

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
THE KING SHALL COME: HE IS BRINGING PERFECT JOY



*Third Sunday
of Advent*

Pastor Zietlow's Sermon:

Isaiah 61:1-3, 10, 11

"Celebrate the Jubilee of our Anointed One!"

WELCOME! WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

We pray that you find comfort, peace, and motivation through God's Word today. In our worship bulletin, you will find an outline of **today's order of worship**. The entire service can be found in the hymnal, up on the screen on Sunday at St. John's and Emmanuel and livestreamed at www.stjohnsmontello.org and also at St. John's in the Lower Level. At St. John's, the **restrooms** are located in the link way, out the church entry way, to the left and down the stairs. At Emmanuel, they are located in the Parish Hall. You may also find a **nursery changing station** in the lower level of St. John's.

**ST. JOHN'S & EMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCHES**

December 16 & 17, 2023

SERIES THEME: THE KING SHALL COME

The Church Year begins with the season of Advent, which means “coming.” When someone is coming over, what do you do? It depends on who is coming and why they are coming. If it’s a good friend popping in for a quick visit, you don’t worry too much about how the house looks or serving a meal. But imagine the governor is coming over for an evening to give you some sort of citizen’s award. That’s a big deal. There is work to be done: deep cleaning, planning a menu, getting the yard looking its best, etc. So, is Advent a big deal? It depends on who is coming and why they are coming. In this worship series, we get the answer to those questions. We see that the King shall come. We see why the King came on that first Christmas and why he shall come again on judgment day. In this season, we also cherish the way our King comes to us today in Word and sacrament, establishing his reign in our hearts.

THEME OF THE DAY: HE IS BRINGING PERFECT JOY

The historic Christian Church gave Latin titles to each Sunday. They titled the Third Sunday in Advent “Gaudete,” which means “Rejoice!” As we reach the midway point of Advent, we remember that when the King shall come, he will bring us perfect and everlasting joy. Joy is not the same thing as happiness. Happiness is an emotion. Joyfulness is a condition. Happiness comes from your circumstances. Joyfulness comes from your King entering into your heart and assuring you of his abiding love and your glorious future. Therefore, happiness is fleeting. Joyfulness is enduring.

ORDER OF SERVICE: Setting Three; Hymnal pages 188-198, 171/Screen

HYMNS: 327, 495, 343, 321 (Hymns also posted on the screen)

PSALM: Psalm 71 “God Is My Strong Salvation”

SERMON: Isaiah 61:1-3, 10, 11 “Celebrate the Jubilee of our Anointed One!”

OPENING HYMN: 327 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-3, 10, 11 (Sermon Text)

(Through the prophet Isaiah, the Savior-King proclaims good news of great joy for all those who are brokenhearted.)

¹The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, ²to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, ³and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown

of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor. ¹⁰I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

PSALM: Psalm 71 "God Is My Strong Salvation"

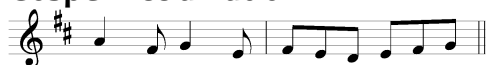
SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

(The promises of the coming King let us live with joy, regardless of present circumstances.)

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray continually, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²²reject every kind of evil. ²³May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

Gospel Acclamation

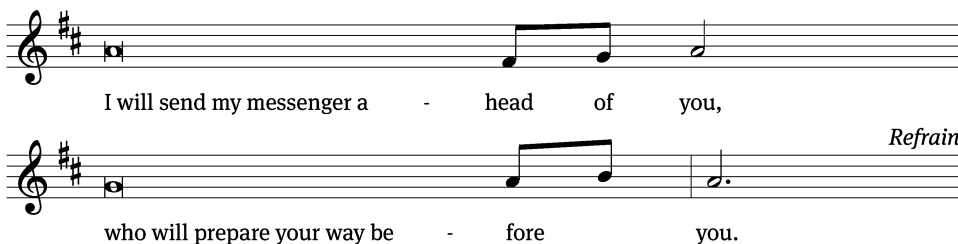
Matthew 11:10



Refrain



Tone



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GOSPEL: John 1:6–8,19–28

(John the Baptist teaches the infinite superiority of Christ Jesus. John was only a witness to the light. Jesus is the light who gives life and perfect joy.)

⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ¹⁹Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. ²⁰He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'" ²⁴Now the Pharisees who had been sent ²⁵questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶"I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." ⁸This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

HYMN OF THE DAY: 343 "Once In Royal David's City"

SERMON: Isaiah 61:1-3, 10, 11 "Celebrate the Jubilee of our Anointed One!"

APOSTLE'S CREED: Hymnal Page 197/Screen

PRAYER FOR ADVENT & INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

OFFERING & PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: 321 "God's Own Son Most Holy"

Following Worship-Advent Series Promo Video

Acknowledgments

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INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

- For the sick and others facing trials, including: Chuck Boetcher, Gale "Blackie" Boyd, Bob Buehrens, Michael Cox (Marjorie Fabian's brother), Vicki Davis (Marilyn Riemer's sister), Edith Duesterhoeft, Ken Elmer (Sally's husband), Earl Ewert, Judy Fandrey, John Gaedke (Dan Finger's uncle), Donna Gatzke, Dennis Gray (Mary Dahlke's brother), Dennis Gromowski (Josh's father, Harvey Rudolph's neighbor), Kelleen Gruzca (Judy Fandrey's daughter), Kim Hanko (Judy Fandrey's daughter), Del & Jean Henke, Maureen Hillmer, Drake Hunter, Jerry & Darlene Hunter (Bonnie Chapman's parents), Xzander Jahr, Kris Kemp (Diane Hintz' daughter), Dale Kozlowski, Jeff Krueger (Diane Hintz's son), Gemma Lewis (Maureen Hillmer's granddaughter), Debbie & Steve Parrish, Darlene Phillips (Ken Elmer's mother), Melissa Prater, Karen Radke, Roxanne Schmanke, Ashley Schroeder, Eloise Schultz, Bob Sluga (Sherry's husband), Annette St. Onge, Amanda Stalker, Tom Stempniak, Dominick Thoman (the father of Janessa Roberts, Harvey Rudolph's neighbor), James & Suzanne Weber, Paul Weldon (added this week: __)
- For the family of our St. John's member, Kirk Krueger, called home on 12/12 at the age of 72
- For missions

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week: December 17-23, 2023

Third Sunday in Advent:

THE KING SHALL COME: HE IS BRINGING PERFECT JOY

Today	4:00 p.m.	CALA Christmas Service *PRINCETON*
Monday	6:30 p.m.	Adult Choir SJ
	7:30 p.m.	Adult Bible Study SJ
Wednesday	10:30 a.m.	Adult Bible Study SJ
	3:30 p.m.	Advent Service EM
	5:00 p.m.	Public School Catechism SJ
	6:30 p.m.	Advent Service SJ
Saturday	6:30 p.m.	Christmas Candlelight Worship EM
	4:30 p.m.	NO SJ Worship

Next Sunday: December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday in Advent: THE KING SHALL COME: JUST AS GOD PROMISED

8:00 a.m.	Emmanuel Worship with Communion
8:45 a.m.	Adult Bible Study St. John's
9:00 a.m.	Adult Bible Study Emmanuel
10:00 a.m.	St. John's Worship with Communion
4:00 p.m.	Christmas Candlelight Worship St. John's

ST. JOHN'S USHER'S SCHEDULE

Saturday 12/16/23 & Sunday 12/17/23 & Wednesday 12/20/23	Saturday 12/23/23 & Sunday 12/24/23
Ben Jaster, Jacob Jaster, Jeff Reimer, Mark Emond	Glen Bubolz, Mike Kempley, Martin Schmanke, Matt Kath

Attendance

Date	EM	SJ
12/9/23	-	16
12/10/23	35	96
12/13/23	21	27

ACH Deposits*	Plate Offerings	Total Oct. Offerings	Budget Needs	October Expenses	Year to Date Offerings	Year to Date Expenses
\$6299.78	\$30342.19	\$36641.97	\$33939.58	\$24122.18	\$108690.26	\$95031.23

*ACH Deposits are the offerings made online or via direct withdrawal.

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

What do you see in the Christmas tree?

Twinkle lights? Christian symbols? Bright colored ornaments? The evergreen color? Be sure to look closer. Physically walk up to the tree and see the ornaments the school children have designed and created with the joy and wonder of this season. May these small objects remind each of us of the simple and pure joy this season truly provides for us. No matter our age, circumstances, or even the way we feel can separate us from the love of Jesus. May you look at these ornaments and be reminded that YOU belong here.

Christmas Cards Available in the Lower Level!

The Ladies' Aid has Christmas Cards for sale now available in the Lower Level at St. John's. Boxes are \$8, \$5 and \$1, priced as marked.

CHRISTMAS EVE FELLOWSHIP AT EMMANUEL

Dec. 23 after the 6:30 pm Worship Service. All members and guests are invited for light refreshments and cookies. If you have extra cookies, please bring a plate to share.

The next Montello session will begin
Thursday, January 11, 2024.





BUILT TO SERVE – Galatians 5:13 2024 BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Speaker and Session details available at www.menofhisword.org

1. Vocation: Masks of God
2. Built to Help Those who Grieve
3. Toward a Biblical Gender Identification
4. Built to Serve as God's Manager
5. The Importance of Christian Mentoring
6. From Pastor's Kid to Police Officer - Built to Serve as a Public Servant
7. Built to Serve ... with a Healthy Habit Foundation
8. Biblical Manhood: Built by the Father, Called by Christ
9. Love Your Neighbor
10. Youth group: do or do not resuscitate
11. Every Member Evangelism: how to encourage and equip people in the pews to reach the lost
12. Send Us Your Nuns???
13. More than a Movement
14. Built to Serve as Family Shepherd



The Fifteenth Annual of His Word Conference

Keynote: Pastor Michael Berg

“Built to Serve”

Worship Band: Koine'

14 Challenging Breakout Sessions

Saturday, February 17, 2024

Best Western Premier Waterfront

Convention Center – Oshkosh, WI

Register at: www.menofhisword.org

**Men's Breakfast & Study Club
Saturday January 20, 2024 8:00am
St. John's Lower Level**

**Topic: “Leadership Matters”
Video Presentation by
MLC Professor David Scharf**

**Menu: Sausage Links, Bacon, Biscuits & Gravy,
Eggs, Blueberry Dunkers, Coffee, Milk, OJ**

Men of all ages welcome!!!

**Please text Matt Kath at 608-494-0167
if you plan to attend
so we know how much food to prepare.
SEE YOU THERE!!!**

Don't Let Christmas Swallow Advent

"It can't get any earlier, can it?" I say this each year as I watch Christmas decorations come out in stores and homes. It used to be that polite society would wait until the Thanksgiving meal was digested before hanging out the lights and digging out the tree. This year there was a seismic shift. As soon as the Halloween candy was handed out, the decorations came out. I know: "Scrooge Alert!"

I get it. I like lights and trees and decorations and Christmas music too, but I also love Advent and as a pastor, I know the need for Advent. Christ was born in Bethlehem. It is a fact. He came to be our Savior. The Word made flesh is something to celebrate with great gusto, and we do! But Advent is more about preparing for Jesus to return again than it is to celebrate his first coming. The blue on the altar pushes our eyes to the sky where Jesus will return in the same way we have seen him go into heaven. The message of John and Isaiah is to repent and prepare our hearts so that we despair of our own righteousness and trust in Jesus alone for salvation. It is to rid our hearts of self-righteousness on one hand and despair on the other so we can lift our heads with hope and confidence when Jesus returns.

I am not trying to shame anyone who has put up decorations or begun to listen to Christmas music. I am just encouraging you to not let Christmas snuff out Advent completely. There is a Christmas season. It is December 25-January 5, the 12 days of Christmas. But for many, the decorations and the celebration end December 26th, because we have been celebrating since November 1st.

So how do we not let Christmas swallow Advent?

1. Make yourself an Advent wreath or candle for at home similar to the one at church. I made one in a few hours in the workshop, but it can be done more quickly than that. There are lots of great ideas online. Get some candles from Hobby Lobby.
2. Light it after dinner or at another appropriate time starting December 4th. This is a good way to have the kids help.
3. Have a devotion with the candle lit. (This is the scariest part for people but it can be done easily without pain or fear.) Use the first QR code below to access the WELS daily devotion. The devotion has an audio option so you and your family can just listen. Martin Luther College has an Advent Devotion in several formats you can find at the QR code on the right.



Voters Meeting/Call Meetings

The next St. John's Voters Meeting is Sunday, January 7th after Worship, this meeting will include the calling of a Teacher/Director for Little Lambs.

The next Pastor Call Meeting is for Sunday, January 28th.

BRING YOUR KIDS TO CHURCH!!!!

EVEN IF You feel they are noisy.

EVEN WHEN they yell out or cry during the sermon.

EVEN IF your pew suddenly looks like a tornado blew through it.

EVEN IF you have to walk out and take a breather in the linkway or lower level.

EVEN IF you have to stand and sway back and forth with your tiny baby in the back of church.

EVEN IF it takes 589 Goldfish crackers and 2 bags of fruit snacks to keep them quiet.

EVEN WHEN they lie on the floor and roll around.

EVEN IF their crayons roll 6 pews ahead of you and they decide to crawl under the pews after them.

Jesus loves those children and wants them in church!!!

Church will not always be easy, but He provides you the patience and wisdom to parent in that hour of church. Let them see you pray. Let them see you sing the hymns and liturgy. Let them see you worship your Savior. If they don't see and learn those things from you, who are they going to learn from?



St. John's is hiring a Part-Time Secretary to work 3-4 days per week.

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

EMMANUEL & ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCHES

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

WEDNESDAY ADVENT DEVOTIONS:

12/6, 12/13, 12/20 EMMANUEL 3:30PM,
ST. JOHN'S 6:30PM

SATURDAY & SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

EMMANUEL: SUNDAYS 8:00AM,
ST. JOHN'S: SATURDAYS 4:30PM & SUNDAYS 10:00AM
(NO SATURDAY WORSHIP ON 12/23 & 12/30)

LITTLE LAMBS (3K/4K) CHRISTMAS SERVICE:

ST. JOHN'S SATURDAY 12/16 11:00AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SERVICE:

ST. JOHN'S SUNDAY 12/17 10:00AM

CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT SERVICES:

EMMANUEL 12/23 6:30PM

ST. JOHN'S 12/24 4:00PM

CHRISTMAS DAY:

EMMANUEL 9:00AM

NEW YEAR'S DAY MEMORIAL SERVICE:

ST. JOHN'S 9:00AM

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

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

3-5 Grade Teacher: Beth Barenz: 920-481-9002 ext.103

Email: bbarenz@crystalonelutheranacademy.net

1-2 Grade Teacher: Shelley Myers: 920-481-9002 ext.201

Email: smyers@crystalonelutheranacademy.net

Kindergarten Teacher: Lynn Sellnow: 920-481-9002 ext.202

Email: lynnsellnow@crystalonelutheranacademy.net

Little Lambs Director: Barbara Stelter: 920-481-9002 ext. 203

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

School Email: secretary@crystalonelutheranacademy.net

Church Office: Matthew Kath 608-297-2866/608-494-0167

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