

NEWSLETTER



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I'm afraid sometimes. Can God help me be safe and sound?
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GriefShare begins
Thursday, September 14, 6:00pm
in the Lower Level at St. John's.



Can God Help Me?

I'm afraid sometimes.

Can God help me be safe and sound?

One summer night during a severe thunderstorm, a mother was tucking her small daughter into bed. She was about to turn the light off when the little girl asked in a trembling voice, "Mommy, will you stay with me all night?" Smiling, the mother gave her a warm, reassuring hug and said tenderly, "I can't, dear. I have to sleep in Daddy's room." A long silence followed. At last, it was broken by a shaky voice saying, "The big sissy!"

All of us have fears. And they don't always end with a chuckle. Our fears may be rational or completely irrational, but when we experience them, they are definitely real. At times we are afraid and may wonder, "Can God help me?"

On another night, Jesus Christ's disciples were caught in a storm on the Sea of Galilee. Their fear was very real, too. Jesus came to them and said, "Take courage! It is I. Do not be afraid" (Mark 6:50). Jesus was there, and they didn't need to be afraid any longer. He displayed his almighty power by calming the wind and waves.

Jesus can help us with our fears, as well. He controls all things and promises to use his power to help those who trust in him. When Jesus is in our lives, we can take courage and not be afraid.

While his promises are true for all kinds of fears, they are especially true for our spiritual concerns. Many are afraid of dying and having to stand before a perfect God and answer for their imperfect lives. Jesus encourages us even in these great fears. He said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die" (John 11:25,26).

Life on this earth will end for all people, but Jesus promises that those who believe in him will live with him in heaven eternally. Jesus died on the cross to take our sins away so that God will not condemn believers in judgment but will give them eternal life in heaven. This is the comfort and courage that God gives to those who trust him.

The Bible is filled with examples of God's power and his many promises to help us with our fears. Our church exists to share the comforting promises of God with all those who are afraid. We'd love to have you come and hear more about how God can help you with your big fears and your little ones, too. Take courage, and don't be afraid; God can help you when you're afraid.

EMMANUEL: SUNDAYS 8:00AM
ST. JOHN'S: SATURDAYS 4:30PM, SUNDAYS 10:00AM



ST. JOHN'S SUNDAY MORNING
BIBLE CLASS BEGINS SEPTEMBER 17TH 8:45AM

ST. JOHN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL
BEGINS SEPTEMBER 10TH 8:30AM

MENS' BREAKFAST & STUDY CLUB

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH 8AM
LOWER LEVEL ST. JOHN'S



TOPIC:
"HELP, WE'RE RUNNING OUT
OF GERMANS!"
VIDEO PRESENTATION BY
PASTOR MARK JESKE

Our world and our church have changed greatly since the immigrations of large European families to America in the late 1800's. Now, amazing opportunities to spread the gospel are there for congregations willing to embrace and implement change.

JOIN US... KICKOFF WEEKEND

Bring A Chair and Join Us For this
FREE Concert
On The Ball Diamond Located At
St. Johns Lutheran
313 E Montello Street, Montello

CONCERT ON
THE BALL DIAMOND
Saturday
September 9, 2023

6:00pm
Featuring...
UNWORTHY



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10
JOIN US AS WE KICKOFF THE FALL SESSION

8:30 AM Youth & Adult
10:00 AM Worship @ City Park
11:00 AM Cookout lunch, bags tournament
& Fun

For more information
stjohnsmontello.org or 608-297-2866

 **St. John's**
Evangelical
Lutheran Church & School



Tot Time

Fun, educational activities for parents and children surrounded with Jesus' love.
Ages 2-5

WHERE: St. John's Lutheran Montello

WHEN: Monthly Announced Saturdays Sessions

PARENT/CHILD ACTIVITIES: Singing Bible Story Snack Play

1ST SESSION: Saturday Sept. 16 @ 9am

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

QUESTIONS? Lynn Sellnow lynnsellnow@christalonelutheranacademy.net/616-826-0816

September 2023

ALL CLASSES, SUNDAY SCHOOL,
CHOIR PRACTICES AND MEETINGS
AT St. JOHN'S UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship Emmanuel: 8:00am St. John's: 10:00am	LABOR DAY NO SCHOOL	9:00am Joint Elder's Meeting 6:30pm CALA Meeting at Montello 3:30pm Hands in Prayer Meeting	6	12:00 Noon Ladies' Aid dessert & meeting	NO SCHOOL	4:30pm St. John's Worship
Worship (C) Emmanuel: 8:00am St. John's: 10:00am Worship at City Park with meal and games following 8:30am Sunday School	PATRIOT DAY 6:30pm Adult Choir 7:30pm Adult Bible Study	12	10:00 am Montello Care Center Devotion 10:30am Adult Bible Study 3:45pm Teen Confirmation Class	6:00pm Griefshare	15	8:00am Men's Breakfast & Study Club at St. John's 4:30pm St. John's Worship
Worship Emmanuel: 8:00am St. John's: 10:00am 8:30am Sunday School 8:45am Bible Class St. John's	6:30pm Adult Choir 7:30pm Adult Bible Study	19 6:30pm Joint Council Meeting at Emmanuel 7:30pm SJ Council meeting at SJ	20 10:30am Adult Bible Study 3:45pm Teen Confirmation Class	6:00pm Griefshare	22	4:30pm St. John's Worship (C)
Worship (C) Emmanuel: 8:00am St. John's: 10:00am 8:30am Sunday School 8:45am Bible Class St. John's	6:30pm Adult Choir 7:30pm Adult Bible Study	26 6:30pm Worship Meeting	27 10:00 am Montello Care Center Devotion 10:30am Adult Bible Study 3:45pm Teen Confirmation Class	6:00pm Griefshare	29	4:30pm St. John's Worship



**It's a brand new St. John's
Sunday School year!**

**Start Date:
Sunday, September 10
8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.
We meet in a school
classroom. Please be
prompt.**

Because this is Kick-off Sunday and our Sunday worship service and picnic are at the Montello City Park, we will dismiss a few minutes early to allow our SS families to get to the park.

Under our SS year theme from Psalm 67:3,

"May all the peoples praise you, O God!"

we'll find many fun ways to praise our Savior as we follow our Christ Light curriculum, learn from a series of lessons how to dress ourselves in the Armor of God, and follow the great missionary Paul on his exciting journeys! Crafts, games, contests, movies, painting, service projects—even baking—will add to the spice of our SS recipe for fun & learning!

Open Enrollment! No registration necessary.

Members & non-members,

Public school & day school, all welcome!

Age 3 – Grade 6

"Let the little children COME!"



From an Ex-Pastor's Perch

We like to sing it and can do it with such feeling and gusto. Some will even break into part singing before it's over.

*God's Word is our great heritage and shall be ours forever.
To shed its light from age to age shall be our chief endeavor.
In life it guides our way. In death it is our stay.
Lord, grant while worlds endure, we keep its teachings pure
Throughout all generations.*

Lutheran worshipers have been singing that 18th century hymn since long before the old 1941 *The Lutheran Hymnal*. (That's two hymnals ago for those who are counting. Mine was blue. What color was yours?) The crucial question is, however, **do we actually believe it?!**

You may think that's a silly question, but is it? When professing Lutheran believers (Montello/Mecan included) are staying away from regular worship by the score, when you can almost count the number of Bible class attendees on one hand, and when biblical literacy is at a frighteningly dangerous level, can you blame anyone for asking?

Rather than merely singing the church-health blues, let's ask a few simple questions. Why? What can be done? What are we going to do about it? Let it all start with removing the "beam" from our own eye rather than worrying about the "speck" in eye of someone else. (Matthew 7:3-5). That means humbly approaching God's throne of grace in sincere repentance. If you are not sure what that means, then you had better find out! Then, in the joy and confidence of God's forgiveness we can begin to do some soul-searching along with some honest assessment and evaluation. All that may lead to re-thinking some stuff, fine-tuning any old stuff that is worth keeping, and being willing to try new and different stuff.

Let's all do some prayerful contemplating about our Emmanuel/St. John's congregation. Are there problems that need to be addressed? Are we confronted with challenges, either of our own making or those outside our control? What opportunities are slipping away? This is not the place to get specific, but someone, somehow, someday, needs to do just that. Are you in?

One thing we can say here, even must say again and again, is this. *All depends on our possessing, God's abundant grace and blessing.* It's a cliché, but it's true. We have to get into the Word, continue in the Word, believe the Word, and live the Word. No more excuses. No more rationalizations. No more blame game. The first Psalm puts it in simple terms. *How blessed is the one whose delight is in the teaching of the Lord, and in that teaching mediates day and night...Everything he does prospers.*

Summer is flying by. A new season of church life and ministry will soon be here. What needs to be done? What are we going to do? What are you going to do? Will it be the same old same old? God forbid! Let's get back into God's house and get under the Spirit's influence in Word and Sacrament. The old and life-experienced disciple Peter explained how to live as a believer in this world. He said to *rid yourselves of all evil, all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all slander. Like newborn babies, crave the pure milk of the word so that by it you may grow up with the result being salvation. Certainly, you have tasted that the Lord is good.* “

I do believe. Help me with my unbelief. (Mark 9:24)

Gemeinde Geschichte (Congregation History)



St. John's Lutheran Church of Montello is a "daughter" congregation. The identity of the "mother" church might surprise some folks. She is Emmanuel Big Mican. Today one might think it would be the opposite, but not in 1878 when the congregation was officially organized. Emmanuel was a seasoned 24 years old by then, and the nucleus for the new in-town parish was made up of parishioners from Emmanuel. They say a picture can speak a thousand words. If that's true, this picture speaks volumes. Let's listen to some of what it could tell us.

Montello looked different at the turn of the 20th century. The narrow dirt road heading east out of town doesn't look like the busy state highway we know today. It's different too in that it begins the slight veer to the right now labeled County Highway C. If you tried to follow the path of today's road, you would end up driving up the hill through woods and plowing into the Jaster farm *behind* the cemetery. (That would be the two generations ago Erwin Jaster.) Time doesn't stand still, which is a good lesson to remember for the life of the church too.

The church lot was only 40x25x16 which might explain the west facing front door. It is still the same corner, but people would come and go with a different perspective. So, it seems that perspective doesn't stay the same over time either. Sometimes you have to get used to seeing things in a different way, as hard as that can be for us.

You can't miss the school building in the center of the picture. Christian education has always been a priority at St. John's. For years the pastor did the teaching. It wasn't until 1928 that a formal school was organized and a teacher called. The building pictured was updated and expanded more than once until it was torn down and replaced in the 1960s. It had to be done! The needs of the church called for it.

No doubt the parishioners loved their first church building and made many cherished memories there. Still, by 1914, it was out with the old and in with the new. There is little room for nostalgic sentimentality when the ministry demands moving on and meeting spiritual needs.

For all the changing history St. John's has experienced, there is one thing that has stayed the same. Inside those walls the same gospel of Jesus was preached and taught, and the saving sacraments administered. It can be no other way. Finally, our story is about "His-story."



COME TO THE LWMS BEAVER DAM CIRCUIT **FALL RALLY!**

Saturday, October. 21, 2023
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
1310 N. Center Street
Beaver Dam, Wisconsin

Co-hosts: Good Shepherd-Beaver Dam
Grace-Waupun



COMMIT TO GOD AND CONTINUE TO DO GOOD

*So then, those who suffer according to God's will
should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.*

1 Peter 4:19



SPEAKER

Pastor John Brug

Retired Seminary Professor

*"Insights from Unique Ministry Settings,
Ukraine"*

Pastor 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.

Hands-on Service Project

Monetary Donations Only for Native Christian Ministries, East Fork Lutheran School, Whiteriver, Arizona.

Schedule

- 9:30 a.m. Registration
- 9:45 a.m. Reporter's Meeting
- 10:15 a.m. Rally Opening
- 10:25 a.m. Bible Study
- 11:10 a.m. Business Meeting
- 12:00 Noon Lunch
- 12:55 p.m. Devotion
- 1:05 p.m. Speaker
- 2:05 p.m. Offering/Summation
- 2:30 p.m. Closing



Carpool Signup in the Information Room at St. John's
or Call your LWMS Reporter:

Emmanuel: Helen Stelter 608-297-7116

St. John's: Linda Wachholz 608-369-2635

Be A Friend

to



The September Befriend-A-Mission Month observance at St. John's is orchestrated by the women of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS), but the activities are in no way meant only for women active in LWMS, nor for that matter, for only women. The Great Commission to "*go into all the world and make disciples of all nations*" (Matthew 28:19) was and still is God's directive for every Christian, male & female, child & adult. The Great Commission is God's plan for spreading the Gospel throughout the world. But, how many of us lay workers in God's Kingdom will ever hit the road and physically share the Gospel in a home or world mission field? Very few. Yet it is still God's plan for each of us to actively work to spread the Gospel and to fulfill God's calling to us to "*go and make disciples.*"

We are evangelical Christians--we *are* missionaries. We long for every person who can be saved to be saved, and thus to hasten the Lord's promised return to claim His church. So, are we missionaries only in our own family and in our own community? What about the "*go into all the world*" part of God's Commission?

While some of our offering are given as our CMO (Congregational Mission Offering), there is a very personal way to "be closer to the action" and it's so simple: **Be a friend.** The home and world missionaries of the WELS need all the support they can get to be the most effective for our Lord. **YOU can Be A Friend in three ways: 1) share gifts** (Congregation Mission Offerings & LWMS spring & fall mission offerings); **2) share encouragement** (cards, letters, & e-mails that offer God's Word and your own love and caring; and **3) PRAY, PRAY, PRAY!**

The most important way anyone can Be A Friend to another person is to pray for them. But it seems that for many Lutheran Christians knowing exactly what to pray for our missionaries can be hard work. The following article is reprinted from www.allaboutprayer.org/prayers-for-missionaries to help make "hard work" easier!



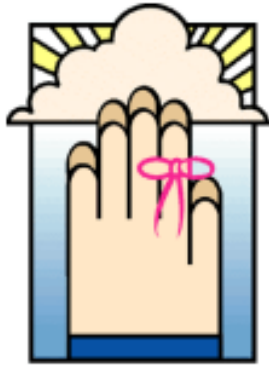
What are some prayers for missionaries? Our prayers for missionaries should always be that they stand in God's armor and that their service as servants of God be not in their own strength but in the grace and strength of the LORD. We can pray for the missionary's protection from evil and that their daily needs be provided. **Here are some specific, practical areas of missionaries' lives to pray for:**

- Solid family relationships. The tasks of full-time ministry, often in a foreign culture, can cause a strain on the relationships within a family -- husbands and wives, parents and children. Pray that the Lord would strengthen these family bonds and draw them close together.

- The well-being of family members from whom they are separated. When missionaries leave their homes to serve God on the mission field, extended family remains behind, and children sometimes leave their parents for schooling. Pray for the health, safety, and encouragement of these family members.
- Strength in the "inner man" ([Ephesians 3:16](#)). Loneliness, discouragement, despair -- these struggles occur in the lives of missionaries, and sometimes frequently. Pray that their hearts are encouraged and strengthened.
- Provision of physical needs. Missionaries depend on others for their financial support, and at times, that can be burdensome. Pray that God would supply their every need ([Philippians 4:19](#)).
- A strong personal walk with God. Pray for daily faithfulness to spend time in God's Word in the midst of ministry busyness. Ask God to protect and strengthen them spiritually and cause them to grow in their relationships with Him.
- Good physical health. In foreign lands, good health care can be hard to find. Pray for physical strength on a daily basis and long-term good health.
- Strong relationships with co-workers. Sadly, personality conflicts and relationship struggles happen among missionaries as they seek to work together to bring people to Christ. Pray for unselfishness, kindness, and humility in these cooperative efforts ([Philippians 2:3-5](#)).
- Ability to speak accurately. Ask God to cause them to speak with clarity and precision as they declare God's Word ([Colossians 4:3-4](#)).
- Opportunities to relax. Servants of God are just like anyone else--they need a break sometimes! Ask God to provide them with recreation and rest.
- Wisdom in all they do. Pray for the wisdom to make good decisions in their personal lives, as well as their ministry lives ([James 1:5](#)).

In short, the model prayer that the LORD Jesus taught the disciples in ([Matthew 6:9-13](#)) is a good guideline for our prayers for missionaries. However, the key is not so much what we pray but that we pray and how we pray. In other words, prayers for missionaries should be a part of our personal worship time. Our prayers should be fervent, and come from a righteous heart that is in full relationship with God ([James 5:16](#)).

Effectual prayer is prayer in an attitude of fellowship and agreement with God's will. When we pray "Thy will be done" in specific areas of need, God not only changes us but He uses our prayers for it is the power behind His armor. "Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints." ([Ephesians 6:18](#)).



**PLEASE REMEMBER
THESE FRIENDS IN
PRAYER**

Now that "hard work" has been made easier, please Be A Friend to these WELS missionaries, who have been adopted by your sisters in Christ of the LWMS under the Befriend A Mission Program. They'd love to hear from you, but most of all, they need your prayers:

Matt & Emily Rothe & Family
1104 Anderson Street
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
Email: MathRothe@TheWayChurchVA.com

Ben J. & Becca Berger
320 N. 72nd Street
Harrisburg, PA 17111
Email: pastorbenjb@gmail.com

Administrative Staff & Teachers
East Fork Lutheran School
P.O. Box 489
Whiteriver, AZ 85941-0489

Our assigned missionaries @ East Fork Lutheran School left at the end of this past school year. Our support remains with the mission. Please address notes to the Administrative Staff & Teachers.

**Missionaries are among the many gifts
God gives to us.
Handle them with prayer!**



Church news!

1. Little Lamb enrollment is 21, CALA (K-8) enrollment is 51. Little Lambs and K-2 children go to the Montello Campus, 3-8 children go to the Princeton Campus.
2. On Saturday, September 9th at 6pm is the Concert on the Ball diamond, featuring Unworthy.
3. Sunday, September 10th is “Kick-Off Weekend”. The 10am St. John’s worship will be at the Montello City Park. There will be hamburgers, brats, and hot dogs.
4. The new CALA school sign has arrived, it does not include any signage for Little Lambs. For now we will be attempting to amalgamate the two signs until a better fix can be found.
5. At the joint council meeting at Emmanuel on September 19th it will be decided what is best regarding the calling of a second Pastor, and the calling of a mission pastor for CALA, or put on hold until 2025. The councils will bring a recommendation to the voters of both churches. The St. John’s fall voters’ meeting is Sunday, October 1st at 11am.
6. There is a Stewardship committee being formed, to help utilize the time, treasures and talents of our congregation. Martin Schmanke will be the chairman of the committee. Your prayers are requested for God’s blessings for this vital committee.

St. John’s Voters’ Meeting Sunday, October 1st

There will be a St. John’s Voters’ Meeting on Sunday, October 1st after worship. There will be many issues to discuss, and decisions to be made that are of high importance to the future of St. John’s. All members of St. John’s are encouraged to attend, be involved, and to let your voices be heard. Holding to the instructions from St. Paul in his Epistles, only men members confirmed in the faith can vote, but that doesn’t mean that your voice is not important or unwelcomed. Calling (or delaying the call) of a second Pastor and/or CALA Pastor, is among the decisions that need to be made. Please, make time to attend the meeting. **YOUR VOICE COUNTS!**

2023-2024

Bible Study Opportunities

Emmanuel, Mecan/St. John's, Montello, WI

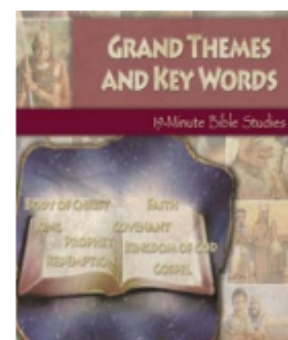


Sunday Morning in the church at St. John's 8:45AM

Grand Themes and Key Words—Exploring Important Bible Terms (September- May 2023-24)

"Use your words," the encouraging parent will say to a child learning to talk. Words are important. Without words we would not be able to communicate. Knowing what words mean and using them at the right time and in the right way can make a big difference. The Holy Spirit uses words to communicate God's truth to us and to strengthen faith and enhance worship. Using those words appropriately will have an impact on our life witness. Come to learn and appreciate *Grand Theme and Key Words*.

(Led by retired pastor John Dolan, assisted by Matt Kath and Mark Emond.)



During the Week at St. John's, Monday 7:30pm & Wednesday 10:30am



Modern Moral Dilemmas (September- May 2023-24)

No one likes being on the horns of a dilemma. A dilemma is a problem offering two possibilities, neither of which is totally acceptable nor preferable. Life for a believer in this world brings such dilemmas. How are we to respond? As always, we look to Scripture for answers, encouragement, and direction.

(Led by Pastor Zietlow)

Electronic Bible Study ***(at your convenience and your speed. EMAIL ADDRESS NEEDED)***

1) **"Called" to Serve** (September-October)

The Bible teaching of the Divine Call and how it's practiced in our church. What's the difference between the Public Ministry and the Universal Priesthood. Who gets called? How? What to do with a call? And more!

Keep your eye out for information on how to access this class!!

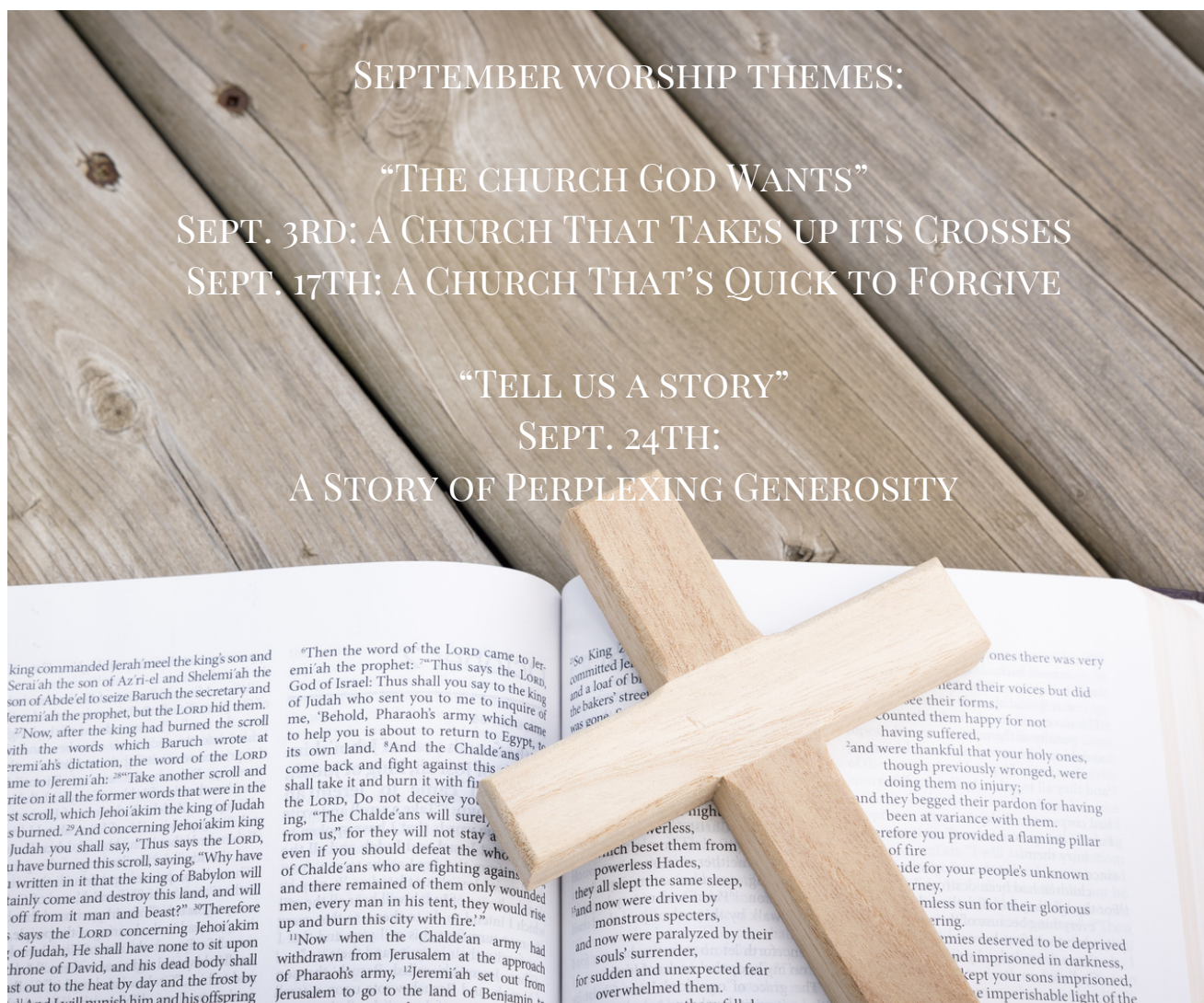
(Led by retired pastor Dolan.)

Griefshare

Griefshare will begin again at St. John's on Thursday, September 14th, at 6:00pm. It will be led by Mark Emond, and be in the lower level. Please text Mark at 608-697-1600. If you plan to attend, please text or Call Mark and let him know so he can make sure he has enough materials. Thank you.

GRIEF SHARE

Green Lake: (Starts Sept. 11) Mondays 6:00pm
Princeton: (Starts Sept. 12) Tuesdays 6:00pm
Montello: (Starts Sept. 14) Thursdays 6:00pm
Please text Mark at 608-697-1600 for information and if you plan to attend.



September 9-10 is “Kickoff Weekend” with the Concert on the Ball Diamond featuring Unworthy on Saturday at 6pm. On Sunday, St. John's Worship will be at the Montello City Park at 10am followed by a cookout, fun, games and fellowship!

The Worship Theme for Sunday, Sept. 10th is the 250th Anniversary of the hymn Amazing Grace.

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

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

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

PASTOR PETE ZIETLOW: 608-408-7830,
EMAIL: ZIETLOWPL6@HOTMAIL.COM

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

3-5 GRADE TEACHER: BETH BARENZ

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

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER: LYNN SELLOW: 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

SCHOOL EMAIL:
SECRETARY@CHRISTALONELUTHERANACADEMY.NET

