takes up to six days).

9)This process can also be done with your mobile phone. Scan the code below to get started.

MyEoffering is safe-it uses the latest encryption technologies to protect your private information.

To assist you in worship:

- ✞ Personal listening devices are available for anyone to use. Please talk to the ushers for assistance.
- ✞ Large-print bulletins available in the entryway.
- ✞ Personal Prayers: Red Hymnal (pp. 10-11); Blue Hymnal (inside front cover)
- ✞ Preparation for Lord's Supper: Red Hymnal (p. 156); Blue Hymnal (pp. 295-296)
- ✞ Luther's Small Catechism: Blue Hymnal (pp. 286-293)

We love seeing young children in church as we want families to worship together. We also love to hear children making a "joyful noise to the Lord." If you need some privacy for feeding an infant or changing a diaper, please make use of our parents' room off the north side of the entryway where you can still listen to the service.

***Visitors**, if you would like to know more about our church or school, please introduce yourself to our pastor. He would be delighted to speak with you and serve you in whatever way he can.*

St. John's Lutheran Church & School
711 & 805 W 5th St., Neillsville, WI 54456
Contact Info

Church & School Office:	*stjohns1886@gmail.com*
	715-743-2501
Nathan Wilke, Vacancy Pastor:	*pastorwilke@gmail.com*
	308-660-2648 (cell)
Mike Allard, Principal:	*allardmj1@gmail.com*
	715-937-7534 (cell)
John Hagedorn, Chairman:	*hagedornjohnw2@gmail.com*
	715-743-4653 (home)

Website: *www.stjohnsneillsville.com*
Facebook (church): *www.facebook.com/stjohnsneillsville/*
Facebook (school): *www.facebook.com/stjohnshornets/*

Worship Schedule
Sunday-9:00 a.m.