

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



***The Third Sunday in Advent***  
***December 15, 2024***

***Large Print Bulletin***

**COMMUNION STATEMENT...** 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, please speak with the Pastor before service. Please note that there are cups in the middle of each tray which contain wine diluted with water for those who prefer.

**AS WE GATHER...** Are you feeling the joy? At this point in the month of December, studies show that many people are not feeling joy. Many people are feeling overwhelmed as they approach Christmas, feeling stressors that include not having enough money, missing loved ones, and anticipating family conflict. No matter how we come to our time of worship today, even if stressed, distracted, and frazzled, what great timing to hear what God speaks to us in this season and each day. From all our Readings today, we hear of joy! It is a joy not based on our own momentary perspectives of how things should go, but rather a joy from God's eternal perspective for our sake and what has freely been done for us. As our Advent season continues, may our true joy be found in the one for whom we prepare—Christ, who was born for us and who is with us and for us and is today in our midst as He comes to us in the means of grace.

**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      Ringing of the Bells      The Welcome**

### **Confession and Absolution**

**357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

**1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear. Refrain**

**ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,  
Who ord'rest all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And teach us in her ways to go. Refrain**

**3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,  
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times didst give the Law  
In cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain**

**4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,  
Free them from Satan's tyranny  
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,  
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. Refrain**

**5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery. Refrain**

**6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain**

**7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain**

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Text: Public domain

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

## **The Rite of Holy Baptism for Kendall Grace Hilgart**

During the Baptism, at Pastors direction, the congregation will speak the Apostles' Creed

### **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.**

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

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**C who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,  
**C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

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

P O almighty God, merciful Father,  
**C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus

Christ I 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**

**Kyrie**

**LSB 186**

**C Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

## **Salutation and Collect of the Day**

P The Lord be with you.

**C And with thy spirit.**

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**CAmen.**

## **Old Testament Reading**

*2 Samuel 7:12–17*

<sup>12</sup>When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup>He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup>I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, <sup>15</sup>but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you.

<sup>16</sup>And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.” <sup>17</sup>In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### **Epistle**

*Galatians 3:15–18*

<sup>15</sup>To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified.

<sup>16</sup>Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but referring to one, “And to your offspring,” who is Christ. <sup>17</sup>This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void. <sup>18</sup>For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### **Alleluia *LSB 190***

**C Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

### **Holy Gospel *Matthew 1:1–17***

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

**C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**



<sup>1</sup>The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

<sup>2</sup>Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, <sup>3</sup>and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, <sup>4</sup>and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, <sup>5</sup>and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, <sup>6</sup>and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, <sup>7</sup>and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, <sup>8</sup>and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, <sup>9</sup>and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, <sup>10</sup>and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, <sup>11</sup>and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

<sup>12</sup>And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, <sup>13</sup>and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, <sup>14</sup>and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, <sup>15</sup>and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, <sup>16</sup>and Jacob the father

of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

<sup>17</sup>So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

## **Children's Sermon**

### **577 Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast**

**1 Almighty God, Your Word is cast**

**Like seed into the ground;**

**Now let the dew of heav'n descend**

**And righteous fruits abound.**

**2 Let not the sly satanic foe**

**This holy seed remove,**

**But give it root in ev'ry heart**

**To bring forth fruits of love.**

**3 Let not the world's deceitful cares**

**The rising plant destroy,**

**But let it yield a hundredfold**

**The fruits of peace and joy.**

**4 So when the precious seed is sown,  
Life-giving grace bestow  
That all whose souls the truth receive  
Its saving pow'r may know.**

Text: John Cawood, 1775–1852, alt. Text: Public domain

**Sermon                                    “A Borring Genealogy?”**

**Offering**

**Prayer of the Church**

**Service of the Sacrament**

**Preface *LSB 194***

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And with thy spirit.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

**C** **It is meet and right so to do.**

**P** 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 195*

**C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;  
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He, blessed is He,  
blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

*LSB 196*

**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 197*

**P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."**

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of

you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

**Pax Domini***LSB 197*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C Amen.**

**Agnus Dei** *LSB 198*

**C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

**Distribution Hymns**

**606 I Lay My Sins on Jesus**

**1** I lay my sins on Jesus,

**The spotless Lamb of God;**

**He bears them all and frees us**

**From the accursèd load.**

**I bring my guilt to Jesus**

**To wash my crimson stains**

**Clean in His blood most precious**

**Till not a spot remains.**

**2 I lay my wants on Jesus;  
All fullness dwells in Him;  
He heals all my diseases;  
My soul He does redeem.  
I lay my griefs on Jesus,  
My burdens and my cares;  
He from them all releases;  
He all my sorrows shares.**

**3 I rest my soul on Jesus,  
This weary soul of mine;  
His right hand me embraces;  
I on His breast recline.  
I love the name of Jesus,  
Immanuel, Christ, the Lord;  
Like fragrance on the breezes  
His name abroad is poured.**

### **637 Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord**

**1 Draw near and take the body of the Lord,  
And drink the holy blood for you outpoured;  
Offered was He for greatest and for least,  
Himself the victim and Himself the priest.**

**2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields,  
To all believers life eternal yields;  
With heav'nly bread He makes the hungry whole,  
Gives living waters to the thirsting soul.**

**3 Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere,  
And take the pledges of salvation here.  
O Lord, our hearts with grateful thanks endow  
As in this feast of love You bless us now.**

Text: Latin, 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Text: Public domain

**Nunc Dimittis**

***LSB 199***

**C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace  
according to Thy word,  
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast  
prepared before the face of all people,  
a light to lighten the Gentiles  
and the glory of Thy people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.**

P The Lord be with you.

**C And with thy spirit.**

**Benedicamus *LSB 202***

P Bless we the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**Benediction *LSB 202***

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you  
and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and + give you peace.

**C Amen, amen, amen.**

### **343 Prepare the Royal Highway**

**1 Prepare the royal highway;  
The King of kings is near!  
Let ev'ry hill and valley  
A level road appear!  
Then greet the King of Glory  
Foretold in sacred story: Refrain**

**ref Hosanna to the Lord,  
For He fulfills God's Word!**

**2 God's people, see Him coming:  
Your own eternal king!  
Palm branches strew before Him!  
Spread garments! Shout and sing!  
God's promise will not fail you!  
No more shall doubt assail you! Refrain**

**3 Then fling the gates wide open  
To greet your promised king!  
Your king, yet ev'ry nation  
Its tribute too should bring.**



**All lands, bow down before Him!  
All nations, now adore Him! Refrain**

**4 His is no earthly kingdom;  
It comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom  
And justice, truth, and love.  
So let your praise be sounding  
For kindness so abounding: Refrain**

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of  
Worship, 1978, alt.Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used  
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## **Acknowledgments**

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**Attendance Last Week: 257**

**General giving last week: \$13,938.00**

**Budget giving needed: \$ 7,500.00**

**PASTOR ROB'S NUMBER: If you or a loved one are hospitalized  
or going through something difficult and need to speak with a**

**pastor, please call or text Pastor Rob at any time at (920) 539-4603. He would be happy to speak with you and set up a time to visit.**

**BAPTISM:** KENDALL GRACE HILGART, daughter of Aaron and Caitlin Hilgart, will be baptized during the worship service on Sunday. Godparents for Kendall are Andy Krause and Kristen Seaman. May the Lord watch over Kendall and keep her in the true faith unto life everlasting.

**Calendar of Activities this week at St. John**

<b>18 Wednesday</b>	<b>Weekday Advent Service</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>
18 Wednesday	Senior Choir after service	
19 Thursday	Council Meeting	6:00 pm
<b>20 Friday</b>	<b>St. John School Christmas Program (At Berlin High School)</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>
<b>21 Saturday</b>	<b>Christmas VBS</b>	<b>9:00am – 1:00 pm</b>
<b>22 Sunday</b>	<b>Worship Service/HC</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>
22 Sunday	Adult Bible Class	10:15 am
22 Sunday	Sunday School Program Practice	10:15 am

**SCRIP NEWS:** Scrip is now carrying Hy-Vee (3%) in \$25 and \$50. We also have Meijer (3%) in \$25. Help support the church and use Scrip cards for Christmas gift giving.

## **YOUR 2025 GIVING ENVELOPES ARE IN YOUR CHURCH**

**MAILBOX:** Please take a look! Your nametag is BELOW the slot with your mail. Please take a look right away when you pull out your box to make sure it matches your name. If you do not have envelopes or you have the wrong box, see Pastor, an Elder, or Cathy in the office ASAP. \*\*Only 1 box will fit in a mailbox slot. If your family has additional boxes, please look on the table in the Church Library.

**ELECTRONIC GIVING:** Would you like your stewardship to be automated? St. John enables you to give your church offering by using electronic funds transfer (EFT). You may already be using EFT to have your mortgage, car payment and bills automatically paid using this method. Now your gift to God can be regular and “off the top,” just like these other commitments.

There is no cost to you for this service. Just think – you won't have to write 52 checks a year! And you won't have to wonder where you put your church offering envelopes.

If you would like to participate, contact Amy Radliff by phone 920-361-1437 or by email at [theradliffs@gmail.com](mailto:theradliffs@gmail.com) for an enrollment form.

You can give weekly or monthly. Your giving is recorded at the church office and will reflect on your annual statement.

**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.



**St. John Lutheran Church and School**  
**168 Mound Street Berlin, WI**

Wednesday Evening Advent Service

Wednesday, December 18

Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm

St. John School Pageant at  
Berlin High School

Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>

Christmas VBS  
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
Children's Christmas Program at 4:00 pm

Candle Service on Christmas Eve  
at 6:30 pm

Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Day service  
with Holy Communion  
at 9:00 am

Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>

New Year's Eve Service  
with Holy Communion at 6:30 pm

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## **SUNDAY ONLY: Sermon Notes – 12-15-24 – A Boring Genealogy?**

What's the point of this genealogy?

-The genealogy of Jesus tells us that he's a \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

-Jesus is a real person which means that all that he said and did happened in a real time and a real place.

-“The book of the origin of Jesus: Christ, Son of David, Son of Abraham.” (Matthew 1:1)

-“Christ” is Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ – it's the Greek verse of the Hebrew word “Messiah”.

-As the “Son of Abraham” and the “Son of David” Jesus is demonstrated to be the “Christ”.

-“And Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.” (Matthew 1:16)

-Jesus is also \_\_\_\_\_.

-Matthew’s genealogy tells us that Jesus is a man, but not just a man, he’s also the Christ. And, as the Christ, he is also truly God.

What’s the point of this genealogy for me?

-Why does it matter for me that Jesus is a man?

-Because he’s a man, Jesus does \_\_\_\_\_ what you’re going through.

-Because he’s a man, Jesus also asked God “Why”?

-Why does it matter for me that Jesus is the “Christ” – the “Son of David” & “Son of Abraham”?

-Jesus came from sin to save me from my sin, he’s not just the Jewish Messiah, he’s \_\_\_\_\_ Messiah, too.

-Why does it matter for me that Jesus is God?

-This all means that God \_\_\_\_\_ you so much that he became a man for you and he became the Christ for you in suffering and dying on the cross.

-I hope now you see that this is no boring genealogy. Instead, instead it’s evidence that Jesus is a man, the Christ, and God. And its proof that he gets us, that he came to save us, and that he loves us!

