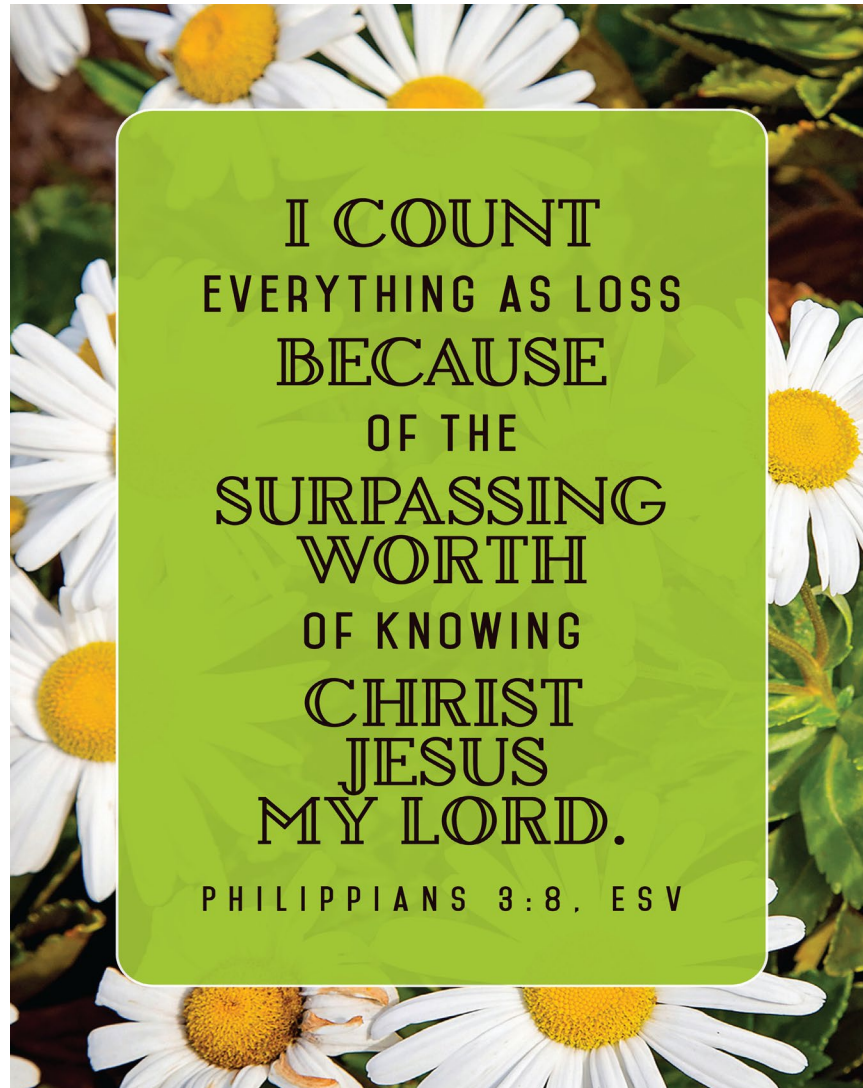


***St. John Lutheran Church & School
Berlin, Wisconsin
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod***



**The 16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 13 and 16, 2026, 2026**

Large Print Bulletin

As We Gather... AS WE GATHER... The word *mentor* can be both a noun describing a trusted counselor or a verb meaning to guide someone in new learning. The word originally was the name of a person from classical literature: Mentor was a friend of the Greek hero Odysseus who was entrusted with the education of his son Telemachus. You may have had special mentors throughout your life. We are reminded that Jesus our Lord is our best and most devoted mentor. A well-loved hymn by German writer Sigismund von Birken begins with these words: "Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow His example pure" (LSB 685:1). Jesus is our merciful mentor who gently leads us day by day along the path that leads to eternal life. We follow gladly in His footsteps!

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

725 Children of the Heavenly Father

- 1 Children of the heav'nly Father
Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven
Such a refuge e'er was given.**
- 2 God His own doth tend and nourish;
In His holy courts they flourish.**

**From all evil things He spares them;
In His mighty arms He bears them.**

**3 Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth,
And their sorrows all He knoweth.**

**4 Though He giveth or He taketh,
God His children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them pure and holy.**

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–
1958 Text: Public domain

The Rite of Holy Baptism for Helena Mae Kropp

Apostles' Creed

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life + everlasting. Amen.**

Stand

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

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

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is
not in us.

**C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will
forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

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

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and
unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and**

deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. 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 143:1–2; antiphon: v. 9

Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!

I have fled to you for refuge!

Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!

In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

Enter not into judgment with your servant,
for no one living is righteous before you.

**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.**

Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD! I have fled to you for refuge!

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

CAmen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Joshua 24:14–17

¹⁴“Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. ¹⁵And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

¹⁶Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods, ¹⁷for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of

the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight and preserved us in all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Lesson

Philippians 3:7–11

⁷But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.

⁸Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—
¹⁰that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse *LSB 156*

C Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

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.

Children's Sermon

867 Let Children Hear the Mighty Deeds

**1 Let children hear the mighty deeds
Which God performed of old,
Which in our younger days we saw,
And which our parents told.**

**2 So make to them His glories known,
His works of pow'r and grace;**

**And we'll convey His wonders down
Through ev'ry rising race.**

**3 Our sons and daughters we shall tell
And they again to theirs
That generations yet unborn
May teach them to their heirs.**

**4 O teach them with all diligence
The truths of God's own Word,
To place in Him their confidence,
To fear and trust their Lord,**

**5 To learn that in our God alone
Their hope securely stands,
That they may never doubt His love
But walk in His commands.**

Text (sts. 1–3, 5): Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.; (st. 4): Bernhard Schumacher, 1886–1978 Text (sts. 1–3, 5): Public domain Text (st. 4): © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005513

Sermon The Cost of following Jesus, pt. 2

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Sit

Offering

Stand

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 160

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 161*

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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."

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

LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei *LSB 163*

**C Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.**

Sit

763 When Peace, like a River

**1 When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;
When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul. Refrain**

**Refrain It is well (It is well)
with my soul, (with my soul),
It is well, it is well with my soul.**

**2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.**

**Refrain It is well (It is well)
with my soul, (with my soul),
It is well, it is well with my soul.**

**3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!**

**Refrain It is well (It is well)
with my soul, (with my soul),
It is well, it is well with my soul.**

**4 And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,**

**The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
Even so it is well with my soul.**

**Refrain It is well (It is well)
 with my soul, (with my soul),
 It is well, it is well with my soul.**

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–88, alt. Text: Public domain

637 Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

- 1 Draw near and take the body of the Lord,
And drink the holy blood for you outpoured;
Offered was He for greatest and for least,
Himself the victim and Himself the priest.**
- 2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields,
To all believers life eternal yields;
With heav'nly bread He makes the hungry whole,
Gives living waters to the thirsting soul.**
- 3 Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere,
And take the pledges of salvation here.
O Lord, our hearts with grateful thanks endow
As in this feast of love You bless us now.**

Text: Latin, 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Text: Public domain

Stand

Thank the Lord *LSB 164*

**C Thank the Lord and sing His praise;
tell ev'ryone what He has done.**

**Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

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.

Benediction

LSB 166

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

861 Christ Be My Leader

**1 Christ be my Leader by night as by day;
Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future His care,
Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.**

**2 Christ be my Teacher in age as in youth,
Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth.
Grant me to trust Him; though shifting as sand,
Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.**

**3 Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife;
Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain
Can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.**

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926–2024 Text: © 1964, renewed
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Calendar of Activities this week at St. John

14 Monday	Trustee Meeting	6:30 pm
15 Tuesday	Altar Guild Potluck	6:00 pm
17 Thursday	Worship/HC	6:30 pm
20 Sunday	Worship/HC	9:00 am
20 Sunday	Sunday School	10:30 am
20 Sunday	Adult Bible Class	10:30 am

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.

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: 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.

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!

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.



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.



Sermon Notes – 9-13-26 – The Cost of Following Jesus II

-Jesus has undertaken a world-saving journey. He came from heaven to earth, to go to the cross to forgive our sins and rose to defeat death. Now he's working through his Holy Spirit to bring people to trust in him so that through that faith they'll receive his forgiveness and eternal life.

-Following Jesus will be difficult and dangerous. It's going to _____ something.

-Considering the cost, Are you up for the task? Do you really want to follow him?

-Today, we'll cover some general ways in which the cost of following Jesus is similar for all of us so that you, aware of the costs and benefits, can either really follow him or stop.

-Truly following Jesus will cost you the instant pleasure of _____ because you'll obey him.

-Truly following Jesus will cost you 'free time' because you'll be spending time with him.

-Truly following Jesus will cost you your plans and dreams because your life will be about his _____.

-Where are you drawing the line? What aren't you willing to give up for Jesus?

-The _____ is working in your life; he wants you to truly follow Jesus. And while there are costs, he wants you to know there are also benefits.

-“Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain _____.” (Philippians 3:8)

-It will cost you some things to follow Jesus but compared to the eternal life that he alone gives, all that we’ll be asked to sacrifice is “rubbish”.

-Heaven is the gracious benefit we receive for following Jesus in _____.