



**He shall be
their peace.**

Micah 5:5

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021

Greeter This Week: John & Margie Swannack

Greeter Next Week: Dickie & Cathie Bettge

Reader This Week: Neil Moritz

Reader Next Week: Kathy Dunn

Acolytes This Week: Peyton Diebel

Acolytes Next Week: Madyx Blain

Altar Guild This Month: Betty Diebel & Virginia Jank

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

Communion Assistant This Month: Wanda Hays

Communion Assistant Next Month: Johnny Jank



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 this morning's service. We thank God that we continue to be able to gather together and worship inside our church. We are not mandating any seating, nor do we mandate wearing a mask. However if you feel more comfortable wearing one, please feel free to do so. There is hand sanitizer available at each door as you enter and smaller bottles in each pew for your use. At the place in the service where we "Share the Peace" and we would typically move about the church sharing the peace of Christ, we would ask that you remain at your seat, where you might share the peace with immediate family members or look around the church "share the peace" at a distance or give an "air-hug" to others you see. For those uncomfortable with this amount of personal contact we welcome you to continue to take part in the service by listening in your vehicle in the parking lot. We will continue to broadcast the service on FM 101.5 and you can follow the service in the bulletin as the liturgy, the organ music, hymns with the lyrics by our song leaders, and Pastor John's message will be on the broadcast. Thank you for your patience as we all look forward and pray for the day when we might worship without the concern for this pandemic.

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 ~ Neal Moritz 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 . . . ria 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

OPENING HYMN: *“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”*

LBW #481

**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;

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.

Please be seated

First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

²But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given

birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵And he shall be their peace.

PSALM READING

Psalm 80:1-7

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; ⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’” ⁸When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Vocal Selection by Rachel Nessel ~ *“Mary Did You Know?”*

Stand as you are able

GOSPEL VERSE

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

GOSPEL READING: Luke 1:39-45 [46-56]

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

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

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.” [⁴⁶And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; ⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.” ⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.]

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated

MESSAGE ~ “*Are you Ready?*”

Stand as you are able

Let us confess our faith through the Apostles’ Creed

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:

“Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning”

LBW #84

**Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**

**Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining;
Low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.**

**Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,
Fragrance of Edom and off'rings divine,
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?**

**Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would his favor secure;
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.**

**Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**

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 12/19 Fourth Sunday of Advent**
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
(Christmas Program Practice during Sunday School)
10:15 a.m. Worship
6:00 p.m. ~ *Bethlehem Village Christmas Program* ~
- Mon 12/20 Office Closed**
- Tues 12/21 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Office Hours ~ Winter Begins**
- Wed 12/22 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Office Hours**
1:30 p.m. Quilters
***Committee Reports Due**
- Thurs 12/23 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Office Hours**
***Newsletter Deadline**
- Fri 12/24 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Office Hours**
~ **CHRISTmas Eve Services** ~
3:00 p.m. **Communion Service**
10:00 p.m. **Candlelight Service w/ Communion**
- 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 12, 2021

General \$2,015.00, MOM-Samaritan's Purse \$1,450.00, Cemetery \$2,500.00, Building \$20.00, OSC \$250.00, Organ \$1,460.00, Sunday School \$55.00

Samaritan's Purse: Operation Heal Our Patriots \$10.00, Children's Heart Project \$10.00,
U.S. Disaster Relief \$10.00

Total: \$7,780.00

Attendance: Worship - 70 Sunday School - 9 - Children, 15 - Adults Confirmation - 7



Update on Pastor John

Pastor John's surgery went well & as of December 17th he was still in ICU. He is expected to get moved to a regular room within a day or two. Praise God, the doctors & nurses for a successful surgery! Keep the prayers coming for a wonderful recovery!

Mission of the Month of December



Samaritan's Purse Mission Statement

Three examples of their outreach are:

U.S. Disaster Relief: Since 1998, over 83,000 volunteers have worked with our staff to help more than 28,000 families impacted by U.S. natural disasters—hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, floods, and ice storms—by quickly providing emergency supplies, repairing, cleaning and rebuilding homes. Five disaster relief units, tractor-trailers stocked with tools and cleanup supplies, are ready to deploy when disasters strike.

Children's Heart Project: This project brings children to North America to receive life-saving surgery not available in their home countries. To date, Samaritan's Purse has arranged surgery for more than 1,000 children with heart defects.

Operation Heal Our Patriots: This program is designed to strengthen the marriages of wounded and injured members of the U.S. Military. The primary component is Samaritan Lodge Alaska, a wilderness retreat offering outdoor activities and Biblically based marriage enrichment classes. To date, more than 500 people have been through the program.

NALC Disaster Response ~ Tornado Disaster

NALC Disaster Response is ready and waiting with supplies and more to help in the areas devastated by the tornadoes. Mary Bates, national coordinator, is working to see where the NALC can do the most help.

NEEDED: Lots of prayers for the people in the affected areas.

NEEDED: Gift cards from Walmart, Target and similar stores.

Mary wants to help families with toys for their children for Christmas.

Mail gift cards to NALC Disaster Response, 16500 Noble Ave., Caldwell, Ohio 43724.

God bless,

Michael Dittrich

Cell: (281) 381-5588 (Call if you have questions)

Serve each other with love--Galatians 5:13b

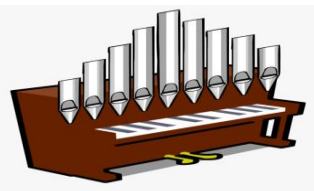
NALC Warehouse

We will be collecting for the warehouse all year. Each month we will feature items to be donated. We will start collecting again in January 2022. Thank you to all who donated in 2021.



Organ Fund

The congregation voted on October 17, 2021 to upgrade our organ which is in need of a major overhaul. The cost of the upgrade is \$69,117.00 and we have received \$64,575.35 in designated giving to the fund to date. Any contributions should be marked as Organ Fund. Thank you from the Organ Committee and Church Council.



NEW Church Renovation Update

Remaining items for the construction progress are to correct construction errors related to landing elevation and drainage, modification of steps to meet original architectural plans, and elimination of flatwork ponding on approach to elevator, at contractor's cost. After completion, a final walk through will be held to address any items that need to be touched up. The current invoiced total for cost of construction, change orders, materials testing, architect, grass planting, and incidentals is \$600,850.80. Designated giving and memorials received to date total \$603,083.30.



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



Today during Sunday school we will have a walk through, review interactive questions, and practice songs. There is still time to be in the program, just let us know today! We will need to find your costume! Tonight is the big night! Everyone needs to be at the parsonage by 5:30 pm to get dressed for the program. Let's celebrate Jesus birthday!

With God's Love,

Johnna Kethan 361-649-4234, Kathy Dunn 361-275-4322, Laurie Pokluda 361-275-4232, Trish Hood 361-212-7322 and Lenzi Moritz 361-772-6312.



Services:

Communion Service 3:00 pm

Candlelight Service w/ Communion 10:00 pm

NEW UPDATE: Worship Team Notes

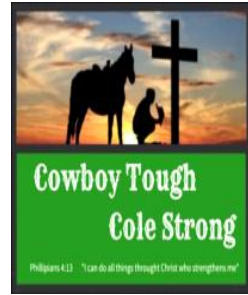
Worship services will be in the church sanctuary at 10:15 a.m. Communion will go back to the 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month by stations. The service will still be broadcasted on the radio station FM 101.5 for those who wish to stay in their vehicles. We will continue to commune those worshipping remotely "in the parking lot" in their vehicles. Please note state and local guidelines are subject to change and we will continue to attempt to follow those for the health and safety of all. Guidelines and changes in those will be posted in the bulletin, on our website & FaceBook page. Please check these for changes and updates. Please Note: The service will NO longer be videoed & posted to the church website.





+ UPDATE + Special Prayers for Cole

Cole is at home doing well surrounded by the love and support of all his family and friends. He continues to have therapy on a daily basis at his home and is now receiving therapy in Victoria on his new fabulous walking machine, the Lokomat Pro. This machine is a robotic training system that allows Cole's legs to be attached to robotic legs that assist with basic walking functions. It's an awesome machine and God has truly blessed Cole once again. Cole and his family want others, in need of this type of therapy, to share in this wonderful blessing and be able to also use this machine. God is truly at work thru Cole. 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)

Fill the Warehouse!
(The cheapest place to shop for supplies!)
NALC Disaster Response
What's in a Flood Bucket?

- 1 bucket (5 gallon) with a lid – Firehouse Subs \$3.00 ea.**
(Check other restaurants, donut shops, school kitchens, etc.!)
- 1 roll paper towels – Walmart 44 cents a roll**
- 1 powder cleanser – Walmart 88 cents ea.**
- 1 floor cleaner – small! (like Pine Sol, Fabuloso) – Dollar Tree \$1.00 ea.**
- 1 bottle bleach – small! – Dollar Tree \$1.00 ea.**
- 1 pair rubber gloves – Dollar Tree \$1.00 ea.**
- 1 scrub brush – Dollar Tree \$1.00 ea.**
- 1 pair leather gloves – Home Depot 3 pk under \$6.00**
- 1 pair cotton gloves – Walmart 6 pk under \$5.00/Home Depot or Lowe's \$1.00 ea. Pr**
- 2 contractor trash bags (3 mil) – shop around.....**
- 2 rags – Don't buy! Cut up old bath & beach towels, dish towels, wash cloths.....**

What's in a Health Kit?

- Soap: 1 regular size bar or 2-3 travel size***
- Shampoo: 2 or 3 travel size* (or 1 small size)**
- Lotion: 1 or 2 travel size***
***Ask for donations from people you know that stay in hotels!**
- 1 deoderant – Walmart 88 cents ea.**
- 1 toothbrush – Dollar Tree 4 for \$1.00**
- 1 toothpaste (travel size) – Walmart (or for a bigger tube) 77-90 cents ea.**
- 1 comb – Dollar Tree 12 pk for \$1.00**
- 1 bath towel – Walmart \$1.97 ea.**
- 1 drawstring bag – Make 2 from an old pillow case!**

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, Louisiana
Russell Copeland - U.S. Army Reserves
Jonathon Albrecht - U.S. Army, Kentucky
Chase Schroeder - U.S. Navy, Hawaii
Austin Schroeder - U.S. Navy, Virginia
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
Hunter Jacob
Kenny Jacob
Cole Ohrt
Joy Hoy
Marie Liner
Bill Roeske
Britany Jank Tomas
Bea Fagg
Clint Coles
Mrs. Stiles
Ryon Preslar
Pastor John
B. Bagwell (*Brenda Boor's Mom*)
Donald Boor (*Pastor's Brother*)

Nursing Home:
Cuero Nursing & Rehab. ~ Marjorie Ideus



Keep up with St. John online

St. John Meyersville

<https://www.facebook.com/Stjohnmeyersville>

Or visit our website at: stjohnmeyersville.org

Advent 4

December 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year C)

The promised Messiah came into the world to create a new order; one that put an end to sin and separation from God. He was not what the world expected. The Son of God came as an infant, born of a human mother, wielding no weapons and continually acting in love. Jesus was the fulfillment of Micah's prophecy of a shepherd ruler from the smallest tribe in Israel and his love was stronger than death.

