

April 19, 2026  
Third Sunday of Easter  
WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?  
HE LIVES TO GIVE ME PROOF AND PEACE



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](http://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 GIVE ME PROOF AND PEACE**

Without the resurrection of Jesus, I would have to wonder whether anything he said was true. Thomas had been taught and trained by Christ himself. He heard Jesus predict his death and resurrection. Even after hearing the eyewitness testimony of friends, Thomas still had doubts about the resurrection of Jesus. But he lives, and it makes a difference. Today I have great comfort as someone with doubts about Christ's promises in my life. Jesus engages me with continuing assurances in Word and sacrament. I have proof. I have peace.

**Today's Worship Leader: John Dolan**  
**Today's Accompanist: Mrs. Sarah Schaser**

## *Prayer Before Worship - For Easter's Work to Continue*

Risen Savior, how our hearts continue to burn within us during this Easter season! We pray today that through the preaching, hymns, and songs highlighting the certainty of the Resurrection, you will be glorified and your people edified. We boldly ask the Spirit to continue nurturing all our seeds of faith. May 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. Amen.

# Today's Order of Worship

***At St. John's: The Sunday School Children Sing: "Easter Time"***

**OPENING HYMN: 455** Alleluia! Jesus Lives

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

**Amen.**

## **CONFESSION**

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

**Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

## **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

**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.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE:** 464, v 1 and 4 | Am Content! My Jesus Lives Again

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

### ***PRAYER OF THE DAY***

O God, by the humiliation of your Son, you lifted up this fallen world from the despair of death. By his resurrection to life, grant your faithful people gladness of heart and the hope of eternal joys; 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:** Acts 2:14a, 22–32

*The living Lord appeared to many eyewitnesses so they could testify to the truth of Jesus' resurrection.*

<sup>14</sup>Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:

<sup>22</sup>"Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. <sup>23</sup>This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. <sup>24</sup>But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. <sup>25</sup>David said about him: " 'I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

<sup>26</sup>Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest in hope,

<sup>27</sup>because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, you will not let your holy one see decay. <sup>28</sup>You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.' <sup>29</sup>"Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. <sup>30</sup>But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup>Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he

was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay.<sup>32</sup> God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: 116B** I Will Walk in the Presence of the Lord

*Refrain*



I will walk in the pres - ence of the LORD,  
in the land of the liv - ing.

*Tone*



I love the LORD, for he / heard my voice;  
he heard my cry for / mercy.  
Because he turned his / ear to me,  
I will call on him as long / as I live.  
The LORD is gracious and / righteous;  
when I was brought low, he / saved me. *Refrain*

What shall I return / to the LORD  
for all his good- / ness to me?  
I will lift up the cup of sal- / vation  
and call on the name / of the LORD.  
Precious in the sight / of the LORD  
is the death of his faithful / servants.  
**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*

## **SECOND READING:** 1 Peter 1:3–9

*St. Peter points to the resurrection as proof of the hope we have.*

<sup>3</sup>Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup>These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

♪ **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Praise God for a living hope: Christ is risen from the dead! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## **GOSPEL READING:** John 20:19–31

*Jesus gave the proof that led to peace for Thomas.*

<sup>19</sup>On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." <sup>22</sup>And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." <sup>24</sup>Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will

not believe.”<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!”<sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”<sup>28</sup>Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”<sup>29</sup>Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”<sup>30</sup>Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.<sup>31</sup>But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** 456 v. 1-3 O Sons and Daughters of the King

**SERMON:** John 20:19-31 – *“Life Leaves Marks”*

### ***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***

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.**

**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:** 456 V. 4-9 O Sons and Daughters of the King

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### **Intercessory Prayers**

We pray for the grieving, the hurting, and the struggling – physically and spiritually. We continue to ask that our prayers for called workers in our parish be answered. For peace in a troubled world.

### **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

### **This Week of April 12-18, 2026**

Mon 20<sup>th</sup>:      Choir Practice 6:00pm at St. John's  
                    St. John's Council Meeting 6:30pm

Tues 21<sup>st</sup>: :    Councilman's Conference at Peace, Green Lake, 6PM

Wed 23<sup>rd</sup>:      Adult Bible Study at St. John's: 10:30am & 6:30pm

Sat 18<sup>th</sup>:        Kelly Gruzca Visitation and Funeral

**Next Sunday is *Good Shepherd Sunday AND Confirmation Sunday!*  
Our Worship Leader will be Vacancy Pastor Bruce Hanneman.**

## **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 returned the call to St. John's Princeton.

**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 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.

Phone: 507-508-2058 (cell) 507-245-3330 (work) Email: [jeff.enderle@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.enderle@gmail.com)

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



## **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. A post-Easter Bible study. 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. This is an important and timely topic that we need to get right. You would be edified by it.*

## **Looking Ahead to 40 Days After the Resurrection!!**

Exactly 40 days after the glorious events of Resurrection Day, Jesus gathered his disciples, the believers, the "Church," outside of Jerusalem. He told them he was leaving them, but he would never be far away, and he would be back again! He gave the Church it's mission and marching orders until that 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming – *Go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel*. He promised that he would never leave them or forsake them and reassured them that from the right hand of God he rules over all things for the good of his church. **The church observes and celebrates *the Festival of the Ascension of the Lord* on that 40<sup>th</sup> day. For us in 2026, that day is Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> when we will **have a joint service at Emmanuel at 6:30PM** Mark your calendar and plan to be there if you possible can.**

## Stewardship Is Everything We Think, Say, and Do ... after we Say, "I believe!"

### Stewardship of the Word Last Week:

- Worship at Emmanuel – 53 ... at St. John's -92

### Our Stewardship of Gifts and Offerings

*"Give according to the grace given to you."*

	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. REMEMBER! This budget only supports a part time pastor with no benefits.

*See also the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) 2026 Convention appeal below on page 11.*

### Our Stewardship of Time:

Today's ushers at St. John's : James Wachholz, Zeb Zuehls, Chuck Boetcher, Jesse Schable and Aaron Wachholz. Next Sunday will be Paul Van Treeck, Matt Borzick, Ken Borzick, James Henke, Haiden Van Treeck, Nolan Van Treeck, Brody Henke and Milo Henke. **Thank You to Those Who Serve!**





### **CAN YOU HELP SUPPORT THE 2026 LWMS CONVENTION?**

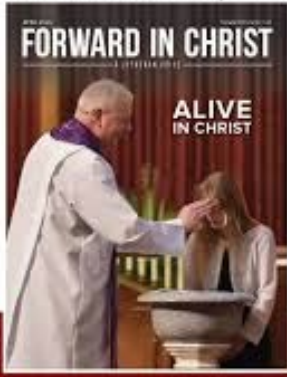
An offering container is located in the entrance at St. John's... The Beaver Dam Circuit of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society is one of 3 hosting circuits for our annual convention in Madison, June 25-28, 2026. Normally circuits have 3 years to plan a convention, the first year being used for fundraising. The International Board had no host for 2026 until the late fall of 2024. The 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). The 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. The convention treasury and projected budget are running neck and neck, leaving no room for unexpected price increases or and expenses. **Your gifts will make a difference and help give us enough of a margin so that all obligations can be paid by the close of the convention.** Any unused funds will pass to the next convention committee. Questions? Ask Linda Wachholz, Beaver Dam Circuit President & Co-Chair for the Madison Convention. 608-369-2635.



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- + An explanation and some trends about how Lutheranism has changed in the last 40 years.
- + The *Please Explain Column* offers help when you have doubts about what the Bible says.

### **LOCAL TIDBIT!**

*The pastor pictured on the cover is Pastor Scott Oehlhofen, son of the late Pastor Walter Oehlhofen Jr. and grandson of Emmanuel and St. John’s former pastor, the late Walter Oehlhofen Sr. (1940s-50s)*

### ***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](mailto: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](mailto:littlelambs@stjohnsmontello.org)**

**Mrs. Sylvia Straschinske - Little Lambs Director -[lladmin@stjohnsmontello.org](mailto:lladmin@stjohnsmontello.org)**

**Jorgia Kempley – CALA Secretary -[secretary@crystalonelutheranacademy.net](mailto:secretary@crystalonelutheranacademy.net) 920-481-9002 ... **St. John’s Church Office:** Matthew Kath 608-297-2866/608-494-0167**

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