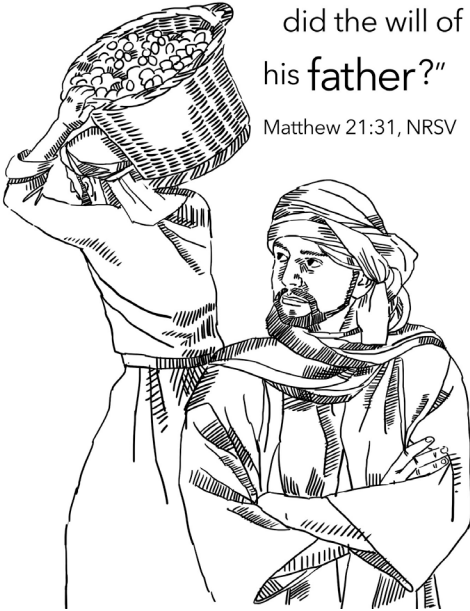


**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost:  
TELL US A STORY:  
A STORY OF SPIRITUAL INSINCERITY**

"Which of the two  
did the will of  
his father?"

Matthew 21:31, NRSV



Pastor Zietlow's Sermon:  
Matthew 21:23-32  
"Which Of The Sons Are You?"

**WELCOME! WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!**

We pray that you find comfort, peace, and motivation through God's Word today. In our worship bulletin, you will find an outline of **today's order of worship**. The entire service can be found in the hymnal, up on the screen on Sunday at St. John's and Emmanuel and livestreamed at [www.stjohnsmontello.org](http://www.stjohnsmontello.org) and also at St. John's in the Lower Level. At St. John's, the **restrooms** are located in the link way, out the church entry way, to the left and down the stairs. At Emmanuel, they are located in the Parish Hall. You may also find a **nursery changing station** in the lower level of St. John's.

**ST. JOHN'S & EMMANUEL LUTHERAN  
CHURCHES**

September 30<sup>th</sup> & October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

## **SERIES THEME TELL US A STORY**

Much of what Jesus has to say to you and me is contained within his parables. Parables are simple little stories that contain profound truths about life and eternity. For the believer, a parable takes a challenging spiritual fact and makes it clear. However, since the parable conveys spiritual truth, for someone without faith, the story remains only that—a story. Therefore, our prayer for this worship series is that Christ would send us his Holy Spirit, so that we might receive the peace and power Jesus offers us in his parables. Tell us a story, Jesus!

## **THEME OF THE DAY: A STORY OF SPIRITUAL INSINCERITY**

You have maybe heard the accusation or perhaps even made it yourself: "He's so fake!" That charge claims someone's friendliness or kindness is a sham. Such insincerity bothers us. We would generally rather someone be honest about how they feel about us than be fake. Through a story Jesus teaches us that God feels the same. God doesn't want us to simply go through religious motions like some sort of show. He sees right through that. God's desire is that our repentance would demonstrate sincere sorrow over sin. God wants us to see the grace and forgiveness he has shown us in Christ, and in response, to love him back deeply and sincerely.

**ORDER OF SERVICE:** Setting Two, Hymnal Pages 172-182, 171

**HYMNS:** 655, 547, 696 (Hymns also posted on the screen)

**PSALM:** Psalm 25 "To You, O LORD, I Lift My Soul"

**SERMON:** Matthew 21:23-32 "Which Of The Sons Are You?"

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** Sunday at St. John's: CALA 3-8 sing "Seek Ye First" before  
Opening Hymn

**OPENING HYMN:** 655 "Before You, God, the Judge of All"

**ORDER OF SERVICE:** Hymnal page 172 (also on the screen)

**FIRST READING:** Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

(The prophet Ezekiel gives a strong warning to Christians who have grown dismissive of their sin. God wants sincere repentance that leads to true obedience.)

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>"What do you people mean by quoting this proverb about the land of Israel: "The parents eat sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set

on edge'? <sup>3</sup>"As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, you will no longer quote this proverb in Israel. <sup>4</sup>For everyone belongs to me, the parent as well as the child—both alike belong to me. The one who sins is the one who will die. <sup>25</sup>"Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Hear, you Israelites: Is my way unjust? Is it not your ways that are unjust? <sup>26</sup>If a righteous person turns from their righteousness and commits sin, they will die for it; because of the sin they have committed they will die. <sup>27</sup>But if a wicked person turns away from the wickedness they have committed and does what is just and right, they will save their life. <sup>28</sup>Because they consider all the offenses they have committed and turn away from them, that person will surely live; they will not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the Israelites say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Are my ways unjust, people of Israel? Is it not your ways that are unjust? <sup>30</sup>"Therefore, you Israelites, I will judge each of you according to your own ways, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. <sup>31</sup>Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, people of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!

**PSALM:** Psalm 25 "To You, O LORD, I Lift My Soul"

**SECOND READING:** Philippians 2:1–11

(Moved by Christ's love and empowered by the Spirit, we sincerely attempt to imitate the selflessness and humility of Jesus.)

<sup>1</sup>Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, <sup>2</sup>then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup>not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. <sup>5</sup>In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup>Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; <sup>7</sup>rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! <sup>9</sup>Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

## Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 51:17



### Refrain



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

### Tone



My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spir - it;



a broken and contrite heart you will not de - spise.

*Refrain*

Tune: © 2010 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 722228

## **GOSPEL:** Matthew 21:23-32 (Sermon Text)

(Through a story Jesus teaches that sincere love for God involves not just saying what God wants to hear but doing what God wants done.)

<sup>23</sup>Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. "By what authority are you doing these things?" they asked. "And who gave you this authority?" <sup>24</sup>Jesus replied, "I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>25</sup>John's baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?" They discussed it among themselves and said, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will ask, 'Then why didn't you believe him?' <sup>26</sup>But if we say, 'Of human origin'—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet." <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, "We don't know." Then he said, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup>"What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.' <sup>29</sup>" 'I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>"Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>"Which of the two did what his father wanted?" "The first," they answered. Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to

you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** 547 "At The Name of Jesus"

**SERMON:** Matthew 21:23-32 "Which Of The Sons Are You?"

**APOSTLES CREED:** Hymnal Page 181

**PRAYER FOR GRACE TO SERVE & INTERCESSORY PRAYERS**

**OFFERING AND PRAYER**

**CLOSING HYMN:** 696 "Take My Life and Let It Be"

WELS Connection to follow after Sunday Worship announcements.

### ***MEDITATIONS*** Daily Devotional This Week

We are back to the first gospel, *Matthew*, this week. If you haven't started using these meditations, you can still grab a copy. "Repent and Live" sums up the point Jesus is making. It's an interesting lesson! Check it out.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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## INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

- For the sick and others facing trials, including: Gale "Blackie" Boyd, Bob Buehrens, Michael Cox (Marjorie Fabian's brother), Vicki Davis (Marilyn Riemer's sister), Edith Duesterhoeft, Reinold Eckelberg, Ken Elmer (Sally's husband), Earl Ewert, Judy Fandrey, John Gaedke (Dan Finger's uncle), Donna Gatzke, Dennis Gray (Mary Dahlke's brother), Dennis Gromowski (Josh's father, Harvey Rudolph's neighbor), Kelleen Grucza (Judy Fandrey's daughter), Kim Hanko (Judy Fandrey's daughter), Del Henke, Drake Hunter, Jerry & Darlene Hunter (Bonnie Chapman's parents), Xzander Jahr, Kris Kemp (Diane Hintz' daughter), Bob Klapper, Dale Kozlowski, Jeff Krueger (Diane Hintz's son), Debbie & Steve Parrish, Darlene Phillips (Ken Elmer's mother), Melissa Prater, Karen Radke, Roxanne Schmanke, Eloise Schultz, Bob Sluga (Sherry's husband), Annette St. Onge, Amanda Stalker, Tom Stempniak, Dominick Thoman (the father of Janessa Roberts, Harvey Rudolph's neighbor), Betty, James, & Suzanne Weber, Paul Weldon, Willie Wollschlager (Dustin's father) (added this week: \_\_)
- For our St. John's member Beth Johnson who celebrated her 94th birthday on Wednesday (9/27)
- For our Emmanuel members Don & Eileen Ebert who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Friday (9/29)
- For those straying from the church

Don & Eileen Ebert have generously donated \$100 to CALA in honor of their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary which was September 29<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations and Thank You!

### SAVE THE DATE

**Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> 9:00AM:** Tot Time at St. John's

**Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> 8:00AM:** Men's Breakfast & Study Club at St. John's

**Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 6:30PM:** St. John's Council Meeting

**Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> 11:00AM:** Evangelism Meeting at St. John's

**Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>:** Trunk or Treat at St. John's

**Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup> & Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>:** Teachers' Conference

NO SHCOOL

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## This Week: October 1-7, 2023

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost TELL US A STORY: A STORY OF SPIRITUAL  
INSINCERITY

Today	11:00 a.m.	SJ Voters' Meeting
Monday	3:30 p.m.	HIP Meeting SJ
	6:30 p.m.	Adult Choir SJ
	7:30 p.m.	<b>NO</b> Adult Bible Study SJ
Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	CALA Board Meeting Princeton
Wednesday	10:30 a.m.	<b>NO</b> Bible Study SJ
	3:45 p.m.	<b>NO</b> Public-School Catechism SJ
Thursday	Noon	Ladies Aid Dessert and Meeting SJ
	4:30 p.m.	Board of Education Meeting SJ
	6:00 p.m.	GriefShare SJ
Saturday	4:30 p.m.	St. John's Worship with Communion

## Next Sunday: October 8, 2023

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost TELL US A STORY: A STORY OF RECKLESS PATIENCE

8:00 a.m.	Emmanuel Worship with Communion
8:30 a.m.	St. John's Sunday School
8:45 a.m.	Adult Bible Study St. John's
9:00 a.m.	Adult Bible Study Emmanuel
10:00 a.m.	St. John's Worship with Communion

ACH Deposits*	Plate Offerings	Total Offerings	Budget Needs	August Expenses	Year to Date Offerings	Year to Date Expenses
\$4891.71	\$14218.00	\$19109.71	\$33939.58	\$27696.22	\$53859.09	63154.62

\*ACH Deposits are the offerings made online or via direct withdrawal.

*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. **2 Corinthians 9:7***

### Attendance

Date	EM	SJ
9/23/23	-	16
9/24/23	55	71

# Save the date!

All things fun and fall-like are coming once again for you at  
St. John's Lutheran annual

**Trunk or Treat Festival on Wednesday, October 25, starting  
at 4:00 pm.**

We would love to have you join us as we celebrate fall with our theme:  
**Jesus Walks with Me!**

What can you expect at this event?

- A fun, safe way to trick or treat at our trunks!
  - Costume contest
  - Pumpkin Decorating and Carving
- Indoor activities such as a FREE MEAL and pumpkin pounding
  - Fun for all ages!!!

## Rain or Shine, Come Join Us!

For more information contact St. John's Office @ 608-297-  
2866

The Evangelism Team is asking for donations of apples and apple sauce pouches for the upcoming Trunk or Treat on Wednesday, October 25th. Please drop them off at Church between the dates of October 14-24. Thank You! Any questions contact Matt at the office [scsecretary@stjohnsmontello.org](mailto:scsecretary@stjohnsmontello.org) or 608-297-2899/608-494-0167.



The Ladies Aid is going to be cleaning the refrigerators and freezers in the St. John's Lower Level. **PLEASE, if you have anything in them, label them with a date, or remove them by Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>.** Thank You.



**SUBSTITUTE SCHOOL CUSTODIAN NEEDED!**

For roughly 2 weeks in mid-late November, the Montello school campus is searching for a custodian willing to fill in for Jackie as she will be out of town temporarily. If you are interested or need more details on the job itself, please call the school office 920-481-9002 or email [secretary@crystalonelutheranacademy.net](mailto:secretary@crystalonelutheranacademy.net). Thank you for your willingness to serve!

**ST. JOHN'S USHER'S SCHEDULE**

Saturday 9/30/23 & Sunday 10/1//23	Saturday 10/7/23 & Sunday 10/8/23
Jerre Duerr, Joe Zauner, Sr. Gordon Krause, Kevin Kaul, Corey Kaul	Ben Jaster, Jacob Jaster, Matt Neuhauser, Jeff Reimer, Mark Emond

# SCHOOL TUTORS NEEDED!

A B C



## PRINCETON & MONTELLO CAMPUSES!

- ✓ Likes Working With Children
- ✓ Flexible On Schedule
- ✓ Over 18 Years Old



If this interests you, please give the school office a call: 920-481-9002. We would like to start ASAP.

A Volunteer Application and background check will need to be completed. Stop by the office to grab a copy or find it on our website: [www.christalonelutheranacademy.net](http://www.christalonelutheranacademy.net)



**LWMS FALL RALLY at Good Shepherd, Beaver Dam, on SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21.** *Have you ever wondered what we do at an LWMS mission rally? CHEER! That's right! LWMS women are the cheerleaders for WELS missions! Our entire rally focuses on missionaries and our WELS home & world missions and how we can help with our prayers, encouragement, & gifts! Featured speaker Professor John Brug will update us on our sister synod in Ukraine by exploring the history leading to the present crisis and sharing its impact on the church. PLAN TO ATTEND! Register at 9:30 a.m. Enjoy morning refreshments, mission displays, and "lend us your hand" to create an encouragement poster for our Befriended mission, East Fork Lutheran School, Whiteriver, Arizona. Service Project: Bring monetary gifts to the rally to help East Fork purchase needed technology & physical education items. Bible study 10:25 a.m. Business Meeting 11:10 a.m. Lunch 12:00 noon. Devotion/Speaker 12:55 p.m. Come for the whole day or just part of it! Anyone with a heart for missions—women, men, even kids—all are invited! Car pool signup in the Information Room or contact your LWMS reporter: Helen Stelter 608-297-7116 or Linda Wachholz 608-369-2635.*

**TENTATIVE BEAVER DAM CIRCUIT BUS TRIP TO LWMS CONVENTION IN SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA, June 26-30, 2024** INTERESTED? A preliminary quote from Son Shine Travelers in Beaver Dam includes: **1)** Motor Coach transportation; pickup points to be determined. **2)** 4 nights lodging with breakfast at the hotel each morning; DEPART: Wednesday, June 26, (Leaving on Wednesday allows you to participate in the convention tours or mission journey opportunities on Thursday morning.) RETURN: Sunday, June 30. **3)** Transportation to and from the hotel and convention center each day. **4)** Cost *per person* (based on a 26- person minimum): \$750 for Single hotel occupancy; \$460 per person for Double hotel occupancy; \$365 per person for Triple hotel occupancy; \$315 per person for Quad hotel occupancy. If interested, please sign up on the sheet located at St. John's linkway display or in the fellowship hall at Emmanuel or contact Reporter Helen Stelter 608-297-7116 or Linda Wachholz 608-369-2635, [lwsreporter@stjohnsmontello.org](mailto:lwsreporter@stjohnsmontello.org) If you sign, you will be kept informed.

Never been to a convention? The Beaver Dam Circuit of LWMS will help you get there by assisting you with expenses! SOS applications are available in the Information Room at St. John's, or from your church's LWMS reporter. **Who can apply for SOS funds?"** Any confirmed woman or teen at St. John's or Emmanuel is eligible to apply for SOS funds due to our congregational memberships in the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society. All who apply will receive *some* financial assistance. **Application deadline: Monday, January 15, 2024**

**TODAY IS THE FINAL DAY FOR COLLECTING FALL MISSION OFFERINGS. Have you given your gift yet?** Our supported projects count on us. Collection container in the church entrance. *Be a friend to missions*

**Church Council News:**

- The Joint Emmanuel and St. John's Church Councils met for their Joint Meeting Tuesday, Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>. At the meeting, there was discussion of the calling of a second Pastor/primary replacement Pastor, or possibly putting that on hold until July of 2024. There was also discussion and clarification about the possible calling of CALA Mission Pastor. Pastor John Stelter from Princeton was at the Joint meeting and made key points as to what the Mission Pastor would be doing for the congregations of Emmanuel, St. John's Montello, and St. John's Princeton. The Mission Pastor's role would focus on ministering to the student families and possibly conducting services on occasion at all three parishes. This position would not fulfil the need for a parish Pastor to replace Pastor Zietlow when he retires. There was also discussion regarding the possibility of future consolidation of area churches.
- At the St. John's Council meeting, the updated By-laws were distributed and will be presented to the Voters at the upcoming meeting for them to ratify.
- There is a Stewardship Committee being formed to encourage the congregation to use their time, talents, and treasures to Glorify God through serving in the church. Members for that committee are needed. If you are able and willing to help serve on that committee, please contact Jerre Duerr, Martin Schmanke, Pastor John Dolan, or Matthew Kath.
- At the St. John's Council Meeting, Jacob Jaster went over the maintenance projects that were done, as well as what is still needed to be done. Some of the projects needed to get done are costly, but necessary.

## SINGING SCHEDULE:

10/8/23	Adult Choir	Emmanuel
10/8/23	Sun. School	SJ Montello
10/15/23	LL-2	SJ <u>PRINCETON</u>
10/29/23	Adult Choir	Emmanuel & SJ Montello
10/29/23	Sun. School	SJ Montello

### **Luther Preparatory School Fall Play**

Luther Preparatory School presents *The Kingdom Hath Talent*, a comedic tale in which a young adventurous prince must find his bride from a lineup of talent show contestants. Performances are Saturday, October 21 at 7:00 PM and Sunday, October 22 at 2:30 PM in the Luther Prep Auditorium. Find more information and purchase advance tickets at [lps.wels.net/apps/pages/fallplay](https://lps.wels.net/apps/pages/fallplay).



SAVE THE DATE:

**OCTOBER 21 & 22**



The students of

**LUTHER PREP**

hope to see you there!





## **MENS' BREAKFAST & STUDY CLUB**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21ST 8AM  
LOWER LEVEL ST. JOHN'S**

### **TOPIC:**

**“Help! We’re Running Out Of  
Germans” by Pastor Mark  
Jaske**

**If you plan to attend, please contact Matt Kath at  
[scsecretary@stjohnsmontello.org](mailto:scsecretary@stjohnsmontello.org) or text 608-494-0167  
so that we know how much food to prepare.**

**GRIEF SHARE**

**Green Lake: Mondays 6:00pm**

**Princeton: Tuesdays 6:00pm**

**Montello: Thursdays 6:00pm**

**Please text Mark at 608-697-1600 for  
information and if you plan to attend.**



# Tot time



**WHERE:**  
St. John's  
Lutheran  
Montello

Fun, educational  
activities for  
parents and children  
surrounded  
with Jesus' love.

**WHEN:**  
Monthly  
Announced  
Saturdays  
Sessions

**PARENT/CHILD  
ACTIVITIES:**

Singing  
Bible Story  
Snack  
Play

**Ages 2-5**

**NEXT SESSION:**

Saturday  
Oct. 14 @ 9am

*Proudly supported by  
St. John's Lutheran Church, Montello*

**QUESTIONS?** Lynn Sellnow [lynnsellnow@christalonelutheranacademy.net](mailto:lynnsellnow@christalonelutheranacademy.net)/616-826-0816

## ***Help us stay in touch!***

*Scan the code below using your smartphone camera and fill out the prompted information. Don't have a smartphone? That's ok! Fill out an attendance card located at the end of each pew and place it in the offering plate located at the entry of each church.*



**Welcome to our visitors!**

**Find & Like us on Facebook**

**Visit our website:** [www.stjohnsmontello.org](http://www.stjohnsmontello.org)

**Pastor Pete Zietlow:** 608-408-7830, **Email:** [zietlowPL6@hotmail.com](mailto:zietlowPL6@hotmail.com)

**Principal & 6-8 Grade Teacher:** Larry Sellnow: 616-822-6689

**Email:** [principal@crystalonelutheranacademy.net](mailto:principal@crystalonelutheranacademy.net)

**3-5 Grade Teacher:** Beth Barenz: 262-705-5312

**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

**Church/School Address:** 313 E Montello St. Montello, WI 53949

**Church Email:** [scsecretary@stjohnsmontello.org](mailto:scsecretary@stjohnsmontello.org)

**School Email:** [secretary@crystalonelutheranacademy.net](mailto:secretary@crystalonelutheranacademy.net)