

April 12, 2026
Second Sunday of Easter
WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?
HE LIVES TO RESTORE MY HOPE

Then beginning with Moses
and all the prophets, he interpreted
to them the things about himself in
all the scriptures.

Luke 24:27, NRSV



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

WELCOME! WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

We pray that you are blessed by God's Word in 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.

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

Life is full of either/or moments. Some of them are of little long-term consequence. I will have either the chicken or the fish. Some of them matter more. I will accept the new job offer or keep my current job. One either/or moment is life-changing for every human being. Either Jesus is still dead, or Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus claimed he would rise from the dead. "The Son of Man must suffer many things. . . be killed and after three days rise again" (Mark 8:31). So if Jesus remains dead, he is both a failure and a fraud. If Christ has not been raised, we are still in our sin. But Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! It makes all the difference! He lives! The season of Easter is a 50- day celebration of that fact.

HE LIVES TO RESTORE MY HOPE

Without the resurrection of Jesus, I would have little hope for the future. That's how the disciples felt after this death. "We hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel" (Luke 24:19). Their hope for a better life had died along with Jesus. But he lives, and it makes a difference. My hope for the future is restored. I have victory over the feeling of hopelessness, because the one who heals me and gives me a better life is himself alive. He lives to restore my hope.

Today's Worship Leader: John Dolan
Today's preacher: Vicar Caleb Lindholm
We are using electronic music today.

Prayer For Easter's Work to Continue

Risen Savior, how our hearts burned within us at our Easter celebration through the preaching, hymns, and songs highlighting the certainty of the Resurrection. We boldly ask the Holy Spirit to continue nurturing all seeds of faith that have been planted, and that this wonderful truth, that the Resurrection is not as much a one-time celebration as it is a daily reality, sustain and uplift our spirits even as the day of Easter itself has passed. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Today's Order of Worship

At St. John's: The Sunday School Children Sing: "Easter Scripture & Song"

OPENING HYMN: 461 He Is Arisen! Glorious Word

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.

Gloria

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. O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a; 32-41

The message of Christ crucified and risen gives the certain hope of forgiveness to sinners.

¹⁴Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: ³²God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. ³³Exalted to the right hand of

God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. ³⁴For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, "The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand ³⁵until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet." ' ³⁶"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah." ³⁷When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" ³⁸Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." ⁴⁰With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." ⁴¹Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1Peter 1:17-21

Our hope and expectation is joining our Savior in the glory of heaven. Until that day, we live as pilgrims heading toward home.

¹⁷Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. ¹⁸For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. ²⁰He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. ²¹Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF THE DAY: 459 Christ the Lord Is Risen Again

SERMON: Luke 24:13-35

¹³Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶but they were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their

faces downcast. ¹⁸One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" ¹⁹"What things?" he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²²In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus." ²⁵He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" ²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. ²⁸As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³²They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" ³³They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." ³⁵Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

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 by his willing sacrifice on the cross took away the sins of the world and by his glorious resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord God of heavenly hosts: heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he, blessed is he, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

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.

♪ O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace. Amen.

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.

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: 458 Christ Is Arisen

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Intercessory Prayers

This past week Scott Sommerfeld, son of Emmanuel members DuWayne and Pat, was called out of this life by the Lord. We seek God's comfort for his dear family... We thank God that son of the congregation and retired pastor, Gary Johnson, is recovering at home after being hospitalized in Madison following a heart attack.

Baptism of Chloe Jade Emond will be baptized in a private ceremony following worship at St. John's today. She was born on March 23, 2026. Her parents are Isaac Emond and Shaelyn Wolfgram and Isaac Emond; serving as witnesses are Megan Pendleton and James Anderson.

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

Today's ushers are: Matthew Kath, Glen Bublolz and Martin Schmanke.. Next Sunday: will be James Wachholz, Zeb Zuehls, Chuck Boetcher, Jesse Schable and Aaron Wachholz

Memorial Services for Our St. John's Members

Gloria Tucker and Kelly Gruzka both now live in the glory of heaven. For that we rejoice! The memorial service for Gloria is Wednesday, April 15th at 11AM, and for Kelly it is Saturday April 25th at 11:00AM.

This Week of April 12-18, 2026

Today: Baptism of Chloe Jade Emond after St. John's Worship.

Tues 14th : BoE Meeting at St. Johns, 4:45 pm

Wed 15th : Gloria Tucker Visitation at St. John's 9:30-11:00am
Gloria Tucker Funeral at St. John's 11:30am

Sat 18th: LWMS Rally at Randolph

**Next Sunday is *the Third Sunday of Easter*. Our Worship Leader will be Retired
Pastor John Dolan, and our accompanist will be Mrs. Sarah Schaser**

Divine Call News!

+ Mr. Keven Lorge has returned the call to serve as CALA principal. At the time of writing Mrs. Beth Ibeling continues to deliberate the call to be lower grade teacher of our joint school. Pastor Tyler Peil holds the call to be the pastor at St. John's Princeton.

At our pastor call meeting last Sunday **Pastor Jeffrey Enderle (end-er-lee) was called to be our pastor.** He is 51 years old and has been a pastor for 25 years. He is presently serving St. John's Lutheran Church, Saint Clair MN. His wife's name is Angela (nee Hieb) and she is an MLC graduate. She is presently teaching preschool in the public school system. They have five children, Isaac (17) is a senior at Luther Prep School, Quincy(16) is a sophomore at LPS, Amalia(13), Luciana (11), and Veronica (4.) They are living in a parsonage...Pastor Enderle is described as "a friendly man with a shepherd's heart. He is a good organizer and a faithful worker. He enjoys being around people of all ages and can easily engage them in conversation. He is cooperative and adaptable. He is a published writer, has leadership skills, and a heart for preaching.

Contact information:

Phone: 507-508-2058 (cell) 507-245-3330 (work)

Email: jeff.enderle@gmail.com

Address: 208 Front ST.E, PO Box 424, Saint Clair, MN 56080

Please pray for him and his family and reach out to him with encouragement through cards, texts, emails, or phone calls as he deliberates where he can best use his gifts. He is looking forward to hearing from you!!

After-Easter Bible Study if Being Planned

Here's the Church. Here's the Steeple – the Church, Churches, Going to Church, Ministry, the Ministry, and the Divine Call is the title of a post-Easter Bible study being planned.

Weekday Bible study is scheduled on Wednesdays of each week at both 10:30AM and 6:30PM to accommodate all schedules. **It begins on April 22ND** and will go through May.

St. John's Financials

	Budget	Offerings	All Income	Expenses
March	\$33,436.46	\$26,639.03	\$36,863.03	\$30,722.71
Year to Date	\$300,928.11	\$208,598.89	\$320,743.59	\$280,681.21

2025-26 Fiscal Year Summary: March marked the end of the third quarter. Income and expenses both continued to run slightly lower than budget. Income favorably outweighed expenses and resulted in a net gain which significantly exceeded the budgeted projection. The checkbook balance rose in March and remained healthy. Overall book equity (assets minus obligations to dedicated accounts) continued to trend favorably, with a significant improvement noted in March. We must continue to be mindful that this budget only supports a part time pastor with no benefits and Pastor Dolan is donating most of his time.

Worship Attendance Last Sunday

Emmanuel 74 St. John's 151 Maundy Thursday 66 Good Friday 83

Did you leave dishes in the St. John's kitchen?? Assorted dishes have been left behind in the kitchen at St. John's. They will be left on the counter behind the door. If they haven't been claimed by April 26, they will be donated. Thank you

LWMS SPRING SERVICE PROJECT

A monetary collection will be taken for the ministry of 316NOW which brings the gospel to people of East Asia by empowering Christian leaders and churches through scripture study, mentoring, and consulting. Bring your gift to the spring rally or, *if you cannot attend, please give your gift to Reporter Helen Stelter at Emmanuel or Reporter Linda Wachholz at St. John's.*

LWMS SPRING RALLY at FRIEDENS-RANDOLPH on SATURDAY, APRIL 18

All are welcome to join us for a day centered on missions! **Speaker:** Pastor James Enderle, Expatriate Administrator of 316NOW. **Service Project:** monetary collection for 316NOW. 9:15 a.m. Registration; 10:00 a.m. Bible Study; 11:00 a.m. Business Meeting with Election of officers and new mission projects; 11:50 a.m. Lunch; 12:40 p.m. Devotion & Speaker; 2:15 p.m. Officer Installation & Closing. Carpool signup in Information Room at St. John's or call your LWMS Reporter: Helen Stelter, Emmanuel, 608-297-7116; Linda Wachholz, St. John's, 608-369-2635.

WE WOULD BE VERY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE 2026 LWMS CONVENTION.

A container is located in the entrance at St. John's. The Beaver Dam Circuit of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society is one of 3 hosting circuits for our annual convention being held in Madison, June 25-28, 2026. Normally circuits have 3 years to plan a convention, the first year being used for fundraising. The International Board had no host for 2026 until approaching 3 neighboring circuits in late fall of 2024. Our initial 3-circuit planning meeting took place in January, 2025. leaving less than adequate time for collecting funds. We received a \$2,500 subsidy from the International Board, \$2,200 left from the Tulsa convention fund (their convention was 1/3 the size projected for Madison). and the women and women's groups in the 3 circuits raised an additional \$2,500 via their donations and fundraising. We have utilized Thrivent Action grants as much as we could . Our convention treasury and our projected budget are running neck and neck, leaving no room for price increases or unexpected expenses. **Your gifts will add up and hopefully give us enough of a margin that our bills can be safely paid by the close of the convention.** Any unused funds will pass to the next convention committee. If you have any questions, please ask! Linda Wachholz, Beaver Dam Circuit President & Co-Chair for the Madison Convention. 608-369-2635.

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 Acting Principal – Lucas Wolter-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 -ladmin@stjohnsmontello.org

Jorgia Kempley – CALA Secretary -secretary@christalonelutheranacademy.net 920-481-9002 ... **St. John's Church Office: Matthew Kath 608-297-2866/608-494-0167**

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