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.

11th Sunday after Pentecost

August 9, 2026

Our focus today: WHAT MAKES CHRISTIANS DIFFERENT-CHRISTIANS ANSWER DOUBT WITH FAITH

Communion: *We will celebrate the Lord's Supper today in the front pews.*
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.

847 Be Still, My Soul CW 21

Text: Catharina A. von Schlegel, 1697–1752, abr.; tr. Jane L Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt.
Tune: Jean Sibelius, 1865–1957, adapt.
Text and tune: Public domain

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.

Conrad Keith LePage, 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 Conrad as your own child and made him a member of Christ's body, the church. Now, we pray, grant to him 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.

Almighty and most merciful God, preserve us from all harm and danger that we, being ready in both body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish what you want done; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

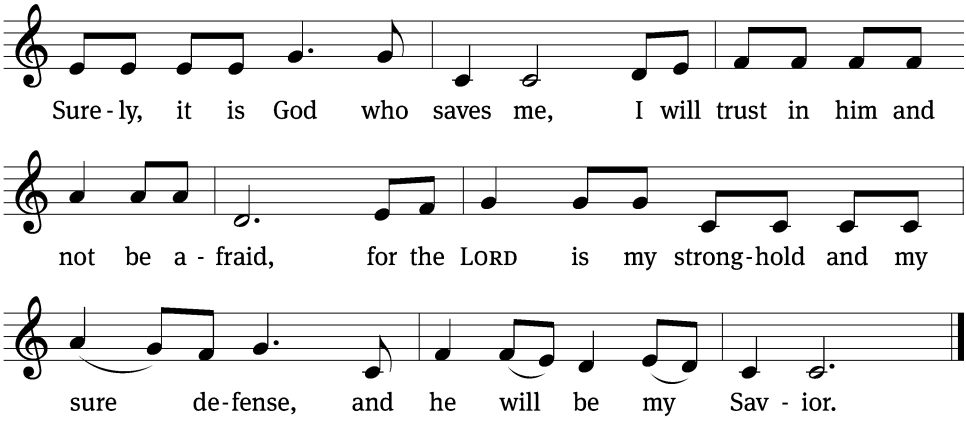
First Reading: 1 Kings 19:9–18
9 He came to a cave and spent the night there.
Then the word of the LORD suddenly came to him, saying, "Why are you here, Elijah?"
10 He said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of Armies, but the people of Israel have abandoned your covenant. They have torn down your altars and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking to take my life."
11 Then the LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is passing by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains and shattered rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind.
After the wind came an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake.
12 After the earthquake there was a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire.
After the fire there was a soft, whispering voice.
13 When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak, and he went out and stood at the entrance to the cave. Then a voice came to him and said, "Why are you here, Elijah?"
14 He said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of Armies, but the people of Israel have abandoned your covenant. They have torn down your altars and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking to take my life."

15Then the LORD said to him, "Go back the way you came and go to the Wilderness of Damascus. When you get there, you are to anoint Hazael as king over Aram. 16You will also anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel and Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah as prophet in your place. 17Whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill, and whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill. 18But I have preserved in Israel seven thousand whose knees have not bent to Baal and whose lips have not kissed him."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 73B Surely It Is God Who Saves Me CW 21 Psalter

Refrain



Tone

I am always / with you;
you hold me by my / right hand.
You guide me with your / counsel,
and afterward you will take me into / glory.
Whom have I in / heav'n but you?
And earth has nothing I desire be- / sides you.
My flesh and my / heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion for- / ever.
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 8:28–39

[28]We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose, [29]because those God foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he would be the firstborn among many brothers. [30]And those he predestined, he also called. Those he called, he also justified. And those he justified, he also glorified.

[31]What then will we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? [32]Indeed, he who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also graciously give us all things along with him?

[33]Who will bring an accusation against God's elect? God is the one who justifies! [34]Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus, who died and, more than that, was raised to life, is the one who is at God's right hand and who is also interceding for us! [35]What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will trouble or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? [36]Just as it is written:

For your sake we are being put to death all day long. We are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.

[37]No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

[38]For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor rulers, neither things present nor things to come, nor powerful forces, [39]neither height nor depth, nor anything else in creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Hebrews 11:1

Refrain

Tone

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Gospel Reading: Matthew 14:22–33

22 Immediately Jesus urged the disciples to get into the boat and to go
ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. 23 After he
had dismissed the crowd, he went up onto the mountain by himself to
pray. When evening came, he was there alone. 24 By then the boat was
quite a distance from shore, being pounded by the waves because the
wind was against it. 25 In the fourth watch of the night, Jesus came toward
them, walking on the sea. 26 When the disciples saw him walking on the
sea, they were terrified and cried out in fear, "It's a ghost!" 27 But Jesus
spoke to them at once, saying, "Take heart! It is I! Do not be afraid."
28 Peter answered him and said, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to
you on the water."
29 Jesus said, "Come!"
Peter stepped down from the boat, walked on the water, and went toward
Jesus. 30 But when he saw the strong wind, he was afraid. As he began to
sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"
31 Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand, took hold of him, and said to
him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 When they got into the
boat, the wind stopped. 33 Those who were in the boat worshipped him,
saying, "Truly you are the Son of God!"

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

Children's Message

819 If God Himself Be for Me *CW 21*

5 Now no one can condemn me
or set my hope aside;
now hell no more can claim me,
its fury I deride.
No sentence now reproves me,
no guilt destroys my peace,
for Christ, my Savior, loves me
and shields me with his grace.

6 No danger, thirst, or hunger,
no pain or poverty,
no earthly tyrant's anger
shall ever vanquish me.
Though earth should break asunder,
you are my Savior true;
no fire or sword or thunder
shall sever me from you.

7 My heart for joy is springing
and can no more be sad;
my soul is filled with singing,
sees only sunshine glad.
The sun that cheers my spirit
is Jesus Christ, my King;
the heav'n I shall inherit
makes me rejoice and sing.

Sermon Text: Matthew 14:22–33
Sermon Theme: Jesus Is With You on Life's Stormy Seas.

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

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

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.*

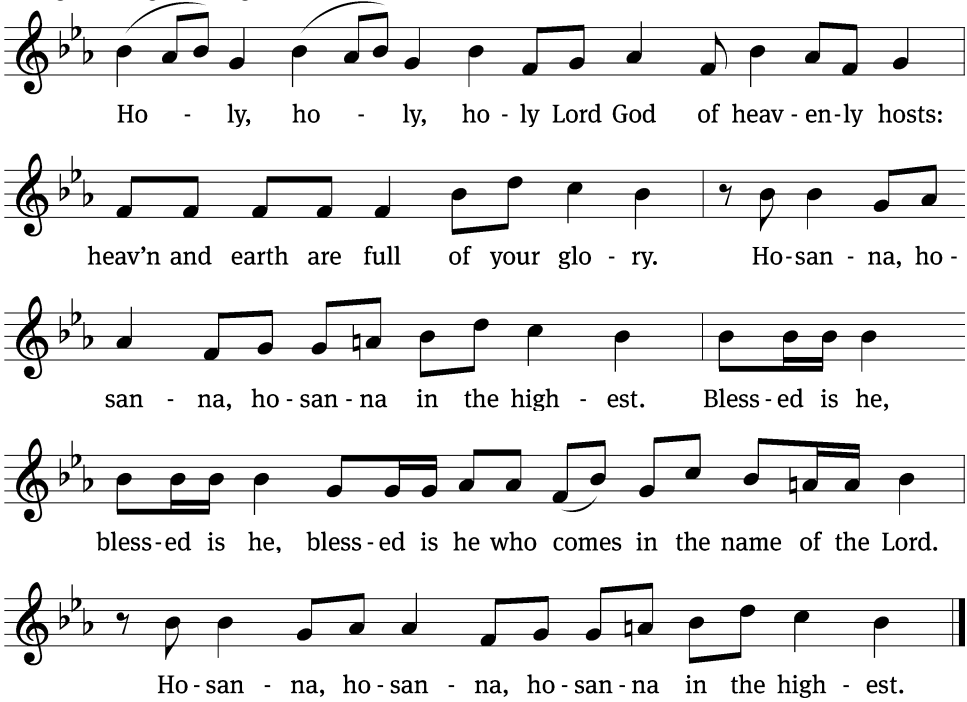
Friendship Registers: *Please take a few moments before church or during the offering to mark down your attendance at worship by signing the friendship registers we have placed back in the racks at the end of each pew. Thanks!*

The Sacrament

Preface

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



Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with 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.

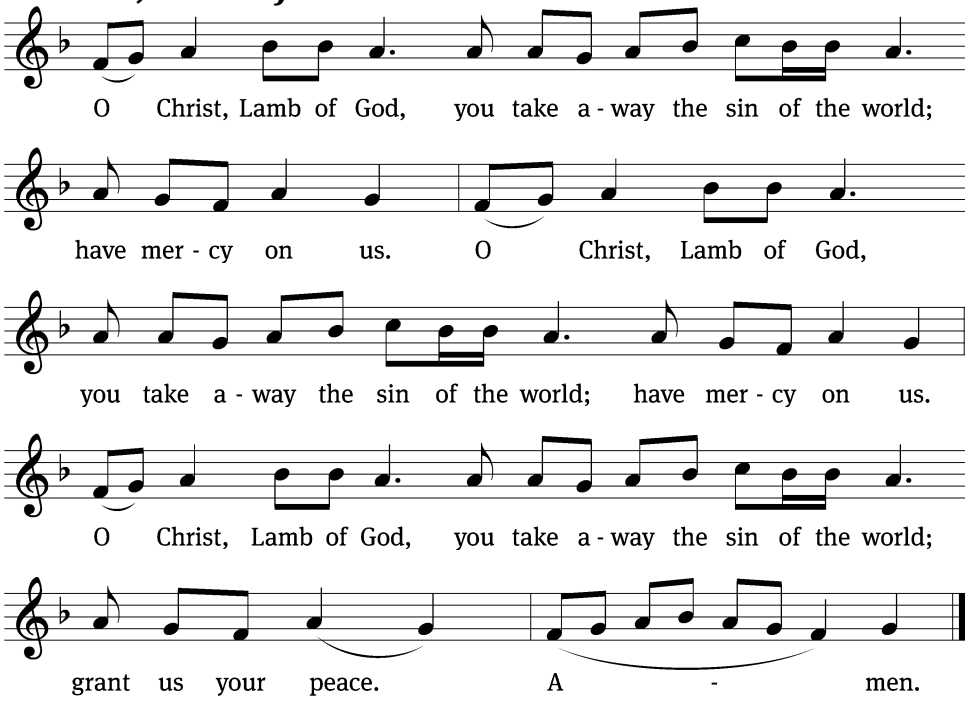
Words of Institution

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.

O Christ, Lamb of God



Distribution

670 I Come, O Savior, to Your Table *CW 21*

5 Your holy heart has one obsession,
one blessèd thing it burns to do—
to cleanse the sinner from transgression;
so I, a sinner, come to you. (Refrain)

6 My soul is burdened; Lord, relieve me,
by all this weight of sin oppressed!
Though sinful, yet, in grace receive me
and feed me as your grateful guest. (Refrain)

7 Within me, Lord, your vision traces
a heart of deep humility
that mourns its sin and yet embraces
the merit you have earned for me. (Refrain)

(hymn continues on page 18)

8 By faith I call your holy table
the testament of your deep love,
for by your gift I now am able
to know the heart of God above. (Refrain)

9 This meal with blessing is abounding:
to poor ones wealth, to weak ones pow'r,
to angels joy, to hell confounding,
and life for me in death's dark hour. (Refrain)

10 My heart has now become your dwelling,
O blessèd, holy Trinity.
With angels I, your praises telling,
shall live in joy eternally. (Refrain)

Text: Friedrich C. Heyder, 1677–1754, abr.; (sts. 1, Ref, 2, 4, 8–10): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941; (sts. 3, 5–7): tr. Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963
Tune: Emskirchner Choral-Buch, Leipzig, 1756
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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.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of 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.

844 What God Ordains Is Always Good CW 21

Text: Samuel Rodigast, 1649–1708, abr.; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Tune: Severus Gastorius, 1646–1682
Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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This Week at St. John's: August 9, 2026

SERVING US TODAY

Organist: Donna Sternitzky
Greeters: Becca Biebert & Lauren Thell
Ushers: Team 4-Rex Roehl's team
Altar Guild: Judy Quicker
Bulletins: Dick & Lynda Urban in thankfulness
Aug Website: Ray & Sharon Wetzel

SERVING US NEXT SUNDAY

Greeters: Pat Strangfeld & Donna Zank
Ushers: Team 1-Joel Zschernitz' team
Altar Guild: Jean Goetz & Ashley Leiterman

~OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW & SERVE~

TODAY	9:00 AM Communion Service
WEDNESDAY	6:00 PM Pioneer Campfire Fun Night
THURSDAY	1:00-3:00 Splash Day
SATURDAY	10:00 AM Golf Outing
NEXT SUNDAY	9:00 AM Worship Service
	10:30-12:00 K-8 School Orientation

Worship the Lord with Gladness:
Last Sunday: 145

Worship with Our Care of God's Wealth:
Thankoffering Given Last Week:
$8,516.13 (Home); $579.00 (Missions)
Needed per week for Home: $9,035.00

Owed on line of credit: $48,672.08

CHURCH NEWS

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

Installation: *Installation of council and school board officers and elders will take place during the worship service next Sunday.*

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 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.*

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 next 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.*

Confirmation Meeting: *A confirmation parents' meeting will be held* ***on Monday, August 17th after orientation*** *for parents who have children in 7th-8th grades who will be attending confirmation class.*

Pioneers Campfire Fun Night: Calling all kids in Kindergarten through 8th Grade!

Join us for an evening packed with fun, friends, and campfire adventures! We'll gather around the fire to roast hot dogs and make delicious s'mores, play outdoor games, and enjoy a great time together.

Date: This Wednesday, August 12th

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: St. John's School

Bring your energy, your appetite, a chair to sit around the fire, your family and friends! Whether you love games, gooey s'mores, or just hanging out around a campfire, there's something for everyone.

This event is OPEN TO ALL kids in Kindergarten through 8th Grade and their families! You don't need to be in Pioneers to join in on the fun.

Don't miss this awesome night of laughter, treats, and outdoor fun. We can't wait to see you there!

Games • *Hot Dogs* • *S'mores* • *Fun for Everyone!*

Contact Jenny Shadrick with any questions.

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).*

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.*

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.*

Special Gift: *$500.00 was given to the general fund by Mel & Sharon Nemitz thanking God for 50 years of marriage. We congratulate Mel & Sharon and thank them for the gift!*

Church/School Archives: *If anyone has any church or school related archives you would be interested in seeing on display, please talk to Pastor Tim.*

Geriatric and Care Facility Ministry: *Want to get involved with spiritually caring for the aging? Consider taking "Geriatric and Care Facility Ministry," a three-credit online class offered with "on-the-job training" through Martin Luther College on behalf of WELS Special Ministries. The class is available to both laypeople and called workers, and it begins in late August (August 24-December 11, 2026, but register as soon as possible). Online instruction offers flexibility with weekly study, assignments and discussion. For more information contact the instructor, Dan Krause at (920)203-7570 or KrauseDE@mlc-wels.edu The tuition (over $1000) is provided by Martin Luther Elder Care Ministries. Register at mlecm.org or MLC-WELS.edu.*

WELS/ELS Singles Retreat: *If you are an adult WELS/ELS member, single, and would like to join others of the same description for fellowship and activities amidst the natural beauty of central Wisconsin, come to the WELS/ELS Singles Retreat, August 28-30 at Camp Phillip in Wautoma, WI. For more information and to register, visit https://sites.google.com/view/lutheransinglesretreat/.*
Please register before August 13.

Advent by Candlelight-Save the Date:
Sunday, December 6, 2026 at 2:00pm
Rembs Celebration Center
Marshfield, Wi
"Come Let Us Adore Him"
An opportunity for women of all ages to set aside time to prepare our hearts and minds for the true meaning of Christmas! This event is being hosted by Trinity Sisters (Marshfield).

WELS News

Tornado damages WELS Church and School: *Around noon on Monday, July 27, a tornado ripped through northeastern Wisconsin, causing damage to Bethel, Menasha, a bilingual WELS church with about 500 members. The tornado also damaged the Menasha location of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Preschool, which is located on Bethel's property and is a shared ministry of Bethel and Mount Calvary, Harrison.*

The National Weather Service has classified the tornado as an EF-3 with sustained winds of 140 miles per hour. The tornado traveled 12.1 miles, significantly damaging property in Menasha, Appleton, and several other nearby communities. No fatalities have been reported.

WELS Christian Aid and Relief is supporting Bethel and area WELS members with recovery efforts and financial aid as needed. About 75 volunteers helped clear fallen trees and clean up properties damaged by the storm. Mount Calvary has served as the relief team's deployment base and provided food and water for the team.

Resources to help keep teens connected: *As memories from the 2026 WELS Youth Rally this past July begin to fade, Donn Dobberstein, director of WELS Discipleship and a member of the 2026 WELS Youth Rally planning committee, reminds teens and youth leaders that the lessons learned continue at the local congregational level.*

"The youth rally was never intended to replace the local congregation or family. It's designed to strengthen both," he says. "For four days, teens experience something they rarely see—the incredible scope of Christ's kingdom as they worship alongside thousands of fellow believers from across the synod.

That experience often deepens their appreciation for their own congregation and encourages them to reconnect with the everyday means of grace through worship, Bible study, youth ministry, Christian friendships, and faithful parents and youth leaders. The rally serves as a spiritual catalyst that points teens back to those year-round relationships where discipleship actually happens."

WELS also offers several resources to help teens stay connected—to one another and to their Savior.

- *A **WELS Next Gen Instagram page** has recently been released with content created specifically for teens and young adults. Videos and photos on this social media platform will connect users to one another as well as tackle some of the hard-hitting questions that teens and young adults face, all with the goal of helping young adults grow in their faith. Find the page at instagram.com/welsnextgen.*
- ***The WELS National Online Teen Bible Study** provides teens an opportunity to dig deeper into God's Word and connect with other WELS teens living across the country. A new series of four studies, led by Jon Enter, campus pastor at St. Croix Lutheran Academy, West Saint Paul, Minnesota, will focus on the topics of discovering self-worth, accepting change, resisting temptation, and finding peace. The first study is at 6:00 PM central, September 27. Register at wels.net/national-teen-bible-study.*
- *College students can **sign up with WELS Campus Ministry** at wels.net/college to get connected with a local campus pastor.*
- *A **free WELS Campus Ministry app** gives college-aged WELS members access to Bible studies, devotions, ministry resources, connections to other WELS students, and more, all in one place. Available now on iOS and Android by searching "WELS Campus Ministry" in app stores.*
- ***Transformed teen devotions** offer weekly messages from God's Word. Access the devotions at wels.net/teen-devotions or through the WELS app.*

Five newly elected district presidents join the Conference of Presidents: *The Conference of Presidents, chaired by the synod president, also includes 12 district presidents, the first and second synod vice presidents, and the non-voting synod recording secretary. The respective districts elect their district presidents every two years; the synod president, the vice presidents, and the secretary are elected by the synod convention to four-year terms.*

The Conference of Presidents carries out several important functions. First, it is ultimately responsible for overseeing doctrine (what we believe and confess) and practice (how that doctrine is applied and carried out in our congregations). It oversees the process of the calling of pastors, teachers, and staff ministers by providing names for call lists and giving advice to congregations as they issue those calls. It also serves as the synod's Assignment Committee, assigning teaching and staff ministry candidates from Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota, and pastor and vicar candidates from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wisconsin.

District presidents continue to serve as pastors in their own congregations. We believe that by keeping a district president active as a parish pastor, he continues to have a personal understanding of a congregation and its rapidly changing ministry. But because of the amount of travel they do, the number of meetings they attend, and the time they spend advising and counseling congregations, each district president is provided with a full-time pastor to assist him in his congregational and district duties.

Because of retirements and acceptance of other calls, five new district presidents have joined the Conference of Presidents. Benjamin Tomczak (Dakota-Montana), Stephen Helwig (Nebraska), Kevin Westra (Northern Wisconsin), Jonathan Schroeder (South Atlantic), and Paul Seager (South Central) have all begun their work as district presidents. Last week they completed their official orientation and training for their new positions, for such things as preparing call lists, helping congregations with advice and guidance, their role in the assignment process, etc. That training will continue as they experience the challenges and joys of serving as a district president.

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
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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.