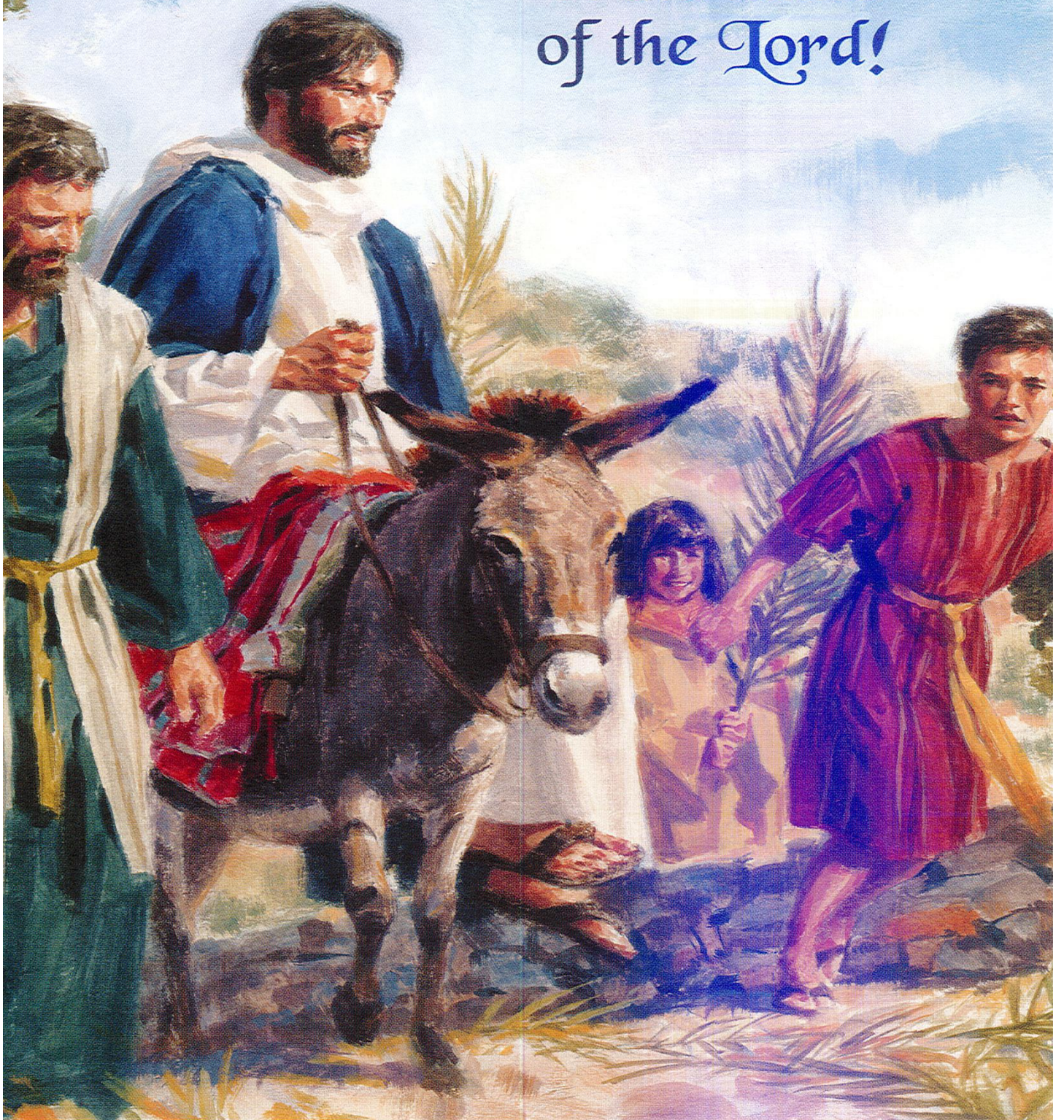


Hosanna!  
Blessed is He  
who comes  
in the name  
of the Lord!





# ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020

**Greeter This Week:** Youth Group

**Greeter Next Week:** Dickie & Cathie Bettge

**Reader This Week:** Dwight Jander

**Reader Next Week:** Cathie Bettge

**Acolytes This Week:** Madyx Blain & Hudson Zengerle

**Acolytes Next Week:** Madyx Blain

**Altar Guild This Month:** Dee Moeller & Beverly Bodden

**Altar Guild Next Month:** M'Liss Moore & Virginia Abrameit

**Communion Assistant This Month:** Johnny Jank

**Communion Assistant Next Month:** Glenn Ruschhaupt

### 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.

Worship Notes regarding Today's Service:

Thank you for attending. We thank God that we are once again able to gather inside the church. For those who are not comfortable entering the church we are also broadcasting as we have for the past several weeks and you are more than welcome to remain in your car. The service, the organ music, and Pastor John's message will be routed through the church's sound system and broadcast on your car radio on FM channel 101.5. Please follow the service in the bulletin.

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** ~ *Britton Blain Family*

**HYMN: LBW #58 1<sup>st</sup> Verse**

*"Lo, How a Rose Is Growing"*

**Lo, how a rose is growing, A bloom of finest grace;  
The prophets had foretold it: A branch of Jesse's race  
Would bear one perfect flow'r Here in the cold  
of winter And darkest midnight hour.**

### BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen**

L Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen**

L If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for Reflection and Meditation*

L Most merciful God,

**All We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

L Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen**

HYMN:

***“Fling Wide the Door”***

LBW #32

**Fling wide the door, unbar the gate; The King of glory comes in state;  
The Lord of lords and King of kings, The Savior of the world  
who brings His great salvation to the earth. So raise a shout of holy mirth  
And praise our God and Lord, Creator, Spirit Word.**

**He is the rock of our belief, The heart of mercy’s gentle self.  
His kingly crown is holiness; His scepter is his loveliness;  
He brings our sorrows to an end. Now gladly praise our king and friend,  
And worship him with song For saving us from wrong.**

**Oh, happy towns and blessed lands That live by their true king’s commands.  
And blessed be the hearts he rules, The humble places where he dwells.  
He is the rightful Son of bliss Who fills our lives and makes us his,  
Creator of the world, Our only strength for good.**

**Come, Lord, our Savior, Jesus Christ; Our hearts are open wide in trust.  
Oh, show us now your lovely grace, Upon our sorrows shine your face,  
And let your Holy Spirit guide Our journey in your grace so wide.  
We praise your holy name, From age to age the same!**

**GREETING**

L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

**KYRIE**

L In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy**

L For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord have mercy**

L For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord have mercy.**

L For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord have mercy.**

L Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C Amen**

L Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

### **HYMN OF PRAISE**

**Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:**

**We worship you, we give you thanks,**

**We praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,**

**Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world'**

**Have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father;**

**Receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One,**

**You alone are the Lord, You alone are the**

**Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,**

**In the glory of God the Father. Amen**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Let us pray;

**Stir up your power, O Lord, and come, that by your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by your mighty deliverance; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### **First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9**

<sup>1</sup>Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence — <sup>2</sup>as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil — to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! <sup>3</sup>When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. <sup>4</sup>From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. <sup>5</sup>You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? <sup>6</sup>We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. <sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. <sup>8</sup>But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. <sup>9</sup>Be not so terribly angry, O Lord, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

### **Responsive Psalm Reading**

#### **Psalm 80:1-7**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge — <sup>6</sup>even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you — <sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup>who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL VERSE

**C Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**GOSPEL READING: Mark 13:24-37**

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>24</sup>{Jesus said,} “In those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, <sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. <sup>26</sup>And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. <sup>28</sup>From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>32</sup>But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. <sup>35</sup>Therefore stay awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning — <sup>36</sup>lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN:

***“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”***

LBW #25

**Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;  
The evening is advancing, And darker night is near.  
The Bridegroom is arising And soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; At midnight comes the cry.**

**The watchers on the mountain proclaim the Bridegroom near;  
Go forth as he approaches With alleluias clear.  
The marriage feast is waiting; The gates wide open stand.  
Arise, O heirs of glory; The bridegroom is at hand.**

**The saints, who here in patience Their cross and suff'rings bore,  
Shall live and reign forever, When sorrow is no more.  
Around the throne of glory The Lamb they shall behold;  
In triumph cast before him Their diadems of gold.**

**Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;  
Arise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted, We plead, O Lord, to see  
The day of earth's redemption That sets your people free!**

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
The holy catholic church,  
The communion of saints,  
The forgiveness of sins,  
The resurrection of the body,  
And the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always,  
**And also with you**

**Offering** – If you wish to give an offering it will be received as you leave.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a  
Right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your  
Presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from' me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
And uphold me with your free Spirit.**

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

**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!**

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord  
**Amen**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
And lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
Forever and ever. Amen.**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**C Amen**

HYMN:

***“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”***

WOV #630

**Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.  
He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.**

**Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.  
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.**

**Light three candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.**

**Light four candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.  
He is coming, tell the glad tidings. Let your lights be shining!**

Pastor: Go in peace, serve the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

**THE DOXOLOGY**

HYMN:

LBW #565

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.**

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN

<b>Today 11/29</b>	<b>First Sunday of Advent</b> 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Worship
<b>Mon 11/30</b>	<b>Office Closed</b>
<b>Tues 12/1</b>	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Pastor's Office Hours 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 7:00 p.m. Worship Team
<b>Wed 12/2</b>	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Office Hours
<b>Thurs 12/3</b>	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Pastor's Office Hours
<b>Fri 12/4</b>	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Office Hours
<b>Next Sun</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 9:00 a.m. Sunday School (Christmas Program Practice during Sunday School) 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, November 22, 2020**

General \$1,403.00, MOM-Christmas Family \$255.00, NALS \$50.00, Sunday School \$8.30, Organ \$50.00, Building \$290.00, Reno. \$345.00 **Total: \$2,401.30**

**Attendance:** Worship - 70 Sunday School - 15 - Children, 12 - Adults Confirmation - 0 (No class this day)



### **Called Congregational Meeting**

A called congregational meeting will be held immediately following the service on **Sunday, December 13th.** The sole agenda items will be consideration of the proposed St. John Budget for 2021, as approved by Council and the NALC Constitutional Amendments. There are copies of both of these items in the Narthex.

### **UPDATE - Worship Team Notes - UPDATE**

**We will be having church in the sanctuary at 10:15 a.m. from now on, unless something changes. Communion will be by stations on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday until further notice. Please note there are certain guidelines that have to be followed. These specific guidelines are posted on our website & FaceBook page. The service will still be broadcasted on the radio station FM 101.5 for those who wish to stay in their vehicles. The service will also be videoed & posted to the church website on Sundays, after noon sometime. Please continue to check the church website & FaceBook page for updates.**





## Mission of the Month of November



### Christmas Family 2020

#### Mission Statement

Our **first** Christmas family is a grandfather and granddaughter. She is in high school and he is elderly and in poor health. He has sole custody of the granddaughter and is her only close relative. Their needs are great.

Our **second** Christmas family is a single father with four children.

The Mission Team has a list of their wishes. Please see Linda Ruschhaupt, team leader so we can Co-ordinate efforts to make some of their Christmas wishes come true. Monetary donations will help them also.



#### HEARTFELT THANKS

*We wish to express our sincere appreciation to all for your thoughts, prayers, and expressions of sympathy regarding the recent loss of our son.*

*Marv and Norrean Sager*

#### Youth Group News

St. John's is looking for someone who enjoys working with young people to be our new youth leaders. Please prayerfully consider this and let Pastor John or Laurie Pokluda know if this is your calling.

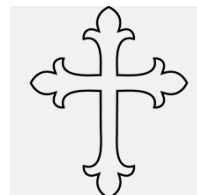
*We would like to thank Wendy and Doug Bishop for serving as our youth leaders. Our young people were very blessed by their service.*



St. John collected **86 shoe boxes** for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child this year! How AWESOME!!! Thank you to everyone who participated in any way!

#### NALC Warehouse and Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes

We will be collecting for these charities all year. Each month we will feature items to be donated. We will be collecting for the Christmas family wish lists for the month of November. Please see Linda Ruschhaupt for details on what is needed. Thank you.





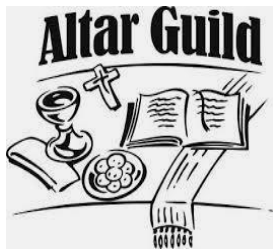
**St. John Lutheran Sunday School & Youth Group**  
**Christmas Program Information**

Christmas is right around the corner, and it's time to prepare our Sunday School Christmas program! "The Village of Bethlehem" will be held on Sunday December 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm outside under our new covered walkway. Each class will be assigned a booth to create and learn about for the program.

These parts of the play will be practiced during Sunday school starting at the end of October. As an example, our Pre-K and Kinder class will be The Shepherds booth. They will learn in their classroom what a shepherd did, how they took care of their flocks, what the animals ate and drank, etc. They will also be working on decorations for their booth. During the program, the booths will be setup for all attendees to pass by with a list of questions you can ask the students. All the booths will be setup in a village format to allow all attendees to see and visit every booth. The Live Nativity will also be setup to complete our Bethlehem village! Each class will also learn a Christmas song to sing with their class, which will be performed at the beginning and ending of the program so all attendees can watch.

We hope you are as excited about this program as we are! We're looking forward to learning more about each of the booths in the village and seeing all the decorations the students create! It is highly important to keep attending Sunday school from now until the program. Each class will be working on their booths in addition to their daily lessons. The students will also be practicing their songs for the program in their classes. Please contact us with any questions, and we thank you so much for having your child be a part of our Sunday School program.

With God's Love, Johnna Kethan 361-649-4234, Kathy Dunn 361-275-4322,  
 Laurie Pokluda 361-275-4232, Trish Hood 361-212-7322



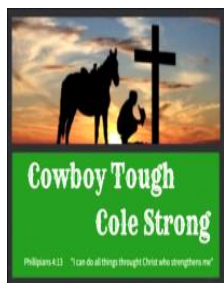
**ALTAR GUILD OPPORTUNITY/PLEA**

One of our faithful Altar Guild teams is no longer able to serve. Therefore, the Altar Guild is urgently asking for each of you to prayerfully and seriously consider being a part of a team to serve on the Altar Guild. You and your teammate (as do the 5 other teams) serve approximately 2 months per year setting up communion before and cleaning up afterward and filling candles. Please contact Carol Ann Sagebiel (361)243-0122 or any Altar Guild member for more information, etc. Thank You.

**Special Prayers for Cole**



Cole is at home doing well surrounded by the love and support of all his family. He continues to have therapy on a daily basis at his home and will soon also be doing therapy in Victoria. God continues to be with Cole each and every day strengthening his faith, patience, and courage as he travels down this long and difficult journey. We thank each and every one again for all your prayers, concerns, and support for Cole and his family. We ask for you to continue praying for Cole's healing and for strength and patience for him and his family. Thank you and God Bless.



+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)*

**Church Renovation Update**



Remaining items for the construction progress are to complete the canopy and final grade the site. After completion, a final walk through will be held to address any items that need to be touched-up. 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 November 22, 2020: \$558,323.30

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** If you have a prayer request please contact Evelyn Diebel (361)275-5979 Or Linda Ruschhaupt (361)275-4990 or the Pastor. We ask that you would update the prayer request regularly. If we do not have an update, in an effort to keep our list current and up to date, we will presume the situation has improved and remove the request after 30 days. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter. If you wish to receive the Prayer Chain requests, please contact Evelyn Diebel at (361)275-5979.

**Our Military and their families:**

Jeff Zengerle - U.S. Army NG, Kuwait  
Russell Copeland - U.S. Army Reserves  
Jonathon Albrecht - U.S. Army, Kentucky  
Chase Schroeder - U.S. Navy  
Austin Schroeder - U.S. Navy  
Lee Magruder - U.S. Army, 2-4 CaB, Charlie Company, Black Hawk Medevac Pilot, Fort Carson, Colorado  
Katrina Moritz - U.S. Air Force  
Michael Petrash II - 1<sup>st</sup> LT, United States Army  
Andrew Washington, L CPL - USMC, Pensacola, FL  
Jacob Redmond - USMC, San Diego, CA  
Koltyn Mayhall - USMC, San Diego, CA



**Please Pray for:** Adam Womble  
Nate Boehl  
Hunter Jacob  
Glynn Yurick  
Kenny Jacob  
Cole Ohrt  
Carly Waters  
Joy Hoy  
Marie Liner  
Bill Roeske  
Janice Turner  
Sarah Cooper  
Jimmy Caskey  
Britany Jank Tomas  
Dugan Chandler

**Nursing Home:** Elmcroft-Victoria ~ Bette Jo Haun  
Stevens Healthcare of Yoakum ~ Marjorie Ideus  
Cuero Nursing & Rehab. ~ Alfred Rangnow  
Twin Pines Nursing Facility-Victoria ~ Meta Bennett



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 1

November 29, 2020

### First Sunday of Advent (Year B)

God's anger is kindled by our sin and disobedience. The Lord turned away from his people and left them vulnerable to the consequences of their iniquity. Yet, when they cried out to him for salvation, when they vowed to live in unity with him as his beloved created ones, he sent his Son into the world to save us from sin and death. Through Jesus, God's face shines upon us. He is faithful until the end of the age.



## SOME WORDS FROM LUTHER

In Scripture garments denote righteousness and unrighteousness. White garments in Scripture signify righteousness. Soiled garments are unrighteousness. Thus all our righteousness are a polluted garment, they have been dragged up from filth.

- Martin Luther - Commentary on Isaiah 64:6