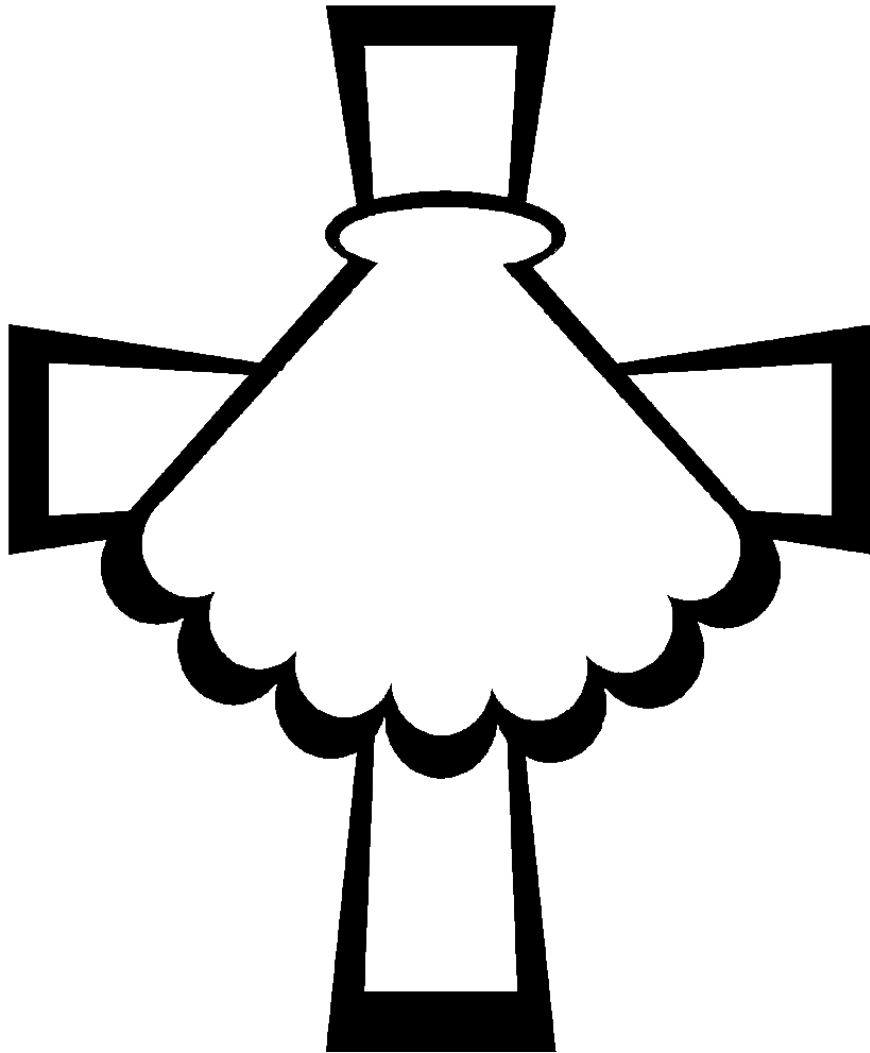


April 23, 2023



You were redeemed...
With Christ's precious blood.

1 Peter 1:18-19

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHURCH UNDER THE TREES
Grave Decoration ~ Sunday, April 23, 2023

PRELUDE

L Christ has risen from the dead.

C God the Father has crowned him with glory and honor.

**WELCOME AND WORSHIP NOTES ANNOUNCEMENTS
PRAISES AND CONCERNS**

Stand as you are able

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.

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

“Beautiful Savior”

LBW #518

**1 Beautiful Savior, King of Creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!**

**Truly I'd love thee, Truly I'd serve thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.**

**2 Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer; Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.**

**3 Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;**

**Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.**

**4 Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be thine!**

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 (*Spoken*)

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 mercy 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 (*Spoken*)

L Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

C 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 Holy Spirit, In the glory of God the Father. Amen.

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, by the humiliation of your Son, you raised up this fallen world. Teach us whom you have rescued from endless death to have the fullness of eternal joy, through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading

Acts 2:14a,36-41

^{14a}Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them:

³⁶“Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” ³⁷Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized

every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” ⁴⁰And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 116:1-14

¹I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

²The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the grave took hold of me; I came to grief and sorrow.

³Then I called upon the name of the LORD: “O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”

⁴Gracious is the LORD and righteous; our God is full of compassion.

⁵The LORD watches over the innocent; I was brought very low, and he helped me.

⁶Turn again to your rest, O my soul, for the LORD has treated you well.

⁷For you have rescued my life from death, my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.

⁸I will walk in the presence of the LORD in the land of the living.

⁹I believed, even when I said, “I have been brought very low.” In my distress I said, “No one can be trusted.”

¹⁰How shall I re-pay the LORD for all the good things he has done for me?

¹¹I will lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the LORD.

¹²I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.

¹³Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his servants.

¹⁴O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant and the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

Second Reading

1 Peter 1:17-25

¹⁷If you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you ²¹who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. ²²Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, ²³since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; ²⁴for “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, ²⁵but the word of the Lord remains forever.” And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

L The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 24th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel

Luke 24:13-35

¹³That very day two of {Jesus' followers} were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" ¹⁹And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. ²²Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see." ²⁵And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" ²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. ²⁸So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, ²⁹but they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" ³³And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

L The Gospel of the Lord

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

SERMON HYMN

"In the Garden"

**1 I come to the garden alone, While the dew is still on the roses;
And the voice I hear, Falling on my ear, The song of God discloses.**

Refrain:

**And He walks with me, and he talks with me,
And He tells me I am his own;
And the joy we share as we tarry there, None other has ever known.**

**2 He speaks, and the sound of his voice Is so sweet the birds hush their singing;
And the melody That he gave to me Within my heart is ringing. [Refrain]**

**3 I'd stay in the garden with him Tho' the night around me be falling,
But he bids me go; Thro' the voice of woe,
His voice to me is calling. [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

**C I believe in one God, the Father, the 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 arose 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.**

TEMPLE TALK - Old Stone Church Historical Committee

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.

Please be seated

OFFERING

(All loose and non-designated offerings received today will go to the maintenance of the Old Stone Church. Thank you!)

Stand as you are able

OFFERTORY (*Spoken*)

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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition ends with "...Lord, in your mercy,"

The congregation responds with "Hear our prayer."

Father remember us always and teach us to pray;

**C 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.

HYMN

“The Old Stone Church in the Vale” (modified)

- 1 There’s a church in the val-ley by the twelve mile,
No love-li-er place in the dale;
No spot is so dear to my child-hood
As the old sto-ne church in the vale.
- 2 How sweet on a clear Sab-bath morn-ing,
To list to the clear ringing bell;
It’s tones so sweetly are call-ing,
O come to the church in the vale.
- 3 From the church in the valley by the twelve mile,
When day fades away into night,
I would fain from this spot of my child-hood,
Wing my way to the mansions of light.

Chorus

O, come, come, come, come, come,
To the church by the twelve mile,
O come to the church in the dale.
No spot is so dear to my child-hood,
As the old sto-ne church in the vale.

After the singing of the hymn, we gather around the cemetery for the Graveside Service Honoring the Deceased.

GRAVESIDE SERVICE HONORING THE DECEASED

L Let us pray. Almighty God, by the death and burial of Jesus, you have destroyed death and sanctified the graves of all saints. Keep our brothers and sisters, whose bodies are here laid to rest, in the company of all saints and, at the last day, raise them up to share with all faithful people the endless joy and peace won through the glorious resurrection of Christ our Lord.

C Amen

PSALM 23 (read responsively)

L The LORD is my shepherd;

C I shall not want.

L He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

C he leadeth me beside the still waters.

L He restoreth my soul:

C he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.

L Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil:

C for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

L Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:

C thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

L Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:

C and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

CLOSING HYMN *“Jesus Loves Me”*

1 Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong,
They are weak but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

2 Jesus loves me! He will stay,
Close beside me all the way;
He's prepared a home for me,
And some day His face I'll see.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

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.

All are invited to join us for a potluck lunch to be served immediately following the Worship service in the Parish Hall.



LOG CHURCH - 1851



STONE CHURCH - 1866

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN

Today 4/23	Third Sunday of Easter
	9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Adult Bible Study
	9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class
	10:15 a.m. Worship ~ <i>Grave Decoration</i>
	<i>Pot Luck lunch after worship</i>
Mon 4/24	
Tues 4/25	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Pastor's Office Hours
	7:00 p.m. Council Meeting
Wed 4/26	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Office Hours
	1:30 p.m. Quilters
Thurs 4/27	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Office Hours
	1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Pastor's Office Hours
Fri 4/28	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Office Hours
Sat 4/29	9:30 a.m. Parish Education Meeting
Next Sun	Fourth Sunday of Easter
	9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Adult Bible Study
	9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class
	10:15 a.m. Contemporary Worship with <i>Teen Challenge</i>
	Lunch for Teen Challenge group

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.

Sunday, April 16, 2023

General \$1,480.00, MOM \$433.00, Sunday School \$20.00, Building \$60.00, **Total : \$1,993.00**

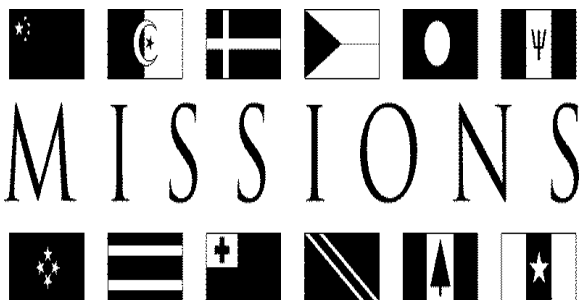
Attendance: Worship - 57 Sunday School - 8 Children, 3 Teachers



Grave Decoration & Church Under the Trees

You are invited to a potluck lunch today following the service. Those attending are asked to bring a main dish and a side dish or dessert to share.

Mission of the Month for April



MISSIONS

ADULT and TEEN CHALLENGE OF TEXAS

ATCOT is a faith based long term residential addiction and alcoholism recovery center. This month we are focusing on the women's campus in San Antonio. Here they are committed to helping these young girls and women experience total freedom in Christ as they wait for God to restore what was broken in their lives. This is done through a work study program and vocational training in several areas.

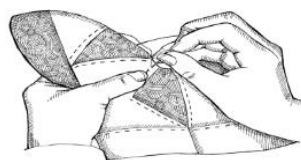
New Member Classes

If you are interested in becoming a member of St. John please contact Pastor John.



NALC Warehouse

We are collecting again for the warehouse in Rosenberg. We will be collecting hair combs for the month of April.



The Quilters are now meeting in the parsonage each Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. Come and join the bee! Donations of clean used sheets & pillowcases can be used. Please leave on the table on the stage.

3rd Annual Kickin It for Cole Ohrt Walk Strong 2023

Thursday, May 4, 2023

Doors open at 5PM, Social hour, cup auction & meal 5:15-6:30PM

Bingo starts at 6:30PM

Anne Friar Thomas Homemaking Center

Martin Luther King Drive, Cuero, TX 77954

For tickets & more information call (361)648-8147 or (361)578-2257

~Come out & enjoy the fun while supporting this Tough Cowboy!~

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 - 1 st 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



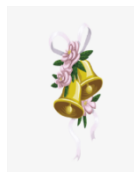
Please Pray for: Hunter Jacob, Cole Ohrt, Marie Liner, Bea Fagg, Mrs. Stiles, Ryon Preslar, Lisa Phillips, Joy Meadows, Rylan Caskey, Evelyn Diebel, Dorothy Fay Diebel, Leon Wallace.

Nursing Home: Cuero Nursing & Rehab. ~ Marjorie Ideus



Apologies to our special folks having April birthdays & anniversaries but not listed in the April newsletter.

4- Trish Hood	19- Karon Copeland
6- Letha Blain & Sara Blain	21- Jacob Dreier, M'Liss Moore
7- Britton Blain & Pr. John	22 - Pam Ficklen
13- Brooke Wendel, J Burns Cowley, Ray Boyer	23- Trandon Leist
14- Levi Moritz	26- Emily Iselt



6- Pastor John & Brenda Boor	9- Ty & Emily Iselt
14- Aaron & Sydney Schaefer	29- Trevor & Kathleen Bodden
30- Keaton & Marsha Wendel	

UPCOMING EVENTS:

First English Lutheran **Heritage Day Celebration** will be held Sunday, April 30, 2023 starting with worship services at 10:00 am. 11:00 am activities begin including a Cake Walk, Live and Silent Auctions, Country Store & Kids Activities. Barbecue will be served from 11am-1pm, dine in or drive thru pick up. Live Auction starts at 12:45 pm. All events are located at 516 N. Main St., Victoria, Tx www.felcvictoria.org

Zion Lutheran Church of Mission Valley will be hosting their **Annual Church Picnic** on Saturday, May 13, 2023 starting at 3:00 p.m. Hamburgers, Hot Dogs & Ice Cream will be available at 5:00 p.m. Bingo, Silent Auction, Adult/Kids' Games all start at 3:00 p.m. Proceeds go to Zion's Playground improvements.

STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE – May 13, 2023

Don't miss out on your opportunity to be part of the largest one day food drive in the country! The National Association of Letter Carriers' 31st Annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive is fast approaching. Mark your calendars for the event happening Saturday, May 13th. All you need to do is **place a bag of non-perishable food items near your mailbox**, and your mail carrier will take care of the rest!

Thrivent Members:

Be part of Thrivent's 2024 calendar! Thrivent is looking for your original photos or artwork that reflects the theme for the 2024 calendar of "Perspective." To learn how to submit entries and to pre-order your 2024 calendar, visit thrivent.com/calendar. The deadline for submissions is June 30, 2023.

SOME WORDS FROM LUTHER



Now when we are called again to the Word of God, our hearts burn and are kindled as the Scriptures are opened to us; but we recognize Christ first only when he breaks to us the bread of his Word, that is, when he becomes a teacher in every heart, and he sets before us the bread, i.e., his Word.

- Martin Luther -

Sermon on the Chief Article of Our Faith, 1524



Keep up with St. John online
St. John Meyersville

<https://www.facebook.com/Stjohnmeyersville>

Visit our website at: stjohnmeyersville.org to view weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters.

For those on church premises wishing to worship in their vehicles, tune in to FM 101.5 at 10:15 a.m. Sunday mornings.