

NEWSLETTER

MARCH
2025



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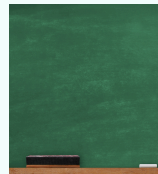
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How Can I Be Happy?



How can I be happy when I'm crying?

"Blessed are those who mourn."
Matthew 5:4

Be happy while you're crying? I don't think so. Most tears come because of sorrow. People usually cry because something important to them has gone horribly wrong. But Jesus says that Christians are happy even when they're crying.

To understand what Jesus is saying, one must first understand why Christians cry. Christians cry for many of the same reasons everyone else cries. They cry at funerals. They cry when someone has been cruel to them. They cry when they hear a very sad story.

Christians can cry when they realize how horribly they have hurt someone. The burden of guilt weighs heavily on their hearts and brings them to tears. Christians can cry when they think of bad things they have done. They know that they deserve nothing from God but a punishment that never ends.

So where is the happiness?

Happiness is in knowing that while we deserve only the worst from God, he has given us only

the best. When we mourn because of guilt, our Savior dries our moist eyes. When hearts are heavy with sadness, Jesus puts his hand under our chins and lifts our eyes to see his cross, where he made all our guilt, and all the sorrow connected to that guilt his own. Jesus looks at you and me and says, "Be at peace. Your guilt is gone."

Christians still cry, but Christians find comfort in the midst of their tears. This comfort is for you too.

It is a comfort that brings calm in the face of all kinds of tears. Jesus gives you the peace of knowing that death does not mean defeat. Jesus assures you that being mistreated by others does not mean God has abandoned you. Jesus fills you with the sure hope that all the hurt and evil in this world is not the end of everything.

Can there be happiness even when you are crying? Yes, because Jesus is your comfort.

St. John's & Emmanuel Worship Schedule October

Sundays: Emmanuel 8:00am; St. John's 10:00am

Holy Communion Offered: 3/9, 3/23

Emmanuel Bible Studies:

Sundays 9:00am

St. John's Bible Studies:

Mondays 7:30pm ; Wednesdays 10:30am ;

Sundays 8:45am

Sunday School at St. John's: Sundays 8:30am

Lent and Holy Week Worship Schedule:

(Regular Sunday Worship:

Emmanuel: 8:00am, St. John's: 10:00am)

Ash Wednesday, March 5:

Emmanuel 3:30pm, St. John's 6:30 pm

(Lenten Supper at St. John's 4:30pm)

Wednesday, March 12:

Emmanuel 3:30pm, St. John's 6:30 pm

(Lenten Supper at St. John's 4:30pm)

Wednesday, March 19:

Emmanuel 3:30pm, St. John's 6:30 pm

(Lenten Supper at St. John's 4:30pm)

Wednesday, March 26:

Emmanuel 3:30pm, St. John's 6:30 pm

(Lenten Supper at Emmanuel 4:30pm)

Wednesday, April 2:

Emmanuel 3:30pm, St. John's 6:30 pm

(Lenten Supper at St. John's 4:30pm)

Wednesday, April 9:

Emmanuel 3:30pm, St. John's 6:30 pm

(Lenten Supper at St. John's 4:30pm)

Passion Sunday, April 13:

Emmanuel: 8:00 am, St. John's: 10:00

Holy Thursday, April 17: Emmanuel 6:30pm

Good Friday, April 18: St. John's 1:00pm

Easter Sunday:

Emmanuel: 8:00am, St. John's: 10:00am

Lenten Supper Hosts and Menus

March 5, 4:30pm at St. John's Lower Level

St. John's Ladies Aid- Chicken Alfredo over noodles,
lettuce salad, bread, green beans, desserts

March 12, 4:30pm at St. John's Lower Level

St. John's Sunday School- Hamburger gravy over
mashed potatoes, corn, fruit salad, desserts

March 19, 4:30pm at St. John's Lower Level

Hands in Prayer- Sloppy Joes's, potato salad, macaroni
salad, chips, brush beans, desserts

March 26, 4:30pm at Emmanuel Parish Hall

Ladies of Emmanuel Church-Hot Dogs, mac-n-cheese,
sliders, fruit, desserts

April 2, 4:30pm at St. John's Lower Level

CALA-Taco/Nacho Bar

April 9, 4:30pm at St. John's Lower Level

Men's Breakfast & Study Club- Soup, crackers, desserts

Those who are members of Emmanuel, St. John's, another WELS church, or a church in full doctrinal agreement with the WELS, are invited to attend. Others are politely asked to refrain until communion fellowship is established. There are two Scriptural reasons we distribute the Lord's Supper this way. 1.) Receiving the Lord's Supper improperly results in harm, not blessing, to the recipient. (1 Cor. 11:27) Like a prescription it must be administered with care. 2.) Recipients of the Supper publicly proclaim their unity in the faith. (1Cor. 10:17) Members of other denominations have, by joining those church bodies, publicly declared their allegiance to the teaching of those churches. By also communing here at this altar it would send a confusing message regarding not only what they believe, but also what the Bible teaches and what this church and its members believe and confess. We'd love to speak to you about this more fully so that all are prepared and speak with one voice as we proclaim Christ to the world. For more information, and especially if you are interested in becoming a communicant member of this congregation, please speak to Pastor Zietlow.

Sunday School, CALA &
Little Lambs
Singing Schedule

Sunday 3/2 LL-CALA8 & Chimes at Princeton

Sunday 3/16 Sunday School at Montello

Wednesday 3/26 LL-CALA K-2 at Emmanuel 3:30pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mondays:

Adult Choir 6:30pm SJ; Adult Bible Study 7:30pm SJ

Wednesdays:

Adult Bible Study 10:30am SJ

Public School Catechism 5:00pm SJ

Saturday 3/1

LLLC Open House/Art For Dinner (see p.12 for details)

Monday 3/2:

Hand In Prayer Meeting 2:30pm SJ

Tuesday 3/3:

Joint Elders Meeting 9:00am SJ--CALA Meeting 6:30pm

Thursday 3/4:

Ladies Aid Dessert & Meeting Noon SJ

Tuesday 3/11

Little Lambs Director/Teacher Call Meeting SJ 7:00pm

Tuesday 3/18:

SJ Council Meeting 6:30pm

Tuesday 3/25

SJ Stewardship Meeting 5:30pm--Worship Meeting SJ 6:30pm

****NO SCHOOL/SPRING BREAK****

****MARCH 10-14****

NO CHOIR OR ADULT BIBLE STUDY 3/10

Gemeinde Geschichte (Congregation History)

The "NEW" School Dedication

It sounds a bit strange to talk about the Lutheran school in Montello in terms of being new. As useful as it still is, it is hardly new. It's 60 years old this February! Baby Boomers who first sat at the desks are now anywhere from 60- 80 years old. Current students are their grandchildren.

It was new then, and it was dedicated to the glory of God on February 21, 1965. The front page of the Tribune held the headline, *Lutheran School Dedication*. Photos of the building, the Building Committee, and the faculty accompanied the article.

Dedication Sunday was a homecoming as well. Former pastor, Walter Oelhafen, returned to preach the sermon at the morning worship. He was in Winthrop, MN then. He held the pastoral reigns at Emmanuel/St. John's when talk of a building program began. An additional service of dedication was added in the afternoon, and former principal, Floyd Mattek, filled the pulpit. He had become Pastor Mattek in Forestville, WI. The festivities continued as the congregation gathered outside. Pastor Paul Kolander led the way. The building architect, Richard Thern, of Thern and Associates in Oshkosh, ceremonially handed over the building keys to Building Committee Chairman, Art Hillmer. The official ceremonies concluded in the new "multi-purpose room," aka, the gym.

The new 10,000-square-foot building was a godsend to the 100 students who would fill the four classrooms, gym, and hallways. The old school (built in 1909 and remodeled twice with additions in 1929 and 1951) had served the church well, but it was time. The parents who entrusted their children to the spiritual training given by the faculty would also be blessed by the Christian education provided. Even those who would not have children in the school but would support bringing up the children in the fear of the Lord, benefit greatly in the long run. It's always a team effort.

A project such as this doesn't happen overnight. It was a process of long-term planning. The property next to the old school was purchased in 1957. A "planning ahead" building fund was established in 1959. The 1962 Planning Committee became a Building Committee in 1964, The work began with razing the old school, groundbreaking, and new construction in the summer of that year. In the fall a ceremonial cornerstone was laid - Montello Granite, of course. The wider Montello community held an interest in this project as well. A not-insignificant gesture was made by the Montello Rotary Club with the donation of a flagpole. The pole was installed for an Open House held in the spring.

They say it takes a village. Architect Thern was assisted by contractors like Thiede Construction of Appleton, Wedell Electric of Princeton, and Jeskey Plumbing of Berlin. The children and members of the congregation did their part as well. The newspaper article does not include this detail, but food likely played a role that day, of the potluck variety, with the Ladies Aid being involved.

Lutheran School Building Committee —



This is the building committee which guided the building program which comes to climax on Sunday with the dedication of the new St. John's Lutheran elementary school. Left to right: Paul Duosterhoefft, Herman Schimmel, Ed Putzke, Art Hillmer (chairman), and Carl Nindorf.

Faculty at New Lutheran School —



This is the faculty of the Montello Lutheran school, who will be teaching in the new building after March 1st — left to right: Mrs. Herb Wilkins, principal Harold Runke, Mrs. Martin Griepentrog.

JOIN US FOR THE SPRING RALLY of the BEAVER DAM CIRCUIT OF LWMS

Saturday, April 26, 2025
Mt. Zion Lutheran Church– Ripon
320 Mt. Zion Drive
(Cohost: Peace-Green Lake)



John 15:5 *"I am the vine; you are the branches."*



Speaker: Pastor Jon Bilitz
UW-Madison Campus Ministry

Service Project:
Monetary collection
for WI Lutheran Chapel & Student Center
(commercial pots & pans)

2026 Convention Collections:

- Monetary gifts to jumpstart the Convention Fund
- Leftover 4-ply yarn, any color
- New or leftover 1/8-inch ribbon, any color

9:15 am Registration
9:30 am Plastic Canvas Cross Instruction
10:00 am Reporters' Meeting
10:15 am Rally Opens
10:20 am Bible Study
11:00 am Business Meeting/Election
11:45 am Lunch
12:40 pm Devotion & Offering
1:00 pm Speaker
2:00 pm Rally Summation
2:15 pm Installation, Closing

*If you have special dietary
needs, please contact
Reporter Joanne Gregor
920-896-1518
gregorj12@hotmail.com*

YOU'RE INVITED!

Sowing
the Seeds of
Faith

I CORINTHIANS 3:6-9

**62ND ANNUAL
LWMS CONVENTION**

Tulsa, Oklahoma • June 26–29, 2025



**Four Days Filled with Exciting Opportunities to
Learn About and Support WELS Home & World Missions!**

- Listen to inspirational speakers
- Learn about home and world mission fields
- Meet missionaries and their families
- Explore how you can get involved with mission work
- Enjoy worship and fellowship with sisters and brothers in Christ around the world

**COX BUSINESS
CONVENTION CENTER**
100 Civic Center
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Scan for details!



62ND.LWMS.ORG

THERE STILL IS ROOM!!
TULSA BUS TRIP
Let's go to the LWMS Convention !!

Tuesday, June 24 to Monday, June 30

Leave Tuesday at 8:00 am from first stop in DePere
Home late afternoon on Monday. No side trips – just there and back

**Picking up in DePere, Appleton, Oshkosh,
Beaver Dam, East Madison (and Rockford, IL if needed)**

**The approximate bus cost will be \$250 (with a full bus).
This includes bus & drivers costs only–Hotel costs are NOT included in this price.**

**Tuesday & Sunday nights in hotel (breakfast included) just north of
St. Louis – a block of rooms has been reserved. YOU must make these
reservations - Hotel registration details will follow when bus is almost full.
Room cost is \$124/night plus taxes. Two persons in room is \$62/night, three
persons in room is \$41+/night, four persons in room is \$31/night per person,
plus taxes.**

Other Expenses you will have include:

- 1. WEDNESDAY, Thursday, Friday, Saturday nights at Tulsa hotel. YOU must also make your own hotel reservations for the Convention. Be sure to include *Wednesday* night in your LWMS reservations in Tulsa.**
- 2. Meals**
- 3. Worship offerings**
- 4. Driver tip**
- 5. Convention side trip or Mission Journey**
- 6. Personal spending**

To sign up, contact:

Linda Wachholz at lwmsreporter@stjohnsmontello.org or call 608-369-2635

Louise Kesting at mnlkestg@sbcglobal.net or call 920-809-8588

(We will need each guest's email address, cell numbers, & city of pickup.)

WORKDAY FOR THE 2026 LWMS CONVENTION PLASTIC CANVAS CROSS PROJECT

St. John's-Montello
Thursday, March 6, 2025
9:30-11:30 a.m.

- Come learn the pattern or get a refresher on the process.
- Pick up needed supplies of canvas & yarn. Ribbon & tags may also be available by then.
- *If possible, please bring your own wide-eyed sewing needle.*
- Registration Chair Sandra Beimborn and a couple other experienced plastic canvas crafters will be there to help!
- Morning refreshments.
- A half-hour instruction time is also scheduled at our Spring rally in Ripon on April 26, but to get a headstart and more time to learn and ask questions, join us in Montello!
- A video instruction is also available. Contact Linda Wachholz if you would like it sent to you via email:

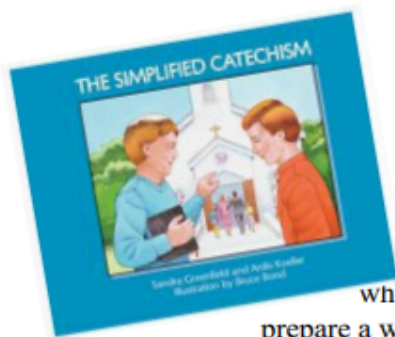


lwmsreporter@stjohnsmontello.org
608-369-2635



SERVICE PROJECT

Sunday Schoolers celebrated Sanctity of Life month in January with a collection for WELS Lutherans for Life using baby bottle banks at home with their families. Our gift totaled \$71.76.



SIMPLIFIED CATECHISM DEVOTIONS

Sunday School devotions this year are based on The Simplified Catechism published by Northwestern Publishing House. This resource was prepared for the Special Education Services

Committee of the WELS Commission on Special Ministries. It uses simple language and explanations and lots of picture illustrations, which is great for introducing younger students to the catechism. Teachers

prepare a weekly page that reviews each topic using rebus statements, simple matching exercises, and other simple formats so that even preschool SSers can learn our Christian basics. Each lesson is also connected to a Bible story, which is either the ChristLight lesson for that day or is a past lesson which we review.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SPECIALS

The Sunday School staff enjoys exercising the adage "Variety is the spice of life." While we follow the ChristLight curriculum in our yearly schedule, the lessons often lead us to expand learning with related "specials," as we call them. In recent weeks, we've enjoyed . . .

- My Baptism and Why It's So Important (following a lesson on Jesus' baptism)
- The Lord's Prayer (following a lesson on Jesus Teaches How to Pray)
- Prayer 101 for Kids (The who, what, where, when, etc. of prayer)
- Learning About Confirmation (following a lesson on Jesus Gives the Lord's Supper)
- Coming Soon on March 16 (the 3rd month, 16th day): Celebrating John 3:16 Day!



CALA, LLLC, AND PASTOR CALL MEETING INFORMATION

Dear members of St. John's and Emmanuel,

As you may already know Joel and Amy Grulke have returned their divine calls and will continue to serve at Trinity Lutheran in Waukesha.

Our next call meeting for preschool director/teacher is set for March 11 at 7 pm. The CALA board will also be meeting that evening to select a candidate for Principal. We will defer to the board regarding a possible married team.

The conversation for LL under CALA is ongoing.

Our call meeting for a Pastor to replace Pastor Zietlow is set for March 30 after the St. John's service.

In Christ,
Jerre

"Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding." Jeremiah 3:15

CHRIST ALONE LUTHERAN ACADEMY SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

Art For Dinner
"Fearfully & wonderfully made"

CHILDREN'S
ART
AUCTION

SILENT
AUCTION

BASKET
RAFFLE

CATERED
DINNER

MARCH 1, 2025

Where: CALA Princeton Campus
 Silent Auction Preview: 3:30-5:30pm
 Basket Preview: 3:30-5:30pm
 Dinner: 5:00pm
TICKETS REQUIRED UPON ENTRY!
 FREE Spaghetti Meal
 for children (13 & under)!

To Buy Tickets:
artfordinner15@gmail.com
 School Office 920-481-9002
 Stop by the Princeton school office

Coordinator: Megan Jaster
 608-369-3456

Little Lambs Learning Center

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, March 1, 2025
10:00am to 12:00

Little Lambs Learning Center
St John's, Montello

ABOUT US

Little Lambs Learning Center partners with parents in providing a Christ-centered education that prepares students for life and eternity.

CONTACT INFO

313 E Montello St., Montello, WI 53949
 608-297-2866
www.stjohnsmontello.org
Littlelambs@stjohnsmontello.org

LESSONS FOR LIFE:

- God's Word 🌻
- Social Interaction 🌻
- Reading Readiness 🌻
- Independence 🌻

The Evangelism Team
has some fun upcoming outreach projects and we are in need of monetary donations and volunteers!!!
We are in need of monetary donations to buy supplies and volunteers to help with the fun activities at the Easter Festival on April 12.
We are in need of volunteers for canvassing our local area for the Montello Care & Share Food Bank. This is an easy, unthreatening reason to be at the door. We are performing a community service for Care & Share while interacting with multiple households in Montello. Brief training is provided. These projects are a great way to get involved with your Church Family and help to reach out to our community with the Gospel!
There will be a basket in the information room for donations for the Easter Festival.
If you'd like to help out with these projects, or join the Evangelism Team, please contact Lynn Sellnow, James & Linda Wachholz, Mark & Patty Emond or Matt Kath.



Join us for our
 Wednesday Mid-Week
 Lenten Worship Services.
 The theme is “Reflections
 on Repentance”, where
 we will be taking a
 detailed look at Psalm 51.
 Emmanuel 3:30pm
 Lenten supper 4:30pm
 St. John’s 6:30pm

Details page 3.

PLASTIC CANVAS CRAFT PROJECT FOR 2026

LWMS CONVENTION We are collecting the following new or leftover items in any colors for making plastic canvas crosses that will go in the totebags at the convention we host in Madison. We also need more volunteers to assist with production (1,500!).

- 4-ply yard (each cross requires 1.5-2 yards)
 - 1/8-inch ribbon (8 inches per cross)
 - 7-mesh plastic canvas (to be cut into cross shapes)
- Collection box by the church office. Questions? contact Linda Wachholz, 608-369-2635, lwmsreporter@stjohnsmontello.org



WORKDAY FOR THE 2026 CONVENTION PLASTIC CANVAS CROSS PROJECT for women in the Beaver Dam Circuit. St. John's-Montello, on Thursday, March 6, 2025, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Come learn the pattern or get a refresher on the process, and pick up needed supplies of canvas & yarn. Ribbon & tags may also be available by then. If possible, please bring your own wide-eyed sewing needle. Registration Chair Sandra Beimborn and a couple other experienced plastic canvas crafters will be there to help! Morning refreshments. (A half-hour instruction time is also scheduled at our Spring rally in Ripon on April 26, but to get a headstart and more time to learn and ask questions, join us in Montello!)

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church
313 East Montello St.
Montello, WI

Emmanuel Ev. Lutheran Church
W1568 Evergreen Lane
Mecan Township, WI

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 SELLOW:
920-481-9002 EXT.102
PRINCIPAL@CHRISTALONELUTHERANACADEMY.NET

3-5 GRADE TEACHER: BETH BARENZ:
920-481-9002 EXT.103
BBARENZ@CHRISTALONELUTHERANACADEMY.NET

1-2 GRADE TEACHER: SHELLEY MYERS:
920-481-9002 EXT.201
SMYERS@CHRISTALONELUTHERANACADEMY.NET

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER: ELIZABETH WOLTER:
920-481-9002 EXT.202
EWOLTER@CHRISTALONELUTHERANACADEMY.NET

LITTLE LAMBS DIRECTOR: LYNN SELLOW:
920-481-9002 EXT. 203
LITTLELAMBS@STJOHNSMONTELLO.ORG

CALA SECRETARY/OFFICE: JORGIA KEMPLEY:
920-481-9002
SECRETARY@CHRISTALONELUTHERANACADEMY.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

