

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



January 29 and February 1, 2026
The 4th Sunday after the Epiphany

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

Large Print Bulletin

AS WE GATHER... “That was a foolish decision.” Maybe you have said that to yourself after a thoughtless word or action. Our human foolishness is noted in two hymns in *Lutheran Service Book*. In the paraphrase of Psalm 23 in “The King of Love My Shepherd Is,” we sing of our Good Shepherd: “Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love He sought me” (*LSB* 709:3). And in a hymn based on the parable of the prodigal son, we sing, “As rebels, Lord, who foolishly have wandered” (*LSB* 612:1). Foolishness is not generally seen as a positive attribute. But Paul reminds his Corinthian readers and us that we are called to a certain special foolishness in Christ. “But God chose what is foolish . . . ; God chose what is weak . . . ; God chose what is low” (1 Corinthians 1:27–28). And Paul writes to the Ephesians, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who . . . chose us in Him before the foundation of the world” (Ephesians 1:3–4). We can live as reflections of God’s most gracious choosing!

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

Confession and Absolution

694 Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower

**1 Thee will I love, my strength, my tower;
Thee will I love, my hope, my joy.**

**Thee will I love with all my power,
With ardor time shall ne'er destroy.
Thee will I love, O Light divine,
So long as life is mine.**

**2 Thee will I love, my life, my Savior,
Who art my best and truest friend.
Thee will I love and praise forever,
For never shall Thy kindness end.
Thee will I love with all my heart—
Thou my Redeemer art!**

**3 I thank Thee, Jesus, Sun from heaven,
Whose radiance hath brought light to me;
I thank Thee, who hast richly given
All that could make me glad and free;
I thank Thee that my soul is healed
By what Thy lips revealed.**

**4 O keep me watchful, then, and humble;
Permit me nevermore to stray.
Uphold me when my feet would stumble,
And keep me on the narrow way.
Fill all my nature with Thy light,
O Radiance strong and bright!**

**5 Thee will I love, my crown of gladness;
Thee will I love, my God and Lord,
Amid the darkest depths of sadness,**

**And not for hope of high reward,
For Thine own sake, O Light divine,
So long as life is mine.**

Text: Johann Scheffler, 1624–77; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78,
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 1:1–5; antiphon: v. 6

For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

Blessèd is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

but his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

**Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.**

**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.**

For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

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.

CAmen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Leviticus 19:13–18

¹³“You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired servant shall not remain with you all night until the morning.

¹⁴You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.

¹⁵You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. ¹⁶You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

¹⁷“You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 5:6–11

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be

saved by his life. ¹¹More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

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 5:43–47

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴³“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

⁴⁶For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

845 Where Charity and Love Prevail

1 Where charity and love prevail

There God is ever found;

Brought here together by Christ's love

By love are we thus bound.

2 With grateful joy and holy fear

His charity we learn;

Let us with heart and mind and soul

Now love Him in return.

3 Forgive we now each other's faults

As we our faults confess,

And let us love each other well

In Christian holiness.

4 Let strife among us be unknown;

Let all contention cease;

Be God's the glory that we seek;

Be ours His holy peace.

5 Let us recall that in our midst

Dwells Christ, His only Son;

**As members of His body joined
We are in Him made one.**

**6 For love excludes no race or clan
That names the Savior's name;
His family embraces all
Whose Father is the same.**

Text: Latin, c. 9th cent.; tr. Omer E. Westendorf, 1916–97, alt.

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Sermon "Love Your Enemies"

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.

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

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 cursed 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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770 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

**1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
Oh, what needless pain we bear—**

**All because we do not carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!**

**2 Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.**

**3 Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee;
Thou wilt find a solace there.**

Text: Joseph M. Scriven, 1819–86 Text: Public domain

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.

809 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

**1 Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.**

**Thou changest not: Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be. Refrain**

**Refrain Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. Refrain**

**3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Refrain**

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960 Text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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Attendance Last Week: 219

General giving last week: \$6516.00

Budget giving needed: \$7500.00

Calendar of Activities this week at St. John

5 Thursday	Ladies Aid	1:00 pm
5 Thursday	Worship Service/HC	6:30 pm
8 Sunday	Worship Service/HC	9:00 am
8 Sunday	Bible Class & Sunday School	10:30 am

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.

ST. JOHN SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE: St. John Lutheran School is hosting an OPEN HOUSE on Thursday, February 19th from 4pm-7pm for anyone interest in enrolling in our school for the 2026/2027 school year. You and your child are welcome to take a tour, meet our teachers, and ask questions. Our school participates in the Wisconsin Private School Choice program. We are accredited through NLSA, all our teachers have a Wisconsin teaching license, and we have integrated technology in all grades. We offer healthy breakfast and lunch options, and we have an after-school care program. Come to our Open House to learn more.

MEN'S MINISTRY – February 2nd - 5:30 pm: Brothers, come join us for a laid-back evening! We'll start with a short Bible passage, enjoy some warm food together, and play your favorite games. Bring whatever game you love—board, cards, or anything fun—and let's connect, laugh, and grow in faith. All men welcome—hope to see you there!

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!

NEW MEMBER CLASS: If you're interested in joining our church or learning more about our Christian faith, we would love to have you join us for our next New Member class! The 8 week class will be held on Sunday evenings at 6:00PM beginning Feb 22 and ending Apr 19 (excluding Easter). If you're interested, even if you can't make every class, please contact Pastor Rob at pastor@stjohnberlin.org. Current members are also welcome!

IF: GATHERING AT RIVER SHORES: Please consider joining this one-day conference on **February 28th** 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.

WOMEN IN MISSION PRAYER SERVICE 2026! Will be held at Grace on February 14, 2026 at 11:00 with a light lunch to follow. Everyone is invited to attend. Bring a friend! Prayer Service 2026 was authored by Reverend Barrie E. Henke and the theme verse is: Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1Thessalonians 5:16-18. The goal of Prayer Service 2026 is: Confident that God answers my prayer, I entrust all my concerns to Him and share the joy of a confident faith with those whose lives intersect mine. Come celebrate God's love!

St. John Lutheran Men's Ministry Presents:
Hoops for Hunger 3v3 Challenge
Saturday, March 7, 2026 • 9:00 AM • St. John School
Gymnasium, Berlin, WI

Join our double-elimination 3v3 basketball tournament for males 14+. Teams of 3 play to 21 (2s & 3s), mostly half-court with Final Four on full court.

Entry: One paper bag of non-perishable food per team—all donations support our local food pantry!

Prizes: 1st: \$210 • 2nd: \$90 • 3rd: \$60

Spectators welcome—free admission! Our goal: a massive food collection to help families in need. **Register by Saturday, February 28, 2026. To Contact the Men's Ministry for details and sign-up please message 920-658-3029.** Bring your team, bring some cans, and let's hoop for hunger!

THIS WEEK IN SUNDAY SCHOOL: In today's lesson, we learn about how God provides "Food from Heaven." The Israelites arrive in the wilderness with no food, grumbling against Moses and Aaron. God keeps His promise to provide for His people as He daily sends manna (bread) and quail (meat) from heaven for them to gather. The Lord teaches His people to trust as they gather only what they need for one day.

CHURCH SERVICE AVAILABLE ANYTIME ON OUR WEBSITE:

GO TO: www.stjohnberlin.org. Click on "CHURCH." Click on the CHURCH SERVICE/BULLETIN tab on the home page. Then click on the link to the service video. The link to the bulletin is there also.

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. Thank you!

KWIK TRIP FAST FUND FEBRUARY: Use your Kwik Trip Scrip cards from **2-1-26 thru 2-28-26** and get an extra 5% percent donated to St. John. Don't miss out!

NO REGRETS MEN'S CONFERENCE: On Saturday, February 7 River Shores will be hosting a Christian Men's Conference. If you register online by Feb 1, the cost is \$20 otherwise it's \$25 at the door. It's an excellent opportunity to grow in your faith and to connect with some other Christian men. If you have any questions or would like someone to go with, please talk with Pastor Rob or Adam Gilmore.

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.

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Sermon Notes – 2-1-26 – Love Your Enemies

-“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’” (Matthew 5:43)

-“But I say to you, _____ your enemies and _____ for those who persecute you,” (Matthew 5:44)

-Jesus is telling us to fully and totally do what's best for even our enemies.

-Be honest, are you ready...are you even able...to obey _____ command to love your enemies?

-Why should we love our enemies? How can we love our enemies?

-“So that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the _____ and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.” (Matthew 5:45)

-The Bible describes our relationship with God as a marriage, and it says that when we sin against him, it's like we cheat on him.

-“But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ _____ for us...For while we were enemies we

were reconciled to God by the death of his Son." (Romans 5:8, 10)

-"Love your enemies." Not only did Jesus say it, but he _____ it. He loved us, his enemies, so much that he died for us.

-The reality is that having been so thoroughly loved when we were enemies, we can and should love even our enemies.

-One of the hardest things to help people understand is that Jesus' radical _____ for us should cause us to radically love others.

-"For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?" (Matthew 5:46-47)

-When you love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, you're doing that; you're bringing flavor and light to our bland, dark world.

-By loving our enemies, we're _____ them the God who loves his enemies.

-You know what to do. You know how you can do it. You know why you should do it. All that's left is to do it.