

January 11, 2026
Epiphany of Our Lord
IDENTITY REVEALED:
JESUS IS THE CHRIST, THE ANOINTED ONE
(The Baptism of Our Lord)



EMMANUEL & St. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCHES
Wisconsin Synod
Mecan, WI & Montello, WI
Sunday Worship: 8:00 AM & 10:00AM

WELCOME! WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

We pray that you are blessed by God's Word in worship today. **The order of worship** is printed here, is projected on the screen, and live-streamed at www.stjohnsmontello.org. **Restrooms** are located in the link way, out the church entryway, to the left and down the stairs. At Emmanuel, they are located in the Parish Hall. A **nursery changing station** is located in the lower level of St. John's.

IDENTITY REVEALED

"Epiphany" comes from a Greek word that means "reveal." It is the season when you see Jesus begin his public ministry, revealing the reason the Son of God came to earth. During Epiphany, you will come to understand that when the true identity of Jesus is revealed, you realize your own true identity as well.

JESUS IS THE CHRIST, THE ANOINTED ONE (The Baptism of Our Lord)

"Christ" is not the family name of Jesus. It is a title. The Greek word "Christ" and the Hebrew word "Messiah" both mean the same thing: "The Anointed One." Anointing was the practice of pouring liquid over the head of someone to signify selection for some special task. When the Lord had someone anointed, he also poured his Spirit over them. It was the fulfillment of promises made over centuries.

Today's Worship Leader: Vacancy Pastor Bruce Hanneman
Today's Accompanist: Mrs. Lynn Sellnow

A Prayer for Everyone to Keep Seeking Him

Dear Jesus, the Light of the World, this week of Epiphany, we reflect on the wise men who journeyed to worship you.. With so few details about their travels, we can only imagine the sacrifices they made to seek you out. Lead us to follow their example, never tiring of seeking you, no matter how well we feel we think we already know you. Let us be willing to make the sacrifices necessary to keep seeking you. Deepen our understanding, elevate our faith, and solidify our trust. By whatever means you see fit, compel the lost to seek you, too, that they might find the light of their salvation and their eternal hope and joy. Reward all who seek you with the peace that only you can provide. In your name we pray. Amen.

Today's Order of Worship

(At St. John's), **Sunday School sings:** See the Lamb of God

OPENING HYMN: 384 Hail to the Lord's Anointed

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

CONFESSION

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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.

Amen.

KYRIE

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

♪ **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

♪ **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

♪ **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

♪ **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

♪ **Amen.**

♪ **Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men. We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; receive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us. For you only are holy; you only are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Let us pray. Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan, you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children, and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

FIRST READING: Isaiah 42:1–7

The Lord promises to put his Spirit on the Messiah.

¹"Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations. ²He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. ³A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; ⁴he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his teaching the islands will put their hope." ⁵This is what God the Lord says—the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out, who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it: ⁶"I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, ⁷to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 45A A Noble Theme Inspires My Heart

SECOND READING: Acts 10:34–38

The Holy Spirit was poured out onto Peter's listeners as he told them how God anointed Jesus

³⁴Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism ³⁵but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. ³⁶You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. ³⁷You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

♪ **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**
Jesus is the light of the world;
In him we have the light of life.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 3:13–17

In the waters of the Jordan River, Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power. ¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. ¹⁴But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. ¹⁶As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY: 377 To Jordan's River Came Our Lord

SERMON: Matthew 3:13–17 Jesus Makes Baptism Right

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy

Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence. *Silent prayer*

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

The Lord be with you.

♪ **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

♪ **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

♪ **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

♪ **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of heavenly hosts: heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he, blessed**

is he, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you. As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

♪ O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: 679 God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

Acknowledgments

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Pastor Johann Cauuwe Returned the Call to Be Our Pastor

Pastor Johann (Hans) Caauwe has returned our call to serve as our pastor. His letter will be read at both churches today. Plans for another call meeting will be made as soon as possible. The date and time for that meeting will be announced.

Dave Radke Called Home!

Emmanuel member, Dave Radke, went to heaven Sunday, January 4, 2026. A memorial service will be held on Friday, January 23, 2026, at 12:00 noon at Emmanuel. Visitation will be from 10:00 AM until the hour of service. Pastor Hanneman will preside and

internment with full military honors by American Legion Post #351 of Montello will follow the service in the church cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations are preferred to the family. The family will also host a visitation on Saturday the 24th from 12:00 noon until 3:00 PM at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 1650 Brown Street, Oconomowoc.

2026 Offering envelopes for St. John's are available in the linkway. For Emmanuel they are available in the Parish Hall.

St. John's offering statements: there is a sign-up sheet in the linkway if you would like an offering statement.

This Week of January 11-18

MON 12th: CALA Basketball at Randolph 4:30pm and 5:30pm

TUES 13th: Little Lamb's BoE meeting at St. John's, 5:15pm

WED 7th: Adult Bible Study at St. John's, 10:30am and 6:30pm
Public School Catechism Class 5:00pm

THURS 15th GriefShare at St. John's, 6:00pm

SAT 17th: CALA B Team Basketball Tournament at Westfield. Time TBD

Next Sunday, January 18th —Worship 8:00am at Emmanuel and 10:00 at St. John's.

Pastor Bruce Hanneman will be our preacher and Mr. Robert Mateske, Jr. returns to play the organ.

Little Lambs & CALA K-8 sing at Princeton.

Worship Attendance Last Week

Emmanuel 42

St. John's 75

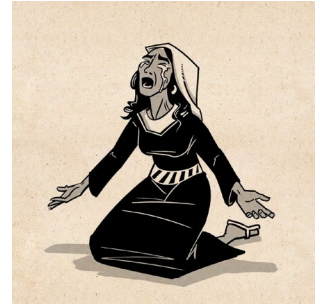
GriefShare is held at St. John's on Thursdays at 6:00pm. If you have questions call Mark Emond 608-697-1600 and leave a message if no answer. *GriefShare* is a safe, welcoming support group where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. In this 13-week program, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. There are no neat, orderly stages of grief, but you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief in all its unpredictability and gain solid support each step of the way.

Thank You to Those Who Serve as Ushers at St. John's!

Thank you to today's ushers Paul Van Treeck, Matt Borzick, James Henke, Haiden Van Treeck, Nolan Van Treeck, Brody Henke, Milo Henke. The ushers for Jan 18th are: Jerre Duerr, Kevin Kaul, Mike Kempley, Grayson Kempley.

Happy New Year with Habakkuk!

"Why God" is often our question. God answers that. Is "wrestling with" God in times of doubt okay and normal? The Bible says that God's ways are not our ways, so we can trust him. Is that enough? **On Wednesday, January 14th**, the Wednesday Bible study group will listen in on the conversation between Habakkuk and God and see what's in it for us today. It is offered twice, at 10:30am and 6:30pm). **You should come!**



News from CALA – Our School

The CALA Board met at St. John's this past week ... News was shared that Mr. Mark Hesse has returned our call to be the principal of our joint school. Another call meeting will soon be scheduled ... The vacancy in the grade 1-2 classroom in Montello will be filled for the present time by combining them with the kindergarten taught by Mrs. Elizabeth Wolter. Aides will be brought in to assist ... A call list for a grade 1-2 teacher will be sought for the 2026-27 school year ... A 3 1/2% tuition increase is proposed for next year... Alex Truel, Zeb Zuehls, and Mike Kempley serve as our representatives.

St. John's Financials

	Budget	Offerings	All Income	Expenses
December	\$33,436.46	\$26,473.46	\$35,776.46	\$28,537.46
Year to Date	\$200,618.73	\$138,238.03	\$211,843.87	\$179,616.34

2025-26 Q1-Q2 Summary: Through the first six months of the fiscal year, income and expenses both consistently ran lower than budget, but income outweighed expenses, resulting in a significant net gain. The checkbook balance grew significantly. Funds from dedicated accounts supported some significant repairs and helped some families meet their Little Lambs tuition obligations. By spending these dedicated accounts down, our overall book equity improved significantly. We must continue to be mindful that this budget only supports a part time pastor with no benefits and will change when a new pastor comes.

From Our Little Lambs Ministry

Our Little Lambs Childcare ministry has reached the halfway point of the 2025-26 year. We have been blessed with the opportunity to feed the lambs entrusted to our care. 11 children are enrolled with many of them from non-member families. What a great opportunity to “tell the story of Jesus Christ our Lord.” ... In addition, this year we were able to offer financial assistance to some of our families which allowed them to send their children to Little Lambs. At this point, however, the funds available for financial assistance have been used up. Special gifts designated for this purpose, over-and-above regular giving offerings, are always welcome and greatly appreciated. Give that prayerful consideration in 2026. ... The Little Lambs teachers, and staff thank God for the opportunity to serve in this ministry, and we thank the members and friends of our parish for your ongoing support.”



The Seventeenth Annual Men of His Word Conference

Keynote: Pastor Jared Oldenburg

“Courage under Fire”

Worship Band: Koine’

14 Challenging Breakout Sessions

Saturday, February 21, 2026

**Oshkosh Waterfront Hotel and
Convention Center – Oshkosh, WI**

Register at: www.menofhisword.org

Christ Alone Lutheran Academy and St. John's Little Lambs Learning Center is hosting their annual fundraiser, Art for Dinner. It will be held on Saturday, February 28 at the CALA Princeton campus. Advanced admission (\$25 each) is required upon entry. This admission includes a catered meal, which will be buffet style and will feature 2 meat entrees, potatoes, vegetables, rolls and dessert. There will be a free kids spaghetti meal for kids 13 and under, provided separately.

This year, we are raising funds to purchase and upgrade classroom pianos. Music plays a vital role in a Christian education and faith-based learning environment. These pianos are used daily and are an important part of our students' worship, classroom learning, and our school's connection with our churches. Singing is a beautiful way to praise God, and these pianos help give our children the opportunity to do just that.

We are looking for donations of items for our basket raffle. If any family would be like to donate a basket already made up, any type of items, services, gift cards, or products, that would be greatly appreciated! If you know of any businesses that would be willing to donate, please ask them as well. Donation request letters are available if needed. Please have all donations turned into the Princeton or Montello office by Monday, February 23.

If you have any questions; Megan Jaster 608.369.3456 artfordinner15@gmail.com

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In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us.
Ephesians 1:7-8

The Adoption Price is Paid

Adoption isn't cheap. Apparently, the average cost of adopting a child in the United States is roughly \$40,000! You can't choose to adopt a child on a whim. If you're going to adopt, then you need to plan, budget, and be deeply committed.

God knew the price he'd have to pay to adopt you as his own. He knew what it would take, and he paid it. He was, and still is, deeply committed to making you, his child.

God's love for you is unquestionable, and it's also unreasonable. On top of the steep price it took to adopt us; we were problem children. We weren't the ones you'd have an easy time adopting. We weren't like the cutest kittens and puppies at the shelter that got all the attention. No, we were the ones that were malnourished, feral, matted, and smelly. Our sins make us repulsive when we consider just how far we fall short of God's standards for perfection. There's nothing in us that should have made us attractive to him. There's no phone filter out there that could hide who we truly are.

And yet when God puts on his Jesus-tinted glasses, when he sees us through the Jesus filter, he says, "Yes, this one is the one I want. I'll take her. I'll take him. No matter the price, I'll pay it." And he did. As the blood ran from Jesus' hands and feet and head and side, the payment was made. When the words were spoken "It is finished," the purchase price was paid in full. He forgave us. We were redeemed, in other words, bought back from the sins that claimed us.

Not only did God purchase us, but he also changed us. We're no longer the problem child or the feral pet—but pure, cleansed by our Savior, made to look like one of God's own possessions. That payment made for you at the cross, that forgiveness won for you by Jesus, is the ultimate picture of the lavish riches of God's grace.

Prayer:

Dear heavenly Father, thank you for making me your child by giving up your only Son for me. Help me reflect your lavish grace to the world. Amen.

(From WELS online daily devotion this past week.)



Welcome to Our Visitors - Help Us Stay In Touch

Scan the barcode using your smartphone camera and fill out the prompted information...OR... fill out the attendance card located at the end of each pew and place it in the offering plate

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Mrs. Elizabeth Wolter - K-2 ewolter@crystalonelutheranacademy.net

Miss Rachel Huebner - Little Lambs Teacher -littlelambs@stjohnsmontello.org

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