

A narrow, cobblestone street in an old stone town, likely Jerusalem, with warm sunlight casting shadows on the walls. The street is flanked by high, textured stone walls with small windows and doorways. A balcony with a metal railing is visible on the upper level of the right wall. The overall atmosphere is warm and historical.

Prepare the way of the Lord

Luke 3:4

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

Second Sunday of Advent

December 9, 2018

Greeter This Week: Daren & Dawn Otto

Greeter Next Week: Volunteer Needed

Reader This Week: Dickie Bettge

Reader Next Week: Caden Jander

Acolytes This Week: Volunteer Needed

Acolytes Next Week: Volunteer Needed

Altar Guild This Month: Dawn Otto & Kaley Coker

Altar Guild Next Month: Dee Moeller & Beverly Bodden

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 2nd Verse “*Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*”

Stand p. 56: BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

HYMN: WOV #627 “*My Lord, What a Morning*”

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 our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of your only-begotten Son, that by his coming we may be enabled to serve you with pure minds; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

FIRST READING

God’s Messenger is Coming

God promised his people that he would send a messenger to them. This one would come suddenly among them, and his power in their lives would be like a refiner’s fire. He would purify their lives, and they would bring righteous offerings to the Lord. Those who were oppressed would be redeemed. God is steadfast and faithful.

Malachi 3:1-7b

(Page 830, RSV Pew Bible)

¹“Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. ⁵Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts. ⁶For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts.”

RESPONSIVE READING

God’s Works are Wonderful

The psalmist encouraged the congregation to sing praises to the Lord whose deeds are awesome and whose rule is eternal. He watches over the nations and keeps the peoples’ enemies at bay. He is the Lord who brought Israel out of the raging sea. They walked on dry ground and their feet were kept from falling.

Psalms 66:1-12

(Page 499, RSV Pew Bible)

¹Be joyful in God, all you lands;

 sing the glory of his name; sing the glory of his praise.

²**Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds!**

because of your great strength your enemies cringe before you.

³All the earth bows down before you,
sings to you, sings out your name.”

⁴**Come now and see the works of God,
how wonderful he is in his doing toward all people.**

⁵He turned the sea into dry land, so that they went through the water
on foot, and there we rejoiced in him.

⁶**In his might he rules forever; his eyes keep watch over the
nations; let no rebel rise up against him.**

⁷Bless our God, you peoples;
make the voice of his praise to be heard;

⁸**Who holds our souls in life,
and will not allow our feet to slip.**

⁹For you, O God, have proved us;
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

¹⁰**You brought us into the snare;
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

¹¹You let enemies ride over our heads; we went through fire and
water; but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

¹²**I will enter your house with burnt offerings and will pay you
my vows, which I promised with my lips and spoke with my
mouth when I was in trouble.**

SECOND READING

God is Faithful to Complete His Good Work

St. Paul gave thanks for the Christians in Philippi and proclaimed that God, who began a good work in them, would be faithful to complete that work. Their witness to the gospel was an inspiration to Paul, and he held them in high esteem. He prayed that they would be filled with the fruit of righteousness for the sake of Christ.

Philippians 1:2-11

(Page 1022, RSV Pew Bible)

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Stand page 62: GOSPEL VERSE “Alleluia”

GOSPEL READING

Luke 3:1-14 [15-20]

(Page 890-891, RSV Pew Bible)

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 3rd chapter.

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

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

⁷He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” ¹⁰And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” ¹¹And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” ¹²Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” ¹³And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.” [¹⁵As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. ¹⁹But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother’s wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.]

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sit MESSAGE

HYMN: LBW #36 “*On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry*”

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 #26 *“Prepare the Royal Highway”*

P Go in peace, serve the Lord

C **Thanks be to God**

THE DOXOLOGY (Hymn #565)

POSTLUDE

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN

Today 12/9	Second Sunday of Advent	
	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School-Play Practice
	10:15 a.m.	Worship (Called Congregation Meeting after Worship)
	2:00-4:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class
Mon 12/10	Office Closed	
	7:00 p.m.	Finance Team Meeting
Tue 12/11	9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Office Hours
	6:00 p.m.	Meyersville 4-H Christmas Party
Wed 12/12	9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Office Hours
	10:00 a.m.	Comm. Service Yorktown Manor
Thurs 12/13	9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Office Hours
Fri 12/14	9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Office Hours
Next Sun	Third Sunday of Advent	
	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School-Play Practice
	10:15 a.m.	Worship

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 2, 2018

General \$1,840.00, MOM-Dec. \$75.00, MOM-Nov. \$90.00,
Sunday School \$27.00, Building \$50.00, Youth \$20.00, OSC \$10.00,
Church Reno. \$26,955.00 **Total : \$29,067.00**

Attendance: Worship - 93 Sunday School - 18 - Children, 13 - 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.

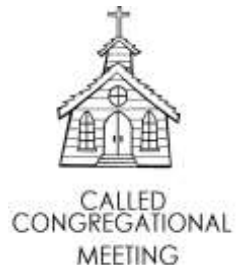
They will not send their team to Cuero till 85% of the funding goal of \$2 million is met. There is a new chapel opening at the prison in Hondo, and when it is open they will tour that facility. TDCJ provides three floor plans to choose from and due to safety and security do not deviate from these often. 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."

Called Congregational Meeting

A brief called congregation meeting will be held immediately following the service today, December 9th. The sole agenda item will be consideration of the proposed St. John Budget for 2019, as approved by Council. Copies of the proposed budget are available in the Narthex.





Freund Funeral Home wishes to invite
you and your family to our

Service of Remembrance

Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 6 p.m.

Freund Funeral Home Chapel

213 North Gonzales, Cuero, Texas ~ 361.275.2343

Our prayer is that the scripture readings, music, and fellowship be a blessing to you and your family and brings comfort and strength during this time. We hope you are able to join us this year in remembering those who have gone before us. God bless you and your family.



Thank You

St. John would like to extend a special Thank You to Carl & Crystal Eichhorn for providing our beautiful Christmas trees over the years! The trees have always been beautiful to look at during the holiday season! Also, Thank You to Terry Haun, Shane Carver & their family for getting the trees & setting them up in the church! All of your generosity & time is greatly appreciated!



Church & Tree Decorating

Thank You to everyone who decorated the church & the Christmas tree so beautifully! What a blessing we have in our congregation!



Poinsettias

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in memory or in honor of someone during Christmas time, please fill out the insert in the bulletin. Place it in the offering plate with payment. They are \$11.00 each & will be in a gold tin with a Christmas bow. The deadline to purchase poinsettias is today, December 9th.



Christmas Program

St. John Lutheran Sunday School will be performing a Christmas Eve Program on December 24 at 6:30 pm. in the church. We need to know if your children will be able to participate in the presentation so we can assign parts. We plan to have practice during part of Sunday School starting NOVEMBER 25 at 9 am. The FINAL dress rehearsal will be DECEMBER 23 at 9 am.



This year's play is called "Joseph's Shoes" and focuses on the abundant faith both Joseph and Mary had during the Christmas miracle. There are both speaking and non-speaking roles for all ages. We will also need backstage people for older students who may not wish to be in the play but still be a part of the production.

Please call or text Johnna Kethan 361-649-4234 or Kathy Dunn 361-275-4322 or let us know at Sunday School or church.

We are looking forward to another wonderful Christmas Eve Program as we celebrate Jesus' birth!

Yours in Christ, Kathy Dunn, Wanda Hays and Johnna Kethan



Services:

Communion Service 3:00 pm

Christmas Program 6:30 pm

Candlelight Service w/ Communion 10:00 pm

Attention Acolytes

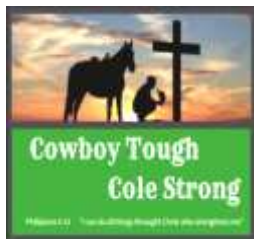
Please see the acolyte sign-up sheet in the Narthex.
Volunteers are needed.





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.



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.

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: stjohnelutheran@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



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
Slade Doehrman

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

Nursing Home: Marjorie Ideus, Yorktown Nursing & Rehabilitation,
Ruth Peters, Elmcroft, Victoria, TX

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 2

December 9, 2018

Second Sunday of Advent (Year C)



It is easy to lose heart and abandon our hope when life becomes challenging. The reality of this struggle is that we try to do it all on our own, failing to rely on Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Faith is a matter of putting our complete trust in the one who calls us his own and who began a good work in us in the first place. Turning from our self-sufficiency toward relying on Christ is repentance that leads to real life.

