**November 29, 2026**
**First Sunday in Advent**
**LORD JESUS, BRING YOUR GIFTS:**
**SALVATION**




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 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 linkway, 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.

## LORD JESUS, BRING YOUR GIFTS

The Lord Jesus arrived with gifts. At Christmas, we remember how he came in the flesh, born of Mary, laid in a manger, true God and true man. He brought us gifts of salvation and fulfillment. His first coming secured our redemption once for all. The Lord Jesus arrives with gifts every time we gather for worship. Through his Word and sacraments, he is present with his gifts of grace today. In the gospel preached, he speaks forgiveness into our ears. In Baptism, he gives us a new identity, claiming us as his own. In the Lord's Supper, he moves us to repentance and faith, giving his true body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. And he will arrive again with gifts. The same Jesus who ascended will return in glory with his eternal gifts for all who believe in him. On that day, faith will become sight, and every promise will be fulfilled. For believers, this is not a day of fear but of joy, for our Savior arrives to take us home. So we live between his arrivals, remembering his birth, receiving his grace, and waiting with confidence. We pray with joy, "Lord Jesus, bring your gifts!"

## SALVATION

In many cultures, it is customary to bring along a gift when you visit. Whether it is flowers or wine or toys for the kids, such presents are welcome. They are highly appreciated when they meet a great need in the household, and poignant when the gift giver sacrifices to make the gift. Our own households have a great need. We have enemies, failures, and shortcomings. But the Lord Jesus is about to arrive with gifts! He does not come empty-handed. He brings salvation, won by his holy life and innocent sacrificial death, freely given to sinners who could never earn it.

**Pastor John Dolan**
**Organist: Kimberly Wiepking**

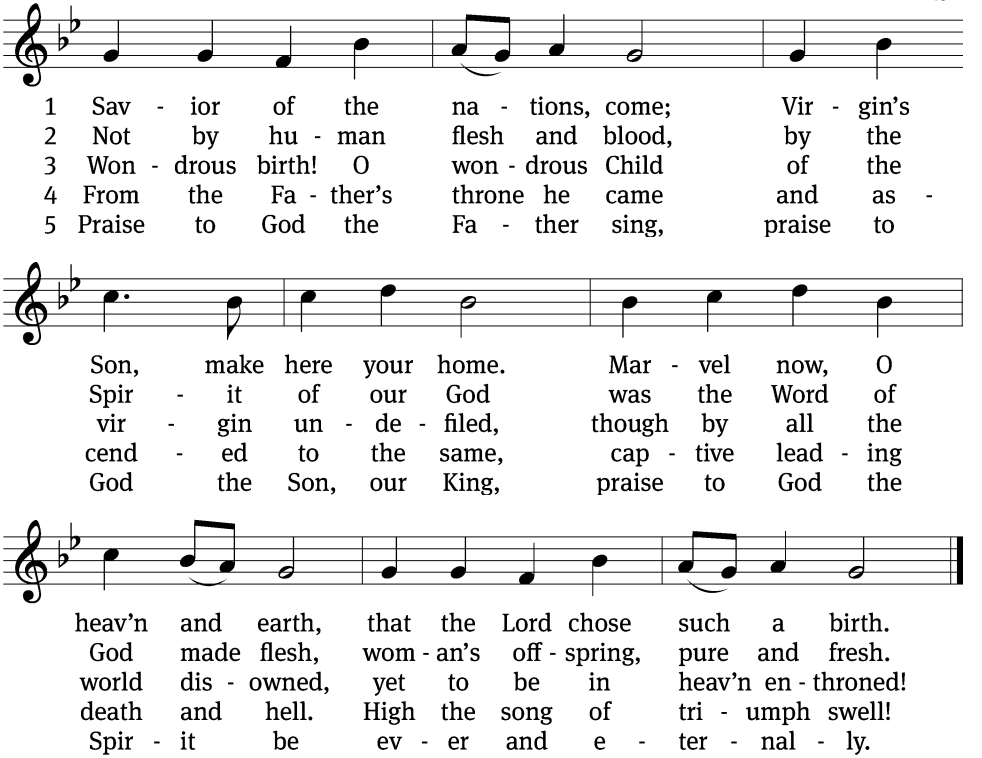
**Preparing for Worship with Prayer**

Dear Father, the time is near for us to commemorate the birth of your Son, our Savior. We wish to receive him into our hearts. But heavenly Father, my heart is stained with sin. It is not fit as a home for the one so pure and holy. There is pride, doubt, insincerity, false humility, and fleshly desire to want my will and not yours to be done. That is why I come to you and ask that you not only forgive me for this uninviting heart, but that you use your Word to root out all that makes me unfit to be called your own. Let me look forward, not only to the arrival of the Babe of Bethlehem but also to the arrival of the King of kings as he comes in glory. Amen.

## Today's Order of Worship

***At St. John's, the Sunday School Choir sings: "Let's Praise The Name".***

**OPENING HYMN:** 301 Savior Of The Nations, Come *CW 451*




Text: Ambrose of Milan, 340–397, abr.; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abr.; tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–1876, alt.

Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter

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.**

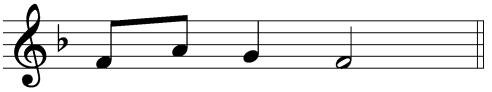
*Silence for meditation and reflection*

### *DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS*

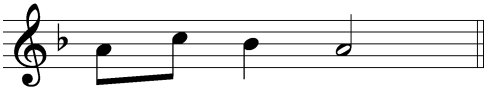
Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
**Amen.**

### *KYRIE*

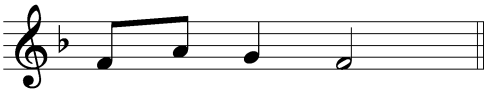
In peace let us pray to the Lord.



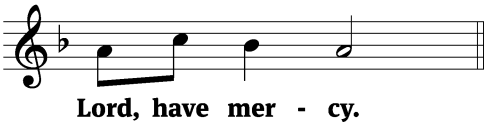

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



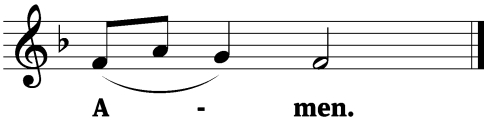

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.




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




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




The Lord be with you.
**And also with you.**

### *PRAYER OF THE DAY:*

Let us pray. Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength, and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
**Amen.**

## *SCRIPTURE READINGS*

**FIRST READING:** Isaiah 64:1-9 (Sermon Text)

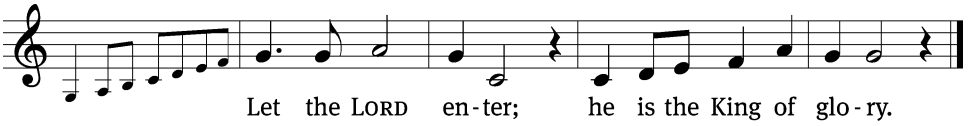
*All of us have become unclean, tainted by sin. We need someone to save us.*

[1]Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! [2]As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! [3]For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. [4]Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. [5]You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved?

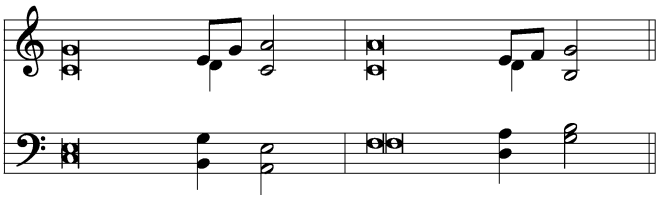
[6]All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. [7]No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to our sins. [8]Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. [9]Do not be angry beyond measure, Lord; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look on us, we pray, for we are all your people.

The Word of the Lord.
**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 24H:** Let the LORD Enter; He is the King of Glory
*Refrain*




*Tone*



The earth is the LORD's, and every- / thing in it,
the world, and all who / live in it;
for he founded it / on the seas
and established it on the / waters.
Who may ascend the mountain / of the LORD?
Who may stand in his / holy place?
The one who has clean hands and a / pure heart,
they will receive blessing from God their / Savior. *Refrain*

Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you / ancient doors,
that the King of glory / may come in.
Who is this King of / glory?
The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in / battle.
Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you / ancient doors,

that the King of glory / may come in.
Who is he, this King of / glory?
The LORD Almighty—he is the King of / glory.
**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son**
**and to the Holy / Spirit,**
**as it was in the be- / ginning,**
**is now, and will be forever. / Amen.** *Refrain*

Text: Lectionary for Mass (refrain)
Tune: Richard T. Proulx
Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer
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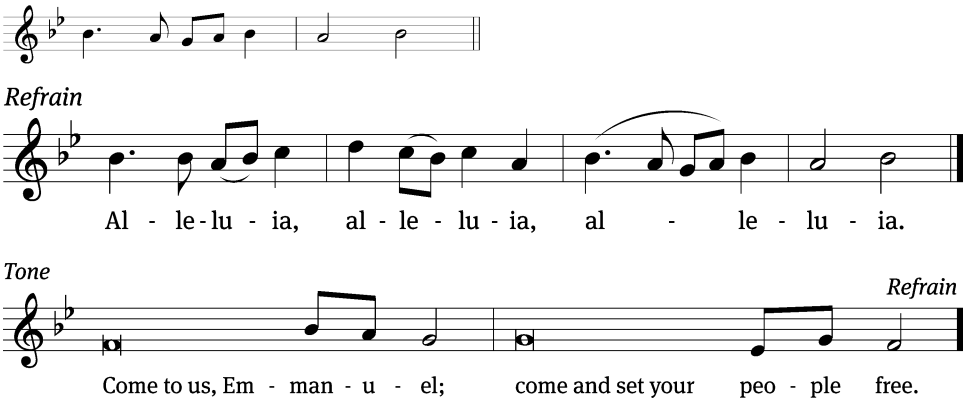
**SECOND READING:** 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

*Our faithful God promises to enrich us with every spiritual gift.*

[3]Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. [4]I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. [5]For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— [6]God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. [7]Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. [8]He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. [9]God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.
**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**




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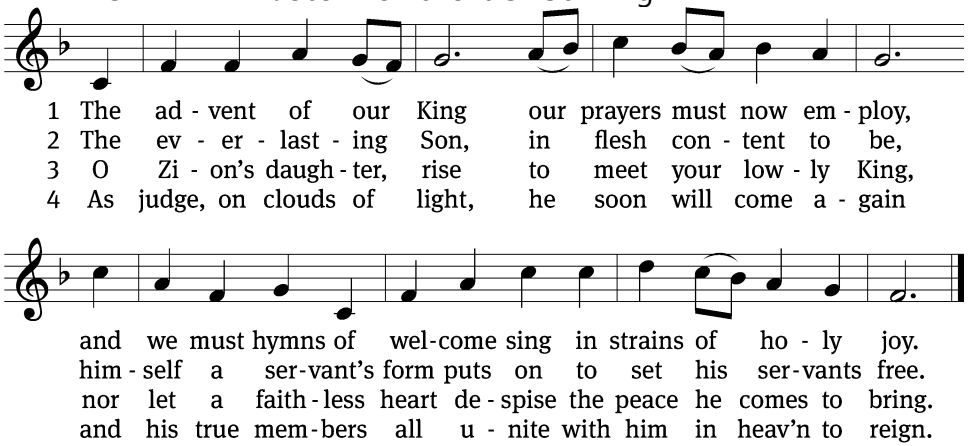
**GOSPEL READING:** Mark 11:1-10

*When Jesus rides into Jerusalem, the crowd shouts, "Hosanna!" which means "Save us!"*

[1]As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, [2]saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. [3]If anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.' " [4]They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, [5]some people standing there asked, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" [6]They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. [7]When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. [8]Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. [9]Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" [10]"Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

The Gospel of the Lord.
**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** 309 The Advent Of Our King




5 Before the dawning day
let sin's dark deeds be gone,
the old self all be put away,
the new self now put on.

6 All glory to the Son,
who comes to set us free,
with Father, Spirit, ever one
through all eternity.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–1876, alt.
Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731–1776
Text and tune: Public domain

**SERMON:** Isaiah 64:1-9 "Pray Bold Advent Prayers"

### *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*

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.**

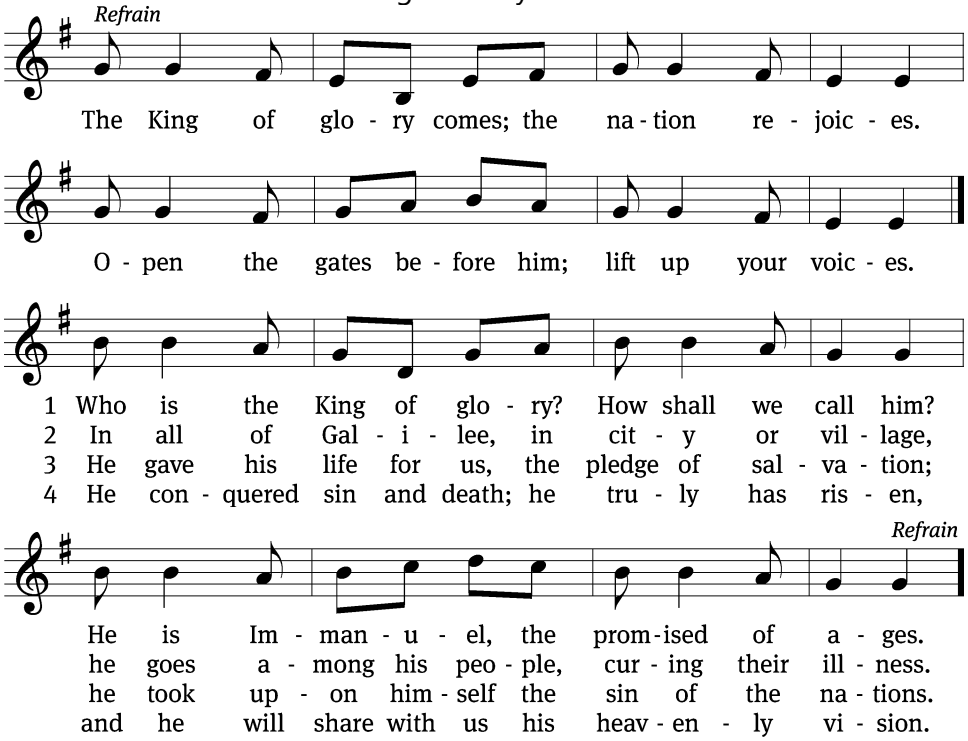
### *LORD'S PRAYER*

**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:** 548 The King Of Glory Comes




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Tune: Israeli, 20th cent.
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***Next Sunday, December 6: Second Sunday In Advent***

We continue our series "Lord Jesus, Bring Your Gifts",
our theme will be "Readiness".

*****CALENDAR OF EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS*****

**November 29-December 6, 2026**

Today: Advent by Candlelight at Emmanuel Parish Hall, 4pm
Mon 30th: Choir Practice at St. John's 6:00pom
Tues 1st: Bible Information Class at St. John's, 6:00pm
CALA Board Meeting; 6:30pm
Wed 2nd: Bible Class at St. John's 10:30am & 6:30pm
Catechism Class at St. John's 5:00pm
Thurs 3rd: Ladies Aid Lunch and Meeting at St. John's; Noon
GriefShare at St. John's; 6:00pm
Joint Worship Meeting at St. John's (in the school); 6:00pm

***Next Sunday 6th: Sunday School at St. John's 8:30am***
***Bible Study at St. John's 8:45am***

**Looking Ahead:**
12/7 Joint Elders; 9:00am
12/7 HIP Meeting; 2:30pm
12/15 St. John's Council; 7:00pm
12/23 Christmas Eve Worship at Emmanuel; 6:30pm
12/24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship at St. John's; 6:30pm
12/25 Christmas Day Worship: 8:00am Emmanuel/10:30am St. John's

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**LL, CALA and Sunday School Singing Schedule:**

*11/29/26 Sunday School at Montello*
*12/13/26 CALA Christmas Service at Princeton, 4:00pm*
*12/20/26 Sunday School Christmas Service at Montello*

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**Wednesday Bible Study series** will pick up again this Wednesday, December 2. Our study is on the Epistle of 1 John. All are welcome! Bring a friend! Wednesdays at 10:30am and again at 6:30pm.

**Sunday Morning Bible Study at St. John's** is doing a study called "Idols we never knew we had." Join us in the linkway Sunday mornings at 8:45 for our study. See you there!

***Upon the first day of the week, let every one of you lay aside in store as God hath prospered him, "***

*Stewardship of the Word Last Week*:

- Sunday Worship at Emmanuel 42 and at St. John's 75/ Thursday 55

*Hebrews 10:25 Let us not neglect meeting together, as some have the habit of doing. Rather, let us encourage each other, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

*Our Stewardship of Time:*

This week the ushers at St. John's are: Jerre Kuerr, Kevin Kaul, Mike Kempley, Grayson Kempley. The St. John's ushers for December 6 are: Ben Jaster, Jacob Jaster, Levi Jaster, Jeff Reimer, Mark Emond.

**Marquette County Giving Tree.** Our churches are once again participating in this year's drive. The Trees with tags on them will be placed in the church entrance at St. John's and in the Parish Hall at Emmanuel. Please wrap the gifts and tape the tag on it, and have them returned to the church you took the tag from by December 8th. Thank you to St. John's and Emmanuel for participating in this exercise of stewardship. Remember to pray for those in our community, that they may have a safe and happy Christmas, and that the Gospel will be shared with them, so they can join us in the joy, love and peace of our Savior.

**Literacy Volunteers-Marquette County, Inc has a box** located near the church/school office at St. John's. It is for the Tots to Teens Holiday Book Drive that is held annually. Books will be distributed during the Marquette County Giving Tree Event held on Saturday, December 12th for families served by the Marquette County Social Services. Please drop off new or gently used books. Picture books, board books, chapter books, and young adult readers are all welcome. Thank you for your contributions! If you have any questions, you can contact LuAnn Zieman

WINNEBAGO LUTHERAN ACADEMY

# AMAZING GRACE! AMAZING GIFTS!

**BUILDING TOGETHER FOR OUR FUTURE**

## NEW CAMPUS UPDATE

- *We continue to meet with church councils to provide information to association congregations regarding the building project and present options for how every congregation can participate.*
- *Association congregations are holding open forums and voting on congregational commitments/pledges to the Amazing Grace! Amazing Gifts Capital Campaign – To God be the glory!*
- *The WLA Plenary Board approved a timeline to receive and accept bids, and vote on moving forward with groundbreaking for the new campus.*
- *The next Plenary meeting will be 1/13/2027 to discuss and vote on the items above. Questions? Ask your Plenary Board member, pastor, or reach out to the contacts below*
- *If you have a RMD for this year, consider using it as a QCD to the new campus at WLA to reduce your tax basis.*

## CALL TO ACTION

- *Pray for our students, staff, pastors, and teachers at WLA that they strive to glorify God in all that they do*
- *Consider how the Lord has blessed you individually and how you can help support WLA financially*
- *Speak with your church leaders and encourage them to discuss supporting WLA at a congregational level either through a direct cash gift or multi-year pledge.*

### Who to Contact

Matt Schmitz – Capital Campaign Chairman
mschmitz@wlavikings.org 920.539.7183
Kevin Ehlke - Director Mission Advancement
kehlke@wlavikings.org 920.539.4041

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" (Colossians 3:17).
**All In Jesus' Name**

**SCAN TO GIVE**
Giving Page

**BUILDING UPDATES**
New Campus

Advent calls believers to watch in hope for Christ—both for celebrating his birth at Bethlehem and for his promised second coming in glory.

## *COME INTO MY DARKNESS*

*For he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant, from now on all generations will call me blessed.* ***Luke 1:48***

The prophets had been silent. The Roman Empire laid a heavy toll on the Israelites. Taxation and oppression were crushing their spirits, and their cries to God continued. The angel appeared to the virgin Mary, telling her of God's grace toward her. She would give birth to the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

When God acted, and answered the cries of his people, it certainly didn't make things easy for Mary or Joseph. Mary humbled herself before the Lord and placed her faith in him. She didn't have a step-by-step guide to explain the hows and wheres and whens. She simply had to take each next step trusting God.

It's easy to wonder if God sees us in times of uncertainty when everything seems to be going wrong. Have you felt unnoticed, as if maybe God has forgotten you? You cry to him but still feel as if nothing seems to work out. Where is God? Does he see? Will he act?

This Advent, you do not need to see the answers to honor the Lord. You need only to place your trust in him. Serve others while you wait. Seek the comfort he gives in his Word and through the fellowship of believers.

*Written by Jordan Zuniga/Provided by WELS Women's Ministry*

*Lord Jesus, Light of the world, prepare our hearts at the start of this Advent season. Keep us watching in hope for your promises, forgive our sins through your grace, and guide us in peace until you come again in glory. 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*



**Pastor: Chuck Westra**
**931-446-3968**
**chuck.westra@gmail.com**
**CALA Principal – Lucas Wolter**
**principal@christalonelutheranacademy.net**
**Mrs. Elizabth Wolter - Grade 6-8**
**ewolter@christalonelutheranacademy.net**
**Miss Beth Barenz –Grade 3-5**
**bbarenz@christalonelutheranacademy.net**
**Mrs. Bethany Ibeling – Grades 1-2**
**bibeling@christalonelutheranacademy.net**
**Mrs. Sylvia Straschinske – Kindergarten**
**sstraschinkski@christalonelutheranacademy.net**
**Miss Rachel Huebner - Little Lambs Teacher**
littlelambs@stjohnsmontello.org
**Mrs. Sylvia Straschinske - Little Lambs Director**
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**St. John's Church Office**: Matthew Kath 608-297-2866/608-494-0167
**Church/School Address**: 313 E Montello St. Montello, WI 53949
Church Email: scsecretary@stjohnsmontello.org.