

*He came  
... to bear  
witness  
about the  
light*

*John 1:7*

## **ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

A North American Lutheran Church

1764 Meyersville Road

Meyersville, TX 77974-4143

**CHURCH OFFICE: 361-277-8653**

[stjohnvlutheran@juno.com](mailto:stjohnvlutheran@juno.com)

**PARSONAGE: 361-275-9895**

(Pr. John's Cell: 361-243-0373)

[jboor1@juno.com](mailto:jboor1@juno.com)

Ministers - The People of St. John

Pastor - The Rev. John Boor

Organist - Mr. Bruce A. Weise

### **Third Sunday of Advent**

December 17, 2017

**Greeter This Week:** Beverly Bodden

**Greeter Next Week:** John & Margie Swannack

**Reader This Week:** Kernell Moritz

**Reader Next Week:** Mackenzie Blain

**Acolytes This Week:** Volunteer Needed

**Acolytes Next Week:** Marlee Blain

**Altar Guild This Month:** MayDell Jacob & Brenda Boor

**Altar Guild Next Month:** Pam Haun & Nikki Carver

**Communion Assistant This Month:** Johnny Jank

**Communion Assistant Next Month:** Glenn Ruschhaupt

**Large Print Bulletins** are available in the Narthex. Ask an usher for a copy.

**Busy Bags** are available in the Narthex for all children to enjoy.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

We the members of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church of Meyersville, strive to be witnesses for Christ, a Christian family striving to be models and examples to others, loving one another and trying to be friendly to all; acknowledging that we are sinful, but being patient, faithful, giving, caring, forgiving, and forgiven believers.

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

You are invited to commune with us if, as a baptized Christian, you believe that you are a sinner and in need of God's forgiveness; that the body and blood of Jesus are truly present in the Sacrament; that this is more than a symbolic act, but a way God proclaims forgiveness to us who are repentant.

*May your participation increase your faith and strengthen your love for God and one another.*

## HOLY COMMUNION

*The Service begins with the first notes of the prelude. Please show your respect with silent meditation at this time.*

### PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISES AND CONCERNS

Lighting of the Advent Candle

HYMN: WOV #630 3<sup>rd</sup> Verse "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"

Stand p. 56: BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

HYMN: LBW #26 "Prepare the Royal Highway"

p. 57-58: KYRIE

p. 60: HYMN OF PRAISE "This is the Feast"

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you,

C **And also with you. (sung)**

P Let us pray:

**All: Lord Jesus Christ, give ear to our prayers, and lighten the darkness of our hearts by your gracious visitation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### Sit CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

#### FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

<sup>1</sup>The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup>to grant to those who mourn in Zion — to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified. <sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

<sup>8</sup>For I the Lord love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant

with them. <sup>9</sup>Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the Lord has blessed. <sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

## RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 126

<sup>1</sup>When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.

**<sup>2</sup>Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

<sup>3</sup>Then they said among the nations,  
“The Lord has done great things for them.

**<sup>4</sup>The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we are glad indeed.**

<sup>5</sup>Restore our fortunes, O Lord,  
like the watercourses of the Negev.

**<sup>6</sup>Those who sowed with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.**

<sup>7</sup>Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

## SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise prophecies, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast what is good. <sup>22</sup>Abstain from every form of evil. <sup>23</sup>Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

Stand p. 62 GOSPEL VERSE “Alleluia”

GOSPEL READING

John 1:6-8, 19-28

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.** (*sung*)

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>19</sup>And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” <sup>20</sup>He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” <sup>22</sup>So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” <sup>23</sup>He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.” <sup>24</sup>(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) <sup>25</sup>They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” <sup>26</sup>John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, <sup>27</sup>even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” <sup>28</sup>These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.** (*sung*)

Sit SERMON

HYMN: LBW #39 “Joy to the World”

Stand p. 65: APOSTLES’ CREED

p. 65: PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

p. 66: SHARING OF THE PEACE

Sit OFFERING

Stand p. 66: OFFERTORY: “Let the vineyards...”

p. 67: OFFERTORY PRAYER

p. 68: THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

p. 70: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER #33 (right column)

p. 71: LORD’S PRAYER

p. 72: LAMB OF GOD

Sit      DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION  
          SOFT HYMNS FOR MEDITATION

Stand p. 72: POST COMMUNION: “Thank the Lord . . .”  
       p. 74: PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

Pastor:     Go in peace, serve the Lord

**People:    Thanks be to God**

THE DOXOLOGY (Hymn #565)  
POSTLUDE

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN

### **Today 12/17 Third Sunday of Advent**

9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Adult Bible Study

10:15 a.m. Worship

*\*Christmas play practice during Sunday School*

### **Mon 12/18 Office Closed**

**Tues 12/19** 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Office Hours

**Wed 12/20** 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Office Hours

10:00 a.m. Comm. Service Cuero Nursing & Rehab.

1:30 p.m. Quilters

7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study

**Thurs 12/21** 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Office Hours

6:00 p.m. Play Practice Dress Rehearsal

*\*Committee Reports Due*

**Fri 12/22** 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Office Hours

*\*Newsletter Deadline*

### **Next Sun Fourth Sunday of Advent~Christmas Eve**

10:15 a.m. Worship

6:30 p.m. Christmas Program

10:30 p.m. Candlelight Service

w/Communion



***Welcome Visitors! We would like to extend a special welcome to all visitors. If you are looking for a church home, we pray you would consider St. John's.***

*Prayer request 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.*

### **Sunday, December 10, 2017**

**Offering:** General \$1,966.86, MOM \$562.00,\$3.00(Nov.), Youth \$20.00, Sunday School \$17.00(12-3-17), Cemetery \$20.00, NALC \$20.00 Church Reno. \$2,315.00, Organ \$2.00, Building \$20.00 **Total: \$4,945.86**

**Attendance:** Worship- 95 Sunday School- 15-Adults, 12-Children

## Mission of the Month of December



### Stevenson's Unit Prison Ministry

#### Mission Statement

Our mission for the month of December is the Stevenson's Unit Prison Ministry. This is a ministry that is trying to gather funds to build a chapel at the Stevenson Prison in Cuero.

The state does not grant permission to build chapels until they are fully funded. There are seven prison chapels in the state of Texas.

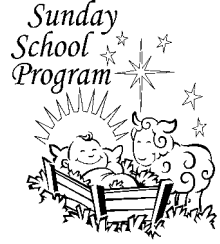


3RD SUNDAY OF *Advent*



## Christmas Eve Program

St. John Lutheran Sunday School will be performing "Away in a Manger" on Sunday, Christmas Eve at 6:30 p.m. in the church. We need to know if your child will be able to participate in the presentation so that we can assign parts. The Youth Group can also help with the program even if they are in the Live Nativity. We will have practice on:



**Sunday, December 3rd during Sunday School - 9 am to 10 am**

**Sunday, December 10th during Sunday School**

**Sunday, December 17th during Sunday School**

**Thursday, December 21st at 6 pm for Dress Rehearsal**

Please call or text (361-275-4322 Kathy or 361-648-4033 Wanda) or let us know at Sunday School or church. Parents are **welcome** to come to the practices to help us get organized. We are looking forward to another wonderful Christmas Eve Program, as we celebrate Jesus' birth!

Yours in Christ,

Wanda Hays & Kathy Dunn



### Services:

*Communion Service 10:15 am*

*Live Nativity 5:30 pm*

*Christmas Program 6:30 pm*

*Candlelight Service w/ Communion 10:30 pm*



### Attention Acolytes

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



*With  
Sympathy*

*We keep the family of Arlen Mueller in our Prayers, who went to be with the Lord on Saturday, December 9, 2017. May God comfort his family at this time of loss.*

*We keep the family of William Cochran in our Prayers, who went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, December 5, 2017. May God comfort his family at this time of loss.*

### **Sunday School**

There will be no Sunday school classes on December 24<sup>th</sup>. Classes will resume on December 31, 2017.



### **Church Readers**

If you would like to be a reader for the 2018 year, please contact Dawn Otto or sign up on the reader sheet in the Narthex. Thank you!

### **Church Greeters**

If you would like to be a church greeter for the 2018 year, please sign up on the greeter sheet in the Narthex.

Thank you!



### **Church Renovation Fund**

On August 28, 2016, our congregation voted to establish a fund for installation of the elevator and other church renovations. Anyone wishing to give to the renovation project may do so by designating "Church Renovation" or "Elevator Fund" on their check or on the pew giving envelope.



**PRAYER REQUESTS:** 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 (361-275-5979)

**Our Military and their families:**

Nicholas Jacobs - U.S. Air Force,  
Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada  
Russell Copeland - U.S. Army Reserves  
John Otto - USMC, Cuba  
Jonathon Albrecht - U.S. Army, Kentucky  
Chase Schroeder - U.S. Navy  
Austin Schroeder - U.S. Navy  
Jennifer Cornett - U.S. Air Force  
Lee Magrauder - U.S. Army, Afghanistan  
Katrina Moritz - U.S. Air Force



**Please Pray for:** Adam Womble  
Nate Boehl  
Hunter Jacob  
Glynn Yurick  
Kenny Jacob  
Sandy Gohmert  
Jimmy Caskey

**Nursing Home:** Marjorie Ideus, Yorktown Nursing & Rehabilitation

**Homebound:** Helen Mae Egg, Bette Jo Haun



Keep up with St. John online  
St. John Meyersville  
<https://www.facebook.com/Stjohnmeyersville>  
Or visit our website at: [stjohnmeyersville.org](http://stjohnmeyersville.org)

# Advent 3

December 17, 2017

## Third Sunday of Advent (Year B)



God puts people in our lives to prepare us for Christ. Their job is to till the soil of our hearts to prepare us to receive the seed of the Word. John the Baptist was called to prepare the people for the coming Lord. Many heard his message and repented, but many others resisted and turned away from John's witness, thereby rejecting the coming Christ. Will we listen to the call and receive him, or will we turn away?



*Through faith our sins become, not ours but Christ's, upon whom God laid the sins of us all and who bore our sins. He is the Lamb of God which bears the sins of the world. All the righteousness of Christ, in turn, becomes ours.*

*- Martin Luther -*

*On the 37th of the 95 Theses*