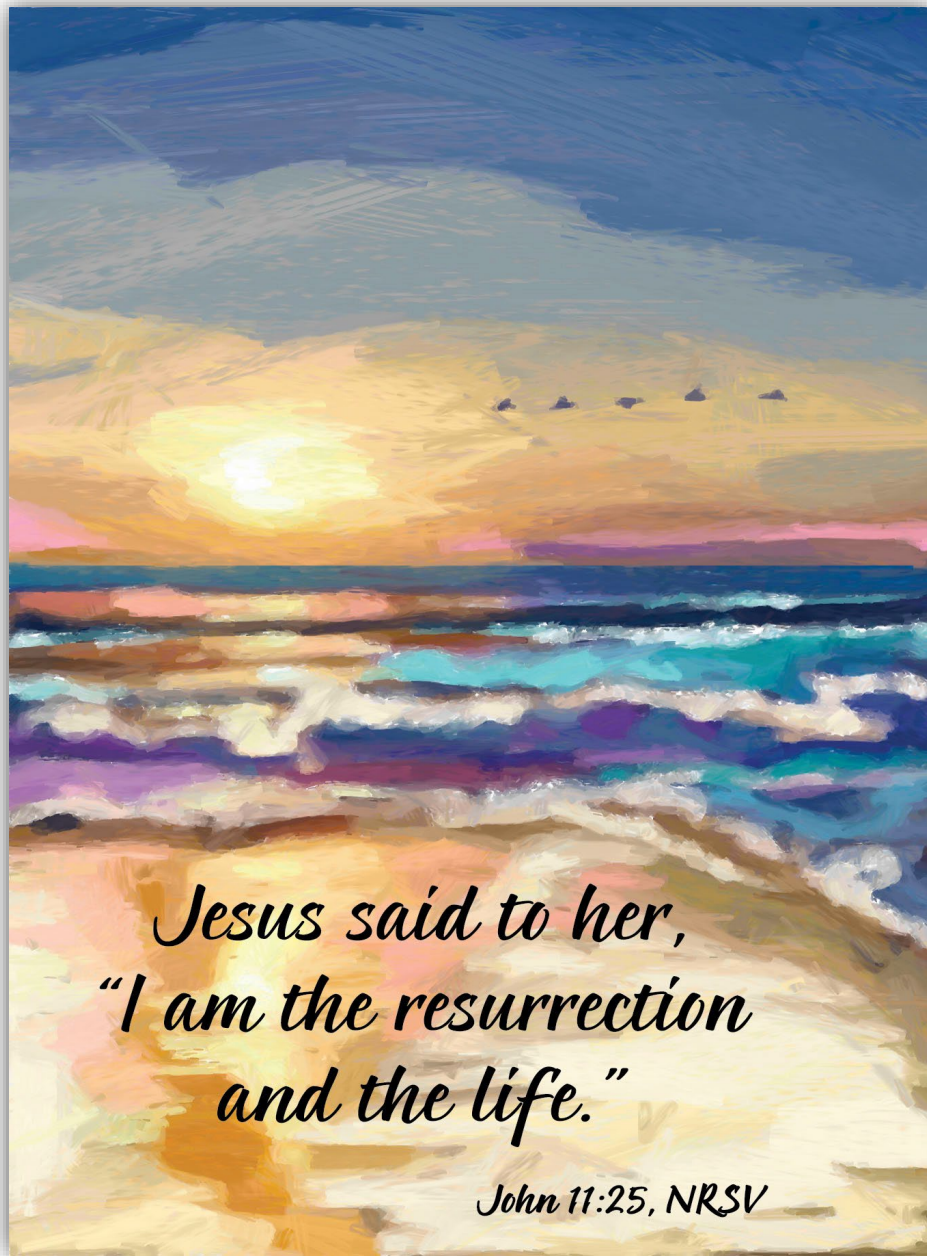


***St. John Lutheran Church & School
Berlin, Wisconsin
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod***



**The 21st Sunday after Pentecost
October 15 and 18, 2026**

Large Print Bulletin

AS WE GATHER... The most profound comfort lies in the assurance that God is always working out His purpose no matter the circumstances or the people. God's saving purpose cannot be thwarted. Isaiah lived in an age of bad news and despair, but he was confident that God could overcome them all. In the short term, this redemption came through an unlikely messianic figure named Cyrus. At the appointed time, however, the true Messiah would come and save Israel and all who trust in Him. God is in charge—not just of the ups and downs of this world's good and bad news but for the sake of His saving work. Jesus' power is greater than every other power, and His saving purpose will prevail. This is our comfort.

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

831 "How Shall They Hear," Who Have Not Heard

**1 "How shall they hear," who have not heard
News of a Lord who loved and came;
Nor known His reconciling word,
Nor learned to trust a Savior's name?**

**2 “To all the world,” to ev’ry place,
Neighbors and friends and far-off lands,
Preach the good news of saving grace;
Go while the great commission stands.**

**3 “Whom shall I send?” Who hears the call,
Constant in prayer, through toil and pain,
Telling of One who died for all,
To bring a lost world home again?**

**4 “Lord, here am I:” Your fire impart
To this poor cold self-centered soul;
Touch but my lips, my hands, my heart,
And make a world for Christ my goal.**

**5 Spirit of love, within us move:
Spirit of truth, in pow’r come down!
So shall they hear and find and prove
Christ is their life, their joy, their crown.**

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926–2024 Text: © 1984 Hope
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110005513

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

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, the protector of all who trust in You, have mercy on us that with You as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

CAmen.

Sit

First Reading

John 2:11–13

¹¹This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

¹²After this he went down to Capernaum, with his mother and his brothers and his disciples, and they stayed there for a few days.

¹³The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

St. John Seraphim Choir sings on Sunday

Epistle

Romans 12:14–18

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. ¹⁷Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

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

John 11:17–35

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eleventh chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁷Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been

here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

²⁸When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. ³¹When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. ³⁴And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus wept.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

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**

**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**

**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**

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

Stand

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.**

Prayer of the Church

Sit

Offering

Stand

Offertory *LSB 159*

C What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?

**I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will take the cup of salvation
and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will pay my vows to the Lord
now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

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.**

Distribution Hymns

627 Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior

**1 Jesus Christ, our blessed Savior,
Turned away God's wrath forever;
By His bitter grief and woe
He saved us from the evil foe.**

**2 As His pledge of love undying,
He, this precious food supplying,
Gives His body with the bread,
And with the wine the blood He shed.**

**3 Jesus here Himself is sharing;
Heed then how you are preparing,
For if you do not believe,
His judgment then you shall receive.**

**4 Praise the Father, who from heaven
To His own this food has given,**

**Who, to mend what we have done,
Gave into death His only Son.**

**5 Firmly hold with faith unshaken
That this food is to be taken
By the sick who are distressed,
By hearts that long for peace and rest.**

**6 Agony and bitter labor
Were the cost of God's high favor;
Do not come if you suppose
You need not Him who died and rose.**

**7 Christ says: "Come, all you that labor,
And receive My grace and favor:
Those who feel no pain or ill
Need no physician's help or skill.**

**8 "For what purpose was My dying
If not for your justifying?
And what use this precious food
If you yourself were pure and good?"**

**9 If your heart this truth professes
And your mouth your sin confesses,
You will be your Savior's guest,
Be at His banquet truly blest.**

**10 Let this food your faith so nourish
That its fruit of love may flourish
And your neighbor learn from you
How much God's wondrous love can do.**

Text: John Hus, c. 1369–1415; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1–2, 4–5, 7, 9): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (sts. 3, 8): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (sts. 6, 10): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001, alt. Text (sts. 1–2, 4–5, 7, 9): Public domain Text (sts. 3, 6, 8, 10): © 1980 and 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005513

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.**

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–78 Text: Public domain

Stand

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 T give you peace.

C Amen.

830 Spread the Reign of God the Lord

**1 Spread the reign of God the Lord,
Spoken, written, mighty Word;
Ev'rywhere His creatures call
To His heav'nly banquet hall.**

**2 Tell how God the Father's will
Made the world, upholds it still,
How His own dear Son He gave
Us from sin and death to save.**

**3 Tell of our Redeemer's grace,
Who, to save our human race
And to pay rebellion's price,
Gave Himself as sacrifice.**

**4 Tell of God the Spirit giv'n
Now to guide us on to heav'n,
Strong and holy, just and true,
Working both to will and do.**

**5 Enter, mighty Word, the field;
Ripe the promise of its yield.**

**But the reapers, oh, how few
For the work there is to do!**

**6 Lord of harvest, great and kind,
Rouse to action heart and mind;
Let the gath'ring nations all
See Your light and heed Your call.**

Text: Jonathan Friedrich Bahnmaier, 1774–1841; tr. composite
Text: Public domain

Text and tune: Public domain

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Calendar of Activities this week at St. John

20 Tuesday	Council Meeting	6:00 pm
22 Thursday	Worship Service/HC	6:30 pm
25 Sunday	Worship Service/HC	9:00 am
25 Sunday	Sunday School	10:30 am
25 Sunday	Adult Bible Class	10:30 am

QUARTERLY VOTERS MEETING: Sunday October 25th agenda items include - Fundraiser Policy, Tree Removal Bid, Election of Officers; Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, Election of Boards; (1) Elders, (2) Christian Education, (2) Trustees. Church's Mission/Vision Statement. Please plan to attend.

JOIN THE PRAY & GO, 30-DAY JOURNEY! You may order the hardcover copy of Pray & Go, by Thom S. Rainer, from Amazon. If you have Prime, you should receive quickly and shipping is free. It is also available on Audible; or, available to listen to for free through the Hoopla App, with your Berlin Library Card.

HYMN FESTIVAL & SING: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Oshkosh, invites you to a Hymn Festival & Sing on Sunday, November 1, at 3:00 p.m. Guest organist Dr. Mark Bloedow, along with choirs, soloists, cello, and trumpet, will lead an afternoon of beautiful sacred music. A free reception will follow. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2450 W. 9th Ave., Oshkosh.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CHRISTMAS CAMP AT LUWISOMO: St. John has money set aside to provide scholarships for children who'd like to attend the Kid's Christmas (Grades 1-5) program at Camp LuWiSoMo. If you're interested, please speak with Pastor Rob before November 1.

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.

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.

TRIP TO THE ARK ENCOUNTER: Our sister congregation, **Zion Lutheran Church in Neshkoro**, is organizing a Diamond Tours trip to the Ark Encounter and other attractions **April 12-16, 2027**. Members of St. John are invited to join this exciting trip. If you would like more information, please contact the church office and we will provide you with the tour flyer.

Can You Help with Our Christmas Parade Float?

The Parent Teacher League is looking for volunteers to help make this year's Christmas Parade Float a success! Our theme is **Old-Fashioned Christmas**, and we're looking for:

- A truck and trailer for the parade
- A place to store the trailer after it has been decorated
- Someone willing to lead or coordinate the decorating effort
- Volunteers with decorating skills or creative ideas

If you can provide any of these resources or would like to volunteer, **please contact Pastor Rob**. Your help will make it possible for St. John to participate in the parade and share the joy of Christmas with our community. Thank you for considering how you can help!

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!

HOOPS FOR HUNGER 3V3 CHALLENGE RETURNS! The St. John's Men's Rec League is bringing back the Hoops for Hunger 3v3 Challenge for its second year, in partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of the Tri-County Area. Last year our community donated over 600 pounds of food to the Berlin Food Pantry, and this year we're aiming for more than 1,000 pounds. The entry fee is simple: each team brings one paper bag of nonperishable food items.

The qualifier round is Saturday, April 10th at 9:00 a.m. at the Boys & Girls Club (344 Broadway). The top 12 teams advance to the championship on Saturday, April 17th at 9:00 a.m. in the St. John Lutheran School gym. The tournament is open to males ages 13 and up, with teams of up to four players, and prizes will be awarded to the top finishers. Spectators get in free and are welcome to bring nonperishable food to donate too! Come cheer on local players and enjoy concessions. Concession proceeds support Boys & Girls Club teen programming and St. John Lutheran School.

To sign up your team, visit www.hoops4hunger.com or message (920) 658-3029.

Play hard, give generously, and help us feed our neighbors!

MEN'S MINISTRY: The next men's ministry meeting will be on Monday, November 2nd, at 6 p.m. at 139 S Swetting Street. We'd love for you to come along for a meal, some Bible study, and a chance to hang out. If the weather cooperates, feel free to bring a chair for a campfire!

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Sermon Notes – 10-18-26 – Listening Evangelism III

-We all want to live young, virulent lives forever, but we won't – no one will. Death has a 100% success rate.

-You can prove beyond the shadow of a doubt that Jesus Christ, who claimed to give eternal life, actually _____ from the dead.

-Nothing is so all-encompassing, so final, nor so terrible as death; so, what all people need more than anything else is real, proven hope in the face of the Reaper.

-As Christians, we have exactly that; we have a monopoly on real _____.

-A great person to share the Gospel with is a person who's grieving.

-_____ Evangelism builds relationships by listening to people to understand what's going on in their lives and then lovingly telling them how Jesus can help.

-First Lesson in Listening Evangelism: LISTEN *for* those who are grieving.

-Whether you know them or not, people all around you are grieving; listen _____ them. Then, have the courage to go to them.

-Second lesson in Listening Evangelism: Compassionately, wholeheartedly LISTEN *to* those who are _____.

-The Bible tells us to "Weep with those who weep." As you listen, let yourself feel their pain, share their hurt, and cry their tears with them.

-“I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever _____ in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” (John 11:25-26)

-Third lesson in Listening Evangelism: After LISTENING, share the hope of the _____ – the Good News that all who believe in Jesus do not die but live forever in paradise!

-We want *all* people to live in heaven forever; so, practice Listening Evangelism. Listen *for* people who grieve. Listen *to* people who grieve. And share with them the *only* hope in death – the resurrection promise of our resurrected Lord.

+++++

Listening Evangelism Insert

“Building relationships by listening to people to understand what's going on in their lives and then lovingly telling them how Jesus can help.”

Jesus LISTENED to the grief, hurt, and anger of Mary and Martha and then comforted them with his promise of eternal life.

1. Pray

Ask God to show you someone who's grieving and for him to help you to truly listen and share the Gospel.

2. Listen for God's Direction

Grow in your relationship with God by spending quality time with him. Make time to be quiet with God, to talk to him, and to listen to

his direction. Keep your eyes and ears open for people who are grieving.

3. Listen Compassionately

When you notice someone who's grieving, LISTEN to their hurts and tears. While LISTENING, show care and work to understand their grief by asking questions like:

- "How are you feeling right now?"
- "Tell me about your loved one."
- "What are some things that bring out your grief?"

Then...

- Don't interrupt. Listen more than you speak.
- Don't rush to fix the problem.
- Don't assume you already know how they feel.
- Feel their feelings; grieve with them.

5. Share the Hope You Have

After you've listened, look for a natural opportunity to share the Gospel. You don't need a long or profound speech. Simply share the hope that they have in Jesus. He is "the Resurrection and the Life" and "whoever believes in him, though he die, yet shall he live." You might also tell them that you know it's true because Jesus himself died and rose thereby defeating death.

6. Pray for Them

Before you leave pray for them by name. Ask God to encourage them, help them to trust in him, and comfort them with his promises.