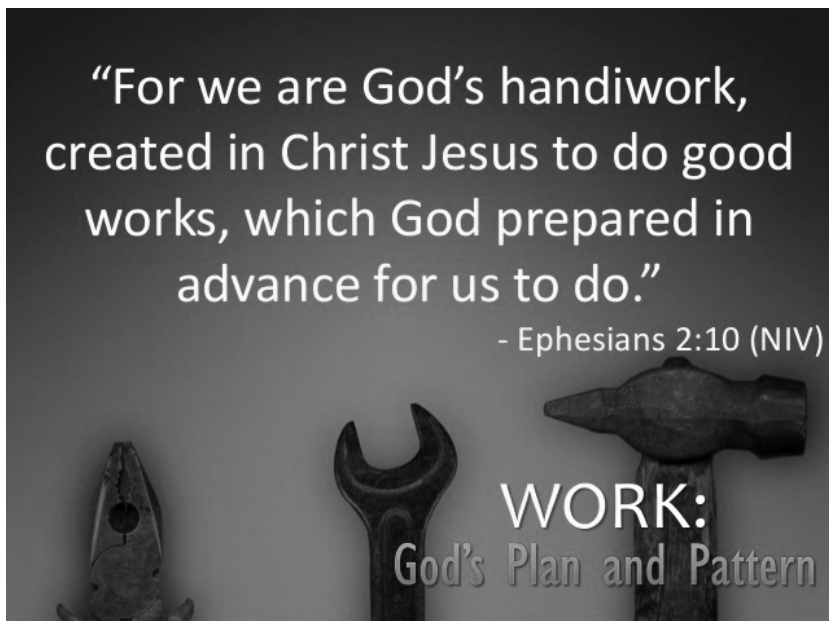


# Labor for the Lord: A Labor Day Service

“For we are God’s handiwork,  
created in Christ Jesus to do good  
works, which God prepared in  
advance for us to do.”

- Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)



August 31 & September 1, 2024

Emmanuel: Sunday 8:00 a.m.  
St. John's: Saturday 4:30 p.m. &  
Sunday 10 a.m.

Pastor Peter Zietlow

Pastor: Today we observe a national holiday that honors those whose labor contributes to our well-being. Our theme is Labor for the Lord. God values productive and honest labor and blesses it.

## **Opening Hymn: Hymn #912 “Open, Lovely Doors,”**

*Stand.*

### **Invocation**

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

**C: Amen**

### **Call to Worship**

P: God said, “Six days you will labor and do all your work,

**C: But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord.”**

P: Jesus said, “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden,

**C: And I will give you rest.”**

P: We come in the name of the Holy Spirit, resting from our labors,

**C: Let us worship God this day!”**

### **Confession and Absolution**

**C: Lord of life, I confess that I have not lived the life of which I’m capable. I have gifts which I have not used, and gifts which I’ve misused. I have not loved you above all others and failed to love my neighbor as myself. Have mercy and forgive me and strengthen me for your service.**

P: Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through Jesus Christ. There is therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ.

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.

**C: Amen**

## **Prayer of the Day**

Heavenly Father, we are blessed to be given work to do and the ability to do it. Finding satisfaction in the work we do is a gift from God that gives meaning to our lives. Fill us with your Spirit so that we might live as faithful servants of Jesus our King and do all our work as for the Lord. Keep us ever grateful for these blessings. In Jesus' name, Amen

*Be seated.*

## **The Word on Work**

**Reading 1:** Work is ordained by God. Some have the misconception that labor originated as a result of the Fall into sin. They assume that it is part of the curse that descended upon humanity after the Fall. But that's not the case. God's commission for humans to work was prior to the Fall. In fact, the first one to work was God himself. The Bible declares that God worked in Genesis 1:1. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." By doing his creative work, God sanctified labor as holy and good and blessed.

Then, after creating the first human, God commissioned him to work. Genesis 2:15 records: "The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it." This was before the Fall. It happened in a time of blessing. This means that our labor is a part of God's blessing. We were created in God's image, and part of that image is that we are created to do God's work on earth as his agents and in his stead. God cares for the

world, so we work to take care of it, just as he cares for other people, so we work to care for them in his name.

**Reading 2:** Work is a blessing because it enables us to experience fulfillment in life. God looked at his work and declared: “It is good!” in Genesis 1:31. We, too, can find satisfaction and a sense of accomplishment in our labor. It is a high and holy privilege to be able to create, serve and provide for ourselves and others through our work.

Work has three purposes: to provide money or resources to supply the necessities of life; to provide satisfaction for a job well done; and to serve God. In order to serve God in our work, we need to follow his commands. His Word gives us the manner in which we are to perform in relation to our employer: Ephesians 6:6-7 “Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people.”

**Reading 3:** Work is honorable. All professions and all kinds of work, assuming they are legal and Biblically ethical, are honorable before the Lord. There is no difference between sacred and secular work. All work brings glory to God and fulfillment to you, if it is done to God’s glory. 1 Corinthians 10:31 “So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all to the glory of God.”

Work also provides an opportunity to witness. Wherever we are, we reveal a powerful message, both verbal and nonverbal, by the way in which we perform our work, our attitude, and the way we treat others. We are Christ to the world. The world today needs this powerful witness to the reality of Christ and the difference that he makes in his followers. Matthew 5:14-16 says: “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do

people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

P: But as important and valuable as work is, there is one arena in which our labor holds no value to God. That is in our salvation. The one work that we cannot do is that of our own salvation from sin, death, and hell.

Usually one has to work to have success. But this principle doesn't apply to the most important thing in life—eternal life. Our work does not precede it. Ephesians 2:8-9 states: “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.” Our sinful nature disqualifies us from eternal life and no amount of hard work on our part can change that! Christ's saving work of living the perfect life we couldn't live, dying the sacrificial death we deserved for sin, and rising again in victory over death...this is the work that did it all for us! Christ's work earned our salvation.

Now we seek to work for God and with God, not to earn salvation, but out of thanks for it. Ephesians 2:10 affirms the place of work in our lives. It states: “For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” We are not saved by our work, but we are saved for good work. As those created in the image of God, we carry out his workmanship in the labor which we do in his name and for his kingdom.

**Congregational Hymn #728 “This is My Will”**

**Sermon—Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2:18-26**

**“There is Meaning in Life”**

1. Not in human achievement
2. But in God’s announcement

2 "Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher.  
"Utterly meaningless! Everything  
is meaningless."

18 I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun,  
because I must leave them to the one who comes after  
me. 19 And who knows whether he will be a wise man or  
a fool? Yet he will have control over all the work into  
which I have poured my effort and skill under the sun.  
This too is meaningless. 20 So my heart began to despair  
over all my toilsome labor under the sun. 21 For a man  
may do his work with wisdom, knowledge and skill, and  
then he must leave all he owns to someone who has not  
worked for it. This too is meaningless and a great  
misfortune. 22 What does a man get for all the toil and  
anxious striving with which he labors under the sun? 23  
All his days his work is pain and grief; even at night his  
mind does not rest. This too is meaningless.

24 A man can do nothing better than to eat and drink  
and find satisfaction in his work. This too, I see, is from  
the hand of God, 25 for without him, who can eat or find  
enjoyment? 26 To the man who pleases him, God gives  
wisdom, knowledge and happiness, but to the sinner he  
gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand  
it over to the one who pleases God. This too is  
meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

**Rise for congregational Hymn #940 “We All Believe in  
One True God”**

*Be Seated.*

**Offering** (Greet one another and sign the register.)

## **Prayer**

P. O God who planted a garden in Eden laboring in the soil to create your earth-born man; O Christ who labored in the woodshop and upon the cross; O Holy Spirit who works within and without us to bring the Kingdom to this earth, work within and without us now, we pray.

**All: Make us strong and faithful laborers in your body, the Church, that it might be strengthened by the love you have shown us.**

**Make us effective and peaceable laborers among the governments of the earth that wisdom, peace, and justice might prevail.**

**Make us compassionate and tireless laborers among all those who suffer any sort of need, that we may be instruments of your healing and comfort.**

**Make us diligent and listening laborers in this place of worship that the community around us might see our love for one another and give glory to our Father in heaven.**

**Make us happy laborers of your Gospel message, that those who mourn may be assured of your powerful resurrection and the joy of life eternal.**

**All this we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen**

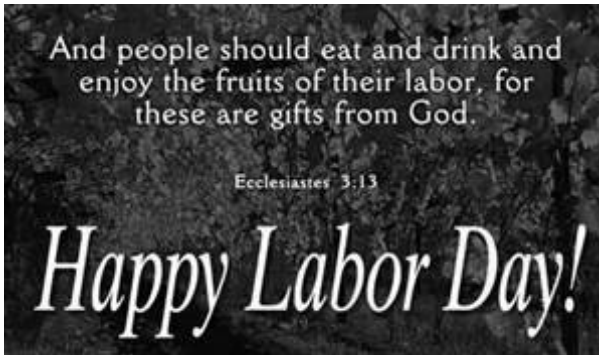
**Intercessory Prayers (read by Pastor)**

**The Lord's Prayer**

## **Benediction**

May you be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of God. (Colossians 1:9-10)

## **Closing Hymn #739 "Forth in Your Name, O Lord, I Go"**



Sunday at Emmanuel & St. John's: WELS Connection Video

Next Sunday:

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Need For Followership:

Followers of Christ See the True Purpose of His Power

NO Worship Sat, 9/8---Concert on the Ball Diamond

Worship with Communion at Emmanuel 8am

Worship at City Park 10am, with pot luck and bags tournament to follow.



## INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

- To be announced.

<b>St. John's</b>	<b>Usher's Schedule</b>
<b>Saturday, Aug. 31 Sunday, Sept. 1</b>	<b>Saturday, Sept. 7 Sunday, Sept. 8</b>
<b>James Wachholz Zeb Zuehls Thomas Wojtalewicz Kenny Wojtalewicz Chuck Boetcher Jesse Schable</b>	<b>NO WORSHIP SAT. 9/7/24 CONCERT ON THE BALL DIAMOND  WORSHIP AT MONTELLO CITY PARK SUN 9/8/24</b>

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## This Week: September 1-7, 2024

Monday	<i>Labor Day</i>	NO SCHOOL
	6:30 p.m.	CALA Meeting SJ Montello
Thursday	Noon	Ladies Aid Dessert and Meeting SJ *Collecting Fall Mission Offerings*
Saturday		NO SJ Worship
	6:00 p.m.	Concert on the Ball Diamond SJ

## Next Sunday: September 8, 2024

8:00 a.m.	Emmanuel Worship with Communion
10:00 a.m.	Worship at Montello City Park
11:00 a.m.	Potluck & Bags Tournament City Park

### Attendance

Date	EM	SJ
8/24/24	-	10
8/25/24	-	97

**GriefShare** will be starting up again soon. Green Lake: Sept. 9 at 6pm; Princeton: Sept. 10 at 6pm; Montello: Sept. 12 at 6pm. Please contact Mark Emond at 608-697-1600 for information and if you plan to attend. Thank you!

Total July Offerings	Monthly Budget Needs	July Expenses	Year to Date Offerings	Year to Date Expenses
\$20,757.98	\$40,014.98	\$25,163.87	\$20,757.98	\$25,763.87

*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. **2 Corinthians 9:7***



# BAGS TOURNAMENT

SEPTEMBER 8  
@ MONTELLO CITY PARK  
FOLLOWING 10:00 OUTDOOR SERVICE

**\$10/TEAM**  
(REGISTRATION GOES TOWARDS TUITION ASSISTANCE)

Calling all bags throwers! It's time to gear up and get ready for our 2nd annual bags tournament. Whether you're an experienced player or new to the game, this tournament is for you. Grab a partner and sign up today!

REGISTER NOW

Via Google Form or Call:  
**608.297.2866**

**St. John's**  
Evangelical  
Lutheran Church & School

**Sign up your bags tournament team today**  
at: <https://forms.gle/r2XYyfKwX5tvuQLS6>

# 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](http://stjohnsmontello.org) or 608-297-2866

 St. John's  
Evangelical  
Lutheran Church & School

Dear Members of St. John's and Emmanuel  
Congregations,

Thank you for blessing me with so many notes of encouragement and gifts as I begin this year as the Little Lambs Director and Teacher. I feel very blessed to work with you as we share the message of salvation with children and families in our community. As we work together with our K-8 elementary school, Christ Alone Lutheran Academy, we pray that God will bless our school year. Let our actions and words reflect the love Christ has for us!

To God be the Glory,  
Mrs. Lynn Sellnow

St. John's & Emmanuel Joint Choir will begin practice on Monday, Sept. 9. If you enjoy singing, please consider joining our choir! Students in 7th grade and up, along with adults are invited to join. We practice once a week on Monday evenings from 6:30-7:30, and as we do we are blessed with Christian fellowship and the singing of faith building musical pieces. We enjoy singing a variety of music as we praise the Lord in practice and in worship services. If you have questions, please contact the director, Lynn Sellnow. ( 616-826-0816 or [lynnsellnow@stjohnsmontello.org](mailto:lynnsellnow@stjohnsmontello.org) ) If you would like to join, you may simply come to our practices!

***Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with gratitude in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16***

**WHAT IS BEFRIEND A MISSION MONTH?** The Lutheran Women's Missionary Society supports WELS missions by prayer, encouragement, & giving. During our September BAM month at St. John's, we make a special effort to *shower our support* on our assigned missionaries by increasing our prayers, sending a few more notes & emails, & giving a little extra for missions. These joy-filled means of support have no age limitations! We can ALL *be a friend!* As LWMS shares awareness of WELS missions, we hope *YOU will join us by sending a note, signing a card, saying a prayer, or giving a little something extra to missions.*

**FALL MISSION OFFERINGS are being collected by LWMS during September at both churches.** *Please use the collection container at the church where you are a member—in the church entrance both at Emmanuel and at St. John's.* WELS mission projects that will benefit from your gift are these Beaver Dam Circuit projects: Home Mission—Campus Ministry (helps campus pastors/congregations reach out & serve college students away from home on college campuses) and World Mission—Native American Missions (aids work on Fort Apache & San Carlos Apache Reservations in Arizona; outreach into new tribes, support groups & counseling, addiction programs & more). Other projects will be decided at next summer's LWMS convention. **Your offerings are important to our supported missions and are welcome from everyone with a heart for missions!** **DEADLINE: Sunday, September 29.**

**ST. JOHN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 AT 8:30 A.M.** Ages 3 and up, member or not, all are invited to come! Teachers look forward to assisting parents by helping the children grow in Christ! Privileged to serve and Lord and you—Amanda Finger, Linda Wachholz, James Wachholz. Parents & visitors are always welcome! Another good choice for SS parents would be attending adult Bible class while children attend SS!

**MISSION FESTIVAL & EVANGELISM SUNDAY IS SEPTEMBER 29.** Guest preacher will be Pastor Doug Tomhave from St. Paul-Lake Mills, who currently serves as chairman for the WELS Commission on Evangelism. *“I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.”* John 4:35 Lord, give us “A Heart for the Harvest!” Join us for a celebration lunch at St. John’s following the second service. Your freewill offering will support the WELS mission projects: Campus Ministry & Native American Missions.

Haiden Van Treeck is in his junior year at Luther Preparatory School in Watertown. Our congregation has a scholarship program for students attending a Lutheran high school, MLC and the Seminary. Monetary gifts from St. John’s members during the month of September will be used to supplement the Scholarship Fund amount. There will be a card basket for donations and encouragement.

**We are updating our email list!** Please email Matt Kath at [scsecretary@stjohnsmontello.org](mailto:scsecretary@stjohnsmontello.org) to update or add your email to our list! It will help you stay up to date with important information, Church events and newsletters. Thank you so much for your help!

## ***Help us stay in touch!***

*Scan the code below using your smartphone camera and fill out the prompted information. Don't have a smartphone? That's ok! Fill out an attendance card located at the end of each pew and place it in the offering plate located at the entry of each church.*



**Welcome to our visitors!**

**Find & Like us on Facebook**

**Visit our website:** [www.stjohnsmontello.org](http://www.stjohnsmontello.org)

**Pastor Pete Zietlow:** 608-408-7830, **Email:**  
[zietlowPL6@hotmail.com](mailto:zietlowPL6@hotmail.com)

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

**Email:** [principal@crystalonelutheranacademy.net](mailto:principal@crystalonelutheranacademy.net)

**3-5 Grade Teacher:** Beth Barenz: 920-481-9002 ext.103  
[bbarenz@crystalonelutheranacademy.net](mailto:bbarenz@crystalonelutheranacademy.net)

**1-2 Grade Teacher:** Shelley Myers: 920-481-9002 ext.201  
[smyers@crystalonelutheranacademy.net](mailto:smyers@crystalonelutheranacademy.net)

**Kindergarten Teacher:** Liz Wolter: 920-481-9002 ext.202  
[ewolter@crystalonelutheranacademy.net](mailto:ewolter@crystalonelutheranacademy.net)

**Little Lambs Director:** Lynn Sellnow: 920-481-9002 ext. 203  
[littlelambs@stjohnsmontello.org](mailto:littlelambs@stjohnsmontello.org)

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

**School Email:** [secretary@crystalonelutheranacademy.net](mailto: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](mailto:scsecretary@stjohnsmontello.org)