

## THE CHURCH BELL

### St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Member of North American Lutheran Church (NALC)

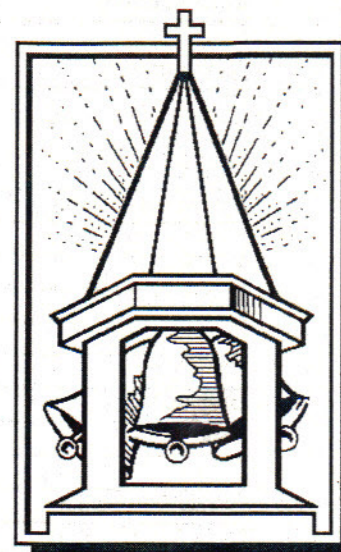
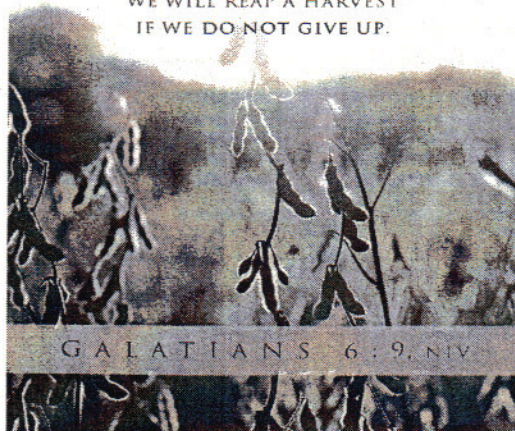
1764 Meyersville Road

Meyersville, Texas 77974-4143

361-277-8653

*Let us not become  
weary in doing good.*

FOR AT THE PROPER TIME  
WE WILL REAP A HARVEST  
IF WE DO NOT GIVE UP.



November 2014

VOL. 38 NO. 11

Greetings,

Each year we take a Sunday to remember how we came to a denomination. We remember that hundreds of years ago one small monk stopped to wonder if we were really following what Christ wanted us to do.

The Motto of Luther's Reformation is translated, "The Word of the Lord Endures Forever."

Part of what made the Reformation so revolutionary was the rediscovery of the place that scripture had in the life of a believer. Luther felt that nothing could be as central to the life of a Christian as God's word. After all, if we don't know what God wanted us to know, how can we know what to believe?

Martin Luther actually had no intention of creating a denomination. He just wanted to reform (thus Reformation) the church of his day to be in more line with the church of the Bible.

He questioned the act of selling salvation, called "indulgences", by which a person could pay the church for a guarantee of forgiveness of all your sins. He questioned the worship of the saints, he questioned the authority of the Pope, and frankly he questioned everything the church did that either contradicted or skirted the Bible.

Yes, Luther was a stubborn German and no matter how much Rome tried to push him to recant his position Luther said, "Here I stand; I can do no other". He was unwilling to abandon the notion that a person is "Saved by grace through faith". Eventually this caused Luther, and his Saxon friends, to split completely from the Roman Catholic Church resulting in the formation of a new denomination.

Luther and his friends called their new denomination the "Evangelical Church" which means the "church of the gospel". Being a very humble monk Luther would have been mortified to hear us name the church after him.

What makes us Lutheran in the end has nothing to do with all that, and everything to do with how we live out, and understand, our faith in Jesus Christ. This is what we remember on Reformation Sunday.

God's Blessings,

Pastor John

**STATISTICAL REPORT FOR 2014**

STATISTICAL REPORT FOR 2014														
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL	
Infant/Child	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0				2	
Adult	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	
<b>Total Baptisms</b>	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0				2	
Confirmations	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0				2	
Weddings	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0				3	
Funerals	0	1	1		0	1	2	0	0				5	
Counseling Sessions	4	9	5	3	3	2	3	5	2				36	
Transfer Out	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	
Transfer In	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0				4	
Home Visits	8	5	6	8	6	8	11	9	6				67	
Hospital Visits	2	5	2	5	7	6	2	0	3				32	
<b>Total Visits</b>	10	10	8	13	13	14	13	9	9				99	
Private Communion	18	22	25	18	32	38	42	43	37				275	
<b>PLEASE NOTE: LAST MONTH'S STATISTICS ARE TO DATE AS OF PRINTING TIME</b>														
Release of Membership														
Restore to Membership					1								1	

If you or a family member is in the hospital and would like a pastoral visit, please contact the Church office (361/277-8653) or Pastor John Boor at the parsonage (361/275-9895) or his cell (361/243-0373).

**ST. JOHN CHURCH COUNCIL 2014**

Pastor <i>John Boor</i>	275-9895 (Cell) 243-0373
Council President <i>John Swannack</i>	277-8674
Vice President <i>Obert Sagebiel</i>	275-5087
Secretary <i>Mitchell Jank</i>	572-9365
Treasurer <i>M'Liss Moore</i>	275-8069
Financial Secretary <i>Sandy Gohmert</i>	275-9117
Worship Team Leader <i>Johnny Jank</i>	575-6813
Parish Education Team Leader <i>Kathy Dunn</i>	277-9592
Mission & Evangelism Team Leader <i>Linda Ruschhaupt</i>	275-2059
Property Team Leader <i>Dickie Bettge</i>	277-3096
Finance Team Leader <i>Leon Dohmann</i>	(512) 216-2078
Parish Life Team Leader <i>Terri Jank</i>	572-9365
Women of the Church Liaison <i>Cathie Bettge</i>	277-3096
Trustee <i>Vance Egg</i>	277-5937
Deacon <i>Don Wendel</i>	277-9862

Church Secretary/Bookkeeper *Diane Chavez*

275-3964

**A NOTE FROM PR. JOHN:**



Due to the privacy laws, hospitals no longer notify pastors when a member is admitted or treated. If you know of anyone being taken to the hospital (emergency or otherwise), or who is seriously ill please call me.



From the Church Office

Office hours are Tuesday and Thursday 9:00a.m.-3:00p.m. Check the calendar for changes to the schedule.

**ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER/NAME CHANGES.** Please notify the Church Office by leaving a recorded message at 277-8653 as soon as possible of any change in mailing addresses, and/or phone numbers, and/or name changes. Thank you!



**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** for the December 2014 Church Bell is **Thursday, November 20th, 2014 by 9am.** Please have all your articles into the church office by then. You can e-mail your article(s) and photos to the office at [stjohnlutheran@juno.com](mailto:stjohnlutheran@juno.com). Thank you!



Have you seen St. John's website:

<http://stjohnmeyersville.org>. Please visit and let us know what you think of it. On the website, you will find weekly sermons, weekly announcements, the current calendar, newsletters, and much more. Comments welcomed!



A friendly reminder to all organizations that hold events in the parish house kitchen. Please remove **all ingredients and leftovers** from the kitchen once the event is over. Thank you for your help in keeping our kitchen insect and rodent-free.

*The Kitchen Committee*

If you have a request for the **Prayer Chain**, contact Evelyn Diebel. And please update your request at least once a month so the list can be kept current and up to date. If you wish to receive the Prayer Chain requests, please contact Evelyn Diebel (275-5979).



**Nursing Homes :** Ruth Moore

**Homebound:** Cleo Wendel, Janie Rangnow & Helen Mae Egg



**PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY** Pray for our Military and their families, especially for: Nicholas Jacobs and Russell Copeland



If any elderly person, or youth, need rides to Church events or youth events, please notify the pastor so arrangements can be made to accommodate these needs



Please keep the family of Ralph Egg in your hearts & in your prayers during this difficult time.

**St. John's Mission for the Month of November  
2014 -**

Camal House - our local food pantry



November 9<sup>th</sup>, the Women of St. John, will lead the church service.

The Women of the Church will take their thankoffering to the alter during this service.

**Special dates for November**

- All Saints' Day, November 1, 2014
- Daylight-Saving Time ends, November 2, 2014
- Veterans Day, November 11, 2014
- Christ the King Sunday, November 23, 2014
- Thanksgiving, November 27, 2014
- First Sunday of Advent, November 30, 2014

**St. John Youth Group**

Daren & Dawn Otto

St. John Youth Group is off to a great start this year. We would like to thank Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Sager and Don & Heather Wendel for providing our meals for the last two months. This is a wonderful treat to have our meal supplied for our gatherings each month. There is sign-up sheet in the Narthex if anyone else is interested.

We have welcomed several new members to our group increasing our roster to 23 students. There is generally 15-17 youth each month. Each month 2 students are required to learn a verse from the Bible, recite it, and tell us their interpretation and then we discuss it as a group. Please encourage our students with this activity by

asking if they have had to present a verse or what the verses from the last meeting were.

Mark your calendars for **December 7, 2014!** This will be the day for our Christmas community service. If you have decorating (inside or outside), cleaning, yard work, or anything else our Youth can help you with, please call Dawn @ 277-4745 or 550-9167. We will schedule these activities for Sunday afternoon.

Our next meeting will be on November 12<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 p.m. in the Parish Hall. We will have a special guest with a special flag demonstration. This is in honor of Veteran's Day and also in preparation of our upcoming fundraiser with the "Field of Honor" in connection with "Warrior's Weekend". Parents and the congregation are invited to join us. If you choose to join us, the presentation will be around 6:30.

Please encourage anyone in 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade to attend our gatherings. We welcome St. John Youth as well as all youth from our area.

**SAVE THE DATE**

Youth Gathering

Youth Encounter  
San Antonio  
Feb. 13-15, 2015



Special thank you to Bette Jo Haun for her many years of faithful service on the St. John Altar Guild. She has provided beautiful handkerchiefs for our Baptisms and created the stained glass banners that are hanging in the church, along with many other examples of her beautiful handwork.

Carly Arndt Waters will now serve on the Altar Guild, in her place, with team member M'Liss Moore.

## CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

September 23, 2014

By Church Secretary, Mitchell Jank

**Members present:** Pastor John Boor, John Swannack, Linda Ruschhaupt, Dickie Bettge, Cathie Bettge, Kathy Dunn, Mitchell Jank, Terri Jank, Obert Sagebiel, Johnny Jank, and Sandy Gohmert.

**CALL to ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by President John Swannack at 7:00 PM.

**DEVOTION:** Led by Linda Ruschhaupt

**MINUTES:** Minutes were reviewed and approved.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Reviewed and approved.

### PASTOR'S REPORT

- Pastor has been asked by the Cuero Community Hospital to hold a service in their new chapel.
- Three families have inquired about baptism into the church.
- Will Roeske family has asked for approval to transfer their membership. Kathy moved and Johnny seconded. Motion passed.
- There will be a NALC Pastor's Conference held in Orlando, FL in February 2015.

### COUNCIL BUSINESS

#### Old Business

- No Old Business

#### Finance Team Report

The Finance team meets on a bi-monthly schedule.

- No report.

#### Mission/Evangelism Team report

Members: Pastor John, John Swannack, Cheryl Bramlette, Pam Haun, Candice Cowley, Lloyd and Karon Copeland and Linda Ruschhaupt, Team Leader.

- It was decided by the team to allow Rev. Chavez pick the mission for October to honor his visit.

### St. John's Mission for the Month of August – The World Mission Prayer League

#### Parish Life Committee Report

The Parish Life Team met September 7, 2014. Members present were Cindy Egg, Beth Reinecke, Candy Cowley, Terri Jank, and John Swannack. The following items were discussed.

- We served pancakes for refreshments at Rally Sunday September 7<sup>th</sup>.
- We will serve German Chocolate Cupcakes after the Polka service Sunday September 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Mission Feast will be October 26<sup>th</sup>. This will also be the day the General Secretary visits as well as Fill the Church Sunday. The Church will provide the meat and each family will be asked to bring a side dish and or a dessert to share. Terri will E-Mail Diane this week with information to be put in the bulletin each week and in October's News Letter.
- The Parish Life Team will meet again October 14, 2014.

#### Parish Education report

- God was smiling and hearts were flying high, when 90+ kids and kid's at heart (as I like to consider myself these days) gathered on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> to kick off our new Sunday school year. Smiling faces sang and danced as all were, "Lifted Up by God's Love". Balloons of all colors decorated the room and served as portals to send messages to God. Games, a pancake buffet with lots of Rhedi whip and a surprise visit from Luther's Small Cat filled the hour with fun. Sola's Sunday Schoolhouse, featuring "Luther's Small Cat", with curriculum including: The Apostle's Creed, baptism, communion, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments will be the focus of our fall study. The hour ended with a giant balloon launch sending messages and thoughts to God. A special "balloon package" was launched by our older youth, in hopes of hearing back from the receiver. After a morning of worship and fun, we continued our special Sunday with church and Holy Communion. A big thank you to all who made the day so wonderful and to parents for not only bringing their kids but staying and participating in the fun.
- High School Class - Candy Cowley has recruited soon to be new member, Heather Roeske, to lead this class. Heather and her family are transferring to our

church from the NALC Church in Three Rivers where she taught Sunday school and Confirmation class in the past. She is the wife of Will Roeske, who grew up here in Meyersville, and the mother of Bryant (freshman in high school) and Caroline (5th grade). They plan to call every high school age child and encourage them to attend. They will probably meet in pastor John's office if we can move the desk somewhere temporarily.

- Last Sunday we started the new Small Cat Curriculum and had a good attendance - 37 or more teachers and students, plus the adult class.

### The Property Team

- Maintenance Schedule for Sept.  
Inventory of furniture and equipment & report to Church Council.
- October.

Check/clean filters to a/c in church, church office, Pastor's office, parish hall. They were changed in June. Marv will check. Check sump pump in church. Pump is working. Annual inspection of heater. Dickie

Termite treatment. Marv will get estimate from the new pest service.

### Items Complete

- Bathroom & Kitchen Supplies were checked and areas cleaned as necessary.
- Mr. Frankson has completed his survey and map with conceptual design.
- The Pecan Valley application to participate in the aquifer watch program was sent to Pecan Valley Underground Water District.
- Hooks for hanging banners were installed in the wings as well as a good pole to hang the banners with.
- Shims on church benches were re-glued.
- The property deeds for the Church property were found at the courthouse and copied for our records.
- The hole in the entrance culvert was fixed.
- Clay provided an excellent write-up for elevator maintenance. This will be placed in our property team maintenance manual.
- Blinking light in parish hall.
- Volley ball poles. They are built and the crosses and poles are at the sandblaster.

- Ceiling tile in bathroom coming loose from ceiling. Britton fixed.

### Old Business

- The church sign committee is making progress.
- Pest control update. Proposal has been received. Dickie will sign and return.
- Dan Dentler Memorial.  
Cost Estimate:  
Form and pour slab (bid from Britton)  
\$1950.00  
Two table and bench sets (T977)  
636.00  
Two Bench Tops (T977)  
53.00  
Three Curved Benches (T-983)  
246.00  
4 Name plates  
300.00  
Delivery and cost to setup (Delivery only \$120.00)  
250.00.

Total Cost \$ 3435.00

Money in fund	\$ 3952.00
Money in fund (updated finance team 8/12/14)	
Bequeath from Dan Dentler	\$ 3952.04
Ms Metting's memorials	\$ 245.00
Dan's memorials	<u>\$ 985.00</u>
Total	\$ 5182.04

- The Chinese church in Houston accepted our offer of furniture. We will need to deliver the furniture.
- Church supplemental cleaner options. We are pursuing a reputable cleaner.
- The cemetery was checked by Dickie, Glenn, and Pastor for problems around graves. Two sites need attention. In row 17, the Willie Mae and Erwin Brandt grave needs attention and in row 19 the Alfred and Bertha Albrecht grave needs attention. Dickie checked with Larry Brandt to determine if he knew Erwin Brandt. He did not. Dickie checked with Ray Albrecht concerning Alfred and Bertha Albrecht. They are Ray's grandparents. Ray will check with the heirs to determine what the family wants to do about these graves.

### Project List:

- New light fixtures at church entrance.
- Clean storage rooms in basement and parish hall.
- Meeting with Surface Burial concerning cemetery issues. Dickie and Pastor will meet with Surface Burial to discuss and determine what is expected to

issues. Dickie and Pastor will meet with Surface Burial to discuss and determine what is expected to maintain our cemetery. The grave lines were staked and Dickie will schedule a date to meet.

- Revision of cemetery rules. We discussed downloading cemetery rules used by the Catholic Churches as a guide to revising our rules. Dickie will download.
- Re-grade area along the garage to provide better drainage.
- Clean out the lawn mower building.
- A/C return air moisture problem. Gohmert A/C.

#### New Business:

- Budget preparation. Preliminary budget was prepared.
  - Garbage cans in parish hall. Dickie will purchase 2 cans and 1 lid.
  - Architects. Rawley, McCoy & Associates 573-1642. Dickie to schedule appointment with Patrick Ohrt to look at our buildings.
  - Parsonage rodent problem. Pastor will build covers out of hardware cloth to insert into the access holes to prevent animals from entering.
1. Propane tank leaning. Workday.

#### Women of the Church report.

Submitted by Cathie Bettge

- A. Planning is being done for the Women's Thank Offering Service on second Sunday in November.
- B. General meeting scheduled for October 25
- C. Invitation received for 2 ladies from our quilters group to attend a meal at St. Mark's in Cuero, Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> honoring LWR Quilting Women with guest speaker Vicky Whetstone, LWR staff.

#### Worship Team

Worship Team met late in August and covered all business for September, and consequently had no need for a September meeting. Next meeting is scheduled for October 7th.

#### Council New Business

- Briefly reviewed which officers and team leaders' terms will expire in 2015.

Meeting was adjourned and closed with The Lord's Prayer.

## Thankful TREE

Make this Thanksgiving decoration and keepsake as a reminder of God's many blessings.

#### What you need:

- Acrylic paints
- Paint brush
- White cardstock (8" x 11")
- Baby wipes or wet paper towels
- 8" x 11" frame (available at dollar stores)
- Black permanent marker
- Bowls or paper plates



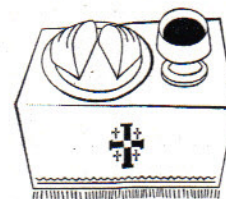
#### What you do:

1. Paint your palm, fingers, wrist and a portion of your arm with brown paint.
2. With the white cardstock placed vertically, press down your painted hand and arm. The print should resemble a tree trunk and branches.
3. Clean your hand and arm with baby wipes or wet paper towels.
4. Dip your fingertips into different-colored paints and press them onto the paper to make leaves. (It's autumn, so leaves can be falling!)
5. When paint is dry, write "thankful" down the trunk with permanent marker. Also write your name and the year in the corner.
6. Frame and display your decoration.

# November - December 2014 Assignments

## NOVEMBER

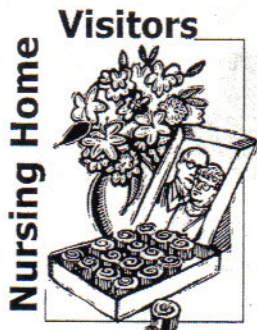
Dawn Otto  
Kaley Otto



*Altar Guild*

## DECEMBER

Dee Moeller/Beverly Bodden



**Visitors**

## NOVEMBER

Mary Wagner

## DECEMBER

Linda Ruschhaupt

## GREETERS SCHEDULE

### NOVEMBER

- 2 Alfred & Marlene Rangnow
- 9 Cheryl Bramlette
- 16 Candy Cowley
- 23 Dickie & Cathie Bettge
- 30 Beverly Bodden

### DECEMBER

- 7 Marvin & Norrean Sager
- 14 Glenn & Linda Ruschhaupt
- 21 John & Margie Swannack
- 28 Kernell & Elaine Moritz

**Greeters:** *Please give visitors any current newsletters that may be on the table in the narthex.*



*Acolytes*

## NOVEMBER

- 2 Will Green & Rylan Dreier
- 9 Braden Parsons
- 16 Austin Chavez
- 23 Justin Ficklen
- 30 Travis Reinecke

## DECEMBER

- 7 Seth Wendel
- 14 Mason Nagel
- 21 Michele Motley
- 28 Caleb Reinecke

## NOVEMBER

Margie Swannack

## DECEMBER

Brian Wendel



**Communion  
Assistants**

**Remember:** If you are down for a service, you are responsible for getting a substitute if you cannot make it that month. *Please let the church office (277-8653) know if you switch so the correct names can be in the bulletin.*



St. John Ev. Lutheran Church  
1764 Meyersville Road  
Meyersville, Texas 77974-4143  
Pr. John Boor  
Phone #361-277-8653

PRE-SORTED  
STANDARD  
Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
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Cuero, Texas 77954

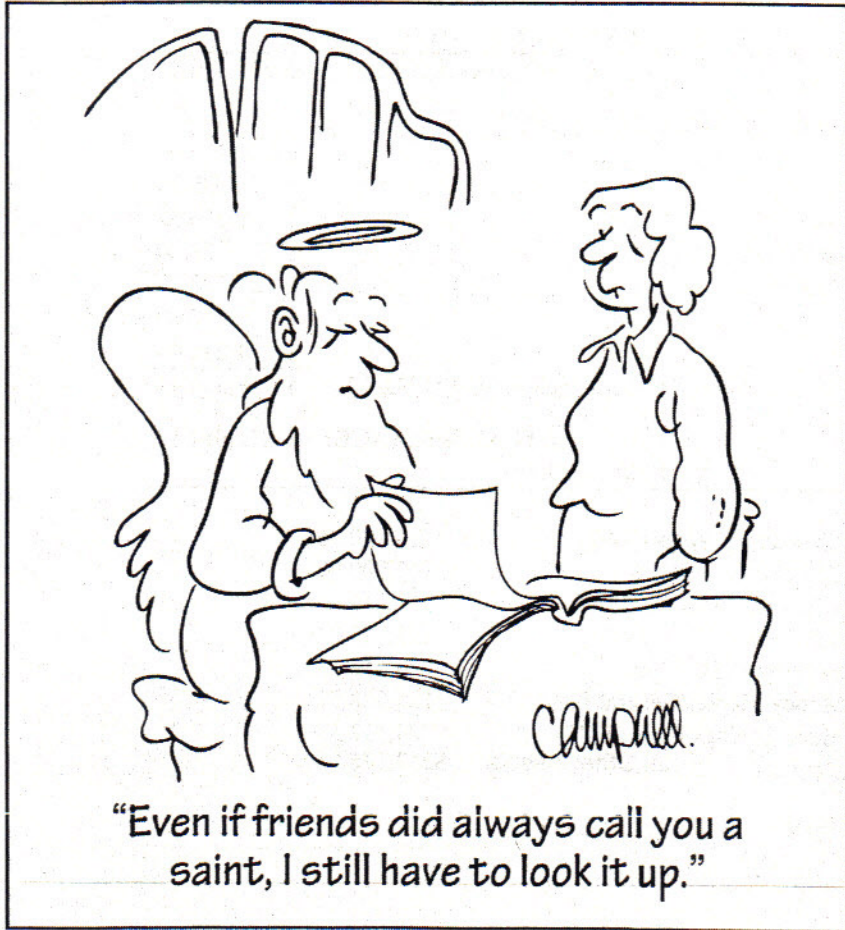
October 31, 2014  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



November



DING-A-LING  
CORNER



November 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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30						