

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## *July 2024 Newsletter*

### **ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

A North American Lutheran Church  
1764 Meyersville Road  
Meyersville, TX 77974-4143  
[stjohnmeyersville.org](http://stjohnmeyersville.org)

### **CONTACT US**

Church Office: 361-277-8653  
Office Hours: see weekly bulletin  
[stjohnnevlutheran@juno.com](mailto:stjohnnevlutheran@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](mailto: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



July 2024

VOL. 48 NO. 7

Greetings,

We think of July 4, 1776, as a day that represents the Declaration of Independence, America's revolutionary Charter of Freedom, and the document upon which the nation's founding principles were established. When asked "what have we got a republic or a monarchy" Benjamin Franklin replied, "A republic replied Franklin, if you can keep it." As we look around our country today we may wonder where are we headed.

Os Guinness is considered a prophet for our times. He has a PhD from Oxford, he is the founder and director of the Trinity Forum, and he has written over 25 books. In his book, *A Free People's Suicide*, he sums up a portion of our national history: *We are nearly eight decades after the Great Depression, seven decades after Pearl Harbor and World War II, four decades after the tumultuous and influential 60s, two decades after the collapse of the Soviet Union, and the bi-polar world, one decade after September 11, and in the midst of two of the most revealing and fateful presidencies in America history.*

He is referring to George W. Bush and Barrack Obama. Guinness sees us at "just the beginning of a mounting sea of problems engulfing America from many sides".

According to Guinness and the Founding Fathers, what he calls "the special glory of America" "requires truth and virtue. This was true for Judah and it's true for us. Guinness says *Freedom requires a firm refusal of what is false, what is bad, what is excessive, what is ugly, and, above all, what a person is not and should never try to become. Guinness explains, In sum, there are things that each of us as free people simply cannot and should not be, and should not do, although we could. The promise that in a free society we can be anything we want to be is a specious modern delusion.*

The apostle Paul exhorts us to do good no matter who is in charge of government. God is in control of even evil governments. They cannot step beyond the limits that God has established for them. Does this mean that they are prevented from doing heinous acts? Of course not. We must never forget the holocaust or the killing fields of Cambodia, or so many other acts of inhumanity by evil men. The cross was a heinous act, yet God allowed it and through it God has done immeasurable good for us and for all who have or will receive His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

As Christ walked to the cross, we walk with Him. As He is delivered over to His enemies, we are invited to stand with Him. In Christ and His ways, we find a freedom for living that is not found anywhere else. In Christ, we find true freedom. Following Jesus, we have discovered that He is the way, the truth, and the life. Governments will fail and fall. Religious leaders will fail and fall. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. He will not fail. He will not fail you.

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  
 Council President-Glenn Ruschhaupt 361-275-2059  
 Vice President – Kyle Newman 361-220-1310  
 Secretary – Trish Hood 361-212-7322  
 Treasurer – Archie Abrameit 512-922-0975  
 Financial Secretary – M'Liss Moore 361-564-4497

Parish Education – Rachel Nessel 361-571-9228  
 Mission/Evangelism – Cathie Bettge 361-550-7274  
 Property Team – Marvin Sager 361-243-1166  
 Finance Team – Kathy Dunn 361-275-4322  
 Parish Life Team - Beverly Bodden 361-570-3393  
 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 July 2024 Church Bell is Friday, June 21, 2024 by 9:00 a.m. You can drop off your articles at the church office, or e-mail them to [stjohnevlutheran@juno.com](mailto:stjohnevlutheran@juno.com). Thanks!

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE A COPY OF THE CHURCH NEWSLETTER BEFORE IT EVER GOES IN THE MAIL AND SAVE MONEY AS WELL?**



If so, contact the church office by email at [stjohnevlutheran@juno.com](mailto:stjohnevlutheran@juno.com) or by phone (361-277-8653) by call or text with your email address and we will be happy to send you The Church Bell via your email. This will save the church money spent on postage, paper, and copying.

What a great stewardship idea!!!

**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.



**PHONE PRAYER CHAIN**

**(immediate or long term needs)**

If you have a prayer request or wish to be on the prayer chain, please contact Mary Wagner (361)275-9500. We ask that when placing a name on the prayer chain, you would please call back weekly with an update on the person's condition. In case of long term prayer needs, please give monthly updates. 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, stationed overseas (location unknown)  
 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



**CHURCH PRAYER LIST:**

**Please remember these individuals in your prayers:** Hunter Jacob, Cole Ohrt, Ryon Preslar, Evelyn Diebel, Dorothy F. Diebel, Steve Cusack, Virginia Abrameit, Bea Bagwell, Charlie Baros, Cindy (Randy) Wendel, Fred "Sandy" Sanders, Robert Moeller, Ryler James Jacob, Billy Guenther, Pamela Allen, Ronnie Moeller, Glenn Ruschhaupt, Cheryl Bramlette; also, remember to pray for our members who have fallen away from St. John.



**Nursing Home:**

Cuero Nursing & Rehab. ~ Marjorie Ideus



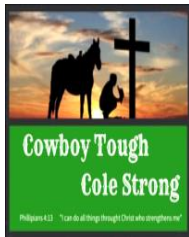
**Prayer requests cards** are available in the pews and can be filled out and handed to an usher during the first hymn for your request to be included in the day's prayer. If you have a private prayer request please fill out the appropriate side and give to the pastor.



**+ UPDATE + Special Prayers for Cole+**

**Taken from Facebook Cowboy Tough**

**Cole Strong:** Hello everyone! An update after the amazing fundraiser for the Cole Ohrt Walk Strong Foundation: It was another sold out event with the building packed with wonderful supporters of this cause. As always, it was humbling to see that many people come out and support something so special to mine and Cole's hearts. I am so thankful to everyone who sponsored our event this year and to all who donated prizes, money, or just their time to help make this night such a huge success. We appreciate each and every one of you Also a big thank you to all who came that night- we hope to see you again next year! If you truly want to see God's love and generosity first hand you need to come to this event. For me it is the most humbling and awesome experience I've ever been blessed to be a part of! Thank you and God Bless. **+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)**



**NALC Disaster Response  
What's in a Flood Bucket?**

- 1 bucket (5 gal.) with a lid – Firehouse Subs \$3.00 ea. (Check other restaurants, donut shops, school kitchens, etc.)
- 1 roll paper towels – Walmart 44 cents a roll
- 1 powder cleanser – Walmart 88 cents ea.
- 1 floor cleaner – small! (like Pine Sol, Fabuloso) – Dollar Tree \$1.25 ea.
- 1 bottle bleach – small! – Dollar Tree \$1.25 ea.
- 1 pair rubber gloves – Dollar Tree \$1.25 ea.
- 1 scrub brush – Dollar Tree \$1.25 ea.
- 1 pair leather gloves – Home Depot 3 pk under \$6.00
- 1 pair cotton gloves – Walmart 6 pk under \$5.00/Home Depot or Lowe's \$1.00 ea.
- 2 contractor trash bags (3 mil) – shop around.....
- 2 rags – Don't buy! Cut up old bath & beach towels, dish towels, wash cloths.....

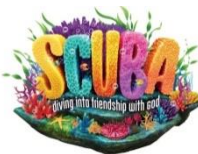
**CHURCH & OTHER HAPPENINGS**

**Sunday School RESUMED** as of June 30<sup>th</sup> and will run through August 4<sup>th</sup>. A special youth Summer Sunday School learning about the Miracles of Jesus will be studied. We would love to see all children back at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday to learn more about the "old old story, of Jesus and his love".



**Vacation Bible School**

VBS will be **July 29-August 2 from 8:30-noon**. Sign up now for children aged 3-12 and dive into an amazing undersea adventure to experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God. Kids will be immersed in the Word and discover what living water is really all about! We need volunteers to serve as camp counselors – incoming 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders. We can offer volunteer hours to our youth. VBS practice/decoration day will be July 21 after church (lunch will be provided). VBS recap Sunday will be August 4 - we will recap in Sunday school as well as in the church service.



Our goal is to reach as many children as we can. We've exceeded our initial attendance goal and have opened up more space so we can continue to accept registrations. With the high number of registrations already, we are needing more help to run the camp. Youth or adult volunteers are greatly needed. If you are interested in helping, please reach out to Rachel Nessel or Johnna Picard as soon as possible.

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

**Mens's Bible Study** will be meeting on June 19<sup>th</sup> in the Parish Hall. Meetings are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday monthly, unless otherwise noted.

**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.



**Portals of Prayer**

Both pocket size and large print July-September Portals of Prayer are available in the narthex.

**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.

**Mission of the Month of July**  
**Water Missions**

The Water Missions provides safe water, sanitation, and hygiene solutions in developing countries and areas that have experienced a disaster along with sharing the Living Water message of Jesus Christ. For

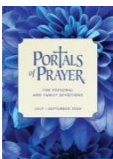
one person it only takes \$50, for 2--\$100, for 3--\$150, for a family of 5--\$250, and a small church (20 people)--\$1000. Access to safe water changes lives by building health and hope. It creates educational and economic opportunities that break the cycle of poverty.

**Rosenberg Disaster Warehouse –**

We will be collecting leaf rakes and short handled wide shovels for the month of July for the warehouse in Rosenberg.

**NALC WAREHOUSE & NALC WAREHOUSE-ROSENBERG**

If you are giving a donation to one of these warehouses, please indicate which one. This designation must be made in order for the funds to be sent to your donation, Minnesota or Texas.





## **We Are Still Looking for Acolytes for the Summer**



If anyone would like to acolyte on a Sunday morning, please let Pastor know or the office so we can include your name in the bulletin. There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board. What a way to praise our Lord, serve at church, and have volunteer credit on future applications (job & college)!

### **Organ Assistant Needed**

We are in need of someone to run the organ when Bruce is out. Bruce will teach you how to push the appropriate buttons at the appropriate time. All we need is someone willing to give this a try. Maybe that person is you!

### **REGIONAL GET-TOGETHER**

The Texas-Oklahoma Mission Region of the NALC invite you to their first regional get-together **July 23-25, 2024** at the Cedarbrake Retreat Center in Temple, Texas. The Get-Together will start with dinner on Tuesday evening and conclude with worship on Thursday morning. Your registration includes accommodations, all meals, daily worship opportunities, keynote presentations, workshops, and activities. **All registrations must be received by July 5<sup>th</sup>.** If you have questions, call Pastor Becky Thane @ 201-572-8073 or email her at [BeckyThane@aol.com](mailto:BeckyThane@aol.com). There is an email posted on the Narthex bulletin board about the speaker and workshops available. Space is limited! Register early to reserve your spot.

*Join us Online in August!*

**August 9, 2024 from 6-9 p.m. ET**



to hear from Bishop Dan Selbo, participate in elections and voting, and hear updates from across the NALC. It is easier than ever to attend the **2024 NALC Mission Convocation**. With no need to travel, and minimal registration costs, we encourage all pastors and delegates to attend. All members of your congregation are invited to join in on the livestream as well! Go to [www.lutheranweek.com](http://www.lutheranweek.com) and select the Register Now tab.

Clergy delegate registration fee: \$25;

Lay delegate registration

fee: \$25; Visitor registration fee: \$0

Registration closes Friday, August 9, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. ET

Note: You will need ZOOM on your computer!

### ***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.

## **PERSONAL NOTES**

### **Scholarship Thank You**

*Thank you*

I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for awarding me the St. John Scholarship. This generous support will significantly alleviate my financial burdens and allow me to focus on my academic and personal growth. I am deeply honored to be selected and committed to upholding the values and excellence that this scholarship represents.

Thanks, ~Mason Nagel~

*Thank you*

I just wanted to let everyone know, I am slowly working my way back into the office. Office hours will not be consistent.

I will give hours I'm going to try to be here, but it depends on my status that day. Please call before you plan to come into the office if you should need something. Call me at 361-649-0413 if you should need something and don't know when I'm available. Thank you all for your thoughts, phone calls, prayers, and kind words during my recovery time. Each and every one of them was deeply appreciated. I also want to say a huge THANK YOU to M'Liss Moore for manning the office while I was out. It was great knowing everything was being handled and I didn't need to worry. Thanks again M'Liss for all you do to help me. You've made learning my job so much easier. God bless you! It is good to be back in the office!~Meliss Eckhardt

### **Congratulations to Our High School Graduates!**

**MacKenna Diebel** graduated from Cuero High School and is the granddaughter of Meri & Clifford Diebel. Her Mom is Lindsey Diebel. She plans on going to Wharton Community Junior College.

**Cody Rangnow** graduated from Cuero High School and is the son of Toi & Buck Rangnow. He plans on working for the family water well business, Rangnow Water Well Service, LLC.

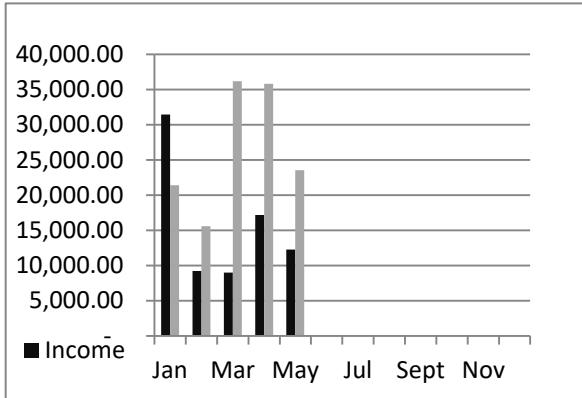
**Scott Wendel Motley** graduated from Victoria West High School and is the son of Vicki & William Motley. He plans on attending Victoria College and major in computer science.



## Congratulations to Our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduates!

**Luke Moritz**, son of Neal & Lenzi Moritz, has graduated from 8th grade at Cuero Jr. High and will be moving on to Cuero High School.

**Shelby Newman**, daughter of Sara & Kyle Newman, has graduated from 8th grade at Cuero Jr. High and will be moving on to Cuero High School.



**General Fund – 2024 Income vs Expenses**  
General Fund chart without Designated Giving funds.

### **Church Council Minutes ~ May 28, 2024**

Trish Hood

**Members Present:** Members Present: Pastor Boor, Glenn Ruschhaupt (President), Trish Hood (Secretary), Archie Abrameit (Treasurer), M'Liss Moore (Financial Secretary), Kathy Dunn (Finance), Cathie Bettge (Mission/Evangelism), Beverly Bodden (Parish Life), Rachel Nessel (Parish Ed), Marv Sager (Property).

**Call to Order:** Glenn called the meeting to order.

**Opening Devotion:** Glenn had the devotion on Luke 18:1 “Men Ought to pray,” and I Thessalonians 5:17 “ So we should pray all the time.”

**Minutes of Previous Regular Meeting:** Marv made a motion, and Bev 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed.

**Financial Report:** Trish made the motion to accept the financial report, and Bev seconded. Motion passed.

**Pastor Report:** At the Mission District meeting on May 11, it was discussed that the ELCA plans on eliminating “Bound Conscience” at its convocation in 2025. The proposed amendment would state that all ELCA churches and pastors must support and perform same sex marriages and any that fail to do so would face disciplinary action. It was also discussed that if you want to know where they stand to visit the ELCA website and read postings in the Journal of Ethics tab. The NALC is advising all congregations that are

wanting to leave the ELCA to first clean up their membership rolls.

Johnna has been accepted by Fuller Seminary. She will be able to take the classes online. She did this in conjunction with the NALC. She asked me to inquire if St. John has any funds available to help with the tuition. I understand we have a seminary fund but I am not aware of requirements or amounts.

At the Camal House board meeting this week we voted to accept a parcel of land at the corner of Main and Indianola in Cuero. We hope to build a new building in the near future. Donations to Camal House in the first quarter of 2024 are down nearly \$14,000 over the first quarter of 2023 and expenses for purchasing food, (through Victoria Food Bank and other sources) is up by nearly \$12,000.

In 2022 we served an average of 304 households in the first four months, in 2023 we served an average of 357 households per month, and in 2024 we served an average of 393 households.

**DISCUSSION:** We discussed the Seminary Fund, and discussed letters of recommendation for Johnna, and Rachel brought a letter of recommendation for Johnna. Kathy made a motion to accept the letter, and Marv seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**FINANCE TEAM:** Finance Team met on May 20, 2024. Archie Abrameit, Pastor John Boor, Laurie Wendel, M'Liss Moore, Marv Sager, Kathy Dunn and Glenn Ruschhaupt were present.

Pastor John opened with prayer.

We reviewed the Financial Reports. Archie reported no discrepancies. Total Income for April 24 was about \$1000 more than average for the year. Net income was -\$10,016.85. Large expenses were \$12,000 for basement renovation and \$8000 for the Bird Netting for the Carport (to be installed later).

In June, Quarterly IRS Reports will be prepared by our CPA for signatures and mailing.

Marv reported that Call Albert Landscaping will be removing some trees at the parsonage to protect the roof; cost will be \$2,900.

Our Copyright License is due annually on May 31, and has already been paid. This is necessary to allow us to sing songs that are not in our songbooks.

Marv also reported that the basement will be finished soon and the wall board looks very good. We should be thinking about what we want to do with the floors. This was not included in the bid for the build out. Pastor John mentioned a product that is used in garages and is durable and attractive.

Marv reported that the property team reviewed the cost of the new trees (value of the trees alone, irrigation setup, donated labor and machinery) estimating the value of \$3170, or about \$800 per tree. Anyone who wants to memorialize one of the trees would pay \$800 each.

Pastor John reported that Johnna Picard has been accepted at Fuller Seminary (Fuller is in Pasadena CA, Houston, TX or Phoenix, AZ – the 1 week on inperson training is in PA) in

Pennsylvania. She will be able to attend on line except for one week each year. NALC has a seminary fund and we also have a seminary fund.

Meliss Eckhardt, Church Secretary, had partial knee surgery last week, and may be out for several weeks. M'Liss Moore is covering for her. Thank you M'Liss!

We reviewed the Credit Card Statements. Laurie Wendel reported that any change requests needed, Glenn and/or Pastor John would be authorized to do this.

Texas Gravestone Care, the company repairing the cemetery markers, picked 14 gravestones up recently and replaced them with some temporary markers that look very good.

VBS is scheduled for July 29th through August 2nd, and donations are already being received.

M'Liss reported that funds have been received for cemetery plots for Joy Hoy and Jason Hoy. These funds go into the Cemetery Savings Fund.

Our next meeting will be on July 15th at 7 pm.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer. ~ Kathy Dunn

### **Mission/Evangelism Team:**

PRAYER: Cathie

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cathie Bettge, Pastor Boor, Linda Ruschhaupt, Obert Sagebiel, Glenn Ruschhaupt, Pam Haun, Cheryl Bramlette

OLD BUSINESS: some outdated devotion booklets from St. John Church were delivered to Victoria Christian Ministry Assistance by Meliss Eckhardt; Debra McCannon, director of Huntsville Hospitality House, will be guest speaker, Sunday, June 23; per Michael and Pat Dittrich, directors of Rosenberg Disaster Warehouse, Christian items such as adult bibles, children's bibles, and children's bible stories are accepted, also note cards with words of encouragement written on them that Michael and Pat insert into the bibles; Cheryl Bramlette has contacted the NALC and received notice that Pastor Mark Braaten accepted our invitation to be Mission Feast/Reformation Sunday speaker

JUNE ROSENBERG DISASTER WAREHOUSE

COLLECTION: adult and children's bibles

JUNE MISSION OF THE MONTH: Eight Days of Hope

SERVICE PROJECT LIST: posted on bulletin board; still has a couple of available slots to fill

PRAYER CHAIN: Mary Wagner provided an updated list for the text chain and call chain

NEW BUSINESS: discussed searching for a family in need for Christmas

Closed with the LORD'S PRAYER

NEXT MEETING: July 17 @ 6 pm in the parish hall nistry will take old prayer books, but we will need someone to collect them and take them to Victoria. This might be considered a Service Project.

Cathie also discussed an article in The Stand Magazine about the World Health Organization and their initiative. Pastor will give a Temple Talk on the changes that might be occurring. There will be a brochure in the bulletin.

### **Parish Life Team:**

Parish Life sent out one get well card this month. We gave

the Confirmands cards with pocket crosses in them. And we will be having lemonade and cookies after the Memorial Day Service on May 26. ~ Bev Bodden

### **Parish Ed:**

Meeting held 5/19. Called to order at 8:30 am.

Present: Rachel, Joie, Kathy, Johnna, Pastor John

Pastor opened with a prayer.

The committee discussed whether we should continue to offer Sunday school over the summer. Kathy offered to be the sole teacher over the summer, teaching whoever may attend. Johnna was in favor of giving kids (and parents) a break and come back strong for VBS and Rally Sunday. Joie agreed with Johnna, stating that we have taken off summers in the past. Rachel was also in agreement, stating that this break will allow teachers/volunteers to focus on VBS. Pastor stated that he had previously been in favor of taking off Sundays, but wanted to share that the last time we did so, our numbers dramatically decreased and it took a long time to recover our numbers.

The committee voted on whether to offer the limited Sunday school or to take a break. The majority voted to take a break. May 26 will be our last day of Sunday School. Rally Sunday/Backpack Blessing will be August 11, and this will be the start of our 2024-2025 Sunday school.

VBS will be July 29-August 2 from 8:30-noon. Goal attendance is 24 kids aged 3-12.

We need volunteers to serve as camp counselors – incoming 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders. We can offer volunteer hours to our youth, so this might entice them. VBS practice/decoration day will be July 21 after church (lunch will be provided).

VBS recap Sunday will be August 4 - we will recap in Sunday school as well as in the church service.

Rachel will send flyer, letter, and registration form to the church soon, so it can be included in bulletins, newsletters, and mailed out to membership. Rachel will also start an event on Facebook and create a registration form for campers and counselors that can be completed online.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 am.~Thank you! Rachel Nessel

**Property Team Report:** Meeting Date: May 19th

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

**Items Complete:** Parsonage cleaned ~ Restroom and various kitchen supplies replenished ~ Bid acquired and accepted for tree removal ~ Cemetery tombstones picked up for repair ~ Fire extinguishers inspected/certified ~ Elevator awning bird netting ordered ~ AC filters checked

### **Renovation Progress:**

Polyester bird netting for installation on elevator awning ordered

Ongoing Discussion Items:

**Texas Gravestone Care, LLC** – Gravestones to be repaired were picked up by Texas Gravestone Care and temporary markers placed on May 15<sup>th</sup>.



**Pasture Lease Renewal** – Agreement made with most recent lessee for one year extension of grazing rights in exchange for fencing repair materials, after which a new longer term lease agreement will be offered via bidding process.

**Basement Renovation** – In accord with subject congregational approval in the called meeting of July 10, 2022, and execution of agreement with entity that completed sanctuary entrance ceiling repair, work began on Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. Framing on walls and ceiling for installation of paneling is substantially complete.

**Tree Removal** – Bid for \$2900 as approved at a prior Council meeting was accepted. Work is expected to be done in June.

**Newly Planted Trees** – Actual cost totals for trees and materials for irrigation, along with estimated value of machine time and labor were reviewed. Based on said totals, Team recommendation is that a donation of \$800 per tree be made to St John by anyone wishing to memorially dedicate one or more of the trees.

#### **OLD STONE CHURCH**

Regular meeting was held on Wednesday, May 22 at 9:00 am. **Items discussed** included dehumidifier replacement, windowsill and frame repair as needed, door frame repair, and general cleaning of windowpanes, together with related woodwork. Also discussed was status of copyright registration for various St John historical publications.

**Items for Council Approval:** -- Proposed donation amount for potential memorial dedication of newly planted trees.

Next Scheduled Meeting: 06/09/24

**DISCUSSION:** We discussed the newly planted trees. Pastor made a motion that if a family wanted to dedicate a tree, they could pay \$800 and provide an appropriate plaque for the Property Team to put up. Bev seconded the motion, motion carried.

#### **Worship Team:**

Worship Team met on Tuesday, May 7 at 7 PM. Pastor opened the meeting with a prayer and then we went into Old Business. We discussed the great comments about The Last Supper Reenactment and how we are looking forward to BIGGER things next year. We also talked about how wonderful the Easter Sunrise Service was and how it was a great idea to have others help cook so the students involved parents could attend the service. Also how great it was to hear one of our youth play the piano. Looking forward to hearing her play more. Johnny also gave us an update on the Screen and Audio system. Will have more details in July when we meet. Can't wait. The organ pedal has been repaired and the programming has been started. Just be patient, because remember, it is a new system

We then went into New Business. We will have the Memorial Day Service on May 26 with guest speakers. It was discussed to have Graduation Sunday on June 2. And we were reminded that Pastor will be on vacation June 2 and June 9. We will not have communion on June 2. Also we talked about replacing some of the Bibles that are in the pews that are showing a lot of wear and tear. We will find the

Bible to use, and get a price, and maybe ask for donations. Johnny mentioned and we approved of getting a Technical Team together. He will be advertising for it in the Bulletin and newsletter. If interested, reach out to Johnny. Mission Team will be bringing in a guest speaker on June 23 to discuss the Mission of the Month.

With no further business, we selected songs through July 14. Next meeting will be Tuesday, July 2 at 7pm.~Brenda Gohmert

There being no further business to come before council, the meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Trish Hood, Secretary

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....***

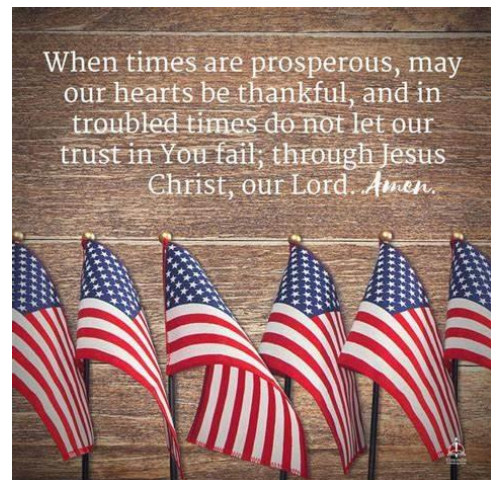
**CEMETERY DECORATIONS**

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***



## VOLUNTEERS THIS MONTH:

### July 7

Greeters - Trish Hood  
Reader - Trish Hood

### July 14

Greeters - John & Margie Swannack  
Reader - Neal Moritz

### July 21

Greeters - Marv & Norrean Sager  
Reader - Cathie Bettge

### July 28

Greeters - Glenn & Linda Ruschhaupt  
Reader - Kathy Dunn

### July Communion Assistant

Obert Sagebiel

### July Altar Guild

Dee Moeller & Beverly Bodden

### July Nursing Home Visitor

Karon Copeland

## LOOKING AHEAD...

### Aug 4

Greeters - Youth Group  
Reader - Dickie Bettge

### August Communion Assistant

Brian Wendel

### August Altar Guild

Carol Ann Sagebiel & LeAnn Jander

### August Nursing Home Visitor

Patricia Hood

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.

## Happy Birthday to:

- 1 - Kernell Moritz
- 2 - Keaton Wendel
- 3 - Justin Albrecht
- 4 - Martha Diebel
- 6 - Ella Jander  
Vicki Motley
- 7 - Rachel Nessel  
Ty Iselt
- 10 - Richard Ficklen
- 13 - Brenda Boor
- 15 - Stephanie Egg
- 16 - Chance Sanders
- 17 - Morgan Zengerle
- 22 - Brenda Gohmert  
Archie Abrameit
- 23 - Jimmy Caskey  
Margie Swannack
- 29 - Summer (Dunn) Helms
- 31 - Ellwood Rangnow, Jr.

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



## Anniversary Greetings to:

- 3 - Jay & Cheryl Bramlette
- 4 - Dennis & Kay Nagel
- 6 - Buck & Toi Rangnow
- 7 - Cory & Lacey Rains
- 13 - Dickie & Cathie Bettge
- 18 - Morris & Meliss Eckhardt
- 20 - Kyle & Sara Newman
- 22 - Jason & Marigayle Ohrt
- 27 - Jimmy & JoBeth Caskey  
Marvin & Norrean Sager  
Pat & Wanda Hays



*Everyone have a fun & safe Fourth of July!*

*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](http://stjohnmeyersville.org) for weekly bulletins & monthly newsletters.

# July 2024

## St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church Meyersville, TX

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

**Mission of the Month:**  
**Water Missions**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>*Please note: All events subject to change. Please look on our website: <a href="http://stjohnmeyersville.org/">http://stjohnmeyersville.org/</a> or our Facebook page: <a href="#">St. John Meyersville</a> for changes &amp; updates.</i></p> <p><b>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 7</b> 9:00 AM Sunday School 9:00 AM Adult Study 10:15 AM Worship</p> 	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 9 AM-12 PM Pastor's office hours 7 PM Worship Team	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<p><b>8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 14</b> 8:00 AM Property Team Meeting 9:00 AM Sunday School 9:00 AM Adult Study 10:15 AM Worship</p>	<b>15</b> 7 PM Finance Team	<b>16</b> 9 AM-12 PM Pastor's office hours	<b>17</b> 1:30 PM Quilters 6 PM Mission Ev. Team Meeting 7 PM Men's Bible Study	<b>18</b> 1 PM-4 PM Pastor's office hours	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<p><b>9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 21</b> 9:00 AM Sunday School 9:00 AM Adult Study 10:15 AM Worship</p> 	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 9 AM-12 PM Pastor's office hours 7 PM Council Meeting	<b>24</b> 1:30 PM Quilters	<b>25</b> 1 PM-4 PM Pastor's office hours	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<p><b>10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 28</b> 9:00 AM Sunday School 9:00 AM Adult Study 10:15 AM Worship</p>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9 AM-12 PM Pastor's office hours	<b>31</b> 1:30 PM Quilters	<p><b>Vacation Bible School July 29 – August 2 8:30 AM - NOON</b></p>		
<p>Office Hours: *Please see the Bulletins</p> 