

June 18, 2023

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Meyersville Texas**



St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
1764 Meyersville Rd, Meyersville, Texas 77974
361-277-8653
Pastor John Boor

A CELEBRATION OF CHRISTIAN NURTURE
6-18-2023

A service based on the six chief parts of the Catechism

AS WE GATHER

Today we celebrate the ministry of Christian nurture – the entire spectrum of things we do to foster Christian growth in people of all ages. As we celebrate, we are aware of the power of the Word and the Sacraments, and all the ways in which they are central to spiritual growth. But we are also aware of all the many people who are involved in these ministries of nurture, and we thank God for the way He uses these servants to personalize His message for each of us.

THE PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** (Group processes to the front as the hymn plays)*

THE ENTRANCE HYMN “FATHER’S CHOICE”

WELCOME (Luke)

Welcome to our Confirmation Service. Thank you for coming to share this service with us. This is an important day for us, a day on which we confirm our faith in our Lord. We hope that as you participate in this worship service, you can reaffirm your faith in Him along with us. **LET US BEGIN OUR WORSHIP IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

WHY ARE WE HERE? (Cord)

In Baptism, we become a child of God. We are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the Cross of Christ forever. As infants we were told to “Let our light shine before others that they may see our good works and glorify our Father in Heaven.” Now, as Confirmands, we may affirm these words. As children, we came to Sunday School to learn about God’s love and His Holy Word. Our Confirmation classes also helped us learn more about Jesus Christ. Today we are here because we know the Lord will love us no matter where we go or what we do and we love Him and want to serve Him.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*** (Luke reads and Cord lights the candle)*

Jesus said, “Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in Heaven.”

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The Ten Commandments and Office of the Keys

(Cord)

Student: God says in His word, "You shall have no other gods."

People: Lord, have mercy.

Student: God says in His word, "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God."

People: Lord, Have mercy.

Student: God says in His word, "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy"

People: Lord, Have mercy.

(Luke)

Student: God says in His word, "Honor your father and your mother."

People: Lord, have mercy.

Student: God says in His word, "You shall not murder."

People: Lord, have mercy.

Student: God says in His word, "You shall not commit adultery."

People: Lord, have mercy.

(Cord)

Student: God says in His word, "You shall not steal."

People: Lord, have mercy.

Student: God says in His word, "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor."

People: Lord, have mercy.

(Luke)

Student: God says in His word, You shall not covet your neighbor's house."

People: Lord, have mercy.

Student: God says in His word, "You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

People: Lord, have mercy.

***(everyone to sit)*

(Silence for reflection)

Pastor: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said unto them,
"Receive the Holy Spirit. Whosoever sins you remit, they are remitted unto them,
And whosoever sins you retain, they are retained,"

Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us and has
given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those

who believe on His name he gives the power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.

Grant this, Lord, to us all.

People: AMEN

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, all good things can come from you alone; generously consider then our humble prayers. Inspire us to consider what is true, and direct us to accomplish what is right; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

(Silence for reflection)

Pastor: Loving Father, as we gather again around the Word and Sacraments,

People: we give you thanks for those who labor in the ministry of nurture,

Pastor: so that through the Word and Sacraments,

People: our faith may be strengthened, and our lives enriched.

Pastor: Help us to live what we believe,

People: and to reach out towards others with our nurture,

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord,

People: Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN

THE FIRST LESSON: Acts 17:16-31

¹⁶Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbling wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities” — because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are

presenting? ²⁰For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” ²¹Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new. ²²So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸for ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are indeed his offspring.’ ²⁹Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

THE SECOND READING:

2 Timothy 1:5-12

⁵For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that *it is* in you as well. ⁶For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

⁸Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with *me* in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, ⁹who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, ¹⁰but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, ¹¹for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher. ¹²For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.

Stand as you are able

GOSPEL VERSE (Sung) **“Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life
Alleluia, Alleluia”**

GOSPEL READING:

(Pastor)*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 7th chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord. (Congregation sings)

¹⁵ “Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn *bushes* nor figs from thistles, are they? ¹⁷ So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ So then, you will know them by their fruits.

²¹ “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*. ²² Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ ²³ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.’

²⁴ “Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and *yet* it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶ Everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall.”

²⁸ When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching; ²⁹ for He was teaching them as *one* having authority, and not as their scribes.

The Gospel of The Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ. (Congregation sings)

Please be seated

SERMON

Pastor John Boor

HYMN

“FATHERS CHOICE”

*** (group to the front as the hymn plays)*

CREED (Cord)

The Apostles' Creed is a statement of what Christians believe about the triune God

The Creed is of ancient origin, tracing its roots back to the first century.

The Apostles' Creed is the Church's baptismal creed; that is, it expresses the faith into which we are baptized.

When we confess the Creed, we witness to our unity with Christians of all times and all places who confess the same faith.

When we confess the Creed, we affirm that the Church of Jesus Christ transcends the limits of time and geography.

So with the whole Church on earth, and with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we confess our faith in the God who saves us.

Congregation stands

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.**

Congregation sits (Confirmands stay standing up front)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Luke)

Let us pray

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for making these people a part of our lives. Without them, we would not be as close to you as we are. Our parents, along with our Godparents, brought us into Your Family when we were baptized. Your teachers brought, meaning into what you and Your Words are all about. They helped us understand that You will always be our friend, just like they have been. Please watch over them and let them know they are loved for everything they have done for us. Amen.

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION (Glenn)

The following people, Luke Moritz and Cord Hanson, having been instructed in the Christian faith, now desire to make public affirmation of their faith.

(Pastor)

In Holy Baptism you were received by our Lord Jesus Christ and made members of His Church. Now you choose to affirm the faith of the Church as your own, and to accept personal responsibility for active participation in the life and ministry of this congregation. I therefore ask you:

Do you believe in God the creator? Do you accept His Son, Jesus Christ, as your Lord and as the Savior of the world? Do you believe that this same God continues to be with you, through His Holy Spirit?

THE PLEDGE OF THE CONFIRMANDS

“I DO BELIEVE THAT God is my creator and that Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior and that the Holy Spirit will be with me now and forever and I promise to be faithful unto Him, even unto death. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism;

To live among God’s Faithful people,
to hear His word and share in his supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

If so answer, **“YES WITH THE HELP OF GOD”**

Do you intend to honor their unique gifts, support them with your prayers, attend to their spiritual and physical needs, and work with them in harmony, that God’s will may be done in and through this corporate body? Do you intend to grow with them and to continually confirm and reconfirm YOUR faith?

If so answer, **“YES, WITH THE HELP OF GOD.”**

LET US PRAY

Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made these men and women your own. You forgave them all their sins and brought them to newness of life. Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in them your gifts of grace; the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, and the spirit of joy in your presence' through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. AMEN

***(group to sit)*

THE BLESSING ***(Cord goes first)*

*Confirmands Kneel. (Confirmands come to altar rail one at a time with parents
Their Bible verse is read)*

The minister lays hands on the head of each person:

Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in _____ the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm his/her faith, guide his/her life, empower him/her in his/her serving, give him/her patience in suffering, and bring him/her to everlasting life.

Student: Amen

THE PRAYER (Congregation in unison)

Almighty and merciful God, complete the work that is begun in these young people today. Let their partnership with people of faith throughout the world be such that no false doctrine, no selfish desires, and no love of any material thing will lead them away from you or from the faith which we jointly hold, in joyful obedience to You and to Your Word, enable all of us to serve You more faithfully, in both word and deed, that your name may be honored and your will be done. AMEN

THE PRAYERS

Lucas Hanson

Let us pray:

Leader: Heavenly Father, as you have given us the gift of life, and the gifts of thinking and acting, and feeling, so give us the gift of you Holy Spirit.

People: **That we may make of our lives a response of loving service in your name.**

Leader: As you have given us new birth in baptism, so gather us together as your people.

People: That we may live as Christ to our world and witness His love to our generation

Leader: Gather old and young, men and women, boys and girls, into common tasks for you.

People: For we are all your children, each with his own strength to contribute to your work.

Leader: Forgive our frailties, and our sinning, and our blindness to doing your will.

People: And once forgiven, strengthen us in the new life in Christ.

Neal Moritz

Leader: We ask you to help parents be your channels of guidance and caring to their children.

People: Building on their baptism the knowledge of you, their Lord, and your love for them.

Leader: We ask you to help young people accept the responsibilities of loyalty and commitment to you.

People: Strengthening our church in vitality and vision and enthusiasm.

Leader: We ask you to help young people respect those of experience who have and are now serving your church.

People: Preserving the wisdom and knowledge of the past as a firm foundation for change and development.

Leader: We ask you to make all of us the means by which you reach to the needy, the troubled, the lonely, the sorrowful.

People: That one day we may stand among those who are already welcomed into your eternal kingdom.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: And also with you.

THE OFFERING

Stand-Confirmands stay in place

THE OFFERTORY (sung in unison)

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; united them with the

prayers we offer. 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 same 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 our 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, 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 seeks 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.**

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

*** (Confirmands follow pastor out)*

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



Celebrating their Confirmation

Cord McKinley Hanson

Cord is the son of Lucas Hanson and Trisha Hanson. He was baptized at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Cuero Texas on December 25, 2007.

Luke Moritz

Luke is the son of Neal & Lenzi Moritz. He was baptized on November 1, 2009.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN

Today 6/18	Third Sunday after Pentecost	
	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	9:00 a.m.	Adult Study
	10:15 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion <i>Confirmation Sunday</i> <i>Happy Father's Day!</i>
Mon 6/19		Juneteenth Federal Holiday
Tues 6/20	9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Office Hours
	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Pastor's Office Hours
Wed 6/21	9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Office Hours
	1:30 p.m.	Quilters – parsonage
	5:30 p.m.-8:00p.m.	VBS – Parish Hall
	7:00 p.m.	Men's Bible Study
Thurs 6/22	9:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m	Office Hours
	1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.	Pastor's Office Hours
	~ <i>Committee Reports Due to office & Council Members</i> ~	
	5:30 p.m-8:00 p.m.	VBS – Parish Hall
Fri 6/23	9:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m	Office Hours
	~ <i>Newsletter Deadline. Please have all articles to the office by 9:00 a.m.</i> ~	
	5:30 p.m-8:00 p.m.	VBS – Parish Hall
Sat 6/24	5:30 p.m-8:00 p.m.	VBS – Meyersville Country Club
Next Sun.	Fourth Sunday after Pentecost	
	9:00 a.m.	VBS & Sunday School
	9:00 a.m.	Adult Study
	10:15 a.m.	Worship - <i>New Member Reception after services in the Parish Hall.</i>



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.

June 11, 2023 General \$2,495.00, MOM – Christian Warrior's Retreat \$370.00, NALC Disaster Response Rosenberg Warehouse \$ 100.00, Sunday School \$20.00, Cemetery \$10.00, VBS \$125.00, Building \$80.00, Youth \$50.00 **Total: \$3,250.00**

Attendance: Worship - 80, Sunday School - 2 Children, 2 Teachers; Adult Study - 13

Sunday School will continue throughout the summer months.

We'd love to see all the children every Sunday at 9a.m.!



The righteous man walks in his integrity;
His children are blessed after him.
PROVERBS 20:7

Happy Father's Day to all of the wonderful Dads at St. John!