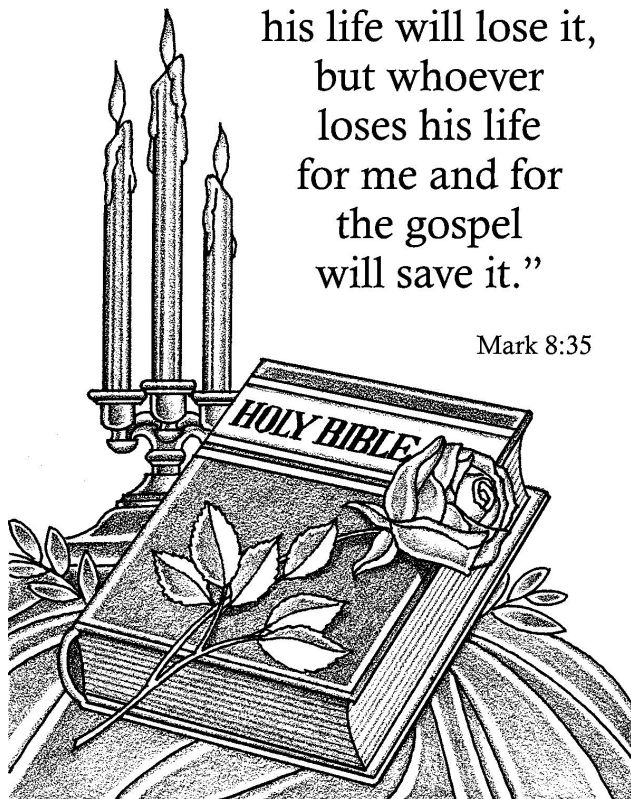


“For whoever
wants to save
his life will lose it,
but whoever
loses his life
for me and for
the gospel
will save it.”

Mark 8:35



SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
RETHINKING RELIGION:
RETHINKING SUFFERING
UNDER THE CROSS
Pastor Zietlow's Sermon:
Mark 8:31-38
“We Triumph
Through Surrender”

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**

February 25, 2024

RETHINKING RELIGION

Everyone has assumptions about God. Likewise, everyone has assumptions about religion. Increasingly, those assumptions are negative. Americans are walking away from Christianity in breathtaking numbers. It raises the question. How do those people know if their assumptions about religion are correct? Do they really understand Christianity at all? Do we? Do we truly understand this religion? In the season of Lent, as much as any other, Jesus teaches things that turns the world's assumptions about religion completely upside down. We call it "Christianity." So, in this holy season, let us go straight to Christ and let him replace assumptions with truth. Jesus, help us to rethink religion!

THEME OF THE DAY: RETHINKING SUFFERING UNDER THE CROSS

We know that the cross was an instrument of torture and execution. However, Scripture also uses the term "cross" to refer to any suffering that one endures because he is believer: the painful denial of the desires of the flesh; ridicule and persecution from unbelievers; etc. This is one reason people reject religion. They see Christians struggling in life with these crosses, while non-Christians often seem perfectly happy. Even the prophet Jeremiah asked, "Why do all the faithless live at ease?" (12:1). Today, Jesus asks us to rethink suffering under the cross. It is not pointless pain. Our crosses are not how we pay for sin. Jesus already did that on his cross. Our crosses are not redemptive, but they are constructive. Any suffering unbelievers face is only bad, a foretaste of worse to come. But the suffering believers face under the cross is only good, a way Christ connects us tightly to himself with fire-tested faith.

ORDER OF SERVICE: Setting One with communion; Hymnal Pages 154-170

HYMNS: 694, 652 v.1-2, 817, 570, 867 (Hymns also posted on the screen)

PSALM: Psalm 22 "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" (Hymnal/Screen)

SERMON: Mark 8:31-38 "We Triumph Through Surrender"

OPENING HYMN: 694 "Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken"

CONFESSIONAL HYMN: 652 v. 1-2 "Lord, Have Mercy"

FIRST READING: Job 1:13-22

(Job is given a heavy cross, but it does not crush his faith. Instead, God uses Job's cross to move Job to worship and praise the LORD.)

¹³One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, ¹⁴a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, ¹⁵and the Sabeans attacked and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" ¹⁶While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The fire of God fell

from the heavens and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" ¹⁷While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" ¹⁸While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, "Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, ¹⁹when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" ²⁰At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship ²¹and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised." ²²In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

PSALM: Psalm 22 "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-11

(St. Paul teaches that God works through our suffering to shape our Christian character and to lead us to cling to Christ's gracious promises.)

¹Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. ⁶You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! ¹⁰For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION FOR LENT: Hymnal Page 161

GOSPEL: Mark 8:31-38 (Sermon Text)

(Jesus teaches of the absolute necessity of the cross, both his and ours.)

³¹He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³²He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." ³⁴Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? ³⁷Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ³⁸If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

HYMN OF THE DAY: 817 "Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart"

SERMON: Mark 8:31-38 "We Triumph Through Surrender"

NICENE CREED: Hymnal Page 162/Screen

PRAYER FOR EYES FIXED ON JESUS AND INTERCESSORY PRAYERS**OFFERING & PRAYER**

COMMUNION PRACTICE: Today our congregation will be receiving the Lord's Supper. Those who are members of Emmanuel, St. John's, another WELS church, or a church in full doctrinal agreement with the WELS, are invited to attend. Others are politely asked to refrain until communion fellowship is established. There are two Scriptural reasons we distribute the Lord's Supper this way. 1.) Receiving the Lord's Supper improperly results in harm, not blessing, to the recipient. (1 Cor. 11:27) Like a prescription it must be administered with care. 2.) Recipients of the Supper publicly proclaim their unity in the faith. (1Cor. 10:17) Members of other denominations have, by joining those church bodies, publicly declared their allegiance to the teaching of those churches. By also communing here at this altar it would send a confusing message regarding not only what we believe, but also what the Bible teaches and what this church and its members believe and confess. We'd love to speak to you about this more fully so that all are prepared and speak with one voice as we proclaim Christ to the world. For more

information, and especially if you are interested in becoming a communicant member of this congregation, please speak to Pastor Zietlow.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: 570 "God Loved the World So That He Gave"

CLOSING HYMN: 867 "Afflicted Saint, to Christ Draw Near"

THEME FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

Third Sunday in Lent

Rethinking Religion: Rethinking The Worth of Worship

Acknowledgments

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St. John's	Usher's Schedule
Sunday, February 25 Wednesday, Feb. 28	Sunday, March 3 Wednesday, March 6
Ben Jaster Jacob Jaster Jeff Reimer Mark Emond	Matthew Kath Glen Bubloz Martin Schmanke Mike Kempley

The Lenten Supper this Wednesday will be hosted by the Men's Breakfast & Study Club. We will be serving a selection of different kinds of soup, cheese, and crackers.



St. John's is hiring a Part-Time Secretary to work 3-4 days per week.

For more information contact:
Jerre Duerr
Jerre.asc@gmail.com

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

- For the sick and others facing trials, including: Gale "Blackie" Boyd, Mike Brown, Bob Buehrens, Michael Cox (Marjorie Fabian's brother), Vicki Davis (Marilyn Riemer's sister), Edith Duesterhoeft, Ken Elmer (Sally's husband), Earl Ewert, Judy Fandrey, Bob & Christine Ferber, John Gaedke (Dan Finger's uncle), Donna Gatzke, Dennis Gray (Mary Dahlke's brother), Kelleen Grucza (Judy Fandrey's daughter), Kim Hanko (Judy Fandrey's daughter), Laura Heibler (Marjorie Fabian's granddaughter), Del & Jean Henke, Jerry & Darlene Hunter (Bonnie Chapman's parents), Xzander Jahr, Kris Kemp (Diane Hintz' daughter), Dale Kozlowski, Jeff Krueger (Diane Hintz's son), Darren Marceau, Julie Moran, Debbie & Steve Parrish, Milo Petrick, Melissa Prater, Karen Radke, Roxanne Schmanke, Ashley Schroeder, Eloise Schultz, Lynn Sellnow, Bob Sluga (Sherry's husband), Pat Sommerfeld, Annette St. Onge, Amanda Stalker, Tom Stempniak, James & Suzanne Weber, Cheryl Wegner, Paul Weldon, Tama Zuehls (Zeb's mother), Todd Zuehls (Dennis' brother, friend of Pat Sommerfeld) (added this week: __)
- For Christians suffering persecution
- For missions

Next Pastor & LL Director/Teacher Call Meeting

Our call meetings for the next Pastor and LL preschool director/teacher will be on March 10 after church. We will resume the Pastor call meeting first for St. John's and Emmanuel. Immediately following that we will resume the St. John's preschool teacher call meeting. Please continue to keep our ministries in your prayers.

EMMANUEL & ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCHES 2024 LENT & EASTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

WEDNESDAY LENT DEVOTIONS:

EMMANUEL: 3:30 PM---St. JOHN'S: 6:30 PM

WEDNESDAY LENT WORSHIP: 2/28, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE (NO SATURDAY WORSHIP)

EMMANUEL: 8:00 AM---St. JOHN'S: 10:00 AM

HOLY THURSDAY-MARCH 28: EMMANUEL: 6:30PM

GOOD FRIDAY-MARCH 29: St. JOHN'S: 1:00PM

EASTER-MARCH 31:

EMMANUEL: 8:00 AM---St. JOHN'S: 10:00 AM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week: February 25-March 2, 2024

Today	11:15 a.m.	Evangelism Mtg SJ
Monday	6:30 p.m.	Adult Choir SJ
	7:30 p.m.	Adult Bible Study SJ
Tuesday	5:30 p.m.	Stewardship Meeting SJ
	6:30 p.m.	Worship Meeting SJ
Wednesday	10:30 a.m.	Adult Bible Study SJ
	3:30 p.m.	Lent Worship EM
	5:00 p.m.	Public School Catechism SJ
	4:15 p.m.	Lenten Supper SJ (Hosted by Men's Breakfast & Study Club)
	6:30 p.m.	Lent Worship SJ
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	GriefShare
Friday	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL Parent/Teacher Conference
Saturday		NO SJ Worship

Next Sunday: March 3, 2024

8:00 a.m.	Emmanuel Worship
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

Attendance

Date	EM	SJ
2/18/24	39	197
2/21/24	42	37

Sunday School, Little Lambs & CALA Singing Schedule

3/26/24	CALA 3-8 at Emmanuel
3/10/24	Sunday School at SJ Montello

Total January Offerings	Budget Needs	January Expenses	Year to Date Offerings	Year to Date Expenses
\$23524.78	\$33939.58	\$33053.57	\$156493.44	\$128517.71

*We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee. **CW 750 v.1***

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

Pastor Pete Zietlow: 608-408-7830, **Email:** zietlowPL6@hotmail.com

Principal & 6-8 Grade Teacher: Larry Sellnow: 920-481-9002 ext.102

Email: principal@christalonelutheranacademy.net

3-5 Grade Teacher: Beth Barenz: 920-481-9002 ext.103

bbarenz@christalonelutheranacademy.net

1-2 Grade Teacher: Shelley Myers: 920-481-9002 ext.201

smyers@christalonelutheranacademy.net

Kindergarten Teacher: Lynn Sellnow: 920-481-9002 ext.202

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Little Lambs Director: Barbara Stelter: 920-481-9002 ext. 203

littlelambs@stjohnsmontello.org

CALA Secretary/Office: Ciara Neuhauser: 920-481-9002

School Email: secretary@christalonelutheranacademy.net

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

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