

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



**The 12th Sunday after Pentecost
August 13 and 16, 2026**

Large Print Bulletin

AS WE GATHER...The only way a sinful human being can dare to approach and worship an almighty God is if we also know that He is a God of mercy. God's mighty power is known from the vastness of His creation, the stars and seas, light and darkness, tempests and storms (Job 38). "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom" (Psalm 111:10). Yet we are told, "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13). "Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you, and therefore He exalts Himself to show mercy to you" (Isaiah 30:18). This "almighty and most merciful God" (Prayer of the Day) showed both His might and mercy when He became aware of His disciples' peril on a storm-tossed sea. Walking on water wasn't the point. It was the Lord's coming to save us in our fear and distress (Matthew 14). As the catechism says of God's commandments, "We should fear and love God." We can trust the God who has harnessed His wrath with His love. Greater love has no one than the God who joined us in our misery, took our sin upon Himself, and died our death but now is risen to save us from every evil that threatens us or makes us afraid.

PREPARATION

812 Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs

**1 Come, let us join our cheerful songs
With angels round the throne;**

**Ten thousand thousand are their tongues,
But all their joys are one.**

**2“Worthy the Lamb that died,” they cry,
“To be exalted thus!”
“Worthy the Lamb,” our lips reply,
“For He was slain for us!”**

**3Jesus is worthy to receive
Honor and pow’r divine;
And blessings more than we can give
Be, Lord, forever Thine.**

**4Let all creation join in one
To bless the sacred name
Of Him who sits upon the throne
And to adore the Lamb.**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Text: Public domain

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Opening Sentences *Psalm 43:4; Isaiah 56:7; Matthew 15:22*

P I will go to the altar of God,

C to God my exceeding joy.

P My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

C Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David.

Confession and Absolution

P Today, though we are undeserving, we come to the Lord saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David." Let us seek the Lord here while He may be found to grant us healing, help, and forgiveness.

C Lord Jesus Christ, Son of David, Son of God, we are severely oppressed by sin in all our thoughts, words, and actions. We have sinned against You by our own fault. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us, O Lord, and grant us forgiveness, help, and salvation. Amen.

P Almighty God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and of all who believe in the name of His only begotten Son, is the God of mercy and for His sake forgives us all our sins. Therefore, 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. In that mercy He gives power to become the children of God and promises His Holy Spirit. All who believe and are baptized shall be saved.

C Amen.

WORD

Introit

Psalm 28:1–2, 6–7; antiphon: v. 8

The LORD is the strength of his people;
he is the saving refuge of his anointed.

To you, O LORD, I call; my rock, be not deaf to me,

lest, if you be silent to me, I become like those who go down to the pit.

Hear the voice of my pleas for mercy, when I cry to you for help, when I lift up my hands toward your most holy sanctuary.

Blessèd be the LORD!

For he has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy.

The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.

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.

The LORD is the strength of his people;
he is the saving refuge of his anointed.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting Father, You give Your children many blessings even though we are undeserving. In every trial and temptation grant us steadfast confidence in Your loving-kindness and mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord,

who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Leviticus 13:43–46

⁴³Then the priest shall examine him, and if the diseased swelling is reddish-white on his bald head or on his bald forehead, like the appearance of leprous disease in the skin of the body, ⁴⁴he is a leprous man, he is unclean. The priest must pronounce him unclean; his disease is on his head.

⁴⁵"The leprous person who has the disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head hang loose, and he shall cover his upper lip and cry out, 'Unclean, unclean.' ⁴⁶He shall remain unclean as long as he has the disease. He is unclean. He shall live alone. His dwelling shall be outside the camp.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Titus 2:11–14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse

Psalm 147:2–3

P Alleluia. The LORD builds up Jerusalem; He gathers the outcasts of Israel.

**C He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.
Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 8:1–4

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹When he came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him. ²And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." ³And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. ⁴And Jesus said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to them."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

846 Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old

**1 Your hand, O Lord, in days of old
Was strong to heal and save;**

**It triumphed over ills and death,
O'er darkness and the grave.
To You they came, the blind, the mute,
The palsied and the lame,
The lepers in their misery,
The sick with fevered frame.**

**2 Your touch then, Lord, brought life and health,
Gave speech and strength and sight;
And youth renewed and frenzy calmed
Revealed You, Lord of light.
And now, O Lord, be near to bless,
Almighty as before,
In crowded street, by beds of pain,
As by Gennes'et's shore.**

**3 O be our great deliv'rer still,
The Lord of life and death;
Restore and quicken, soothe and bless,
With Your life-giving breath.
To hands that work and eyes that see
Give wisdom's healing pow'r
That whole and sick and weak and strong
May praise You evermore.**

Text: Edward H. Plumptre, 1821–91, alt. Text: Public domain

Nicene Creed

**C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory
to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**

**who with the Father and the Son together
is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life + of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

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.**

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."

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

620 Jesus Comes Today with Healing

**1 Jesus comes today with healing,
Knocking at my door, appealing,
 Off'ring pardon, grace, and peace.
He Himself makes preparation,
And I hear His invitation:
 "Come and taste the blessed feast."**

**2 Christ Himself, the priest presiding,
Yet in bread and wine abiding
 In this holy sacrament,
Gives the bread of life, once broken,
And the cup, the precious token
 Of His sacred covenant.**

**3 Under bread and wine, though lowly,
I receive the Savior holy,
 Blood and body, giv'n for me,
Very Lamb of God from heaven,
Who to bitter death was given,
 Hung upon the cursed tree.**

**4 God descends with heav'nly power,
Gives Himself to me this hour
 In this ordinary sign.
On my tongue His pledge receiving,
I accept His grace, believing
 That I taste His love divine.**

**5 Let me praise God's boundless favor,
Whose own feast of love I savor,
 Bidden by His gracious call.**

**Wedding garments He provides me,
With a robe of white He hides me,
Fits me for the royal hall.**

**6 Now have I found consolation,
Comfort in my tribulation,
Balm to heal the troubled soul.
God, my shield from ev'ry terror,
Cleanses me from sin and error,
Makes my wounded spirit whole.**

Text: Heinrich Puchta, 1808–58; tr. David W. Rogner, 1960 Text:
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570 Just as I Am, without One Plea

**1 Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**2 Just as I am and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**3 Just as I am, though tossed about
With many_a conflict, many_a doubt,**

**Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**4 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871 Text: Public domain

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

Blessed Savior, Jesus Christ, You have given Yourself to us in this Holy Sacrament. Keep us in Your faith and favor that we may live in You even as You live in us. May Your body and blood preserve us in the true faith to life everlasting; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

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.

770 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

**1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!**

What a privilege to carry

Ev'rything to God in prayer!

Oh, what peace we often forfeit;

Oh, what needless pain we bear—

All because we do not carry

Ev'rything to God in prayer!

2 Have we trials and temptations?

Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged—

Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful

Who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness—

Take it to the Lord in prayer.

3 Are we weak and heavy laden,

Cumbered with a load of care?

Precious Savior, still our refuge—

**Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee;
Thou wilt find a solace there.**

Text: Joseph M. Scriven, 1819–86 Text: Public domain

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 3.
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Calendar of Activities this week at St. John

19 Wednesday	Family Connect Meeting	5:30 pm
19 Wednesday	Council Meeting	6:00 pm
20 Thursday	Worship/HC	6:30 pm
23 Sunday	Worship/HC	9:00 am

Parochial School Teacher Installation and Dedication

OPENINGS ON BOARD OF EDUCATION: The St. John Board of Christian Education will have two positions opening in January 2027. Board members serve three-year terms, and all candidates must be

members of St. John Lutheran Church. If you would like more information or are interested in running for the board, please contact Miss Linse or any current member of the Board of Christian Education.

PLANNING TO USE SCHOOL FACILITIES? As the new school year begins on September 1, please note that a facility calendar has been posted in the Card Room. This calendar provides information on room availability and includes instructions for reserving school space. For additional information or assistance, please reach out to the school office.

VOLUNTEER ATHLETIC DIRECTOR: St. John Lutheran School is currently seeking a Volunteer Athletic Director. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Miss Linse by email or phone
Email: m.linse@stjohnberlin.org Phone: 920-946-8835

Thank you for taking the time to consider this opportunity and for your support of St. John Lutheran School.

GRIEFSHARE SUPPORT GROUP AT RIVER SHORES CHURCH: Thursday nights at River Shores church, 253 S. Church Street, Berlin, WI. A new section will begin on Thursday, August 29th and will run through mid-November. Any Questions? Contact Debby at (520-330-9379 or Email: redheddeb@msn.com

GRIEFSHARE GROUP INFORMATION: *If you have any questions about GriefShare or would like more information, please contact Amy Brooks at 920-789-9385. Amy would be happy to answer your questions and help you learn more about this valuable support ministry.*

SEPTEMBER MEN'S MINISTRY! For September we will be having a fish fry at 2301 Wall St. in Berlin, at 6pm on September 9th. Bible study will follow. Enjoy your Labor Day weekend!

TEACHER INSTALLATION AND DEDICATION ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 23: We will be installing our new teacher, Holly Heise, in the service on Sunday, August 23rd. All of the other teachers for the 26-27 school year will also be dedicated in the service as well. Please remember our teachers in your prayers as they enter the new school year.

MEN'S OPEN GYM: Our Men's Open Gyms will move to every Wednesday at 5:30 PM (instead of every other week). We are currently playing basketball and will have other competitive activities like spikeball and dodgeball. If you'd like to join, please text 920-658-3029 to be added to the group chat for updates and reminders.

FAMILY CONNECT INFORMATIONAL MEETING – AUGUST 19 Our Human Care Committee has met with and been impressed by a new, local organization called Family Connect that is equipping churches to care for the vetted needs of families in our community and would like to get our church involved. We're looking for volunteers willing to commit no more than two hours a month to help our community and share Jesus' love and blessings. If you're interested, please join us on Wednesday, August 19, at 5:30 p.m. at church to learn about Family Connect.

UPDATING PERSONAL INFORMATION: For many in our congregation, the information we have about you in our church software is out of date. So, in your mailbox you'll find an instruction sheet along with a printout of the current data we have. Please follow the instructions to help us get your correct information. Thank you in advance!

ARE YOU A RETIRED TEACHER? St John Lutheran School is looking for retired teachers, with active licenses, that may be interested in tutoring students after school during the year. The schedule is flexible, and the subject areas are math and language. Please contact Miss Linse at mlinse@stjohnberlin.org or 920-361-0555 if you are interested.

CHRISTMAS VBS PLANNING MEETING

Are you interested in helping make this year's Christmas VBS a meaningful and memorable experience for our children? We invite all volunteers, parents, and anyone interested in assisting with Christmas VBS to join us for a planning meeting. **Date: Tuesday, September 22. Time: 4:30 p.m. Location: St. John Church.**

We will discuss themes, activities, music, decorations, volunteers, and other plans for this year's Christmas VBS program. Whether you have helped in the past or are interested in getting involved for the first time, your ideas and assistance are welcome.

Please join us as we begin preparing to share the message of Christ's birth with the children and families of our congregation and community. We look forward to seeing you there! Thank you!

FOX VALLEY TORNADO HELP

The storms on 7/27 left a lot of devastation in the Fox Valley including many in our sister congregations. Our South Wisconsin District has trained, disaster-response teams who'll be going to help with the clean-up. If you would like to provide financial support, please give at: swd.lcms.org/mercy. Please pray for those affected. More information will be coming in the future if you would like to get trained to join the disaster response efforts.

PLASTIC BAG COLLECTION TO BE DISCONTINUED: Thank you to everyone that recycled plastic for St. John Church and School (and the Second Time Around Shop). We received three composite decking benches (one for each location) through your donations. St. John donated over 3,500 lbs. of plastic. We are truly thankful for your efforts because this plastic did not go into our landfills or waterways.

The Trex Company, Inc. has changed their recycling program and discontinued the free composite decking bench.

***St. John Church and School will NO longer collect plastic,
effective September 30, 2026.***

SUNDAY SCHOOL: As we approach the upcoming school year, we're also excited to begin another year of our Sunday School program! We invite you to volunteer and be a part of this year's Sunday School activities! It is not expected that you would need to be there every Sunday. If interested please email Molly Hegner at mmckinnon24@gmail.com. To register your child, simply scan the QR code or visit the table in the Narthex. We look forward to another wonderful year of learning, growing, and sharing God's love together.

Help the Berlin Boys and Girls Club collect for personal needs.

Quality conditioner for curly and straight hair
Girls Swimsuits (Size M(d) and L(10/12 just need 1 or 2 of these as backups
Curly hair cream and products
Fragrance free/sensitive skin face wash
Fragrance free/sensitive skin face moisturizers
Women's size
small/medium/large sports bras
Sensitive skin lotion
Toothbrush covers
Detangling brushes
Shower loofahs
Hair ties
Women's size underwear (all sizes)
Boys and girls kids size shorts and T-shirts (especially size xs,s,m)



There will be a tote in the Narthex for these items.

Sermon Notes – 8-16-26 – Cleansed

-Because they were “unclean”, lepers couldn’t be a part of God’s community. To be “unclean” meant you were separated from God and his people.

-We also have a ‘disease’ that makes us unclean – leprosy of the spirit – _____.

-Like physical lepers, we spiritual lepers, are also unclean, disgusting, and separated from God and his people.

-“When he came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him.” (Matthew 8:1)

-Jesus came down from the mountain of _____ to be with us. He left paradise to come to the muck, mire, and filth of our sinful, broken world.

-“And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, ‘Lord, if you _____, you can make me clean.’” (Matthew 8:2)

-Aware, now, of your serious condition, you’ll also go to Jesus because you know that you need to be cleansed, and that Jesus is the only one who can do it.

-As spiritual lepers, we should approach Jesus the same way: boldly and humbly – in _____.

-“And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, ‘I will; be clean.’ And immediately the leprosy was cleansed.” (Matthew 8:3)

-Jesus *can* help us, too! He *will* help us, too!

-Jesus also lovingly stretched out his hands to cleanse us spiritual lepers – he stretched them out on the cross.

-As his holy body was pierced, as his holy blood was shed...as he breathed his last...our sins – all of them – were completely, totally _____!

-“And Jesus said to him, ‘See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to them’.” (Matthew 8:4)

-The more you realize how repugnant you were and that Jesus lovingly healed you anyway – the more you’ll want to _____ Jesus with people!