

April 5, 2026

Easter

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?
HE LIVES TO TAKE ME FROM DEATH TO LIFE



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 TAKE ME FROM DEATH TO LIFE

Without the resurrection of Jesus, death would appear permanent. No one would have come back from the dead to explain what happens after death. Jesus told his disciples what would happen. But they were slow to believe the Easter truth. God ensured that his people had witnesses to assure that Jesus did not remain dead. He lives, and it makes a difference! I too shall live. Death has become a pathway into paradise. Jesus has already made me spiritually alive by giving me faith in his resurrection. In every possible way, Jesus takes me from death to life.

Today's Worship Leader: Vacancy Pastor Bruce Hanneman
We are using electronic music today.

A Prayer Before Worship - To Uplift and Encourage Others at Church

Heavenly Father, Sundays are sacred. Since I am uplifted and encouraged by your Word, I pray that you also use me to encourage and uplift others. Spur me on to step outside of my normal circle of friends to meet and greet someone new. Let my lips be filled with words of kindness. When worshippers leave your house this morning, let them do so not only filled up with your Spirit, but also cheered on by their fellow believers, including me. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Today's Order of Worship

Choir sings: Easter Alleluia

OPENING HYMN: 438 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

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

Amen.

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

Hasten to save me, O God;
O Lord, come quickly to help me.

Christ is risen from the dead:
praise and thanks to God!

Hear my voice when I call, O Lord; be merciful and answer me.
Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, you conquered death and opened the gate to eternal life. Grant that we, who have been raised with him through Baptism, may walk in newness of life and ever rejoice in the hope of sharing his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be dominion and praise now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING Jonah 2:2–9

Jesus compared himself to the Old Testament prophet who escaped certain death after three days in the belly of a fish.

²He said: "In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, and you listened to my cry. ³You hurled me into the depths, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me. ⁴I said, 'I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple.' ⁵The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. ⁶To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever. But you, LORD my God, brought my life up from the pit. ⁷"When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, LORD, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple. ⁸"Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God's love for them. ⁹But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. I will say, 'Salvation comes from the LORD.' "

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15:1–11

Christ has indeed been raised from the dead.

¹Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ²By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. ³For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. ⁶After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. ¹¹Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF THE DAY: 441 I Know That My Redeemer Lives

SERMON Matthew 28:1-10 “Don’t Be Afraid to Share”

¹After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. ²There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. ⁵The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.” ⁸So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them.

"Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

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 & PRAYERS

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of faith of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; 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.

Let us praise the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: 444 Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won

Acknowledgments

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Intercessory Prayers

Son of the congregation and retired pastor, Gary Johnson, has been hospitalized in Madison. He suffered a heart attack a couple of weeks ago and is dealing with some related heart issues.

This Week of April 5-11, 2026

Mon 6th : HIP meeting at St. John's, 2:30pm
Tues 7th : Joint Elders' Meeting at St. John's, 9:00am
Wed 8th : Public School Catechism class at St. John's 5:00pm
Fri 10th : LL & CALA School Musical at Princeton Gym, 6:00pm
Sat 11th : Men's Breakfast & Study Club at St. John's, 8:00am

**Next Sunday is *the Second Sunday of Easter*. Our Worship Leader will be Retired
Pastor John Dolan.**

Worship Attendance Last Sunday

Emmanuel 56 St. John's 107

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

Today's ushers are: Ben Jaster, Jacob Jaster, Jeff Reimer and Mark Emond. Next Sunday: will be Matthew Kath, Glen Bublolz and Martin Schmanke.

St. John's Member Memorial Services

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

PLEASE REFRAIN from bringing food from the linkway snack table into

church. These are after-service treats. Parents, you are still welcome to bring snacks for your little tikes for during service, but please take care to pick up large remnants from pew and floor. Thank you!

Divine Call News!

+ Mr. Keven Lorge and Mrs. Beth Ibeling continue to hold the calls to be principal and lower grade teacher of our joint school. Pastor Tyler Peil hold the call to be the pastor at St. John's Princeton. Don't forget to keep them in your prayers.

All members and friends of our parish are strongly encouraged to keep on boldly pleading with the Lord to answer our prayers for pastors and school faculty. Do not be discouraged and lose heart. Stay focused on our mission and be confident that the Lord of the Church will do his will in his time.

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!!



An 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... These are important topics for our church right now and it would do everyone and our parish well to take part. Make time in your schedule.

SPRING MISSION OFFERINGS for the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society totaled \$288.28. Thank you **to all who contributed.**

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.

St. John's Financials

	Budget	Offerings	All Income	Expenses
February	\$33,436.46	\$21,314.35	\$36,909.56	\$37,449.61
Year to Date	\$267,491.65	\$181,959.86	\$283,880.56	\$250,269.63

2025-26 Fiscal Year Summary: Over the first eight months, income and expenses both continued to run slightly lower than budget. However, income continued to outweigh expenses, resulting in a net gain. The checkbook balance rose in February and remained healthy. Overall book equity (assets minus obligations to dedicated accounts) continued to hold at a much-improved level over the start of the fiscal year. We must continue to be mindful that this budget only supports a part time pastor with no benefits.

Men's Breakfast & Study Club is having its next serving of food for body and soul on Saturday, April 11 at 8:00am in the St. John's lower level. Men of all ages welcome, dads are welcome to bring your kids, and bring a friend along! We will have a hearty breakfast, then dig into our study of the Smalcald articles, looking at "Sacrifice or Sacrament?"

Area WELS Seniors All Seniors are invited to Friedens Lutheran Church of Randolph on Tuesday, April 14. We will have a noon potluck meal in the church basement. After the meal, Pastor Jeff Drake will lead a devotion upstairs. Our guest presenter is Linda Jane Niedfeldt. She and her husband Tom began a travel business in 1995, "Tom's Christian Tours." She is a former teacher and has authored a number of books. She will speak on "Writing Historical Fiction." Check out her website at www.lindajaneniedfeldt.com Join the fellowship and bring a friend!

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@christalonelutheranacademy.net 920-481-9002

St. John's Church Office: Matthew Kath 608-297-2866/608-494-0167

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