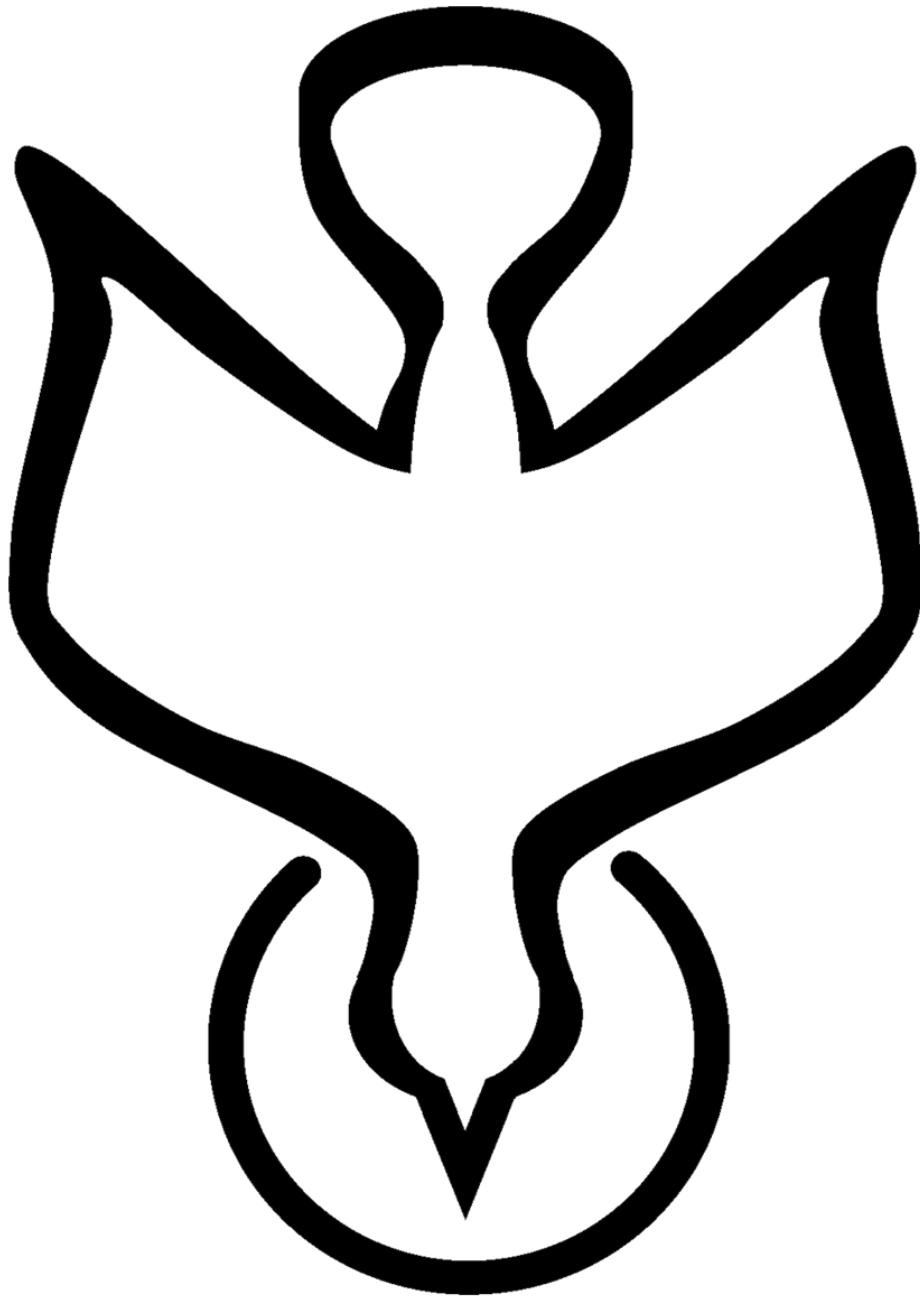


JANUARY 8, 2023



**The coastland wait for his law.**

**Isaiah 42:4**

**ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**The Baptism of Our Lord**  
**January 8, 2023**

**Greeter This Week:** John & Margie Swannack

**Greeter Next Week:** Dickie & Cathie Bettge

**Reader This Week:** Wanda Hays

**Reader Next Week:** Neal Moritz

**Acolytes This Week:** Volunteer needed

**Acolytes Next Week:** Volunteer Needed

**Altar Guild This Month:** Dawn Otto & Kaley Coker

**Altar Guild Next Month:** Dee Moeller & Beverly Bodden

**Communion Assistant This Month:** Pam Haun

**Communion Assistant Next Month:** Wanda Hays

**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**

**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: ***“Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning”***

LBW #84

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

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

**3 Shall we not yield him, in costly devotion,  
Fragrance of Edom and offerings divine,  
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,  
Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?**

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

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

## **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;

**Heavenly Father, in Jesus' baptism you declared him to be your beloved Son and set him apart as your agent of grace for your creation. May we who are baptized into his life also be sent as agents of grace in your world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## **First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9**

<sup>1</sup>Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. <sup>2</sup>He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; <sup>3</sup>a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning

wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. <sup>4</sup>He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law. <sup>5</sup>Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it: <sup>6</sup>“I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, <sup>7</sup>to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. <sup>8</sup>I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols. <sup>9</sup>Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them.”

### **Responsive Reading**

#### **Psalm 29**

<sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**<sup>2</sup>Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name;  
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

<sup>3</sup>The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;  
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

**<sup>4</sup>The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;  
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

<sup>5</sup>The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

**<sup>6</sup>He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup>The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire; the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

**<sup>8</sup>The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe  
and strips the forests bare.**

<sup>9</sup>And in the temple of the LORD  
all are crying, “Glory!”

**<sup>10</sup>The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as King forevermore.**

<sup>11</sup>The LORD shall give strength to his people;  
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

### **Second Reading: Romans 6:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? <sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized

into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For one who has died has been set free from sin. <sup>8</sup>Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

*Stand as you are able*

GOSPEL VERSE

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

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 3:13-17

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>13</sup>Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup>John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" <sup>15</sup>But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. <sup>16</sup>And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; <sup>17</sup>and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated*

MESSAGE

**SERMON HYMN:**

***"Shall We Gather at the River"***

WOV # 690

**1 Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,  
with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?**

***Refrain***

**Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;  
Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.**

**2 On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,  
We will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day. (refrain)**

**3 Ere we reach the shining river, lay we ev'ry burden down;  
Grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown. (refrain)**

**4 Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease;  
Soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace. (refrain)**

*Stand as you are able*

P 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.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated*

Offering

*Please stand if your able*

### **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**

*Please stand*

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:**

*"All Who Believe and Are Baptized"*

LBW # 194

**1 All who believe and are baptized Shall see the Lord's salvation;  
Baptized into the death of Christ, They are a new creation;  
Through Christ's redemption they will stand  
Among the glorious heav'nly band Of ev'ry tribe and nation.**

**2 With one accord, O God, we pray, Grant us your Holy Spirit;  
Help us in our infirmity Through Jesus' blood and merit;  
Grant us to grow in grace each day  
By holy Baptism, that we may Eternal life inherit.**

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

<b>Today 1/8</b>	<b>Epiphany of Our Lord</b> 9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m.	Sunday School Confirmation Class Adult Study Worship Service
<b>Mon 1/9</b>		
<b>Tues 1/10</b>	9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Pastor's Office Hours
<b>Wed 1/11</b>	9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. 10:00 a.m. 1:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Office Hours Yorktown Manor Quilters Women's Bible Study
<b>Thurs 1/12</b>	9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Office Hours Pastor's Office Hours
<b>Fri 1/13</b>		
<b>Sat 1/14</b>		
<b>Sun 1/15</b>	<b>Baptism of Our Lord</b> 9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m.	Sunday School Confirmation Class Adult Study Worship & Holy Communion



*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.*

**January 1, 2023** General \$9,964.72, Building \$20,525.00, OSC \$20.00, MOM-Boys & Girls Club of DeWitt County \$350.00, Organ \$20.00, Youth Group \$90.00

**Total: \$30,969.72.00**

**Attendance:** Worship - 59 Sunday School - Children, - Adults

### 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.



### Greeters and Readers - Signup for 2023

Sign-up sheets are on the Narthex bulletin board for anyone who would like to volunteer for these positions.

## Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held next *Sunday, January 22, 2023* immediately following worship.



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.

## January Mission of the Month



### **BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF DEWITT COUNTY**

This club has a vision to provide positive life changing experiences to help empower the young.

Their mission is to enable all young people to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

The club code is that of believing in God, the right to worship, and believing in the Constitution and Bill of Rights of America.

Thank you for donating toward the future citizens of DeWitt County.

## CAMAL House Food Drive and Blanket Drive

It's the season for giving & sharing. Please consider a donation of non-perishable 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!

**PLEASE REMEMBER** – Finance Team meeting will be meeting on Monday, January 16, 2023 at 7PM in the Parish Hall. It was inadvertently omitted from the January calendar.

The Meyersville ISD recycle trailer is back in business. This convenience is for everyone in the community to utilize with the school maintaining the project. Please remember, all recyclables must be loose (not bagged) when being placed in the proper bin.



*Thanks  
for Being  
Awesome*

Dear Friends!

Thank you so much for the quilts and supplies that Mike delivered to us! We also appreciate your donation of \$200! Your support means a lot in helping us restock the warehouse. Many families will be touched by your kindness! Thanks again & God Bless You!

Michael & Pat Dittrich



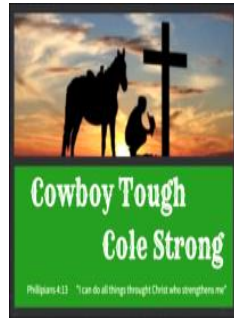
## Mark your calendar Youth Group!

St. John's Youth Group, 5<sup>th</sup> grade through high school, will meet following church services on *Sunday, Jan. 29, 2023 from 11:15-1:30* for Christian Fellowship and a pizza lunch. Be sure to bring a friend!



### + 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 Arneo 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.**



**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 - 1<sup>st</sup> 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

**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.

**Please Pray for:** Hunter Jacob  
Cole Ohrt  
Marie Liner  
Bea Fagg  
Mrs. Stiles  
Ryon Preslar  
Lisa Phillips  
Joy Meadows  
Rylan Caskey



**Nursing Home:**

Cuero Nursing & Rehab. ~ Marjorie Ideus



## SOME WORDS FROM LUTHER

The Son is an innocent man who does more than is required of him; the Holy Spirit comes in a friendly form; the Father has a friendly voice: “I am not sending you prophets or apostles or angels; instead you have my Son, with whom I am completely pleased.

-Martin Luther-  
Sermon, January 6, 1534



Keep up with St. John online  
St. John Meyersville  
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Or visit our website at: [stjohnmeyersville.org](http://stjohnmeyersville.org)

~ *Notes* ~