

October 5, 2025
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
WOUNDS THAT HEAL: INCREASED FAITH INCREASES DUTY



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.

INCREASED FAITH INCREASES DUTY

As someone rises through the ranks at work, there are typically benefits: higher salary, more authority, better benefits. However, there is often a corresponding increase in responsibility: longer hours, more meetings, raised expectations. So, if someone is offered a promotion, they might ask, "Is this worth it?" It is similar in God's kingdom. As our faith grows, there are obvious benefits: the comfort of knowing you are a redeemed and loved child of God, the peace of knowing your eternity is secure. However, increased faith also increases duty. There are ever more opportunities for service. This week, Jesus has sharp words for those who want the benefits of being Christian but would shirk those responsibilities. However, to lead us to take up those responsibilities, our Savior doesn't threaten or cajole. He helps us see that while increased faith increases duty, increased duty increases delight. The believer knows he serves the One who came to serve us first. Just as Christ's service brought him great joy, so does our service to others

Today's Worship Leader: Vacancy Pastor Bruce Hanneman
We are using electronic music today for the hymns

Today's Order of Worship

At St. John's, the Sunday School Children sing: "How Marvelous"

OPENING HYMN: 918 "Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now"

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

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

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.

KYRIE

Spoken responsively

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.

GLORIA

Spoken responsively

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. Almighty God, in your bountiful goodness, keep us safe from every evil of body and soul. Make us ready, with cheerful hearts, to do whatever pleases

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: 1 Chronicles 29:1-2,10-18

(In faith, the people of Israel understood that all their wealth came from the LORD. So, they donated generously to the construction of the LORD's temple.)

¹Then King David said to the whole assembly: "My son Solomon, the one whom God has chosen, is young and inexperienced. The task is great, because this palatial structure is not for man but for the Lord God. ²With all my resources I have provided for the temple of my God—gold for the gold work, silver for the silver, bronze for the bronze, iron for the iron and wood for the wood, as well as onyx for the settings, turquoise, stones of various colors, and all kinds of fine stone and marble—all of these in large quantities.

¹⁰David praised the Lord in the presence of the whole assembly, saying, "Praise be to you, Lord, the God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. ¹¹Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. ¹²Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. ¹³Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name. ¹⁴"But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. ¹⁵We are foreigners and strangers in your sight, as were all our ancestors. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope.

¹⁶Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you. ¹⁷I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things I have given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you. ¹⁸Lord, the God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Israel, keep these desires and thoughts in the hearts of your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 62A "In God Alone My Soul Can Find Rest and Peace" *read responsively*
Refrain

**In God alone my soul can find rest and peace,
in God my peace and joy.
Only in God my soul can find its rest,
find its rest and peace.**

Truly my soul finds / rest in God;
my salvation / comes from him.
Truly he is my rock and my sal- / vation;
he is my fortress, I will never be / shaken.
Yes, my soul, find / rest in God;
my hope / comes from him. *Refrain*

Though your rich- / es increase,
do not set your / heart on them.
My salvation and my honor de- / pend on God;
he is my mighty rock, my / refuge.
Trust in him at all times, you / people;
pour out your hearts to him, for God is our / refuge.
Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

SECOND READING: 2 Thessalonians 1:1–5, 11–12

(St. Paul thanks God for increasing the faith of the Thessalonians, enabling them to better love one another and to persevere even during persecution.)

¹Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: ²Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing. ⁴Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring. ⁵All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. ¹¹With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith.

¹²We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF THE DAY: 748 "Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly"

SERMON: Luke 17:1-10 "We are ALL, Unworthy Servants!"

¹Jesus said to his disciples: "Things that cause people to stumble are bound to come, but woe to anyone through whom they come. ²It would be better for them to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around their neck than to cause one of these little ones to stumble. ³So watch yourselves. "If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them. ⁴Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying 'I repent,' you must forgive them." ⁵The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" ⁶He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you. ⁷"Suppose one of you has a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Will he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, 'Come along now and sit down to eat'? ⁸Won't he rather say, 'Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink'? ⁹Will he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? ¹⁰So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.' "

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: 697 "May We Your Precepts, Lord, Fulfill"

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.

In the Prayer of the Church Today

Continue to keep Pastor Joe Fricke in your prayers as he deliberates on the call we have sent him to be our pastor. Also, today St. John's of Princeton will be calling for their next pastor. We ask God to bless them too. *If there are special intercessory prayers to include in the weekly intercessory prayers, notify the church office during the week or speak to the pastor prior to the service.*

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Here is a prayer for our pastors: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the blessing of pastors to shepherd us. Grant that our pastors remain faithful in prayer and study of the Scriptures and continue preaching your Word in its truth and purity. As we await a new pastor-shepherd, give us grace to support in prayer and enable us to encourage Pastors Hanneman and Dolan, as well as our visiting pastors, that their service may be filled with joy and their ministry yield fruit. And, Lord, give our congregation receptiveness to their ministry so that we may be strengthened and renewed in our faith. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

The next St. John's Voters Meeting is today after Worship!!

THANK YOU FROM LWMS FOR SUPPORTING MISSIONS! During September Befriend A Mission month, any prayers spoken, any encouragement written in a card or note, and any offerings given to support WELS missions were greatly appreciated! May we continue to be friends of missions!

LWMS PIE SALE coming soon on Sunday, November 9! More details soon.

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.

Thank You to Those Who Serve as Ushers

Thank you to Jerre Duerr, Gordon Krause and Kevin Kaul for serving as today's ushers. October 5th ushers are: Ben Jaster, Jacob Jaster, Mark Emond, and Jeff Reimer.

This Week of October 5-October 12

5th Sun.	<u>St. John's Voters Meeting following 10am worship. Evangelism Meeting following Voters Meeting.</u>
6 th Mon	Hands in Prayer meeting SJ 2:30pm
7 th Tues	Joint Elders meeting SJ 9:00am
7 th Tues	CALA Volleyball at Fox Lake 4:30pm
7 th Tues	CALA board meeting 6:00pm
8 th Wed	Adult Bible Study for all Emmanuel/St. John's Members and Friends at St. John's lower level 10:30am and repeated at 6:30pm
8 th Wed	CALA Volleyball at Princeton 4:30pm
8 th Wed	Public School Confirmation Class at St. John's, lower level. 5-6 PM
9 th Thurs	GriefShare St. John's lower level 6pm
12 th Sun	8 AM Worship at Emmanuel and 10 AM at St. John's. Retired Pastor John Dolan with electronic hymns.

Adult Bible Study Opportunities – Two Offerings

The Wednesday class continues the series, *Stories You Didn't Learn in Sunday School – and a Few You Did*. This week the story is about Joshua (chapter 24) - Making a Decision for Christ. We had a good turnout this past week, but there is room for more. Sunday Morning at St. John's at 8:45am in the linkway. *Important Chapters of the Bible*.

HIP Meets this Week

HIP stands for Hands in Prayer. It is a group of ladies of the congregation who meet each month for fellowship and service to the congregation and its members. Their mission statement explains: "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:24-25)." They make items such as the baptismal napkins, prayer shawls, Meditations" book holders, and other items. They are active in other service projects too. They have a prayer list they pray about each month. If you want to know more, contact Bernice Wegner at 608-369-1168.

Meditations Devotions for this Week

Do you use the daily devotion booklet, Meditations? Consider using these to start a simple but meaningful personal devotion time. Copies are in the racks on the back wall of church. This week the devotions come from today's Old Testament reading in 1 Chronicles and goes into depth about David's Prayer of Praise. Monday's theme, for example, talks about how we can Praise God When He Says No.

Singing Schedule:

Oct. 5: St. John's Sunday School (Montello)

Oct. 19: CALA 3-8 at Princeton

Oct. 26: St. John's Sunday School (Montello)

Nov. 9: Little Lambs & CALA K-2 at Montello

Nov. 16: Little Lambs & CALA K-8, Chimes at Princeton

Nov. 16: St. John's Sunday School (Montello)

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. For more information, please contact Mr. Matt in the office.



At our Pastor Call meeting the voters present voted unanimously to extend a Divine Call to Pastor Joseph Fricke. Following is some information about him and his family: He is 60 years old and has been a Pastor for 32 years. He served as Pastor in Mauston for 16 years. He is presently serving at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Johnson Creek WI. His wife's name is Rebecca (Becky) (nee Schultz) she is the daughter of our recently departed member Eloise Schultz. Her brother Tim Schultz is a member of St. John's. They have 4 grown children. They own their own home.

Contact information:

Pastor Joseph Fricke

Phone: 608-548-4998

Email: revfricke@gmail.com

Address:

W4096 County Rd B

Johnson Creek WI 53172

Please pray for him and his family and reach out to them with encouragement through cards, texts, emails, or phone calls as they deliberate where they can best use their gifts to promote the saving Gospel.

Wisconsin Synod 175th Anniversary Worship

On the next three Sundays in October, the 12th , 19th , and 26th , we will join many other synod congregations giving special attention to the 175th anniversary of our church body. Christ Through Us is the overall theme. The last of the three is also Reformation Sunday and two sons of the congregation will be here to help us celebrate. Pastor David Kolander will be out guest preacher for the day, and Robert Mateske, Jr. will serve as guest organist. The adult choir and the Sunday School will be singing.



St. John's Financials

	Budget	Offerings	All Income	Expenses
September	\$33,436.46	\$25,022.45	\$36,466.78	\$29,855.17
Year to Date	\$100,309.35	\$71,327.75	\$104,768.46	\$90,442.58

Worship Attendance Last Week

Emmanuel: 39

St. John's: 220

Also, 9 people were able to attend Sunday Bible Study and 24 on Wednesday.

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

bwhanny@frontier.com

Pastor John Stelter - CALA Principal

principal@crystalonelutheranacademy.net 920-481-9002 ext. 101

Mr. Martin Raasch - CALA 6-8 Grade

mraasch@crystalonelutheranacademy.net 920- 481-9002 ext. 102

Miss Beth Barenz - CALA 3-5 Grade

bbarenz@crystalonelutheranacademy.net 920-481-9002 ext. 103

Ms. Shelley Myers - CALA 1-2 Grade

smyers@crystalonelutheranacademy.net 920-481-9002 ext. 201

Mrs. Elizabeth Wolter - CALA Kindergarten -

ewolter@crystalonelutheranacademy.net 920-481-9002 ext. 202

Miss Rachel Huebner - Little Lambs Teacher -

littlelambs@stjohnsmontello.org 608-297-2866 ext. 203

Mrs. Sylvia Straschinske - Little Lambs Director -

lladmin@stjohnsmontello.org 608-297-2866 ext. 203

Mrs. Jorgia Kempley - CALA Secretary -

secretary@crystalonelutheranacademy.net 920-481-9002 ext. 101

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