

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



May 17, 2026

The 7th Sunday of Easter Confirmation Day

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

Large Print Bulletin

AS WE GATHER...Who am I? Who are you? Who is God? These are questions surrounding identity—questions we and others wrestle with on and off throughout our lives as we live through life’s chapters that may include being a child, sibling, spouse, parent, employee, employer, hobbyist, or retiree, with the spiritual journey that accompanies them. These identity questions also have added meaning today as the society we live in especially wrestles with one’s identity. When God baptizes us into the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we receive our most important identity as a baptized child of God.

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.

PREPARATION

689 Let Me Be Thine Forever

**1 Let me be Thine forever,
My faithful God and Lord;
Let me forsake Thee never
Nor wander from Thy Word.
Lord, do not let me waver,
But give me steadfastness,**

**And for such grace forever
Thy holy name I'll bless.**

**2 Lord Jesus, my salvation,
My light, my life divine,
My only consolation,
O make me wholly Thine!
For Thou hast dearly bought me
With blood and bitter pain.
Let me, since Thou hast sought me,
Eternal life obtain.**

**3 And Thou, O Holy Spirit,
My comforter and guide,
Grant that in Jesus' merit
I always may confide,
Him to the end confessing
Whom I have known by faith.
Give me Thy constant blessing
And grant a Christian death.**

Text: tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.; (st. 1): Nicolaus Selnecker, 1532–92; (sts. 2–3): Gesang-Büchlein, 1688, Rudolstadt 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 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

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 King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

CAmen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 15:1–6

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great."
²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir."
⁴And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir."
⁵And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

⁶And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 4:13–25

¹³The promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.” ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.” ²³But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be counted

to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord,²⁵ who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

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

John 6:28–35

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁸Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" ²⁹Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." ³⁰So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform?" ³¹Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" ³²Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³For the bread of God is he who comes down from

heaven and gives life to the world.”³⁴They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

³⁵Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

744 Amazing Grace

sts. 1–5

**1 Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see!**

**2 The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.**

**3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far,
His grace will lead me home.**

**4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail
And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail
In heaven's joy and peace.**

**5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.**

Text (sts. 1–4): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 5): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, Richmond Text: Public domain

Sermon "Amazing Grace"

**Offering St. John School Handbell Choir plays
during offering on Sunday**

The Rite of Confirmation

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

Service of the Sacrament

Stand

Preface *LSB 208*

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

685 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

**1 Let us ever walk with Jesus,
Follow His example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us
And to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in His footsteps treading,
Pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love,
Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide;
I shall follow where You guide.**

**2 Let us suffer here with Jesus
And with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness;
Where He is, there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter,
We shall reap celestial joy;
All discomforts that annoy
Shall give way to mirth hereafter.
Jesus, here I share Your woe;
Help me there Your joy to know.**

**3 Let us gladly die with Jesus.
Since by death He conquered death,
He will free us from destruction,
Give to us immortal breath.**

**Let us mortify all passion
That would lead us into sin;
And the grave that shuts us in
Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here with You I die,
There to live with You on high.**

4 Let us also live with Jesus.

**He has risen from the dead
That to life we may awaken.
Jesus, You are now our head.
We are Your own living members;
Where You live, there we shall be
In Your presence constantly,
Living there with You forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be,
Life eternal grant to me.**

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt. Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005513

622 Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared

**1 Lord Jesus Christ, You have prepared
This feast for our salvation;
It is Your body and Your blood,
And at Your invitation
As weary souls, with sin oppressed,**

**We come to You for needed rest,
For comfort, and for pardon.**

**2 Although You did to heav'n ascend,
Where angel hosts are dwelling,
And in Your presence they behold
Your glory, all excelling,
And though Your people shall not see
Your glory and Your majesty
Till dawns the judgment morning,**

**3 Yet, Savior, You are not confined
To any habitation;
But You are present even now
Here with Your congregation.
Firm as a rock this truth shall stand,
Unmoved by any daring hand
Or subtle craft and cunning.**

**4 We eat this bread and drink this cup,
Your precious Word believing
That Your true body and Your blood
Our lips are here receiving.
This Word remains forever true;
All things are possible with You,
For You are Lord Almighty.**

**5 Though reason cannot understand,
Yet faith this truth embraces:**

**Your body, Lord, is even now
At once in many places.
I leave to You how this can be;
Your Word alone suffices me;
I trust its truth unfailing.**

**6 Lord, I believe what You have said;
Help me when doubts assail me.
Remember that I am but dust,
And let my faith not fail me.
Your supper in this vale of tears
Refreshes me and stills my fears
And is my priceless treasure.**

**7 Grant that we worthily receive
Your supper, Lord, our Savior,
And, truly grieving for our sins,
May prove by our behavior
That we are thankful for Your grace
And day by day may run our race,
In holiness increasing.**

**8 For Your consoling supper, Lord,
Be praised throughout all ages!
Preserve it, for in ev'ry place
The world against it rages.
Grant that this sacrament may be
A blessed comfort unto me
When living and when dying.**

Text: Samuel Kinner, 1603–68; tr. Emanuel Cronenwett, 1841–1931,
alt. 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.

Benedicamus *LSB 212*

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.

783 Take My Life and Let It Be

Verse 1 sung by all

Verses 2 and 3 sung by Seraphim Choir

Verses 4 sung by all

Verse 5 sung by the Seraphim Choir

Verse 6 sung by all

- 1 Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

- 2 Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.**

- 3 Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only for my King;
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.**

- 4 Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.**

**5 Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne.**

**6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.**

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79 Text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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Our 2026
Confirmation Class
St. John Lutheran Church
Berlin, WI

Lorelei Hess

1 John 4:10-11 – “In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

Harrison Johnson

Genesis 1:26 – “Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

Ryker Schilder

Galatians 2:20 - “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

Calendar of Activities this week at St. John

19 Tuesday	Altar Guild Meeting	6:30 pm
21 Thursday	Thursday Evening Service/HC	6:30 pm
24 Sunday	Worship Service/HC	9:00 am
24 Sunday	Bible Class	10:30 am

ALTAR GUILD MEETING: The Altar Guild meeting is Tuesday, May 19th at 6:30pm. New members are welcome!

BASIC YOUNG ADULTS TECHNO BOWLING NIGHT! All young adults (high school grads–30ish, married or single) are invited to Techno Bowling on Friday, May 29. Meet at Rev's Bowling Bar & Grill (275 N. Washburn St., Oshkosh) at 8 PM; bowling starts at 9 PM. Cost is \$15.99 (+tax) per person, including shoes and unlimited bowling. Please RSVP to Beth Thon (920-292-0041 or babs92275@yahoo.com). All friends are welcome!

FOOD PANTRY NEWS: St. John is conducting a food drive in May benefiting the Berlin Food Pantry. In March we donated 742 lbs. of food to them! We are accepting non-perishable food, paper products and monetary gifts. Please bring your donations to church and place them in the large blue bin.

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!

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

VOTERS MEETING – May 17th: The Quarterly Voters meeting will be held on Sunday, May 17th, following the church service. All communicant members age 18 and over are eligible to become voting members. Note: This is Confirmation day. The meeting "might" start a little later, depending on circumstances.

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!

OPENING ON BOARD OF EDUCATION: The St. John Board of Christian Education is seeking a new board member due to a recent resignation, creating an open position. If you are interested in serving—or would like more information—please contact the school

office or speak with any current board member. A list of current board members is printed on the back of the monthly newsletter. Thank you for considering this opportunity to support Christian education at St. John.

WE'RE HIRING AT ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL!

St. John Lutheran School in Berlin is seeking to hire:

- **An additional Middle School Teacher**

If you are interested—or know someone who may be a great fit—please contact the school office for more information:

Phone: 920-361-0555 **Email:** school@stjohnberlin.org

We would love for you to help us spread the word!

MINISTRIES AT ST. JOHN BOOKLET: Our Savior, Jesus, came to serve us by dying on the cross. Inspired by what he has done, the Bible encourages us to likewise serve our neighbors. If you're looking for a way to follow God's command, pick up our NEW "Getting Involved" ministry booklet in the rack in the back of church to see the different ways that you can serve in and through our church and school! Thank you!

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE USING THE SCREENS EXCLUSIVELY and may not want or need a full bulletin...we have available in the back of church and from the ushers a "news" sheet which contains the same calendar, announcements and sermon outline found in the regular bulletin. If interested, please pick one up and see if it meets your needs.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY AT RIVER SHORES! Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered, 12-step recovery group for anyone struggling with hurt, pain, or addiction of any kind. Meetings are held every Monday night at 6:00 pm at River Shores Church in Berlin. Feel free to call or text Bob M. with any questions: (920) 896-3755. Change is possible!

RAFFLE FUNDRAISER: St John Lutheran School is hosting a raffle for a brand-new speed queen washer and dryer to help fund the new school roof. The winner will be drawn on July 19th. Tickets are 1 for \$30.00; 2 for \$50.00; 3 for \$75.00; 4 for \$100.00. Tickets may be purchased at any of the following locations during their operational hours: St John Lutheran School; Berlin Thrivent Office; Country Inn; Misty's; Ron's Trail Inn, Waukau; Jeff's; Bucky's ; Kitz and Pfeil; Bosquez Chiropractic Office; and Matriculas' On Broadway

ROOF UPDATE – WE ARE ALMOST THERE! St John Lutheran School is so close to funding our new roof. Our goal for this project is \$135,000, and we are hovering around \$128,000. This is our last big push to raise the funds that we still need. Would you be willing to donate and help us get there? This project is set to start at the beginning of June, and we would love to meet our goal before it starts.

Sermon Notes – 5-17-26 – Amazing Grace

-There are still many other things that you live for, things that you think you need because you think they'll make you happy – you think they'll satisfy you. But John found out – and you will, too – that they'll never be _____, that nothing here can save you.

Ultimately every earthly thing comes to an end, so you should never base your life on any of it.

-Grace – John learned that grace is the free and _____ blessing of God.

-Everything else – pleasure, money, dreams, family...they will all fail you...they can't live up to your expectations; they can't fulfill you—they can't save you. When you base your life upon those things...they'll never be enough. What John needed is what we need, too – grace...God's grace. Only a life based on grace will be enough.

-"Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—That saved a _____ like me! I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see!"

-"The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures; He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures."

-"Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come; His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me _____."

-"Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail and mortal life shall cease, amazing grace shall then prevail, in heaven's joy and peace."

-The most important thing is your faith because the grace of God that we all need most is only received through _____.

-There will be times when you falter and fail. And that's why – again – it's so important to base your life on grace. For God's

grace says we can always repent – we can always turn away from our sin and turn back to him to receive what we don't deserve: forgiveness through the death and resurrection of Jesus – grace.

amazing
GRACE