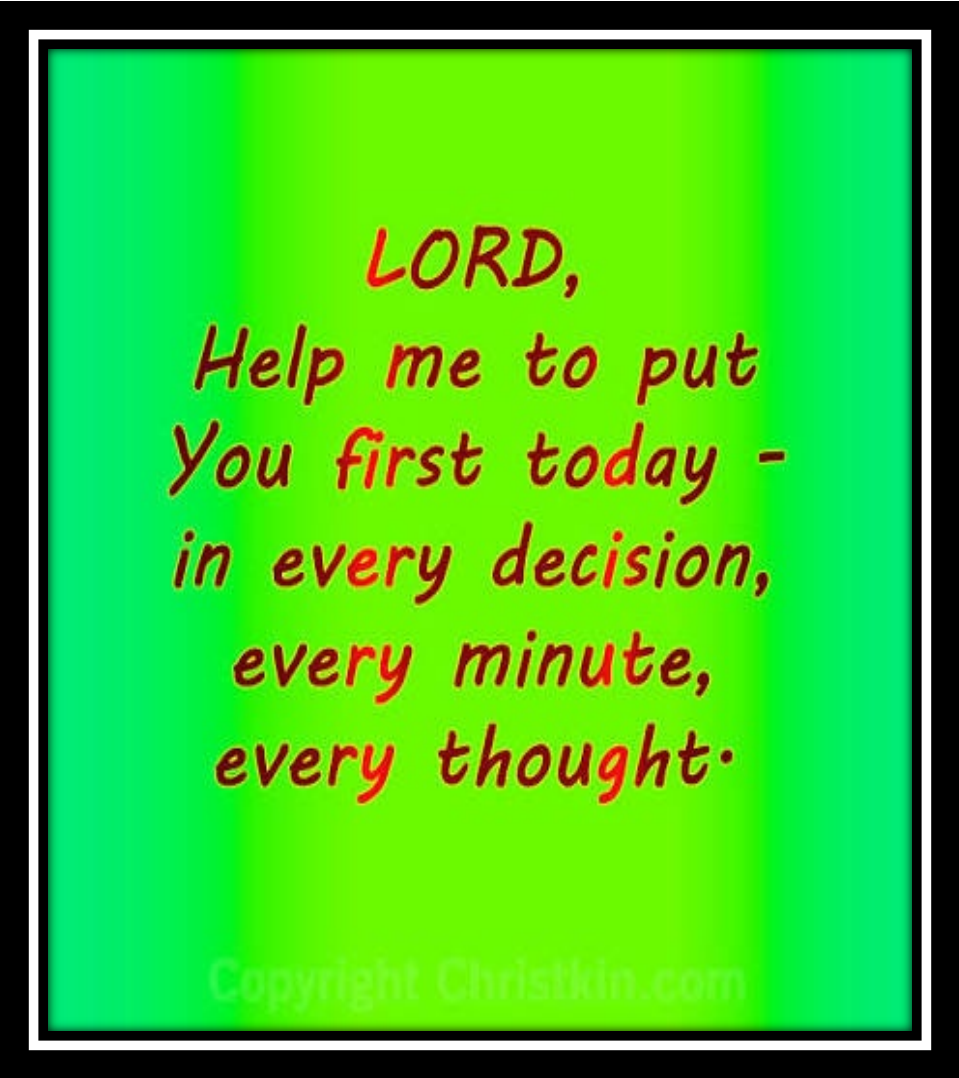


***St. John Lutheran Church & School
Berlin, Wisconsin
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod***



LORD,
*Help me to put
You first today -
in every decision,
every minute,
every thought.*

Copyright Christkin.com

**The 15th Sunday after Pentecost
September 3 and 6, 2026**

Large Print Bulletin

As We Gather... Although the attention of many is distracted on this Labor Day weekend, the focus of the Readings is clear. We have a Savior who has come to find the lost and restore them through forgiveness, and we have a purpose in speaking this Gospel to the whole world. This is not an easy calling. The lost often do not want to be found, and the wicked are content in their ways. We act not as self-appointed guardians of the truth but as instruments of God, through whom He speaks His Word of love to the lost and erring and by whom they are saved. The most difficult application is always to those who have fallen from the faith into error or sin. Our greatest temptation is to surrender them to their error or sin. Our greatest calling is to address them with the voice of God's Word through whom the Spirit works to restore the lost. Today we pray that we will not be distracted from this goal and purpose.

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

711 Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us;

Much we need Your tender care.

In Your pleasant pastures feed us,

For our use Your fold prepare.

**Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
You have bought us; we are Yours.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
You have bought us; we are Yours.**

**2 We are Yours; in love befriend us,
Be the guardian of our way;
Keep Your flock, from sin defend us,
Seek us when we go astray.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Hear us children when we pray.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Hear us children when we pray.**

**3 You have promised to receive us,
Poor and sinful though we be;
You have mercy to relieve us,
Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Early let us turn to You.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Early let us turn to You.**

**4 Early let us seek Your favor,
Early let us do Your will;
Blessèd Lord and only Savior,
With Your love our spirits fill.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
You have loved us, love us still.**

**Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
You have loved us, love us still.**

Text: Hymns for the Young, 1836, 4th ed., London, 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 Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.
C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 92:1–4; antiphon: v. 5

How great are your works, O LORD! Your thoughts are very deep!

**It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;**

to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night,

**to the music of the lute and the harp,
to the melody of the lyre.**

For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work;
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

**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.**

How great are your works, O LORD! Your thoughts are very deep!

Kyrie LSB 204

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

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

CAmen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 12:1–4

¹Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

2 Timothy 4:1–2, 5–8

¹I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: ²preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

⁵As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

⁶For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse *LSB 156*

C Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 8:18–22

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁸Now when Jesus saw a great crowd around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. ¹⁹And a scribe came up and said to him, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." ²⁰And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." ²¹Another of the disciples said to him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." ²²And Jesus said to him, "Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, 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

537 Beautiful Savior

**1 Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee,
Truly I'd serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.**

**2 Fair are the meadows,
Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.**

**3 Fair is the sunshine,
Fair is the moonlight,**

**Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.**

**4 Beautiful Savior,
Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
Praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be Thine!**

Text: Münsterisch Gesangbuch, 1677, Münster; tr. Joseph A. Seiss,
1823–1904 Text: Public domain

Sermon “ The Cost of Following Jesus Part 1”

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Sit

Offering

Service of the Sacrament

Stand

Preface

LSB 208

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P "Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, let us now and evermore praise God's glorious name, singing:

Sanctus *LSB 208*

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;

Heav'n and earth with full acclaim

shout the glory of Your name.

Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;

Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Lord's Prayer

C Our Father who art in heaven,

hallowed be Thy name,

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done on earth

as it is in heaven;

give us this day our daily bread;

**and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei *LSB 210*

**C 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Sit

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

699 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

**1 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Come unto Me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down
Thy head upon My breast.”
I came to Jesus as I was,
So weary, worn, and sad;
I found in Him a resting place,
And He has made me glad.**

**2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Behold, I freely give
The living water; thirsty one,
Stoop down and drink and live.”**

**I came to Jesus, and I drank
Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
And now I live in Him.**

**3 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“I am this dark world’s light.
Look unto Me; thy morn shall rise
And all thy day be bright.”
I looked to Jesus, and I found
In Him my star, my sun;
And in that light of life I’ll walk
Till trav’ling days are done.**

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–89, alt. Text: Public domain

Stand

Nunc Dimittis *LSB 211*

**C 1 O Lord, now let Your servant
Depart in heav’nly peace,
For I have seen the glory
Of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles
Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people,
Your chosen Israel.**

2 All glory to the Father,

**All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit,
Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning,
Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding
Through all eternity.**

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus

LSB 212

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C Amen.

922 Go, My Children, with My Blessing *sts. 1–4*

**1 Go, My children, with My blessing,
Never alone.**

**Waking, sleeping, I am with you;
You are My own.
In My love's baptismal river
I have made you Mine forever.
Go, My children, with My blessing—
You are My own.**

**2 Go, My children, sins forgiven,
At peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you,
What I can cure.
Here you heard My dear Son's story;
Here you touched Him, saw His glory.
Go, My children, sins forgiven,
At peace and pure.**

**3 Go, My children, fed and nourished,
Closer to Me;
Grow in love and love by serving,
Joyful and free.
Here My Spirit's power filled you;
Here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished,
Joyful and free.**

**4 I the Lord will bless and keep you
And give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you
And give you peace:
I the Lord will be your Father,**

**Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, My children; I will keep you
And give you peace.**

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008 Text: © 1983 Concordia
Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no.
110005513

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.

Calendar of Activities this week at St. John

7 Monday	Labor Day – No School	
8 Tuesday	First Day of School for 3K and 4K	
9 Wednesday	Board of Ed.	6:00 pm
10 Thursday	Worship/HC	6:30 pm
13 Sunday	Worship/HC	9:00 am
13 Sunday	Sunday School Rally Day!	10:30 am
13 Sunday	Adult Bible Class	10:30 am

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.

Interested in Joining St. John Lutheran Church?

Our Fall Membership Class begins Wednesday, September 23, and meets weekly from 6:00–7:30 p.m. through November 11. If you have questions about the class, please see Pastor Rob. If you would like to join to learn more about the Christian faith and St. John, please contact the church office at 920-361-9935 or church@stjohnberlin.org by September 21.

KEEP THE BELLS RINGING! We are looking for someone to lead our Handbell Choir and help continue this meaningful music ministry. The ideal person would have a strong knowledge of handbells, including ringing techniques, music selection, directing rehearsals, and preparing the choir to participate in worship services throughout the year. If you are interested or would like additional information, please contact the church office or Pastor Rob.

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.

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!

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.

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.



Sermon Notes – 9-6-26 – The Cost of Following Jesus I

-Let's not shrink nor cower – let's hear the full force of Jesus' words, and may the _____ begin to change our lives to live first for Jesus even though it's often uncomfortable.

-Are you up to task? Will you put Jesus first? Would you sacrifice even your life for him?

-“And Jesus said to him, ‘Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.’” (Matthew 8:20)

-Following Jesus comes with a _____.

-“Another of the disciples said to him, ‘Lord, let me first go and bury my father.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead.’” (Matthew 8:21-22)

-Jesus is God. He has every right to tell us what we can and cannot do. And with those words, Jesus was telling that guy that following him needs to be the number one priority. He's God; he should come _____.

-Putting _____ first means you're not putting yourself first which means you're going to do some things he asks you to do that you don't want to do.

-Our founding fathers thought freedom was worth fighting – even dying – for.

-If they would sacrificially devote their lives to the temporary, flawed cause of freedom, how much more should we make the

eternal, perfect God our top priority and be _____ to do whatever he asks?

-Why not heed the command of Jesus: "Follow me"?

-Jesus is God; he _____ to be first. And really putting him first is the only thing that makes sense.

-When you start to think the cost of following Jesus – of being a Christian – is too high, remember that you _____ him.

-Jesus is God and he demands you put him first. Because that means that you're no longer first, it'll result in sacrifice and doing some things you're uncomfortable with. But he'll never ask you to do more than he's already done.

.....

Have you ever wanted to play baseball riding a donkey? We are looking for 20-26 participants 16 years or older and under 225lb to make up two teams for our Donkey Baseball game on Saturday, September 26th. Please reach out to Jennifer Billington for a consent form. The game starts at 1pm but participants need to arrive by noon. Everyone is welcome to attend, tickets are available in the school and church office and after church on Sundays.



JOIN the FUN...
COME to

DONKEY BASEBALL

DATE: **September 26, 2026**

TIME: **1:00pm**

PLACE: **Riverside Park, South Diamond**

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:

St. John School and Church offices
or SCAN this QR code to order tickets

SPONSORED BY: **St. John Lutheran School**

DAIRYLAND DONKEY BALL

WILDEST SHOW ON EARTH!

TICKET PRICES: ADVANCE \$ 10.00 DOOR \$ 15.00
PRESCHOOL FREE

Dairyland Donkey Ball, LLC
www.dairylanddonkeyball.com • 1-888-8DONKEY

