

February 1, 2026  
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany  
**IDENTITY REVEALED: JESUS CALLS YOU BLESSED**



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](http://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 CALLS YOU BLESSED**

You may not feel blessed when you are hungry or insulted or mourning the death of a loved one. You may not be in the mood to boast when you feel foolish, weak, or lowly. But knowing your difficulties, Jesus still chose you to be his own. He gives you many gifts, and he calls you blessed.

**Today's Worship Leader: (Retired) Pastor Bill Runke**

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



Heavenly Father, Sundays are sacred. But worship is a unique challenge for parents with little children. Thank you for the Christian parents who prioritize bringing their little ones to worship. Provide them with the strength and determination to follow through with worship, and through it, rejuvenate their spirits. Fill the members of church families with compassion to know when to lend a helping hand to frazzled moms and dazed dads. Direct congregations to consider how they might become more family-friendly. Give parents the discernment and discipline to raise their children to view worship with reverence and respect. Through these formative years in church, lay a solid foundation in children that paves the way for a lifetime of faithful worship attendance, so their hearts remain saturated by the gospel. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## Today's Order of Worship

**OPENING HYMN:** 619 Praise the Almighty, My Soul, Adore Him

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.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE:** 939 O Lord, Our Lord (replaces the *Gloria today*.)

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

### ***PRAYER OF THE DAY***

Almighty and everlasting God, look with mercy on our weaknesses, and in all our dangers and needs stretch out the right hand of your majesty to help and defend us; 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:** Zephaniah 2:3, 3:11-13

*The Lord promises that those who trust him will not be put to shame.*

<sup>3</sup>Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the Lord's

anger. <sup>11</sup>On that day you, Jerusalem, will not be put to shame for all the wrongs you have done to me, because I will remove from you your arrogant boasters. Never again will you be haughty on my holy hill. <sup>12</sup>But I will leave within you the meek and humble. The remnant of Israel will trust in the name of the Lord. <sup>13</sup>They will do no wrong; they will tell no lies. A deceitful tongue will not be found in their mouths. They will eat and lie down and no one will make them afraid."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM:** 1A Blessed Are They

**SECOND READING:** 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 (Sermon Text)

*God changes how we view ourselves by connecting us to Christ Jesus.*

<sup>26</sup>Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.

<sup>27</sup>But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. <sup>28</sup>God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no one may boast before him. <sup>30</sup>It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

<sup>31</sup>Therefore, as it is written: "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord."

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 5:1-12

*In the Beatitudes, our Savior turns the ideas of the world upside down.*

<sup>1</sup>Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, <sup>2</sup>and he began to teach them. He said: <sup>3</sup>"Blessed are the poor in

spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. <sup>5</sup>Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup>Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. <sup>7</sup>Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. <sup>8</sup>Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. <sup>9</sup>Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. <sup>10</sup>Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup>"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** 816 I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus

**SERMON:** 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 "Paul's State Of The Church Address"

### ***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***

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death:

**You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.**

Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging:

**You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.**

Prince of Peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:

**Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.**

Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn:

**Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.**

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions. *Silent prayer*

Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

**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:** 867 Afflicted Saint, To Christ Draw Near

### **Acknowledgments**

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**Intercessory Prayers:** included this week in our intercessory prayers are John & Diane Bluemke, and Sandy Buchholz. *If you wish to be included in our intercessory prayer list, please contact Pastor Hanneman or the church office.*

### **CALL MEETINGS IS NEXT SUNDAY**

Sunday morning, February 8<sup>th</sup>, following the 10AM worship in Montello, a call meeting will take place to call a pastor for Emmanuel/St. John's. Come and be a part of this.

### **This Week of February 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> :**

TODAY 1<sup>st</sup>: Emmanuel Council Meeting following worship.

MON 2<sup>nd</sup> HIP meeting at 2:30pm in St. John's lower level.

TUES 3<sup>rd</sup> Joint Elders meeting at 9:00am at St. John's.

CALA meeting at 6:30pm at Princeton.

WED 4<sup>th</sup>: Public School Catechism Class 5:00pm

Bible Class at 10:30am and 6:30PM

THU 5<sup>th</sup>: Ladies Aid Dessert and Meeting at Noon at St. John's

CALA Basketball vs. Randolph 4:30/5:30

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

FRI 6<sup>th</sup>: CALA Basketball vs. Peace Green Lake 4:15/5:15/6:15

SAT 7<sup>th</sup>: GRACE Meeting at St. John's Montello, 9:00am

Father/Daughter Dance at 5:45pm at Princeton Gym.

Next Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> –Worship 8:00am at Emmanuel and 10:00 at St. John's.

Pastor Bruce Hanneman will lead Worship. **Following St. John's worship, the Pastor Call Meeting.**



### **Princeton Pastor Call**

Pastor Mark Luetzow holds the call to serve as pastor to St. John's, Princeton. He now serves as president of our synod prep school in Saginaw, MI, Michigan Lutheran Seminary. Add him and the folks at St. John's to your prayers.

### **CALA Calls Made!**

On January 26<sup>th</sup>, **John Niebuhr** was called to be principal of our elementary school. He is presently teaching at St. Mark's Lutheran in Eu Claire, WI. He is completing his third school year and is being mentored to be a future principal in the Principal Training Program. He is married to Briana who is a social worker and they have one child. Also, **Mrs. Emily R. Symons**, currently serving at St. Peter's, Sturgeon Bay, WI was called to be our lower grade teacher for the 2025-26 School year. She is married to Andrew who is a special education teacher in the public school. They have two small children. Keep these called workers and their respective ministries in your prayers.

**Worry.**  
**WORSHIP.**

### **Habakkuk Sums It Up!**

Wednesday Bible study Wednesday - 10:30AM and 6:30PM. The prophet had his say. God gave him his answers. It all led to this: a classic doxology or song of praise to God. Worry ends. Worship begins. Come and join the group!

### **Hands in Prayer Meets This Week - Monday, 2:30 -3:30 PM**

What do they do? Their Mission Statement is the passage from Hebrews 10 – “Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” – The ladies make prayer shawls/blankets, pocket angels, *Meditations* book holders, pocket prayer shawls, cross markers, baptismal napkins as needed. Gift blankets are being made for this year's confirmation class. A basket for the CALA Art for Dinner, serving a Lenten supper, and quilting bees are on the agenda for consideration. AND, prayers are offered for those who need them. Call Bernice Wegner with questions or for more information - 608 369-1168.

### **Worship Attendance Last Week**

Emmanuel 29 and at St. John's 65

**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 are Matthew Kath, Glen Bubolz and Martin Schmanke. The ushers for Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> are: James Wachholz, Zeb Zuehls, Chuck Boetcher, Jesse Schable, Aaron Wachholz.

### **From Our Little Lambs Ministry**

**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](mailto:lladmin@stjohnsmontello.org). Also, your prayers and support along with special gifts designated for future tuition assistance are always welcome and greatly appreciated. Give that prayerful consideration in 2026.

### **St. John's Shepherds Program**

After thought and discussion and with the recommendation of the elders and church council, the voter's meeting earlier this month resolved to discontinue the Shepherds Program at St. John's. For 20+ years many faithful volunteers served as shepherds for small groups of our church membership. The original intent of the program was to assist the elders and pastor in keeping contact with members of the congregation, making contacts, offering encouragement, and keeping a helpful eye on the sheep. However, times change, and ministry needs change. The program was no longer meeting its original goals. It became harder to find volunteers to serve. It is time to step back and perhaps retool the program in the future. A huge thanks to all those who served as shepherds in the past and those currently serving.

**Emmanuel Council and Congregation Meetings:** The **Emmanuel Council** will meet this Sunday, Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, following the service. The **Emmanuel Congregation Meeting** is scheduled for Feb 15<sup>th</sup> following the service.

## **LENT?!?**

In less than a month, the holy season of Lent begins. Begin to make your plans to make the 40-day journey to the cross with your Savior. Ash Wednesday is February 18. We have Lenten devotions at Emmanuel, 3:30 and St. John's, 6:30...In the recent past the involvement of our members in Lenten worship has severely declined. It is time to remedy that. Make it a commitment and a priority. LENTEN SUPPERS between services are being planned.



## **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

Points of Interest (July-December) - Checkbook balance has gone from \$60,542 on July 1 to \$79,716 end of December, while at the same time funding some large expenditures from dedicated accounts - o \$2,924 for re-roofed garages (Church General account), \$7,382 classroom cooler/heater units (School General account), o \$6,805 Little Lambs tuition assistance (Tuition Assistance account) ... Member offerings of \$130,914 were about 13% under \$150,000 budgeted. Total income of \$211,844 was about 6% under \$224,434 budgeted. St. John's Princeton continues to support Little Lambs Learning Center, donating \$2250/month (\$27,000 FY commitment). Emmanuel has been paying 25% of our monthly commitment (\$11,752) to CALA for over a year. Continued financial support from Emmanuel in 2026 is uncertain... Expenses of \$179,616 were about 10% under \$200,619 budgeted. Net income of \$32,228 was ahead of \$23,815 budgeted. We appreciate and thank our brothers and sisters at Emmanuel and St. John's Princeton for their financial support in educating our youth.

**Did you know CALA has a weekly newsletter?** Every week, Christ Alone Lutheran Academy emails out the Monday Magazine, a newsletter that includes a family devotion, classroom and school news, a singing schedule, and class wish lists. If you don't get it, and would like to be added to the email list, please contact Jorgia Kempley at [secretary@christalonelutheranacademy.net](mailto:secretary@christalonelutheranacademy.net) . If you don't email, and would like a paper copy, please contact Jorgia, or Mr. Matt.

# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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 roll. 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](http://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.

## **An Epiphany Devotion from WELS Email *Daily Devotions***

*I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.*

### **1 John 2:14**

Before you go camping in the woods, be sure to check that your flashlights all work properly and the batteries are all new. You will be far away from the artificial lights illuminating the cities and suburbs. Many thick trees can block the natural light of the stars. Unforeseen clouds and rain might also douse the light of a campfire.

Before facing a new day in this dark world, be sure to check that your spirit is recharged with the truth and grace of Jesus. We are still living far away from heaven's glorious light. The things of this world that are supposed to bring us happiness are merely artificial lights that quickly burn out. Unexpected temptations threaten to plunge us into sinful decisions and right back into the darkness of fear and shame.

We constantly need to recharge the lights of Jesus' truth and love in our hearts. John tells us how: "I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one."

The evil one still accuses, deceives, and seeks to destroy faith. Yet John dares to speak in the past tense: "You have overcome the evil one." This victory is not based on present feelings or visible success, but on Jesus' finished work. By his cross and resurrection, Jesus has already defeated Satan. Faith clings to that victory.

In ourselves, we are weak. Our faith wavers, our resolve collapses, and our obedience is imperfect. But in Jesus, we are strong. Those who live in the word of God will have the word of God living in them. It will renew your faith in Jesus' victory. It will continually rekindle the joy in your heart that Jesus has overcome the darkness of evil for you.

Keep living in the word of God, and the word of God will live in you, reminding you daily that in Jesus, you are strong.

### **Prayer:**

Jesus, Light of the world, shine in my heart. Forgive my sins and fill me with your love so that I may walk in your ways and love my neighbor as you have loved me. Amen.



***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*



**Vacancy Pastor:** Bruce Hanneman 507-317-5772 [bwhanny@frontier.com](mailto:bwhanny@frontier.com)

**CALA Principal** [principal@christalonelutheranacademy.net](mailto:principal@christalonelutheranacademy.net)

**Mr. Martin Raasch - Grade 6-8** [mraasch@christalonelutheranacademy.net](mailto:mraasch@christalonelutheranacademy.net)

**Miss Beth Barenz - Grade 3-5** [bbarenz@christalonelutheranacademy.net](mailto:bbarenz@christalonelutheranacademy.net)

**Mrs. Elizabeth Wolter – K-2** [ewolter@christalonelutheranacademy.net](mailto:ewolter@christalonelutheranacademy.net)

**Miss Rachel Huebner - Little Lambs Teacher** -[littlelambs@stjohnsmontello.org](mailto:littlelambs@stjohnsmontello.org)

**Mrs. Sylvia Straschinske - Little Lambs Director** -[lladmin@stjohnsmontello.org](mailto:lladmin@stjohnsmontello.org)

**Mrs. Jorgia Kempley – CALA Secretary -**

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