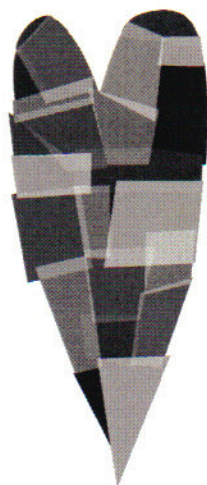
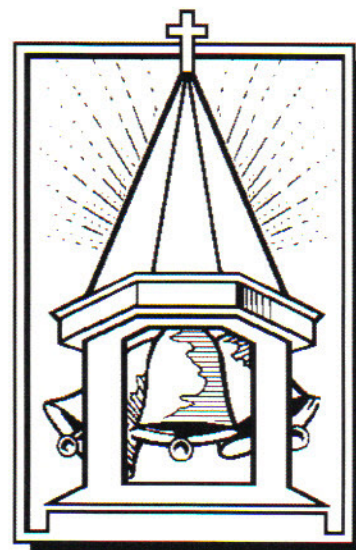


THE CHURCH BELL
St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Member of North American Lutheran Church (NALC)
1764 Meyersville Road
Meyersville, Texas 77974-4143
361-277-8653



I PRAY
THAT YOU
MAY... KNOW
THE LOVE
OF CHRIST
THAT
SURPASSES
KNOWLEDGE.
EPHESIANS 3:18-19, NRSV



February 2015

VOL. 39 NO. 2

Greetings,

As we embark on another New Year at St. John there are many things happening. I would like to welcome Marvin Sager and Glenn Ruschhaupt to the council.

I would also like to thank John Swannack for his service as council president. John was very dedicated. John guided the congregation through leaving the ELCA and the joining of the NALC. He also helped the transition to a new style of council which is functioning very well.

I would also like to thank Vance Egg for his service on council. Vance served on the property committee which Dickie Bettge heads and has spent countless hours serving the congregation.

We voted to approve a new sign for St John and I would like to thank those who have served on the committee formed by Dickie Bettge and led by Mike Chavez for the many hours they spent researching everything and preparing the proposal. They have more work to complete before the sign becomes a reality but I am confident they will accomplish it in a timely and organized fashion.

Finally I would like to thank everyone in the congregation for all of the good works they have done in the past year. The growth of St John and the many exciting activities would not be possible without you.

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	0	2	2	6	
Adult	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total Baptisms	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	6	
Confirmations	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
Weddings	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	
Funerals	0	1	1		0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	6	
Counseling Sessions	4	9	5	3	3	2	3	5	2	4	3	2	45	
Transfer Out	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Transfer In	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	
Home Visits	8	5	6	8	6	8	11	9	6	13	7	8	95	
Hospital Visits	2	5	2	5	7	6	2	0	3	6	6	4	48	
Total Visits	10	10	8	13	13	14	13	9	9	19	13	12	143	
Private Communion	18	22	25	18	32	38	42	43	37	39	32	31	377	
PLEASE NOTE: LAST MONTH'S STATISTICS ARE TO DATE AS OF PRINTING TIME														
Release of Membership													0	
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 2015

Pastor <i>John Boor</i>	275-9895 (Cell) 243-0373
Council President <i>Marvin Sager</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>Glenn Ruschhaupt</i>	275-2059
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



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.

**Office hours are:
Tuesday-Friday 9 a.m.-
1p.m. Check the calendar
for any changes to the
schedule.**



From the Church Office



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!



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

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.

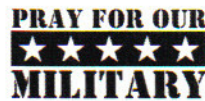
You can also communicate with the office via e-mail at: stjohnlutheran@juno.com



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 and their families, especially for: Nicholas Jacobs and Russell Copeland

TAX STATEMENTS: The end of year record of giving statements have been sent out. Just as a reminder, these statements will not include any memorial donations that you have made throughout the year. Please refer to the acknowledgement notes that you would have received at the time of donation for those amounts. If needed, you can request a copy of your memorial donations by contacting the Church office during regular hours.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for the March 2015 Church Bell is **Thursday, February 20, 2015 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. Thank you!

St. John's Mission for the Month:



**The Gideons
International**

The Gideons International is an Association of Christian business and professional men and their wives dedicated to telling people about Jesus through sharing personally and by providing Bibles and New Testaments.

While they are known worldwide for their work with hotels, they predominantly share Scriptures in schools and colleges, prisons and jails, hospitals and medical facilities. To date they have distributed 1.9 billion Scriptures and are on their way to 2 billion with support from fellow Christians.

WOMEN OF FAITH AREA WIDE CONFERENCE

February 21, 2015
10:00 a.m.

First Baptist Church, Cuero
408 North Gonzales Street

Guest Speakers:

Bailey Heard

"The Power of Love"

Tara Koonce

Inspirational Comedy Entertainer

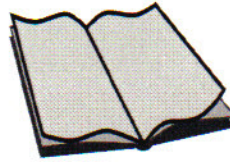
Music, Door Prizes and Lunch

All Proceeds to benefit:

BIBLES FOR PEOPLE

Tickets \$15.00 ea.

Contact Cathie Bettge if you would like to purchase a ticket for this event.



Ladies: The 2015 Women's Handbook has been printed. Please look for your copy in the Narthex.

The Women of First English Lutheran Church invite you to Bunco Night!

Monday, February 2,
2015

Registration 5:30 p.m.

Meal at 6:00 p.m.

Bunco Play at 7:00 p.m.



First English Lutheran
Activity Center
500 Block North Main-Victoria

Men are invited to come and play dominoes.

***RSVP Sandy Muegge- 573-7778 or the church office- 575-3623**

The sign-up sheet for Altar Flowers has been posted in the Narthex.

We have recently begun

having flowers adorning the Altar on the first Sunday of each month (except during Advent & Lent). Flowers may be placed in honor or memory of a loved one. Questions can be directed to M'Liss Moore, Laurie Pokluda, or Margie Swannack. Thank you.

*Altar
Flowers*



"Christ alone is, and He alone remains, the Bread of Life. This Bread gives the world eternal life and abolishes death. If He (Christ) gives the world eternal life, it follows that

He must drive away death; for the world is born in sin and death and is the devil's own."

- Martin Luther -

Sermon from November 26, 1530



Leroy Reinecke

&

Will, Heather, Bryant,
& Caroline Roeske

Mr. Reinecke transferred from Zion Lutheran Church in Mission Valley, TX. His wife, Beth, and sons, Travis and Caleb, transferred in mid-2014 and he was waiting for his Council term at Zion to end before transferring.

The Roeske family transferred from Our Savior Lutheran Church in Three Rivers, TX. They recently moved from George West to Goliad.

A NOTE OF



Thank you to St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church for your gifts and well wishes during the Christmas season. Your generosity and warmth was most appreciated as we celebrated the greatest gift given to each of us: Jesus Christ.

Thank you again for your gift.

Bruce A. Weise

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. In this season, we are not only reminded of Jesus' faithful and intentional journey to the cross, but also of his calling for us to "take up the cross" and follow him.



Please join us on Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at 7 p.m. for our traditional Ash Wednesday Service with Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes.

Refreshments to follow.



St. John Youth Group

Daren & Dawn Otto

Wishing everyone a happy and blessed 2015! When our group met in January, we did a Bible study over *1 Timothy 4:12*. This is the verse Youth Encounter has chosen for their QUAKE focus. The theme of the event is "REdefine". We had a great discussion over the topic of this verse and we encourage you to ask some of our youth about it. We have 13 youth registered and anxious to attend Quake. Please encourage and pray for them as this will be transformational weekend in their faith. We will be leaving after school on Friday, February 13th and returning on Sunday, February 15th.

Thank you to the Roeske Family who provided our meal for the January meeting. This is always a blessing and allows us as leaders to spend our time focused on the kids. Thank you to anyone that volunteers for this task.

Also, remember that the Youth Group is selling the flag sponsorships for the **Field of Honor**. We will conduct the sales two Sundays in February, after Church, but the Youth can sell these at any time. The deadline is February 28th. This is a wonderful way to honor those that sacrifice their time, some their health, and some their lives for the great USA! We had great results with this event last year and are hoping to honor even more men and women this year.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 11, 2015. Please encourage anyone in 6th-12th grade to attend our gatherings. We welcome St. John Youth as well as all youth from our area.

PARISH ED/SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER

MEETING: We will meet on Sunday, February 8, following Worship. All Sunday School Teachers and members of the Parish Ed Team are encouraged to attend.



Parish Ed. Meeting

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

December 23, 2014

By Church Secretary, Mitchell Jank

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

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

DEVOTION: Led by John Swannack

MINUTES: Minutes were reviewed and approved as amended.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Reviewed and approved.

PASTOR'S REPORT

- Pastor John presented information from the Mission Seminar on Home Churches and how they can be utilized to outreach to potential new members in the communities. He will get more information from our Mission liaison Bob Palin.
- Council reviewed the 'Wedding Policy' presented by Pastor. Kathy moved and M'Liss seconded that we accept it and begin using it in 2015. Motion passed.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

Old Business

- No Old Business

Finance Team Report

- No Finance 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.

- St. John's Mission for the Month of November – Friends of Madagascar.

Parish Life Committee Report

- Committee did not meet in December

Parish Education report

Team met October 19, 2014 after Church. Members present were Kathy Dunn, Wanda Hays, Diane Chavez and Johnny Jank.

- Video Equipment needs for Sunday School: Wanda Hays and I (by phone) met with Dave Thurman, Technology person for Cuero schools. He recommended:
 1. Dell Laptop- \$800 to 900 dollars
 2. Wireless printer/scanner Dell \$1765 and \$400.00

3. Blue tooth speakers; larger than what we have for more volume-\$250

4. Converting our internet to wireless: Wi-Fi router \$150

5. Labor and costs of service- FREE- Dave does not charge for churches!!!!!!

Total: 1,700.00

If Long throw lens is needed that could add \$1000-2000.00

John Swannack provided this info:

I talked to DeWitt Poth today (Dec.15th) about the capability to print from a laptop using the new machine. He said the copier is hooked up to the wireless router in the office. If the laptop is receiving the wireless signal from the office there should be no problem printing, accessing the internet etc. When we get the new laptop, I would recommend Matt and Stacy Nelson set it up to make sure everything works. They were the ones that set up our Wi-Fi a few years ago. Thanks, John

We took the lap top, projector and ELMO to Dave Thurman on Monday Dec 15th, but he won't be able to look at it till next week. Wanda will share the above info with Dave and see if that changes his recommendation.

- Sunday School Christmas Eve Program: We have had three practices, and will have dress rehearsal Monday night, Dec 22nd. Thanks to all who are helping, especially Johnny and Virginia Jank (lighting and stage and music), and Carol Ann Sagebiel and Diane Chavez (costumes), and the parents bringing lunch.

The Youth Group is doing the Live Nativity Christmas Eve as well. What a great way to get the youth involved!

- Advent Curriculum: I think this is great material for the younger kids. They can relate to the "Two Fish Guys" who provide an Opening Lesson by DVD that speaks very clearly to them about how to live our lives, and why Jesus was born to us, and about eternity.
- Youth group: Live Nativity mentioned above. They also put words into action with their service project on Dec 7th.
- Sunday School Attendance: Teacher and children attendance has been better recently. Confirmation class is really well attended. Jackie Parsons may have to quit; Diane Chavez is her sub, but not sure she will do it alone. Kerilyn Wendel, home from college, filled in for her mother last week and that was nice.

The Property Team

- Maintenance Schedule Jan. Check with maintenance employee for items needed on the grounds.
Pasture Lease due Mar. 1. Rental amount \$506/ Yr.

Items Complete

- Trees are planted in the cemetery.
- Lights in front of church were adjusted.
- Deep cleaning of parish hall and church completed.
- Safe combination found.
- Locks in parish hall and church were rekeyed.
- Check/clean filters to a/c in church, church office, Pastor's office, parish hall.
- Check parish hall classrooms for burned out lights, etc.
- Replaced light in church wing.
- Dan Dentler Memorial. Two concrete table and bench sets, two bench tops, and three curved benches were delivered on 12 /18/14. The table sets were set and the curved benches were stockpiled to be set at a work day. Total cost: \$1368.80.
- Bracing on elevator. Vance.

Old Business

- Church supplemental cleaner options. Bonnie Warwas will give the church and parish hall a good cleaning before Christmas. At that time we will determine interest in weekly cleaning.
- Projector equipment for Sunday school. The projector equipment will be checked by the IT specialist at the High School to determine what is needed. He will do this for the church without charge.

New Business:

1. Church renovation: Rawley McCoy & Associates have provided a revised proposal for us to sign and return. Patrick Ohrt measured the building and will start on drawings of buildings. Dickie signed and returned the contract.
2. Asbestos renovation/demolition survey. New bids were presented without the parish hall since we are not planning immediate renovations on this building. There were questions regarding liability coverage. Dickie contacted Church Mutual to determine our exposure and get recommendations. The following are recommendations from Church Mutual:
To follow up our phone discussion, you will need to get a document called a Certificate of Insurance from any contractor who may be working on the church property. This document should be obtained before any work begins.

The Certificate of Insurance should list the church as Additional Insured, not simply a Certificate Holder.

You will want to make sure that the contractor's Workers' Comp insurance is also documented.
You will want to see minimum limits of insurance of \$1,000,000.
This information was emailed to Patrick Ohrt.

3. Brush control in church pasture. Keith Corporon finished cutting and treating stumps in the church pasture.

Project List:

- A. Volley ball poles and crosses have been sand blasted and primed. Glenn will work with Wendel Sandblasting to get them painted.
- B. New light fixtures at church entrance.
- X. Meeting with Surface Burial concerning cemetery 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.
- Δ. Revision of cemetery rules. We discussed downloading cemetery rules used by the Catholic Churches as a guide to revising our rules. Dickie will download.
- E. Parsonage rodent problem. Pastor will build covers out of hardware cloth to insert into the access holes to prevent animals from entering. Hardware cloth will be installed in the ground to prevent rodent access.
 1. Cemetery graves needing attention: Willie Mae and Erwin Brandt. Clay found that Beverly Hartman was a relative of Willie Mae and Erwin Brandt. He will follow up to determine if the family will do the necessary work on these graves. Alfred and Bertha Albrecht. Dickie made another contact with Ray Albrecht concerning the graves. Surface Burial will fix the Albrecht graves when they do the work on the Ralph Egg grave. Surface Burial also noted that they will fix the Hartman grave at that time.
 2. Eagle Scout Project, Dylan Ohrt. Marv and Dickie met with Jason and Dylan Ohrt on 12/14/14. They assessed the creek site and thought that it would make a good Eagle Scout project. He will develop a plan and requested that we notify him of any recreational items that we might want incorporated into the site.
- X. Check AT&T easement area for vegetation. Contact AT&T as needed. Telephone message left and emailed on 11/3/14. The call was returned and they will process a work order to get the job done. Dickie.
- Δ. Two sills under the stage could provide a pathway for termites. These sills may need to be removed or modified.
- E. Conversion of one of the basement walls to a chalk board wall. Glenn
- Φ. Dan Dentler Memorial. We need to determine the desired wording to be inscribed on the "in memory of" plates, order them and install them.
- Γ. Signage to close cemetery at night. Clay
- H. Inventory of furniture and equipment & report to Church Council. Dickie

Workday Items:

- α. Re-grade area along the garage to provide better drainage.
- β. Propane tank leaning.
- χ. Clean storage rooms in basement and parish hall.
- δ. Clean out the lawn mower building.
- ε. Set the curved concrete benches under the tree in the cemetery.
- φ. Trim established trees at cemetery.
- γ. Trim crepe myrtles.

Items for Council approval

- Church sign recommendation.
 Lewis Sign Bid.
 Concrete block monument with lettering as shown on drawings \$ 4,893.00
 2'-9" X 7'-10" Electronic Message Center
 \$ 13,315.00
 Installation of sign
\$ 8,596.00
 Total
 \$ 26,804.00
 Sign Works Bid.
 Material and installation of concrete monument (separate contract) \$ 5,000.00
 4' X 8' LED Message Center & installation on poles
 \$12,400.00
 Letters and installation
\$ 1,895.00
 Total
 \$19,295.00
 Sign Works is recommended by the property team.
 Dickie moved and Linda seconded to present this bid to the congregation with an added expense line for electrical and water. Motion passed.
- Proposed rental fees for the parish hall, sanctuary, and basement for weddings. We discussed fees charged by other churches and recommend the following rates:
 Church and Basement- Members \$100; Non-members \$300 with a \$200 cleaning deposit. The fees for the parish hall have already been established and approved.

Women of the Church report.

Submitted by Cathie Bettge

- Checks have been mailed to the Ronald McDonald House (\$200) and NALC Disaster Relief Fund (\$500) for children affected by severe weather earlier this year. This if from Thankoffering received at the Nov. 9th service

Worship Team

Worship Team met late November just before the last

council meeting and transacted all business necessary and therefore dispensed with the regularly scheduled December meeting.

Council New Business

1. All committees are asked to get their annual reports to the church secretary by Jan. 15, 2015 so they can be added to the Annual Report for printing by Sunday Jan. 18, 2015.

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

A portion of "Reflections from Epiphany 2015" by Bishop John Bradosky, The NALC News, January 2015

. . . Paul writes in his letter to the Galatians, "You are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ" (Galatians 3:26-27). The words spoken to Jesus at the Jordan are words for us to hear. They are addressed to us as well: "You are my Son, (you are my Daughter,) with you I am well pleased." St. Augustine paraphrases, [God says to us] "On You I have set my favor; through you I am doing what is my pleasure."

Through you I am blessing your family...

Through you I am reaching people in your workplace...

Through you I am working my perfect plan...

Through you I am strengthening my ministry in your congregation...

You are God's beloved. Everything must start there, struggling to remember and live your baptismal identity in Christ, free to confess.

2015, like every year, will have its ups and downs.

"Remember who you are."

Some ventures will fail. Some will succeed.
"Remember who you are."

Temptations will come to give up or become cynical.

"Remember who you are."

Jesus says to us: "You are my Beloved, in you I am pleased."

Read more online: www.thenalc.org

VOLUNTEERS THIS MONTH:

February 1

Greeters - John & Margie Swannack

Acolyte - Austin Chavez

February 8

Greeters - Ruth Peters

Acolyte - Caden & Cason Jander

February 15

Greeters - Darren & Dawn Otto

Acolyte - Mackenzie Blain

February 22

Greeters - Alfred & Marlene Rangnow

Acolyte - Will Green

February Communion Assistant

Pam Haun

February Altar Guild

Pam Haun & Nikki Nagel

February Nursing Home Visitors

Laurie Pokluda

LOOKING AHEAD...

March 1

Greeters - John & Margie Swannack

Acolyte - *(volunteer needed)*

March Communion Assistant

Johnny Jank

March Altar Guild

Betty Diebel & Virginia Jank

March Nursing Home Visitors

Candy Cowley

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

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 switch 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
- 6 - Margaret Krause
- 9 - Ronnie Bennett
- 10 - Rubert Egg
- 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
- 20 - Katheryne Freeman
- 21 - Kimberly Rangnow
- 22 - Dean Ohrt
Laurie Wendel
- 23 - Lacey Paul
- 26 - Ty Johnson
- 27 - Alan Parsons
- 28 - Maverick Eckhardt

Anniversary Greetings to:

- 1 - Gordon & Jenny Gohmert
- 14 - Lindsey & Pam Ficklen

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

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January 29, 2015
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



DING-A-LING
CORNER



February 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

