St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

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

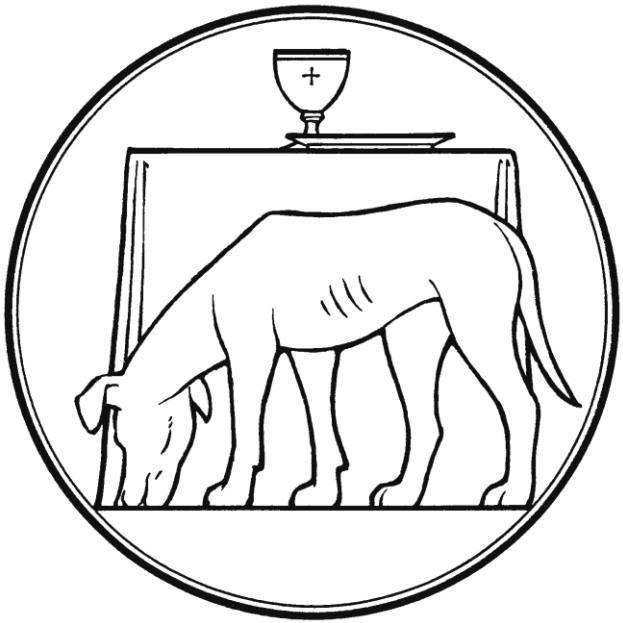
Member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

"Welcome Visitors & Members!"

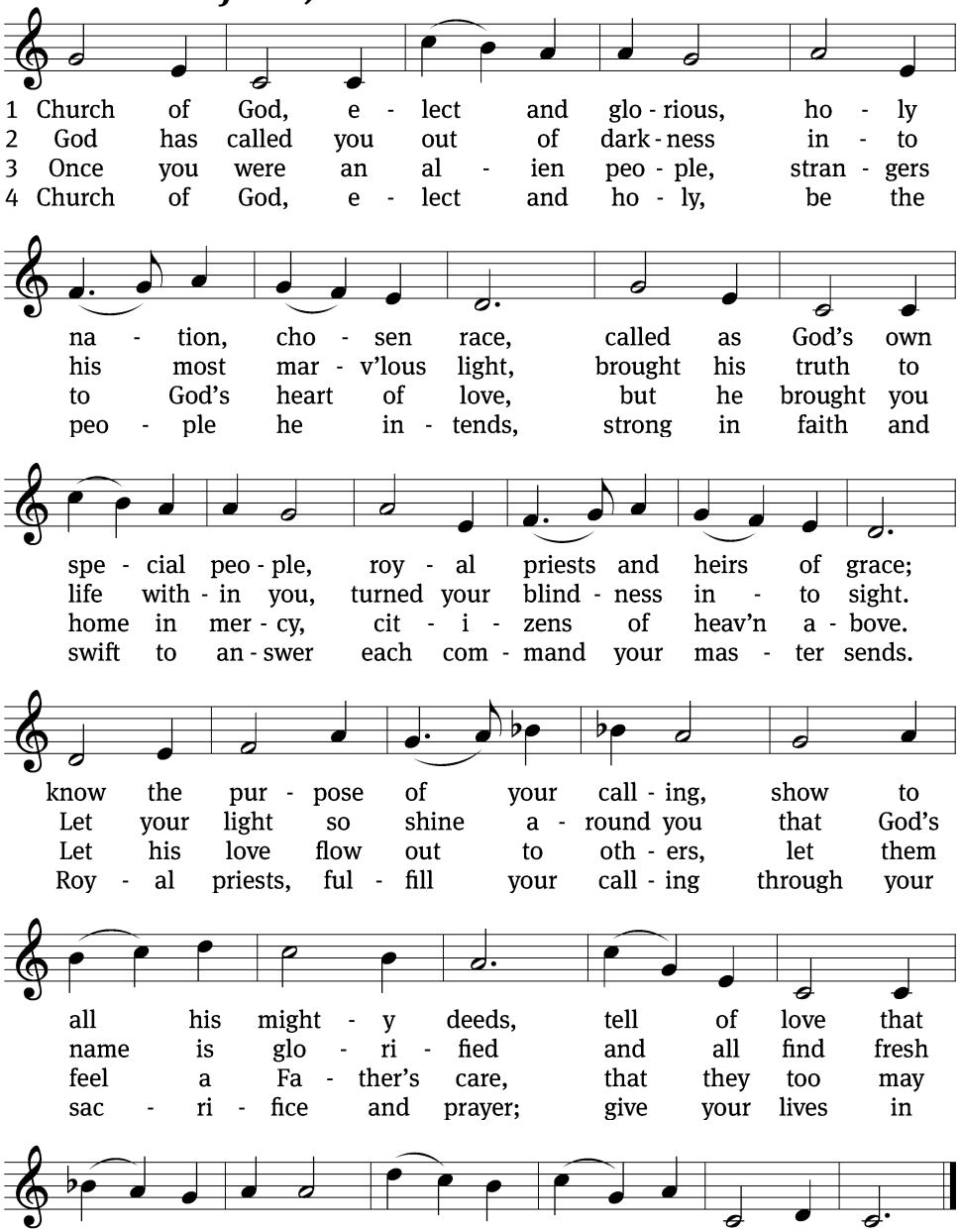
To those who are visiting us for the first time, we extend our sincere welcome; to our friends who know us we renew our welcome; to those who seek a church home we invite you to be part of our family and enjoy fellowship with our Savior.
For further assistance in worship and information on our church,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

12th Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 2026



Our focus today: UNEXPECTED TRUTHS-THE CHURCH IS FOR ALL PEOPLE

854 Church of God, Elect and Glorious CW 21

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Service of Holy Baptism

In the name of the Father and of the ✞ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession

Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded Baptism when he said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

All of us are born into this world with a deep need for Baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death. But while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. He took away our sin by giving his life on the cross. In Baptism, he clothes us with the robe of his righteousness and gives us a new life. We recall what Baptism means for our daily lives:

Baptism means that the sinful nature in us
should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance,
and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death.
It also means that a new person should daily arise
to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

As baptized children of God, we confess our sins:
Holy God, gracious Father,
I am sinful by nature
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
with his innocent suffering and death.
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

God saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit and united us to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Every day God forgives your sins, removes your guilt, and strengthens you to defeat Satan's power. His promise is for you and your children, and he will never forsake you. Your sins are forgiven. You are clothed with Christ. You are at peace with God now and forever.
Amen.

Sacrament of Baptism
The Gospel according to St. Mark:

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

Frank Charlie Lindberg, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Receive the sign of the cross on the head and heart ✞ to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

Miseli Andrea Garcia, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Receive the sign of the cross on the head and heart ✞ to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has given you the new birth of water and the Spirit and has forgiven all your sins. May he strengthen you with his grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

Let us pray.
We give thanks, most merciful Father, that you have received Frank and Miseli as your own children and made them members of Christ's body, the church. Now, we pray, grant to them and to all your church on earth that, being dead to sin, we may live to righteousness and, being buried with Christ into his death, we may also share in his resurrection, so that, with all your saints, we may inherit eternal life; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Word

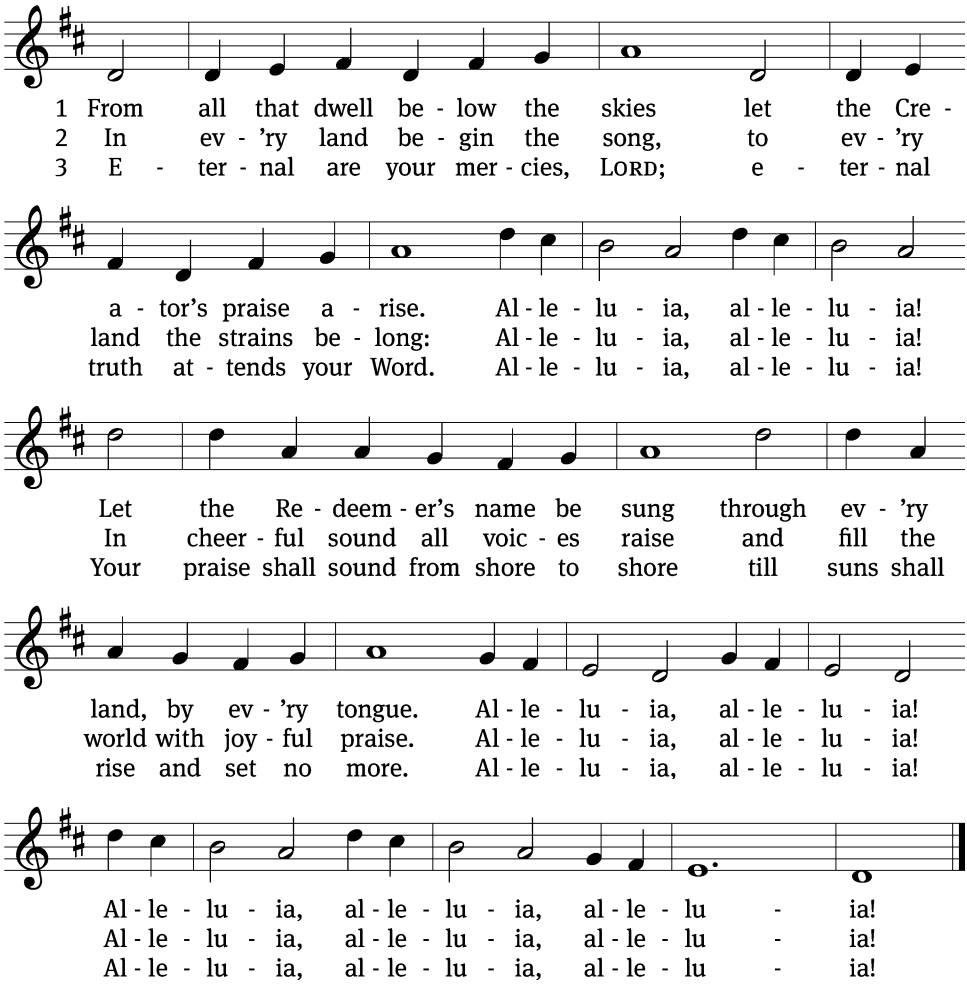
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day
Let us pray.

Gracious God, in Christ you bring people from near and far into the fellowship of your church. Open our eyes to your saving plan, and move us to embrace all who seek your salvation so that we may rejoice together at the banquet of your love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 56:1,6–8
[1]This is what the LORD says.
Protect justice, and carry out righteousness,
because my salvation is coming very soon.
My righteousness is ready to be revealed.
[6]Then the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him and to love the name of the LORD
and to become his servants,
every one of them who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it,
those who take hold of my covenant—
[7]I will bring them to my holy mountain,
and I will make them glad in my house of prayer.
Their whole burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on my altar.
For my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples of the world.
[8]This is the declaration of God the LORD,
who gathers Israel's dispersed people:
"I will gather still more people to my house besides the ones already gathered."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 117B From All That Dwell below the Skies CW 21 Psalter

Text (sts. 1, 3): Isaac Watts; (st. 2): A Pocket Hymn Book
Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Köln, 1623
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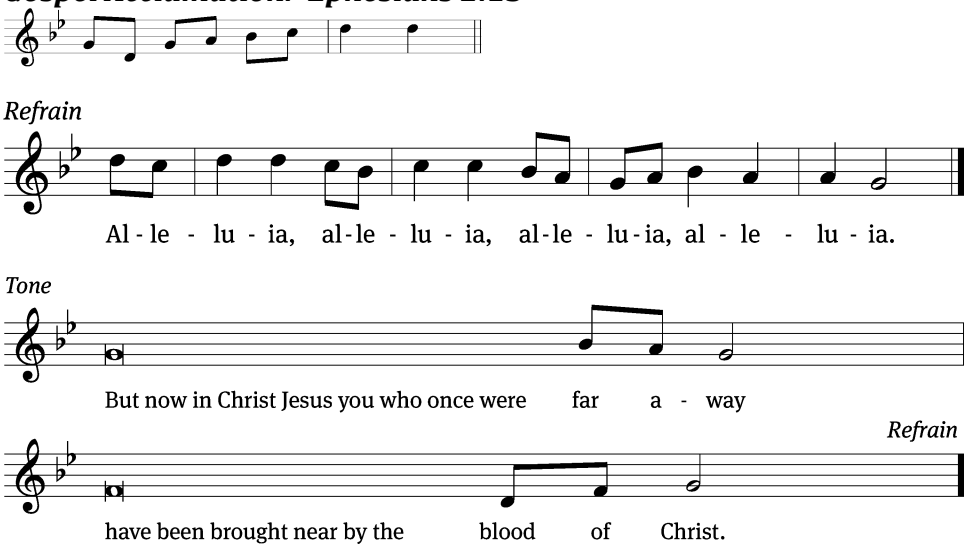
Second Reading: Ephesians 2:13–22

13But now in Christ Jesus, you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14For he himself is our peace. He made the two groups one by destroying the wall of hostility that divided them 15when he abolished the law of commandments and regulations in his flesh. He did this to create in himself one new person out of the two, in this way making peace. 16And he did this to reconcile both to God in one body through the cross by putting the hostility to death on it. 17He also came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. 18For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

19So then, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of God's household. 20You have been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the Cornerstone. 21In him the whole building is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22In him you too are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Ephesians 2:13



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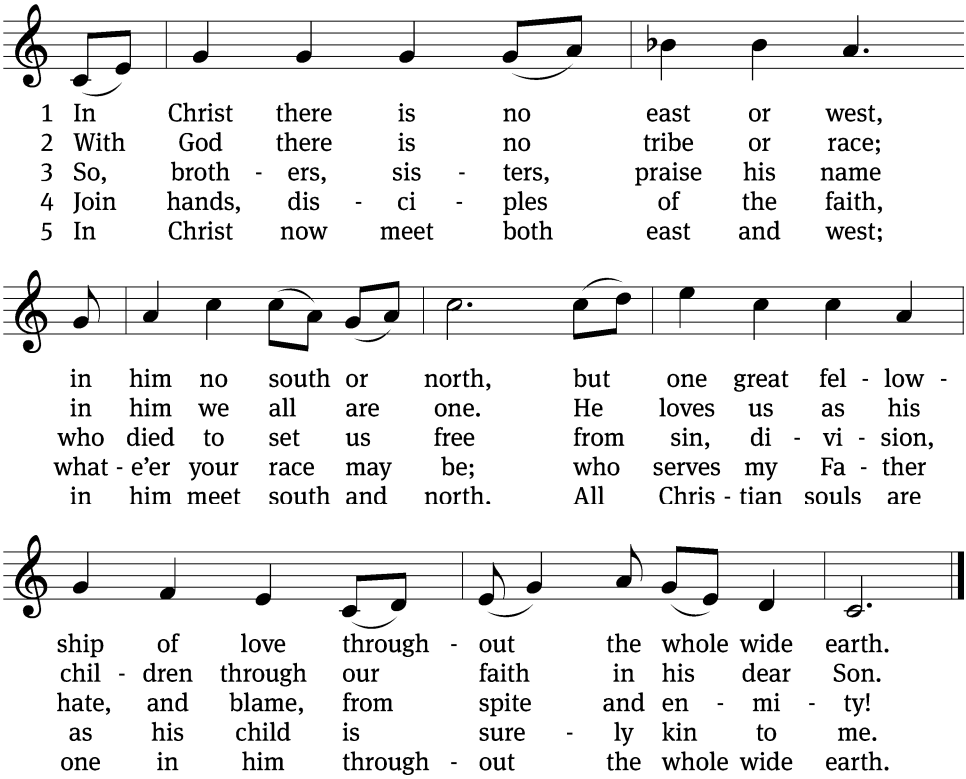
Gospel Reading: Matthew 15:21–28

21 Jesus left that place and withdrew into the region of Tyre and Sidon.
22 There a Canaanite woman from that territory came and kept crying out, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David! A demon is severely tormenting my daughter!"
23 But he did not answer her a word.
His disciples came and pleaded, "Send her away, because she keeps crying out after us."
24 He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."
25 But she came and knelt in front of him, saying, "Lord, help me."
26 He answered her, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to their little dogs."
27 "Yes, Lord," she said, "yet their little dogs also eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."
28 Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, your faith is great! It will be done for you, just as you desire." And her daughter was healed at that very hour.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Children's Message

860 In Christ There Is No East or West CW 21



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Tune: African-American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866–1949
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Sermon Text: Matthew 15:21–28
Sermon Theme: Faith Knows What Jesus is Really Like

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Installation of Members Who Participate in the Public Ministry

Dear Brothers,

In Holy Baptism, our Lord Jesus Christ set you free from sin and death and made you members of his body, the church. Through Word and sacrament, the Holy Spirit has nurtured your faith and increased your love.

You have now been appointed to serve our Lord on behalf of this congregation. The Lord has entrusted you with responsibilities that you are to carry out according to his Word. St. Paul wrote concerning service in the church: "We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully."

St. Paul spoke to all who serve the Savior: “It is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.” The Lord has promised to be with you and give you the gifts you will need to carry out the work entrusted to you.

As servants of Jesus Christ and leaders in this congregation, you are to set aside time for study of the Scriptures so that you may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. You are to strive to be an example of Christian faith and life so that others may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

So that the congregation may be assured of your willingness to serve, I ask you in the presence of God and this congregation:

Will you diligently and faithfully carry out the work entrusted to you, according to the ability which God gives you? If so, answer: I will, and I ask God to help me.
I will, and I ask God to help me.

Installation
I install you in your offices at St. John’s Lutheran Church in the name of the Father and of the ✞ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The Lord pour out on you his Holy Spirit for the work you have been appointed to do that you may faithfully carry out all your duties and responsibilities with the Word of God as your confidence and guide.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, I urge you to regard these fellow believers as servants of Jesus Christ and God’s gifts to his church. Pray for them and support them in their service so that believers may be strengthened in faith and many others may come to know the Savior and the eternal hope he gives.

The Lord bless you and make your service a blessing to others.

Prayer of the Church

Eternal Lord, give us peace as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Lead us to see clearly the path you have laid out for us.

Work in us so that we believe and live the Word we have heard today.

Provide courage and compassion to all who preach and teach your Word. Fill them with a love like yours as they proclaim your grace to us and all people.

Move us to love all ministers of the Word wherever they serve.

Guard and guide the families of our congregation. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment, respect, and patience. Help parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus all their lives. Grant joy to those who are single, and make them a blessing to others.

Protect us from the temptations that surround us; give us pure hearts and minds.

Provide wisdom and insight to those who make laws and set policies. Give us respect for those who protect us from crime. Lead us to value the rights of our fellow citizens and to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

Bless our land with peace and prosperity so that the gospel may be proclaimed to all.

Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief, and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.

Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in you.

Gracious God, you bless your church through the willing work and special gifts of so many people. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit to the servants we are installing today that they may carry out their duties with diligence, wisdom, and humility. Encourage them to seek guidance from your Word and lead them to pray for your direction.

Help them to be good examples to others and support the work of the gospel ministry in this congregation.
Keep them in your care and encourage them by your grace.

Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. Give patience and compassion to all who care for the sick and dying.
Lift the eyes of the distressed to your love in Christ.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

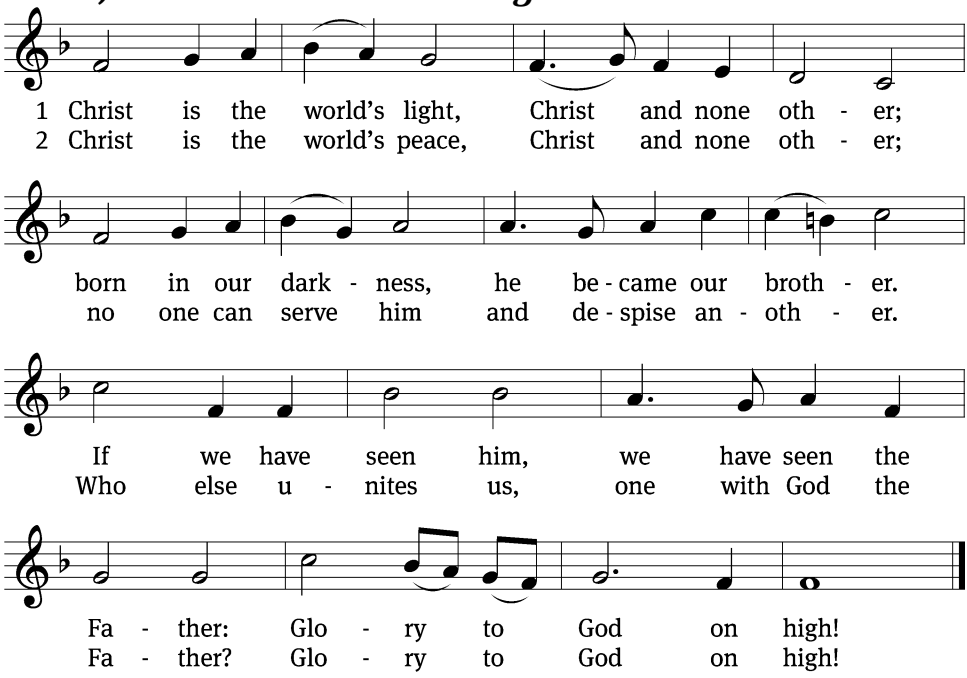
Silent prayer

Gracious God, you govern and direct all things and you love all people. Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, and answer them in your wisdom and grace.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

OFFERING & WELS CONNECTION - *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.*

Friendship Registers: *Please take a few moments before church or during the offering to mark down your attendance at worship by signing the friendship registers we have placed back in the racks at the end of each pew. Thanks!*

515:1,2 Christ Is the World's Light CW 21



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Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

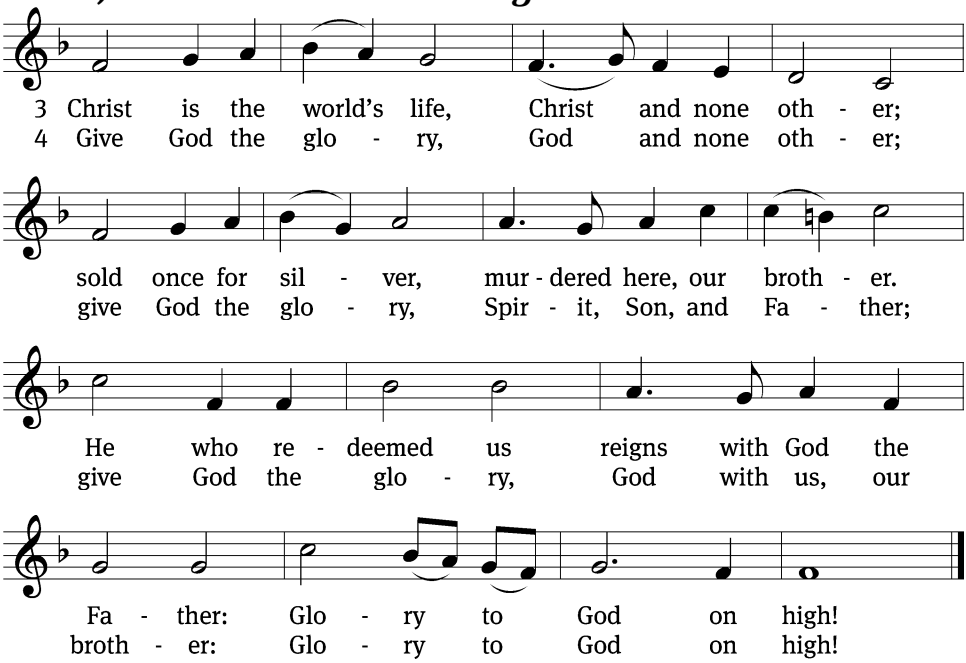
Lord's Prayer

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.

Blessing

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.
Amen.

515:3,4 Christ Is the World's Light *CW 21*



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Setting Two from Christian Worship
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This Week at St. John's: August 16, 2026

SERVING US TODAY

Greeters: Pat Strangfeld & Donna Zank
Ushers: Team 1-Joel Zschernitz' team
Altar Guild: Jean Goetz & Ashley Leiterman
Bulletins: Henry & Julie Berry for their 25th wedding anniversary
Aug Website: Ray & Sharon Wetzel

SERVING US NEXT SUNDAY

Greeters: Betty Nemitz & Virginia Marg
Ushers: Team 2-Verlyn Shaw's team
Altar Guild: Rachel Anderson & Jenny Shadrick

~OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW & SERVE~

TODAY	9:00 AM Worship Service
	10:30-12:00 K-8 School Orientation
MONDAY	5:00-6:00 K-8 School Orientation
	6:00 PM Confirmation Parents Meeting
WEDNESDAY	K-8 First Day of School
	8:20 Opening Chapel Service
FRIDAY	12:00 School Dismisses
SUNDAY	9:00 AM Communion Service

Worship the Lord with Gladness:
Last Sunday: 145

Worship with Our Care of God's Wealth:
Thankoffering Given Last Week:
$7,150.84 (Home); $486.00 (Missions)
Needed per week for Home: $9,035.00

Owed on line of credit: $48,672.08

CHURCH NEWS

Baptisms Today: *Frank Charlie Lindberg (6/16/26), son of Travis & Rachael Lindberg; and Miseli Andrea Garcia (7/29/16) daughter of Alejandra Valdes and cared for by Scott Sebesta, will both be baptized during the worship service this morning. We rejoice with these parents as their children are reborn as dearly loved children of God.*

Communion Next Sunday: *Next Sunday we will celebrate the Lord's Supper in the front pews.*

Pulpit Swap: *Pastor Tim will preach at Globe on August 30th for their occasional Ceili service. Pastor Wilke will lead worship here at St. John's.*

Online Sermons: *Pastor Tim's sermons are available to read online at http://pastortimwalsh.substack.com/ You can also sign up there to receive them in your email inbox weekly.*

Sunday Bible Class: *Sunday Bible study will resume on Sunday, September 20th. Watch for further details.*

Sunday School: *Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 20th. As of right now, we have teachers for the Preschool-Kindergarten and Grades 1-4 classroom. We are still looking to recruit a few more Sunday School teachers. Thank you to those who have already spoken with Pastor Tim about this. Our goal is having a rotation of teachers, such that teachers can still regularly participate in the adult Bible study.*

Orientation/Open House*: School Orientation for Grades K-8 will be held TODAY from 10:30 to 12:00, and TOMORROW from 5:00 to 6:00. We have some important information on the school year to hand out to parents, and they will have a chance to visit the classrooms, turn in forms, etc. Anyone else who would like to take a look at the classrooms is certainly welcome to come over as well.*

Confirmation Meeting: *A confirmation parents' meeting will be held* ***TOMORROW EVENING after orientation*** *for parents who have children in 7th-8th grades who will be attending confirmation class.*

First Day of School: *The first day of school for grades K-8 is this Wednesday, August 19th. We will hold an opening chapel service here in church at 8:20 that morning. All of you are*

welcome to attend that service. We pray that the Lord will bless us as we begin another year with the awesome privilege of sharing Jesus with his precious lambs.

Chapel: *Each Wednesday at our children's chapel service the students have a chance to give a mission offering. This year our mission offerings will go to St. John's Christie for their Spanish outreach.*

Adults are always invited to attend chapel services with us. They are held in church every Wednesday morning at 8:20.

Preschool Orientation: *We are having a special 3K/4K Orientation on Monday, August 24th from 10:00-2:00. This is for all families who will be making use of our 3K/4K program. First day of school for 3K/4K is Tuesday, August 25th.*

Campout: *Our annual church/school campout will be held September 10-13 (Thursday evening to Sunday) at West Arbutus County Park in Hatfield. We will be having a pot-luck supper and an outdoor worship service at the campground that Saturday evening. We hope many of you can join us.*

Meditations: *The new "Meditations" devotional booklet, which starts August 30th, is available in the entryway by the front doors. Please consider a $4.50 donation to help our GPS group cover the cost of providing these.*

Church/School Archives: *Next time you're at the Neillsville Library, check out some items from St. John's history in their curio cabinet! These will be on display for about a month. One of the oldest items in the collection is a King James Bible, purchased for the church by the 1929 confirmands. But if you know some German, you may find one that's older yet! Thank you, Lord Jesus, for the mercy and grace you have shown to our church during all our years.*

Old Bathroom Doors: *If anyone is interested in or has a use for the old school bathroom doors, you will find them by the old outside entrance to the school (south side). Please help yourself! We will be putting them out at the curb on Tuesday evening.*

Hospitalized: *Marilyn Krause was hospitalized in Marshfield this past week after suffering a stroke. Let's keep her and her family in our prayers.*

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
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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.