

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## *May 2026 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**

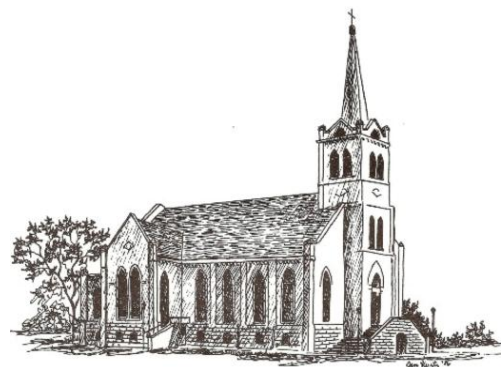
Church Office: 361-277-8653  
Office Hours: see weekly bulletin  
[stjohnnevlutheran@juno.com](mailto:stjohnnevlutheran@juno.com)  
Pastor's Office Hours in the Parish Hall:  
Tues. 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Thurs. 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
(Pr. John's Cell: 361-243-0373)  
[jboor25@yahoo.com](mailto:jboor25@yahoo.com)

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



May 2026

VOL. 50 NO. 5

Greetings,

I have been thinking about prayer lately. I had someone tell me, "I thought about calling you because I was experiencing some things in my life and thought prayer would help but I decided to tough it out." My heart sank. Philippians 4:6 says, *"Be anxious for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."*

We are Christians, God knows us. God wants what is best for us. He knows everything we do, but more importantly He knows what we need. And scariest of all He knows why we do what we do. He knows our every thought. He knows our heart.

I recently had a conversation with someone who told me that every time they pray in earnest, that deep down heartfelt prayer, God answers. But when they just pray because it's the right thing to do, they don't feel that God Hears.

God hears all of our prayers. Even the ones we pray just because we think we should. But when the chips are down, when we need help the most, when we truly share our thoughts and concerns with God, He reaches out to us. He wants us to communicate with Him. He wants us to share what is bothering us. He wants us to share the good times and the bad.

Jonathan Edwards said, "Prayer is as natural an expression of faith as breathing is of life." Christians have faith, Christians pray. As truthful as this statement is many Christians do not pray as they should or as often as they should.

Prayer should be a simple conversation with God. We don't have to have the fancy quotes or fancy words. Talk with God as you would talk with your best friend. Don't be afraid to tell God anything. He already knows your thoughts He just wants to hear it from you. Our prayers are a way to a life of communion with God. Our prayers keep our acquaintance with God current.

And we should always remember to praise God for what He has done in our lives. All too often we get in the habit of only praying for our wants and needs. We forget to thank Him for all He has done in our lives. And our prayers should never be only about ourselves. We should always pray for others. Jesus gives us many scriptures where He prayed for others. Our prayers should never be "all about us."

Jesus was the Son of God and throughout the gospels we read of Jesus going off by Himself and praying as well as praying with others, and praying for others. We need to follow His example.

*"Be anxious for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."*

May Peace be with you always,

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 – Mike Cowley 361-277-9862  
 Treasurer – M'Liss Moore 361-564-4497  
 Financial Secretary – Pam Haun 361-275-2146

Parish Education – Kathy Dunn 361-275-4322  
 Mission/Evangelism – Cathie Bettge 361-550-7274  
 Property Team – Marvin Sager 361-243-1166  
 Finance Team – Laurie Wendel 361-564-6319  
 Parish Life Team – Lloyd Copeland 361-827-6301  
 Worship Team - Brenda Gohmert 361-649-1606



Notes from the Church Secretary

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 June 2026 Church Bell is Friday, May 22, 2026 by 9:00 a.m. You can drop off your articles at the church office, or e-mail them to [stjohnelutheran@juno.com](mailto:stjohnelutheran@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 [stjohnelutheran@juno.com](mailto:stjohnelutheran@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 Cavazos
- Chase Schroeder - U.S. Navy, Florida
- Lee Magruder - U.S. Army, Fort Riley, Kansas
- Michael Petrash II – 1<sup>st</sup> LT, U.S. Army
- Andrew Washington, L CPL - USMC, Pensacola, FL
- Koltyn Mayhall - USMC, North Carolina
- Zach McBrayer – Captain, U.S. Air Force, Germany
- John C. Otto – Army, National Guard



**CHURCH PRAYER LIST:**

**Please remember these individuals in your prayers:** Hunter Jacob, Cole Ohrt, Ryon Preslar, Evelyn Diebel, Dorothy F. Diebel, Fred "Sandy" Sanders, Ryler James Jacob, Billy Guenther, Glenn Ruschhaupt, Christy Johns, Beatrice Fagg, David Diebel, Obert Sagebiel, Elizabeth Beard, Ray Butler, Cathie Bettge, Pam Ficklen, Stacey Nelson, MayDell Jacob, Caroline Blain, Nancy Butler, Jonathan Pokluda, Kay Nagel, Kevin Bodden, John Swannack, Carol Ann Sagebiel, Feather Diebel, Jeff Zengerle; also, remember to pray for our members who have fallen away from St. John.



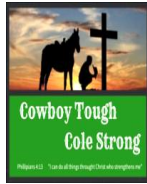
**Nursing Home:** Cuero Nursing & Rehab. ~ Marjorie Ideus & Carol Ann Sagebiel

**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 (March 22, 2026): Hello everyone! Well over due for an update on Cole so I figured I'd post something. Cole is staying healthy and doing well. He did take the spring semester off for college but plans to get back at it in the fall. He still faithfully walks on his machine and uses his robotic arm machine twice weekly as well as working at home. He has been helping his Dad get his spraying business off the ground and helping me with billing which has been such a huge help. I know he'd much rather be out there working side by side with his Dad but until then I'm grateful he can contribute in this way. Cole is very sharp and organized so he's been a blessing. I also wanted to share the flyer for the annual fundraiser for Cole's foundation coming up in May. As a lot of you know this is one of Cole's favorite events of the year. The mission of this foundation is to raise funds to help pay for therapy for those with no insurance or limited insurance. We are also branching out to help pay for medical equipment, supplies, or care for those who need it as well. This is a cause close to our hearts and we'd like to personally invite all of you to this amazing event! I'll include the flyer but if you'd like to come and are having trouble booking online just message me. With that I'll close and thank you all dearly for all your continued prayers for Cole's healing. Keep praying-his miracle is coming.♥



+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)*

**6th Annual Kickin' It For COWS**  
**Couples Purse and Camo Bingo**  
**Friday, May 8, 2026**  
 Anne Friar Thomas Homemaking Building • Friar Ag Center  
 Martin Luther King Drive, Cuero, TX

Doors Open at 5:00 PM    Bingo Begins at 6:30 PM  
 Individual Tickets \$50.00  
**Round Table of 8 \$400.00 or Two Round Tables of 8 - \$800.00**  
**Two Rectangle Tables for 14 - \$750.00**  
 Extra Cards for \$20.00  
 Decorate your own table from 12 PM to 4 PM (if you want)  
 Top 3 Prize to the most creative tables  
 Pork Fajita Meal and Beverages Provided

**COLE OHRT WALK STRONG**  
 All Proceeds Benefiting

• All tables and tickets must be paid for in advance  
 • PayPal • Cash or Check only  
 • Mail and In person payments • No tables or tickets will be sold at the door

Make checks payable to: **Cole Ohrt Walk Strong**  
 COWS Benefit c/o Amanda Luddeke  
 4208 Retama Circle Victoria, TX 77901  
 For more information at (361) 648-6147, Julie: (361) 550-8856  
 Leslie: (361) 645-4808 • Buildingkidsteps@gmail.com

**SCAN ME**

**Mission of the Month of May**

**CALL SIGN VICTOR**

*(previously known as Christian Warrior's Retreat)*

Call Sign Victor is a peer led, non-clinical, Christian faith-based organization committed to serving our veterans, first responders, and their loving families. Our organization's foundation is firmly entrenched in military traditions that unify all branches of the United States military and first responders, of all eras. We do this by establishing an atmosphere of honor, trust, comfort and safety so that veterans, first responders and their families have the opportunity to work through those mental and moral injuries that were sustained during time of service. The Call Sign Victor community helps our members heal from traumas while guiding them arm-in-arm through proven steps to re-establish relationships, purpose, and identity through peer-led exercises. We believe that with Christ, all things are possible.

**Rosenberg Disaster Warehouse Collection**

During the month of May, our collection items will be **ANY HEALTH CARE KIT ITEMS** 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, national warehouse or Texas warehouse. *Rosenberg Warehouse checks need to be written out to Peace Lutheran Church with Rosenberg Warehouse on the memo line.*

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

Used Portals of Prayers are also being collected and delivered to Victoria Christian Assistance Ministries in Victoria. If you have questions, please contact Cathie Bettge or Meliss Eckhardt. Thank you!

**What's in a Flood Bucket?**

- 1 five gallon bucket with lid (*check at schools, restaurants, donut shops*)
- 1 roll paper towels (*Walmart \$0.68*)
- 1 powder scouring cleanser (like comet) (*Walmart \$0.88*)
- 1 floor cleaner – small! (like Pine Sol, Fabuloso) (*Dollar Tree \$1.75*)
- 1 bottle bleach – small! (1/2 gal. or smaller) (*Dollar Tree \$1.75*)
- 1 scrub brush (*Dollar Tree \$1.75*)
- 1 pair rubber gloves (size L preferred, reusable) (*Dollar Tree \$1.75*)
- 1 pair leather gloves (size L preferred) (*H Depot 3pk/\$6.00*)
- 1 pair cotton gloves (size L preferred) (*H Depot \$1 ea. or Walmart 6pk/\$5.00*)
- 2 large contractor trash bags (3 mil)
- 2 rags (*cut up old bath or beach towels, dish towels, wash cloths*)

### What's in a Heath Care Kit?

- 1 bath towel
- 1 wash cloth (optional)
- 1 shampoo (2 or 3 if travel size)
- 1 bar of soap (2 or 3 if travel size)
- 1 toothbrush (individually sealed) (*Dollar Tree 4pk/\$1.75*)
- 1 pack of floss (optional)
- 1 toothpaste (2 if travel size) (*Walmart \$0.77 to \$0.90*)
- 1 comb (*Dollar Tree 12 pk/\$1.75*)
- 1 deodorant (*Walmart \$1.18*)
- 1 nail clippers (optional)

### Used Bibles/Prayer Books

- Gently Used Bibles in any language
- Prayer Books
- Children's Bible Stories

## CHURCH & OTHER HAPPENINGS

### Sunday School

Deepen your faith, connect with friends, and grow closer to God by joining us every Sunday at 9 am for Sunday School. All youth are welcome—see you there!



*“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.” ~Proverbs 22:6~*

**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 May 20<sup>th</sup>. Meetings are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday monthly, unless otherwise noted.

**Life-to-Life Discipleship** will be meeting Sunday, May 17 at 11:30 AM. Please bring a covered dish to share.

**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.

### Youth Group

Next meeting is planned for Wednesday, May 27, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.



## SOME FYIs for YOU



- May 2 – Evening Worship Service~ with Communion @ 6 PM
- May 3 – Worship Service w/Communion @10:15 AM
- May 6 – Quilters @ 1:30 PM
- May 7 – **National Day of Prayer**
- May 9 – Evening Worship Service @ 6 PM
- May 10 – **HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!!!**
  - Worship Service @ 10:15 AM
- May 13 – Comm. Service @ Yorktown Manor @ 10 AM
  - Women's Bible Study @12:30 PM
  - Quilters @ 1:30 PM
- May 11-16 – Pastor will be on Vacation
- May 14 – **Ascension Day**
- May 16 – Evening Worship Service @ 6 PM
- May 17 – **Confirmation Sunday**
  - Property Team Meeting @ 8 AM
  - Worship Service w/Communion @ 10:15 AM
  - Life-to-Life Discipleship Meeting @ 11:30 AMPlease bring a covered dish to share.
- Congratulations Confirmands!!!**
- May 18 – 4-H Meeting @ 6:30 PM
- May 19 – Pastor @ CAMAL House
- May 20 – Quilters @ 1:30 PM
  - Mission/Evangelism Team Mtg. @ 6 PM
  - Men's Bible Study @ 7 PM
- May 21 – Committee Reports Due
- May 22 – Newsletter Articles Due
  - High School Graduations
- CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!!!**
- May 24 – **Day of Pentecost**
  - Memorial Day Worship Service @10:15 AM
- May 25 – **Memorial Day**
- May 26 – Primary Runoff Elections in Parish Hall
  - Council Meeting @ 7PM
- May 27 – Old Stone Church Meeting @ 9 AM
  - Quilters @ 1:30 PM
  - Youth Group @ 6:00 PM
- May 29 – **Scholarship Deadline**
- May 30 – Evening Worship Service @ 6 PM
- May 31 – **Holy Trinity Sunday**
  - **Graduate Sunday**
  - Worship Service @ 10:15 AM

### Congratulations to All Our Graduates

Dear God, may you bless them with powerful boldness to stand for you in every situation and not compromise your truth. Lord give them the courage they need in order to live for you and boldly follow in the path you have for them. Fill them with your Holy Spirit so they may stand for God. Amen.

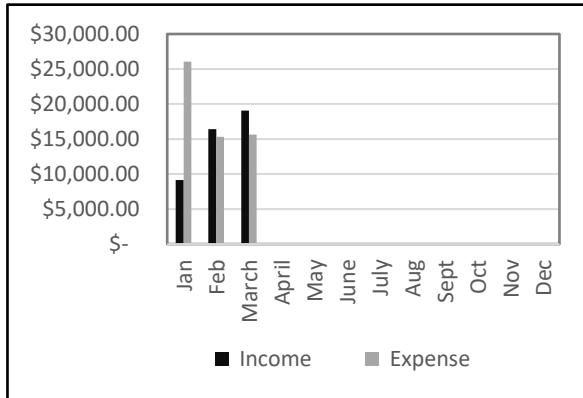


### Portals of Prayer

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

## Altar Flowers

If you would like to bring fresh flowers to church for the altar on the first Sunday of any month, please let the church office recognize you in the bulletin. Flowers can also be given in memory or honor of someone. Flowers can be put on the pedestals any Sunday as long as they are not being used for another purpose. Flowers DO NOT have to be purchased from a florist. Summer garden flowers are beautiful and adorning. The Altar Guild does have a few guidelines as to the size and placement of the bouquet(s) and vases so just contact one of the members or call the church office.



### **General Fund – 2026 Income vs Expenses**

**General Fund chart without Designated Giving funds.**

## **Church Council Minutes ~ March 24, 2026**

**Members Present:** Lloyd Copeland, Mike Cowley, Marv Sager, Glenn Ruschhaupt, John Boor, Kathy Dunn, Brenda Gohmert, Laurie Wendel, M'Liss Moore, Pam Haun, Cathie Bettge, and Kyle Newman

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

**Opening Devotion and Prayer:** Lloyd Copeland provided an opening devotion

**Minutes of Previous Regular Meeting:** Pam Haun made a motion to approve the February council minutes. Brenda Gohmert seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Financial Report:** Report presented by M'Liss Moore.

### **Pastor's Report:**

Tentative confirmation date is Sunday May 17. I will be confirming Kyler Leist. The planning committee met Thursday March 19 to review the report and made minor changes. The final report will be presented to council and a date set to meet, review, and make any suggestions for changes. It will then be presented to the congregation at a date set by council. A request has been made in relation to posting pictures of our youth on our website and Facebook. Current council policy does not allow for this and it has been requested to change

this policy.

John Boor made a motion to accept Kyler Leist for confirmation. Brenda Gohmert seconded. Motion carried.

Council discussed the topic of posting pictures of youth on Church social media platforms and/or the Church website. Council was in general agreement that parents would need to consent. It was agreed to reach out to the NALC or other congregations to get policy examples and/or additional information for future discussion around this topic.

### **Old Business:**

AED follow up from February council meeting. The AED contract is for three years at \$126 per month, which covers a fully stocked First Aid kit and frequent monitoring and maintenance of the AED device to ensure it remains in working order. Council discussed the length of the contract and the potential financial burden.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Finance Team Report:**

The finance committee did not meet in March. The next meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2026.

Sincerely, Laurie Wendel

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

March 18, 2026

Open with prayer: Cathie

Members present: Cheryl Bramlette, Linda Rushhaupt, Pam Haun, Pastor Boor, Obert Sagebiel, Cathie Bettge  
**OLD BUSINESS:**

Cheryl: Reformation/Mission Feast

Possible speaker—Pastor Jarod Stillion, Hallettsville/  
waiting to hear back from him

Review of Missions for: February- Eight Days of Hope  
March- CAMAL HOUSE (see list of needs in bulletin & newsletter)

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Mission of the Month: April-North TX Disaster Warehouse in Tyler (We chose the Tyler disaster warehouse in response to a letter received from Bob Tardiff, the coordinator. They want to insulate their metal building to maintain moderate temperatures to house the large amounts of liquids along with bleach and other requested cleaners. It is important they don't freeze. This request has been issued to every congregation in the North TX/OK Mission District. The cost of the closed cell foam insulation is \$4,527. Should they receive above this amount those funds will only be used for disaster response.

May- Christian Warrior's Retreat

Collection: April- rubber, cotton, or leather gloves

May- any item from the list for the Health Care Kits  
Adopt a Seminarian Program-discussed the new program offered by the NALC; we are already supporting our seminarian student, Johnna Picard, through our church with funds for tuition, books, etc.  
FYI: July 7-10 Youth Gathering-Kaleigh Newman has been asked to be a leader at this gathering (congratulations Kaleigh)

July 31-Aug. 1 TX/OK Gathering

Close with Lord's Prayer: ALL

Next scheduled meeting: May 20, 2025 @ 6 pm in parish hall

### **Parish Life Team:**

March Report- Parish Life Committee 3-19-2026

Our team met, via texting, to discuss our committee's needs and responsibilities for March.

We helped coordinate/provide the food for one funeral on February 21.

Our committee has been asked to shop for the pancake supplies for the Easter Sunrise Breakfast on April 5.

Upcoming on April 19 is Grave Decoration Day-Church Under the Trees

Bev reported that 5 Get Well Cards and 1 Sympathy Cards have been sent at this time.

### **Parish Ed Team Report:**

Parish Ed Committee Report 3-17-26

The Parish Ed committee met on 2-15-26. Attending were Joie Caskey, Laurie Pokluda, Trish Hood, Kathy Dunn, Pastor John Boor, and Rachel Nessel. We opened with prayer.

We discussed plans for the year:

Palm Sunday March 29th: The Youth Group will be selling Breakfast Tacos before and during Sunday School. This is one of their fundraising efforts to offset the cost of Camp Lone Star.

Children/Youth will be processing into church with palm branches and singing with the Congregation "All Glory Laud and Honor". They will also sing "Be Bold" during the Children's Sermon.

Easter Sunday April 5th: Sunrise Service will be led by the Youth Group at 7:30 am, followed by a Pancake Breakfast. Volunteers are welcome!

Camp Lone Star July 5-10th: 10 campers, composed of some members and other future members, are signed up. Johnna Picard will be able to serve as their leader like last year.

Vacation Bible School: We decided on the week of July 27-31, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 am to 12 noon. We have chosen the Group Curriculum, "Rainforest Falls - Exploring the Nature of God." This is a very popular curriculum and we hope to share some

of the materials with or from other churches. There's lots of information about it on Facebook Page "Rainforest Falls VBS". Joie will work the kitchen and Laurie Pokluda will handle the Art in the Parish House. Rachel's mother can also help with the Art. Rachel Nessel has taken the week off to help and has been handling all the publicity. We will reach out to Youth helpers from last year - Shelby and Kaleigh Newman and Morgan Zengerle and Carson Purdy. LaRae Kelly has also volunteered to help all week. Kally Wendel also plans to be involved.

Rally Sunday August 2: This date will be two weeks before most schools start.

Sunday School Attendance continues to be low.....

FCS Youth Gathering: Kaleigh Newman went to this last year and they have invited her to be a part of the leadership this year. She was very impressed with-it last year and apparently the feeling was mutual!

Parish Ed will also be involved in The Three-Year Strategic Roadmap for the Church.

Kathy Dunn  
Team Leader

### **Worship Team:**

Worship didn't meet in March

### **Property Team Report:**

Meeting Date - March 15, 2026

**Members Present** - Dickie Bettge, Vance Egg, John Boor, Mitchell Jank and Marv Sager

**Items Completed:** Parsonage cleaned; Restroom and various kitchen supplies replenished; Various light bulbs replaced; One stained glass window removed for repair; New trees fertilized and deep watered; Meetings with potential damage repair contractors; Parsonage water heater drained; AC filters checked/replaced; Basement cleaned; Various elevator repairs scheduled

### **Items Discussed:**

**Spring congregation workday** - Scheduled for Saturday, March 21st at 9:00 am. Proposed tasks include rutting repair, tree trimming, dumpster clean out, etc.;

**Storm damage repairs** - - Communications with potential repair contractors continue. Additional bids are being solicited for parsonage roof replacement,

parsonage ceiling repair and sanctuary nursery ceiling repairs, along with Old Stone Church steeple repairs.;

**Elevator repairs** - Repair of hydraulic cylinder fluid leak is scheduled for the morning of March 19th. Small signs discouraging attempted use without operator present will be posted at all three elevator doors.;

**Open pasture gates at cemetery** - Applicable gates will each be secured with chain and combination lock starting during the week of March 16th.;

**Proposed donation of cemetery cremation vault facility** – Photos of such facility at Ander church cemetery were reviewed and discussed. Consensus is to make discussion of same an agenda item for next Council meeting.

**Old Stone Church** – Next meeting March 25, 2026.

**Items for Council Approval** – None

**Next Scheduled Meeting:** 04/12/26

Council discussed gathering more information on adding a cremation vault to the Church cemetery. Pam Haun made a motion for the property team to gather more information and do research on a cremation vault to include size, price, and location. Brenda Gohmert seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**OTHER NEW BUSINESS:**

John Boor handed out copies of the 3 Year Strategic Roadmap for council to briefly discuss. It was decided to set a meeting date at a time when Rachel Nessel could attend in order for council to review and make suggestions before presenting it to the congregation. There was some discussion if a separate meeting was necessary.

Kyle Newman made a motion to hold a separate meeting dedicated to reviewing the 3 Year Strategic Roadmap. Kathy Dunn seconded the motion. Motion carried. John Boor will work on setting a date for the meeting.

Council was made aware that a June 7 graveside service will be held for Leon Dohmann.

**Approval of Committee Reports:** John Boor made a motion to approve all reports as presented.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Mike Cowley

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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**

The Worship Team, Church Council, and Pastor John are working diligently to provide different ways to meet the needs of our congregation. One of those needs is to offer alternatives for worship.

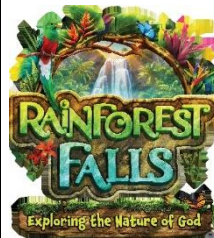
If you are not able to attend the regular Sunday morning service, or if you would just like a change, the Worship Team would like to invite you to give the Saturday evening service a try. The service is presented on a large Screen and includes all of the essentials of Lutheran Worship. The music selections are varied and include traditional hymns, Christian contemporary, and are accompanied by popular artists. We hope that offering this alternative, all members will have access to a weekly service and take part in the worship life of St. John here in Meyersville. It takes a strong, active congregation to build our church and keep it alive. Please consider attending one of the services. You never know what blessings you might receive with your attendance.

**Deadline for St. John Ev. Lutheran Church Scholarship-  
 APPLY NOW!!!**

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church is excited to offer scholarships to support the youth in our congregation with their college or vocational education. If you're a member of St. John and are currently enrolled or planning to enroll in a college, university, or trade school, we encourage you to apply!

**Deadline to apply: May 29, 2026**

**Applications are available at the church office.**



**2026 Vacation Bible School –  
 Rainforest Falls**

Join us at St. John for Vacation Bible School July 27–31 from 8:30 a.m.–noon! Children ages 4-12 will journey into the misty rainforest to discover the wonder of God's creation and learn how God is our Creator, our refuge, and our forever friend through Bible stories, music, games, and hands-on activities. Registration is now open:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/3GMyD0KAc4>.

We are also looking for volunteers to help bring VBS to life! Help is needed with planning, decorating, organizing, teaching, leading activity rotations, and cleanup. If you would like to help in any way, please contact Rachel Nessel or Kathy Dunn.

The Texas-Oklahoma Mission Region of the North American Lutheran Church invite you to their  
**Regional Family Reunion**  
 July 31 - August 1, 2026  
 Welcome Lutheran Church  
 Brenham, Texas

*It's time to gather our family from across the Region for food, fun, and fellowship!*



The North American Lutheran Church (NALC) envisions a disciple-making church body. This vision comes to life as congregations are renewed in faith, disciples are equipped to follow Jesus with confidence, and communities are transformed by the power of the Gospel.

Our guest speaker for the Family Reunion will be Pastor Amy Little. Pastor Little received her Master of Divinity degree from Trinity Lutheran Seminary and her Doctor of Ministry degree from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. She was ordained in 2002 and served Trinity Lutheran Church in Monroeville, Ohio, before being called as General Secretary of the NALC in 2021.



Guest Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Amy Little, General Secretary of the NALC.

→ Registration form on reverse side ←

Your registration includes dinner Friday and lunch Saturday.

Please secure your lodging reservations early!

**Registration Forms are available in the church office.**

**Mother's Day Blessing**

Almighty God, we ask Your blessing on each mother today. Fill their hearts with laughter and joy. Surround them with love from family and friends. Grant them health, peace, and fulfillment as they pursue their calling. Let them know their value and worth in Your eyes and ours. In Jesus' name, Amen.



## VOLUNTEERS THIS MONTH:

### May 3

**Greeters** - Jo Wieland, LaRae & Jessie Kelley  
**Reader** - LaRae Kelley

### May 10

**Greeters** - Youth Group  
**Reader** - Kaleigh Newman

### May 17

**Greeters** - Marv & Norrean Sager  
**Reader** - Ayla Nessel

### May 24

**Greeters** - Margie & John Swannack  
**Reader** - Cathie Bettge

### May 31

**Greeters** - Cathie & Dickie Bettge  
**Reader** - Neal Moritz

### May Communion Assistant

Wanda Hays

### May Altar Guild

Dee Moeller & Beverly Bodden

### May Nursing Home Visitor

Virginia Abrameit

## LOOKING AHEAD. . .

### June 7

**Greeters** - The Hays Family  
**Reader** - Wanda Hays

### June Communion Assistant

Johnny Jank

### June Altar Guild

Carol Ann Sagebiel & LeAnn Jander

### May Nursing Home Visitor

Cathie Bettge

**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:

- 4 - Gracie Diebel
- 5 - May Dell Jacob
- 10 - Jason Wendel
- 11 - Jolene (Jo) Wieland
- 15 - Beatrice Fagg
- 19 - Brian Diebel  
- Cade Light
- 21 - David Diebel
- 22 - Travis Eichhorn
- 25 - Kolby Jank
- 26 - Candice Cowley  
- Dianna Bartosh  
- Glenn Ruschhaupt  
- Grayson Schaefer
- 27 - Clay Haun  
- Mason Nagel
- 28 - Ashley Ohrt
- 29 - Caden Jander
- 30 - Dianna Soliz  
Tamara Zengerle



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

## Anniversary Greetings to:

- 13 - Michael & Candy Cowley
- 18 - Gary & Dee Moeller
- 19 - Ray & Nancy Butler
- 24 - Obert & Carol Ann Sagebiel
- 30 - Melanie & Holden Light



### Memorial Day Prayer

Heavenly Father,  
We come before You on this Memorial Day with gratitude for the brave men and women who sacrificed their lives for our freedom. As John 15:13 says, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." We honor their courage and dedication.

Lord, comfort and bring peace to the families who have lost loved ones. As Matthew 5:4 says, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

We pray for those currently serving in the military. Protect them and guide their steps. Psalm 91:1-2 reminds us, "Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty."

Help us live lives that honor these sacrifices and support our nation and its defenders. Thank You for the blessings of liberty and the courage of those who defend it. In Your holy name, we pray.

Amen. CoffeeWithStarla.com

*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 newsletter.





# May 2026



## St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church Meyersville, TX

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

**Mission of the Month:**  
**CALL SIGN VICTOR**

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>Office Hours: *Please see the Bulletins</p> 				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 6:00 PM Evening Worship Service 
<p><b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Easter</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>3</b></span> 9:00 AM Sunday School 9:00 AM Adult Study 10:15 AM Worship</p> 	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9 AM-12 PM Pastor's office hours	<b>6</b> 1:30 PM Quilters	<b>7</b> 1 PM-4 PM Pastor's office hours	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 6:00 PM Evening Worship Service
<p><b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Easter</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>10</b></span> <b>Happy Mother's Day!!!</b> 9:00 AM Sunday School 9:00 AM Adult Study 10:15 AM Worship</p>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 10:00 AM Comm. Service Yorktown Manor 12:30 PM Women's Bible Study @ Parsonage 1:30 PM Quilters	<b>14</b> <b>Ascension Day</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 6:00 PM Evening Worship Service
<b>Pastor will be on Vacation May 11<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>.</b>						
<p><b>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Easter</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>17</b></span> <b>Confirmation Sunday</b> 8:00 AM Property Team Meeting 9:00 AM Sunday School 9:00 AM Adult Study 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Life-to-Life Discipleship Meeting</p> 	<b>18</b> 6:30 PM 4 – H Meeting	<b>19</b> Pastor @ CAMAL House	<b>20</b> 1:30 PM Quilters 6:00 PM Mission/ Evangelism Team Meeting 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study	<b>21</b> 1 PM-4 PM Pastor's office hours  <b>**Committee Reports Due, please email to Council Members.</b>	<b>22</b>  <b>**Newsletter deadline. Please have all articles to office.</b>	<b>23</b>
<p><b>Day of Pentecost</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>24</b></span> 9:00 AM Sunday School 9:00 AM Adult Study 10:15 AM Worship-Memorial Day Service</p>	<b>25</b> <b>Memorial Day</b>	<b>26</b> <b>7:00 AM to 7:00 PM Primary Runoff Elections in Parish Hall</b>  7 PM Council Meeting	<b>27</b> 9:00 AM Old Stone Church Meeting 1:30 PM Quilters 6:00 PM Youth Group	<b>28</b> 1 PM-4 PM Pastor's office hours	<b>29</b> <b>Scholarship Deadline</b>	<b>30</b> 6:00 PM Evening Worship Service
<p><b>Holy Trinity Sunday</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>31</b></span> <b>Graduation Sunday</b> 9:00 AM Sunday School 9:00 AM Adult Study 10:15 AM Worship</p>						