

***St. John Lutheran Church ^{of}
Cat Spring***
www.stjohncatspring.org



The Parable of the Talents

November 19, 2023

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**The People of St. John
Lutheran Church
of Cat Spring**

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We welcome all people from all walks of life to join us; whether you are seeking answers to questions about faith, or already have a strong relationship with Christ. We are a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. In keeping with the teachings of Jesus and the witness of Martin Luther, we acknowledge that we are both sinners and saints in need of the grace and love of God. Council members on duty will be glad to answer any of your questions.

WELCOME

Announcements

Call to Worship

“The Lord is in His Holy Temple”

St John Singers

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father,

and of the + Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive 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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

“ O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

ELW 632

P: 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

ELW 203

Hymn of Praise (first verse only)

ELW 204

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Lesson:

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

The First Lesson is from the first book of Zephaniah

Be silent before the Lord God!

For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.

At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts,
‘The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm.’

Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.

The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there.
That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.

Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them
on the day of the Lord’s wrath; in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

R: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God**

Second Lesson:

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

The Second Lesson is from the fifth chapter of 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, ‘There is peace and security’, then sudden destruction will come upon

them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

P: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Special Music

"We Give You Thanks"

St John Singers

Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel:

Matthew 25:14-30

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the twenty-fifth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Noisy Offering and Thankoffering

Sermon

Pastor Stark

Hymn of the Day

"Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory"

ELW 890

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

Prayers of Intercession

P: Hear us, O God

C: Your mercy is great

The Sharing of the Peace

Special Music

“Now Thank We All Our God“

St John Hand Bell Choir

Offering Hymn

“Doxology”

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.

Offering Prayer

God of all goodness,
generations have turned to you,
gathered around your table,
and shared your abundant blessings.
Number us among them
that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance,
and give thanks for your rich blessings,
we may feast upon your very self
and care for all that you have made,
through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.
Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

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Preface

Holy Holy Holy

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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.

Canticle “Lamb of God”

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Special Music

“The Wonder of it All”

St John Singers

The Distribution

All who believe in the Real Presence of Christ in Holy Communion are welcome to partake. Please fill out an attendance card to indicate your intention to participate and hand it to the usher.

Prayer after Communion

Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet.

Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. **Amen**

Blessing

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service,
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!

The blessing of God, Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit,
be with you today and always. **Amen**

Sending Hymn

“On Jordan's Stormy Bank I Stand”

ELW 437

Dismissal

P: Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



The flowers on the altar today were given
by **Chad and Mandy Blezinger**
in gratitude and celebration
on the upcoming **8th Birthday** of
Peyton Raelee Blezinger, tomorrow, November 20th !
Happy Birthday, Peyton !

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Weekly News 11 19-25 2023

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

11-20 Peyton Blezinger
11-21 Hunter Hewson
Warren Severin
11-23 Janie Tipp
11-25 Nicole Otto

Happy Anniversary

11-21 Louis and Rebecca
Blackmon
11-25 John and Martha
Simpson

UPCOMING EVENTS

11-19

WELCA Meeting-- After Worship

Thanksoffering Envelopes Due

Mystery Youth Event for youth 5th grade and up
After Worship

11-20 St John Quilting Ministry

11 /23-24 Office Closed
Happy Thanksgiving !

11-26 Christmas Play Practice Begins 9am

Congregation to Decorate for Christmas After
Worship

12-3 **First Sunday of Advent**

Sunday School/St John Singers 9:00 am

Worship 10:00 am **Blessing of the Prayer Shawls**

12-4 St John Quilting Ministry 8:30 am

MEMBERS IN OUR CARE

Argent Court –Brenham

Carrie Froebel

Kruse Village-Brenham

Elaine Thielemann

Columbus Oaks

Marilyn Wendt

HOMEBOUND:

Katherine Ludwig

Katherine Washburn

Our weekly budgeted need: 3329.98

Offerings 11-12-23

General Fund	2732.00
Memorial Fund	380.00
Total:	3112.00
Attendance	61
Online	55

UPCOMING MINISTRY ASSIGNMENTS

SUNDAY

Nov 19, 2023

Flowers

Chad and Mandy Blezinger

Council Duty

Mary and Robin

Reader

Gwen Reichardt

Acolyte

Marissa Divin

Nov 26, 2023

Johnnie Klatt

Jennifer and Chad

Margie Lovell

Riley Hewson

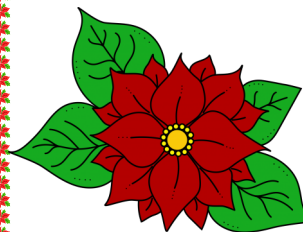
November Altar Guild- Chris Beckendorff, Sherry Barr, Addilynn and Marissa
Divin **Flower Guild—**Ruth Walker

It is Poinsettia Order Time!

RED Poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary for Christmas. If you would like to purchase one or more of these flowers, fill out the order form and place your order and donation of **\$10 each, per poinsettia** into the labeled envelope and place it in the box provided, in the Narthex.

Everything you need to order will be in the Narthex !

Order deadline is Sunday, December 10th.



Prevailing Prayers

Gloria Tipp

Mike Mueller

Allan Boehm

Fay Rice

Susan Boyett

Richie Butler

Colin Brock

Deana Keller

Paulette Miller

Deanna Ling

Sharon

Bubba Bencal

Darrell Grasb

James and Carol Wenzel

Dorothy Mersmann

Gloria Havemann

Hart Oshman

Johnny Griffin

Wes Redman

Melinda Brod

Betty Remmert

Jerry Ordner

Carrie and Vanna Froebel

Kelly Macha

Melinda Brock

Kendall Manna

Elaine Thielemann

JD Divin

Joe Brandt

Katie Johnston

Brian Carpenter

Micheal Pawelek

Maria Hahn

Zachary Schulke

Colleen and Exi

Judy Johnson

Betty D.

Lynda Carson

Richard Kudlacek

Ervin Mieth

The family of Cindi Harrison in their time
of sorrow.

Kathy Painchaud

Salina Locke

Jim Beamer

Gene Wietstruck

2023 Advent Souper Suppers



Sign Up to Host one of the ADVENT Souper Suppers!

Meal begins at 6:00 pm. A soup of your liking and maybe crackers or bread

Holden Evening Prayer Service will be begin at 6:30 pm .

Wednesday , December 6th _____

Wednesday, December 13th _____

Wednesday, December 20th _____

A Note from the Cemetery Sexton

There has been a change in Cemetery Policy. Per discussion during the church service on August 13th, and with approval of the Church Council on August 14th, concrete curbing around gravesites will no longer be allowed after January 1, 2024. This is not really a change in policy, but more of a clarification, since the Church Bylaws currently state that ; (e. A newly plotted section of the cemetery as defined in the cemetery policy will have a restriction where no curbing is allowed around the grave site.)

The new Cemetery Policy wording is; (Curbing around gravesites in any area of the cemetery will not be allowed after January 1, 2024. This will include the placement of any items that would impede the mowing of the grass on the grave, such as footstones, park benches, trees, shrubs, flowers, etc. Headstones and concrete foundations for headstones will be allowed. Flowers placed next to headstones will also be allowed.)

This policy is being implemented to make it easier to care for the cemetery and to reduce the erosion currently taking place in the cemetery.

Regards

Ken Wienken

Youth Christmas Play

December 17

Play practice is
during Sunday school
hour and
Children's Church
starting
November 26th



ORDER FORM

RED Poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary for Christmas. If you would like to purchase one or more of these flowers, fill out this form and place your order and donation of **\$10 each** into a labeled envelope and place it in the box provided. **Order deadline is Sunday, December 10th.**

Please place my flower(s):

In Memory of

In Memory of

In Memory of

In Honor of

In Honor of

In Honor of

Or _____ **To the Glory of God**

Please use the back of this form for additional orders if needed.

Be sure to indicate "Memory of" or "Honor of" or "To the Glory of God" on additional orders.

Purchased by: _____

Total number of flowers: _____

Total Paid: _____

Please make checks payable to:
St. John Lutheran WELCA

Please pick up your flowers on Dec 24 after
the Christmas Eve service