



# The Eagle December 2022



## St. John Lutheran Church & Preschool

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Hamilton, TX 76531

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### Website:

[www.stjohnhamilton.org](http://www.stjohnhamilton.org)

[www.pastoraaronkalbas.com](http://www.pastoraaronkalbas.com)

*May we continue to be used by  
God and share the Gospel with*



This year, the theme for our Mid-Week Advent Worship is Entitled

### - THE GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS -

This time of year, along with all the Christmas parties and getting the decorations out and the tree up, sending cards, making the office Christmas party and all the other little traditions that go along with Christmas, one thing that is special for many people is taking an evening or two to watch some of the classic Christmas movies: Frosty the Snowman, Rudolf, It's a Wonderful Life. But of all the Christmas movies and stories, none is as well-known and beloved as Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol—the story of old Ebenezer Scrooge, the meanest, most selfish and despicable man in London.

This tale has endured for over 150 years because it is most of all a story of hope, a story of second chances, and a story of being transformed by Christmas. Who among us doesn't desire such things?

This year our midweek Advent worship will revolve around a series of sermons that use the theme of Dickens classic to help us prepare for and experience a deeper and more meaningful Christmas.

A meaningful Christmas is exactly what we need. A moment to catch our breath in the middle of the rush. Advent is becoming more aware of what God is doing in our lives and in the world. Whatever has us rushing from place to place can wait for just a moment. Stop. Take a deep breath. Enjoy your friends and family. Take in the beauty of the decorations. Pray and worship.

Across the church, Advent is the season of slowing down, of waiting and watching.

Advent is the time that we set aside to prepare our hearts for the coming of our Lord Jesus.

Because if we do not slow down, we will miss it.

We will miss the quiet hush of God, telling us that we are loved. We will miss the humble Mary and Joseph, slowly traveling to Bethlehem. And most importantly, we will miss that it is all for us.

So let's enjoy it. Let's slow down, and take it all in. In the midst of this busy season, set extra time aside for prayer. Join us for worship on Wednesday Evenings, November 30 and December 7 and 14.

Allow yourself to take a break just to enjoy the holiness and beauty of this wonderful time of year.

Joyfully,

*Aaron Kalbas*  
**Pastor Aaron Kalbas**



# The Eagle December 2022



## The Christmas Story

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

ANGEL  
BETHLEHEM  
CAMELS  
CATTLE  
DONKEY  
EAST  
GIFTS

MANGER  
MARY  
MYRRH  
SHEEP  
SHEPHERDS  
STAR  
WISE MEN

GOLD  
HOLY SPIRIT  
EMMANUEL  
INCENSE  
JESUS  
JOSEPH  
MAGI

©Activities1



# The Eagle December 2022

## Finance Update

St. John Lutheran  
**Statement of Income and Expense by Major Group**  
 October of Fiscal Year 2022  
 Responsibility: All  
 Fund: 01 - General

	Current Month		Year-to-date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
<b>Income</b>				
00-Group 00	47,212.00	53,457.93	414,602.00	464,520.23
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>47,212.00</b>	<b>53,457.93</b>	<b>414,602.00</b>	<b>464,520.23</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
04-Board of Outreach	623.00	2,039.67	8,855.00	6,167.93
10-Board of Elders	13,747.33	20,497.48	153,919.30	164,303.50
12-Board of Education	546.00	966.17	15,709.00	13,243.33
13-Board of Trustees	8,763.00	12,963.89	88,796.00	154,570.35
14-Board of Finance	4,019.00	9,301.18	41,442.00	40,771.49
16-Preschool Board	9,923.67	18,864.37	89,430.70	111,999.18
20-Memorial Expenditures	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21-Non-Budget Expense	0.00	993.00	0.00	11,895.91
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>37,622.00</b>	<b>65,625.76</b>	<b>398,152.00</b>	<b>502,951.69</b>
<b>Income Less Expense</b>	<b>\$9,590.00</b>	<b>-\$12,167.83</b>	<b>\$16,450.00</b>	<b>-\$38,431.46</b>

*In loving memory of*

**John Schoedel**

St. John Men's Club

Thomas & Linda Erwin

**Betty Hardin**

St. John General Fund

Daniel & Verna Fritz, Sutton, Johnna & Quincy Page



**If you requested Offering Envelopes for 2023, they are available in the back of the church. Please do not use them until January. And please do not use your old envelopes after December. All numbers have changed. Thank you!**





# The Eagle December 2022

## *Anniversaries*

11th	Quin & Lindsey Hanson	18 Yrs.
13th	Lucas & Kristen Robinson	9 Yrs.
23rd	Gary & Tootie Schoen	56 Yrs.
29th	Roy & Tracy Seider	4 Yrs.

## *Birthdays*

5th	Ethan Kalbas
6th	Kade McKandless
7th	Meg Gruetznier
8th	Cora Hurst, Grace Hurst, Doyle Roberts
9th	LaVerne Brown, Lillie Kalbas
11th	Chrissy Kensing
13th	Kelsi Clowdus, Jerry Zschiesche
14th	Kasey Kunkel
15th	Roberta Craig
17th	Avery Hall
19th	Doyle Cook, Amber Tyson
20th	Johnny Clark, Joyce Kunkel
21st	Colton Jones
24th	Reagan Wagner
25th	Melissa DeLaGarza, Chelsi Hall
26th	Henlee Wagner
27th	Ellie Kalbas, Bonnye Wenzel, Irene Zaruba
28th	Lindsey Hanson
30th	Jane Wagner, Jewell Zimmerman

## *Baptisms*

2nd	Layton Stork
3rd	Kade McKandless
8th	Brenda Schrank
10th	Ima Roberts
12th	Martin Wenzel
15th	Lois Hungerford
16th	Sharolyn Lawson, Billie Looney
17th	Maycon Stork, John Robinson
19th	Geraldine Kautzsch
21st	Mary Jeffers, Ethan Kalbas
22nd	Danna Hurst
23rd	Kaitlyn Walton
24th	Emily Wagner
31st	Chelsi Hall, Reagan Wagner



## Upcoming December Events

4th -	MITE BOX SUNDAY 11:15am Bd of Elders 1:30pm Nursing Home Devotions
11th -	11:15am Bd. Of Trustees 11:15am Bd. Of Outreach
13th -	5:30pm Bd. Of Finance
18th -	11:15am Preschool Bd.



# The Eagle December 2022

Devote yourselves to  
**PRAYER**  
being watchful and thankful.  
Col. 4:2

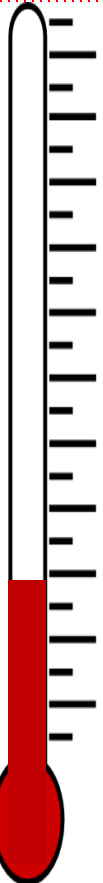
**Breakfast and  
Sunday School  
Sundays 9:00am**

**Church Worship  
Sundays 10:00am  
(Live streamed on  
Facebook )**

**Quilting  
Tuesday 9:00am**



## BUILDING FUND



\$ 230,000

\$ 200,000

\$ 150,000

\$ 100,000

\$ 68,248  
Current

\$ 50,000

### T Our Military & Families:

Ross Bates, Travis Beach, Josh Chorenziak, Isaac Jerrell, Krista Jerrell, Matthew Medina, Ernie Mendez, Payden Nolen, Cade Roenne, John Slough, Warren Stanley, Micah Stork, Brennan Stroud, Garrett White.

### T Our Homebound & Nursing Facility Residents

**Focused Care:** Kendra Code, Frances Donahoo, Lillye Sanders, Jewell Zimmerman, Geraldine Kauitzsch **Hamilton Health Care:** Corene Streger, Katherine Hopper **Gatesville:** Maxine Wenzel **Home bound:** Ricky Brown, Artie Peters, Frances Schrank, Nell Helm camp, Barbara Jahns, Irene Zaruba, Rita Oldham

### T Our Members:

**Justin Melde**—Slowly improving

### T Our Friends:

**Oralia Alverado** - (Angie Tawater's mother) various health issues

**Noland Arbaugh** - (Friend of Darryl & Michelle Beach) praying for complete healing of his paralysis

**Molly Beach** - (Niece of Darryl & Michelle Beach) suffering from an auto-immune disease

**Bobby Cathey** - (Tammy Wagner & Joe Cathey's father) various health issues

**Gene DeLoach** - declining

**Justin Monk** - cancer has returned

**Kellie Revelos** - (Andy Ivey's sister) cancer has returned, pursuing treatment

**Ossie Scott** - (Doyle Robert's Sister) cancer has returned

### T Praise and Thanks -

### T For those who Grieve - The Family of Gina Sellers

**T Special Prayers** - Covid-19; Teachers & students; President & Government Officials; Medical Professionals; First Responders & Rescue crews; Fires and firefighters; Rain; The war in Ukraine

**Please contact the church office at 254-386-3158 with updates on prayer requests for friends and loved ones. Thank you.**



## St. Paul Christian Academy Providing Christ-Centered Outreach

### The Littlest and Least of These — St. Paul Lutheran Church and Christian Academy — \$42,000

2021–2023 Biennium  
Mission Goal:

**\$2,150,000**

Mission Grant #15

**\$42,000**

*"Let the children  
come to me; do not  
hinder them, for to  
such belongs the  
kingdom of God"*  
(Mark 10:14b).

St. Paul Lutheran Church and Christian Academy in Dallas, Texas, located in a poor community of mostly unchurched families, offers Christ-centered early childhood education, before and after school care, and adult academic and Bible classes. St. Paul Lutheran Church is responding to the needs of families with a Christ-centered merciful outreach ministry. In a community dealing with intergenerational poverty and the challenges that come with it, the Christian Academy is available to help.

This grant is for the renovation of the fellowship hall of St. Paul Lutheran Church to better serve more children and adults in the Christian Academy. The Academy is planning to add on-site and online classes for young adults and parents in academic subjects, health and fitness, as well as Bible studies for new Christians. The grant allows for upgrades to the kitchen to meet state codes which will allow the feeding of the children daily – rather than relying on a catering firm – and to serve meals to parents, parishioners, and the community during special events.

By renovating this older building, the congregation and school can expand its preschool, infant care, before/after school education, and community outreach. It will provide functional space for classes and training programs such as: General Education Diploma (GED) classes, Computer Technology, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, boys/girls mentoring, health and fitness training, job application and interviewing skills, healthy cooking classes, gardening, financial planning, parenting skills, as well as hosting Bible studies, satellite worship services, family fun nights, and other special programs and assemblies.

With its commitment to excellence, compassion, and faith, St. Paul members, volunteers, teachers, and staff can reach the community, helping change the lives of families by providing a safe and caring environment, healthy food, sound education, and the proclamation of the Good News of the Gospel.

Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Gray, Director, Black and African Missions, LCMS, stated: "Years of prayerful planning and faithful preaching led the congregation to establish St. Paul Christian Academy, the only Lutheran Christian Academy serving the historic Oak Cliff community and the lone African American congregation in LCMS Texas District with a Lutheran Christian Academy."

For more information regarding the work of St. Paul Lutheran Church and Christian Academy go to: [mystpauldallas.org](http://mystpauldallas.org).

Learn more about this mission grant at [lwml.org/mission-grants](http://lwml.org/mission-grants)



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**4 Letter Words**

BELL  
SNOW

**5 Letter Words**

ANGEL  
COCOA  
ELVES  
HOLLY

**6 Letter Words**

LIGHTS  
SLEIGH  
TINSEL  
WINTER  
WREATH

**7 Letter Words**

CHIMNEY  
GARLAND  
PAGEANT  
RUDOLPH  
SNOWMAN

**8 Letter Words**

CAROLING  
DECEMBER  
EXCHANGE  
ORNAMENT  
PRESENTS  
REINDEER  
WRAPPING

**9 Letter Words**

CHESTNUTS  
CHRISTMAS  
EVERGREEN  
FRUITCAKE  
MISTLETOE  
NORTH POLE

**10 Letter Words**

POINSETTIA  
SANTA CLAUS

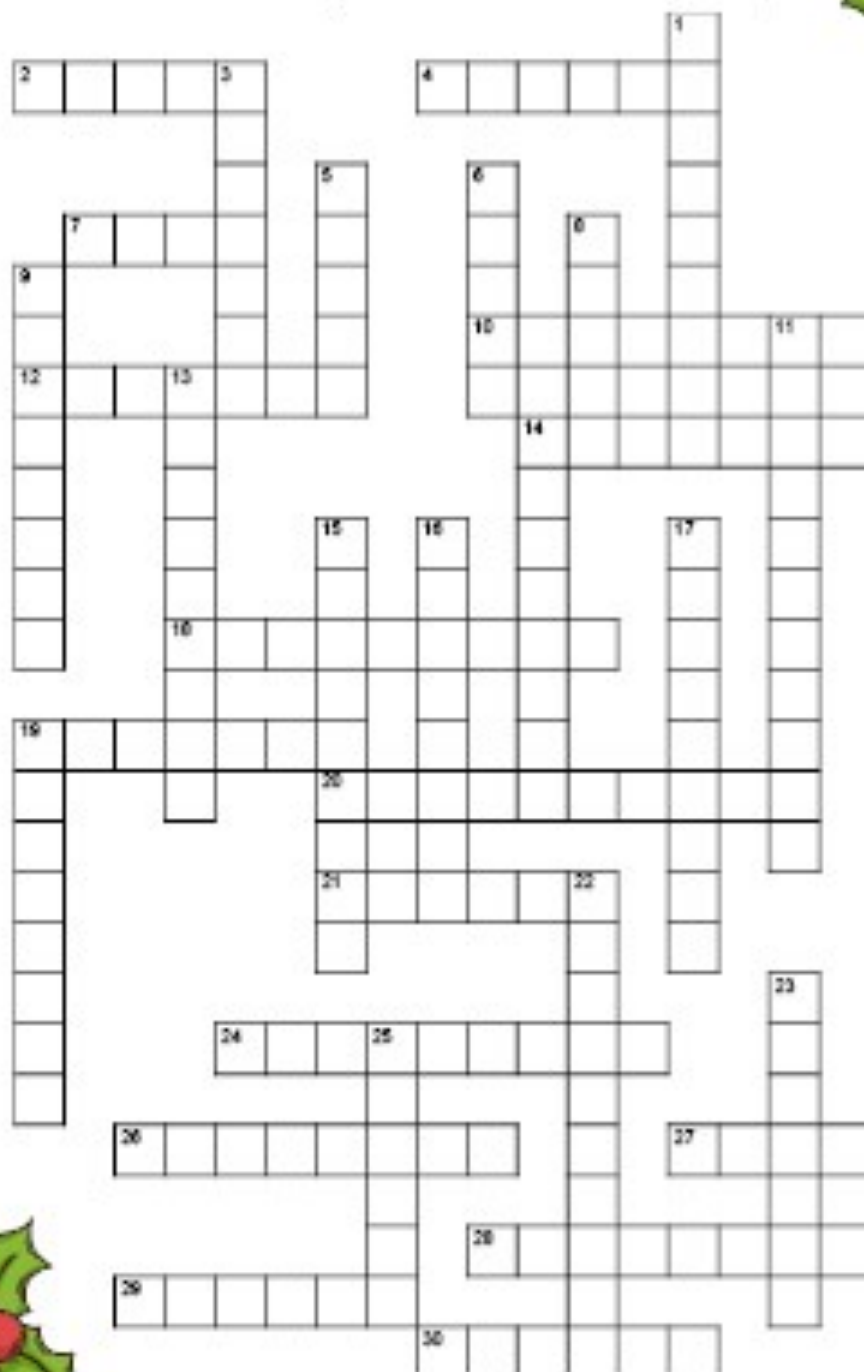
**11 Letter Word**

GINGERBREAD

# Christmas Joy



**DIRECTIONS:** Fill in the crossword grid with the provided words.







# The Eagle December 2022

## Away in a Manger

1887

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His  
sweet head.

The stars in the sky look down  
where He lay,

The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the  
hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby  
awakes.

But little Lord Jesus, no crying He  
makes.

I love Thee Lord Jesus, look down  
from the sky,

And stay by my cradle till morning  
is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to  
stay

Close by me forever, and love me, I  
pray.

Bless all the dear children in Thy  
tender care.

And take us to heaven to live with  
Thee there.

*Music Notes by:*

*Gary Gromatzky*

*This is commonly known as “Luther’s Cradle Hymn.” But did the great German Reformer, Martin Luther, really write the words? Did he sing them by the cradle of his little son, Hans? This is a great mystery in hymnology.*

*In 1887, “Away in a Manger” appeared in a little book of songs entitled Dainty Songs for Little Lads and Lasses, published in Cincinnati by the John Church Company. The songbook was compiled by James R. Murray. A notation beneath “Away in a Manger” said Luther’s Cradle Hymn (Composed by Martin Luther for his children and still sung by German mothers to their little ones.) Only stanzas one and two were given.*

*“Away in a Manger” quickly became American’s favorite children’s carol, the words being sung to forty-one different tunes! Everyone assumed the poem had been written by the great Reformer, Martin Luther.*

*Then in 1945, Richard Hill published a fascinating article entitled “Not So Far Away in a Manger” in which he announced he had discovered the first two stanzas of “Away in a Manger” in an 1885 songbook entitled Little Children’s Book, published by German Lutherans in Pennsylvania. No authorship was given. Nor could Hill find any appearance of this carol in German church history or in Luther’s works.*

*After extensive research, Hill concluded: “It seems essential to lay [aside] once for all the legend that Luther wrote a carol for his children, which no one else knew anything about, until it suddenly turned up in English dress 400 years later in Philadelphia. Luther can well afford to spare the honor.” But he adds, “Although Luther himself had nothing to do with the carol, the colonies of German Lutherans in Pennsylvania almost certainly did.”*

*So the mystery endures. Who wrote “Away in a Manger?” There were apparently two unknown writers: A German Lutheran in Pennsylvania who wrote the first two stanzas, with another unknown author adding a third verse which first appeared in an 1892 songbook published by Charles H. Gabriel.*

*Well, who cares? Certainly not the generations of children around the world who have come to love and know the little Jesus through this sweet carol, and who have gone to sleep praying:*

*I love Thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.*



# The Candles of *Christmas*



Join us at St. John on Christmas Eve  
as we celebrate the birth of our Savior  
with our traditional children's pageant.

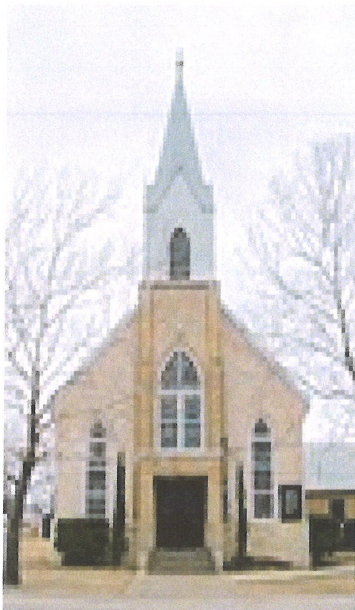
6:30 pm  
In the Sanctuary  
Dec. 24th





**Join us for the annual German worship  
service with lighting of the Christmas tree.  
Bring your family and friends!**

**St Paul Lutheran Church (Aleman)  
1446 FM 3340 Hamilton, TX 76531  
Reception following.. bring friends!  
Dec. 11th at 5:00 pm.  
Info? Kraig Kunkel at 817-992-5125**



**We welcome the  
handbell choir from  
St. Paul Lutheran in  
Fort Worth.**





# St. John Youth Activities



Decorate the Sanctuary  
Directly following  
The Thanksgiving Eve  
Service on **Nov. 23**

## MISSION TRIP SIGN UP

Grades 8-12

**Group Mission**

JULY 16-21

**Week of Hope**

AUSTIN , TEXAS

**Community Service**

VBS, Food Bank, Elderly, Homeless, Home help

Spend night in church, worship, serve , grow.

Cost \$50 non-refundable deposit + fundraising

## Caroling & Christmas Baskets

We will make about 40 baskets to deliver on our caroling. Please bring 20 –40 items that could be placed in basket. For example: hot cocoas, snacks, fruits, devotions, chapsticks, foods, etc. We will divide them into the baskets then deliver with our caroling. Be as creative as you like.



**DECEMBER 11**

## Friday, December 23

Jr. High and High School

Sign Up on the FLC Youth Board

Is your parent willing to drive a church van? Sponsors needed .

**Deadline to Sign up Dec 14**



Confirmation on Sunday **December 4 and 11** at 5:00-7:30

**ADVENT SERVICES**— learn how to work screen, sound and video this month

**NOV 30** Sound Jonathon Hurst, Screen Colton DeLaGarza, Video Addley Yates and Ryder Zschiesche

**DEC 7** Sound Piper Hanson, Screen Emma Johnson, Video Ethan Kalbas and Will Beber

**DEC 14** Sound Tag Gruetzner, Screen Easton Marwitz, Video Haley Hopper and Anna Beber

**DEC 21** Sound Emory McElroy, Screen Addy Clowdus, Video Daniel Olalde and Eli Marlar

**DEC 24** HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

If you cannot make it, please ask another youth to cover your job. High School will help train.

## January Senior Youth Meals

Thank you for volunteering to cook.

January 11— Chrissy Hopper

January 18— Dawn Johnson

January 25— Brittanie Clevenger

If anyone wants to help them, give them a call.

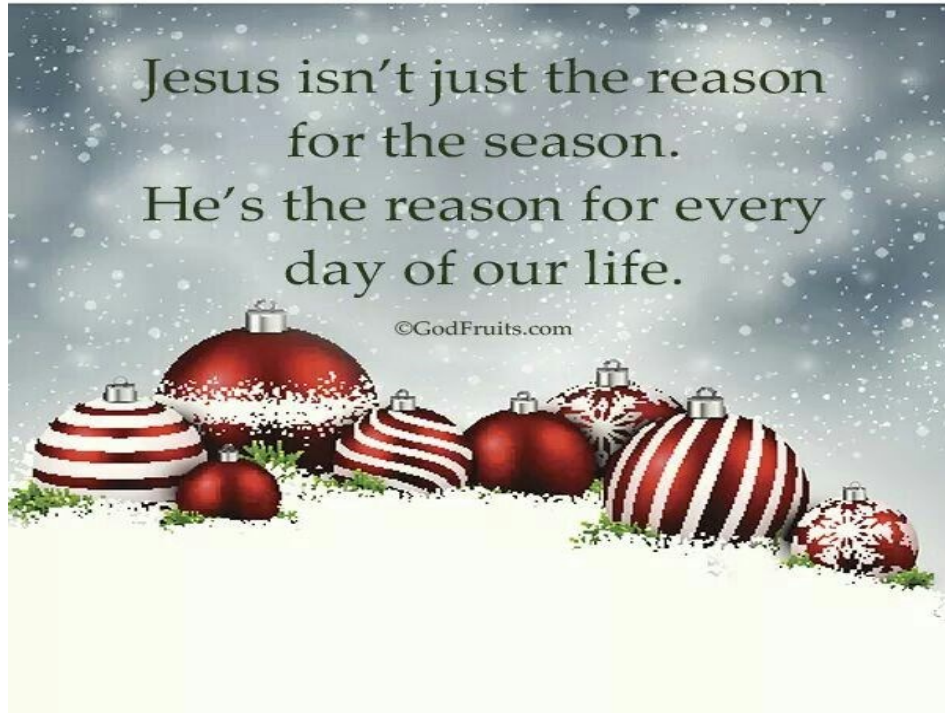


Thank you to our 2023 Board of Youth for giving your time to serve and plan for youth this upcoming year. Brittanie Clevenger, Cynthia Schoen, Angie Tawater, Josh Bauman, Reagan Reich ,Missy Marwitz.





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St. John Lutheran Church & Preschool

122 Cheyenne Mesa

Hamilton, Texas 76531

«First Names» «Last Names»

«Address»

«City, State Zip (5-digit)»