

*[and they asked John:]*

*Who are you?*

# ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020

**Greeter This Week:** Candy Cowley

**Greeter Next Week:** Marv & Norrean Sager

**Reader This Week:** Johnna Kethan

**Reader Next Week:** Neal Moritz

**Acolytes This Week:** Maverick Eckhardt

**Acolytes Next Week:** Volunteer Needed

**Altar Guild This Month:** Betty Diebel & Virginia Jank

**Altar Guild Next Month:** Carol Ann Sagebiel & Cathie Bettge

**Communion Assistant This Month:** Glenn Ruschhaupt

**Communion Assistant Next Month:** Obert Sagebiel

### 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** ~ *Jeff Zengerle Family*

*(Jeff is on military duty in Kuwait, please say extra prayers for he & his family during this time)*

**HYMN: LBW #56 1<sup>st</sup> Verse**

#### *"The First Noel"*

**The First Noel the angel did say**

**Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;**

**In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,**

**On a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.**

### 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:

***“Prepare the Royal Highway”***

LBW #26

**Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near!  
Let ev’ry hill and valley A level road appear!  
Then greet the King of glory, Foretold in sacred story:**

*Refrain*

**Hosanna to the Lord, For he fulfills God’s Word!**

**God’s people, see him coming: Your own eternal king!  
Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!  
God’s promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you!**

*Refrain*

**Then fling the gates wide open To greet your promised king!  
Your king, yet ev’ry nation Its tribute too may bring.  
All lands will bow before him; Their voices join your singing:**

*Refrain*

**His is no earthly kingdom; It comes from heav’n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom And justice, truth, and love.  
So let your praise be sounding For kindness so abounding:**

*Refrain*

**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;

**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: 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 Psalm 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.

### GOSPEL VERSE

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

### MESSAGE

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King;  
 Let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
 And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature sing,  
 And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,  
 Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sin and sorrow grow Nor thorns infest the ground;  
 He comes to make his blessings flow  
 Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found,  
 Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove  
 The glories of his righteousness  
 And wonders of his love, And wonders of his love,  
 And wonders, wonders of his love.**

#### **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:

*“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”*

LBW #259

**Lord, dismiss us with your blessing, Fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
Let us each, your love possessing,  
Triumph in redeeming grace. Oh, refresh us;  
oh, refresh us, trav'ling through this wilderness.**

**Thanks we give and adoration For your Gospel's joyful sound.  
May the fruits of your salvation  
In our hearts and lives abound. Ever faithful,  
ever faithful To your truth may we be found.**

**Savior, when your love shall call us From our struggling pilgrim way,  
Let no fear of death appall us,  
Glad your summons to obey. May we ever,  
may we ever Reign with you in endless day.**

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

### **Today 12/13 Third Sunday of Advent**

8:00 a.m. Property Team Meeting

9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

*(Christmas Program Practice during Sunday School)*

10:15 a.m. Worship

**\*Called Congregational Meeting Following Worship**

### **Mon 12/14 Office Closed**

**Tues 12/15** 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Pastor's Office Hours

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Office Hours

6:30 p.m. Meyersville 4-H Meeting

**Wed 12/16** 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Office Hours

6:00 p.m. Mission Team Meeting

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

**Thurs 12/17** 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Office Hours

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Pastor's Office Hours

**\*Committee Reports Due**

**Fri 12/18** 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Office Hours

**\*Newsletter Deadline**

### **Next Sun Fourth Sunday of Advent**

9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

*(Christmas Program Practice during Sunday School)*

10:15 a.m. Worship

**~6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Bethlehem Village Christmas Program~**



**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 6, 2020**

General \$4,284.00, MOM- Samaritan's Purse \$300.00, MOM-Christmas Family \$310.00, Organ \$500.00, Sunday School \$22.00, Youth \$15.00, OSC \$1,000.00, Building \$245.00, Reno. \$950.00 **Total: \$7,626.00**

**Attendance:** Worship - 76 Sunday School - 19 - Children, 11 - Adults Confirmation - 4



## **St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**

### **Called Congregation Meeting Agenda**

**12/13/2020**

Call to order

Opening prayer

Item 1 – Ratification of proposed amendments to the NALC Constitution.

Item 2- Approval of the proposed 2021 budget.

Adjourn

**\*Copies of both items are in the Narthex**

CALLED  
CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING



## Mission of the Month of December



### Samaritan's Purse COVID-19 Response Mission Statement

In response to the COVID-19 international emergency Samaritan's Purse has set up medical tents and brought assistance to most of the world. At this moment they are responding to the Bahamas and other countries around the world who continue to have the spread of COVID-19.

All of the monies collected during this month for mission will go specifically to the COVID-19 Response.



*We hold LeAnn Jander & her family in our thoughts & prayers over the loss of her father, Larry Geffert. May God comfort them during this time of loss.*

### St. John Lutheran Christmas Program



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH  
SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH GROUP  
INVITE YOU TO A STEP BACK IN TIME TO OUR  
**BETHLEHEM VILLAGE**  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20TH FROM 6 TO 7 PM  
IN FRONT OF ST. JOHN LUTHERAN  
CHURCH IN MEYERSVILLE

VISIT OUR DIFFERENT BOOTHS AND ENJOY HOT CHOCOLATE AND A LIVE NATIVITY  
DRIVE-BY OPTIONS ALSO AVAILABLE  
FOLLOW THE STAR TO BETHLEHEM!

### 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.



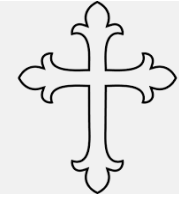


## Youth Group News

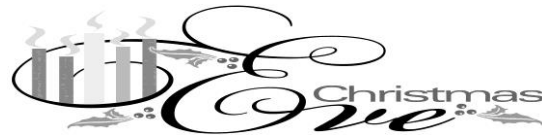
St. John's is looking for someone who enjoys working with young people to be our new youth leaders. Please prayerfully consider this and let Pastor John or Laurie Pokluda know if this is your calling.

### 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 start collecting again in January 2021. Thank you to all who donated in 2020.



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!



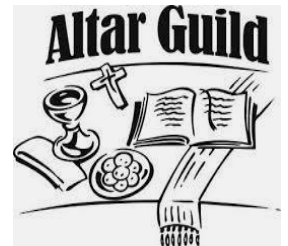
#### Services:

*Communion Service 3:00 pm*

*Candlelight Service w/ Communion 10:00 pm*

### 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:**

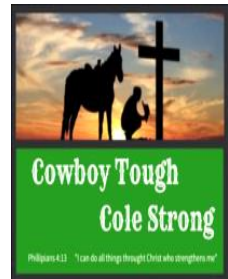
*Healing- physical, emotional & spiritual*

*To help family stay strong*

*Patience*

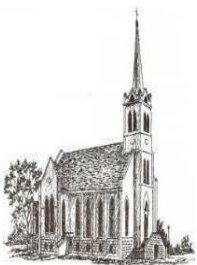
*Stay positive*

*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 December 6, 2020: \$560,408.30



**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, North Carolina



**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:**

Stevens Healthcare of Yoakum ~ Marjorie Ideus  
Cuero Nursing & Rehab. ~ Alfred Rangnow  
Twin Pines Nursing Facility-Victoria ~ Bette Jo Haun, 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 3

December 13, 2020

### 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?



## SOME WORDS FROM LUTHER

This then is the other office of John and of every preacher of the Gospel, not alone to make all the world sinners... but also to give comfort and show how we may get rid of our sins; this he does in pointing to him who is to come. Hereby he directs us to Christ, who is to redeem us from our sins, if we accept him in true faith. - Martin Luther - Sermon on John 1