St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church Meyersville, Texas October 29, 2023



Be still, and know that I am God
Psalm 46:10

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

CHURCH OFFICE: 361-277-8653

stjohnevlutheran@juno.com (Pr. John's Cell: 361-243-0373)

jboor1@juno.com

Ministers - The People of St. John Pastor - The Rev. John Boor Organist - Mr. Bruce A. Weise

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost October 29, 2023

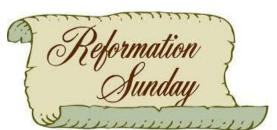
Greeter This Week: Youth Group
Greeters Next Week: The Hays Family
Reader This Week: Neal Moritz
Reader Next Week: Trish Hood
Acolyte This Week: Morgan Zengerle
Acolyte Next Week: Lane Moritz

Altar Guild This Month: Betty Diebel & Virginia Jank **Altar Guild Next Month**: Cathie Bettge & Brenda Boor

Communion Assistant This Month: Johnny Jank

Communion Assistant Next Month: Glenn Ruschhaupt

Busy Bags are available in the Narthex for all children to enjoy.



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.

Worship Notes Regarding Today's Service:

For those of you who would prefer to remain in your cars, we will continue to broadcast the service on FM 101.5. You can follow the service in the bulletin as the liturgy, the organ music, hymns with the lyrics by our song leaders, and Pastor John's message will be on the broadcast. Thank you!

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.

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

The Service begins with the first notes of the prelude. Please prepare for worship 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 \(\mathbb{H}\) 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:

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

LBW #229

¹A mighty fortress is our God, A sword and shield victorious; He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod And wins salvation glorious. The old satanic foe Has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dreadful might He arms himself to fight. On earth he has no equal.

²No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, rejected. But now a champion comes to fight, Whom God himself elected. You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God's only Son, adored. He holds the field victorious.

³Though hordes of devils fill the land All threat'ning to devour us, We tremble not, unmoved we stand; They cannot over pow'r us.

Let this world's tyrant rage; In battle we'll engage!

His might is doomed to fail; God's judgment must prevail!

One little word subdues him.

⁴God's Word forever shall abide, No thanks to foes, who fear it; For God himself fights by our side With weapons of the Spirit. Were they to take our house, Goods, honor, child, or spouse, Though life be wrenched away, They cannot win the day.

The Kingdom's ours forever!

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,

O Lord God, heavenly Father, pour out your Holy Spirit upon your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your grace and truth, protect and comfort them in all temptation, defend them against all enemies of your Word, and bestow upon the Church your saving peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

On this 500th Anniversary of the nailing of the 95 theses on the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, Germany, we remember the firestorm created by a young monk named Martin Luther. Focusing on the Word of God in its purity, Luther challenged the Church of his day to return to the Lord and to forsake manmade pieties that only caused believers to doubt their salvation and carry a heavy burden of guilt.

First Reading: Revelation 14:6-7

⁶I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. ⁷And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

Responsive Reading Psalm 46

¹God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;

³Though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.

⁴The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁵There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

⁶God is in the midst of her; she shall not be overthrown; God shall help her at the break of day.

⁷The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.

⁸The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁹Come now and look upon the works of the LORD, what awesome things he has done on earth.

¹⁰It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

¹¹"Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."

¹²The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. ²¹But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it — ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because

in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. ²⁷Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

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: John 8:31-36

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 8th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (Sung)

Gospel: John 8:31-36

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." ³³They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?" ³⁴Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

P The Gospel of the Lord. C Praise to you, O Christ. (Sung)

Please be seated

MESSAGE ~ The Rev. Dr. Amy Little of the NALC

SERMON HYMN:

"We All Are One in Mission"

WOV #755

¹We all are one in mission; we all are one in call, our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.

A single great commission compels us from above to plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.

²We all are called to service, to witness in God's name. Our ministries are diff'rent; our purpose is the same: to touch the lives of others with God's suprising grace, so ev'ry folk and nation may feel God's warm embrace.

³Now let us be united, and let our song be heard. Now let us be a vessel for God's redeeming Word. We all are one in mission; we all are one in call, our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all. Let us confess our faith through the Apostles' Creed

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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

L 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!

Each petition ends with "...Lord, in your mercy," The congregation responds with "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.**

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 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 betraved

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.

L Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C 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.



Romans 12:2

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN

Today 10/29 Reformation Sunday~Fill the Church Sunday9:00 a.m. Sunday School

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class
9:00 a.m. Adult Study

10:15 a.m. Worship with Communion

Guest Pastor ~ Pastor Amy Little
** BBO Meal after church**

Mon 10/30 Office Closed

Tues 10/31 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Pastor's Office Hours

9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. Office Hours

Wed 11/1 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Office Hours

1:30 p.m. Quilters – parsonage

Thurs 11/2 9:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m Office Hours

1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Pastor's Office Hours

Fri 11/3 8:00 p.m.-12:00 p.m Office Hours

Next Sun. Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m.Sunday School9:00 a.m.Confirmation Class

9:00 a.m. Adult Study

10:15 a.m. Worship with Communion

Office hours will be posted in the weekly bulletins. If you would need immediate assistance outside of office hours, text or call Meliss at 361-649-0413.

Have a Blessed Week!



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.

October 22, 2023 General \$1,094.00, MOM – NALS \$100.00, Sunday School \$35.00, Cemetery \$15.00, Old Stone Church \$10.00, Building \$80.00, Youth \$10.00

Total: \$1,344.00

Attendance: Worship - 74, Sunday School - 12 Children, 4 Teachers; Adult Study - 14

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





Attention: If you have lost a loved one in the past year, please contact the church office at 361-277-8653 that we might recognize them during next Sunday's All Saints service.



We need you to say YES! The Worship Team is "blowing the dust off" the reenactment of the "Living Last Supper." Please see the article in October's newsletter for more information and contact Johnny Jank and simply say, "How can I help?"

REFORMATION SUNDAY



St.John of Meyersville welcomes The Rev. Dr. Amy Little of NALC. She has served as ormation the General Secretary (COO) of the North American Lutheran Church since August 2021. The General Secretary functions as the chief operating officer of the NALC, managing its day-to-day administrative functions in Norwalk, Ohio. She is the graduate of Ohio University, Athens, Ohio with a Bachelor's of Science in Biology; Trinity



Lutheran Seminary Columbus, Ohio 2002, MDiv.; Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadephia,

DMin. 2012. Rev. Amy served in her first call for 19 years at Trinity Lutheran Church, Monroeville, Ohio. She is married to Jeff who is a High School Intervention Specialist. They have two children, Noah (married to Alyssa) and Anna. In her spare time she makes quilts and other art and makes sure to get her 10,000 steps in each day. Her mission of choice is Malawi Orphan Care Project (MOCP). She has been to Malawi three times and she and her husband are currently supporting a college student named Dickson who is studying computer science.



Thank you to The Rev. Dr. Amy Little for being here today on Reformation Sunday~Fill the Church Sunday! We were blessed to have you as part of our Sunday School and our church service today. God's blessings to you and yours!

In Honor of The Rev. Dr. Amy Little's presence and devotion to God and His people we will collect a LOVE OFFERING for the Malawi Orphan Care Project which is dear to her heart.



Altar Flowers for This Sunday

Today's altar flowers are placed to the glory of God and in honor of The Rev. Dr. Amy Little.



Just a quick note and thank you!

Last week, the family of Kay Ohrt placed flowers in church from her funeral. We again express our sincere sympathy to the family and a thank you for sharing these beautiful flowers with our congregation. What a wonderful way for us to share in her remembrance and her love for our church and congregation.

St. Peter's Lutheran Church – Ander

Please join us October 29, 2023 at the picnic area of St Peter's Lutheran Church for food, fun, fellowship, and fundraising from 3:30-6:30 p.m. We will have a country store, kid's games, a live auction, and a traditional German meal served. Plates are \$12/plate – for eating here or to go. 100% of funds raised will go to Cross Trails, the camping ministry of the ELCA's Southwestern Texas Synod, whose mission is to provide unique settings and experiences in which youth, adults, and families are strengthened in their relationship with Christ, each other, the church and the community. Hope to see you there!

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Women of the Word



Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Victoria invites the men and women of our church to join them for a Bunco Party on Sunday, November 5, 2023. Registration is at 1:00 PM, Bunco begins at 1:30 PM, and refreshments to follow. It will held in the Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Multipurpose Room, 4102 N. Ben Jordan, Victoria, Texas. Please RSVP by Sunday, October 29, 2023 to one of the following: OSL Church Office at 361-575-4305, Ann Gaskamp at 361-550-2861, or Susie Breeden at 361-573-6637.

Mission of the Month for October

North American Lutheran Seminary

The North American Lutheran Seminary (NALS) is committed to forming pastors and leaders for faithful ministry today. As a network of seminaries centered in Ambridge, Pennsylvania—with additional graduate schools in six states and provinces across the United States and Canada: Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, PA; Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, AL; Concordia Lutheran Seminary in Edmonton, AB; Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, CA/Houston, TX; Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Charlotte, NC; and Sioux Falls Seminary in Sioux Falls, SD. The NALS exists to form pastors and leaders for the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) through robust spiritual formation, rigorous and distinctive theological education, and intentional pastoral mentorship.

For the month of October the collection is rubber gloves and cotton gloves.

Samaritans Purse Christmas Child Shoeboxes



Our Samaritans Purse Christmas Child shoeboxes are available in the narthex and the wings for pick-up. Get yours early so you can start filling it with love.

The last date for turning in the Samaritans Purse Shoeboxes is November 12. Please include your \$10 check for shipping. ~ Cathie Bettge

Fill the Warehouse! (The cheapest place to shop for supplies!) NALC Disaster Response

What's in a Flood Bucket?

Filled buckets are still needed. If you want to just provide the materials for the bucket, they do have some buckets already donated. See the list below (store prices may vary):

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 – 12" X 12" – 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.

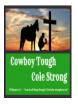
1 drawstring bag – available to be filled in narthex or you may sew your own from an old pillow case.

Additional Donations

We will also be collecting new and gently used Bibles as well as prayer books. If you have questions, please contact Cathie Bettge or Meliss Eckhardt. Thank you!

+ UPDATE + Special Prayers for Cole





Cole is doing well and continues to work hard. 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)

Our Military and their families:

Russell Copeland - U.S. Army Reserves

Jonathon Albrecht - U.S. Army, Fort Hood

Chase Schroeder - U.S. Navy, Florida

Lee Magruder - U.S. Army, 2-4 CaB, Charlie Company, Black Hawk

Medevac Pilot, Fort Carson, Colorado

Katrina Moritz - U.S. Air Force

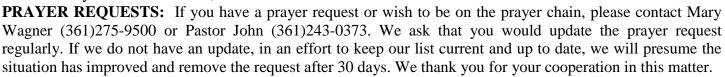
Michael Petrash II - 1st LT, United States Army

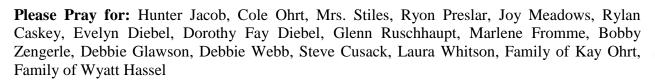
Andrew Washington, L CPL - USMC, Pensacola, FL

Jacob Redmond - USMC, San Diego, CA

Koltyn Mayhall - USMC, North Carolina

Zach McBrayer - U.S. Air Force, San Antonio







Nursing Home:

Cuero Nursing & Rehab. ~ Marjorie Ideus



SOME WORDS FROM LUTHER

That word above all earthly powers, No thanks to them, abideth; The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth: Let goods and kindred go, This mortal life also; The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still, His Kingdom is forever.

~Martin Luther~ A Mighty Fortress is Our God



Keep up with St. John online St. John Meyersville

https://www.facebook.com/Stjohnmeyersville

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

Moments with Martin Luther

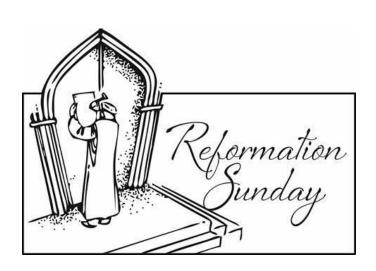
Born to parents who were peasants, Martin Luther came into the world in an exciting time in history. In just a few short years from the date of Martin's birth, November 10, 1483, Christopher Columbus would sail to the Americas and discover a new land in 1492. It would be a time of great progress and Luther would have much to do with that progress.

On the day after his birth Martin's father, Hans Luther, took him to be baptized at the Church of Saints Peter and Paul. It was the feast day of St. Martin and so this infant was named for the saint who was the Bishop of Tours, France. Perhaps it's fitting for Luther to have been named after one of the very first conscientious objectors as the two Martins held in common a desire to stand up for their beliefs no matter what it cost them.

On Halloween of 1517, now a German monk, Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of Wittenberg Church. These 95 Theses expressed his concerns over corruption found in the Catholic church. One of his primary concerns was the church selling "indulgences" to people in order to release them from having to serve penitence for their sins. An act which he considered to be people trying to buy their way into heaven. This act opened up a debate with religious scholars of the time that eventually lead to the Protestant Reformation.

Martin Luther's actions cause serious religious and social ripples throughout society. His 95
Theses were widely spread thanks to the newly invented printing press. Within just a couple of weeks, copies of these theses had spread all over Germany and within 60-days, they were all over Europe. On January 3, 1521, Martin Luther and his followers were excommunicated by Pope Leo X. Just three months later, Martin Luther was called to the Diet of Worms to defend his beliefs before Holy Roman Emperor Charles V. Before this deliberative assembly, Martin Luther was defiant and the emperor named him not only a heretic but also an outlaw. However, he would receive protection from German princes and Western Civilization would go on to be forever changed.

Reformation Day has been observed as a holiday since the mid-16th century, but its official date of October 31st was set until about 1717. This is when it became an official German observance and the date from which it would spread on an international level.



Reformation Sunday DSCSFF5L9TOFADNFU S G E R M A N Y 9 Y Y S H O T S L D L T H S U E 9 C M H T N I S M L 9 A P I C T D H P I G R E D D U T 5 5 0 U P G O 5 A P I Y D C E M 5 9 N G F S P DGPGRACEUGUHSGN UE5RDUSUDCLFY H 9 N G O H L Y L 9 9 E L D T D P A N T U L 5 R C O O T Y R P H R U E T U 9 F M H N U LAYMEHSHRINAIY U9MMEHET5E5YRC DOISDGTAAMHRPT E 9 L E I S M N D U U N O T R A NMRSHAYGDOLMTMUM PE5LYHERUTPIRCSDL 95 Thesis Faith Germany Grace Holy Spirit Luther Martin **Printing Press** Lutheran Protestant Red Scripture