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.

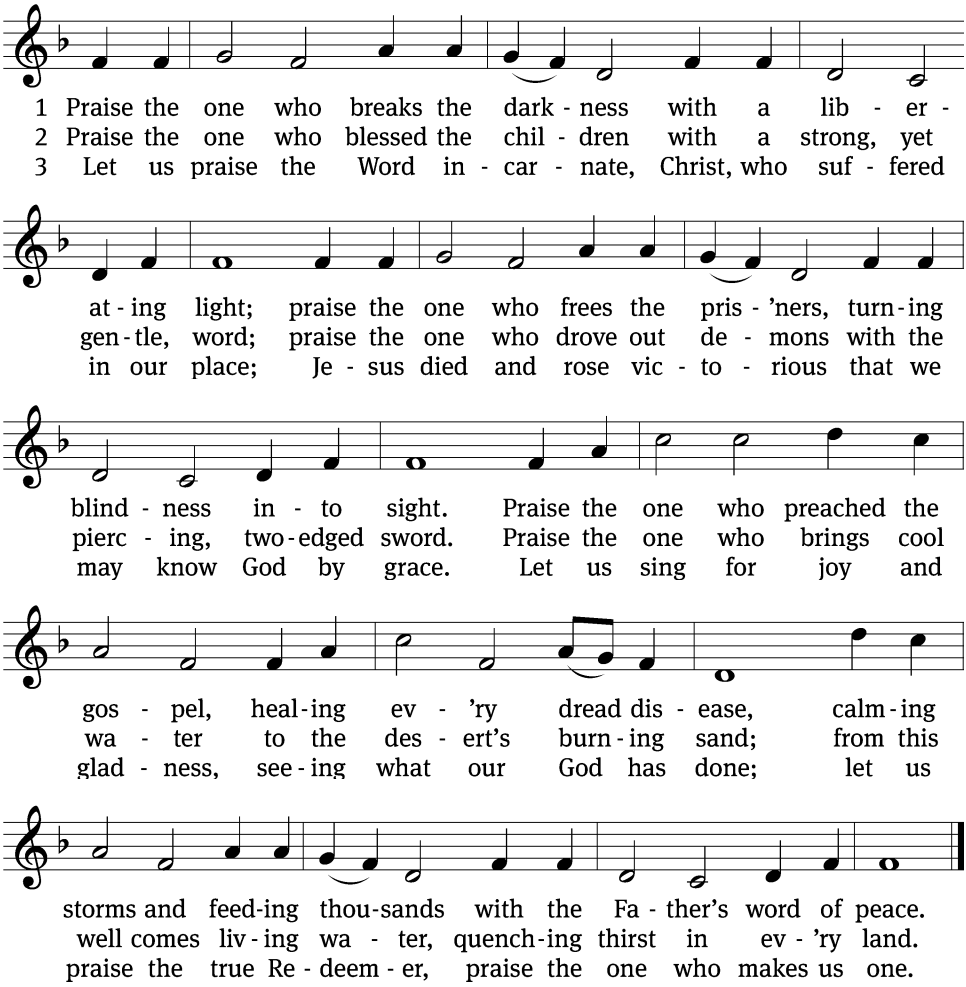
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 2, 2026

Our focus today: WHAT MAKES CHRISTIANS DIFFERENT-CHRISTIANS TRUST GOD TO PROVIDE

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.*

517 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness CW 21



Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955, alt.
Tune: The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844
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The Service Setting 3 CW 21

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

Confession

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.
Almighty and merciful Father,
we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.
We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.
We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done.
Have mercy on us, Lord!
Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,
according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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.
Amen.

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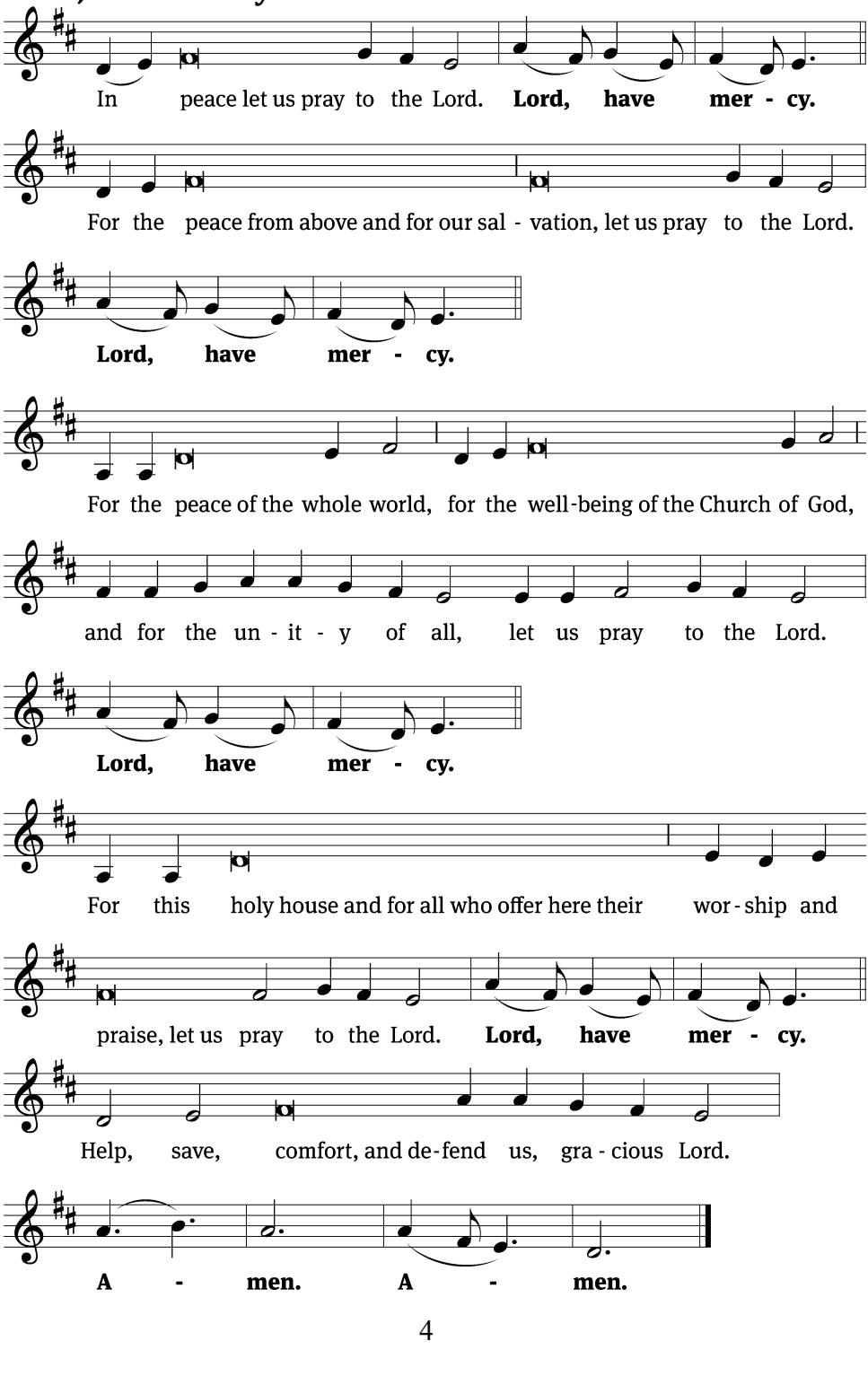
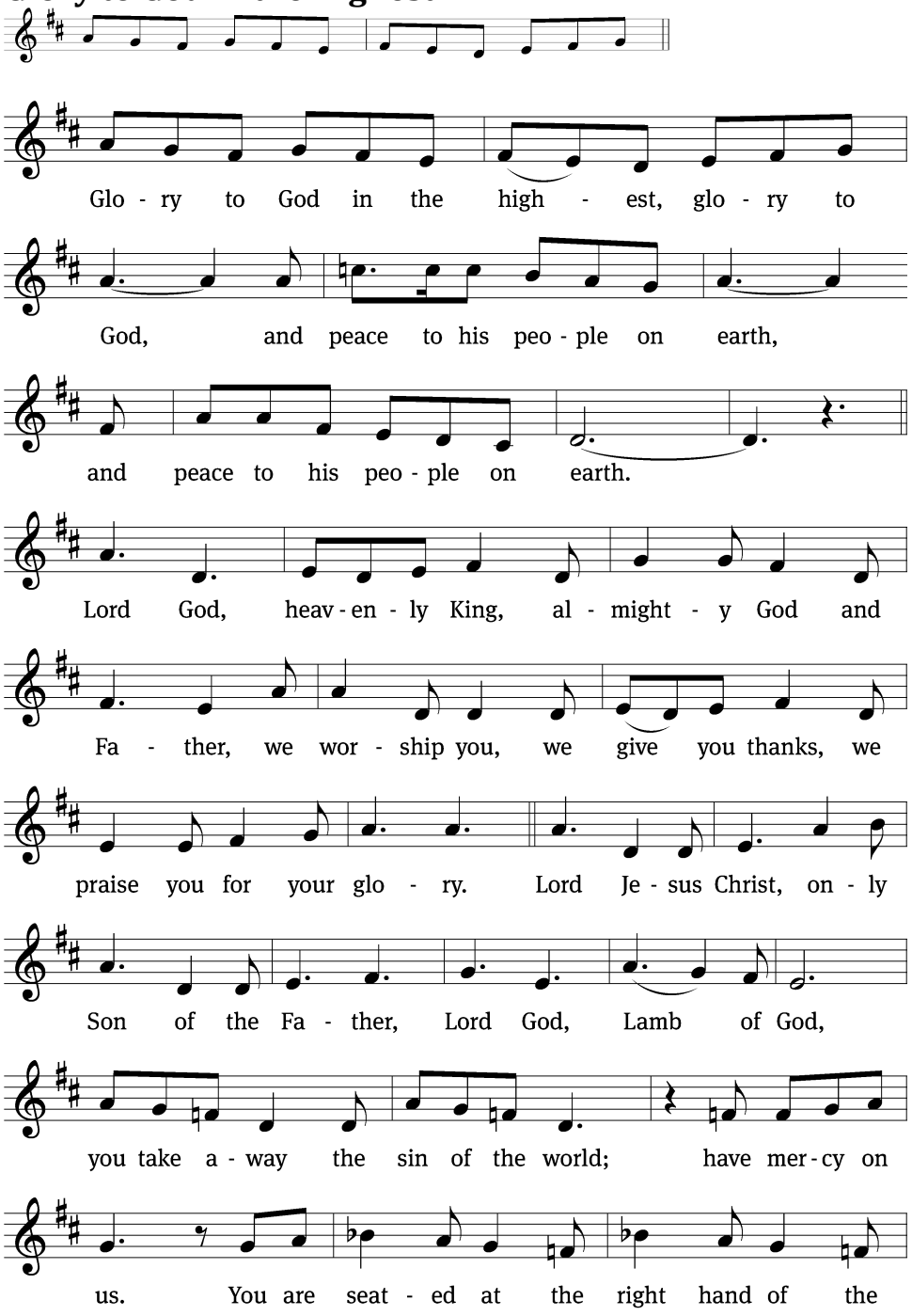
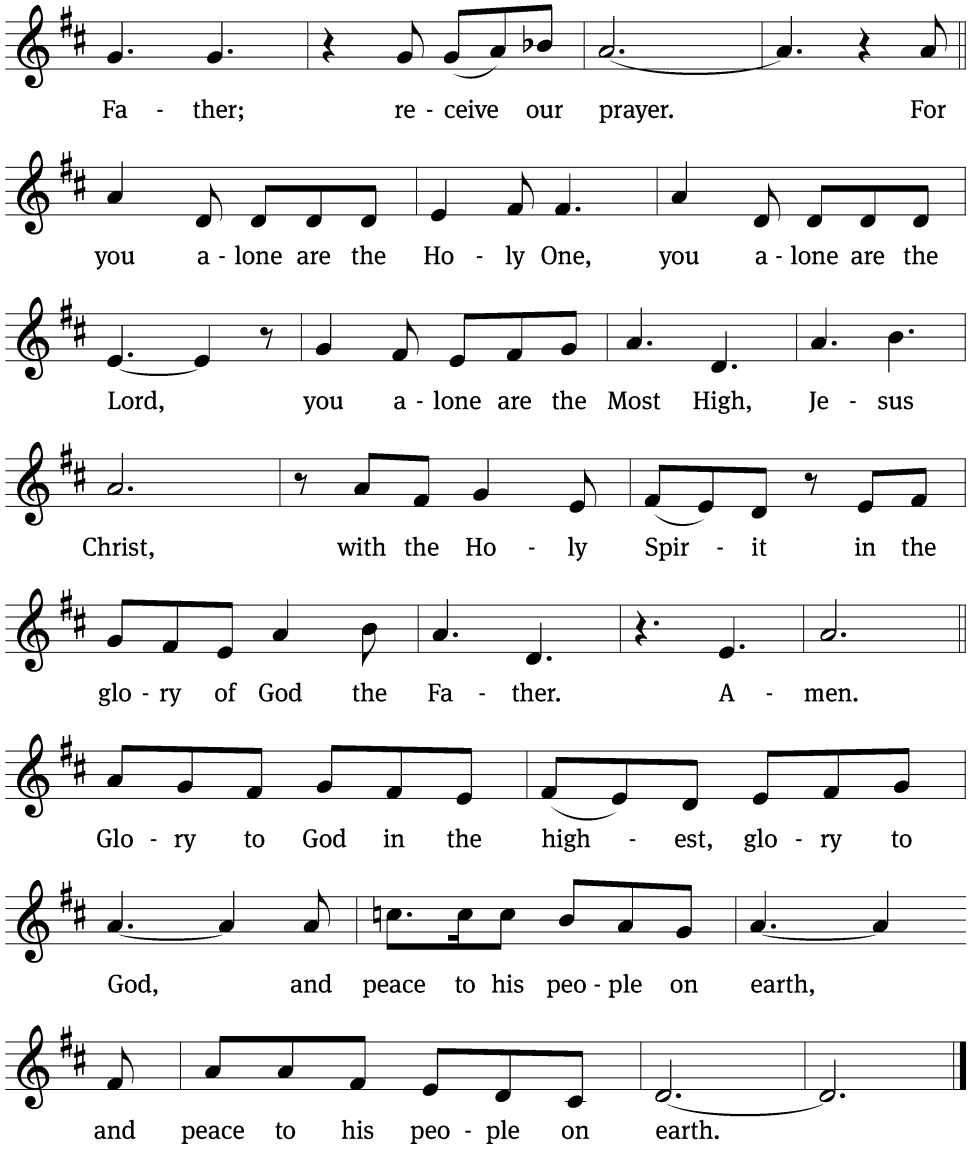
Lord, Have Mercy



Glory to God in the Highest





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The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day
Let us pray.

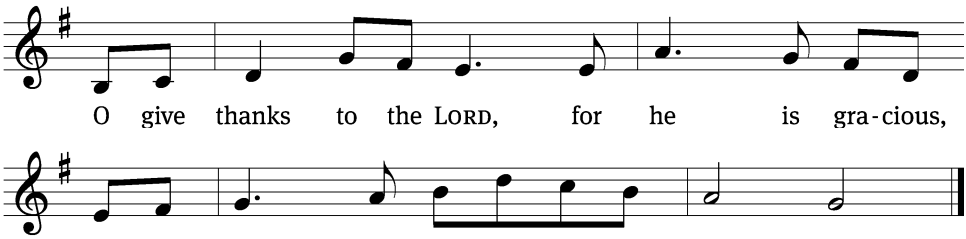
Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and willing to give far more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask except through the merits and mediation of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

First Reading: 1 Kings 17:1–6
1 Elijah from Tishbe, one of the settlers in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As
surely as the LORD lives, the God of Israel before whom I stand, there
will be no dew or rain during the coming years, except at my word."
2 Then the word of the LORD came to him: 3 "Leave this place and turn
east. Hide yourself by the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. 4 You will
drink from the stream, and I will command the ravens to provide for
you there."
5 So Elijah went and did just as the LORD had said. He lived in the Kerith
Ravine, east of the Jordan. 6 The ravens brought him bread and meat in
the morning and in the evening, and he drank from the stream.

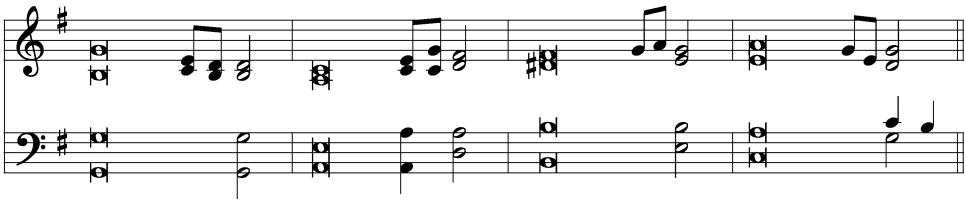
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

107B O Give Thanks to the LORD CW 21 Psalter

Refrain



Tone



Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their / story—
those he redeemed from the hand / of the foe,
those he gathered / from the lands,
from east and west, from / north and south.

Some wandered in desert wastelands, hungry and / thirsty;
some sat in utter darkness, prisoners suffering in / iron chains.
Some became fools through their re- / bellious ways
and suffered affliction because of their in- / iquities.

Then they cried to the LORD in their / trouble,
and he saved them from / their distress.
He sent out his word and / healed them;
he rescued them / from the grave. ***Refrain***

Let them give thanks to the LORD for his un- / failing love
and his wonderful deeds / for mankind.
Let them sacrifice thank / offerings
and tell of his works with / songs of joy.

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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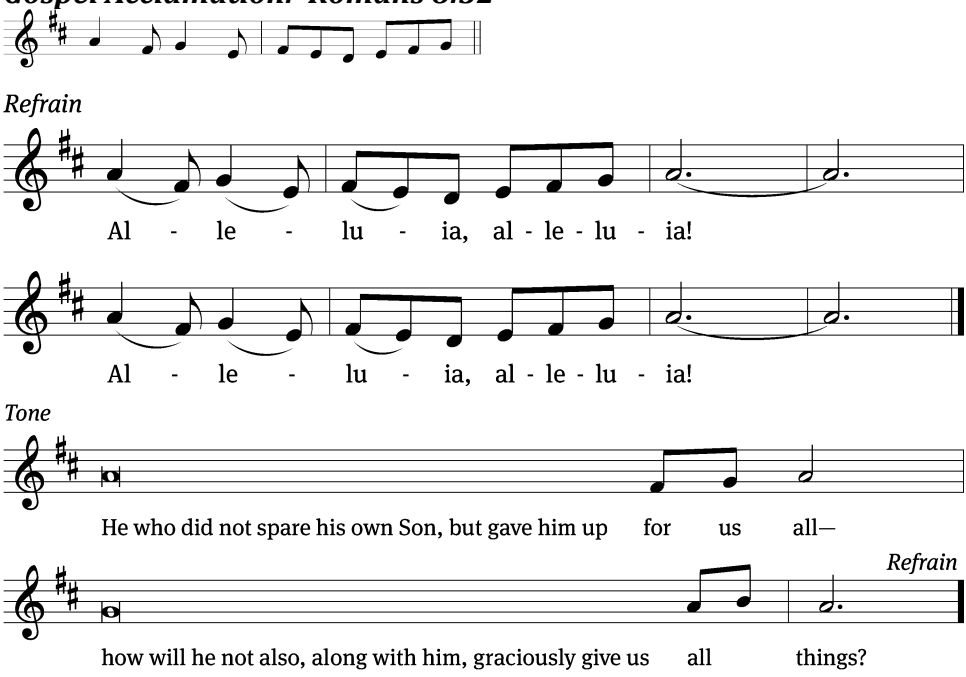
Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3–10

[3]Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. [4]He did this when he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world, so that we would be holy and blameless in his sight. In love [5]he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ. He did this in accordance with the good purpose of his will, [6]and for the praise of his glorious grace, which he has graciously given us in the one he loves.

[7]In him we also have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in keeping with the riches of his grace, [8]which he lavished on us in all wisdom and insight. [9]He made known to us the mystery of his will in keeping with his good purpose, which he planned in Christ. [10]This was to be carried out when the time had fully come, in order to bring all things together in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Romans 8:32



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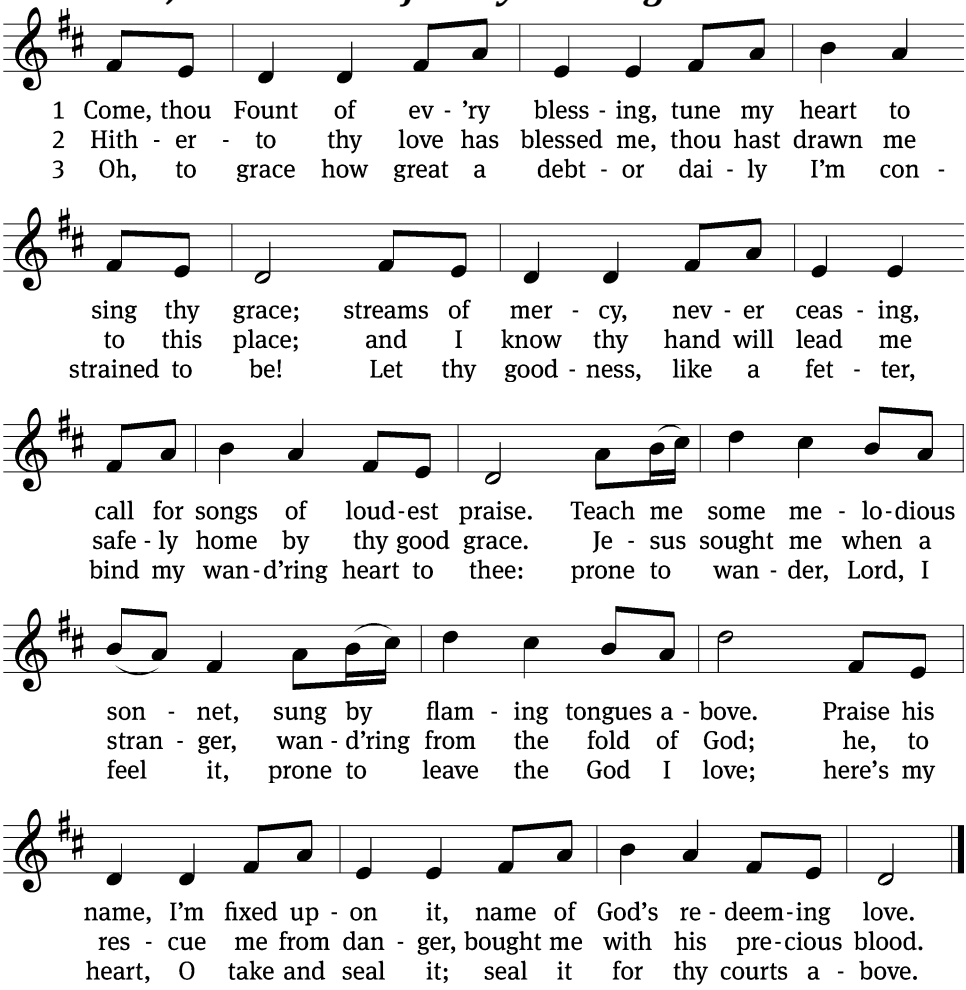
Gospel Reading: Matthew 14:13–21

13When Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place to be alone. When the crowds heard this, they followed him on foot from the towns.
14When Jesus got out of the boat, he saw a large crowd. He had compassion on them and healed their sick. 15When evening came, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place and the hour is already late. Send the crowds away, so that they can go into the villages and buy food for themselves."
16But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."
17They told him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish."
18"Bring them here to me," he replied. 19Then he instructed the people to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves and the two fish. After looking up to heaven, he blessed them. He broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples. The disciples gave the food to the people. 20They all ate and were filled. They picked up twelve basketfuls of what was left over from the broken pieces. 21Those who ate were about five thousand men, not even counting women and children.

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

Children's Message

708 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing *CW 21*



Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.
Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, Harrisburg, 1813, ed. John Wyeth
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Text: Matthew 14:13-21
Sermon Theme: Your Needs Move Jesus to Compassionate Action.

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.

Prayer of the Church

Loving God and Lord, you created the universe that surrounds us and the globe on which we live. You control all things through your Son, who sits at your right hand in glory.
Comfort us with the promise of your eternal presence.

Give your Word power as it works in our hearts and minds. Clear away our confusion, and demolish our doubts. Send your Spirit to strengthen both our confidence in your promises and our desire to live according to your will.
Take away our love of sinning, and restore us each day by your grace.

The signs of the times warn us that the end of time is near. Protect us from scoffers who sneer at your truth. Spare us and Christians around the world from all forms of hate and persecution.
Give us courage to carry the cross with patience and joy.

Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.
Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical or emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. Pour out your compassion on the grieving, and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.
Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

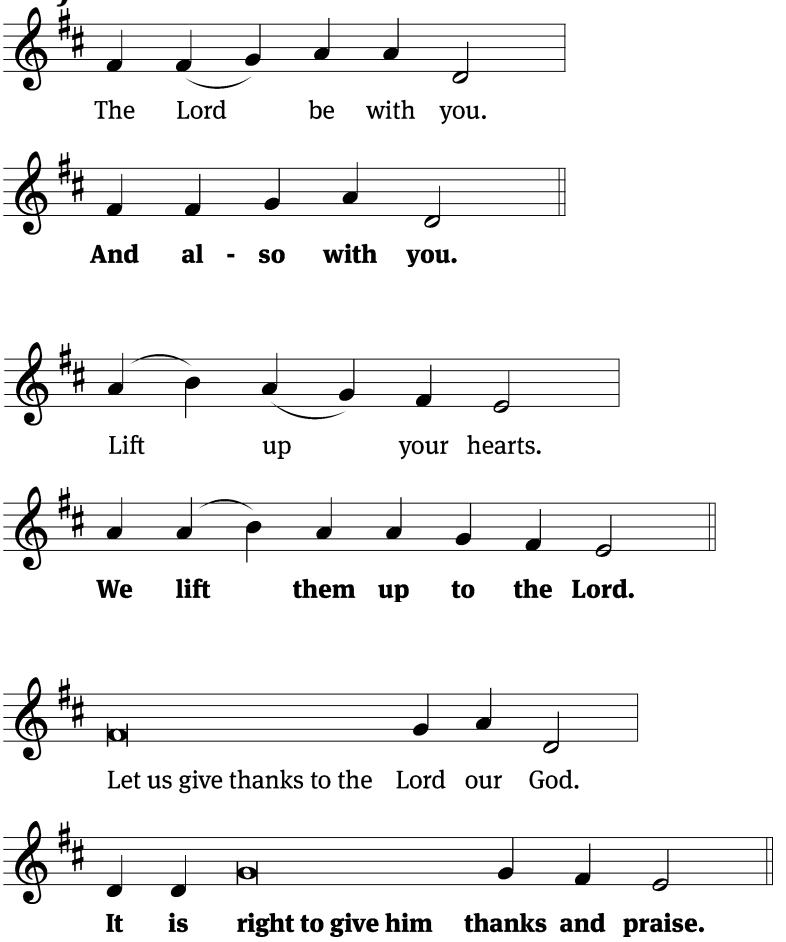
Silent prayer

Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.
Hear us for Jesus' sake. 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.*

The Sacrament

Preface



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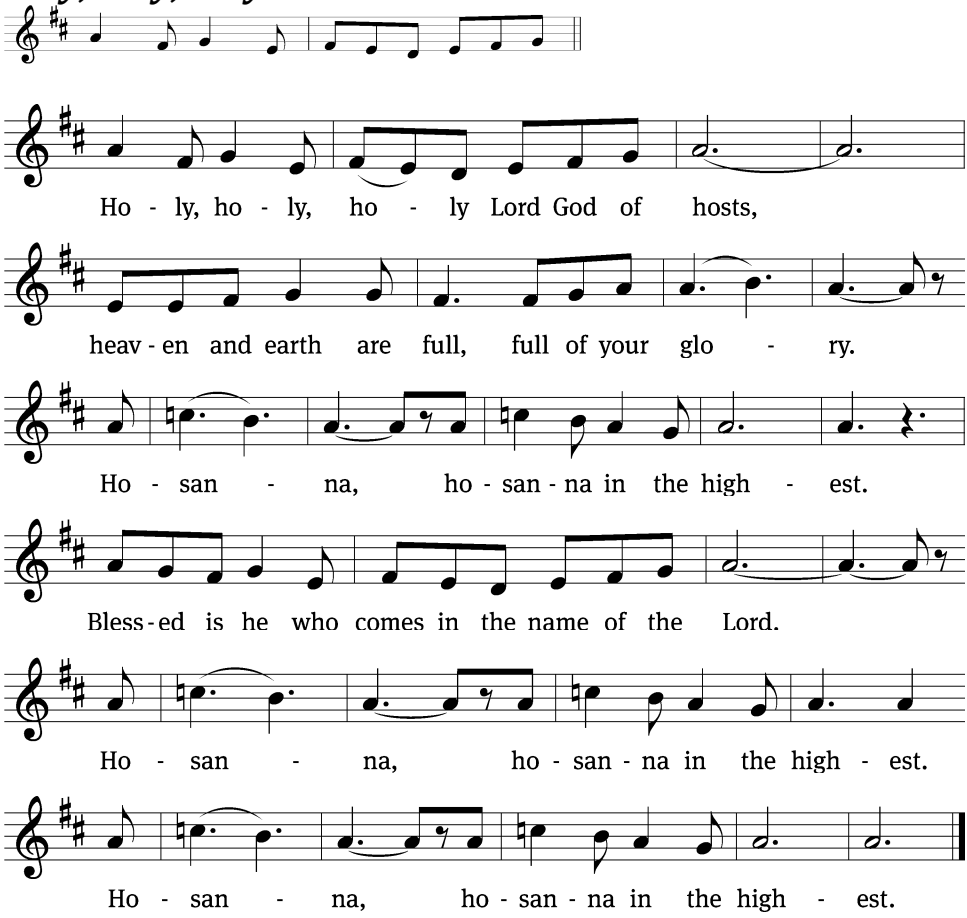
It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy



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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to 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.

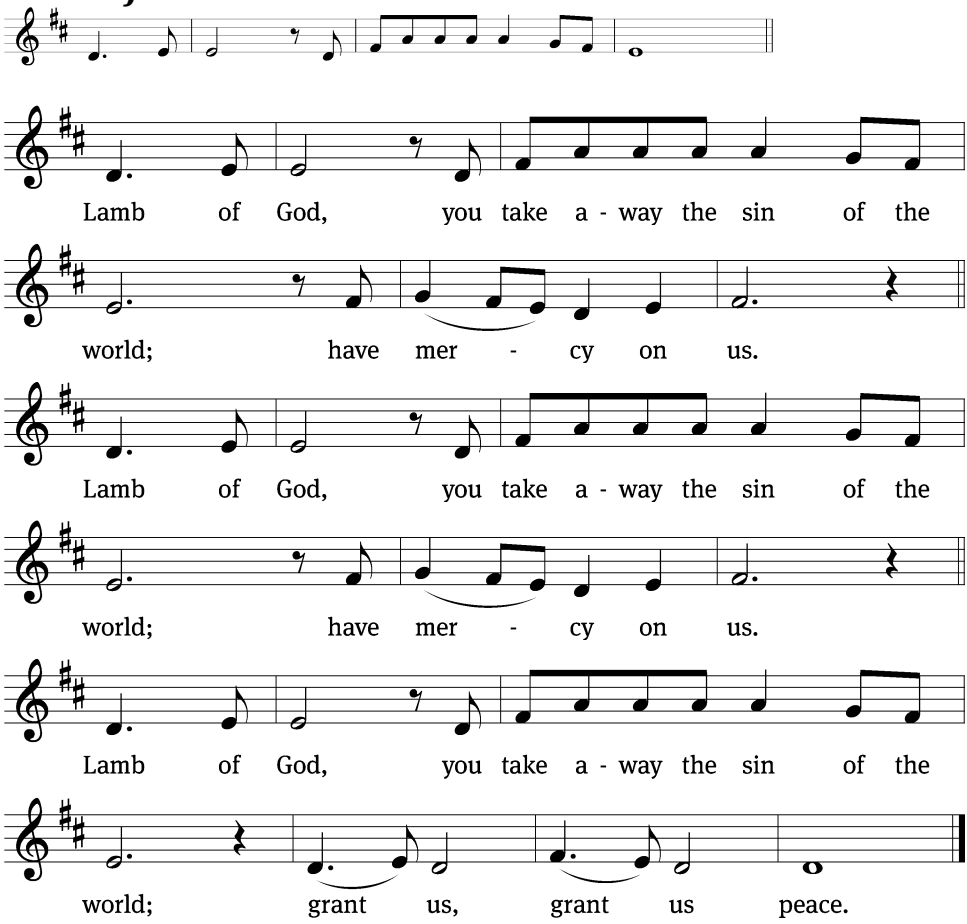
Words of Institution

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."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

Lamb of God



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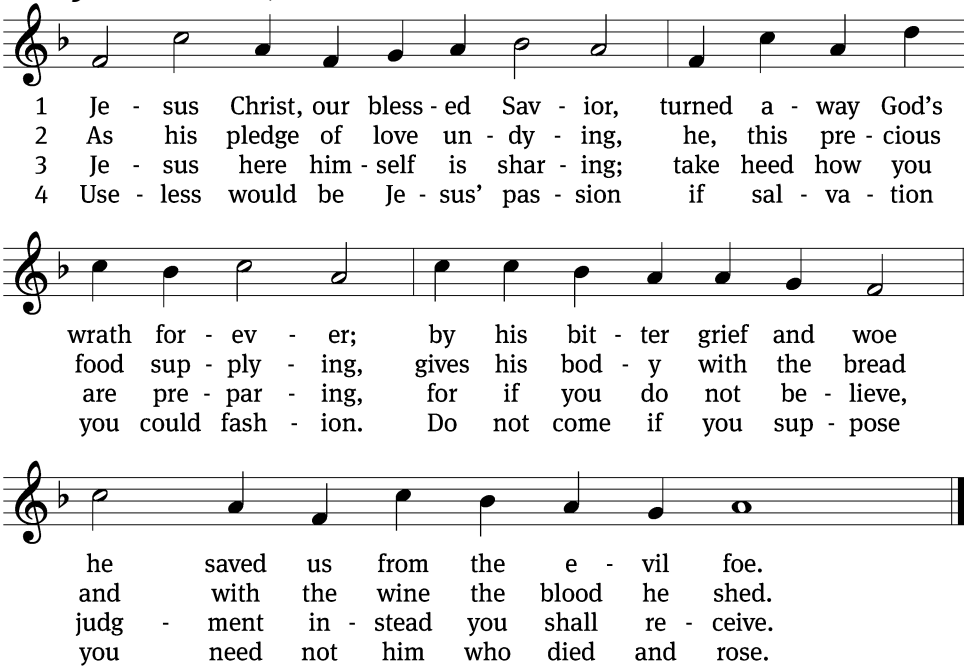
Distribution

659 Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior *CW 21*



5 Christ says, "Come, all you that labor,
and receive my grace and favor;
those who feel no pain or ill
need no physician's help or skill."

6 Then hold fast with faith unshaken
that this food is to be taken
by the souls who are distressed,
by hearts that long for peace and rest.

7 Praise the Father, who from heaven
unto us such food has given
and, to mend what we have done,
gave into death his only Son.

8 If your heart this truth professes
and your mouth your sin confesses,
surely you will be his guest
and at his banquet ever blest.

Text: John Hus, c. 1369–1415; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abr.; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941
Tune: Geistliche Lieder auffs new gebessert, Wittenberg, 1533, ed. Joseph Klug, alt.
Text and tune: Public domain

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

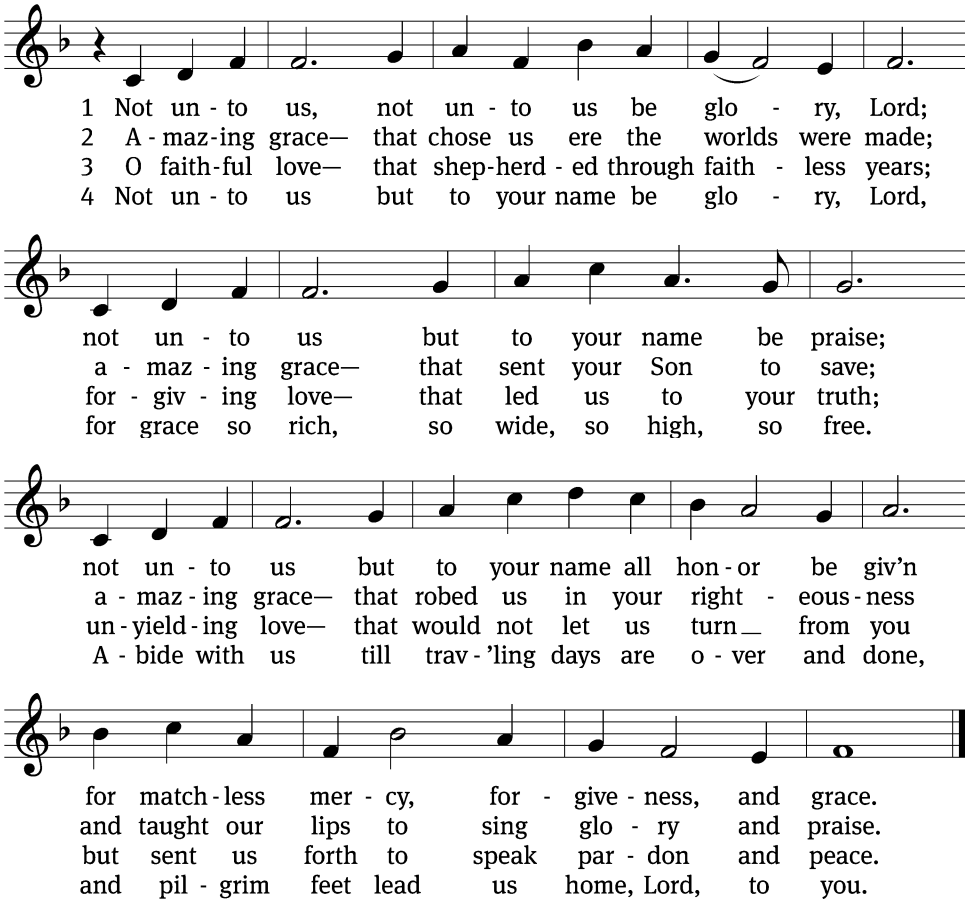
Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, 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.

582 Not unto Us CW 21



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Setting Three from Christian Worship
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This Week at St. John's: August 2, 2026

SERVING US TODAY

Greeters: Ed & Jenn Schmid
Ushers: Team 3-Dick Urban's team
Altar Guild: Judy Quicker
Bulletins: Pat & Alice Glinski
Aug Website: Ray & Sharon Wetzel

SERVING US NEXT SUNDAY

Greeters: Becca Biebert & Lauren Thell
Ushers: Team 4-Rex Roehl's team
Altar Guild: Judy Quicker

~OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW & SERVE~

TODAY	9:00 AM Communion Service
THURS-FRI	ELC Closed for Floor Waxing
NEXT SUNDAY	9:00 AM Communion Service

Worship the Lord with Gladness:
Last Sunday: 155

Worship with Our Care of God's Wealth:
Thankoffering Given Last Week:
$10,958.40 (Home); $374.00 (Missions)
Needed per week for Home: $9,035.00

Owed on line of credit: $48,908.98

CHURCH NEWS

Online Sermons: *Pastor Walsh'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 and reminders.*

Sunday School: *Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 20th. As of right now, we have teachers for the Preschool-Kindergarten classroom and the Grades 1-4 classroom.*

Is there anyone who would be interested in teaching our Grades 5-8 classroom, or even team-teaching in one of the other classrooms? It'd be great if we had a few more volunteers so that it wouldn't necessarily be an "every Sunday" obligation. If you're interested or would like more details, please talk to Pastor Walsh.

Calendars: *August calendars are available in the entryway.*

Golf Outing: *If you are not interested in golfing but would like to come and enjoy the day and join the golfers for lunch, the cost would be $15. Lunch will include burgers and all the extras and will be at the Neillsville Country Club around 11:30 on August 15th. If you're interested in coming for lunch, please talk to Becca Biebert (507-766-1159).*

Volunteers Needed: *We could use some volunteers who would be willing to pull weeds around the church and school.*

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

ELC Closed: *The ELC will be closed this Thursday and Friday for floor waxing.*

Baptism Next Sunday: *Conrad LePage (7/1/26), son of Robert & Alissa (Durham) LePage, will be baptized during the worship service next Sunday. We look forward to Conrad being reborn as a child of God.*

***Orientation/Open House**: School Orientation for Grades K-8 will be held on Sunday, August 16th from 10:30 to 12:00, and on Monday, August 17th 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.*

***First Day of School:** The first day of school for grades K-8 is 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.*

***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.*

Voters' Meeting Highlights

26 voting members attended the semi-annual meeting last Sunday.

Elections: *All of our council officers, elders, and school board members were re-elected. We thank these men for their willingness to serve St. John's and their dedication to our Savior! Those people are:*

Chairman: John Hagedorn

Secretary: Clinton Urban

Treasurer: Henry Berry

Worship: Brian Thell

Adult Discipleship: Luke Loos

Christian Fellowship: Joe Harder

Youth & Family: Joseph Biebert

Outreach/Evangelism: Ed Schmid

School Board: Doug Zank, Ed Schmid, Joseph Biebert

Ministry Support: Grant Harder

Installation *will be held during the worship service on Sunday, August 16th.*

Adult Discipleship: *Membership changes from January through June were ratified by the voters.*

School Board: *The school bathroom project is well underway. We hope to have that completed by the end of August. We thank Luke Loos for heading up this project.*

News from WELS

WELS Youth Rally: *WELS youth groups—both large and small—from across the US and Canada traveled to Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio, for the 2026 WELS Youth Rally July 14–17. More than 2,200 people—1,700 teens and 500 adults—participated in worship, large-scale keynote addresses, and workshops, all emphasizing the theme "Christ through us: We are Christ's ambassadors."*

"This year's rally was meant to be more than just an event. It was a catalyst to seek deeper faith commitment," says Donn Dobberstein, director of WELS Discipleship and part of the youth rally planning committee. "Both keynotes encouraged teens to live out their lives as ambassadors of Christ."

Endowment Gifts for Gospel Outreach: *This July, the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) Legacy Endowment Fund and Rakow Endowment Fund provided approximately $20,000 to support the First Public Service Assistance project. Managed by WELS Foundation, the gift planning ministry of WELS, these endowment funds allow gifts made today to support ministry for generations to come. The funding helps new mission congregations reach their communities through direct mail, community outreach, follow-up, and other efforts that create a welcoming first impression and open the door to sharing Christ's saving message.*

LWMS 2026 Convention: *More than 1,300 people gathered at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center in Madison, Wis., on June 25, for the opening worship service of the 63rd Annual Lutheran Women's Mission Society (LWMS) Convention. Michael Ewart, pastor at St. Peter-The CORE Campus, Appleton, Wis., used the convention theme, "Cast out your nets," to encourage worshipers to "Cast out your nets in your personal mission field, supporting those who go out in our place."*

Nine hundred seventy registered convention attendees learned about expanding outreach efforts in Kronenwetter, Wis., and Folsom, Calif., as well as world mission work in Africa and ministry among Native American communities.

Synod Leaders Analyze 2025 Statistics: *The 2025 WELS Statistical Summary and Analysis is now available.*

Annually, WELS churches self-report on membership, ministrations, and finances to help synod leaders measure WELS' health as a church body. The report examines worship attendance, Bible study participation, congregational size, district data, and more. Because 2025 is a benchmark year, divisible by 5, the report looks more deeply at long-term patterns. It examines trends over 5, 10, 25, and even 50 years. That broader view highlights not only what has happened but also what has been slowly developing over time, providing valuable information as synod leaders plan for the future.

"That is why statistics can be useful," comments Rev. Jonathan Hein, director of WELS Commission on Congregational Counseling. "They do not define the church. Christ does. But statistics can help us see where the Lord is blessing us, where our assumptions need correction, and where our work needs renewed attention."

Hein offers details and insights into the 2025 statistics in an article in the August issue of "Forward in Christ." Visit forwardinchrist.net/2025-stats to learn more. Future communications about key findings and trends will be available at wels.net/stats.

NEILLSVILLE OPTIMIST CLUB IS SPONSORING A

SUMMER SPLASH DAY!

AUGUST 13TH

1-3 PM

Rain Date Aug. 14th

Giant Water Slide
Water Games
Splash Pad
Playground
Sno Cones
and more!

St. John's Lutheran School Playground

711 W 5th St. Neillsville

AGES 4-12

Parents may stay or drop off children.

Registration begins at 12:45.

CALL DARLENE AT 715-743-6222 TO REGISTER

SPONSORED BY ROCK N ROLL TO GO!

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
Tim Walsh, Pastor: pastortim@stjohnsneillsville.com
631-901-4430 (cell)
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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.