

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

**“Go,
wash
in the Jordan
seven times ...
and you
shall be
clean.”**



2 Kings 5:10, NRSV

**The 13th Sunday after Pentecost
August 20 and 23, 2026**

Large Print Bulletin

AS WE GATHER... Throughout the Bible, we find God sculpting rocks, constructing with rocks, and protecting others by means of rocks. Ever the master architect, the Lord uses rocks to accomplish His purposes. More than that, the Lord Himself is our rock, the One in whom we have lasting and eternal security. "Built on the Rock the Church shall stand," we sing (*LSB* 645:1). How do we stand? The prophet Isaiah tells us: "Look to the rock from which you were hewn" (Isaiah 51:1). When we see our God as the rock from whom we come and by whom our lives are built, we find that He alone is our lasting foundation, our mighty fortress, and the reason why we gather to worship today.

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

818 In Thee Is Gladness

1 In Thee is gladness

Amid all sadness,

Jesus, sunshine of my heart.

By Thee are given

The gifts of heaven,

Thou the true Redeemer art.

**Our souls Thou wakest,
Our bonds Thou breakest;
Who trusts Thee surely
Has built securely;
He stands forever: Alleluia!
Our hearts are pining
To see Thy shining,
Dying or living
To Thee are cleaving;
Naught can us sever: Alleluia!**

**2 Since He is ours,
We fear no powers,
Not of earth nor sin nor death.
He sees and blesses
In worst distresses;
He can change them with a breath.
Wherefore the story
Tell of His glory
With hearts and voices;
All heav'n rejoices
In Him forever: Alleluia!
We shout for gladness,
Triumph o'er sadness,
Love Him and praise Him
And still shall raise Him
Glad hymns forever: Alleluia!**

Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549–1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth,
1827–78, alt. Text: Public domain

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

P 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

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, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

CAmen.

Sit

The Installation and Dedication of the Teachers at St. John School

Old Testament Reading

2 Kings 5:1-3, 9-14

5 Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master and in high favor, because by him the Lord had given victory to Syria. He was a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper. ² Now the Syrians on one of their raids had carried off a little girl from the land of Israel, and she worked in the service of Naaman's wife. ³ She said to her mistress, "Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."

⁹ So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha's house. ¹⁰ And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean." ¹¹ But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, "Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper. ¹² Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage. ¹³ But his servants came near and said to him, "My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it? Has he actually said to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?" ¹⁴ So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Romans 10:8-13

⁸ But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³ For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190

C Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 8:1–4

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

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 8:5-13

⁵ When he had entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, ⁶ "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly." ⁷ And he said to him, "I will come and heal him."

⁸ But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed.

⁹ For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I

say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." ¹⁰ When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith. ¹¹ I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, ¹² while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." ¹³ And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; let it be done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

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.**

Children's Sermon

702 My Faith Looks Up to Thee

**1 My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine.**

**Now hear me while I pray;
Take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day
Be wholly Thine!**

**2 May Thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart;
My zeal inspire!
As Thou hast died for me,
Oh, may my love to Thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be,
A living fire!**

**3 While life's dark maze I tread
And griefs around me spread,
Be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow's tears away,**

**Nor let me ever stray
From Thee aside.**

**4 When ends life's transient dream,
When death's cold, sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love,
Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above,
A ransomed soul!**

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–87 Text: Public domain

Sermon "Faith Fundamentals"

**Offering Special Music: Maren Krause – Flute
Laurie Siegmund - Piano**

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 T 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 T 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.

Sit

Distribution Hymns

623 Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray

- 1 Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray
That we may feast on You today;
Beneath these forms of bread and wine
Enrich us with Your grace divine.**
- 2 Give us, who share this wondrous food,
Your body broken and Your blood,
The grateful peace of sins forgiv'n,
The certain joys of heirs of heav'n.**
- 3 By faith Your Word has made us bold
To seize the gift of love retold;
All that You are we here receive,
And all we are to You we give.**
- 4 One bread, one cup, one body, we,
Rejoicing in our unity,
Proclaim Your love until You come
To bring Your scattered loved ones home.**
- 5 Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray:
O keep us steadfast till that day
When each will be Your welcomed guest
In heaven's high and holy feast.**

Text: Henry E. Jacobs, 1844–1932, alt. Text: Public domain

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.**

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.

790 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty sts. 1, 3, 5

- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear
Now to His temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration!**
- 3 Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,
Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed
you.
What need or grief
Ever has failed of relief?
Wings of His mercy did shade you.**
- 5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before
Him!
Let the Amen
Sound from His people again;
Gladly forever adore Him!**

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–80; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78,
alt.Text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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Calendar of Activities this week at St. John

24 Monday	School Kick-Off Day #1	4-7 pm
25 Tuesday	School Kick-Off Day #2	4-7 pm
27 Thursday	Worship/HC	6:30 pm
30 Sunday	Worship/HC	9:00 am

****The bulletins had to be printed earlier than usual this week due to the carpet installation in the offices. If we missed your announcement, it can be put in next week's bulletin and we will try to have Pastor announce it verbally this week.**

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR: Flowers on the Altar are in honor of the 94th birthday of Howard Laubenstein. Happy Birthday! May God bless you.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MEAL DELIVERY PROGRAM: The Green Lake County Department of Health & Human Services Aging Unit is seeking volunteers to help deliver prepared nutritional meals from the Berlin Senior Center to homebound seniors in the Berlin area. This rewarding opportunity allows you to make a meaningful difference in the lives of elderly residents while providing an essential service to the community. Volunteer drivers receive a daily stipend as well as mileage reimbursement at \$0.76 per mile. For more information or to volunteer, please contact the Green Lake County Department of Human Services Aging Unit at 920-294-4070 and ask for Ryan Bamberg.

SHARE YOUR MUSICAL GIFTS! Do you enjoy singing or playing an instrument? We are always looking for musicians and vocalists to assist with worship services, as well as participants for special

Christmas and Easter choirs. If you would like to be involved, please contact the church office. Your talents can help lead our congregation in worship and give glory to God.

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: mlinse@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

tjriugh mid-November. Any Questions? Contact Debby ar (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 having 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.

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!

NEW BIBLE STUDY: THE PURPOSES OF SUFFERING: Starting Sunday, September 6, join us for a three-week study on suffering — why God allows it, and what He's doing through it. We'll walk through the biblical purposes behind our hardest seasons, and how Christ, who suffered with us and for us, meets us in ours. Join us in the church basement after the Sunday service - all are welcome!

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 – 8-23-26 – Faith Fundamentals

-Do you know what _____ looks like? What it entails? Why it matters?

-The first faith lesson: Before you can have faith in Jesus to save you, you need to know you need Jesus.

-The more you grapple with and feel the symptoms of this sickness – you'll realize you can't get well on your own. And then, increasingly, you to turn to _____.

-The first obstacle to faith the centurion overcame was pride.

-Reflect on yourself. Faith in Jesus requires _____ – setting aside your trust in yourself and trusting in Jesus instead. Do you have that humility or are you stuck in your pride?

-Look to Jesus on cross and see the Son of God humbled to save you – that can humble us to go to him.

-The second obstacle the centurion overcame was thinking that Jesus wouldn't _____ to help.

-Reflect on yourself. Faith in Jesus requires believing that he actually wants to help you.

-"God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ _____ for us." (Romans 5:8)

-The third obstacle to faith the centurion overcame was doubting that Jesus would be able to help.

-The fact that most of us are still afraid of death and that all of us still so often put our faith in money, career, family, and so

many other things, shows that, to some degree, we all fail to believe that Jesus _____ really save us.

-Reflect on yourself. Faith in Jesus requires believing he actually can help you.

-To bolster our faith that Jesus can help us, we need to look to Jesus' _____.

“Go; let it be done for you as you have believed.’ And the servant was healed at that very moment.” (Matthew 8:13)

-When you have faith – when you know you need Jesus and you come to him humbly, trusting that he wants to and that he can save you from sin, death, and hell – then you are _____!

-Reflect on and practice what we talked about today – there’s no better use of your time.