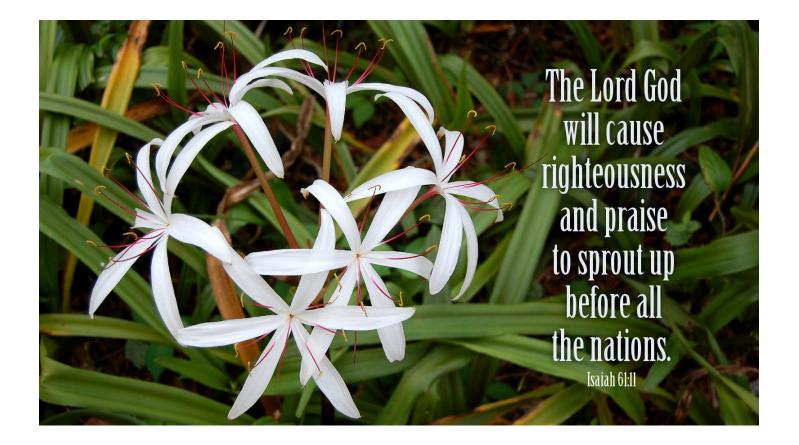
St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church Meyersville, Texas December 17, 2023



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

Third Sunday of Advent December 17, 2023

Greeters This Week: Dickie & Cathie Bettge Greeters Next Week: Marv & Norrean Sager Reader This Week: Dickie Bettge Reader Next Week: Neal Moritz Acolyte This Week: Lane Moritz Acolyte Next Week: Kinley Nessel 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!

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.)

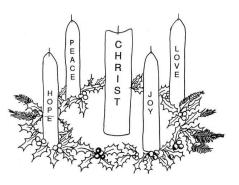
> The Service begins with the first notes of the prelude. Please prepare for worship with silent meditation at this time.

PRELUDE RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL ANNOUNCEMENTS PRAISES AND CONCERNS

Lighting of the Advent Candle ~ The Kally & Rick Garrett Family

HYMN: LBW #56 1st Verse

"The First Noel" The first Noel the angel did say, Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, On a cold winters night that was so deep. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the king of Israel!



Stand as you are able

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L In the name of the Father, and of the 🛧 Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

L Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

L If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for Reflection and Meditation

- L Most merciful God,
- C We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.
- L Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ℜ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

¹Rejoice, rejoice, believers, And let your lights appear; The evening is advancing, And darker night is near. The bride-groom is arising And soon is drawing nigh. Up, pray and watch and wrestle; At midnight comes the cry.

²The watchers on the mountain Proclaim the bride-groom near; Go forth as he approaches With alleluias clear, The marriage feast is waiting; The gates wide open stand. Arise, O heirs of glory; The bride-groom is at hand.

³The saints, who here in patience Their cross and suff'rings bore, Shall live and reign forever When sorrow is no more. Around the throne of glory The Lamb they shall behold; In triumph cast before him Their diadems of gold.

⁴Our hopes and expectation, O Jesus, now appear; Arise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this benighted sphere. With hearts and hands uplifted, We plead, O Lord, to see The day of earth's redemption That sets your people free!

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L The Lord be with you. C And also with you.

L Let us pray,

Lord Jesus Christ, give ear to our prayers, and lighten the darkness of our hearts by your gracious visitation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

God puts people in our lives to prepare us for Christ. Their job is to till the soil of our hearts to prepare us to receive the seed of the Word. John the Baptist was called to prepare the people for the coming Lord. Many heard his message and repented, but many others resisted and turned away from John's witness thereby rejecting the coming Christ. Will we listen to the call and receive him or will we turn away?

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

¹"The Spirit of the LORD God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to grant to those who mourn in Zion — to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁸"For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed. ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the LORD God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations."

Responsive Reading Psalm 126

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.

²Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.

³Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

⁴The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

⁵Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses of the Negev.

⁶Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

⁷Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil. ²³Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

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 1:6-8, 19-28

L The Holy Gospel according to John, the 1st chapter. **C Glory to you, O Lord.** (*Sung*)

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

¹⁹And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." ²²So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." ²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

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

Please be seated

MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN:

"Joy to the World"

¹Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King; Let ev'ry heart prepare him room And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

²Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

³No more let sin and sorrow grow Nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make his blessings flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found

⁴He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove The glories of his righteousness And wonders of his love, And wonders of his love, And wonders, wonders of his love.

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.

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. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

L Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, That all those who believe in him should not perish, But have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, That we may receive our Lord With a living faith as he comes to us In his holy supper.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

L In the night in which he was betrayed
Our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
Broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying;
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
And gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
Shed for you and for all people
For the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Father remember us always and teach us to pray;

LORD'S PRAYER Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

L Come for the Lord's Table is ready.

C Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

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

- L May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C Amen

POST COMMUNION

C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell everyone what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Let us pray;

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

BENEDICTION

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord look upon you with favor and **H** 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.

POSTLUDE

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN



Proverbs 11:25

"Generous persons will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed."



once again to give us your very life. May your life's gift inspire us to make our lives a gift to you, over and over again. Amen.

Together as a family of faith, let us celebrate #OurAdvent on 🕣 Facebook, У Twitter and 🐵 Instagram

		Communion	
		Called Congregational	
		Mtg. after Church	
	6:00 p.m.	Children's Stellar	
	1	Christmas Program	
Mon 12/18	Office Closed		
Tues 12/19	8:00 a.m1:00 p.m.	Office Hours	
	9:00 a.m12:00 p.m	. Pastor's Office Hours	
Wed 12/20	8:00 a.m1:00 p.m.	Office Hours	
	7:00 p.m.	Men's Bible Study	
Thurs 12/21	8:00 a.m10:00 a.m	Office Hours	
1 Hui 5 12/21		Pastor's Office Hours	
Fri 12/22	9:00 a.m1:00 p.m.	Office hours	
Next Sun. Christmas Eve – Fourth Sunday of Advent			
	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School	
	9:00 a.m.	Adult Study	
	10:15 a.m.	Worship with Communion	
	10:00 p.m.	Candlelight Service with	
	r · · ·	Communion	
		00000000	

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 10, 2023 General \$5,267, MOM (Nov.) – Christmas Families \$30.00, MOM (Dec.) – Samaritan's Purse \$604.00, Sunday School \$12.00, Old Stone Church \$50.00, Building \$90.00, Organ \$50.00

Total: \$1.835.00 Attendance: Worship – 84, Sunday School - 16 Children, 4 Teachers; Adult Study - 11

> Sunday School continues throughout the 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 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

Today 12/17 Third Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m. Sunday School Adult Study Worship with Communion





JOINST. JOHNEVANGELICALLUTHERAN CHURCHFOROURANNUAL

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!!!



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.

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!

Committee Annual Reports Just a friendly reminder. All annual reports from committees will be due by Sunday, January 7, 2024. Thank you!

Called Congregational Meetings

A called congregational meeting will be held immediately following the service TODAY, 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.

<u>Christmas Eve Services</u> 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?"

+ 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: Healingphysical, 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, stationed overseas (location unknown) 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 Webb, Steve Cusack, Laura Whitson, Pat Hays, Robert Moeller



Nursing Home:

Cuero Nursing & Rehab. ~ Marjorie Ideus



SOME WORDS FROM LUTHER

Through faith our sins become, not ours but Christ's, upon whom God laid the sins of us all and who bore our sins. He is the Lamb of God which bears the sins of the world. All the righteousness of Christ, in turn, becomes ours.

> ~Martin Luther~ On the 37th of the 95 Theses

Advent Word Scramble

Unscramble the letters to solve the puzzle!

1. MPOISER	
2. THIGL	
3. YRMA	
4. OTPRPSEH	
5. EWSEK	
6. TEHAWR	
Normal State State (1997)	
9. UMLMNAEE	
10. VELO	
11. OYJ	
12. DAETNV	
13. SAUDYN	
14. SEUJS	
15. PAEEC	
16. LEURPP	
17. SLCARO	
18. RSNDESAK	
19. PHOE	
20. IGIWANT	



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.