

***St. John Lutheran Church <sup>of</sup>  
Cat Spring***  
[www.stjohncatspring.org](http://www.stjohncatspring.org)

## Third Sunday of Advent



***December 14, 2025***

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

**Don Allphin**

**Accompanist**  
**Janet Allphin**

**Youth Director**  
**Christa Klar**  
[youth@stjohncatspring.org](mailto:youth@stjohncatspring.org)

**Business Manager**  
**Jheri Sell**  
[finance@stjohncatspring.org](mailto:finance@stjohncatspring.org)

**Secretary**  
**Sally Nergaard**  
[secretary@stjohncatspring.org](mailto:secretary@stjohncatspring.org)

**480 Ross Street**  
**Cat Spring, TX 78933**  
**Office Phone & Fax**  
**(979) 865-5444**  
[www.stjohncatspring.org](http://www.stjohncatspring.org)  
**CCLI #11080208**

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 North American Lutheran Church . 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 and Announcements**

## **Lighting of the Advent Candles**

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

**WL:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

**WL:** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

**WL:** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

## **Silence for reflection and self-examination.**

**WL:** Most merciful God.

**C:** we confess that we are in bondage 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

**WL:** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

## **Gathering Hymn**

**“O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

**ELW 283**

**WL:** 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.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Hymn of Praise****p. 204****1st Reading - Hope -****Isaiah 9:2-6**

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

**2nd Reading - Peace****Isaiah 40:3-5**

A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD ; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

**3rd Reading - Joy****Isaiah 12:2-6**

"Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense ; he has become my salvation." With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. In that day you will say: "Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you."

**4th Reading - Love****Luke 1:46-55**

The Magnificat, Mary's song of praise: "And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors."

**St John Youth present**

**“ Journey to Bethlehem”**

**Directed by Christa Klar**

**Hymn of the Day –**

**“Away in a Manger” –**

**ELW 277**

**Apostles’ Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 Intercessions**

**WL: God of Grace**

**C: Hear Our Prayers**

**The Sharing of the Peace**

**The Offering**

**Offering Response**

**“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 grace, your love reaches to the heavens,  
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.**

**Bless what we offer to your service:  
our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.**

**Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,  
now and always. 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 God who comes among us,  
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,  
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,  
and good news to share today and always.  
**Amen.**

## Sending Hymn

## "The First Noel"

ELW 300

## Dismissal

**P:** Go in peace. Keep awake.

**C:** Thanks be to God.



The flowers on the altar today are given by **James and Jheri Sell**.

**In Honor of those who have come before us**

Hebrews 12:1

**"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight... and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us."**

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

12-12 Suzanne McDaniel  
12-14 Remington Reichardt  
12-16 Christa Klar  
12-17 Janice Class

Weekly News 12-14 -12—20- 2025

### UPCOMING EVENTS

12-14- Sunday School/Choir Practice 9:00 am  
Worship Service/Children's Church 10:00 am  
Don Allphin **Youth Christmas Play during Worship Service.**  
12-15 Handbell Choir Practice 5:00  
12-16 St John Prayer Shawl Ministry 9 am  
12-17 **Advent Discussion Group and Potluck**  
**Potluck 6:00 pm**  
**Discussion 6:30 pm**

### Prevailing Prayers

James and Carol Wenzel  
Ronnie and Bonnie Smith

Deana Keller

Carolyn Rash

Mike Rankin

Carol Smith

Nic Norboge

Emily Drymala

Kendall Manna

Alfred Tomasek

Tristan

Prayers for the family of Jim Havel,  
in their time of sorrow.

Zachary Schulke

Kathy Painchaud

Sara Wit

MaryAnn English

Victor Smith

Charlotte Reichert

Hope Griffin

Brian Dahl

Bubba Bencal

Carol Smith

Mark Enax

Jerry Walsch

Zayden

Doris Schaffner

Chelsy Lankford

Debbie Driskoll

Melinda Brock

James and Shirley Hering



The NALC churches in and around Brenham are sponsoring a Christmas Lunch for any women interested in joining

together for a meal, program, fellowship and door prizes.

A sign up sheet is provided along with tickets for the event. Please remember to bring your ticket with you for lunch and an entry into the drawing.

NALC  
CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Date: 12/19/2025

Time: 11:30am

\$20

Cannery Kitchen

314 E. Alamo St. Brenham, Tx

Sponsor Churches:

Abiding Word  
New Wehden  
Phillipsburg  
St. John (Prairie Hill)  
St. Matthew (Sandy Hill)  
Salem  
Welcome

Tickets:  
See Doris, Karen, Marion

### December 2025 Ministry Dties

#### 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 or Gwen Reichardt. If you cannot fulfil 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
12-14	Tim Youth Program	Hunter Hewson	Janet Allphin	Jheri Sell
12-21	Doug	Rhett Reichardt	Denise Lange	Poinsettias
12-24 Christmas Eve 5:00 pm	Malcolm and Mary	Volunteer	Nancy Hartmann	Poinsettias
12-28	Tim	Rinley Nelson	Ruth Walker	Poinsettias

#### December Altar Guild

Jennifer Logan and friends  
Flower Guild :Gwen Reichardt Ruth Walker



### MEMBERS IN OUR CARE

Sealy Avir

Delores Dittert

Argent Court -Brenham

Carrie Froebel

HOMEBOUND:

Katherine Washburn





## Christmas Season Worship Dates

Wednesday nights , this Advent Season  
we will have an informal **Advent Discussion Group and Potluck.**

The dates will be **December 3,10 and 17.**

**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, on December 14th during Worship.**  
Practice begins **Nov. 23rd during Sunday School, at 9:00  
am**

**Christmas Eve Communion**

**Candlelight Worship Service**

**5:00 pm , Wednesday, December 24th**

*No Worship Service on*

*December 25th*

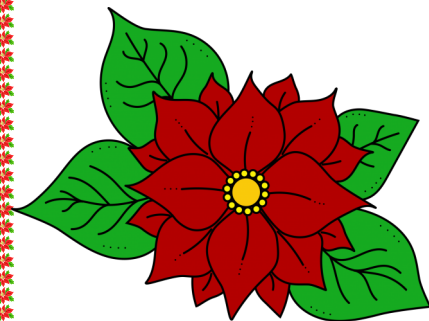


### It is Poinsettia Order Time!

**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 **\$12 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 now.

**Order deadline is 12-14**



## 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 14th.**

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: \_\_\_\_\_