

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church
1764 Meyersville Road
Meyersville, Texas 77974-4143
Pr. John Boor
Phone #361-277-8653

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

December 2023 Newsletter

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

CONTACT US

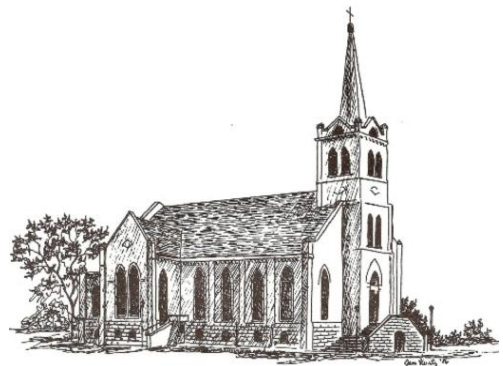
Church Office: 361-277-8653
Office Hours: see weekly bulletin
stjohnlutheran@juno.com
Pastor's Office Hours in the Parish Hall:
Tues. 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Thurs. 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
(Pr. John's Cell: 361-243-0373)
jboor25@yahoo.com

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

WORSHIP

Sunday School for All Ages 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:15 a.m.

Holy Communion is celebrated on the first & third Sunday of each month. Welcome to all new members!



THE CHURCH BELL
St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Member of North American Lutheran Church (NALC)

1764 Meyersville Rd.
Meyersville, TX 77974
361-277-8653



December 2023

VOL. 47 NO. 12

Greetings,

The first four Sundays of December is Advent, the beginning of a new church year. Our Altar will be draped in blue which is expressive of hope, expectation and anticipation, which is the dominant mood of Advent. The Advent season is four Sundays long. During Advent we will light the four candles on the Advent Wreath, one each week.

The first candle represents hope. We look forward with hope to the coming of the Shepherd.

The Second candle stands for love. This candle reminds us that Jesus is our hope and our peace.

The third candle, the pink candle, represents joy. As the coming of Jesus draws nearer, our joy builds with our anticipation of his birth.

The fourth candle is a symbol of love. Jesus demonstrated self-giving love in his ministry as the Good Shepherd. Advent is a time for kindness, thinking of others, and sharing with others. It is a time to love as God loved us by giving us his most precious gift. As God is love, let us be love also.

The word Advent means a “coming” or “arrival.” Consequently, the season of Advent is marked by the themes of preparation and readiness for the coming, or arrival, of our Savior Jesus.

Being prepared and ready is very important for us as Christians. During Advent we are preparing for the arrival of the baby Jesus. But we should also be preparing for the second coming of Jesus. Mark tells us to, ³ **“Watch out, stay alert; for you do not know when the appointed time is.”** (Mark 13:33) When Jesus tells the disciples this, He was preparing them for the next few days when He would be arrested and crucified on the cross. But they were not listening. They were dreaming, waiting for Jesus to establish an earthly kingdom. Their eyes were on this world.

Jesus also wants us to prepare for the events that will lead to His return. We don’t want to be ill prepared when He returns. In November Johnna and I had messages on the importance of being prepared. Jesus told the disciples, and us, ³⁵ *Therefore, stay alert—for you do not know when the ^[b]master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—³⁶ so that he does not come suddenly and find you asleep.”* (Mark 13:35-36)

As we work, we are to watch - every day of every week of every month of every year. We are to be on guard so that won’t be found sleeping (v 36). This is a spiritual not a physical watchfulness. By spiritual we mean living in the grace of our Baptism; proclaiming our Lord’s Cross and Resurrection; pointing to his return which could be at any moment; celebrating his Holy Supper; clinging to the mercy of God, knowing that we are always in his care, so that we are ready.

We are best prepared for our Lord’s return, like these Polish believers, by living in the faith that God has called us to by grace.

God’s Blessings

Pastor John

If you or a family member is in the hospital and would like a pastoral visit, please contact the Church office (361-277-8653) or Pastor John Boor (361-243-0373). Due to the privacy laws, hospitals no longer notify pastors when a member is admitted or treated. If you know of anyone being taken to the hospital (emergency or otherwise), or who is seriously ill please call.

ST. JOHN EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH CONTACT NUMBERS

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pastor - John Boor	361- 243-0373	Parish Education – Rachel Nessel	361-571-9228
Council President-Glenn Ruschhaupt	361-275-2059	Mission/Evangelism - Cathie Bettge	361-550-7274
Vice President - Mitchell Jank	361-649-8681	Property Team - Marvin Sager	361-243-1166
Secretary - Trish Hood	361-212-7322	Finance Team - Charles Egg	281-844-3358
Treasurer - Archie Abrameit	512-922-0975	Parish Life Team - Beverly Bodden	361-570-3393
Financial Secretary - M'Liss Moore	361-564-4467	Worship Team - Brenda Gohmert	361-649-1606



St. John 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.

ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER/NAME CHANGES

Please notify the Church Office as soon as possible of any change in mailing addresses, and/or phone numbers, and/or name changes. Thank you!

If any elderly person, or youth, needs a ride to Church or youth events, please notify the pastor so arrangements can be made to accommodate these needs.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the October 2023 Church Bell is Friday, November 22, 2023 by 9:00 a.m. You can drop off your articles at the church office, or e-mail them to stjohnelutheran@juno.com. Thanks!

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



Do you have an idea?

Is there something at the church that you think needs fixing or changing? The Church Council and Committee Members would like to have your input. Please feel free to use the 'suggestion box' in the Narthex to pass on your ideas, suggestions, and concerns. Remember, this is your church and your opinion matters. We are eager to hear from you!

BUSY BAGS IN CHURCH

Busy Bags are available in the Narthex for all children to use. These bags have quiet activities for children to enjoy during Worship. The tote bags have items that younger children might be interested in. Grab a bag on your way in to church, but please "bee" sweet and return it after the service.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

If you have a prayer request or wish to be on the prayer chain, please contact Mary Wagner (361)275-9500 or Pastor John (361)243-0373. We ask that you would update the prayer request regularly. If we do not have an update, in an effort to keep our list current and up to date, we will presume the situation has improved and remove the request after 30 days. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.



Our Military and their families:

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 - Iraq
 Andrew Washington, L CPL - USMC, Pensacola, FL
 Jacob Redmond - USMC, San Diego, CA
 Koltyn Mayhall - USMC, North Carolina
 Zach McBrayer - U.S. Air Force, San Antonio



Please Pray for: Hunter Jacob, Cole Ohrt, Mrs. Stiles, Ryon Preslar, Rylan Caskey, Joy Meadows, Evelyn Diebel, Dorothy F. Diebel, Glenn Ruschhaupt, Marlene Fromme, Debbie Glawson, Steve Cusack, Debbie Webb, Laura Whitson, Kay Ohrt's Family, Wyatt Hassel's Family, Pat Hays, Rachel Nessel, Beverly Bodden, Family of Kathy Rangnow

Nursing Home:

Cuero Nursing & Rehab. ~ Marjorie Ideus

Prayer requests 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.

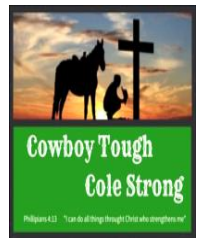


+ UPDATE + Special Prayers for Cole+

Taken from Facebook

Cowboy Tough Cole Strong:

Hi everyone!! It's been a long time! I hope you are all doing well! We are all doing good. Cole is healthy as a horse and doing well. He continues to amaze me with his drive to continue his therapy diligently. He is still waling on the Lokomat and uses the Armeo robotic arm machine twice weekly as well as working hard at home with me and his nurses. God definitely blessed him with a hardheadedness that he may or may not have gotten from his mother. For those of you who didn't know last weekend was the 6th annual Cowboy Tough Cole Strong Team roping benefit. It



was an awesome weekend with a very well run 3day team roping thanks to Justin Shelton as well as two days of silent auction items including some delicious homemade goods and fall décor. We also had a gun raffle board that is still going on until we fill all the squares on the board for a nice rifle and as always shirts for sale with Cole's logo. For those of you who know Cole this is one of his favorite events of the whole year. He so looks forward to it each year. So a special thank you to Justin and all those who helped him as well as all the donors and sponsors. You all make this a wonderful event each year. Also want to send out a special thank you to Amy Burnet for announcing and keeping the books all weekend and to Shelly Marbach and Penny Pence for all their help with the shirts and silent auction. Special thank you to Britney Lesikar and KC Hats for donating her services throughout the weekend also. She does an amazing job. Special thank you to all who donated and or purchased the silent auction items and t-shirts as well. We sincerely appreciate all of you. This year was really special with one of Cole's brothers winning one of the trophy saddles! All in all it was an amazing and blessed weekend. Asking for continued prayers for Cole's health and healing as well as his and our faith. Also asking for prayers that Cole will be granted a meeting with the Governor soon to fight for changes in state funded care for the handicapped. I'll post later with more details. Thank you all and God Bless. 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)***

Portals of Prayer

October-December Portals of Prayer are still available for pick-up in the narthex. January -March Portals of Prayer will also be available in the narthex starting this month.



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

NALC Warehouse Flood Bucket Update

We are still in need of supply filled buckets. Please see the bulletin board in the narthex for a list of these supplies or contact Cathie Bettge or Meliss Eckhardt at the church office. Thank you!

Are you in need of a home for gently used prayer materials?

Our church will be collecting new and gently used Bibles and prayer books. If you have any questions, please contact Cathie Bettge or Meliss Eckhardt.



JOIN ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH FOR OUR ANNUAL

Christmas Program

Sunday, December 17
6 pm

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



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
1764 MEYERSVILLE RD, MEYERSVILLE, TX 77974



Christmas Eve Services

On Sunday, Christmas Eve, December 24th, 2023, there will be a communion service at the 10:15 a.m. Worship Service and at the 10 p.m. Candlelight Service. There will be no 3:00 p.m. service this year. Please join us as we celebrate the birth of Our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ!

Mission of the Month of December

Samaritan's Purse

Samaritan's Purse is a nonprofit Christian relief and evangelism organization that specializes in meeting the needs of victims of war, poverty, disease, and natural disaster, while at the same time sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. They serve where needed whether it be on foreign lands or right here in the USA.

December collection items are for the Christmas Families. All donations to the St. John Christmas Family are due no later than **Sunday - December 10th**.



Sunday School will continue through the school year. We'd love to see all the children every Sunday at 9AM!



Women's Bible Study will now be meeting monthly on the 2nd Wednesday at 12:30 PM at the Parsonage.

Mens's Bible Study will continue to be meeting monthly on the 3rd Wednesday at 7 PM in the Parsonage.



The Quilters will be 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.

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

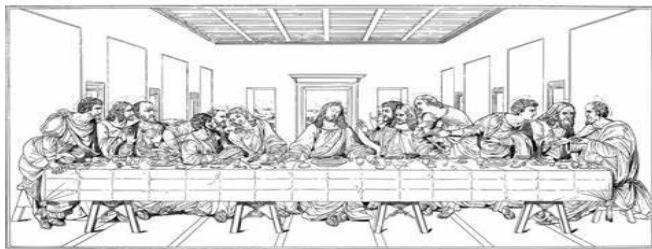
A called congregational meeting will be held immediately following the service on Sunday, December 17th. There is one agenda item, consideration of the proposed St. John Budget for 2024.

Committee Annual Reports


Just a friendly reminder. All annual reports from committees will be due by Sunday, January 14, 2023. Thank you!

Volunteers Needed

Well, it's that time of year again. We are looking for a few good and gracious people to volunteer to be readers and/or greeters for the upcoming year, 2024. Please contact the church office or sign up in the narthex ASAP. We look forward to hearing your beautiful voices and welcoming faces each Sunday. Thank You!



STEP RIGHT UP!

 Calling all thespians, set designers, costume designers, makeup artists, sound and lighting specialists, musical directors, and anyone who has ever thought they might like to make a try at the bright lights and red carpets of Hollywood or Broadway. Unfortunately, answering this call will most likely, NOT further your career or move you any closer to the goal of being discovered or getting your big break toward stardom. But if you are willing to portray a disciple of Christ

or assist in the production of a moment in time on the night of Christ's betrayal, as depicted by Da Vinci's painting, "The Last Supper", we need you.

The Worship Team is attempting to revive the production of the "Living Last Supper." This is the reenactment of the moment Jesus announced that "one of you will betray me," and the depiction of the thoughts that may have raced through the minds of each disciple as they contemplated those words. This scene was first done by men and women of St John here in Meyersville during Holy Week in 1994 and was produced again in 1995, 1996 and 1999. The play went dormant and then was revived for production in 2003 and again the following year. Next year, will be the 20th anniversary of the final production in 2004.

Please consider this calling as we will need 13 men on stage, a narrator, a sound and lighting person, numerous props and costume persons and various other support staff to make this awesome event take place. Give it prayerful consideration a say yes when you may be called to "follow me." Contact Johnny Jank and simply say, "How can I help?"

Church Council Minutes ~ October 24, 2023

Cathie Bettge

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pastor Boor, Glenn Ruschhaupt (President), Mitchell Jank (Vice-President), Archie Abrameit (Treasurer), M'Liss Moore (Financial Secretary), Charles Egg (Finance), Cathie Bettge (Mission and Evangelism), Rachel Nessel (Parish Ed), Marv Sager (Property), Brenda Gohmert (Worship).

CALL TO ORDER: Glenn called the meeting to order.

OPENING DEVOTION: M'Liss Moore read a devotion by Jack Williams from Working Man's Devotional entitled "Is your water living or stagnant?" (John 4:1-12) We need the Living Water that only a relationship with God can give us to fill the void in our lives.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING: Marv Sager moved and Brenda Gohmert 2nd the motion to approve minutes as presented. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT: FYI account was presented by Archie Abrameit. M'Liss Moore made the motion to accept and Brenda Gohmert 2nd the financial report. Motion passed.

PASTOR REPORT: I attended the pastor retreat in Benton this month. Our guest speaker was Jeff Morlock who is a recruiter for the NALS. He updated us on the current Pastor situation in the NALC and what they are doing to meet the need for pastors in the future. He also discussed what we, as current pastors, can do to assist in the growing need for pastors. I did a funeral for Kay Ohrt on 10/19/23 and she was buried in our cemetery in a previously assigned plot.

FINANCE TEAM:

Reviewed September financial reports. There was nothing out of the ordinary and balances look good. Marv is still

working on replacement property insurance since Church Mutual will no longer provide our insurance. Worked on the 2024 budget. Will present it to council at the November meeting.

MISSION EVANGELISM TEAM:

The Continental Youth Gathering 2024 for the NALC will be held in Boerne, TX. For more info see the website <https://cyg.thenalc.org/>. There will be a 2024 budget change for the Mission Evangelism Team for Expenses—down to \$500 and Operation Christmas Child materials—down to \$100. Pastor Amy Little, General Secretary for the NALC will be our guest speaker on Sunday, October 29 for Reformation Sunday/Mission Feast. She will visit both the children’s Sunday School and the Adult Sunday School classes. Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes are due Sunday, November 12, 2023. In addition, the November Mission of the Month will be the Christmas Families and the November collection is individually wrapped toothbrushes and travel size toothpaste. Next scheduled meeting is November 15, 2023.

PARISH LIFE TEAM:

One Sympathy card and one Get Well card was sent out this month. We also helped organize the funeral luncheon for Kay Ohrt. And organizing/finalizing plans for Fill the Church/Reformation Sunday October 29.

Sincerely, Beverly Bodden

PARISH ED:

Committee did not meet in October. No changes were made to the budget. Rachel added that she and Johnna had made, printed, and handed out the song books for the children’s Christmas Program.

PROPERTY TEAM REPORT:

Meeting Date: October 15th

Members Present: Richard Bettge, Dennis Nagel, Vance Egg, Glenn Ruschhaupt, John Boor, and Marv Sager

Items Complete: Restroom supplies replenished; AC filters checked/ replaced; Parsonage cleaned by Calvo’s; Parish Hall door latch repaired; Application for new insurance coverage submitted; Proposed 2024 budget draft submitted to Finance Team

Renovation Progress: Work to mitigate construction errors still awaiting contractor availability

Ongoing Discussion Items: Parsonage inspection and plan for necessary repairs- List of major items includes releveling/blocking, correction of potential wall movement in master bedroom, exterior stucco repair together with related painting, and potential AC ductwork.; LED lighting in sanctuary – Awaiting electrician LED bulb recommendation and installation; Basement Restoration – Still awaiting contractor availability; Sanctuary steeple repair – Discussions in progress with potential contractor; Awning bird issue resolution – Soffit installation planned along with construction error repairs--Awaiting potential

contractor availability; Repair of broken tombstones in cemetery – Initial repairs to two headstones performed on March 9th. Estimates for additional work acquired; awaiting Mortise Stone technician availability.; Flagpole painting – Awaiting probable utilization of man lift for steeple repair.

Other: Discussed items for Property Team mini-workday – Movement of dirt piles to area in pasture; Discussed additional potential alternative contractors for current repair projects; Reviewed current status of elevator issues and ongoing communications with manufacturer and service entity. Service appointment duration of 4 hours on October 12 revealed damage to elevator electrical “Travel Cable”. Repair kit has been ordered and is expected within 10 days, per Home Elevator.; Discussed Church Mutual non-renewal notification, and recently submitted application for coverage with new carrier.; Reviewed 2024 Property Team budget draft for submission to Finance Team.

Old Stone Church: Old Stone Church Committee met on October 16th and drafted updated Building Use and Guidelines Policy, which will be posted on display inside the Old Stone Church. Dehumidifier performance, evaluation of current electrical outlets, and potential for building insurance through the Texas Historical Commission were also discussed.

Items for Council Approval: None

Next Scheduled Meeting: 11/12/2023

WORSHIP TEAM:

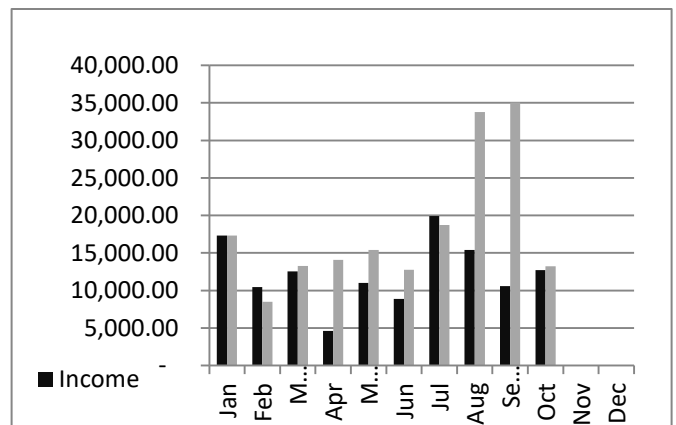
Worship Team did not meet in September but we will meet on Tuesday October 3.

We were notified that according to Robert’s Rules of Order for conducting meetings that any old and new business to be discussed must be presented before the meeting and be included on the agenda.

Closed with the Lord’s Prayer

Next scheduled meeting-November 28, 2023

Respectfully submitted, Cathie Bettge
in the absence of secretary, Trish Hood



General Fund – 2023 Income vs Expenses
General Fund chart without Designated Giving funds.

The **CONSTITUTION FOR St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church** will be available in the near future in the Narthex or from the church office. Pick up your copy. One copy per family please.

The following explains how to become a member of St. John and retain that membership throughout the years.

BYLAWS of ST. JOHN EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH PART III – MEMBERSHIP

A. Baptized Members 1. A child, one or both of whose parents or guardians are members of the congregation, shall, upon receiving Baptism, become a baptized member. 2. A child, neither of whose parents or guardians is a member of the congregation, shall upon receiving Baptism, become a baptized member of the congregation; unless for good reason he is to be a baptized member of another congregation, in which case his membership shall be transferred to that congregation. 3. A child baptized in another congregation shall be received as a baptized member in the congregation when a transfer has been received. 4. An un-baptized adult who has received instruction and has given evidence of an adequate understanding and acceptance of the teachings of the work of God as confessed by the Lutheran Church, shall upon confession of faith and Baptism, become a baptized member of the congregation. 5. When one or both parents of baptized children are received into the membership of the congregation, such children should be received as baptized members with the consent of the member parent or parents. 6. Where a baptized child is an orphan or ward of someone and these people move into the area served by this congregation, the child may be received as a baptized member when it is commended to the care of this congregation by the congregation which baptized the child. 7. When the parents of a baptized child are not themselves members of the Lutheran Church but move into the area served by this congregation and desire to have their child put within the pastoral care of this congregation, the child may be received as a baptized member.

B. Confirmed Members 1. A baptized adult, not previously a confirmed member of a Lutheran congregation, shall become a confirmed member of this congregation after having received instruction, having given evidence of adequate understanding of the teachings of the Word of God as confessed by the Lutheran Church, and having publicly affirmed their faith. 2. A baptized member of the congregation shall become a confirmed member through the rite of confirmation; except that an adult who has become a baptized member in accordance with the provisions of Section A, (4), of this part of the bylaws shall be considered a confirmed member without participation in the rite of confirmation. 3. An applicant for membership who presents a Letter of Transfer which certifies that he is a confirmed member in good standing of a Lutheran congregation shall become a confirmed member of the congregation upon approval by the Church Council. The acceptance of the applicant shall be reported to the congregation. 4. An applicant for membership who presents evidence of confirmation in a Lutheran congregation but does not have a Letter of Transfer shall be admitted to confirmed membership when the Church Council had determined that he meets the standards of Christian faith and life indicated in the constitution and bylaws, and when he has affirmed his faith. **C. Voting Members** The Church Council

shall determine the roster of voting members of the congregation in accordance with the provisions of the constitution and bylaws. The roster of voting members shall be available at all regularly called meetings of the congregation.

D. Associate Members A person holding membership in other Lutheran congregations but who wish to participate in the life and mission of this congregation as outlined in this congregation's constitution.

E. Discontinuance of Membership 1. The congregation shall, in the event that a member moves from the community it serves, except those in the Armed Services or those enrolled in an institution of higher learning, encourage the member to request a transfer to a Lutheran congregation which can serve him effectively. Should the member fail to request a transfer, a Lutheran congregation in the community of his residence shall be notified. 2. A confirmed member in good standing desiring to change his membership to another Lutheran congregation shall, upon request, receive a Letter of Transfer. 3. A confirmed member who does not, for a period of one year, partake of Holy Communion, support the church with his offerings, and does not appear to desire to participate in the life and worship of the congregation shall be visited by the pastor and a member of the congregation's council and encouraged by them to active membership. If during the second year, the confirmed member does not actively participate, his name shall be removed from the confirmed membership roster of the congregation, but shall be retained on a responsibility list as one who is in special need of the congregation's prayer and concern. Members outside the community shall be contacted by letter and encouraged to transfer membership to a church in their community. If that has not been accomplished in one year and the member has not fulfilled the previously mentioned criteria the person's name shall be removed from the confirmed membership roster. Extenuating circumstances may be considered on an individual basis by the church council.

FRIENDLY REMINDER: PLEASE HELP TO KEEP OUR CEMETERY AND ADJACENT GROUNDS LOOKING THEIR BEST....

CEMETERY DECORATIONS

In respect of those buried in this cemetery, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church feels responsible for keeping our cemetery presentable and well maintained into perpetuity. In order to accomplish this at a sustainable cost, all users must abide by the following rules concerning decorations:

- A. In-ground vases, ornaments, figurines, statues, pictures, glass or other breakable containers, trellises, shepherd hooks, loose flowers, solar lights, or any commemorative articles of non-degradable materials are not permitted and will be removed and discarded without notice.
- B. All vases shall be attached permanently to the headstone or slab or be of sufficient weight to resist windy conditions. All flowers shall be adequately secured in the previously described vases to keep them from blowing out. Loose flowers on graves will not be permitted.
- C. White solar powered decorations are allowed (one per grave) if they are attached to the headstone or base and not placed in the grass.

- D. Funeral flowers and wreaths placed on fresh graves shall be removed within two weeks of the funeral.
- E. Flags look impressive on a cemetery, but they fade quickly and usually do not stay upright long if placed directly into the ground. If flags are used, they shall be placed in a small diameter pvc plastic pipe driven into the ground next to the headstone as to not impede mowing. Only one flag per grave is permitted.

The cemetery committee at their discretion shall remove and discard any decorations that they deem inappropriate.

THANK YOU

Altar Flowers



If you would like to bring fresh flowers to church for the altar on the first Sunday of any month, please let the church office recognize you in the bulletin. Flowers can also be given in memory or honor of someone. Flowers can be put on the pedestals any Sunday as long as they are not being used for another purpose. Flowers DO NOT have to be purchased from a florist.

Summer garden flowers are beautiful and adorning. The Altar Guild does have a few guidelines as to the size and placement of the bouquet(s) and vases so just contact one of the members or call the church office.

Tax Tips for Traditional IRA Owners



If you have a traditional IRA and you are 70 ½ years old and older, you are required to take a RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) annually. There is a provision in the regulations that allow you to have this distribution made directly to a qualifying non-profit (church, etc.) and not be liable for income taxes on that amount. Consult your tax advisor of financial planner for more details.

TIME TO PLAN AHEAD

The **FIRST NALC NATIONAL YOUTH EVENT** will be held July 1-4, 2024 in Boerne,

TX! St. John's Lutheran Church in Boerne will Host this first ever Continental Youth Gathering (CYG). This four-day gathering will provide opportunities for NALC youth to grow in faith and relationship with others as the Body of Christ. They will dig into the theme "We Belong: I Know My Own and My Own Know Me." Registration opens October 13th. For more information visit the NALC website (thenalc.org) and click on Upcoming Events.

Meyersville Country Club Christmas Party

The Meyersville Country Club Christmas Party will be held Sunday, December 3rd, 2023 from 6 to 8 PM. Pizza, salad, & breadsticks will be provided. Santa will arrive at 7. Desserts would be appreciated. Thank you!

With Our Deepest Sympathy

Please keep the family Kathy Rangnow in your thoughts & prayers. Kathy was the wife of Henry Lee Rangnow and mother of Buck, Chad, & Charlie Rangnow. May God comfort her family at this time of loss.



A Special Note:

Thank you for all your prayers, thoughts, concerns, and cards. Bobby is doing very well. Thank You!
~Phillyce & Bobby Zengerle~



A Note of Thankfulness

We would like to thank our church family for their prayers, texts, calls, and the sweet card. It means so much to us. We could feel the prayers! A special thank you to Pastor John for his calls, texts, prayers, and visits. We would also like to thank everyone who checked on mom, visited her and brought her food. It meant the world to us! We are blessed with a special church family.

~Wanda & Pat Hays & Family~



Thank You

Thank you to all who filled shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. All together we filled 53 shoeboxes and they have been delivered! What a blessing!



To those individuals who helped to decorate the church and tree in preparation for Christmas. It looks beautiful!!!

Malawi Orphan Care Project

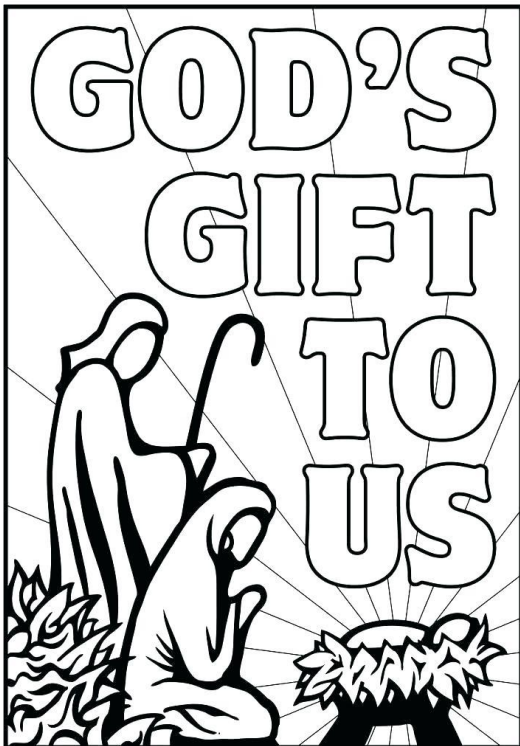
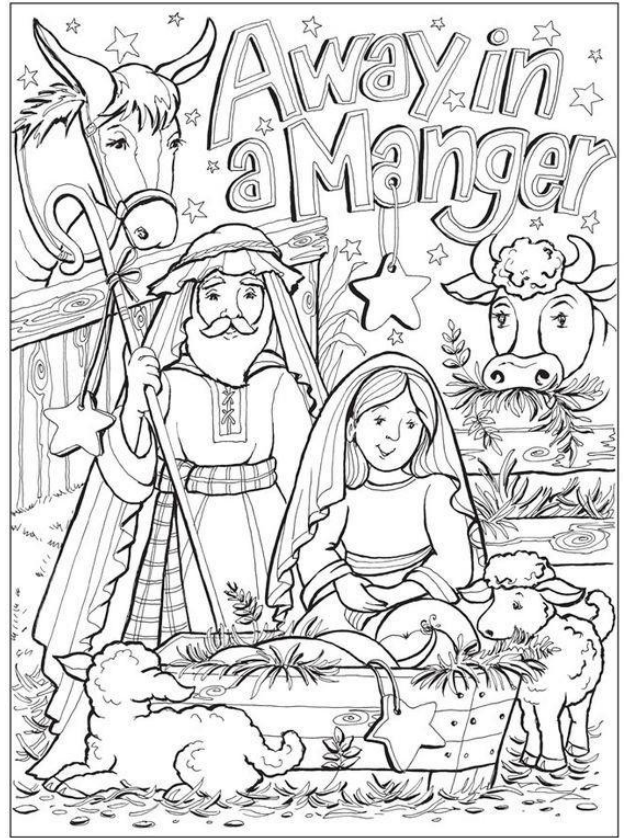
Received this note dated 11/17/2023

Dear People of God at St. John, Thank you so much for your \$600.00 honorarium to the service of Rev. Dr. Amy C. Little! MOCP is very dear to her heart—how do I know? She is my daughter, I'm proud to say! Please keep us in your prayers and consider us for more international mission. MOCP is very grateful for your support as we continue to love and feed over 900 orphans!
In Christ's Service, Jan Fisher, Treasurer

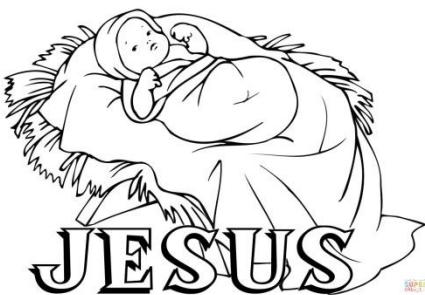
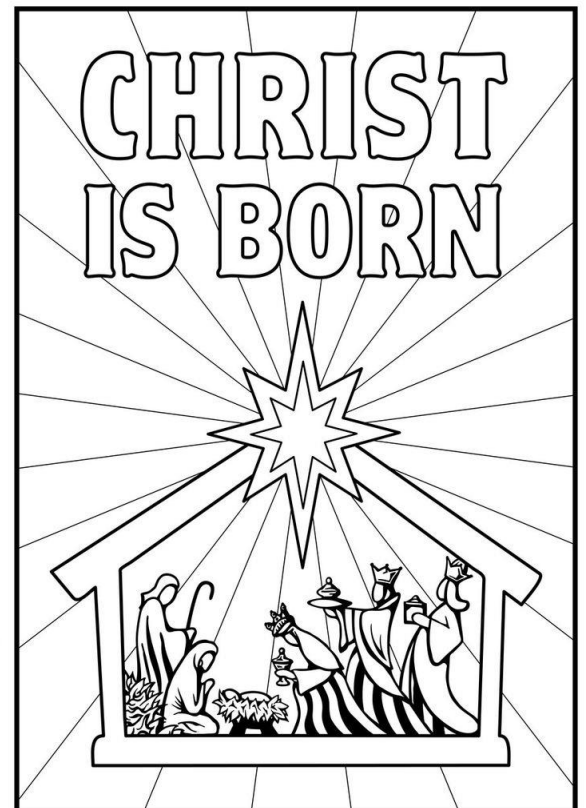
Please Notice This



Color These Pictures and Share the Joy With Someone!



The Magic of
Christmas
is not in the presents
but in *His* presence



VOLUNTEERS THIS MONTH:

December 3

Greeter - Beverly Bodden
Reader - Beverly Bodden

December 10

Greeters - John & Margie Swannack
Reader - Johnna Picard

December 17

Greeters - Dickie & Cathie Bettge
Reader - Dickie Bettge

December 24

Greeters - Marv & Norrean Sager
Reader - Neal Moritz

December 31

Greeters - Youth Group
Reader - Cathie Bettge

December Communion Assistant
Obert Sagebiel

December Altar Guild

M'Liss Moore & Virginia Abrameit

December Nursing Home Visitor
Linda Ruschhaupt & Dianna Bartosh

LOOKING AHEAD...

January 7

Greeters - M'Liss Moore
Reader - Dwight Jander

January Communion Assistant
Brian Wendel

January Altar Guild

Dee Moeller & Beverly Bodden

January Nursing Home Visitor
Open

Volunteers: If you are down for a service, you are responsible for getting a substitute if you cannot make it. Please let the church office know if you have switched so the correct names can be in the bulletin. *Our apologies if we have missed your special date. Please contact the church office to help with corrections. Thank you*

Happy Birthday to:

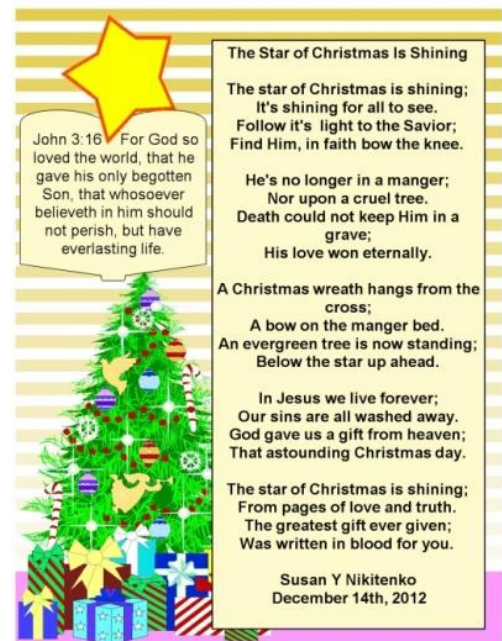
- 2 - Virginia Abrameit
- 3 - Peggy Guenther
- 14 - Carol Ann Sagebiel
Vance Egg
- 19 - Kaleigh Newman
Wanda Hays
- 24 - Nicole Bauer
Weston Ohrt
Morgan Goebel
- 27 - Randy Wendel
Richard Bettge
- 28 - Cathie Bettge



Our apologies if we have missed your special date. Please contact the church office to help with corrections. Thank you!

Anniversary Greetings to:

- 1 - Morgan & Sharon Goebel
- 8 - Patrick & Ashley Ohrt
- 22 - Charles & Susan Egg
- 30 - John & Margie Swannack



Safe Travels This Christmas!

Psalm 121:7-8 The Lord keeps you from all harm and watches over your life. The Lord keeps watch over you as you come and go, both now and forever.

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

Keep up with St. John ~ Meyersville online
<https://www.facebook.com/Stjohnmeyersville>
or visit our website at: stjohnmeyersville.org for weekly bulletins & monthly newsletters.










December 2023

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Meyersville, TX

Church Office: (361)277-8653, Pastor John's Cell: (361)243-0373

Mission of the Month:
Samaritan's Purse

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>*Please note: All events subject to change. Please look on our website: http://stjohnmeyersville.org/ or our Facebook page: St. John Meyersville for changes & updates.</i></p>						
<p>1st Sunday of Advent 3 9:00 AM Sunday School 9:00 AM Confirmation Class 10:15 AM Worship</p> 		<p>4 9 AM-12 PM Pastor's office hours</p>	<p>5 9 AM-12 PM Pastor's office hours</p>	<p>6 1 PM-4 PM Pastor's office hours</p>	<p>7 1 PM-4 PM Pastor's office hours</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>2nd Sunday of Advent 10 8:00 AM Property Team Meeting 9:00 AM Sunday School 9:00 AM Confirmation Class 10:15 AM Worship</p>		<p>11 9 AM-12 PM Pastor's office hours</p>	<p>12 9 AM-12 PM Pastor's office hours</p>	<p>13 10:00 AM Comm. Service Yorktown Manor 12:30 PM Women's Bible Study @ Parsonage</p>	<p>14 1 PM-4 PM Pastor's office hours</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>3rd Sunday of Advent 17 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship – Called Congregational Mtg. After Church 6:00 PM Christmas Program</p>  	<p>18 7 PM Finance Team</p>	<p>19 9 AM-12 PM Pastor's office hours</p>	<p>20 7 PM Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>21 1 PM-4 PM Pastor's office hours **Committee Reports Due, please email to Council Members.</p>	<p>22 **Newsletter deadline. Please have all articles to office.</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>4th Sunday of Advent 24 Christmas Eve 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 10:00 PM Candlelight Service</p>  	<p>25 Christmas Day</p> 	<p>26 9 AM-12 PM Pastor's office hours 7 PM Council Meeting</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 1 PM-4 PM Pastor's office hours</p>	<p>29 <i>May the Miracle of Christmas fill your heart with joy</i></p>	<p>30 Office Hours: *Please see the Bulletins</p> 
<p>1st Sunday After Christmas 31 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Congregation Picks Songs</p>						