



THE BELL

DECEMBER 2020

SAINT JOHN'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH, DIME BOX, TX

*Seek the lost, teach the found,
send the taught to go make followers of Jesus*

8235 FM 141, Dime Box, Texas, 77853

Office: 979-884-4321 <https://stjohndimebox.org/>

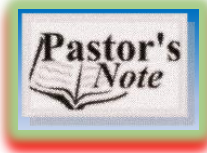
Pastor Joe Leavengood

Saint John's Lutheran Church, established in 1911, is a member of the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ. The LCMC is a growing movement of 955 independent Lutheran congregations in 40 American states, 4 Canadian provinces and 17 other countries on six continents. To learn more, go online to lcmc.net

In December we worship each Sunday (and with Communion on the first and third Sundays). We take appropriate social distancing precautions for our Worship, Studies and Fellowship gatherings.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: Schedule change:
Service now at 6:00pm.**

THOUGHTS ON INK & EVANGELISM FROM PASTOR JOE



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Merry Christmas! But first, please don't overlook the season of Advent, because Christmas has greater meaning and joy when we

first note how desperately the world needs a Messiah.

The Lutheran contribution to Christianity is in more than just in theology. Martin Luther helped teach the world to read and then put the Good News in the language and hands of people in fields and streets. What had been a mysterious, elitist and controlling faith, became a force for liberation, the fulfillment of callings from God, and all the blessings that followed. Luther gave the new printing presses something worth printing, and his colleagues joined him in a lifetime of educating their neighbors.

With their souls thus stirred as never before, Lutheran musicians composed truly awesome music. Christian entrepreneurs boldly created new economies where people could find win-win opportunities and expand the definitions of "neighbor" and of "love." Christian scientists were able to read other things and learn from

each other in exponentially-growing ways. Christian statesmen envisioned free and thriving people and to see paths to forge, sustain and defend such cultures. We are still far from perfect, but we less often enslave one another or wage war for earthly treasures, and more often pull together to feed, clothe and heal all who need it, whether they understand how or not.

Years ago, in my Air Force days, I learned a quote attributed to Austin "Dusty" Miller: "Man's flight through life is sustained by the power of his knowledge." I did not know who Miller was, but I know that a British Officer by that name was a hero in a Japanese Prisoner of War Camp in World War II, and he was tortured to death by a guard who hated his religious convictions. He endured quite a lot, and bore witness to still more, by knowing what he knew as a sustained Christian. Such things happen in wars. His life and death still have meaning in Christ.

On to Ink. In the Pandemic, many more people are working from home. Thus far more printers each produce a few pages a day, rather than a few busy office ones going non-stop. The demand for ink and toner is thus immense, and hiking the costs to make modest publications such as church newsletters and bulletins.

This hits our church in two ways. First, our church exists to reach people that are not in it – we use our printer to extend the Good News around the community, and there are usually plenty of copies of everything available for our readers to share with neighbors and friends.

Second, some of our members are not in church as much now, so we've relied more on print as we dutifully remind them to seek and keep God's priorities in mind.

You can help. First, if you can receive and read the Bell and/or the Sunday Worship bulletin in electronic (PDF) form, e-mail me, and I will take you off the postal mail list. Second, you can then forward these pages to others in the community and beyond. Third, you can support such operations with money, content, and time.

This edition is thus a bit shorter. But in the future if we can convert more of our content to electrons instead of toner, we can then continue to strengthen the content.

People join churches when they each realize a personal responsibility to grow and learn as disciples, done best alongside others. A church thus exists to organize, train and equip Christians of all ages to proclaim the Gospel.

So, if you are not much of a reader, make sure you are doing two other things more diligently. First, please find



Minutes from October 15th, 2020

other ways to keep your head and your heart in the Word. That is part of what a Worship Service is. Some also learn from programs about faith on TV, radio and podcasts. Others give more time to deeper conversations with spiritually wise friends and teachers. Don't let the oil in your lamps run low.

Second, remember that those national television evangelists may be great at feeding you, but you are called to feed as well as to be fed. In fact, we grow better that way. Local churches organize to do this together more effectively. We can love the neighbors as no TV evangelists can, if we seize the day with courage.

I can use toner cartridges to remind the local Lutherans that, as in every age, we currently need courage and love more than the stuff we think we need, and that the world still desperately needs to know about the true Messiah.

Jesus is coming into the world. Know it! Share it! Rejoice, repent, and be courageous!

Godspeed and Merry Christmas, - PJ

President Jeff Shows called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. The following members were present: Pastor Joe Leavengood, Jeff Shows, Joyce Lerche, Linda Kieschnick and Ginger Kubena. Jan Perry joined in progress.

Pastor Joe opened with prayer.

The minutes from the previous meeting were read and accepted upon motion by Linda. Motion carried.

Old Business

The sound and video system bids have been received. The Council is requesting more prices on the equipment.

The door on the Annex that connects to the outside BBQ pit area is being looked into.

Pastor will get bids on replacing the parsonage shower and making adjustments on a parsonage door.

New Business.

The water heater in the fellowship hall needs replacing.

Linda Kieschnick is on the Nominating Committee. The Church Council will need a President, Treasurer and Trustee position filled.

The Chicken Dinner will be held on January 17, 2021.

Poinsettias will be purchased through the end of October from 4-H. it was decided to purchase poinsettias through the Nesting Company in Burton because these poinsettias will arrive closer to Christmas. The poinsettias will cost \$14.50 with a gold cover from the Nesting Company.

Jan made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Linda. Motion Carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

Respectfully submitted, - Ginger Kubena, Secretary

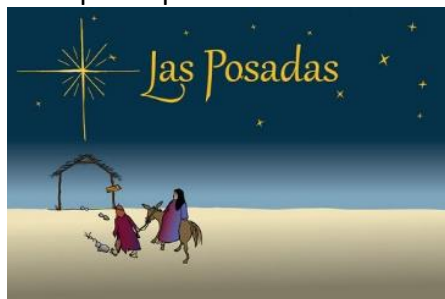


DECORATIONS: Thanks also to all who helped decorate the Sanctuary for Advent and Christmas.



FEEDING OTHERS: Our Holiday Food Drive continues! Please bring in some canned foods and some monetary donations for our Dime Box Food Bank as you are able. Money helps us fill in the gaps in the donated foods as we prepare holiday baskets for families in need. We can also always use toiletries and baby diapers. Thanks to all who have contributed already.

LAS POSADAS: Pastor Bernie Shay of Trinity LC has an idea and invites us to participate as well. "Las Posadas" is Spanish for "the Inns" and is a Southwestern tradition I'm familiar with from my youth in Arizona and New Mexico. It is like Christmas Caroling, except that the participants are also acting out the roles of Mary and Joseph as they seek lodging in Bethlehem and are politely turned away from each house as they walk. Finally, we'll return to the Church for hot drinks and cookies. December 20th.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

01 Sharon Supak	03 Dorothy Wiederhold
03 Darrell Nail, Sr.	04 Bob Gold
06 Brenda Suehs	08 Harrold Smith
11 Brooklyn Gold	12 Lorin Kieschnick
16 Ronald Suehs	17 Chris Kieschnick
22 Peggy Ott	23 Charles Teinert
28 McKenzie Bage	29 Blake Scott
30 Shannon Hervey	30 Grant Gold
30 Kanon Ray Matthiesen	
17 George & Susan King	
19 Alvin & Susan Hannes	
20 Marvin & Emogene Knippa	
27 Arnold & Ruby Prazak	

Happy Happy



UPCOMING LCMC EVENT:
January 5 - 7, 2021 9th
Annual "Three Days of
Prayer"

At Every LCMC Congregation

CONTACTS AT SAINT JOHN'S LC

Council President: Jeff Shows 979-224-5483
 Vice Pres.: Michael Wiederhold 979-220-6434
 Secretary: Ginger Kubena 979-884-0017
 Treasurer: Danita Smith 979-220-5971
 Trustee: Linda Kieschnick 979-540-9556
 Trustee: Joyce Lerche 713-816-2202
 Trustee: Jan Perry 979-777-6888
 Pastor: Joe Leavengood, LCMC
 MDiv, JD, MBA, MA, Lt Col USAF Ret JAGC
 8229 FM 141, Dime Box, TX 77853
 Home 979-884-4035 leavengood@gmx.com
 Cell 406-366-2611 – best for messages

Mail 8235 FM 141, Dime Box, TX 77853
 Phone 979-884-4321

Website: <https://stjohndimebox.org/>

Cemetery Administrator: Carol Dismukes 979-540-0035
 Parish Hall Coordinator: Rachel Gold 979-540-9359
 Jehovah Jirah Coordinator: Barbara Hoover
 Custodian: Crystal Scott
 Groundskeeper: Kasey Kubena
 Organists: Virginia Shows, Beth Campbell
 Communications: Carol Dismukes, Pr. Joe Leavengood
 Librarian: Open
 Praise Band Jammers (PBJ): Stewart Hervey, Audrey Kubena, Pr. Joe Leavengood



ST JOHN'S LC FINANCIAL REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2020

Treasurer Danita
 Wiederhold Smith

Beginning Checking Balance 09/01/2020 \$47,329.96

Income

10/06/2020 Offering – Week 1	\$1,275.00
10/13/2020 Offering - Week 2	\$897.00
10/15/2020 B.E.C. Refund	\$140.11
10/15/2020 Hall Rental	\$100.00
10/19/2020 Offering – Week 3	\$739.00
10/26/2020 Offering – Week 4	\$815.00
10/30/2020 Interest Earned	<u>\$1.91</u>
Total Income	\$3,968.02

Expenses Via Automatic Withdrawal

10/02/2020 W/D Trashbilling	\$87.29
10/09/2020 W/D Frontier	\$95.04
10/19/2020 Returned Check Fee	\$12.00
10/20/2020 W/D Bluebonnet Electric	\$379.33
10/29/2020 W/D RVOS Farm Mutual	\$199.67

Via Checking

10/06/2020 8880 Joe Leavengood	\$3,500.00
10/04/2020 8881 Joe Leavengood	\$250.00
10/05/2020 8882 Crystal Scott (Custodial)	\$300.00
10/07/2020 8883 Kasey Kubena (Lawn Care)	\$300.00
10/20/2020 8884 Joe Leavengood (Office printer toner, postage)	\$450.81
10/26/2020 8885 L.C. Fresh Water	\$85.84
10/26/2020 8886 St. John's Youth	\$100.00
10/26/2020 8873 J. Jireh	\$75.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$6,034.98</u>
Net Loss for October	\$2,066.96
Ending Checking Balance 09/30/2020	\$45,265.00

Bldg. & Mnt. Fund Balance 10/01 & 10/31 \$3,258.36

Certificates of Deposit	\$3,378.26
Housing Equity Account:	\$466.45
Investments	<u>\$50,389.51</u>

Total Financial Assets \$98,907.87

In case you missed it on page 1:
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: Schedule change:
 Service now at 6:00pm.



FROM LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM
THE APOSTLE'S CREED – THE FIRST
ARTICLE: CREATION

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Martin Luther Writes:

“What does this mean?” I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, an all my members, my reasons and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

“He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all that I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

“He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil.

“All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

“This is most certainly true.”



Pastor Joe's Thoughts on Luther and the Creed:

First, Luther entitles the three parts of the Apostle's Creed: “Creation, Redemption and Sanctification.” This first sentence in the Creed is the entirety of the part on Creation. It proclaims a belief in a Creator God of all things, and equates this God to a father. This means that the believer attributes to the Creator at least some of the qualities (we hope the better ones) that one would attribute generally to a father: a love for, and sense of responsibility for, that and those created.

Second, Luther, in this concise guide, tries to make the idea of a creator relevant in the life of the individual

believer. He talks about what God gives us in particular, how he provides for us in particular, how he loves us in particular. This is philosophical. It guides us in how to live accordingly.

Well and good, but also note that a God of all creation must surely also be very interested in particulars of others. God creates, provides for and loves our neighbors too. He does it for lemurs in Madagascar and for the rocks and gases and whatever else is out there in Alpha Centauri.

Luther rightly wanted to bring an awareness of God's awesomeness into our lives, but the next step is to bring our lives into the awesomeness of God's living Creation. Luther was focused on Philosophy, while we can also consider the Cosmology of Creation, the study of how things came to be (“Big Bang,” “Intelligent Design,” assorted Time-Space Astrophysics theories, etc.). Perhaps I am just latching on to fancy ways to say “faith” and “science” can work together to create wisdom.

Creation should, by its very awesomeness, inspire us: fill us with breath and life and holy zeal. The verb “create” implies that it is done for a purpose, and we are created such that we can seek to understand and live out our individual and collective purposes. The mere existence of Creation, coupled with our realization of it, thus implores us to be good and intentional stewards of that which we can and should influence.

When we think about the Universe and our stewardship roles, some think we have immense responsibilities. But we probably should start smaller. For example, such big thinking does not call us to be disciples of a climate change religion, or whatever pseudo-science / pseudo-religion / pseudo-scam comes next. That is hubris. We should probably try to recycle though, when we can.

There are two aspects of Creation we too often forget about in that debate. First, God also created in us a respect for truth and integrity, and those who claim “the science is settled” speak a vicious, self-serving, and ultimately foolish oxymoron. Science is a process by which we unsettle things in order to learn more, and I will continue to believe that until someone proves me wrong!

Second, if there is a Creation, then we should think more about the Creator. Some say that the Bible or the scriptures of other faiths are insights about the

Creator. Some say such writings are just myths telling us only a little about ourselves. But if we are a part of Creation, a part that we can study, maybe our occasional but persistent need to ascribe existence to a Creator is itself a hint about the existence of the Creator.

Some interesting stories about relationships have explored the tension and interrelationship of diverse but interacting world views: Watson and Holmes, Kirk and Spock, and Tigger and Owl come to mind. Maybe that is part of why there are two creation accounts at the beginning of the Bible, at Genesis 1:1 and at 2:4. We Christians can live with that tension. We are tough. We are created that way.

We'll leave the fact that there are four Gospels for next month, when we join Luther in considering the Creed's professions on Redemption. - Godspeed, -PJ

THE SAINT SIMON WINDOW

[Another history note from our files] - PJ

Saint Bartholomew "is known as having been among the zealots of Israel at the time of his calling to discipleship by Our Lord. His symbols of a fish laying atop a book are used to emphasize his role as a fisher through the gospel. Tradition tells us that he and Saint Thaddeus labored together in Persia (now Iran) on behalf of the Gospel. These two apostles were martyred in Persia on the same day, October 28th, which is now their combined feast day. This window is presented to the glory of God in loving memory of Mr. James Lamar Cottrell and in honor of Mrs. Alene Wiederhold Cottrell by their children, family and friends. This window was created by Robert & Elizabeth Foster of Foster Stained Glass Studio, Bryan, Texas."



PLEASE PRAY FOR SOME GREAT PEOPLE

- Beth Campbell - Brooke David - Carol Dismukes - Doris Georges - Beth Gold - Rachel Gold - John Kieschnick - Linda Kieschnick - Kasey Kubena - Adeline Lindeman - Evelyn Loewe - John David Mikulin- Kaylin Mitchell - Laura Perry - Steve Perry - Harrison Pharis - Carol Richardson - Arnold Prazak - Anna Quinlin - Stephen Scott - Julia Spitzenberger - Kevin Wang - Judy Westbrook - Ruth Wiederhold - Carisa Woodward - Patricia Wubbenhorst
- Mitchell Bage, Sherry Bage's brother
- Amber Brockenbush, the Przaks' granddaughter
- Wesley Banks, Lola Wiederhold's brother
- D Caldwell, Audrey Kubena's uncle
- Tyler & Annie Collins & family, friends
- Dee Hitchcock, the Campbells' neighbor
- Sandra Countryman, Carol Richardson's friend
- Jordan Fraley and child, Audrey Kubena's sister
- Kimberly Hervey, Virginia Shows' daughter-in-law
- Marianne Pieskee, Brad Hoover's GM-in-law
- Tony Trejo, Jerry & Janelle Gold's grandson
- Gene Walsh, Arnold & Ruby Prazak's son-in-Law
- Darby Whitaker, Adeline Lindemann's daughter
- Jalane Wiederhold, Douglas Wiederhold's sister-in-law
- Those mourning the deaths of Suzanne Buechner, CW & Mary Hales, Ronnie Langham, Doug Rackel, Orfila Rangel, Lisa Wahed, Mildred Wiederhold & Doug Wood
- Our Newborns: Marcia/Blake Kocerek & Lynlee, Lindsay/Adam Matthiessen & Karter
- Our College Students: Grant Gold & Kellyn Hervey
- Our Military: Dylan McCartenly & Josh Spitzenberger
- Our Confirmands: Leslie Guajardo, Emma McClain, & Carisa Woodward
- Our Sunday School Students of all ages

PRAY FOR GOD'S GLORY, AND ACT ACCORDINGLY

- Churches & ministries of service, scholarship, & care.
- Wise political, business, family & institutional leaders
- Unity, love, & energy in our community, state & nation.
- All we need to live out God's ideals, and to rejoice in God.
- The unemployed, and all who seek their callings.
- The ill, injured, hospitalized, addicted, infirm, in pain or dying.
- Those in spiritual need, burdened by sin, or unrepentant.
- Those in conflicts, crises, wars, disasters, epidemics, & violence.
- Emergency responders, medical workers, & military.
- Children, parents, and all families, that they be filled with love.

DECEMBER 2020 CROSSWORD

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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54					55					56		
57					58					59		




Across

- Balaam's Donkey.
- _____ of Solomon.
- _____ city is like unto this great city? (Rev 18:18)
- So they _____ both together. (John 20:4)
- Greek Porch.
- Woe to them that are at _____ in Zion. (Amos 6:1)
- Jether's son.
- Outer portion of the earth.
- Deliver us from _____. (Matt. 6:13)
- Wise men.
- As a hen gathereth her _____ under her wings. (Matt. 23:37)
- Quiet!
- Spanish article (plural).
- Bartholomew's other name.
- Give us this _____ our daily bread. (Matt. 6:11)
- When ye pray, _____ not vain repetitions. (Matt. 6:7)
- Son of Shema.
- Lyrical poem of praise.
- Woman's nickname.
- Son of Thunder.
- Possible nickname for one of Jesus' disciples.
- Let us _____ good unto all men.
- Surname of Judas.
- First garden.
- Goliath's height: six cubits and a _____.
- Crowning work of God's creation.
- Tokyo's former name.

- Matthew's other name.
- Westernmost U.S. city.
- Upward (comb. form).
- Two hundred _____ and twenty rams (gift to Esau). (Gen. 32:14)
- His tail _____ the third part of the stars. (Rev. 12:4)
- Jacob's fifth son.

Down

- Son of Shem.
- Abram's spouse.
- Unforseen obstacle.
- Draft system.
- Affected with (comb. form).
- Ark builder.
- Thou art a _____. (Mark 14:70)
- Seventy _____ are determined (Dan. 9:24)
- If I _____ walked with vanity. (Job 31:5)
- There is _____ (2 words) not unto death. (1 John 5:16)
- Telephones (informal).
- Hebrew for "Adam."
- What Jesus did to the sea.
- Phoenix was a good _____. (Acts 27:12, LB)
- Father of Joshua.
- Third King of Judah.
- _____ virgins. (Matt. 25:1)
- The name of his wife _____, _____ the names of his two sons. (Ruth 1:2)
- _____, I am warm, I have seen the fire. (Isa. 44:16)
- For a living _____ is better than a dead lion. (Eccles. 9:4)
- Summer refreshment.
- Yea of Aye.
- The loving hind and pleasant _____. (Prov. 5:19)
- Zoan.
- There was an _____ that is called Patmos. (Rev. 1:9)
- I will _____ the out of my mouth. (Rev. 3:16)
- Burial place of Jesus.
- An _____ of sweet smell. (Phil. 4:18)
- But the tongue can no man _____. (James 3:8)
- Salt sea.
- Ferber or Millay.
- Hour of Christ's death.
- To confine in a cage.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
The Next Six Weeks at Saint John's LC, Dime Box, TX			CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: Schedule change: Service now at 6:00pm.				
⁶ 2nd Advent Sunday Worship 9:00 am With Communion Fellowship & Sunday School Follow Readings: Isaiah 40:1-4, Psalm 805, 2 Peter 3:8-14, Mark 1:1-8 Reader: Shirley Gold Acolyte: Carisa Woodward Communion Assistants: Jerry Gold, Joyce Lerche Church Election Mtg	⁷ Women's Bible Study 6:30pm	⁸	⁹ Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Men's Bible Study 6:30pm	¹⁰	¹¹ PBJ TBD	¹²	
¹³ 3rd Advent Sunday Worship 9:00am LBW II Fellowship & Sunday School Follow Readings: Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11, Psalm 1126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28 Reader: Janelle Gold Acolyte: Kadence Wiederhold	¹⁴ Women's Bible Study 6:30pm	¹⁵ Helping Hands Workday 9:00am	¹⁶ Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Men's Bible Study 6:30pm	¹⁷ Church Council Meeting 7:00pm	¹⁸ PBJ TBD	¹⁹	
²⁰ 4th Advent Sunday Worship 9:00am With Communion Fellowship & Sunday School Follow Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16, Psalm 89: 1-5 (19-29), Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38 Reader: Danita Smith Acolyte: Stewart Hervey Communion Assistant: Joyce Lerche	²¹ Women's Bible Study 6:30pm	²²	²³ Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Men's Bible Study 6:30pm	²⁴ Christmas Eve Service 6:00pm	²⁵ Merry Christmas !	²⁶	
²⁷ 1st Christmas Sunday Worship 9:00am Fellowship & Sunday School Follow Readings: Isaiah 61:10- 62:3, Psalm 111, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:22-40 Reader: Audrey Kubena Acolyte: Blake Scott	²⁸ Women's Bible Study 6:30pm	²⁹	³⁰ Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Men's Bible Study 6:30pm	³¹	¹ January 2021 (H.N.Y!) (Will it ever get here?)	²	
³ 2nd Christmas Sunday Worship 9:00am With Communion Fellowship & Sunday School Follow Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-15, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12 Reader: Kim Shows Acolyte: Carisa Woodward Communion Assistant: Jan Perry	⁴ Women's Bible Study 6:30pm	⁵	⁶ (Epiphany Day) Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Men's Bible Study 6:30pm	⁷	⁸ PBJ TBD	⁹	
¹⁰ Baptism of Our Lord and Installation of Council Fellowship and Sunday School Follow Readings: Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 29, Romans 6:1-11, Mark 1:4-11 Reader: Crystal Scott Acolyte: Kadence Wiederhold	¹¹ Women's Bible Study 6:30pm	¹²	¹³ Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Men's Bible Study 6:30pm	¹⁴	¹⁵ PBJ TBD	¹⁶	
December: Ushers: Mark Richardson, Steve Scott & Judson Gold <i>Altar Guild:</i> Danita Smith & Jan Perry January: Ushers: Aaron Hervey & Chris Kieschnick <i>Altar Guild:</i> Mary & Julia Spitzenberger			<i>Please send calendar & prayer list updates to Pr. Joe at 406-366-2611 or leavengood@gmx.com</i>				
		GREEK BIBLE WORD OF THE MONTH: προσδοκάω = "prosdoxao" = Pros DOKS ow = I wait for UPCOMING LCMC EVENT: January 5 - 7, 2021 9th Annual "Three Days of Prayer" At Every LCMC Congregation				 DEEP THOUGHTS Atheists are the people who do not recognize the god or gods they serve. Is it ironic how reason thinks it has the world to itself?	

SAINT JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

8235 FM 141,

Dime Box, Texas, 77853

KNOCK-KNOCKS

This month, subscribers to the electronic version of the newsletter get two extra pages, which follow this page, and where paper readers get a mailing address label and a used stamp in this space, e-readers get three free and almost new knock-knock jokes and two fully refurbished bulletin bloopers. Everyone still gets all of the typos.

Knock, Knock. Who's there?
Hosanna. Hosanna who?
Hosanna Claus gets down the chimney, I'll never know

Knock, Knock. Who's there?
Sam. Sam who?
Sam person who knocked last time.

Knock, Knock. Who's there?
Toyoda. Toyoda Who?
Toyoda be a law against knock-knock jokes.

"Due to the Rector's illness, Wednesday's healing services will be discontinued until further notice."

"The music for today's service was all composed by George Friedrich Handel in celebration of the 300th anniversary of his birth."

MAY THE GRACE AND PEACE OF GOD BE WITH YOU THIS CHIRSTMAS AND ALWAYS!

WORD SEARCH – CHRISTMAS FOODS AROUND THE WORLD

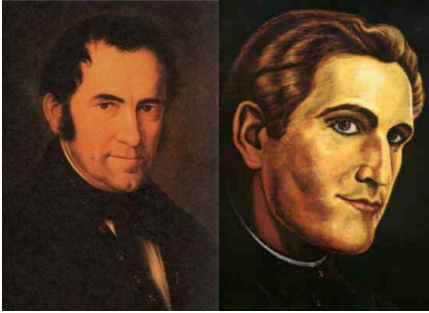
A V G O L E M O N O Y G M P F Q Y L K K E E K H I
S E N A C Y D N A C V K L R L T W R N C Z W W K Q
K U I K U L K U L S H W U A S F I E L I K V V N Z
Z D D U A E I P E C N I M N U F X I J B T Y I F O
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I C U C A L O Y M C Q X J E V K T B L A S E W S B
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Q C J M E B R Z N I L I E H L M M T A B K P V S K
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D X R Z F A A U G G L G I T A I E P A A J C J D M
R C A W S V P S F O S B G E H R N L C T S H E Q Q
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Z Q E X D J F I N W W V C O O K I E S M R D R T F
D R O X R B Z H A V Q W U Z G G V R N E A R Y I C
U R M Y L J P F E V J L W T I X H F H N T T R E M
C U J I J U H D G F Z M N X B U R J C U O F N X S
N R G L H X I C W V W U A Z T H K E G D B D N L C
S C K Q C E R L Z U K Y T A H U R X T O S T Q Q X
T Z B V Z U O R M J R D B B O R B I H E T V F Q Y

- AVGOLEMONO
- BIBINGKA
- CANDY CANES
- COOKIES
- EGGNOG
- FRUITCAKE
- FUDGE
- HALLACAS
- KULKULS
- LATKES
- MINCEPIE
- PEPPERMINTS
- POLVORONES
- PUNCH
- SACHERTORTE
- TAMALES
- TURKEY
- BEIGLI
- BIGOS
- CHINESE KFC
- CRANBERRIES
- EMPANADAS
- FRUIT PIES
- GINGERBREAD
- HAM
- KURISUMASU KEIKI
- MENUDO
- PECAN PIE
- PLUM PUDDING
- POPCORN BALLS
- RISALAMANDE
- STOLLEN
- TARTS
- ZAKUSKI

Plus, for animal lovers, also hidden in this puzzle are 11 names for Reindeer. Can you find them?

MERRY CHIRSTMAS!

HYMN HISTORY OF THE MONTH: SILENT NIGHT



Franz Gruber and Joseph Mohr

It was Christmas Eve in the Austrian Alps. At the newly constructed Church of St. Nicholas in Oberndorf, a Tyrol village near Salzburg, Father Joseph Mohr prepared for the midnight service. He was distraught because the church organ was broken, ruining prospects for that evening's carefully planned music. But Father Joseph was about to learn that our problems are God's opportunities, that the Lord causes all things to work together for good to those who love Him. It came into Father Joseph's mind to write a new song, one that could be sung organless. Hastily, he wrote the words, "Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright..." Taking the text to his organist, Franz Gruber, he explained the situation and asked Franz to compose a simple tune.



That night, December 24, 1818, "Silent Night" was sung for the first time as a duet accompanied by a guitar at the aptly named Church of St. Nicholas in Oberndorf.

Shortly afterward, as Karl Mauracher came to repair the organ, he heard about the near disaster on Christmas Eve. Acquiring a copy of the text and tune, he spread it throughout the alpine region of Austria, referring to it as "Tiroler Volkslied." [Tyrolian Folk Song]

The song came to the attention of the Strasser family, makers of fine chamois-skin gloves. To drum up business at various fairs and festivals, the four Strasser children would sing in front of their parent's booth. Like the Von Trapp children a century later, they became popular folk singers throughout the Alps.



Not the actual Strasser Family Singers

When the children – Caroline, Joseph, Andreas and Amalie – began singing "Tiroler Volkslied" at their performances, audiences were charmed. It seemed perfect for the snow-clad region, and perfect for the Christian heart. "Silent Night" even came to the attention of the king and queen, and the Strasser children were asked to give a royal performance, assuring the carol's fame.

"Silent Night" was first published for congregational singing in 1838 in the German hymnbook, *Katholisches Gesang – und Gebetbuch für den öffentlichen und häuslichen Gottesdienst zunächst zum Gebrauche der katholischen Gereinden im Königreiche Sachsen.** It was used in America by German-speaking congregations, then appeared in its current English form in a book of Sunday School songs in 1863.

Were it not for a broken organ, there would never have been a "Silent Night."

- From Then Sings my Soul, by Robert J. Morgan, 2003, Thomas Nelson Press.



Not an actual broken organ

* Roughly translates as: "Catholic song and prayer book primarily for the public and domestic Holy Service, for the use of the Catholic People in the Kingdom of Saxony." Perhaps all the shorter names were already taken.

FESTIVAL DAYS - FROM SUNDAYS & SEASONS

December 7: Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, died 397.

Ambrose was a governor of northern Italy and a catechumen when he was elected bishop of Milan. He was baptized, ordained, and consecrated a bishop within one week's time. While bishop he gave away his wealth and lived in simplicity. He was a famous preacher and is largely responsible for the conversion of Augustine. He is also well known for writing hymns. On one occasion, Ambrose led people in a hymn he wrote while the church in which they were secluded was threatened by attack from Gothic soldiers. The soldiers turned away, unwilling to attack a congregation that was singing a hymn. Ambrose is credited with authorship of three hymns in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship, including "Savior of the Nations Come" (ELW 263, LBW 28).

December 20: Katharina von Bora Luther, Renewer of the church, died 1552: Born to an impoverished nobleman, when Katharina (Katie) was five her mother died and she was sent to live in a convent. She later took vows as a nun, but around age twenty-four she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent, and she eventually married him. Six children were born to Katie and Martin. Though initially Luther felt little affection for Katie, she proved herself a gifted household manager and became a trusted partner. She was so influential that Luther took to calling her "my lord Katie."

[Editor's note: As a nun, Katie was trained to brew beer, a practice she kept up throughout her life.]

ON THIS DAY IN DECEMBER:

This month in History, from: <http://www.historyplace.com/>

December 1, 1918 - Iceland was granted independence by the Danish parliament.

December 2, 1804 - Napoleon Bonaparte was crowned Emperor of France by Pope Pius VII in Paris.

December 3, 1931 - Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Ireland, & Newfoundland become independent.

December 4, 1791 - The *Observer*, now the world's oldest Sunday newspaper, first published in Britain.

December 5, 1492 - Christopher Columbus arrived at Haiti.

December 6, 1865 - The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, abolishing slavery.

December 7, 1787 - Delaware became the first state to adopt the new U.S. constitution.

December 8, 1941 - A day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the U.S. and Britain declared war on Japan.

December 9, 1990 - Lech Walesa won a landslide victory in the Polish presidential election.

December 10, 1989 - The first non-Communist government since 1948 took power in Czechoslovakia.

December 11, 1845 - The first Anglo-Sikh War in India began as the Sikhs attacked British colonial forces.

December 12, 1745 - Diplomat/Author/Chief Justice John Jay (1745-1829) was born in New York City.

December 13, 1642 - Dutch navigator Abel Tasman discovered New Zealand.

December 14, 1911 - Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen became the first to reach the South Pole.

December 15, 1791 - The Bill of Rights became effective following ratification by Virginia.

December 16, 1773 - Colonial activists disguised as Indians dumped 342 tea crates into Boston Harbor.

December 17, 1903 - First powered, controlled airplane flights by Wright brothers, near Kitty Hawk, NC.

December 18, 1916 - World War I Battle of Verdun ends; 543,000 French and 434,000 German killed.

December 19, 1998 - House of Representatives impeached Bill Clinton, for lying and obstructing justice.

December 20, 1989 - U.S. invasion toppled the regime of Panama's narco-dictator Manuel Noriega.

December 21, 1988 - Pan American Flight 103 destroyed by terrorist bomb over Lockerbie, Scotland.

December 22, 1783 - Victorious Commander-in-Chief George Washington resigned his commission.

December 23, 1888 - Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh cut off his left ear during a fit of depression.

December 24, 1814 - U.S. and Britain sign the Treaty of Ghent ending the War of 1812.

December 24, 1990 - The bells of Moscow's St. Basil's Cathedral rang for the first time since Lenin's death.

December 25, 1868 - Pres. Andrew Johnson granted general amnesty to all involved in the Civil War.

December 26, 2004 - Indian Ocean Earthquake and Tsunami kill about 230,000 persons in a dozen countries.

December 27, 1945 - The International Monetary Fund was established in Washington, D.C.

December 28, 1947 - Victor Emmanuel III, the last King of Italy, died while in exile in Alexandria, Egypt.

December 29, 1890 - 7th Cavalry massacred 200+ Sioux men, women & children at Wounded Knee, SD.

December 30, 1803 - U.S. took formal possession of the 885,000 square mile territory of Louisiana.

December 31, 1879 - Thomas Edison demonstrated first electric incandescent lamp, in Menlo Park, NJ.