

A COUNTRY CHRISTMAS



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Christ the King Sunday

“A COUNTRY CHRISTMAS”

November 26th, 2023

Greeter This Week: Cheryl Bramlette

Greeter Next Week: Beverly Bodden

Reader This Week: Wanda Hays

Reader Next Week: Beverly Bodden

Acolytes This Week: Kaleigh Newman

Acolytes Next Week: Gracie Diebel

Altar Guild This Month: Cathie Bettge & Brenda Boor

Altar Guild Next Month: M'Liss Moore & Virginia Abrameit

Communion Assistant This Month: Glenn Ruschhaupt

Communion Assistant Next Month: Obert Sagebiel

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.

COUNTRY CHRISTMAS SERVICE

PRELUDE – “Oh Come, Oh Come, Emanuel”

12 String Guitar Duet by Musicman4Christ

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOMING SONG

“LET IT BE CHRISTMAS”

Written & Sung by ALAN JACKSON

Let it be Christmas everywhere
In the hearts of all people both near and afar
Christmas everywhere
Feel the love of the season wherever you are
On the small country roads lined with green mistletoe
Big city streets where a thousand lights glow
Let it be Christmas everywhere
Let heavenly music fill the air
Let every heart sing let every bell ring
The story of hope and joy and peace
And let it be Christmas everywhere

Let heavenly music fill the air
Let anger and fear and hate disappear
Let there be love that lasts through the year
And let it be Christmas
Christmas everywhere

Let it be Christmas everywhere
With the gold and the silver, the green and the red
Christmas everywhere
In the smiles of all children asleep in their beds
In the eyes of young babies, their first fallen snow
Elderlys' memories that never grow old
Let it be Christmas everywhere
Let heavenly music fill the air
Let every heart sing let every bell ring
The story of hope and joy and peace
And let it be Christmas everywhere
Let heavenly music fill the air
Let anger and fear and hate disappear
Let there be love that lasts through the year
And let it be Christmas
Christmas everywhere

Let it be Christmas everywhere
In the songs that we sing and the gifts that we bring
Christmas everywhere
In what this day means and what we believe
From the sandy white beaches where blue water rolls
Snow covered mountains and valleys below
Let it be Christmas everywhere
Let heavenly music fill the air
Let every heart sing let every bell ring
The story of hope and joy and peace
And let it be Christmas everywhere
Let heavenly music fill the air
Let anger and fear and hate disappear
Let there be love that lasts through the year
And let it be Christmas
Christmas everywhere
Christmas everywhere
Christmas everywhere

COMMENTARY ON A “CELEBRATION of CHRISTMAS before ADVENT”

OPENING PRAYER

L The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

L Almighty and everlasting God, you have crowned your Son as King and, by him, will renew your whole creation. May the families of the earth now torn apart and yoked by sin find liberty in him and be subjected to his gentle rule. Grant this, we pray, through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

A PROPHECY: Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walk in darkness Will see a great light; Those who live in a dark land, The light will shine on them. ³ You will multiply the nation, You will increase their joy; They will rejoice in Your presence As with the joy of harvest, As *people* rejoice when they divide the spoils. ⁴ For You will break the yoke of their burden and the staff on their shoulders, The rod of their oppressor, as at the battle of Midian. ⁵ For every boot of the marching warrior in the roar of *battle*, And cloak rolled in blood, will be for burning, fuel for the fire. ⁶ For a Child will be born to us, a Son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of armies will accomplish this.

Performed by SUGARLAND

“OH COME, OH COME EMANUEL”

**O come, o come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appears
Rejoice, rejoice
Emmanuel, shall come to thee, o Israel**

**O come Thou key of David, come
And open wide our Heavenly home
Make safe the way that leads to Thee
And close the path to misery
Rejoice, rejoice
Emmanuel, shall come to thee, o Israel**

O come, desire of nations bind
(O come, o come, Emmanuel)
All peoples in one heart and mind
(And ransom captive Israel)
Bid Thou our set division see
(O Israel)
And be Thyself our King of peace
Rejoice, rejoice
Emmanuel, shall come to thee, o Israel
Rejoice, rejoice
Emmanuel, shall come to thee, o Israel
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, Emmanuel

Songwriters: Traditional, Peter Salem.

“BREATH of HEAVEN”
(MARY’S SONG)

BY AMY GRANT

I have traveled many moonless nights
Cold and weary with a babe inside
And I wonder what I've done
Holy father, you have come
And chosen me now to carry your son
I am waiting in a silent prayer
I am frightened by the load I bear
In a world as cold as stone
Must I walk this path alone?
Be with me now, be with me now
Breath of heaven, hold me together
Be forever near me, breath of heaven
Breath of heaven, lighten my darkness
Pour over me your holiness for you are holy
Breath of heaven
Do you wonder as you watch my face
If a wiser one should have had my place?
But I offer all I am
For the mercy of your plan
Help me be strong, help me be, help me
Breath of heaven, hold me together
Be forever near me, breath of heaven
Breath of heaven, lighten my darkness
Pour over me your holiness for you are holy

**Breath of heaven, hold me together
Be forever near me, breath of heaven
Breath of heaven, lighten my darkness
Pour over me your holiness for you are holy
Breath of heaven, breath of heaven
Breath of heaven**

Songwriters: Amy Grant, Chris Eaton.

PROPHECY FULFILLED: Luke 1: 26-38

²⁶ Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord *is* with you." ²⁹ But she was very perplexed at *this* statement, and was pondering what kind of greeting this was. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and give birth to a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; ³³ and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end." ³⁴ But Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; for that reason also the holy Child will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, even your relative Elizabeth herself has conceived a son in her old age, and she who was called infertile is now in her sixth month. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, the Lord's bond-servant; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

"MARY DID YOU KNOW"

By Scotty McCreery

**Mary, did you know
That your baby boy would some day walk on water?
Mary, did you know
That your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know
That your baby boy has come to make you new?
This child that you delivered will soon deliver you
Mary, did you know
That your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know
That your baby boy will calm the storm with His hand?
Did you know**

**That your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
And when you kiss your little baby, you've kissed the face of God
Oh Mary, did you know?**

Oh Mary, did you know?

**The blind will see, the deaf will hear
The dead will live again
The lame will leap
The dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb
Oh Mary, did you know
That your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know
That your baby boy would one day rule the nations?
Did you know
That your baby boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?
The sleeping child you're holding
Is the Great I Am
Ooh, Mary, did you know?**

Songwriters: Kurtis Mantronik, D Billing.

THE MAGNIFICANT: LUKE 1:46 – 48

⁴⁶And Mary said: “My soul exalts the Lord, ⁴⁷And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.
⁴⁸For He has had regard for the humble state of His bond-servant; For behold, from now *on* all generations will call me blessed.

THOUGHTS ON MARY – MARY KNEW!

PROPHECY: ISAIAH 7:14

¹⁴Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and she will name Him Immanuel.

“Oh Holy Night”

Sung by Carly Pearce

**O Holy Night, the stars are brightly shining
It is the night, of our dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error, pining
'Til He appeared, and the soul felt its worth**

A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn
Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices
O night divine, O night when Christ was born
And O night divine, O night, O night divine
Fall on your knees, O hear, the angel voices
O night divine, O night, when Christ was born
And O night, divine, O night, O night divine.

Songwriters: Adolphe Charles Adam

PROPHECY FULFILLED: Luke 2:6,7

⁶While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

“There’s a New Kid In Town”

Sung by George Strait

We're looking for the king
The new messiah
We're following the star, shining brighter
Old man won't you help us if you can
He shook his head
But he pointed his hand
There's a new kid in town
And he's lying in a manger down the road
There's a new kid in town
But he's just another baby I suppose, heaven knows
There's a new kid in town here in Bethlehem

I see you've traveled far
Bearing treasures
You say these gifts are for, the new king's pleasure
I've heard, that a king might come
But up till now there hasn't been one
But There's a new kid in town
And he's lying in a manger down the road
There's a new kid in town
But he's just another baby I suppose, heaven knows
There's a new kid in town, here in Bethlehem

**There's a new kid in town
And he's lying in a manger down the road
There's a new kid in town
But he's just another baby I suppose, heaven knows
There's a new kid in town here in Bethlehem**

Songwriters: Curly Putman, Keith Whitley, Don Cook.

“The Manger”

Anne Wilson & Josh Turner

**They're puttin' decorations up in front of my old church
The shepherds and the wise men and the hay
There's Joseph and his Mary lookin' down at Heaven's birth
And the angel's sayin', "Don't you be afraid"
It makes me stop and think about how You showed up down here
In a humble bed made of nails and wood
You could have picked a palace, somethin' more fit for a King
But then the story wouldn't be as good**

**From the highest of the high
To the lowest of the low
That stable tells a story of the distance You will go
For the lonely and the lost
There's no sinner too far gone, to find a Savior
Lyin' in the manger**

**There's a star up in the sky that's callin' all the least of these
Come make Your way to where Your hope is found
If I'm honest, some days I feel too far out of reach
But the manger reminds me, love reached down**

**From the highest of the high
To the lowest of the low
That stable tells a story of the distance You will go
For the lonely and the lost
There's no sinner too far gone to find a Savior
Lyin' in the manger**

**You were carried by a manger and just thirty-three years later
By a rugged cross made from nails and wood
And the tears fill up my eyes, You didn't have to give Your life
But then the story wouldn't be as good**

**From the highest of the high
To the lowest of the low
That stable tells a story of the distance You will go
For the lonely and the lost
There's no sinner too far gone to find a Savior
Lyn' in the manger**

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay**

Songwriters: Matthew West, Jeffrey Thomas Pardo, Anne Wilson.

WOOD & NAILS, the MANGER and the CROSS

CHILDRENS SONG: "Away in a Manger"

Sung by Cody Johnson

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay**

**The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh**

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay**

PROPHECY FULFILLED: John 12: 44-46

⁴⁴ Now Jesus cried out and said, “The one who believes in Me, does not believe *only* in Me, but *also* in Him who sent Me. ⁴⁵ And the one who sees Me sees Him who sent Me. ⁴⁶ I have come *as* Light into the world, so that no one who believes in Me will remain in darkness.

“Oh Come All Ye Faithful”

Sung by Martina McBride

**O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold him
Born the king of angels
O come let us adore him
O come let us adore him
O come let us adore him
Christ the Lord**

**Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation
O sing all ye citizens of heaven above
Glory to God
Glory in the highest
O come lets us adore him
O come let us adore him
O come let us adore him
Christ the Lord**

**O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold him
Born the king of angels
O come let us adore him
O come let us adore him
O come let us adore him
Christ the Lord
O come let us adore him
Christ the Lord**

Song arranged by: John Francis Wade, Frederick Oakeley, Jake Espy.

OFFERING

“A Christmas Halleljah”

Cassandra & her sister Callahan Star

LORD’S PRAYER

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.**

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Sung by Sara Evans

**Go tell it on, the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born**

**Go tell it, on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it, on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born**

**The shepherds kept their watching
Over silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the Heavens
There shone a Holy light**

**So, go tell it, on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born**

**Oh, down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born
God sent to us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn'**

**So, go tell it, on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born, yeah
Go tell it on the mountain (oh, tell everybody)
Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born
Jesus Christ is born, Yeah
(Oh hallelujah, oh hallelujah)
(Oh hallelujah, oh hallelujah)
Oh, Christ is born**

Arranged by: Charles Boone

BENEDICTION

May the Lord bless us and keep us.
May the Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us.
May the Lord look upon us with favor and ✠ give us peace. **Amen.**

L Go in peace, serve the Lord.
C Thanks be to God

SENDING SONG

“JOY TO THE WORLD”
Bluegrass



Philippians 4:6-7

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN

Today 11/26 Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
9:00 a.m. Confirmation
9:00 a.m. Adult Study
10:15 a.m. Worship
3:00 p.m. Church Christmas Decorating

Mon 11/27 Office Closed

Tues 11/28 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Office Hours
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Pastor’s Office Hours
7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

Wed 11/29 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Office Hours
1:30 p.m. Quilters – parsonage

Thurs 11/30 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Office Hours
1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. Pastor’s Office Hours

Fri 12/1 Office Closed

Next Sun. First Sunday of Advent
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
9:00 a.m. Confirmation
9:00 a.m. Adult Study
10:15 a.m. Worship – Holy Communion

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.

November 19, 2023 General \$1,595.00, MOM – Christmas Families \$300.00, Sunday School \$15.00, Cemetery \$20.00, Building \$350.00, Youth \$20.00, **Total: \$2,300.00**

Attendance: Worship - 78, Sunday School - 7 Children, 3 Teachers; Adult Study - 16

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



Office hours will be posted in the weekly bulletins. If you would need immediate assistance outside of office hours, text or call Melissa at 361-649-0413. If you’d like to receive your monthly church newsletter via email, call or text the church office at 361-277-8653.

DON’T FORGET

Decorating of Church for Christmas is TODAY

We have plans to decorate the church for Christmas TODAY, November 26th, 2023 at 3:00 p.m...
Thank you!





SAVE THE DATE

Our Christmas Program will be held December 17 at 6 p.m. During this program, our youth will retell the story of Christmas as the stars who were twinkling away the night Jesus was born. Reception to follow in the Parish Hall.



FYI: A set of keys was found outside the Parish Hall. Please contact the office if you've lost yours.



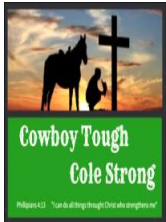
We need you to say YES! The Worship Team is "blowing the dust off" the reenactment of the "Living Last Supper." Please see the article in October's newsletter for more information and contact Johnny Jank and simply say, "How can I help?"

Mission of the Month for November

Christmas Families

We will be collecting items for our Christmas Families again this year. Please look/listen for additional information in the Sunday Bulletins and during announcements. Thank You!

For the month of November the collection is toothbrushes individually wrapped and travel size toothpaste.

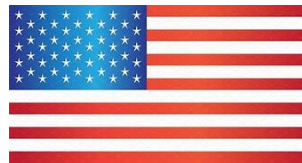


+ UPDATE + Special Prayers for Cole

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



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, Marlene Fromme, Debbie Glawson, Debbie Webb, Steve Cusack, Laura Whitson, Family of Kay Ohrt, Family of Wyatt Hassel, Pat Hays, Rachel Nessel, Beverly Bodden, Family of Kathy Rangnow



Nursing Home:

Cuero Nursing & Rehab. ~ Marjorie Ideus



SOME WORDS FROM LUTHER

[God] therefore will do the same with Christians that he did with Christ, whom he raised up from the locked and sealed grave in the twinkling of an eye, so that in the selfsame moment he was in it and out of it.

- Martin Luther

Sermon at the Funeral of Duke John of Saxony



**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.