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JUNE NEWSLETTER

Emmanuel & St. John's
Ev. Lutheran Churches



Short Stories that Speak Volumes for Our Lives



Time To Grow

Jesus said, "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times" (Mark 4:3-8).

Songwriters have used it. Thinkers have used it. Investors have used it. You probably have used it yourself. Even Jesus Christ used it. Used what? They used the picture of planting seeds to make a point. Jesus told a story about planting seeds. Recorded for us in Mark 4:3-8, this simple story speaks volumes for our lives.

Jesus teaches us that seeds are being planted in hearts at worship services each Sunday. That's also what is happening in a children's Sunday school lesson—seeds are being planted in their hearts. That's what is happening when you learn what the Bible teaches—seeds are being planted in your own heart. They are being planted by God through his Word.

Seeds need time to grow. In springtime, when gardens are first planted, there's not much to see. Yet, as every gardener knows, when it comes to seeds, it takes time. As sunlight warms the moist earth where seeds are embedded, seeds take time to sprout and grow.

Sometimes, a person checks out a church one Sunday and decides not to go back. But that's not much time to

let the seeds sown that Sunday grow, is it? Sometimes, people are glad to attend a particular Bible class or workshop at a church. But when it is done, they lose interest. In a way, they are like a child who excitedly plants a seed in a foam cup and waters it regularly. But a couple of days later, the child forgets about it, and the seed dries up.

Sometimes a person goes to worship regularly so that the seeds of God's Word start to grow, but then he lets the cares of life grow up like thorns. They crowd out time for the Word, and so the planting of faith in his soul gets the life choked out of it.

But sometimes, an amazing thing happens. The person keeps coming back to hear the Word. And the seeds grow and keep growing. The plant of faith is made strong by God's complete forgiveness won by Jesus. It flourishes under God's unconditional love given in Jesus and is made resilient by heaven's guarantee paid for by Jesus.

Maybe that person is you.



Upcoming Events:

Sunday, June 30--
St. John's Quarterly Voters' Meeting after Worship.

July 3-7--
Marquette County Fair
(St. John's will have a booth)

September 7 & 8--
"Kick-Off Weekend"
Sept. 7-Concert on the Ball Diamond
Sept. 8-St. John's Worship at the City Park



Emmanuel & St. John's Ev. Lutheran Churches
WELS
June 22 & 23, 2024
Fifth Sunday After Pentecost
A Top-Down Faith: OUR GRACIOUS GOD IS WITH US:
THROUGH ALL THE STORMS OF LIFE
Pastor Zietlow's Sermon:
Mark 4:35-41 "With Just a Word, Jesus Calms Storms
1. Storms on the outside 2. Storms on the inside"

Worship Times:
Emmanuel: Sunday, June 23 8:00am
St. John's: Saturday, June 22 4:30pm
Sunday, June 23 10:00am



Emmanuel & St. John's Ev. Lutheran Churches
WELS
June 29 & 30, 2024
Sixth Sunday After Pentecost
A Top-Down Faith: THE LIVING LORD COMPLETELY
CHANGES OUR VIEW OF DEATH
We Welcome Our Guest Worship Leader:
Pastor Dave Haag from WLA

Worship Times:
Emmanuel: Sunday, June 30 8:00am
St. John's: Saturday, June 29 4:30pm
Sunday, June 30 10:00am

BEAVER DAM CIRCUIT LWMS TO CO-HOST 2026 INTERNATIONAL LWMS CONVENTION

Beaver Dam, Capitol, and Dodge-Washington circuits have joined forces to co-host the LWMS Convention in 2026, likely in the Madison area. Representatives from the 3 circuits met Saturday, June 1, for a kick-off meeting for convention planning. The group reviewed major early deadlines, a responsibility overview, and the makeup and duties of the 7 convention committees.

An invitational letter from the three circuits has already been accepted by the International LWMS Board of Directors. We begin a 2-year journey of commitment to this project and cooperation with our LWMS sisters in our neighboring circuits.

Many, many committee workers and volunteers will be needed before and during the 2026 Convention. ***It is very important that this communication be shared as soon as possible with all the women of your church.*** Descriptions of the workers and tasks follow. *Reporters, you might ask your pastor for an opportunity to address your congregation to rally support for this huge undertaking.* It requires everyone pulling together. A strong suggestion is to go to your women, rather than wait for them to come to you by “signing up.” Instead, approach individual women to ask for their help. Share with them the committee descriptions and responsibilities and ask them to choose a committee on which to work. Sign them up! You are very welcome to duplicate this memo and the Convention Planning Information page.

Many, but not all, of the committee members and convention volunteers must register and attend the 2026 Convention. Remind women that our Beaver Dam Circuit offers financial help under the Send One Sister program to those attending their first convention. Perhaps 2026 will present them this opportunity and also the privilege of helping with the convention!

I would like to see 5-12 women from each of our Beaver Dam churches signed up for a particular leadership roll or volunteer by the end of August. Let me hear from you, Reporters!

Beaver Dam Circuit Board
Linda Wachholz, President
608-369-2635

Convention 2026 Planning Information

The information that follows is in a power point presentation that can be viewed in its entirety here:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sVm8g5Js7qqonjbMj_SkYLaYgL3ObQk6

OR in a convention planning handbook that can be printed from the LWMS website:

<https://www.lwms.org/file/4a47f780-36f2-11ee-9328-154a3167142b>

Major Early Deadlines **1) Convention co-chairs** will be appointed soon. They will in turn appoint a convention treasurer and committee chairs. **2) Convention theme suggestions** are being accepted now. If anyone is interested in the underlined positions or have a theme suggestion, contact BDCircuit President Linda Wachholz (lwmsreporter@stjohnsmontello.org or 608-369-2635) by Friday, June 21.

Responsibilities Overview This is the chain of command: 1) Board of Directors 2) Convention Planner 3) Central Office 4) Hosting Circuits -- a) Convention Co-Chairs b) Committee Chairs c) Convention Treasurer d) Convention Volunteers. Responsibilities are detailed in the ppt or the convention handbook, noted above.

Committees

1) Courtesy prepares helpful info about convention site/area and serves as hostesses. Requires Chair plus 6-10 members, & 30-50 Volunteers. Duties: business meeting tellers, courtesy table women, introducers, greeters, meal door monitors, general session room seaters & monitors, meal guides, nurses, seating assistants, workshop monitors, banquet table ticket coordinator

2) Decorations responsible for bringing convention theme to life through decorations. Requires Chair plus 2 members; #volunteers varies. SubCommittee: Theme Banner. Areas for decorations: foyer, general session stage, meal table, photo opportunity sites.

3) Displays responsible for display room at convention, ensuring all display relate to and agree with LWMS mission statement, signs up each congregation to prepare a display topic.

4) Publicity publicizes the convention within WELS and to local community, submits invitational bulletin insert and poster.

5) Registration receives and assembles all registration materials and distributes them at convention. Requires Chair plus 2 members, 20-40 volunteers. Assembles tote bags at convention.

6) Tours & Transportation analyzes components of transporting guests to and from convention site, gathers tour information, offers optional tour(s) before convention. Chair plus 2-3 members.

7) Worship works with the LWMS board pastors to select and coordinate readings and hymns for the devotions and opening/closing worship services. Chair plus 3 members, 20 volunteers.

Sunday Schoolers Study THE ARMOR OF GOD

Ephesians 6:11,13-17

*"Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devils' schemes . . . Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the **belt of truth** buckled around your waist, with the **breastplate of righteousness** in place, and with your feet fitted with the **readiness that comes from the gospel of peace**. In addition to all this, take up the **shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the **helmet of salvation** and **sword of the spirit**, which is the word of God."*



An edible craft was a summary activity for the armor of God lessons.



Six lessons during the course of the Sunday School year taught Paul's comparison of a Roman soldier's armor to the full armor of God. While the soldiers armor protected him against his enemy in battle, God's armor gives us protection in our struggle *"against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realm."* Ephesians 6:12

During each Armor of God lesson, the SSers fashioned their own piece of armor.



Belt of Truth



Breastplate of Righteousness



Feet Fitted with the Readiness from the Gospel of Peace



Shield of Faith

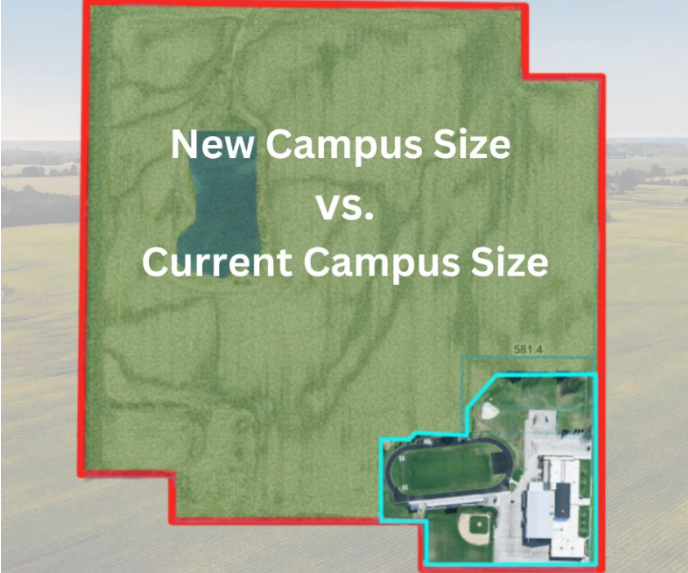


Helmet of Salvation



Sword of the Spirit

OUR KIDS GIVE TO MISSIONS 2023-2024 mission projects of our school and Sunday school children are complete! St. John's-Montello Little Lambs and the Montello & Princeton campuses of Christ Alone Christian Academy (CALA) worked together. A first semester gift of \$766.99 was collected for Kids C.A.R.E. Missionary Kids Retreats (to help kids raised on foreign mission fields to be reacclimated to life in the United States). St. John's-Montello Sunday School also adopted this Kids C.A.R.E. project and gave \$235.30. The total gift to the Kids C.A.R.E. project is \$1,002.29. It will be pooled with offerings of WELS kids throughout the U.S. and will be presented at the 61st LWMS Convention in Sioux Falls, SD, on June 27-30. Kids C.A.R.E. is a program of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS). LL & CALA gave a second semester gift of \$879.05 to the Winnebago Lutheran Academy (WLA) capital campaign (for the new campus construction). WLA is our area Lutheran high school, and Montello and Princeton are members of the WLA Association. Thank you to our kids for giving cheerfully, and thank you to parents for teaching mission giving by encouraging their children on these projects. To God be the glory!



2023-2024

MISSIONARY KIDS RETREATS



World Mission Project #WWM 2022-03: Respiration Conferences

"If I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast."
Psalm 139: 9-10

BEAVER DAM CIRCUIT LWMS HOLDS SPRING RALLY AT ZION, KINGSTON



The Beaver Dam Circuit of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) convened on Saturday, April 27, 2024, for their spring rally at Zion Lutheran Church in Kingston. The event was co-hosted by St. Paul's, Manchester. Attendance totaled 97, with 19 out of the 20 member congregations represented. LWMS women from Emmanuel and St. John's attended.

During the registration hour, attendees enjoyed refreshments, submitted personal prayer requests, and perused displays. Highlighted in the displays were the circuit's current Befriended missions/missionaries. Home Missions: 1) The Way Lutheran Church/Missionary Matt Rothe in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and 2) Ascension Lutheran Church/Missionary Ben Berger in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and World Mission: 3) East Fork Lutheran School/Teacher Elsa Ponath on the White Mountain Apache Reservation in Arizona. Ministry updates from these missionaries were shared with the women. Also displayed were currently supported home and world mission projects: Children's Ministry Outreach and New World Mission Fields; each received \$2,297.44 from circuit mission offerings from the past year. A brief meeting was also held for the LWMS reporters from each congregation.

The rally Bible study was led by the pastoral advisor, Pastor John Hildebrant (Dalton & Friesland), on Matthew 25:31-46, on the theme "The Sheep and the Goats/Good Works." As quoted from the Athanasian Creed, *"At His coming, all people will rise with their own bodies to answer for their personal deeds. Those who have done good will enter eternal life, but those who have done evil*

will go to eternal fire.” Faith is a gift from God; good works are our response; His love compels us to act.

A business meeting followed during which officers were elected (President-Elect Barb Zondag-Randolph; Secretary Sandra Beimborn-Portage; Spiritual Growth Woman Linda Pollesch-Dalton; Pastoral Advisor Brian Prell-Fox Lake). New mission projects were chosen, which the circuit will support with offerings during the coming year: Home: Campus Ministry and World: Native American Projects. A new Beaver Dam Circuit banner was also unveiled. The Beaver Dam Circuit acted on an invitation from the Capitol Circuit (Madison area) to possibly co-host the 2026 International Convention. A motion carried to offer our assistance as a co-hosting circuit or to provide additional manpower. (A meeting has been set for Saturday, June 2, at Luther Prep to work out the details.) The morning session concluded with a modern-day parable skit of “The Good Samaritan” providing a lighthearted, yet thought-provoking look at God’s call to each of us to serve others.

The afternoon session opened with a devotion by Host Pastor Kurt Hagen. Our keynote speaker was Beth Zambo from WELS Christian Aid and Relief. This organization provides aid in disaster-stricken areas, offering humanitarian support such as food and other necessities. They also extend community aid and compassion through initiatives like meals for the homeless and food drives in collaboration with local churches. The rally offering of \$1,400.00 went to Aid & Relief.

A special monetary service project provided a gift of \$4,002.66 for the current building projects of Our Savior’s Lutheran School, our WELS elementary mission school on the San Carlos Apache Reservation in Peridot, Arizona. A new school and teacher housing are being built.

Outgoing Board officers were recognized--Dianne Witkowski-Ripon, Joanne Gregor-Ripon, and Pastor John Hildebrant (Dalton & Friesland), who installed the new officers.

The 2024 International LWMS Convention will be held in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, June 27-30, with a circuit bus trip departing on June 26. The Circuit will be sending five (5) women to the convention under the Send-One-Sister program, which assists LWMS sisters monetarily to attend their first convention. St. John’s member, Amber Kath, is one of the 2024 recipients. The fall Beaver Dam Circuit rally will be held Saturday, October 19, 2024, hosted by St. John’s-Fox Lake, and co-hosted by Trinity-Friesland, and Grace-Dalton.

By virtue of Emmanuel and St. John’s congregational memberships in LWMS, all confirmed girls and women are free to participate in this mission-support organization. We are:

United to Serve Jesus

LWMS is women dedicated to serving Jesus by increasing awareness of, interest in, and support of the mission outreach of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

Sunday School Visits the Montello Care Center



St. John's Sunday School children, parents, and teachers visit the Montello Care Center each year to bring the residents a program of music and scripture. They have most often visited during special times of the year like Christmas, Valentine's Day, Easter, and Thanksgiving. Sunday, May 5, however, SS chose to sing a program of songs which they had shared with the congregation during

worship services this past year. The SSers and parents began the morning at the Care Center by greeting all the residents room by room and delivering crafts they had made. Then, with a few familiar hymns added to their "Prayers & Praises" program, SSers invited residents to sing and to read along. Props were added to some of the songs including the song "Blessings" (hands are a blessing) shown in the photo. We were especially happy to have our St. John's member Edith Duesterhoeft attending!



May 19 was Sunday School Recognition Day!



Sunday Schoolers receiving their Bibles this year: Jaxon Wolsdorf, Ashlyn Weisensel, & Makaila Weisensel.

PreK-K Teacher Sue Brown with her lively twosome: Anna & Ella Wachholz. Grades 3-6, taught by James & Linda Wachholz: Ashlyn Weisensel, Wally Wolsdorf, Jaxon Wolsdorf, Makaila Weisensel, & Grant Wolsdorf. Not pictured: Molly Utke.

Little Lambs Preschool Synod Consultation – Several months ago, a formal recommendation was presented to the Board of Education to place our 3K/4K Little Lambs (LL) Preschool under the administration of Christ Alone Lutheran Academy's (CALA) principal and school board. CALA is one school with two campuses (grades K-2, Montello; grades 3-8, Princeton) and is administered and financially supported by both St. John's, Montello and St. John's, Princeton. LL Preschool is supported and administered solely by St. John's, Montello. Consideration of this recommendation by our ministry teams resulted in more questions than answers. Therefore, the Synod's lead Early Childhood Ministry consultant, Ann Potter, was hired to assess our situation and provide recommendations for the best path forward to administer LL and accommodate future growth. Ann was here for a site visit May 9-10. She visited both campuses, spent time speaking with 18 people from our LL and CALA ministry teams, and then presented her recommendations orally to a large gathering of those with whom she had spoken. She recently followed up with a very detailed written report which will serve as a guiding document for our ministry teams to strengthen our LL program. Some key recommendations from this consultation follow.

- (1) Continue to operate LL Preschool under St. John's, Montello. There is no reason to place LL under CALA.
- (2) Pursue state licensing of LL Preschool and Eagles Nest wraparound care under St. John's, Montello. This would open the door to state financial assistance for low-income families who need childcare in order to maintain their jobs. Our building is deemed suitable for state licensure, but a fenced play area would be needed outside. State licensure would open the door to expanding outreach ministry opportunities.
- (3) Encourage area congregations to start their own preschool program. St. John's, Princeton, has already expressed interest. These area preschools could then feed students into CALA.

The hope is that this consultation exercise will help bolster our LL program, grow opportunities to share the Gospel with young souls and their families, assimilate lost souls into the family of believers, and nurture young souls with God's Word and the love of Jesus well into the future. Please keep our LL and CALA ministries in your prayers. – St. John's Board of Education

JOIN US... KICKOFF WEEKEND

Bring A Chair and Join Us For this
FREE Concert
On The Ball Diamond Located At
St. Johns Lutheran
313 E Montello Street, Montello

CONCERT ON
THE BALL DIAMOND
Saturday
September 7, 2024
6:00pm



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
JOIN US AS WE KICKOFF THE FALL SESSION

10:00 AM Worship @ City Park

11:00 AM Cookout lunch, bags tournament
& Fun

For more information
stjohnsmontello.org or 608-297-2866

 St. John's
Evangelical
Lutheran Church & School

Joint Council Meeting Highlights from June 18 Meeting

Unfinished Business:

1. Next Lead Pastor Call/CALA Joint Mission Pastor
 - a. It was decided to make a recommendation to the voters to wait to make a call until January.
 - b. Required reports will continue to be sent regarding CALA Mission Pastor.
2. St. John's Early Childhood Ministry Call for LLLC Teacher/Director
 - a. Call was extended to Lynn Sellnow to be the LLLC Teacher/Director.
3. Consolidation
 - a. Left on agenda as it is a topic that shouldn't be forgotten, talks on consolidation/sharing a pulpit may be needed in the future.

New Business:

1. CALA Federation expansion
 - a. The CALA School Board and Emmanuel Council are continuing discussions on Emmanuel joining the CALA Federation.
2. Emergency Worship service
 - a. Pastor Zietlow, Darrell Buchholz and Matthew Kath are putting together prepared services with Liturgical and Hymn music, and a prepared sermon video for emergencies.
3. Close Captioning
 - a. Not much discussed, other than mention made that the WELS connection videos will continue to have CC.
4. Convention Reports
 - a. Pastor Zietlow, Principal Larry Sellnow, Gary Wegner and Matthew Kath attended the WELS Northern District Convention in Appleton. Matthew gave a short report on the highlights from the Convention. Pastor has a copy of the Report to the Twelve Districts if anyone wishes to see it, and Matthew can email reports from the Convention if anyone wishes them.

The next Joint Council Meeting will be Tuesday, September 17, 2024.

A yellow mop bucket on a grey cart is positioned in a hallway. The bucket has a "CAUTION" sign and a logo. The cart has a handle and a basket. The background is a blurred hallway with a white wall and a tiled floor.

**St. John's is hiring a Janitor for the Church
and Education Center!**

Part-time work with flexible hours.

**For more information contact:
Jerre Duerr: Jerre.asc@gmail.com**

A bright sun is shining over a blue sky with white clouds. The sun is in the upper left corner, creating a lens flare effect. The clouds are scattered across the sky.

St. John's Summer Office Hours:

CLOSED: Monday and Tuesday

OPEN:

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

9:00am - 2:00pm

Find & Like us on Facebook

Visit our website: www.stjohnsmontello.org

Pastor Pete Zietlow: 608-408-7830, **Email:** zietlowPL6@hotmail.com

Principal & 6-8 Grade Teacher: Larry Sellnow: 920-481-9002 ext.102

Email: principal@crystalonelutheranacademy.net

CALA Secretary/Office: Ciara Neuhauser: 920-481-9002

School Email: secretary@crystalonelutheranacademy.net

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

Mission Statement: The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod exists to give all glory to God by upholding, defending, and proclaiming the truth of the Holy Scriptures as articulated in the Lutheran Confessions, and by providing a means for congregations and their members to extend the reach of their God-given mission of proclaiming the gospel in Word and sacrament through joint mission efforts at home and abroad, the training of called workers, and coordination of gospel applications to encourage spiritually healthy called workers in spiritually healthy congregations and schools.

