

the MESSENGER

S+JL
BOERNE

St. John Lutheran Church

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www.stjohnlutheran.com



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Stay Connected

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Teri Folkerts - 210-273-7245

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Mark Danney - 210-610-2090

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Youth Representatives
Bradley Morrison, Claire Murley

Pastors can be reached at
830-249-3651

Pastor Eric Waters
Pastor Mariola Bergquist

From the Pastor's Pen

This year marks the 244th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, which begins with the immortal words:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, and that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." As Martin Luther King Jr. preached on this weekend 55 years ago, "Never before in the history of the world has a sociopolitical document expressed in such profound, eloquent, and unequivocal language the dignity and worth of human personality."

The Declaration of Independence marked the birth of our nation and the beginning of the American Dream. Eighty seven years later, in the midst of "a great civil war," Abraham Lincoln wondered aloud "whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure." Our nation did endure then. Maybe like me, some of you wonder how much longer the dream can endure. So much has changed, and so quickly. So many demands are made, and so forcefully. So many talking heads on TV are talking past each other without any real

conversation going on. It's enough to discourage us, if not make us doubt that the dream can go on.

"We have a great dream. It started way back in 1776, and God grant that America will be true to her dream."

- The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The thing about dreams is, they need a dreamer. Our Founding Fathers dreamed of a new nation in 1776. Abraham Lincoln dreamed of "a new birth of freedom" in 1863. Martin Luther King Jr. "still had a dream that the truth will reign supreme" in 1965. It's up to you and me to carry the dream today.

The American Dream is not primarily about prosperity, or safety, or harmony, though it includes all those things. No, the American Dream is primarily about God. The American Dream is a vision of a nation where rights are given by God, not government, and where every citizen lives at liberty and with dignity because all are made in God's image. The American Dream needs an American church.

This Independence Day, as you celebrate our great nation and all it has given us, remember that God has given us this nation. America is His dream as much as ours. And in the words of Martin Luther King Jr., "God grant that America will be true to her dream."

- Pastor Eric Waters

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." -The Declaration of Independence

MESSAGE from the CONGREGATION PRESIDENT

During this extraordinary time, church leadership has been working diligently, keeping our eye on the ball, looking after the church. We have been concerned, careful, cautious. But we have not been afraid.

Council has met online for the past three months, more often than our normal monthly schedule. Kudos to our Council members who have kept sharp focus, being flexible with new ways of operating.

In some cases, we have moved quickly. For example, we saw an opportunity to get a safety net through the Small

Business Administration. We went from exploration to deliberation to approval to application to funding, all in a matter of days.

In other cases, we have moved more deliberately. As we all know, these decisions are complex. Not black and white. Many shades of gray. In considering health and safety, we have been cautious, while respecting everyone's right to make individual choices.

We have stuck to guidance from the state of Texas, in the best interests of our members' health. And in every instance, our guidepost has been what is best for the church. We have listened carefully to all the members;

we are thankful for your feedback and unvarnished opinions. It makes our church the best we can be.

I am delighted to report that our finances remain strong. Your faithful giving has preserved our strength, which enables our ministries. Every week, St John members are right here on campus, feeding the needy. And every week, our pastors preach the Word, in person and online. Together, we strive to Know Jesus and Make Jesus Known.

St. John Congregation President,
Scott Kramer

A NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

What becomes of our return of treasures to serve the Lord?

When we give back our time and talent to worship, walk, connect, and serve the Lord, we see immediate joy and peace. The Holy Spirit has "let our light shine among others to see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16). Like the church in Macedonia we return a portion of our treasures through faith, hope, love, and joy. In his letters to Rome and Corinth Paul promised to deliver the offerings to the starving saints in Jerusalem. We must trust that he carried out his duty, because scripture does not further speak of the deed. What becomes of our treasures to the Lord?

As we pass the midpoint of the year, our church council has the answer to the question. At the end of the year, each member of the St. John Lutheran Church receives an annual report reviewing the expenditures by each committee. Annual reports highlight each of their missions. The congregation approves a proposed budget. Each month the church council reviews the budget and reports activities. The monthly reports are available for review in the church office by any member of the church. Each council member is available to answer questions. As the year nears an end, a committee

"Therefore, when I have performed this and have sealed to them this fruit, I shall go by way of you to Spain."
-Romans 15:28

nominates new council members to chair the next year's committees. At the annual meeting the new council is elected and the accountability cycle continues.

As saints of our church we give generously out of faith, hope, love, and joy. Let us pray that our leadership will continue to give every dollar of our gifts to "Know Jesus and to make Jesus known."

Your brother in Christ,
Mark Danney, Chairman
Stewardship Committee

INCOME COMPARISON

Monthly Operating Income	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Through Month
2020	\$122,065	\$96,801	\$122,637	\$98,491	\$99,604								\$540,221
2019	\$138,052	\$97,576	\$108,348	\$110,696	\$81,251	\$101,281	\$91,042	\$91,777	\$98,904	\$103,879	\$94,205	\$278,321	\$555,953
2018	\$98,403	\$105,044	\$92,291	\$137,611	\$90,598	\$83,467	\$104,972	\$91,490	\$105,934	\$88,848	\$148,672	\$170,212	\$516,816

ATTENDANCE COMPARISON

Avg Weekly Worship	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Average YTD
ONLINE													
2020	449	408	331*	705	513								609
					142								333
2019	416	410	384	512	434	347	377	391	385	421	382	574	419
2018	380	358	385	454	365	357	364	375	377	405	375	556	396

*Online attendance information for March 22 and March 29, 2020 was not available.

Is your WILL current?

Contact Legacy Deo for a no-cost consultation. Gary Juhl, CFP® at 800-880-3733 or garyj@legacydeo.org



ADULT FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Ladies' Bible Study

PRECEPT

Thursday 9:15am-11:15am

The "Precept" class will conclude on July 2 and resume again in the fall. Led by Pastor Mariola Bergquist

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

Wednesdays 9am-10:15am

Women of the World will resume August 12 with a new study. Look for more info soon! Questions? Please contact Michelle Waters at watersmichellejoy@gmail.com.

Mens' Bible Study

Mens' Breakfast

Every other Tuesday 6:30am

"Master Builders Bible For Men" is the foundation for discussion topics.



Each lesson of the Truth Project stands on its own so feel free to jump in. Deepen your insight to a Biblical world view vs. current cultural world views that flood our lives. How might we recognize the deceptions, be open to transformation, and to live succinctly

with God's Word? Join the approximately 25-minute video presentations and then join the discussion or just listen in. It's good stuff! Important stuff! Find the link on our *Week-at-a-Glance* email which comes out every Tuesday or email Matt letting him know you want a reminder and Zoom link for this Shepherds Cave time.

NO Class on Sunday, July 5 (A blessed 4th of July Weekend to you!)

Sunday, July 12 and 19 - Science: What is True? (Part C & D)

A careful examination of molecular biology and the fossil record demonstrates that evolution is not a "proven fact." Meanwhile, history shows that ideas, including Darwinism as a social philosophy, have definite consequences - consequences that can turn ugly when God is left out of the picture.

Sunday, July 26 History: Whose Story? (Part A)

Does the past have an objective actuality and significance? Or does it, as postmodernist philosophy asserts, exist primarily inside our heads? This tour considers the meaning of history as God's story and shows us why remembering is so important.

Some Sunday School classes are meeting again.

Please check with the church office for more information.

Happy Hearts

Happy Hearts is on break and plans to resume in September.



Growing Hope: Six week study begins July 9

Do you want to help those in poverty but aren't sure how?

Please join us for an eye-opening experience on Thursdays beginning July 9 at 6:00pm for a six-week study of *When Helping Hurts* by Steve Corbett. Please contact Audrey Bearden at aannbb@gvtc.com or Jennifer Kuentz at textrump1@yahoo.com to let us know you will be attending or with any questions.



Shepherds Needed!!!

(lambs³ and s3Heep cannot travel alone)

Who: Young, Middle Age and Older Adults who care about young people

What: Shepherd a children's or youth small group

When: Sunday Mornings (9:30am - 10:30am) or Wednesday Evenings (6:30pm - 7:30pm) this Fall

Where: Designated areas throughout the church (following social distancing practices) and/or through Zoom, Facetime or conference call technologies, as well.

How: Be equipped, trained, and supported via Family3 Ministries Team members.

Why: Authentic faith needs authentic relationships. Small groups help nurture this.

An introductory Zoom meeting on this will be Wednesday, July 22 at 7:00pm.
Let Matt know you are interested in finding out more: matt@stjohnlutheran.com

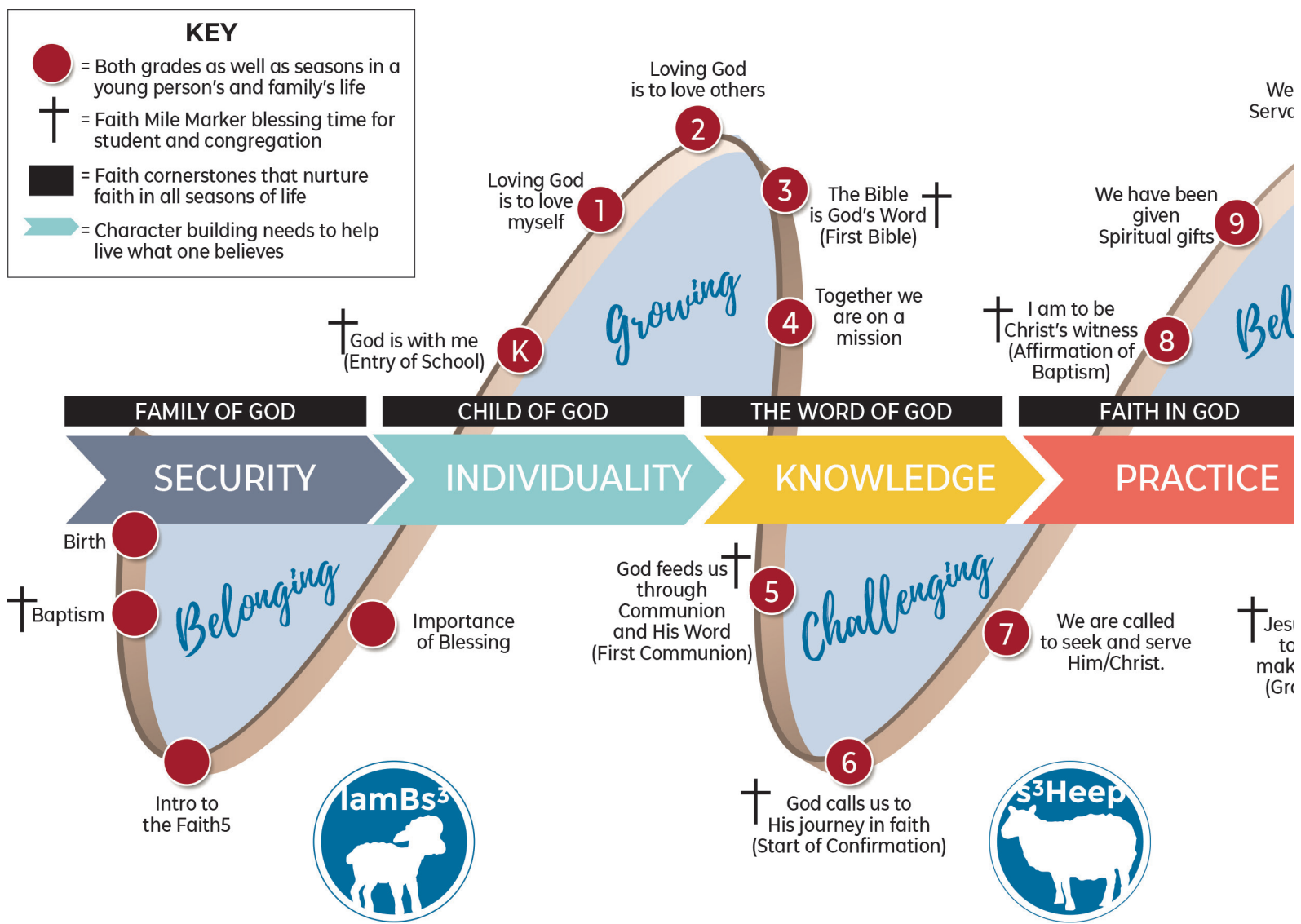
See the next page for more information about St. John's pathway for children and youth



St. John's Children and Youth DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY: BUILDING FAITH

As the church we are called to "make disciples." We at St. John see disciples as those who worship weekly, walk daily, and live out their faith. This discipleship pathway gives us an overall BIG picture to aim for. Now imagine zooming down into those individual Faith Mile Markers that show one's movement. This diagram is a closer view of our church's intention: to make children and youth disciples of the Holy Spirit but all of us have a role to play as we are a part of His body.) Next month, look for our Learning Grid that will be more fully this fall.

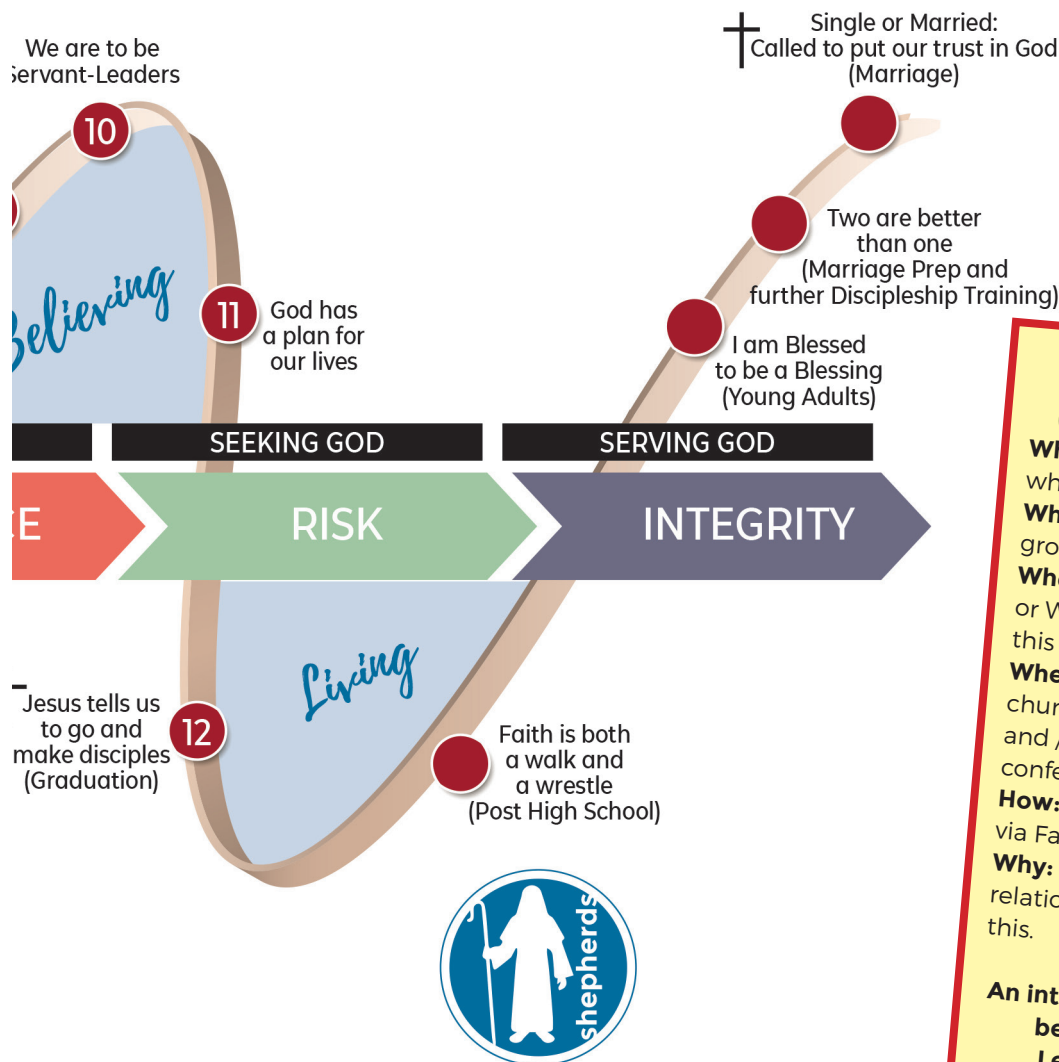
Our goal is to have a consistent age-targeted Christian Relational Education system that not only supports families but one that will primarily support and bless families, as they are the key to our mission.



Youth WITH AND CHARACTER

daily, connect consistently and serve monthly. This continuous cycle of a
il paths to see starting points, training, and equipping spots as well as Mile
uth into Jesus followers. (Granted this is only accomplished by the movement
d that lays out grade objectives and curriculum plans as we look to reengage

ot only builds faith and character in our young people
r incubators for faith life to flourish.



s.h.e.p.h.e.r.d.s. are:



- S:** servant-leaders who nurture others through consistent time and attention.
- H:** helpers who lead small group (2-6) discussions, activities and service projects
- E:** engagers in activities and discussions that build healthy and meaningful relationships
- P:** providers of a listening and empathetic ear to students and their families
- H:** healers by creating safe time and spaces for personal stories to be shared
- E:** encouragers by supporting young people in discovering gifts and developing skills
- R:** reconcilers, open vessels to the Holy Spirit so that He might lead students to the cross
- D:** drivers who lovingly push students to grow in both faith and character
- S:** s3Heep too, because they seek and serve Him every day, everywhere passionately as well.

Shepherds Needed!!!

(lambs3 and s3Heep cannot travel alone)

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Why: Authentic faith, needs authentic relationships. Small groups help nurture this.

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CHURCH NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Sam's Kids School Supply Drive



It's time for the annual school supply drive benefiting Sam's Kids!

Sam's Kids is an organization that helps Boerne ISD students in need. Sam Champion was a long-time Boerne ISD teacher, principal, and administrator and a member of St. John! Sam was passionate about helping kids and started this organization to "help level the playing field."

These items are specifically requested - though ALL supplies are helpful: WIDE RULED notebook paper, composition books, spiral notebooks, 4-oz bottles of glue, large glue sticks, 1" binders, colored pencils, and supply boxes.

Please leave your items in the designated box in the Gathering Place in the month of July. Contact Maryanna Pearson (maryannapearson@gmail.com) or Marissa Klein (mlmklein03@yahoo.com) if you have questions.

Let us pray...

Dear Lord, As we face so much unrest in our nation, we ask you to dwell among us. We pray that You would unify Your people for the glory of Your Name. We pray for Your great healing on our land. Shine your face on us dear God. We need you now, more than ever before. We ask that You would be with us, extend Your grace and mercy, provide Your protection, and empower us with Your strength. In Jesus' name, Amen.



The **STANDBYME** Mentoring Program is a ministry of Hill Country Daily Bread. It was created in 2006 to support at-risk youth in our Boerne community who are in search of support, guidance, and God's love. St. John has been involved with this ministry for many years.

This ministry will be using St. John's facilities for their Summer Leadership Academy each Monday from 9am - 3pm from June 22 - July 30.

They are rotating students to keep the overall numbers down to abide by Covid Guidelines. There will be no more than 20 students with three adult leaders gathered at any given time. Mondays and Wednesdays will be Middle School days. Tuesdays and Thursdays will be High School Days. They have Covid protocol in place that includes paying for a pest control company to spray the building we use with a deep cleaning spray once a week.

St. John is excited to partner with Hill Country Daily Bread and help this excellent mentoring program to take place!



Boerne Community Coalition

HEARTS OF LOVE FOOD DRIVE IN JULY

DONATE:

Did you know?

About 1 in 5 children in our community face food insecurity during non-school periods.

Hearts of LOVE Weekly Food Bags are designed to replace the meals and weekend food children received during the COVID-19 BISD Meal Distribution and are distributed every Wednesday via a drive-thru service at St. John Lutheran Church.

This food drive will collect food that will help fill Hearts of LOVE Weekly Food Bags. We are asking for specific items.

These can be dropped off at St. John in the Gathering Place throughout the month of July.

FOOD NEEDED:

Canned Chicken • Mac & Cheese Cups • "Chef Boyardee" pasta varieties with meat

VOLUNTEER:

If you are interested in volunteering for the Hearts of Love Weekly Food Bags over the summer, you can sign up to volunteer on our website under 'Events.' We need volunteers age 14 and up. High school students can earn service hours, and we have opportunities for student leadership.



Want to keep up with all St. John happenings?

Find us on **Facebook**, **Instagram**, and **YouTube**, check out our **website**, and subscribe to our **weekly email** 'Week-at-a-Glance' here: <http://eepurl.com/X4f4X>



CHURCH NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Happy Birthday!

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

Joan Engelking (07/19) Marjory Olson (07/27)
George Eppinger (07/26) Karen Richmond (07/28)
Bette Lafferty (07/05) Ruby Schaub (07/18)
Marjorie Levertton (07/20) Avis Young (07/29)

If you are turning 80 or are already 80+
and not listed, contact the church office.

The Disaster Relief Team is back to work!

After staying home for a few months due to Covid-19, the Disaster Relief team is back together at the coast continuing the rebuilding efforts. If you are interested in learning more or joining the team to help, please contact Lance Folkerts at lance@lftconstruction.com.



A New GriefShare Cycle Will Begin in July

The Christian-oriented GriefShare bereavement program, under the guidance of Pastor Bergquist, is available to both StJLC members and non-members. Anyone aged 17 and older mourning the death of a loved one is invited to come at any point during the 15-week cycle, as each class is a stand-alone unit. There is no charge for this ministry.

A new cycle will begin on Tuesday, July 21 and Wednesday July 22. Meeting options are: Tuesdays, 10am to noon and Wednesdays, 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Childcare is available on Wednesdays with prior notice. Both groups meet in the Education Wing, first floor.

More information is available online at www.griefshare.org or by calling Connie at 512-779-5508, Barbara at 210-373-9070, or the church office at 830-249-3651. You will find welcome and support in the company of others struggling with grief.

Thank you members of SLJC!

Thank you members of SLJC! Around 400 Ugandan families received bibles in their native language this month thanks to your generous giving. Chris Knippa with Uganda Tree of Life Ministries partnered with Pastor Andrew Wambi of New Life Ministries in Idudi, Uganda to purchase and deliver these bibles to the families they have targeted for food relief. What an incredible blessing you have been to these people in funding this project. This is a great example of "Know Jesus, Make Jesus Known!" You can find more information on supporting the Uganda Tree of Life Ministries at UTOLM.com



Grieving the death of a spouse?

*Or do you know
someone who is?*

Your life has changed forever. The daily emotions and challenges can seem too hard to bear.

Find help at a Loss of a Spouse seminar.

GRIEF SHARE LOSS OF A SPOUSE

July 12 at 2pm

The death of a spouse changes your life forever. Daily emotions and challenges can seem too hard to bear. Find help at the "Loss of a Spouse" seminar on **July 12 at 2pm at St. John Lutheran Church**. All are invited to attend. St. John membership is not required.

Register to attend at www.griefshare.org or call the church office at 830-249-3651. You may also contact Connie at 512-779-5508 or Barbara at 210-373-9070 for additional information.

Interested in planting in St. John's garden? Want to learn more?

The garden is a beautiful part of St. John! To learn more, contact

Grant Meadows
(210-289-3590)
about getting a plot
in the Vineyard and
not only nurturing
vegetables, but
"community!"



Do you like to read? Join our Book Club!

Lit 'N Lunch is a group that meets at St. John on the 3rd Monday of each month at 12 noon to discuss a book that has been read. This is not a Bible study group, but a group that reads interesting books and then gets together to discuss them. The books are chosen by the members. **The next meeting will be July 20 at noon.** The group will be discussing the book *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Terry Hermann at terryhermann08@gmail.com.

St. John Lutheran Church
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Boerne, TX 78006
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Please note that all activities, events, dates and times are subject to change and/or cancellation.

JULY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY					
	1	2	9am Summer Program Food Distribution 9am StandByMe Academy 4:30pm Growing Hope Distribution	9am StandByMe Academy 9:15am Precept 7pm AI Anon	3	4					
85am Traditional Service 9:30am Praise Service 10:45am Traditional Service	5	9am Quilters 9am StandByMe Academy-6pm Property Meeting 7pm AI Anon	6	6:30am Mens Breakfast 9am StandByMe Academy 9am Summer Program Food Distribution Prep 6pm Mission Committee 6:30pm Congregational Care 6:30pm Worship Committee	7	9am Summer Program Food Distribution 9am StandByMe Academy	8	9am StandByMe Academy 9:15am Precept 6pm HCDB Study: When Helping Hurts 7pm AI Anon	9	10	11
85am Traditional Service 9:30am Praise Service 10:45am Traditional Service 2pm Loss of a Spouse Seminar	12	9am Quilters 9am StandByMe Academy 7pm AI Anon	13	9am StandByMe Academy 9am Summer Program Food Distribution Prep 6pm Mission Committee 6:30pm Congregational ife 6:30pm Outreach Committee	14	9am Summer Program Food Distribution 9am StandByMe Academy 4:30pm Growing Hope Distribution	15	9am StandByMe Academy 6pm HCDB Study: When Helping Hurts 6:30pm Finance Committee 7pm AI Anon	16	17	18
85am Traditional Service 9:30am Praise Service 10:45am Traditional Service	19	7pm AI Anon	20	6:30am Mens Breakfast 9am StandByMe Academy 9am Summer Program Food Distribution Prep 10am GriefShare	21	9am Summer Program Food Distribution 9am StandByMe Academy 6:30pm GriefShare	22	9am StandByMe Academy 6pm HCDB Study: When Helping Hurts 7pm AI Anon	23	24	25
85am Traditional Service 9:30am Praise Service 10:45am Traditional Service	26	9am StandByMe Academy 7pm AI Anon	27	9am StandByMe Academy 9am Summer Program Food Distribution Prep 10am GriefShare 7pm Council Meeting	28	9am Summer Program Food Distribution 9am StandByMe Academy 4:30pm Growing Hope Distribution 6:30pm GriefShare	29	6pm HCDB Study: When Helping Hurts 9am StandByMe Academy 7pm AI Anon	30	31	