"But I say to you that listen, your enemies, to those who hate you, those who curse you, for those who abuse you." Luke 6:27-28, NRSV

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

Pastor Zietlow's Sermon: Luke 6:27-38 "BE MERCIFUL AS YOUR FATHER IS MERCIFUL... BECAUSE"

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 23, 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.

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES, OVERCOMING EVIL WITH GOOD

Throughout this season of Epiphany, Jesus has described the governing principles of his kingdom being completely opposite to the governing principles of the world. This week Jesus asks us to befriend our enemies, to love those who hate us, and to repay evil with good. Worldly logic would say that is a recipe for being walked all over. Yet haven't we seen this tactic work? When we were Christ's enemies, he loved us to the point of death. He repays our daily wrongs with the daily goodness of his mercy. In doing so, he won us for himself. Here is the epiphany we badly need to have. Following the strategy Jesus lays out—loving our enemies—is not a capitulation to evil. It is a means of conquering it.

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

HYMNS: 733, 729, 767, 405

PSALM: 103 "The LORD Is Kind and Merciful"

SERMON: Luke 6:27-38 "BE MERCIFUL AS YOUR FATHER IS MERCIFUL...BECAUSE" 1. You are children of your merciful, heavenly Father (35-36) 2. He fills your hearts with his merciful Spirit (37-38) 3. He enables you to live lives filled with mercy (27-34)

OPENING HYMN: 733 "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"

SPECIAL MUSIC: At SJ LL-CALA sings w/ chimes: "Christ Is With Me"

FIRST READING: Genesis 53:3-15

(The account of Joseph forgiving his brothers after they had sold him into slavery demonstrates that God overcomes evil with good.)

³Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still living?" But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence. ⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! ⁵And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. ⁶For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. ⁷But God sent me ahead of you to

preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. ⁸"So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. ⁹Now hurry back to my father and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don't delay. ¹⁰You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.' ¹²"You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you. ¹³Tell my father about all the honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly." ¹⁴Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

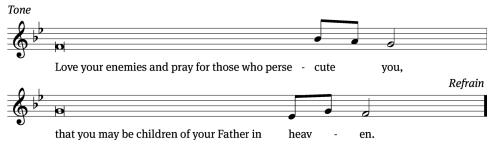
PSALM: 103 "The LORD Is Kind and Merciful"

SECOND READING: Romans 12:14-21

(Paul lived in a Roman empire that operated on the principles of force and aggressing. Yet, he encourages believers to operate on the principles of grace, forgiveness, and humility.)

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.





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GOSPEL READING: Luke 6:27-38 (Sermon Text)

(In our interactions with others, Jesus calls us to disregard what people deserve. Instead, we are to show the same grace that God has shown to us.)

²⁷"But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. ³⁰Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you. ³²"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. ³⁴And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. ³⁷"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

HYMN OF THE DAY: 729 "Son of God, Eternal Savior"

SERMON: Luke 6:27-38 "BE MERCIFUL AS YOUR FATHER IS MERCIFUL...BECAUSE" 1. You are children of your merciful, heavenly Father (35-36) 2. He fills your hearts with his merciful Spirit (37-38) 3. He enables you to live lives filled with mercy (27-34)

NICENE CREED: Hymnal page 162

OFFERING, FRIENDSHIP REGISTERS, ALTAR PRAYER

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS (AT EMMANUEL)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: Hymnal Page 164 **INTERCESSORY PRAYERS** Bulletin page 6

THE SACRAMENT Hymnal Page 165 For our Communion Practice see p.6

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: 767 "Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us"

CLOSING HYMN: 405 "On My Heart Imprint Your Image" (School hymn)

THEME FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

Last Sunday after Epiphany -Transfiguration of Our Lord EPIPHANY MOMENTS: GLORY IS HIDDEN IN ORDER TO BE REVEALED 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: Eloise Schultz)
- For Joel & Amy Grulke called on 1/21 at CALA (principal & grades 6-8 teacher) & LL (director/teacher) call meetings
- For Christian Education (this week at CALA/LL)

Elected Emmanuel Officers: Gary Wagner, President; Bruce Stelter as Secretary, Brian Ninneman as Treasurer and Paul Dahlke as Trustee.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week: February 23-March 1, 2025 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION WEEK

Monday	6:30 p.m.	Adult Choir SJ	
	7:30 p.m.	Adult Bible Study SJ	
Tuesday	5:30 p.m.	Stewardship Meeting SJ	
	6:30 p.m.	Worship Meeting SJ	
Wednesday	8:00 a.m.	Joint Campus Day at Montello	
	9:45 a.m.	The Residences Devotion	
	10:00 a.m.	Montello Care Center Devotion	
	10:30 a.m.	Adult Bible Study SJ	
	5:00 p.m.	Public School Catechism SJ	
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	GriefShare SJ	
	6:00 p.m.	CALA 1-8 Spelling Bee at Montello	
Saturday	10:00 a.mNoon	Little Lambs Learning Center Open	
		House	
	3:30 p.m.	Doors open for Art For Dinner	
		Fundraiser Silent Auction and Basket	
		Preview at PRINCETON (see p.10)	
	5:00 p.m.	Art For Dinner Fundraiser	
		Dinner Begins (see p.10)	

Next Sunday: March 2, 2025 TRANSFIGURATION		
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	
11:00 a.m.	Evangelism Meeting St. John's	

	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**

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. 23	Sunday, March 2
James Wachholz	Paul Van Treeck
Zeb Zuehls	Matt Borzick
Chuck Boetcher	Ken Borzick
Jesse Schable	James Henke
Aaron Wachholz	Haiden Van Treeck
	Nolan Van Treeck
	Brody Henke
	Milo Henke

LL, CALA and Sunday School Singing Schedule		
Date		
2/23/25	LL-CALA 8/Chimes at MONTELLO	
3/2/25	LL-CALA 8/Chimes at PRINCETON	
3/26/25	LL & CALA K-2 at EMMANUEL 3:30pm	

Attendance					
	Date	EM	SJ		
	2/16/25	32	52		
		l			

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, March19:

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 Emmauel 4:30pm)
Wednesday, April 2:

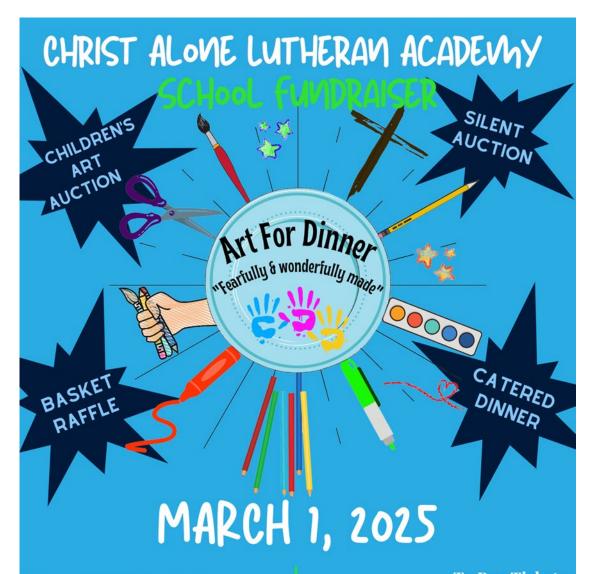
Emmanuel 3:30pm, St. John's 6:30 pm (Lenten Supper at St. John's 4:30pm) Wednesday, April 9:

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



Where: CALA Princeton Campus

Silent Auction Preview: 3:30-5:30pm

Basket Preview: 3:30-5:30pm

Dinner: 5:00pm

FREE Spaghetti Meal for children (12 & 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.



Little Lambs Learning Center

Saturday, March 1,2025 10:00am to 12:00

> Little Lambs Learning Center



ABOUT US

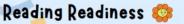
Little Lambs Learning Center partners with parents in providing a Christ-centered education that prepares students for life and eternity.



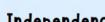
God's Word 👶



Social Interaction 🚳



Independence 🥨





CONTACT INFO

313 E Montello St., Montello, WI 53949 608-297-2866 www.stjohnsmontello.org Littlelambs@stjohnsmontello.org



Little Lambs Learning Center will soon be open for enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year. Enrollment will open on Sunday, February 23. If you have a child you would like to enroll you may use a paper trifold available at church or enroll online when the link is available on 2/23. Registrations will be accepted as first come, first served. We are also hosting an open house on Saturday, March 1 from 10:00 am to Noon. Anyone is welcome to come and see the room, meet the staff, and get a taste of the program. If you have any questions, please contact Lynn Sellnow at 616-826-0816 or littlelambs@stjohnsmontello.org "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

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

WORKDAY FOR THE 2026 CONVENTION PLASTIC CANVAS CROSS PROJECT for women in the Beaver Dam Circuit. St. John's-Montello, on Thursday, March 6, 2025, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Come learn the pattern or get a refresher on the process, and pick up needed supplies of canvas & yarn. Ribbon & tags may also be available by then. If possible, please bring your own wide-eyed sewing needle. Registration Chair Sandra Beimborn and a couple other experienced plastic canvas crafters will be there to help! Morning refreshments. (A half-hour instruction time is also scheduled at our Spring rally in Ripon on April 26, but to get a headstart and more time to learn and ask questions, join us in Montello!)

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.

Lenten Supper Hosts and Menus

March 5, 4:30pm at St. John's Lower Level
St. John's Ladies Aid- Chicken Alfedo over noodles, lettuce salad, bread, green beans, desserts

March 12, 4:30pm at St. John's Lower Level
St. John's Sunday School- Hamburger gravy over mashed potatoes, corn, salad, desserts

March 19, 4:30pm at St. John's Lower Level
Hands in Prayer- Sloppy Joes's, potato salad, macaroni salad, chips, brush
beans, desserts

March 26, 4:30pm at Emmanuel Parish Hall Ladies of Emmanuel Church-April 2, 4:30pm at St. John's Lower Level open

April 9, 4:30pm at St. John's Lower Level Men's Breakfast & Study Club- Soup, crackers, desserts

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 bbarenz@christalonelutheranacademy.net

1-2 Grade Teacher: Shelley Myers: 920-481-9002 ext.201 smyers@christalonelutheranacademy.net

Kindergarten Teacher: Liz Wolter: 920-481-9002 ext.202 ewolter@christalonelutheranacademy.net

Little Lambs Director: Lynn Sellnow: 920-481-9002 ext. 203 littlelambs@stjohnsmontello.org

CALA Secretary/Office: Jorgia Kempley: 920-481-9002 School Email: secretary@christalonelutheranacademy.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