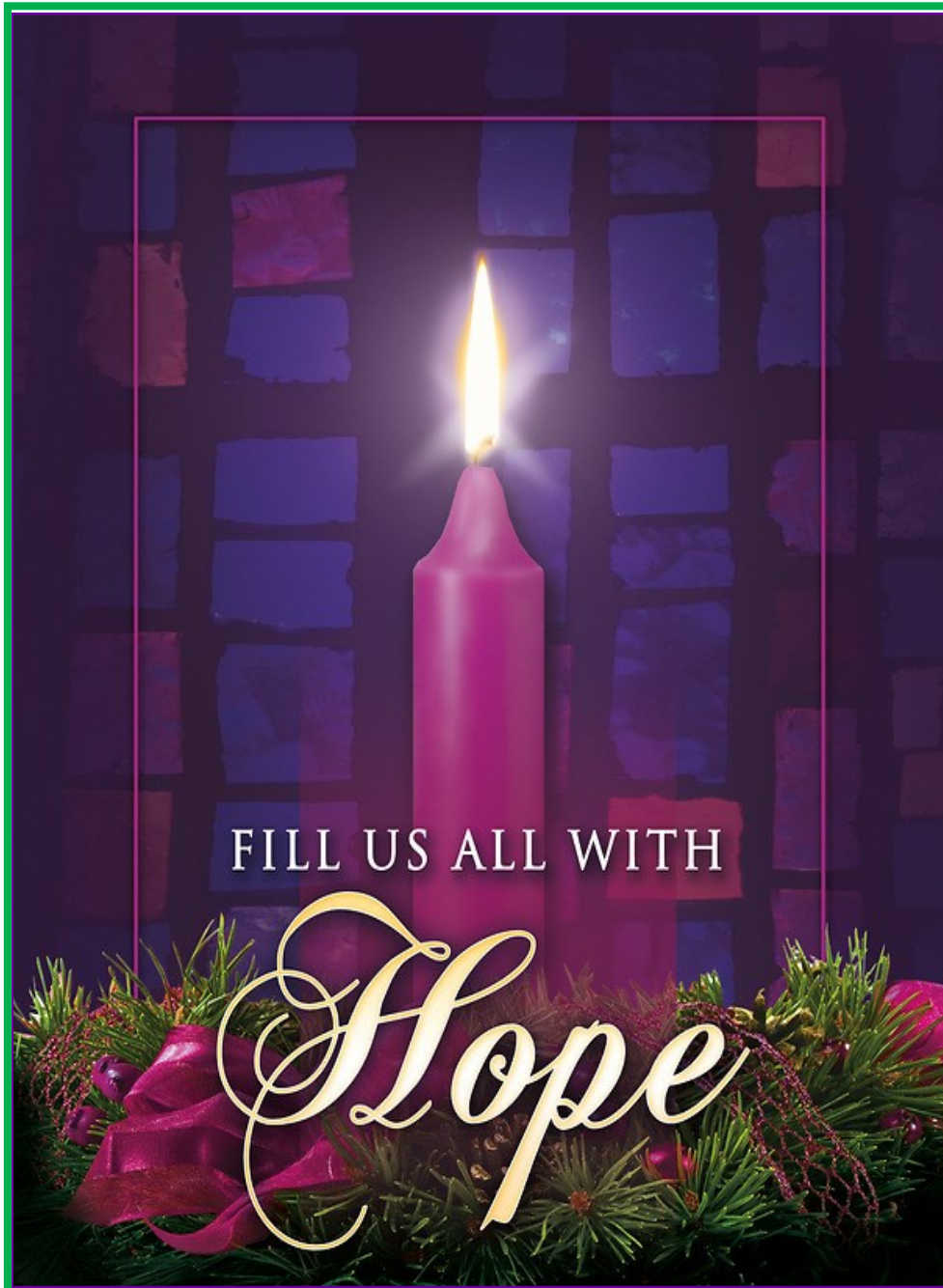


***St. John Lutheran Church ^{of}
Cat Spring***
www.stjohncatspring.org



1st Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

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

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Cat Spring, TX 78933
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(979) 865-5444
www.stjohncatspring.org**

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 Advent of Our God “

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 Come, O Come, Emmanuel* “

ELW 257

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

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Lesson:

Isaiah 64:1-9

The First Lesson is from the sixty-fourth book of Isaiah

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

R: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God**

Second Lesson:

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

The Second Lesson is from the first chapter of 1 Corinthians

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

P: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel:

Mark 13:24-37

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark the thirteenth chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

‘But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children’s Sermon and Blessing of the Prayer Shawls

Pastor Stark

Sermon

Pastor Stark

Hymn of the Day

“ My Lord, What a Morning ”

ELW 438

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: Merciful God

C: Receive our prayer

The Sharing of the Peace

Special Music

“Almost There”

St John Singers

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 our provider,
by your merciful hand
abundance springs up from the earth.
Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.
Let them be a sign of your steadfast love
and faithfulness for all people,
through Jesus Christ our Savior. **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

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

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

Generous God,
in bread and cup you have revealed your glory
for all people to see together.
Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim
your good news of liberation and release,
brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Blessing

The God of peace bless you,
the love of Christ sustain you in hope,
and the anointing of the Spirit + remain upon you
now and forever. **Amen**

Sending Hymn

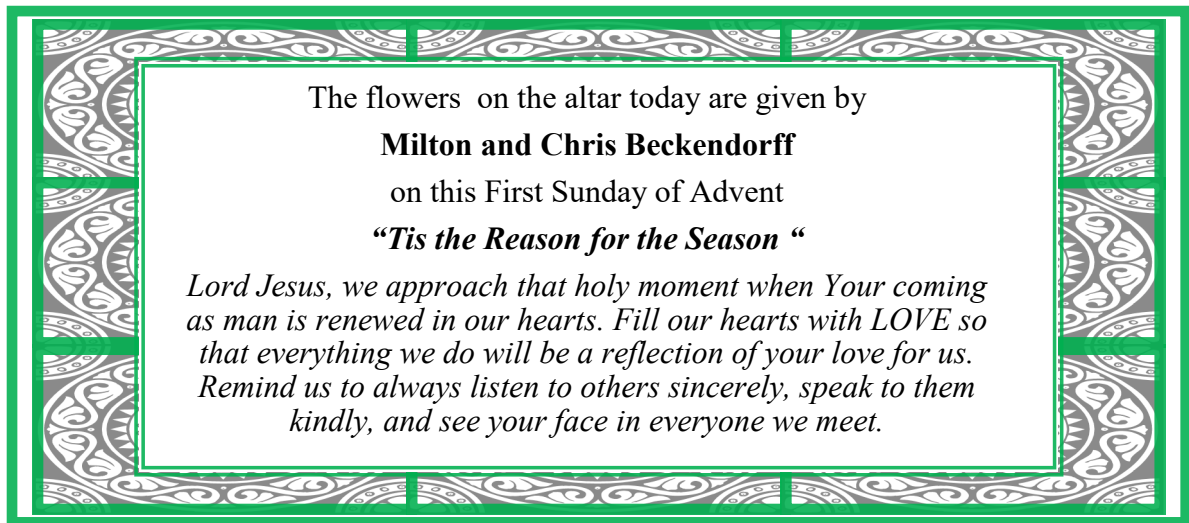
“ Blessed Be the God of Israel ”

ELW 250

Dismissal

P:Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: Thanks be to God.



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

Janet and Don Allphin are hosting the first Souper Supper. If anyone would like to join them on hosting, this Wednesday, please see them after the service today.

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

12-3 Chris Logan
 12-4 Courtney Reichardt
 Rachel Divin
 Rebecca Marek
 12-6 Brian Lapham,
 12-7 Billy Findeisen

Happy Anniversary

12-3 Johnny and Janice
 Class

Our weekly budgeted need: 3329.98

Offerings 11-26-23

General Fund 12090.00
 Total: 12090.00
 Attendance 52
 Online 50

Youth Christmas Play

December 17

*Play practice is
 during Sunday school
 hour and
 Children's Church
 Now through the 10th*



Weekly News 12/3-7/2023

UPCOMING EVENTS

12-3 First Sunday of Advent

Sunday School 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

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

Prevailing Prayers

Richard Kudlacek

Ervin Mieth

Kathy Painchaud

Salina Locke

Jim Beamer

Gene Wietstruck

Cindy Reichardt

The family of Colin Brock, in their
 time of sorrow.

The family of Frances Sechelski, in
 their time of sorrow.

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

Zachary Schulke

Colleen and Exi

Judy Johnson

Betty D.

Lynda Carson

UPCOMING MINISTRY ASSIGNMENTS

SUNDAY

Dec 3, 2023

Dec 10, 2023

Flowers

Chris Beckendorff

Open

Council Duty

Kyle and Robin

Jennifer Logan

Reader

Ken Wienken

Don Allphin

Acolyte

Bexley Nelson

Brooklynn Logan

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.**



Welcome to Our Newest Members

Don and Janet Allphin

“ It’s about time “ Anonymous

Their info is in the new directory !!!

WELCA News

**Cookbooks will be here in early
December 2023! Price is \$20.**

We did buy extras, and we can buy more if
we need more!

**Next WELCA meeting will be
January 25, 2024 at 6:30 pm**

We will be making Easter Eggs Wreaths!

Valentine Cookie Fundraiser

February 11, 2024 (after church)

What are you going to make?

New Years Eve Pot Luck Brunch

After Service on 12-31-23

Bring your Favorite Brunch Item
for food and fellowship !

BLOOD DRIVE

**St John Lutheran
Church-Cat Spring**

**Thursday, January 11
4:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Fellowship Hall**

**FREE HOODIES AS A THANK
YOU GIFT FOR YOUR
LIFESAVING DONATION!**

Scan the QR Code to Sign Up!
Sponsor Code: 2782



Appointments preferred. Walk-ins welcome.



Paulette, blood recipient



EAT. DRINK. BRING I.D.

Share your
donation story



@commitforlife | #commitforlife

St John Prayer Shawl Ministry

Would like to gift a Prayer Shawl to the
people on our prayer list. If you requested
someone to be placed on the list, please let us
know and they will get a shawl to you , so you
can get it to the person you placed on the list.

Call **Marilyn -979-885-8743**

or Sally at the office-865-5444

*This is to all the kind Ladies of the
Quilting Guild at St John's Lutheran Church
of Cat Spring.*

*Thank You ever so kindly for making,
praying over and delivering the 2 prayer
shawls that were made for my wife
Melinda + Father Colin Brock. They were
very nice. Dad got his about 2 weeks ago.
They have been well used. Thank you
for taking the time to make these and
set in a purpose for their use.
Blessings,,, Allen, Melinda + Colin Brock*

https://www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/371739

Click on the link to go sign up on our page ! It will have all the appointment times available and you can schedule your time .