

November 16, 2025
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
CAUSE / EFFECT: JUDGEMENT / PEACE



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.

CAUSE/EFFECT

"Every why hath a wherefore." That was Shakespeare's poetic way of saying that very little happens by chance. Generally there is an agent behind an action. There is cause and effect. And to navigate life well, it is vital we understand both. If you want to effect a healthy heart, you need to know the causes of heart disease. Before a major purchase causes you to go into debt, you need to think about the effect it will have on your budget. If you want the peace of being close to God, you need to know what causes that effect. Again, to navigate life well, it is vital we understand cause and effect. We are nearing the end of the Church Year. This past year, we have reviewed Jesus' life and teaching. The Scripture readings in these final weeks recall some of the major themes that are woven throughout the Church Year. In this final series we will be looking at those themes with the understanding that "every why hath a wherefore." We conclude the year by talking about cause and effect in God's kingdom.

JUDGEMENT / PEACE

If you were making a list of things that might make society more peaceful, would you include "more judgment"? Likely not. Many people assume that judgement leads to conflict, not peace. However, a lack of judgment is a luxury many cannot afford. Our world is full of victims of abuse, violence, and oppression. In many cases this evil goes unnoticed and unpunished. A future without the hope of judgment means no peace. If there is no hope of judgment, victims would be driven either into total despair or to be consumed by the desire for revenge. A future that includes judgment, however, gives those who are wronged the peace of knowing that one day there will be perfect justice. When we are horribly wronged, what are our options? Taking matters into our own hands? Despair? Jesus provides a better option. Trust that he will keep his promise to return, bringing judgment. The effect of that promise? We have peace, knowing that every wrong will eventually be righted by the one righteous Judge.

Today's Worship Leader: Vacancy Pastor Bruce Hanneman
Today's accompanist: Mr. Robert Mateske, Jr.

Today's Order of Worship

At St. John's the Sunday School Children sing: "Give Thanks"

OPENING HYMN: 914 Christ Is Our Cornerstone

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

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. Lord God Almighty, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may always look forward to the end of this present evil age and the day of your righteous judgment. Keep us steadfast in true and living faith, and present us at last holy and blameless before 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: Malachi 4:1-6

(On the day of judgment, those who do evil will be laid low. But that day will mean rescue for those who revere the name of the LORD.)

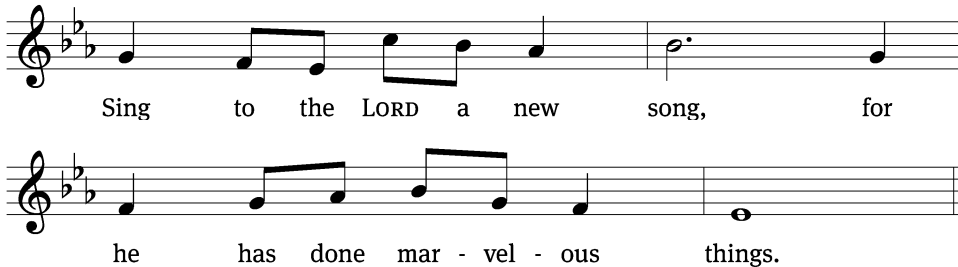
¹"Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and the day that is coming will set them on fire," says the Lord Almighty. "Not a root or a branch will be left to them. ²But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays. And you will go out and frolic like well-fed calves. ³Then you will trample on the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I act," says the Lord Almighty. ⁴"Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel. ⁵"See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. ⁶He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 98G Sing to the LORD a New Song

Refrain



Tone



Sing to the LORD a / new song,
for he has done / marv'ulous things.
The LORD has made his sal- / vation known
and revealed his righteousness to the / nations.
He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to / Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation / of our God. *Refrain*

Shout for joy to the LORD, / all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with / music;
make music to the LORD / with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of / singing.
Shout for joy before the / LORD, the King.
He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with / equity.
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*

Tune: J. Robert Carroll

Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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SECOND READING: 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10

(The Thessalonian Christians were suffering a persecution. To empower their perseverance, Paul assures them of the coming judgment and punishment.)

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. ⁶God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you ⁷and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. ⁸He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might ¹⁰on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF THE DAY: 488 The Day Is Surely Drawing Near

SERMON: Luke 21:5-19. "Peace at Last!" There Will Be Anxious Beginnings. So Stand Firm to the End

⁵Some of his disciples were remarking about how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and with gifts dedicated to God. But Jesus said, ⁶"As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another; every one of them will be thrown down." ⁷"Teacher," they asked, "when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are about to take place?" ⁸He replied: "Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not follow them. ⁹When you hear of wars and uprisings, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away." ¹⁰Then he said to them: "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. ¹¹There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven. ¹²"But before all this, they will seize you and persecute you. They will hand you over to synagogues and put you in prison, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. ¹³And so you will bear testimony to me. ¹⁴But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. ¹⁵For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict. ¹⁶You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷Everyone will hate you because of me. ¹⁸But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹Stand firm, and you will win life.

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.

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: 931 Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise

Acknowledgments

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In the Prayer of the Church Today

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.

A Prayer for Your Personal Use – For Care Givers

Dear God. Those who are committed to caring for others provide a tremendous service to society. There are so many in need of care of all kinds - physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual. Thank you for all care-givers and the sacrifices they are willing to make to provide valuable care to others. Give them perseverance and strength for their responsibilities when they are tired and worn out. Uplift them with words of encouragement and appreciation when they are emotionally drained. Above all, refresh them with the spiritual rest you freely offer, forgiving their sins and securing their salvation by your loving sacrifice for them and for all people.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

PRINCETON PASTOR CALL

Pastor Daniel Frey from Lee's Summit, Missouri, has been called to be pastor of St. John's, Princeton. Keep this in your prayers.

This Week of November 16th to 23rd:

18 th Tues	St. John's Council Meeting, Lower Level, 6:30pm
19 th Wed	Adult Bible Study. St. John's lower level 10:30am and repeated at 6:30pm
19 th Wed	Public School Confirmation Class at St. John's, lower level. 5-6 PM
19 th Wed	Choir practice at St. John's, 6pm
20 th Thurs	GriefShare St. John's lower level 6pm
23 rd Sun	Bible Class, 9am in the St. John's Linkway
23 rd Sun	8 AM Worship at Emmanuel and 10 AM at St. John's.

What's in the Meditations This Week?

This week *Meditation's* readers get to spend the week in the Old Testament prophecy of Malachi. "Point Me Heavenward, Because the Day is Coming" is the theme for the week. Each day we are reminded that the day is coming for a particular reason. Make good use of these devotions this week.

Forward in Christ Magazine

There are still copies of the November issue of our fine WELS magazine. Pick up a copy, read it, and share with someone else.

Principal Call Information Made for CALA

Mr. Karl G Bauer still holds our call to be our school 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. 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)

Worship Attendance Last Week

Emmanuel: 60

St. John's: 155

10 attended Sunday Bible study; and 19 on Wednesday.

St. John's Financials

	Budget	Offerings	All Income	Expenses
October	\$33,436.46	\$19,316.07	\$40,412.20	\$30,483.25
Year to Date	\$133,745.81	\$90,643.82	\$145,180.66	\$120,925.83

Financial Overview Jul-Oct, 2025-26 (Fiscal Year)

Membership and plate offerings remained somewhat low. Supplemental income from Emmanuel and CALA cost-sharing was significantly higher than budgeted, which helped bring total income almost in line with the budget. Expenses continued to run somewhat lower than budgeted. This combination resulted in net income exceeding the budget projection. Again note that expenses include only part-time pastor expense.

Advent by Candlelight Women's Program hosted by Emmanuel will be held Sunday, November 30th, 2025 at 4:00pm at Emmanuel Parish Hall. Ladies can enjoy a beautifully decorated candlelit room, food, song and prayer. We hope you can join us for fellowship and preparation for the true meaning of Christmas. This invitation is for members of Emmanuel, St. John's, their friends and neighbors. Sign-up sheets will be out today in Emmanuel's Parish Hall & St. John's information room. Seating is limited so you need to sign up early. If you have any questions please call Sue Stelter at (608-369-1790).

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS - GRIEFSHARE!

For people grieving the loss of a loved one, the holiday season can be difficult. There are social gatherings, holiday cheer, and traditions that had involved their loved one. Whether the loss was recent or years ago, this season is a reminder that their loved one is no longer here to celebrate. Griefshare's "Surviving The Holidays" brings reassurance, practical advice, and a way forward through the season. Please join us on Saturday, November 22, at 10 am, at St. John's in Princeton for a potluck and Special Griefshare. French Toast Bake will be served. If you'd like to bring something it would be appreciated but not necessary! ... This same event will also be offered on Saturday, November 15 at 10 am at Peace Lutheran Church in Wautoma. Please let Mark Emond know if you plan to attend either event, and how many so that enough materials and French Toast Bake can be prepared. Mark Emond has led Griefshare for almost 12 years and can tell many success stories! Call(608) 697-1600, and please leave me a voicemail if no answer.

AMMO Boxes Are in the Back of Church!

Help support the **Lutheran Military Support Group**, a Christ-centered ministry for military service members, veterans, and their families. It is led by volunteer WELS and ELS Service Members who are active duty, prior service, or dependent family members. They have a great website at lutheranmilitary.org.

Thank You to Those Who Serve as Ushers at St. John's!

Thank you to today's ushers Ben Jaster, Jacob Jaster, Jeff Reimer and Mark Emond. November 23rd & 26th ushers are: Matthew Kath, Martin Schmanke, Glenn Bubolz, Mike Kempley and Grayson Kempley.

CALA GRACE, the Parent/Teacher Organization, is collecting pantry and monetary donations to be used for fresh food purchases for Ms. Meyers. Please bring non-perishable food items to church by Nov. 30th. If you have any questions or would like to donate money to go toward a gift card, please contact Charisa Cheek at 507-317-5771 or cmcheek89@gmail.com.

Thanksgiving and Christmas cards available!

The St. John's Ladies Aid has Thanksgiving and Christmas cards available for purchase in the lower level of St. John's. There are also a variety of occasion, get well, and thinking of you cards available. Individual cards are 50 cents each, boxes are \$5 each.

Meal Train for Sylvia Straschinske <https://mealtrain.com/gzdl1e>

Our Little Lambs Director, Sylvia Straschinske (Beahm), has shown her giving heart in a powerful way. For the past three years, Sylvia's Aunt, Roxanne Schmanke, has been undergoing dialysis while waiting for a kidney transplant. After many tests and much prayer, Sylvia was found to be a match. The surgery went well. Both Sylvia and Roxanne are on the road to recovery. Sylvia will be recovering at home and we want to take one thing off her plate. This Meal Train will help support Sylvia, her husband Jake, and their three children during this recovery period. There are no allergies or dietary restrictions.

Little Lambs, CALA and St. John's Sunday School Singing Schedule:

11/16/25	St. John's Sunday School at Montello
11/16/25	Little Lambs, CALA K-8 and Chimes at Princeton
12/3/25	CALA K-8 at Princeton
12/10/25	CALA K-8 at Emmanuel
12/13/25	Little Lambs Christmas Service at Montello 11:00am
12/14/25	CALA Christmas Service with Chimes, Princeton 4:00pm
12/21/25	St. John's Sunday School Christmas Service

Giving Tree of Marquette County

St. John's and Emmanuel are participating in this meaningful and impactful project to make Christmas brighter for low-income families in Marquette County. There are tags for both children and families. There are instructions on the tags as to wrapping and labeling. Please bring gifts to the St. John's office by Tuesday, December 9.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday, November 26 at St. John's 6:30pm. Our Preacher will be Retired Pastor John Dolan, and our Accompanist will be Mrs. Andrea Schmeling Dolan. A service for worship was adapted by LuAnn Zieman and is called, "All Our Wants and Needs Supplying."



Bulletin submissions

Please have any submissions for the bulletin into the office by no later than Thursdays at 3pm. Please understand that the bulletin editors reserve the right to edit as needed without losing the main content of the announcement. Thank you!



ADVENT SING

November 29

Grace Lutheran Church

Dalton WI

2PM

Come for a time of fellowship
& sing your favorite
Advent/Christmas Hymns



STAY FOR SOME LIGHT REFRESHMENTS



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

CALA Principal principal@crystalonelutheranacademy.net

Mr. Martin Raasch - Grade 6-8 mraasch@crystalonelutheranacademy.net

Miss Beth Barenz - Grade 3-5 bbarenz@crystalonelutheranacademy.net

Mrs. Elizabeth Wolter - K-2 ewolter@crystalonelutheranacademy.net

Miss Rachel Huebner - Little Lambs Teacher -littlelambs@stjohnsmontello.org

Mrs. Sylvia Straschinske - Little Lambs Director -lladmin@stjohnsmontello.org

Mrs. Jorgia Kempley - CALA Secretary -

secretary@crystalonelutheranacademy.net 920-481-9002

St. John's 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