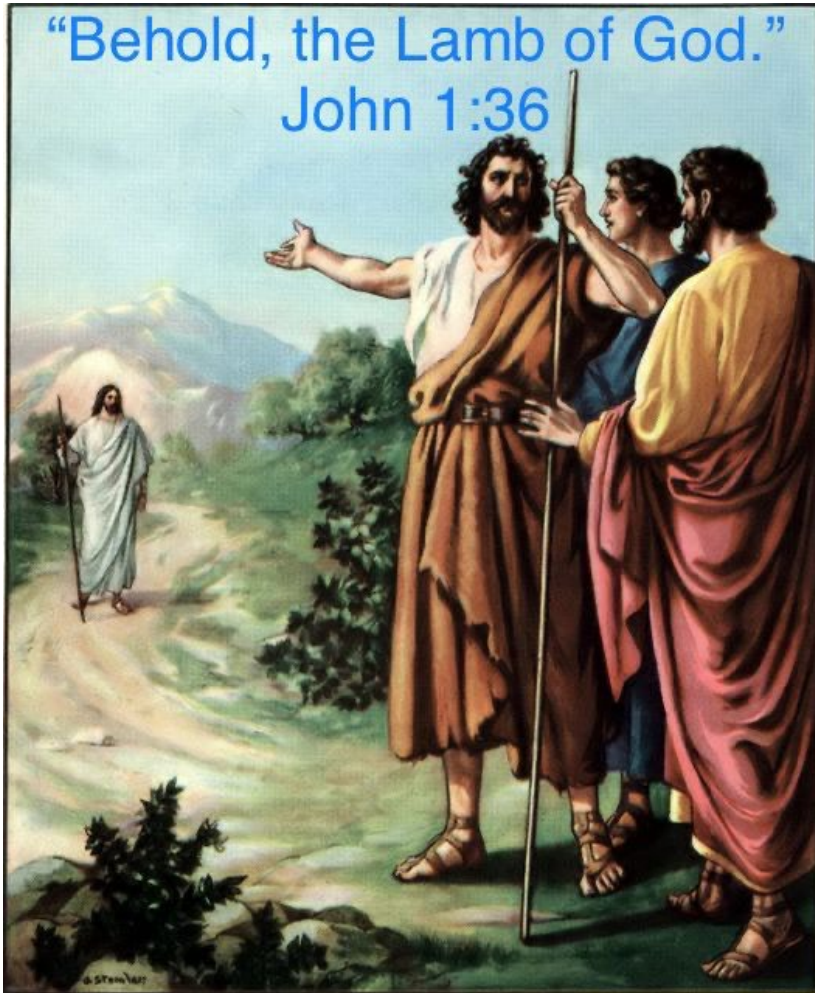


January 18, 2026
Second Sunday after Epiphany
IDENTITY REVEALED: JESUS IS THE LAMB OF GOD



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 LAMB OF GOD

For centuries Israel offered sacrifices to God for sin. Over and over, a substitute shed its blood to earn forgiveness. Then Jesus appeared, the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world. He died as the substitute for sinful mankind. Connected to him by faith, you have new perspective and new motivation for living a Christian life.

Today's Worship Leader: Vacancy Pastor Bruce Hanneman

Today's Accompanist: Mr. Robert Mateske, Jr.



OPENING HYMN: 525 The Lamb

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

Amen.

CONFESSION

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

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

Almighty God, you gave your one and only Son to be the light of the world. Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and believed to the ends of the earth; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

FIRST READING: Isaiah 49:1-6

God would display his splendor by the suffering of the Servant of the Lord.

¹Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations: Before I was born the Lord called me; from my mother's womb he has spoken my name. ²He made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver. ³He said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendor." ⁴But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing at all. Yet what is due me is in the Lord's hand, and my reward is with my God." ⁵And now the Lord says— he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself, for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord and my God has been my strength—⁶he says: "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 40A LORD, Come to My Aid

SECOND READING: Colossians 2:6-15

The Lamb of God was flesh and blood so he could be sacrificed to win forgiveness of all our sins.

⁶So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. ⁸See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. ⁹For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, ¹⁰and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. ¹¹In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, ¹²having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision

of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, ¹⁴having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

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: John 1:29-41 (Sermon Text)

As the last and greatest of the prophets, John beautifully summarizes God's plan of salvation by pointing to Jesus and calling him the Lamb of God.

²⁹The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' ³¹I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel."³²Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. ³³And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One."³⁵The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" ³⁷When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?" ³⁹"Come," he replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon. ⁴⁰Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. ⁴¹The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ).

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY: 375 Arise and Shine in Splendor

SERMON: John 1:29-41 "Jesus is a Lamb not a Ram" 1. He Became Like Us 2. To Lead and Guide Us

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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 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.

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: 947 Lamb of God, Pure and Holy

Acknowledgments

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Next Call Meetings Are Scheduled

Sunday morning, February 8th, following the 10AM worship in Montello, a call meeting will take place to call a pastor for Emmanuel/St. John's.

January 26th, a call meeting is scheduled to call for CALA principal and 1-2 grade teacher for the 2025-276 School year.

Dave Radke Memorial Worship!

The funeral service for Emmanuel member, Dave Radke, will take place 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.

There Will Be NO Adult Bible Study this Wednesday, January 21. The class will meet again on Wednesday, January 28th at 10:30AM and 6:30PM. The fascinating and practical book of Habakkuk will still be the topic. Join the group.

This Week of January 18-25th

MON 19th NO SCHOOL

TUES 20th CALA Basketball in Princeton, 4:30/5:30PM
St. John's Church Council at 6:30PM

WED 21st Public School Catechism Class 5:00pm

THU 22nd GriefShare at St. John's, 6:00pm

FRI 23rd Radke Funeral at Noon

SAT 24th: Men's Breakfast and Study Club 8:00am at St. John's lower level.
CALA B Team Basketball Tournament at Westfield. Time TBD

Next Sunday, January 25 —Worship 8:00am at Emmanuel and 10:00 at St. John's.
Pastor David Haag from WLA will be our preacher.

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

Thank you to today's ushers Jerre Duerr, Kevin Kaul, Mike Kempley, Grayson Kempley. The ushers for Jan 25th are: Ben Jaster, Jacob Jaster, Jeff Reimer and Mark Emond.

Worship Attendance Last Week

Emmanuel: 50

St. John's: 90

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.

Men's Breakfast and Study Club will continue our study of the Smalcald Articles. Men of all ages welcome. Dad's are welcome to bring kids! Saturday, Jan 24th at 8am in the St. John's lower level.

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 continues to need your prayers and support. Special gifts designated for future tuition assistance are always welcome and greatly appreciated. Give that prayerful consideration in 2026.

Little Lambs Assistant Teacher Needed

Monday through Friday 8:00-11:30, February-May. Please email Mrs. Straschinske if you are interested in learning more about the position. lladmin@stjohnsmontello.org

A PRAYER TO HELP US ALWAYS ASSUME THE BEST IN OTHER'S WORDS AND ACTIONS

Kind and loving Savior, I find it so easy to take things personally and make negative assumptions about the words and actions of others. I want to change this. You call me not to conform to the world, but to be transformed. Since your Spirit is behind that change, I ask you to adjust my attitude and reframe my thoughts to align with yours. When I reflect on the things my neighbor says and the way she/he treats people, prompt me to filter everything through a positive lens. Direct me to consider the best intentions behind words and actions, and to hold to those assumptions until given a reliable reason not to. Allow this approach to spread all around me, so that society normalizes taking the words and actions of others in the kindest possible way. Let your light shine brightly in me and through me in this way. In Jesus' name. Amen.

CHRIST ALONE LUTHERAN ACADEMY SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

Dear Friends in Christ,

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.



If children would like to eat the catered meal, they will need to purchase an admission ticket. Guests will be able to view a collection of children's art projects that will be sold at a silent auction and enjoy a delicious meal. Raffle tickets for the basket raffle will also be available for purchase.

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.

For registration, please contact Megan Jaster at artfordinner15@gmail.com or Jorgia Kempley at the school office, 920-481-9002 by Monday, February 16th.

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.

God has blessed us with many different talents! We are very excited to be hosting this fundraiser. With your help, we are hoping that it will be a great success! Please help spread the word to anyone you think would like to come and support our school!

Thank You,
Art for Dinner Committee

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

*For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
Ephesians 2:10*



The Seventeenth Annual Men of His Word Conference
Saturday, February 21, 2026/Oshkosh Waterfront Hotel and
 Convention Center – Oshkosh, WI
 Register at: www.menofhisword.org



An Invitation from St. John's Princeton

On Saturday, February 7th, the doors of St. John's gym on Clinton St, across from Wachholz Funeral Home, will be open at 5:45pm for all girls ages 3-12 to come and enjoy a night of games, snacks, a photo booth and of course dancing! The dance will go from 6-8 pm. Girls may be escorted by Dads, Grandpas, Uncles or any other person that fits that role. Just like last year, participants can expect to hear some of their favorite songs and enjoy fun, interactive games like *"How well do you know your daughter,"* the Limbo and a disco dancing

competition. The photo booth and a variety of refreshments will be available all evening. We ask that you register ahead of time. You can pre-register off the link on our church website www.sjlprinceton.com It would help us in planning how many would be attending. St John's is happy to offer this event **free of charge** event in order to give dads and daughters a chance to spend quality time together and make a lasting memory. Feel free to invite other friends and family with daughters to the dance.

Matthew 3:16-17 - He Opens Heaven

As 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. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

Have you ever been locked out? You get locked out of your house. You panic. What a relief when someone comes to the rescue. A friend with a key lets you in.

What a dreadful thought to be locked out forever. When humanity first fell into sin, the door to paradise was slammed shut. Access to God was cut off because of sin. Do you sense it still today? Does it seem like the door to heaven is still closed? Do you ever wonder and even worry, “Will God be pleased with me? Will he let me in?” What a relief when the one who holds the keys to eternal life comes to the rescue and opens heaven.

This is exactly what Jesus was sent to do: open heaven and unlock eternity for you and all who believe. These verses from Matthew chapter 3, mark the beginning of Jesus’ earthly ministry. When Jesus was baptized, something amazing happened—heaven opened! God the Holy Spirit came down in the form of a dove, and God the Father spoke words of affirmation, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” Jesus’ work on earth had one goal in mind: to undo sin and reverse its deadly grip on you. On the cross where he died, all debts for your sins were paid. At his empty tomb, when he rose from the dead, he declared that nothing now stands between you and God.

Jesus gives these gifts in a personal way through baptism. When anyone is baptized, something amazing happens—heaven is opened! God gives his Spirit to comfort and strengthen. All sin is washed away. What God the Father declared about Jesus, he declares about everyone who is baptized, “This is my child! With this child of mine, I am well pleased!” This is what Jesus, your Savior, does for you. He opens heaven. Access to God, the loving Father, is granted now and forever.

Prayer:

God, our loving Father, thank you for sending your Son to be my eternal rescue. Amen.

(Free Daily Devotions is brought to you by WELS – available for delivery to your inbox.)

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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