

## THE CHURCH BELL

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Member of North American Lutheran Church (NALC)

1764 Meyersville Rd.

Meyersville, TX 77974

361-277-8653



February 2016

VOL. 40 NO. 2

### Greetings

I have been reflecting lately on the missions we support. It is hard for us to visualize the hardships that many people in the world are experiencing. We live in a land that provides us with the opportunity to live very well. We also don't realize that there are many people in this country that are homeless or, do to circumstances beyond their control, are unable to live the life we live.

A few weeks ago I volunteered time at the Food Bank in Victoria, with Johnny, Virginia, and Meghan Jank. As we were sorting the food it truly touched my heart. We were sorting outdated food and if it was less than six months outdated we packaged it. How many of us throw this food away? And I thought of the people that are so grateful to have this food even though it is outdated.

Obert Sagebiel had another good crop of turnips this year and he called Camal house and offered to take some for them to distribute. He took six molasses tubs full of turnips in the morning and was confident that would be enough. In the mornings they only distribute to the seniors and when Obert returned an hour and a half later all of the tubs were empty. There weren't any left for the afternoon distribution. At our board meeting I found out that the seniors were very excited about having fresh turnips.

I mention this because we don't always appreciate what we have. We sometimes take things for granted. We assume we will have the money to buy the food we want, not just what we need. There are many in Dewitt County that are in need of our support.

I mention this because I just read an article in the paper about how the slowdown in the oilfields is affecting people that depended on the oilfields for a living. I am sure we will be seeing an increase in the number of people that need assistance in our area.

There are also many needs throughout the world. This congregation has always been very supportive of our monthly missions and it is gratefully appreciated. I pray that we continue to support our missions in the coming year.

Our support gives hope to those less fortunate. Our support is a sign to the less fortunate that God is watching over them.

God's blessings

Pastor John

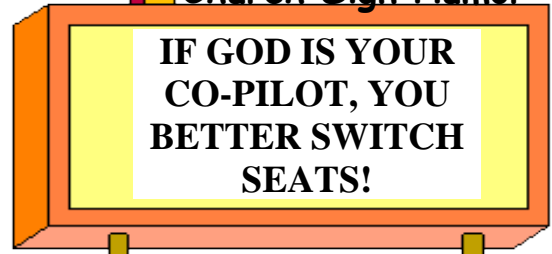
**If you or a family member is in the hospital and would like a pastoral visit, please contact the Church office (361/277-8653) or Pastor John Boor at the parsonage (361/275-9895) or on his cell (361/243-0373).** Due to the privacy laws, hospitals no longer notify pastors when a member is admitted or 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



Church Sign Humor



**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	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Adult	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
<b>Total Baptisms</b>	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6
Confirmations	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Weddings													
Members	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Non-Members	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	3
Funerals													
Members	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	5
Non-Members	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Counseling Sessions	4	3	4	2	3	3	4	3	4	2	3	3	38
Transfer Out	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer In	0	0	5	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	5	15
Home Visits	6	5	7	6	6	7	8	4	5	4	6	6	70
Hospital Visits													
Members	2	2	0	2	2	6	4	0	0	1	2	0	21
Non-Members	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	5
Private Communion													
Members	4	5	4	6	6	7	9	4	5	5	5	4	64
Non-Members	34	18	33	28	27	39	36	18	17	32	32	29	343
<b>PLEASE NOTE: LAST MONTH'S STATISTICS ARE TO DATE AS OF PRINTING TIME</b>													
Release of Membership		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restore to Membership		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	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  
 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



Notes from the Church Secretary

New office hours will be Tuesday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

### 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 March 2016 Church Bell is Friday, February 19, 2016 by 9a.m.

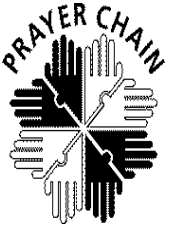
You can drop off your articles at the church office, or e-mail them to [stjohnevlutheran@juno.com](mailto:stjohnevlutheran@juno.com). Thanks!



### 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).



Prayer Requests

### Our Military and their families:

Nicholas Jacobs - deployed to Afghanistan  
 Russell Copeland - reserves, preparing to deploy  
 John Otto - USMC, Norfolk, VA  
 Jonathon Albrecht - U.S. Army, preparing to deploy

Chase Schroeder - U.S. Navy, USS Philippines  
 Austin Schroeder - U.S. Navy, preparing for Boot Camp

**Homebound:** Cleo Wendel, Janie Rangnow, Helen Mae Egg and Bette Jo Haun

Prayer requests cards are available in the pews and can be filled out and handed to an usher during the first hymn for your request to be included in the day's prayer. If you have a private prayer request please fill out the appropriate side and give to the pastor.

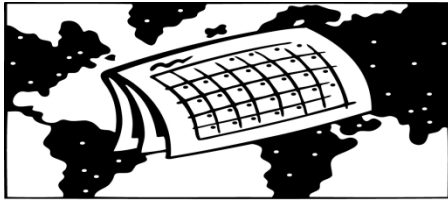
### ATTENTION ACOLYTES

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.



*Mission  
of the Month*

**Mission of the Month of February:**

Malawi Orphan Care Project

Our purpose is to partner with community leaders in Malawi to address the physical, spiritual, economic and relational needs of orphans and their caregivers in the Kanyenyeva area.

The Malawi Orphan Care Project exists to improve the lives of orphaned children and their caregivers.

MOCP is involved in the following programs: feeding programs, evangelism, sports program, high school scholarship program, elementary school fees, building infrastructure and creating small businesses.

Malawi is a small African nation the Southeastern part of the continent. 75% of the people live below the international poverty line of \$1.25 per day. They speak Chichewa but English is spoken in universities and businesses. Although most live in poverty they are known to be warm hearted, friendly and Christian. Almost 83% of the population of 15,000,000 are Christian

**Churches involved in this project are:**

First English Lutheran Church, Mansfield, OH  
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Crosby, MN  
Grace Ev. Lutheran Church, Springfield, OH  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Monroeville, OH  
Immanuel Lutheran Church of Lebanon, Watertown, WI

This is an NALC sanctioned mission

To read more about this mission please go to:  
[www.malawicareproject.org](http://www.malawicareproject.org)



**Ash Wednesday Service** will be  
February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

**Lenten Services** will be at 7:00 pm on  
Wednesdays, February 17<sup>th</sup> - March 23<sup>rd</sup>.



**Calling All New Members**

We would like our new members & all other members to please join us on February 7<sup>th</sup> after church for refreshments! Please give a warm welcome to our new members:



Archie & Virginia Abrameit  
Jason, Marigayle, Dylan & Megan Ohrt  
Morgan, Sharon & Morgan Mackenzie Goebel  
Stephanie & Jayce Egg  
Tamara, Jeff, Hudson & Morgan Zengerle  
Feather Diebel



**St. John Youth Group**

Daren & Dawn Otto

We had an attendance of 23 youth and adults at the January meeting. Thank you to Sara and Britton Blain for providing dinner for us.

The Youth are selling flag sponsorships for the Warriors Weekend Field of Honor until February 29<sup>th</sup>. We will be offering these after service, in front of the Church on February 7<sup>th</sup> and February 21<sup>st</sup>. Please think of all the military, past and present, that you would like to honor. You may also sponsor a flag for a soldier traveling here to participate in the Warriors Weekend event. Flag sponsorships are \$40 each and the Youth Group receives half of all sales. Thank you for participating in our fundraiser and honoring a soldier.

Our next meeting will be February 10, 2016.



**Primary Elections** are Tuesday March  
1<sup>st</sup> from 7:00 am - 7:00 pm.

# CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

December 22, 2015

By Church Secretary, Mitchell Jank

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

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

**DEVOTION:** Led by Glenn Ruschhaupt.

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

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Reviewed and approved.

## PASTOR'S REPORT

- We received 5 new members in December. The Jason Ohrt family and Stephanie Egg and Jayce Egg. I have been contacted by a member who advised me that there is someone else interested in joining our Church and they would be contacting me after the first of the year.
- The Zengerle family, Tamara, Jeff, and children Morgan and Hudson have asked to transfer in. Sara has sent the letter to Zion in Mission Valley and I need council approval to officially accept them in. Linda made a motion to accept the Zengerle family by transfer, Cathie seconded. Motion passed.
- We have a baptism on January 10, Barrett Reuben Blain.

## COUNCIL BUSINESS

### Old Business

- Update from the Nominating committee.

### Finance Team Report

Team met on December 14, 2015. Members present were Glenn Ruschhaupt, M'Liss Moore, Pastor John Boor and Marv Sager.

- **REVIEWS OF LATEST FINANCIAL REPORTS-** Reports were reviewed and various details discussed.

### Mission/Evangelism Team report

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

- Our mission for the month of January – **Samaritans Purse.**

### Parish Life Committee Report

Members: Cindy Egg, Candy Cowley, Beth Reinecke, Terri Jank-Team leader.

- No report

### Parish Education report

Submitted by Kathy Dunn

- Wanda and Kathy are working diligently on the Christmas Eve program. Wendy Bishop, Leanne and Dwight Jander, Leroy Reinecke, Carol Ann Sagebiel and Virginia and Johnny Jank have also been helping a lot. Dwight built a great nativity. We have approximately 15 participants including Barrett Blain as baby Jesus.
- Leanne Jander and Heather Roeske are our only teachers so Wanda and I fill in as needed.
- We used the advent curriculum that we bought last year from "[Gofishresources.com](http://Gofishresources.com)." We need to explore resources for the next quarter curriculum.

### The Property Team

Items Complete.

- Brush piles burned.
- Mr. Frankson was authorized to develop plans and specifications for the surface drainage system.
- Parish hall checked for burned out bulbs.
- AT&T contacted about cleaning up easement area.
- Heater inspected in church, parish hall, and parsonage.
- A/C filters checked.
- Sign cover has been installed.

Old Business.

- **Basement Renovation.** The property team decided to waive the requirement for umbrella insurance for this project since it is a relatively small job with minimum risk exposure.
- We need "Construction Area-No admittance" signs when demolition starts (Dickie).

New Business:

- Monday morning disposal of garbage. Clay and Dickie will take care of for time being.
- Storage of basement furniture. Glenn will look into renting a furniture pod to temporarily store basement furniture.

## Project List:

- Revision of cemetery rules. In progress.
- Signage to close cemetery at night. In progress
- Inventory of furniture and equipment & report to Church Council. Dickie
- Winterize plumbing at trees. In progress. Clay.
- Volleyball light fixtures and fencing. Corner posts were set on Aug. 6. Marv contacted Kenneth Schley to look at and give estimate to complete fence.
- Install holders in parking lot for crosses.
- Check with Sandy and Stacy about shelves and hang in nursery. Dickie
- Brush clearing at the creek. We will meet to determine what is needed and decide the best method to get accomplished.
- Sign cover and shade cover for thermometer.
- Need to replace the copper mesh under the gutters (bat deterrent).
- Road to creek. Gravel through the low area.
- Install plaques on cemetery benches. Need Council Approval
- Two bids were received for the basement demolition project. The lower of the two bids was from Blain Construction. Dickie made a motion to accept the bid from Blain Construction and allow them to move on with the project, seconded by Johnny. Motion passed.

## Women of the Church report.

Submitted by Cathie Bettge

- No Report

## Worship Team report

The Worship Team members Beverly Bodden, Johnny P Jank, Noreen Sager, Bruce Weise, Marv Sager, and Pastor John Boor.

- Team did not meet in December. No report.

## Council New Business

- **Funeral Service refreshment coordinator -**  
The church is in need of someone to serve as coordinator for refreshments following funeral services. Brenda Boor will no longer

serve in this position. It will be announced in church for volunteers to serve.

- **Annual Congregation meeting – January 24, 2016** immediately following worship service. Motion made by Dickie, seconded by Obert. Motion passed.  
**Agenda items** – Minutes of 2015 Annual Congregation Meeting, Treasurers report, Audit Committee report, Election of Officers and Council
- **Yearly Reports** - Team Leaders are asked to get their yearly reports to Pastor prior to January 10, 2016.

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

Keep up with St. John online



St. John Meyersville

<https://www.facebook.com/Stjohnmeyersville>

Or visit our website at [stjohnmeyersville.org](http://stjohnmeyersville.org)

## **VOLUNTEERS THIS MONTH:**

### **February 7**

**Greeters** - John & Margie Swannack  
**Reader** - Dwight Jander  
**Acolyte** - Seth Wendel

### **February 14**

**Greeters** - Britton & Sara Blain  
**Reader** - Jeffrey Bennett  
**Acolyte** - Caleb Reinecke

### **February 21**

**Greeters** - Daren & Dawn Otto  
**Reader** - Marlene Dreier-Rangnow  
**Acolyte** - Hayven Heil & Alyssa Blain

### **February 28**

**Greeters** - Alfred & Marlene Rangnow  
**Reader** - Johnna Kethan  
**Acolyte** - Caroline Roeske

### **February Communion Assistant**

Glenn Ruschhaupt

### **February Altar Guild**

Dee Moeller and Beverly Bodden

### **February Nursing Home Visitors**

Laurie Pokluda

### *LOOKING AHEAD...*

### **March 6**

**Greeters** - Cheryl Bramlette  
**Reader** - Dickie Bettge  
**Acolyte** - Caroline Roeske

### **March Communion Assistant**

Obert Sagebiel

### **March Altar Guild**

MayDell Jacob & Brenda Boor

### **March Nursing Home Visitors**

Candy Cowley

**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:**

- 1 - Amanda Denson  
Dorothy Fay Diebel  
Kendra Mayfield  
Virginia Jank
- 2 - Rebecca Dreier  
Sharon Palmer
- 3 - Wade Nagel
- 4 - Ernest Metting  
Jayce Egg
- 6 - Margaret Krause
- 9 - Ronnie Bennett
- 11 - Marjorie Dreier
- 13 - Dalton Ray Eckhardt
- 14 - Bobby Blain  
Robert Egg
- 15 - Jenny Sanders
- 16 - Norrean Sager
- 17 - Bill Wendel
- 18 - Alexis Rebecca Haun  
Robert Moeller
- 19 - Megan Ohrt
- 20 - Katheryne Freeman
- 21 - Kimberly Rangnow
- 22 - Dean Ohrt  
Laurie Wendel
- 23 - Lacey Paul
- 26 - Ty Johnson
- 27 - Alan Parsons
- 28 - Maverick Eckhardt  
Austin Chavez



## **Anniversary Greetings to:**

- 1 - Gordon & Jenny Gohmert
- 14 - Lindsey & Pam Ficklen
- 21 - Keith & Erin Collins



*Our apologies if we have missed your special date. Please contact the church office to help with corrections. Thank you.*