

September 28, 2025
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
WOUNDS THAT HEAL: WHAT HELPS IN LIFE FAILS IN DEATH



Lazarus & The Rich Man

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

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.

WHAT HELPS IN LIFE FAILS IN DEATH

What do John D Rockefeller, King Solomon, Henry Ford, and Joseph Stalin all have in common? Two things. First, they are all in the list of the twenty wealthiest individuals who ever lived. Second, they are all rotting in the ground. The reality is that while money may help you achieve some objectives, it fails to prevent death. So Jesus speaks some sharp words this week, warning that those who live with hearts filled with love for money and void of love for God will receive the only eternity that money can buy— one void of God and filled with torment. Money seems helpful, but it fails in death. Conversely, what often seems of little help in this life will be our only source of help in death. The world scoffs at those who set aside plentiful time to listen to Jesus' words and eat his holy meal. "Of what practical good are such things?" Only this. Such things enable us, at death, to receive a reward that dwarfs even the best things money can buy.

Today's Worship Leader: Pastor John Dolan

Today's Accompanist (St. John's): Miss Beth Barenz, CALA 3-5 Teacher

Today's Order of Worship

(Adapted from *Corporate Confession and Absolution* CW pages 278-281)

OPENING HYMN: 718 "Though Thoughtless Thousands Choose the Road"

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

Amen.

PRAYER

Let us pray. Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires are known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by your Holy Spirit, that we may love you and praise your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

the maker of heaven and earth.

Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

Almighty God, merciful Father, I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart. In what I have done and left undone, I have pursued my ways instead of your ways. I have not loved others as you command. For this I deserve your punishment now and forever. I am sorry for my sins. I repent of them. I beg for your mercy.

Silence for reflection

Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ, who suffered and died for us.

Cleanse me from my sins. Release me from my guilt. Grant me your Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life.

Jesus says to his people, "If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven." Do you believe this?

Yes, I believe.

In the name and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins.

Amen.

EXHORTATION

Our Lord Jesus Christ has forgiven us, has reconciled us to God, and has promised us the power to forgive and love one another. Relying on his promise, therefore, be reconciled with one another.

Brothers and sisters, may the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, in our words, and in our actions.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Mercifully grant, O God, that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts, for without your help we are unable to please you; 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: Psalm 32

¹Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. ²Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit. ³When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. ⁴For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. ⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." And you forgave the guilt of my sin. ⁶Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found; surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them. ⁷You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. ⁸I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. ⁹Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you. ¹⁰Many are the woes of the wicked, but the Lord's unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in him. ¹¹Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

At St. John's, the children of Little Lambs Learning Center and Christ Alone Lutheran Academy sing: ""The Lord Is My Salvation"

SECOND READING: Hebrews 13:1-6

¹Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. ²Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. ³Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering. ⁴Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." ⁶So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF THE DAY: 702 "Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake"

SERMON: Luke 16:19-31 "You Can Be Rich ... AND Take It with You"

¹⁹"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. ²²"The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.' ²⁵"But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. ²⁶And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.' ²⁷"He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, ²⁸for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' ²⁹"Abraham replied, 'They

have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.' ³⁰ " 'No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' ³¹ "He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.' "

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING & PRAYERS

THE SACRAMENT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ

our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory.

HYMN: 663 v. 1 & 3 "Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness"

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you. As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

HYMN: 663 v. 5 & 8 "Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness"

DISTRIBUTION

Our Biblical Communion Practice

The Lord's Supper is God's gift in which we receive Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and strengthening of faith. This gift brings certain responsibilities. The sacrament is intended for those who have been instructed and who understand what the sacrament is all about. Communing together is also a way we express oneness of faith. Therefore, we ask that only confirmed members of our congregations or other churches in fellowship with the Wisconsin Synod come forward to receive the sacrament today. Thank you for respecting this biblical practice. To learn more, you may speak with the pastor after the service.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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: 811 "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

Acknowledgments

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In the Prayer of the Church Today

Included in our intercessory prayers today:

We pray for Pastor Joseph Fricke who is deliberating our call to be our pastor.

We pray for Lisa Hoffman Rainey (daughter of Barb Hoffman).

We pray for our missionaries and the work they do, especially Pastor Jeremy and Kelsey Belter who is serving our mission church, Living Stone Lutheran Church in Arvada, CO.

If there are special intercessory prayers to include in the weekly prayer of the church, please notify the church office beforehand or speak to the pastor for the day prior to the service.

The next St. John's Voters Meeting: is Sunday, October 5th after Worship.

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 Living Stone Lutheran Church in Arvada, Colorado.*** These home missionaries would appreciate hearing from you! Share God's love and encouragement!

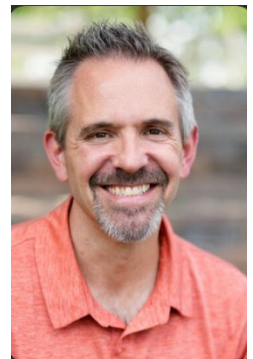
Pastor Jeremy & Kelsey Belter & Family

(serving Living Stone Lutheran Church)

9367 Iron Mountain Way

Arvada, CO 80007-7721

Email: pastor@livingstonearvada.org



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!*

LWMS FALL RALLY at St. Stephen's-Beaver Dam on SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18.
All are welcome! Come share a day "CHEERING" for WELS missions! Speakers Pastor Dan & Amanda Lewig, "Lessons from the Field. Our Home Mission-Richland Center/Hillpoint." Register 9:15 a.m. Enjoy morning refreshments, mission displays, and register on-line as a 2026 Convention volunteer! Service Project: Monetary gifts for Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool-Richland Center. Convention Cross Project: Bring completed crosses & unused tags & bags. Bible Study 10:20 a.m. Business Meeting 11:00 a.m. Lunch 11:50 a.m. Devotion & Speaker 12:40 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! Carpool signup in the Information Room or contact your LWMS reporter: Helen Stelter 608-297-7116 or Linda Wachholz 608-369-2635.

PLEASE VISIT THE BEFRIEND A MISSION LINKWAY DISPLAY AT ST. JOHN'S.

Thank You to Those Who Serve as Ushers

Thank you to James Wachholz, Aaron Wachholz and Chuck Boetcher for ushering last Sunday! Today's ushers are: Paul Van Treeck, Matt Borzick, Ken Borzick, James Henke, Haiden Van Treeck, Nolan Van Treeck, Brody Henke, Milo Henke October 5th ushers are Jerre Duerr, Gordon Krause and Kevin Kaul.

Congregational Scholarship Gifts

Our congregation has a scholarship program for students attending a Lutheran high school, MLC and the Seminary. Through the month of September there will be a basket for members to write notes of encouragement and make personal donations to our students. This year St. John's has two students attending Luther Preparatory School in Watertown. Haiden Van Treeck is a senior, and has been joined by his younger brother Nolan who is a freshman. Please keep these young men in your prayers.

This Week of September 28-October 5

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|-----------------------|---|
| 1 st Wed | Adult Bible Study for all Emmanuel/St. John's Members and Friends at St. John's lower level 10am and repeated at 6:30pm |
| 1 st Wed | Public School Confirmation Class at St. John's, lower level. 5-6 PM |
| 2 nd Thurs | Ladies Aid Dessert and Meeting St. John's lower level. Noon
CALA Volleyball v. Peace Green Lake at Princeton 4pm |
| 2 nd Thurs | GriefShare St. John's lower level 6pm |
| 5 th Sun | 8 AM Worship at Emmanuel and 10 AM at St. John's. Vacancy Pastor Bruce Hanneman with electronic hymns. |
| 5 th Sun. | <u>St. John's Voters Meeting following 10am worship.</u> |

St. John's Financials

	Budget	Offerings	All Income	Expenses
August	\$33,436.46	\$21,165.07	\$30,281.57	\$31,653.99
Year to Date	\$66,872.92	\$43,737.73	\$65,733.68	\$60,586.35

Adult Bible Study Opportunities – Two Offerings

1. Wednesday 9/24 at St. John's 10:30am AND repeated at 6:30pm. The topic will be ***Stories You Didn't Learn in Sunday School – and a Few You Did.*** This week: *Be a Man – David's Last Words to His Son Solomon.*
FOR ALL EMMANUEL-ST JOHN'S MEMBERS AND FRIENDS!!
2. Sunday Morning at St. John's at 8:45am in the linkway. *Important Chapters of the Bible.*

Meditations Devotions for this Week

The daily devotions for this week will be based on the Gospel reading we used today in Luke 16. "Words That Make A Difference Forever" is the theme for the week and you will hear about: a Word of Deceptive Security, of Harsh Reality, of Eternal Absolutes, of Unchangeable Truth, of Absolute and Dependable Hope, of Utter Rejection, and of Almighty Power. COPIES OF THE BOOKLET ARE AVAILABLE AT THE BACK OF CHURCH.

Worship Attendance Last Week

Emmanuel: 61

St. John's: 70

Also, 6 people were able to attend Sunday Bible Study and 20 on Wednesday.

St. John's is having Trunk-or-Treat on Wednesday, October 29th from 4-6pm!

We are in need of volunteers and donations to help make this a great event!!

The supplies we are in need of are apples, applesauce pouches, and cider (these items can be dropped off at the church office until Friday, Oct. 24th). We are also looking for volunteers to help run the activities (this a great way to involve the whole family!!!) We are in need of monetary donations, or a Thrivent Action Team Card if you have one available to use for this event.

Welcome to Our Visitors - Help Us Stay In Touch

Scan the barcode using your smartphone camera and fill out the prompted information...OR... fill out the attendance card located at the end of each pew and place it in the offering plate



Vacancy Pastor: Bruce Hanneman 507-317-5772

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