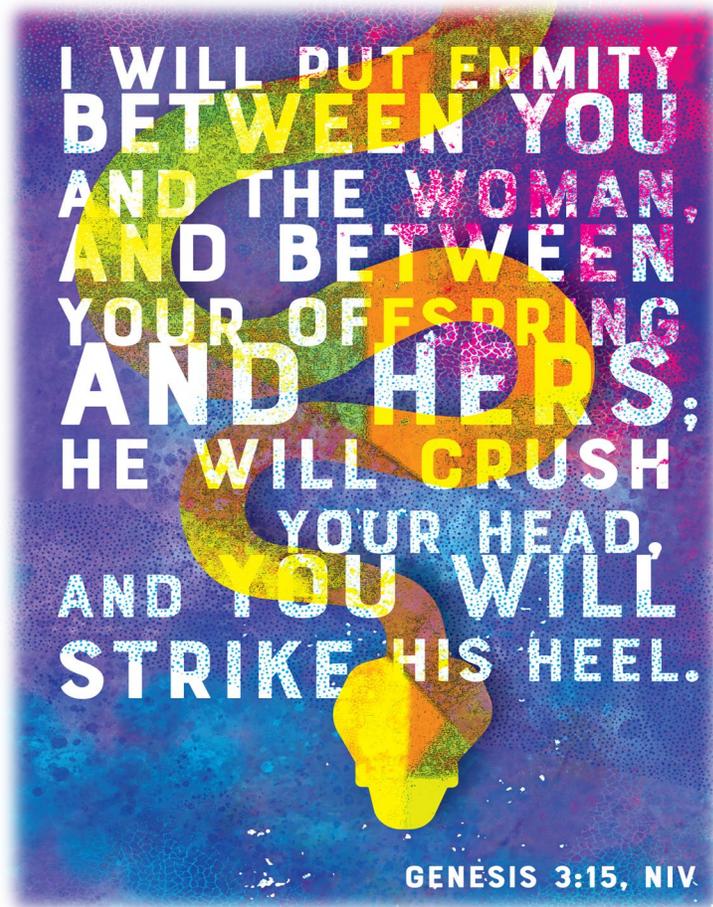


***St. John Lutheran Church & School
Berlin, Wisconsin
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod***



***February 22, 2026
The 1st Sunday in Lent***

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

Large Print Bulletin

AS WE GATHER... Only weeks ago, Jesus was called out by John as the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Now Jesus reveals what He must do for us and our salvation. He must stand where Adam stood, tempted by the devil. This time, however, Jesus refuses to surrender His righteousness in the face of evil but preserves it so that He might give it to you and to me. With confidence in Christ's righteousness, which we wear by Baptism, and His forgiveness, which restores us when we fall, we know that the devil can harm us no more. We belong to Christ. In the power of Christ, we are made strong before the tempter's power, and in Him we are brought through death to life everlasting.

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

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

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their
Baptism.*

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

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 91:9–13; antiphon: vv. 15–16

When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him.

**With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation.**

Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—
the Most High, who is my refuge—
**no evil shall be allowed to befall you,
no plague come near your tent.**

For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.

**On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.**

You will tread on the lion and the adder;
the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.
**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.**

When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; 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

Genesis 3:1–7, 14–19

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" ²And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they

knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,
 cursed are you above all livestock
 and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
 and dust you shall eat
 all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman,
 and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
 and you shall bruise his heel.”

¹⁶To the woman he said,

“I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;
 in pain you shall bring forth children.
Your desire shall be for your husband,
 and he shall rule over you.”

¹⁷And to Adam he said,

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
 and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,
 ‘You shall not eat of it,’
cursed is the ground because of you;
 in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
¹⁸thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
 and you shall eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹By the sweat of your face

you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 8:19–23

¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel

Luke 18:18–23

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the eighteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁸And a ruler asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁹And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. ²⁰You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.'" ²¹And he said, "All these I have kept from my youth." ²²When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." ²³But when he heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

547 The Lamb

**1 The Lamb, the Lamb,
O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes
God will provide the Lamb of price! Refrain**

**Refrain Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

**2 The Lamb, the Lamb,
One perfect final offering.**

**The Lamb, the Lamb,
Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing. Refrain**

**3 The Lamb, the Lamb,
As wayward sheep their shepherd kill
So still, His will
On our behalf the Law to fill. Refrain**

**4 He sighs, He dies,
He takes my sin and wretchedness.
He lives, forgives,
He gives me His own righteousness. Refrain**

**5 He rose, He rose,
My heart with thanks now overflows.
His song prolong
Till ev'ry heart to Him belong. Refrain**

Text: Gerald P. Coleman, 1953–2023 Text: © 1987 and 1997
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**Sermon The History of the World that *Really* Matters:
 "The Fall"**

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

Offertory *LSB 159*

**C What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of salvation
and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord
now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

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."

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 So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

**C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;**

**give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

Pax Domini

LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei LSB 163

C Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.**

Distribution Hymns

424 O Christ, You Walked the Road

1 O Christ, You walked the road

Our wand'ring feet must go.

You faced with us temptation's pow'r

And fought our ancient foe.

**2 No bread of earth alone
Can fill our hung'ring hearts.
Lord, help us seek Your living Word,
The food Your grace imparts.**

**3 No blinding sign we ask,
No wonder from above.
Lord, help us place our trust alone
In Your unswerving love.**

**4 When lures of easy gain
With promise brightly shine,
Lord, help us seek Your kingdom first;
Our wills with Yours align.**

**5 O Christ, You walked the road
Our wand'ring feet must go.
Stay with us through temptation's hour
To fight our ancient foe.**

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007 Text: © 1997 GIA
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110005513

420 Christ, the Life of All the Living

**1 Christ, the life of all the living,
Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Who, Thyself for me once giving**

**To the darkest depths of woe:
Through Thy suff'rings, death, and merit
I eternal life inherit.**

**Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.**

**2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee
Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee,
O Thou sinless Son of God!
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver
From the bonds of sin forever.**

**Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.**

**3 Thou hast borne the smiting only
That my wounds might all be whole;
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely,
Rest to give my weary soul;
Yea, the curse of God enduring,
Blessing unto me securing.**

**Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.**

**4 Heartless scoffers did surround Thee,
Treating Thee with shameful scorn
And with piercing thorns they crowned Thee.**

**All disgrace Thou, Lord, hast borne,
That as Thine Thou mightest own me**

**And with heav'nly glory crown me.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.**

**5 Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee,
That from pain I might be free;
Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee:
Thence I gain security;
Comfortless Thy soul did languish
Me to comfort in my anguish.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.**

**6 Thou hast suffered great affliction
And hast borne it patiently,
Even death by crucifixion,
Fully to atone for me;
Thou didst choose to be tormented
That my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.**

**7 Then, for all that wrought my pardon,
For Thy sorrows deep and sore,
For Thine anguish in the Garden,
I will thank Thee evermore,
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,
For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,**

**For that last triumphant cry,
And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.**

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–81; (sts. 1–2, 5, 7): tr.
Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; (sts. 3–4, 6): tr. Evangelical
Lutheran Hymn-Book, 1912, St. Louis
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.

917 Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise

- 1 Savior, again to Thy dear name we raise
With one accord our parting hymn of praise;
Once more we bless Thee ere our worship cease,
Then, lowly bending, wait Thy word of peace.**

- 2 Grant us Thy peace upon our homeward way;
With Thee began, with Thee shall end, the day.
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
That in this house have called upon Thy name.**

- 3 Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;
Turn Thou for us its darkness into light.
From harm and danger keep Thy children free;
For dark and light are both alike to Thee.**

- 4 Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly life,
Our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife;
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal peace.**

Text: John Ellerton, 1826–93 Text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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| Attendance Last Week: 235 |
| General giving last week: \$8282.00 |
| Budget giving needed: \$7500.00 |

Calendar of Activities this week at St. John

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| 25 Wednesday | Lent Supper | 5:15-6:15 pm |
| 25 Wednesday | Lent Evening Service | 6:30 pm |
| 1 Sunday | Worship Service/HC | 9:00 am |
| 1 Sunday | Bible Class and Sunday School | 10:30 am |

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR have been placed by Bonnie and Mark Schumacher in memory of Nicole Schumacher's birthday on February. 17th.

VOTERS MEETING TODAY: After the church service. Meeting starts at approx. 10:30 am. All communicant members age 18 and older are eligible to vote. Come and participate in the matters of your church.

HUMAN CARE will take a door collection NEXT WEEK to help provide funds for the work they do for people in need.



GOING ON NOW!!

The PTL Hanging Basket Sale

Now until February 28th.

Order form is in the Card Room.

LOOKING FOR USHERS: If you're interested in serving the church one month a year as an usher, please sign up in the back of church. It's a great way to start getting involved and give back to the Lord who has given so much to you!

LOOKING FOR MEDIA HELPERS: We could use more helpers to advance the slides during both Thursday and Sunday services and to video record the Sunday services. Both tasks really help us to proclaim the Gospel and neither require much computer savviness. Please sign up in the back of church.

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.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL TRIVIA NIGHT – March 14th: Join us for a fun evening of fellowship at St. John's Lutheran School on **Saturday, March 14, from 5:00 – 7:30 pm. Admission is \$10 per person or \$55 for a table of six.** Childcare will be available for a free will offering. All proceeds support the school's new roof project. A small silent auction will also be held. **Sign up on the sheet in the**

Narthex, call Gretchen Willis (608-566-9070) , or contact the School Office.

MEN'S MINISTRY: Join us for our next Men's Ministry gathering on Monday, March 2, at 5:30 PM in the church basement. We'll start with a Bible study, followed by a warm meal and fun trivia to build fellowship. All men are welcome—come for great food, discussion, and connection!

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!

WE NEED YOUR HELP! The church occasionally gets calls looking for help with various issues, and pastor isn't always sure where to direct them. We're trying to compile a list of volunteers and trusted professionals to whom we could direct someone if they're looking for help. If you know a professional you trust or if you'd be willing to volunteer to help with various, less-demanding tasks, please put the information on the sign-up sheet in the back of church or contact Pastor Rob. 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!

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: In today's lesson, "The Fall-Short Report," students will learn how Moses chooses one man from each of the twelve tribes and sends them to spy on the land God has promised. The spies report a land of great plenty but occupied by mighty, fearsome people. Despite Caleb and Joshua's pleas to seize the land promised to them, the people rebel. Moses pleads for mercy, and God promises to care for His people. At the same time, He condemns the Israelites to forty years of wandering in the wilderness.

Of all the adults, only Joshua and Caleb will live to enter the Promised Land.

EMAIL OR ADDRESS CHANGE? PHONE # CHANGE? Please let the church office know so we can keep our records current. You may drop a note in the church office mailbox or write "CHANGED" on your next communion card and then fill in what has changed in your information. Thanks!!

+++++

Sermon Notes – 2-15-26 – The Beginning

-The point of this sermon series, which is called: The History of the World that *Really* Matters, is to give you the _____ that's true and that counts.

-Genesis 3 – Mankind's Fall into Sin

-Who are we?

-Like our first parents, we're born disobedient and destructive _____, and as such, we continue their pattern of doing sin, and, in the process, we continue to break ourselves and the rest of God's creation.

-Because of our sin, like Adam and Eve, we live in guilt and shame.

-Left to ourselves, we are separated from God and all his goodness, which also means that, ultimately, we are _____ bound – the place where God is not.

-Why are things the way they are?

-I would say _____ is the norm. And I say that because everything turns bad; good is always only temporary.

-Why are things the way they are? Why is there entropy? Why is there suffering? Why does 'bad' reign? Because Adam and Eve sinned, and humanity has continued to constantly _____ ever since.

-Where are we going?

-“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” (Genesis 3:15)

-God was promising a Savior – a Savior we know now to be _____.

-If we trust in Jesus, if we look to him to be our Savior, he is our Savior, and we know exactly where we're going – to walk with God again, to Eden again, to _____ again – just like God had always planned.