

APRIL 2023

ST. JOHN'S & EMMANUEL NEWSLETTER

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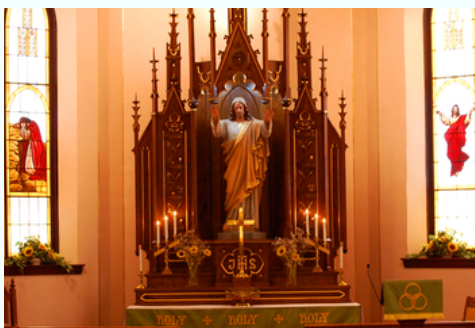
Holy Week Worship Schedule
page 3



I'm tired of all the bad news.
Can God help me see a solution
to all the problems?
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GriefShare meets
Thursdays at 6pm
at St. John's





Can God Help Me?

I'm tired of all the bad news.

Can God help me see a solution to all the problems?

Have you noticed the newspaper headlines and lead stories on the evening news lately? They don't really change much over the years. Plenty of ink is spilled about wars, murders, rapes, or other forms of violent crime. Our eyes watch tornados, floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes unfold before us on the airwaves. Life can often look pretty bleak in many parts of the world.

But the problems aren't just in other parts of the world. Sometimes the hurt, the pain, and the tragedies we often read or hear about actually invade our own personal lives. Being on the receiving end can lead us to blurt out in frustration:

"Why are my neighbors so unfriendly? It's almost as if they take a grumpy pill each morning."

"My marriage has been in a rut for months, and the possibility of it changing seems hopeless. Some days I wished I'd never walked down the aisle."

"Why did my mom have to develop cancer? She has been a health nut her whole life. It doesn't seem fair."

"The kids are driving me nuts! It feels as though I have completely lost control."

"I'm so lonely that some days I honestly feel that I am the only one left in the world."

Life has its problems. Each of us has our problems. Death, sickness, broken promises, and severed relationships—do you ever get tired of all the bad news? It can lead us to wonder: "Is there a solution?"

Yes, there is! It starts first with God helping us understand that all of life's problems are really a symptom of the big problem of sin.

The awesome news is that God freely gives us a complete solution to that problem of sin. After living and dying for us, Jesus rose again on Easter Sunday. He is the solution! God tells us that he has given us "new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3).

Tired of the bad news? Come and learn about the good news of God's solution to life's problems. This news will never become old.

Palm Sunday: 4/2/23
Emmanuel 8am
St. John's 10am (CALA sings at St. John's)

Maundy Thursday: 4/6/23
Emmanuel 6:30pm

Good Friday: 4/7/23
St. John's 1pm

NO WORSHIP ON SAT. 4/8/23

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Easter Sunday: 4/9/23
Emmanuel 8am with Communion
9am Easter Breakfast at Emmanuel
St. John's 10am with Communion

Worship Schedule:

SATURDAY: St. John's 4:30 p.m.

SUNDAY: Emmanuel 8:00 a.m.---Bible Class 9:30 a.m.
St. John's 10:00 a.m.---Bible Class 8:30 a.m.

HE IS RISEN!
He is Risen Indeed!

ALLELUIA!

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church
313 East Montello St.
Montello, WI



Emmanuel Ev. Lutheran Church
W1568 Evergreen Lane
Mecan Township, WI

Weekly Schedule:

Mondays:
Choir 6:30pm
Bible Class 7:30pm

Wednesdays:
Bible Class 10:30am
Public School Catechism 2:15pm

Thursdays:
Griefshare 6:00pm

CHURCH EVENTS FOR APRIL 2023

Saturday 4/1: Easter Festival at St. John's

Monday 4/3: HIP meeting 3:30pm at St. John's

Tuesday 4/4: Elder's meeting 9:00am at St. John's

**Thursday 4/6: Ladies Aid Meeting and Desert
Noon at St. John's**

**Friday 4/7: CALA EARLY RELEASE:
12:30pm Little Lambs-2nd
2:00pm 3rd-8th**

Monday 4/10: NO SCHOOL

**Wednesday 4/12: Montello Care Center Devotion
10:00am**

**Saturday 4/15: Men's Breakfast & Study Club
8-10am St. John's Lower Level**

Monday 4/17: Pastor's Conference at Markesan

Tuesday 4/18: St. John's Council Meeting 6:30pm

**Wednesday 4/26: Montello Care Center Devotion
10:00am**

**Sunday 4/30: WLA Leads Worship at Emmanuel
and St. John's**

Sunday 4/30: Youth Group at Princeton 4:00pm

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Bible Class 7:30pm

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Griefshare 6:00pm

Holy Week Schedule:

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Emmanuel 8am
St. John's 10am
CALA sings at St. John's

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Emmanuel 6:30pm with
communion

Good Friday:
St. John's 1pm with
communion

NO WORSHIP SATURDAY

Easter Sunday:
Emmanuel 8am
Easter Breakfast Emmanuel
9am
St. John's 10am



Beaver Dam Circuit
Lutheran Women's Missionary
Society FALL RALLY
Saturday, April 22, 2023
St. John's – Markesan
Co-hosted by Grace-Dalton



RALLY SPEAKER

Pastor John Stelter
Princeton

"Apologetics –
Defending the Faith"

SPRING SERVICE PROJECT

Alpha Resource Center in Watertown, WI, a chapter of Christian Life Resources. Collection boxes at both churches or bring your donations to the rally. **USE THIS LIST and PLEASE ONLY ITEMS LISTED!!** A container for monetary gifts will be at the rally. (If not attending the rally, give \$\$ gifts to Helen Stelter @ Emmanuel or Linda Wachholz @ St. John's. Please write checks to "Beaver Dam Circuit LWMS.")

Size 6 and 7 diapers
Rolls of Paper towels
Boxes of Tissues
Hand Soap
2-gallon zip lock bags
Stamps
Envelopes
Reams of paper
New rug for our front entrance, about 5 ft. long w/rubber backing
Goods for resale: any size baby clothes, adult clothing

RALLY SCHEDULE

9:45 a.m.	Registration
10:15 a.m.	Rally Opening
10:25 a.m.	Bible Study
11:00 a.m.	Business Meeting w/Elections
11:45 a.m.	Lunch
12:50 p.m.	Afternoon Devotion & Offering
1:05 p.m.	Speaker Pastor John Stelter
2:00 p.m.	Attendance/Offerings/Announcements
2:20 p.m.	Installation of Officers
2:30 p.m.	Closing

LWMS is
Women
with . . .



CHRIST ALONE LUTHERAN ACADEMY

March Update 2023



Our coed A team (5th-8th graders) competed in this year's Luther Preparatory School basketball tournament in Watertown, WI on March 3 and 4. In our division, we finished in fourth place! They all did a fantastic job and we couldn't be more proud of the efforts and Christian leadership our CALA youth demonstrates!

A big "thank you" shout out to our coaches who volunteered long amounts of time and dedication to this season: Shelley Myers (A team), Joey Zauner and Zeb Zuehls (B team), Jorgia Kempley and Ciara Neuhauser (C team). Another huge thank you to all those who volunteered their time in concessions, gym set up and take down, and in any other way! Without everyone, our athletics wouldn't be as successful as they are. This year, we made just over \$3,700 at the concessions stand. These funds go into our Athletic Dept. to help pay for things such as referees, tournament fees and equipment upkeep.



Our annual school Spelling Bee took place on February 28 in the Princeton gymnasium. Grades 2-8 participated. We divided the students up into even level sections: grades 2/3/4, 5/6, 7/8.

1st PLACE WINNERS:

Isabella Vang (7), Tenley Zuehls (6) Levi Jaster (4), Eli Buchholz (2)

2nd PLACE WINNERS:

Joey Zauner (8), Rilyn Henke (5), Tucker Neuhauser (3), Millie Metcalf (2)

Pre Registration for the 2023-24 school year is open through May 1st! An early bird perk is you get your registration fee applied to your tuition! If you miss the date of May 1, your fee is an additional cost. Don't miss out! Go to our website or call the office today!

March is also National Reading Month. We are celebrating with a reading program where children can earn scoops of ice cream and toppings as they complete the reading activities at home. At the end of the month, we will have an ice cream party! Check out their progress below!



APRIL SINGING SCHEDULE



April 2 Kindergarten-8th Grade & Little Lambs
St. John's Montello 10:00am

April 7 Good Friday 3rd-8th Grade & Chimes
St. John's Princeton 1:00pm



GO EAGLES!



EVENTS

APRIL-MAY

UPCOMING

APR 1

FAMILY EASTER FESTIVAL

APR 2

K-8TH & LITTLE LAMBS SING

APR 10

NO SCHOOL, EASTER MON.

APR 19

LL-2ND GRADE FIELDTRIP

APR 28

BIG K DAY AT WLA
LPS CHILDREN'S THEATER

MAY 1

PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE

MAY 2

REGISTRATION OPEN

MAY 5

SCHOOL MUSICAL

MAY 7

SPRING PIANO RECITAL

MAY 17

3RD-8TH GRADE FIELDTRIP

MAY 18

ASCENSION

MAY 21

LITTLE LAMBS GRADUATION

MAY 25

K & 8TH GRADE GRADUATION
K-8 SING

MAY 26

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL PICNIC

MAY 31

REGISTRATION DEADLINE



From an Ex-Pastor's Perch

It's called the WELS Statistical Report. It's a book, but nowadays it only comes out in electronic form. It's not exactly a page-turner, but it does exactly what its name says. It provides statistics about the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Emmanuel and St. John's are members of the WELS. That means that our statistics are in this book too. Every year each church is sent a set of forms to fill out that will spell out the vital statistics of that church, ours included.

At a church meeting in January of this year we were given those forms after they were filled in with the stats for St. John's. We can assume that similar stats were shared at Emmanuel. But let's just use the St. John's numbers for now. It wasn't easy to read and pick out everything off those pages, but two statistics jumped off the page for these old eyes – TOTAL MEMBERS = 586 and AVERAGE WEEKLY NUMBER OF WORSHIPERS = 82.

586 and 82! You can do the math. On a given Sunday, 82 or 14% of the total members worship in person at St. John's. Another way of looking at it would be to say that on a given Sunday 504 of our total members are not in worship. But wait a minute you say! Some people are not physically able to get to worship. Some worship online. Others are out of town and worship in another church of our fellowship. All that is true, so let's bump that number 82 to 150. That's just a rough estimate (and perhaps generous) of the number of folks that fall into one of those categories mentioned. Redo the math. Now 26% worship on a given Sunday and 436 don't.

No matter how you figure, these statistics should trouble you! It's even more troubling when you realize that the statistics would also be telling you that a large number of members are not receiving the Lord's Supper regularly. There are, of course, other vital signs that can measure and monitor our collective spiritual health, but this one is enough to warn us that this is not a healthy situation. It doesn't tell us specifically what ails us, but it's enough to alert us that something needs to change in our spiritual life.

What is that? What can we do? Begin with repentance. Acknowledge before God that our congregational worship habits and thinking are sinful. Ask God for Jesus' sake to forgive us. Plead for God to help us stop this and reverse this trend. Not just as a congregation either, but each and every believing child of God needs to prayerfully and humbly evaluate his or her worship life and attitude. Reasons for not worshiping may sound good and valid to you. You might be able to convince someone else. But stand before your holy and all-knowing God and explain to him, "I'm not worshiping you because _____. I'm staying away from your holy supper because _____." Honestly, how well will those reasons stand up?

People of God, Worship is not optional. Regular in-person worship with fellow believers is vital to spiritual health. Being able to come together to pray, praise, and give thanks is an amazing gift of God's grace. *Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy.* What does that mean? *That we fear and love God that we do not despise preaching and his word, but regard it as holy, and gladly hear and learn it.*

Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing but let us encourage one another and all the more as we see the day approaching. (Hebrews 10:25)



Men's Breakfast & Study Club

Meeting on the Third Saturday of the month,
Beginning on Saturday, April 15th.

We will meet in the Lower Level at St. John's, Montello.

8:00-10:00 AM

We will enjoy breakfast, fellowship and have a topical study on
hard-hitting subjects such as:



BEING A GODLY
HUSBAND &
FATHER



Sexual Purity



**SLAYING
MONSTERS**



Christian Manhood
in a
Feminized Culture

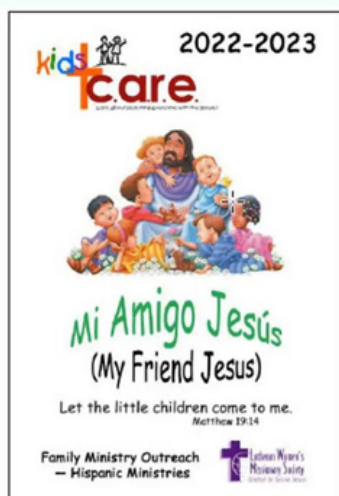


See you there!!!

Free will offering will be taken.

What has Sunday School been up to this year?

It's a Fruit of the Spirit Year! SSers have studied a series of special lessons on the Fruits of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22-23. *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law."* We learned how the Spirit enables us to use each gift in service to God. Coming in April: The SSers will be singing a medley of fruit of the Spirit songs!



"God Is Love" and we're sharing it by serving! Our monthly service projects helped us follow this year's SS theme and share God's love with our church family, our community, and beyond. We are learning that even kids can serve!

Sunday Schoolers supported the LWMS Kids C.A.R.E. mission project, **Mi Amigo Jesus, Hispanic Family Outreach**. Our offerings to date are close to \$400. Added to CALA's first semester gifts to this project, the Giving Thermometer for this mission project is over \$1,000!

Cross Necklaces for the Central Africa Medical Mission. SSers crafted about 50 necklaces to help the women of the Lutheran Women's Mission Society. The necklaces are sent to Africa where the CAMM nurses give them away to their patients.

Marquette County Giving Tree SSers sponsored a child this past Christmas. With generous offerings from our SS families, one little boy enjoyed a very Merry Christmas full of dinosaurs and Hot Wheels, plus a Christmas Story book and a beginner Bible.



Shut-In Pen Pal Project Our 11 St. John's SSers have been corresponding with our 30 St. John's shut-ins each month since last October. The kids introduced themselves with their picture and a simple note about themselves and their families. Mailings have included such things as drawings, coloring/paint projects, ornaments, devotions, and adult activity pages. It's been a fun project, especially when the SSers receive return mail from their penpals!

Craft Mass Production! Altogether the 11 SSers "mass produced" 160 Valentine crafts: 40 for Care Center residents, 30 for their St. John's penpals, and 90 for the **Marquette County Meals on Wheels program**.

Singing Valentine delivered to the Montello Care Center In February SSers and

some of their family members delivered homemade valentines door-to-door at the Montello Care Center and then presented a half-hour program of songs and scripture about God's love for us and our love for Him. The residents are always so happy to have us come! Each SS year we try to visit during a different church or holiday season.

Hope House of Marquette County was our most recent service project. SS families collected \$100 to purchase gas cards and donated useful items on their wishlist. This local agency serves people who are victims of abuse.

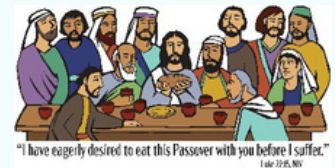
Sunday School Children Sample a Seder Meal



During one of their lessons in March, Sunday Schoolers sampled a seder meal like the one eaten by the Israelites on the eve of their escape from bondage in Egypt. Pharoah, unphased by the power of the God he did not know or care about, refused to let the people go despite 9 plagues sent against the Egyptian people and their land. The 10th and most deadly plague would force Pharoah to let the people go.

Following God's instructions, Moses readied the Israelites. The night before their exodus from Egypt, each Hebrew family slaughtered a spotless lamb, marked their doorpost with the blood, and ate their final meal in Egypt-- *roasted lamb, bitter herbs, and unleavened bread*. While

they ate their meal, the angel of death *passed over* their homes protected by the blood of the lamb, but in each Egyptian home, including Pharoah's, death claimed any first-born child or adult. Loathing the very sight of Moses and the Israelites, Pharoah mourned the loss of his own son and let the people go! *That hurried meal became the Passover meal that God's people celebrated annually to remember God's mighty deliverance from Pharoah*. It was the meal Jesus and his disciples celebrated in the upper room when he also shared *the first Lord's Supper—his body and blood, the bread and wine—the special meal which we celebrate often to remember God's mighty deliverance from our sin*.



Preston

Anna

Natasha

Grant

Not Pictured:

Xzander



Molly

Annalyse

Jaxon

Wally

Not Pictured

Trenton

Wesley



Our crack crew scours the Tribune each week looking for our members in the news. If someone is missed - apologies - we may miss some once in a while. Let us know.

It was CTE month at the high school. That stands for Careers and Technology Education. It's a great chance for our local young folks and their families to do some thinking about the future. The camera caught Joe Vote and parents a couple of times checking out information. On the other side of the table we saw Christa Van Treeck, the 4-H Youth Development Educator, offering some good stuff.

Haiden Van Treeck will be the starting catcher for the JV baseball team of our synod ministry training prep school- Watertown Luther Prep. And yes, that was Joe Vote again, standing tall in the end of the season MHS basketball team photo.



FFA is a huge part of our communities, and our families are very active. Brody Henke participated in the FFA Speakers Contest and was part of the 3rd place quiz bowl team. Olivia Zuehls was a FFA representative at a Farm Bureau Conference. Olivia was also busy as one of our high school's top students participating on the MHS Academic Bowl Team. She also was part of an event working with local 4th graders called Kids Dig Wisconsin Potatoes.

Josh Schwochert again showed off his skills in the fine arts, snagging a role in the high school production of Sister Act.

It didn't make the Tribune, but our Joey Zauner has joined a long line of Mecan/Montello students to enroll at Winnebago Lutheran Academy in Fond du Lac.

The East Side Cemetery Board of Directors held their annual meeting recently. The all-St. John's member board includes, Terri, Ben, and Jake Jaster, Pastor John Dolan, Glen Bubolz (representing the Montello Township Board), and Jon Vote.

Did you know that the last three Montello fire chiefs were from St. John's - the late Wally Bubolz, then Glen Bubolz, and now current chief Jon Vote. Other congregation members serve as well. The local crew participated in a charity dodgeball event, but since they were wearing their full gear while playing, our eagle eyes could not tell who was who.



A Thai Village Craft Sale is coming soon to St. John's-Montello!! April 9 – May 14

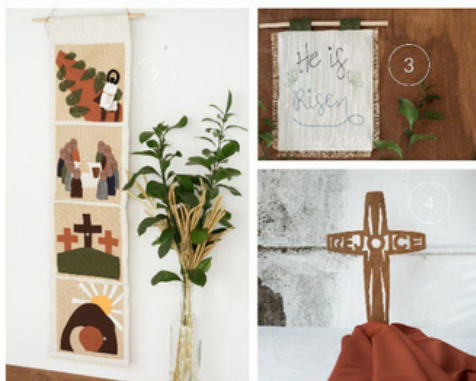
**CALA & Little Lambs families
are bringing Thai Village crafts to our church
in support of their current Mission Project**



Little Lambs in Montello and our 2 campuses of CALA have been supporting this mission with their weekly chapel offerings during the second semester. Now, as an additional support to the mission, they will be hosting a Thai Village Spring Craft Sale during the Easter, confirmation, and Mother's Day seasons.

Thai Village Inc. is a non-profit organization associated with our WELS mission in Thailand and started with assistance from WELS Kingdom Workers. Their goal is to develop long-term Christian relationships with artisans (crafters), and to encourage self-sufficiency for low-income people, by providing opportunities for vocational training and Christian education, and by creating opportunities to share God's love in community. This is all made possible by not-for-profit craft sales, which provide 60% of their needed annual funding. Thai Village produces a large variety of unique handmade jewelry, personal accessories, stationery, home décor, and seasonal items. See the next page for pictures of some of their products or visit their [website](https://thaivillage.org/)

<https://thaivillage.org/>



Thai Village Easter Products



Hallelujah Bunting \$15



Karen Loose Weave Infinity Scarf \$20



Welcome Banner \$16



Wooden Folding Easter Scene \$16



Quilted Clutch Bag \$14

1. Wooden Rising Easter Sun \$20
2. Interactive Fabric Holy Week Scene \$30
3. He Is Risen Banner \$14
3. Wooden Rejoice Cross \$20



Thai Village Easter Products



1. Welcome Banner \$16
2. Karen Loose Weave Infinity Scarf \$20
3. Wooden Folding Easter Scene \$16
4. Quilted Clutch Bag \$14
5. Wooden Rejoice Cross \$20
6. Wooden Rising Easter Sun \$20
7. Hallelujah Bunting \$15
8. Interactive Fabric Holy Week Scene \$30
- 9 He Is Risen Banner \$14



Visit our display.

Enjoy shopping for some beautiful products and help us support Thai Village mission!!

APRIL 2023 CHURCH CALENDAR

Sun Emmanuel 8:00am St. John's 10:00am	Mon Choir 6:30pm Bible Class 7:30pm	Tue	Wed Bible Class 10:30am Catechism 3:30pm	Thu GriefShare 6pm	Fri	Sat St. John's 4:30pm
						1 Easter Fest 9am
2 Palm/Passion Sunday	3 Hands in Prayer Meeting 3:30pm	4 Elder's Meeting 9:00am	5	6 Ladies Aid Dessert And meeting. Noon HOLY THURSDAY Emmanuel 6:30pm	7 GOOD FRIDAY St. John's 1:00 pm	8 
9 EASTER SUNDAY 	10 NO SCHOOL	11	12 Care Center Devotion 10:00 am	13	14	15 Men's Breakfast & Study Club 8:00am
16	17 Pastor's Conference Markesan	18 St. John's Council meeting 6:30 pm	19	20	21	22 
23 	24	25	26 Care Center Devotion 10:00 am	27	28	29
30 WLA Leads Worship Youth Group at Princeton 4:00 pm						

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FIND & LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.STJOHNSMONTELLO.ORG

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EMAIL: ZIETLOWPL6@HOTMAIL.COM

PRINCIPAL & 6-8 GRADE TEACHER: LARRY SELLNOW: 616-822-6689
EMAIL: PRINCIPAL@CHRISTALONELUTHERANACADEMY.NET

3-5 GRADE TEACHER: KATLYNN TINDALL: 262-352-7021

1-2 GRADE TEACHER: SHELLEY MYERS: 920-285-7554

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER: LYNN SELLNOW: 616-826-0816

LITTLE LAMBS DIRECTOR: BARBARA STELTER: 816-853-9029

CALA SECRETARY/OFFICE: CIARA NEUHAUSER: 920-481-9002

CHURCH OFFICE: MATTHEW KATH 608-297-2866/608-494-0167

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