

the MESSENGER

S+JLC
BOERNE

St. John Lutheran Church

315 Rosewood Ave., Boerne TX 78006

830-249-3651

www.stjohnlutheran.com



December 2017 • Volume 88-12

Stay Connected

Council Contacts

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Scott Kramer - 512-914-3121

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Sherry Speir - 210-710-7724

Administration Chair
Brad Morrison - 210-380-5843

Children's Ministry Chair
Debbie Jordan - 210-325-5873

Congregational Life
Bob Rogers - 210-296-7820

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Shay Knippa - 830-522-1884

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Kyle Gass - 210-355-5567

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Bob Moriarty - 830-368-5048

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Walter Stroman - 210-912-8453

Mission Chair
Sara Moldenhauer - 210-219-3031

Youth Members
Brooks Klutts and Claire Lowrie

Pastors can be reached at
830-249-3651

Pastor Eric Waters
Pastor Mariola Bergquist

From the Pastor's Pen

"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a savior, who is Christ the Lord."
- Luke 2:10-11

It's the most wonderful time of the year, the season when we hear, sing, and share "the good news of great joy." That's what we'll do on December 10th at our annual Christmas Cantata and Dinner. Our worship service that day will follow a lessons-and-carols format. We'll hear "the good news of great joy" from six different Bible readings. Each lesson will be followed by music featuring our musicians from the Choir, Praise Band, and Handbells. While the format will be the same at 8:00 and 10:30, the 10:30 services will be combined to free up the Family Life Center for our Christmas Dinner, which starts as soon as the late service ends. The Christmas Cantata and Dinner is a wonderful opportunity to gather as a church family and I hope to see you there.

The following Sunday, December 17th, our Children's Christmas Program will proclaim "the good news of

great joy" at 10:30 in the Sanctuary. Our Savior was born as a little Child, so it's only fitting that our own Children will help us prepare our hearts to welcome Him.

Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year and that means a change to our morning worship schedule. We'll have only one worship that morning, at 9:00 am in the Sanctuary. That will be our "regular" Sunday morning worship. Then later that day will be our "holiday" Christmas Eve worship. We're offering three worship services again this year.

The first, at 5:00 pm, will be a family-friendly service led by our Praise Band, with Glow Sticks instead of candles. The second, at 7:00 pm, will be a candlelight service led by our choir and a brass quartet. The third, at 9:00 pm, will be a candlelight service featuring soloists. Each one will lift up "the good news of great joy" that Jesus Christ is born.

It's the most wonderful time of the year, the season of "the good news of great joy." Come celebrate with us!

Pastor Eric Waters

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services:
5:00pm • 7:00pm • 9:00pm

A Note on Stewardship

Inheritance

¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.
Romans 8: 16-17

As children of God, we are also heirs. Heirs have an inheritance, but what is it that we are inheriting? The Bible tells us that we will receive the gifts of peace, joy, wisdom, contentment, love, salvation, and everlasting life. When you think about it, isn't that what we are ultimately looking for when chasing worldly pursuits? However, you won't find these

things on our own by seeking fame, power, recognition, money, possessions, or popularity.

These gifts are ours at no cost, given to us by our loving God. All we have to do is believe in Him and trust His promises. And if we trust in His promises, we will loosen our grips on worldly possessions.

Our hearts will open up to joyfully give to the church as God has instructed us through His Word.

Your Brother in Christ
Kyle Gass, Chair
St John Lutheran Stewardship Committee

INCOME COMPARISON

Monthly Operating Income	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Through October
2017	\$128,517	\$88,428	\$82,191	\$106,327	\$89,970	\$82,431	\$103,660	\$94,282	\$102,681	\$101,656			\$980,143
2016	\$116,162	\$83,342	\$83,889	\$73,044	\$80,790	\$72,368	\$81,646	\$87,909	\$70,448	\$91,671	\$135,927	\$162,050	\$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

ATTENDANCE COMPARISON

Average Weekly Worship	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Average YTD
2017	380	411	414	462	389	373	353	352	329	386			385
2016	421	386	477	370	341	376	357	420	383	375	359	527	391
2015	380	403	390	521	370	464	309	367	349	347	364	463	390
2014	439	419	419	509	420	381	378	378	392	398	383	425	413

4 WAYS TO GIVE!



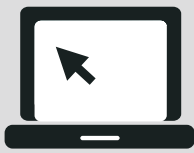
IN PERSON

Drop your gift into the offering plate on Sunday morning.



BY MAIL

Mail your gift to:
St. John Lutheran Church
315 Rosewood Ave.,
Boerne TX 78006



ONLINE

Go online to:
www.stjohnlutheran.com,
click 'Give' and follow the instructions to give online.



BY TEXT

Text your donation amount to: 830-264-1518 to get started!

QUESTIONS? Contact the church office or visit our website at: www.stjohnlutheran.com

ADULT Faith Formation News

Ladies' Bible Study

PRECEPT BIBLE STUDY CLASS

Thursdays at 9:15-11:15 am

Precept will take a break in December and resume January 4, 2018. Led by Pastor Mariola Bergquist

Women of the Word (W.O.W.)

BIBLE STUDY CLASS

Wednesdays at 9:00-10:30 am

W.O.W. will take a break in December and resume January 10, 2018 with a new Bible study. Led by Michelle Waters

Mens' Bible Study

Mens' Breakfast

Every other Tuesday 6:30 am

"Master Builders Bible For Men" is the foundation for discussion topics
Contact the Church Office for dates

Monday Night Group

Mondays at 7:00-8:30 pm

Monday Night Group will take a break in December and resume January 10, 2018.



Sunday School Classes - 9:15 am - 10:15 am

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

"Logos" Room 118: Studying "The Life of Martin Luther. An Historical Journey and Bible Study". This study is written in honor of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. It takes us through the circumstances and events of the life of Martin Luther as it reflects on the biblical themes underlying the Lutheran Reformation. Led by Richard Wagner

"Seekers" Room 216: "Graying in Grace: Assisting adults in clinging to the faithful promises of God and 'Walking alongside' those who want to grow". Led by Lanne Brehmer

"The Bible in a Year" Room 217. Led by Patsy Shields

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

"Christianity and the Controversies"

Do you enjoy discussing relevant ideas and topics? Are you looking for ways to apply your Christian faith in the modern world?

Each week, we discuss how the Bible relates to a variety of historical and current modern issues. Past topics include free speech, public prayer, the Inquisition, capitalism, music, war, and slavery.

This class meets in the sanctuary immediately following the early service. Led by TJ Bazzoon

SPECIAL ADVENT STUDY: November 19 through Christmas Eve. Join us at Sunday School to "God Talk" about the people who played pivotal roles in the story of God: men and women from the Bible who believed God's Word and followed Him. None were perfect but God made them part of His plan for salvation. Each story leads us closer to the coming of the Messiah, the birth of Christ.

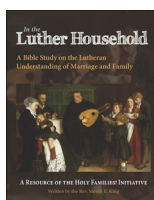
Strengthen Your Family: January Study

Strengthen Your Marriage, Your Parenting or Your Grandparenting skills as we learn from Luther & Katie how this is the MOST Important vocation and calling of God!

January 7-February 11, 9:15am-10:15am in the Shepherd House
Holy Families Study: "In the Luther Household"

A 6 session series on the biblical Lutheran understanding of the vocation of marriage and family, this intermediate-level Bible study will address biblical texts and theological themes, featuring anecdotes and writings from Martin and Katie Luther as case-study examples. Please sign-up at the Information Desk so that the right number of materials can be ordered. Cost \$6 This study will be led by Matthew Olson - newly assigned St. John's Director of Family Ministries - and his wife Shantell Olson, Licensed Counselor-LPC, LCDC, NCC.

Free Daily Scripture and Prayer Resources for the Home:
www.holyfamilytime.com

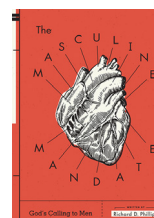


January 8 - New Men's Bible Study

Starting January 8th, the Monday Night Men's Group will be exploring the book "The Masculine Mandate: God's Calling to Men" written by Richard D. Phillips.

In this book, the author cuts through the cultural confusion, highlights God's mandate for men, and encourages readers to join him on a journey of repentance and renewal. Phillips begins in the Garden of Eden, drawing foundational teaching for men from the earliest chapters of God's Word. This is teaching that reaches into all aspects of life. **Christian men today need to examine their hearts and embrace their God-given mandate.** Only then will they be able to recognize their higher calling, and by God's grace, serve faithfully in whatever context God has placed them.

This will be led by Jim Roy, a past Men's Retreat speaker with a Masters of Divinity degree through Dallas Theological Seminary and Matthew Olson, who is slowly working on his degree through the Institute of Lutheran Theology.



Youth Faith Formation Updates

S³HEEP: students, seeking & serving HIM everywhere, everyday, passionately

Matt Olson, Director of Family Ministry
Email: matt@stjohnlutheran.com • Cell:
830-388-1550

s³Heep
ministry

Sundays in December

December 3: Final Fall Classes

December 10: Gift Celebration Sunday
(a.k.a. "Talent" show) in the historic chapel

December 17: Christmas Mingle and
Jingle in Shepherd House

December 24: NO Feeding Time

December 31: NO Feeding Time

Wednesdays in December

OVERFLOW (6th - 12th Graders) Pause, Play and Pray

4:30 pm - "Hang-Out" & Homework at
the Shepherd House

5:45 pm - Meals are served in Family Life
Center

6:30 pm - Fellowship or Service
(Devotions are on Fellowship Nights at
7:10 pm)

7:30 pm - Done

7:30 - 8:00 pm - s³Heep dawgs -
student leadership meeting at the His-
toric Chapel round table

Wednesdays Schedule:

December 6 - Special Event:
Walk in Bethlehem at the Episcopal
Church (leave at 5:50 from St. John).
We'll return and eat in the Family Life
Center following the event

December 13 - Special Event:
Christmas Party in the Family Life Center

Overflow will be taking a break after
the December 13th meeting and will
begin again on January 10th.

Mark your Calendars

First Communion Preparation

for 5th graders and parent/s will be **Sundays:**

February 18, 25 & March 4.

These classes will be for students and parents from
9:15 - 10:20 a.m. First Communion celebration will be at
the late services on March 4th.

February 23-25 - Quake Event

in San Antonio for Middle & High School. It's time to sign
up for early bird registration. Go to St. John's website to
get the form. Return it to the church office along with
\$45 to reserve your spot.

To see some more details, go to: [http://quakeevent.com/
events/sanantonio/](http://quakeevent.com/events/sanantonio/) The theme is **OVERCOME!**
(John 16:33)

But please don't register online. We will do that together
as a group. Thanks!



Children's Faith Formation



LAMBS³: learning and memorizing Bible stories & songs, and how to serve

Sundays in December

This month students will be exploring Christmas through Symbols.

Christmas carols will be practiced at opening time (9:15 am) for participation in **December 17th's late services.**

9:00 a.m. Breakfast in Luther Hall

9:15 a.m. Christmas Carol Rehearsal

9:30 a.m. Rotational Class time

Wednesdays in December

December 6 - Special Event:

Walk in Bethlehem at the Episcopal Church (leave at 5:50 from St. John). We'll return and eat in the Family Life Center following the event

December 13 - Special Event:

Christmas Party in the Family Life Center

The Children's events will be taking a break after the December 13th meeting and will begin again on January 10th.



Parents' Night out!

Friday, December 15, 2017 • 6pm - 10pm

\$10/child \$30 max/family

Dinner included! Nursery through Age 12

CONTACT: tiffanyjureczki@hotmail.com

Important Announcements

Christmas Dinner

The congregation is invited to our annual Christmas Dinner, graciously given by Lem Sinclair with the help of his "Grill Guys" cooking team. This year's dinner is on Sunday, December 10th, following the late service and will once again be ribeye steak with baked potato, salad and dessert.

Tickets are available at the info desk, some individuals may be handing them out. We have limited space and only 300 adult tickets are available. You will need to present the ticket on the day of the dinner.

There will be children's tickets available and their meal will be hot dogs and mac & cheese. We look forward to your joining us for this festive celebration!



Happy Hearts Christmas Show at Rockbox Theatre in Fredricksburg

20 people have purchased tickets to the country & Christmas Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers show on Thursday, Dec. 7th at 7pm at the Rockbox Theatre in Fredricksburg. The group will meet at 5:15pm at St. John and leave at 5:30 on the church bus. If you plan to drive your own vehicle, we will meet at the theatre at 6:30pm. Contact Don Barnes at 210-393-5363 with questions.

SAVE THE DATE! Women's Retreat January 26th-28th

The women's retreat is January 26-28 at Camp Chrysalis. The theme will be "Psalm 23: Resting in the Promises of our Good Shepherd." We are building a great team, but we can always use more gifted women involved in the planning. Contact Peggy Hoppes (heart2love-4god@aol.com) if you are interested. Registration will begin very soon.

Church News & Events

Visitation MINISTRY

Pastor Mariola Bergquist
pastormariola@stjohnlutheran.com

Nursing Home Visits: Cibolo House –
2nd Tuesday of the month

Care Choice and Town and Country –
2nd Wednesday of the month

Cibolo Creek:
4th Wednesday of the month

Homebound Visits:
Tuesdays: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th,
Wednesdays: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th

Worship services: Menger House
3rd Sunday of the month at 3:30 p.m.



Senior Member BIRTHDAYS

Honoring our Senior Members (80+)
With Birthdays In December

Willena Becker	Beverly Serr
Billie Bergmann	Chuck Straayer
Delrose Cearley	Maurice Theis
Frances Dillon	Joyce Young
Judith Heilgmann	

If you are turning 80 or are already 80+ and you do not see your birthday please, contact the church office.



Thank you to everyone who helped support Taking It To The Streets (TI2TS) last month!

Over 200 of our community in need were fed a warm meal and everyone was blessed in sharing Christ's love. Special thanks to the Grill Team for preparing a most excellent barbecue - no one walked away hungry and all commented how good the meal was. Thank you to everyone that prepared cobblers or cookies - especially the youth group that prepared the bulk of the cobblers.

If you missed out in serving this time we hope to see the next time St John heads to San Antonio to serve at TI2TS.

- The Outreach Committee

BEREAVEMENT CLASSES

Two new bereavement classes will begin in January. Anyone age 17 and older who has had a recent loss in their family or close circle is more than welcome to join one of the small groups. The program, GriefShare, is highly acclaimed and unabashedly faith based.

Mondays beginning Jan. 15, 2018, a class will meet from 1:00 to 2:30 PM in the Kronkosky Senior Center.

Tuesdays beginning Jan. 16, 2018, the class will meet at St. John Lutheran Church from 10:00 to 11:30 AM.



Betty Steubing, Bereavement Coordinator for Alamo Hospice of Boerne, facilitates both groups. There is no cost to participate. Just come if you feel the need for compassionate care during your grief experience.

Call Betty at 830.446.9713 or the Alamo Hospice office (830.816.5024) to register or for more information.

Rafiki Foundation, Inc. Child Sponsor Reports



Latest update on **Joseph Katebe**:

Joseph says of himself, "More and more I am understanding that my school time and education are for my good, and I will benefit from them. I am strong in computers and business. I hope to finish this school year achieving the goals of a willing heart for learning new things and hard things, and also receiving correction properly."

Latest update on **Dadi Ishimwe**:

Dadi is enjoying piano lessons and says if he could do any activity, it would be to play the piano. He also would like to teach someone else how to play the piano. Dadi was asked what kind of job he would like to do when he grows up and he said a journalist or high ranking soldier to protect his country.

Write to Joseph: Please send letters to: Post.Net Box 2326, P/Bag E891, Lusaka, Zambia, AFRICA
Write to Dadi: Please send letters to: PO Box 6856, Kacyiru, Kigali Rwanda, EAST AFRICA

You may send cards or any item that fits in a standard size envelope such as bookmarks, stickers, pictures or a postcard. Please do not send packages, checks or cash to the Village address.



Village: Zambia
Date of Birth: 9/13/03



Village: Rwanda
Date of Birth: 7/29/05

Dear St. John Congregation,

Thank you for your generous support of our American Heritage Girl Troop. We are excited for this coming year as we pursue our goals to serve God, our families, country and community. If you would like more information about our troop and what we are doing, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Again, we humbly appreciate your donations to our troop.

Blessings to everyone at St. John!

- Jeanette Murphy – AHG Troop 1213
Troop Coordinator
murphyhouse5@gmail.com

- Marissa Klein – AHG Troop 1213
Vice-Coordinator
mlmklein03@yahoo.com

Opportunities to Serve

Hurricane Relief Trip - December 15-17

We continue with monthly relief trips to help with the rebuilding and clean up in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. During the holiday season, we often get very busy. We must remember to make time to serve those who need our help.

If you would like to volunteer to go on one of our weekend trips to the area, please email Lance Folkerts at lance@lfcconstruction.com.

If you are interested in making a monetary donation, please make the check out to St. John Lutheran Church and write disaster relief in the memo line. You can also donate online directly through our website at: www.stjohnlutheran.com.



DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					Hill Country Cares Counseling 9am Fabulous Folders 1	6pm Boerne Christmas Parade 2
Advent 3 8am Traditional Service 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Service 10:30am Praise Service 6pm Boerne Village Band 6pm Dominoes	9am Quilting Group 4 5pm Hermann Sons Dance Classes - LH 6:30pm Property Meeting 7pm Al-Anon 7pm Mens' Bible Study	6:30am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 5 10am Alamo Hospice Bereavement 12pm Painting w/Roberta Buckles 6pm American Heritage Girls 6:30pm Congregational Care Committee 6:30pm Worship Committee	9am Bible Study Fellowship Team 6 9am W.O.W Women of the Word 2pm The Ukuladies 6pm Family Fellowship Night 6:30pm Choir Practice	5:30pm Happy Hearts Rock Box 7 7pm Al-Anon 7pm Handbell Practice	Hill Country Cares Counseling 8 9am Fabulous Folders 12pm Lunch Bunch	9
8am Christmas Cantata 10 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Christmas Cantata 12pm Christmas Dinner	9am Quilting Group 11 5pm Hermann Sons Dance Classes 6pm Happy Hearts 7pm Al-Anon 7pm Mens' Bible Study	10am Alamo Hospice Bereavement 12 12pm Painting w/Roberta Buckles 6pm American Heritage Girls 6pm Mission Committee 6:30pm Congregational Life 7pm Outreach Committee	9am Bible Study Fellowship Team 13 2pm The Ukuladies 6pm Family Fellowship Night 6:30pm Choir Practice	6:30pm Finance Committee 14 7pm Al-Anon 7pm Handbell Practice	Hurricane Relief Trip 15 Hill Country Cares Counseling 9am Fabulous Folders 6pm Parents Night Out	Hurricane Relief Trip 16
Hurricane Relief Trip 17 8am Traditional Service 9:15am Sunday School 10:30 Children's Christmas Program 10:30am Traditional Service 10:30am Praise Service 6pm Hand & Foot	11:30am Men's Lunch at Mamacitas 18 12pm Lit N Lunch 5pm Hermann Sons Dance Classes 7pm Al-Anon 7pm Mens' Bible Study	6:30am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 19 12pm Around the Bend Sewing Group 6:45pm Council Meeting	9am Bible Study Fellowship Team 20 2pm The Ukuladies 6:30pm Choir Practice	6:30pm Eat Out Group 21 7pm Al-Anon 7pm Christmas Concert in the Chapel 7pm Handbell Practice	Hill Country Cares Counseling 22 9am Fabulous Folders	23
8am Traditional Service 24 5pm Christmas Eve Service 7pm Christmas Eve Service with Choir 9pm Christmas Eve Service	Christmas Day 25 Church Office Closed	Church Office Closed 26	6:30pm Choir Practice 27	7pm Al-Anon 28 7pm Handbell Practice	Hill Country Cares Counseling 29 9am Fabulous Folders	30
8am Traditional Service 31 10:30am Traditional Service 10:30am Praise Service 6pm Canasta						

St. John Lutheran Church
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Boerne, TX 78006
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DECEMBER		December 3	December 10	December 17	December 24	December 31
Acolytes	8:00	Balie Bowen		Logan Klein	9am Tanner Lee	
		Gabe Cook		Mallory Klein	Sam Waters	
	10:30	Georgia Busbee	Valen Barthel	Trevor Agarwal	5pm -----	Tanner Lee
		Mayah Morrison	Rex Rivera	Hayden Allen	7pm Georgia Busbee	Sam Waters
		Elle Nicholson		Jaclyn Purchatzke	Elle Nicholson	
		Luke Wylie		Serena Ross	9pm Hayden Allen	
Assisting Ministers	8:00	Doris Beath	----	Barnie Gavin	----	Pastor Waters
	10:30	Jake Allen	----	Hunter Craig	Dennis Ruck	Gloria Williams
Assisting - Praise	10:30	Matt Olson	----	Matt Olson	----	Matt Olson
Lector Readers	8:00	Judy Kuentz	----	Gloria Williams	Skip Stefansen	Wanda McCarthy
Altar Guild	8:00	John & Stephanie Barthels	John & Stephanie Barthels	John & Stephanie Barthels	John & Stephanie Barthels	John & Stephanie Barthels
		Lori Romain	Lori Romain	Lori Romain	Lori Romain	Lori Romain
	10:30	Lois & Dennis Ruck	Lois & Dennis Ruck	Lois & Dennis Ruck	Lois & Dennis Ruck	Lois & Dennis Ruck
Flowers		Bob & Jill Runion	Judy Collins	Kelly & Dana Wehrmann	Poinsettias	Sue & Lee Bartman
Ushers	8:00	Richard Wahl Team	Richard Wahl Team	Richard Wahl Team	Richard Wahl Team	Richard Wahl Team
	10:30	Chip Putnam Team	Chip Putnam Team	Chip Putnam Team	Chip Putnam Team	Chip Putnam Team