

Stay Connected

Council Contacts:

President Scott Kramer - 512-914-3121

Vice-President Brad Allen - 210-232-4286

Secretary Lois Ruck - 210-473-7825

Treasurer Chris Gold - 210-363-6692

Congregational Care 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

October takes us a few steps towards something that feels like "normal." Confirmation is the last hold-over from the shutdown. We held our First Communion, New Members, and Senior Recognition in the Spring. We reopened the 8am service in the Summer. This Fall, at last, we can Confirm our students. The first Sunday of the month, October 4th, at the 11 o'clock service students will stand up in worship and make their confession of faith. Later that day, many of us will gather at the Millers' ranch for the annual Church Picnic. That's been a highlight for me each of the four years we've been here, but even more so this year as we sit down and get caught up again.

The first Sunday of the month is one step toward feeling "normal" again; the last Sunday is another. **Reformation Sunday** is the day of the year we celebrate our Lutheran heritage (503 years and counting!). We may be in an unprecedented season, but A Mighty Fortress is Our God and this year, as always, we will thank and praise Him again.

The first and last Sundays bookend the month, and on the middle Sunday we restart two ministries that go a long way to making it feel like "normal." Beginning the third Sunday of the month–October 18th–we bring back Communion and food. We've been offering monthly Communion for awhile now, since Summer. We're ready to move to offering **Communion twice a month**, on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. We'll see how that goes, and hopefully come Advent we'll be able to offer weekly Communion once again.

We're also bringing back our Sunday morning refreshments! Beginning October 18th, we'll offer **coffee and pastries** in the Family Life Center once again. We'll see how that goes week after week, and when the time is right, we'll go back to the "full spread" we all know and love so well. I can hardly wait to spend even a few minutes visiting with you over a cup of coffee. It's a simple thing, but a big step toward feeling like "normal" again.

I, for one, am eager to get there. Next month I'll host an event I'm calling "24 Hours of Prayer." The purpose is simply to pray for our church. People will sign up for a one-hour time slot to gather in the Sanctuary and pray for St. John. An intentional time of focused prayer will prepare us for whatever's coming next in our church's life. I don't just want our church to get back to "normal." I want our church to thrive!

- Pastor Eric Waters

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: <u>http://eepurl.com/X4f4X</u>



MESSAGE from the CONGREGATION PRESIDENT

Paul wrote to Timothy "God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of selfdiscipline." We remind ourselves of these words when times get tough. God gave us a spirit of power. We are grateful for that, with fresh memories of the year 2020.

The Council grappled with big decisions over the past 6 months. At every meeting, we began with prayer and ended with prayer. We knew that St. John activities must continue in spite of hardship, because so many people depend on it. Although we had every reason to draw inward and wait out the storm, we chose the more difficult path. Sometimes, the path was clear, our decisions obvious. Sometimes we stumbled and picked ourselves up. Always, we weighed what is best for St. John, not what is best for any one of us. For St. John is bigger than all of us, bigger than any of us.

We saw the staff work together to plan every detail of St. John operations during the pandemic. We saw the joyful faces when worship resumed, then again when communion resumed. We saw the steadfast preaching of our faithful pastors, conducting worship in an empty sanctuary. We saw the needy come to St. John for encouragement and sustenance.

God working through each of us to care for His church, that is what I will always remember about the year 2020. We serve an awesome God!

St. John Congregation President, Scott Kramer

A NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

Our Duty and Delight Rests Upon Love

God's love for you and me is steadfast and boundless. It was there in his majestic creation. It is present in his blessings to us now. It will be there for the everlasting eternity. There is no measure of His love except John 3:16. All he asks in return for this is to love Him and to love our neighbor. There is no greater gift than God's love.

Love joins faith and hope as the third cornerstone of our stewardship, the giving back to the Lord a portion of our time, talent, and treasures. This stewardship is alive and well at St. John Lutheran Church. Through our quiet time and our First 15 we are growing in our faith in meditation and prayer. Despite the trials of this year we find new ways to give back our talents to the Lord. Our congregation maintains our tithes and offerings to the church. By what percent has our faith, hope, and love grown in the last year?

As our walk with Jesus Christ continues toward Consecration Sunday in November, let us pray that we consider and increase our commitment and pledge according to the percent of our growth in

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life John 3: 16

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' Matthew 22:36-39

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13

faith, hope and love for our Creator.

Your brother in Christ, Mark Danney, Chairman- Stewardship Committee

INCOME COMPARISON													
Monthly Operating Income	January	February	March	April	Мау	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					\$852,031
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	\$840,053
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	\$796,745

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					380
IN-PERSON	449	408	331*		142	219	148	210					272
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.

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FAMILY³ MINISTRIES

Know Jesus and Make Jesus Known.

Together, in our Home, Church and World Families

ADULT FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Ladies' Bible Study

PRECEPT

Thursday 9:15am-11:15am Precept class continues to study "Philippians" in October and November. Led by Pastor Mariola Bergquist.

Women of the Word (W.O.W.) Wednesdays 9am-10am

October 7 - November 11, 2020 Women of the Word will be studying the book of Philipppians in a new session starting on October 7, 2020. Join us if you're looking for a little more JOY on the journey! \$5 materials fee. Email Michelle Waters with any questions:

watersmichellejoy@gmail.com. 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.

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.

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!





HAPPY HEARTS potluck and fellowship are on hold for now due to

COVID 19. We will resume when it's safe and possible.

Parents/Grandparents/Adults The Truth Project

In person & on Zoom at all three classes. Meet in the Shepherd's Cave (room #117) at 8am, 9:30am or 10:40am or be involved online via Zoom (see recent Week at a Glance email for connecting).

8am, 9:30am, and Zoom Class Topics:

Sunday, October 4th The State: Whose Law? (part II) The civil magistrate must always remember his place under the sovereignty of God - otherwise, havoc will ensue.

Sunday, October 11th & 18th The American Experiment: Stepping Stones

This tour follows the history of this experiment and explores what happens to freedom when God is forgotten.

Sunday, October 25th Labor: Created to Create (part I) God Himself is active and creative, and He calls humankind to share in the joy of His activity and creativity. Labor, economics, media, and the creative arts all have a role to play in magnifying the glory of the Creator.

10:40am Topics:

Sunday, October 4th Philosophy and Ethics - Says Who? (part II) Our understanding of right and wrong is directly dependent on our worldview: is the universe God's creation or a closed cosmic cube?

Sunday, October 11th & 18th Anthropology: Who is Man?

The Bible tells us that man created in God's image but fell from innocence through sin. Modern psychology, on the other hand, asserts that man is inherently good and behaves badly only under the influence of social or institutional pressure. This lesson explores the implications of both views.

Sunday, October 25th Theology: Who is God? (part I) Eternal life, according to Jesus, is knowing God in an intimate, personal, and relational way.

FAMILY³ MINISTRIES

Know Jesus and Make Jesus Known.

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

Sunday Morning Activities for All Ages are BACK IN SESSION! Join us!

FAITH MILE MARKER We will be celebrating two

Faith Mile Markers this October.

On **Sunday, October 4** last year's Confirmands will finally be able to make public Affirmation of their Baptism. These now 9th grade guys will be confirmed at the 11am Worship Service having their Confirmation Banquet the night before. Please pray that this will be a meaningful and lasting memory as they recognize God's work of faith in them and that they will be strong in their commitment to follow the Lord Jesus Christ.

On **Sunday, October 25** at the 11am service: The 3rd graders will be receiving a Bible from St. John. Let us keep them and their families in our prayers as these students learn to read and study from the Scriptures. May Jesus, the WORD, become even more alive to them in both their heads and their hearts! Special 3-week Workshop for 3rd Graders, their parents and grandparents

(and any interested persons)
begins October 25 at 9:30am

A special 3-Week workshop on "Getting to know your Bible" begins on Reformation Sunday, October 25, at 9:30am in the Family Life Center.

FAMILY³ Together, in our Home, Church and World

Families

Sunday, October 25 The Importance of God's Word Sunday, November 1 How the Scriptures Came to Be Sunday, November 8 How to Use Your Bible for Study and for Quiet Times

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

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These workshops are especially for Parents & Grandparents of Kindergarten through 4th Graders but all are welcome! Grow in leading your home family in the Faith5. 9:30am in the Family Life Center or a Zoom option in the evenings at 8pm. (See Week at a Glance for Zoom link).

Sundays at 9:30am in the Family Life Center and via Zoom in the evenings at 8:00pm

> October 4 Technology or "Talk-Knowledgy" October 11 Eternal Consequences October 18 The Power of Blessing

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.



S³HEEP:

students, seeking

and serving HIM

everywhere, everyday

passionately

FAMILY³ MINISTRIES

Know Jesus and Make Jesus Known.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION



FAMILY³ Together, in our Home, Church and World

Families

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

Service Project Night: Wednesday, October 21 Giving our Community & Church Family a "CLUE," celebration

It will be a night to decorate and get ready for the big event that happens the following week.

OCTOBER 28 at 7pm: GET A CLUE!

Who done if? What did they use? Where did it happen? Why did they do it?



When: Wednesday, October 28 at 7pm

Where: Line-up at the East Main Doors – 6 feet spacing between groups will be enforced as well as face masks. Note: Costumes are welcome and encouraged! You will be led from clue sight to clue sight so mingling or crowds will not form.

Can your family members or small group of friends figure out the puzzle?!? It will take team work, skill and an exploration of the church property

to conduct interviews with people who may have some answers for this full size mystery. If you have played the board game "Clue," you will be ahead of the pack because it is the same way you will play this real life game, with maybe a few twists and turns here and there.



How: Just show up.

Who: Meant for all ages...family units or a small group of

friends. (There must be one adult per group for those who are elementary school or under.)

Why: To have some fun! Treats will be handed out at every clue sight too. So even if you don't figure out the mystery, you'll be guaranteed lots of candy!

We need volunteers! There will be a team meeting and preparations October 21 at 7pm

CHURCH NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS



October 4, 2pm-6:30pm

Tickets are available in the Gathering Place or in the church office during the week. The picnic will be held at the Balous and Julie Miller ranch at 28 Upper Balcones Rd (down the road from Starbucks).

Due to Covid-19, things will be a little different this year. Safety for all attendees will be the highest priority. Even though we will be outside, face masks will be required (except when eating or drinking) because it will be difficult to maintain social distancing. Some tables and chairs will be set up, but it is recommended that you bring a table and chairs if at all possible. For the fishing tournament, cane poles will be available but you can bring your own fishing gear. Bait will be provided.

Questions? Contact Don Baker: dgbaker@gvtc.com or 830-431-0521)

SAVE THE DATE!

St. John's Women's ONE-DAY Retreat will be held on January 30, 2021

More details to come in November.

Can you help?

Growing Hope is looking for a 16' enclosed trailer with tandem wheels at an affordable price or as a donation. If you can help with this need, please contact Eric Christopher: eric.a.christopher@gmail com or Johnny Moldenhauer: jrmoldenhauer@sbcglobal.net

Interested in joining the Growing Hope Ministry Team?

The Growing Hope ministry provides an opportunity for you to 'Make Jesus Know' and share the gospel, through one-on-one mentoring, with families in our community. There are several service opportunities available and this is a great way to serve our community. Find a card on the Serving Wall for more information, or visit our website under 'Serve' to learn more and sign up.

This ministry is excited to announce that there are 4 new mentors from the July training!

Growing Hope will be celebrating it's 1st anniversary on October 30. There will be a celebration with coffee and cake on Sunday, November 1st from 9am to 11am.



Operation Christmas Child (OCC)

Fulfilling the Great Commission to spread the Gospel to the ends of the earth! The Shoebox Project opens doors for presenting the Good News of Jesus Christ by working in and through local churches. Shoeboxes are delivered to more than 150 countries and territories. In addition to giving children a shoebox and sharing the Gospel, the children receive a colorful

booklet that shares important biblical stories such as creation, sin, the birth of Jesus, teaching of Jesus, His death, and His resurrection.

October 28, 7pm: OCC Packing Pary as Part of the CLUE game!

- See demonstrations of packing a shoebox
- There will also be an opportunity to take a shoebox home

November 16-23: OCC Christmas Box Drop-Off at StJLC

November 23: Pack boxes into cartons and load them on a truck

Volunteer and Donation Opportunities:

- Pack a box and drop off at SJLC during Drop-off week
- Donate money! Donations go to collecting, processing, shipping, etc.
- November 16-23 Help at the church during the Box Drop-Off times
- November 23 Help pack the OCC boxes into cartons and load into a truck

For more information or to sign up: Contact Gloria Baker (phone: 830-431-0522, email: dgbaker@gvtc.com), take a card from the Serving Wall, or visit our website under 'Serve' to sign up online!

Women's Retreat

October 16-18 Ebert Ranch

St. John's **Women's Overnight Retreat** will be **October 16-18 at Ebert Ranch in Harper, TX**. The retreat will be a great time to get to know one another and our best friend: Jesus.

OVERNIGHT registrations will be limited to 16 women. SATURDAY-ONLY participants will not be limited.

Cost: \$100 overnight, \$30 Saturday only.

Questions? Contact Peggy Hoppes: heart2love4god@aol.com

Register Online Today at stjohnlutheran.com

CHURCH NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

thanks!

Dear SJLC Family,

Betty and Darrell here sending a huge, heartfelt "Thank you" for your prayers, calls, texts, cards, offers of assistance, and for the delicious meals coordinated by Beverly Wagner. Watching Sunday services via the Internet is a highlight for us, but we look forward to a time when better health will allow us to meet together in person. We are praying the prayer that never fails: "Thy will be done."

In Him always, Betty Steubing

Happy Birthday

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

Betty Thomas (10-25) Jerry Johnson (10-20) Donald Adickes (10-30) Jan Walter (10-19) Judy Kuentz (10-15) Judy Clark (10-06)

Kjell Oliversen (10-06) Fred Starbuck (10-20) Pat King (10-31) Joyce Urban (10-14) Juan Hernandez (10-29)

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

Extra-Special Birthday Wishes to Nadine Flathouse (a long time member of St. John who now resides at Cibolo Creek Nursing Home) who celebrated her 100th Birthday on September 3rd! Best wishes and God's abundant blessings to our Centenarian!

FOUNDATION **Rafiki Foundation, Inc. Updates:**

Dadi Ishimwe: Rwanda, Grade 9: Dadi is happy that his country has shown good leadership through the pandemic. After he finishes school, Dadi believes that God is calling him to the profession of physicist, chemist, mathematician or all of the above. Prayer Requests: Please pray for Dadi's spiritual and academic growth. Pray that he develops self-control to maintain a calm, respectful demeanor no matter the situation.

Joseph Katebe: Zambia, Grade 11: Joseph's favority after school and weekend activity is reading books. Reading helps him to learn about new and different ways of life. Joseph is learning other languages. Prayer Requests: Please pray that Joseph continues to study hard and focus on school. Also pray that he continues to love God wholeheartedly.

To send mail to Dadi, send letters to: PO Box 6856, Kacyiru, Kigali Rwanda, EAST AFRICA. To send mail to Joseph, send letters to: Post.Net BOX 232, P/Bag E891, Lusaka, Zambia, AFRICA. You may send cards or any other item that fits in a standard size envelope such as bookmarks, stickers, pictures or a postcard. Please do not send packages, checks or cash.



GRIEF

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

When you are grieving a loved one's death, the holiday season can be especially painful. Our Surviving the Holidays seminar helps participants prepare for the holidays and even discover hope for the future.



November 8, 2020 • 2pm-4pm St. John Lutheran Church 315 Rosewood Avenue, Boerne TX 78006 830-249-3651

If you or some one you know is in need of support, please contact us!

www.griefshare.org Connie: 512-779-5508, Barbara: 210-373-9070, St. John office: 830-249-3651.

Reformation Sunday: October 25th

All Saints Sunday: November 3

November 3rd is All Saints Sunday this year. As we have done in the past, we would like to honor your loved one by announcing their name before the congregation and offering a white flower in their memory. If you have a loved one who has passed away in the last year and would like to have him/ her recognized in this manner, please fill out a form in the church office or on our website under 'Events'.

The Congregational Care **Committee Needs Your Help!**

College Student Addresses: We are updating our mailing list for St. John college students for the 2020-2021 school year. We send care packages with snacks, treats, and notes of encouragement twice each semester. If you are a parent of a college student or if you are a student enrolled in any level of college studies, please stop by the Info Desk and fill out a college address card. We are also looking for parents to help with packing and mailing the care boxes, as well as a someone to serve as the College Support Team Leader.

Military Member Addresses: We are updating our list of St. John members who are serving in the military. We send cards and notes of encouragement several times each year. If you are serving in the armed forces or are a parent of a soldier, please stop by the Info Desk and fill out a military address card.

Mail Team: Our mail team needs a caring person to be the Team Leader, as well as several additional volunteers to assist with mailings. We send cards to homebound members and seniors, encouragement cards to our college students and military members, as well as get-well cards and sympathy cards.

If you would like more information, please contact Shaun Danney at sdanney@gvtc.com.





the MESSENGER Newsletter

St. John Lutheran Church 315 E. Rosewood P.O. Box 1081 Boerne, TX 78006 Return Service Requested



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Please note that all activities, events, dates and times are subject to change and/or cancellation.

OCTOBER										
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY				
				9:15am Precept 1 7pm Al-Anon	2	6pm 3 Confirmation Banquet				
Confirmation Sunday 4 Church Picnic 2pm 7am Blook Drive 8am Traditional Service 8am & 10:40am Truth Project 9:30am Valay School 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service 6pm Dominoes 8pm Family Strong Zoom	9am Quilters 5 12pm Book Review 5pm Hermann Sons 6pm Property Meeting 7pm Al-Anon	8am Robert Buckles Painting 6pm American Heritage Girls 6:30pm Worship Committee 6:30pm Congregational Care	9am Women of the Word 7 4:30pm Growing Hope Distribution 7pm Family3 Classes 7pm Living in the End Times Bible Study	9:15am Precept 8 5pm Intern Committee Mtg. 6:30pm Finance Committee 7pm Al-Anon	9	10				
8am Traditional Service 11 8am & 10:40am Truth Project 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service 8pm Family Strong Zoom	9am Quilters 12 12pm Book Review 5pm Hermann Sons 7pm Al-Anon	8am Robert Buckles Painting 13 11:30am Al-Anon Book Club 6pm Mission Committee 6:30 Congregational Life	9am Women of the Word 7pm Family3 Classes 7pm Living in the End Times Bible Study	9:15am Precept 15 6pm Friends N Faith Eat Out Group 6:30pm Finance Committee 7pm Al-Anon	Women's Retreat 16	Women's 17 Retreat				
Women's Retreat 18 8am Traditional Service 8am & 10:40am Truth Project 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service 6pm Canasta 8pm Family Strong Zoom 8	11:30am Men's Lunch at 19 Mamacitas 12pm Book Review 12pm Lit N Lunch 5pm Hermann Sons 7pm Al-Anon	8am Robert Buckles Painting 20 6pm American Heritage Girls	9am Women of the Word 21 4:30pm Growing Hope Distribution 7pm Family3 Service Night 7pm Living in the End Times Bible Study	9:15am Precept 22 7pm Al-Anon	23	24				
Reformation Sunday 25 8am Traditional Service 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am 3rd Graders Workshop "Getting to Know Your Bible" 9:30am Praise Service 10:40am Truth Project Class 11 am Traditional Service 6pm Canasta 8pm Family Strong Zoom	5pm Hermann Sons 26 7pm Al-Anon 26	8am Robert Buckles Painting 27 11:30am Al-Anon Book Club 6pm Wild Game Dinner Committee 7pm Council Meeting	9am Women of the Word 28 7pm 'CLUE' Night Celebration	9:15am Precept 29 7pm Al-Anon 29	30	31				