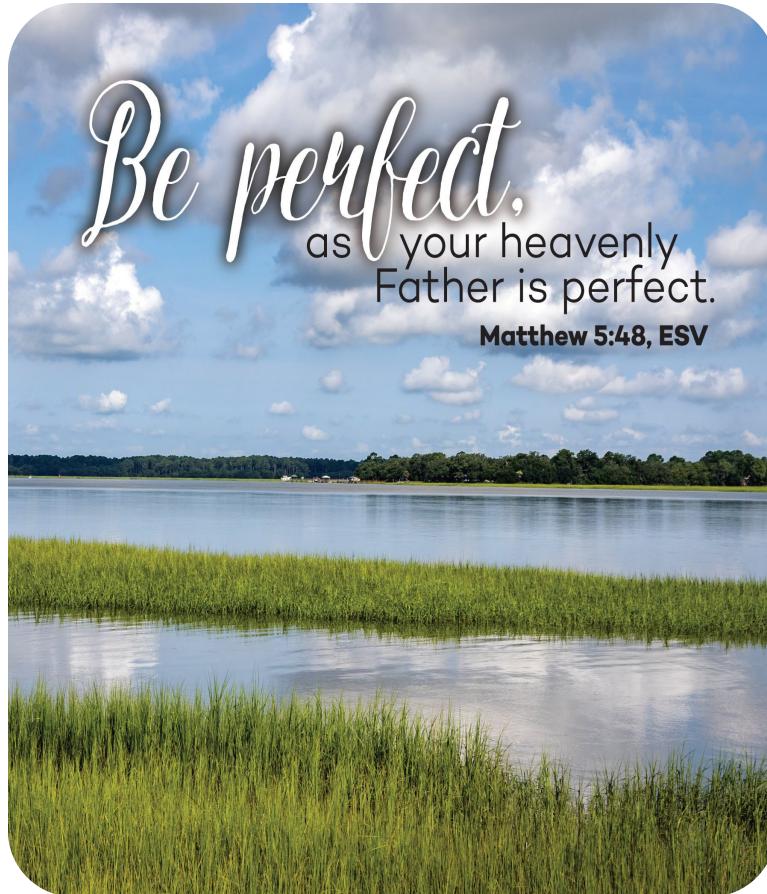


St. John Lutheran Church & School
Berlin, Wisconsin
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



February 5 and 8, 2026
The 5th 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... In the stewardship hymn “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness,” author William Watkins Reid Sr. includes the thoughtful line “Forgive us, Lord, for feast that knows not fast” (LSB 788:5). The text, written in 1965, reflected a growing understanding of the need for service in Jesus’ name by all who had received His blessing. In the concluding stanza of the hymn, he also writes, “May thankfulness be days in service spent, reflection of Christ’s life and love and light.” In this Epiphany season, when we celebrate the radiantly expanding light of Christ, we are directed to find new ways to reflect that light into all the areas of our life. Paul says it simply and directly: “So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone” (Galatians 6:10). Those opportunities are just waiting for us!

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.

Confession and Absolution

411 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus. Refrain

**Refrain: In Him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**2 I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
And show me the way to the Father. Refrain**

**3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
We shall know the joy of Jesus. Refrain**

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, 1934–2025 Text: © 1970, 1975
Celebration. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no.
110005513

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 Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. 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 119:9–16; antiphon: v. 12

Blessèd are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes!

How can a young man keep his way pure?

By guarding it according to your word.

With my whole heart I seek you;
let me not wander from your commandments!
**I have stored up your word in my heart,
that I might not sin against you.**

Blessèd are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes!
With my lips I declare all the just decrees of your mouth.

In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches.
I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.

I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.
**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.**

Blessèd are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes!

Kyrie **LSB 204**
C Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 18:9–14

⁹“When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominable practices of those nations. ¹⁰There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer ¹¹or a charmer or a medium or a wizard or a necromancer, ¹²for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD. And because of these abominations the LORD your God is driving them out before you. ¹³You shall be blameless before the LORD your God, ¹⁴for these nations, which you are about to dispossess, listen to fortune-tellers and to diviners. But as for you, the LORD your God has not allowed you to do this.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Philippians 3:7–14

⁷But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth

of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—¹⁰that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse LSB 156

C Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel*Matthew 5:48*

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴⁸You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

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

Hymn of the Day 701 Draw Us to Thee

**1 Draw us to Thee,
For then shall we
Walk in Thy steps forever
And hasten on
Where Thou art gone
To be with Thee, dear Savior.**

**2 Draw us to Thee,
Lord, lovingly;
Let us depart with gladness
That we may be
Forever free
From sorrow, grief, and sadness.**

**3 Draw us to Thee;
O grant that we
May walk the road to heaven!
Direct our way
Lest we should stray
And from Thy paths be driven.**

**4 Draw us to Thee
That also we
Thy heav'nly bliss inherit
And ever dwell
Where sin and hell
No more can vex our spirit.**

**5 Draw us to Thee
Unceasingly,
Into Thy kingdom take us;
Let us fore'er
Thy glory share,
Thy saints and joint heirs make us.**

Text: Friedrich Funcke, 1642–99; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Text: Public domain

Sermon **“Perfect Like God”**

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Sit

Offering

Service of the Sacrament

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 208*

**C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim
shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

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.**

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 210*

C 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,

**You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Distribution Hymns

629 What Is This Bread

**1 What is this bread?
Christ's body risen from the dead:
 This bread we break,
 This life we take,
Was crushed to pay for our release.
O taste and see—the Lord is peace.**

**2 What is this wine?
The blood of Jesus shed for mine;
 The cup of grace
 Brings His embrace
Of life and love until I sing!
O taste and see—the Lord is King.**

**3 So who am I,
That I should live and He should die
Under the rod?
My God, my God,
Why have You not forsaken me?
O taste and see—the Lord is free.**

**4 Yet is God here?
Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear,
In mouth and soul
He makes us whole—
Christ, truly present in this meal.
O taste and see—the Lord is real.**

**5 Is this for me?
I am forgiven and set free!
I do believe
That I receive
His very body and His blood.
O taste and see—the Lord is good.**

Text: Frederic W. Baue, 1946 Text: © 1991 Fred and Jean Baue.
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752 Be Still, My Soul

**1 Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;**

**In ev'ry change He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'nly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.**

**2 Be still, my soul; your God will undertake
To guide the future as He has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.**

**3 Be still, my soul; though dearest friends depart
And all is darkened in this vale of tears;
Then you will better know His love, His heart,
Who comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears.
Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay
From His own fullness all He takes away.**

**4 Be still, my soul; the hour is hast'ning on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.**

Text: Catharina Amalia Dorothea von Schlegel, 1697–1752; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–97, alt. Text: Public domain

Stand

Nunc Dimitis LSB 211

**C 1 O Lord, now let Your servant
Depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory
Of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles
Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people,
Your chosen Israel.**

**2 All glory to the Father,
All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit,
Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning,
Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding
Through all eternity.**

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.

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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.

803 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

**1 Joyful, joyful we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee,
Praising Thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
Drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.**

**2 All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee.**

△ 3 **Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Fountainhead of love divine:
Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit!
Joyful, we by grace are Thine!**

Text: Henry Van Dyke, 1852–1933, alt. Text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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Attendance Last Week: 215
General giving last week: \$15,918.00
Budget giving needed: \$ 7,500.00

Calendar of Activities this week at St. John

9 Monday	Trustee Meeting	6:30 pm
10 Tuesday	Board of Education Meeting	6:00 pm
10 Tuesday	Board of Elders Meeting	6:30 pm

12 Thursday	Worship Service/HC	6:30 pm
15 Sunday	Worship Service/HC	9:00 am
15 Sunday	Bible Class	10:30 am
15 Sunday	Sunday School	10:30 am

ASLEEP IN JESUS: It has pleased Almighty God to call from this veil of tears to Himself the soul of His servant Robert Dewhurst. Robert entered eternal life with his Lord and Savior on Saturday, January 31 and received a Christian funeral on Saturday, February 7th.

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.

ERROR IN NEWSLETTER CALENDAR: In the February Newsletter calendar, it said that there was no school on Thursday, Feb. 19. There IS school on that day, followed by the School Open House from 4-7 PM. There is NO SCHOOL on Friday, February 20th.

FATHER-DAUGHTER DANCE: Save the date for an evening of fun. Enjoy music, dancing, games, photo booth, door prizes, and refreshments. All ages are welcome. Saturday February 21st 6-8PM. St. John School. \$20 per Father/Father Figure

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CAMP LUWISOMO: St. John has money set aside to provide scholarships for children who'd like to attend summer camp at Camp LuWiSoMo. If you're interested, please speak with Pastor Rob before March 16.



GOING ON NOW!! The PTL Hanging Basket Sale!

Now until February 28th.

Order form is in the Card Room

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!

LWML MITE COLLECTION – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH: The LWML will be collecting mites after the church service on Sunday, February 15th. Just look for the ladies holding the large mite boxes in the Narthex. Thank you for helping us support missions locally and around the world.

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!

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!

INSTALLING NEW BOARD MEMBERS: If you are new to any of our church/school boards, including our Evangelism Team, **please join us on Sunday, Feb 15 to be recognized and installed** before the church. Thank you for your service!

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!

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!

THIS WEEK IN SUNDAY SCHOOL: The lesson this week is "The Idle Idol." Atop Mount Sinai, Moses receives the Law from God. Meanwhile, the Israelites grow impatient and convince Aaron to create a golden idol. When God sends Moses down from the mountain, Moses sees the people's wanton worship and smashes the stone tablets. The people are punished for their idolatry. Moses returns to Sinai to plead God's mercy for the people.

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!

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.

WEEKLY COPIES OF THE *BADGERBYTES*, the school newsletter, are available in the information rack in the Narthex.

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.

Sermon Notes – 2-8-26 – Perfect Like God

-“You therefore must be _____, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (Matthew 5:48)

-Jesus confronts us.

-“For I tell you, unless your _____ exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:20)

-All these words confront us. No one can honestly look at the things Jesus taught and think that they’re good enough, that they deserve God’s favor, that they merit heaven.

-If perfection is the standard, and Jesus says it is, then we’ve got no _____. We can’t be with God. We’re going to die and rot in hell forever.

-Jesus’ words also _____ us.

-“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” (Matthew 5:43-47)

-“For God so _____ the world (his enemies), that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

-For all those sins that confronted you, you are forgiven.

-Jesus’ words also _____ us.

-We just saw that we have an incredible, forgiving, loving Father.

-Because he’s a perfect Father, we should _____ to please him.

-“Because I want to obey God; I don’t want to make him _____...because I know that he loves me.”

-We’ll mess up; when we do, Jesus’ words should _____ us again. Then we should humbly go to God asking for forgiveness, and his words should comfort us again – he does forgive us! Then, having been loved again, we’re compelled to try to obey our perfect heavenly Father again.