

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church
1764 Meyersville Road
Meyersville, Texas 77974-4143
Pr. John Boor
Phone #361-277-8653

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

December 2022 Newsletter

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A North American Lutheran Church
1764 Meyersville Road
Meyersville, TX 77974-4143
stjohnmeyersville.org

CONTACT US

Church Office: 361-277-8653
Office Hours: see weekly bulletin
stjohnnevlutheran@juno.com

Pastor's Office Hours in the Parish Hall:

Tues. 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Thurs. 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
(Pr. John's Cell: 361-243-0373)
jboor25@yahoo.com

Ministers - The People of St. John

Pastor - The Rev. John Boor

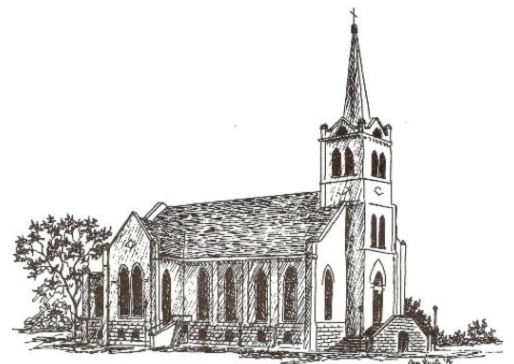
Organist - Bruce A. Weise

WORSHIP

Sunday School for All Ages 9:00 a.m.

Worship 10:15 a.m.

Holy Communion is celebrated on the first & third Sunday of each month. Welcome to all new members!



THE CHURCH BELL
St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Member of North American Lutheran Church (NALC)

1764 Meyersville Rd.
Meyersville, TX 77974
361-277-8653



December 2022

VOL. 46 NO.12

Greetings,

In the Christmas gospel, we are given a word picture of that first Nativity Scene in the stable in Bethlehem. It's a picture that has been burned into the minds of Christians and non-Christians alike. Some of you might even have one set up in your yard or in your home. We have one set up outside in the front lawn of the church. No doubt, you have some sort of favorite Nativity Scene you picture in your mind when you hear the Christmas Gospel read each year.

For many, it's merely a seasonal decoration to be taken down come December 26th. For us as Christians, we recognize there's something special about that Nativity Scene. What's amazing as we look at this scene is how humble it is. The Word made flesh is born not in the powerful city of Jerusalem, but lowly Bethlehem. His parents are not of the family of Caesar Augustus, the Emperor of the day, but a humble carpenter and a young maiden. His first visitors are not rulers, military leaders, or the rich and mighty of society, but humble, lowly shepherds, among the lowest of society. His first bed is not the comfortable cradle one would expect to find in the palace, but an old wooden feeding trough filled with some straw. While angels sing "Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" that night in the sky, it's hard to find the glory, because it's hidden in simple human flesh.

When we think about it, just as His life begins in a humble, seemingly un-glorious way, His life will also end in a similar way. His glory will be hidden then when that same flesh we see in the manger is pierced by nails driven into His hands and side, and that same blood is shed on a cross outside of Jerusalem. To the eyes of the world, it's one of the least glorious scenes one will ever see. But through the eyes of faith, we see the true Glory of this Man as our Savior suffers the punishment of our sin on that cross. That's how He brings us peace with God. That's what He was destined to do from his birth in this stable!

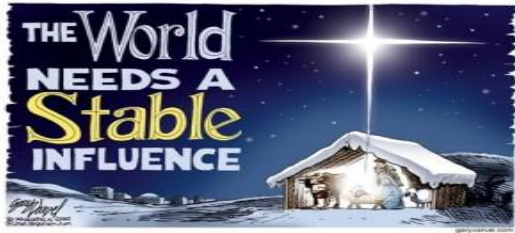
He's the greatest Gift ever given! Lots of gifts are going to be exchanged this Christmas. Some of them will be great gifts, things you've always wanted. Yet, toys break, electronic gates go on the fritz, or quickly become outdated. That new sweater you got will get snagged on the filing cabinet and become unraveled. Gifts of this world wear out or break. This gift in the manger from God to us, the gift of His Son in human flesh to save us from our sin, death, and the devil is the perfect gift. It never stops giving. It never comes in the wrong size. It never wears out or breaks.

As you look at that scene, let your eyes of faith transport you back to that night in Bethlehem. Take in the humbleness of the scene. Reflect on the fact that the almighty God of heaven and earth has chosen this humble scene to begin His life of service to you. Remember that this scene was necessary to win the forgiveness of your sins and eternal life. This scene, and what this Baby is born to do, is where you will find your true joy and peace this Christmas day and this Christmas season!

I wish you all a Merry Christmas

Pastor John

If you or a family member is in the hospital and would like a pastoral visit, please contact the Church office (361-277-8653) or Pastor John Boor on his cell (361-243-0373). Due to the privacy laws, hospitals no longer notify pastors when a member is admitted or treated. If you know of anyone being taken to the hospital (emergency or otherwise), or who is seriously ill please call.



Ding-a-ling



STATISTICAL REPORT FOR 2022													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Infant/Child	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0				1
Adult	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0
Total Baptisms	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0				1
Confirmations	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0				5
Weddings													
Members	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0
Non-Members	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0				1
Funerals													
Members	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1				3
Non-Members	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0				1
Counseling Sessions	3	2	3	2	1	2	3	2	4				22
Transfer Out	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0
Transfer In	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0
New Members													
Adults	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0				5
Children	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0
Home Visits	2	1	0	1	2	2	1	1	2				12
Hospital Visits													
Members	0	14	13	5	3	5	3	1	0				44
Non-Members	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0				1
Private Communion													
Members	0	1	3	7	3	3	1	2	2				22
Non-Members	0	15	18	11	10	11	3	12	14				94
PLEASE NOTE: LAST MONTH'S STATISTICS ARE TO DATE AS OF PRINTING TIME													
Release of Membership													
Restore to Membership													

ST. JOHN EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH CONTACT NUMBERS

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pastor - John Boor (Cell) 243-0373
 Council President-Obert Sagebiel 275-5087/243-6116
 Vice President - Mitchell Jank 649-8681
 Secretary - Trish Hood 212-7322
 Treasurer - Archie Abrameit (512) 922-0975
 Financial Secretary - M'Liss Moore 275-8069

Parish Education - Johnna Picard 649-4234
 Mission/Evangelism - Cathie Bettge 275-8035
 Property Team - Marvin Sager 243-1166
 Finance Team - Charles Egg (281) 844-3358
 Parish Life Team - Beverly Bodden 570-3393
 Worship Team - Brenda Gohmert 649-1606



Office hours are now posted in the weekly bulletins, and on the office door. For immediate assistance, call Trish at 361-212-7322.

ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER/NAME CHANGES

Please notify the Church Office as soon as possible of any change in mailing addresses, and/or phone numbers, and/or name changes. Thank you!

If any elderly person, or youth, needs a ride to Church or youth events, please notify the pastor so arrangements can be made to accommodate these needs.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the January 2023 Church Bell is Friday, December 16, 2022 by 9 a.m. You can drop off your articles at the church office, or e-mail them to stjohnevlutheran@juno.com. Thanks!



Do you have an idea?

Is there something at the church that you think needs fixing or changing? The Church Council and Committee Members would like to have your input. Please

feel free to use the 'suggestion box' in the Narthex to pass on your ideas, suggestions, and concerns. Remember, this is your church and your opinion matters. We are eager to hear from you!

ATTENTION ACOLYTES

Please see the acolyte sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Volunteers are needed.

ACOLYTES



BUSY BAGS IN CHURCH

Busy Bags are available in the Narthex for all children to use. These bags have quiet activities for children to enjoy during Worship. The tote bags have items that younger children might be more interested in while the zipper bags have items for slightly bigger kids. Grab a bag on your way in to church, but please "bee" sweet and return it after the service.



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
 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 - Iraq
 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

Prayer requests 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.



Mission of the Month of December
Samaritan's Purse

Samaritan's Purse is a non-profit Christian relief and evangelism organization that specializes in meeting the needs of victims 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.

St. John will be collecting non-perishable food items to benefit CAMAL House food pantry over the holiday season. Canned meat items like Spam, Vienna sausages & chili are especially needed at this time. Thank you for all donations!



CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

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



The Bethlehem Village will be presented by our Sunday School and Youth Group on Sunday, December 18th from 6 to 7 p.m. Step Back in time to the first Christmas with a live nativity. This year we are adding a Christmas bazaar with fresh

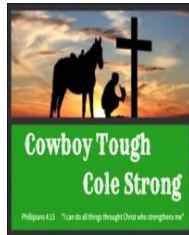
evergreens, artwork, and baked items with the proceeds going to the youth for camp. Hope to see you there.



+ 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)

Church Council Minutes October 25, 2022
By Trish Hood

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pastor John Boor, Obert Sagebiel (President), Mitchell Jank (Vice President), Trish Hood (Secretary), Charles Egg (Finance), Cathie Bettge (Mission and Evangelism), Beverly Bodden (Parish Life), Marv Sager (Property).

CALL TO ORDER: Mitchell called the meeting to order.

OPENING DEVOTION: Pastor John led a devotion on I Corinthians 3, Speak truth in love always.

MINUTES: Reviewed, motion to accept by Marv, seconded by Charles. Motion carried.

MINUTES OF CALLED COUNCIL MEETING: Reviewed, motion to accept by Charles, seconded by Beverly. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Reviewed, motion to accept by Beverly, seconded by Mitchell. Motion carried

PASTOR'S REPORT

No report

God's blessings,
Pastor John

FINANCE TEAM

Finance Team did not have a meeting. Next meeting will be November 14, and we will be putting together the 2023 budget.

MISSION EVANGELISM TEAM MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT October 12, 2022-

Cathie Bettge, Linda Ruschhaupt, Obert Sagebiel, Pastor John.

PRAYER: Cathie

OLD BUSINESS: Reformation Sunday/Mission Feast—October 30, 2022

MISSION OF THE MONTH: October-NALC SEMINARY

November-ChristmasFamily

December-Samaritan's Purse

COLLECTION: October- bath towel & washcloth for Rosenberg Disaster Warehouse

November-Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes due Sunday, 11/13/22

December- Christmas Family gifts due Sunday, 12/11/22

SERVICE PROJECTS: Shepherd committee report-lists are made and will begin in October

Quilt display and litany--Oct. 23, Sun/10:15am

Thanksgiving cornucopia--Nov. 23, Wed/9:30am

Church Christmas decorating--Nov. 27, Sun/3pm

CLOSE WITH LORD'S PRAYER

NEXT MEETING: Wed. Nov. 16, 6 PM in parish hall

PARISH LIFE TEAM

Parish Life did not have a meeting. I did send out 6 Get Well cards. We are getting things in order for Fill the Church Sunday. We are planning BBQ pork roasts & brisket, pinto beans, potato salad, bread, onions, & pickles with congregation bringing side dishes and desserts.

Sincerely, Beverly Bodden

PARISH ED

PARISH ED did not meet this month.

PROPERTY TEAM REPORT

OCTOBER 2022

Meeting Date: OCTOBER 16th

Members Present: Richard Bettge, Dennis Nagel, Glenn Ruschhaupt, Mitchell Jank, Marv Sager, plus Cemetery Committee member, Mike Rangnow

Items Complete:

- Restroom supplies replenished
- AC filters checked/ replaced
- Alternative elevator service entity identified and engaged
- Sign repaired and working
- Structural beams installed in basement

Renovation Progress:

- Work to mitigate construction errors awaiting contractor availability

Ongoing Discussion Items:

- Parsonage inspection and plan for necessary repairs- Still pending consultation with basement restoration contractor.
- Basement Restoration – Structural beam installation complete and appears very well done.
- Parish Hall painting – Pending consultation with basement restoration contractor(s) along with additional potential entities.
- Church window frame repair and painting - (Note “Parish Hall painting” above)
- Sanctuary steeple repair – Pending additional consultation with basement restoration contractor.
- Awning bird issue resolution – Soffit installation planned along with construction error repairs.
Currently awaiting contractor availability.
- Repair of broken tombstones in cemetery – Cemetery committee has engaged entity to begin initial repairs and provide estimates for additional work.
- Flagpole painting – Awaiting probable utilization of man lift for steeple repair.
- Columbarium – Subject to additional feedback from Council and other congregation members.

Other:

- Discussed Council actions regarding sanctuary screen and/or other visual alternatives relative to

Property Team involvement in physical installation aspects if required.

Old Stone Church:

Awaiting Tom Lodeweges' availability for needed entrance flooring repairs, along with suitable flooring availability.

Items for Council Approval: None

Next Scheduled Meeting: 11/13/2022

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

WORSHIP TEAM met on October 4, 2022. Johnny Jank gave us an update on the sound system, and we also discussed the organ playback mode. Bruce Weise said he will be attempting to put some of the liturgy in, and will be trying it out on some Sundays.

We agreed to read a short synopsis before the readings.

We agreed to sing the Lord's Prayer on special occasions.

With no further business, we selected hymns from October 16 to December 11.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting will be December 6, 2022.

Brenda Gohmert

There being no further business to come before council, the meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Trish Hood, Secretary

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Meyersville, TX
Cemetery Regulations - Adopted 04/23/2019

FRIENDLY REMINDER:

PLEASE HELP TO KEEP OUR CEMETERY AND ADJACENT GROUNDS LOOKING THEIR BEST...

CEMETERY DECORATIONS

In respect of those buried in this cemetery, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church feels responsible for keeping our cemetery presentable and well maintained into perpetuity. In order to accomplish this at a sustainable cost, all users must abide by the following rules concerning decorations:

- A. In-ground vases, ornaments, figurines, statues, pictures, glass or other breakable containers, trellises, shepherd hooks, loose flowers, solar lights, or any commemorative articles of non-degradable materials are not permitted and will be removed and discarded without notice.
- B. All vases shall be attached permanently to the headstone or slab or be of sufficient weight to resist windy conditions. All flowers shall be adequately secured in the previously described vases to keep them from blowing out. Loose flowers on graves will not be permitted.
- C. White solar powered decorations are allowed (one per grave) if they are attached to the headstone or base and not placed in the grass.
- D. Funeral flowers and wreaths placed on fresh graves shall be removed within two weeks of the funeral.

- E. Flags look impressive on a cemetery, but they fade quickly and usually do not stay upright long if placed directly into the ground. If flags are used, they shall be placed in a small diameter pvc plastic pipe driven into the ground next to the headstone as to not impede mowing. Only one flag per grave is permitted.

The cemetery committee at their discretion shall remove and discard any decorations that they deem inappropriate.

THANK YOU



VOLUNTEERS THIS MONTH:

December 4

Greeters - John & Margi Swannack
Reader - Johnna Picard
Acolyte - Volunteer Needed

December 11

Greeters - Dickie & Cathie Bettge
Reader - Dickie Bettge
Acolyte - Volunteer Needed

December 18

Greeters - Marvin & Norrean Sager
Reader - Trish Hood
Acolyte - Volunteer Needed

December 25

Greeters - Glenn & Linda Ruschhaupt
Reader - Beverly Bodden
Acolyte - Volunteer Needed

December Communion Assistant

Dickie Bettge

December Altar Guild

Cathie Bettge & Brenda Boor

December Nursing Home Visitor

Linda Ruschhaupt & Dianna Bartosh

LOOKING AHEAD...

January 1

Greeters - Beverly Bodden
Reader - Kathy Dunn
Acolyte - Volunteer Needed

January Communion Assistant

Pam Haun

January Altar Guild

Dawn Otto & Kaley Coker

Nursing Home Visitor

Open

Volunteers: If you are down for a service, you are responsible for getting a substitute if you cannot make it. Please let the church office know if you have switched so the correct names can be in the bulletin.

Our apologies if we have missed your special date. Please contact the church office to help with corrections. Thank you

Happy Birthday to:

- 2 - Virginia Abrameit
- 3 - Peggy Bennett
- 4 - Ronnie Moeller
- 14 - Carol Ann Sagebiel
Vance Egg
- 24 - Nicole Leist
Weston Ohrt
Morgan Goebel
- 27 - Randy Wendel
Richard Bettge
- 28 - Cathie Bettge
Kevin Bodden



Anniversary Greetings to:

- 1 - Morgan & Sharon Goebel
- 8 - Patrick & Ashley Ohrt
- 22 - Charles & Susan Egg
- 30 - John & Margie Swannack



Keep up with St. John online St. John Meyersville
<https://www.facebook.com/Stjohnmeyersville>
Or visit our website at: stjohnmeyersville.org

December 2022

John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Meyersville, TX

Church Office: (361)277-8653, Pastor John's Cell: (361)243-0373

Mission of the Month:
Samaritan's Purse

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Please look on our website: http://stjohnmeyersville.org/ or our FaceBook page: <u>St. John Meyersville</u> for changes & updates.</p>				1 1 PM-4 PM Pastor's Office Hours	2	3
<p>2nd Sunday in Advent 4 9:00 AM Confirmation Class 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship</p> 	5	6 9AM – 12PM Pastor's Office Hours 7PM Worship Team	7 1:30 PM Quilters	8 1 PM-4 PM Pastor's Office Hours	9	10
<p>3rd Sunday in Advent 11 8:00 AM Property Team Meeting 9:00 AM Confirmation Class 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship followed by Called Congregational Meeting</p>	12	13 9 AM-12 PM Pastor's Office Hours	14 10AM Comm. Service Yorktown Manor 1:30 PM Quilters 7 PM Women's Bible Study	15 1 PM-4 PM Pastor's Office Hours **Committee Reports Due, please email to Council Members.	16 Annual Reports due **Newsletter deadline. Please have all articles to office.	17
<p>4th Sunday in Advent 18 9:00 AM Confirmation Class 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 6:00 PM Bethlehem Village</p> 	19	20 9 AM-12 PM Pastor's Office Hours	21 1:30 PM Quilters 7 PM Men's Bible Study	22 1 PM-4 PM Pastor's Office Hours	23	Christmas Eve 24 Services with Holy Communion 3:00 PM & 10:00 PM Candlelight
<p>Christmas Day 25 9:00 AM Confirmation Class 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship</p>	26	27 9 AM-12 PM Pastor's Office Hours 7 PM Council Meeting	28 1:30 PM Quilters	29 1 PM-4 PM Pastor's Office Hours	30	31