

DECEMBER 11, 2022

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
MEYERSVILLE, TEXAS



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022

Greeter This Week: Dickie & Cathie Bettge

Greeter Next Week: Marvin & Norrean Sager

Reader This Week: Dickie Bettge

Reader Next Week: Trish Hood

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.

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

The Second Advent Candle is the Candle of Joy.

HYMN:

Light One Candle (3rd Verse)

WOV #630

Light three candles to watch for Messiah:

Let the light banish darkness.

Lift you heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.

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

OPENING HYMN:

“On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry”

LBW #36

**1 On Jordan’s banks the Baptist’s cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings!**

**2 Then cleansed be ev’ry life from sin;
Make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.**

**3 We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
Our refuge, and our great reward;
Without your grace we waste away
Like flow’rs that wither and decay.**

**4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
And make us rise to fall no more;
Oh, let your face upon us shine,
And fill the world with love divine.**

**5 All praise to you, eternal Son,
Whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Spirit, evermore.**

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;

Lord Jesus Christ, give ear to our prayers, and lighten the darkness of our hearts by your gracious visitation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated

Jesus lifted up the work and character of John the Baptist, of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said that one would come to prepare the way of the Lord. With the promises of a desert in full bloom, the blind receiving sight, and the lame walking, the exhortation to be patient and persevere until the coming of the Lord's Messiah gives us hope and courage as we wait for Christ's return.

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; ²it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart,

“Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.” ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Responsive Psalm Reading

Psalm 146

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

**²Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth,
for there is no help in them.**

³When they breathe their last, they return to earth,
and in that day their thoughts perish.

**⁴Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help!
whose hope is in the LORD their God;**

⁵Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps his promise forever;

**⁶Who gives justice to those who are oppressed,
and food to those who hunger.**

⁷The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind;
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

**⁸The LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares for the stranger;
he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.**

⁹The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

Second Reading: James 5:7-11

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

Please stand

GOSPEL VERSE

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

GOSPEL READING: Gospel: Matthew 11:2-15

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 11th chapter.

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

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” ⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written, ‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’ ¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated

MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN:

“I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry”

WOV #770

**“I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
In a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell.”**

**“When you heard the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time**

**and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun."**

**"In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in,
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise."**

**"I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold."**

HOLY BAPTISM (Page 121 LBW)

The peace of the Lord be with you always,
And also with you

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

**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

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,

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:

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

LBW #25

1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers, And let your lights appear;

The evening is advancing, And darker night is near.

The bridegroom is arising And soon is drawing nigh.

Up, pray and watch and wrestle; At midnight comes the cry.

2 The watchers on the mountain Proclaim the bridegroom near;

Go forth as He approaches With alleluias clear.

The marriage feast is waiting; The gates wide open stand.

Arise, O heirs of glory; The bridegroom is at hand.

3 The saints, who here in patience Their cross and sufferings bore,

Shall live and reign forever When sorrow is no more.

Around the throne of glory The Lamb they shall behold;

In triumph cast before Him Their diadems of gold.

4 Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;

Arise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this benighted sphere.

With hearts and hands uplifted, We plead, O Lord, to see

The day of earth's redemption That sets Your people free!

Pastor: Go in peace, serve the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

THE DOXOLOGY:

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.**

POSTLUDE

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN

Today 12/11	Third Sunday of Advent	
	8:00 a.m.	Property Team Meeting
	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	9:00 a.m.	Confirmation
	9:00 a.m.	Adult Study
	10:15 a.m.	Worship – followed by Called Congregational Meeting
	3:00 p.m.	Bethlehem Village Setup in Parish Hall
Mon 12/12	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Office Hours
Tues 12/13	9:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Pastor's Office Hours
Wed 12/14	10:00 a.m.	Yorktown Manor
	1:30 p.m.	Quilters
	7:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
Thurs 12/15	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Office Hours
	1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Pastor's Office Hours
Fri 12/16	Newsletter deadline. Articles-announcements due today Annual Reports due today from all Team Leaders	
Sun 12/18	Fourth Sunday of Advent	
	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	9:00 a.m.	Confirmation
	9:00 a.m.	Adult Study
	10:15 a.m.	Communion Worship



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.

December 4, 2022 General \$2,130.00, MOM- Samaritan's Purse \$475.00, Building \$90.00, Sunday School \$26.00, OSC \$40.00, Christmas Family \$100.00, Organ \$20.00, Youth \$50.00

Total: \$2,931.00

Attendance: Worship - 54 Sunday School - (not reported) - Children, - Adults

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A called congregational meeting will be held immediately following the church service today. There are two agenda items consisting of an A/C replacement proposal and consideration of the proposed St. John Budget for 2023. Please plan to stay.



HOLY BAPTISM

Today we welcome as a member by Holy Baptism Lily Aurora Treadway & Haven Avery Treadway, daughters of Jennifer Cornett. Lily and Haven's baptismal sponsor is Laurie Pokluda.

JOB OPENING!

The position for St. John church secretary is once again open. If anyone is interested in this position please contact Obert Sagebiel or Pastor John.

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.



This month's
Mission
Project

Christmas Family Gifts

Please have all of the gifts for the Christmas Family at church today. Today is the very last day to bring your gifts. 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



Acolytes

Volunteer are needed! A sign-up sheet is hanging on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Thank you to those who have previously signed up. We still need a lot of dates to fill. Thank you.

CAMAL House Food 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. Thank you!

NALC Disaster Response Fund

The Disaster Response Fund provides resources for:

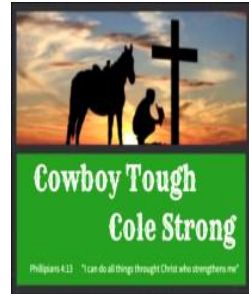
- respond rapidly when domestic natural disasters occur
- alleviate human suffering
- provide transitional assistance
- enable those affected to begin the rebuilding process

The NALC's Disaster Response Coordinator administers the use of the fund, working cooperatively with and through local NALC congregations and members, as well as other compatible disaster relief organizations such as LCMS Disaster Response. Eligible clients of Thrivent can also direct Thrivent Choice Dollars to this Disaster Response Fund. This fund is for domestic disasters only.



+ 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 \$1.25 ea.

1 bottle bleach – small! – Dollar Tree \$1.25 ea.

1 pair rubber gloves – Dollar Tree \$1.25 ea.

1 scrub brush – Dollar Tree \$1.25 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.

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 \$1.25

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

1 comb – Dollar Tree 12 pk for \$1.25

1 bath towel – Walmart \$1.97 ea.

1 drawstring bag – available to be filled in narthex or you may sew your own 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

Beware of aspiring to such purity that you will not wish to be looked upon as a sinner, or to be one. For Christ dwells only in sinners. On this account he descended from heaven, where he dwelt among the righteous, to dwell among sinners. . . Besides, you will learn from him that just as he has received you so he has made your sins his own and has made his righteousness yours.

- Martin Luther –
(Letter to George Spenlein)



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