

Go and tell John
what you have
seen and heard

Luke 7:22

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

Third Sunday of Advent

December 16, 2018

Greeter This Week: Volunteer Needed

Greeter Next Week: Candy Cowley

Reader This Week: Caden Jander

Reader Next Week: Kernell Moritz

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 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 3rd Verse “*Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*”

Stand p. 56: BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

HYMN: LBW #39 “*Joy to the World*”

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.

FIRST READING

Fear Not, Daughter Zion

The Word of the Lord delivered by the prophet Zephaniah was good news for Jerusalem after a protracted time of being afflicted by their enemies. Their smug disobedience had angered the Lord; even the priests and prophets of the nation had forsaken the holy. But the Lord relented and promised to take away judgment from his precious daughter, Jerusalem. God’s people will never be forsaken.

Zephaniah 3:14-20

(Page 816-817, RSV Pew Bible)

¹⁴“Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. ¹⁷The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. ¹⁸I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. ¹⁹Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” says the Lord.

RESPONSIVE READING

Restore Us Again, O Lord

The psalmist recalled the many times in which God restored his people. His forgiveness brought them back into relationship with him, he relented from showing his anger, and he gave them back their resources repeatedly. The psalmist asked in another time of trial, “Will you be angry with us forever?”

Psalm 85

(Page 512-513, RSV Pew Bible)

¹You have been gracious to your land, O Lord,
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

²**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people
and blotted out all their sins.**

³You have withdrawn all your fury
and turned yourself from your wrathful indignation.

**⁴Restore us then, O God our Savior;
let your anger depart from us.**

⁵Will you be displeased with us forever?
will you prolong your anger from age to age?

**⁶Will you not give us life again,
that your people may rejoice in you?**

⁷Show us your mercy, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

**⁸I will listen to what the Lord God is saying,
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those
who turn their hearts to him.**

⁹Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.

**¹⁰Mercy and truth have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**

¹¹Truth shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

**¹²The Lord will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.**

¹³Righteousness shall go before him,
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

SECOND READING

Rejoice in the Lord Always

In these few verses, St. Paul sums up the proper attitude of those who have faith in Christ: Rejoice in the Lord always, be reasonable in your attitudes, don't worry about anything, and come to the Lord with all of your prayers.

Philippians 4:4-7

(Page 1024, RSV Pew Bible)

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Stand p. 62 GOSPEL VERSE "Alleluia"

GOSPEL READING

Luke 7:18-28 [29-35]

(Page 896-897, RSV Pew Bible)

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 7th chapter.

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

¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ²⁰And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" ²¹In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²²And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." ²⁴When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see?"

A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. ²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is he of whom it is written, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.' ²⁸I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." [²⁹(When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, ³⁰but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.) ³¹"To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? ³²They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.' ³³For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' ³⁴The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' ³⁵Yet wisdom is justified by all her children."]

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sit SERMON

HYMN: LBW #25 "*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*"

Stand p. 65: APOSTLES' CREED

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!

Stand 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 12/16 First Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:15 a.m. Worship

**Christmas play practice during Sunday School*

Mon 12/17 Office Closed

Tue 12/18 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Office Hours

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

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

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

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

7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

**Committee reports due*

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

**Newsletter Deadline*

Next Sun Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:15 a.m. Worship

**Christmas play practice dress rehearsal during
Sunday School*

**2:00-4:00 Confirmation Class*

*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.*



Sunday, December 16, 2018

Offering: General \$3,375.00, MOM \$320.00, Sunday School \$30.00,
OSC \$60.00, Building \$675.00, Cemetery \$40.00, Organ \$23.00,
Church Reno. \$1,335.00 **Total: \$5,858.00**

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 Krueger 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."



We keep the family of Ruth Peters in our Prayers. May God comfort them at this time of loss.

CHRISTMAS

Joy



Christmas Blessings

The Christmas banners placed in our church were donated by Karyn Elder and Jayne Cox. They were created by their mother and artist, Eryn Plimper. They felt our church was the perfect background for them to be displayed. What a blessing!

Readers & Greeters



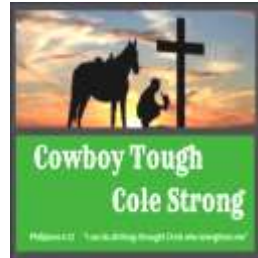
If you would like to become a reader or greeter for the upcoming year please contact the office or sign-up on in the Narthex. If you are currently a reader or greeter & would like to be removed, please contact the church office by phone or email: stjohnelutheran@juno.com. Thank you!



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)

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

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.



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

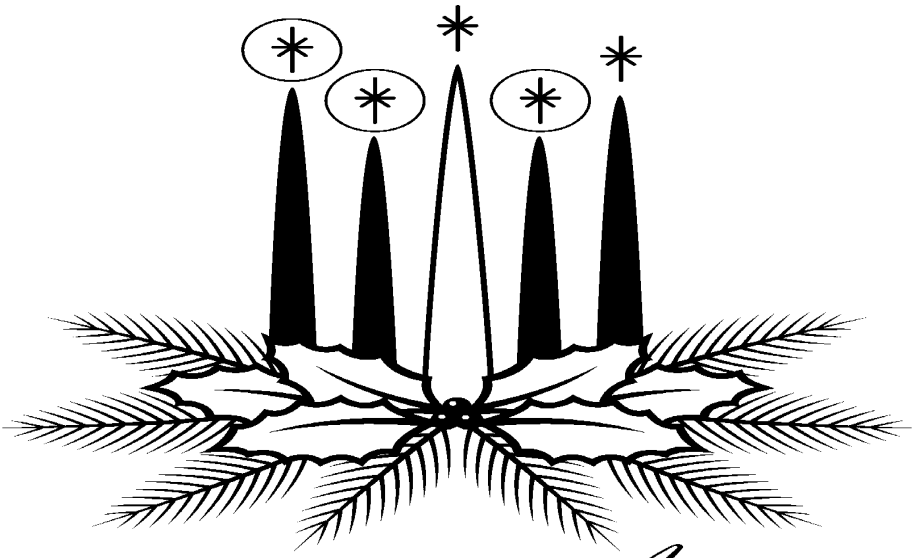
RECEIVED AS OF December 9, 2018: \$339,073

Attention Acolytes

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



Acolytes



3RD SUNDAY OF *Advent*

Advent Word Search

W	E	G	T	H	M	K	I	C	X	J	Q
R	W	R	E	A	T	H	S	A	Z	O	C
M	P	E	K	D	J	E	S	N	B	Y	A
A	Y	A	D	V	I	M	P	D	H	O	P
R	J	O	S	E	P	H	E	L	O	V	E
Y	E	B	A	N	C	O	A	E	O	G	A
P	S	X	G	T	H	P	C	S	P	K	C
Z	U	G	M	L	O	E	Z	E	A	Y	E
Y	S	Q	P	U	R	P	L	E	X	R	A

Words to Find

Words can be found left to right and up and down.

- Advent
- Wreath
- Candles
- Purple
- Hope
- Peace
- Joy
- Love
- Mary
- Joseph
- Jesus



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 3

December 16, 2018

Third Sunday of Advent (Year C)



Questions arise from John and his followers about the true identity of Jesus. The Lord's response is one encouraging them to see, hear, and understand that he is the one sent by God. On this Third Sunday in Advent, we are reminded that God is always near. He hears our prayers and grants us the joy of his salvation. That precious gift comes to us most clearly in the person of Jesus, who is "God with us."

