



...how often should
I forgive?
"Not SEVEN times,
but, I tell you,
SEVENTY-
SEVEN
times."

Matthew 18:21-22, NRSV

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost:
**THE CHURCH GOD WANTS:
A CHURCH THAT'S QUICK TO FORGIVE**

Pastor Zietlow's Sermon:
Matthew 18:21-35 "The Forgiven Forgive"

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 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 17th, 2023

SERIES THEME: THE CHURCH GOD WANTS

"I want a church that..." How would you complete that statement? Would you focus on size—big or small? Would you think more about style—formal versus laid back? Is it certain desired church programs that come to mind? What exactly do you want in a church? In this worship series, we see that that is not the right question. Scripture says Jesus bought the Church with his blood. So, the right question then becomes: what does God want in a church? You might find a church that runs all the youth programs you want or has a vibe that you enjoy or is in your ideal location. But if that church is not doing what Christ wants it do, then it really is not a spiritually healthy place to be. So, let us think about the church God wants. What does it look like? What are its priorities? What does it all do?

THEME OF THE DAY: A CHURCH THAT'S QUICK TO FORGIVE

"Pay it forward." That phrase means that when someone does something for you, instead of paying that person back directly, you pass along kindness to another person instead. Doing something kind for someone else is a way of thanking the person who originally did something kind for you. Today God applies that concept to forgiveness. God forgave our countless sins. He was willing to pay an incomprehensible price—the death of his Son. Obviously, we will never have occasion do the same for God. We will never have to forgive God because everything he does for us shows perfect love and care. God never wrongs us. But others may do us wrong. Others may cause us pain. And when we are quick to forgive, it is one way we thank God for being so quick to forgive us. This is what God wants in his Church—people who, like him, are quick to forgive.

ORDER OF SERVICE: Setting One, Hymnal Pages 154-164, 171

HYMNS: 579, 587, 731 (Hymns also posted on the screen)

PSALM: Psalm 103 "The LORD IS Kind and Merciful"

SERMON: Matthew 18:21-35 "The Forgiven Forgive"

SPECIAL MUSIC: Sunday at Emmanuel & St. John's: Choir sings "How Firm a Foundation" before Opening Hymn

OPENING HYMN: 579 "His Mercy Is More"

ORDER OF SERVICE: Hymnal page 154 (also on the screen)

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15–21

(Joseph's brothers had treated him badly. Joseph was quick to forgive them and free them from the prison of their past.)

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" ¹⁶So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: ¹⁷This is what you are to say to

Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept. ¹⁸His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said. ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

PSALM 103 "The LORD IS Kind and Merciful"

SECOND READING: Ephesians 4:29—5:2

(St. Paul teaches that kindness, compassion, and forgiveness are marks of God's Church.)

²⁹Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³²Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

¹Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children ²and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Colossians 3:13

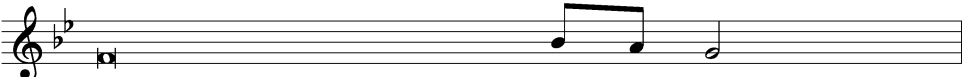


Refrain



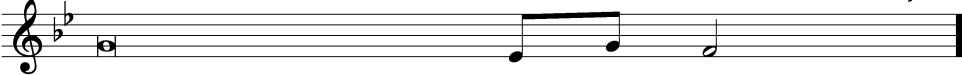
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone



Bear with each other and forgive one an - oth - er.

Refrain



Forgive as the Lord for - gave you.

Tune: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 722228

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21–35 (Sermon Text)

(Through a parable Jesus teaches that the ability to forgive others comes when the Spirit enables us to understand how much God has forgiven us.)

²¹Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" ²²Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³"Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. ²⁶"At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' ²⁷The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. ²⁸"But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. ²⁹"His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.' ³⁰"But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. ³²"Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' ³⁴In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. ³⁵"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

HYMN OF THE DAY: 587 "Come Down, O Love Divine" *On Sunday at Emmanuel and St. John's The Choir will sing the first verse. *

SERMON: Matthew 18:21-35 "The Forgiven Forgive"

APOSTLE'S CREED: Hymnal Page 163

PRAYER TO SEE PEOPLE THROUGH JESUS' EYES AND INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

OFFERING AND PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: 731 "Oh, How Good It Is"

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, Tom Stempniak, DuWayne Sommerfeld, Harvey Rudolph's neighbor), Dominick Thoman (the father of Janessa Roberts, Harvey Rudolph's neighbor), Betty, James, & Suzanne Weber, Paul Weldon, Willie Wollschlager (our prospective SJ member Dustin's father, (added this week: Darlene Phillips)

- For Befriend A Missionary Pastor Ben & Becca Berger serving at Ascension Lutheran Church-- Harrisburg, PA

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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ST. JOHN'S QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING

SUNDAY OCTOBER 1ST at 11:00am (following Worship) there will be a very important Quarterly Voters' Meeting. Many topics of vital importance to St. John's will be discussed and voted on. Some of these topics are: The Ratification of the updated Bylaws, and whether or not to call a Second Pastor and/or a CALA Mission Pastor. These are very important decisions that need to be made, please attend, and participate in the meeting. YOUR VOICE MATTERS!!!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week: September 17-23, 2023

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost:

THE CHURCH GOD WANTS: A CHURCH THAT'S QUICK TO FORGIVE

Monday	6:30 p.m.	Adult Choir SJ
	7:30 p.m.	Adult Bible Study SJ
Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	Joint Council Meeting EM
	7:30 p.m.	SJ Council Meeting
Thursday	6:30 p.m.	GriefShare SJ
Saturday	4:30 p.m.	St. John's Worship with Communion

Next Sunday: September 24, 2023

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost TELL US A STORY: A STORY OF PERPLEXING GENEROSITY

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
10:00 a.m.	St. John's Worship with Communion Sunday School Sings
11:00 a.m.	Ladies Aid Pie Social

ACH Deposits*	Plate Offerings	Total Offerings	Budget Needs	August Expenses
\$4891.71	\$14218.00	\$19109.71	\$33939.58	\$27696.22

*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***

MEDITATIONS Daily Devotional This Week

It's back to the Old Testament this week and the first book of the Bible, Genesis. Joseph knows about forgiveness - learned the hard way. The week's theme, "Divine Forgiveness" can help us review and remember this easily taken for granted act of God. Forgiveness and Joseph's famous descendant, Jesus, go hand in hand.

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, September 26th 6:30PM: Worship Meeting

Sunday, October 1st 11:00AM: ST. JOHN'S VOTER'S MEETING (SEE PAGE 5)

Monday, October 2nd 3:30PM: Hands in Prayer Meeting at St. John's.

Tuesday, October 3rd 9:00AM: Joint Elder's Meeting

Thursday, October 5th NOON: Ladies' Aid Dessert and Meeting at St. John's

Tuesday, October 17th 6:30PM: St. John's Council Meeting

The St. John's Ladies Aid is going to clean the fridges and freezers in the basement kitchen. Please, if you have anything in there, **label it**, or remove it so it doesn't get thrown out. The freezers are full, and hardly anything is labeled. There are things in there that have been there for a while. Please, help the Ladies Aid, and your fellow church members, by labeling or removing things from the church basement freezers and fridges. Thank you so much.

ST. JOHN'S USHER'S SCHEDULE

Saturday 9/23/23 & Sunday 9/24/23	Saturday 9/30/23 & Sunday 10/1/23
Paul Van Treek, Matt Borzick, Ken Borzick, James Henke, Hidden Van Teek, Nolan Van Treek, Bridy Henke, Milo Henke	Jerre Duerr, Joe Zauner, Sr. Gordon Krause, Kevin Kaul, Corey Kaul

ST. JOHN'S SCREEN SCHEDULE

Sunday 9/24/23	Sunday 10/1/23
The Henke Family	The Kath Family

ST. JOHN'S SUNDAY MORNING

GRAND THEMES AND KEY WORDS BIBLE STUDIES

<u>9/17/23</u>	<u>9/24/23</u>
Retribution and Restitution	Tithes and Firstfruits

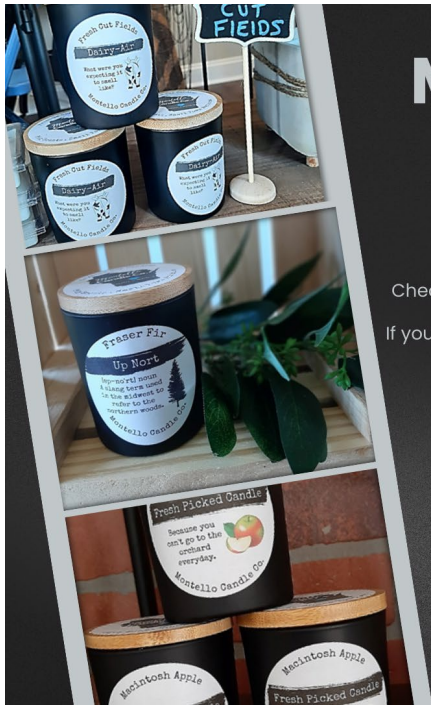
LWMS FALL RALLY at Good Shepherd, Beaver Dam, on SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21.

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.

SEND ONE SISTER (SOS) PIE & ICE CREAM SOCIAL Come celebrate Befriend A Mission Month with the women of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society on **Sunday, September 24**, in the lower level following church. Enjoy pie before lunch!! Your **freewill offering will help women who apply for SOS funds to attend their first LWMS Convention, by assisting them with registration, meals, and lodging expenses for the 61st LWMS Convention, coming in Summer 2024 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.** Help us send first-time attendees to the LWMS International Convention to hear firsthand about God's amazing work in our WELS home & world missions! It could be YOU, Ladies!

Who can apply for SOS funds? Any confirmed woman or girl at St. John's or Emmanuel is eligible to apply for SOS funds due to our congregational memberships in LWMS. All who apply will receive *some* financial assistance! SOS applications will be available at the Social, in the Information Room, or anytime from Reporter Linda Wachholz (608-369-2635) or Reporter Helen Stelter (608-297-7116). **Application Deadline: Monday, January 15, 2024.**

Note: Christa Van Treeck received SOS funds to attend the 2023 Convention in LaCrosse this past June. Ask her about her experience!



MONTELLO CANDLE CO. SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

Sept. 8 - Sept. 22

Check out ALL the scents (autumn and winter ,too!) to choose from on the next page! If you want to see more the hilarious candle sayings, check out their Facebook page.

Please submit all orders BY SEPT. 22!

No late orders will be accepted.
All proceeds go towards CALA athletics.

We have a CALA candle!
"May all the peoples praise you, O God!"
Psalm 67:3

ONLY \$13!



Why



● **No Generic Labels**

Every label is infused with Wisconsin humor that makes it more personal!

● **No typical containers**

Who needs another Mason Jar? Our candles come in black glass containers with a bamboo lid and reusable concrete planters!

● **No Harmful Chemicals**

Our candles are made from organic soy and the scents we use are "clean" and safe!

● **We do custom orders**

Have an upcoming event or business to promote? We'll make a custom label for 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@christalonelutheranacademy.net. Thank you for your willingness to serve!

WHAT IS BEFRIEND A MISSION MONTH? The Lutheran Women's Missionary Society supports WELS missions by prayer, encouragement, & giving. During our September BAM month at St. John's, we make a special effort to *shower our support* on our assigned missionaries by increasing our prayers, sending a few more notes & emails, & giving a little extra for missions. These joy-filled means of support have no age limitations! We can *ALL be a friend!* As LWMS shares awareness of WELS missions, we hope *YOU will join us by sending a note, signing a card, saying a prayer, or giving a little something extra to missions.* . ***Our home mission assignment is Ascension Ev. Lutheran Church in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.*** These home missionaries would appreciate hearing from you! Share God's love and encouragement!

Pastor Ben & Becca Berger
(serving Ascension Ev. Lutheran Church)
320 N. 72nd Street
Harrisburg, PA 17111

Email: pastorbenjb@gmail.com



PLEASE VISIT THE BEFRIEND A MISSION MONTH DISPLAY IN THE ST. JOHN'S LINKWAY Highlighted are the current LWMS BAM assignments, Beaver Dam Circuit fall mission projects, & the Kids C.A.R.E. project supported by CALA, Little Lambs, & St. John's Sunday School.

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.

**BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES
EMMANUEL & ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCHES**

The words of Amos, one of the shepherds of Tekoa . . . Amos 1:1a Amos was a layman, a typical Israelite, a shepherd, a fig picker. But God had different plans for him. As a layman, head to Bible Study both for yourself and the good of others! And in the study of the Word, God will make you ready for whatever opportunities He grants you!

**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDIES
Grand Themes and Key Words**

Emmanuel 9:00 a.m.

Exploring Important Bible Terms Bible Discovery Series
St. John's 8:45 a.m. in the Church

**SUNDAY SCHOOL AT ST. JOHN'S
8:30 a.m. in the school.**

**WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDY
Modern Moral Dilemmas**

Scripture addresses today's issues.

St. John's: Mondays 7:30 p.m.

Wednesdays 10:30 a.m.

Both will be in the conference room.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST &
STUDY CLUB**

Meets the third Saturday of the month, beginning September 16th. 8:00 a.m. in the Lower Level of St. John's.

October 21st: "The Case For Creation" presentation by Dr. Kevin Peil
(The presentations are videos from past Men Of His Word Conferences.)

If you can't make the dates, email Matt Kath at scsecretary@stjohnsmontello.org
and he'll send you a link to the video and study guides.

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

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Email: principal@crystalonelutheranacademy.net

3-5 Grade Teacher: Beth Barenz

1-2 Grade Teacher: Shelley Myers: 920-285-7554

Kindergarten Teacher: Lynn Sellnow: 616-826-0816

Little Lambs Director: Barbara Stelter: 816-853-9029

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