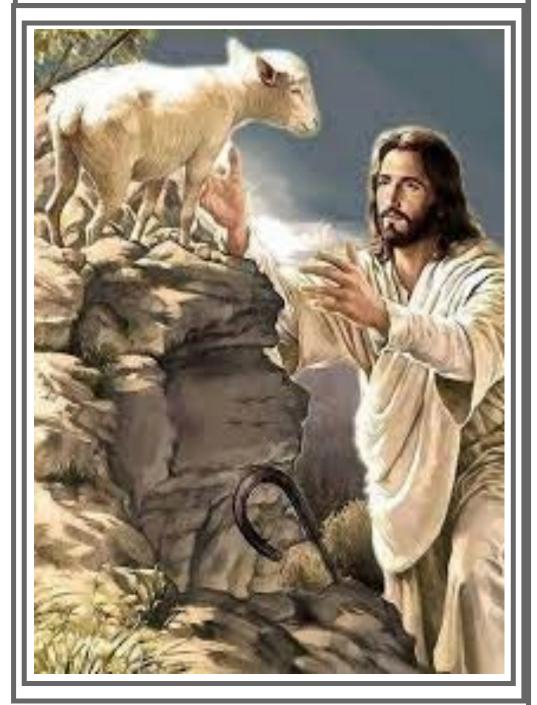
# St. John Lutheran Church of Cat Spring

www.stjohncatspring.org



November 26, 2023

Ministers

The People of St. John Lutheran Church of Cat Spring

Pastor Stephanie Stark pastor@stjohncatspring.org

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Business Manager Jheri Sell finance@ stjohncatspring.org

Secretary
Sally Nergaard
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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**

#### 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

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

**ELW 855**`

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

O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, 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: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

#### The First Lesson is from the thirty-fourth chapter of Ezekiel

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

P:The word of the Lord C:Thanks be to God

Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:15-23

#### The Second Lesson is from the first chapter of Ephesians

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

R: The word of the Lord C: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation ELW 205

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

P:The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter C: Glory to you, O Lord.

'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

P:The Gospel of the Lord.

C:Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon Pastor Pat Dietrich

Hymn of the Day "All Hail the Power of Jesus Name!"

E LW 634

**Apostles Creed** 

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.\* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Prayers of Intersession** 

P: Hear us, O God

C: Your mercy is great

#### The Sharing of the Peace

#### **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

#### 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.

#### **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** 

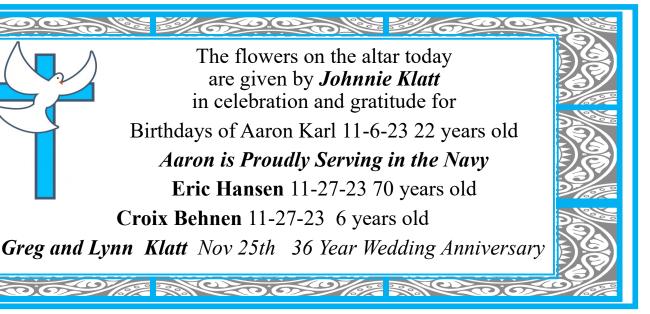
"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

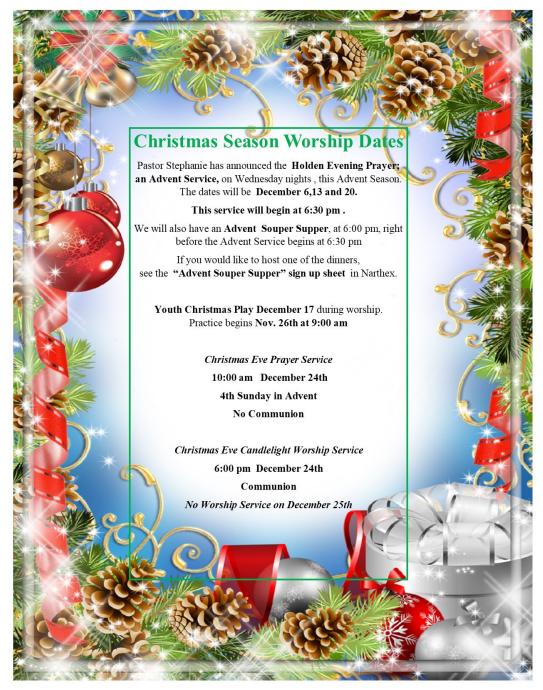
**ELW 733** 

#### **Dismissal**

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

C: Thanks be to God.







11-29 Layla Ordner Rebecca Blackmon

11-30 Rylan Reichardt Sara Leschper



11-27 Richard and Ashley Hewson

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

11-26

**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

12-5 St John Prayer Shawl 9:00 am

12-6 Advent Souper Supper, at 6:00 pm,

Holden Evening Prayer; an Advent Service, 6:30 pm.

12-7 St John Hand Bell Choir 5:30 pm

12-10 Second Sunday of Advent

St. John Singers & Sunday school 9 am Worship 10 am

#### MEMBERS IN OUR CARE

Argent Court – Brenham

Carrie Froebel

Kruse Village-Brenham

Elaine Thielemann

Columbus Oaks

Marilyn Wendt

**HOMEBOUND:** 

Katherine Ludwig Katherine Washburn

## Youth Christmas Play

### December 17

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



#### **UPCOMING MINISTRY ASSIGNMENTS**

SUNDAY Nov 26, 2023 Dec 3, 2023

Flowers Johnnie Klatt Chris Beckendorff
Council Duty Jennifer and Chad Kyle and Robin
Reader Margie Lovell Ken Wienken
Acolyte Riley Hewson Bexley Nelson

**December Altar Guild**— Shirley, Gwen and Glenda Flower Guild—Ruth Walker

#### **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

#### 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 is in the Narthex

> Order deadline is Sunday, December 10th.

Join us for the Blessing of the Prayer Shawls St John Prayer Shawl Ministry December 3, 2023 10:00 am Worship Service



#### 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



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

Wednesday , December 6th	
Wednesday, December 13th	
Wednesday, December 20th	

Please sign up on this form that is on the table in the Narthex! Thank You!