

Seventh Sunday of Easter
Ascension Sunday -May 17, 2026
United Church of Christ - Neillsville
Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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PRELUDE "Morning" Edward Grieg

Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Shout to God with songs of great joy!

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!

God has made us whole.

God has called us to a ministry of hope and love.

Come, let us celebrate the love of God!

Let us praise God's name and serve God joyfully!

OPENING PRAYER

Mysterious God, You reveal yourself in Jesus, your Beloved Child who gives us a glimpse of your glory and invites us to share in the unity of all that is Holy: the holiness that is You, your creation, your people, united in the Spirit that breaks through all boundaries of fear and injustice.

Meet us here today, and teach us to be one: One in love for each other, one in understanding with all who find in Jesus the Way to You, one in peace with all who find other paths to your Truth. We ask all this in the name of Jesus, whose fervent prayer was ever: "May they all be one." Amen.

HYMN "Cantemos Al Creador (Creator God We Sing)"

#39 NCH Carlos Rosas Trans. Dimas Planas-Belfort

1 Creator God, we sing,

A hymn of joy we're making:

**Our grateful love we bring,
as the new day's light is breaking.**

**God made the sea and land;
the sun and stars came rolling
From God's own loving hand,
Their Creator's love extolling.**

Refrain:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Creator God, we sing: Alleluia!

2 Creator God, we sing,

Your power and wisdom blessing;

Our hope and wonder bring,

Admiration now expressing.

The universe maintains

That God in might is dwelling;

And we, in humble strains,

Of God's beauty here are telling. *[Refrain]*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

As forgiven and blessed children of God, let us share with one another signs of peace and love.

One: The Peace of God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

All are invited to greet one another with words such as "The peace of Christ be with you," and the response: "And also with you".

HYMN RESPONSE: "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"

#88 W&R Rick Founds

Lord, I lift your name on high.

Lord, I love to sing your praises.

I'm so glad you're in my life,

I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth to show the way,

From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay;

From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;

Lord, I lift your name on high.

CHILDREN'S TIME

HONORING OUR GRADUATES

Haylee Erickson - Colton Williams - Reese Ziegler

MacKenzie Keller

Today we honor you who are graduating, for you are on a sacred journey.

Your journey is not only the learning of your mind but the growing of your heart.

We celebrate the effort you have given to accomplish this.

And we ask God's blessing for the journey yet to come.

May God always give you gifts of curiosity and discipline.

May God give you courage to explore new things.

May the Spirit work in you that in all you do you may serve God.

May the Spirit give you grace to do justice, to love kindly, and to walk humbly with God.

May you know always that Christ goes with you.

We who have made many journeys give you our blessing.

By the grace of God, we surround you with our prayers.

Our spirits will go with you. For we too are pilgrims, always learning, always by the grace of God beginning anew. Go in peace, and serve God with joy. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

NEW TESTAMENT Acts 1:6-14

⁶ As a result, those who had gathered together asked Jesus, "Lord, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now?"

⁷ Jesus replied, "It isn't for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ Rather, you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

⁹ After Jesus said these things, as they were watching, he was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going away and as they were staring toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood next to them. ¹¹ They said, "Galileans, why are you standing here, looking toward heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you saw him go into heaven."

Jesus' followers in Jerusalem

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, which is near Jerusalem—a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ When they entered the city, they went to the upstairs room where they were staying. Peter, John, James, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James, Alphaeus' son; Simon the zealot; and Judas, James' son— ¹⁴ all were united in their devotion to prayer, along with some women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

GOSPEL John 17:1-11 *Jesus prays*

¹ When Jesus finished saying these things, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, so that the Son can glorify you. ² You gave him authority over everyone so that he could give eternal life to everyone you gave him. ³ This is eternal life: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you sent. ⁴ I have glorified you on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. ⁵ Now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I shared with you before the world was created.

⁶ "I have revealed your name to the people you gave me from this world. They were yours and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸ This is because I gave them the words that you gave me, and they received them. They truly understood that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.

⁹ "I'm praying for them. I'm not praying for the world but for those you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ Everything that is mine is yours and everything that is yours is mine; I have been glorified in them.

¹¹ I'm no longer in the world, but they are in the world, even as I'm coming to you. Holy Father, watch over them in your name, the name you gave me, that they will be one just as we are one.

SERMON "Watching, Waiting, Working as One"

Pastor Julie

HYMN *“Eternal Christ, Who, Kneeling”*

#390 NCH William, W. Reid, Jr.

Tune: Nyland 7.6.7.6.D (alternate tune: Aurelia “The Church’s One Foundation” #386)

1 Eternal Christ, who, kneeling
when earthly tasks were done,
Turned unto God appealing,
“That they may all be one.”
We thank you for your vision
of unity untorn,
Of faith without division
with which your church was born.

2 But we have often slighted
the ties designed to hold
Your followers united
within one common fold.
On history’s tattered pages
we see, O Christ with shame,
The strife which through the ages
has marred your church’s name.

3 Accept our deep contrition
for all our sundering ways
Which still disrupt your mission,
which mock our words of praise.
Christ, may your Spirit guide us
that we may find, beyond
The things which still divide us,
love’s all-embracing bond.

MORNING PRAYERS

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is
in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and
forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from
evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the
glory, forever. Amen

THE OFFERING SERVICE

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory *“Andante”* Grieg

Doxology *Tune: Old 100th (“Praise God from
Whom All Blessings Flow”)*

**Let trumpets sound and voices sing!
Let all on earth their praises bring!
For Christ has conquered sin and death
And given life eternal breath. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

**Generous God, may these gifts we bring be used to
bless, to build, and to beautify through generous
and faithful care. Amen.**

HYMN *“A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!”*

#322 W&R (vs. 1-3) MUSIC: Geistliche Kirchengeslang,
harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams

1 A hymn of glory let us sing!
New hymns throughout the world shall ring:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Christ, by a road before untrod,
ascends unto the throne of God.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 The holy apostolic band
upon the Mount of Olives stand,
Alleluia, alleluia!
and with his faithful followers see
their Lord ascend in majesty.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3 O Lord, our homeward pathway bend
That our unwearied hearts ascend,
Alleluia, alleluia!
Where, seated on your Father’s throne,
You reign as King of kings alone.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

BLESSING

SHARING OUR BLESSINGS AND BURDENS

*As we are gathered together as children of God, we
are called to share our blessings and joys and our
concerns, our deepest fears, sadnesses, griefs and
needs so that we may bear one another up and
support each other in prayer and Christian love.*

HYMN "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!"

#322 W&R (vs. 4)

**4 O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
all praise to you let earth accord.
Alleluia, alleluia!
You are, while endless ages run,
with Father and with Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Karen Mohr

RADIO BROADCAST

**11 AM Sunday radio broadcast
on WCCN 98.5FM and 1370AM**

This week's radio broadcast is sponsored
anonymously with the message for
our graduates - "Lord, make their way clear,
keep their footsteps firm, and remind them
that you are with them always."

WELCOME

We welcome you to our service of worship!
We are glad that you have joined us on site,
through the internet or on the radio.
We pray that you will hear God's call,
seek to follow Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit.

YouTube link for Sunday, May 17, 2026
<https://youtube.com/live/LC9ZGph-TdU>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Sunday, May 17th

- 9:30 AM Worship

Deacon – Karlene Wallace
Greeters – Jim & Rosie Repinski
Ushers – Roger Carl, Hap Eddy
Power Point – Brynn Heck
AV – Stephanie Heck

*FYI - (for those who are scheduled for PowerPoint/AV
it is suggested that you arrive 30 minutes prior to
the church service to get the laptop turned on,
allow for any updates, get screen down and start
running the announcements).*

Following Sunday, May 24th

Deacon – JoAnn Wren
Greeters – Phil & Donita Follen
Ushers – Mike & Debbie Perkl
Power Point – Janice Miller
AV –

Monday, May 18th

9:00 AM – Card Making

Tuesday, May 19th

-1:00 PM – Bible Study

5:00 PM - Trustees Meeting

Coffee fellowship after worship -

Sign up on back bulletin board

May 17 – Petkovsek / Voss
May 24 – Doris Bakker
May 31 – Weyer / Hamm
June 7 – Mathis
June 14 -
We need people to sign up



**MEAL
GIVEAWAY**

**MAY 17, 2026
9:45-10:00 AM**

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST-NEILLSVILLE
515 WEST SECOND STREET**

Osseo-Fairchild High School

Colton Williams

Son of Scott & Jill Williams

Colton is a member of the National Honor Society and Academic Honors. His future plans are to attend UW-LaCrosse focused on a Doctorate in Physical Therapy.

His greatest achievement has been earning a Black Belt in Karate at age 13.



Reese Ziegler

Daughter of Joshua & Jenna Ziegler



Reese has been named Valedictorian of her class.

She is also an Academic Excellence Scholar and received the Daughters of the American Revolution Award. Reese has participated in dance studio competition throughout school. Her future plan is to study Education at Winona State University.

Neillsville High School

Haylee Erickson

Daughter of Chad & Lacey Erickson



Haylee plans to attend UW Stevens Point to pursue a degree in early childhood education and hopes to become a kindergarten teacher. She participated in the State Solo Ensemble on May 2nd & took 1st. She has been a member of the National Honor Society.

UW-Madison

MacKenzie Keller

Daughter of Bob Keller and Ellie & Phil Goliembewski



MacKenzie is graduating from the University of Wisconsin – Madison. She received a Bachelor of Arts in English and Psychology, with a certificate in Criminal Justice. She was recognized for being a first-generation college graduate. After graduation, she hopes to take a year off to gain more experience in the field and save up some money before continuing onto school for a master's in psychology. She is undecided on whether to do forensics, counseling, or clinical psychology.

She is currently working at Achieving Collaborative Treatment (ACT) as an ABA (applied behavioral analysis) Therapist for children with autism and is also a respite caregiver for one of the children. She feels her greatest achievement has been working for ACT throughout college or interning at Journey Mental Health Center, where she was able to work with and help individuals struggling with severe schizophrenia or bipolar disorder.