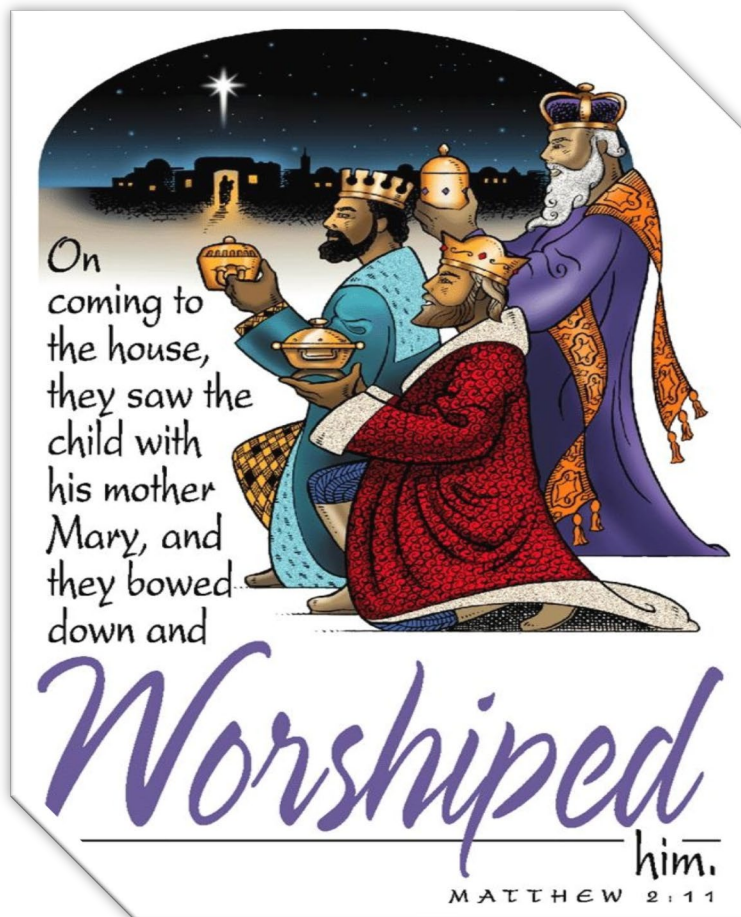


St. John Lutheran Church & School
Berlin, Wisconsin
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



The Second Sunday After Christmas
January 9 and 12, 2025

Serving Us Today:
Pastor Rob Schrader
Organist: Amanda Tetzlaff
920-361-9935
www.stjohnberlin.org

Large Print Bulletin

AS WE GATHER... Today is the first of the bookends that mark the Epiphany season—the Baptism of Our Lord and His Transfiguration. In common is the command from God to “listen to Him.” We begin our journey of listening to the Lord, learning from those who went before, acknowledging the revelation of the Lamb of God in baptismal water, and looking to Him, the Word made flesh. In the prophet Isaiah comes a voice of comfort to a troubled Judah. By these words, the Lord reminds us that despite the circumstances of the moment, the faithful are beloved in the eyes of the Lord—a love made profoundly manifest in the gift of His own Son to die that we might live and to live that we might never die.

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

The Welcome

Confession and Absolution

400 Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

1 Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,

Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;

***Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.***

***2 Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining;
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.***

***3 Shall we not yield Him, in costly devotion,
Fragrance of Edom and off'rings divine,
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?***

***4 Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would His favor secure.
Richer by far is the heart's adoration;
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.***

***5 Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.***

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt. Text: 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 2:7–11, 12c; antiphon: Isaiah 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.

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.

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.

CAmen.

Old Testament Reading 1 Samuel 24:2–7

²Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel and went to seek David and his men in front of the Wildgoats' Rocks. ³And he came to the sheepfolds by the way, where there was a cave, and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the innermost parts of the cave. ⁴And the men of David said to him, "Here is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold, I will give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it shall seem good to you.'" Then David arose and stealthily cut off a corner of Saul's robe. ⁵And afterward David's heart struck him, because he had cut off a corner of Saul's robe. ⁶He said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD's anointed, to put out my hand against him, seeing he is the LORD's anointed." ⁷So David persuaded his men with these words and did not permit them to attack Saul. And Saul rose up and left the cave and went on his way.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Revelation 17:12–14

¹²And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast. ¹³These are of one mind and

hand over their power and authority to the beast. ¹⁴They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.”

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 2:1–12***

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶”“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

395 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

1 O Morning Star, how fair and bright!

You shine with God’s own truth and light,

Aglow with grace and mercy!

Of Jacob’s race, King David’s son,

Our Lord and master, You have won

Our hearts to serve You only!

Lowly, holy!

**Great and glorious,
All victorious,
Rich in blessing!
Rule and might o'er all possessing!**

**2 Come, heav'nly Bridegroom, Light divine,
And deep within our hearts now shine;
There light a flame undying!
In Your one body let us be
As living branches of a tree,
Your life our lives supplying.
Now, though daily
Earth's deep sadness
May perplex us
And distress us,
Yet with heav'nly joy You bless us.**

**3 Lord, when You look on us in love,
At once there falls from God above
A ray of purest pleasure.
Your Word and Spirit, flesh and blood
Refresh our souls with heav'nly food.
You are our dearest treasure!
Let Your mercy
Warm and cheer us!
O draw near us!**

**For You teach us
God's own love through You has reached us.**

**4 Almighty Father, in Your Son
You loved us when not yet begun
Was this old earth's foundation!
Your Son has ransomed us in love
To live in Him here and above:
This is Your great salvation.
Alleluia!
Christ the living,
To us giving
Life forever,
Keeps us Yours and fails us never!**

**5 O let the harps break forth in sound!
Our joy be all with music crowned,
Our voices gladly blending!
For Christ goes with us all the way—
Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!
His love is never ending!
Sing out! Ring out!
Jubilation!
Exultation!
Tell the story!
Great is He, the King of Glory!**

**6 What joy to know, when life is past,
The Lord we love is first and last,**

**The end and the beginning!
He will one day, oh, glorious grace,
Transport us to that happy place
Beyond all tears and sinning!
Amen! Amen!
Come, Lord Jesus!
Crown of gladness!
We are yearning
For the day of Your returning!**

Text: tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.; Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608 Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005513

Sermon “Is Jesus Your King?”

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

Offering

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 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.

The Words of Our Lord

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."

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into

heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.**

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

402 The Only Son from Heaven

**1 The only Son from heaven,
Foretold by ancient seers,
By God the Father given,
In human form appears.
No sphere His light confining,
No star so brightly shining
As He, our Morning Star.**

**2 O time of God appointed,
O bright and holy morn!
He comes, the king anointed,
The Christ, the virgin-born,
Grim death to vanquish for us,
To open heav'n before us
And bring us life again.**

**3 O Lord, our hearts awaken
To know and love You more,
In faith to stand unshaken,
In spirit to adore,
That we, through this world moving,
Each glimpse of heaven proving,
May reap its fullness there.**

**4 O Father, here before You
With God the Holy Ghost
And Jesus, we adore You,
O pride of angel host:
Before You mortals lowly
Cry, "Holy, holy, holy,
O blessèd Trinity!"**

Text (sts. 1–3): Elisabeth Cruciger, c. 1500–1535; (sts. 1–3): tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt.; (st. 4): Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978
Text: Public domain

390 Let Us All with Gladsome Voice

**1 Let us all with gladsome voice
Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice,
His own Son hath given.**

**2 To this vale of tears He comes,
Here to serve in sadness,
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes
We may reign in gladness.**

**3 We are rich, for He was poor;
Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore
Here on earth and yonder.**

**4 Christ, our Lord and Savior dear,
Be Thou ever near us.
Grant us now a glad new year.
Amen, Jesus, hear us.**

Text: German, 17th cent.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Text: 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.

410 Within the Father's House

1 Within the Father's house

**The Son has found His home,
And to His temple suddenly
The Lord of life has come.**

2 The doctors of the Law

**Gaze on the wondrous child
And marvel at His gracious words
Of wisdom undefiled.**

3 Yet not to them is giv'n

**The mighty truth to know,
To lift the earthly veil that hides
Incarnate God below.**

4 The secret of the Lord

**Escapes each human eye,
And faithful pond'ring hearts await
The full epiphany.**

5 Lord, visit Thou our souls

And teach us by Thy grace

**Each dim revealing of Thyself
With loving awe to trace**

**△ 6 Till we behold Thy face
And know as we are known
Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Coequal Three in One.**

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.

<p>Attendance Last Week: 233 General giving last week: \$13,161.25 Budget giving needed: \$ 7,500.00</p>

Calendar of Activities this week at St. John

13 Monday	Board of Trustees	6:30 pm
13 Monday	LWML	6:30 pm
14 Tuesday	Board of Elders	6:00 pm

14 Tuesday	Board of Education	6:00 pm
15 Wednesday	Senior Choir	6:30 pm
16 Thursday	Worship Service/HC	6:30 pm
19 Sunday	Worship Service/HC	9:00 am
19 Sunday	Sunday School	10:15 am
19 Sunday	Adult Bible Class	10:15 am

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.

DESSERTS NEEDED! St. John is slotted to do Soul Food for the students of Berlin High on Thursday, Jan 16. The student's favorite part is dessert! If you're willing to make a dessert, please sign up on the sheet in the back and bring it to church by Thursday morning. Thank you for your help!

MINISTRIES AT ST. JOHN BOOKLET: Our Savior, Jesus, came to serve us by dying on the cross. Inspired by what he has done, the Bible encourages us to likewise serve our neighbors. If you're looking for a way to follow God's command, pick up our NEW "Getting Involved" ministry booklet in the rack in the back of church to see the

different ways that you can serve in and through our church and school! Thank you!

ATTENTION CONGREGATION MEMBERS: The Board of Christian Education is looking for someone to teach the Preschool/Kindergarten Sunday School class for the remainder of the school year. Sunday School runs from 10:30-11:30 am on Sunday mornings. The teaching/student materials are provided and there are some experienced helpers ready to help in that classroom. Please contact the school office, Miss Linse or any Board of Education member if you are interested in helping out.

"BADGERBYTES" the weekly newspaper of St. John Lutheran School is available in the information rack of the Narthex. Pick one up today and keep abreast of all the happenings at our Christian Day School!

YOUTH GROUP: The next youth group event will be January 18th at 1:00 pm. We will be going ax throwing in Oshkosh. Waivers will be available soon and parents are welcome to join us. It promises to be a fun activity for all.

February will have an outdoor activity on the 22nd. It will depend on how much snow we have. Either sledding at Zobel Hill or snow tubing Nordic Mountain. We would plan again for around 1:00 pm and go for 2 hours. If we buy tickets online ahead of time, they will be \$20.00. At the hill, they are \$35.00.

If you have a suggestion of something for future activities, please let me know. I am available via email tpett@stjohnberlin.org or 262-470-2152.

FLOWER REMINDER: If you would like to donate or have flowers on the altar at any time for special occasions such as birthday, anniversary, in honor of or memory of for example, feel free to **sign up on the Flower Chart in the card room.** Flowers can be delivered by the local florist or brought in by you and put in the Altar Guild refrigerator. The flowers will be placed on the altar for the worship services."

THE CARD ROOM: The LWML would like to share with new members and remind current members that there are cards for sale in the "Card Room" which is the room where cookies are set up on Sunday mornings. Cards are all \$1.00 each. There are also various craft items for sale. If you make a purchase there is a box in the top file drawer for you to deposit your payment in. The Card Room also has mite boxes available if you would like to take one home to collect your mites. There is also a bulletin board with information about missionaries and seminarians we support as a congregation. If you have any questions please contact an LWML member: Carol Krause, Karen Vergin Krause, Deb Schrader, Dawn Schroeder, Lori Piechowski, Leitha Kraus, Bonnie Sperberg, or June Richter.

Sermon Notes – 1-12-24 – Is Jesus Your King?

-“When Herod the king heard this, he was _____” (Matthew 2:3).

-“Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under.” (Matthew 2:16)

-As I was reading this text, I realized something awful: I’m a lot like _____, and I think you are, too.

-We don’t want Jesus to be King because we want to be king. He’s a rival to our rule, a threat to our throne.

-We might not always use philosophy – other weapons employed to kill King Jesus include: ignorance, fear, offense, science, archaeology, self-actualization. And the _____ isn’t always sexual promiscuity – for Herod it was power, for others it might be wealth, fitting in, revenge, hatred, fame, hedonism.

-We all still have a little Herod in us; there are aspects of our lives in which we’ve rejected Jesus’ rule; we’ve kicked Jesus off the throne of certain areas of our lives.

-And just as we were disgusted by Herod’s horrific grasp to retain power – killing all the babies in Bethlehem in order to retain control – we should be _____ by our own self-serving attempts to depose King Jesus and sit on his throne.

-Do you want to change?

-King Jesus identifies with his subjects; he's loyal to his people; he loves and respects them.

-Even though we, his subjects, rebel against him daily and try to depose him from his rightful throne, he was punished in our place.

-Looking to the cross, know that King Jesus _____ you for every attempted coup, for every time you've stolen his crown.

-As shown so clearly by the cross, he's the King who loves us immensely and who will always do what's best for us.