

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah

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

PARSONAGE: 361-275-9895

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

jboor1@juno.com

Ministers - The People of St. John

Pastor - The Rev. John Boor

Organist - Mr. Bruce A. Weise

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 23, 2018

Greeter This Week: Candy Cowley

Greeter Next Week: Youth Group

Reader This Week: Kernell Moritz

Reader Next Week: Mackenzie Blain

Acolytes This Week: Volunteer Needed

Acolytes Next Week: Volunteer Needed

Altar Guild This Month: Dawn Otto & Kaley Coker

Altar Guild Next Month: Pam Haun & Nikki Carver

Communion Assistant This Month: Pam Haun

Communion Assistant Next Month: Wanda Hays

Large Print Bulletins are available on the narthex table. Please ask an usher for a copy if you would like one.

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.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

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 4th Verse “*Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*”

Stand p. 56: BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

HYMN: LBW #45 “*Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful*”

p. 57-58: KYRIE

p. 59: HYMN OF PRAISE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray

All Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. With your great might, give us your help, that whatever is hindered by our sins may be speedily accomplished by your grace; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING

He Will Be Their Peace

From the smallest of the tribes of Israel would come forth a ruler, wrote the prophet. He would stand like a shepherd among his people and lead them to righteousness and salvation. This was the message of Micah to a nation battered and bruised by her enemies: One is coming who is filled with the strength of the Lord God of Israel.

Micah 5:2-5a

(Page 805, RSV Pew Bible)

²But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor

has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵And he shall be their peace.

RESPONSIVE READING

Stir Up Your Might and Save Us

The psalmist once again asked, "How long will you be angry with us, Lord?" He recalled the many tears of the people who were subjects of their Assyrian enemies. Out of this lament came a cry for restoration and salvation.

Psalm 80:1-7 (Page 510, RSV Pew Bible)

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³Restore us, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**⁴O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?**

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**⁶You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING

A Second Order Established

The sacrifices that were made in the Jewish temple year after year were ineffective against sin. The offerings of bulls, goats, and other animals could not take away the sin of the people. Jesus came to establish a new order. He would be the one to fulfill God's will. The sacrifice of Christ's body changed everything for humanity.

Hebrews 10:5-10

(Page 1049, RSV Pew Bible)

⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; ⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’” ⁸When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Stand page 62: GOSPEL VERSE “Alleluia”

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:39-45 [46-56]

(Page 888, RSV Pew Bible)

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 1st chapter.

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

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.” [⁴⁶And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; ⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”
⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.]

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sit MESSAGE

HYMN: LBW #34 “*Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel*”

Stand page 65: APOSTLES’ CREED

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Stand page 66: SHARING OF THE PEACE

Sit OFFERING

Stand page 75: OFFERTORY “Create in Me”

page 76: PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

HYMN: WOV #775

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

Lord, listen to Your children praying,

Lord, send Your spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to Your children praying,

Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace!

page 76: THE LORD’S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

HYMN: LBW #41 “*O Little Town of Bethelhem*”

P Go in peace, serve the Lord

C **Thanks be to God**

THE DOXOLOGY (Hymn #565)

POSTLUDE

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN

Today 12/23 Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Sunday School-*Play Practice*
Dress Rehearsal
10:15 a.m. Worship
2:00-4:00 p.m. *Confirmation Class*

Mon 12/24 Office Closed ~ Christmas Eve

3:00 p.m. *Communion Service*
6:00 p.m. *Live Nativity*
6:30 p.m. *Christmas Program*
10:00 p.m. *Candlelight Service*

Tue 12/25 Office Closed ~ Christmas Day

Merry CHRISTmas!!!

Wed 12/26 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Office Hours

Thurs 12/27 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Office Hours

Fri 12/28 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Office Hours

Next Sun First Sunday of Christmas

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:15 a.m. Worship ~ Youth are Greeters
Lessons & Carols Service

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 16, 2018

General \$1,180.00, MOM \$50.00, Sunday School \$49.00, Youth \$20.00,
Church Reno. \$7,145.00 **Total : \$8,444.00**

Attendance: Worship - 94 Sunday School - 14- Children, 14 - Adults

Mission of the Month of December



Stevenson's Unit Prison Ministry

Mission Statement

The 2018 fundraiser did not make the goal anticipated but they did raise \$6,000.00 which boosted the account to around \$40,000.00. The goal is long way to reach the funding goals.

Progress was made in September when the corporate members along with Kevin and Royce Krueger of Don Kruger Construction met with administrative staff of the Stevenson Unit to pick a location for the chapel on the property. This location must still be approved by TDCJ officials and their engineers.

They will not send their team to Cuero till 85% of the funding goal of \$2 million is met. There is a new chapel opening at the prison in Hondo, and when it is open they will tour that facility. TDCJ provides three floor plans to choose from and due to safety and security do not deviate from these often. The 8,450 sq . ft. plan best fits the property selected at the Stevenson's Unit.

The corporation has made some fundraising plans for 2019 and are always on the lookout for hose philanthropic donors that will help push the fund to funding goals. The corporation thanks St. John's for the support they have received in the past. Les Rabke said "We need good folks like you to make sure we don't give up on this steep mountain we have to climb. God has called us to this task and we will continue His work regardless of the time and effort it may take to save souls if our brothers-in-white at the Stevenson's Unit."

Worship Team

Worship Team is listening for a few leading voices! We are looking for interested voices that would be Interested in leading the congregation in song on Sunday morning's services. We have a couple of possible volunteers but really want a few more to spread the joy of assisting with the service through sharing your voice in song. If you might consider God calling you to that ministry please contact Pastor John, Johnny or Virginia Jank, Marv or Noreen Sager, Beverly Bodden, Dawn Otto, Carol Ann Sagebiel or Bruce Weise for more details.

Attention Acolytes

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



Acolytes





Services:

Communion Service 3:00 pm

Live Nativity 6:00 pm

Christmas Program 6:30 pm

Candlelight Service w/ Communion 10:00 pm

Youth Group News

There will be a live nativity Monday, Dec. 24th, from 6:00-6:30 pm just prior to the St. John's Sunday School Christmas program. Youth are still needed to help with this year's nativity. Please contact Wendy Bishop at (361)935-2123 if you would like to participate.

There will be a youth group meeting and lunch right after church on Sunday, Jan. 6th. We're planning to take down the Christmas tree decorations then.

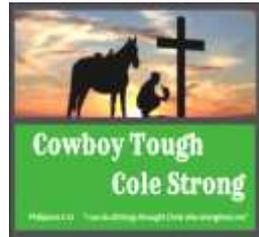


Youth Group

Special Prayers for Cole

Cole is home now and able to be with his family & friends. Though he has a long road ahead of him, God has been with him every step of the way.

We ask for your continued prayers for Cole's recovery and for spiritual strength, strong faith and unlimited patience for him and his family. Thank you and may God bless you all.



+Please pray at 12:00 PM daily for Cole+

At his request, these are the prayers he has on his list:

Healing- physical, emotional & spiritual

To help family stay strong

Patience

Stay positive

The drive to keep trying (perseverance)

Readers & Greeters



If you would like to become a reader or greeter for the upcoming year please contact the office or sign-up on in the Narthex. If you are currently a reader or greeter & would like to be removed, please contact the church office by phone or email: stjohnevlutheran@juno.com. Thank you!



Cross Country News



Will Green has been invited to participate in the Down Under Sports Tournaments hosted on the Gold Coast of Australia. He will be representing Texas on the Cross Country Team during the Summer of 2019! Your donations are greatly appreciated & will help tremendously! Ways to donate are below. Flyers with more information are located in the Narthex. Please fill out the Thank you ticket on the flyer to have a chance to win 1 of 2 prizes. Thank you very much for your support! What an amazing opportunity for such a talented young man, congratulations Will!

Ways to donate

*Donate online at: [https://DownUnderSports.com/NTQ-JNO\(Case Sensitive\)](https://DownUnderSports.com/NTQ-JNO(Case Sensitive))

*Make Check out to: “Down Under Sports” and mail it along with this letter to: Down Under Sports, PO Box 6010, North Logan, UT 84341

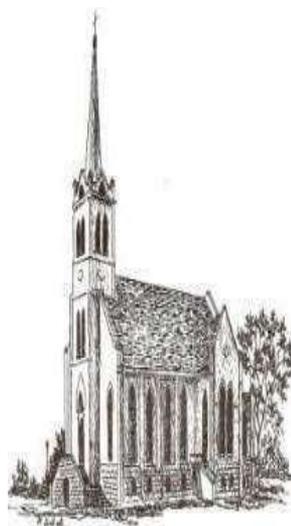
*Call Down Under Sports at: 435-753-4732

Church Renovation Update

Our new bathroom is not quite complete, but the contractor is letting us use it until final finish work is completed. The contractor is in the process of pouring necessary concrete for the elevator shaft. The estimated costs for construction, change orders, materials testing, architect, and incidentals is \$599,553. We are required to pay as construction progresses so the bills are coming in on a regular basis. This project received almost unanimous support so we ask that you prayerfully consider giving generously to this project.

GOAL: \$599,553

RECEIVED AS OF December 2, 2018: \$337,738

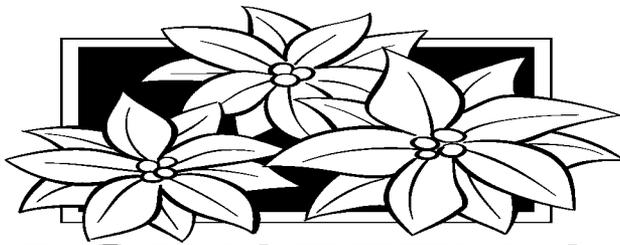




4TH SUNDAY OF *Advent*

*St. John Wishes Everyone a Very Blessed Merry
CHRISTmas with Family & Loved ones!!!*





POINSETTIAS

In Memory of

Arlen Mueller by Barbara Mueller

Our Grandparents by M'Liss & Robert Moore

Charlie & Ruth Moore by The Moore Family

*Loved Ones That Have Gone Before Us
To the Glory of God by Britton & Sara Blain*

Clarence & Hertha (Dittfurth) Weise by Bruce A. Weise

Carl & Annie (Lude) Weise by Bruce A. Weise

Emil & Helena (Foerster) Dittfurth by Bruce A. Weise

In Loving Memory of Julie Arndt by Delvin Arndt & Family

Clifford Haun by Betty Jo Haun & Family

Quinton Haun by Clay Haun & Family

Wanda Rangnow by Her Family

Ralph & Helen Mae Egg by Their Children,

Joel Egg, Kathy Dunn & Laurie Pokluda

J. Gus & Iris Jank by Kevin & Beverly Bodden & Family

John Bodden Sr. by Kevin & Beverly Bodden & Family

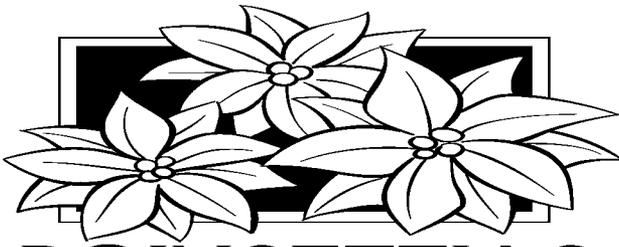
In Loving Memory Of LeAnn Wendel by Her Loving Family

Bobby Fagg by Bea, Kevin, Carrie, Abby & Brady

William Gras (Betty's Dad) by Kenneth & Betty Diebel

John G. & Iris Ann Jank by Johnny & Virginia Jank

Martin & Wilma Wolter by Johnny & Virginia Jank



POINSETTIAS

In Memory of

Patty Ohrt by Dean Ohrt

Tommy Gohmert by Sandy Gohmert and Family

*Leonard and Kathyleen Jander
by the Dwight Jander Family*

Robert & Lena Letlow by Nikki & Shane Carver

*Mr. & Mrs. Edward Ruschhaupt, Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Spinks,
Michael Bartosh by Glenn & Linda Ruschhaupt*

Our Loved Ones Resting in the Arms of God by Daren & Dawn Otto

Reuben Gohmert by Joie & Jimmy, JoLeah & Brian, Julianne

C. Michael Meyer by Tammy Blain-Meyer & Brighton, Blain Family

Jerry Fischer by Tammy Blain-Meyer & Brighton, Blain Family

Brandon Talkington by Tammy Blain-Meyer & Brighton, Blain Family

Reuben Gohmert by Tammy Blain-Meyer & Brighton, Blain Family

Reuben Gohmert by Virgie & Family

All of Our Loved Ones Who Have Passed On by Pam & Terry Haun

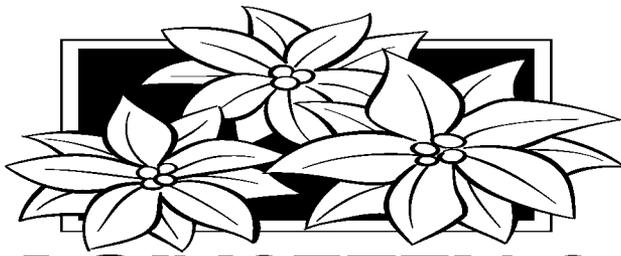
Johnny Haun by Mickey & Elizabeth Beard

Jeffery Haun by Mickey & Elizabeth Beard

Amanda Beard by Mickey & Elizabeth Beard

G.R. & Margene Wilke To the Glory of God by John & Margie Swannack

*Harry & Dorothy Swannack To the Glory of God
by John & Margie Swannack*



POINSETTIAS

In Memory of

Jeffery Swannack To the Glory of God by John & Margie Swannack

Michael Bartosh by Dianna Bartosh

Delmar Diebel by His Family

In Honor of

*Our Children & Grandchildren To the Glory of God
by John & Margie Swannack*

*Our Beloved Grandchildren Cole, Kade, Colton & Kamrie Ohrt,
Peyton & Gracie Diebel by Kenneth & Betty Diebel*

Our Families by Daren & Dawn Otto

To the Glory of God by Daren & Dawn Otto

Our Grandchildren by Pam & Terry Haun

Bryan & Jo Stubbs by the Nikki & Shane Carver Family

Virgie Gohmert by Joie & Jimmy, JoLeah & Brian, Julianne

Pastor John & Brenda Boor by Bruce A. Weise

*My Loving Parents, Clifton & MayDell Jacob by
Pat, Wanda & Tristan Hays*

My Loving Husband and Son, Pat and Tristan Hays by Wanda Hays

*Our Daughters, Mackenzie, Marlee & Madyx To the Glory of God
by Britton & Sara Blain*



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 at (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, Japan
Jonathon Albrecht - U.S. Army, Kentucky
Chase Schroeder - U.S. Navy
Austin Schroeder - U.S. Navy
Jennifer Cornett - U.S. Air Force
Lee Magruder - U.S. Army, Staff Sergeant, Fort Rucker, AL,
going to Warrant Officer Candidate School then to Army
Aviation Flight School
Katrina Moritz - U.S. Air Force
Michael Petrash II - Iraq



Please Pray for: Adam Womble
Nate Boehl
Hunter Jacob
Glynn Yurick
Kenny Jacob
Cole Ohrt
Carlton Migura
Robby Bitterly
Carly Waters
Seth Wendel
Slade Doehrman

*(Slade likes to receive cards, his address is:
11049 FM 236, Cuero 77954)*

Nursing Home: Marjorie Ideus, Yorktown Nursing & Rehabilitation,

Homebound: Bette Jo Haun



Keep up with St. John online

St. John Meyersville

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

Or visit our website at: stjohnmeyersville.org

Advent 4

December 23, 2018

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year C)



The promised Messiah came into the world to create a new order, one that put an end to sin and separation from God. He was not what the world expected — the Son of God came as an infant, born of a human mother; he wielded no weapons and continually acted in love. Jesus was the fulfillment of Micah's prophecy of a shepherd ruler from the smallest tribe in Israel, and his love was stronger than death.

