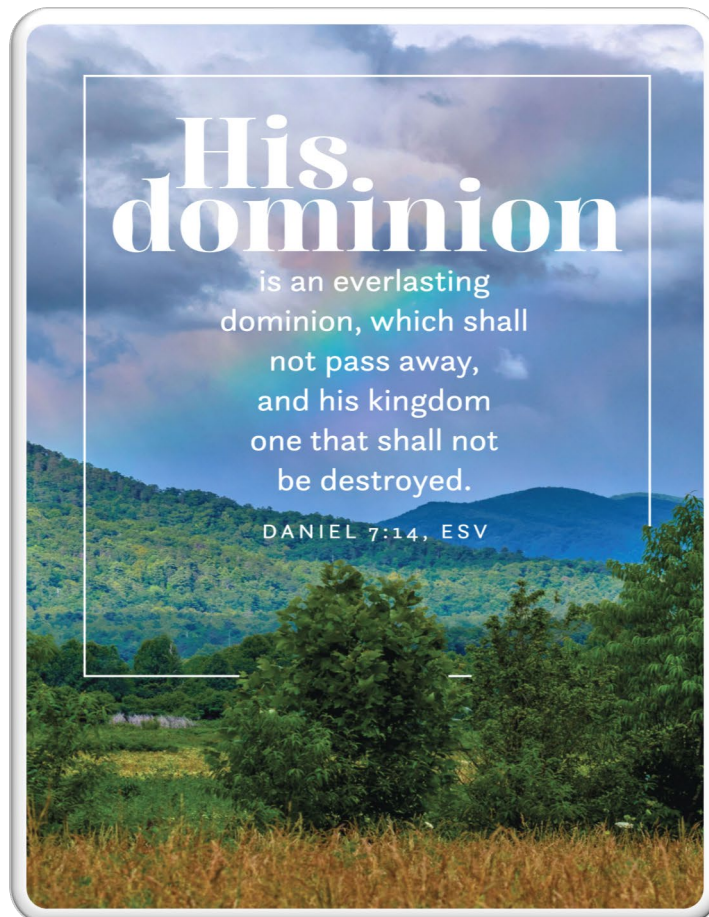


***St. John Lutheran Church & School
Berlin, Wisconsin
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod***



***April 16 and 19, 2026
The 3rd Sunday Of Easter***

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

Large Print Bulletin

AS WE GATHER... The wearing of camouflage-patterned clothing is not limited to military personnel and hunters these days. It can be seen in many forms on the clothing of people of all ages in a variety of settings. The English word *camouflage* is a direct borrowing from the French word meaning, "to veil, disguise," which, in turn, is derived from the two Italian words meaning "head" and "to muffle." Seeing things that are camouflaged or hidden may take special effort, especially when it is creatures in nature that are using camouflage to blend in with their settings. In our worship, we are most blessed in seeing our Lord present in the Sacrament, hidden under the forms of bread and wine. One communion hymn begins, "Thee we adore, O hidden Savior, Thee, who in Thy Sacrament art pleased to be" (*LSB* 640:1). The hiddenness of Jesus was experienced by two disciples on the road to Emmaus. Ultimately, their eyes were opened and they beheld the risen Savior. Today in our worship, we seek to see Him as He chooses to be known to 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 Narthex.

Confession and Absolution

469 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

- 1 "Christ the Lord is ris'n today!"
Saints on earth and angels say;
Raise your joys and triumphs high;
Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, reply.**

- 2 Love's redeeming work is done,
Fought the fight, the battle won;
Lo! Our Sun's eclipse is o'er;
Lo! He sets in blood no more.**

- 3 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
Christ hath burst the gates of hell.
Death in vain forbids His rise;
Christ has opened paradise.**

- 4 Lives again our glorious King!
Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Once He died our souls to save;
Where thy victory, O grave?**

- 5 Soar we now where Christ has led;
Foll'wing our exalted Head.
Made like Him, like Him we rise;
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.**

- 6 Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n!
Praise to Thee by both be giv'n!**

**Thee we greet triumphant now:
Hail, the resurrection, Thou!**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, 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.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 133; antiphon: v. 1

Behold, how good and pleasant it is
when brothers dwell in unity!

**It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron,
running down on the collar of his robes!**

It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.

**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, how good and pleasant it is
when brothers dwell in unity!

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.

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through 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

Daniel 7:13–14

¹³I saw in the night visions,
and behold, with the clouds of heaven
there came one like a son of man,
and he came to the Ancient of Days
and was presented before him.
¹⁴And to him was given dominion
and glory and a kingdom,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him;
his dominion is an everlasting dominion,
which shall not pass away,

and his kingdom one
that shall not be destroyed.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Peter 2:9–12, 17

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

¹¹Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹²Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

¹⁷Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

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 24:3–14

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

³As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the close of the age?"

⁴And Jesus answered them, "See that no one leads you astray.

⁵For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray. ⁶And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. ⁷For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

⁹"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake.

¹⁰And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. ¹¹And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. ¹²And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³But the one who endures to the end will

be saved. ¹⁴And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

673 Jerusalem, My Happy Home

**1 Jerusalem, my happy home,
When shall I come to thee?
When shall my sorrows have an end?
Thy joys when shall I see?**

**2 O happy harbor of the saints,
O sweet and pleasant soil!
In thee no sorrow may be found,
No grief, no care, no toil.**

**3 Thy gardens and thy gallant walks
Continually are green;
There grow such sweet and pleasant flow'rs
As nowhere else are seen.**

**4 There trees forevermore bear fruit
And evermore do spring;**

**There evermore the angels dwell
And evermore do sing.**

**5 Apostles, martyrs, prophets, there
Around my Savior stand;
And soon my friends in Christ below
Will join the glorious band.**

**6 O Christ, do Thou my soul prepare
For that bright home of love
That I may see Thee and adore
With all Thy saints above.**

Text: F. B. P., 16th cent., alt. Text: Public domain

Sermon The History of the World that *Really* Matters: The Destination

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.**

Distribution Hymns

554 O Jesus, King Most Wonderful

1 O Jesus, King most wonderful!

O Conqueror renowned!

O Source of peace ineffable,

In whom all joys are found:

2 When once You visit darkened hearts,

Then truth begins to shine,

Then earthly vanity departs,

Then kindles love divine.

3 O Jesus, light of all below,

The fount of life and fire,

Surpassing all the joys we know,

All that we can desire:

**4 May ev'ry heart confess Your name,
Forever You adore,
And, seeking You, itself inflame
To seek You more and more!**

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

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

624 The Infant Priest Was Holy Born

**1 The infant Priest was holy born
For us unholy and forlorn;
From fleshly temple forth came He,
Anointed from eternity.**

**2 This great High Priest in human flesh
Was icon of God's righteousness.
His hallowed touch brought sanctity;
His hand removed impurity.**

**3 The holy Lamb undaunted came
To God's own altar lit with flame;
While weeping angels hid their eyes,
This Priest became a sacrifice.**

- 4 But death would not the victor be
Of Him who hung upon the tree.
He leads us to the Holy Place
Within the veil, before God's face.**
- 5 The veil is torn, our Priest we see,
As at the rail on bended knee
Our hungry mouths from Him receive
The bread of immortality.**
- 6 The body of God's Lamb we eat,
A priestly food and priestly meat;
On sin-parched lips the chalice pours
His quenching blood that life restores.**
- 7 With cherubim and seraphim
Our voices join the endless hymn,
And "Holy, holy, holy" sing
To Christ, God's Lamb, our Priest and King.**

Text: Chad L. Bird, 1970 Text: © 1997, 2003 Chad L. Bird. Used
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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.

490 Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won

1 Jesus lives! The vict'ry's won!

**Death no longer can appall me;
Jesus lives! Death's reign is done!
From the grave will Christ recall me.
Brighter scenes will then commence;
This shall be my confidence.**

2 Jesus lives! To Him the throne

**High above all things is given.
I shall go where He is gone,
Live and reign with Him in heaven.
God is faithful; doubtings, hence!
This shall be my confidence.**

- 3 Jesus lives! For me He died,
Hence will I, to Jesus living,
Pure in heart and act abide,
Praise to Him and glory giving.
All I need God will dispense;
This shall be my confidence.**
- 4 Jesus lives! I know full well
Nothing me from Him shall sever.
Neither death nor pow'rs of hell
Part me now from Christ forever.
God will be my sure defense;
This shall be my confidence.**
- 5 Jesus lives! And now is death
But the gate of life immortal;
This shall calm my trembling breath
When I pass its gloomy portal.
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense:
Jesus is my confidence!**

Text: Christian Fürchtegott Gellert, 1715–69; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812–97, alt. Text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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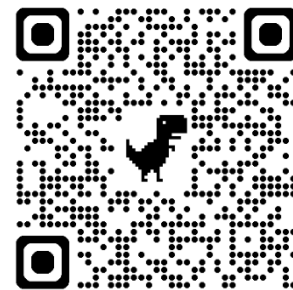
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Calendar of Activities this week at St. John

21 Tuesday	Summer VBS Planning Meeting	5:00 pm
22 Wednesday	Council Meeting	6:00 pm
23 Thursday	Worship Service/HC	6:30 pm
26 Sunday	Worship Service/HC	9:00 am
26 Sunday	Sunday School / Bible Class	10:30 am

MRS. CHAR FRITSCH IS RETIRING! Come and help us celebrate Mrs. Fritsch's retirement after over 35 years of teaching in Lutheran Schools. We will have punch, desserts and a reception in the church narthex on Sunday, April 19th following the worship service.

PLEASE TAKE THIS SURVEY: In an attempt to understand where we're at and realize God's mission for us, our church is asking those affiliated with it to take a quick survey. Whether you've been a member for years or are brand new to our church - your response will be very helpful! When you get a chance, please take a few minutes to fill out the survey by typing in this link or scanning the QR code (<http://lcms.cadds.alchemer.com/s3/&cong=C76148>) (if prompted, enter the code: C76148) or pick up a paper copy in the back of church. Responses are required by May 3. Your responses will



be anonymous. You can skip questions you don't have an answer for. We need your help - please fill out a survey! Thank you!

NEW BIBLE STUDY ON REVELATION: We'll be studying selections from the book of Revelation using Lutheran Hour Ministries' "Explaining All the Scary Stuff in Revelation" in our post-Sunday Service Bible Study. This will hopefully be a jumping off point to go a little deeper into the book for the rest of the year. I hope you'll join us!

NEW MEMBER WELCOME RECEPTION: Join us on **Sunday, April 26** for a New Member Reception in the Church Narthex; immediately following the service. Welcome our new members and enjoy some bars and cookies.

OPEN GYM: PICKUP BASKETBALL: Join us for some fun, casual pickup basketball! When: Wednesday, April 22, 6–7 PM. Where: St. John Lutheran Gym. Bring your friends and come play! For more details or questions, text 920-658-3029.

SUMMER VBS PLANNING MEETING: If you're interested in helping out with VBS this summer, please join us for a planning meeting on April 21 at 5:00pm at the church. We hope to see you there!

FAMILY-FRIENDLY CONCERT: The St. John Lutheran Church Evangelism Team is hosting Randy Peterson as part of St. John Lutheran School's participation in National Screen-Free Week. The Concert is Tuesday, May 5th starting at 6pm in the church. This evening concert gives students and families an engaging alternative

to screen time and encourages meaningful time together through music.

DONATIONS FOR CONFIRMATION CAMPING TRIP: Pastor Rob is taking the Confirmation students camping May 1-3, and we need your help to make it a successful trip! On the back table is a donation list. If you're able, please stop in the back and sign-up to bring something. You can drop off your donation in pastor's office any time before the 1st (the office is open from 9:00-12:00 Mon-Thurs and pastor may be there at other times depending on his schedule). Cold donations can be placed in the refrigerator in the church basement (please label it "Camping"). Thank you!

CHURCH PICNIC ACTIVITIES: We'll be hosting our church picnic on July 19 and we're looking for someone to plan some activities for kids and adults. If you're interested, please talk with Pastor Rob. THANKS!

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN DINKS FOR DONATIONS PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT Join us for a fun 2v2 pickleball tournament on Saturday, July 11, starting at 8:00 AM at 344 Broadway St, Berlin, WI 54923.

Entry fee is one paper bag full of nonperishable food items for the Berlin Food Pantry. It's a double-elimination tournament with 15-minute games (most points wins) and best-of-3 for the final three matches. Concessions and a 50/50 raffle will be available. We're partnering with the Tri-County Area Boys & Girls Club. Prizes will be given to the top 3 teams. Sign up by messaging 920-658-3029. All skill levels welcome — come play and support a great cause!

SIGN UP FOR A CONNECTION GROUP: Our Connection Groups connect Christians to other Christians, Christians closer to Christ, and non-Christians to Connection Groups. If you want to get connected to other Christians and our awesome God, sign up for a Connection Group in the narthex today. We have Groups that meet at different times and for different ages. If you have questions, please ask a leader or pick up an FAQ sheet in the narthex or email Pastor Rob at pastor@stjohnberlin.org.

1 – Amy & Eric Vetrone / 1st Monday of the Month / @ 6:30 PM / N452 25th Ave Neshkoro / Ages 35-55

2 – Candy Schram / Every-other-week / Wednesday @ 9:30 / St. John Church / Any age, WOMEN ONLY

3 – Dave & Brenda Faucett / Every-other-week / Wednesdays @ 6:00 PM / St. John Church / Any age

4 – Lori Piechowski / 2nd & 4th / Monday @ 6:00 PM / St. John Church / Any age

5 – Pastor & Carol Busse / 1st & 3rd / Monday @ 9:30 AM / St. John Church / Ages 60+

6 – Rob & Paige Schrader / 2nd & 4th / Monday @ 5:30 PM / St. John School / Ages <40

SCRIP: We are looking for someone to take over the Scrip program. Please contact Julie Snow 920-745-0977 or Rich Wallner 920-252-0049 if you have any questions or are interested.

THIS WEEK IN SUNDAY SCHOOL: As we gather today, we will study "The Chosen King." Desiring to be like all the other nations, the elders come to Samuel asking him to appoint a king over Israel. Samuel vainly tries to warn them against their plan, telling them the consequences the people will face. God reveals to Samuel that he will encounter the handsome Saul, whom Samuel anoints as king over Israel.

Sermon Notes – 4-12-26 – The Destination

-“Where are we going?”

-God “will wipe away every tear from our eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor _____ anymore.” (Revelation 21:4)

-“Life at its _____, having infinite duration characterized by abiding fellowship with God.”

-“When we get there, who will we be? What will we be like?”

-“It is buried perishable, it is raised _____. It is buried in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is buried in weakness; it is raised in power.” (1 Corinthians 15:42-44)

-The Bible says that knowing this certain future should impact our lives now. Where we’re going affects how we _____ now. Who we’ll be influences who we are now.

-“You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession...Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” (1 Peter 2:9-10)

-We haven’t received our eternal, _____ bodies yet – but we absolutely, 100% know who we’ll be, so right now we ARE something different.

-Peter calls us “sojourners and exiles.” (1 Peter 2:11)

-We haven’t gotten to _____ yet, but we absolutely, 100% know that that’s where we’re going to live permanently – so now we live differently, like people of heaven even though we’re not in our homeland yet.

-“Live as people who are free.” (1 Peter 2:16)

-Knowing where we’re going and who we’ll be through the death and resurrection of Jesus, gives us _____ from all the things that dictate our lives now and freedom to live lives dedicated and devoted to Jesus.

-“Why are things the way they are?”

-Knowing we’re going to eternity in heaven, knowing we’ll be resurrected frees us from living controlled by our passions, goals, and desires. Instead, of living for ourselves like we’re God – we’re free to serve the true God. Instead of living for those selfish, shallow purposes – we’re free to live in a way that really means something.

-This story is integral to how we understand everything, and when we know the History of the World that *Really* Matters – we can live now in a way that *really* _____.