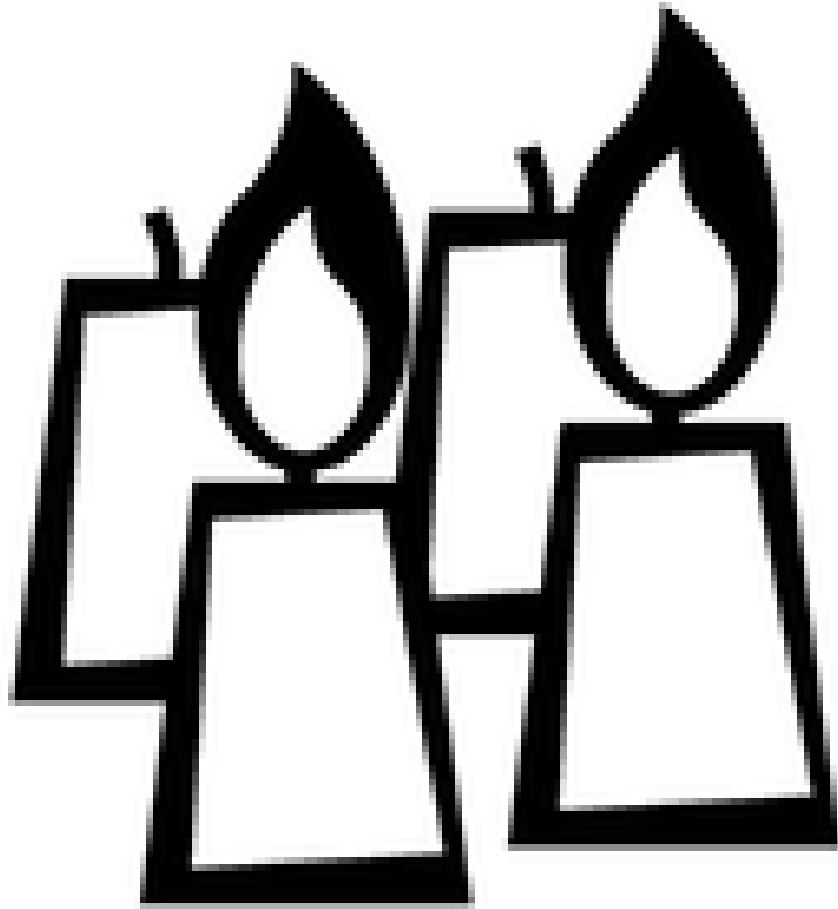


December 4, 2022



Prepare the way of the Lord!

Matthew 3:3

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2022

Greeter This Week: John & Margie Swannack

Greeter Next Week: Dickie & Cathie Bettge

Reader This Week: Johnna Picard

Reader Next Week: Dickie Bettge

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.

As We Gather

Your faith, as Abraham's, is reckoned to you as righteousness. The Lord God is our sure defense, for we cannot be saved from ruin by military or political might, but by the strong right arm of the Lord. It is our unwavering conviction that God both created and sustains by his word. How can we not trust him with fear and faith, and hope in his steadfast love? We do not concern ourselves over each day's bread, as God has given us the whole kingdom, the heavenly city, the glorious homeland that we both seek and find in Christ.

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

ANNOUNCEMENTS PRAISES AND CONCERNS

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Second Advent Candle is the Candle of Love.

HYMN:

Light One Candle (2nd Verse)

WOV #630

Light two candles to watch for Messiah:

Let the light banish darkness.

He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,

Gently lead them homeward.

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.

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:

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

LBW #26

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

Refrain

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

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

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

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

GREETING

L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE

L In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

L For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord have mercy.

L For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord have mercy.

L For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord have mercy.

L Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen

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 our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of your only-begotten Son, that by his coming we may be enabled to serve you with pure minds; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ²And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. ⁶The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. ⁹They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples — of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

Responsive Reading

Psalm 72:1-7

¹ Give the King your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the King's Son;

**2 That he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**

³ That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the little hills bring righteousness.

**4 He shall defend the needy among the people;
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**

⁵ He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

**6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

⁷ In his time shall the righteous flourish;
there shall be abundance of peace
till the moon shall be no more.

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-13

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." ¹⁰And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." ¹¹And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him." ¹²And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope." ¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

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 3rd chapter.

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

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 3:1-12

¹In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ²"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." ³For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" ⁴Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹"I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated

MESSAGE

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, You Blessed 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.

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.

L In the night in which he was betrayed

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 12/4	Second Sunday of Advent 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Worship – Holy Communion
Mon 12/5	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Office Hours
Tues 12/6	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Pastor's Office Hours 7:00 p.m. Worship Team Meeting
Thurs 12/8	1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Pastor's Office Hours
Fri 12/9	9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Office Hours
Next Sun	Third Sunday of Advent 8:00 a.m. Property Team Meeting 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 9:00 a.m. Sunday School (Christmas Program Practice during Sunday School) 10:15 a.m. Worship – followed by Called Congregational Meeting



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.

Wednesday, November 23, 2021 ~ Thanksgiving Eve Service

General \$265.00, Organ \$200.00 **Total: \$465.00**

Attendance: Worship - 31

Sunday, November 27, 2021

General \$475.00, MOM-Christmas Family \$450.00, NALC \$100.00, Building \$20.00, Organ \$315.00

Total: \$1,360.00

Attendance: Worship - 74 Sunday School 9 - Children, 9 – Adults -10



~ THANK YOU ~

Thank You! to the Terry Haun Family for putting up the Christmas tree this year. It is beautiful, and it adds to the Christmas Spirit, as we celebrate Jesus' birth!

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.

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A called congregational meeting will be held immediately following the service on December 11th. There are two agenda items consisting of an A/C replacement proposal and consideration of the proposed St. John Budget for 2023.



December Mission of the Month
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.



Christmas Family Gifts

Please have all of the gifts for the Christmas Family brought to church by Sunday, December 11th. This will be the very last day to bring your gifts. You may also drop your gifts off at the church office during office hours. Thank you!

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

The Bethlehem Village will be presented by our Sunday School and Youth Group on Sunday, December 18, 2022 from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Step back in time to the first Christmas with a live nativity scene. This year we are adding a Christmas bazaar with fresh evergreens, artwork, and baked items with the proceeds going to the Youth Group for camp. Hope to see you there.

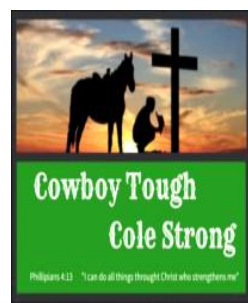
With God's Love,
Johnna Picard 361-649-4234, Kathy Dunn 361-275-4322,
Laurie Pokluda 361-275-4232, and Rachel Nessel 361-571-9228.



Christmas Eve Services

Communion Service 3:00 pm
Candlelight Service with Communion 10:00 pm

+ 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

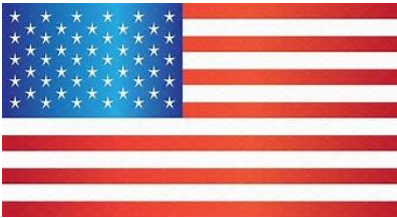
1 toothpaste (travel size) – Walmart (or for a bigger tube) 77-90 cents ea.

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, 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





SOME WORDS FROM LUTHER

As it went with John, so it still goes, from the beginning of the world until the end. For such conceited piety will not be told that it must first and foremost prepare the way of the Lord, imagining itself to sit in God's lap

-Martin Luther-



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St. John Meyersville

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Or visit our website at: stjohnmeyersville.org