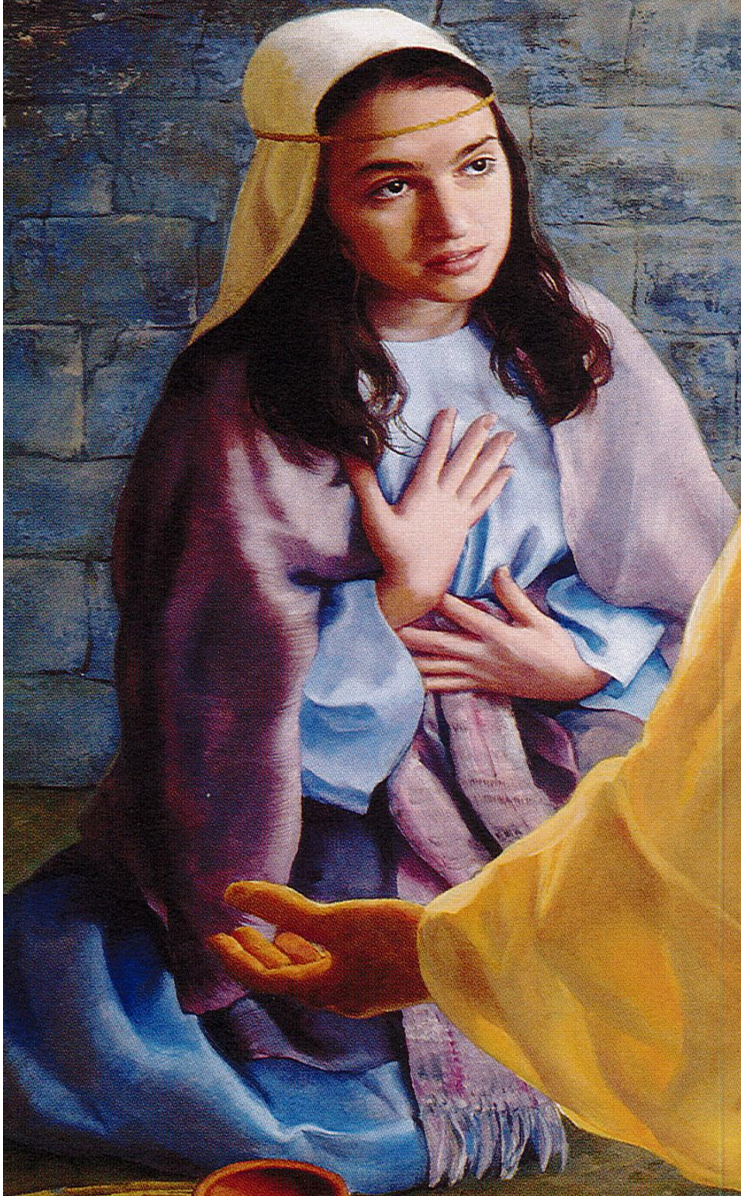


Greetings,
O favored
one



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020

Greeter This Week: Marv & Norrean Sager

Greeter Next Week: Glenn & Linda Ruschhaupt

Reader This Week: Neal Moritz

Reader Next Week: Kathy Dunn

Acolytes This Week: Madyx Blain

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 ~ *Jason Ohrt Family*

HYMN: LBW #71, 1st Verse

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains.

And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Glo . . . ria in excelsis deo; Glo . . . ia in excelsis deo.

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:

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

LBW #28

**Savior of the nations, come; Show the glory of the Son!
Ev’ry people, stand in awe; Praise the perfect Son of God.**

**Not of human seed or worth, But from God’s own mystic breath,
Fruit in Mary’s womb begun When God breathed the Word, his Son.**

**Wondrous birth! Oh, wondrous child Of the virgin undefiled!
Mighty God and man in one, Eager now his race to run!**

**God the Father is his source, back to God he runs his course;
Down to death and hell descends, God’s high throne he re-ascends.**

**He leaves heaven to return; Trav’ling where dull hellfires burn;
Riding out, returning home As the Savior who has come.**

**God the Father’s precious Son Girds himself in flesh to run
For the trophies of our souls, Longer than this round earth rolls.**

**Shining stable in the night, Breathing vict’ry with your light;
Darkness cannot hide your flame, Shining bright as Jesus’ name.**

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. 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: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

¹When the king lived in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ²the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." ³And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you." ⁴But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, ⁵"Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the Lord: Would you build me a house to dwell in?' ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.

¹⁶"And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever."

Responsive Psalm Reading

Psalm 89:1-5 [19-29]

¹Your love, O Lord, forever will I sing;
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

**²For I am persuaded that your love is established forever;
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.**

³"I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

**⁴I will establish your line forever,
and preserve your throne for all generations."**

⁵The heavens bear witness to your wonders, O Lord,
and to your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones;

**¹⁹You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people:
"I have set the crown upon a warrior and have exalted one chosen out of the people.**

²⁰I have found David my servant;
with my holy oil have I anointed him.

**²¹My hand will hold him fast
and my arm will make him strong.**

²²No enemy shall deceive him,
nor any wicked man bring him down.

**²³I will crush his foes before him
and strike down those who hate him.**

²⁴My faithfulness and love shall be with him,
and he shall be victorious through my name.

**²⁵I shall make his dominion extend
from the Great Sea to the River.**

²⁶He will say to me, ‘You are my Father,
my God, and the rock of my salvation.

**²⁷I will make him my firstborn
and higher than the kings of the earth.**

²⁸I will keep my love for him forever,
and my covenant will stand firm for him.

**²⁹I will establish his line forever
and his throne as the days of heaven.”**

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

²⁵Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith — ²⁷to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

GOSPEL VERSE

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

GOSPEL READING: Luke 1:26-38

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

C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy — the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN:

“Lord, Speak to Us, that We May Speak”

LBW #403

**Lord, speak to us, that we may speak
In living echoes of your tone;
As you have sought, so let us seek
Your straying children, lost and lone.**

**Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead
The wand'ring and the wav'ring feet;
Oh, feed us, Lord, that we may feed
Your hung'ring ones with manna sweet.**

**Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach
The precious truths which you impart;
And wing our words, that they may reach
The hidden depths of many a heart.**

**Oh, fill us with your fullness, Lord,
Until our very hearts o'er flow
In kindling thought and glowing word,
Your love to tell, your praise to show.**

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!**

(after each petition "Lord in your mercy," **RESPONSE "HEAR OUR PRAYER"**)

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:

“Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”
Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

LBW #34

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!

Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might,
Who to your tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times once gave the law
In cloud, and majesty, and awe.

Refrain

Oh, come, strong Branch of Jesse, free
Your own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell your people save
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain

Oh, come, blest Day spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by your advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain

Oh, come, O Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

Refrain

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 12/20** **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. Christmas Program
- Mon 12/21** 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Office Hours
- Tues 12/22** 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. Council Meeting
- Wed 12/23** 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Office Hours
- Thurs 12/24** **Office Closed ~ Christmas Eve**
3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion Service
10:00 p.m. Candlelight Service w/ Communion
- Fri 12/25** **Office Closed ~ Merry Christmas! ~**
- Next Sun** **First Sunday after Christmas**
9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:15 a.m. Worship ~ Lessons & Carols



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 13, 2020

General \$2,405.00, MOM- Samaritan's Purse \$400.00, MOM-Christmas Family \$10.00, Organ \$20.00, Sunday School \$16.50, OSC \$20.00, Building \$115.00, Reno. \$340.00 **Total: \$3,326.50**

Attendance: Worship - 70 Sunday School - 12 - Children, 13 - Adults Confirmation - 5



New Member Class

Pastor John will be holding a New Member Class starting on January 10, 2021. The class will be on Sunday evenings from 7-8 PM for four weeks in the Parish Hall. Anyone interested in becoming a new member please contact Pastor John. If you are already a member and would like to attend you are welcome to attend. Please advise Pastor John so he can order the workbook.

Thank you
Pastor John

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 1st 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 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.

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!



Services:

Communion Service 3:00 pm

Candlelight Service w/ Communion 10:00 pm

Have a blessed Christmas with family & loved ones!



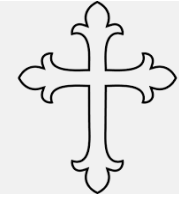


Youth Group News

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.

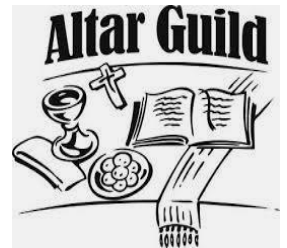


St. John collected **86 shoe boxes** for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child this year! How AWESOME!!! Thank you to everyone who participated in any way!



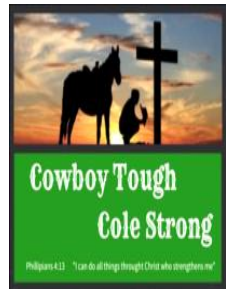
ALTAR GUILD OPPORTUNITY/PLEA

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 13, 2020: \$560,748.30



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 - 1st 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

Advent 4

December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year B)

God had dangerous business in mind for the young Galilean girl who was betrothed but not yet married. She was chosen by the Most High God to carry, give birth, and raise the Lord's Son. If anyone found out she was pregnant out of wedlock, she could have been stoned, or at the very least shunned and rejected. But Mary, who answered the call of God, instead is known for her unwavering faith and obedience.



SOME WORDS FROM LUTHER

The Virgin birth is a mere trifle for God; that God should become man is a greater miracle, but most amazing of all is that this maiden should credit the announcement that she, rather than some other virgin had been chosen to be the mother of God. - Martin Luther - Martin Luther's Christmas Book