

FEBRUARY  
2024

ST. JOHN'S & EMMANUEL

# NEWSLETTER



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# Short Stories that Speak Volumes for Our Lives



## A Father's Love

*Jesus said, "The son got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him" (Luke 15:20).*

He was homeless, smelly, and almost starving to death. But the worst thing was that he knew it was all his fault. He thought his father was cruel and overbearing; there were too many rules. He wanted freedom. He wanted to have fun, but his father was all about responsibility and hard work. So, he asked for his share of the inheritance. He didn't care about the farm; he just wanted the money. As soon as he got it, he left. He could finally do what he wanted to do. But it didn't take long, and all that money was gone—partying is expensive. Those he thought were his friends left as soon as he ran out of money. He was all alone and miserable. He had two choices, and neither seemed pleasant. He could continue as he was and hope he could scrape enough together each day so that he wouldn't starve to death, or he could go back home.

He headed for home. He was prepared to grovel, to ask to be just a hired hand on his father's farm. But he didn't get the opportunity to do much groveling. As soon as his father saw him coming, he ran out to meet him. He hugged and kissed him and gave orders for a huge celebration in his honor. The rebellious son had expected a cool reception. He had expected an "I told you so." Instead he got what he knew he didn't deserve: a joyous welcome home.

You and I are that young man who rebelled against his father. We have all rebelled against our heavenly Father. We have considered him to be cruel and overbearing and having too many rules—someone who doesn't want us to have any fun. We have all separated ourselves from him and broken his commandments. Our consciences tell us that he is angry, that we deserve whatever pain or suffering comes our way. Could our heavenly Father still love us? Could he still welcome us to his eternal home in heaven?

Jesus' story about the disobedient son in Luke 15:11-24 is a short story that speaks volumes for our lives. It assures us of God's love and our heavenly home. Our heavenly Father loves us so much that he punished his obedient Son, Jesus, in our place so that he can welcome us as his dear children and heirs of eternal life. Instead of giving us what we deserve for our rebelliousness, he gives us what we don't deserve: complete forgiveness in Jesus.

We welcome you to gather with us for worship and learn more about our heavenly Father's love.

St. John's & Emmanuel Worship Schedule January  
 Saturdays: St. John's 4:30pm  
 Sundays: Emmanuel 8:00am; St. John's 10:00am  
 Holy Communion Offered: Sat. 1/13, Sun. 1/14, Sat. 1/24, Sun 1/21  
 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

SPECIAL NOTE: NO SATURDAY WORSHIP DURING LENT!

Sunday, February 4	St. John's Little Lambs teacher/director Call Meeting	Saturday, February 10	Men's Breakfast & Study Club 8am St. John's Lower Level
Sunday, February 18	Little Lambs Open House Noon - 2pm	Saturday, February 18	Tot Time 11am at St. John's see p.5
Sunday, February 18	Lent By Candlelight at St. John's, 4pm (see p.4)	Saturday, February 17	Men of His Word Conference Oshkosh. There is carpooling available, contact Matt Kath 608-494-0167

Sunday School,  
CALA &  
Little Lambs  
Singing Schedule

Sunday, Feb 11: Sunday School sings at St. John's  
 Sunday, Feb. 18: Little Lambs thru CALA 8 & Chimes at St. John's MONTELLO  
 Sunday, Feb. 25: Little Lambs thru CALA 8 & Chimes at St. John's PRINCETON

## EMMANUEL & ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCHES 2024 LENT & EASTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

### WEDNESDAY LENT DEVOTIONS:

EMMANUEL: 3:30 PM---St. JOHN'S: 6:30 PM

ASH WEDNESDAY: 2/14

WEDNESDAY LENT WORSHIP: 2/21, 2/28, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE (NO SATURDAY WORSHIP)

EMMANUEL: 8:00 AM---St. JOHN'S: 10:00 AM

HOLY THURSDAY-MARCH 28: EMMANUEL: 6:30PM

GOOD FRIDAY-MARCH 29: St. JOHN'S: 1:00PM

EASTER-MARCH 31:

EMMANUEL: 8:00 AM---St. JOHN'S: 10:00 AM

### Lent by Candlelight Women's Event

Ladies, you won't want to miss the annual Lent by Candlelight on Sunday, February 18 at 4:00 PM at St. John's Lutheran Church, Montello, WI. Please plan to join us for an evening of visiting, beautiful music, scrumptious snacks, and reflection on our Savior's journey to the cross. All women throughout the community are invited and are encouraged to invite their friends to prepare their hearts for Lent. There is no charge for this event. Seating is limited, so RSVP by emailing [christavantreeck@gmail.com](mailto:christavantreeck@gmail.com) or calling St. Johns at 608-297-2866.

### Women's Bible Study – Time: It's a Gift

Time: It's a Gift is a 4-week women's Bible study providing a rich foundation of Scripture, both law and gospel, to guide us as we open up and look into using God's gift of time. The goal is to equip us in the midst of a "no limits" society to make wise decisions in scheduling each day; to live biblically in all the seasons of our lives. God speaks clearly saying "Live in peace and be content." We say, "How is that possible?" We'll look at those possibilities. We also note that nowhere does God say, "Now here's a great way to live a harried life!" Even in the midst of full schedules or time-on-our-hands schedules, may we say with the Psalmist David "My times are in your hands" (Psalm 31:15).

Join us this Wednesday, 1/31 and next Wednesday, 2/7 for the practical application of our study revolving around God's gift of time. Even if you haven't attended yet, we would love for you to join in on the discussion and work through the study with those who have been able to come. We begin at 6:30 and end before 8:00. Snacks are available! Questions can be directed to Christa VanTreeck or Lynn Sellnow.



**Men's Breakfast & Study Club**  
**Saturday, February 10, 8am St. John's Lower Level**  
**Video Presentation:**  
**"Storms of Busyness"**  
**by Jeremy Mattek**

**Menu: French Toast, eggs, bacon,**  
**blueberry dunkers, coffee, milk, OJ.**  
**If you plan to come, please text Matt Kath at**  
**608-494-0167 so we know how much food to make.**  
**Open to men of all ages!!!**  
**Dads welcome to bring kids!!!**

**GRIEF SHARE**

**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.**




# Join Us.



Pre-Registration Opens Feb. 18

2024-25 School Year • Kindergarten - 8th Grade

[www.christalonelutheranacademy.org](http://www.christalonelutheranacademy.org)

Follow us 



## Tot Time

**WHERE:**  
St. John's  
Lutheran  
Montello

**What:**  
Parent/Child Activities  
Age appropriate Play  
Bible Story  
Snack

**Join us for a  
Teddy Bear Time!**  
Bring Your Favorite Stuffy!  
**Saturday, Feb. 24**  
New Time 11:00 am  
Ages 2-5

**WHEN:**  
Monthly  
Announced  
Saturdays  
Sessions

**Why:**  
I have no greater joy than  
when I hear that my children  
are walking in the truth.  
3 John 1:4

Proudly supported by  
St. John's Lutheran Church, Montello

QUESTIONS? Lynn Sellnow [lynnsellnow@christalonelutheranacademy.net](mailto:lynnsellnow@christalonelutheranacademy.net)/616-626-0816

# February

## 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
WORSHIP SCHEDULE EM-8AM/SJ-10AM SS: SJ 8:30AM ABS: EM-9AM SJ 8:45AM	ABS=ADULT BIBLE STUDY LA=LADIES AID HIP=HANDS IN PRAYER P=PRINCETON	SJ=ST. JOHNS EM=EMMANUEL MTG=MEETING SS=SUNDAY SCHOOL PSC=PUBLIC SCHOOL CATECHISM	LENTEN WORSHIP EM: 3:30PM SUPPER SJ: 4:15 PM SJ: 6:30PM	12:00PM-LA MTG SJ 6:00PM GRIEFSHARE SJ	2	3 4:30PM WORSHIP SJ
4 11:15AM LL TEACHER/DIRECTOR CALL MEETING SJ	5 2:30PM HIP MTG SJ 6:30PM CHOIR SJ 7:30PM ABS SJ	6 9:00AM ELDERS MTG SJ 6:30PM CALA MTG P	7 10:30AM ABS SJ 5:00PM PSC SJ	NO SCHOOL 8 6:00PM GRIEFSHARE SJ	NO SCHOOL 9	10 COMMUNION 8:00AM-MENS BREAKFAST SJ 4:30PM WORSHIP SJ
COMMUNION 11	12 9:00AM PASTORS STUDY CLUB REDGRANITE 6:30PM CHOIR SJ 7:30PM ABS SJ	13	ASH WEDNESDAY 14 10:00AM MCC DEVOTION 10:30AM ABS SJ 5:00PM PSC SJ	15 5:00PM BoE MTG SJ 6:00PM GRIEFSHARE SJ	16	17 NO SJ WORSHIP MEN OF HIS WORD CONFERENCE OSHKOSH
CHRISTIAN ED SUN 18 LWMS PIE SALE SJ 12-2PM LL OPEN HOUSE SJ 4:00 PM LENT BY CANDLELIGHT SJ	19 6:30PM CHOIR SJ 7:30PM ABS SJ	20 6:30PM SJ COUNCIL MTG	21 10:30AM ABS SJ 5:00PM PSC SJ	22 CALA SPELLING BEE SJ 6:00PM GRIEFSHARE SJ	23	24 NO SJ WORSHIP 11:00AM TOT TIME SJ 3:30 PM ART FOR DINNER P
COMMUNION 25 11:00AM EVANGELISM MTG SJ	26 6:30PM CHOIR SJ 7:30PM ABS SJ	27 5:30PM STEWARDSHIP MTG SJ 6:30PM WORSHIP MTG SJ	28 10:00AM MCC DEVOTION 10:30AM ABS SJ 5:00PM PSC SJ	29 6:00PM GRIEFSHARE SJ	BoE=BOARD OF EDUCATION	

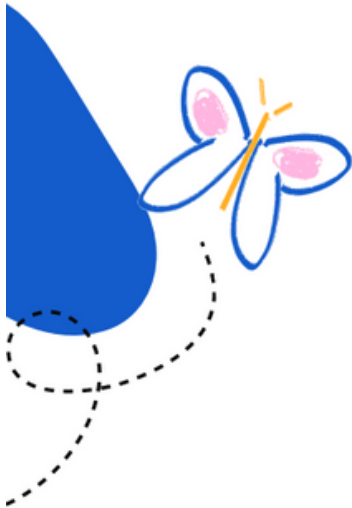
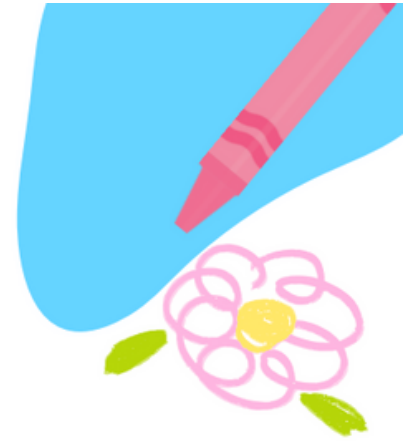




Little Lambs  
Learning Center



St John's, Montello



# Open House

Tour the school ask questions  
and register for the 24-25  
school year.



Sunday February 18th  
11am Little Lambs sing in church  
12-2pm Montello open house  
313 E Montello St.  
Montello, WI 53949

Sunday February 25th  
9am Little Lambs Sing in church  
226 South Clinton St  
Princeton, WI 54968  
Tours schedule and questions answered  
after church.

A B C

Get ready for the next school year by coming to the open house to register. Mrs. Barb Stelter, teacher and director, will lead tours and answer any questions. Registration opens at the Open House. Flexible schedules available. Spots fill quickly.

## Little Lambs Learning Center



St John's, Montello



## Location :

313 East Montello Street  
Montello, WI 53949



St. John's Montello

(608) 297-2866

Christ Alone Lutheran Academy

K-8 office

(920) 481-9002



# Gemeinde Geschichte (Congregation History)

## **They Never Had a Pastor of their Own – and in 1880 They Insisted On It**

In 2024 Emmanuel Mekan will be 158 years old. You can add a dozen more years to that before they organized into a congregation in 1866. During that time, they were served by 15 pastors. Here's the thing though. They never had a pastor all their own. They always shared.

In the beginning, the German speaking immigrants didn't have a pastor at all. They tried the preachers of the German Methodists who were active in the area. But that wouldn't do. Except for speaking German, it was not the same at all. Then for the next dozen years the Lutherans that were scattered around the county shared a pastor, first from the Missouri Synod, then the Wisconsin Synod, and then the Missouri Synod again. It's a long and complex story, so let's just leave it at that for now.

In 1869 things changed. On Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, Pastor John Hoyer of the Wisconsin Synod, led worship and preached at both Emmanuel Mekan and St. John's Princeton. Both congregations were in a pastoral vacancy. That day both congregations called Pastor Hoyer to be their pastor. He accepted both calls, and the dual parish of Mekan/Princeton was born.

So it remained until 1880. The parish was growing and with it the workload. St. Stephens of Dayton became Pastor Hoyer's charge in 1874. A daughter congregation of Mekan was organized in Montello in 1878. The plan in the summer of 1880 was to have Seminary graduate Adolph Hoyer (son of Pastor John) ordained and called to assist his father. Part of the plan apparently was to have the Mekan/Montello group call a pastor of its own. In so many words, the answer was, "Nothing doing,"

In a July 5, 1880 letter to Wisconsin Synod president, John Bading, the younger Hoyer (Adolph) wrote, In spite of all our desire, we could not succeed in getting a call drawn up for a pastor just for Mekan and its ancillary in Montello. Princeton views Mekan as its main ancillary congregation and will never be the one to initiate a separation. Mekan, on the other hand, continues to want absolutely nothing to do with a preacher of its own and will also presumably remain in that attitude as long as it is not completely debt free.

Two months later it was the senior Hoyer (John) writing to President Bading with a slightly different strategy. He reported on the fact of the ordination and installation of son Adolph. He added,

The congregation in Mekan categorically refuses to call their own preacher right now. If I had refused to serve the people there any longer as an ancillary congregation, then they would have turned either to the Missouri or the Iowan pastor who are in the neighborhood. (That's a whole other story.) The only way to keep from losing the congregations was to have my son called as assistant pastor. The responsibility lies on the congregation in Mekan.



When John Hoyer (left) retired in 1884, son Adolph (right) succeeded him in Princeton and Dayton. Pastor Christian Sauer accepted the call to serve the Mekan/Montello combo. That arrangement continues to this day.

It may have been out of necessity during the early formative years, and then apprehension later on about going it alone. Before too long, sharing a pastor became all anyone ever knew. The fact is, in all its long and storied history, Mekan never had a pastor all its own. In fact, in 1880 anyway, they insisted on it.





# CHRIST ALONE HAS A BUSY START TO THE NEW YEAR!

Many activities took place in preparation for our Savior's birth: Christmas services for CALA and Little Lambs, hot cocoa, caroling, joint campus day, and so much more. We loved having congregation members join in on school activities! Thank you to all the teachers and individuals for your time and hard work in this year's preparations! May we always remember that we should not only celebrate our Savior's birth this time of year...but all year round!



Look at that igloo! Our Little Lambs collected milk jugs through the beginning of January, totaling 477! Wow! Thank you to all the milk donors!



CALA hosted our 2nd annual basketball invitational. The teams that joined us this year: St. Paul's Wonewoc, St. John's Fox Lake, and St. John's Pardeeville. Our CALA Eagles finished in 2nd place!

Although few numbers, they are strong and mighty! Check out our cheerleading squad! We have four girls participating this year: Millie Metcalf (3rd grade), Emelee Schable (4th grade), Charlotte Stelter (3rd grade), and Audrey Truell (5th grade).

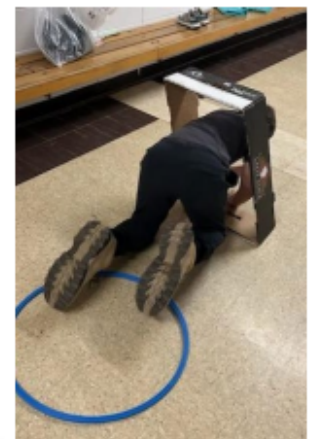


## SAVE THE DATES

Daddy Daughter Dance - Feb. 3  
Vision Screening for CALA Students - Feb. 6  
WALL B Basketball Tournament - Feb. 9, 10  
WALL A Basketball Tournament - Feb. 16, 17  
Pre-Registration Opens - Feb. 18  
Little Lambs Open House - Feb. 18  
Art For Dinner - Feb. 24  
Luther Prep Basketball Tournament - March 8, 9



# News from SUNDAY SCHOOL



Sunday schoolers were on the third of six lessons about the *Armor of God* from Ephesians 6:10-17—"Feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace." If we have peace with God and use His Word as our guide in life, we are standing firm. In this relay we used oversized shoes and then our own well-fitted shoes to show how much better we navigate life with God (well-fitted shoes) as our Help! We also learned we need to GO and share the Word!



During Epiphany, Sunday schoolers enjoyed making  
a "Light of the World" edible snack  
after one of their "Name of Jesus" devotions.



**Attend our Sunday School Lenten Supper on February 14!**  
**It's an Ash Wednesday/Valentine Fundraiser for Missions!!**



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

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

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