

November 23, 2025
Last Sunday of the Church Year
CAUSE / EFFECT: SCRIPTURE / ANTICIPATION



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.

SCRIPTURE/ANTICIPATION

The Church has marked the passing of yet another Church Year, waiting for its Lord to return. How long will we have to wait and watch for Jesus to return? We do not know. Jesus said he would return soon. However, the definition of "soon" for the One who has no beginning or end will naturally differ from ours. Whenever Jesus returns, it will take us by surprise. So, how do believers avoid growing lethargic? How do we remain ready and watchful for Christ's return? Our Savior points us to his Scriptures. The promises Jesus has made us this past year—promises that give us comfort and hope and purpose—were not merely spoken. Jesus ensured those promises were written down in Scripture. As we see in Scripture all the promises that Christ has fulfilled, there is discernable effect. The Spirit creates within us an eager anticipation regarding the Scriptural promises that are as-of-yet unfilled. While we cannot be certain when the day of fulfillment will come, we are completely confident of what that day will bring. No matter how many years we must mark, we watch with eager anticipation, and we pray, "Amen! Come, Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20).

Today's Worship Leader: Retired Pastor John Dolan

Today's accompanist: Mrs. Sarah (Dolan) Schaser

Today's Order of Worship

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

OPENING HYMN: 639 God Has Spoken by His Prophets

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

Amen.

PRAYER

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

Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

the maker of heaven and earth.

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

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

Silence for reflection

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

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

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

Yes, I believe.

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

Amen.

EXHORTATION

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

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

Prayer

Let us pray. Eternal God, merciful Father, you have appointed your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of his return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for your own from the foundation of the world; 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: Habakkuk 1:1-3; 2:1-4

The LORD instructs the prophet Habakkuk to write down what he was about to hear God say. That revelation empowered God's people to anticipate God's deliverance.

¹The prophecy that Habakkuk the prophet received. ²How long, Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, "Violence!" but you do not save? ³Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds. ¹I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint. ²Then the Lord replied: "Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. ³For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay. ⁴"See, the enemy is puffed up; his desires are not upright—but the righteous person will live by his faithfulness—

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Revelation 22:6-13

Christ is coming soon. In the meantime, in eager anticipation, we hold onto and make known what God has revealed in his Word.

⁶The angel said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God who inspires the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place." ⁷"Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll." ⁸I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. ⁹But he said to me, "Don't do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your fellow prophets and with all who keep the words of this scroll. Worship God!" ¹⁰Then he told me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this scroll, because the time is near. ¹¹Let the one who does wrong continue to do wrong; let the vile person continue to be vile; let the one who does right continue to do right; and let the holy person continue to be holy." ¹²"Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 12:35-40

Though we cannot know when Jesus will return, we can be certain what will happen when he does. So, we watch and wait with anticipation.

³⁵"Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. ³⁷It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. ³⁸It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak. ³⁹But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY: 487 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

SERMON: Mark 13:26-37 Stay Awake

²⁶Then you will see the Son of Man coming on clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷At that time he will send out his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth to the farthest end of the sky. ²⁸"Learn from this illustration of the fig tree: Whenever its branch becomes tender and sprouts leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also when you see these things happening, you will know that he is near—at the doors! ³⁰Amen I tell you: This generation will certainly not pass away until all these things happen. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. ³²"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Watch! Be alert and pray, because you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going away on a journey. When he left his home, he put his servants in charge and assigned what each one was to do. He also commanded the doorkeeper to keep watch. ³⁵Therefore keep watch, because you do not know when the owner of the house is coming: whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or early in the morning. ³⁶If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷What I say to you, I say to everyone: Keep watch!

NICENE CREED

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

acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING & PRAYERS

THE SACRAMENT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory.

HYMN: 667 Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared v. 1

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

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

HYMN: 667 Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared v. 5-8

DISTRIBUTION

Our Biblical Communion Practice

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

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love

for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

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

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: 850 It Is Well with My Soul

Acknowledgments

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Call News

Mr. Karl G Bauer has returned our call to serve as principal of Christ Lutheran Academy. Plans for another call meeting are being made.

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

Our Next Pastor Call Meeting for Emmanuel/St. John's will be on Sunday, December 7, following the 10AM worship.

This Week of November 23rd-November 30th :

23 rd Sun	Book fair Ends Today in the Gym
24 th Mon	CALA Boys Basketball – Away at Montello Public School 3:30PM
25 th Tues	Joint Worship Meeting at St. John's, Lower Level, 6:30pm
26th Wed	Thanksgiving Eve Worship at St. John's 6:30pm
30 th Sun	Bible Class, 8:45 am in the St. John's Linkway
30 th Sun	8 AM Worship at Emmanuel and 10 AM at St. John's.

There is no school this week from Wednesday the 28th – Friday the 28th
There is NO Public School Catechism or Bible Class on Wed. the 26th.

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."



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 occasional, get well, and thinking of you cards available. Individual cards are 50 cents each, boxes are \$5 each.

NO MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP THIS YEAR AT EMMANUEL/ST. JOHNS

A Very CALA Advent + Christmas Service and Meal

Although there is no midweek Advent in Mecan/Montello this year, you are invited to a special meal on Wednesday, December 3, at 4PM at St. John's, Princeton sponsored by our school. Tacos and nachos will be served. After the meal the children are invited to participate in Christmas arts and crafts prior to the 6:30 worship. It sounds like a great Advent event and a great way to spend an Advent Wednesday afternoon and evening.

Advent by Candlelight Women's Program hosted by Emmanuel will be held next Sunday, November 30th, 2025 at 4:00pm at Emmanuel Parish Hall. We can still accommodate more guests and look forward to seeing all our old friends and new friends. Sign-up sheets are still out at Emmanuel and St. John's. If you have any questions please call Sue Stelter at (608-369-1790).

Charisa Cheek 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 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.

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. We are also participating in another community outreach effort, which is a ...

Toy Drive to benefit Orphan Grain Train of Ysleta Lutheran Mission of El Paso, Texas. Donations of new or gently used toys will be accepted through Wednesday this week for shipping out on December 8th. A collection box is by the St. John's Church office.

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

12/3/25 CALA K-8 at Princeton
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*

Worship Attendance Last Week

Emmanuel: 49

St. John's: 57

10 attended Sunday Bible study; 24 on Wednesday, and 3 at the Men's Breakfast.

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

Thank you to all who donated to the Ammo Can!!

Thank you for helping support the **Lutheran Military Support Group**, a Christ-centered ministry for military service members, veterans, and their families. We raised \$600 in our ammo can. 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 Matthew Kath, Martin Schmanke, Glenn Bubolz, Mike Kempley and Grayson Kempley November 30th ushers are: James Wachholz, Zeb Zuehls, Chuck Boetcher, Jesse Schable, Aaron Wachholz.

Bulletin submissions

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

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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