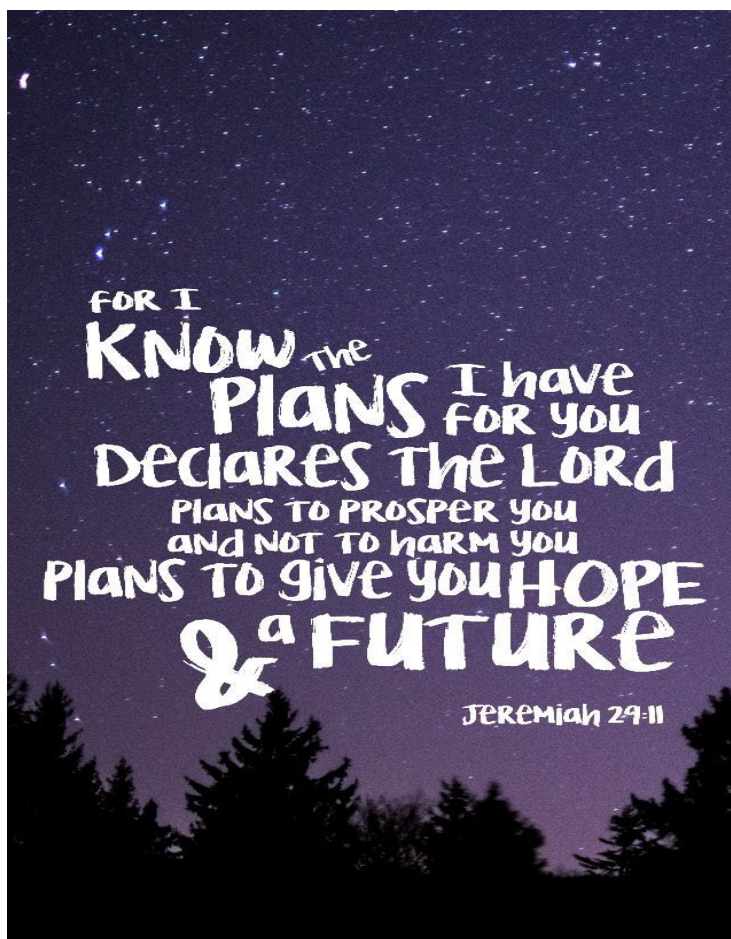


St. John Lutheran Church & School
Berlin, Wisconsin
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



The Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany
January 30 and February 2, 2025

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

Large Print Bulletin

AS WE GATHER... Faith-filled overseers of the flock are vigilant in care—gracious stewards of God’s Law and Gospel counsel; attentive stewards of God’s abundant grace—a vital treasure for believers. And these appointed laborers of Christ need to remain strong in godly virtue and order, equipped to battle fierce wolves and subtle evil that mingle in the lives of God’s people. Titus began as one who heard and believed Paul and transitioned to assigning elders to care for the congregations he and Paul had started. Jesus prepared the Twelve for such a transition. They were to be dependent only on Him, not on how people reacted to the Gospel. And we need to rely on God and not our own preparations. We are called “in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised” (Titus 1:2). Indeed, with the Twelve and Titus, for us “the kingdom of God has come near” (Luke 10:9).

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

812 Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs

1 Come, let us join our cheerful songs

With angels round the throne;

Ten thousand thousand are their tongues,

But all their joys are one.

2 “Worthy the Lamb that died,” they cry,

“To be exalted thus!”

“Worthy the Lamb,” our lips reply,

“For He was slain for us!”

3 Jesus is worthy to receive

Honor and pow’r divine;

And blessings more than we can give

Be, Lord, forever Thine.

4 Let all creation join in one

To bless the sacred name

Of Him who sits upon the throne

And to adore the Lamb.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 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 10:16–18; antiphon: v. 12

Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up your hand;
forget not the afflicted.

**The LORD is king forever and ever;
the nations perish from his land.**

O LORD, you hear the desire of the afflicted;
you will strengthen their heart;
**you will incline your ear to do justice to the fatherless and
the oppressed, so that man who is of the earth may strike
terror no more.**

**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.**
Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up your hand;
forget not the afflicted.

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.

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 46:8–11

⁸“Remember this and stand firm,
recall it to mind, you transgressors,
⁹remember the former things of old;
for I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is none like me,
¹⁰declaring the end from the beginning
and from ancient times things not yet done,
saying, ‘My counsel shall stand,
and I will accomplish all my purpose,’
¹¹calling a bird of prey from the east,
the man of my counsel from a far country.
I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass;
I have purposed, and I will do it.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Ephesians 3:7–13

⁷Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through

our faith in him. ¹³So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

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 2:13–15, 19–23

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

¹⁴And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son. . . ."

¹⁹But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." ²¹And he rose and took the child and his

mother and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: "He shall be called a Nazarene."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

732 All Depends on Our Possessing

**1 All depends on our possessing
God's abundant grace and blessing,
Though all earthly wealth depart.
They who trust with faith unshaken
By their God are not forsaken
And will keep a dauntless heart.**

**2 He who to this day has fed me
And to many joys has led me
Is and ever shall be mine.
He who ever gently schools me,
He who daily guides and rules me
Will remain my help divine.**

**3 Many spend their lives in fretting
Over trifles and in getting**

**Things that have no solid ground.
I shall strive to win a treasure
That will bring me lasting pleasure
And that now is seldom found.**

**4 When with sorrow I am stricken,
Hope anew my heart will quicken;
All my longing shall be stilled.
To His loving-kindness tender
Soul and body I surrender,
For on God alone I build.**

**5 Well He knows what best to grant me;
All the longing hopes that haunt me,
Joy and sorrow, have their day.
I shall doubt His wisdom never;
As God wills, so be it ever;
I commit to Him my way.**

**6 If my days on earth He lengthen,
God my weary soul will strengthen;
All my trust in Him I place.
Earthly wealth is not abiding,**

**Like a stream away is gliding;
Safe I anchor in His grace.**

Text: Andächtige Haus-Kirche, 1676, Nürnberg; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Text: Public domain

Sermon “I Didn’t See That One Coming”

Stand

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

739 Precious Lord, Take My Hand

1 Precious Lord, take my hand,

Lead me on, let me stand;

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.

Through the storm, through the night,

Lead me on to the light.

Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

2 When my way grows drear,

Precious Lord, linger near,

When my life is almost gone,

Hear my cry, hear my call;

Hold my hand lest I fall.

Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

3 When the darkness appears

And the night draws near

And the day is almost gone,

At the river I stand;

Guide my feet, hold my hand,

Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

Text: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899–1993 Text: © 1938 (renewed)

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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

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 P give you peace.

C Amen.

727 On Eagles' Wings

**1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
Who abide in His shadow for life,
Say to the Lord: "My refuge,
My rock in whom I trust!" Refrain**

**ref And He will raise you up on eagles' wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of His hand.**

**2 The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
And famine will bring you no fear;
Under His wings your refuge,
His faithfulness your shield. Refrain**

**3 You need not fear the terror of the night,
Nor the arrow that flies by day;**

**Though thousands fall about you,
Near you it shall not come. Refrain**

**4 For to His angels He's given a command
To guard you in all of your ways;
Upon their hands they will bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone. Refrain**

Text: Michael Joncas, 1951 Text: © OCP Publications. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005513

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book
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Attendance Last Week: 220
General giving last week: \$7268.60
Budget giving needed: \$7500.00

Calendar of Activities this week at St. John

5 Wednesday	Senior Choir	6:30 pm
6 Thursday	Ladies Aid	1:00 pm
6 Thursday	Worship Service/HC	6:30 pm

Basketball Tournament Friday/Saturday Feb. 7&8

9 Sunday Worship Service/HC 9:00 am

9 Sunday NO Sunday School

9 Sunday NO Adult Bible Class

9 Sunday Voters Meeting 10:30 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.

OPEN HOUSE: St. John Lutheran School will have an Open House on Thursday, Feb. 20th from 4pm to 7pm, anyone is welcome to stop by to check out our school, meet our teachers and ask questions. The school participates in the Wisconsin Private School Choice Program and if you qualify, you may be able to send your child(ren) to our school tuition free.

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.

FOOD PANTRY COORDINATOR NEEDED: Our church is a member church of the Berlin Food Pantry. In an effort to improve our connection with and support of that ministry, we are planning to do

a food and money drive for the pantry each month with a 5th Sunday. We are looking for someone to coordinate those drives - the position would involve putting blurbs in our bulletin and newsletter and delivering the goods to the food pantry. Please consider and pray about taking on the position! If you are interested, please talk with Pastor Rob.

CONNECTION GROUP LEADERS NEEDED! Connection Groups connect Christians to other Christians, Christians closer to Christ, and non-Christians to Connection Groups. With God's help, they are going to be an important part of our church and will impact your life, our church, and our community. But, in order to have this important ministry, we need Connection Group leaders. Please pray about this opportunity and consider if God has given you the skills to be a Christian leader. If you have questions, please talk with Pastor Rob. If you would like to sign up, there is a sheet in the back of church. Thank you!

YOUTH GROUP: The next youth group event will be in February. We 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.

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.

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!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! SECOND TIME-AROUND SHOP: Over the last 40 years the Second Time-Around Shop in Berlin has supported Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of WI (LCFS) with nearly \$3 million of their profits so that people in our community and around our state can receive life-changing Christian counseling and adoption services. Our thrift store has played a major role in bringing Christ and his love to numerous people! To provide so much money to LCFS, the Second Time-Around Shop relies on volunteers to run and organize their store, and they could use your help! A few hours of your time each week would be hugely beneficial for the store and for the ministry of LCFS. There are various duties available for people of

all skills and ages. To ask about volunteering, call the store at: (920) 361-0334.

FREE TABLES: There are a few 4'x8' wood tables with metal legs in the church basement that we need to get rid of to create some room. If you would be interested in a table or two, please talk to Keith Krause.

STORAGE PLACE NEEDED: To make a long story short, in order to be able to continue to display the Nativity scene in Fireman's Park, the churches of Berlin are now in charge of the Nativity scene. The stable is rather large and is on a trailer. We were wondering if anyone would have any space (either inside or outside) to park the stable when it is not in use in the park. If you have space, please talk with Pastor Rob or Keith Krause. Thank you!

Sermon Notes – 1-26-24 – Didn't See That One Coming?

-I know what was supposed to happen; I know how my life is supposed to go.

-When we think this way, we're either claiming to be the Lord of our lives or we're believing that God is too small to really do what's best for us.

-Are we really in a position to know what was ' _____ to happen'?

-Is our faith in God so small that we don't trust that he does know what's 'supposed to happen'?

-“Behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and _____ to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” (Matthew 2:13)

-“This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I called my son.’” (Matthew 2:15)

-God has complete and total control over these events, and really, over all events.

-“I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will _____ all my purpose.’” (Isaiah 46:9-10)

-Don’t despair when things don’t go how you think they’re supposed to go because things are going exactly how _____ knows they’re supposed to go.

-“This was according to the _____ purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.” (Ephesians 3:11-12)

-That’s a pretty excellent plan that God has for us!

-Because Jesus died and rose again, we know that God’s plan for us is a _____ one.

-No matter what I’m going through, God has a GOOD PLAN for me!