

the MESSENGER

S⁺JLC
BOERNE

St. John Lutheran Church

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www.stjohnlutheran.com



December 2020 • Volume 91-12

Stay Connected

Council Contacts:

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Scott Kramer - 512-914-3121

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Brad Allen - 210-232-4286

Secretary
Lois Ruck - 210-473-7825

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Shaun Danney - 210-213-8758

Congregational Life
Teri Folkerts - 210-273-7245

Worship
Shay Knippa - 830-522-1884

Stewardship
Mark Danney - 210-610-2090

Outreach
Frank Bush - 210-602-6220

Property
Walter Stroman - 210-912-8453

Mission
Janet Blackburn - 830-446-9258

Family³ Ministries
George Klein - 210-269-4620

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

If there was ever a year we needed some Christmas cheer, this is it! So come and help us get the church all bright and cheery for Christmas. We'll be **decorating the church** the first day of the month, Tuesday, December 1, beginning at 9:30 in the morning. We could really use your help, and I bet you could use some time out of the house to hang out with other people as we hang Christmas decorations throughout the church. It will be a good opportunity for fellowship and service, and a good way to get in the spirit for Christmas. **Come and join us!**

Come and join us at the **Christmas Cantata and Children's Program**, too. This year we're combining the two events into one and offering it twice on the same Sunday, December 13, at the 9:30am and 11am services (the 8am service will be as usual). Our Director of Music Ministry, TJ Bazzoon, and our Praise Band Leader, Gareth Goode, are working together to provide us with great music. We'll hear from instrumentalists, choirs, the Praise Band, and of course sing Christmas carol. The Family Ministry is working with our children and youth to tell the Christmas Story through narrative and drama. It

promises to be a fun and heartwarming way to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. **Come and join us!**

Then come back and join us two weeks later on **Christmas Eve**. We'll worship Christ the newborn King at four services this year: 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, and 9pm. The 3pm is new this year. It's a **Family Service** designed to get young children involved in the Christmas Story and channel that holiday excitement into worship. It starts with a bare Christmas tree, which the children decorate with ornaments as the story of Jesus unfolds. It promises to be boisterous, high-energy, and hands-on, with lots of singing. The 5pm service will feature the Praise Band leading us in Christmas carols with a contemporary twist. The 7pm service is a Traditional service featuring choir and brass. The 9pm service is a Traditional service with soloists. Due to covid concerns, Communion will be offered only at the 9pm service this year, though we'll sing Silent Night by candlelight at 5pm, 7pm, and 9pm—and by glowsticks at 3pm. **Come and join us!**

- Pastor Eric Waters

Want to keep up with everything that is happening at St. John?

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>



MESSAGE from the CONGREGATION **PRESIDENT**

It's always been my favorite time of year. Football, harvest, Thanksgiving, then Christmas and New Years. In spite of the strange year of 2020, it is still my favorite season.

As I look back over my shoulder at this past year, I see long lasting images of St John. Our pastors, staff, and leadership have served us so very well. Working together, keeping their eyes on the mission, they not only protected the church but continued its work moving forward. It would have been easy to

pull back, to wait it out. But they chose the tougher path, they faced the difficult challenges. And thus, St. John has been blessed.

We know that St. John is bigger than any of us, bigger than all of us. That spirit is reflected in our constitution, which requires periodic change in leadership roles. It has served the church well over the past 90 years, bringing a variety of talents and perspectives.

As for me, my term as congregation president will be completed at the end of

December. I have served on Council for the past six years, due to some unusual circumstances. And it has been my great privilege to serve with so many talented and generous people. God has blessed me and St. John through them.

And so it will go in 2021 and beyond. New leaders, new members. But our mission remains the same – Know Jesus, Make Jesus Known.

St. John Congregation President,
Scott Kramer



A NOTE ON **STEWARDSHIP**

Our Greatest Joy

Our congregation experienced much joy in November in committing our time, talent, and treasures to God on Consecration Sunday and giving the Lord thanks on our holiday of Thanksgiving.

But it is December where our faith, our hope, and our love in God brings forth our greatest joy. We will look forward to the

coming of the Messiah and finally celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. While our earthly gifts to one another will please us, let us remember the greatest gift of all, "the free gift of God of eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord."

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee I wish you a blessed and

Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14

For the wages of sin is death; but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Roman 6:23

Merry Christmas.

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	\$97,070	\$97,859	\$116,881	\$101,328	\$94,725			\$1,048,084
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	\$1,395,332
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	\$1,317,542

ATTENDANCE COMPARISON

Avg Weekly Worship	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	329 Average YTD
2020 ONLINE				705	513	220	220	241	233	170			
IN-PERSON	449	408	331*		142	219	148	210	243	247			266
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.



FAMILY³ MINISTRIES

Know Jesus and Make Jesus Known.

FAMILY³

Together, in our Home,
Church and World
Families

ADULT FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Ladies' Bible Study

PRECEPT

Thursday 9:15am-11:15am Precept class is on recess for the holidays. Led by Pastor Mariola Bergquist.

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

Wednesdays 9am-10am

WOW will resume again in January. Look for more information soon!
Led by Michelle Waters

Mens' Bible Study

Mens' Breakfast

Every other Tuesday 6:30am

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



HAPPY HEARTS

potluck and fellowship is on hold for now due to COVID 19. We will resume when it's safe and possible.

Adult Sunday School Classes

9:30am "God Talk"

Studying the Psalms. Led by Peggy Hoppes.

9:30am "Seekers" Room 216. Led by Lanne Brehmer.

Be a part of a Men or Women's Small Group that will grow your Bible Study skills and deepen your relationship with Jesus.



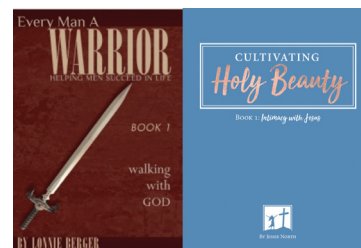
Parents Grandparents Adults

In person and on Zoom. See recent Week at a Glance email for connecting).

The Truth Project will only be held at 10:40am on December 6 and December 13. There will be a break on December 20 and December 27. We will return again on January 3.

10:40am Topics:

Sunday, December 6 and 13 Science: What is True? ("B" part I and II) 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.



The study series, *Every Man a Warrior: Helping Men Succeed in Life* has proven to be a favorite for many here at St. John, let alone around the world. Its counterpart for women, *Cultivating Holy Beauty*, holds promise to do the same. Let Matt know if you would like to find out more or just let him know you are ready to get started!

Women's One Day Retreat

Saturday, January 30, 9am-3pm

GAME

CHANGER

We've lived through a GAME CHANGER of a year! Come see what "new thing" the Lord is doing in our lives. Don't miss this opportunity to worship, hear encouraging messages, meet new women through fellowship time, enjoy a catered lunch, visit the prayer room, and take Communion together.

Catered lunch and refreshments included. Childcare included upon request.

Due to CDC health guidelines and the need to social distance, we will not be taking walk-up registrations on the day of the retreat.

Register by December 31 for an early bird discounted price of \$30.

Registrations received between January 1 and January 15 will be at a cost of \$35.

Final deadline to register is January 15, 2021 (\$35).

For more information contact Michelle Waters at watersmichellejoy@gmail.com or Judi Catalon at judicatalon@gmail.com

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY by visiting our website under 'Events'



FAMILY³ MINISTRIES

Know Jesus and Make Jesus Known.

FAMILY³

Together, in our Home,
Church and World
Families

Our Family³ Ministries Team:

Matt Olson, Director of Family³ 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

Due to Covid-19, we are still on PAUSE with Parents' Night Out.

Please watch for further information as we would like to provide this opportunity for both students and parents as soon as is safely possible.

NURSERY NEWS

Nursery care is available!
We will have a nursery care provider present during **Sunday** morning worship and education times, as well as on **Wednesday** evenings from 7pm - 8pm.

It would be appreciated if parents / guardians would **register your pre-school child** online on St. John's website. This will help us to determine the number of care providers needed. Thank you.

Children and Youth Sunday School will take a break December 20 and 27 for the Christmas and New Year vacations and will return on January 3

Regular Wednesday Night Activities are on break until January 6

When Wednesday Nights Return:

Popcorn & a Movie will be back for K-4th graders.

First Communion (5th graders) will return to a special Seder Meal event on January 13

6th - 8th grade Confirmation Students will continue learning and practicing how the Lord taught us to pray.

9th - 11th graders will "chill" and "chat" as together they discuss life and God.

12th graders will do the same but in the context of preparing for life after High School.

Watch for more information!

Looking ahead to 2021: A Faith Mile Marker



4th and 5th Graders, Parents and Grandparents, as well as any interested persons, are invited to a Family Strong Workshop where we will discover that "together we are on a mission!"

Join us in the Family Life Center at 9:30am or 10:40am

Sunday, January 10

Mission #1: Live Your Purpose in Life

Sunday, January 24

Mission #2: Making a Family Mission Statement

Sunday, January 31

Mission #3: Develop a Supportive Faith Web

**It's Summer Camp Time
REGISTRATION IS GOING ON NOW!**

Here is the projected plan:

High School and Middle School Students:

Camp Eagle - June 14 - 19

Elementary, Middle School and High Schooler Options:

Camp Chrysalis - June 27 through July 2

Young'ns (completed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades)

Explorers (completed 2nd and 3rd grades)

Yearlings (completed 4th, 5th and 6th grades)

Adventurers (completed 6th, 7th and 8th grades)

High School Beach Camp - offsite
(completed 9th - 12th grades)

Introducing St. John's Family³ Ministries' s3Heep doGs.

The s3Heep doGs are students that have been a part of a Servant-Leadership class this fall with Carol Rownd and have now committed to being a part of a youth leadership team who will help shape and steer our youth ministry events and activities.

Mallory and Zachary were elected to be the new 2021 Youth Representatives on the church council so they will help bridge communications between leadership groups. Hopefully you already know what s3Heep stands for, but to be doGs...one needs to be a **disciple** **obeying** **God's** signals.

Please pray for them as together with the Family³ Ministry Committee and Team we will truly follow God's leadings!





FAMILY³ MINISTRIES

Know Jesus and Make Jesus Known.

FAMILY³

Together, in our Home,
Church and World
Families

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



YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION



LAMBS³:
learning and
memorizing Bible
stories, songs,
and service

A Special Advent Showing:

"The Star of Bethlehem"

Unlock the Mystery of the World's
Most Famous Star



Scholars debate whether the Star of Bethlehem is a legend created by the early church or a miracle that marked the advent of Christ. Is it possible that the star was a real, astronomical event? You will need to watch this.

Meet in the Shepherd's Cave at 9:30am Sunday,
December 6 (part I), Sunday, December 13 (part II)



Youth Christmas Party

**Sunday, December 6 • 12:30pm - 6pm
at Andretti's Indoor Karting and Games**

**Please register by December 2
Sign up on our website under 'Events'**

This end-of-the-year event for 6th - 12th graders will rekindle some fun connections with each other and set us up for a positive New Year in 2021!

We will leave the church parking lot at 12:30pm via the bus and any other vehicles we might need. We will arrive, have lunch and get orientated for the afternoon's plans. After arcade games, we will head home, aiming to get back to church by 6pm.

The event is FREE for St. John members.

One non-member friend can be invited and pay only \$30 (This normally costs \$60, but St. John's Youth Ministry will cover half). Register online!



Christmas Cantata and Youth Program

This year, Choir Ensembles, the Praise Band, various soloists along with the Children and Youth of St. John's Sunday School classes will together lead the Sunday, December 13 9:30am and 11am worship services.

Under the theme, "Peace on Earth," we will seek to prepare our hearts as we remember He who is the Prince of Peace.

Wednesday, December 2, 7pm

OLDER Student Rehearsal (5th-12th grade) - Run through in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 6, 9:30am

Children and Youth Group rehearsals in Historic Chapel

Wednesday, December 9, 7pm

ALL Participants Dress Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 13, 9:30am and 11am

Leading of Worship Services.

Note: 10:30am Christmas Recital pieces will be going on in the Sanctuary until the 11am Worship time.

CHURCH NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Eve Services December 24 at 3pm, 5pm, 7pm and 9pm

We will worship at four services this year: 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, and 9pm.

The 3pm is a Family Service designed to get young children involved in the Christmas Story and channel that holiday excitement into worship. It starts with a bare Christmas tree which the children will decorate with ornaments as the story of Jesus unfolds. It promises to be boisterous, high-energy, and hands-on, with lots of singing.

The 5pm service will feature the Praise Band leading us in Christmas carols with a contemporary twist.

The 7pm service is a Traditional service featuring choir and brass.
THIS SERVICE WILL BE LIVESTREAMED AT 7PM!

The 9pm service is a Traditional service with soloists.

We'll sing Silent Night by candlelight at 5pm, 7pm, and 9pm—and by glowsticks at 3pm.

Due to covid concerns, Communion will be offered only at the 9pm service this year.



Christmas Poinsettias are for sale!

The Christmas Poinsettias will be for sale for \$10 each and can be taken home after the 9pm Christmas Eve service. Fill out a form online or use the insert in the Sunday bulletin. THE DEADLINE TO ORDER IS DECEMBER 14!

It was Mrs. Peacock in the Dining Room!

Thanks to all of our wonderfully weird and scary volunteers who made "Clue Night," look and work beautifully, (that is - if you can say "Zombie Land" can be beautiful?!)

In case you didn't hear...the guilty person was Mrs. Peacock (a.k.a. Connie Harbers). While in the Dining Room, she lured Pastor Waters and his dog into captivity via her Gingerbread and Candy-made house. Fortunately, Pastor Waters and his dog, Zeke, both love candy and were able to eat their way out and escape. 50% of the participants got it right! This was a fun night that won't soon be forgotten!



CHURCH NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

THANK YOU

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the years of prayers for Ralph. Your love for us was truly felt in all the ways you have cared for us. Thank you for the prayers, cards, food, support, and hugs over the last few weeks. You have truly fulfilled Romans 12:10 to us: "Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor."

- The Hermmann Family

My sister, Melissa Harris, and I would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Pastor Waters and Paster Bergquist for the phone calls and many prayers said for us during our recent illness. We would also like to thank our church family for praying for us and for the get-well cards. All the prayers and thoughts helped restore us back to good health.

- Connie Wuest and Melissa Harris

We would like to thank everyone for the many calls, texts, emails, and prayers for our recovery. We feel truly blessed to be a part of the St. John Lutheran family.

-Howard and Jean Sheffy

Many thanks to all who participated in the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Event!

St. John held our annual Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection Week in November. Volunteers worked tirelessly donating, greeting, tracking, praying, packing, and loading shoeboxes. What a great team!

These shoebox gifts will bless children around the world and introduce them to the Good News of Jesus Christ. For many of these children, this will be the first gift they have ever received.

The generosity of the time and resources given by our StJLC family is making a difference and beaming out the love of Jesus Christ. Many thanks to all!

Thank you!

A special "thanks," to Ida Busby and Don Baker for their work on St. John's outdoor Nativity scene. Don recut and better stabilized all the characters as well as reworked the stable setup. Ida repainted them all! It was a full year of diligent work that not only blesses our church but now continues to bless our community. "Thanks and well done!"



Happy Birthday!

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

Marlene Barnes (12/09)	Anita Smoot (12/21)
Willena Becker (12/27)	Chuck Straayer (12/01)
Billie Bergmann (12/13)	Maurice Theis (12/12)
Judith Heiligmann (12/06)	Joyce Young (12/30)
Beverly Serr (12/25)	Bill Warncke (12/18)

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



The physical, emotional, and spiritual effects following the loss of a loved one can be devastating. The good news, is that grieving folks who find a support group often discover that the process from mourning to joy is possible.

GriefShare is a 15-week program where participants will find support and practical advice from professionals via a video component that addresses many feelings associated with death.

Each of the 15 sessions stands alone, and it is not necessary to begin with the very first one. A participant can start at any point during the cycle.

A new Tuesday morning cycle will begin January 19, 10am to noon. Call the church office at 830-249-3651 or Connie Harbers at 512-779-5508 for more information.

The Wednesday evening cycle will begin January 20, 6pm-8pm. Contact the church office or Barbara Rogers at 210-373-9070.

More GriefShare information is available at www.griefshare.org.

Growing Hope Update:

The Growing Hope Ministry has flourished this year and is grateful for all the volunteers and awesome mentors. A huge thank you goes out to the current mentors: Matt Olson, Lil Rogers, and Linda Bush, who have been serving in this capacity for some time now.

This ministry has also added several new mentors this year who have volunteered to walk alongside families offering encouragement, guidance, accountability and the gospel: Barbara Rogers, Linda Fleck, Anna Miltenberger, Shari Hahn, and Karen Ross. Thank you to all our team mentors for serving!



Vineyard News



Alex Post is our new
Vineyard overseer.

Thank you, Alex, for volunteering to serve in this way!

Plots are available so plan now on what you want to grow this coming spring as well as be ready to swap gardening tips with our neighbors. Alex can be reached at (210) 315-5516.

St. John Lutheran Church
315 E. Rosewood
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Boerne, TX 78006
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DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		8am Roberta Buckles Painting 1 9:30am Church Christmas Decorating 6pm American Heritage Girls 6:30pm Congregational Care 6:30pm Worship Committee	7pm Christmas Program Rehearsal (5th grade - 12th grade) 2	7pm Al-Anon 3	4	5
8am Traditional Service 6 9am Coffee and Pastries 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Praise Service 10:40am Truth Project 11am Traditional Service 12:30pm Youth Christmas Party 6pm Dominoes	9am Quilters 7 6pm EMAW Groups 6pm Property Meeting 7pm Al-Anon	6:30am Men's Breakfast 8 8am Roberta Buckles Painting 11:30am Al-Anon Book Club 6pm Mission Committee 6:30pm Congregational Life	4:30pm Growing Hope Distribution 9 7pm Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal (K-12)	5pm Intern Committee Meeting 10 7pm Al-Anon	11	12
Christmas Cantata and Youth 13 Christmas Program 9:30 & 11 8am Traditional Service 9am Coffee and Pastries 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Praise Service 10:40am Truth Project 11am Traditional Service	9am Quilters 14 6pm EMAW Groups 7pm Al-Anon	8am Roberta Buckles Painting 15 6pm American Heritage Girls 7pm Council Meeting	16	6pm Friend N Faith Eat Out 17 Group 7pm Al-Anon	18	19
8am Traditional Service 20 9am Coffee and Pastries 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service 6pm Canasta	11:30am Mens Lunch at Mamacitas 21 12pm Lit N Lunch 7pm Al-Anon	6:30am Men's Breakfast 22 8am Roberta Buckles Painting 6pm Wild Game Dinner Committee	23	Christmas Eve Services 24 3pm - Family 5pm - Praise 7pm - Traditional 9pm - Traditional	Christmas Day! Office Closed 25	26
8am Traditional Service 27 9am Coffee and Pastries 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service 6pm Canasta	7pm Al-Anon 28	8am Roberta Buckles Painting 29	30	7pm Al-Anon 31		