

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

Berlin, Wisconsin
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



And when Jesus was baptized, immediately He went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on Him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Matthew 3:16–17

The Baptism of our Lord

January 5/8, 2023

Serving Us Today:

Pastor Paul Mundinger

Organist: Nancy Wallner

920-361-9935

www.stjohnberlin.org

(To Our Guests: The Lord's Supper is celebrated at St. John Lutheran Church in the confession and glad confidence that our Lord, as He says, gives not only bread and wine, but His very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sin. In joyful obedience to the clear teaching of our Lord Jesus those are invited to His table who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us. They show forth His death until He comes. Because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and so are unable to receive the Sacrament are invited to meditate on God's Word in the distribution hymn and pray for the day when divisions will have ceased. Please note that there is a cup of white grape juice in each tray which contains a drop of wine for those who prefer grape juice. Thank you!)

AS WE GATHER... The First Sunday after the Epiphany takes us in mind and heart to the Jordan River, where Jesus is baptized. This day, observed each year in the Church, is a reminder of the importance of Baptism in the life of every Christian, for it is in dying with Christ through Baptism that we are born anew to eternal life. Although we may have not been baptized in the river Jordan, we share with our Lord the experience of being baptized. Through Baptism, we are connected to Christ and given a whole new way of living for time and for eternity. "But I am baptized!" Martin Luther would exclaim when life situations seemed overwhelming. Knowing that we live daily in baptismal grace makes the difference in our lives as well.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP HELPS... Please know we have two children's worship bulletins available for young non-readers and older children. Both bulletins have activities that go along with the weekly theme. We also have activity bags for children hanging on the rear wall of the church for use throughout the worship service. If needed we have a cry room/nursery (with changing table) behind the organ in the southwest corner of the church.

Pre-Service Music

Ringling of the Bells

Welcome

Confession and Absolution

409 Hail, O Source of Every Blessing

- 1 Hail, O Source of ev'ry blessing,
Father of our human race!
Gentiles now, Your grace possessing,
In Your courts obtain a place.
Grateful now, we fall before You,
In Your Church rejoice to live,
See Your glory and adore You,
Thankful for the grace You give.

- 2 Once far off but now invited,
We approach Your sacred throne,
In Your covenant united,
Reconciled, redeemed, made one.
Now revealed to eastern sages,
See the Star of Mercy shine,
Myst'ry hid in former ages,
Myst'ry great of love divine.

3 Hail, O all-inviting Savior!
Gentiles now their offerings bring,
In Your temples seek Your favor,
Jesus Christ, our Lord and King.
May we, body, soul, and spirit,
Live devoted to Your praise,
Glorious realms of bliss inherit,
Grateful anthems ever raise.

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The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit *Ps. 2:7–11, 12c; antiphon: Is. 42:1a*

Behold my servant, whom I uphold
my chosen, in whom my soul delights.

I will tell of the decree:

**The LORD said to me, "You are my Son;
today I have begotten you.**

Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.

**You shall break them with a rod of iron
and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."**

Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
be warned, O rulers of the earth.

**Serve the LORD with fear,
and rejoice with trembling,**

for his wrath is quickly kindled.

Blessèd are all who take refuge in him.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights.

Kyrie *LSB 152*

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

This Is the Feast *LSB 155*

**C This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation.
Blessing, honor, glory, and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

All Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 42:1–9* (The Chosen One of the Lord)

¹Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;

I have put my Spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
²He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
³a bruised reed he will not break,
and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
⁴He will not grow faint or be discouraged
till he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his law.
⁵Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people on it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
⁶"I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;
I will take you by the hand and keep you;
I will give you as a covenant for the people,
a light for the nations,
⁷to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
⁸I am the LORD; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to carved idols.
⁹Behold, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth
I tell you of them."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm *Psalm 29 (antiphon: v. 3)*

¹Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
**²Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.**
³The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD, over many waters.

**⁴The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.**

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

**⁶He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

⁷The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

**⁸The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

⁹The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth
and strips the forests bare,
and in his temple all cry, "Glory!"

**¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.**

¹¹May the LORD give strength to his people!
May the LORD bless his people with peace!

Epistle *Romans 6:1–11*

(We are created to walk in newness of life in Christ.)

¹What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse *LSB 156*

C Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

**You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia, alleluia.**

Holy Gospel *Matthew 3:13–17*

(Jesus is baptized by John in the Jordan River.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Message

405 To Jordan's River Came Our Lord

- 1 To Jordan's river came our Lord,
The Christ, whom heav'nly hosts adored,
The God from God, the Light from Light,
The Lord of glory, pow'r, and might.
- 2 The Savior came to be baptized—
The Son of God in flesh disguised—
To stand beneath the Father's will
And all His righteousness fulfill.
- 3 As Jesus in the Jordan stood
And John baptized the Lamb of God,
The Holy Spirit, heav'nly dove,
Descended on Him from above.
- 4 Then from God's throne with thund'rous sound
Came God's own voice with words profound:
"This is My Son," was His decree,
"The one I love, who pleases Me."

5 The Father's word, the Spirit's flight
Anointed Christ in glorious sight
As God's own choice, from Adam's fall
To save the world and free us all.

6 Now rise, faint hearts, be resolute;
This man is Christ, our substitute!
He was baptized in Jordan's stream,
Proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme.

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Sermon "Is it Safe Now to Go Back in the Water?"

(Matthew 3:13-17)

Apostles' Creed

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

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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.**

Prayer of the Church

P: With trusting hearts we bring our prayers and petitions to our gracious God, confident of His willingness to hear us in this time of holy conversation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer

P: O Lord, we pray for the Church, asking that through her the joyous news of salvation be proclaimed as the Holy Spirit directs. Grant us an appreciation of the worldwide nature of the fellowship that we share in Christ, that we see in each sister and brother in Christ a reflection of Your glory. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord of all, watch over our nation and grant Your divine favor to all who bear office in our land, especially the president and congress of the United States, the governor and legislature of this state, and to all those who make, administer, and judge our laws. Help them to serve all those in their care according to Your holy will that we live in peace and safety. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: As we bring our prayers, O King of heaven, we remember those with special needs who desire our petitions. By Your Word and Holy Spirit, comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity, [*especially* . . .]. Bring consolation to those in sorrow, and grant to all a measure of Your love, taking them into Your tender care. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, holy Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever.

C: Amen.

Offering

Offertory *LSB 159*

C What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?

**I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will take the cup of salvation
and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will pay my vows to the Lord
now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

Service of the Sacrament

Preface *LSB 160*

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus *LSB 161*

**C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord's Prayer *LSB 162*

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C 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 trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 162

Pax Domini *LSB 163*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei *LSB 163*

**C Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.**

Distribution Hymns

633 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing
Praise to our victorious King,
Who has washed us in the tide
Flowing from His pierced side.
Alleluia!

2 Praise we Him, whose love divine
Gives His sacred blood for wine,
Gives His body for the feast—
Christ the victim, Christ the priest.
Alleluia!

3 Where the paschal blood is poured,
Death's dread angel sheathes the sword;
Israel's hosts triumphant go
Through the wave that drowns the foe.
Alleluia!

4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed,
Paschal victim, paschal bread;
With sincerity and love
Eat we manna from above.
Alleluia!

5 Mighty Victim from the sky,
Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;
You have conquered in the fight,
You have brought us life and light.
Alleluia!

- 6 Now no more can death appall,
Now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise,
And Your saints in You shall rise.
 Alleluia!
- 7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!
This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
Newborn souls in You to be.
 Alleluia!
- Δ8 Father, who the crown shall give,
Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days:
Three in One, Your name we praise.
 Alleluia!

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628 Your Table I Approach

- 1 Your table I approach;
 Dear Savior, hear my prayer.
Let not an unrepentant heart
 Prove hurtful to me there.
- 2 Lord, I confess my sins
 And mourn their wretched bands;
A contrite heart is sure to find
 Forgiveness at Your hands.
- 3 Your body and Your blood,
 Once slain and shed for me,
Are taken at Your table, Lord,
 In blest reality.
- 4 Search not how this takes place,
 This wondrous mystery;
God can accomplish vastly more
 Than what we think could be.

- 5 O grant, most blessed Lord,
That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament
Raise doubt within my mind.
- 6 Oh, may I never fail
To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood,
O God, my peace and light.

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Post-Communion Canticle "Thank the Lord" *LSB 164*

- C Thank the Lord and sing His praise;
tell ev'ryone what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice
and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Post-Communion Collect

- P Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.**

Benediction *LSB 166*

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
- C Amen.**

922 Go, My Children, with My Blessing

- 1 Go, My children, with My blessing,
Never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you;
You are My own.
In My love's baptismal river

I have made you Mine forever.
Go, My children, with My blessing—
You are My own.

2 Go, My children, sins forgiven,
 At peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you,
 What I can cure.
 Here you heard My dear Son's story;
 Here you touched Him, saw His glory.
Go, My children, sins forgiven,
 At peace and pure.

3 Go, My children, fed and nourished,
 Closer to Me;
Grow in love and love by serving,
 Joyful and free.
 Here My Spirit's power filled you;
 Here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished,
 Joyful and free.

4 I the Lord will bless and keep you
 And give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you
 And give you peace:
 I the Lord will be your Father,
 Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, My children; I will keep you
 And give you peace.

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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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Attendance Last Week: 119
General giving last week: \$10,770.73
Budget giving needed: \$ 7,500.00

Calendar of Activities this week at St. John

9 Monday	Board of Trustees	6:30 pm
10 Tuesday	Board of Elders	6:00 pm
10 Tuesday	Board of Education	6:00 pm
11 Wednesday	Public Confirmation	3:45 pm
12 Thursday	Worship/HC	6:30 pm
15 Sunday	Worship Service/HC	9:00 am
15 Sunday	Bible Class	10:15 am
15 Sunday	Sunday School	10:15 am

YOUR NEW 2023 CHURCH ENVELOPES ARE IN YOUR MAILBOX! Please pick them up and plan to begin using them right away on Sunday, January 1st. **Please check the name label on your envelopes immediately as you pull it out of your mailbox.** If something is not correct, notify Pastor, an Elder or Cathy Young. Remember...your nametag is BELOW the mailbox slot. If your family has more than one envelope box, please check the table in the Narthex for additional envelopes.

CHOIR PRACTICE will resume on Wednesday, January 18th. Any and all singers are welcome to join us for the Lent and Easter season. Questions? Call Cindy Schuett at 920-203-6763

ST. JOHN SCRIP: Scrip has recently added Visa and McDonald's gift cards. Visa offers a 1.25% rebate in the amounts of \$25, \$50 and \$100 cards. McDonald's offers a 2% rebate in the amounts of \$10 and \$25. Please consider purchasing scrip cards for gift shopping and giving.

LIFE DATE MAGAZINE, the official publication of *Lutherans for Life*, a Recognized Service Organization of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, is available on the table in the Narthex. This magazine contains timely articles on "Life" issues such as abortion, end-of-life matters, care giving, etc. It also highlights

to work of *Lutherans for Life* which is dedicated to support, protect and honor all life from conception to natural death.

THE HUMAN CARE COMMITTEE would like to thank you for the generous support you have given us to share. Your donations are very much appreciated by all those who have received them and those of us who have been able to let them know we all care. THANK YOU!

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE USING THE SCREENS EXCLUSIVELY and may not want or need a full bulletin...we have available in the back of church and from the ushers a "news" sheet which contains the same calendar, announcements and sermon outline found in the regular bulletin. If interested, please pick one up and see if it meets your needs.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE ON THE WEB WWW.STJOHNBERLIN.ORG:

Enter the CHURCH section by clicking on the left portal at the entry page. Once there, you will see tabs for access to the video recording of the weekly church service, copies of the bulletin, the newsletter, the monthly calendar, and other resources. You can also visit the St. John School web pages from a tab in the church section.

LWML CARDS ARE RE-USABLE! If you receive one of the hand-made cards from the LWML, the designer wishes you to know that they can be re-used if you so desire. The sticker on the front of the envelope is removable and the card's inner liner with the message can be removed, leaving you with a card that you can pass along to someone else to brighten their day if you wish.

SERMON OUTLINE
January 5/8, 2023
Theme: "Is It Safe to God Back Into the Water?"
(Matthew 3:13-17)

I. The Terror of Water

- A. The movie _____ brought terror to everyone at the beach.
- B. Middle East people had a dislike for the _____.
- C. The Jordan River was not safe for _____.
- D. He would suffer the consequences of our _____ all the way to the cross.
- E. Psalm 69 is about how _____ anguished for us!

II. It's Now Safe To Go in the Water!

- A. The wind and the waves (and water) _____ Jesus.
- B. God promises to lead us beside _____ waters.
- C. We still have to be _____ by water (and die!)
- D. But the _____ of death is no more!
- E. Even as we go _____, we will be pulled _____!
- F. We are to drown and die _____ in this life.... and yet we _____ to newness of life.
- G. Because we're now in Christ, the Father is _____ with us as well!