

THE MESSENGER
St. John Lutheran Church of Boerne
A Lutheran Congregation in Mission for Christ



DECEMBER 2016

Volume 87 No. 12



From Pastor Waters' Pen:

The Holidays are upon us once again, and once again we find ourselves caught up in the hustle and bustle of this most wonderful time of the year. The list of things you have to do is long, and the time you have to do it is short, but let me add one thing to your list: invite someone to church this season.

What if Mary had said “No”? God would still have loved her, but His plans for her and the world would have hit a major obstacle. Without Mary’s “yes,” there could be no Jesus; without Jesus’ birth, there could be no death; without His death, there could be no resurrection; without His resurrection, we could not be saved. But Mary said “yes,” and God worked through her to save you and me.

What if Joseph had said “No”? Jesus would not have had a home to live in or a father to look up to. What God asked of Joseph was a great inconvenience to him, but Joseph said “yes,” and through him God built a home for His Son.

What if the shepherds had said “No”? They were way “out in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night” when the angel spoke to them (Luke 2:8). What if they had kept it to themselves? There would have been no news from the angel for Mary and Joseph, no confirmation of the risks they had taken and God’s joy in what they had done. But the shepherds said “yes,” and God worked through them to encourage Mary and Joseph at the moment they needed it the most.

What if you say “No”? God will still love you, you won’t be inconvenienced, and you won’t have to go and tell like the shepherds. But if you say “yes,” how God might work through you to speak to someone in their moment of need! How God might work through you to speak to someone who is lonely! How God might work through you to save someone who doesn’t yet know His Son!

Yes, you’ve got a lot to do this Holiday Season, but add “invite someone to church” to your list. You never know what may happen when you don’t say “no.”

Pastor Eric Waters

Merry
Christmas

Christmas Eve in the Sanctuary

5:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

9:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Services

10:30 a.m. Historic Chapel

**From the President
December 2016**

Dear Friends,

I have enjoyed getting to know many of you during my term as president. As we approach the end of my two-year term, I look back at how far we have come. It has, no doubt, been challenging. The retirement of Pastor Schulte marked the end of an era and the subsequent call process imposed significant challenges on the Council and Call Committee. But the Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, provided us with the support needed to weather the storm. Now, we are poised on the brink of a new and exciting horizon for St John.

I am almost sad to be leaving the council. I feel somewhat like Moses, leading the Israelites through 40 years of trials and tribulations in the wilderness only to hand the leadership over to the second in command at the culmination of the journey. But I am luckier than Moses because I am still able to cross the Jordan and join in joyous celebration in the land flowing with milk and honey.

I look forward to continued participation in the life of St John and encourage you to be an active member. Your council has exciting plans for the future but those plans are only possible with your involvement. From my experience, the more you put into something, the more you get out of it. This is true for your job, schooling and your relationship with your spouse and children. The more you put into your church, the stronger relationship you build with fellow Christians. Paul wrote in Romans 1:11-12: "I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong—that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith." This mutual encouragement comes from being in close relationship with other Christians and the best way to do that is to be active participants in the church. If you are not already active, ask how you can get involved.

I would like to make one final point regarding relationships. There is one area where you get even more than you put in...that is your direct relationship with our Lord and Master. Through God's grace we are given much more than we ever deserve. If we got what we deserved, it would be a sad state of affairs. But our Father has promised infinite blessings and all we have to do is believe, trust, and rely fully on Him. Simple, right? Unfortunately, it is not always that easy. We are constantly tempted and distracted by the evil one. Sometimes those temptations are overt, while other times they are more subtle and difficult to discern. So how do we stay on the straight and narrow path to our Lord? The easiest way is to surround ourselves with other Christians who can keep us focused, which leads us back to Christian fellowship. The conclusion is that investing in Christian relationships can lead to a stronger relationship with our Father, resulting a heavenly reward.

In closing, I pray the Lord's blessings on you and your family during the Christmas season and in 2017.

Your servant in Christ,
Don Baker, President
St John Lutheran Church



St. John's Annual Christmas Dinner will be held December 13th following the late service. Please bring a dessert and join us in celebrating the Christmas season with the St. John family. It is a time of God showing His great love for us, a time of healing and renewed strength.

If you plan to attend, please pick up a free ticket at the information desk beginning November 20th. We will be serving rib eye steak, baked potato, three bean salad and plenty of fellowship!



St. John Lutheran Stewardship Committee

December 2016

God's Power, Not Ours

"⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." (Luke 2:4-14)

And so it was – the Savior of the world, Messiah, God in the flesh, was born in a barn among animals to an unwed teenager. Not exactly what you would expect, but then God has a habit of using average/everyday people to accomplish His work. Moses had a speech impediment and was tasked with leading God's people out of Egypt. Gideon was the "least among his tribe", but was selected to lead a band of 300 warriors to victory against an army of thousands. David was a shepherd boy that slayed a giant and later became Israel's greatest king.

You see, when God chooses you to do something, it is not necessarily because you are the most capable. Quite the opposite, by using the seemingly unqualified He is able to show His power through us. We should remember this the next time we are given the opportunity to serve. Don't evaluate your skill set against the task at hand. All that is necessary is to open your heart to allow God to lead you – He will take it from there.

Your Brother in Christ

Kyle Gass, Chair St John Lutheran Stewardship Committee

St. John Lutheran Church

Income and Attendance Comparison

Monthly Operating Income	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Through Oct
2016	\$116,162	\$83,342	\$83,889	\$73,044	\$80,790	\$72,368	\$81,646	\$87,909	\$70,448	\$91,671			\$841,269
2015	\$113,882	\$78,825	\$97,094	\$88,662	\$85,710	\$78,144	\$76,808	\$108,019	\$83,790	\$76,649	\$98,797	\$169,592	\$887,583
2014	\$79,577	\$80,376	\$91,001	\$83,972	\$69,069	\$85,906	\$71,314	\$93,774	\$69,963	\$72,021	\$97,063	\$181,124	\$796,973
2013	\$73,985	\$80,612	\$119,099	\$73,857	\$72,685	\$84,579	\$68,254	\$77,038	\$103,643	\$72,038	\$74,104	\$238,728	\$825,790
2012	\$92,201	\$70,693	\$73,719	\$92,636	\$84,668	\$77,665	\$86,270	\$76,057	\$81,583	\$64,804	\$83,705	\$234,934	\$800,296
2011	\$79,723	\$71,904	\$67,252	\$80,101	\$130,107	\$60,079	\$88,299	\$69,908	\$60,118	\$91,034	\$64,732	\$140,062	\$798,525
Avg. Wkly. Worship	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Ave. YTD
2016	421	386	477	370	341	376	357	420	383	375			391
2015	380	403	390	521	370	464	309	367	349	347	364	463	394
2014	439	419	419	509	420	381	378	378	392	398	383	425	412
2013	438	530	543	432	424	379	392	397	404	415	381	426	430
2012	393	477	463	566	424	386	361	392	351	369	445	423	421
2011	424	424	557	411	411	343	381	400	393	419	381	581	427

Children's Faith Formation

Lyn Anello * Director of Children's and Adult Ministry * 249-3651 ext. 210 * lyn@stjohnlutheran.com

SUNDAY, 12/11 at the 10:30 service!



A NEW TRADITION!

A MUSICAL TREAT FOR EVERYONE!

BE SURE TO JOIN US AS THE CHILDREN OF ST. JOHN
SHARE THEIR FAVORITE
CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND SUNDAY SCHOOL SONGS!
YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS IT!



NEED TIME TO FINISH UP YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING WITHOUT THE LITTLE ONES?

The Nursery staff will provide child care (children up to age 10) on Dec. 20th from 9am to 3pm. Cost is \$15/child, with a max of \$40 per family. Lunch included. Make your reservations no later than 12/18 by emailing tiffanyjureczki@hotmail.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! **Upcoming 2017 Events**

- January 1: Summer Camp Registration
- Lent: First Communion class (5th grade)
- June 12-16: VBS
- June 18- 23 (tentative): Camp Ebert (4th—6th grade)
- July 9-14 (tentative): Camp Chrysalis (1st -6th grade)
- July 24-28: Adventure for the City on-site day camp (1st—6th grade)



Friday, Dec. 16th
6pm — 10pm
\$10/Child \$30 max/family
Dinner included Nursery thru age 12
Contact: tiffanyjureczki@hotmail.com
to make reservations

Sunday School Schedule

9am: Parent drop off/sign in – Luther Hall
9-9:10am: Snack & Fellowship
9:10-9:15am: Prayer
9:15-10:15am: Class time
10:15am: Class dismissal; Parent Pickup/sign out from Faith Hall

Please note: Parents MUST sign children IN and OUT. Children will not be released without a parent/guardian (18 years or older).

PLEASE NOTE:

No Sunday school on
December 25 and January 1
No Koinonia/Wednesday
Night on December 21 and
December 28



Youth Faith Formation

s³Heep ministry

students, seeking & serving HIM everywhere, everyday, passionately

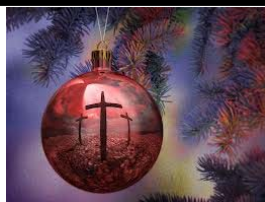
Know Jesus, Make Jesus Known

Matt Olson (Youth Director) matt@stjohnlutheran.com Mobile: 830-388-1550



Christmas Prayer Vigil Sanctuary

A special church family prayer vigil will be from
Friday, 23rd 5:00 p.m. until
Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m.
24 Hrs. of Prayer (Sign-up today.)
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0d4dada92aa64-stjohn>



Quake (San Antonio) Youth Encountering the Gospel

February 24-26, 2017

For *Middle School* and
Sr. High! Talk with Matt!



YOUTH S.O.S. Sunday Of Service

December 11th

Let's do our thing: *Serve*
at our annual Christmas Dinner

Meet @ 11:00 a.m. in the *Family Life Center*

Feeding Time / a.k.a. Sunday School Special ADVENT Events:



Sunday, December 4th

Who: An Advent event for **Youth & Adults**
What: Learn to **"Ponder"** the Scriptures
When: 9:15 a.m. - 10:20 a.m.
Where: *Historic Chapel*
With special guest:

Michelle Travis

She led the Women's Retreat this past year. She is a gifted teacher.



Sunday, December 11th

s3Heep Talent Celebration

A morning to share your God given talent.
From weird body tricks to musical numbers,
poetry reading, juggling, memorizing, etc.
Let us encourage one another!



Sunday, December 18th

Christmas Prayer Walk

A morning time to walk and pray.
For our neighbors, our community,
for whoever God puts in our path.



Wednesday Middle School Confirmation

December 7th "Fidelity"

December 14th
Christmas Caroling &
Festivities



December 21st & 28th
No classes- *Christmas Break*

Wednesday Sr. High overflow

December 7th
Special Event:
"Servant-
Leadership"



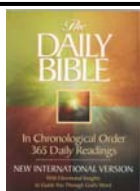
December 14th
Christmas Caroling &
Festivities

December 21st & 28th
No classes- *Christmas Break*

The Advent Conspiracy continues: Gifts that matter!
Lutheran World Relief: <http://lwr.org/giving-category/gifts>
Samaritan's Purse:
<https://www.samaritanaspurse.org/our-ministry/gift-catalog>



**MONDAY Night Men's
SHEPHERD Group:** We will NOT be
meeting in December but starting again
January 2nd (Possibly planning to read the
Bible together in a year. Watch for details)



Men & Young Men
(of All Ages)
Kent Creek Ranch Retreat
set for March 31—April 2
Mark your calendar!

No *Feeding
Time* classes on
December 25th &
January 1st
Blessings!!!

Adult Faith Formation

Lyn Anello * Director of Children's and Adult Ministry * 249-3651 ext. 210 * lyn@stjohnlutheran.com

Sunday School Classes 9:15-10:15am

Sunday School Classes and Locations:

"God Talk": Room 119; We talk about God -- His character and His promises -- as He is revealed through the Bible and manifest in Jesus Christ; led by Peggy Hoppes.

"Logos": Room 118; Currently studying the Book of Ecclesiastes; led by Richard Wagner.

"The Bible In a Year": Room 217; led by Patsy Shields.

"Seekers": Room 216; "Big Questions, Biblical Answers"; led by Lanne Brehmer.

"Faith Steps": Room 215; "Four Portraits, One Jesus" by Mark Strauss, a study of the Gospels; led by George Klein.

"Breakfast Club": Saxon House; "Christian History Made Easy" by Dr. Timothy Paul Jones; led by Lynnese Graves.

"Christianity and the Controversies": This class is taking a break until January!

LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

Cross Talk:

Join us on Wednesdays from 9-11a.m. study and fellowship!

Currently studying

"Seamless" by Angie Smith

Led by Lyn Anello

Precept: Thursdays from 9:15-11am
This class is taking a break until January

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

MEN'S BREAKFAST:

EVERY OTHER TUESDAY

6:30AM IN THE FLC

MONDAY NIGHT GROUP:

EVERY MONDAY (OFF IN DECEMBER)

7-8:30PM SHEPHERD HOUSE

LED BY JIM ROY AND MATT OLSON

Friends N Faith

Below is a list of our current Friends 'N Faith Groups. For more information, contact the church office.

- **LUNCH BUNCH:** Meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 12:00 p.m.. at different restaurants.
- **EAT OUT GROUP:** Meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at different restaurants.
- **DOMINOES:** Meets on the 1st Sunday of each month at 6 p.m. in Luther Hall.
- **HAND AND FOOT CANASTA:** Meets on the 3rd, and 4th, & 5th Sundays of each month at 6 p.m.
- **QUILTING:** Meets on the 1st and 2nd Mondays of each month from 9-11a.m. to make quilts for LWR.& Hill Country Daily Bread.
- **BASKETBALL:** This group meets every Monday at 7 p.m. in the FLC.
- **FABULOUS FOLDERS:** Meets every Friday morning in room 212 at 9 a.m. to fold bulletins.
- **MARVELOUS MAILERS:** This group meets as needed to help with church mailings.



**“IDENTITY....
CREATED
CALLED
GIFTED”**

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
WOMEN'S RETREAT
CAMP CHRYSALIS
JAN 27-29, 2017**

**REGISTRATION FORMS ARE AT
THE INFORMATION DESK OR THE
ST. JOHN WEBSITE**



Visitation Ministry

Pastor Mariola Bergquist -

Email - pastormariola@stjohnlutheran.com

Nursing Home Visits

Kendall House - 3rd Tuesday

Cibolo House - 3rd Tuesday

Menger House service -

3rd Sunday at 3:30p.m.

Riverview - 3rd Wednesday

Care Choice - 3rd Wednesday;

Service: 1:15 p.m.

Town and Country - 3rd Wednesday

Service: 3:00p.m.

Cibolo Creek - 4th Wednesday

Home Visits: Tuesdays - 1st, 2nd, 4th

Wednesdays - 1st, 2nd



Honoring our Senior

Members (80+)

With Birthdays In December

Chuck Straayer	12/01	
Judith Heiligmann		12/06
Maurice Theis	12/12	
Billie Bergmann	12/13	
Robert Vriesenga	12/14	
Frances Dillon	12/24	
Beverly Serr	12/25	
Willena Becker	12/27	
Delrose Cearley	12/30	
Joyce Young	12/30	

If your turning or are already 80+ and you do not see your birthday please contact Deneice.



We had a great Workday, Saturday, October 29th. Twenty-five (25) adults and eight (8) young people showed up to work on the church campus. We trimmed trees, cleared out A/C unit areas of debris, replaced rotten fencing behind the kitchen, raked leaves, cleared Faith Hall roof of tree debris, replaced Sanctuary lights, finally got rid of merry-go-round base in the children's play yard, cleaned out garage of useless items, cleaned and polished Sanctuary pew and other wood fixtures, and started securing Noah's Ark in play ground area. Thank you very much to all who participated, your time and work made it all possible.

Bill Albrecht, Property Committee Chair

We would like to thank the Meckel family for the memorial gift to the Quilting group, in Memory of Leona Meckel. She loved quilting and was one of the founding members of our group for many years.

Thanks again,
The St. John Quilting group.

PRAYER
changes things

Please pray for those in nursing homes and homebound: Betty Thomas, Alice Canon, Dixie Pfeiffer, Doris Krueger, Lydia Collins, Joyce Rust, Elmer & Billie Bergman, Ruby Schaub, Mildred Wilson, Verta Bergman, Jerry Smith, Suzanne Hansen, Frances Dillon, Arthur Daily Jr., Anita Herbst, Nadine Flathouse, Martha Wallis, June Stevens.

Council Contacts

President, Don Baker - 830-431-0521
 Treasurer, Sherry Speir - 210-710-7724
 Administration Chair, Scott Kramer - 512-914-3121
 Children's Ministry Chair, Debbie Jordan - 210-325-5873
 Congregational Life, Pam Hegener - 830-377-1358
 Worship, Carrie Tyner - 210-363-1223
 Outreach Chair, Bob Moriarty - 830-368-5048
 Mission Chair, Sara Moldenhauer - 210-219-3031

Vice-President, Skip Stefansen 818-324-1510
 Secretary, Sherri Lowrie 210-842-0999
 Adult Ministry Chair, James Mazock 210-844-4769
 Congregational Care Chair, Frank Bush - 830-336-2302
 Youth Ministry Chair, Brandon Ross - 210-215-80162
 Stewardship Chair, Kyle Gass - 210-355-8062
 Property, Bill Albrecht, 830-612-3841
 Youth Member, Joshua Carpenter, Emily Murley

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The Messenger
 St. John Lutheran Church
 315 E. Rosewood
 P.O. Box 1081
 Boerne, TX 78006
 Return Service Requested

Christmas Eve in the Sanctuary

5:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

9:00 p.m.

NON-PROFIT
 ORGANIZATION
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Boerne, TX 78006
 Permit #7

Christmas Day Services

10:30 a.m. Historic Chapel

		December 4	December 11	December 18	December 25
Acolytes	8:00	Libby Townsend	Gavin Shields	Mallory Klein	Gabe Cook
		John Pounds	Claire Murley	Megan Nauman	Viktor Lewis
		Josh Pounds		Will Pearson	
	10:30	Lydia Parks	Addison Mazock	Balie Bowen	Bradley Morrison
		Elle Nicholson	Hadley Robbins	Peyton Brehmer	Evan Ross
		Dean Knippa		Hayden Allen	
		Serena Ross		Arlis Adickes	
Assisting	8:00	Michael Hoepfner	Doris Beath	Paul Harris	
Ministers	10:30	Bruce Hoppes	James Meckel	Barnie Gavin	
Altar Guild	8:00	Marlene Barnes &		John & Stephanie Barthels	
	10:30				
Council Chair	8:00	Carrie Tyner			
Communion Assnt.	10:30	Sherri Lowrie			
Flowers		Jill Runion	Kelly & Dana Wehrmann	Judy Kiefer	Poinsettias
Ushers	8:00	Richard Wahl Team			
	10:30	Chip Putnam Team			