

# the MESSENGER

**S+JL**  
BOERNE

St. John Lutheran Church

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## Stay Connected

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Pastor Eric Waters  
Pastor Mariola Bergquist

## From the Pastor's Pen

As I sit down to write this article, it's been exactly one month since we suspended all in-person activities at the church. By the time you're reading this, it will be more like **six weeks**. That's a long time, and I miss you. You may have seen me online, but I haven't seen you.

I miss you, especially at **Communion**. One of the highlights for me every week is when I get to stand before you, look you in the eyes, and put the Body of Christ into your hands. It's one of the few moments when I as a pastor get to speak directly to you as an individual. I love that point of touch. But now we don't have it anymore.

Several people have asked if we could get it back by sharing a "virtual Communion" online, the pastors consecrating the Sacrament in the Sanctuary while people join in with their own bread and wine at home. That's a question that many Christians have been asking, all Lutheran pastors have been wrestling with, and different Lutheran churches have answered in different ways—so much so that our Bishop stepped in and sent a *Pastoral Letter on Virtual Communion* to each and every pastor in the NALC. Bishop Selbo writes,

*For the sake of the unity of the North*

*American Lutheran Church, I request that we place a moratorium on the virtual sharing of the Lord's Supper until we have allowed ourselves sufficient time to come to a thoughtful and prayerful and collective understanding around such an important and significant issue.*

We may not be able to celebrate Communion for a while, but we still are a church of Word and Sacrament. In this season when we have to fast from the Sacrament, how are you feasting on God's Word? Your **Daily Walk** with the Lord is more important now than ever. You may not be able to receive the Lord Jesus in the bread and wine, but you can still hear His voice in the Word and follow where He leads you day by day. With all the time you now have on your hands, are you spending the **First 15** minutes with Him? Read a portion of the Bible every day; reflect on what God is saying to you; respond to Him in prayer and with obedience. We cannot be together, but you are not alone. The Lord is with you; **Walk Daily** with Him and **Worship Weekly** with us online.

I know you'll see me. I'm looking forward to the day when I'll see you!

*- Pastor Eric Waters*

Read the Pastoral Letter on Virtual Communion online here: <https://thenalc.org/projects/pastoral-letter-concerning-virtual-communion/>

## Stay Up-To-Date!

At this time, all of our usual day-to-day activities are uncertain and constantly changing. **We will do our best to offer frequent updates regarding our services, activities, etc. via email, on our website, and on social media. We encourage you to follow us on Facebook and Instagram and check our website ([stjohnlutheran.com](http://stjohnlutheran.com)) often to stay informed.**

# MESSAGE from the CONGREGATION PRESIDENT

Texas Governor Abbott provided our great state with an executive order on implementing social distance during the Covid19 pandemic. It is a complex topic, very legalistic. One particular item was quite notable; he listed a set of businesses and organizations which he called "essential" activities. Among them were churches. Yes, he specifically listed churches as essential.

When the St John Council met online for the first time on March 24, we used these same words. We agreed that St

John is an essential organization during this crisis, and we are determined to continue our mission – know Jesus, and make Jesus known.

With the current pandemic crisis, we have been given many excuses to postpone decisions or decline to act. But we will not accept that. Instead, we are determined to continue with St John's crucial, essential mission. Thousands of years ago, Esther was told that she had come to her position "for such a time as this". Likewise, we are confident that St John is here at such a time

as this, for God's good purpose.

We, the leadership and all people of St John, do not have to be perfect. But we have to move – decide, act, and work. Be alert, observant, attentive. Continuously adjust our plans to meet current realities.

St John, Texas, and America will never be the same. No, actually we will be stronger than ever. Because we were placed here, at such a time as this.

St. John Congregation President,  
Scott Kramer

## A NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

### Treasure to serve the Lord

Famine plagued the world during the early church. Upon hearing that the Christians in Jerusalem were particularly suffering, Paul asked the believers in Macedonia to share their treasures with those in Judea. Despite their own shortages, they responded with delight in the name of the Lord. Postponing his trip to Rome, Paul felt it was his duty to carry these resources to Jerusalem despite great peril of his own persecution.

Despite our own suffering of illness, anxiety, fear, threats of economic hardship, and social isolation, the congregation of St. John Lutheran Church of Boerne has continued to provide its treasures to the glory of God. Our tithes and offerings through planned monthly and weekly on-line giving continue to support our church and continue our mission to love God and to love our neighbors with duty and delight. Let us offer prayers of praise and thanksgiving to God for our blessings and

*"Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints."* 2 Corinthians 8:2

give thanks to one another for our continued gifts to the church.

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										\$342,126
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	\$343,976
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	\$295,738

  

Avg Weekly Worship	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Average YTD
2020	449	408	331*										396
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.

## CHURCH NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We want to express our thanks and appreciation to Kevin and Sarah who helped coordinate and chaperone Youth activities this past summer, fall and winter. They resigned in March, still wanting to stay active within our St. John Family, but without leadership responsibilities. They both brought energy and fun to our various events as well as sincere faith as they cared for and ministered to our youth & their families. Sarah's gift of organizing and administrative skills in the Family's H.Q. office will be greatly missed, as well as Kevin's knack for keeping smiles on our faces as we fellowshiped together. We look forward to their continued involvement from time to time.

The Family's Committee will explore next steps for rebuilding the Family's Team after the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. Please keep them in your prayers as we look to the future the LORD would have for us.

Happy Birthday!

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

Pearl Hillrichs (05/10) Bob Sousa (05/20)

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



www.griefshare.org

Connie: 512-779-5508,

Barbara: 210-373-9070,

St. John office: 830-249-3651.

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# FAMILY<sup>3</sup> MINISTRIES

Know Jesus and Make Jesus Known.

**FAMILY<sup>3</sup>**  
Together, in our Home,  
Church and World  
Families

## Our Family<sup>3</sup> Ministries Team:

Matt Olson, Director of Family<sup>3</sup> Ministries, Email: matt@stjohnlutheran.com, Cell: 830-388-1550  
Tiffany Jurezcki, Nursery and Children's Ministry Coordinator.  
Email: tiffany@stjohnlutheran.com, Cell: 830-328-3744  
Amy Townsend, Hospitality Coordinator, Email: amy@stjohnlutheran.com, Cell: 713-480-8113

## Parents/Grandparents/Adults The Truth Project

Sunday Shepherds Cave class for Parents/Grandparents/Adults of All Ages is 9:30am currently on Zoom, but will be in Room #117 when we meet in person. Look for connecting information on St. John's Week At a Glance Tuesday email, as well as on the church's website. The Spring and Summer study comes from Focus on the Family's "Truth Project" series which deals with understanding a Biblical world view verses various current world views:

**May 3rd: Philosophy & Ethics: Says Who?** Our understanding of right and wrong is directly dependent on our worldview: is the universe God's creation or a closed cosmic cube?

**May 10th: Anthropology: Who is Man?** The Bible tells us that man fell from innocence through sin. Modern psychology asserts that man is inherently good and behaves badly only under the influence of pressure. This lesson explores the implications of both views.

**May 17th: Theology: Who is God?** Eternal life, according to Jesus, is knowing God in an intimate, personal, and relational way.

**May 24th: Science: What is True?** The Darwinian theory transforms science from the honest investigation of nature into a vehicle for propagating a godless philosophy.

**May 31st: History: Whose Story?** This tour considers the meaning of history as God's story and shows us why remembering is so important.

*Note: High School Juniors and Seniors will be joining adults in the Shepherds Cave on Sunday mornings at 9:30am or 10:45am when it is okay for people to gather in groups again.*

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION NEWS

### Ladies' Bible Study

**PRECEPT Thursday 9:15am-11:15am**  
Precept will only be held if groups of 50 are allowed to meet. For more information contact Pastor Mariola Bergquist: pastormariola@stjohnlutheran.com

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

**Wednesdays 9am-10:15am**

Women of the Word will plan to begin a new seven week study on May 6, 2020 called What Love Is. This study is by Kelly Minter and focuses on the books of 1, 2, and 3 John.

Please contact Michelle Waters at watersmichellejoy@gmail.com for info.



### Calling all St. John men!

We are looking for four men to start another 'Every Man a Warrior (Helping Men Succeed in Life)' discipleship group on Monday Nights from 8:00 - 9:30pm. These meetings will be held via Zoom until we are cleared to meet in person. Contact Matt Olson to find out more: matt@stjohnlutheran.com

Happy Hearts will only meet if gatherings are allowed in May



For more information, email Pastor Mariola: pastormariola@stjohnlutheran.com

## Women's Retreat

**October 16-18 - We Need Your Help to Plan!**

The St. John Lutheran Church **Women's Overnight Retreat** will be **October 16-18 at Lutheran Camp Chrysalis in Kerrville, Texas.** The retreat will be a great time to get to know one another and our best friend: Jesus.

**Now it is time to start planning and we need your help.**

Please contact **Peggy Hoppes** at [heart2love4god@aol.com](mailto:heart2love4god@aol.com) to be part of the planning committee. We plan to have our first meeting in June.



## YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

LAMBS<sup>3</sup> and S<sup>3</sup>HEEP "feeding times," will return as soon as gatherings are allowed



**VBS**

**VBS is going VIRTUAL but PERSONAL for PEOPLE OF ALL AGES - June 8-12**  
**This year the theme is 'GOD is GOOD!'**

**This year's VBS will come to YOU! - People of every age are invited to participate! Watch your inbox, facebook, and our website!**

Each day, families and individuals, will have 9 different options (on a "Choice Board") to explore the themes through: the Word of God, a Game, a Science Experiment, Music, a Craft, a Service project, a Discipleship experience, a Bible Memory Verse, and Fun in the Kitchen! All of these options can be done in your own home with items you can find in your house! See how many your family can complete each day, and have fun learning about God and growing in your faith with your family!

### High School Camp Eagle Has Been Suspended

High Schoolers, we are sorry to announce that Camp Eagle has suspended Summer Camps, for this summer, we will reschedule for 2021 this June. Learn more here: <https://info.campeagle.org/coronavirus>

**Important Faith Journey Milestone Celebrations will happen. Date and time TBD.**

**First Communion** will happen at one of the first couple services in which we are all gathered again.

**Confirmation** will depend on expectation completions as well as student & pastor interview timing, thus hoping by the end of May or first part of June (if unable to finish by this time, we will concentrate on a Sunday in September).

**Graduate Recognition Sunday** is still planned for May 17th, trusting that we are back worshipping within the sanctuary at this time. If not, we will reschedule for a different date and time.

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## Are you and your family practicing the Faith5?

Deuteronomy 6:5-9 says: <sup>5</sup> Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. <sup>6</sup> These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. <sup>7</sup> Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>8</sup> Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. <sup>9</sup> Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

It is said that Faith is better caught than taught, thus this COVID-19 crisis has eerily illustrated how being close in proximity is a powerful thing. For faith to do such things, it needs to be daily modeled and regularly talked about. We need it by:

1. Caring for one another in the "highs" & "lows" of life
2. Daily taking a dose of God's Word, hearing His stories and directions for us
3. Talking about how that Word intersects or crosses into our life's "ups," and "downs"
4. Praying together about such things; and
5. Blessing one another - remembering our Baptism - we are a child of God, marked with the cross of Christ forever!

Dare we be thankful in such difficult times?! We have been given time and space to truly practice and live such things. Please go to our church's website to get further help in nurturing Him in your life and your family.

**God is good all the time, all the time God is good!** <https://www.stjohnlutheran.com/walk-daily>

### Children's Day Camp • July 20-24

Cross Trails Ministry Day Camp is a camp program for children who have completed grades K-5. The day will include Bible studies and worship, music, games, puppets, and crafts. All campers will receive a souvenir T-shirt and water bottle. Cross Trails camp staff will be running the



programming of this camp. We are looking for volunteers to help, ages 16 years and up - talk to Matt or Tiffany. Registration opens in May, watch for more details.

### Encouragement in Christ through online ZOOM gatherings

See St. John Week at a Glance email for links

**Parents / Grandparents:** enter the Shepherd Cave on **Sundays at 9:30am**

**Middle Schoolers:** be a part of the Fold online. **Sundays at 4pm.**

**High School freshman and sophomores:** discover that the Upper Room can be online too. **Sundays at 7pm.**

**High School juniors and seniors:** have your own virtual Upper Room space on **Sundays at 8:30pm.**

**Young Adults:** let us explore together as we experiment with a 5pm "Happy Hour," virtual style, on **Sundays at 5pm.**

*With Him, together we will get through this!*