

January 4, 2026
Second Sunday After Christmas
CHRIST THE SAVIOR IS BORN:
THE DAWN OF REDEEMING GRACE

He has covered me
with the
ROBE
of
RIGHTEOUSNESS.

ISAIAH 61:10, ESV

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.

CHRIST THE SAVIOR IS BORN

"Silent Night" was written originally in German by Joseph Mohr, with music composed by Franz Gruber. The carol was first performed on Christmas Eve in 1818 at St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf, Austria. Legend says the church organ was broken, prompting Gruber to compose a simple guitar accompaniment. Subsequently accompanied by many instruments and translated into many languages, the text paints the picture of the incarnation. The last phrase is repeated, so in the second stanza we hear it twice: "Christ the Savior is born!" Every word of that phrase is significant, and every line of the Christmas carol describes a Bible truth. We use the beloved hymn to ponder the profound message of the Twelve Days of Christmas.

THE DAWN OF REDEEMING GRACE

We continue the Christmas celebration of the dawning of the light of all mankind. When the sun rises, we can see things that we haven't seen before. When Christ the Savior is born, the light of new revelation breaks over the world. When the Son rises, we can clearly see the grace of God, our Redeemer.

Today's Worship Leader: Retired Pastor William Runke

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

Today's Order of Worship

OPENING HYMN: 362, Come Your Hearts and Voices Raising

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. Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; 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 61:10—62:3

God promises that his righteousness and glory will be made known to all nations.

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. ¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her vindication shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch. ²The nations will see your vindication, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will bestow. ³You will be a crown of splendor in the Lord's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 148 (from CW93)

The musical notation consists of two parts. The first part, labeled 'Refrain', is a melodic line in G clef, B-flat key signature, with lyrics: 'For - ev - er let us sing the good - ness of the Lord.' The second part, labeled 'Psalm tone', is a melodic line in G clef, B-flat key signature, with a single note followed by an asterisk (*).

Praise the LORD from the heavens,*
 praise him in the heights above.

Praise him, all his angels,*
 praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

Praise him, sun and moon,*
 praise him, all you shining stars.

Refrain

Praise the LORD from the earth,*
lightning and hail, stormy winds that do his bidding,
you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars,*
wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds,
kings of the earth and all rulers on earth,*
young men and maidens, old men and children.

Let them praise the name of the LORD,*
for his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3–18

Paul prays that we might know God better.

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. ¹¹In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹²in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory. ¹⁵For this reason, ever since I heard about your

faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people,¹⁶I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.¹⁷I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.¹⁸I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

♪ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Come to us, Emmanuel;
Come and set your people free.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL READING: John 1:14–18

Through Jesus we discover the grace and truth of God the Father.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.¹⁵(John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' ")¹⁶Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given.¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.¹⁸No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY: 383, The Only Son from Heaven

SERMON: Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Rejoice In The Lord-He Brought You New Clothes For Christmas

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.

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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: 334, I Stand Beside Your Manger Here

Acknowledgments

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Pastor Johann Caauewe Called to Be Our Pastor

Pastor Johann (Hans) Caauewe has received our divine call to pastor of Emmanuel/St. John's. He is 46 years old, has been a Pastor for 20 years and is presently serving at St. John's Wood Lake MN. His wife Sara (nee Kassulke) graduated from Martin Luther College. They have 9 children ranging from 22 - 10. Hannah 22, Andrew 21, Lydia 19, Isaiah 18, Miriam 16, Joanna 14, Ruth 13, Josiah 11 and Esther 10. Pastor Caauewe is described as a sincere man who is interested in the good of others. He has strong organizational skills that make him a good leader. He has strong preaching and teaching skills as well. He enjoys: Worship music planning, hospital/shut-in visits, outreach, preaching, and Bible class youth and adult. Contact information is as follows:

507-485-3362 (work) 507-485-3281 (home) 507-828-5136 (cell)

Email: pastor@stjohnswoodlake.com

Address: PO box 156, Wood Lake MN 56297

Please pray for him and his family, and feel free to reach out to him with encouragement through cards, texts, emails, or phone calls as he deliberates where he can best use his gifts to promote the saving Gospel.

St. John's Voters' Meeting TODAY, January 4 following worship.

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

This Week of January 4 -11 (School and Little Lambs resumes on Monday)

TODAY: St. John's Voters Meeting following Worship.
MON 5th: Hands in Prayer Meeting at St. John's, 2:30pm
TUES 6th : Joint Elder's Meeting at St. John's, 9:00am
 CALA meeting at Montello, 6:30pm
WED 7th: Adult Bible Study at St. John's, 10:30am and 6:30pm
 Public School Catechism Class 5:00pm
THURS 8th: Ladies Aid meeting at St. John's, Noon.
 GriefShare at St. John's, 6:00pm

Next Sunday, January 11th—Worship 8:00am at Emmanuel and 10:00 at St. John's.

Pastor Bruce Hanneman will be our preacher and Mrs. Lynn Sellnow returns to play the organ.

GriefShare begins:

-Monday, January 5, 2025 6:00pm at Peace WELS in Green Lake
-Tuesday, January 6, 2026 6:00pm at Peace WELS in Wautoma
-Thursday, January 8, 2026 6:00pm at St. John's Montello

If you have any questions call Mark Emond 608-697-1600, and leave a message if he doesn't answer right away. A GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Through this 13-week group, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way.

A New Year' Resolve - *Meditations* Devotions

Plan to start a regular devotional routine this year, if you haven't already done so! This week you can dig a bit deeper into today's reading from Isaiah...There are still plenty of *Meditations* booklets available at the back of the church. Begin the new year with a daily devotion plan.

Worship Attendance Last Week

Christmas Eve St. John's: 144/Christmas Day Emmanuel: 65

New Year's Eve Emmanuel: 37

12/28: Emmanuel 38/St. John's: 96

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

Thank you to today's ushers James Wachholz, Zeb Zuehls, Chuck Bietcher, Jesse Schable and Aaron Wachholz. The ushers for Jan 11th are: Paul Van Treeck, Matt Borzick, James Henke, Haiden Van Treeck, Nolan Van Treeck, Brody Henke, Milo Henke.

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."

Little Lambs
Learning Center



CALA School News

The CALA board meets this week at Montello. Our St. John's representatives are Alex Truel, Zeb Zuehls, and Mike Kempley...On the agenda this week is to discuss further the options for filling our vacancies in the 1-2 classroom and at principal...Also, a review will be made of our tuition fees since CALA began...The school made a request to our synod's Assignment Committee for a midyear graduate from Martin Luther College to fill our vacancy in the lower-level grades classroom. However, with only a few candidates available and many schools making a request, we were not assigned a graduate. The board continues to work on alternatives, including education students from Wisconsin Lutheran College...At the time of this writing, Mr. Mark Hesse of St. Lucas, Kewaskum still holds our principal call beginning with the 2006-2027 school year.



Happy New Year with Habakkuk!

“What in the world, God?” That pretty well sums up how this believer and man of God felt about things when he looked around his world. God understood and answered his (and our) concerns. **On Wednesdays, January 7 and 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 will be offered twice, at 10:30am and 6:30pm). **You should come!**

St. John’s Financials

	Budget	Offerings	All Income	Expenses
November	\$33,436.46	\$21,120.75	\$30,886.75	\$30,045.98
Year to Date	\$167,182.27	\$111,764.57	\$176,067.41	\$150,971.81

Financial Overview Jul-Nov, 2025-26 (Fiscal Year)

Checkbook balance remained stable and ahead of the balance at the start of the fiscal year. Membership and plate offerings continued to run somewhat low. Supplemental income from Emmanuel, CALA, and St. John’s Princeton helped bring total income close to the budgeted number. Expenses continued to run somewhat lower than budgeted. Net income remained on the plus side and slightly exceeded the budgeted projection. Book equity (assets minus dedicated accounts) remained in negative territory but was much improved from the start of the fiscal year...It is still very important to remember that we have not been funding a fulltime pastor since July. That, of course, will change when a new pastor arrives, and will obviously have considerable impact on our expenditures.



TUESDAY JANUARY 6, 2026 is the 12th Day of Christmas

Our true love has given to us to a baby who was born and grew up to be Savior and Lord of all. By word and deed he has been revealed to us. Thank God! Think about that on Tuesday, say a prayer of thanks and maybe read Matthew 2:1-12.



God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir. Galatians 4:6-7

Christmas is About Family

It's almost a cliché these days, but it's true: society has been removing Christ from Christmas for a long time. Ask most people what the holiday is about, and you'll probably hear "time with family" more often than the birth of the Savior. And while Christians may lament that family has eclipsed Christ, our Bible reading today reminds us that Christmas is about family.

Did you catch the good news in today's Bible passage? Because of Christmas, God has made you part of his family. Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. He rightly belongs in God's family. We do not. By nature, we are slaves to sin and estranged from God. But in his mercy, God sent his Son to redeem us and sent his Spirit into our hearts. And with the Holy Spirit dwelling in you, you can confidently call God, "Father." That is pure grace—the grace of a God who not only forgives but adopts.

And what comfort that adoption brings! All of us crave acceptance, belonging, and a sense of home. We often look for it in our earthly families and closest friendships. They are wonderful gifts, yet they can disappoint you, because like you, they are sinful. But the belonging your heart longs for is found fully in your place as a child of God. Because of Christmas, you can call Jesus your brother, and he gladly calls you his brother or sister.

And you are part of a remarkable family: believers across the world and across the ages who trust in Christ. One day, you will experience the joy of a family reunion beyond imagining—a gathering that will include loved ones in Christ who died before you.

So when your final day comes, you can rest in confidence. You are no longer a slave but God's child, and since you are his child, you are also his heir. A place in your Father's house is already prepared, and nothing can take it from you.

THE LAST WORD
ON CHRISTMAS
on this last Sunday
of the Christmas
season.



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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Mr. Martin Raasch - Grade 6-8 mraasch@christalonelutheranacademy.net

Miss Beth Barenz - Grade 3-5 bbarenz@christalonelutheranacademy.net

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

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

Mrs. Sylvia Straschinske - Little Lambs Director - lladmin@stjohnsmontello.org

Mrs. Jorgia Kempley - CALA Secretary -

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