

THE MESSENGER

St. John Lutheran Church of Boerne

A Lutheran Congregation in Mission for Christ



MARCH 2016

Volume 87 No. 3

Concluding Thoughts

The following comments are a summary of the final report that I made to your Church Council on 15 February. They are reflections of what I believe to be the assets and hindrances to a faithful and fruitful future ministry at St. John Lutheran. I will also add two hopes that I have for St. John.

ASSETS:

1. I sense a cohesive unity among the members of this congregation; that is crucial for any ministry. At the same time there may be a slight discontent among some. I think that is neither deep nor pervasive throughout the membership. I mention it only that all may be aware and alert. I urge all the mature in the faith to squelch any comments that might damage the beautiful unity that now prevails. Hang together, dear brothers and sisters. You can have a great future if unity rests within the congregation.
2. St. John is a wealthy congregation. Don't confuse wealth with a blessing from God; neither is wealth a curse. Christians should consider wealth a divine challenge. How wealth is used determines whether it is a blessing or a curse. God has provided more than adequate resources for an effective ministry in and through St. John.
3. You (plural) have a vision beyond this congregation. Thanks be to God! You support ministries in Uganda (water wells), Haiti, Japan, Ethiopia, Eastern Europe, and South Africa, in addition to supporting Lutheran World Relief. LWF provides material relief to the impoverished, regardless of creed, in all parts of the world. In addition to international mission St. John supports approximately eleven other missions in and around Boerne, the State of Texas and the USA. That entire ministry is done in the name of our common Lord, Jesus Christ.

HINDRANCES:

1. An asset may also be a hindrance. Such is wealth, more dangerous than alcohol. Few can handle it in a God-pleasing way. This is most often exemplified in living for the self (congregation). There are at least two ways this is seen at St. John. I have previously noted overstaffing. The Administration Committee is reviewing this matter, and I am confident that it will provide a restructuring that will allow additional funds to be used for mission beyond the congregation. Secondly, St. John Lutheran has money market accounts of substantial sums. When people are hungry, cold, diseased and unemployed, and any church is sitting with large cash reserves, I would not like to try to explain that to God Almighty on Judgement Day. (See Matthew 19:23-26, Luke 12:16-21 and Matthew 25:31-46).
2. The second hindrance may be as serious as the first – the use of wealth. It is an unhealthy commitment to St. John congregation. Remember that our loyalty is to Jesus Christ and **his** church. You must live under this paradox: St. John **is not** the Church of Jesus Christ and the fullness of the Church of Jesus Christ lives in St. John Lutheran congregation. There may come a time when St. John must give up its life for the larger body of One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. It is that Church to which our loyalty belongs. "If anyone has an ear to hear, let him hear" (Mark 4:23).

MY HOPE FOR ST. JOHN:

1. The membership of St. John is approximately 1,350. I hope that the membership does not rise much above 1,500. You want your pastor(s) to know you. That becomes increasingly difficult as the church increases in number. Sometime after the membership reaches 1,500 it is time to plant another congregation in some surrounding locality. A portion of St. John membership can become the nucleus of that new congregation; and St. John can nourish the new congregation's growth for the first few years. That congregation will always be a child of St. John.
2. With a membership of 1,350 and a worship attendance of just under 400 I urge your pastoral staff under the leadership of your new Senior Pastor to focus on evangelism within the congregation. There are many who have publically confessed their desire to be a member of the Church of Jesus Christ, but who exhibit no mark of discipleship – Sunday worship, group Bible study, corporate prayer or congregational fellowship. There is a great field for ministry right within the congregation.

Finally, I conclude with thanks for the privilege of living among you, worshipping God with you and sharing the faith together for the past seven months. St. John, and many individuals whom I have come to know and love, will be held in my heart as long as I live.

Yours in a common Lord, Pastor Neal Snider

Dear Fellow Members of the Body of Christ,

By the time you receive this newsletter Pastor Snider and Judy will have departed from St John. We have been blessed by their presence and wish them well on their continued journey in life and with the Lord.

Now it is time to look ahead and seek what God has in store for us. We eagerly anticipate the revelation of our new Senior Pastor. But, we must remember that God will reveal His plan on His timeline. To think that we are in control of the Call Process would be foolish. The Holy Spirit is in control and that knowledge should give us peace.

The Call Committee continues to work diligently to interview pastoral candidates who will shepherd and guide us into the next phase of our ministry. Please pray for the Call Committee and thank them for their faithful service whenever you see one of the members. In the interim, the Pastors, Council and staff will be continue to carry on the operations of the church. Please call on us if there is a need that should be addressed.

In closing, we will be encountering another time of transition. But with the guidance of the Holy Spirit we will emerge stronger and ready to embrace our future.

Don Baker, President
St. John Lutheran Church

Our Lenten Journey

Our Lenten journey has begun and with it a small group discussion on discipleship. The book we are studying is *Living the Six Marks of Discipleship: Real Faith for Real Life* by Michael Foss. The six marks that he identifies are: daily prayer, weekly worship, daily Bible reading, serving in and beyond the congregation, nurturing relationships and tithing. I encourage you to consider joining us on Wednesday evenings. We begin with a meal and fellowship at 5:45 pm, followed by a brief worship service and small group discussion, concluding at 8:00 pm. I find that two of the marks of discipleship are sometimes difficult to accomplish. It is frequently hard to turn off the noise and distractions of the world and connect with God in daily prayer and Bible reading. The North American Lutheran Church (NALC) has made it easier to accomplish both of these. They have provided a daily devotional which is available on their Website: www.thenalc.org. Type "devotions" in the Search The NALC box and you will find daily

devotions. Select Read More (on the left side of the screen) to see the entire text of the any particular item then go to the bottom of the text and you can subscribe to the devotions via Facebook. This makes it much easier to focus on prayer and Bible reading. Give it a try.

While you are on the NALC homepage, you can also sign up for the monthly newsletter and stay up to date with NALC News.

Don Baker

St. John Lutheran Stewardship Committee

March 2016

It All Belongs to God

“The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world and all who live in it.” (Exodus 23:19).

Everything belongs to God. Everything we have is a gift from God. Our possessions, family, occupation, friendships, abilities – everything. If we *really* believe this, why do we find it so hard to give back to God a portion of what He has given to us? We tend to hold on to these gifts as if we have earned them or deserve them. This leads to greed, selfishness, and jealousy.

Instead, we should ask how we can use what God has given us to honor and glorify Him. Look for God’s will through prayer and time in the Word, then have the faith to act.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21)

Your Brother in Christ,

Kyle Gass, Chair

St John Lutheran Stewardship Committee

Please Join Us For Breakfast

Easter Sunday, March 27

*Pancakes, Sausage, Coffee &
Orange Juice*

Continuous Serving

7:00am to 10:00am

*St. John Lutheran Church
Family Life Center*



Free will offering

*Sponsored by:
St. John Men in Mission*

Website Update - The St John website encountered serious technical problems recently, and you probably noticed it was offline for awhile. We are in the process of starting a new platform, which is now online. We consider it an interim solution. At the same time, we are studying our options for a long term solution. Thanks for your patience and understanding.

Communications Team
Scott Kramer, Chairman
skramer43@gmail.com

Call Committee Update

The Call Committee is currently waiting for the Holy Spirit to work in several potential pastors and to reveal God’s plan for St. John. As always, the Committee appreciates your patience and support, and asks for your continued prayers for wisdom, discernment and perseverance.

Council Contacts

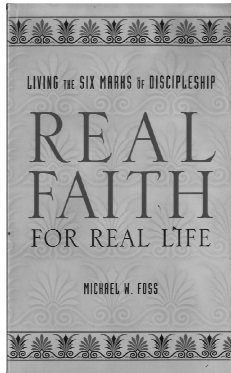
President, Don Baker - 830-431-0521
Treasurer, Sherry Speir - 210-710-7724
Administration Chair, Scott Kramer - 512-914-3121
Children's Ministry Chair, Debbie Jordan - 210-325-5873
Congregational Life, Pam Hegener - 830-377-1358
Worship, Carrie Tyner - 210-363-1223
Outreach Chair, Randy Ehmen - 210-488-8059
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 - 210-355-5567
Property, John Schmedemann 210-415-5197
Youth Member, Joshua Carpenter, Emily Murley

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P.O. Box 1081, Boerne, Texas, 78006 830-249-3651 Fax 830-816-6449
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Adult Faith Formation

Shannon Brehmer * Adult Faith Formation Coordinator * 830-249-3651 ext 212 * shannon@stjohnlutheran.com



Lent 2016

Join us this season during Lent and learn what the six marks of discipleship are and “how each mark of discipleship enhances and supports the growth of a person’s faith journey.”

Wednesday Nights, March 2, 9, 12, and 23rd:

Light Dinner	5:45 pm
Worship	6:30 pm
Small Group Discussion	7:00 pm

This year for Lent, we will be encouraging members not only to attend our Wednesday night worship services, but also to join us in reading “Real Faith For Real Life” by Michael Foss. Each chapter in this book covers one of the six marks of discipleship, which are: daily prayer, Bible reading, weekly worship, Christian service, relations that encourage spiritual growth, and giving in the spirit of generosity.

St. John Easter Prayer Vigil

Starting Friday, March 25th at 8:00 pm, St. John will host a Prayer Vigil leading up to our Easter Sunday Service. The prayer vigil will be a time for you:

To enjoy a calm and quiet Sanctuary

To remember you are a loved and forgiven child of God

To cherish all that God has done for you

To consider God’s holy will for your life.

The vigil will take place in the main sanctuary. Check out the 30 minute time slots available and sign up in the Gathering Place for your time to join in and pray.

Sunday School SCHEDULE

Classes and Locations:

“God Talk” led by Peggy Hoppes is meeting in Room 119.

“Faith Steps” Class: Room 214

Seekers: Room 216 This class will continue their study of the Apocrypha and is led by Lanne Brehmer.

“Ask, Seek, Knock” Class: Room 213 This class will continue their study on the OT prophets and is led by Rob Bradley.

Breakfast Club: Saxon House

The “Logos” Class: Room 118. This class is currently studying the book of Ecclesiastes and is led by Richard Wagner.

Spring Weekday Class Schedule:

Monday

- Men’s Study, 7:15 pm in the Shepherd House

Tuesday

- Men’s Breakfast, every other Tuesday at 6:30 am
- Women’s Book Discussion, 12-1 pm in Room 117.

Wednesday:

- Cross Talk, for women, 9-11 am in Room 118. They are studying “Hosea” by Jennifer Rothschild.
- Lenten Services and Small group discussion. See above for more information.

Thursday

- Precept, for women, 9:15 am in Room 118.

Lit ‘N’ Lunch: A faithful and fun Literary Society

Our next meeting will be **Monday, March 21st**, from 12-1 pm in Room 118.

Bring your own lunch and meet at the church for this great group. All are welcome!

Men’s Lunch Group:

- The San Antonio luncheon will be Monday, March 21st at Mamacita’s at 11:30 am. For more information, contact Bart Graves during regular business hours at 210/734-8007 or bart.graves@thrivent.com.

We hope that you will be able to attend!

Children's Faith Formation

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

DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR CAMP IS HERE! SIGN UP NOW!

Saints & Superheroes



 Summer Camp 2016

CAMP EBERT: June 19—24, 2016 4th—6th Grades* \$410

CAMP CHRYSALIS: July 10—15

1st—3rd grade* 1/2 week (7/10—7/13) \$265

2nd—6th grade* Full week \$390

*Grade completed in the 2015-2016 school year

St. John will gift each child (SJLC member) \$100 for ONE camp. Multiple camp and sibling discounts are available.

SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE!!

PLEASE CONTACT lyn@stjohnlutheran.com to make your reservation, or for more information. Please DO NOT make reservations at the Cross Trails web site. St John has a group reservation, and has already paid the deposit. Thanks!!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

VBS: June 13 thru 17

Adventure for the City: July 25 thru 29

Sponsored by Camp Eagle—an on-site camp for 1st thru 6th grade

A program for nursery thru kinder will also be offered.

Stay tuned for details!!

EASTER EGG HUNT

For Nursery thru 5th grade

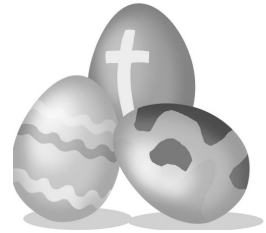
will be held

on Easter

Sunday at

9:15am rain

or shine!!



ACOLYTE TRAINING WILL BE HELD ON
SUNDAY, APRIL 3rd DURING SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR

WITH MISS DEBBIE! Contact

lyn@stjohnlutheran.com to sign up

Sunday School Schedule

9am: Parent drop off/sign in – Luther Hall

9-9:10am: Snack & Fellowship

9:10-9:15am: Prayer

9:15-9:25am: Pre-K thru 2nd –Music in Faith Hall

3rd thru 5th - Group opening lesson—Luther Hall

9:25am: Release to class with teachers

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).



Friday, March 18th,

6pm — 10pm \$10/Child \$30 max/family

Dinner included

Nursery thru age 12

Contact: tiffanyjureczki@hotmail.com
to make reservations



-Youth Faith Formation—

Matt Olson * Director Youth Ministries * 830-249-3651 ext 205 * matt@stjohnlutheran.com

s³Heep ministry: *students, seeking & serving HIM everywhere, everyday, passionately*

Sunday, March 6th

Here at St. John

Journey Home

A special Presentation of

The Prodigal Son Suite

(written by Keith Green but performed by
St. John Youth & Adults with
Pianist T.J. Bazzoon)



SUNDAY NIGHT

7:30 p.m.

Concert / Worship

8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Worship Services



Also at the 7:30 p.m. Concert

Bring guests!

The evening Concert / Worship event will be lead by **Britton & Carrie Hardcastle** and their band. This group of talented musicians led worship at **Camp Eagle** the past two summers.

You don't want to miss this!

Go to: www.thehardcastles.com to get a taste of their music & ministry.

Special Lent Youth *Feeding Time Events

Sunday, March 13th:

Prepare for *Holy Week*...Watch the final chapters of the *Gospel of John* on a DVD movie.

9:30 a.m. Location: *Galaxy Theater*



Sunday, March 20th: Our first Annual Youth Meeting.

What has been good & meaningful this past winter, fall & summer? What are your ideas for our future opportunities? What has God taught us? Where is Jesus leading us? How do we get there? These questions & more!

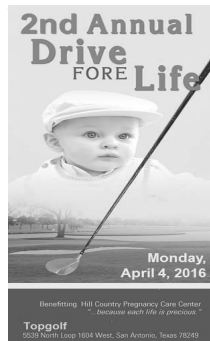
9:30 a.m. Location: *Historic Chapel* *Sunday School

Coming Sooner than one thinks:

- Confirmation Banquet, Saturday, April 16
- Confirmation Service, Sunday, April 17
- Senior Recognition Service, Sunday, May 15

Serving our
SA
neighbors
through
*Blue Print
Ministries*.
We trust the
LORD will
be calling
us back!





439 Fabra/P.O. Box 205, Boerne, TX 78006

Any questions, please call: Kimberly Siess, HCPCC Community Relations Director at (830) 249-9717 or kimberlys@lifesprecious.org



Ash Wednesday,
February 10, 2016 10 am Historic Chapel and 6:30 pm in Sanctuary

Lenten Services will be:

Wednesdays evenings beginning February 17-
March 23, 2016

5:45pm light meal

6:30 pm worship service

7:00 pm small group discussion

Palm Sunday, March 20, 2016 8 am and 10:30 am
in Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday, March 24, 2016 6:30 pm in
Sanctuary

Good Friday Services, March 25, 2016
10am in Historic Chapel and 6:30 pm in Sanctuary

Easter Sunday, March 27, 2016
7:00 am Sunrise Service between Historic Chapel
and Shepherd House
8 am and 10:30 am in Sanctuary

Here are 2 "bonus Nuggets from Luther

1. Next to theology, I give music the highest place and the greatest honor.
2. The Devil should not be allowed to keep the best tunes for himself.

**Honoring our Senior
Members (80+)
With Birthdays In March 2016**

Mildred Wilson 3/06

Bob Magers 03/08

Jeanie Theis 03/14

Lloyd Markell 3/15

Marie Hicks 3/17

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

Friends N Faith

Below is a list of our current Friends 'N Faith Groups, when they meet, and who to contact if you're interested in attending:

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

Sharism: God is in control; if you believe that, just let go of the steering wheel.



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 3:30pm

Riverview - 3rd Wednesday

Care Choice - 3rd Wednesday;

Service: 1:15 pm

Town and Country - 3rd Wednesday

Service: 3:00pm

Cibolo Creek - 4th Wednesday

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

The Messenger

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



Easter Services

Sunrise Service 7:00 am
Between Historic Chapel
And Shepherd House
8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

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

		March 6	March 13	March 20	March 27
Acolytes	8:00	Claire Murley	Madysen Arnold	Peyton Brehmer	Josh Pounds
		Kendra Pfeiffer	Gavin Shields	Viktor Lewis	John Pounds
		Mallary Klein		Will Pearson	
	10:30	Molly Klutts	Hadley Robbing	Serena Ross	Riley Clow
		Dean Knippa	Lydia Parks	Angelina Ziegler	Evan Ross
		Bailie Bowen		Mya Olson	
		Jake Allen		Isabella Grosman	
		Hayden Allen		Bradley Morrison	
Assisting	8:00	Doris Beath	James Meckel	Paul Harris	Barney Gavin
Ministers	10:30		Glorify!	Bruce Hoppes	Dennis Ruck
Altar Guild	8:00	Pam Hegener	Karen Schneider	Debbie Welch	
	10:30	Sandra Hegyesi	Beverly Wagner		
Council Chair	8:00	Carrie Tyner			
Communion Assnt.	10:30	Kyle Gass			
Flowers		John & Carol Wimpy	Jill Runion	Bernice & Larry Justice	Easter Lillies
Lectors	8:00	Emily Murley	Rob Bradley	Carol Bruehler	Steve Garnsey
	10:30	Christi Harden	James Meckel	Caitlin Ruck	Barton Graves
Ushers	8:00	Carol Bruehler Team			
	10:30	Bob Runion Team			