

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

1764 Meyersville Rd.
Meyersville, TX 77974
361-277-8653



March 2016

VOL. 40 NO. 3

Greetings,

Matthew 28:19 reads; *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.”* Jesus has commanded us to go forth. In Acts 1:8 Jesus says, *“and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”*

We are to go forth and spread the good news to the entire world. But so often we fall short. So often we have the chance to reach out to someone, or a chance to share the word and we hesitate. In the end, it doesn't really take much for us either, does it? All it takes for some to deny Jesus some days is the risk of a little loss of popularity among the co-workers, the loss of a little popularity among the neighbors, and possibility of not seeming “nice.” All it takes some days to deny Jesus is the risk of a little strife in the family, or even the risk of being alienated by worldly acquaintances who despise Jesus but whose affection we covet. Ultimately, it doesn't take much for those bold promises we made at our confirmation, to “suffer all, even death” rather than fall away from “this confession and Church” to be conveniently ignored.

As I reflect on this I realized how far we fall short. With the current attitude toward Christians in today's society and the political correctness it is sometimes difficult to take that step and stand up for Christ, to communicate the good news of Christ. But that is what we are commanded to do.

I listen to Glenn Beck when I can and this week he has quoted Bonhoeffer several times and I believe it applies to our situation regarding the spreading of the good news as well. The quote is, “Silence in the face of evil is evil itself.” We have a responsibility to spread the good news.

In this season of Lent we are to reflect and repent. I pray that we will all reflect on the opportunities we may have missed. I pray that we will commit to spread the good news at every opportunity in the coming year. If we do we can change the world, one life at a time.

God's blessings,
Pastor John

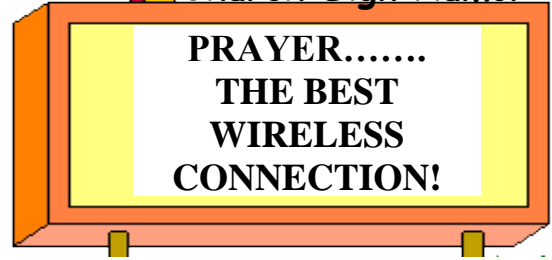
If you or a family member is in the hospital and would like a pastoral visit, please contact the Church office (361/277-8653) or Pastor John Boor at the parsonage (361/275-9895) or on his cell (361/243-0373). Due to the privacy laws, hospitals no longer notify pastors when a member is admitted or treated. 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 2016

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Infant/Child	2												2
Adult	0												0
Total Baptisms	2												2
Confirmations	0												0
Weddings													
Members	0												0
Non-Members	0												0
Funerals													
Members	0												0
Non-Members	0												0
Counseling Sessions	3												3
Transfer Out	0												0
Transfer In	0	5											5
Home Visits	7												7
Hospital Visits													
Members	4												4
Non-Members	1												1
Private Communion													
Members	5												5
Non-Members	34												34
PLEASE NOTE: LAST MONTH'S STATISTICS ARE TO DATE AS OF PRINTING TIME													
Release of Membership	0	0											0
Restore to Membership	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 - Tammy Blain 935-7751

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
Worship Team - Johnny Jank 575-6813



Notes from the Church Secretary

New office hours will be Tuesday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Please see bulletins 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 April 2016 Church Bell is Friday, March 18, 2016 by 9 a.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!

ATTENTION ACOLYTES

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

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, Norfolk, VA



Prayer Requests

Jonathon Albrecht - U.S. Army, preparing to deploy

Chase Schroeder - U.S. Navy, USS Philippines

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

Please Pray For: Lisa Kincart, Adam Womble

Homebound: Cleo Wendel, Helen Mae Egg

and Bette Jo Haun



We keep the family of Janie Rangnow in our Prayers. May God comfort you at your time of loss.

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.

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 of March:

**Wounded Warriors Weekend
Victoria, Texas**

Mission Statement

Founded in 2007, Warrior’s Weekend is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 Corporation dedicated to the support of veterans of The United States of America with an emphasis on those wounded in The Global War on Terrorism. This is accomplished through holding an annual fishing event for wounded military personnel in May in Port O’Connor, Texas as well as donations to veterans and veteran based causes.

- 500 Veterans from around the United States are selected to participate.
- Military bases around the country select those who come for the weekend.
- There are about 300 wounded vets who are flown in from these military bases.
- One need is for funds before the event is so they have enough monies to purchase airline tickets. The average cost of an airline ticket is \$400.00 each and is paid for in March.

For more information, please go to their website at: www.warriorweekend.org

Let’s Keep Our Cemetery Looking Nice

With spring rapidly approaching, and Easter right around the corner we encourage everyone to please attach flowers firmly to headstones so they are not deposited all over the cemetery when spring winds come. Also, if you see litter in the cemetery, please help us by depositing it in the available trash containers.

Thanks,
Property Team

Lenten Services will be at 7:00 pm on Wednesdays, February 17th - March 16th.

- Palm Sunday** is March 20th, Youth will carry the palms.
- Maundy Thurs. Service** will be on March 24th at 7:00 pm.
- Good Friday Service** will be on March 25th at 7:00 pm.
- Easter Sunday Sunrise Service** will be at 7:30 am, following will be a pancake breakfast in the Parish Hall.
- Resurrection Egg Hunt** will start at 9:15 am.
- Easter Worship** will be at 10:15 am.



MS150 Bicycle Ride

The BP MS 150 is the largest non-profit event of its kind in North America with 13,000 cyclists, 3,000 volunteers and countless supporters and spectators. It is a two day bike ride beginning in Houston and cycling to LaGrange, then from LaGrange to Austin. The ride totals over 150 miles. Beth Reinecke is riding in the MS150 this April and needs your help. If you are able, please consider donating to help find a cure for Multiple Sclerosis. The link to my page is below. Thank you in advance for your support. <http://bndfr.com/485zR>



St. John Youth Group

Daren & Dawn Otto

We are continuing to have 20 – 25 youth attend our monthly gatherings. We are very thankful for this response and are blessed to have such a wonderful group of youth at St. John. Thank you to Tori Green for providing a meal to us for our February meeting.

The Youth are selling flag sponsorships for the Warriors Weekend Field of Honor and offered these after Church twice during February. If you weren’t able to purchase a flag during that time and would like to, please contact the Church office or contact me (Dawn 550-9167) and I will be glad to take care of it for you. This will be available through March 15th.

If you purchased a flag and would like to post it at the Field of Honor in Victoria, you may do so on Saturday, May 7th. Our Youth will be assisting with this event. Thank you for helping our youth to honor a veteran, encourage a soldier, and build a community.

Youth Group will meet next on **Wednesday, March 23rd**. This will be our monthly gathering at which time we will be practicing for the Easter Sunrise Service. Please make sure you are at this meeting, especially if you plan to participate on Easter morning.

Once again, the Youth Group parents will be hosting the pancake breakfast after the Sunrise Service. Please contact Dawn or Daren if you can help with this event.



If any youth (Grades 2-5) would like to attend Camp Chrysalis this summer, please talk with Dawn Otto. If you are older than 5th grade and have not been contacted about camp, please see Dawn also.

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

January 26, 2015

By Church Secretary, Mitchell Jank

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

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

DEVOTION: Led by Marv Sager.

MINUTES: Minutes were reviewed and approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Reviewed. Motion to approve by Linda, seconded by Dickie. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT

- On the 12th I attended a Mission District Pastor's meeting. I feel with the new dean we are getting more information as to what is happening in the NALC. The Dean shared several items that were discussed at the dean's meeting with the Bishop.
- I volunteered with Johnny Jank and family at the Victoria Food Bank in Victoria on the 8th. The Camal House volunteers at the Food Bank on the first Friday of each month. I look forward to participating in the future.
- We have had two infant baptisms this year and I have been contacted about a wedding sometime this summer by a step-daughter of one of our members. I don't have a final date as of yet.
- We have received the paperwork back from Mission Valley regarding the Zengerle family and I will be talking with them about accepting them as new members in the near future.
- I have also been contacted by Feather Diebel about her becoming a member. I have to meet with her in the near future. I ask for Council approval to accept her transfer request. Motion was made by Mitchell, seconded by Tammy. Motion passed.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

Old Business

- Still looking for someone to help coordinate funeral luncheons when necessary.

Finance Team Report

Team meets every other month. The team did not meet in January.

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 –
Malawi Orphan Care Project.

Parish Life Committee Report

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

- It was decided to have refreshments after church on February 7, 2016 to welcome all new members. Terri contacted Sara and asked her to look up all new members for the last 6 months. She is going to have an announcement in the February newsletter with a list of new members inviting the congregation to join us in welcoming our new members.
- The Parish Life Team will meet again in March to discuss Church under the trees, which will be April 10, 2016.

Parish Education report

Submitted by Kathy Dunn

- Wanda and Kathy directed the **Christmas Eve Program** from Concordia, "Light A Candle." Special help from LeAnn and Dwight Jander, Wendy Bishop, Beth and LeRoy Reinecke, Norrean Sager and Carol Ann Sagebiel, and Virginia and Johnny Jank. Linda and Glenn Ruschhaupt prepared the gift bags and distributed them. 25 Children participated and we were so pleased that many teenagers wanted to be in the program.
- The **Youth Group** put on a **Live Nativity Scene** before and after the program. There were many animals and a complete "hay barn."
- Curriculum: We are currently using Concordia Buzz Instant Sunday School teaching material. Concordia is one of the publishing companies that NALC recommends, and we have used for many years.
- I put out a plea in the annual Report: "**It is easy and requires little preparation. Please consider volunteering to help teach our children, the future leaders of our congregation! Call or text Kathy 275-4322 or Wanda 361-648-4033.**"

The Property Team

Items Complete.

- Winterize hydrants at trees in cemetery.
- Volleyball court fence and poles are installed.
- Fan blade has been removed from the 3 blade fan to prevent wobble when fans are needed. Still looking for replacement blade.
- Soil samples were taken by Mr. Frankson for possible relocation of septic field for the church.

Old Business:

- Basement demolition progress. Patrick is drawing up the final contract. We are evaluating options for furniture storage. We are looking at storage pods (buy or rent) or vans (Darren Otto).
- Insurance requirement policy. The property team has been discussing whether to require liability insurance from all our vendors. This requirement could impact our hiring of contractors for small jobs as well as cleaning services. We are seeking professional guidance on this issue.

New Business:

- Dean Ohrt would like to plant a tree on church grounds in memory of Patty. The committee discussed planting a tree along the fence between the dumpster and cemetery gate or at the new camping area near the creek. Vance will work with Dean in locating a possible site.
- Problems with electric socket at pulpit. Clay and Vance will check out and repair.
- Surface drainage plans and specifications. The plans from Mr. Frankson were reviewed. Items to verify are as follows:
 - A. Special compaction around the pipe where it goes under the existing road around the parish hall.
 - B. Need to verify that the inlets are set at the proper elevation to provide grade away from the church if new sidewalks are installed and if the steps on the West wing are extended.
- Workers comp. insurance policy. We received a copy of our workers comp. insurance policy with a bill for \$969 based upon our annual audit.
- B. J. Nelson from White Trash Service called and inquired if we want to upgrade our service to include a new dumpster that can be loaded from their truck. The service would cost an additional \$75.00/ month plus one time setup of \$200.00 and we would need to provide a better road since the truck will be heavier. At this time, we felt that there are no benefits to the church and therefore declined the new service.

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
- Install holders in parking lot for crosses.
- Check with Sandy and Stacy about shelves and hang in nursery. Sandy will mark the proposed location and Clay will attach the shelves to the wall.
- Brush clearing at the creek. We will meet to determine what is needed and decide the best method to get accomplished.
- Shade cover for thermometer.
- Need to replace the copper mesh under the gutters (bat deterrent).
- Road to creek. Gravel through the low area. Clay will get bids from Dunn Services and Brian Nethery to install compacted gravel through this area.
- Install plaques on cemetery benches.

Items for Council approval:

- The team proposed purchasing one or two 8x20 storage pods at a cost of \$3500 each. There was some discussion if there was a need for two. Linda made the motion to purchase one initially and try to make that one enough, seconded by Tammy. Motion passed.

Women of the Church report.

- No Report

Worship Team report

The Worship Team met on January 5, 2016. Members Beverly Bodden, Johnny P Jank, Virginia Jank, Dawn Otto, Carol Ann Sagebiel, Noreen Sager, Bruce Weise, Marv Sager, and Pastor John Boor.

Old Business –

- **3rd Sunday Station Communion** pros & cons were discussed. We talked about the need to balance worship time concerns with traditional & personal worship needs. We agreed to continue the station communion on the 3rd Sunday only for now.

New Business –

- **5th Sunday January Contemporary Service** is on the church calendar. Type of service was considered with options being regular order of worship with contemporary music or full contemporary format and contemporary Christian music.
- **Kids Church** is a concept that has been discussed off and on for some time. Recently a couple of people have asked if we have ever considered it. Some things to consider is how it might affect Sunday school attendance, age limits for the children, who is going to run it, what curriculum is going to be used, and what other teams will be effect? We discussed these possibilities and how they might be done and decided it will take some more planning, so it was tabled for now.
- **Lenten services** – were discussed and Pastor John has a package for the mid-week services he intends to use. The possibility of a Tenebrae service for Good Friday is also being considered. We will talk more about this at the February meeting.

Other New Business

Assign Songs for Worship – 3rd January through 28th February 2016

Council New Business

- None.

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

VOLUNTEERS THIS MONTH:

March 6

- Greeters** - Marvin & Norrean Sager
- Reader** - Dickie Bettge
- Acolyte** - Caroline Roeske

March 13

- Greeters** - Volunteer Needed
- Reader** - Jeffrey Bennett
- Acolyte** - Will Green

March 20

- Greeters** - Beverly Bodden
- Reader** - Marlene Dreier-Rangnow
- Acolyte** - Jeri Ficklen

March 27

- Greeters** - Dickie & Cathie Bettge
- Reader** - Caden Jander
- Acolyte** - Michele Motley

March Communion Assistant

Obert Sagebiel

March Altar Guild

May Dell Jacob & Brenda Boor

March Nursing Home Visitors

Candy Cowley

LOOKING AHEAD...

April 3

- Greeters** - Glenn & Linda Ruschhaupt
- Reader** - Kernell Moritz
- Acolyte** - Volunteer Needed

April Communion Assistant

John Swannack

April Altar Guild

Pam Haun & Nikki Nagel

April Nursing Home Visitors

Carol Ann Sagebiel

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** - Crystal Eichhorn
Garlan Moeller
- 3** - Kathy Dunn
Tabitha Johnson
- 6** - Dee Moeller
- 7** - Buck Blain
Daniel Macon
- 8** - Cody Bishop
Michele Motley
- 10** - Beth Reinecke
Donna Gohmert
- 11** - Tammy Blain
Kyler Leist
- 14** - Gary Moeller
- 15** - Richard Egg
- 17** - Henry Lee Rangnow
- 19** - Alfred Rangnow
- 25** - Marvin Sager
Melanie Light
- 28** - Heather Wendel
- 29** - Leon Dohman
- 30** - Cindy Egg
- 31** - Milan Eckhardt



Anniversary Greetings to:

- 2** - Fred & Rose Mueller
Stanley & Donna Fuchs
- 6** - Sandy & Vicki Motley
- 7** - Kenneth & Betty Diebel
- 18** - Alfred & Marlene Dreier-Rangnow
- 24** - Mike & Wanda Rangnow
- 28** - Kyle & Melinda Nethery
- 29** - Patrick & Meagan Oehlke



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