

The Light of St. John

St. John's Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 38

Deanville, TX 77852

"I AM THE WAY AND THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE." (JOHN 14:6)



The Light of St. John
Published monthly at
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Deadline for submission of articles
2nd to the last Sunday of each month

The Light of St. John's December, 2020

"But now, Lord, what do I look for? My hope is in you." Psalm 39:7

This year 2020 has been one of the most difficult years that we have ever experienced. Throughout most of this year, our world has endured the threat of Covid-19 which has altered our lives in so many ways. Out of necessity, I have become quite proficient using the Zoom application on the computer. When video conferencing first came out, I thought it would be great to connect with friends and loved ones and be able to see them on a camera while I spoke with them. But now that I have to use it on a daily basis, I have no desire anymore to use Zoom on a social level.

I am a fan of college and NFL football. One of the unforeseen consequences of this pandemic is that many games have had to be cancelled. And when my favorite teams do play, they have losing records due to lack of practice time caused by Covid. The most common phrase that losing teams say is, *"Well, there's always next season."*

This month marks the beginning of a new season in the Christian calendar. It is the season of Advent. Each Sunday we count off the weeks by lighting the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love. As we look at the condition of our world and even our nation, it is difficult to have hope. Our country has just enduring a very polarizing Presidential election in November, and Covid-19 cases are on the rise in central Texas. But the hope of Advent doesn't depend on the outcomes of election cycles or even how fast a vaccine can be developed for this disease. Our hope as Christians doesn't depend on our circumstances at all. Our hope is solely in the Lord Jesus Christ, and we anxiously await the day that He will return and right all the wrongs of this world and heal all diseases forever.

When our hope is solely in the Lord, we find that peace and joy flow out of that hope. In fact, the Advent wreath is a circle with the Christ candle in the center. It is a great illustration that hope, peace, joy, and love only comes to us when our lives are centered on the Lord Jesus Christ.

So, as we end this calendar year, I encourage you to stay in faith. Keep the Lord the center of your life. Don't ever give up hope, because even this season will pass.

Blessings,

Terry



SERVING IN December

Kitchen:

Altar:

Usher: Marsha Kocurek (Council Member)

FLOWERS

6th Poinsettias

14th Poinsettias

21st Poinsettias

28th Poinsettias



Please pray for our Country, the World, those in the military the shut-ins, the lonely, those in need of healing and their families: Barbara Smith, Dennis and Estelle Hejtmancik, Jean Bay, Douglas and Linda Brinkman, Tom Krenek, Stanley and Mildred Sommers, Jake Cedidla, Mary Bess and Garnett Gerdes, Sarah and Chester Canady, Sophia Pampell, Larry Kubecka, Roy Havemann, Delores Milzcewski, David Ronneberg, Kelly Kubiak, Marcus Broesche, Glen Drew, Taylor Power, Edward Beran, Cathi Laney, Shannon Miller, John Laffere, John Boyd, Adele Zboril, Kim and David Hardin, Glen and Amelia Wearden, Joel Pertl, John Hollywood, Patricia Tarnowski, prayers for those recovering from surgery, those who are in treatment for cancer and cancer survivors, and prayers for the family of Larry Valigura, Edith Barnett, Georgia Josephine Beran, and Robert "Bobby" Hobbs. Lord we pray that you come to our aid with your love and healing for all affected by Covid-19.



Advent means "arrival" or "coming. The first Advent Wreath appeared in Germany by a Lutheran minister working at a mission for children.

Advent Sunday (November 29) also called the First Sunday of Advent or First Advent Sunday, is the first day of the liturgical year and the start of the season of Advent. The circle of the advent wreath reminds us of God's unending love and the eternal life He makes possible. The light of the flickering candle flames reminds us who Jesus is: "In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. John 1:4-5

- 1st Candle-Hope (Prophet's Candle)
- 2nd Candle-Faith (Bethlehem's Candle)
- 3rd Candle - Joy (Shepherd's Candle)
- 4th Candle-Peace (Angel's Candle)
- 5th Candle Light and Purity (Christ Candle)



Beginning December 1st, read one chapter of Luke each day through December 24th. There are 24 chapters. By Christmas Eve, you will have read all 24 chapters – an entire account of the birth, ministry, sacrifice on the cross, and resurrection of Jesus

President
Dwayne Beran

Vice-President
Donna Havemann

Secretary
Susette Hart

Treasurer
Marsha Kocurek

Maintenance
Brandon Telschow

Cemetery
Ronnie Pampell

Pastor
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New Newsletter
Email Address
Stjohnsmnthlynewsletter@gmail.com

St. John's Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2020
6:30pm

Call to order, Opening Prayer- In attendance: Dwayne, Pastor, Susette, Marsha, Donna, Ronnie

Approval of Minutes from previous meeting: Approved as read.

Approval of Financial Reports:

Treasurer Report:

Memorial Fund:

Cemetery Fund / Perpetual Care Fund

Pastor's Report:

Open issues-

Building Fund Priorities – Committee Update - No update

Worship Service Music - No update

Council Members

Confirmation Class Update: Two meetings so far. Going good.

Pastor is working on accommodations for students with absences.

Discussed curriculum and memorization work being taught.

Lawn Maintenance/Cleaning Agreements

Weed Spraying Opportunities- Dwayne went to a class and the recommendation is to spray twice a year. Pendulum granules mixed with water is the recommended chemical.

Cemetery Update since meeting: Baldwin will finish curbing by the end of the year per Dwayne.

New Business

Review/Approve 2021 Budget – went over what was deducted from 2020 budget for 2021.

Finalize Agenda for November Congregational Meeting - Discussed all topics for meeting on 11/15/20

Children's program - December 20, 2020.

Adjourn / Closing Prayer by all

Respectfully submitted,
Susette Hart

St. John's Lutheran Church
Congregational Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2020

11:00am

Call to order by Dwayne Beran. Susette Hart read the minutes from November 10, 2019. Dwayne Beran reviewed the meeting and verified to congregation that we received oil royalties and deposited it into the cemetery fund.

Approval of Minutes from previous meeting: approved as read

Approval of 2021 Budget:

Current Balance of Accounts Including CD's

General Fund

Building Fund

Memorial Fund Cemetery Fund

Perpetual Care Fund

Sunday School

Germanfest

12 Accounts Total

(Accounts not listed are WELCA, Youth Group/Scholarship & Helping Hands)

Vote to Approve 2021 (-4.6 % compared to 2020) Marsha discussed cuts and increases. Motion made and approved.

Council Members

Expiring Terms – Dwayne, Donna & Brandon

Nominations – Open to Floor (Kevin Kubiak, Ashley Zboril & Dwayne Beran)

Vote on New Members: .

General Repairs

Foundation & Drainage Repair – No estimate or updates at this time. Dwayne reported on the status of the air conditioner in the Pastor's office. It is currently holding refrigerant and will be utilized as long as possible before replacing. Kevin Kubiak will help with maintenance of it.

Questions: No questions

Adjourn Meeting:

*More detailed information available on request



Thanks!

To everyone who decorated, provided trunks, cooked food or participated in any other way for the Trunk or Treat!



THANKS to everyone who helped with the annual Harvest Meal. The meal was a great success and raised almost \$1000 for local food banks. The money will be donated at the Food For Families Food Drive on December 2nd. Thanks again to everyone who made this community event possible.



THANKS to everyone who has signed up to color cards for the nursing home. Please bring them to church on Sunday, December 6. If you need help getting them to church, please let me know. We will have a Christmas program with reading parts on December 20. If your child would like to be included and have not emailed, please let me know. We will also have some parts for children to dress up only, so please let me know if you would like your child to participate that way.

Marsha

Thanks to everyone who purchased presents to fulfill the list of families who were in need this Christmas.

Truly I tell you,
whatever you did for one
of the least of these
brothers and sisters of mine,

you did for me.

Matthew 25:40



**POINSETTIAS
ARE PLACED IN LOVING
MEMORY OF:**

Esther & Willie Eberhardt

By Dwayne & Vickie Beran

Vince & Mary Maresh

By Beverly & Donnie Blinka

Memory of all our Loved Ones

By L. W. & Carol Brinkman

Jimmie Brinkman

By Betty Brinkman

Esther Eberhardt

By Randall & Susette Hart

Our Loved Ones

By Cathy & Elwood Moore

F. D. McLemore, Jr.

By Mildred McLemore

Our Parents

By Bonnie & Bobby Schumacher

Our Parents & Grandparents

By Debby & James Schumacher

William & Mavis Suehs

By the Suehs Family

Loretta Laffere

By the Telschow Family

Sign Up Time!

A year has once again passed by and it is time to plan for 2021. Your volunteer efforts are greatly needed in several ways at St. John's. Volunteers are needed for:

Altar Flowers each Sunday. They can be fresh cut or pot plants and can be placed in honor or memory of a loved one.

Altar Service – prepare the communion trays for worship services on the first and third Sundays. If you have not done this before, we will have another member assist you and provide some training. Please note – new safety protocol is in place to prepare the trays.

Ushers – Serve as the welcoming smile at the front door, distribute weekly bulletins, light and extinguish candles and take up offering are the main duties of the ushers. The lead/head usher each month is one of the council members and they will provide you with instructions.

Kitchen Hostess – Serve as the kitchen hostess each month on the pot luck Sunday. Main duties are making drinks, heating food, setting out paper goods and clean up detail afterwards. Signup sheets for all of these activities are on the back table of the church. Please help by sharing your time and talents.

December, 2020 Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Mason Moon Rylan Zboril	3	4	5 M/M Matt Zavodny
6 Communion	7	8	9	10	11	12 Kevin Kubiak
13 Potluck M/M Brandon Telschow	14 Lisa Smith Susette Hart	15 Council Meeting 6:30 PM	16 Lonnie Albright	17	18 Jackie Thompson	19
20 Communion Newsletter items due Christmas Program	21 M/M Blake Drew	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Worship 6 PM	25 Jesus Christ	26 Marla Moon
27 Seth Becka Reid Kalisek	28 Bennie Jones, Jr	29	30	31		

**Merry
Christmas**