

the MESSENGER

S⁺JLC
BOERNE

St. John Lutheran Church

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www.stjohnlutheran.com



January 2021 • Volume 92-01

Stay Connected

Council Contacts:

President

Brandt Klutts - 830-305-4623

Vice-President

Allen Hornung - 830-741-1082

Secretary

Gloria Baker - 830-431-0522

Treasurer

Chris Gold - 210-363-6692

Congregational Care

Rachel Edwards - 210-347-3277

Congregational Life

Teri Folkerts - 210-273-7245

Stewardship

Michael Hoepfner - 210-649-8825

Outreach

Frank Bush - 210-602-6220

Mission

Janet Blackburn - 830-446-9258

Family³ Ministries

George Klein - 210-269-4620

Youth Representatives

Zach Gold, Mallory Klein

Pastors can be reached at
830-249-3651

Pastor Eric Waters

Pastor Mariola Bergquist

Vicar Alliyah Greaver

From the Pastor's Pen

Happy New Year! And may this new year coming be better than the one that was. If 2020 taught us anything, it's that so much is outside of our control and beyond our influence. But there are some things we can control and influence. The most important is our time. The Lord has given each and every one of us the same 24 hours in a day. It's up to us how we use them. I know many of us are busy, with demands on our time from dawn to dusk. But you can always find 15 minutes to spend with the Lord. That's what I'm asking you to do this year.

Make it your New Year's resolution to **spend 15 minutes in a Daily Walk** with the Lord. It's the single best thing you could do for your faith. Remember the Reveal Survey we took two years ago? We were one of over 2,000 congregations that participated. The Survey found that, across the country and different denominations, daily reading and reflecting on Scripture have the most powerful impact on spiritual growth by far—far more than any other single practice. So if you want to

grow in faith this year, spend time with the Lord every day.

Let me show you how. I'm teaching a **4-week class** on Wednesday nights called "First 15: How to Walk Daily with the Lord." It's a very practical class that will walk you through the nuts and bolts of a personal devotional time and equip you to spend daily time with the Lord. I won't just teach you these things: I'll be doing them with you, walking alongside you as you learn to Walk Daily with the Lord.

I want to see our church grow in health and

numbers. Growth begins with you, as a member of the church body, spending time with the Lord. If you're not already doing that, make it your resolution to start this year. If you need help, let me show you how.

There's a lot we can't control or influence in our lives, but we can choose how we spend our time. Choose to spend daily time with the Lord this year.

- 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>



A NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

A New Creation

As we turn our calendars we will look back on 2020 as a year full of more trials and tribulations than most. Paul's words reassure us that in our walk with Christ Jesus the year 2021 and the years beyond will grow our faith, hope, love, and joy.

This is the time we all make New Year's resolutions. Already there is much joy in our church as many of us have pledged financial support for 2021. Equally as

important has been the response of time and talent in the pledges of service. Stewardship is alive and well at St. John Lutheran Church.

Some resolutions will fade, but let us pray that we keep the greatest resolution, to love our God and to love our neighbors. Let us continue to worship our God, walk with Christ, connect with one another, and serve our Lord.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

2 Corinthians 5:17

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, I wish you a Happy New Year.

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	99,757		\$1,147,841
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	\$1,117,011
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	\$1,147,330

ATTENDANCE COMPARISON

Avg Weekly Worship	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Average YTD
2020 ONLINE				705	513	220	220	241	233	170	143		
IN-PERSON	449	408	331*		142	219	148	210	243	247	220		306
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.

Thank you for the 2021 Pledges

Thank you for your 2021 pledges! The Apostle Paul counsels us to "set something aside and store it up" for the Lord (1 Cor 16:2), and I want to thank you for what you're setting aside and storing up for St. John Lutheran in 2021. I'm thrilled to report that 72% of our households have made pledges for next year, and that 78% of those pledges are at or above the key \$2000 threshold in our church. Thank you for trusting St. John Lutheran with your gift to the Lord. We are a member-supported ministry and do what we do because you give. Thank you!

Introducing our New Council Members:

Beginning January 1, 2021, there are changes to our Council.

We welcome our new leaders and thank all of our volunteers for serving in such important roles at St. John!

President: Brandt Klutts
Vice-President: Allen Hourning
Secretary: Gloria Baker
Treasurer: Chris Gold
Family Ministries: George Klein

Mission Committee Chair: Janet Blackburn
Congregational Life Chair: Teri Folkerts
Outreach Chair: Frank Bush
Stewardship Chair: Michael Hoepfner
Congregational Care Chair: Rachel Edwards

Youth Member Male: Zach Gold
Youth Member Female: Mallory Klein

Senior Pastor: Eric Waters
Associate Pastor: Mariola Bergquist
Vicar: Alliyah Greaver



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 will resume on January 7. We will study the book of "Exodus - Let My People Go." This is a powerful study of deliverance, redemption, the Law, and the Tabernacle. For more information or to sign up, please email pastormariola@stjohnlutheran.com. Led by Pastor Mariola Bergquist.

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

Wednesdays 9am-10am
January 13-April 28

Women of the Word will start a new bible study on the Gospel of Mark on January 13. Join us for "Come Back to the Source: The Gospel of Mark." There is a \$5 materials fee. Please contact Michelle Waters for more information: watersmichellejoy@gmail.com

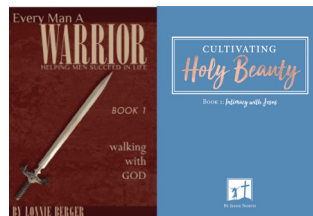


Mens' Bible Study

Mens' Breakfast

Every other Tuesday 6:30am
"Master Builders Bible For Men" is the foundation for discussion topics.

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



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. It's 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!

Adult Sunday School Classes

9:30am "God Talk"

Studying the Psalms. Led by Peggy Hoppes.

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



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



**Parents
Grandparents
Adults
Young Adults**

The Truth Project continues on DVD in the Shepherd's Cave, Room #117
Sunday mornings:

10:40am Topics:

Sunday, January 3 and 10 Science: What is True? ("B" part I and II)

Part "B": 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.

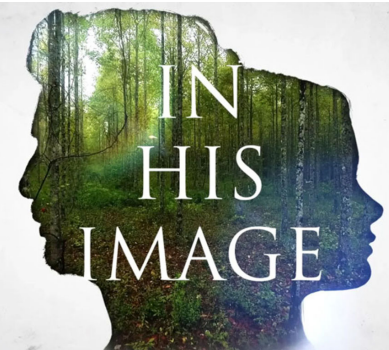
Sunday, January 17 and 24 History: Whose Story?

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.

Sunday, January 31 Sociology: The Divine Imprint (part I)

The order we observe in the natural realm is even more apparent in the social systems God has established: family, church, community, state, labor, and the union between God and man. Life is a series of relationships that flow out of and reflect the Trinitarian nature of the Creator.

ATTENTION!
**All Small Group Leaders,
Middle School Teachers,
High School Teachers and
Adult Bible Study/
Sunday Morning Teachers:**



Join us for a preview of American Family Studios Movie "In His Image: Delighting in God's Plan for Gender and Sexuality."

Your feedback and ideas are critical to us as we plan to discuss/teach this sensitive topic in the coming months.

Thursday, January 14, 6:30pm
in the Family Life Center

Pizza and salad will be served.

Please RSVP and direct any questions to
Matt Olson:
matt@stjohnlutheran.com



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

We are excited to announce that we are looking for an additional member to the Family³ Team!

We would like to hire a full-time Youth Director who will focus on the 6th -12th grade ministries.

Please help spread the word. Thanks!



4th and 5th Graders, Parents and Grandparents (and 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

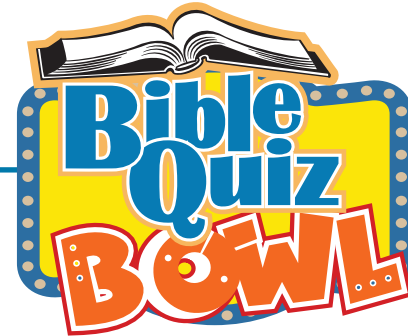
Mission #1: Live Your Purpose in Life

Sunday, January 24

Mission #2: Making a Family Mission Statement

Sunday, January 31

Mission #3: Develop a Supportive Faith Web



**January 3, 9:30am
in the Family Life Center**

Join us as our young people test their memory on some Bible lessons they learned this past fall. Come encourage them and see how Biblically knowledgeable you are!

We are called to know and remember. It will be fun too!



REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 10

Sign up online: www.stjohnlutheran.com

High School Students 2 Options:

Camp Eagle - June 14 - 19

Beach Camp with Cross Trails - June 27 - July 2

Elementary:

Camp Chrysalis - June 27 - July 2

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

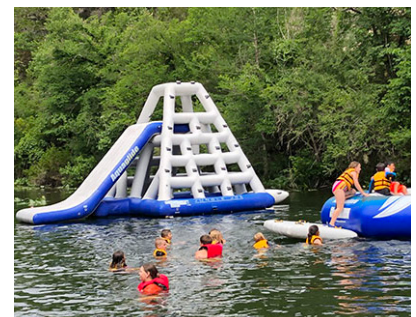
Explorers (completed 2nd and 3rd grades)

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

Confirmation Students:

Camp Chrysalis - June 27 - July 2

Confirmation Camp - completed 6th and 7th grades



NURSERY CARE IS AVAILABLE ON SUNDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS

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



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

SUNDAY SYNOPSIS FOR THE SECOND HALF OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

I.a.m.b.s³: They will be continuing their focused area of Bible Story learning:

K - 1st Graders will explore the happenings in the Promise Land after David takes on Goliath!

2nd Graders will keep taking-in Jesus' parables!

3rd Graders will view Jesus' miracles and teachings as well as His road to the cross!

4th and 5th Graders, after three special Faith Mile Marker Workshops, will reengage in their Biblical studies. The 4th graders will continue the adventures of the Apostles in the spreading of the Word! The 5th graders will continue to be BOLD as they discuss questions of faith!



s3H.e.e.p.: Some will be continuing on while some will be starting something new:

6th Graders will be finishing their review of the Old Testament and then starting the New Testament!

7th and 8th boys will join together and the 7th and 8th girls will join together as they discuss what "Living as a Young Person of God" is all about!

9th and 10th Graders will join as they delve into a Bible Study (on 1st and 2nd Timothy and Titus) where they will deepen in faith even in the midst of a world of oppression, danger and difficulty, much like Timothy and Titus faced.

11th and 12th Graders will continue their book and Bible study on how to live a "Christ-Centered Life!"



WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

RESUME JANUARY 6

K-4TH

Popcorn and a Movie will be back for K-4th graders. Meet in the Shepherd's Cave, room #117. (Students will build faith and character by watching animated stories of real people who sacrificed in various ways to give honor and glory to Christ. From The Torchlighters - Heroes of the Faith)

January 6 - The Gladys Aylward Story- The missionary who helped over 100 orphans escape through war-torn China.

January 13 - The Samuel Morris Story- The African youth who inspired a generation.

January 20 - Service Project night. Putting our faith into action!

January 27 - The Amy Carmichael Story- The rescuing of children from powerful customs and superstitions that kept them hostage in a temple.

5TH

First Communion: 5th graders; (a parent/guardian - please join your child on the 13th*)

January 6 - Remembrance - We have been instructed to remember HIS-STORY!

January 13 - STARTS at 6pm, *Seder Meal served...Presence - He is here! (6 - 8pm)

January 20 - Service Project night. Putting our faith into action!

January 27 - Covenant - A Promise that God will forever keep even when we fail to do so!

6TH-8TH

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

January 6 - Temptation - What Is It That Tempts You?

January 13 - Deliverance - How are we saved?

January 20 - Service Project night. Putting our faith into action!

January 27 - Doxology - Hallelujah!

9TH-11TH

9th - 11th graders will "chill and chat" and discuss life and God and living the Fruits of the Spirit

January 6 - We are actually made to be FRUITY! Let's discuss!

January 13 - What's your LOVE life like? Do you have the JOY down in your heart?

January 20 - Service Project night: Putting our faith into action!

January 27 - What's your score on the Peace and Patience scale? How can we do better?

12TH & UP

Life After High School (12th graders)

January 6 - Graduation will be AWESOME, but Knowing the Real Gospel is even more so!

January 13 - Seeing Myself After Graduation.

January 20 - Having Genuine Conversations with People of Other Faiths.

January 27 - Finding God's Plan for Me.



CHURCH NEWS and UPCOMING EVENTS

A December to Remember...



May His peace reign
in our ❤️ s
and be shared with the world!

CHURCH NEWS and UPCOMING EVENTS

New Bible Class: "The First 15" Begins January 6



"First 15: How to Walk Daily the with the Lord"—Make it your New Year's Resolution to spend time every day reading your Bible and praying to God. It's the single most-powerful thing you can do to grow in your faith. Come to this 4-week class and Pr. Eric will show you how. Wednesday nights, 7pm-8pm, beginning January 6. Sign up online at: www.stjohnlutheran.com

Women's One Day Retreat

Saturday, January 30, 9am-3pm



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.

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

Sign up online: www.stjohnlutheran.com

Deadline to register is January 15, 2021.

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.

Thank You

Thank you for the generous Christmas gift! We are deeply touched and humbled by your love and respect. It is privilege to serve here at St. John Lutheran; you make it a joy.

- Pastors Bergquist & Waters and Vicar Greaver

St John Members, Council, and Pr. Waters, thank you so much for the celebration of the 30th Anniversary of my Ordination and for the reception with coffee and cake on Sunday morning. I appreciate your support and thoughtfulness very much. In Christ's service,

- Pastor Mariola Bergquist

Dear St John Family,
Thank you for all your expressions of love and support during the last 16 months of my cancer surgery and treatments. I'm so grateful for your cards, messages, phone calls, and prayers that gave me the encouragement I needed through this difficult time. My cancer is now contained and this gives me hope of new possibilities of healing and recovery.

I continue to work on my mobility issues with physical and occupational therapy. We know the power of prayer works, so continue to pray for me as I walk this journey in 2021.

Blessings, Melva Williamson

Happy Birthday!

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

Burleigh Arnecke (01/01)	George Lawson (01/25)
LeRoy Bartman (01/11)	Lorraine Massey (01/11)
Pat Blackman (01/21)	Dixie Pfeiffer (01/17)
Roland Funke (01/12)	Gene Roeder (01/16)
Rodney Gray (01/06)	Charles Urban (01/16)
Charles Kuentz (01/10)	

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

pastors confidential



Tune in to Pastor Eric and Michelle's podcast!

New series in January: "New Year, New You!" Each Monday in January they'll be discussing different verses about how God "makes all things new." If you want the episodes delivered right into your email inbox, let Michelle know at watersmichellejoy@gmail.com or subscribe at www.michellejoywaters.com

Vineyard News

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

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JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					NEW YEARS DAY Church Office Closed	
8am Traditional Service 9am Coffee and Pastries 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Praise Service 10:40am Truth Project 11am Traditional Service 6pm Dominoes	9am Quilters 6pm EMAW Groups 6pm Property Meeting 7pm Al-Anon	6:30am Men's Breakfast 8am Roberta Buckles Painting 6pm American Heritage Girls 6:30pm Congregational Care 6:30pm Worship Committee	7pm Family3 Classes 7pm First 15 Class	6:30pm Finance Committee 7pm Al-Anon		
8am Traditional Service 9am Coffee and Pastries 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Family Strong Workshop 9:30am Praise Service 10:40am Truth Project 11am Traditional Service 12pm s3Heep Dogs Meeting	9am Quilters 6pm EMAW Groups 7pm Al-Anon	8am Roberta Buckles Painting 6pm Mission Committee 6:30pm Congregational Life 6:30pm Outreach Committee	7pm Family3 Classes 7pm First 15 Class	6:30pm "In His Image" Preview (Family Committee Meeting) 7pm Al-Anon	Council Retreat	Council Retreat
8am Traditional Service 9am Coffee and Pastries 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Praise Service 10:40am Truth Project 11am Traditional Service with Council Installation 5pm Canasta	11:30am Mens Lunch at Mamacitas 7pm Al-Anon	6:30am Men's Breakfast 8am Roberta Buckles Painting 6pm American Heritage Girls 7pm Council Meeting	7pm Family3 Classes 7pm First 15 Class	6pm Friend N Faith Eat Out Group 7pm Al-Anon		
8am Traditional Service 9am Coffee and Pastries 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Family Strong Workshop 9:30am Praise Service 10:40am Truth Project 11am Traditional Service 6pm Canasta	6pm EMAW Groups 7pm Al-Anon	8am Roberta Buckles Painting 6pm Wild Game Dinner Committee	7pm Family3 Classes 7pm First 15 Class	7pm Al-Anon		Women's One Day Retreat 9am-3pm
8am Traditional Service 9am Coffee & Pastries 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Family Strong Workshop 9:30am Praise Service 10:40am Truth Project 11am Traditional Service 6pm Canasta						