

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



***April 23 and 26, 2026
The 4th Sunday of Easter***

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

Large Print Bulletin

AS WE GATHER... AS WE GATHER... The place where we worship is often called the Lord's house. It is a sacred space, a holy house, and more. It is our blessed home. English clergyman Isaac Watts, who authored hundreds of hymn texts during his life, concluded his paraphrase of the Twenty-Third Psalm in this memorable way: "The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days; oh, may His house be my abode and all my work be praise. There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come; no more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home" (OAR 272). We are so much more than strangers or guests here today. We are children at home. Paul writes to the Ephesians and to us, "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children" (Ephesians 5:1).

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

475 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!

Now is the triumph of our King!

To all the world glad news we bring:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day;
Bring flow'rs of song to strew His way;
Let all the world rejoice and say:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**3 Praise we in songs of victory
That love, that life which cannot die,
And sing with hearts uplifted high:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**4 Your name we bless, O risen Lord,
And sing today with one accord
The life laid down, the life restored:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

*Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt. Text: © 1958, renewed 1986 Hymns
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The Rite of Holy Baptism for Charlie Ramsey

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.**

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 Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess
our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our
Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

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

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

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

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I 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 95:1–3, 6–7a; antiphon: John 10:14, 15b

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,
and I lay down my life for the sheep.

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

Oh come, let us worship and bow down;

let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,
and I lay down my life for the sheep.

Gloria Patri

**C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen.**

Kyrie *LSB 186*

C Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same 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 Lesson: Isaiah 58:6–12

⁶“Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of wickedness,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover him,
and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?

⁸Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up speedily;
your righteousness shall go before you;
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’

If you take away the yoke from your midst,
the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,

¹⁰if you pour yourself out for the hungry
and satisfy the desire of the afflicted,
then shall your light rise in the darkness
and your gloom be as the noonday.

¹¹And the LORD will guide you continually
and satisfy your desire in scorched places
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters do not fail.

¹²And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to dwell in.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

2 Timothy 4:17–19

¹⁷But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

¹⁹Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia *LSB 190*

C Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 6:1–4

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

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹"Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

²"Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

787 The Temple Rang with Golden Coins

1 The temple rang with golden coins

The rich in bright array

Contributed from gleaming hoards

Their scales could scarcely weigh.

**2 A widow came with copper coins
And offered them in praise.
They were the last she had to give
Or save for darker days.**

**3 When Jesus saw her costly gift
And knew she had no more,
He praised a love that spared not self
And called her rich, though poor.**

**4 At last He brought His offering
And laid it on a tree;
There gave Himself, His life, His love
For all humanity.**

**5 Lord, help us all, with You, to yield
Whatever love demands
And freely give, as You have giv'n,
With open hearts and hands.**

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007 Text: © 1993 GIA
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Sermon "Give Secretly"

Sit

Offering

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 194

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up unto the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

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 195*

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;

heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He, blessed is He,

blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

ALL: 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

LSB 197

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

LSB 197

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei *LSB 198*

C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Distribution Hymns

628 Your Table I Approach

**1 Your table I approach;
Dear Savior, hear my prayer.
Let not an unrepentant heart
Prove hurtful to me there.**

**2 Lord, I confess my sins
And mourn their wretched bands;
A contrite heart is sure to find
Forgiveness at Your hands.**

**3 Your body and Your blood,
Once slain and shed for me,
Are taken at Your table, Lord,
In blest reality.**

**4 Search not how this takes place,
This wondrous mystery;**

**God can accomplish vastly more
Than what we think could be.**

**5 O grant, most blessed Lord,
That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament
Raise doubt within my mind.**

**6 Oh, may I never fail
To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood,
O God, my peace and light.**

Text: Gerhard Wolter Molanus, 1633–1722; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–
1915, alt. Text: Public domain

739 Precious Lord, Take My Hand

**1 Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light.
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.**

**2 When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call;**

Hold my hand lest I fall.

Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

3 When the darkness appears

And the night draws near

And the day is almost gone,

At the river I stand;

Guide my feet, hold my hand,

Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

Text: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899–1993 Text: © 1938 (renewed)

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Stand

Thanksgiving LSB 200

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

C and His mercy endureth forever.

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 The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

Benedicamus

LSB 202

P Bless we the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction *LSB 202*

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you
and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you
and + give you peace.

C Amen, amen, amen.

480 He's Risen, He's Risen

**1 He's risen, He's risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;
He opened death's prison, the incarnate, true Word.
Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song
And earth, sea, and mountain their praises prolong.**

**2 The foe was triumphant when on Calvary
The Lord of creation was nailed to the tree.
In Satan's domain did the hosts shout and jeer,
For Jesus was slain, whom the evil ones fear.**

**3 But short was their triumph; the Savior arose,
And death, hell, and Satan He vanquished, His foes.**

**The conquering Lord lifts His banner on high;
He lives, yes, He lives, and will nevermore die.**

**4 O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden's door.
For all our transgressions His blood does atone;
Redeemed and forgiven, we now are His own.**

**△ 5 Then sing your hosannas and raise your glad voice;
Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.
Laud, honor, and praise to the Lamb that was slain:
With Father and Spirit He ever shall reign.**

Text: C. F. W. Walther, 1811–87, abr.; tr. Anna M. Meyer, 1867–1941,
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Acknowledgments

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Attendance Last Week: 264

General giving last week: \$18,893.43

Budget giving needed: \$ 7,500.00

Calendar of Activities this week at St. John

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

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.

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!

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!

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.

MEN'S MINISTRY: Monday May 4th we will be meeting at 139 S Swetting Street in Berlin for a cookout and bonfire, rain or shine. Any man over the age of 16 is invited. We hope to see you all there!



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE SPRING CONGREGATIONAL POTLUCK: Thursday, May 7 at 1:00 pm in the Church Basement. This is hosted by the Ladies Aid; no need to bring anything. ***Join us, bring a friend, and enjoy Food, Fun, and Fellowship.***

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!

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: "The Fearless Shepherd" is the title for today's lesson. As their armies remain encamped against one another, the Philistines send for their champion, Goliath, to challenge the Israelites. The Israelites fear to challenge the giant. Young David expresses dismay at the soldiers' lack of trust in God. Confident that the Lord will give him victory, David uses his sling and knocks Goliath to the ground before cutting off Goliath's head with the giant's own sword.

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**
- **An additional Preschool Aide**

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!

ST. JOHN SERVICE AVAILABLE ON RADIO! Tune in to AM 1600 or FM 93.1 at 9:00 am each week to hear our abbreviated St. John service broadcast.

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! SECOND TIME-AROUND SHOP

The Second Time-Around Shop in Berlin has supported Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of WI (LCFS) with nearly \$3 million of their profits so that people in our community and around our state can receive life-changing Christian counseling and adoption services.

To maximize their support to LCFS, we are looking for both men and women volunteers to run and organize our store; we they could use your help! A few hours of your time each week would be hugely beneficial! You could volunteer to sort and price incoming items, run the cash register, take care of the store, and/or keep items on the shelf organized. Volunteering is a great way to service Jesus and help your fellow man; for more information call the store at: (920) 361-0334. Thank you!

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Sermon Notes – 2-15-26 – Give Secretly

- “_____ you give to the needy...” (Matthew 6:2-3)
 - First, Jesus teaches us that giving isn’t an option for Christians; if you’re a follow of Jesus, you’ll be giving to the needy.
- He also teaches us _____ to give.
 - Jesus is saying that we shouldn’t give to be recognized by, praised by, or to impress others.
 - “But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.” (Matthew 6:3)
 - We shouldn’t give to feel good about _____.
 - Your giving should be in “secret”.
- Why should we do this? How can we do this?
 - “Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the _____ do...that they may be praised by others.” (Matthew 6:2)
 - The word “hypocrite” comes from a Greek word that means “actor”.

- When we give in order to be praised by others or ourselves, we're acting; we're pretending to be good when we're not good – we're "hypocrites".
- We're not good, we ought not act like we are. So, should we just play the part honestly, and not give at all?
 - Even though we're not good, three times in this passage, Jesus talks about an otherworldly _____ that's available to us.
 - Before we were in the position to give, we were the needy who had to be given to. And God is the one who gave.
 - Jesus came not to be praised, but in complete _____.
 - He went through the death and hell we deserve so that we could have the "reward" that he deserved – forgiveness, life, and paradise!
 - _____ humble generosity toward us inspires us to be humbly generous toward others.
- God has given us all things – and he's given us his Son to give us _____ – we should follow his example and give, not to be praised, but so that all the glory goes to God!