



And they . . . followed Him

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 24, 2021

Greeter This Week: Beverly Bodden

Greeter Next Week: Youth Group

Reader This Week: Volunteer Needed

Reader Next Week: Tammy Blain

Acolytes This Week: Hayden Leist & Peyton Diebel

Acolytes Next Week: Hudson Zengerle

Altar Guild This Month: Carol Ann Sagebiel & Cathie Bettge

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

Communion Assistant This Month: Obert Sagebiel

Communion Assistant Next Month: Brian Wendel

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

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,

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

**Savior, like a shepherd lead us; Much we need your tender care
In your pleasant pastures feed us, For our use your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, You have bought us; we are yours.**

**We are yours; on love befriend us, be the guardian of our way;
Keep your flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, Hear us children when we pray.**

**You have promised to receive us, Poor and sinful though we be;
You have mercy to relieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow’r to free.
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to you.**

**Early let us seek your favor, Early let us do your will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior, With your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, You have loved us, love us still.**

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;

Almighty and eternal God, graciously look down on our weakness. Reach out to us with your majestic right hand, and satisfy us with his glory. We ask through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

¹The word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, ²“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.” ³So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days’ journey in breadth. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s journey. And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them.

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

Responsive Psalm Reading

Psalm 62

¹For God alone my soul in silence waits;
from him comes my salvation.

**²He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my stronghold, so that I shall not be greatly shaken.**

³How long will you assail me to crush me, all of you together,
as if you were a leaning fence, a toppling wall?

**⁴They seek only to bring me down from my place of honor;
lies are their chief delight.**

⁵They bless with their lips,
but in their hearts they curse.

**⁶For God alone my soul in silence waits;
truly, my hope is in him.**

⁷He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken.

**⁸In God is my safety and my honor;
God is my strong rock and my refuge.**

⁹Put your trust in him always, O people,
pour out your hearts before him, for God is our refuge.

**¹⁰Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath,
even those of low estate cannot be trusted.**

¹¹On the scales they are lighter than a breath,
all of them together.

**¹²Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride;
though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.**

¹³God has spoken once, twice have I heard it,
that power belongs to God.

**¹⁴Steadfast love is yours, O Lord,
for you repay everyone according to his deeds.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 [32-35]

²⁹This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away. [³²I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. ³³But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, ³⁴and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. ³⁵I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.]

GOSPEL VERSE

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

GOSPEL READING: Mark 1:14-20

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

C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

¹⁴After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.” ¹⁶Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN:

“The Church’s One Foundation”

LBW #369

**The Church's one Foundation Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is his new creation, By water and the Word.
From heav'n he came and sought her To be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her, And for her life he died.**

**Elect from ev'ry nation, Yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses With ev'ry grace endued.**

**Though with a scornful wonder This world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping; Their cry goes up: "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping Shall be the morn of song.**

**Through toil and tribulation And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation Of peace for evermore;
Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great church victorious Shall be the church at rest.**

**Yet she on earth has union With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won.
O blessed heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by your grace,
That we, like saints before us, May see you face to face.**

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:

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

WOV #765

Refrain:

**Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve the neighbors
we have from you.**

**Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
master who pours out himself for them.**

Refrain:

**Neighbors are wealthy and poor,
varied in color and race,
neighbors are nearby and far away.**

Refrain:

**These are the ones we will serve,
these are the ones we will love;
all these are neighbors to us and you.**

Refrain:

**Kneel at the feet of our friends,
silently washing their feet:
this is the way we will live with you.**

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 1/24	Third Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Worship 6:00 p.m. New Member Class <i>*Annual Congregational Meeting Following Worship</i>
Mon 1/25	<i>Office Closed</i>
Tues 1/26	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 1/27	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 9:00 a.m. Old Stone Church Meeting
Thurs 1/28	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Pastor's Office Hours
Fri 1/29	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Office Hours
Next Sun	Fourth Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Worship ~ <i>Installation of Council Members</i> 6:00 p.m. New Member 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.

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, January 17, 2021

General \$1,480.00, MOM-Boys & Girls Club \$350.00, Organ \$20.00, Youth \$10.00, Sunday School \$21.00, Building \$110.00, Reno. \$850.00 **Total: \$2,841.00**

Attendance: Worship - 87 Sunday School - 11 - Children, 12 - 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 6-7 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

Mission of the Month of January



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

Boys & Girls Club of DeWitt County

Mission Statement

In our community there are hundreds of boys and girls left to find their own recreation and companionship in the streets, or who, in increasing numbers, spend many hours at home with no adult care or supervision. These youngsters often form groups or gangs and risk getting involved with the wrong leaders, eventually finding themselves in serious trouble.

The Boys and Girls club mission is to work with youth of all backgrounds, with a special concern for those from disadvantaged circumstances, to help them develop the skills to become productive citizens and leaders.

The DeWitt county community has needed something like this for a number of years. It has been well accepted by the school districts, the City of Cuero and area church leaders. St. John's own Laurie Pokluda sits on the board of this club. If you have questions Laurie will be glad to answer them.

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.



Important Dates

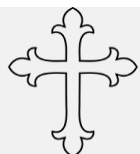
1/24/21 Annual Congregational Meeting following worship

1/31/21 Installation of Council Members



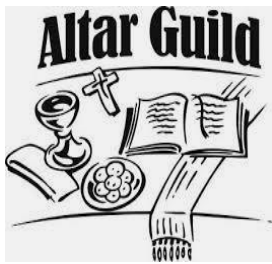
Youth Group News

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 be collecting combs & brushes for the month of January. Thank you.



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:

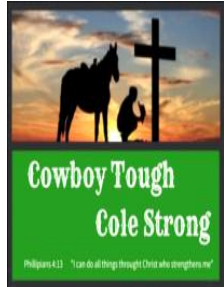
Healing- physical, emotional & spiritual

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 January 17, 2021: \$563,763.30



2021 Service Project Committees

Text Prayer Chain – Linda Ruschhaupt

Call Prayer Chain – Mary Wagner

Nursing Homes/Shut-In Visits – Virginia Abrameit

NALC Quilts – Norrean Sager

NALC Display in Church – (Quilt Litany Sunday) St. John Quilters

NALC Disaster Response Flood Buckets – Mission Evangelism

NALC Disaster Response Health Kits – Mission Evangelism

NALC Health Kits – Mission Evangelism

Quilt Packing & Labeling – St. John Quilters

NALC Quilts, Buckets, Health Kits Delivery – Mission Evangelism

Cornucopia – Cathie Bettge

Baptismal Banners – Cathie Bettge

Book for Bereaved – Bev Bodden/Parish Life

Confirmation Card & Cross in Pocket – Cathie Bettge

Christmas Card to Shut-Ins – Bev Bodden/Parish Life

Christmas Church Decorations –

Graduation Devotional – Bev Bodden/Parish Life

Bible Study Coordinator – Carol Ann Sagebiel

Women's Biennial Service (2022) -

PRAYER REQUESTS: If you have a prayer request or wish to be on the prayer chain please contact Mary Wagner (361)275-9500 or Pastor John (361)243-0373. 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.

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
Jimmy Caskey
Britany Jank Tomas
Dugan Chandler
Bea Fagg

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

Epiphany 3

January 24, 2021

Epiphany 3 (Year B)

The call of God is serious business. It is rooted in God's desire for all people to know Him and be in a loving relationship with him. Those who are called are sent out to fish for people, the people God loves. This call is an urgent one. It cannot wait. And it's not about us — it's about Jesus reconciling the whole world to the Father, who sent his Son to usher in the Kingdom of God in the here and now.



SOME WORDS FROM LUTHER

Our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, in saying: "Repent," wanted the entire life of believers to be one of repentance... He does not, however, mean inward repentance only; in fact, such inward repentance is not real at all if it does not outwardly produce various mortifications of the flesh. (i.e. dying to sin) -

Martin Luther - 95 Theses