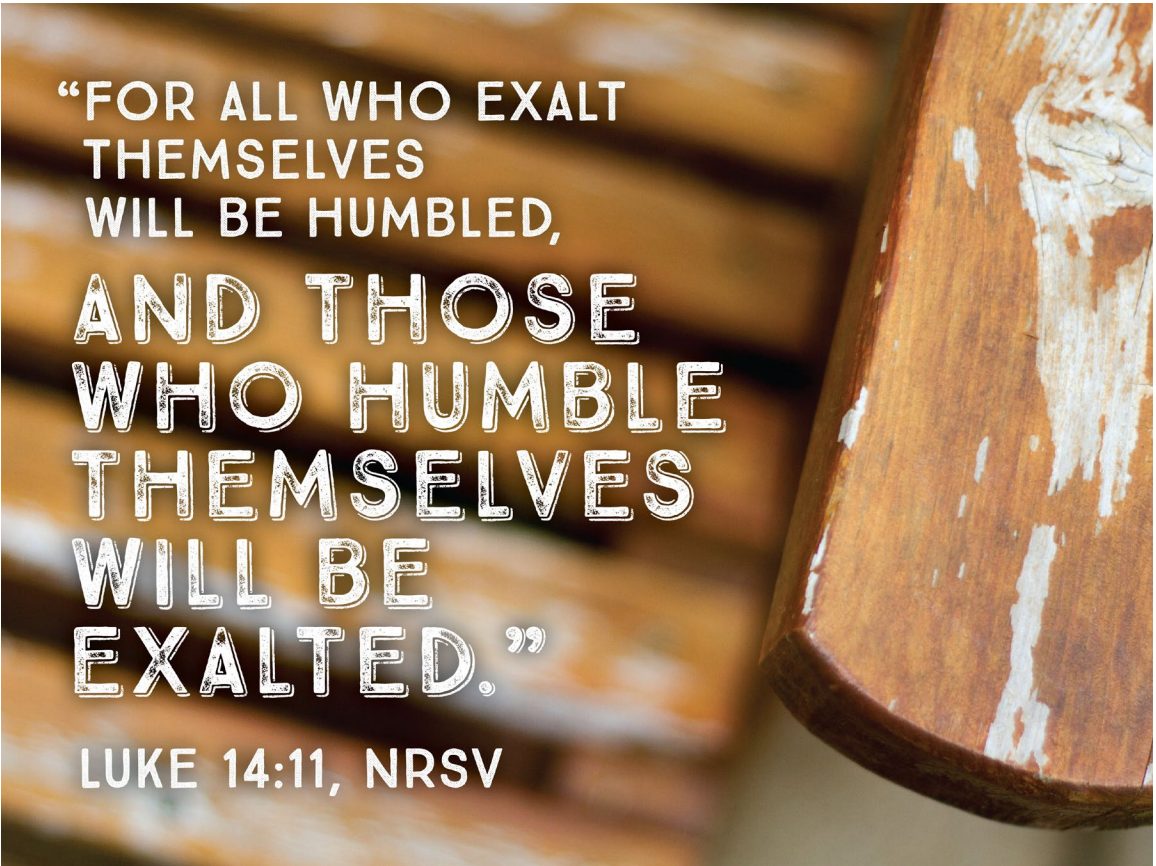


August 31, 2025
Twelveth Sunday after Pentecost
**WOUNDS THAT HEAL: THOSE WHO EXALT THEMSELVES WILL
BE HUMBLLED**



**“FOR ALL WHO EXALT
THEMSELVES
WILL BE HUMBLLED,
AND THOSE
WHO HUMBLE
THEMSELVES
WILL BE
EXALTED.”**

LUKE 14:11, NRSV

**EMMANUEL and ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCHES
Wisconsin Synod
Mecan and Montello, WI
Sunday Worship: 8:00 AM in Mekan 10:00 AM in Montello**

WELCOME! WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

We pray that you are blessed by God's Word in worship today. **The order of worship** is printed here, is projected on the screen, and live-streamed at www.stjohnsmontello.org. **Restrooms** are located in the link way, out the church entryway, to the left and down the stairs. At Emmanuel, they are located in the Parish Hall. A **nursery changing station** is located in the lower level of St. John's.

WOUNDS THAT HEAL

Not all wounds are bad. A skilled surgeon takes a deadly sharp scalpel and cuts through flesh and muscle. The result of that wound: not harm, but healing. In the same way, we often say that words cut us to the heart. Words can wound. Sometimes, however, those painful words provide the very healing we need. "Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem" (Luke 13:22). Jesus knows that when he gets to Jerusalem, he is going to die. So, with a sense of extreme urgency, Jesus shares truths we need to hear, even though it hurts to hear them. In this series, we might not like everything that Jesus says. Yet, to ignore what Jesus teaches is to court eternal death. Hard as it may be, let us listen and take all that Jesus says to heart. For while Jesus speaks words that wound us, his intent is to heal our very soul.

THOSE WHO EXALT THEMSELVES WILL BE HUMBLD

Everyone knows that humility is a positive trait and pride is a negative one. So, why bother talking about what we already know? Because in spite of that knowledge, we still helplessly fall into the trap of pride. We all desire acclaim, recognition, and praise. Jesus' sharp words this week teach us that seeking exaltation in futile and fleeing ways will only result in receiving the opposite. Those who attempt to exalt themselves will eventually be humbled by God. In contrast, Jesus promises that those who leave their exaltation to God will receive honor and glory far greater than any that can be awarded in this life. Our exaltation does not need to be our responsibility, because Jesus has already made it his.

Today's Worship Leader: Vacany Pastor Bruce Hanneman
Today's Accompanist: Mr. Robert Mateske, Jr.

Today's Order of Worship

Divine Service One

OPENING HYMN: 737 "Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way"

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

CONFESSION:

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

♪ **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

♪ **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

♪ **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

♪ **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

♪ **Amen.**

♪ **Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men. We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; receive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us. For you only are holy; you only are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Let us pray. O Lord of grace and mercy, teach us by your Holy Spirit to follow the example of your Son in true humility, that we may withstand the temptations of the devil and with pure hearts and minds avoid ungodly pride; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

FIRST READING: Proverbs 25:6,7a

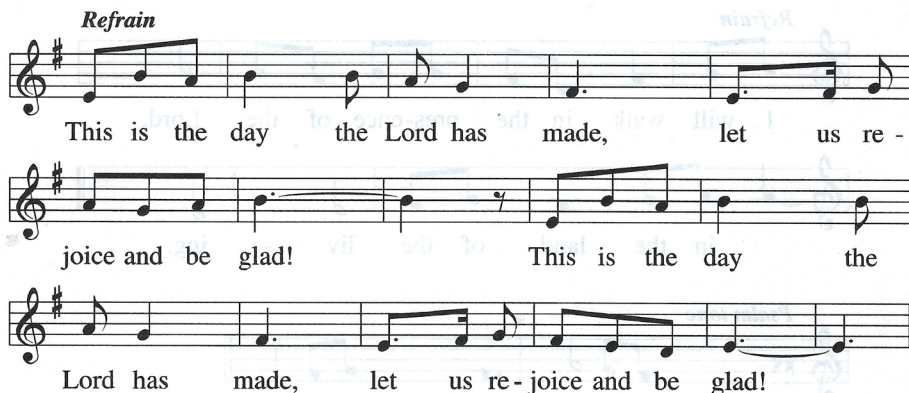
(Solomon provides common sense about humility and pride.)

⁶Do not exalt yourself in the king's presence, and do not claim a place among his great men; ⁷it is better for him to say to you, "Come up here," than for him to humiliate you before his nobles.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 118 (From CW93)



The LORD is my strength and my song;*
he has become my salvation.

The LORD's right hand is lifted high;*
the LORD's right hand has done mighty things!

I will not die but live,*
and will proclaim what the LORD has done.

Refrain

I will give you thanks, for you answered me;*
you have become my salvation.

The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;*
the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day the LORD has made;*
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

SECOND READING: James 2:1–13

(James teaches that showing favoritism to those we think can provide us with upward mobility shows a lack of mercy and puts us at risk of God's judgment.)

¹My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. ²Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. ³If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," ⁴have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? ⁷Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong? ⁸If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. ⁹But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. ¹¹For he who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker. ¹²Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, ¹³because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

♪ **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled,
and those who humble themselves will be exalted.**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 14:1,7–14

(Jesus teaches some ways to demonstrate humility and promises that those who humble themselves will be exalted.)

¹One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched. ⁷When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: ⁸"When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. ⁹If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, 'Give this person your seat.' Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests. ¹¹For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." ¹²Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY: 729 "Son of God, Eternal Savior"

SERMON: Luke 14:1, 7-14 "Seeing What Jesus Sees" 1. We Have Nothing to Offer Him,
2. We Have Plenty to Offer Others

APOSTLES' CREED:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

Amen.

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into

temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING:

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: 766 "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"

Acknowledgments

Service Setting One from Christian Worship, with Corporate Confession and Absolution from Christian Worship. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House.

Today's Worship Prayers

In the Prayer of the Church Today

If there are special intercessory prayers that you would like included in the weekly prayer of the church, please notify the church office. *What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer.*

This Week – August 17-24, 2025

Monday- Labor Day- NO SCHOOL

Tuesday- 9:00 am Joint Elders Meeting at SJ; 2:30pm Hands In Prayer meeting at SJ

Wednesday-CALA Soccer match at Randolph

Thursday- Noon Ladies Aid Dessert and Meeting at SJ

Next Sunday – Pastor John Dolan will lead our worship AND Donna Kuenn be the organist.

Looking Ahead

Next weekend is Labor Day weekend. That means that it is time to make plans for you to grow in your faith and maturity. Take note of these opportunities:



Sunday School – begins Sunday, September 14th from 8:30 to 9:45AM in the school. (see below)

Sunday Bible Class – An Adult Bible Study if offered on Sunday mornings beginning at 9AM in the church at St. John's. The topic is yet to be determined but it will be good.

Weekday Bible Class – Plans for the Wednesday weekday Bible Class are still on the drawing board. Stay tuned.

Confirmation Class – Begins, Wednesday, September 3rd for public school 6th, 7th, 8th graders, from 5-6PM in the lower level of St. John's. Vacancy Pastor Hanneman will be teaching. Contact him for more information.

Pastor Call Meeting: is scheduled for Sunday, September 21 at 11:30 at SJ

A BRAND NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR begins September 14! Assisting parents in their God-Given responsibility of training their children in the Lord is a JOY for your SS staff! In this sin-scarred world, shouldn't we take every opportunity to help our children build a firm spiritual foundation? Why not use Sunday School as one of those opportunities to help your child(ren) grow, and at the same time grow in your own faith by attending Sunday morning Adult Bible Class. SS has open doors . . . open enrollment . . . no registration necessary . . . members & non-members . . . public school & day school . . . and a special invitation to our current Little Lamb students . . . ALL ARE WELCOME . . . starting at age 3. Students are encouraged "to be an Andrew" and bring a friend!

GriefShare

Begins in the St. John's Lower Level on Thursday, 9/18, at 6PM. This is a Bible-based support group that provides a safe and welcoming place where people can understand the often difficult emotions of grief.

New Meditations Begin THIS WEEK and are Ready to Pick Up

Jesus teaches us that he is the vine, and we are the branches. That means it is vitally important to stay connected to him – such as, through daily devotions. The **MEDITATIONS** booklet is a simple but meaningful way to do that. Pick up a copy and make good use of it

Eagles Nest Staff Hiring

We are looking for a part time staff member to join the Eagles Nest after school program. The hours we are looking for help are: Monday-Wednesday-Friday (3:00-5:15)
The program is closed when school is closed and hours may vary slightly. If you are interested in volunteering or learning more on how you can help please contact Mrs. Straschinske (lladmin@stjohnsmontello.org)

Worship Attendance Last Week

Emmanuel 54; St. John's: 125

St. John's Financials

	Budget	Offerings	All Income	Expenses
July	\$33,436.46	\$22,572.23	\$35,452.11	\$28,932.36
Year to Date	\$33,436.46	\$22,572.23	\$35,452.11	\$28,932.36

St. John's Ushers:

Thank you to Paul Van Treeck, Matt Borzick, Ken Borzick, James Henke, Haiden Van Treeck, Nolan Van Treeck, Brody Henke and Milo Henke for ushering last Sunday. The Ushers for today are Jerre Duerr, Gordon Krause and Kevin Kaul. The Ushers for September 7th are Ben Jaster, Jacob Jaster, Jeff Reimer and Mark Emond.

TO GIVE AWAY FREE FOR THE MOVING An antique Sterling concert grand upright piano, manufactured by historic Sterling Piano Company, Derby, Connecticut. Contact Matt in the church office 608-297-2866 to get in touch with the owner.

A Prayer for us and for Congregations and Schools During a Vacancy

Lord of the Church, You provide pastors and teachers to preach, teach, train, and equip your people for works of service. Thank you for the blessing they provide to our congregations and classrooms. Let their service to your people - as well as the service and support of your people to them - be a blessing and mutually edify each other..... Be with those ministries experiencing a pastoral or teaching vacancy. Provide temporary solutions for ministry to continue as they wait patiently on your timing for any called worker(s). Turn the challenges of a vacancy into opportunities for blessing. In the absence of a pastor or teacher, make your people more aware of and appreciative of the service rendered by called workers. Lead gifted laypeople to step in and use their gifts wherever possible so that the ministry doesn't suffer greatly. Intervene in ways that reassure them that you are the Lord of the Church who continues to guide and direct ministry even during a vacancy. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Our School - By the Numbers

There are 54 students enrolled in our school, Christ Alone Lutheran Academy (CALA) - 24 of them are on the Montello Campus and 30 on the Princeton Campus. Kindergarten and Grades 1-2 are on the Montello campus (along with Little Lambs Childcare) and Grades 3-8 are on the Princeton campus.

Kindergarten: 12 students (5 Montello, 6 Princeton, 1 Other)

Grade 1: 6 students (1 Montello, 1 Mekan, 2 Princeton, 2 Other)

Grade 2: 6 students (3 Montello, 1 Mekan, 2 Princeton)

Grade 3: 7 students (3 Montello, 1 Mekan, 1 Princeton, 2 Other)

Grade 4: 6 students (3 Montello, 1 Mekan, 2 Princeton)

Grade 5: 5 students (2 Montello, 2 Mekan, 1 Princeton)

Grade 6: 7 students (5 Montello, 1 Princeton, 1 Other)

Grade 7: 2 students (2 Montello)

Grade 8: 3 students (2 Princeton, 1 Other)

24 students are from Montello, 6 from Mekan, 17 from Princeton, 7 Other)



SEPTEMBER IS BEFRIEND A MISSION MONTH! WHAT'S THAT? 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.*

Gentlemen of all ages: we will be starting up the Men's Breakfast & Study Club again on Saturday, September 20th at 8:00am in the lower level of SJ. We will enjoy a great breakfast of sausage links and eggs, then feed our souls with an in-depth study of the Smalcald Articles. Dads and Grandpas are welcome to bring children!! Hope to see you there!

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

Vacancy Pastor: Bruce Hanneman 507-317-5772

bwhanny@frontier.com

CALA Secretary/Office: Jorgia Kempley: 920-481-9002

School Email: secretary@christalonelutheranacademy.net

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