

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



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Lutheran Church
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November 26, 2023

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 Intercession

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.



The flowers on the altar today
are given by **Johnnie Klatt**
in celebration and gratitude for
Birthdays of Aaron Karl 11-6-23 22 years old

Aaron is Proudly Serving in the Navy

Eric Hansen 11-27-23 70 years old

Croix Behnen 11-27-23 6 years old

Greg and Lynn Klatt Nov 25th 36 Year Wedding Anniversary

Christmas Season Worship Dates

Pastor Stephanie has announced the **Holden Evening Prayer;**
an Advent Service, on Wednesday nights, this Advent Season.
The dates will be **December 6, 13 and 20.**

This service will begin at 6:30 pm .

We will also have an **Advent Souper Supper**, at 6:00 pm, right
before the Advent Service begins at 6:30 pm

If you would like to host one of the dinners,
see the **"Advent Souper Supper" sign up sheet** in Narthex.

Youth Christmas Play December 17 during worship.
Practice begins Nov. 26th at 9:00 am

Christmas Eve Prayer Service

10:00 am December 24th

4th Sunday in Advent

No Communion

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service

6:00 pm December 24th

Communion

No Worship Service on December 25th



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

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

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

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

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 _____

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