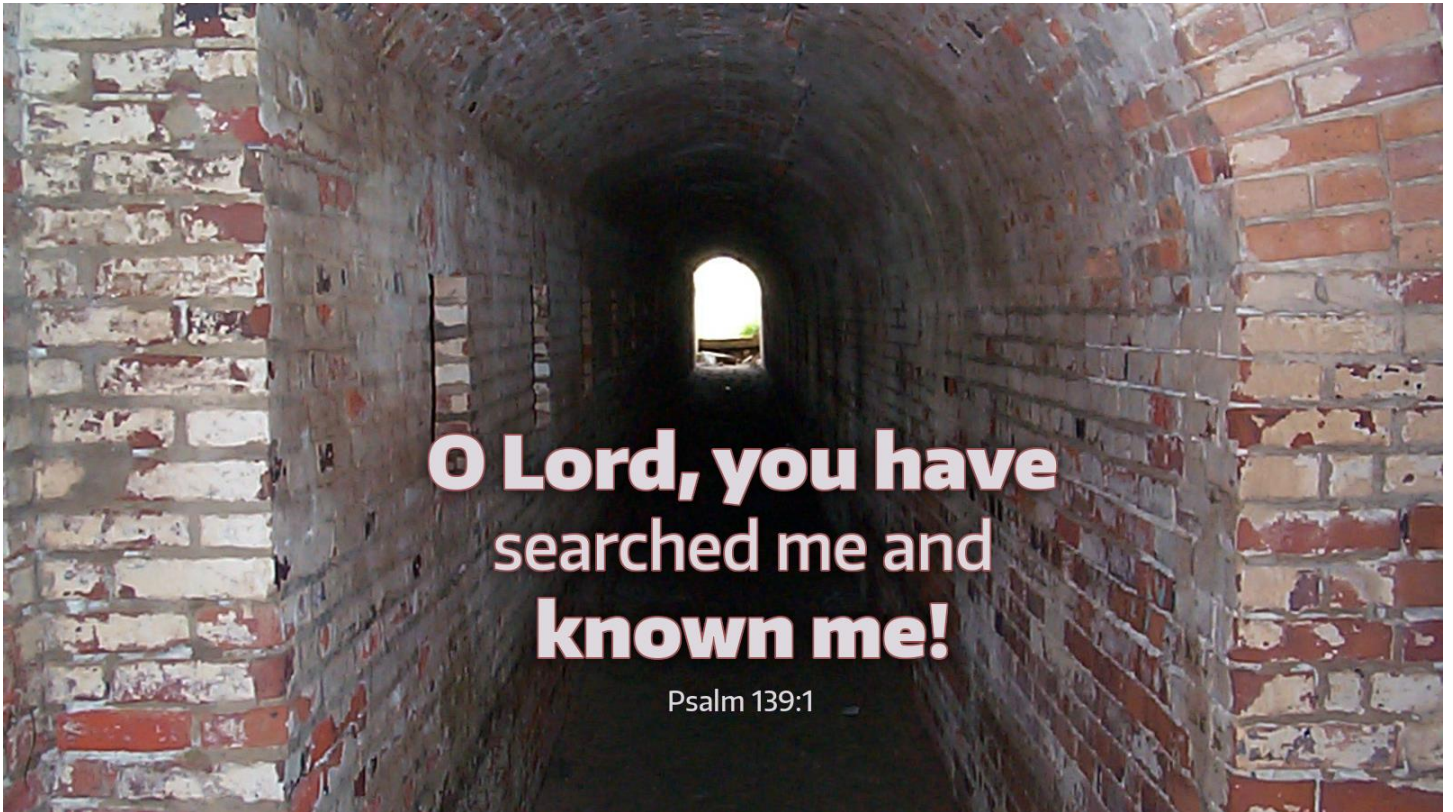


**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Meyersville, Texas
January 14, 2024**



**O Lord, you have
searched me and
known me!**

Psalm 139:1

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

Second Sunday after Epiphany January 14, 2024

Greeter This Week: Trish Hood

Greeters Next Week: Beverly Bodden

Reader This Week: Trish Hood

Reader Next Week: Beverly Bodden

Acolyte This Week: Gracie Diebel

Acolyte Next Week: Morgan Zengerle

Altar Guild This Month: Dee Moeller & Beverly Bodden

Altar Guild Next Month: Carol Ann Sagebiel & LeAnn Jander

Communion Assistant This Month: Brian Wendel

Communion Assistant Next Month: Jeff Zengerle

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

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:

“He Leadeth Me: Oh, Blessed Thought!”

LBW# 501

¹He leadeth me: oh, blessed thought! Oh, words with heav’nly comfort fraught!
Whate’er I do, where’er I be, Still ‘tis God’s hand that leadeth me.

Refrain:

**He leadeth me, he leadeth me, By his own hand he leadeth me.
His faithful foll’wer I would be, For by his hand he leadeth me.**

²Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom, Sometimes where Eden’s bowers bloom,
By waters calm, o’er troubled sea, Still ‘tis God’s hand that leadeth me.

Refrain

³Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, Nor ever murmur nor repine;
Content, whatever lot I see, Since ‘tis my God that leadeth me.

Refrain

⁴And when my task on earth is done, When by thy grace the vict’ry’s won,
E’en death’s cold wave I will not flee, Since God through Jordan leadeth me.

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,

Almighty and eternal God, you restrain the powers of heaven and earth. Mercifully hear your people's prayers for peace in our time. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The author of Samuel pointed out a sad reality: “The Word of the Lord was rare in those days.” Perhaps we feel the same today, that God is quiet and uncommunicative. But are we really listening? Are we seeking his voice in our lives? Sometimes it is necessary for us to settle down and just listen, and sometimes we need the help of a trusted friend or mentor to help us hear. Either way, God calls us to follow Jesus.

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]

¹The boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD in the presence of Eli. And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision. ²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place. ³The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the LORD called Samuel, and he said, “Here I am!” ⁵and ran to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call; lie down again.” So he went and lay down. ⁶And the LORD called again, “Samuel!” and Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, my son; lie down again.” ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, LORD, for your servant hears.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place. ¹⁰And the LORD came and stood, calling as at other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant hears.” [¹¹Then the LORD said to Samuel, “Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which the two ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. ¹²On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³And I declare to him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever.” ¹⁵Samuel lay until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said, “Samuel, my son.” And he said, “Here I am.” ¹⁷And Eli said, “What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.” ¹⁸So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. And he said, “It is the LORD. Let him do what seems good to him.” ¹⁹And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established as a prophet of the LORD.]

Responsive Reading

Psalm 139:1-9

¹LORD, you have searched me out and known me;
you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

²**You trace my journeys and my resting places and are acquainted with all my ways.**

³Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O LORD, know it altogether.

⁴**You press upon me behind and before and lay your hand upon me.**

⁵Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

⁶**Where can I go then from your Spirit? where can I flee from your presence?**

⁷If I climb up to heaven, you are there; if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

⁸If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

⁹Even there your hand will lead me and your right hand hold me fast.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

¹²“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. ¹³“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food” — and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.” ¹⁷But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

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 1:43-51

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

C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” ⁴⁷Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!” ⁴⁸Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” ⁴⁹Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” ⁵⁰Jesus answered him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.” ⁵¹And he said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

Please be seated

MESSAGE

Refrain:

Listen, listen, God is calling through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.

¹Jesus gave his mandate: share the good news
That he came to save us and set us free.

Refrain:

Listen, listen, God is calling through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.

²Let none be forgotten throughout the world.
In the triune name of God go and baptize.

Refrain:

Listen, listen, God is calling through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.

³Help us to be faithful, standing steadfast,
walking in your precepts, led by your Word.

Refrain:

Listen, listen, God is calling through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.

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:

“Lord, Speak to Us, that We May Speak”

LBW# 403

¹Lord, speak to us, that we may speak In living echoes of your tone;
As you have sought, so let us seek your straying children, lost and lone.

²Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead The wand’ring and the wav’ring feet;
Oh, feed us, Lord, that we may feed Your hung’ring ones with manna sweet.

³Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach The precious truths which you impart;
And wing our words, that they may reach The hidden depths of manya heart.

⁴Oh, fill us with your fullness, Lord, Until our very hearts o’erflow
In kindling thought and glowing word, Your love to tell, your praise to show.

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



Isaiah 40:30-31

Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.

Pastor John will be gone these days for a Retreat in Buena Vista, Florida.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN

Today 1/14 Second Sunday After Epiphany
8:00 a.m. Property Team
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
9:00 a.m. Confirmation
9:00 a.m. Adult Study
10:15 a.m. Worship



Mon 1/15 Office Closed
7:00 p.m. Finance Team Mtg.

Tues 1/16 Office Closed

Wed 1/17 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Office Hours
1:30 p.m. Quilters
6:00 p.m. Mission Evangelism Team Mtg.
7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study

Thurs 1/18 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Office Hours
*****Committee Reports Due*****
Please email to Council Members & Church Office.

Fri 1/19 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Office Hours
*****Newsletter deadline.*****
Please have all articles to office.

Next Sun. Third Sunday After Epiphany

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
9:00 a.m. Confirmation
9:00 a.m. Adult Study
10:15 a.m. Worship – Holy Communion & Annual Congregational Meeting

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.

January 7, 2024 General \$8,119.00, MOM – Boys & Girls Club of Cuero \$330.00, Cemetery \$2,500.00, Old Stone Church \$2,520.00, SS Mission-1st Sunday \$22.00, Building \$915.00, Youth \$40.00, Organ \$20.00, **Total: \$14,466.00**

Attendance: Worship - 94, Sunday School - 7 Children, 4 Teachers; Adult Study - 11

*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.

Mission of the Month for January
Boys' & Girls' Club of Cuero

The Boys and Girls Club of Cuero is a wonderful place for children to become members and to learn and grow in a healthy, safe environment. Our programs continue to enrich our youth. We have implemented a new online educational reading and math curriculum called Exact Path. Our members are progressing fantastically with this new initiative. We have many safety policies in place to ensure our club environment is secure. We appreciate the wonderful community and generous donors that support our organization. Our annual play, Gospel Brunch, and golf tournament continue to help raise funds for our daily operations.

NALC Warehouse –

We will be collecting trash bags and cleaning rags in January for the warehouse in Rosenberg.



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The annual congregational meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, January 21, 2024. Please make sure to mark your calendars and plan to attend this meeting. Thank you!

THE COUNTDOWN IS ON



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 January's newsletter for more information and contact Johnny Jank and simply say, "How can I help?"



EQUIPPING THE SAINTS:

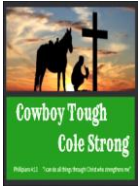
February, 3, 2024 at St. Mark's in Cuero

Register in advance to attend these insightful and informative workshops and time of fellowship (St. Mark's members/Bluebonnet Conf. members attend for free and a small fee for nonmembers.) All are welcome to attend. Registration packets are now available. (Packets are available in the church narthex or in the church office here at 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. 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, 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

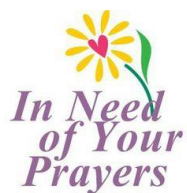


PRAYER REQUESTS: If you have a prayer request or wish to be on the prayer chain, please contact Mary Wagner (361)275-9500 or Pastor John (361)243-0373. We ask that you would update the prayer request regularly. If we do not have an update, in an effort to keep our list current and up to date, we will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



Let the man who would hear God speak, read Holy Scripture.

- Martin Luther

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.

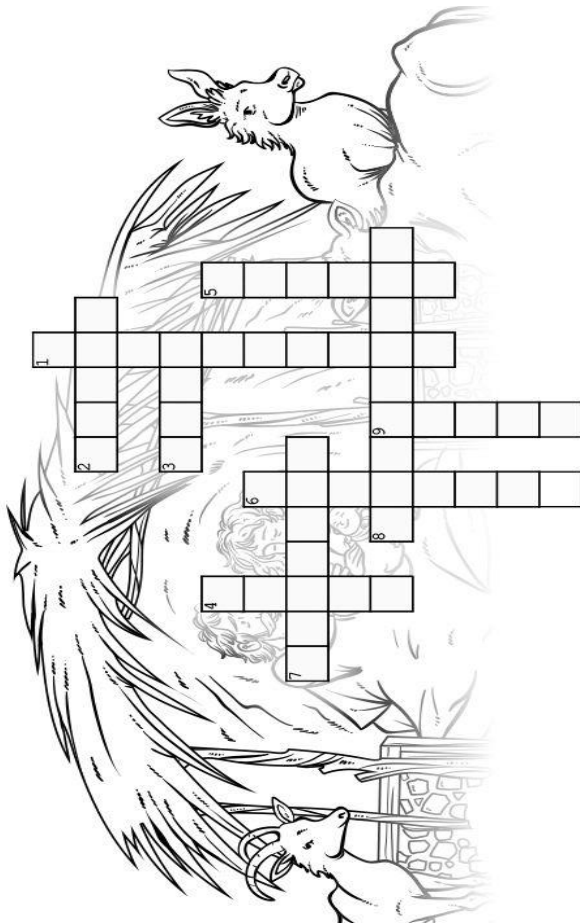
For those on church premises wishing to worship in their vehicles, tune in to FM 101.5 at 10:15 a.m. Sunday mornings.

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

JOURNEY OF THE WISE MEN

A CHRISTMAS STORY

Matthew 2:1-12



Across

- King _____ was greatly disturbed by the Magi's news of a new King.
- The Magi went through Jerusalem asking, "Where is he who has been born king of the _____?"
- The Magi declared, "For we saw his star when it rose and have come to _____ him."
- What city did the Magi find the new-born King, Jesus?

Down

- When the Magi at last found the young Messiah, they fell on their faces and _____ Him.
- The Magi were convinced that the bright light in the sky was a sign of the Messiah's _____.
- Secretly, the wicked King did not want to worship Jesus; he only wanted the wise men to discover where He was so he could have Jesus _____.
- The Magi are also known as _____.
- You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your _____.



Feast of the Epiphany

Epiphany Crossword

Test yourself by trying to do this crossword on your own. See how much you know about the story of the three wise men. If you have trouble with any of the answers, read Matthew 2:1-12 with a family member.

Across

- Another name for the three wise men.
- The jealous king who reigned at the time of Jesus' birth.
- Bethlehem is in the land of _____.
- The Magi came from the _____.
- They followed the _____ not to return to Herod.

Down

- The three kings gave Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense and _____.
- The three kings paid homage to _____.
- The wise men were warned in a _____ not to return to Herod.

