

the MESSENGER

S+JC
BOERNE

St. John Lutheran Church

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www.stjohnlutheran.com



April 2021 • Volume 92-04

Stay Connected

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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

This month begins with the three holiest days of the Christian year—Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday—the three days when the central story of our faith was written.

Maundy Thursday is the story of Jesus' betrayal, and arrest, and agony in the garden. Jesus began the night around a table with His Apostles and ended it alone in a pit. The Apostles may have been surprised by how quickly things changed, but Jesus was not. He knew what would happen to Him that night, and promised His Apostles that it was happening for them. "This is my body, given for you; this is my blood, shed for you." With these words, Jesus transformed His Last Supper with them into a lasting covenant and our genuine communion with Him. The greatest Sacrament of our faith was instituted on this night. Come and worship with us as we gather around the altar to receive that Sacrament once again.

Good Friday is the story of Jesus' trial, condemnation, crucifixion, and burial. When the Sun rose, Jesus stood trial before Pilate. When the Sun was at its highest,

Jesus suffered on the Cross. When the Sun went down, Jesus was laid in the Tomb. That Friday was a terrible day, yet we call it "Good" because on that day one Man's death won salvation for all sinners. Come and worship as we listen to Jesus' Seven Last Words from the Cross, and sing our praise and thanks to Him.

Easter Sunday is the story of Jesus' resurrection from the Tomb and victory over sin, death, and the devil. The day began with the women mourning Jesus and failing to find Him in the Tomb. The day ends with the Apostles praising Jesus as He finds them in the Upper Room. Jesus has found us, too. Jesus is alive! Christ is risen! We are redeemed and given eternal life in Him! Come and worship with us as we hear the Good News, sing our praise, and receive in the Sacrament the same body and blood that came back to life on this day.

This month begins with the three holiest days of the Christian year. Come and worship with 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>



A NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

Be A Light To The World

He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Indeed, Christ has lived and died for us and for all the people of this world. By his sacrifice our sins are forgiven and we have the opportunity to live in God's kingdom forever more if we only just believe. We are free in a way we never were before - we no longer have to sacrifice or worry over whether we are meeting a heavenly quota for entrance. But in that freedom, God calls us to be his disciples now, even as Peter and Paul were back in their time.

Our freedom is not an excuse to be complacent, secure in our salvation. Instead, Jesus calls us to be a light to the world, examples of his love and mercy. Say hello to someone on your street or in church that you haven't met before. Be a listening ear to someone who is suffering. Volunteer for one of the many church ministries. Look at your giving and see if God is calling you to support His church even more. In all your ways, try to conform your life to His, so that the wonders of His sacrifice do not

Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.
- Matthew 5:15-16

end with us, but are shared with all the nations of the world.

Your Brother in Christ,
Michael Hoepfner, Chairman
Stewardship Committee

INCOME COMPARISON

Monthly Operating Income	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Through Month
2020	\$149,464	\$92,893											\$242,357
2020	\$122,065	\$96,801	\$122,637	\$98,491	\$99,604	\$97,070	97,859	116,881	101,328	94,725	99,757	254,232	218,866
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	235,628

ATTENDANCE COMPARISON

Avg Weekly Worship	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Average YTD
2021 ONLINE	223	151											187
2021 IN-PERSON	289	276											283
TOTAL	512	427											470
2020 ONLINE													
2020 IN-PERSON	449	408	331*	705	513	220	220	241	233	170	143	256	300
TOTAL	449	408	331	705	655	439	368	451	476	417	363	623	571
2019	416	410	384	512	434	347	377	391	385	421	382	574	419

EASTER
changes
EVERYTHING





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 be on break until Fall. For more information, 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 continue the study "Come Back to the Source: The Gospel of Mark." Contact Michelle Waters for more info: watersmichellejoy@gmail.com



Adult Sunday School Classes

9:30am "God Talk"

Studying the Psalms. Room 118. Led by Peggy Hoppes.

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

Mens' Bible Study

Mens' Breakfast Every other Tuesday 6:30am

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

SEE SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES BELOW:

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



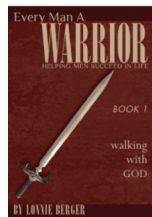
For Parents, Grandparents, Adults and Young Adults:

Would you like some clear and practical skills for having "quiet time" with God?

Could you use some encouragement in your walk with Jesus?

Be a part of an EMAW small group and experience Him at work in your life!

Contact Matt Olson with questions or to sign up! Email: matt@stjohnlutheran.com



Vacation Bible School Volunteers needed!

June 7 - 11, 9am - 12pm

Be a part of the excitement on the days that you can!

Be an elder of a tribe as we take a BLAST to the past in Biblical times. Pharisees, Roman soldiers, merchants, artisans, and the lame, the sick, as well as some Zealots are needed in the St. John town square, too! The Word is out...Jesus is coming to town!

Special preparation nights will be happening Wednesday nights in May. Consistent volunteers are needed for each day of the event, but there are parts where you can volunteer to help for specific days!

Sign up online: www.stjohnlutheran.com and be ready for a BLAST!



"I Believe" DVD is available in the church library.

- "This was an uplifting family movie. It shows that our God can do anything - if we just trust him to take care of it"

Check it out today!

"In His Image" DVD documentaries are now available for borrowing as well as purchasing. Also available to be borrowed is the "Special Features" DVD that has additional information that was not shown on the film version. Please check-out from Matt in the Family3 HQ office.

Some comments from St. John members who watched this past month:

- "This movie made it easy to see the Biblical view versus the world view on this topic. It also had some stunning statistics that I had not considered before."
- "Our children today face great pressure to accept and embrace that which conflicts with God's will and scripture. This movie helped ground me back to scripture and reinforce our Christian belief in light of the perverse messaging being broadcast everywhere."





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

SUNDAY MORNINGS IN APRIL

K-1st Graders: God is good! He always fulfills His promises! (The Exiles Return and the Rebuilding of the Wall of Jerusalem)

2nd Graders: How many times ought we forgive? How does God see this? Jesus' parables and teaching will give us the answer.

3rd Graders: Will review the "Not-so-Good-Friday," but even more so the Sunday Surprise!

4th Graders: Paul's teachings will remind students that just because they are young, it doesn't mean that God and His Word is not at work in them and is calling them to mighty and courageous things.

5th Graders: Will close out their final elementary year by continuing to review key Biblical stories as well as learn from others who faced great challenges and by God's Will and strength overcame them.

7th and 8th Graders: Continue to explore what it means to be "Living as a Young Person of God!"

*The Following eighth graders will be making public **Affirmation of their Baptism / Faith** on **Sunday, April 18 at the 11am** worship service: Abby, Taylor, Karl, Zane, Ty, David, and Maci. *Please keep them and their mentors in your prayers as they come to this very important Faith Mile Marker!*

9th and 10th Graders: Are continuing their Bible study through Timothy and Titus.

11th and 12th Graders: Are getting close to completing their school year dive into the book, "The Jesus-Centered Life."

WEDNESDAYS IN APRIL

**Regular Wednesday Children and Youth Activities are on Break
with the exceptions indicated below:**

Regular mid-week Youth Activities will reengage in June: Heads up! This summer we are going to try Middle Schoolers on Tuesday Nights 6pm – 8:30pm and High Schoolers on Wednesday Nights 6pm – 8:30pm. Watch for more detailed information coming in May's Newsletter. (Lord willing, this will give our new Youth Director a better time frame for getting to know the youth and their families!)

• 6pm Meal • 6:30pm Fellowship Activity • 7:30pm Bible Study Time (Both groups will be using Youth Alpha or a favorite study of our New Youth Director)

Children's mid-week activities will reengage in the fall. Sunday School remains as well as once a month special events. See Vacation Bible School information and watch for a possible Day Camp opportunity coming in July!

Confirmands and Mentors (6pm unless indicating otherwise)

April 7 – Route 7 Growth: How can one stay spiritually alive and committed?

April 14 – Route 8 Promises: God's Promise to You and Your Promises to Him

April 17 - Saturday - Confirmation Banquet 6pm

April 18 - Sunday - 11am Worship Service - Affirmation of Baptism

April 21 – Just Mentors – Follow-Up and Celebration

12th Graders: Life After High School (Morning Breakfast time)

April 7 – Managing My Life After High School

April 14 – Experience God on a Regular Basis

April 21 – Planning of Graduate Recognition Service, May 23 at the 11am service



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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

VBS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**June 7-11
9AM - 12PM**

This year's theme:

**BLAST
to the
PAST**

Children and Youth Volunteers:

Take a BLAST to the Biblical past as together we create and experience Jesus walking amongst our St. John community. Together we will experience the lame, the sick, the blind being healed within our market place. We will witness the multitudes being fed with only a few food items. Hear Jesus confound the Sadducees and Pharisees in the temple. Be a part of Jesus' standing before Pilot as well be a part of celebrating the ultimate Good News!

Sign-up today via the church website and know that the space will be limited for tribe and space purposes (as well as Covid preventions).

Be prepared to step back in time to grow spiritually now.

A SPECIAL 5TH GRADER AND PARENT EVENT WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28 • 7PM – 8:30PM

Students will meet in the Family Life Center, go on a quest, and come back transitioned into a St. John Middle Schooler.

Parents will learn about the Confirmation Journey as well as all the various goals, Faith Mile Markers, schedules, and needs of this new s3Heep pathway.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DETAILS TO COME, BUT PLAN NOW TO ATTEND!

**HIGH SCHOOL
APRIL 11**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL
APRIL 18**

**ELEMENTARY STUDENTS AND PARENTS
APRIL 25**

**March's High School
Night at the Movies
was a fun time for all
that joined us!**



Looking ahead to SUMMER Sunday School:

K-12TH GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL

(with 6th – 12th Graders leading the younger ones)

The Pilgrim's Progress

This Christian classic (most sold book after the Bible) will be watched via animated film one part at a time. Each section is focused on a spiritual lesson which can also translate into various traits for building character, thus faith and character are expected to be built this summer.



The schedule will probably look like this:

- 9:30am:** Older Students lead younger students in relevant and fun fellowship game/s.
- 9:55am:** Watch a part of the movie together
- 10:15am:** Discuss with students in appropriate grade groups.
- 10:30am:** Done

Middle School and High School Students as well as adults are needed for supervision and leading. Please sign-up the Sunday/s that work for you via the church website.

Note: There will need to be a Thursday evening Zoom meeting for those leading the coming Sunday. Also, older students who are not scheduled to lead will meet in their own discussion groups following the movie. The topics to be discussed are for ALL AGES, but will of course be understood in different ways. Please pray for this summer adventure as we seek to help connect friends and faith as well nurture servant-leadership within our youth.

CHURCH NEWS and UPCOMING EVENTS

EASTER
changes
EVERYTHING



Join us Easter Sunday,
April 4th at 8am,
9:30am, or 11am.
Invite a friend to come!

Easter Family Photo Shoot • Easter Sunday: April 4

Since we will not be hosting an Easter Eggstravaganza this year, St. John's Family3 Ministries will offer a **FREE Easter Family photo shoot after the Easter Worship Services on April 4.**

Let us take your family and/or individual photos and we will send you and email with a link to access to your photos. These photos will also be used to update our St. John Connect data base which will be updated at this time, as well.

Photo shoots start at 7am and continue throughout the noon hour. There are no scheduled appointments - pictures will be first come, first served.



CHURCH
WORKDAY

Saturday, April 10, 9am

There will be a church-wide work day on Saturday, April 10. We will be pressure washing the curb on the east side of the parking lot, cleaning the sanctuary seat upholstery and throwing out some unnecessary items in storage rooms, among other projects. Everyone is invited to help for as little or as long as you can. Let's make St. John shine!!!



Important Update to St. John's Covid Policy

St. John's Council met in mid-March and unanimously decided to modify the Covid safety protocol. Effective Sunday, March 28, we returned the Bibles and hymnals to their racks, removed the tape from the pews and now welcome people to sit where they feel comfortable. We still require masks in the Sanctuary during worship. Small groups, classes, and Bible studies are now welcome to wear masks and practice social distancing as they see fit.

The Council will revisit this protocol again at the next regularly scheduled meeting in mid-April.

**Volunteer Sign Up
Is Available Now at:**
www.stjohnlutheran.com

*Child Registration
Coming Soon.*

VBS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**June 7-11
9AM - 12PM**

This year's theme:



CHURCH NEWS and UPCOMING EVENTS

Email Prayer Team

James 5:16b: "The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."

Our congregation is a praying congregation. When people ask us to pray for them, we include them in the Prayers of the Church on Sunday morning. We would like to expand on this ministry by organizing an EMAIL PRAYER TEAM – a group of St. John members who will pray daily for others. A list of names and prayer concerns (we will respect privacy when requested) will be emailed to all team members weekly. Prayers will be offered daily. The group will be organized through SJConnect and facilitated by Phyllis Ripkin.

If you are interested in joining our EMAIL PRAYER TEAM, please look for more information in Sunday bulletins. Sign up forms will be posted on the Website in the month of April.

If you have questions, please contact Pastor Mariola or the church office.

Happy Birthday!

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

Marjorie Adickes (04/14)	Carol Straayer (04/24)
Frank Arnold (04/02)	Alton Tschirhart (04/08)
Gary Bruehler (04/06)	Gladys Turner (04/23)
Ken Nietenhoefer (04/03)	Ron Walter (04/06)

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



It's time to do some growing!

Spring is here! Get a plot and get those veggies going in the community garden. Call Alex Post, our Vineyard overseer. He can be reached at (210) 315-5516 or at email: alexflyfish@gmail.com

Come help with some garden maintenance on Church Work Day, Saturday, April 10. Meet at the Vineyard at 9am.

The Congregational Care Committee Needs Your Help!

The Congregational Care College Support Team prepares and mails care packages of snacks, treats, and inspirational items to our member college students and those young adults serving in the military. Due to the pandemic, this service was on hold, but we are ready to get it up and running again!

The committee is requesting address updates for all college students and military members at this time. College student address cards can be found at the Information Desk.

We are also in need of parents to help with packing and mailing.

Should you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact team leader Pam Putnam at pp830tx@aol.com.

Vaccination of St. John members continues

We are seeing more and more of our St. John members (over the age of 65) being vaccinated. This is great news, indeed!

Our Outreach Committee, led by Frank Bush, was able to secure appointments in Boerne which allowed 50 St. John members to receive their vaccinations in March. Special thanks to Sharon Pace and Sharon Tschirhart for their roles in making this possible.

As the availability of the vaccine continues to increase, we are thankful that all who wish to be vaccinated will soon have the opportunity to do so. Thanks be to God!



GriefShare supports continues

The Christian-oriented GriefShare bereavement program, under the guidance of Pastor Bergquist, continues and 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.

Meeting options are: Tuesdays, 10am to noon through May 11 and Wednesdays, 5pm to 7pm through May 12. Childcare is available with prior notice. Both classes meet in the Education Wing, first floor. Current guidelines for COVID protection will be observed, including masks, physical distancing, and ample hand sanitizers.

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.



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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				MAUNDY THURSDAY 1 7pm Al-Anon	GOOD FRIDAY 2 7pm Worship	3
EASTER SUNDAY 4 7am-12pm Family/Individual Photos 8am Traditional Service 9am Coffee and Pastries 9:30am Adult Classes 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service 6pm Dominoes	9am Quilters 5 6pm Property Meeting 6:30pm Men's Bible Study IHI 7pm Al-Anon	8am Roberta Buckles Painting 6 10am GriefShare 6:30pm Congregational Care 6:30pm Worship Committee	9am Women of the Word 7 4pm Growing Hope Distribution 5pm GriefShare 6pm Confirmands & Mentors	6:30pm Finance Committee 8 7pm Al-Anon	9	10
8am Traditional Service 11 9am Coffee and Pastries 9:30am Adult and Youth Classes 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service High School Monthly Event	9am Quilters 12 6:30pm Men's Bible Study IHI 7pm Al-Anon	8am Roberta Buckles Painting 13 10am GriefShare 6pm American Heritage Girls 6pm Mission Committee 6:30pm Congregational Life 7pm VBS Directors Meeting	9am Women of the Word 14 5pm GriefShare 6pm Confirmands & Mentors	6pm Friend N Faith Eat Out 15 Group 7pm Al-Anon	16	Confirmation 17 Banquet 6pm
CONFIRMATION SUNDAY 18 8am Traditional Service 9am Coffee and Pastries 9:30am Adult and Youth Classes 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service 5pm Canasta Middle School Youth Event	11:30am Mens Lunch at 19 Mamacitas 12pm Lit N Lunch 6pm EMAW 7pm Al-Anon	8am Roberta Buckles Paintin 20 10am GriefShare 7pm Council Meeting	9am Women of the Word 21 4Pm Growing Hope Distribution 5pm GriefShare 6pm Follow-Up Mentors Meeting	7pm Al-Anon 22	23	24
8am Traditional Service 25 9am Coffee and Pastries 9:30am Adult and Youth Classes 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service 5pm Canasta Elementary Youth Event	6pm EMAW 26 7pm Al-Anon	8am Roberta Buckles Painting 27 10am GriefShare 6pm American Heritage Girls	9am Women of the Word 28 5pm GriefShare 7pm 5th Graders & Parents Event	7pm Al-Anon 29	30	