



Good News Journal

November 2024

St. John Lutheran Church of Cat Spring



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDEULE

9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service

SHOWING KINDNESS (Part 2)

(CONTINUED FROM LAST MONTH)

Despite my friend's health problems, he was very fortunate in having a first cousin who took him under her wing and showed him that neighborly love. You see, he was an only child, his parents were dead, and he suffered broken bones from a bad fall. After a long hospital stay this cousin took him in and nursed him to full recovery. He got well enough where he was able to go back to work. And then he came down with cancer.

This time the cousin again took him in, but when it got too difficult, he went to a nursing home. The cousin made sure that his bills were paid, and her children took care of his livestock. He also had rent property and the cousin, and her children made sure all of that was taken care of as well. They just stepped up and took care of his business. Real kindness!

Now going back to the funeral. Since my friend presumably didn't have any church connections, I pondered if there would be anyone to say a few words of comfort about the deceased. I didn't see any of the local ministers, however, a layman from Cat Spring delivered the following message.

Message in Psalm 23

For centuries the 23rd Psalm has been one of the most treasured passages in Holy Scripture.

It is among the most familiar, so much so that even people who are not religious or very knowledgeable about scripture recognize these words.

God is frequently described in the Bible as being like a shepherd who cares for and tends to a flock of sheep.

Most of us have a country background, and it should be relatively easy for us to pull up a mental picture of a flock of sheep being cared for by a shepherd.

A shepherd uses the rod to ward off evil and to direct the sheep as they walk. The staff with its large hook on the end serves to support the sheep's body when it crosses a dangerous ditch or gets stuck in a bush. The Lord protects, guides, and supports us in the same way.

He does not send us through the dark valley with a promise to meet us again on the other side. He goes with us every step of the way.

A second image in the 23rd Psalm to which I would call your attention is this: "thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies."

This reminds me of a story told by an old vet who had lots of interesting stories. This took place during WWI in Germany and occurred on Christmas day. They had been fighting hard for days and things were pretty much at a standstill, and all was quiet. Later that morning, the Germans raised a white flag.

As they approached our lines, the officers talked, and it was decided that they would put their food together to celebrate Christ's birth.

The old vet said after that, it was hard to go back to fighting the next day because of what they had shared.

He said that he had a glimpse of a time in the future when all of them would be together in heaven and their earthly conflicts would disappear.

Showing Kindness *continued from front page*

The third image in the 23rd Psalm which I would lift-up today is this: “surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the lord forever.” At the end of our life on earth we want to be with God forever. In baptism we are made members of the household of God, and our destiny is made secure through our faith in Jesus Christ. Sometimes the journey is filled with joy, and sometimes it is very sad and lonely.

Yet the promise that God has already given us eternal life with him, sustains us in our journey and gives substance to our hope.

The goodness and mercy that follow us are not something we achieve for ourselves. It comes to us by what Jesus Christ did on the cross and his resurrection. And it's called Grace, given to us freely if we choose to accept it.

Were it not for God's forgiveness, our sins and mistakes would quickly disqualify us for eternal life, but with God there is goodness and mercy. Our life on earth and our life with God forever are the product of his grace alone.

As a result, the goodness and mercy of God will follow us all the days of our life, giving us broad latitude to work through our grief and sorrow and forgiveness for our mistakes.

For it is not God's will that anyone living, or dead be separated from Him forever. **Amen**

Dear Heavenly Father help us as we turn the page in the new life of this congregation, and You will take us by the hand and lead us through the call process. And guide us to the right pastor, (he, or she), who will continue to teach us that God loves the people of the world, to be instruments of good, to do justice and kindness, to help the poor, speak up for the voiceless, and keep reminding us that it isn't what we do but what Jesus Christ did on the cross that saves us. Amen

Herbert Kollatschny

St John Blood Drive

Thursday, January 9th, 2025 4-8 pm

St John Cat Spring –Fellowship Hall
Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center

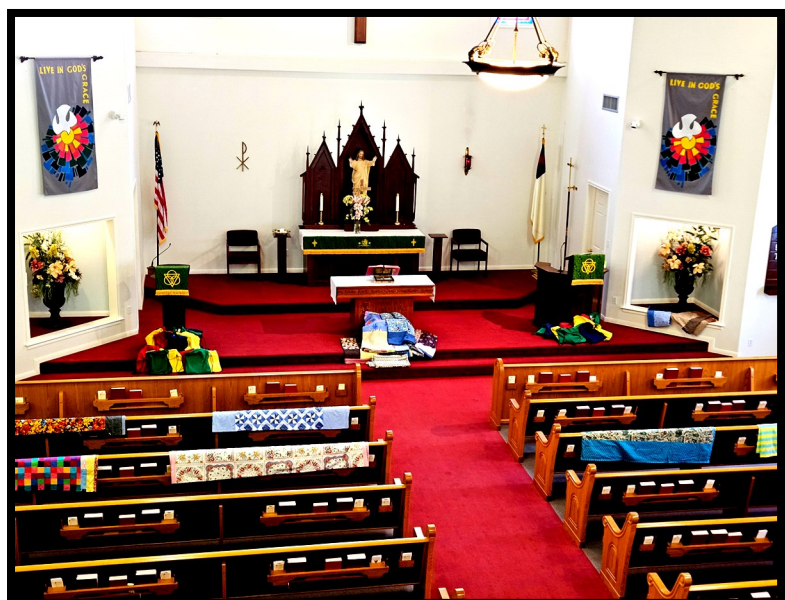
***Blessing of the Quilt and Kits s was held
October 27th during worship service.***

A BIG THANKS to WELCA and the St John Quilting Ministry for their dedication to this ministry.

The quilts and kits will leave the building soon for their final destination.

Thanks to Rachel Divin for the picture !

Picture by Sherry Barr. Quilts and Kits ready to ship !





Call to order: By Jennifer Logan at 6:21 p.m.

Opening Devotional: Don Allphin

Members Present: Jennifer Logan, Robin Haugen, Mary O’Neal, Chad Divin, Kyle Eckhardt, Doug Neva

Members Absent: None

Guests – Don Allphin, Dan White, Christa Klar

Adoption of Agenda – 1st Robin, 2nd Jennifer

Minutes for final approval –August meeting approved via/email

Treasurer Report: 1st Mary, 2nd Robin

Pastor Report – Advent season. What are we going to do? Pot Luck meal- do a devotional and keep it in the Fellowship hall. More like a gathering. Motion to approve: 1st Jennifer, 2nd Chad

Committee Reports

Youth (LYO) – Youth need a microphone that works. Christa is doing a very good job!

Cemetery Report – None

House and Grounds –Roof is finished between the fellowship hall and church. Sign is up in front

Of church and Lighted for nighttime.

Old Business: Discussion about the cameras for the church with Dan. No decision was made.

New Business: Don would like to talk about CCLI and CVLI. We discussed the licensing agreement and finding out what we need to do about the letter received about the license we currently hold.

Call Committee Question Motion made: 1st Doug, 2nd Kyle

Data Base we will leave alone for now.

October 20th Congregational Meeting to approve budget and council members.

We will vote on the budget and council members. Also, vote on the pastors being able to come from different denominations like Methodist, Church of Christ etc. Will be presented before the congregation.

Quorum of 32 needed.

Transfer of membership for Dessie Steinhauser: 1st Doug, 2nd Robin

November Council Assignments:

November 3: Chad & Robin

November 10: Doug

November 17: Kyle, Jennifer

November 24: Mary

Approve the Calendar 1st Doug, 2nd Jennifer

Future Agenda Items: Audio License / video cameras

Unanimously agreed. Meeting adjourned 7:36 p.m.

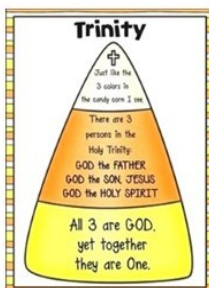
Close with the Lord’s Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Mary T. O’Neal



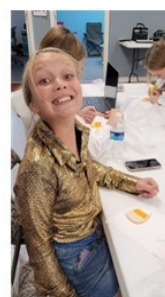
November News

**YOUTH
GROUP**



We had some October fun during Children's church as we learned about the Holy Trinity.

We decorated candy corn shaped sugar cookies and they all did a great job!



IN THE SPOTLIGHT...

Marissa Divin was the Youth spotlight for October. Marissa is off to a great start in high school! Busy young lady.

Come and see who will be in the Spotlight in November.

Christmas program Practice will begin November 24 th. during Sunday school and Children's church.



Acolyte Schedule November: 3rd Rhett Reichardt 10th Renley Nelson
17th Addilyn Divin 24th Layla Ordner
December: 1st Riley Hewson 8th Bexley Nelson 15th TBD 22nd Renley Nelson 29th Volunteer


Good News Journal November 2024

St. John Lutheran Church of Cat Spring

480 Ross Street Cat Spring Texas 78933 979-865-5444 www.stjohncatspring.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDEULE

9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Sunday School/ Choir Practice 9:00 am Worship Service/ Children's Church 10:00 am Pastor Dietrich	4 Handbell Choir Practice 5:00	5 St John Prayer Shawl Ministry VOTE ! St John Fellowship Hall 7am-7pm	6		8	9
10 Sunday School/ Choir Practice 9:00 am Worship Service/ Children's Church 10:00 am Don Allphin	11 Handbell Choir Practice 5:00 Council 6:15 pm	12 St John Quilting Ministry 9:00 am	13	14	15	16
17 Sunday School/ Choir Practice 9:00 am Worship Service/ Children's Church 10:00 am Pastor Weiss Noisy Offering St John Singers	18 Handbell Choir Practice 5:00	19 St John Prayer Shawl Ministry	20 Senior Service 11:00 am 	21	22	23
24 Sunday School/ Choir Practice 9:00 am Worship Service/ Children's Church 10:00 am Don Allphin	25 Handbell Choir Practice 5:00	26 St John Quilting Ministry 9:00 am	27	28 Thanksgiving Day 	29	30

November 2024

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

11-1 Alan Restivo
Rhett Reichardt
Ruth Brooks

11-2 Jeff Brandes
Sharon Peck
Scarlett Ordner
William Ordner

11-3 Connie Reibenstein

11-5 Lytha Wendt

11-7 Melissa Schmidt
Tommy Wade

11-8 Tara Reibenstein

11-9 James Tiner
TJ Menke

11-11 Shirley Hering

11-13 Ellie Haugen
Ken Wienken

11-17 Charlotte Reichert

11-18 Grant Blackmon
Jeffery Schmidt
Riley Hewson

11-20 Peyton Blezinger

11-21 Hunter Hewson
Warren Severin

11-28 Joy Sorensen

11-29 Layla Ordner

11-30 Rylan Reichardt

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

11-1 Melvin and Charlotte Reichert

11-5 William and Bonnie Hegemeyer

11-9 Neil and Deanna Ling
Dan and Linda White

11-17 Marty and Karen Reichert
Randy and Debbie Reichardt

11-25 John and Martha Simpson

11-27 Richard and Ashley Hewson



Worship Attendance

Date	In Person	On Line
10-6	56	85
10-13	36	92
10-20	66	94
10-27	55	72

Senior Day

Wednesday, November 20th 11:00 am

The hostesses will be serving turkey, ham and all the trimmings!

So, there is only one thing to do !



KEEP CALM
AND
GOBBLE ON

Prevailing Prayer

Gloria Havemann
James and Carol Wenzel
Ronnie and Bonnie Smith

Deana Keller

Roy Dierschke

Jeff Pullin

Ralph Grinde

Marcia Melnar

Richard Fry

Prevailing Prayers prayer list will reboot quarterly.

Please let us know if you would like to add someone, keep someone on the list, or take someone off the list . You can call the office at 979-865-5444, , put it on back of your attendance card, ask Council on Duty to let the office know or send an email to secretary@stjohncatspring.org

Thank you for your help

MEMBERS IN OUR CARE

Argent Court –Brenham

Carrie Froebel

Columbus Oaks

Marilyn Wendt

HOMEBOUND:

Katherine Ludwig

Katherine Washburn

Marcia Melnar

Thankofferings show gratitude for God's blessings and give us an important and tangible way to express that gratitude. It is a tradition grounded in our celebration of community, of meeting together to joyfully give thanks for what God has given us. Thankofferings have always been, and still are, our opportunity to say thank you to God in both significant and ordinary moments.

He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on." The Widow's Mite, Mark 12:41-44

WELCA will collect the annual The Thankoffering on Sunday, November 24.

Thankoffering envelopes are in the foyer to be picked up.

WELCA NEWS

The next WELCA meeting will be Sunday, November 17 after church. We will meet in the Gathering Room.

Save the date:

The next WELCA Western Cluster Meeting will be Saturday, April 5, 2025 in Bellville.

Jheri, Shirley, and Rachel attended the WELCA Western Cluster Meeting on Saturday, September 28 at St John Lutheran Church - Warrenton. We learned about the Tree 4 Hope (<https://www.t4hope.org>) Ministry from Pastor Jen Kindsvatter, Pastor of the Shared Lutheran Ministry of Fayette County. We also learned to be kind, generous, loyal, and brave like our awesome God!

Save the date:

Jheri and Rachel are ready to take a road trip to Des Moines, Iowa! The Triennial Gathering of WELCA will be July 16-19 of 2026, so let's make a plan and attend!



**A few of the Halloween Costumes
at the October Senior Day, held
Oct 15th. !**



St. John Lutheran of Cat Spring, Tx Statement of Activity September 2024

Revenue	
CSB MM Interest	15.35
CSB Operating Account Interest	51.48
ELCA Endowment E272908 Distribution	2,115.90
ELCA Endowment E272909 Distribution	250.10
ELCA Endowment E273030 Distribution	453.00
General Fund Contributions	22,335.00
LYO Fund Contributions	166.49
Memorial Fund Contributions	50.00
SALE OF PLOTS	1,500.00
Senior Day	180.00
Total Revenue	\$27,117.32
GROSS PROFIT	\$27,117.32
Expenditures	
Auto Reimb	
	73.44
Building Repairs & Supplies	1,700.00
Contract Svcs-Cemetery Labor	720.00
Education - Youth Curriculum	26.48
Electricity	814.29
Garbage	88.12
Office Supplies & Equipment	507.78
Online Giving Expense	7.65
Payroll Expenses	
SALARY - MUSIC DIR	400.00
SALARY-BOOKKEEPER	720.00
SALARY-HOUSEKEEPING	660.00
SALARY-SECRETARY	1,051.05
Salary-Youth Director	1,332.70
Taxes	318.52
Total Payroll Expenses	4,482.27
Special Scholarship Fund	1,000.00
SPECIAL SENIOR DAY	21.09
Supply Pastor	400.00
Telephone	307.05
Unapplied Cash Bill Payment Expenditure	0.00
Water	68.77
Total Expenditures	\$10,216.94
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$16,900.38
NET REVENUE	\$16,900.38



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 **\$12 each** into a labeled envelope and place it in the box provided.

Order deadline is Sunday, December 15th.

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**

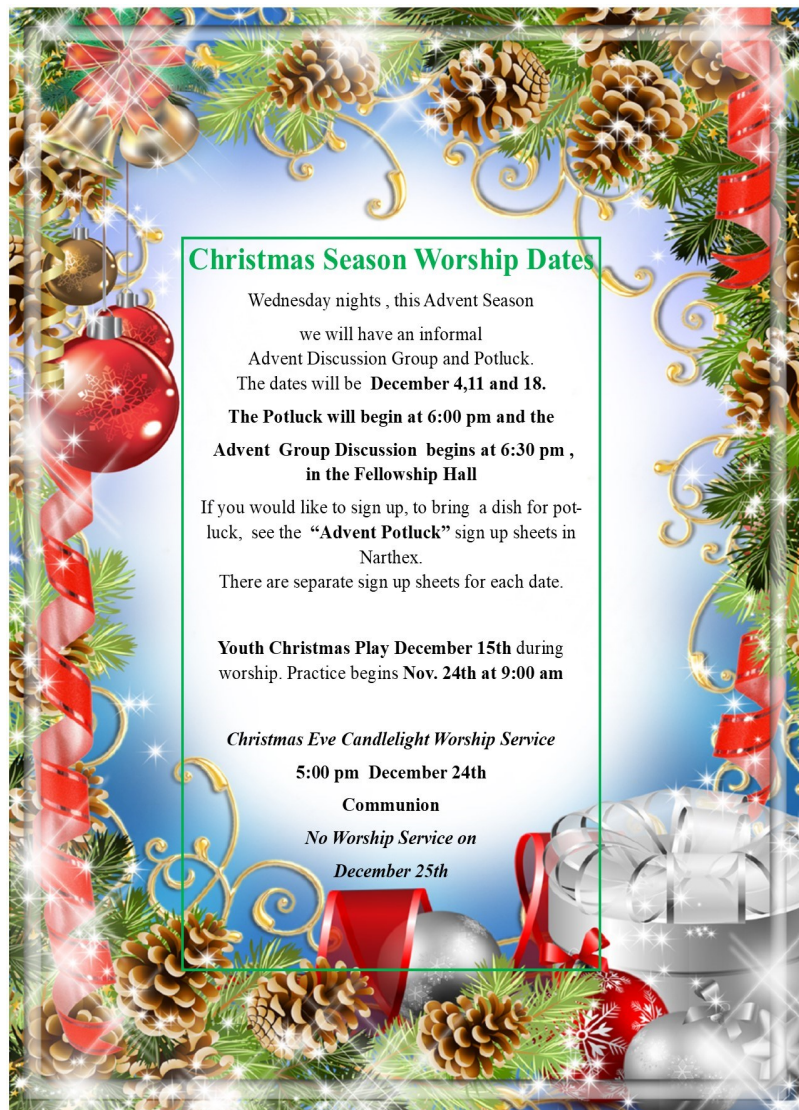
*Please use the back of this form for additional orders if needed.
Be sure to indicate "Memory of" or "Honor of" or
"To the Glory of God" on additional orders.*

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



Christmas Season Worship Dates

Wednesday nights, this Advent Season

we will have an informal

Advent Discussion Group and Potluck.

The dates will be **December 4, 11 and 18.**

**The Potluck will begin at 6:00 pm and the
Advent Group Discussion begins at 6:30 pm ,
in the Fellowship Hall**

If you would like to sign up, to bring a dish for potluck, see the "Advent Potluck" sign up sheets in Narthex.

There are separate sign up sheets for each date.

Youth Christmas Play December 15th during
worship. Practice begins Nov. 24th at 9:00 am

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service

5:00 pm December 24th

Communion

No Worship Service on

December 25th

November 2024 Ministry Duties

St. John Lutheran Church Cat Spring

Flowers: Unless there is an * asterisk by your name, the altar guild understands that you will supply the flowers or plant for that Sunday. If problem arises please call office at 979-865-5444 or **Ruth Walker, Flower Guild**, at 713-816-0629. If you cannot fulfill one of these duties, just call office! Council on Duty- If you cant make it on scheduled day, please check with other Council to trade Sundays.

Date	Council on Duty	Acolyte	Reader	Flowers
11-3-24	Chad and Robin	Rhett	Nancy	Rylan Reichardt
11-10-24	Doug	Rinley	Ruth	Robin Haugen
11-17-24	Kyle and Jennifer	Addilyn	Addilynn	Christy Ordner
11-24-24	Mary	Layla	Jheri Sell	Johnnie Katt

In red indicates change from original calendar

November Altar Guild

Sherry Barr
Addilyn Divin

Flower Guild
Ruth Walker



ASSETS

AUSTIN COUNTY STATE BANK - CEMETERY OP	20,356.36
Citizen's State Bank	109,847.89
Citizen's State Bank - Buidling/Property	95,364.12
Citizen's State Bank - ELCA Benevolence	0.00
Citizen's State Bank - ELCA Disaster	0.00
Citizen's State Bank - LYO	7,512.03
Citizen's State Bank - Music Fund	493.84
Citizen's State Bank - Prayer Shawl	570.20
Citizen's State Bank - Scholarship Fund	14,855.24
Citizen's State Bank - Sealy Pantry Fund	0.00
Citizen's State Bank - Thrivent Choice	924.00
Citizen's State Bank - Wedding Fund	1,833.05
Citizen's State Bank-Cemetery	0.00
Citizen's State Bank-Memorial Fund	15,496.58
Citizen's State Bank-Men In Mission	0.00
Citizens State Bank - Patio Fund	0.00
Citizens State Bank - WELCA	145.00
Citizens State Bank-Community Care Fund	5,344.98
Citizens State Bank-Senior Day	2,358.43

St. John Lutheran Church-Cat Spring

Annual Congregational Meeting

October 20, 2024

Call to Order: Meeting brought to order 11:11 am by Jennifer Logan.

Members Present: 54 Members Present

Minutes for approval: Motion made to accept the minutes of the previous Congregational Meeting, on February 25, 2024.

1st Ruth Walker 2nd by Jerry Sells. Motion passed unanimously.

Election of the officers for council for 2025:

Malcolm Dittert, Tim Brune were presented as candidates

Motion to approve 1st Robin Haugen, 2nd Cheryl Mellenthin. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the 2025 Budget: 1st Herbie Kollatschny 2nd Mary Oneal. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 11:14 am.

Respectfully Submitted

Mary O'Neal

Our very own Janet Allphin is the director of The Austin County Civic Chorale ! Save the Date !

Friday, December 13th , 2024

Meal served at 6:00 pm

Faith Academy Gymnasium

Advanced Tickets Only 979-877-8211



To the members of
St John Lutheran
Thank You
for the prayers for me
and all the cards and
wishes sent my way
Truely I Am Blessed
By You All
Kathy Grinde

Set your clocks
Back 1 hour be-
fore you go to
bed, Saturday,
Nov 2nd.

