

Good News Journal December 2023

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



From the Desk of Pastor Stephanie Stark:

Did you know that the season of Advent is the start of a new church year? I love beginnings. There's excitement and joy surrounding what's to come, but Advent is different. We usually talk about waiting during Advent. Waiting for Christmas. Waiting for our Lord. Waiting for the time when God's kingdom reigns here on earth, but why do we wait for these things that are already here?

We know how the story goes. We hope and pray for God's kingdom to come every time we say the Lord's prayer. We serve our neighbors on a daily basis, yet we enter this season of Advent as if our Lord has yet to arrive. Beloved, Jesus taught, healed, died and rose again so that we could carry on his legacy and ministry. God's kingdom reigns when we gather together on Sunday mornings. God's kingdom reigns when we care for the homeless and underprivileged in our communities. God's kingdom reigns when we stand on the Word of God that reminds us who and whose we are.

This season of Advent we will not wait; even though we might sing O Come O Come Emmanuel, for our Lord, for he is already here! Instead let's rejoice in the promises that we were given in our baptism. God is here! God is with you! That is the truth no matter what the world might be screaming at us. And it's that truth that sets us free.

Youth Christmas Play

December 17

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



Anita Zaskoda was
the Door Prize
winner at the
November Senior
Service !

Congrats, Anita !



**YOUTH
GROUP**

NEWS

DECEMBER



You are invited to a Nativity Play during the worship service on

December 17

Presented by our youth

Refreshments following in the Fellowship Hall

**Christmas program practice is during the Sunday school hour and
Children's church Dec. 3th & 10th**

Christmas break schedule

No youth Sunday school Dec. 24th and Dec. 31st

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

Valentine service project
Jan. 27 10:00 a.m.-12:00
in the Fellowship hall

ALL Youth will be making Valentine
cards for the Austin County Meals on
Wheels program. Snacks provided.

Urban Air
ADVENTURE PARK

ALL youth Feb. 10
10:00 a.m. \$30 ticket
Adult volunteer needed

IN THE SPOTLIGHT...

Riley Hewson was the Youth
spotlight for November. He works
hard at everything he does!

Come and see who will be in the
spotlight for December.

Enjoy some refreshments too!

Acolyte Schedule: Dec. 3rd Bexley Nelson 10th Brooklynn Logan 17th Marissa
Divin 24 Volunteer 31st Riley Hewson

January: 7 Addilyn Divin 14 Marissa Divin 21 Brooklynn Logan 28 Bexley Nelson



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
 3 Sunday school 9 am Worship with Holy Communion 10 am Blessing of the Prayer Shawls St John Prayer Shawl Ministry First Sunday of Advent	4 St John's Quilting Ministry 8:30 am Staff Meet 10:00 Aggie Moms 5:30 Fellowship	5 St John Prayer Shawl Ministry 9:00 am	6 Advent Souper Supper, at 6:00 pm, Holden Evening Prayer; an Advent Service, 6:30 pm .	7 5:30 pm St John Handbell Choir	8 	
10 Sunday school 9 am Worship 10 am Second Sunday of Advent 	11 Council 6:15 pm	12	13 Advent Souper Supper, at 6:00 pm, Holden Evening Prayer; an Advent Service, 6:30 pm .	14 5:30 pm St John Handbell Choir	15	16
17 Sunday school 9 am Worship with Holy Communion 10 am Youth Christmas Play During Service Third Sunday of Advent	18 St John's Quilting Ministry 8:30 am Staff Meet 10:00 am	19	20 Advent Souper Supper, at 6:00 pm, Holden Evening Prayer; an Advent Service, 6:30 pm .	21 5:30 pm St John Handbell Choir	22	23
24 Christmas Eve Prayer Service 10:00 am Fourth Sunday in Advent No Communion Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service 6:00 pm December 24th Communion	25 Office Closed 	26	27	28 5:30 pm St John Handbell Choir	29	30
31 Worship 10 am No Sunday School New Year's Eve Pot Luck Brunch after Service.						

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

12-3 Chris Logan
 12-4 Courtney Reichardt
 Rachel Divin
 Rebecca Marek
 12-6 Brian Lapham,
 12-7 Billy Findeisen
 12-14 Remington
 Reichardt
 12-15 Brooke Biehunko
 Morgan Menke
 12-16 Christa Klar
 12-17 Janice Class
 12-21 Charlene Surovcak
 Katherine Washburn
 Rayann Rabius
 12-25` Eileen White
 12-26 Baylee Brandes
 12-27 Rhys Reichardt
 12-28 Ray Meneke
 Tomas Divin
 12-29 Avery Dittert
 12-30 Waylon Blezinger
 12-31 Mary O'Neal

**Don't forget to reserve
 your special dates, on
 the new 2024 Flower
 Chart ,found
 in the
 Narthex**



MEMBERS IN OUR CARE

**Argent Court –
 Brenham**
 Carrie Froebel
Kruse Village-Brenham
 Elaine Thielemann
Columbus Oaks
 Marilyn Wendt
HOMEBOUND:
 Katherine Ludwig
 Katherine Washburn

Happy Anniversary

12-3 *Johnny and Janice Class*
 12-12 *Bruce and Lacy Dittert*
 12-13 *Frank and Charlene Surovcak*
 12-28 *William and Sherry Barr*
 12-29 *Zane and Christi Brown*

Welcome to Our Newest Members

Don and Janet Allphin
" It's about time " Anonymous
Their info is in the new directory !!!

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



December 2023 Altar Flowers

12-3 Chris Beckendorff
12-10 Open
12-17 Christmas Play
12-24 Poinsettias
12-31 Poinsettias

December 2023 Worship Service

Ministry Schedule

Readers

12-3 Ken Wienken
12-10 Don Allphin
12-17 Janet Allphin
12-24 10 am TBA
6:00 pm Nancy Hartmann
12-31 Addilyn Divin.

Acolytes

12-3 Bexley Nelson
12-10 Brooklynn Logan
12-17 Marissa Divin
12-24 Volunteer
12-31 Riley Hewson

The 2024 box sets of Offering Envelopes should be in in the Narthex, toward the **end of December**.

If you have not used the box set yet, please consider trying them out in 2024 ! So, if you had a set last year, you will definitely have a set waiting for you. If you would like to try it out this year, and don't see one for you , just let Sally know, write it on back of attendance card or let a council member on duty know and we will put a set in in the Narthex, just for you !

Worship Attendance



Date	In Person	On Line
10-29	76	74
11-5	60	74
11-12	61	64
11-19	68	55
11-26	52	50
Total	317	317

December 2023 Council On Duty

December 3: Kyle and Robin

December 10: Jennifer

December 17: Mary and Ryan

December 24: Christmas Eve 10:00 morning service, Jennifer . The 6:00 evening service Chad and Robin

December 31: Chad and Jennifer

December 2023 Altar Guild

*Karen Landrum , Shirley Hering
Robin Haugen*



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?



St. John Lutheran Church – Cat Spring

Council Meeting November 13 2023 Page 1

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

Opening Devotional: Led by Pastor Stephanie Stark Psalm 1:36 God's Work in Creation and in History.

Members Present: Pastor Stephanie Stark, Jennifer Logan, Mary O'Neal, Chad Divin, Kyle Eckhardt, Ryan Reibenstein

Members Absent: Robin Haugen

Guests – Christa Klar

Adoption of Agenda – additions/subtractions None

Minutes for final approval –October meeting approved via email/text

Treasurer Report : Presented by Chad Divin. 1st Jennifer, 2nd Kyle Passed Unanimously.

Pastor Report – Pastor Stephanie Stark: Presented Advent quickly approaching, Christmas Eve Service, and New Year's Eve is on a Sunday, Quick short service and maybe a party in fellowship hall.

Committee Reports

Youth (LYO) – Christa Klar Successful Oktoberfest! Youth spotlight this month is Riley Hewson. Christmas program is December 17th.

Cemetery Report – Robin Haugen (from Ken Wienken) Nothing

House and Grounds – Ryan and Kyle: Checked A/C in gathering room – it is working. Choir area checking out the A/C and the heat works. Proceeding with the clean out of the septic tank at the parsonage. Outside lights newly installed need a dimmer setting.

Old Business:

Quotes for media, speakers and cameras. Still in the process getting quotes. Met with Quality Electronics and they have come up with what they think we need. Checking on headsets for kids.

Cheryl Mellethin has a child's playset that she wants to donate to the church. We will have Christa and Malcolm look at the set to make sure we can use it. Thank you Cheryl for your kind donation.

New Business: The Allphin's want to join formally. Motion to Approve 1st Chad 2nd Ryan. Unanimously approved.

Cat Spring Ag Hall: council voted to donate monies 1000.00 to the hall, because the project will be for the community. 1st Jennifer 2nd Pastor. Unanimously approved.

Council assignments for December:

December 3: Kyle and Robin

December 10: Jennifer

December 17: Mary and Ryan

December 24: Christmas Eve 10:00 morning service, Jennifer 6:00 evening service Chad and Robin

December 31: Chad and Jennifer

See Page 2 of Minutes

**St. John Lutheran Church – Cat Spring Council
Meeting November 13, 2023 Page 2**

Approve the Calendar 1st Mary 2nd Chad

Future Agenda Items: Springfest, Installation of officers

Adjournment: Motion made by Kyle, seconded by Jennifer. Motion passed

Unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Close with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. ONeal



**St. John Lutheran of Cat Spring, Tx Statement of
Financial Position As of October 31, 2023**

LYO 5,878.45 Citizen's State Bank -

Music Fund 493.84 Citizen's State Bank -

Prayer Shawl 622.52 Citizen's State Bank -

Scholarship Fund 6,855.24 Citizen's State Bank -

Sealy Pantry Fund 0.00 Citizen's State Bank -

Thrivent Choice 348.00 Citizen's State Bank -

Wedding Fund 1,833.05 Citizen's State Bank-

Cementery 0.00 Citizen's State Bank-

Memorial Fund 9,336.58 Citizen's State Bank-

Men In Mission 321.00 Citizens State Bank -

Patio Fund 0.00 Citizens State Bank -

WELCA 70.00 Citizens State Bank-

Community Care Fund 6,344.98 Citizens State Bank

-Senior Day 2,367.23 Citizen's State Bank -

New Years Eve Pot Luck Brunch

After Service on 12-31-23

**Bring your Favorite Brunch Item
for food and fellowship !**

Revenue Statement of Activity October 2023

CSB MM Interest 15.79

CSB Operating Account Interest 54.22

General Fund Contributions 17,457.82

LYO Fund Contributions 170.00

Memorial Fund Contributions 30.00

Men In Mission 321.00

Senior Day 252.85

WELCA Fund Contributions 25.00

Total Revenue \$18,326.68

GROSS PROFIT \$18,326.68

Expenditures Building Repairs & Supplies 989.40

Education - Youth Curriculum 309.37

Electricity 1,242.65

Employee Contributions 22.95

Garbage 82.81

Office Supplies & Equipment 656.43

Online Giving Expense 11.71

Pastor Housing Equity Fund 250.00

Pastor Pension-Medical-Dental 2,597.25

Payroll Expenses SALARY - MUSIC DIR 400.00

SALARY-BOOKKEEPER 720.00

SALARY-HOUSEKEEPING 660.00

SALARY-PASTOR 3,846.16

SALARY-SECRETARY 919.08

Salary-Youth Director 1,332.70

Taxes 602.67

Total Payroll Expenses 8,480.61

Special ELCA Benevolence Fund 540.00

Special ELCA Disaster Relief Fund 150.00

Special LYO Fund 51.53

SPECIAL SENIOR DAY 21.56

Telephone 523.58

Water 82.14

Worship Supplies 309.62

Total Expenditures \$16,321.61

NET OPERATING REVENUE \$2,005.07



St. John Lutheran Church-Cat Spring
Annual Congregational Meeting
October 29, 2023

Call to Order: By Jennifer Logan at 10:42am

Members Present: The current quorum is 30 members; we have 57 voting members present.

Minutes for final approval – The February 19, 2023 minutes were provided, not yet reviewed by all so it was read by Jennifer Logan. Motion made by Shirley Dahl 2nd by Chris Beckendorff. Passed unanimously.

Election of Council Members: The two volunteers, Doug Neva and Robin Haugen. With no other nominees, Robin and Doug will be the incoming council members. A motion was made by James Herring and 2nd by Kyle Eckhardt, passed unanimously.

Approval of 2023 Budget: A copy of the 2023 budget and the potential 2024 budget were provided. All had time to review, the changes were pointed out and explained. With no other questions, Al Peck made a motion to accept and it was 2nd Robin Haugen. Passed unanimously.

New Business: Money Counters asked to review their schedules and to let Jennifer know if any changes need to be made.

Thank Ryan Reibenstein for his 3 year and Robin Haugen for 1 year of service.

Adjournment: Motion was made by Cheryl Mellenthin and 2nd by Chris Beckendorff. Meeting adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

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.

Chris Beckendorff
Email: chrisbeckendorff@gmail.com

713-818-6969

**SAVE
LOCAL LIVES
THIS NEW YEAR
JANUARY 2-14, 2024**



Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. As a thank you for saving patients' lives in our community, all donors who donate blood from **January 2-14, 2024**, will receive a **limited edition hoodie**.

Visit [giveblood.org](https://www.giveblood.org) and schedule your appointment today!

While supplies last. Promotional item may be substituted for item of equal value.

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 .

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

Last day to order Poinsettia's from WELCA will be December 10th

Time to get your Poinsettia order turned in for Christmas!

Everything you need to order is in the narthex or see the back page of this newsletter for order form.

Call Sally, at 979-865-5444,

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



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

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

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

St. John Lutheran Church
of Cat Spring, TX
480 Ross Street
Cat Spring Texas 77893
December 2023

