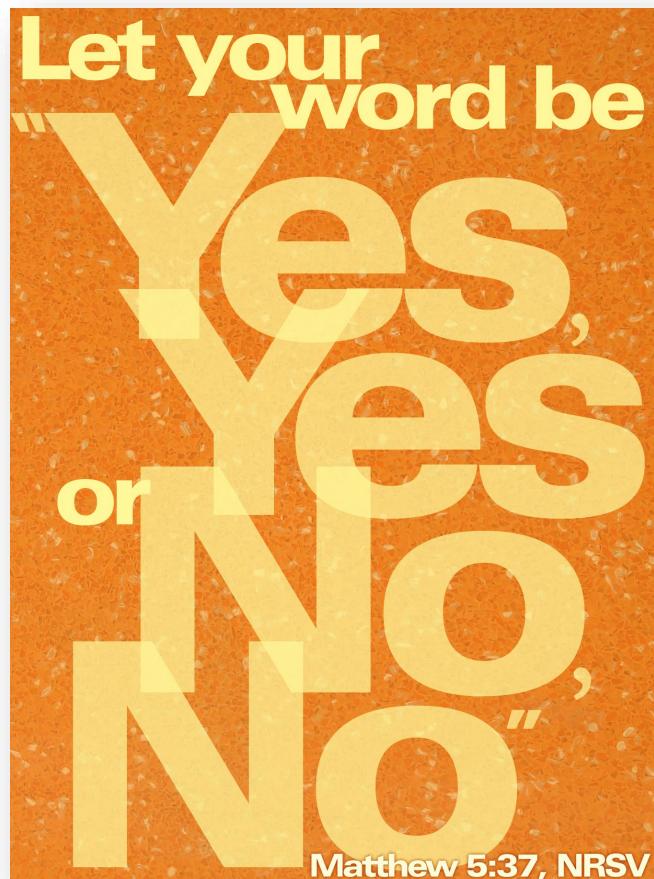


*. John Lutheran Church & School  
Berlin, Wisconsin  
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod*



*January 8 and 11, 2026  
The Baptism of Our Lord*

**Serving Us Today:  
Pastor Rob Schrader  
Organist: Amanda Tetzlaff  
920-361-9935  
[www.stjohnberlin.org](http://www.stjohnberlin.org)**

*Large Print Bulletin*

## 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

*Stand*

*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.**

*Stand*

## **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.

### **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.

**C Amen.**

*Sit*

### **Old Testament Reading**

*Numbers 30:1–2*

<sup>1</sup>Moses spoke to the heads of the tribes of the people of  
Israel, saying, “This is what the LORD has commanded. <sup>2</sup>If a man

vows a vow to the LORD, or swears an oath to bind himself by a pledge, he shall not break his word. He shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### **St. John School Cherub Choir sings on Sunday**

#### **Epistle**

*Hebrews 6:13–20*

<sup>13</sup>For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, <sup>14</sup>saying, “Surely I will bless you and multiply you.” <sup>15</sup>And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise. <sup>16</sup>For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. <sup>17</sup>So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, <sup>18</sup>so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. <sup>19</sup>We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, <sup>20</sup>where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**C Alleluia.**

**Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life.  
Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Holy Gospel***Matthew 5:33–37*

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

**C Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>33</sup>Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.' <sup>34</sup>But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, <sup>35</sup>or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. <sup>36</sup>And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup>Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to You, O Christ.****Children's Sermon****655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word**

1 Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;  
Curb those who by deceit or sword  
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son  
And bring to naught all He has done.

- 2 Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make known,  
For You are Lord of lords alone;  
Defend Your holy Church that we  
May sing Your praise eternally.
  
- 3 O Comforter of priceless worth,  
Send peace and unity on earth;  
Support us in our final strife  
And lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Text: Public domain

# Sermon "Vows"

## 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**

*Sit*

## **Offering**

*Stand*

## **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, let us now and evermore praise God's glorious name, 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.**

*Sit*

**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

## 405 To Jordan's River Came Our Lord

1 To Jordan's river came our Lord,  
The Christ, whom heav'nly hosts adored,  
The God from God, the Light from Light,  
The Lord of glory, pow'r, and might.  
2 The Savior came to be baptized—  
The Son of God in flesh disguised—

To stand beneath the Father's will  
And all His righteousness fulfill.

- 3 As Jesus in the Jordan stood  
And John baptized the Lamb of God,  
The Holy Spirit, heav'nly dove,  
Descended on Him from above.
- 4 Then from God's throne with thund'rous sound  
Came God's own voice with words profound:  
"This is My Son," was His decree,  
"The one I love, who pleases Me."
- 5 The Father's word, the Spirit's flight  
Anointed Christ in glorious sight  
As God's own choice, from Adam's fall  
To save the world and free us all.
- 6 Now rise, faint hearts, be resolute;  
This man is Christ, our substitute!  
He was baptized in Jordan's stream,  
Proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme.

Text: James P. Tiefel, 1949, alt. Text: © 1993 James P. Tiefel.  
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*Stand*

## **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.**

## **397 As with Gladness Men of Old**

1 As with gladness men of old  
Did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light,  
Leading onward, beaming bright;  
So, most gracious Lord, may we  
Evermore be led by Thee.

2 As with joyful steps they sped,  
Savior, to Thy lowly bed,  
There to bend the knee before  
Thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;  
So may we with willing feet  
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.

3 As they offered gifts most rare  
At Thy cradle, rude and bare,  
    So may we with holy joy,  
    Pure and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.

4 Holy Jesus, ev'ry day  
Keep us in the narrow way;  
    And when earthly things are past,  
    Bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide,  
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

5 In the heav'nly country bright  
Need they no created light;  
    Thou its light, its joy, its crown,  
    Thou its sun which goes not down;  
There forever may we sing  
Alleluias to our King.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, alt. Text: Public domain

## Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book  
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<b>Attendance Last Week:</b>	<b>218</b>
<b>General giving last week:</b>	<b>\$18,983.94</b>
<b>Budget giving needed:</b>	<b>\$ 7,500.00</b>

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

12 Monday	Trustee Meeting	6:30 pm
13 Tuesday	Board of Ed. Meeting	6:00 pm
13 Tuesday	Elder Meeting	6:30 pm
<b>15 Thursday</b>	<b>Worship Service/HC</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>
<b>18 Sunday</b>	<b>Worship Service/HC</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>
18 Sunday	Bible Class	10:30 am
18 Sunday	Sunday School	10:30 am

**TRIVIA NIGHT- SAVE THE DATE:** The St. John PTL is hosting a trivia night Saturday evening on March 14th at (time TBD) to raise funds for the school. Please join us in the school gymnasium for this fun event. More details to come soon!

**THIS WEEK IN SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Today, we will study "Signs of the True God," as student learn more about Moses and the plagues. God guides Moses to release His people from their slavery in Egypt, but Pharaoh proves less than cooperative. A series of plagues—foretold by Moses and sent by God—brings destruction and pain

upon the Egyptians but only serves to harden Pharaoh's heart against Moses and the Israelites.

**SOUP COOK-OFF FUNDRAISER (UPDATED)** Join us January 25 after church in the school gymnasium for a soup cook-off fundraiser! Sample a variety of homemade soups and vote for your favorite. **Admission: \$10 adults (18+), \$5 kids, and free for ages 5 and under.** We hope you can join us for a fun afternoon of delicious soups and fellowship. A sign-up sheet will be available in the back of church for anyone interested in providing a bread side or dessert for the event.

**There won't be any Sunday School on January 25th because of the Soup Cook-Off.**

**TRUSTEE NEEDED!** Our Board of Trustees takes care of our buildings and grounds, and could really use one or two more people to help out. Please contact Pastor Rob if you have questions or are interested in helping out.

920-539-4603 or [pastor@stjohnberlin.org](mailto:pastor@stjohnberlin.org). Thank you!

**WOMEN'S EVENT- RIVER SHORES CHURCH IF: GATHERING:**  
Please consider joining this one-day conference for women of all ages (teens on up!) that is hosted at River Shores Church each year. The IF:Gathering exists for the women of the church & community to experience powerful biblical teaching, engage in deep conversations and be encouraged to surrender their lives in greater obedience to God. Tickets cost \$20 and lunch is included (gluten-free options available). Online registration closes on Feb 20th. Tickets at the door cost \$25. If you have any questions, talk to Paige Schrader or check out their Facebook page.

**DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE** about good things happening at our school? Weekly copies of the *BadgerBytes*, the school newsletter, are available in the information rack in the Narthex. *BadgerBytes* features information on activities at school, articles by the students, updates on fundraisers and lots more. Check it out!

**TITUS 2 WOMEN'S MINISTRY:** Titus 2 is a women's group dedicated to building Christian relationships between different generations. Their next gathering is January 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5:00-8:00 at River Shores Church. For details and to RSVP call/text Rachel Cassidy at (920) 290-4459.

**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, or Bonnie Sperberg.

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## **Sermon Notes – 1-11-26 – Vows**

-“Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’” (Matthew 5:33)

-“Do not take an \_\_\_\_\_ at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.” (Matthew 5:34-35)

-Jesus’ first reason we shouldn’t take vows is because every vow involves God because everything belongs to God, and if we don’t follow through, God’s \_\_\_\_\_ is harmed.

-“And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.” (Matthew 5:36)

-The second reason we shouldn’t make vows is because even if we have the best intentions, we don’t have much \_\_\_\_\_ and outside factors might prevent us from keeping our vow, harming God’s reputation.

-“Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’.” (Matthew 5:37)

-The third reason we shouldn’t take vows is because if we live humbly and \_\_\_\_\_, we won’t need to.

-Theologians are virtually in agreement that Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ condemning all vowed.

-If you seriously intend to keep it, if you have control over keeping it, and if it's done solemnly instead of to impress others or cover your dishonesty, then you can make that vow.

—"When God made a promise to Abraham...he swore by himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you."...When God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that...we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul...where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a \_\_\_\_\_." (Hebrews 6:13-20)

-Considering that God loves us like that and is so good to us, we should live our lives upholding his reputation not endangering it through rash vows.

-Understanding that God has given us that "steadfast anchor of the soul", we don't need to try to draw attention to ourselves or cover up our faults with vows, we just need to run to \_\_\_\_\_.