



Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
**EPIPHANY MOMENTS:
BLESSINGS ARE CURSED;
CURSES ARE BLESSED**

**Pastor Zietlow's Sermon:
2 Corinthians 12:7-10
"CONSIDER THE STAKES"**

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

February 16, 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.

BLESSINGS ARE CURSED; CURSES ARE BLESSED

“This is good. That is bad.” We often think life is that simple. We believe we can assess a situation accurately determine if it is positive or negative. It’s hubris. As Jesus gathered followers, he taught them that his kingdom runs exactly opposite to the principles and priorities of the world. Therefore, much that we think is good is bad, and vice-versa. If we want to accurately see the world, we need to have this epiphany. That which the world considers a blessing can often be a curse. Things like success and wealth and health can lead us away from our God. We become so enamored with those blessings that we forget about the Blessor. Conversely, there are hidden blessings in what we would normally consider curses. When we fail, when we suffer, and when things don’t go our way, it forces us to put our trust in God and for our souls to be satisfied in him. The reality is that perceived blessings can be cursed and perceived curses can be used for our blessing.

ORDER OF WORSHIP: Setting One, no communion hymnal pp. 154-164, 171

HYMNS: 376, 803, 626

PSALM: 1 "Blessed Are They"

SERMON: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 "CONSIDER THE STAKES" 1. Thorny threats (7,8) 2. Cross-centered solutions (9,10)

OPENING HYMN: 376 "Rise Up and Shine" ** At St. John's, in place of Opening Hymn, the Sunday School choir sings: "Jesus Loves Me/I Love Jesus Medley"

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 17:5-8

(A blessed life is not connected to outward circumstances like health or wealth. Rather, the one who is blessed is the one who has been given the gift of faith, whose trust is in the LORD.)

⁵This is what the LORD says: “Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the LORD. ⁶That person will be like a bush in the wastelands; they will not see prosperity when it comes. They will dwell in the

parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives. ⁷“But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. ⁸They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”

PSALM: 1 "Blessed Are They"

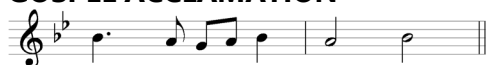
SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 (Sermon Text)

(Paul had some infirmity he initially viewed as a weakness. He came to see it as a blessing as it forced him to rely on God’s strength.)

To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. ¹⁰That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

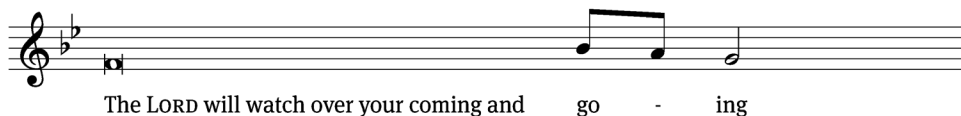
Psalm 121:8



Refrain



Tone



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GOSPEL READING: Luke 6:17-26

(In one of his most famous sermons Jesus teaches that the good things we seek are found in places we would least expect.)

¹⁷He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon, ¹⁸who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured, ¹⁹and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all. ²⁰Looking at his disciples, he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. ²²Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. ²³"Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets. ²⁴"But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort. ²⁵Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep. ²⁶Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

HYMN OF THE DAY: 803 "Day By Day" (Adult choir sings stanzas 1,3, congregation sings stanza 2)

SERMON: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 "CONSIDER THE STAKES" 1. Thorny threats (7,8) 2. Cross-centered solutions (9,10)

APOSTLES' CREED: Hymnal page 163

OFFERING, FRIENDSHIP REGISTERS, ALTAR PRAYER

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: Hymnal Page 164

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS Bulletin page 5

CLOSING HYMN: 626 "My Heart Is Filled with Thankfulness"

THEME FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany - EPIPHANY MOMENTS:
LOVE YOUR ENEMIES, OVERCOMING EVIL WITH GOOD

Acknowledgments

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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.

2024 Offering Statements for St. Johns: There is a sign-up sheet in the linkway by the envelopes for anyone who wishes to have an offering statement for 2024.

The 2024 Emmanuel offering statements are now available to be picked up in the mailboxes. 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.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

- For the sick and others facing trials, including Gale "Blackie" Boyd, Kelly Breiwa, Sandy Buchholz, Bob Buehrens, Agnes Dassow, Edith Duesterhoeft, Don Ebert, Kaye Edwards (Mark Emond's friend), Judy Fandrey, John Gaedke (Dan Finger's uncle), Donna Gatzke, Dennis Gray (Mary Dahlke's brother), Kelleen Grucza, Kim Hanko (Judy Fandrey's daughter), Samuel Harmon (Linda Lou Wacholtz's nephew), Del & Jean Henke, LuAnn Hoffman-Reber (Barb Hoffman's step-daughter), Darlene Hunter (Bonnie Chapman's mother), Kris Kemp (Diane Hintz' daughter), Dale Kozlowski, Jeff Krueger (Diane Hintz's son), Jacob Kwit (Suzie Weber's son), Earl "Pete" Laun, Garrett Miller (Dawn Marcelain & Candace Sonnenberg's brother-in-law), Julie Moran, Debbie & Steve Parrish, Milo & Barbara Petrick, Kim Peyton (Chuck Boetcher's niece), Sharon Priewe, Roxanne Schmanke, Ashley Schroeder, Eloise Schultz, Heather Smith (Diane Hintz' step-daughter), Amanda Stalker, Don Stelter, Tom Stempniak (Carol's husband), Billy & Gloria Tucker, James & Suzanne Weber, Paul & LuAnn Weldon (added this week: __)
- For Joel & Amy Grulke called on 1/21 at CALA (principal & grades 6-8 teacher) & LL (director/teacher) call meetings
- For our St. John's member Barbara Petrick who will celebrate her 83rd birthday on Friday (2/21)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week: February 16-22, 2025

Monday	6:30 p.m.	Adult Choir SJ
	7:30 p.m.	Adult Bible Study SJ
Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	SJ Council Meeting
Wednesday	10:30 a.m.	Adult Bible Study SJ
	5:00 p.m.	Public School Catechism SJ
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	GriefShare SJ
Saturday	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast SJ

Next Sunday: February 23, 2025

8:00 a.m.	Emmanuel Worship with Communion
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 with Communion

	Budget	Offerings	All Income	Expenses
January	\$40,014.98	\$23,048.50	\$39,092.82	\$35,572.32
Year to Date	\$280,104.79	\$175,875.85	\$242,011.71	\$254,357.31

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 Corinthians 9:7

LL, CALA and Sunday School Singing Schedule

Date	
2/16/25	Sunday School MONTELLO
2/23/25	LL-CALA 8/Chimes at MONTELLO

Attendance

Date	EM	SJ
2/9/25	46	63

Lenten suppers at St. John's begin Ash Wednesday—March 5th—which the St. John's Ladies Aid will serve. The following 2 Wednesdays will be served by the St. John's Sunday School and the Hands in Prayer ladies. If there are any other groups that are interested in serving, please contact Matt at the St. John's office. April 2nd and April 9th are available. That is all since Good Friday is April 18th and Easter Sunday is April 20th.

St. John's	Usher's Schedule
Sunday, Feb. 16	Sunday, Feb. 23
Matt Kath Glen Bubolz Martin Schmanke Mike Kempley Grayson Kempley	James Wachholz Zeb Zuehls Chuck Boetcher Jesse Schable Aaron Wachholz

The Evangelism Team

has some fun upcoming outreach projects and we are in need of monetary donations and volunteers!!!

We are in need of monetary donations to buy supplies and volunteers to help with the fun activities at the Easter Festival on April 12.

We are in need of volunteers for canvassing our local area for the Montello Care & Share Food Bank. This is an easy, unthreatening reason to be at the door. We are performing a community service for Care & Share while interacting with multiple households in Montello. Brief training is provided.

These projects are a great way to get involved with your Church Family and help to reach out to our community with the Gospel!

There will be a basket in the information room for donations for the Easter Festival.

If you'd like to help out with these projects, or join the Evangelism Team, please contact Lynn Sellnow, James & Linda Wachholz, Mark & Patty Emond or Matt Kath.

Lent and Holy Week Worship Schedule:

(Regular Sunday Worship:

Emmanuel: 8:00am, St. John's: 10:00am)

Ash Wednesday, March 5:

Emmanuel 3:30pm, St. John's 6:30 pm

(Lenten Supper at St. John's 4:30pm)

Wednesday, March 12:

Emmanuel 3:30pm, St. John's 6:30 pm

(Lenten Supper at St. John's 4:30pm)

Wednesday, March 19:

Emmanuel 3:30pm, St. John's 6:30 pm

(Lenten Supper at St. John's 4:30pm)

Wednesday, March 26:

Emmanuel 3:30pm, St. John's 6:30 pm

(Lenten Supper at Emmanuel 4:30pm)

Wednesday, April 2:

Emmanuel 3:30pm, St. John's 6:30 pm

(Lenten Supper at St. John's 4:30pm)

Wednesday, April 9:

Emmanuel 3:30pm, St. John's 6:30 pm

(Lenten Supper at St. John's 4:30pm)

Passion Sunday, April 13:

Emmanuel: 8:00 am, St. John's: 10:00

Holy Thursday, April 17: Emmanuel 6:30pm

Good Friday, April 18: St. John's 1:00pm

Easter Sunday:

Emmanuel: 8:00am, St. John's: 10:00am

CHRIST ALONE LUTHERAN ACADEMY SCHOOL FUNDRAISER



MARCH 1, 2025

Where: CALA Princeton Campus
Silent Auction Preview: 3:30-5:30pm
Basket Preview: 3:30-5:30pm
Dinner: 5:00pm

TICKETS REQUIRED UPON ENTRY!
FREE Spaghetti Meal
for children (13 & under)!

To Buy Tickets:
artfordinner15@gmail.com
School Office 920-481-9002
Stop by the Princeton school office

Coordinator: Megan Jaster
608-369-3456

At our January 21 Call meeting The voters present voted unanimously to extend a Call to Amy Grulke to be our next LL Director/Teacher. The CALA Board extended a Call to her husband Joel to be the next Principal and 6-8 grade teacher at CALA.

Following is some information about them:

Joel is the Principal and upper grade teacher and Amy is the preschool teacher at Trinity Lutheran School in Waukesha. They have three children ages 30, 24 and 22. They are both graduates of MLC. He was born in Watertown and she was born in Milwaukee. He is 58 and she is 57 years old.

Joel phone: 262-327-4189 cell

email: jgrulke@trinitywels.com

Amy phone: 262-327-4263 cell

email: agrulke@trinitywels.com

Address:

S41W27017 Oak Grove Lane

Waukesha WI 53189

Please pray for them and reach out to them with encouragement through cards, texts, emails, or phone calls as they deliberate where they can best use their gifts to promote the saving Gospel.

Please keep both congregations and all of our called workers in your prayers, as we work together to carry out our Gospel ministries.

As you may know due to our present financial situation we have opened a dialogue with the CALA Board and ultimately St. John's Princeton to move our Little Lambs preschool under CALA. Please pray about this. These ministries provide a path to Jesus for our children and children in the community.

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." If we can't provide a path, we are in essence hindering them.

PLASTIC CANVAS CRAFT PROJECT FOR 2026 LWMS CONVENTION We are collecting the following new or leftover items in any colors for making plastic canvas crosses that will go in the totebags at the convention we host in Madison. We also need more volunteers to assist with production (1,500!). The only item needed is:

- 1/8-inch ribbon (8 inches per cross)

Collection box by the church office. Questions? contact Linda Wachholz, 608-369-2635, lwmsreporter@stjohnsmontello.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@crystalonelutheranacademy.net

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

Email: bbarenz@crystalonelutheranacademy.net

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

Email: smyers@crystalonelutheranacademy.net

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

Email: ewolter@crystalonelutheranacademy.net

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

Email: littlelambs@stjohnsmontello.org

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

School Email: secretary@crystalonelutheranacademy.net

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