

First Sunday after Epiphany
Baptism of Our Lord
EPIPHANY MOMENTS:
BAPTISM IS THE CURE
FOR AN IDENTITY CRISIS



Pastor Zietlow's Sermon:
Titus 3:4-7
WE CELEBRATE THE
GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS

WELCOME! WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

We pray that you find comfort, peace, and motivation through God's Word today. In our worship bulletin, you will find an outline of **today's order of worship**. The entire service can be found in the hymnal, up on the screen at St. John's and Emmanuel and livestreamed at www.stjohnsmontello.org and also at St. John's in the Lower Level. At St. John's, the **restrooms** are located in the link way, out the church entry way, to the left and down the stairs. At Emmanuel, they are located in the Parish Hall. You may also find a **nursery changing station** in the lower level of St. John's.

ST. JOHN'S & EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCHES-WELS

January 12, 2025

Emmanuel: Sun. 8:00am

St. John's: Sun. 10:00am

EPIPHANY MOMENTS

“Epiphany” comes from a Greek word that means “reveal.” When someone has an epiphany, it’s not that reality changed. The way they see that reality is what changed, for a deeper truth has been revealed. An epiphany is an “a-ha!” moment causing us to look at things very differently. In the Church Year, Epiphany is the season where we see Jesus begin his ministry, revealing the reason the Son of God came to earth. In this season we will come to understand that when we have Jesus in our lives, it does not always mean our reality drastically changes. It simply means that we see reality differently (and better). Jesus always provides an abundance of epiphany moments.

BAPTISM IS THE CURE FOR AN IDENTITY CRISIS

“Who is Jesus?” For the longest time, people thought the answer to that question was, “Mary and Joseph’s son” or “a carpenter from Nazareth.” While true enough, those answers do not adequately describe Jesus. But when Jesus was baptized, God the Father spoke, declaring Jesus true identity. Jesus was the dearly loved Son of God, chosen to be the Savior of the world. “Who are you?” someone asks. Perhaps you would answer by providing your name. Maybe you would add additional information—where you are from or what you do for a living. Perhaps, in some dark corner of your mind, you would answer negatively. “I’m no one.” We need to understand that none of those things really describes who we are. To answer that question—Who are you?—we must look to our baptism. Baptism is the cure for an identity crisis. There, just like he did with Jesus, our Father declares us to be his dearly loved child. Moreover, in baptism God anointed us with power for a life of selfless service. May God grant us this epiphany moment!

ORDER OF WORSHIP: Setting One, with Communion hymnal pp. 154-170

HYMNS: 921, 377, 679, 692

PSALM: 2 "You Are My Son"

SERMON: Titus 3:4-7 WE CELEBRATE THE GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS 1. Jesus 2. God's love 3. Baptism 4. Heaven

OPENING HYMN: 921 "Come Thou Almighty King"

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

(David was the youngest of eight brothers and a shepherd. Yet, at his anointing, the Lord declared his true identity—future king of Israel.)

¹The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.” ²But Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me.” The LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’” ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you

what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate." ⁴Samuel did what the LORD said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, "Do you come in peace?" ⁵Samuel replied, "Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. ⁶When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed stands here before the LORD." ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The LORD has not chosen this one either." ⁹Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The LORD has not chosen these." ¹¹So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered. "He is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives." ¹²So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one." ¹³So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

PSALM: 2 "You Are My Son"

SECOND READING: Titus 3:4-7 (Sermon Text)

(In the eyes of the world, baptism appears to be just a religious ceremony. St. Paul explains baptism is so much more—a second birth that gives you the identity of God's child and heir.)

⁴But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Gospel Acclamation

Mark 1:11



Refrain



Tone



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GOSPEL READING: Luke 3:15-17,21-22

(People wondered if John the Baptist was the Messiah. He was a powerful preacher who lived a unique life. But at his baptism, Jesus was identified by his Father as the Anointed One.)

¹⁵The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. ¹⁶John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." ²¹When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened ²²and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

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

SERMON: Titus 3:4-7 WE CELEBRATE THE GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS 1. Jesus 2. God's love 3. Baptism 4. Heaven

NICENE CREED: Hymnal page 162

OFFERING, FRIENDSHIP REGISTERS, ALTAR PRAYER

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: Hymnal Page 164

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS Bulletin page 6

THE SACRAMENT: Hymnal Page 165

For our Communion Practice see p.8

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: 679 "God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It" (February school hymn)

CLOSING HYMN: 692 "All Who Believe and Are Baptized"

THEME FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

Second Sunday after Epiphany - EPIPHANY MOMENTS:
GOD DELIVERS MORE THAN WE ASK, NOT LESS

Acknowledgments

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St. John's is looking for a few good men to help as Ushers! If you'd like to join the usher crew, please talk to Jerre Duerr, James Wachholz, or Matthew Kath. Thanks!!

The 2025 Emmanuel offering envelopes are now available to be picked up in the parish hall. If you may have any questions, please contact Brian Ninneman.

The 2025 St. John's offering envelopes are now available on the table in the linkway. If you have any questions, see Matt Kath, James Wachholz, Jerre Duerr or Pastor Zietlow.

There will be an Emmanuel Financial Advisory Committee meeting for Thursday January 16th, at 6:30PM in the Parish Hall.

St. John's	Usher's Schedule
Sunday, Jan. 12	Sunday, Jan. 19
Matthew Kath Glen Bubolz Martin Schmanke Mike Kempley Grayson Kempley	James Wachholz Zeb Zuehls Chuck Boetcher Jesse Schable Aaron Wachholz

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

- For the sick and others facing trials, including Janice Arvidson, Evie Blada, Gale "Blackie" Boyd, Sandy Buchholz, Bob Buehrens, Agnes Dassow, Edith Duesterhoeft, Don Ebert, Kaye Edwards (Mark Emond's friend), Ken Elmer (Sally's husband), Earl Ewert, Judy Fandrey, John Gaedke (Dan Finger's uncle), Donna Gatzke, Dennis Gray (Mary Dahlke's brother), Kelleen Gruzca, Kim Hanko (Judy Fandrey's daughter), Samuel Harmon (Linda Lou Wacholtz's nephew), Del & Jean Henke, LuAnn Hoffman-Reber (Barb Hoffman's step-daughter), Jerry & Darlene Hunter (Bonnie Chapman's parents), Xzander Jahr, Kris Kemp (Diane Hintz' daughter), Dale Kozlowski, Emily Krueger, Jeff Krueger (Diane Hintz's son), Jacob Kwit (Suzie Weber's son), Mary Luck, Darren Marceau, Garrett Miller (Dawn Marcelain & Candace Sonnenberg's brother-in-law), Julie Moran, Debbie & Steve Parrish, Milo & Barbara Petrick, Kim Peyton (Church Boetcher's niece), Sharon Priewe, Melissa Prater, Sharon Priewe, Karen Radke, Shelley Rene (Mary Isberner's niece), Roxanne Schmanke, Ashley Schroeder, Eloise Schultz, Lynn Sellnow, Bob Sluga (Sherry's husband), Heather Smith (Diane Hintz' step-daughter), DuWayne Sommerfeld, Amanda Stalker, Tom Stempniak (Carol's husband), Billy & Gloria Tucker, James Wachholz, James & Suzanne Weber, Paul & LuAnn Weldon (added this week: ___)
- For Ryan Jaeger called by the Lord at the 12/17 CALA board meeting to serve as principal and grade 6-8 teacher next school year who returned his call to CALA on 1/7
- For Laura Jaeger called by the Lord at the 12/18 St. John's Voter's meeting to serve as Little Lambs director/teacher next school year who returned his call to LL on 1/7
- For all affected by the California wild fires

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week: January 12-18, 2025

Monday	9:00 a.m.	Pastors' Study Club at Peace, Wautoma
	6:30 p.m.	Adult Choir SJ
	7:30 p.m.	Adult Bible Study SJ
Wednesday	10:30 a.m.	Adult Bible Study SJ
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	GriefShare SJ
	6:30 p.m.	Emmanuel Financial Advisory Committee Meeting EM Parish Hall
Saturday	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast & Study Club SJ

Next Sunday: January 19, 2025

8:00 a.m.	Emmanuel Worship
8:30 a.m.	Sunday School St. John's
8:45 a.m.	Adult Bible Study St. John's
9:00 a.m.	Adult Bible Study Emmanuel
10:00 a.m.	St. John's Worship

	Budget	Offerings	All Income	Expenses
November	\$40,014.98	\$21,829.30	\$29,646.05	\$37,904.77
Year to Date	\$200,074.90	\$121,201.90	\$163,734.94	\$182,123.57

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Cor. 9:7

LL, CALA and Sunday School Singing Schedule

Date	
1/19/25	LL/CALA K-8 PRINCETON
2/16/25	Sunday School MONTELLO

Attendance

Date	EM	SJ
1/5/25	39	89

COMMUNION PRACTICE: Today our congregations will be receiving the Lord's Supper. Those who are members of Emmanuel, St. John's, another WELS church, or a church in full doctrinal agreement with the WELS, are invited to attend. Others are politely asked to refrain until communion fellowship is established. There are two Scriptural reasons we distribute the Lord's Supper this way. 1.) Receiving the Lord's Supper improperly results in harm, not blessing, to the recipient. (1 Cor. 11:27) Like a prescription it must be administered with care. 2.) Recipients of the Supper publicly proclaim their unity in the faith. (1Cor. 10:17) Members of other denominations have, by joining those church bodies, publicly declared their allegiance to the teaching of those churches. By also communing here at this altar it would send a confusing message regarding not only what they believe, but also what the Bible teaches and what this church and its members believe and confess. We'd love to speak to you about this more fully so that all are prepared and speak with one voice as we proclaim Christ to the world. For more information, and especially if you are interested in becoming a communicant member of this congregation, please speak to Pastor Zietlow.

CALA HOSTS WALL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT FEB. 2025

On Feb. 15 & 16, Christ Alone Lutheran Academy will host the annual WALL basketball tournament at WLA in Fond du Lac, WI. We need all hands on deck! If you are looking for a way to support and serve your school, please consider giving your time. You do not need to be a sports family to serve. Areas that we will need help in are concessions, admissions table, bookkeeping, scoreboard, and providing baked good items. All proceeds made that weekend will go to CALA. From these proceeds, CALA also plans to give back by making a monetary donation to the WLA new school building project. Thank you for your consideration!

Please follow the link to sign up or contact Jorgia Kempley in the Princeton office:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1l_a4peA3NGuriLFfEuz4wGz9WPZOIVZ2Bspd8jA32RA/edit?usp=sharing

CHURCH RECORDS

Dear members of St. John's, In coming months we will be updating our Church records and need your help! Office volunteers will be contacting you to update contact information and Church records. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

FORGE AHEAD IN FAITH – Philippians 3:14 2025 BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Speaker and Session details available at www.menofhisword.org

1. Forge Ahead in Faith in a Political World
2. Forge Ahead in Faith as a Father
3. Forge Ahead in Faith as a Businessman
4. LIFT-ED (Living Integrated Faith Therapy)
5. Journey from War to Peace
6. Forge Ahead in Men's Ministry
7. A Post-PG 13 World
8. Lutheran Worship: What Now?
9. Forge Ahead in the Face of Loss
10. Dad, Husband, Volunteer, Employee - Being a Man of His Word No Matter the Title
11. Forge a Stronger Marriage
12. Acknowledge and Embrace Diversity as We Forge Ahead in Faith
13. More than a Movement: A Biblical/Relational Approach to LGBTQ Discussions
14. Certified non-toxic masculinity



The Sixteenth Annual of His Word Conference

Keynote: Pastor Earle Treptow

“Forge Ahead in Faith”

Worship Band: Koine’

14 Challenging Breakout Sessions

Saturday, February 8, 2025

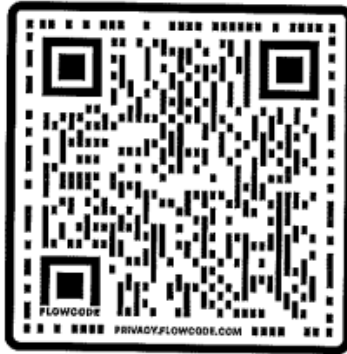
Oshkosh Waterfront Hotel and

Convention Center – Oshkosh, WI

Register at: www.menofhisword.org

Help us stay in touch!

Scan the code below using your smartphone camera and fill out the prompted information. Don't have a smartphone? That's ok! Fill out an attendance card located at the end of each pew and place it in the offering plate located at the entry of each church.



Welcome to our visitors!

Find & Like us on Facebook

Visit our website: www.stjohnsmontello.org

Pastor Pete Zietlow: 608-408-7830, **Email:** zietlowPL6@hotmail.com

Principal & 6-8 Grade Teacher: Larry Sellnow: 920-481-9002 ext.102

Email: principal@christalonelutheranacademy.net

3-5 Grade Teacher: Beth Barenz: 920-481-9002 ext.103

Email: bbarenz@christalonelutheranacademy.net

1-2 Grade Teacher: Shelley Myers: 920-481-9002 ext.201

Email: smyers@christalonelutheranacademy.net

Kindergarten Teacher: Liz Wolter: 920-481-9002 ext.202

Email: ewolter@christalonelutheranacademy.net

Little Lambs Director: Lynn Sellnow: 920-481-9002 ext. 203

Email: littlelambs@stjohnsmontello.org

CALA Secretary/Office: Ciara Neuhauser: 920-481-9002

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