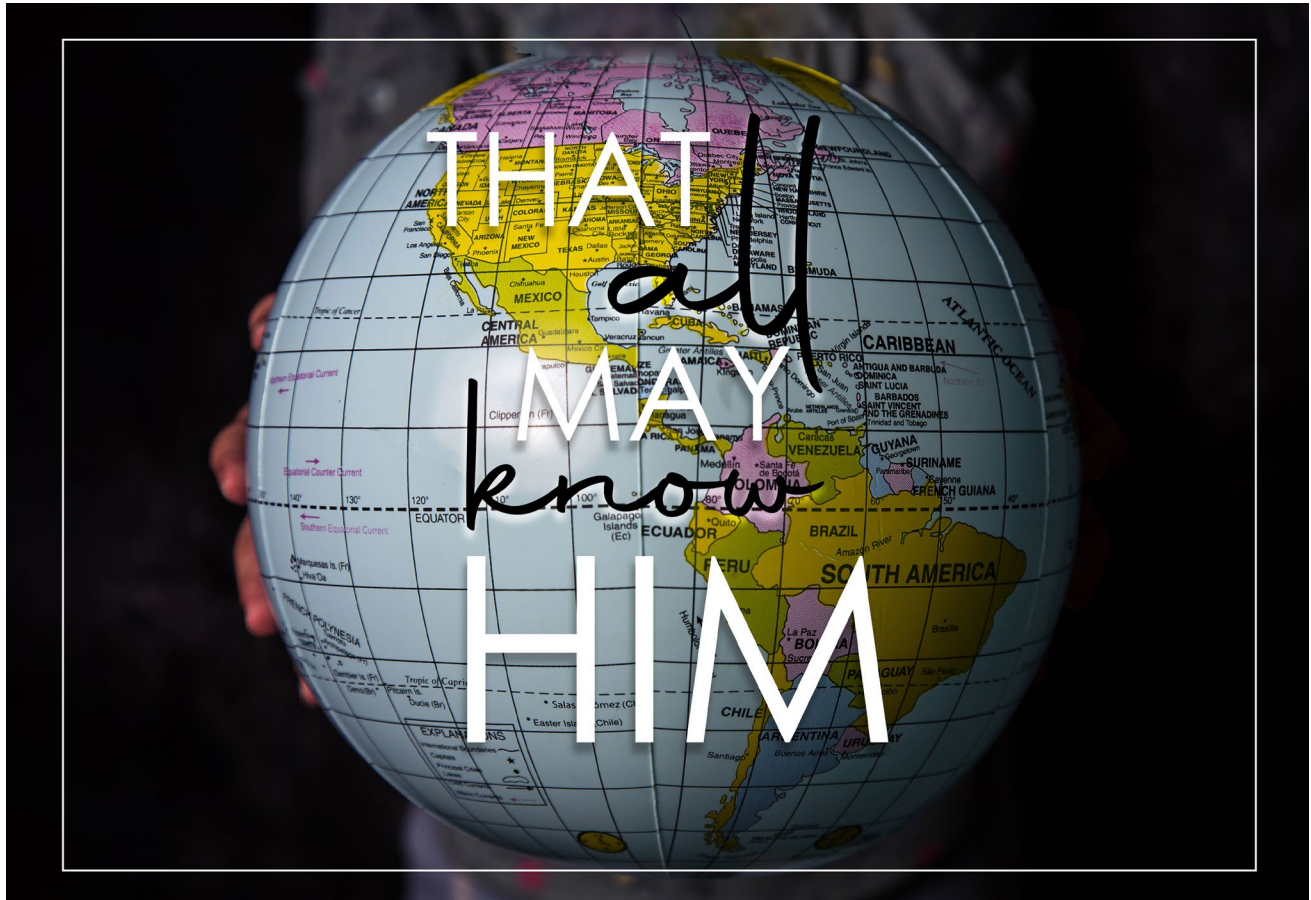


***St. John Lutheran Church & School
Berlin, Wisconsin
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod***



**The 18th Sunday after Pentecost
September 24 and 27, 2026**

Large Print Bulletin

As We Gather

From the beginning, God implanted His life-creating power into His creation with the command “Be fruitful and multiply” to animals (Genesis 1:22) and to humans (1:28), with one important difference. You are not an accident or only a product of biology. Every human being is a personal soul. So we confess, “I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them” (Small Catechism, Creed, Explanation of the First Article). Because of our inherited sin, however, “the soul who sins shall die” (Ezekiel 18:4). Nevertheless, God’s design is for life—eternal life. He declares, “I have no pleasure in the death of anyone” (18:32). Because God so loves you, He sent His Son to take away your sin by the shedding of His blood on the cross. Therefore, “we preach Christ crucified, . . . the power of God and the wisdom of God” (1 Corinthians 1:23–24). Christ died to sin for you. By Holy Baptism, you died with Christ and are raised to new life in Him. The love of God is yours today by faith in the cross of Jesus Christ. The Father’s declaration of Jesus now becomes yours: “My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17).

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.

PREPARATION

915 Today Your Mercy Calls Us

**1 Today Your mercy calls us
To wash away our sin.
However great our trespass,
Whatever we have been,
However long from mercy
Our hearts have turned away,
Your precious blood can wash us
And make us clean today.**

**2 Today Your gate is open,
And all who enter in
Shall find a Father's welcome
And pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten,
A present joy be giv'n,
A future grace be promised,
A glorious crown in heav'n.**

**3 Today our Father calls us;
His Holy Spirit waits;
His blessed angels gather
Around the heav'nly gates.
No question will be asked us
How often we have come;**

**Although we oft have wandered,
It is our Father's home.**

**4 O all-embracing Mercy,
O ever-open Door,
What should we do without You
When heart and eye run o'er?
When all things seem against us,
To drive us to despair,
We know one gate is open,
One ear will hear our prayer.**

Text: Oswald Allen, 1816–78, alt. Text: Public domain

The Rite of Holy Baptism for Florence Magali 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.**

Invocation

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

Opening Sentences

Psalm 43:4; 124:8; Isaiah 25:9

P I will go to the altar of God,
C to God my exceeding joy.

P Our help is in the name of the LORD,
C who made heaven and earth.

P Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, that He might
save us.

**C This is the LORD; we have waited for Him; let us be glad and
rejoice in His salvation.**

Confession and Absolution

P God invites His whole creation to the great feast of His salvation. That we may boldly enter into His gates of mercy, let us lift up our prayer of repentance and faith.

C Lord God, heavenly Father, with thanksgiving for Your great love and promise of new life and hope for living, we confess to You all our sins, our waywardness, our neglect of Your call, as well as our failure to be of help to our neighbor and one another. We humbly pray, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew and cleanse our hearts and minds, and give us true faith in Your promised grace and deliverance.

P The feast of God's salvation has already begun for you by your Baptism into Christ. Now receive the Lord's abiding forgiveness, faith, strength, and help to live in the certain hope of eternal life in fellowship with Him: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

WORD

Kyrie *LSB 204*

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

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²"What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? ³As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die. .

²⁵"Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. ²⁷Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

³⁰"Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Philippians 2:1–18

¹If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

¹⁴Do all things without grumbling or questioning, ¹⁵that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse

Matthew 28:18b

C Alleluia. All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:23–32

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this

authority?" ²⁴Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

²⁸"What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹And he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. ³⁰And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

715 Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me

**1 Jesus, Savior, pilot me
Over life's tempestuous sea;**

**Unknown waves before me roll,
Hiding rock and treach'rous shoal.
Chart and compass come from Thee.
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.**

**2 As a mother stills her child,
Thou canst hush the ocean wild;
Boist'rous waves obey Thy will
When Thou say'st to them, "Be still!"
Wondrous Sov'reign of the sea,
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.**

**3 When at last I near the shore
And the fearful breakers roar
Twixt me and the peaceful rest,
Then, while leaning on Thy breast,
May I hear Thee say to me,
"Fear not, I will pilot thee."**

Text: Edward Hopper, 1818–88 Text: Public domain

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

P Almighty God, we give You thanks for all Your goodness and loving kindness that You have bestowed on us as Your own creation. For Your whole creation and the blessings of this life, we give You praise and thanks. Continue Your gift of life and grant that all look

to You as their Creator and Giver of life through the gift of Your redemption in Christ Jesus, the Lord. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Grant Your blessing and guidance on Your holy church in this world to be the beacon of the light of Your salvation for all who look to You for the salvation of their souls and for every help in need. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Send upon the ministers of Your church and the congregations committed to their care the healthful spirit of Your grace, making all pastors diligent to preach Your Holy Word, and send Your people faithful obedience that they be comforted and strengthened in faith and do all things that are well pleasing to You. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Help all who call upon You in any need, that they have patience in times of sorrow or suffering and be released from their afflictions. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C 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 It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

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

563 Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

**1 Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness
My beauty are, my glorious dress;
Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed,
With joy shall I lift up my head.**

**2 Bold shall I stand in that great day,
Cleansed and redeemed, no debt to pay;
Fully absolved through these I am
From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.**

**3 Lord, I believe Thy precious blood,
Which at the mercy seat of God
Pleads for the captives' liberty,
Was also shed in love for me.**

**4 Lord, I believe, were sinners more
Than sands upon the ocean shore,
Thou hast for all a ransom paid,
For all a full atonement made.**

**5 When from the dust of death I rise
To claim my mansion in the skies,
This then shall be my only plea:
Jesus hath lived and died for me.**

**6 Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made,
An everlasting ransom paid.**

Text: Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, 1700–60; tr. John B. Wesley,
1703–91, alt. Text: Public domain

611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be

- 1 Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high,
Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine,
I am His, and He is mine.**

- 2 Oh, the height of Jesus' love,
Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea,
Lasting as eternity!
Love that found me—wondrous thought!
Found me when I sought Him not.**

- 3 Only Jesus can impart
Balm to heal the wounded heart,
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n,
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
Faith and hope to walk with God
In the way that Enoch trod.**

- 4 Chief of sinners though I be,
Christ is all in all to me;
All my wants to Him are known,
All my sorrows are His own.
He sustains the hidden life
Safe with Him from earthly strife.**

**5 O my Savior, help afford
By Your Spirit and Your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray,
Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply
While I live and when I die.**

Text: William McComb, 1793–1873, alt. Text: Public domain

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

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

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.

707 Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

**1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways
To keep His statutes still!**

**Oh, that my God would grant me grace
To know and do His will!**

**2 Order my footsteps by Thy Word
And make my heart sincere;
Let sin have no dominion, Lord,
But keep my conscience clear.**

**3 Assist my soul, too apt to stray,
A stricter watch to keep;
And should I e'er forget Thy way,
Restore Thy wand'ring sheep.**

**4 Make me to walk in Thy commands—
'Tis a delightful road—
Nor let my head or heart or hands
Offend against my God.**

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

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 4.
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Pastor Jeff Prewitt was born in Sioux City, Iowa. He was baptized at Trinity Lutheran Church in Ottosen, Iowa. His maternal grandfather was Norwegian and farmed 160 acres 3 miles east of West Bend, Iowa. Jeff was confirmed at Good Shepherd in Fort Dodge, Iowa. He attended Camp Okoboji Youth Week through high school. He graduated high school in 1975 and attended college at Concordia in Seward, Nebraska. He met his wife, Laurie, there. (They have been married for 48 years. They have three adult children and six grandchildren.) College graduation in 1979 was followed by seminary graduation in 1983 from Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

His first call was to Immanuel Lutheran Church in West Plains, Missouri. He served there for five years, 1983-1988. His second call was to New Hope Lutheran Church in Neenah, Wisconsin (1988-2024). On December 31, 2024 he retired from parish ministry.

Since 2004 he has been doing short term mission trips twice a year to Southeast Asia mostly to Thailand. Upon retirement he continues to serve as a Mission Partner Specialist with Mission of Christ Network. (www.missionofchrist.org/jeff-prewitt)

Pastor Jeff will share stories about "Motorbikes for Jesus" and how online theological Bible teaching is warmly expanding God's Kingdom in Southeast Asia. Imagine 100 baptisms happening monthly for three years running. You will see pictures of men, women, young people and children, who like you, have souls that matter to God. You may also hear about how "Jesus is graceful like a dolphin" and may receive a dolphin gift to remind you of a law/gospel object lesson. "We are all broken following Jesus with warm dolphin grace."

"Behind every set of eyes I look into there is a soul that matters to God."

"God's Kingdom is ever warmly expanding in us, through us, all around us, and way beyond us."

Pastor Jeff is looking forward to serving with you in Jesus' Name. Glory!

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Calendar of Activities this week at St. John

1 Thursday	Ladies Aid Meeting	1:00pm
1 Thursday	Worship/HC	6:30 pm
4 Sunday	Worship/HC	9:00 am

PIZZA SALE: The 7th and 8th grade students will be selling frozen pizzas from Joe's in Wautoma to raise money for their class trip to Catalina Island in the spring. Someone will be in the back of church on Sunday, October 11th and October 18th if you would like to place

an order, otherwise you are welcome to call the school. The pizzas will be delivered on Thursday, November 5th.

FALL WORK WEEKEND AT CAMP LUWISOM: Join the fun at Camp LuWiSoMo for their annual fall work weekend October 9 – 11. This is a great volunteer opportunity for individuals and families. Housing and meals provided free of charge. Contact Camp LuWiSoMo at 920-622-3350 for more information.

TODAY IN SUNDAY SCHOOL: The King of Glory" is the title for this week's lesson. King David prays, thanking God for his blessings and seeking his guidance. As David worships and acknowledges the true God, he asks God's blessing on his household and nation. David's psalm praises and glorifies God as it looks ahead to the coming of the glorious Savior and King.

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.

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.

ST. JOHN CHOIR STARTUP: The Lord has blessed St. John's with many beautiful voices, and we would love for you to use your talents to praise Him in song!

We are excited to restart our Adult Choir, open to anyone in high school or older. We will begin with a limited rehearsal and performance schedule, and the music will be accessible and enjoyable for a wide range of skill levels.

Can't attend every rehearsal? No problem! Join us whenever you are able. Practice recordings will also be provided so you can rehearse at home.

The choir will sing during:

- **November 1 – Reformation/All Saints' Worship Service**
- **December 24 – Christmas Eve Worship (second service only)**

Rehearsals:

Following the 6:30 p.m. worship service, 7:15–8:00 p.m.

- **Thursday, October 15, 22 and 29**
- **Wednesday, December 2, 9 and 16**

Interested in singing or joining the email list? Contact Amanda Tetzlaff at mandabusse@gmail.com or 920-229-1205. We hope you'll consider joining us as we lift our voices together in praise!

SAVE THE DATE! THE GARMS FAMILY CHRISTMAS CONCERT: A NIGHT OF COMFORT AND JOY: Friday, December 11, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. Join us for an uplifting evening of Christmas music and celebration as The Garms Family shares the comfort and joy of our Savior's birth through song. Invite your family and friends!

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.

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!

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.***