

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Meyersville, Texas
December 10, 2023**



Isaiah 40:8

**The grass
witheres,
the flower
fades, but
the word of
our God will
stand forever.**

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

CHURCH OFFICE: 361-277-8653

stjohnlutheran@juno.com

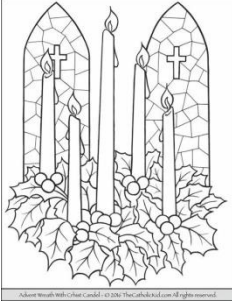
(Pr. John's Cell: 361-243-0373)

jboor1@juno.com

Ministers - The People of St. John

Pastor - The Rev. John Boor

Organist - Mr. Bruce A. Weise



Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

Greeter This Week: John & Margie Swannack

Greeters Next Week: Dickie & Cathie Bettge

Reader This Week: Wanda Hays

Reader Next Week: Dickie Bettge

Acolyte This Week: Morgan Zengerle

Acolyte Next Week: Lane Moritz

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

Altar Guild Next Month: Dee Moeller & Beverly Bodden

Communion Assistant This Month: Obert Sagebiel

Communion Assistant Next Month: Brian Wendel



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!

*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

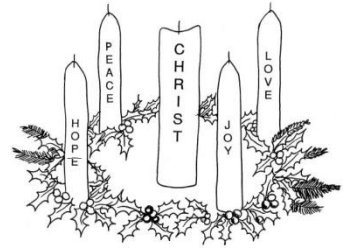
ANNOUNCEMENTS PRAISES AND CONCERNS

Lighting of the Advent Candle ~ Rachel & Dustin Nessel Family

HYMN: LBW #41 1st Verse

“O, Little Town of Bethlehem”

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**



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,

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 In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

OPENING HYMN:

“My Lord, What a Morning”

WOV# 627

Refrain:

**My Lord, what a morning; my Lord, what a morning;
oh, my Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.**

**¹You’ll hear the trumpet sound, to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God’s right hand, when the stars begin to fall.**

Refrain

**² You'll hear the sinner cry, to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall.**

Refrain

**³ You'll hear the Christian shout, to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall.**

Refrain

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.

KYRIE

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

L Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:

We worship you, we give you thanks, We praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:

You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray;

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of your only-begotten Son, that by his coming we may be enabled to serve you with pure minds; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Repentance is key to receiving the coming Messiah. When we cling to our stubborn, idolatrous ways we resist noticing the sin in our hearts and lives. We are masters at justifying our sin, readily finding a reason to explain our actions that are against God's perfect will. Christ came to free us from our broken human condition. John's call to return to the Lord, is a call to live boldly in the faith of Christ our Savior.

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" ¹⁰Behold, the LORD God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Responsive Reading

Psalm 85

¹You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

²You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins.

³You have withdrawn all your fury and turned yourself from your wrathful indignation.

⁴Restore us then, O God our Savior; let your anger depart from us.

⁵Will you be displeased with us forever? will you prolong your anger from age to age?

⁶Will you not give us life again, that your people may rejoice in you?

⁷Show us your mercy, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to him.

⁹Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹Truth shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

¹³Righteousness shall go before him, and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

⁸Do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. ¹¹Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

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: Mark 1:1-8

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 1st chapter.

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

¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, ³the voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” ⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (*sung*)

Please be seated

MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN:

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

LBW# 26

**¹Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near!
Let ev’ry hill and valley A level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, Foretold in sacred story:**

***Refrain:* Hosanna to the Lord, For he fulfills God’s Word!**

**²God’s people, see him coming: Your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God’s promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you!**

***Refrain:* Hosanna to the Lord, For he fulfills God’s Word!**

**³Then fling the gates wide open To greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev’ry nation Its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him; Their voices join your singing:**

***Refrain:* Hosanna to the Lord, For he fulfills God’s Word!**

**⁴His is no earthly kingdom; It comes from heav’n above.
His rule is peace and freedom And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding For kindness so abounding:**

***Refrain:* Hosanna to the Lord, For he fulfills God’s Word!**

Stand as you are able

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.**

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.

Please be seated

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

Stand as you are able

OFFERTORY

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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!**

(after each petition "Lord in your mercy," RESPONSE "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

Please stand

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.**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
C Amen

HYMN:

“Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”

LBW# 34

**Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.**

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!

**Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, Who to your tribes on Sinai’s height
In ancient times once gave the law In cloud, and majesty, and awe.**

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!

**Oh, come, strong Branch of Jesse, free Your own from Satan’s tyranny;
From depths of hell your people save And give them vict’ry o’er the grave.**

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!

**Oh, come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer Our spirits by your advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death’s dark shadows put to flight.**

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!

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



John 14:27

Peace I leave with you. My peace I give you. I give to you not as the world gives. Don't be troubled or afraid.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN

Today 12/10 Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m.
9:00 a.m.
9:00 a.m.
10:15 a.m.

Property Team
Sunday School
Adult Study
Worship



Mon 12/11 Office Closed

Tues 12/12 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Office Hours
Pastor's Office Hours

Wed 12/13 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
10:00 a.m.
12:30 p.m.

Office Hours
Comm. Service @ Yorktown Manor
Women's Bible Study

Thurs 12/14 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Office Hours
Pastor's Office Hours

Fri 12/15 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

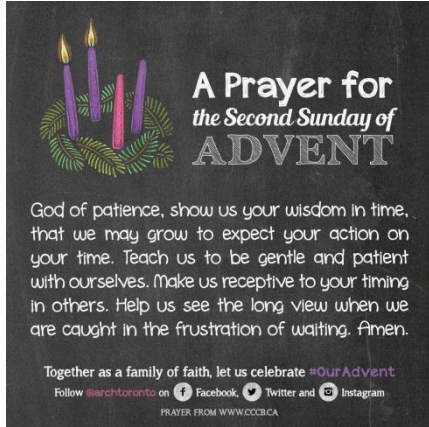
Office Hours

Next Sun. Third Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m.
9:00 a.m.
10:15 a.m.

Sunday School
Adult Study
Worship – Holy Communion
& Called Congregational Mtg.
After Church
Youth Christmas Program-
"A Stellar Christmas"
& Reception to Follow

6:00 p.m.



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.

December 3, 2023 General \$1,356.00, MOM – Christmas Families (Nov.) \$125.00, MOM – Samaritan's Purse (Dec.) \$385.00, Old Stone Church \$30.00, SS Mission-1st Sunday \$312.00, Building \$117.00, Youth \$10.00, Organ \$20.00, **Total: \$2,355.00**

Attendance: Worship - 80, Sunday School - 16 Children, 5 Teachers; Adult Study - 9

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



Portals of Prayers for January-March are available in the narthex.



JOINT 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 and Christmas Bags!!!



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

Mission of the Month for 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. TODAY

Readers & Greeters

Volunteers are needed for both readers & greeters! A sign-up sheet for each is hanging on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Thank you to those who have already signed up.

We still need to fill many slots.

Thank you!

Called Congregational Meetings

A called congregational meeting will be held immediately following the service on Sunday, December 17th to review and approve the proposed St. John Budget for 2024. There will also be discussion of the current status of the church's property insurance.

Another called congregational meeting will be held immediately following service on Sunday, December 24th to approve the new insurance policy, if necessary.

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!

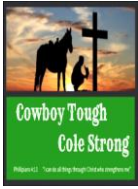


We need you to say YES! The Worship Team is "blowing the dust off" the reenactment of the "Living Last Supper." Please see the article in October's newsletter for more information and contact Johnny Jank and simply say, "How can I help?"



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

Please note that hours may change during the week.

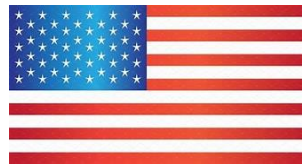


+ UPDATE + Special Prayers for Cole 

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)***

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

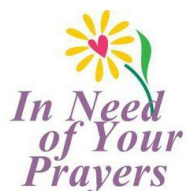


PRAYER REQUESTS: If you have a prayer request or wish to be on the prayer chain, please contact Mary Wagner (361)275-9500 or Pastor John (361)243-0373. We ask that you would update the prayer request regularly. If we do not have an update, in an effort to keep our list current and up to date, we will 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, Marlene Fromme, Debbie Glawson, Debbie Webb, Steve Cusack, Laura Whitson, Pat Hays, Pam Haun

Nursing Home:

Cuero Nursing & Rehab. ~ Marjorie Ideus



SOME WORDS FROM LUTHER

Some here take the "land" in a single sense... to mean the blessed Virgin...I believe that the word of the Holy Spirit is not thus to be limited to one of these three earths but refers to all three at once: the Virgin, mankind, and the literal earth. For in fact all three have been blessed at the same time...

- Martin Luther

Lecture on Psalm 85



A special place for you to write notes and reminders:



Keep up with St. John online
St. John Meyersville

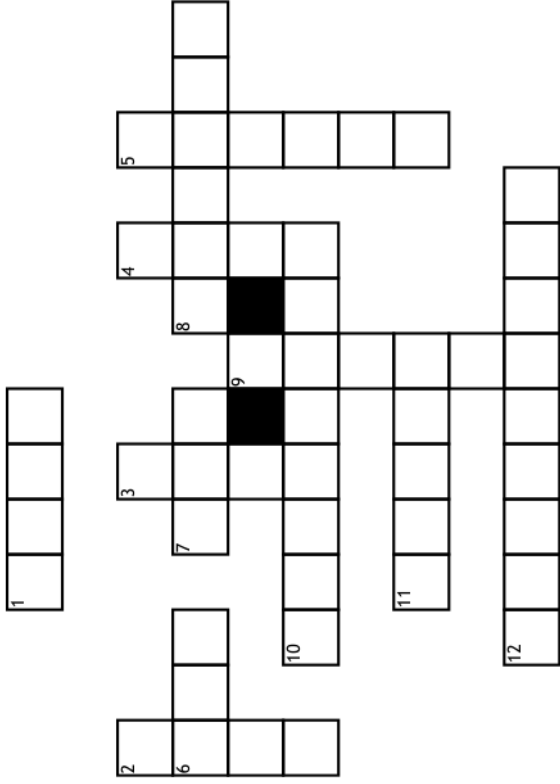
<https://www.facebook.com/Stjohnmeyersville>

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.

Advent



B D O H X P Q N Z X P Z K P S P D
 F K L O T F C I O O T U D S A Y X
 N G Q P S H D E H C U A R H G W
 Y W T E E T W F L I L P Z P N I E
 N Y Y M L P B E S E R H I O L U C
 H M O K D B I I J R B W Q N K E I
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 P C H T I A F W U L P W A V M M
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 A B X L B C I T Q M T A Q R G C S
 C Y P F C Q Q Z Q G G E Q L K V F E
 E Q S H L B R U V I B U G O H P W

Isaiah celebration repentance faith
 hope peace joy pink Bethlehem
 rejoice prophecy purple
 candles Wreath

- Across**
- How many weeks does Advent last?
 - Each candle represents how many weeks?
 - What does the third candle symbolize?
 - What does Advent mean?
- Down**
- An Advent _____ counts down the days until Christmas.
 - What does the second candle symbolize?
 - What day do we celebrate the birthday of Jesus?
 - What is the primary Sanctuary color of Advent?
 - What is the name for a special time of year just before Christmas?

