

September 7, 2025
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
WOUNDS THAT HEAL: COUNT THE COST



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

COUNT THE COST

This week Jesus' sharp words expose our desire to pursue comfort and avoid pain at all costs. Jesus explains that following him will be hard. Jesus' disciples will be called to let go of things they love and embrace things we naturally loathe. Jesus promises that discipleship comes with crosses—a unique type of pain. So, Jesus tells us that we must count the cost of following him. He wants us to do that now, ahead of time, rather than waiting until we are in the heat of the moment and emotions are running high. However, our calculations must not only consider what we might give up for Jesus. They also entail calculating what we get through him! When we perceive the infinite blessings we find in Christ, the decisions we just make, while difficult, will be clear. Whatever is lost as we follow Jesus pales in comparison to what we gain.

Today's Worship Leader: Pastor John Dolan
Today's Accompanist: Donna Kuenn

Today's Order of Worship

Divine Service One

OPENING HYMN: 631 "Speak, O Savior, I Am Listening"

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

Amen.

CONFESSION:

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

DECLARATION OF GRACE

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

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 merciful Lord, you did not spare your only Son but delivered him up for us all. Grant us courage and strength to take up the cross and follow him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15–20

(Prior to settling within the Promised Land, the LORD wants his people to calculate carefully the choice between life and death.)

¹⁵See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. ¹⁶For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, ¹⁸I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live ²⁰and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 1 "Blessed Are They"

Refrain



Tone



SECOND READING: Philemon 1,7–21

(The case of the escaped slave, Onesimus, returning to his owner, Philemon, is a perfect example of the cost in following Jesus. Paul encourages Philemon to free Onesimus and embrace him as a brother.)

¹Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker—⁷Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people. ⁸Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, ⁹yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus—¹⁰that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. ¹¹Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me. ¹²I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. ¹³I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. ¹⁴But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do would not seem forced but would be voluntary. ¹⁵Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever—¹⁶no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord. ¹⁷So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. ¹⁹I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self. ²⁰I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

♪ **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**
Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 14:25-35

(Jesus teaches us that following him closely will come at a cost.)

²⁵Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: ²⁶"If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. ²⁷And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸"Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? ²⁹For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, ³⁰saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish. ³¹"Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won't he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? ³²If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. ³³In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples. ³⁴"Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? ³⁵It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out. "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

CHILDREN'S DEVOTION

HYMN OF THE DAY: 694 "Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken"

SERMON: Luke 14:25-35 Preparing for Extreme Discipleship

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

PRAYER:

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: 849 "Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me"

Acknowledgments

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In the Prayer of the Church Today

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. Here is:

A Prayer for Willing and eager Service to My Church

Selfless Savior, while most people think of Sunday morning worship when they think of church, the local congregation is really about so much more. Yes, worship is the highlight of the believer's week, serving us Word and sacrament, and providing a foretaste of what awaits us in the future, but you build up the body of Christ in so many other ways, too. Churches carry out your work through schools, Bible studies, and various other ministries and acts of service both internally and externally. While we are grateful for church workers who are called to guide and equip us for this work, help each of us to see the important roles we have in helping carry this work out. Service is about a willing spirit - a spirit willing to imitate Jesus and wash my neighbor's feet. Move people everywhere to demonstrate servant leadership in your church, looking to serve first rather than be served. When opportunities or needs arise, grant us the faith-focused desire to get our hands dirty and eagerly jump in. Lead us to support our church workers and each other by making their work a joy and not a burden. Compel us to serve our congregations because through our service, you're not just getting work done through us, but also in us. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

This Week from September 7 to the 14th

8 th Mon	School Soccer at Fox Lake 4:00 PM Little Lambs/School Board Meeting 5:15 PM
10 th Wed	Public School Confirmation at St. John's lower level. 5-6 PM
14 th Sun	Vacancy Pastor Bruce Hanneman will be leading worship with Holy Communion 8 AM at Emmanuel and 10 AM at St. John's. We have no accompanist scheduled at this time, so we will sing hymns with electronic accompaniment.

Pastor Call Meeting

The next call meeting is scheduled for September 21, following 10 AM worship. *All depends on our possessing, God's abundant grace and blessing...* Ask God to bless us according to his will and to bless District President Zank as he works to prepare a call list for us.

SEPTEMBER 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.

Fall Mission Offerings are being collected by LWMS during September at both churches. Please use the collection container at the church where you are a member—in the church entrance both at Emmanuel and at St. John's. WELS mission projects that will benefit from your gift are these Beaver Dam Circuit projects: Home Mission—Family & Children's Outreach Ministry (helps home mission churches start early childhood centers & preschools) and World Mission—Central Africa Medical Mission CAMM (helps spiritual & physical needs of people in Zambia & Malawi) Other projects will be decided at next summer's LWMS convention. Your offerings are important to our supported missions and are welcome from everyone with a heart for missions! DEADLINE: Sunday, September 28.

WON'T YOU PARTICIPATE IN BEFRIEND A MISSION MONTH? THERE ARE THINGS TO DO AT THE DISPLAY AT ST. JOHN'S! 1) Sign the tan autograph sheets with your name and maybe a brief message to each of the Befriended missionaries. **2)** Take a note from the BE A FRIEND TREE, write a brief note to the missionary named, and place it in the basket provided. **3)** Take the "LWMS Fun Quiz" and enter the drawing to win something *delicious!* **4)** Help yourself to any items in multiples—Learn to be a friend to our WELS missions!!

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. **Contact Mark Emond for more information.**

A BRAND NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS NEXT WEEK!

Sunday, September 14 is the day!_ Assisting parents in their God-Given responsibility of training their children in the Lord is a JOY for the Sunday School 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!

Adult Bible Study Opportunities – Coming Soon!

Plans are being made for Sunday Morning and Wednesday morning Bible Study opportunities. More details are heading your way so you can ***grow in grace and the knowledge of your Savior Jesus.*** (2 Peter) The planned topic for the Wednesday study is this: “*Stories You Didn’t Learn in Sunday School (and a Few You Did.)*” That sounds intriguing, doesn’t it. Watch for more and for a starting date coming soon! Sunday morning also.

Meditations Are Here

The new quarter of these excellent daily devotions are ready to be picked up and used. (We even have a few large print copies for those who need them.) You will notice that the devotions for each week will explore further one of the readings from Sunday worship. This week the Old Testament lesson from Deuteronomy is broken down for you. Good stuff!

Forward in Christ for September

This popular colorful magazine of our synod is also ready for you to grab a copy. A nice, easy to read summary of all the events from the synod convention this summer is included this month. You will also find the usual Bible studies, news items, and human-interest stories.



The CALA School Board met this past week here in Montello. This board is made up of members of both the Montello and Princeton congregations. Representing us from Montello St. John's are Alex Truel, Mike Kempley, and Zeb Zuehls. They report to our Church council each month.

Update from Our Little Lambs Classroom

Check Out Ms. Huebner's Poster for School Year Classroom Donations

There are all over the building. Look for one. You can scan the bar code and see how you might be able to help out in some way in our Little Lambs Pre-school Ministry. Don't have a smart phone? No problem. Just ask her.

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 how you can help, **contact Mrs. Straschinske**

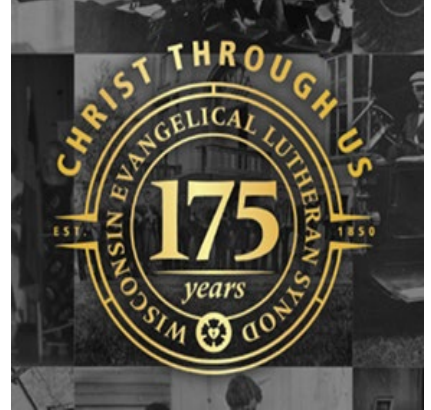
lladmin@stjohnsmontello.org

Congregational Scholarship Gifts

Our congregation has a scholarship program for students attending a Lutheran high school, Martin Luther College 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 brother Nolan who is a freshman. Please keep these young men in your prayers.

We are 175 Years Old – Our Synod, That Is!

Both Emmanuel and St. John's congregations have received a complimentary copy of a fine pictorial history of our church body, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), called *Christ Through Us*. The book has been placed on a table in the fellowship hall at Emmanuel and in the Linkway at St. John's. If you would like to check the book out for personal viewing, let Pastor Dolan, Gary Wegner (Emmanuel) or Matt Kath (St. Johns) know. Both Emmanuel and St. John's are part of this history and are pictured in the book. ALSO, you might enjoy some of the features included on: welshistoricalinstitute.org. The interactive timeline is especially interesting.



Men's Saturday Morning Breakfast/Study Club

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!

Worship Attendance Last Week

Emmanuel: 61

St. John's: 63

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

Thankful and cautious are still keywords for us and our church finances this month. We are grateful for our first-fruit giving members and all who return to the Lord what he has given to them. But, we always have to be careful, cautious and prudent in our management of God's gifts. We still have much work to do in this important part of our church life! ... Our checkbook balance is down this month, but we also had some major expenses that impacted that - new roofs on the storage garages and two much-needed cooling/heating units in two classrooms. Notice that giving is still below what is needed, but under budget expenses did help balance that out a bit. This also reflects only limited, parttime pastoral expenses with no benefits during the vacancy. That would of course change with a new pastor.

St. John's Ushers:

Serving as ushers for today are Ben Jaster, Jacob Jaster, Jeff Reimer and Mark Emond. NEXT WEEK: Matthew Kath, Glen Bubolz, Martin Schmanke, Mike Kempley and Grayson Kempley



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

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