

Sunday Bible Class:

9:00 am

Sunday Worship:

10:00 am

Wednesday Bible Class

9:00 am

**Holy Communion
is celebrated on the
First, Third, Fifth
Sunday.**

**A member of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Proclaiming Christ 150 YEARS**

STJNB

St. John's Lutheran Church
New Berlin, IL

*The
LORD
IS GOOD
and His love
endures forever
His faithfulness
continues through
all generations*

**Welcome
in the name of Jesus!**

*We're so glad to have you
join us to worship our Lord!*

*If you are a guest with us
for worship today, please
introduce yourself to our
pastor and stop by the
registration book at the
back of church.*

St. John's Lutheran Church
Olive & Gibson Streets
New Berlin, Illinois
(H) 217-488-3190
(C) 217-697-9567

Pastor David Benning
pastorbenning@stjnb.org

Parsonage Hours:
10:00am-4:00pm m,w,st

**Pastor is also available by
appointment.**

For Emergencies 24/7

Policy Regarding the Lord Supper

Today our Family of Faith will celebrate the Lord's Supper. We believe Jesus Christ gives us not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins. Our Lord invites to His table the baptized who trust His words, repent of all sin, and forgive and love as He forgives and loves us. Those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm. Any who are not yet instructed or who hold a confession of faith differing from that of The LCMS, are asked to please refrain from communing today.

† **2nd Sunday after Epiphany** †
Right to Life-January 17, 2021



SAMUEL AND ELI.

As We Gather... *Showing others what the word of God says is challenging, difficult, unsettling, upsetting, and has potentially dangerous consequences. It is one thing to have and hold the Word of the Lord. It is quite another thing to speak it, share it, and proclaim it in ways that people can actually hear and understand, especially when that Word causes "the ears of everyone who hears it to tingle." This is especially true when that word becomes flesh.*

Opening Hymn:

Spread the Reign of God the Lord

LSB #830



1 Spread the reign of God the Lord, Spoken, writ-ten, might-y Word;
2 Tell how God the Fa-ther's will Made the world, up-holds it still,
3 Tell of our Re-deem-er's grace, Who, to save our hu-man race
4 Tell of God the Spir-it giv'n Now to guide us on to heav'n,



Ev-'ry-where His crea-tures call To His heav'n-ly ban-quet hall.
How His own dear Son He gave Us from sin and death to save.
And to pay re-bel-ion's price, Gave Him-self as sac-ri-fice.
Strong and ho-ly, just and true, Work-ing both to will and do.

Text and tune: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: **who made heaven and earth.**

Psalms 124:8

Pastor: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore, You are feared.**

Psalms 130:3-4

Pastor: 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.

[Luke 18:13]

People: **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: 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.

[John 20:19-23]

People: **Amen.**

Introit

Psalms 40:1-5; antiphon: vv. 10a, b

I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart;

I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;

I waited patiently for the Lord;

he inclined to me and heard my cry.

He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog,

and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.

Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.

Blessèd is the man who makes the Lord his trust,

who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie!

You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you!

I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.

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.

I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart;
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation.

Kyrie (Sung)

Mark 10:47

LSB # 204



Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

Gloria in Excelsis (Sung)

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

LSB # 204



1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
 2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
 3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
 O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
 For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
 You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
 Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—
 In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

2 Timothy 4:22

LSB # 205

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: **Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Old Testament Reading 1 Samuel 3:1–20

¹Now the young man Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision.

²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place. ³The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was.

⁴Then the LORD called Samuel, and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down.

⁶And the LORD called again, "Samuel!" and Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

⁸And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the young man. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰And the LORD came and stood, calling as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant hears." ¹¹Then the Lord said to Samuel, "Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which the two ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. ¹²On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³And I declare to him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴Therefore

I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever.”

¹⁵Samuel lay until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. And Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said, “Samuel, my son.” And he said, “Here I am.” ¹⁷And Eli said, “What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.” ¹⁸So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. And he said, “It is the Lord. Let him do what seems good to him.”

¹⁹And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established as a prophet of the Lord.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle *1 Corinthians 6:12–20*

¹²“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be enslaved by anything. ¹³“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food”—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.” ¹⁷But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse (*Sung*)



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

John 20:31



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel *John 1:43–51*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the First Chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.** (*Sung*)

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” ⁴⁷Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!”

⁴⁸Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” ⁴⁹Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” ⁵⁰Jesus answered him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.” ⁵¹And he said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

LSB 206

**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came
down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the
virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius
Pilate.**

**He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to
the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge
both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is
worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and
apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of
sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Children’s Message:

Hymn of the Day

Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens

LSB # 589

1 Speak, O Lord, Your ser - vant lis - tens, Let Your Word to
4 As I pray, dear Je - sus, hear me; Let Your words in
me come near; New - born life and spir - it give me,
me take root. May Your Spir - it e'er be near me
Let each prom - ise still my fear. Death's dread pow'r, its in - ward
That I bear a - bun - dant fruit. May I dai - ly sing Your
strife, Wars a - gainst Your Word of life; Fill me, Lord, with
praise, From my heart glad an - thems raise, Till my high - est
love's strong fer - vor That I cling to You for - ev - er!
praise is giv - en In the end - less joy of heav - en.

Tune and text: Public domain

Sermon:

“Speak, for your Servant Hears.”

Pastor David Benning

Giving Options:

There are several ways to give during this time we are not able to meet in person. One is the Give + app, which can be downloaded from your phone’s app store. Our E-Giving platform can also be accessed from our website by clicking on the E-GIVING tab at the top of the page. In addition to these two options, we also have a locked drop box on the outside of church next to the bulletins.

Offering Prayer:

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: **Lord Jesus, You paid the ransom that redeemed us from the sin in our life through Your death and resurrection. Use these offerings to show others the payment You have made for us that leads to life through Your living Spirit. Amen.**

Prayers of the Church

[2 Timothy 2:1-4]

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy . . .

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray . . .

Matthew 6:9-13

People: **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.**

Installation of Officers:

Lord God, heavenly Father, we give thanks that You have raised up these servants for work among Your people. We humbly implore You to grant them, by Your Holy Spirit, those gifts needed for the faithful carrying out of their tasks, most especially wisdom, strength, and willing hearts. Let Your blessing rest on this congregation. Strengthen the faith, quicken the love, and enkindle the zeal of its members, that Your name may be glorified and that here and in all places under heaven the kingdom of Your Son may be advanced. We remember with thanksgiving those who have faithfully served Your people and have now completed their time of service. We pray that in the end of days we, with all Your faithful people, may hear the voice of Christ saying: “Come, you who are blessed by My Father; inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world”; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Beloved in the Lord, Holy Scripture admonishes us that “all things should be done decently and in order.” To that end, the constitution and bylaws of this congregation establish various offices to which men and women are elected and appointed to serve.

In so doing, the Church follows the example of the Early Christian Church as described in Acts, Chapter Six:

The twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

The apostle Peter writes in his first epistle:

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Beloved in the Lord, you have heard the promises of faithfulness spoken by these men and women whom you have selected to serve as officers of St. Johns. Do you promise to support them in their work, to remember them in your prayers, and to work with them to the best of the abilities that God has given you, so that He may be glorified, and His work be done in our midst? If so, then answer:

We do.

Go in the name of the Lord. Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. The almighty and most merciful God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you. **Amen.**

Preface

LSB 208

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

2 Timothy 4:22

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

[2 Colossians 3:1]

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

[Psalm 136]

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord,...

Sanctus (Sung)

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

LSB 208

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
 Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
 Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho- san - na to the Lord;
 Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

The Words of Our Lord

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

Pastor: 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."

Pastor: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

John 20:19

People: **Amen.**

Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Agnus Dei (Sung)

John 1:29

LSB 210

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,

You take the sin of the world a - way;
 You take the sin of the world a - way;

O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,

Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
 And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Distribution Hymn

How Wide the Love of Christ

LSB # 535

1 How wide the love of Christ! It knows not class or race But
 2 How long the love of Christ! Its pa - tience will not cease Un -
 3 How high the love of Christ! Be - yond all thought it soars, And
 4 How deep the love of Christ, De - scend - ing to a cross! He
 5 All praise to You, O Christ, For love whose depth and height, Whose

holds our one hu - man - i - ty With - in its broad em - brace.
 til this bro - ken world is bound In ev - er - last - ing peace.
 yet up - on our pass - ing lives Un - mea - sured mer - cy pours.
 bears with - in His wound - ed hands All hu - man pain and loss.
 length and breadth fill time and space With end - less life and light!

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 Tune: Public domain

Post Communion Blessing

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in His peace.

People: **Amen.**

Nunc Dimittis (Sung)

Luke 2:29-32

LSB 211

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
 2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
 part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
 glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
 glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;

A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
 For as in the be - gin - ning, Is



to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: **Lord Jesus, You took on flesh and blood, being born to give me life and hope. Thank you for giving me the gift of Your body broken and Your blood shed and for Your forgiveness and love. Use it to strengthen my confession of Your Lordship in my life, until that day when You come again in glory and with the Father and the Holy Spirit, to live and reign to all eternity. Amen.**

Benedicamus and Benediction

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

[Psalm 103:1]

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon and be gracious unto you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you His peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

People: **Amen, Amen, Amen. (Sung)**

Anniversary Closing Hymn: *Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning*

LSB # 400



1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
Dawn on our dark - ness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.

CHURCH NEWS

TODAY IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

The account of Deborah served as today's lesson, "The Palm-Tree Judge." After Joshua died, the people forgot about the good things the Lord had done and His promise to send the Savior. They served the false gods of the nations around them. So God brought in nations that treated the Israelites badly. Then, the Israelites asked God to help them, and God raised up leaders called judges. Deborah was one of those judges. Under her leadership, the Israelites were freed. **For discussion at home this week: "The Israelites turned to Deborah when they didn't understand or trust what God wanted. Who do you**

turn to for help when you need to understand God's plan for you?"

THANK YOU!

Dorothy Rieck would like to thank everyone who sent cards and good wishes to her in celebration of her 97th Birthday.

DID YOU KNOW?

The hidden treasure on our block is not really hidden but revealed.

SESQUICENTENNIAL THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"Our hope is not in the new year, but in the One who makes all things new."

ANNIVERSARY NEWS

Pastor Keith Speaks is tentatively scheduled to be with us on July 17, Pastor Barth on the second Sunday in August, and Pastor Kopper on a date to be decided in October. As a result of this intermission in our anniversary celebration, this will be the last week of our Did you Know? and Thought for the Week until we get closer to summer. However, we're interested in providing you with the opportunity to list your favorite Bible passage. Include your name, write out the words of the passage, and give them to Ron Krohse. Continue to celebrate and give thanks!

PORTALS OF PRAYERS

The January through March Portals of Prayer are available, on the landing, in the traditional pocket size, medium and large print. Sustain and strengthen your faith with daily devotions provided by Portals of Prayer!

MARY-MARTHA NEWS

Happy New Year from your Mary Martha members!!! At our meeting on January 7th, new Secret Pals and Senior Buddies were chosen. Lisa will be calling to verify who you have this year. If you have not received a call yet, please get in touch with Lisa.

CRADLE ROLL RETURN

The "Cradle Roll" is back! A huge thank you to Marsha Smith for painting a beautiful new picture for us. Please stop by and see it. It's hanging in the basement. If anyone needs information added or changed on the "Cradle Roll", please call Lisa (217/899-5545). The "Cradle Roll" is a record of infants until the age of 3, when they begin Sunday School. Once again, thank you, Marsha, for helping us make this possible.

GIFT-IN-KIND OFFERINGS

Our offering accounting system will account for gift-in-kind offerings. A gift in kind offering may be a donation of a physical item for the benefit of our congregation. If you wish for your gift-in-kind offering to be noted on your offering statement, please forward either the original or a legible copy of the original invoice to Mary Pfeffer our Financial Secretary. The name and contact information of the contributor must be clearly delineated on the invoice. If you have any questions, Mary can be reached at 217-741-4380 or mary.e.pfeffer@gmail.com.

OFFERING STATEMENTS

Please contact Mary Pfeffer, our Financial Secretary if you would like a copy of your 2020 Offering Statement. These are available anytime upon request by calling or texting Mary at 217-741-4380 or emailing her at mary.e.pfeffer@gmail.com.

KFUO

This week on KFUE.org, excite your imagination and comfort your soul on Cross Defense with Rev. Tyrel Bramwell (1/18 at 2:00 p.m. CT), hear practical application of our Lutheran Confessions on Concord Matters (1/19 at 2:00 p.m. CT), and worship with us in chapel services weekdays at 10:00 a.m. CT. Find these programs on demand at kfuo.org or your favorite podcasting app.

2021 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Since October the Voter's Assembly has approved two capital improvement projects to the Parsonage totaling \$28,975. On October 4, the Voter's Assembly acted to approve a bid of \$10,155 to re-roof the Parsonage. On December 20, the Voter's Assembly acted to approve a bid for \$18,820 to replace all of the windows in the Parsonage. Both projects will be undertaken in the spring of 2021, as weather permits. On paper, we have the funds to cover these projects. However, in the short run, it would leave our General Fund at a very low level. We are making an appeal for you to make a special donation to cover these projects. Please make your checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church with a designation to "2021 Capital Improvement Projects." As of January 10, \$3,500 has been donated to this project!

JANUARY LWML 2021 CID MISSION GRANT #5

MOST Ministries Filters for Drinking Water - \$5,000

This grant will enable MOST Ministries to continue serving the poor by installing water filters in homes and churches throughout the world. In addition, MOST Ministries would reach each person served with the message of the Gospel through the use of witness materials, devotions and simple Bible Stories

How can I help? Pray that God provides "living water" and actual drinking water to those throughout the world who are in need. Support this grant by donating to your church's LWML society mite fund.

Living Alternatives/Pregnancy Resource Center "PRC"
Baby Bottle Fundraiser

In conjunction with the National Sanctity of Human Life Day on January 17th, St. John's is again participating in the Pregnancy Resource Center "PRC" of Jacksonville's "Baby Bottle Fundraiser". Baby bottles are located in the Narthex for you to take home and fill with your spare change or check. ***Please return the bottles to the Church by Sunday, March 7th.*** If you would like a receipt for your gift please write your name and address on the back of the baby bottle tag.

Your donation supports the Pregnancy Resource Center located at 1440 West Walnut Street in Jacksonville.

Under the Biblical principal that all human life is sacred, PRC is committed to saving the lives of unborn children by promoting life-affirming options and providing practical assistance, while sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed, and to minister restoration to those who have been wounded by the trauma of abortion. Some of the services to pregnant unwed mothers include pregnancy testing, ultra-sound options counseling, adoption support, and post-abortion support.

Your spare change can change a life!

For 2nd Sunday after Epiphany: January 17, 2021

Expectations color our view of many things in life. Low expectations prove easy to meet and exceed. But we know that if our expectations run unreasonably high, we set ourselves up for disappointment.

After prophecies that had been issued over thousands of years, by the first century was there anyone who was still expecting the long-promised Messiah? Or had people just given up hope?

Maybe some had given up, but a passage to be read in our church service on Sunday (John 1:43-51) shows that the hope nonetheless remained alive. Philip went to his friend Nathaniel and said, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote" – Jesus of Nazareth.

When Philip brought the skeptical Nathaniel to Jesus, Jesus told Nathaniel, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." That convinced Nathaniel, who said, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

Jesus answered, in effect, that Nathaniel had not seen anything yet: "you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man." Jesus had come to do more than get miraculous glimpses of people under far-away fig trees. He came to open heaven, to be Himself the bridge between heaven and earth. "For there is one God, and there is one mediator

between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 2:5).

Often people acutely feel the need for the Lord's help with one particular problem, or over one specific sin. Maybe you have felt this way.

If so, widen your expectations! Jesus came to reconcile you to God and give you peace with your Creator. He did this by His own death and resurrection.

Jesus famously taught people to pray, "Thy Kingdom come." What great expectations!

THANK YOU

The following letter is in acknowledgement and appreciation of St. John's contribution to the New Berlin Community Food Bank.

Island Grove United Methodist Church

16128 Old Jacksonville Road
New Berlin, IL 62670

December 12, 2020

Thank you for the Christmas miracle!

Our Outreach Committee is in receipt of your generous donation for the community micro-food pantry at Corbett Park. Since July, the pantry has been providing free food to anyone in need, regardless of age. It has been a big financial undertaking due to the growing food insecurity in our area. We have received a wonderful response from people in our community who have donated food for the shelves and money so we could shop for items to place in the pantry.

Last Sunday, we saw that our cash on hand in the Food Pantry Outreach Fund had shrunk to only \$15 because of the growing need for committee members to shop for food items. The wonderful donation from your church is yet another example of how God will provide for the needs of his servants.

We are truly grateful to your church family for its Christian outreach. It is indeed a blessing to work together to fill a need for our community. Thank you so much.

In Christian friendship,

Liz Pensoneau
Chairperson, Outreach Committee
Island Grove United Methodist Church

He Knows You by Name

“How do you know me?” Nathanael asked Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.” John 1:48 (NIV)



The puzzle is based on John 1:43-51

Z R N F W P Z Q Y T D X V K P
 N D L T N K D X Z G D V E J J
 J E S U S I N L J A R A B B I
 A H I L C Q S O I L E Q B F N
 T L X Z O S F R W I N W L S A
 Y S S L M N B B A L S K J D Z
 S F Q P E A F P S E V P E K A
 U H J H M T T R E E L L K O R
 T S Z I A H K A F O L L O W E
 Q R N L Y A T N K A I K O X T
 J O Q I U N G D C J Z R I D H
 G I H P X A Q R D B E E I N M
 H E R J C E S E Z T T A R R G
 L F J G R L A W E F Q P F B O
 P L R S M A O P L U K X A K F

KNOW	FOLLOW	PETER	PHILIP	GALILEE
ANDREW	ISRAEL	CALLED	NATHANAEL	NAZARETH
JESUS	RABBI	COME	TREE	KING

