

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT  
THE KING SHALL COME: JUST AS GOD PROMISED



*Fourth Sunday  
of Advent*

Pastor Zietlow's Sermon:  
2 Samuel 7:8-16

"At Christmas It's Better to Receive Than to Give"

**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](http://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 24, 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: JUST AS GOD PROMISED**

In Eden, mankind fell into sin, bringing death and despair to Paradise. God immediately promised to send a Savior who would undo that devastation. This Savior would be a descendant of Adam and Eve—a human being. Century after century, through the prophets, God reiterated and expanded upon that promise of a Savior-King. In a manger in Bethlehem, on that first Christmas, God’s promise was fulfilled. The perfect faithfulness God demonstrated in keeping all his promises about Christ’s first coming at Christmas is what gives us the certainty and comfort that God will keep his promises about Christ’s second coming on judgment day. The King shall come!

**ORDER OF SERVICE:** Setting Three With Communion; Hymnal pages 188-203

**HYMNS:** 328, 495, 349, 661, 320 (Hymns also posted on the screen)

**PSALM:** Psalm 139F “To you, O LORD, I Lift My Soul”

**SERMON:** 2 Samuel 7:8-16 “At Christmas It’s Better to Receive Than to Give”

**OPENING HYMN:** 328 “The Angel Gabriel”

**FIRST READING:** 2 Samuel 7:8-16 (Sermon Text)

(The LORD promised King David that one of his descendants would establish an everlasting kingdom.)

<sup>8</sup>“Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup>I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not

oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning <sup>11</sup>and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies. " 'The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: <sup>12</sup>When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup>He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup>I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. <sup>15</sup>But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.' "

**PSALM:** Psalm 139F "To you, O LORD, I Lift My Soul"

\*Sunday at St. John's, Soloist Sings "Run, Shepherds, Run" In Place Of Psalm\*

*Refrain*



*Tone*



You have searched me, LORD, and you / know me;  
you perceive my thoughts / from afar.

You discern my going out and my / lying down;  
you are familiar with / all my ways. *Refrain*

For you created my inmost / being;  
you knit me together in my / mother's womb.

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonder- / fully made;  
your works are wonderful, I know that / full well.

My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the / secret place;  
your eyes saw my unformed / body.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son  
and to the Holy / Spirit,**

as it was in the be- / ginning,  
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

Text: Lectionary for Mass

Tune: Marty Haugen

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## SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27

(The prophetic writings about King Jesus prove that God keeps his promises.)

<sup>25</sup>Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, <sup>26</sup>but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith— <sup>27</sup>to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

## Gospel Acclamation

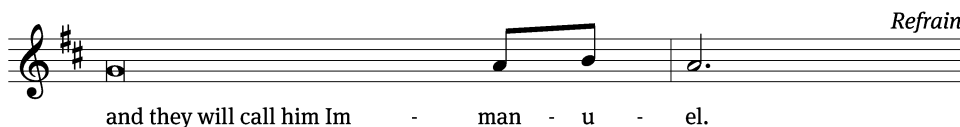
*Matthew 1:23*



## Refrain



## Tone



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## GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38

(In the womb of the Virgin Mary, God kept his promise to send a Savior who would establish an everlasting kingdom.)

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." <sup>34</sup>"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup>For no word from God will ever fail." <sup>38</sup>"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** 349 "A Great and Mighty Wonder"

**SERMON:** 2 Samuel 7:8-16 "At Christmas It's Better to Receive Than to Give"

**NICENE CREED:** Hymnal Page 196/Screen

**PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE & INTERCESSORY PRAYERS**

**OFFERING & PRAYER**

**COMMUNION LITURGY:** Hymnal page 199/Screen

**THE DISTRIBUTION** We respectfully ask that only those who are members of this congregation or members of our sister WELS and ELS congregations come forward to receive the Lord's Supper. By this close (or closed) communion practice, we do not mean to imply that our visitors are not true Christians. Since we view coming to the Lord's Supper as a confession of complete agreement with all the teachings of our church, we would like the opportunity to discuss these teachings with you. Please speak with pastor or indicate on the Friendship Register that you would like to discuss our communion teaching and practice. Thank you for your understanding.

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN:** 661 "Draw Near and Take the Body of Your Lord"

**CLOSING HYMN:** 320 "As Angels Joyed with One Accord"

## **Following Worship-Good News of Great Joy Promo Video**

### **Acknowledgments**

Setting Three from Christian Worship. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All

## 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 Grucza (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 Jim Guthrie, our Emmanuel member Cindy's husband, called home on 9/24
- For loved ones far away

### Christmas Candlelight Service:

Today 4:00pm St. John's

### Christmas Day Service:

Tomorrow, 12/25 9:00am at Emmanuel

### Worship Schedule for Sunday, December 30:

Emmanuel 8:00am

St. John's 10:00am (no Sunday School or Bible Class)

### New Year's Day Memorial Service:

Monday, January 1 9:00am at St. John's

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## This Week: December 24-30, 2023

Third Sunday in Advent:

THE KING SHALL COME: JUST AS GOD PROMISED

Today	4:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship SJ
SCHOOL	BREAK	December 23 through January 1 Classes Resume Tuesday, January 2
Monday	9:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Worship EM
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Montello Care Center Devotion
Saturday	4:30 p.m.	NO SJ Worship

## Next Sunday: December 31, 2023

Christmas 1: GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY: PEACE ON EARTH

8:00 a.m.	Emmanuel Worship
9:00 a.m.	Adult Bible Study Emmanuel
10:00 a.m.	St. John's Worship

## ST. JOHN'S USHER'S SCHEDULE

Sunday 12/24/23	Sunday, 12/31/23 & Monday, 1/1/24
Glen Bubolz, Mike Kempley, Martin Schmanke, Matt Kath	James Wachholz Zeb Zuehls Thomas Wojtalewicz Kenny Wojtalewicz Chuck Boetcher Jesse Schable

## Attendance

Date	EM	SJ
12/16/23	-	15
12/17/23	50	86
12/20/23	21	31

## Voters Meeting/Call Meetings

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

The next Pastor Call Meeting is for Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>.

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*

**THANK YOU**- Emmanuel "Advent By Candlelight" hostesses are grateful to all who made our event part of your busy schedule. This event was supported by a Thrivent Action Team Project and Emmanuel Congregation. Your generous freewill donations and Emmanuel's matching funds allowed us to give \$812.00 to Christ Alone Lutheran Academy's playground Fund. We wish all a Blessed Christmas Season.

### **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?







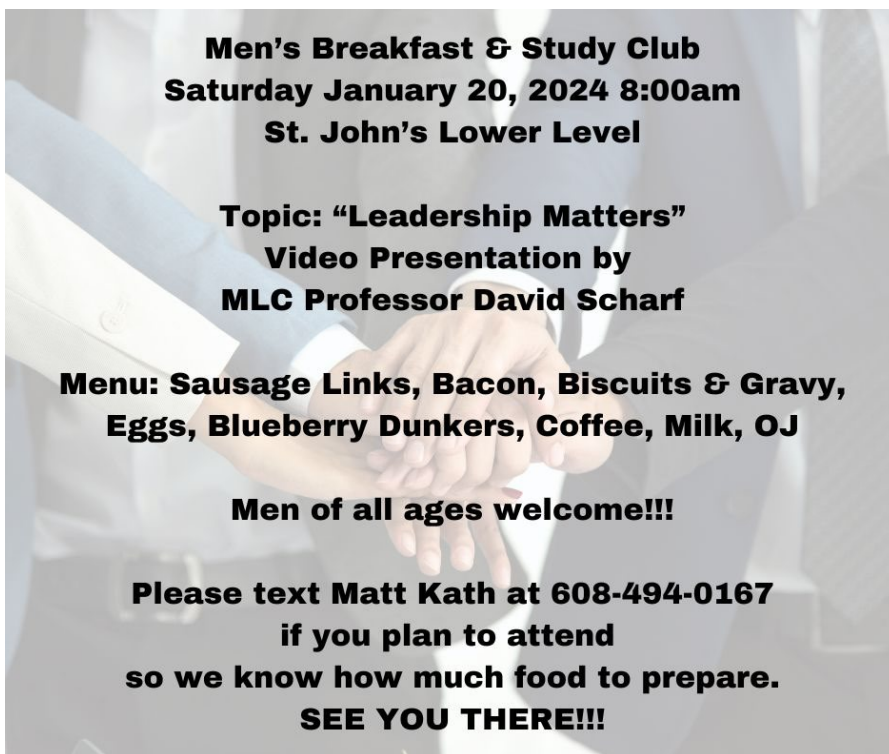
St. John's is hiring a Part-Time Secretary  
to work 3-4 days per week.

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



Green Lake: Mondays 6:00pm  
Princeton: Tuesdays 6:00pm  
Montello: Thursdays 6:00pm  
Please text Mark at 608-697-1600 for  
information and if you plan to attend.

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



**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!!!**

From Cindy Guthrie, our Emmanuel member who lives in Marana, AZ:

*I need to let you know my husband, Jim, passed away September 24. He fought cancer for 15 years and our Lord finally called him home.*

*I am comforted knowing he is no longer in pain and will spend Christmas with Jesus.*

*I send my offering in memory of Jim, my parents Lloyd and Harriet Fredrick, and my sister, Janice Nelson. (\$500 memorial gift)*

*To the entire Big Mekan family...*

*Wishing you the comfort of His love, the joy of His salvation, and the peace of His presence.*

*Christmas Blessings,*

*Cindy Guthrie*

The Ladies Aid now has New Baby and Baptism cards, as well as birthday, anniversary, thinking of you, get well soon, and sympathy cards available in the Lower Level at St. John's.

### ***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.



### **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](http://www.menofhisword.org)**

### **BUILT TO SERVE – Galatians 5:13 2024 BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

Speaker and Session details available at [www.menofhisword.org](http://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

## ***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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Email:** [littlelambs@stjohnsmontello.org](mailto:littlelambs@stjohnsmontello.org)

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

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

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