

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

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, and Fifth Sunday.**



St. John's Lutheran Church
New Berlin, IL



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.

† **4th Sunday in Epiphany** †
January 31, 2021

**God will raise up for
you a prophet like me**

Deuteronomy 18:15



As We Gather... *There is something greater going on in our text from the book of Deuteronomy than just being able to tell who a false prophet is. Moses tells us how to find the prophet that will be like him. The unique thing about Moses is that he spoke directly with God face-to-face; therefore, the prophet like him would be able to do the same. Jesus is the only prophet who is able to talk to God face-to-face but more than that, He is the only prophet to be raised from the dead.*

ASH Wednesday Services
6:45, 7:00, 7:15am Ashes ONLY
6:30pm Ashes/Communion

Opening Hymn:

Son of God, Eternal Savior

LSB # 842



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and



truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us
truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us



Hal - lows all our hu - man race, You our Head, who, throned in
Hal - lows all our hu - man race: By Your pray - ing, by Your



glo - ry, For Your own will ev - er plead: Fill us with Your
will - ing That Your peo - ple should be one, Grant, O grant our



love and pit - y, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.
hope's fru - i - tion: Here on earth Your will be done.

Tune and text: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

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

People: **Amen.**

(Mathew 28:19b; [18:20])

Pastor: The angel said to [the shepherds], "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

(Luke 2:10-11)

People: **Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.**

Pastor: God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
(Philippians 2:9-11)

People: **and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

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

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

(1 John 1:8-9)

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

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **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.**

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.**

Service of the Word

Introit

Many are the sorrows of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord.

Blessèd is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

Blessèd is the man against whom the Lord counts
no iniquity,

and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover
my iniquity;

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to

Ps. 25:1-3; antiphon: Zech. 9:9b, alt.
you at a time when you may be found;
surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.

You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me
from trouble;

you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

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.

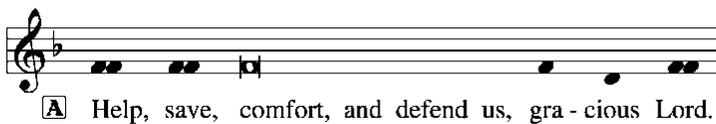
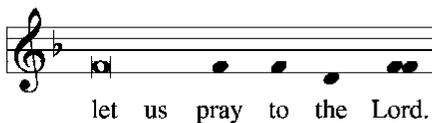
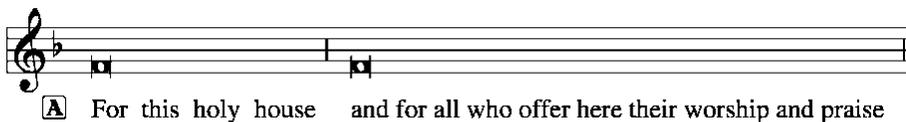
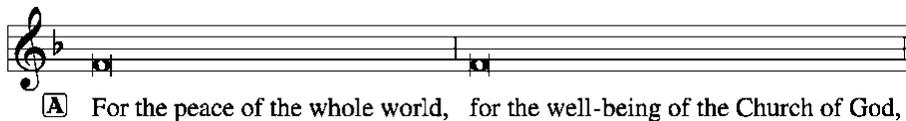
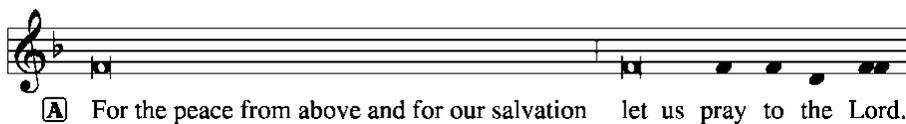
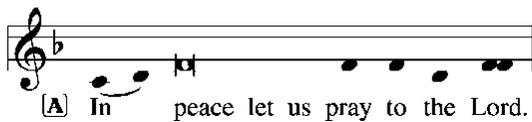
Many are the sorrows of the wicked,

but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord.

Kyrie (Sung)

(Mark 10:47)

LSB 152



This Is the Feast

(Revelation 5:12-13,19:5-9)

LSB 155

Refrain

☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

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

1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

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

Salutation and Collect of the Day

2 Timothy 4:22 LSB 156

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: **Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; 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 Deuteronomy 18:15–22

¹⁵“The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—¹⁶just as you desired of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’¹⁷And the Lord said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken.¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.¹⁹And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.²⁰But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.’”

²¹And if you say in your heart, ‘How may we know the word that the LORD has not spoken?’ — ²²when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle *1 Corinthians 8:1–13*

¹Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. ²If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. ³But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.

⁴Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol’s temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? ¹¹And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. ¹²Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse

(John 6:68)

LSB 156

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Mark 1:21–28

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

Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

²¹And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath [Jesus] entered the synagogue and was teaching.

²²And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.

²³And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, ²⁴“What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

LSB 158

**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:

O God of God, O Light of Light

LSB # 810



2 For deep in proph-ets’ sa - cred page, And grand in po - ets’
 3 That life of truth, those deeds of love, That death so steeped in
 4 Then raise to Christ a might - y song, And shout His name, His



wing-ed word, Slow - ly in type, from age to age The na - tions
 hate and scorn— These all are past, and now a - bove He reigns, our
 mer - cies tell! Sing, heav’n-ly host, your praise pro-long, And all on



saw their com - ing Lord; Till through the deep Ju - de - an night
 King once crowned with thorn. Lift up your heads, O might - y gates!
 earth, your an - them swell! All hail, O Lamb for sin - ners slain!



Rang out the song, “Good-will to men!” Sung once by first - born
 So sang that host be - yond our ken. Lift up your heads, your
 For - ev - er let the song as - cend! Wor - thy the Lamb, en -



sons of light, It ech - oes now, “Good - will!” A - men.
 King a - waits. We lift them up. A - men, a - men.
 throned to reign, All glo - ry, pow’r! A - men, a - men.

Tune and text: Public domain

¹⁰Now the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah were sitting on their thrones, arrayed in their robes, at the threshing floor at the entrance of the gate of Samaria, and all the prophets were prophesying before them. ¹¹And Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah made for himself horns of iron and said, “Thus says the LORD, ‘With these you shall push the Syrians until they are destroyed.’” ¹²And all the prophets prophesied so and said, “Go up to Ramoth-gilead and triumph; the LORD will give it into the hand of the king.”

¹³And the messenger who went to summon Micaiah said to him, “Behold, the words of the prophets with one accord are favorable to the king. Let your word be like the word of one of them, and speak favorably.” ¹⁴But Micaiah said, “As the LORD lives, what the LORD says to me, that I will speak.” ¹⁵And when he had come to the king, the king said to him, “Micaiah, shall we go to Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall we refrain?” And he answered him, “Go up and triumph; the LORD will give it into the hand of the king.” ¹⁶But the king said to him, “How many times shall I make you swear that you speak to me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?” ¹⁷And he said, “I saw all Israel scattered on the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd. And the LORD said, ‘These have no master; let each return to his home in peace.’” ¹⁸And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, “Did I not tell you that he would not prophesy good concerning me, but evil?” ¹⁹And Micaiah said, “Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing beside him on his right hand and on his left; ²⁰and the LORD said, ‘Who will entice Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?’ And one said one thing, and another said another. ²¹Then a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD, saying, ‘I will entice him.’ ²²And the LORD said to him, ‘By what means?’ And he said, ‘I will go out, and will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.’ And he said, ‘You are to entice him, and you shall succeed; go out and do so.’ ²³Now therefore behold, the LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these your prophets; the LORD has declared disaster for you.”

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 . . .

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.**

Preface

LSB 160

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 161



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

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.**

Agnus Dei (Sung)

John 1:29

LSB 163



Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution Hymn

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

LSB # 849



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet
3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,
gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons
in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool
That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing
wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this
glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us



storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.
Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

Tune: Public domain
Text: © 1987 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001382

Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament (*Please pray to yourself or with your family.*)

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.

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.**

Thank the Lord

LSB 164



☞ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud - ly bear His name.



He re - calls His prom - is - es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

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.**

Benediction

Pastor: 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 to give you 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.

Time for Announcements

CHURCH NEWS

SESQUICENTENNIAL FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE

Did You Know and Thought for the Week are on winter and spring break; we encourage you to share your favorite Bible passage. After today the cupboard is bare, so our sesquicentennial committee would appreciate you sharing your favorite Bible verse with us next week. This week Mary Ann Krohse shares that her favorite Bible verse is Psalm 46:10 "Be still and know that I am God."

To share your favorite Bible verse, contact me at 729 E. Gibson, New Berlin, IL, call me at 488-6135, or email me rkrohse@mediacombb.net

FEBRUARY CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The February Church Council Meeting is scheduled for 7:00pm on Monday, February 1.

MARY-MARTHA NEWS

Mary Martha ladies will meet February 4 at 6:30pm. Devotions will be led by Rachel and Karen will be our hostesses. Mrs. Krohse will lead a Bible study from the Winter 2020 Quarterly, pages 18-19. Extra copies are available in the West entrance to the church. Roll Call is "How many Bibles are in your house?" Members will be remembering the Loami Food Pantry. Join us as we "go on His errands."

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.

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.

KFUO

This week on KFUO.org, dive into a curious theological topic on Cross Defense (2/1 at 2:00 p.m. CT), learn how our Lutheran Confessions intersect our vocations on Concord Matters (2/2 at 2:00 p.m. CT), and study Mark 4-6 on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT). Find these programs on demand at kfu.org or wherever you get your podcasts.

2021 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Since October the Voters Assembly has approved two capital improvement projects to the Parsonage totaling \$28,975. On October 4 the Voters Assembly acted to approve a bid of \$10,155 to re-roof the Parsonage. On December 20 the Voters 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 24, \$4,400 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 4th Sunday after Epiphany: January 31, 2021

“A new teaching with authority!” That is what people exclaimed after hearing Jesus. This story is told in a Bible passage to be read this Sunday at our church service, Mark 1:21-28.

What would make people today regard a spiritual message as authoritative or impressive? Many would make an assessment based upon how genuine the proclaimers of the message seem to be. There must be something to what they say, it becomes easy to think, if they seem sincere.

To be sure, Jesus was sincere. Yet people can be sincerely wrong. Jesus was not wrong, though.

What else might impress people today about a spiritual message and those who bring it? Perhaps it would be not only sincere belief but also broad-based investigation, consulting many others. Scientific research works this way. This appeals to Americans in particular, who can tend to think that the greater number of people must have the greater truth.

But this is exactly the opposite of what Mark reports that people found so impressive about Jesus: “they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who has authority, and not as the scribes.” The scribes of Jesus’ day were constantly citing the opinions of others, yet Jesus spoke with His own authority. As God’s own Son from eternity, He needs no footnotes.

Jesus showed His authority over even demonic forces when he drove out an unclean spirit. Now, that’s authority: He speaks, and things happen. This is the creative authority of God.

Yet Jesus did not ultimately deal with sin and evil in the world this way. He came to give His life, a ransom for many. He died bearing the sin of the world.

He rose from the dead, to defeat your enemies and be your Lord. Now, that’s authority for you.

Winter Food Supplies needed for the New Berlin Community Miro-Pantry

- **Boxed cereal**
- **Quick Cook Oats**
- **Old Fashioned Oatmeal**
- **Boxed packages of instant oatmeal**
- **Pancake mix**
- **Bisquick**
- **Boxed soup**
- **Boxed instant rice**
- **Any type of packaged potatoes, including mashed potatoes**
- **Jello**
- **Boxed pudding**
- **Salt and Pepper**
- **Flour**
- **Sugar**
- **Brown Sugar**
- **Coffee**
- **Tea**
- **Hot Chocolate**
- **Pasta Sides**
- **Mac and Cheese**
- **Toilet paper**
- **Stuffing mix**
- **Jiffy mix**
- **Tuna Helper**
- **Hamburger Helper**
- **Packaged Tuna**
- **Peanut butter**
- **Saltines**
- **Snack crackers**
- **Boxed spaghetti**
- **Boxed pasta of all sorts**
- **Pretzels**
- **Potato chips (Pringles work great space wise)**
- **Cake mixes**
- **Brownie mix**
- **Granola Bars**
- **Packaged cookies or other treats**

***A collection box for food items will be available next Sunday.**