

**July 16, 2023**



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

**ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**  
**July 16, 2023**

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

**Greeter Next Week:** Marvin & Norrean Sager

**Reader This Week:** Cathie Bettge

**Reader Next Week:** Dwight Jander

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

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

**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.

**HOLY COMMUNION**

You are invited to commune with us if, as a baptized Christian, you believe that you are a sinner and in need of God's forgiveness; that the body and blood of Jesus are truly present in the Sacrament; that this is more than a symbolic act, but a way God proclaims forgiveness to us who are repentant.

*May your participation increase your faith and strengthen your love for God and one another.*

*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,

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:**

*“When Peace, Like a River”*

**LBW #346**

**<sup>1</sup>When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;  
When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;  
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
It is well, it is well with my soul.**

**<sup>2</sup>Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
Let this calm assurance control,  
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate  
And hath shed his own blood for my soul.**

**<sup>3</sup>He lives oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;  
My sin, not in part, but the whole,  
Is nailed to his cross, and I bear it no more.  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!**

**<sup>4</sup>And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
The trumpet shall sound, and the Lord shall descend;  
Even so it is well with my soul.**

**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.**

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**

## **HYMN OF PRAISE**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:**

**Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Let us pray,

**Richly inspire us, O Lord, to consider and accomplish what you see is good. For we know that we cannot live without you, but that with you, we shall prevail. And so, we pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

Themes of growth and abundance abound on this Seventh Sunday after Pentecost. The Word of God goes forth continually, reminding God's people that they are beloved, chosen, and cared for without fail. Because of his great love for humanity, God provides beauty to enjoy and hope in the midst of suffering. Some will hear this word of promise, and it will grow like a seed planted in fertile soil.

### **First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-13**

<sup>10</sup>“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup>so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. <sup>12</sup>For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. <sup>13</sup>Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

**Responsive Psalm Reading**  
**Psalm 65**

<sup>1</sup>You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; to you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup>**To you that hear prayer shall all flesh come, because of their transgressions.**

<sup>3</sup>Our sins are stronger than we are, but you will blot them out.

<sup>4</sup>**Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there!  
they will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.**

<sup>5</sup>Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation,  
O Hope of all the ends of the earth and of the seas that are far away.

<sup>6</sup>**You make fast the mountains by your power; they are girded about with might.**

<sup>7</sup>You still the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

<sup>8</sup>**Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs;  
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.**

<sup>9</sup>You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous;  
the river of God is full of water.

<sup>10</sup>**You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.**

<sup>11</sup>You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;  
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.

<sup>12</sup>**You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.**

<sup>13</sup>May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, and the hills be clothed with joy.

<sup>14</sup>**May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain;  
let them shout for joy and sing.**

**Second Reading: Romans 8:12-17**

<sup>12</sup>So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. <sup>13</sup>For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" <sup>16</sup>The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

*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 16:13-19**

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do men say that the Son of man is?” <sup>14</sup> And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” <sup>15</sup> He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.” <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jona! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

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**

<sup>1</sup>**“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.”**

<sup>2</sup>**“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.”**

<sup>3</sup>**“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.”**

<sup>4</sup>**“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.”**

## **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.

**OFFERING** *(Please use the yellow envelopes for cash/coin offerings & include your name.)*

*Stand as you are able*

## **OFFERTORY**

**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; Unite them with the prayers we offer now.**

**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 sake 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 him 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, forever 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.**

**HOLY COMMUNION** *(For those attending, please fill out a tan communion card.)*

L May the body and blood of our Lord 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  
seek 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**

## **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 7/16</b>	<b>Seventh Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Adult Study 10:15 a.m. Worship – Holy Communion
<b>Mon 7/17</b>	7:00 p.m. Finance Team Mtg.
<b>Tues 7/18</b>	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Office Hours 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Pastor's Office Hours
<b>Wed 7/19</b>	9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Office Hours 1:30 p.m. Quilters 6:00 p.m. Mission Evangelism Team Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study
<b>Thurs 7/20</b>	Council Committee Reports Due 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Office Hours 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Pastor's Office Hours
<b>Fri 7/21</b>	Newsletter deadline. Articles-announcements due today 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Office Hours
<b>Sun 7/23</b>	<b>Eighth Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Adult Study 10:15 a.m. Worship



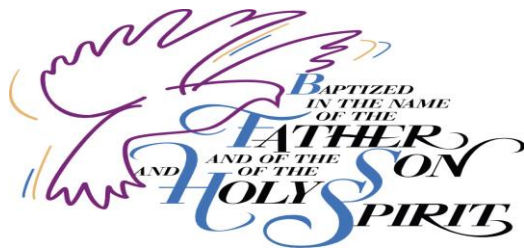
*Welcome Visitors! We would like to extend a special welcome to all visitors. If you are looking for a church home, we pray you would consider St. John's.*

*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.*

**July 9, 2023** General \$2,531.00, Sunday School \$13.00, NALC \$20.00, Building \$60.00, Youth \$40.00

**Total: \$2,664.00**

**Attendance:** Worship - 79, Sunday School - 6 Children, 2 Teachers; Adult Study - 15



### **HOLY BAPTISM**

Today we welcome as a member by Holy Baptism Jay Louis Rhoton. He was born June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in Austin, Texas to Robert Rhoton, Jr. & Breanna (Soliz) Rhoton

Jay's baptismal sponsors are Deanna Jackson and Brandon Soliz.

### **July Mission of the Month** **St. John Ev Lutheran Church**

It has been discussed at council meetings that our congregation has been extremely generous over the years in supporting the Mission of the Month. Many worthy causes have benefited from your donations. From time to time our church also needs a little infusion of funds into our General Fund which is used to pay all of the church's regular expenses. This is why we would like to make our church the July Mission of the Month.



This month's  
Mission  
Project



*Sunday School will continue throughout the summer months.  
We'd love to see all the children every Sunday at 9a.m.!*

### **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** is now set up to receive online donations via Tithe.ly. Just use this QR code below to made secure cash donations with your cell phone.



### **NALC Warehouse**



We are collecting again for the warehouse in Rosenberg. We will be collecting deodorant for the month of July. ***Please note:*** We have received notice from Michael Dittrich of the Rosenberg Disaster Warehouse that they are in need of supplies. The tornadoes in Mississippi and Alabama left much devastation and all was taken there. The other two warehouses in Texas are also depleted due to weather disasters. At this time feel free to provide any of the items on the list printed in the bulletin. They will be received with much appreciation and delivered with love. Thank you.



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.

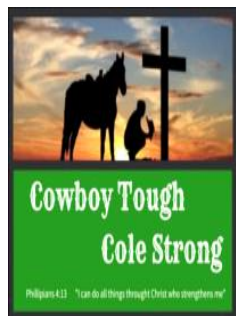


The Meyersville ISD recycle trailer is back in business. This convenience is for everyone in the community to utilize with the school maintaining the project. Please remember, all recyclables must be loose (not bagged) when being placed in the proper bin.



Just an FYI: there are still three pairs of sunglasses in the narthex who are looking for their owners. If you have misplaced yours, please check these pairs out. Who knows they may be yours! Thank you!

### **+ UPDATE + Special Prayers for Cole**



Hello everyone! Happy Mother's Day to all you beautiful mothers out there! Hope you all had a blessed day with your families. I'm always behind but want to send out a huge heartfelt thank you to everyone who came out to support the Cole Ohrt Walk Strong Bingo benefit on May 4<sup>th</sup>. It was an amazing event with around 600 people attending! God was all over this event blessing us in so many ways. I don't have a final count on how much we raised for the foundation but it was a lot! This community is the most supportive and loving of any I've ever known. We are truly grateful. I also want to thank all of those that helped organize, set up, work, or donate toward this event. Without all of you this would not be possible. Cole had such an amazing time and looks forward to this event every year. So if you didn't get to join us this year we'll be doing it again next May! Hope to see you then. And as always thank you

all for your continued prayers for Cole- keep praying!



**+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!)*

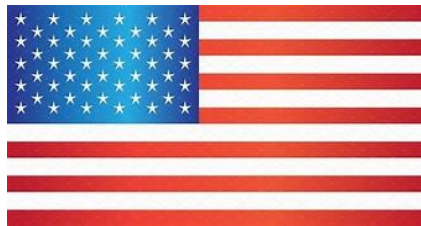
**NALC Disaster Response**  
**What's in a Flood Bucket?**

- 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 \$1.18 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 \$2.97 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:**



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, Mrs. Stiles, Ryon Preslar, Joy Meadows, Rylan Caskey, Evelyn Diebel, Dorothy Fay Diebel, Glenn Ruschhaupt, Kay Ohrt, Bruce Weise.

**Nursing Home:**  
Cuero Nursing & Rehab. ~ Marjorie Ideus



## SOME WORDS FROM LUTHER

“Where there is faith in Christ, there the Holy Spirit pours both comfort and childlike confidence into the heart. The heart no longer doubts God’s gracious will and help, because he has promised both grace and help, fulfillment and comfort, not because of our own worthiness but because of the merit and the name of Christ, his Son.”

— Martin Luther

Sermon on Romans 8:12-17 WA 22



Keep up with St. John online  
St. John Meyersville

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

Or visit our website at: [stjohnmeyersville.org](http://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.

***If you'd like to receive your monthly church newsletter via email, call or text the church office at 361-277-8653.***