

It Is the Gift of God

The Festival of the Lutheran Reformation
and
the 175th Anniversary of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod



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.

The FESTIVAL of the LUTHERAN REFORMATION

Reformation Day marks the day in 1517 when [Martin Luther](#) posted his [95 Theses](#) on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, challenging certain practices of the Roman Catholic Church. A celebration of the Reformation emphasizes basic Bible teachings such as salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, and that the Bible is the ultimate authority in Christian faith. We also remember another day, April 18, 1521, when Martin Luther stood to answer the questions put to him about those basic teachings. When it was demanded that he recant, or take back and disavow those teachings, he answered: "Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason ... I am bound by the Scriptures, and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot, and I will not retract anything since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. Here I stand; I cannot do otherwise; God help me! Amen"

CHRIST THROUGH US

The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod is celebrating its 175th anniversary in 2025 under the theme "Christ Through Us." From one seminary in 1865, one world mission in 1893, and 800 congregations mostly in the Midwest as of 1965, we can now easily see how Christ has worked through his good news of salvation in Word and sacraments to move this body of believers to establish a Scripture-based ministerial education system, world missions in 45 countries, and more than 1,200 congregations across the United States. Today's worship theme carries out the *Christ THROUGH Us* theme by focusing specifically on *Christ WITH Us*. ... Over 500 years ago, Lutheran Christians were under tremendous pressure. They were forced to defend themselves on battlefields both metaphorical and literal. But they took comfort that Christ himself was by their side upon the plain with his good gifts and Spirit. Just 175 years ago, the Lutheran Christians who founded the Wisconsin Synod were also under tremendous pressure. The pressure continues today with opposition to the truths of the Word of God. But we take comfort that Christ is with us in Word and sacrament, and we move forward with the promise of his presence.

Worship Leader: Pastor Emeritus John Dolan

Preacher: Pastor David Kolander, Son of the Congregation

Organist: Mr. Robert Mateske, Jr., Son of the Congregation

The Order of Worship

Ringling of the Bell

Welcome and Introduction to Today's Worship

(At St. John's) Sunday School Songs – "The Bible Tells Me So" and "Here I Stand"
(The congregation is asked to participate with the children as indicated below.)

VERSE 1:

Upper: Our God is great and He loves me I know.

Lower: How do you know? How do you know?

Upper: Our God is great and He loves me I know;

All: The Bible tells me so!

Congregation: John 3, verse 16. God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

VERSE 2:

Upper: Jesus, God's Son, came to live here below.

Lower: How do you know? How do you know?

Upper: Jesus, God's Son, came to live here below;

All: The Bible tells me so!

Congregation: Galatians 4, verse 4. When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.

VERSE 3:

Upper: My sins made Jesus to Calvary go.

Lower: How do you know? How do you know?

Upper: My sins made Jesus to Calvary go;

All: The Bible tells me so!

Congregation: 1st John 2, verses 1 and 2. Jesus Christ died in our place to take away our sins, and not only our sins but the sins of all people.

VERSE 4:

Upper: Jesus goes with me wherever I go.

Lower: How do you know? How do you know?

Upper: Jesus goes with me wherever I go;

All: The Bible tell me so!

Congregation: Matthew 28 verse 20. Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

VERSE 5:

Upper: He lives today to help Christians to grow.

Lower: How do you know? How do you know?

Upper: He lives today to help Christians to grow;

All: The Bible tells me so!

Congregation: John 15 verse 5. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit, apart from me you can do nothing.

VERSE 6:

Upper: When Jesus comes, I to heaven will go.

Lower: How do you know? How do you know?

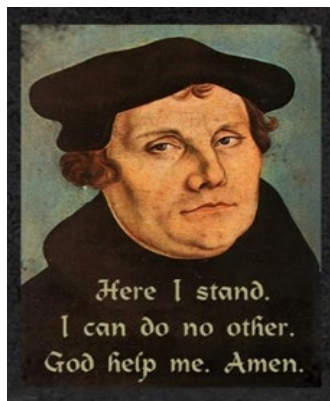
Upper: When Jesus comes, I to heaven will go;

All: The Bible tells me so!

Congregation: John 14, verses 2 and 3. My Father's house has many rooms . . . I am going to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

All: Our God is great and He loves me I know; The Bible tells me so!

Sunday School Children Sing: "Here I Stand"



Congregation Hymn and Responsive Reading of Psalm 103

(The hymn is sung to the tune of CW 717 "What Is the World to Me". Lyrics by Arden Mead)



By grace we have been saved, by God's abundant favor.

It is the gift of God through faith in Christ, our Savior.

No merit may we claim, no effort of our own;

It is the gift of God through faith in Christ alone.

P With all my heart I praise the Lord, and with all that I am I praise his holy name!

C With all my heart I praise the Lord! I will never forget how kind he has been.

P The Lord forgives our sins, heals us when we are sick, and protects us from death.

C His kindness and love are a crown on our heads.

P Each day that we live, he provides for our needs.

C He gives us the strength of a young eagle.

P How great is God's love for all who worship him?

C Greater than the distance between heaven and earth!

P How far has the Lord taken our sins from us?

C Farther than the distance from east to west!



When we were dead in sin, God sent his Son to save us.

It is the gift of God that life eternal gave us.

By God's abundant grace we with the Lord are raised.

It is the gift of God, whose name fore'er be praised.

P The Lord is always kind to those who worship him,

C and he keeps his promises to their descendants who faithfully obey him.

P God has set up his kingdom in heaven, and he rules the whole creation.

C Let all of God's creation and all that he rules come and praise the Lord.

P With all my heart I praise the Lord.



**We are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus.
It is the gift of God that thus his mercy frees us
To live in holiness the life that God desires.
It is the gift of God that such good works inspires.**

Prayer of the Day

Your Word tells us, Lord, that it is by grace we are saved, not by works, and that it is a gift from God, lest anyone should boast. Let us bask in the blessing of this true gift from you of our salvation from sin, death and the devil, not because of anything we have done but because of what your Son did for us on the cross by dying in our stead for our transgressions and rising to life three days later that we might live a new life in heaven with you. May this miraculous message, uncovered again during the Reformation, which we celebrate this day, be our guiding light and our bold claim in how we live our lives for you. Amen.

The Reformation Psalm – Psalm 46

(To be sung by the congregation to the tune of CW 820 "O God, Our Help in Ages Past")



**God is our Refuge and our Strength, our Helper ever near.
The Lord of hosts is on our side to shelter us from fear.**

**Though mountains fall and storms arise and fearful tempests blow,
Our God is with us, and he leads where peaceful waters flow.**

**God's steadfast help will surely come as certain as the dawn.
The Lord of hosts is on our side, so let all fear be gone!**

**The trembling nations hear his voice, their awesome Sov'reign own:
"Be still, and know that I am God, and I will reign alone!"**

**Come and behold what God has done: as adversaries yield,
He breaks the bow and snaps the spear and burns with fire the shield.**

**O God our Refuge, God our Strength, accept the praise we bring
For mercy shown by grace alone through Christ, our Savior-King!**

The Scripture Lesson, - Revelation 3:7-13

Christ is coming soon. Hold on to what you have! Go through the open door before you.

To the messenger of the church in Philadelphia write: The Holy One, the one who is true, the one who has the key of David, the one who opens and no one can shut, and who shuts and no one can open, says this: ⁸I know your works. Look, I have set before you an open door, which no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. ⁹Look, I will make those who are from the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not but are lying—look, I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and make them realize that I have loved you. ¹⁰Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will also keep you from the hour of testing, which is about to come over the whole inhabited world, to test those who dwell on the earth. ¹¹I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have so that no one takes your crown. ¹²The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he will never leave it again. I will also write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God—the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God—and my new name. ¹³Whoever has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

The Alleluia

(Sung by the congregation to the tune of CW 925, "On What Has Now Been Sown")



**It is God's gift alone that we to Christ belong,
Who claims us as his own and will our whole life long.
Alleluia! By faith alone God's gift we own. Alleluia!**

Choir Anthem – "How Firm a Foundation"

The Gospel - John 8:31-36 (Please Stand)

The presence of Christ in his Word sets us free.

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you remain in my word, you are really my disciples. You will also know the truth, and the truth will set you free." "We are Abraham's descendants," they answered, "and we have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say, 'You will be set free'?" Jesus answered, "Amen, Amen, I tell you: Everyone who keeps committing sin is a slave to sin. But a slave does not remain in the family forever. A son does remain forever. So if the Son sets you free, you really will be free.

Congregational Hymn, CW 830, "We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight,"



**We walk by faith and not by sight; No gracious words we hear
From him who spoke as none e'er spoke, But we believe him near.**

**We may not touch his hands and side Nor follow where he trod,
But in his promise we rejoice And cry, My Lord and God!"**

**Help then, O Lord, our unbelief, And may our faith abound
To call on you when you are near And seek where you are found.**

**For you, O resurrected Lord, Are found in means divine:
Beneath the water and the Word, Beneath the bread and wine.**

**Lord, when our life of faith is done, In realms of clearer light,
We may behold you as you are With full and endless sight.**

The Sermon - Joshua 4:1-9, "Understanding the Stones"

When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the LORD told Joshua, ²"Take twelve men from the people, one man from each tribe, ³and give them the following orders: 'Pick up twelve stones from here in the middle of the Jordan, from the place

where the feet of the priests are standing securely. Carry them over with you and put them at the place where you will stay tonight.”⁴ So Joshua called the twelve men whom he had selected from the people of Israel—a man from each tribe.⁵ Joshua said to them, “Go to the middle of the Jordan in front of the Ark of the LORD your God. There each man is to lift up one stone on his shoulder. The number will correspond to the number of the tribes descended from the sons of Israel,⁶ so that this may be a sign among you when your children ask in the future, ‘What do these stones mean for you?’⁷ Then you shall respond to them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off in front of the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD. When the ark passed through the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones will serve as a permanent memorial for the people of Israel.”⁸ So the people of Israel did just as Joshua had ordered. They picked up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, corresponding to the number of the tribes descended from the sons of Israel, as the LORD had instructed Joshua. They carried the stones over with them to their lodging place and deposited them there.⁹ Joshua also set up twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan at the spot where the feet of the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant had stood. They are there to this day.

Creedal Hymn (Please Stand)

(Sung to the tune of CW 612, “How Great Thou Art”)



**We all believe in God, almighty Father
who shattered chaos, said, “Let there be light!
“Sun, moon and stars show forth his praise together,
All things on earth his wisdom and his might.
God loved the world so much he freely gave
his only Son the lost to save.
God loves each child; by faith we understand
it is God’s gift—a Father’s hand.**

**We all believe in God’s true Son, Christ Jesus,
Born of a virgin, for us crucified.
His holy death and resurrection frees us
To rise from sin, and in his grace abide.**

**Ascended to his throne in heav'n on high
with saving love he still is nigh.
He will return as Shepherd, Judge and King.
He is God's gift—his praise we sing!**

**And we give thanks for God the Holy Spirit,
proceeding from the Father and the Son,
By whose blest inspiration we inherit
the benefits of all that Christ has done.
The holy Church is gathered 'round the Word
where God's good news in faith is heard
Forgiven and forgiving, we shall rise
to claim God's gift of Paradise.**

The Gathering of the Offering and Offering Prayer

Prayers for Reformation Day and WELS 175th

(Reformation Prayer based on Martin Luther's Small Catechism Creed spoken responsively):

P: O God the Father Almighty, we offer our thanks for richly and daily providing us with all that we need to support the bodies you have given us and the lives we are privileged to live.

C: Make us truly grateful for your gifts of goods and clothing, house and home, spouse and children, property, and all that we call ours—that we may regard them as your blessings and dedicate them to your service.

P: O Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, for us and for our salvation you became true man.

C: It is your gift alone that purchased and won us from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil—not with gold or silver, but with your holy, precious blood and your innocent suffering and death. Keep us firm in that saving faith.

P: O Holy Spirit, we acknowledge all the gifts of God today only because you have called us by the Gospel, enlightened us with your gifts, sanctified and kept us in the true faith.

Continue to inspire us in all these ways, we pray, that the things we do may show forth your glory.

C: By your Word and sacraments, you have united us with the whole Christian Church on earth. Continue to call, gather, enlighten, and sanctify more believers, and keep them with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

P: Gracious God, you have brought us together in a church body in which your Word is proclaimed faithfully, the message of reconciliation through Christ is the central focus of ministry, and the mission is to reach the lost and strengthen the saved. For this gift of your grace, we give you thanks. Work in us by your Holy Spirit to rekindle our zeal for the work you have set before us. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Gracious Lord, you have given us opportunities to proclaim your Word in our nation and throughout the world. Move the hearts of more young people to prepare for the teaching and preaching ministry. Help us view them as your precious gifts. Bless the work of our schools that prepare them for ministry and provide the opportunities for them to serve in your kingdom. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Gracious Lord, you have preserved our synod and blessed its ministry for the past 175 years. Bless us in the future as you have in the past so that our synod, its congregations, and each of us may boldly confess your name for the salvation of precious souls.

C: Amen

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.

The Lord's Supper

Invitation

Confession and Absolution

The Words of Institution

Distribution of the Sacrament

Thanksgiving

Our Bible-based 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 meaning of the sacrament. Communing together is also a way we express oneness of faith and confession 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.

Benediction (spoken by the pastor)

It is the gift of God that he has blessed us and keeps us.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

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

ALL: Amen.

Closing Hymn, CW 863, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God,"

(Sung antiphonally – v.1 ALL, v.2 MEN, v.3 WOMEN, V. 4 ALL)



**A mighty fortress is our God, A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need That has us now o'ertaken.
The old evil foe Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might Are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.**

**With might of ours can naught be done; Soon were our loss effected.
But for us fights the valiant one Whom God himself elected.
You ask, "Who is this?" Jesus Christ it is,
The almighty Lord. And there's no other God;
He holds the field forever.**

**Though devils all the world should fill, All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill; They shall not overpower us.
This world's prince may still Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done!
One little word can fell him.**

**The Word they still shall let remain, Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain With his good gifts and Spirit.
And do what they will—Hate, steal, hurt, or kill—
Though all may be gone, Our victory is won;
The kingdom's ours forever!**

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. composite.

This service, is adapted from a service by Arden Mead. © 2015 Creative Communications for the Parish, 1564 Fencorp Dr., Fenton, MO 63026. 800-325-9414. www.creativecommunications.com. All rights reserved. Scripture quoted from New International Version®. Copyright©1973, 1978,1984,2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Also, The Foundation – Year C (2024-2025) -WELS 175th Anniversary.

This Week of October 26-November 2

26th Today **Evangelism meeting after Worship, St. John's lower level**
28th Tues **Joint Worship Meeting St. John's lower level**
29th 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**
29th Wed **Trunk -or-Treat St. John's 4-6pm**
30th Thurs **GriefShare St. John's lower level 6pm**
Saturday night.. remember to set your clocks back 1 hour!!!
2nd Sun **8 AM Worship at Emmanuel and 10 AM at St. John's.**
2nd Sun **Emmanuel Congregation Meeting following worship.**

Principal Call is Made for CALA

Last Sunday evening the board of our joint school called **Mr. Karl G Bauer** to be our next principal. He is currently serving as principal of the elementary division of a Prek-12 Lutheran school in North Hollywood, CA, North Hollywood Christian Academy...Mr.

Bauer is Minnesota born, and is 60 years old. He and his wife, Sarah (nee Peterson) have three older children, ages 25, 23, 20. Mrs. Bauer has a degree in accounting. His education began in a Lutheran elementary school for 8 years and continued at a Lutheran high school for 4 years, before enrolling at Dr. Martin Luther College in New Ulm, MN, graduating in 1987. He furthered his education by earning a master's degree in elementary education from the University of Dayton...Mr. Bauer previously taught in elementary schools in Jenera, OH and Mesa, AZ. His current school in California has 82 students and 7 teachers, and a pre-school with 29 students and 2 teachers...Mr. Bauer's resume is strong in a multitude of musical gifts and interests, and has years of experience in these areas, including organist and choir director. He is a well-rounded educator who is comfortable in all subject areas and all age levels. He says, "I am a general type of person. I like teaching everything, from classroom subjects, to sports, to music." Mr. Bauer is also the Coordinator of the Arizona/California District of the WELS Commission on Worship. Should you wish to send greetings and prayer to the Bauers and offer your insights and encouragement, his contact information is;
 1 818-235-4637 (Cell); 1 818-371-4962 (Home)
 E-mail: kbauer@stpaulsfirst.org (Work)

Thank You to Those Who Serve as Ushers

Thank you to today's ushers James Wachholz, Zeb Zuehls, Chuck Boetcher, Jesse Schable, Aaron Wachholz. November 2nd ushers are: Jerre Duerr, Gordon Krause, Kevin Kaul.

Worship Attendance Last Week

Emmanuel: 39

St. John's: 56

Also, 8 attended Sunday Bible study; and 21 on Wednesday, and 3 at the Men's Breakfast.

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

PIE SALE ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9 Buy a homemade pie! Visit us in the gym! All proceeds will help us send some of our Sisters to their first Lutheran Women's Missionary Society Convention this summer in Madison. Sales will run from 9:15 a.m. until the 10:00 a.m. service and will re-open after the service till all the pies are sold. \$12/pie.

In the Prayer of the Church Today

Included in our intercessory prayers is Emmanuel member Darrell Buchholz, who is beginning medical treatment. *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.*



WELS 175th – A Montello Connection

Pastor/Professor/President CARL J. LAWRENZ (1908-1989) played an important role in the crucial years of our synod's history in mid to later years of the 20th century. He served as president of our pastor-training seminary, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, from 1957-1978. This was a period of dramatic challenge, change and considerable growth for our synod and the seminary. He was a faithful pastor, a gifted theologian, and respected leader, whose footprint on the 175 years of WELS history will always be remembered and acknowledged... Lawrenz was born and raised on a farm just outside Lomira, WI, an upbringing which he always treasured. This prominent and historical figure in American Lutheran history also had a Montello connection. A young Pastor Lawrenz met and courted Irene Zabel of Montello. At the time, Irene worked as the sole secretary of the courthouse staff of Marquette County. Her father had served a term as sheriff. Her solid Christian upbringing, her artistic and musical talent, and her sense of adventure not only captured the pastor's heart, but also (according to a son) kept him out of the proverbial ivory tower the rest of his ministry life. Irene was the seminary secretary and was a huge encourager for many seminary students and future pastors.



In 175 years of synod history there were many heroes of faith that God used to further his gospel kingdom among us. Carl J. Lawrenz has a prominent place among them.

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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