

***St. John Lutheran Church & School
Berlin, Wisconsin
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod***



**Serving Us Today:
Pastor Robert Busse
Organist: Nancy Wallner
920-361-9935
www.stjohnberlin.org**

***The 1st Sunday in Advent
November 30 and December 3, 2023***

Large Print Bulletin

(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... Welcome to the season of waiting! Not only is Advent a period of preparation for Jesus' first coming at Christmas, but this sacred season readies our hearts for Jesus' ultimate coming: when He, as King of kings and Lord of lords, returns in power and glory on the Last Day, when every knee will bow before Him and every eye will see Him as the One who reigns in sovereign majesty over all things. Until His ultimate revealing on that Day, we wait for Him in confident faith, strengthened by His Word and Meal, trusting His promise to make us guiltless in His sight. With the expectant people of old, may our worship together lead us to say: "Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield" (Psalm 33:20).

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

331 The Advent of Our King

- 1 The advent of our King
Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing
In strains of holy joy.

- 2 The everlasting Son
Incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant's form puts on
To set His servants free.

- 3 O Zion's daughter, rise
To meet your lowly King,

Nor let your faithless heart despise
The peace He comes to bring.

4 As judge, on clouds of light,
He soon will come again
And His true members all unite
With Him in heav'n to reign.

5 Before the dawning day
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away,
The new self now put on.

△ 6 All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.

Text and tune: Public domain

*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 *Psalm 25:1–3; antiphon: Zechariah 9:9b, alt.*

Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation.

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies exult over me.

**Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.**

**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, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation.

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.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

ALL: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 64:1–9

("Behold, please look, we are all Your people.")

¹Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake at your presence—
² as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
and that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³When you did awesome things that we did not look for,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From of old no one has heard
or perceived by the ear,
no eye has seen a God besides you,
who acts for those who wait for him.

⁵You meet him who joyfully works righteousness,
those who remember you in your ways.
Behold, you were angry, and we sinned;
in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?
⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
⁷There is no one who calls upon your name,
who rouses himself to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.
⁸But now, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
⁹Be not so terribly angry, O LORD,
and remember not iniquity forever.
Behold, please look, we are all your people.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm *Psalm 80:1–7; antiphon: v. 7*

¹Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

²**Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,
stir up your might and come to save us!**

³Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!

**⁴O LORD God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?**

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears
and given them tears to drink in full measure.

**⁶You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh among themselves.**

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Epistle *1 Corinthians 1:3–9*

(We wait for Jesus, who sustains us and takes our guilt away.)

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—⁶even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 *Mark 13:24–37*

(Our King enters His royal city as His people wait for Him.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the thirteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁴[Jesus said:] "In those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²"But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Be on guard,

keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. ³⁵Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning—³⁶lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

332 Savior of the Nations, Come

- 1 Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin’s Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav’n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.

- 2 Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—
Woman’s offspring, pure and fresh.


- 3 Here a maid was found with child,
Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown:
God was there upon His throne.

4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all
From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man,
His heroic course began.

5 God the Father was His source,
Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down,
Back then to His throne and crown.

6 For You are the Father's Son
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole
All our ills of flesh and soul.

7 From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides.

 8 Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1–2): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76; (sts. 3, 6): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (sts. 4–5, 8): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (st. 7): tr. Gifford A. Grobrien, 1973

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Sermon

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

Pastor: As we wait in hope for the coming of our Lord, let us together, as His Advent people, bring our prayers before Him.

Gracious Father, we give You thanks and praise for Your goodness and mercy that follow us all the days of our lives. You are our God; we are Your people. You have purchased and won us from sin and death by the sacrifice of Your Son upon the cross and by His rising from the grave. As He now sits at Your right hand, exalted over all things, we wait expectantly for the Day of His revealing. We wait in hope for the Lord!

People: He is our help and our shield.

Pastor: Mighty King and loving Savior, we thank You for the authority You have over all things in heaven and on earth. To a world in disarray and for a people filled with despair, You alone offer hope, peace, and certainty that all things are in Your hands. Help us to trust in You, Lord Jesus, even as we wait for the redemption You will provide on the Day You come again to judge the living and the dead. Bless the land in which we live and all those who serve for the benefit of us all. Be present in our homes, our schools, and our workplaces that Your provision be known to all. We wait in hope for the Lord!

People: He is our help and our shield.

Pastor: Healer of the broken and sustainer of the weary, grant the comfort of Your Holy Spirit to all who are suffering in heart, body, mind, and spirit. Remind those who are downtrodden that they are never alone, and use us as Your people to reach

out in care and compassion to those in our family, our community, and within this congregation who need Your healing mercies, [*especially . . .*]. We wait in hope for the Lord!

People: He is our help and our shield.

Pastor: Lord Jesus, we are Your waiting, expectant, hope-filled people. We anticipate the Day of Your revealing when Your saving work will be fully complete and when You renew and restore all things in heaven and on earth. Until that glorious Day, help us to rely upon Your grace alone, which declares us guiltless in Your sight through faith in Your promises. Stir up our hearts to make known to all the wonders You have done, so that more souls may be brought to saving faith and many would join with us in saying, "We wait in hope for the Lord!"

People: He is our help and our shield.

Pastor: Confident in our coming King and Savior, we entrust our prayers into Your merciful hands, for You, O Father, live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: 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, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in 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

**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 Institution

Pax Domini

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

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.**

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.

Text and tune: Public domain

350 Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come

1 Come, Thou precious Ransom, come,
Only hope for sinful mortals!
Come, O Savior of the world!
Open are to Thee all portals.
Come, Thy beauty let us see;
Anxiously we wait for Thee.

2 Enter now my waiting heart,
Glorious King and Lord most holy.
Dwell in me and ne'er depart,
Though I am but poor and lowly.
Ah, what riches will be mine
When Thou art my guest divine!

3 My hosannas and my palms
Graciously receive, I pray Thee;

Evermore, as best I can,
Savior, I will homage pay Thee,
And in faith I will embrace,
Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.

- 4 Hail! Hosanna, David's Son!
Jesus, hear our supplication!
Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown,
Bring us blessing and salvation,
That forever we may sing:
Hail! Hosanna to our King.

Text and tune: Public domain

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 in 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.

338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

- 1 Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

- 2 Born Thy people to deliver;
Born a child and yet a king!
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;

By Thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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Attendance Last Week: 211

General giving last week: \$7806.00

Budget giving needed: \$7500.00

Calendar of Activities this week at St. John

6 Wednesday	Wednesday Advent Service	6:30 pm
6 Wednesday	Senior Choir after the service	
7 Thursday	Ladies Aid Christmas Luncheon	1:00 pm
10 Sunday	Worship Service/HC	9:00 am
10 Sunday	COOKIE WALK After the church service	
10 Sunday	NO Adult Bible Class Today	
10 Sunday	Sunday School (program practice)	10:15 am

CALL MEETING: There will be a **CALL MEETING on Sunday, December 17th**. The meeting will take place in the church lower level and will start after church at approx. 10:30. The purpose is to Call a pastor for St. John. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

YOU'RE INVITED! The Ladies Aid is having their annual Christmas Luncheon on Thursday, December 7 at 1pm in the church lower level. All ladies, men and husbands and guests are invited to join them for food, fun and fellowship. See you there!

DOOR COLLECTION FOR HUMAN CARE: Today a free will collection will be taken at the door. All funds collected will be used by the St. John Human Care Committee to assist in the various ministries they are involved in.

THURSDAY SERVICE IN RECESS from now until January. Please take advantage of the Wednesday evening Advent services and the special services during the Christmas season.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A PEN PAL TO A ST. JOHN STUDENT?

If you are interested in having a pen pal from our school, please contact Amy Brooks. We are trying to see if there is interest from our members this school year. Her number is 920-789-9385 or her email is amybrooksy1012@gmail.com

HELP 3K/4K WITH PROJECT: 3K/4K is now collecting empty gallon milk jug/water jugs to construct an igloo in their classroom. Empty jugs can be dropped off at the school office or in the card room at church. The card room has a barrel for them.
Thank you! Mrs. Henke and the 3k/4K children.



2023 ST. JOHN SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM.

AT BERLIN HIGH SCHOOL: 6:00 pm.

When two teams go head-to-head in a game show contest designed to help needy families at Christmas, they also come face-to-face with big character lessons. They learn the value of teamwork, the danger of pride, how Jesus helps us overcome fear - and that when we apply truth to our lives, God changes our hearts through the power of Jesus Christ. With fun, kid-friendly arrangements and a wide variety of speaking roles for children, this fast-paced 42-minute musical is sure to be a hit among adults and children alike.

SWD LWML WINTER GETAWAY: *Please join us for the upcoming Winter Getaway at the beautiful Milwaukee Marriott West Hotel on February 2–3, 2024. Speaker and author Darcy Paape will lead us in an uplifting Mentoring Workshop, and we will be collecting care packages for female students and church workers. We hope to see you there! See the SWD website at lwml-swd.org and then click on 'Events' and 'Retreats' for details!*

Items Needed for our Gifts of Love Care Packages:

Comfy socks, facial items, lip gloss, chocolate kisses or hugs, small devotion booklets. Items must be able to fit in a quart size zip lock bag. These care packages will be going to female church workers at Concordia Wisconsin.