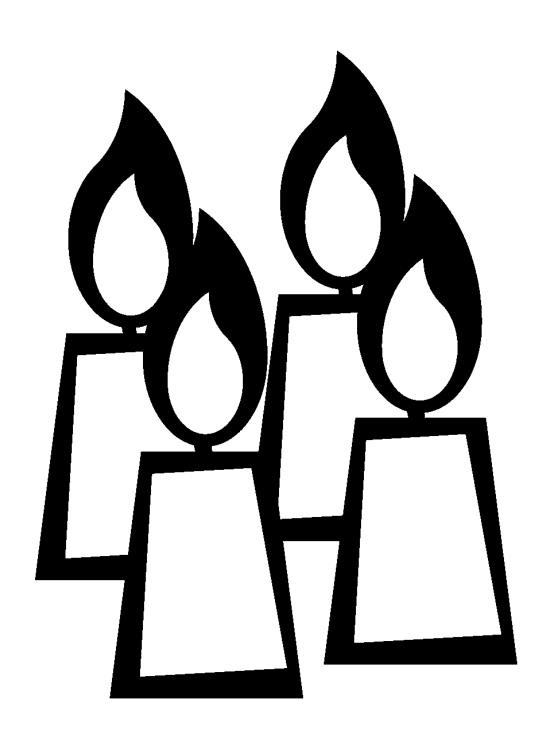
December 18, 2022



The Lord himself will give you a sign. Isaiah 7:14

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 18, 2022

Greeter This Week: Marvin & Norrean Sager Greeter Next Week: Glenn & Linda Ruschhaupt

Reader This Week: Trish Hood Reader Next Week: Beverly Bodden

Altar Guild This Month: Cathie Bettge & Brenda Boor Altar Guild Next Month: Dawn Otto & Kaley Coker Communion Assistant This Month: Dickie Bettge Communion Assistant Next Month: Pam Haun

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.

HOLY COMMUNION

You are invited to commune with us if, as a baptized Christian, you believe that you are a sinner and in need of God's forgiveness; that the body and blood of Jesus are truly present in the Sacrament; that this is more than a symbolic act, but a way God proclaims forgiveness to us who are repentant.

May your participation increase your faith and strengthen your love for God and one another.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Service begins with the first notes of the prelude. Please prepare for worship with silent meditation at this time.

PRELUDE
RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL
ANNOUNCEMENTS PRAISES AND CONCERNS

Lighting of the Advent Candle – Jander Family

The fourth Advent Candle is the Candle of Peace.

HYMN: "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" (4th Verse) WOV #630

Light four candles to watch for Messiah:

let the light banish darkness.

He is coming, tell the glad tidings.

Let your lights be shining!

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,
- C 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.
- 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:

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

LBW #30

- Come, thou long expected Jesus, Born to set thy people free;
 From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in thee.
 Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth thou art,
 Dear desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.
- 2. Born thy people to deliver, Born a child and yet a king; Born to reign in us forever, Now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone; By thine all sufficient merit Raise us to thy glorious throne.

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

HYMN OF PRAISE

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

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

Faithfulness to the message of the Lord is lived out in human life first by listening and then by being obedient. God promised from of old to send a son, born of a virgin, to be the salvation of Israel and Judah. The very face of God would be seen in this child who would be called Immanuel. As followers of Christ, we, too, have received the message and are called to share the Good News of "God with us."

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-17

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: ¹¹"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah — the king of Assyria!"

Responsive Reading Psalm 24

¹The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world and all who dwell therein.

²For it is he who founded it upon the seas and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep.

³"Who can ascend the hill of the LORD? and who can stand in his holy place?"

⁴"Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, who have not pledged themselves to falsehood, nor sworn by what is a fraud.

⁵They shall receive a blessing from the LORD and a just reward from the God of their salvation."

⁶Such is the generation of those who seek him, of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.

⁷Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

8"Who is this King of glory?"
"The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle."

⁹Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

¹⁰"Who is he, this King of glory?"
"The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory."

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Stand as you are able

GOSPEL VERSE

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

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 1st chapter. **C Glory to you, O Lord.** (sung)

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸The birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P The Gospel of the Lord. C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

Please be seated

MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

LBW #31

1 Wake, awake, for night is flying,
The watchmen on the heights are crying;
Awake, Jerusalem, at last.
Midnight hears the welcome voices,
And at the thrilling cry rejoices:
"Come forth you maidens! Night is past.

The Bridegroom comes! Awake; Your lamps with gladness take!" Alleluia! Prepare yourselves to meet the Lord, Whose light has stirred the waiting guard.

2 Zion hears the watchmen singing, And in her heart new joy is springing. She wakes, she rises from her gloom, For her Lord comes down all-glorious, The strong in grace, in truth victorious. Her star is ris'n; her light is come. Oh, come, vou Bless-ed One, Lord Jesus, God's own Son. Sing Hosanna! We go until the halls we view Where you have bid us dine with you.

3 Now let all the heav'ns adore you, And saints and angels sing before you. The harps and cymbals all unite. Of one pearl each shining portal, Where, dwelling with the choir immortal, We gather round Thy dazzling light.. No eye has seen, no ear, Has yet been trained to hear. What joy is ours! Crescendos rise; Your halls resound; Hosannas blend in cosmic sound.

Stand as you are able

L God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith together.

L 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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

L 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.

Each petition ends with "...Lord, in your mercy," The congregation responds with "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**

SHARING THE PEACE

L The peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

L Let us share the peace.

OFFERING

Stand as you are able

OFFERTORY

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
And fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
That we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;
Unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with your presence,
And give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

- L Merciful Father,
- C We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us ourselves, our time and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
- L The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- L Lift up your hearts.
- C We lift them to the Lord.

- L Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- L It is indeed right and salutary.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
- C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might:
 Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest.
- L Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.
 In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
 That all those who believe in him should not perish,
 But have eternal life.
 We give thanks to you for the salvation
 You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.
 Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
 That we may receive our Lord
 With a living faith as he comes to us
 In his holy supper.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
Broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying;
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
And gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
Shed for you and for all people
For the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Father remember us always and teach us to pray;

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

- L Come for the Lord's Table is ready.
- C Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

HOLY COMMUNION

- L May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C Amen

POST COMMUNION

C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell everyone what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Let us pray;

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

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

May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

L Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

THE DOXOLOGY:

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.

POSTLUDE

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN

Today 12/18 Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:15 a.m. Worship – Holy Communion

Bethlehem Market open after services

(Proceeds benefit the Youth Group for summer camp) $6:00 \ p.m. - 7:00 \ p.m.$ Bethlehem Village & Market

Mon 12/19 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Office Hours

Tues 12/20 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Pastor's Office Hours

Wed 12/21 1:30 p.m. Quilters

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

Thurs 12/22 9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. Office Hours

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

Fri 12/23 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Office Hours

Sat 12/24 Christmas Eve

3:00 p.m. Worship – Holy Communion 10:00 p.m. Candlelight Service – Holy Communion

Next Sun. Christmas Day

(no Sunday School, Confirmation or Adult Study Classes) *10:15 a.m.* Worship – Holy Communion

Velcome Visitors! We would like to extend a special welcome to all visitors. If you are furch 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 11, 2022

General \$3,016.00, Mission of the Month- Samaritan's Purse \$230.00, Old Stone Church \$10.00, Sunday School \$16.00, Building \$4,600.00, Youth Group \$40.00 **Total: \$7,912.00**

Attendance: Worship - 80 Sunday School: Children (not recorded), Adults -10

Please feel free to visit the Bethlehem Market after church today. The proceeds will go to the Youth Group for camp. Fresh pine wreaths will be available for sale.



St. John Lutheran Sunday School & Youth Group Christmas Program will be presented by our Sunday School and Youth Group this evening, December 18, 2022 from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Step back in time to the first Christmas with a live nativity scene.

JOB OPENING!

The position for St. John church secretary is once again open. Trish's last day in the office was Friday, Dec. 2. We thank her for her time and wish her well. If anyone is interested in this position please contact Obert Sagebiel or Pastor John.



At the called congregational meeting last Sunday, the congregation approved the St. John 2023 Proposed Budget and voted to replace the A/C unit that went out this past summer. The A/C work was installed this past week. Thank you to the church council for the dedication and hard work taking care of our church matters.



<u>December Mission of the Month</u> Samaritan's Purse

Samaritan's Purse is a nonprofit Christian relief and evangelism organization that specializes in meeting the needs of war, poverty, disease, and natural disaster, while at the same time sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. They serve where needed whether it be on foreign lands or right here in the USA.

Holiday Worship Schedule

Note: no Confirmation Class December 18
Christmas Eve Early Service with Communion 3:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion 10:00 p.m.
Christmas Day – Regular Sunday worship 10:15 a.m.
Note: no Sunday School, Confirmation or Adult Study Classes on Christmas Day

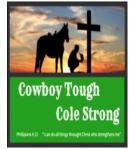
Note: no Sunday School, Confirmation or Adult Study Classes on Christmas Day New Year's Day – Regular Sunday worship with Communion 10:15 a.m.

Note: no Sunday School, Confirmation or Adult Study Classes on New Year's Day



+ UPDATE + Special Prayers for Cole

Hello everyone! Hope you are all enjoying this cooler weather! Cole not so much. He hates the winter time daily because he burns all over when he gets cold. He loves to be outside so this makes it miserable for him when it's cooler. He pushes through it like he does everything else but maybe pray this burning will stay away. Cole has reached a cool milestone recently. He has officially walked over 100,000 steps on his Lokomat machine! He faithfully goes twice a week to work an hour on the Armeo are machined then walks on



the Lokomat even though he really doesn't feel like it some days. That on top of all the therapy he does at home. He's hard-headed and sometimes that serves us well! Cole has been staying healthy otherwise so we are always Thankful for that. Thank you all for your continued prayers and support.

Also, please pray for another boy, Holden, who sustained some very serious injuries in an ATV accident recently. In addition, please pray for his parents and doctors as they move forward in the care and needs of Holden. 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!

CAMAL House Food Drive and Blanket Drive

It's the season for giving & sharing. Please consider a donation of non-parishable goods, to our local food pantry! They are specifically in need of canned meats. Items are being collected in the narthex. CAMAL House

is also collection new and gently used blankets, comforters, quilts or extra large throws. Items can be dropped off in the Parish Hall or Narthex now thru February 2023. Thank you!







We keep the family of Ronald "Ronnie" L. Morris (brother of Susan Egg) in our prayers. May God comfort his family at this time of loss.

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, Fort Hood
Chase Schroeder - U.S. Navy, Hawaii
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
Zach McBrayer - U.S. Air Force, San Antonio

Please Pray for:

Hunter Jacob, Cole Ohrt, Marie Liner, Bea Fagg, Mrs. Stiles, Ryon Preslar, Lisa Phillips, Joy Meadows, Billie Egg

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

SOME WORDS FROM LUTHER

Joseph could hardly place a good construction upon her condition. Had Joseph wished to follow the letter of the law he would have denounced her and she would have been stoned. Joseph had nothing to go by save the Word of God and he accepted it. A godless man would have said it was just a dream, but Joseph believed the word of God and took unto him his wife.

- Martin Luther –

(Christmas Book)



The Spirit of Christmas

The crowds asked John, "What should we do?" John told them, "If you have two coats, give one to someone who doesn't have any. If you have food, share it with someone else." Luke 3:10-11 (CEV)



Words are taken from Luke 3:7-11 (NLT).

Ι	C	Р	W	Υ	0	Н	Р	Р	S	V	Q	٧	S	Α
Α	G	Т	R	F	Q	W	R	R	0	Н	G	Α	Χ	F
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Н	Z	F	Ν	Q	Ν	U	С	R	Χ	Т	Е	Т	Т	D
U	F	0	F	G	Е	Е	С	Е	U	W	S	Е	Р	S
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Н	Е	Χ	Z	V	I	S	R	Μ	Т	W	0	Ι	W	Α
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Z	G	L	Q	0	Н	В	0	В	Α	Р	Т	I	S	Μ

baptism	give	poor	share	tree	
crowds	good	produce	shirts	turned	
food	hungry	prove	sins	two	
fruit	live	repent	snakes	warned	