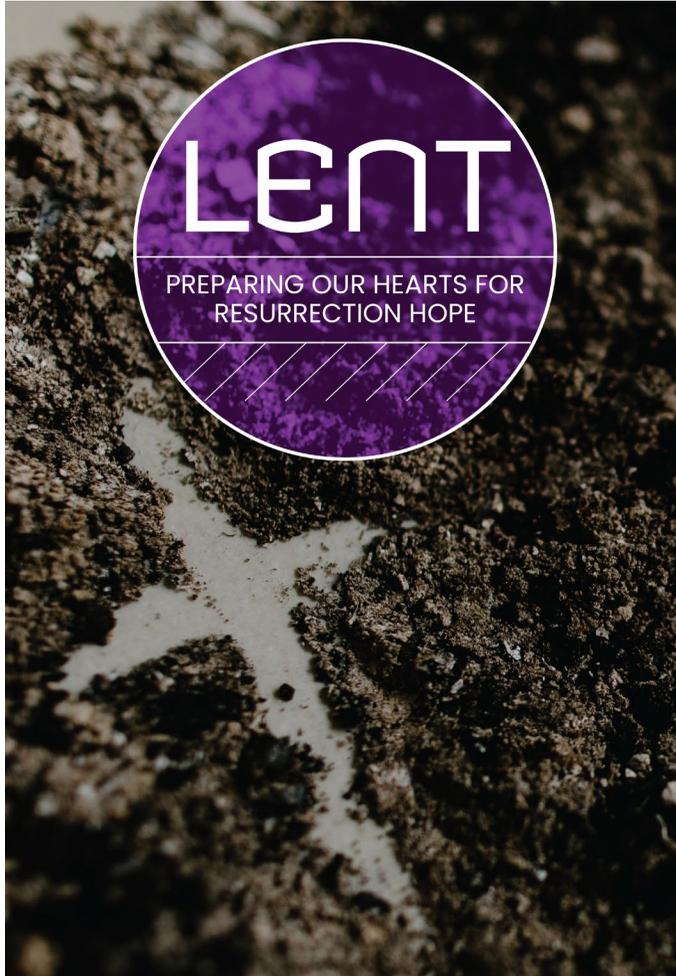


March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent
EXACTLY WHAT I NEED: FAITH



EMMANUEL & St. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCHES
Wisconsin Synod
Mecan, WI & Montello, WI
Sunday Worship: 8:00 AM & 10:00AM

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.

EXACTLY WHAT I NEED (God Knows Even When I Don't)

"I didn't know I needed that" is a common expression of surprise and realization. It suggests that something, whether it's a piece of information, a lesson learned, or a newfound understanding, has come to light and is now recognized as being essential or valuable, even if it wasn't previously apparent. Lent is the season of the Church Year when I recognize my greatest needs. During Lent, I realize that in Christ all my greatest needs are met. God knows what I need even when I don't have any idea. The Holy Spirit makes it clear, week after week, that if I lack Christ, I have nothing. But if I have Christ, I have exactly what I need.

FAITH

I recognize that I need to be saved. When Jesus said, "No one can enter the kingdom of God," that included me. I do not deserve God's blessing. But long ago, God declared that I would be blessed by a descendant of Abraham who turned out to be Jesus. The blessing is salvation. I receive that salvation by faith in Jesus as my Savior. The good news is that faith is also God's gift, imparted to me through the gospel.

Today's Worship Leader: Retired Pastor Bill Runke

Today's Accompanist: Mr. Robert Mateske, Jr.



Today's Order of Worship

OPENING HYMN: 613 The God of Abraham Praise

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.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; 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: Genesis 12:1–8

The Lord gave Abram the gift of faith to believe the promise that one of his descendants would be a gift for the whole world.

¹The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. ²"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." ⁴So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. ⁵He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there. ⁶Abram

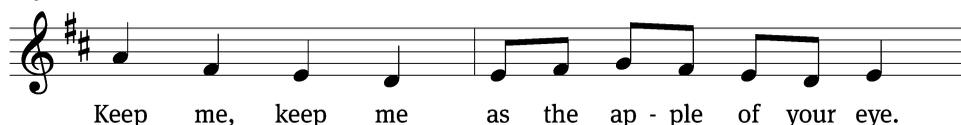
traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷The Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him. ⁸From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 121D Keep Me as the Apple of Your Eye

Refrain



Tone



I lift up my eyes to the / mountains—
where does my help / come from?
My help comes / from the LORD,
the maker of heav- / en and earth.
He will not let your / foot slip—
he who watches over you will not / slumber;
indeed, he who watches over / Israel
will neither slum- / ber nor sleep. *Refrain*

The LORD watches / over you—
the LORD is your shade at / your right hand;

the sun will not harm / you by day,
nor the / moon by night.
The LORD will keep you / from all harm—
he will watch o- / ver your life;
the LORD will watch over your coming and / going
both now and for- / evermore.
**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: Jane Marshall

Tune: © 1986 Choristers Guild. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 722228

Setting: © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 722228

SECOND READING: Romans 4:1–5,13–17

Abraham is an example of how salvation is received as a gift through faith.

¹What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? ²If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. ³What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” ⁴Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. ⁵However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness. ¹³It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. ¹⁴For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, ¹⁵because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression. ¹⁶Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. ¹⁷As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING: John 3:1–17

By sharing the good news of God's love for the world, Jesus gave the gift of faith.

¹Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ²He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him." ³Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." ⁴"How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' ⁸The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." ⁹"How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. ¹⁰"You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? ¹¹Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹²I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him." ¹⁶For 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. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY: 428 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

SERMON: Genesis 12:1-8 Our Walk Of Faith Is Glorious

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

Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to liberate us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

We confess that without your love we are lost.

Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.

Let us pray for those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and their values as Christians.

By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.

Let us pray for those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, those victimized by war and injustice, and all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.

Let us pray for those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.

Special prayers and intercessory prayers.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer

Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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.

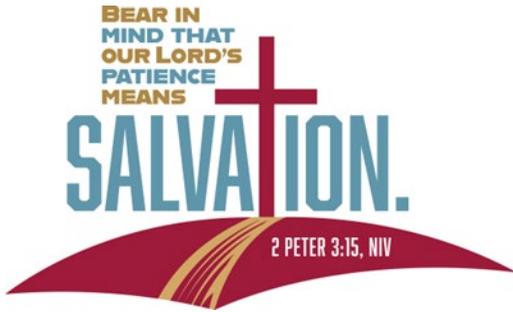
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: 811 My Faith Looks Up to Thee

Acknowledgments

Service Setting One 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.

Easter Flowers sign up sheet is in the information room at St. John's. Orders must be made by March 22.



Midweek Lenten Devotions

We have Lenten devotions at Emmanuel, 3:30 and St. John's, 6:30... This week, March 4th, Pastor Hanneman will lead our Lenten devotion from the Prophet Zechariah, this week our lesson will be: "Scattered Sheep"

All we like sheep have gone astray, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

LENTEN SUPPERS are being planned for between the two services and will be served here at St. John's. This week, GRACE will be hosting.

This Week of March 1-8 :

- MON 2nd: Hands in Prayer meeting at St. John's, 2:30pm
Joint Choir Practice 6:30pm
- TUES 3rd: Joint Elders Meeting at St. John's, 9:00am
CALA board meeting at Montello, 6:30pm
- WED 4th: Lent Worship: Emmanuel 3:30pm, St. John's 6:30pm
Lenten Supper at St. John's, hosted by Grace, 4:30pm
Public School Catechism Class 5:00pm
- THU 5th: Ladies Aid Dessert and Meeting at St. John's, Noon; collecting spring mission offerings
GriefShare at St. John's, 6:00pm

Next Sunday, March 8th *Second Sunday in Lent.* Our Worship Leader will be Vacancy Pastor Bruce Hanneman, and we will be using electronic music.

Daylight Savings Time begins next weekend! Remember to "spring ahead" and set your clocks ahead one hour Saturday night, so you won't be late for Church and Bible Class on Sunday morning!

Worship Attendance from Last Week

Emmanuel 37

St. John's 197

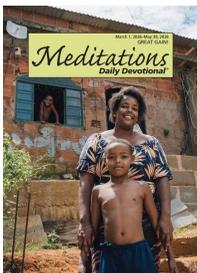
Wednesday, February 25th Lent: Emmanuel 43 St. John's 34

Divine Call News!

Pastor Stephen Helwig Pastor Steve Helwig is still holding the call to be our pastor. We expect to hear from him soon.

Mr. John Niebuhr has returned the call extended to him to be our school principal. A March 12 call meeting is planned.

Pastor Mark Luetzow has returned the call to be pastor at St. John's, Princeton. No decision has been reported yet concerning Mrs. Emily Symons who has been called to teach grades 1-2 of our school.



Meditations

The new series of devotions from *Meditation* **begins today**, March 1st. Pick up a copy today The first set of devotions re-introduces us to *Abraham – Our Father in Faith*. See what St. Paul was inspired to write about him and what that means for you and your status before God. A regular personal devotional life is essential for spiritual health!

GriefShare is held at St. John's on Thursdays at 6:00pm. If you have questions call Mark Emond 608-697-1600 and leave a message if no answer. *GriefShare* is a safe, welcoming support group where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. In this 13-week program, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. There are no neat, orderly stages of grief, but you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief in all its unpredictability and gain solid support each step of the way.

Parsonage Clean-Up Day is set for Saturday, March 14th. We are in need of some help to get the parsonage tidied up after the construction recently done. If you are able to come and help that day, please contact Jacob Jaster, or Mr. Matt in the office.

CALA is looking to create a new part-time position of Financial Secretary.

This position would report to the Treasurer and the School Board. Duties include recording bank activity into Quickbooks, issuing payments to vendors, coordinating the monthly payroll with an outside accounting firm, recording journal entries, maintenance of the chart of accounts, creating the monthly financial statements and assisting with the annual budget process. Interested individuals should contact Lucas Wolter, President, 920-279-1151 and Don Warnke, Treasurer, 920-471-5137.

WELS Seniors Meeting Area seniors are invited to St. Stephen's of Beaver Dam on Tuesday, March 10th. We will have a noon potluck in the church basement. After a devotion by a pastor, Retired WELS Pastor Tony Schultz will speak on "The WELS Kids Connection." This is the WELS Connection for grade school people. For many years, Pastor Schultz has closed these monthly videos with a devotion. All are welcome.

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

Thank you to today's ushers who are Jerre Duerr, Kevin Kaul, Mike Kempley and Grayson Kempley. The ushers for March 1 & 4 are: Ben Jaster, Jacob Jaster, Jeff Reimer, Mark Emond.

St. John's Financials

	Budget	Offerings	All Income	Expenses
January	\$33,436.46	\$22,407.48	\$35,127.13	\$32,092.22
Year to Date	\$234,055.19	\$160,645.51	\$246,971.00	\$212,319.84

Some 2025-26 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026) Highlights

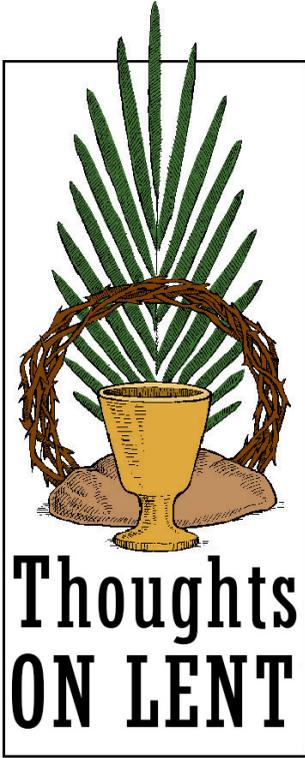
Budgeted Expenses: \$401,238 (\$33,436/month; quarter-time pastor). Projected Income: \$431,240 (\$35,937/month) Projected Net Income: \$30,002. Checkbook balance dropped from \$79,716 end of December to \$63,076 end of January. Member offerings of \$151,917 continued to run about 13% under the budgeted \$175,000. Total income of \$246,971 was about 5% under \$258,901 budgeted. Expenses of \$212,320 were about 9% under \$234,055 budgeted. Net income of \$34,651 was ahead of \$24,846 budgeted.

Christ Alone Lutheran Academy B Team Finishes Strong with Silver Medal Victory

Christ Alone Lutheran Academy proudly wrapped up its basketball season this past week at the WALL B Team Tournament with an outstanding performance. Competing in the championship game, CALA brought home the 2nd place trophy after an exciting tournament run. Notably, CALA was one of the only co-ed teams competing in the Boys B Division—demonstrating determination, teamwork, and school pride every step of the way. The CALA B Team concludes the season with an impressive 7–2 in conference play. Congratulations to our players and coaches on a remarkable season!



Exactly What I Need: A Champion



But the gracious gift is not like Adam’s trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of this one man, it is even more certain that God’s grace, and the gift given by the grace of the one man Jesus Christ, overflowed to the many!

Romans 5:15 EHV

Every action movie feels kind of familiar, doesn’t it? The villain causes chaos, and nobody seems able to stop them. The hero keeps trying, failing, and trying again, learning along the way until finally victory is achieved. You can almost predict the plot, scene by scene.

Now, look at the story of real life—human history. The problem is bigger than a movie. Adam wasn’t the villain on purpose, but his sin affected all of humanity. Every person struggles with sin and death, and every human solution falls short. Religion, rules, and self-effort might feel like they should work—but they don’t. Humans can’t fix their human sins on their own.

Enter an unexpected hero, a true champion. Jesus, fully God and fully human, steps into the battle. He comes to defeat sin, death, and the devil. He fights for us, and he dies to save us—his life for ours.

Here’s the best part: Jesus’ victory doesn’t have to be repeated. Sin, guilt, death, and the devil are defeated once and for all. How do we know it works? Because Jesus didn’t stay dead—he rose to life. Our sin killed him, but it couldn’t keep him dead. Death couldn’t keep him dead! Replacing sin and death was this gift: “the gift given by the grace of the one man Jesus Christ, overflowed to the many.”

It means Jesus’ victory spilled over and became ours too. Our sin is forgiven. Our place in God’s family is secure. Our eternity is safe. God’s gift is exactly we needed—a champion who has done it all for us!

Prayer: Lord Jesus you are the ultimate champion who has won the battle for us. Thank you for your sacrifice and love, and for showing us victory over sin and death every day. Amen.

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

Mr. Martin Raasch - Grade 6-8

Miss Beth Barenz - Grade 3-5

Mrs. Elizabeth Wolter – K-2

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