

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



***The 11th Sunday after Pentecost
August 21 and 24, 2025***

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

Large Print Bulletin

As We Gather... To be the “favorite child” in a family is often a source of competition and sometimes a source for comedy. Years ago, a pair of sibling entertainers, the Smothers Brothers, made their family relationship a staple of their onstage humor when Tom, the older brother, would remind Dickie, the younger, “Mom always did like you best.” As we gather with God’s people at worship week by week, we can be certain that our gracious God values all of us and is pleased to see us grow in grace year by year. The psalmist wrote that “the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor” (Psalm 84:11). In the same Psalm 84 is the verse where the psalmist exclaims to God, “For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere” (v. 10). There is nothing better than for God’s favorite people, which we are, to be gathered in a most favorite place—which this is! It doesn’t get any better than that!

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.

PREPARATION

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

Invocation

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

Opening Sentences

Psalm 103:1–2, 8, 13, 21–22

P Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name!

C Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.

P As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him.

C The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

P Bless the LORD, all His hosts, His ministers, who do His will!

**C Bless the LORD, all His works, in all places of His dominion.
Bless the LORD, O my soul!**

Confession and Absolution

P Let us now confess our sins to God, our Father.

C Have mercy on us, Lord, and grant us Your forgiveness. We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We repent of our sins, those known to us and those unknown as well. Create in us clean hearts, gracious Lord, and put new and right spirits within us that we may be reconciled to You and at peace with all people. We trust in Christ alone for the forgiveness that we seek today and at all times. Give us the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us into paths of righteousness and finally bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

P The almighty and merciful Lord grants us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

WORD

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

O Lord, You have called us to enter Your kingdom through the narrow door. Guide us by Your Word and Spirit, and lead us now and always into the feast of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Commissioning of the Day School Staff for 2025/2026 school year

ST. JOHN SCHOOL FACULTY

Principal/3K/4K	Miss Melissa Linse
3/4K aide	Mrs. Jennifer Billington
Kindergarten	Mrs. Haley Webb
1st/2nd Grade	Mrs. Charlotte Fritsch
3rd Grade	Mrs. Janelle Wenzel
4th grade	Mrs. Rachel Berry
5/6th grade	Mrs. Mary Jo Pick
7/8th grade	Mr. Timothy Pett

PRAYER: Dear Father, you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, into our world as a teacher; certainly, then, teaching is a high and holy calling. We thank you, then, for sending these men and women to our school to teach the same things that Jesus taught. Please give them your wisdom and strength each day so that they may educate our students well, and please work through them so that all of our students learn and grow in their faith. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Psalms 10:2–12

- ²In arrogance the wicked hotly pursue the poor;
let them be caught in the schemes that they have devised.
- ³For the wicked boasts of the desires of his soul,
and the one greedy for gain curses and renounces the LORD.
- ⁴In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him;
all his thoughts are, "There is no God."
- ⁵His ways prosper at all times;
your judgments are on high, out of his sight;
as for all his foes, he puffs at them.
- ⁶He says in his heart, "I shall not be moved;
throughout all generations I shall not meet adversity."
- ⁷His mouth is filled with cursing and deceit and oppression;
under his tongue are mischief and iniquity.
- ⁸He sits in ambush in the villages;
in hiding places he murders the innocent.
His eyes stealthily watch for the helpless;
⁹he lurks in ambush like a lion in his thicket;
he lurks that he may seize the poor;
he seizes the poor when he draws him into his net.
- ¹⁰The helpless are crushed,
sink down, and fall by his might.
- ¹¹He says in his heart, "God has forgotten,
he has hidden his face, he will never see it."
- ¹²Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up your hand;
forget not the afflicted.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 7:15–25

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. ¹⁷So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse

Luke 13:29

C Alleluia. People will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 5:4, 6

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

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.**

Children's Sermon

718 Jesus, Lead Thou On

1 Jesus, lead Thou on

Till our rest is won;

And although the way be cheerless,

We will follow calm and fearless.

Guide us by Thy hand

To our fatherland.

2 If the way be drear,

If the foe be near,

Let not faithless fears o'ertake us;

Let not faith and hope forsake us;

For through many_a woe

To our home we go.

3 When we seek relief

From a long-felt grief,

When temptations come alluring,

Make us patient and enduring.

Show us that bright shore

Where we weep no more.

**4 Jesus, lead Thou on
Till our rest is won.
Heav'nly leader, still direct us,
Still support, console, protect us,
Till we safely stand
In our fatherland.**

Text: Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, 1700–60; tr. Jane L.
Borthwick, 1813–97, alt. Text: Public domain

Sermon "Mourning for Righteousness"

Prayer of the Church

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.**

Offering

SACRAMENT

Preface

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.

Proper Preface

"Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, let us now and evermore praise God's glorious name, 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.

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."

Pax Domini

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

620 Jesus Comes Today with Healing

**1 Jesus comes today with healing,
Knocking at my door, appealing,**

**Off'ring pardon, grace, and peace.
He Himself makes preparation,
And I hear His invitation:
"Come and taste the blessed feast."**

**2 Christ Himself, the priest presiding,
Yet in bread and wine abiding
In this holy sacrament,
Gives the bread of life, once broken,
And the cup, the precious token
Of His sacred covenant.**

**3 Under bread and wine, though lowly,
I receive the Savior holy,
Blood and body, giv'n for me,
Very Lamb of God from heaven,
Who to bitter death was given,
Hung upon the cursèd tree.**

**4 God descends with heav'nly power,
Gives Himself to me this hour
In this ordinary sign.
On my tongue His pledge receiving,
I accept His grace, believing
That I taste His love divine.**

**5 Let me praise God's boundless favor,
Whose own feast of love I savor,
Bidden by His gracious call.**

**Wedding garments He provides me,
With a robe of white He hides me,
Fits me for the royal hall.**

**6 Now have I found consolation,
Comfort in my tribulation,
Balm to heal the troubled soul.
God, my shield from ev'ry terror,
Cleanses me from sin and error,
Makes my wounded spirit whole.**

Text: Heinrich Puchta, 1808–58; tr. David W. Rogner, 1960

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no. 110005513

560 Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed

**1 Drawn to the cross, which Thou hast blessed
With healing gifts for souls distressed,
To find in Thee my life, my rest,
Christ crucified, I come.**

**2 Thou knowest all my griefs and fears,
Thy grace abused, my misspent years;
Yet now to Thee with contrite tears,
Christ crucified, I come.**

**3 Wash me and take away each stain;
Let nothing of my sin remain.**

**For cleansing, though it be through pain,
Christ crucified, I come.**

**4 And then for work to do for Thee,
Which shall so sweet a service be
That angels well might envy me,
Christ crucified, I come.**

Text: Genevieve M. Irons, 1855–1928 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.**

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray. We bless You, O Lord, for the grace and favor You continually show us. Grant that Your Son's body and blood, which You have given us to eat and to drink, may abide in us; and let no stain of sin remain in us, whom this pure and Holy Sacrament has refreshed; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

C Amen.

Benediction

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.

554 O Jesus, King Most Wonderful

1 O Jesus, King most wonderful!

O Conqueror renowned!

O Source of peace ineffable,

In whom all joys are found:

2 When once You visit darkened hearts,

Then truth begins to shine,

Then earthly vanity departs,

Then kindles love divine.

3 O Jesus, light of all below,

The fount of life and fire,

Surpassing all the joys we know,

All that we can desire:

4 May ev'ry heart confess Your name,

Forever You adore,

And, seeking You, itself inflame

To seek You more and more!

**5 Oh, may our tongues forever bless,
May we love You alone
And ever in our lives express
The image of Your own!**

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt. Text: Public domain

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Attendance Last Week: 214
General giving last week: \$6553.07
Budget giving needed: \$7500.00

Calendar of Activities this week at St. John

28 Thursday Worship Service/HC 6:30 pm

31 Sunday Worship Service/HC 9:00 am

HEARTLAND HOSPICE AT ST. JOHN ON SEPT. 10TH Could you be a hospice volunteer? Yes! Come join us for a casual conversation about what hospice is and how you may be able to give back to the people in your community by being a hospice volunteer.

Thursday, Sept. 10th at 6:00 pm. St. John Lutheran Church.

Please RSVP by Email or Call: Jilean Cole – Volunteer Coordinator of Heartland Hospice.

JILEAN.COLE@HEARTLANDHOSPICE.COM **920-251-0291.**

Refreshments and gifts provided

FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION IN AUGUST: August has five Sundays so we will be accepting donations for the Berlin Food Pantry. Please place non-perishable food items, paper products, and monetary donations in the bin located in the card room. Your generous donations are very much appreciated.

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT: THE ELDERS: Each month, we'll be spotlighting a different ministry at St. John. In August, I'd like to tell you about the elders. Their main work is to support and oversee the congregation and the pastor. The elders set up for each service and serve communion. They ensure the pastor is biblically sound. They also meet once a month to discuss spiritual matters at the church and to lead our congregation in being God honoring. If you'd like to learn more about what the elders do, please pick up an article about them on the back table. At our next voter's meeting, we'll be looking for one new elder in our church. If you believe God is calling you to that position, please speak with Pastor Rob or one of the elders.

FINANCIALLY SUPPORTING A MISSIONARY: Julia, a missionary headed for Central Asia, joined us last week to share with us impactful and sacrificial work she'll be doing for the Lord. We'll take a door collection today to support her and the work that she's doing for the Lord.

NEXT MEN'S MINISTRY MEETING: All men over the age of 16 are invited to join us on Wednesday, Sept. 10 at 6:00 PM at 139 S. Swetting St. to grill some meat, play some card/yard games, and study what the Bible says about being men at work. Please bring a lawn chair. We hope you'll join us!

GRIEFSHARE AT RIVER SHORES: GriefShare is a nation-wide, Christian program that will help you find support and teach you how to navigate the emotions and stresses after the loss of a loved one. Led by a trained facilitator, a 13-week group will be meeting on Tuesdays at 6:00PM at River Shores Church beginning August 26. At each meeting you'll watch a video with advice from grief experts, discuss with the group what was learned during the video, and utilize a workbook with exercises and articles that help you find comfort and manage daily stresses. You'll be encouraged to share but can wait until you're ready. If you're interested, please contact Amy Brooks at (920) 789-9385; she would love to share her experience and answer any further questions.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS:

Sunday School will start on September 28th!

We're excited to share that we've been blessed with a new volunteer Lead for Sunday School! Now, we are looking for individuals to come

alongside and support the Lead and this program. As they say - Many hands make light work.

We need:

- **Teachers** (you don't need to commit to every Sunday—occasional help is welcome!)
- **Activity & Games** (to plan, host fun, or even offer ideas for meaningful activities)
- **Helpers** (if you're willing to pitch in wherever needed and just want to be a part of it)
- **Music** If you have a passion or talent for music of any kind, we would love to share that with you. (again, you don't need to commit to every Sunday—occasional help is welcome)

If you have a talent, passion, idea, or simply a heart for serving children and the church, we encourage you to reach out to Pastor or a member of the School Board.

DONKEY BASEBALL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Have you ever wanted to play baseball riding a donkey? We are looking for 20-26 participants 16 years or older and under 225lb to make up two teams for our Donkey Baseball game on Saturday, September 6th, rain date is September 13th. Please reach out the school office or Miss Linse for a consent form. The game starts at 1pm but participants need to arrive by noon. Everyone is welcome to attend, tickets are available in the school and church office.

Sermon Notes – 8-24-25 – Mourning for Righteousness

-“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”

(Matthew 5:4)

-“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for _____, for they shall be satisfied.” (Matthew 5:6)

-They “mourn” because of the sinful, wicked state of their lives that has caused God and the world so much heartache.

-They also _____ because of the sinful, wicked state of the world that has caused God and the world so much heartache.

-They “hunger and thirst” for things to be right in themselves.

-They “hunger and thirst” for things to be right in the world.

-The people Jesus calls blessed in these two Beatitudes are those who are deeply upset by sin and its detriments in their own lives and in the world and who long for themselves and the world to be set _____.

-Those who don’t mourn now won’t be comforted later. And those who don’t hunger and thirst for righteousness now won’t be _____ later.

-You should ask yourself – do you mourn because of sin inside you and in the world? Do you hunger and thirst for righteousness in yourself and in the world?

-We should _____ for being like the rich man – so concerned with our present comfort and satisfaction that we fail to care about the evil in ourselves and in the world.

-Can we be forgiven? Can we mourn and hunger and thirst more? Can we have the blessing Jesus talked about?

-The one who brings that “yes” is _____.

- Isaiah called Jesus, "A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief."
- He so strongly desired righteousness that he did the most radical possible thing: he took all our unrighteousness – all of the wrong that has ever been done – into himself and he got rid of it by dying on the _____.
- Jesus, forgive us and move us from self-concern to mourning over our own evil and the evil in the world and to hungering and thirsting for righteousness in ourselves and in the world, that we may act like you and receive the eternal, perfect comfort and satisfaction that you earned for us. Amen.