

THE CHURCH BELL

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church Member of North American Lutheran Church (NALC)

1764 Meyersville Rd.
Meyersville, TX 77974
361-277-8653
stjohnlutheran@juno.com
mailto:stjohnlutheran@juno.com



August 2015

VOL. 39 NO. 8

Greetings,

I have been contemplating the direction of “the church” in the wake of recent Supreme Court decisions and our government and society in general. I am concerned about how Christians view the church and how is the church being influenced by the currently politically correct society. I have preached several times in the past few months about how we must be cautious about are we more concerned with pleasing God or man. As we watch the news or read the newspaper it more and more appears that society is more interested in pleasing man than God.

Many are turning from the true word of God or trying to make God’s word fit their desires. Rather than change their lives to fit God’s word they are trying to change God’s word to fit their lives. I grew up in the 60s and the theme was if it feels good do it. Unfortunately many have not outgrown this thought and have in fact made it part of their view of life.

My wife recently received an email from John Bevere about his new book and I would like to share part of the email with you:

The message centers on one simple question: is good enough?

The terms good and God may seem synonymous. We believe that what is generally accepted as good must be aligned with God’s will. Generosity, humility, and justice are good. Selfishness, arrogance, and cruelty are evil. Pretty straightforward – but is that all there is to it? If good is so obvious, why does Hebrews 5:14 teach that we must have discernment to recognize it?

As I began to pray about this, God began to point out ways that I have substituted a counterfeit good – one devoid of His influence – for the unchanging truth of His Word. I began to realize that the greatest deception the church will face in these last days will not be a blatant evil, but a good that is very contrary to God’s ways.

Political correctness has become so prevalent in our society that this has become more important than God’s true word. If someone disagrees with our beliefs then we are wrong. If we disagree with their beliefs then we are wrong and while they believe we must be more tolerant of them they have no tolerance for our beliefs. God knew this would happen and in 2 Timothy 3:1-4 Paul tells us these things will happen. In Isaiah 5:20-24 we learn the consequences of believing these things.

We are so fortunate to have a God that knows these things will happen and will forgive us and desires that all will turn to Him and follow His word. I pray that we will pray for God’s truth. I pray that as it says in Hebrews 5:14 we will have discernment to recognize what is truly good. With God’s help we can overcome these obstacles and I pray that society will return to God and recognize what is truly good. I hope to address this in more detail over the coming months.

God’s blessings

Pastor John

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 on his cell (361/243-0373). 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.



**Ding-a-ling
Corner**



A bad attitude is like a flat tire. You can't go anywhere until you've changed it.



"Because he didn't even change your name. That's how I know he was talking about you!"

STATISTICAL REPORT FOR 2015														
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL	
Infant/Child	0	0	1	0	0	0							1	
Adult	0	0	2	0	2	0							4	
Total Baptisms	0	0	3	0	2	0							5	
Confirmations	0	0	0	0	6	0							6	
Weddings														
Members	0	1	0	0	0	0							1	
Non-Members	0	0	0	0	1	0							1	
Funerals														
Members	0	0	1	0	1	0							2	
Non-Members	1	0	0	0	0	0							1	
Counseling Sessions	4	3	4	2	3	3							19	
Transfer Out	0	0	0	0	0	0							0	
Transfer In	0	0	5	0	3	0							8	
Home Visits	6	5	7	6	6	7							37	
Hospital Visits														
Members	2	2	0	2	2	6							8	
Non-Members	0	1	0	0	1	1							3	
Private Communion														
Members	4	5	4	6	6	7							32	
Non-Members	34	18	33	28	27	39							179	
PLEASE NOTE: LAST MONTH'S STATISTICS ARE TO DATE AS OF PRINTING TIME														
Release of Membership													0	
Restore to Membership													0	

ST. JOHN EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH CONTACT NUMBERS

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pastor John Boor 275-9895 (Cell) 243-0373
Council President Marvin Sager 275-6029
Vice President Obert Sagebiel 275-5087
Secretary Mitchell Jank 572-9365
Treasurer M'Liss Moore 275-8069
Financial Secretary Sandy Gohmert 275-9117

OTHER CONTACTS

Trustee - Vance Egg 277-5937
Deacon - Don Wendel 277-9862

TEAM LEADERS

Worship Team - Johnny Jank 575-6813
Parish Education - Kathy Dunn 277-9592
Mission/Evangelism - Linda Ruschhaupt 275-2059
Property Team - Dickie Bettge 277-3096
Finance Team - Glenn Ruschhaupt 275-2059
Parish Life Team - Terri Jank 572-9365
Women of the Church - Cathie Bettge 277-3096

Church Secretary - Heather Roeske (956) 655-1950

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday-Friday
9 a.m.-1p.m.

****Please check the calendar and bulletin for any changes.**



ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER/NAME CHANGES

Please notify the Church Office as soon as possible of any change in mailing addresses, and/or phone numbers, and/or name changes. Thank you!

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



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the September 2015 Church Bell is Friday, August 21, 2015 by 9a.m.

You can drop off your articles at the church office, or e-mail them to stjohnelutheran@juno.com. Thanks!



Do you have an idea?

Is there something at the church that you think needs fixing or changing? The Church Council and Committee Members would like to have your input. Please

feel free to use the 'suggestion box' in the Narthex to pass on your ideas, suggestions, and concerns. Remember, this is your church and your opinion matters. We are eager to hear from you!



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. If you wish to receive the Prayer Chain requests, please contact Evelyn Diebel (275-5979).



Our Military and their families:

Nicholas Jacobs - deployed to Afghanistan
Russell Copeland - reserves, preparing to deploy
John Otto - USMC basic training

Nursing Homes: Ruth Moore - Yorktown Nursing & Rehab, Bette Jo Haun - Warm Springs.

Homebound: Cleo Wendel, Janie Rangnow, and Helen Mae Egg.



ATTENTION ACOLYTES

Please see the acolyte sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Volunteers are needed for the upcoming months!

BUSY BAGS IN CHURCH



Busy Bags are available in the Narthex for all children to use. These bags have quiet activities for children to enjoy during Worship. The tote bags have items that younger children might be more interested in while the zipper bags have items for slightly bigger kids. Grab a bag on your way in to church, but please "bee" sweet and return it after the service.

St. John's Mission of the Month:
Christian Warriors Retreat
 By Veterans, For Veterans

After returning from Iraq with post-traumatic stress disorder and a traumatic brain injury, Nick Lowry, hospital corpsmen second class in the U.S. Navy, turned to Christianity to help him heal. After the comfort his faith gave him and with the help of board members, he decided to start a Christian Warriors Retreat at the 4Given Ranch in Yorktown.

“Christian Warriors Retreat is for combat and non-combat Veterans of the US Military. Our focus is to unite all branches and eras of the US Military using Christian and Military Values as our core foundation. CWR’s mission is for our Veterans to find true healing and regain purpose in life, relationships, and most importantly self through Jesus Christ.”

This year’s fall event will be held October 22-25. The 72 hour spiritual renewal through Jesus is offered to Veterans and led by Veterans.

This will be St. John’s third year to support CWR, which has grown to include a spring event as well.

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE MISSION?

We would like for the congregation to vote on their favorite mission. You may vote for a mission that we have had in the past, or you may nominate a new one (we ask that you research and vet any new missions and provide that information to the committee).

Mission Nomination Sheets will be available in the Narthex from August 2nd to August 16th. Please fill out the form entirely, including your signature, and turn it in to the church office or place it in the offering plate by August 16th.

The Mission which receives the most votes will be our Mission of the Month for October, which is our “Mission Month”.



CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE

Join us on Sunday, August 9th for our annual Contemporary Worship Service. Come and enjoy this service of song and the Word.



A NOTE FROM OUR QUILTERS:



Please consider joining the quilters on Wednesdays from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. on the stage. Fun for all ages! No sewing skills required. Help us reach our goal of 100 quilts to send overseas!



TOP TEN FAVORITE SONGS:

The Worship Team has been including songs from this year’s “Top Ten” in recent Worship services. Earlier in the year, the congregation was asked to vote for their favorite hymns and the Worship Team has compiled a list of our “Top Ten” from this voting. Thank you Worship Team!

Bring Your Backpack to Sunday School!

August 23, 2014



School can be fun, scary, awesome, and tough. Join us on Sunday, August 23rd at 9 a.m. for our Backpack Blessing Event and Back to School Party where we will encourage students with the promises of God and surround them with love as they prepare for the new school year.

Children are asked to bring their backpacks with them to receive a special blessing and gift during the Backpack Blessing Litany. Following the blessing, we will have a Back to School Party with games and prizes for all. So grab your backpack, and join us for the fun!



Join us for
RALLY DAY
August 30, 2015

Rally Day 2015 is going to be GREAT!! Join us as we kick off the Sunday School year with games, fun, and activities for all ages.

Rally Day will begin at 9 a.m. Stick around following Worship for a hot dog lunch and six foot sundae bar. You won't want to miss this exciting event, so bring a friend and join the party!



Youth Group will begin again in September!! All youth 6th -12th grade are invited to join us on the second Wednesday of each month. Join us on Wednesday, September 9th at 6 p.m. for a meal, devotion, fun, and fellowship.



What is Confirmation?

Confirmation has been around in Lutheran Churches for a long time, but it is important for us to stop and think about what it is before we begin.

Confirmation is more than a class, it is more than a two year program – it is a ministry through which God is active in your life. Confirmation is part of lifelong a journey of faith, filled with new questions and answers, new discoveries, new relationships, new responsibilities, and new possibilities. But know that confirmation is just one step along a much larger journey of your life. God is with you along the way, each step of the way. Confirmation is not the end, nor the beginning. Rather, Confirmation is a tool that helps you along your life-long adventure of living out your Christian faith.

For those who are ready to join us, we will meet each Sunday to study scripture, Baptism, Communion, and the teachings of Martin Luther. With your dedication and God's grace, at the end of all these classes you will stand before the church and make a commitment to your faith that is truly meaningful.

Students in grades 6-8 are invited to participate in the confirmation program again this year.

Parents, please note: our first class will be held on Sunday, September 13th at 9 a.m. During this class, Pastor John will go over his rules and expectations. All students wishing to attend Confirmation this year will need to be in attendance with their parent(s).

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

June 23, 2015

By Church Secretary, Mitchell Jank

Members present: Pastor John Boor, Marvin Sager, M'Liss Moore, Dickie Bettge, Cathie Bettge, Kathy Dunn, Mitchell Jank, Johnny Jank, Obert Sagebiel, Glenn Ruschhaupt and Linda Ruschhaupt.

CALL to ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Marvin Sager at 7:00 PM.

DEVOTION: Led by Mitchell Jank.

MINUTES: Minutes were reviewed and approved as amended.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Reviewed and approved.

PASTOR'S REPORT

- Three trips to Houston for hospital visits in the past month. Two have been for members and one for a non-member. I am pleased to report that all three came through their surgeries well.
- Scheduled vacation for July 27 – Aug. 3

COUNCIL BUSINESS

Old Business

- Current cemetery rules and regulations were reviewed. No further discussion.

Finance Team Report

Meeting date: June 8, 2015. Members present: Glenn Laurie Wendel, Sandy Gohmert, M'Liss Moore and President Marv Sager.

- Review of Latest Financial Reports - Reports were reviewed along with relative additional information from M'Liss. There was considerable discussion regarding current memorial funds balances, and possible utilization of those not specifically designated by families of the subject deceased. One suggestion for utilization of remaining undesignated memorials was to apply these funds to the cost of the newly completed sign. Additional discussion focused on various account balances relative to having liquidity sufficient to address pending building and grounds repair and remodeling project costs.
- Old Record/File retention and storage - Still-pending, evergreen project. As time allows for team members to physically review and

categorize related data, efforts will be ongoing.

Mission/Evangelism Team report

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

- St. John's Mission for the Month of July – **Barnabas Connection.** This is a Wimberly organization that has been connecting locals in need with resources to help them for the past 10 years.

Parish Life Committee Report

Members: Cindy Egg, Candy Cowley, Beth Reinecke, Terri Jank-Team leader, and President Marvin Sager.

- No upcoming events.
- Cookies were served after services on May 24 to honor Memorial Day.
- On June 14, a luncheon was served for the camp counselors coming to support Vacation Bible School.
- Next meeting scheduled for June 28 after services.

Parish Education report

- Day Camp Review
- Summer Sunday school has been slim but we have had some attendees and actually had 15 on Father's Day.
- Thank you to Marvin and Noreen Sager for housing all the counselors for the entire week

The Property Team

Items Complete.

- Blow and/or vacuum compressor area of refrigerator
- Check/clean filters to a/c in church, church office, Pastor's office, parish hall.
- AT&T has been contacted about vegetation control in their easement area.
- Concrete benches and tables at the stone church were sealed with Thompsons Water Seal.
- Coastal Bend Foundation looked at the slab at the parsonage. Cannot help with the problem.

- Information and brainstorming meeting on church and basement renovations was done on June 7, 2015.

Old Business

- Council approved getting parsonage windows fixed. Ideal Aluminum will give us an estimate for windows and sign cover.
- Crushed limestone for road improvement. The proposal for placing crushed limestone from the cemetery road to the parking lot and around the parish hall was \$8750. After discussing this, the committee decided to get a proposal for extending the cemetery road to the parking lot only and patching existing potholes in the parking lot.

New Business:

- Items for Architect to get started on.
 1. Check into handicapped requirements for basement.
 2. Explore options for elevator placement.
 3. Provide a drawing of basement without walls.
 4. Design handicapped bathroom in church.
 5. Check into requirements for church return air ducts. Two entire rooms in the basement are currently being used for return air ducts.
 6. Availability and functionality of room dividers in basement.
 7. Design awnings at wing entrances and drive thru to elevator.
 8. Specifications and bid package for removal of walls in basement (with council approval).
- Guttering at parsonage. Dickie will get bid from Gordon Wendel.
- Had representative from Easley Construction look at the leak over the east wing door. He will give us an estimate.

Project List:

- Revision of cemetery rules. We discussed downloading cemetery rules used by the Catholic Churches as a guide to revising our rules. Dickie will download.
- Eagle Scout Project, Dylan Ohrt. Marv stripped the grass, removed roots, and leveled the area with his dozer and the Ohrt family set the brace posts for the gate.
- Name plates for Dan Dentler and Mildred Metting tables and benches and Chad Boyer,

Charlene Magee and Quinton trees are here. Mini work day set for June 25, 5:00 pm to install name plates.

- Signage to close cemetery at night. Clay had pictures of signage at a Victoria cemetery. Will continue to investigate.
- Inventory of furniture and equipment & report to Church Council. Dickie
- Winterize plumbing at trees. Dickie.
- Install mailboxes at church office
- Volleyball light fixtures and fencing. Posts were purchased and wire and steel posts are in at Meyersville Store. Vance will check where he works on various lights available and Dickie will check with York Graham about lighting options available from Service Supply.

Items for Council approval:

Specifications and bid package for removal of walls in the basement. Glenn Ruschhaupt moved and M'Liss seconded to approve the proposed bid package from the architect. Motion passed.

Women of the Church report.

Submitted by Cathie Bettge

- Kitchen cleaned
- Microwave oven needed in kitchen. Property team will replace.

Worship Team report

The Worship Team met on Thursday 16th April at 7:00 PM. Members in attendance were Johnny P Jank, Virginia Jank, Dawn Otto, Norrean Sager, organist Bruce Weise, Council President Marv Sager, and Pastor John Boor.

Old Business –

- **“Fill the Church Sunday”** was discussed and after some maneuvering of the schedule it was planned for the 4th Sunday of September, 27th. All will be encouraged to make an extra effort to bring family, friends and neighbors to church and a meal after the service.
- **Ad in Victoria Advocate** that we discussed at Worship Team and Council meeting an subsequently delayed any action pending review of “Service in the Crossroads” section is open for action as we will have some samples to review. After some discussion on

size of the 'ad', Obert moved to place a '1/4 page ad' in the upcoming Christmas edition. Johnny seconded. Motion passed.

- **“Quiet Bags”** Revised name **“Busy Bags”** Samples collected and filled by Heather were viewed. Worship team thought they will go over well and look forward to distributing them when they are ready. It was suggested we have a basket or box to house them in rather than the earlier idea of hooks on the cry room door. Virginia will bring a large basket from home.
- **Pre VBS service** on 14th of June Pastor John will have a commissioning of the VBS assistants.
- **Post VBS service** on 19th of June the VBS attendees will take part in the opening hymn part of the service.
- **Polka Service** was discussed and planned for 22nd November, pending acquiring Polka band.

New Business –

- **Contemporary Service** is being planned for the 9th of August.

Other New Business

- NALC has requested a 'Congregational Report' for the 2014 fiscal year. Johnny motioned, Dickie seconded to send the requested information. Motion passed.
- Percussion Films, LLC. has submitted a formal request for use of the Old Stone Church and the Parish Hall on June 26-27, for the production of a documentary regarding the role of the 'Black Robe Regiment' in the American Revolution. After much discussion, it was decided that there was not sufficient time to obtain all the necessary information, contracts and authorizations to ensure the safety of church property. Notification was given that the request was denied.

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

**This newsletter was printed prior to the July Council meeting, therefore these minutes have not yet been approved as written. Any amendments that are made will be printed in the September newsletter.*



A Back to School Prayer

A prayer you can pray over your school, your child's school, your grandchild's school, or even your neighborhood school.

Almighty and loving God,
we give you our school.
We give you all the teachers and staff
who work here.

We give you all the children
who study and learn here.
This school and all who are in it are yours.

We pray our school would be place of great
discovery, adventure and creativity.
May it be a place where we love to learn and
where we learn to love.
May it be a place where everyone is respected
and all are deeply valued.
May it be a place of safety and peace.

We ask all this through Jesus Christ
our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit now and forever,
Amen.



Look for us to be on Facebook soon.

St. John Meyersville

VOLUNTEERS THIS MONTH:

August 2

- Greeters** - Candace Cowley
Reader - Dwight Jander
Acolyte - *Volunteer Needed*

August 9

- Greeters** - Beverly Bodden
Reader - Jeffery Bennett
Acolyte - *Volunteer Needed*

August 16

- Greeters** - Dickie & Cathie Bettge
Reader - Marlene Rangnow
Acolyte - *Volunteer Needed*

August 23

- Greeters** - Marvin & Norrean Sager
Reader - Rylan Dreier
Acolyte - *Volunteer Needed*

August 30

- Greeters** - Glenn & Linda Ruschhaupt
Reader - Brenda Boor
Acolyte - *Volunteer Needed*

August Communion Assistant

Margie Swannack

August Altar Guild

MayDell Jacob & Brenda Boor

August Nursing Home Visitors

Marlene Rangnow

LOOKING AHEAD...

September 6

- Greeters** - Kernell & Elaine Moritz
Reader - Trish Hood
Acolyte - *Volunteer Needed*

September Communion Assistant

Brian Wendel

September Altar Guild

Pam Haun & Nikki Nagel

September Nursing Home Visitors

Margie Swannack

Volunteers: If you are down for a service, you are responsible for getting a substitute if you cannot make it. *Please let the church office know if you have switched so the correct names can be in the bulletin.*

Happy Birthday to:

- 4 - Glenda Henry
Sydney Moore
5 - Jaymee Rangnow
Madyx Blain
6 - Charles Baros
8 - Carol Bluntzer
Jo Beth Caskey
9 - LeAnn Jander
10 - Dionis Winsauer
11 - Caleb Nagel & Kyle Nagel
Kaley Otto
Nicholas Jacobs
Ruth Peters
12 - Caleb Reinecke
Dawn Euton
14 - Sandy Motley
16 - Marjorie Ideus
Marlene Dreier-Rangnow
Wiley Moritz
17 - Madeline Hoy
18 - John York Graham II
19 - Britany Jank
Linda Ruschhaupt
20 - Brett Hoy
Lauren Haun
21 - Lee Haun
Rick Garrett
Ryan Eichorn
22 - Jonathan Albrecht
23 - Betty Diebel
24 - Clifford Diebel
25 - Dianne Moeller
Meta Bennett
Paul Wendel
Wendy Bishop
27 - Kaysa Wunsch
Zachary Hoy
28 - Jason Hoy
Lesley Diebel-Brandes
31 - Bruce Brown

Anniversary Greetings to:

- 7 - John & Melinda Brewer
8 - Lloyd & Karen Copeland
15 - Paul & Shirley Wendel
Robert & M'Liss Moore
17 - Leroy & Beth Reinecke
18 - Keith & Kim Pare
24 - Glenn & Linda Ruschhaupt

