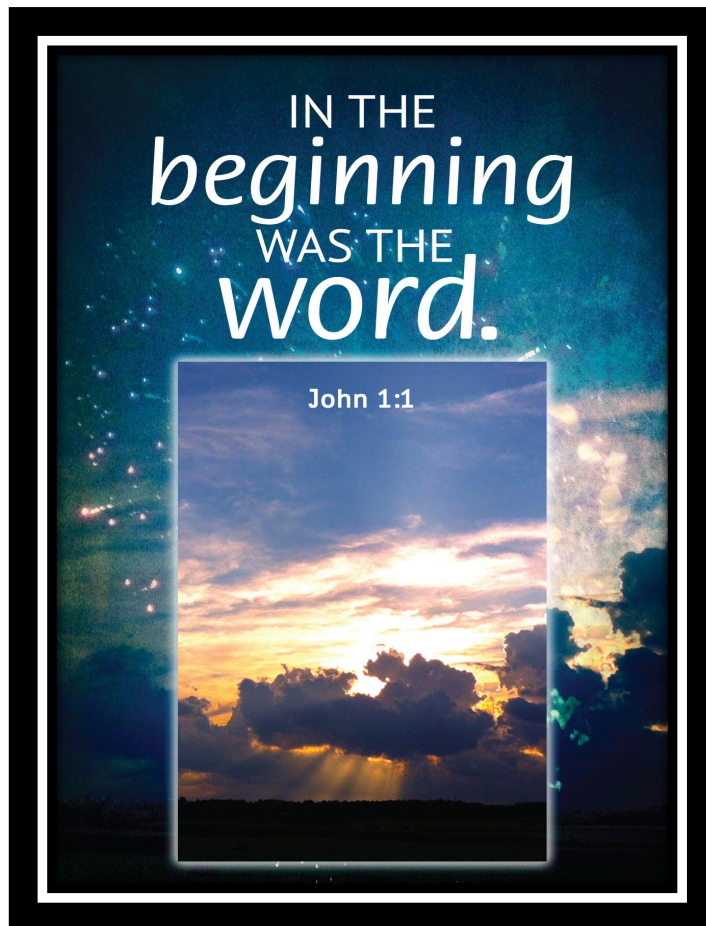


***St. John Lutheran Church & School
Berlin, Wisconsin
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod***



***Transfiguration Sunday
February 12 & 15, 2026***

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

Large Print Bulletin

AS WE GATHER... Jesus looks brilliant! As language changes, sometimes the most basic meanings of words change and expand with the times. For generations, the English word *brilliant* meant simply something that shines or radiates light. The word is thought to be derived from the prized gemstone beryl, which is mentioned in both the Old Testament book of Daniel (10:6) and the book of Revelation (21:20). Jesus' garments became "white as light," Matthew writes (17:2), in a way that mirrors Psalm 104, where the psalmist writes of God: "You are clothed with splendor and majesty, covering Yourself with light as with a garment" (vv. 1–2). As He stands on the mountaintop with Moses and Elijah, Jesus is shining, radiant, and brilliant. An expanded meaning of the word *brilliant* is "perfect, amazing, and wonderful." Jesus on the mountaintop is brilliant as He discusses how He will carry out God's plan of our salvation with two of the best coaches ever, Moses and Elijah. Jesus does not just look brilliant—He *is* brilliant!

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP HELPS... Please know we have two children's worship bulletins available for young non-readers and older children. Both bulletins have activities that go along with the weekly theme. We also have activity bags for children hanging on the rear wall of the church for use throughout the worship service. If needed we have a cry room/nursery (with changing table) behind the organ in the southwest corner of the church.

PREPARATION

414 'Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here

1 'Tis good, Lord, to be here!

Thy glory fills the night;

**Thy face and garments, like the sun,
Shine with unborrowed light.**

**2 'Tis good, Lord, to be here,
Thy beauty to behold
Where Moses and Elijah stand,
Thy messengers of old.**

**3 Fulfiller of the past
And hope of things to be,
We hail Thy body glorified
And our redemption see.**

**4 Before we taste of death,
We see Thy kingdom come;
We long to hold the vision bright
And make this hill our home.**

**5 'Tis good, Lord, to be here!
Yet we may not remain;
But since Thou bidst us leave the mount,
Come with us to the plain.**

Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858–1933, alt. Text: Public domain

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P O God our Father, we admit and confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in thought and in word and in deed.

C Have mercy on us and forgive us, O God.

P We confess that we have not always listened to Your Word and have not brought glory to You through our words and our deeds.

C Have mercy on us and forgive us, O God.

P We confess that we have been thoughtless in our judgments, hasty in condemnation, begrudging in forgiveness, slow to seek reconciliation, and unwilling to help our neighbors as we ought.

C Have mercy on us and forgive us, O God.

P We confess that we have not always been defenders of the weak and the needy as advocates of those not yet born and defenders of those in the final stages of life.

C Have mercy on us and forgive us, O God.

P We confess that we have not used every opportunity given us to witness to the faith that is ours, that we and have let the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh set the agendas for our lives and actions.

C Have mercy on us and forgive us, O God.

P Upon this your confession and by the command of our Lord, I, a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

WORD

Kyrie

LSB 204

**C Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.**

Gloria In Excelsis

**C 1 To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven
Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father;
Your holy name, we sing—
Our thanks for Your great glory,
Lord God, our heav'nly King.**

**2 To You, O sole-begotten,
The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior,
You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus;
Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated
At God's right hand on high—**

**3 For You alone are holy;
You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever,**

**Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit
Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory.
"Amen!" our glad reply.**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Installation of New Board Members

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 1:1, 26–28

¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

²⁶Then 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."

²⁷So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

²⁸And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsive Psalm

Psalm 50: 1-6

¹The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting.

²Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

³Our God comes; he does not keep silence; before him is a
devouring fire, around him a mighty tempest.

**⁴He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may
judge his people:**

⁵"Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me
by sacrifice!"

**⁶The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is
judge!**

Epistle

1 Corinthians 15:45–49

⁴⁵Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual and Verse

Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8; 45:2a

C Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol Him, all peoples! For great is His steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come into His courts! Alleluia. You are the most handsome of the sons of men; grace is poured upon Your lips. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

John 1:1–5

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of

men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

761 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

**1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure:
Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.**

**2 Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfill Thy Law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.**

**3 Nothing in my hand I bring;
Simply to Thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;**

**Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.**

**4 While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.**

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–78 Text: Public domain

Sermon “The Beginning”

Prayer of the Church

Offering

SACRAMENT

Preface

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.**

Proper Preface

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

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."

Proclamation of Christ

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

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

617 O Lord, We Praise Thee

**1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee,
In thanksgiving bow before Thee.
Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish
Our weak souls that they may flourish:
 O Lord, have mercy!
May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary,
That our sins and sorrows did carry,
And Thy blood for us plead
In all trial, fear, and need:
 O Lord, have mercy!**

**2 Thy holy body into death was given,
Life to win for us in heaven.
No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;
May this feast thereof remind us!**

O Lord, have mercy!

**Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee
That Thy blood should bless and sustain me.**

All our debt Thou hast paid;

Peace with God once more is made:

O Lord, have mercy!

**3 May God bestow on us His grace and favor
That we follow Christ our Savior
And live together here in love and union
Nor despise this blest Communion!**

O Lord, have mercy!

Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us;

Grant that heav'nly-minded He make us;

Give Thy Church, Lord, to see

Days of peace and unity:

O Lord, have mercy!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (st. 1): German, 14th cent.;
(sts. 2–3): Martin Luther, 1483–1546 Text: © 1941 Concordia
Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no.
110005513

415 Jesus on the Mountain Peak

**1 Jesus on the mountain peak
Stands alone in glory blazing;
Let us, if we dare to speak,
Join the saints and angels praising.
Alleluia!**

**2 Trembling at His feet we saw
Moses and Elijah speaking.
All the prophets and the law
Shout through them their joyful greeting:
Alleluia!**

**3 Swift the cloud of glory came:
God proclaiming in its thunder
Jesus as the Son by name!
Nations, cry aloud in wonder,
Alleluia!**

**4 This is God's beloved Son!
Law and prophets sing before Him,
First and Last and only One.
All creation shall adore Him!
Alleluia!**

Text: Brian Wren, 1936 Text: © 1977 Hope Publishing Co. Used by
permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005513

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray.
Almighty and ever-living God, we thank You for having fed us with

the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ, assuring us thereby that we are truly members of His Body, the church. By Your Holy Spirit, help us to grow in faith and fellowship and do the good works that You desire us to do as Your witnesses in our time; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, to whom, with You and the same Spirit, be all honor and glory, forever and ever.

C Amen.

Farewell to Alleluia

Ecclesiastes 3:1–4, 7, alt.

P This week, on Ash Wednesday, we begin our observance of Lent. To highlight the penitential nature of the season, it has been the custom in the church to suspend the use of the word *alleluia*, which means "Praise the Lord." The tradition not to use the joyful word *alleluia* in worship from the conclusion of worship on the final Sunday before Lent until the first service on Easter Sunday has been in place since the fifth century. The text of the hymn "Alleluia, Song of Gladness" (*LSB* 417) dates back to the 11th century and links us to a millennium of God's people at worship. We will repeat words from the book of Ecclesiastes, which remind us that there are appropriate times for all things, including a time to keep silence, which we will observe regarding use of the alleluia throughout Lent.

P For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die;

C a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

P a time to break down, and a time to build up;

C a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

P a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

C a time to keep silence, and a time to speak.

P As part of our observance of a holy Lent as it begins this week, we now say farewell to the alleluia until the time of our rejoicing anew at the resurrection of our Lord on Easter Day.

C Alleluia! Amen.

Benedicamus

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction (Aaronic)

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.

417 Alleluia, Song of Gladness

1 Alleluia, song of gladness,

Voice of joy that cannot die;

Alleluia is the anthem

Ever raised by choirs on high;

In the house of God abiding

Thus they sing eternally.

2 Alleluia, thou resoundest,

True Jerusalem and free;

Alleluia, joyful mother,

**All thy children sing with thee,
But by Babylon's sad waters
Mourning exiles now are we.**

**3 Alleluia cannot always
Be our song while here below;
Alleluia, our transgressions
Make us for a while forgo;
For the solemn time is coming
When our tears for sin must flow.**

**4 Therefore in our hymns we pray Thee,
Grant us, blessed Trinity,
At the last to keep Thine Easter
With Thy faithful saints on high;
There to Thee forever singing
Alleluia joyfully.**

Text: Latin, c. 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Text: Public domain

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1.
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Acknowledgments

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Attendance Last Week: 224
General giving last week: \$9709.00
Budget giving needed: \$7500.00

Calendar of Activities this week at St. John

17 Tuesday	Altar Guild Meeting	6:30 pm
18 Wednesday	Ash Wednesday Service/HC	6:30 pm
19 Thursday	School Open House	4:00-7:00 pm
20 Friday	No School – Staff Development Day	
21 Saturday	Father-Daughter Dance	6-8 pm
21 Sunday	Worship Service/HC	9:00 am
21 Sunday	Bible Class	10:30
21 Sunday	Sunday School	10:30

ASLEEP IN JESUS: It has pleased Almighty God to call from this veil of tears to Himself the soul of His servant Marge Ann Boening. Marge entered eternal life with her Lord and Savior on Monday, February 2nd and received a Christian funeral on Thursday, February 12th.

ST. JOHN SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE: St. John Lutheran School is hosting an OPEN HOUSE on Thursday, February 19th from 4pm-7pm

for anyone interest in enrolling in our school for the 2026/2027 school year. You and your child are welcome to take a tour, meet our teachers, and ask questions. Our school participates in the Wisconsin Private School Choice program. We are accredited through NLSA, all our teachers have a Wisconsin teaching license, and we have integrated technology in all grades. We offer healthy breakfast and lunch options, and we have an after-school care program. Come to our Open House to learn more.

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

ALTAR GUILD MEETING: The St. John Altar Guild will meet on Tuesday, February 17th at 6:30 pm.



GOING ON NOW!!

The PTL Hanging Basket Sale
Now until February 28th.
Order form is in the Card Room.

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.

TRIVIA NIGHT- SAVE THE DATE: The St. John PTL is hosting a trivia night Saturday evening on March 14th at (time TBD) to raise funds for the school. Please join us in the school gymnasium for this fun event. More details to come soon!

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

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!

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!

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!

THIS WEEK IN SUNDAY SCHOOL: Today, we will study "A Tent for God." Moses begins the process of building a portable house (called a tabernacle) for the Lord by gathering offerings from the Israelites. God provides detailed instruction for the creation of the ark of the covenant as well as the other fixtures of the tabernacle. When the tabernacle is finally assembled, the glory of the Lord descends on the tabernacle in the form of a cloud. As long as the presence remains, the people remain in that place.

IF: GATHERING AT RIVER SHORES: Please consider joining this one-day conference on **February 28th** for women of all ages (teens on up!) that is hosted at River Shores Church each year. The IF:Gathering exists for the women of the church & community to experience powerful biblical teaching, engage in deep conversations and be encouraged to surrender their lives in greater obedience to God. Tickets cost \$20 and lunch is included (gluten-free options available). Online registration closes on Feb 20th. Tickets at the door cost \$25. If you have any questions, talk to Paige Schrader or check out their Facebook page.

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.

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!

Sermon Notes – 2-15-26 – The Beginning

-Learning where you came from teaches you who you are, why the world is the way that it is, and where you're going.

-Ultimately, it's only knowledge of God that's necessary, it's only the story of the _____ that tells us what we actually need to know.

-“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” Before that, there was nothing but God himself, and out of that nothingness, God created everything.

-“Who are we?”

-Who are we? We're _____; we're here for a _____; we have dignity. Yet, we're created; we're dirt; we're not God. Let's live like it – confidently and humbly pursuing the mission God created us for. Dignified but not haughty – worshipping only God.

-“Why are things the way they are?”

-The creation account helps us to understand why the world is the way that it is – why there's still _____ in it; and we learn from that to live _____ and in _____ with the good.

-“Where are we going?”

-Because of the Creation account and because of Jesus, our glorious future really is _____ – we know where we're going, and it's the best place. So now, we live in view of that future, now we live in _____.

-The final thing I'd like to say is: live accordingly.