



St. John Lutheran Church

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[www.stjohnlutheran.com](http://www.stjohnlutheran.com)



March 2021 • Volume 92-03

# the MESSENGER

## Stay Connected

### Council Contacts:

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Brandt Klutts - 830-305-4623

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Janet Blackburn - 830-446-9258

Family<sup>3</sup> 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

The whole month of March is given over to the season of Lent. By this point, you've been at it now for a few weeks. Whatever Lenten discipline you've chosen should be well familiar to you by now. Maybe you've adapted to it and made it part of your everyday life, but more likely the initial rush of energy and zeal has given way to the realization that six weeks is a long time. It is! The six weeks of Lent make for a long season of discipline and self-denial. It's all too easy to start wondering if you'll make it to the end, and second guessing why you did this to yourself in the first place. Don't give up! Like Spring training for a baseball team, God is at work on you this season, getting you into better spiritual shape.

God is creating in you a clean heart. Your response is to be steadfast and patient. Keep at it. Keep doing those exercises. Keep faithful to those disciplines. If there's one thing I've learned through many a Lent, it's that steadfastness is the key to spiritual progress. God is at work on you; don't you give up on Him.

God is at work in our church, too, bringing new members into our church family. I give God thanks that our church has continued to reach out into the community and grow

even during this past year. Pr. Bergquist, Vicar Alliyah, and I are meeting with our New Members every Sunday this month. You'll get to meet them yourself on Palm Sunday, March 28, when we officially welcome them into the church.

Palm Sunday begins the most important week of the year: Holy Week, when we

remember and give thanks for the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Plan to worship with us on Palm Sunday as Jesus rides into Jerusalem, on Maundy Thursday as Jesus celebrates the Last Supper, on Good Friday as Jesus dies on the Cross, and on Easter Sunday as He rises again. The discipline of Lent leads us to

the new life of Easter. Keep steadfast, and finish the journey strong!

Finishing well is the theme of a special event we're hosting called "Leave a Positive Legacy." It's on March 21, 3pm-5pm in the Family Life Center. We'll have a panel of experts to share their wisdom and answer your questions, and a resource to get you started on your planning. Look for more information here in the newsletter. I hope you can join us.

- Pastor Eric Waters

**"Create in me  
a clean heart  
O God,  
and renew a  
steadfast spirit  
within me."**

**Psalm 51:10**

# A NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

## Our Lenten Trials

March is the season of Lent in the church year, a time when many of us are sacrificing something precious to us as we remember Jesus' 40 days of temptation in the desert. Just like Jesus, we could easily end our temptation any time we want. Our cookies, snacks, or other things we sacrificed are usually only a few steps away, but we hold fast to our conviction, enduring through our trial.

It is important to remember why we do this. Our sacrifices are not a requirement for salvation. We have already been

saved through the sacrifice of that perfect offering, Jesus. Rather, our abstinence from these small earthly desires serves to remind us that we should be giving everything to God. Paul writes in Galatians: "and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

Christ lives IN YOU. My challenge to you during this lenten season, is to test yourself with your lenten sacrifices, but use them

*Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless, indeed, you fail to meet the test! I hope you will find out that we have not failed.*  
**2 Corinthians 13:5-6**

to always remind yourself of the awesome truth that Christ is living in you. In return of that gift, we should give of our time, our talent, and our treasures to worship God and to help those around us.

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												\$149,464
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	122,065
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	138,052

ATTENDANCE COMPARISON													
Avg Weekly Worship	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Average YTD
2021 ONLINE	223												223
2021 IN-PERSON	289												289
TOTAL	512												512
2020 ONLINE				705	513	220	220	241	233	170	143	256	300
2020 IN-PERSON	449	408	331*		142	219	148	210	243	247	220	367	271
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





# FAMILY<sup>3</sup> MINISTRIES

Know Jesus and Make Jesus Known.

**FAMILY<sup>3</sup>**

Together, in our Home,  
Church and World  
Families

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION NEWS

### Ladies' Bible Study

#### PRECEPT

**Thursday 9:15am-11:15am** Precept class will continue the study of the book of "Exodus - Let My People Go." For more information, email [pastormariola@stjohnlutheran.com](mailto: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](mailto:watersmichellejoy@gmail.com)



### 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.

### Mens' Bible Study

**Mens' Breakfast** Every other Tuesday 6:30am

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

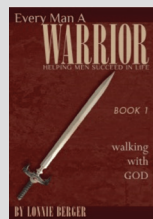
**SEE SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES BELOW:**



## For Parents, Grandparents, Adults and Young Adults:

### New groups are forming!

We are planning now to start two additional **EMAW (Every Man A Warrior)** small groups after the 'In His Image' study concludes.



Be praying, "Lord, do you want me to be a part of your Every Man A Warrior small group?" If you sense a 'Yes', Let Matt know!

Email: [matt@stjohnlutheran.com](mailto:matt@stjohnlutheran.com)



**The Truth Project continues on DVD**  
in the Shepherd's Cave, Room #117  
Sunday mornings at 10:40am

### Important and Timely Movie of Our Day:



### "In His Image: Delighting in God's Plan for Gender and Sexuality."

"Every pastor, counselor, and layman in the church should watch In His Image."  
- Dr. James Dobson

In His Image is a critical and urgent message designed to equip the church to answer culturally controversial questions about gender and sexuality from a biblical perspective. Every church in America is filled with hurting people asking these tough questions: Can you be gay and be a Christian? What if someone genuinely feels trapped in the wrong body? Did God make me this way? Is change even possible?

**Young Adult and Adult Showing • Sunday, March 14, 12noon - approx. 2pm**

- a light lunch will be served
- It will be shown in the Family Life Center.

**Please RSVP via the church website so we can plan proper food and seating arrangements.**

**Men's Monday Night in-depth Bible Study along with viewing: 6:30pm - 8pm at St. John and on Zoom**

- March 15** - Session 1: The Introduction
- March 22** - Session 2: The Creator's Plan
- March 29** - Session 3: The Authority of Scripture
- April 5** - Session 4: Science Affirms a Biblical Worldview
- April 12** - Session 5: Stories of Hope and Change

Parents and Grandparents see next pages for info on viewing with your children.





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Together, in our Home,  
Church and World  
Families

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

Matt Olson, Director of Family<sup>3</sup> Ministries, Email: matt@stjohnlutheran.com, Cell: 830-388-1550

Tiffany Jurezcki, Nursery and Children's Ministry Coordinator. Email: tiffany@stjohnlutheran.com, Cell: 830-328-3744

Amy Townsend, Hospitality Coordinator, Email: amy@stjohnlutheran.com, Cell: 713-480-8113

## WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT

### Following the Lenten Service

#### Popcorn and a Movie for ALL AGES

Meet in the Family Life Center following the Lent worship service.

**March 3** - I Believe (part II) -

**March 10** - **NO GATHERING** due to Spring Break

**March 17** - **MOVIE: The St. Patrick Story** - A half-hour, action-packed, animated program on the life of St. Patrick, who brought the Gospel to Ireland.

**March 24** - **Servant Project Night** - Decorating lunch bags for the Boerne Coalition, Love Boerne Kids program.

**March 31** - **NO GATHERING** due to Holy Week



**Confirmants and Mentors** (Meet in the Shepherds Cave following the Lent worship service.)

**March 3** - Routes 2 and 3: God and Faith

**March 10** - **NO GATHERING** due to Spring Break

**March 17** - Route 4: Purpose

**March 24** - Route 5: Church

**March 31** - \*Route 6: Service (\*6pm - 8pm  
Supper is served.)

**12th Graders:** Life After High School (Meet in the Upper Room, #213 - 6pm)

**March 3** - The Gift of Struggle

**March 10** - **NO GATHERING** due to Spring Break

**March 17** - Friends and Faith

**March 24** - Facing the Party Scene

**March 31** - \*Morning Breakfast-Finding a Church  
Home \*Time and Place TBA



## GET CONNECTED!

As part of your child's Christian education we know it is important for students of all ages to make connections with people at church; specifically friends their own age. To help facilitate healthy relationships your child and family are invited to attend:

**High School gatherings the 2nd Sunday of each month, Middle School gatherings the 3rd Sunday of each month, Elementary and younger family gatherings the 4th Sunday of each month.** We welcome your ideas for future activities!

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

High School - April 11 and May 2 • Middle School - April 18 and May 16 • Elementary Families - April 25 and May 23

There is no cost for this event, but you **MUST REGISTER**. We are limited to 17 students, so **REGISTER TODAY** on our website.

### HIGH SCHOOL MARCH 14

**Jurassic World Movie**  
at the **AMC theater in Boerne**  
(we have rented out the space)

5:30pm: Pizza at church  
6pm: Take Bus to theater  
6:30pm: Movie: Jurassic World  
8:45pm: Return to church

### MIDDLE SCHOOL MARCH 21

**Pizza, Nerf, and Glamour**  
at church after the late service in Luther Hall

### FAMILIES WITH INFANTS - 5TH GRADERS MARCH 28

**Lunch at Dog and Pony Grill** after church

## 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.



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Church and World  
Families

**S<sup>3</sup>HEEP:**  
students, seeking  
and serving HIM  
everywhere, everyday,  
passionately



## YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION



**LAMBS<sup>3</sup>:**  
learning and  
memorizing Bible  
stories, songs,  
and service

### SUNDAY MORNINGS IN MARCH

**Elementary students are in the final stretch of their designated Bible Study for this year.**

**Here is a brief update on how God's Word is being shared with them.**

*Note: There are NO Youth Sunday School classes on March 7 due to Spring Break, or on Easter, April 4.*

**K-1st Graders:** Jeremiah and the Exile will be the main focus as students realize that disobedience to God leads to bad consequences. But, repentance brings forgiveness and renewed life when turning to Him.

**2nd Graders:** Through parables about Bridesmaids and Grape Growers, Jesus shows that we need to be diligent and prepared for His coming. Also, at whatever point of the journey we are on, His grace and mercy are beyond belief!

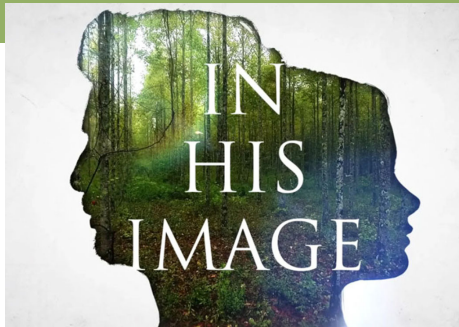
**3rd Graders:** Studying the Gospels, they will walk with Jesus to Jerusalem and then the cross.

**4th Graders:** Following Paul and Timothy's missionary adventures, students will realize how the gospel continued to spread both in times of everyday life and times of great danger.

**5th Graders:** Having looked at questions they had about faith, they are now reviewing key Bible stories as well as learning about Heroes of Faith who faced great odds in living out what they believed.

**Middle Schoolers, High Schoolers and Parents:** Special Sunday School Gatherings this Month

- NO Youth Sunday School classes on March 7 due to Spring Break or on Easter, April 4
- **March 14** Middle School and High School Students will meet in their regular classes.
- **March 21 and March 28** (see below...)



### 'IN HIS IMAGE'

The theme verse for our s3.H.e.e.p. Ministries is something Jesus said just before telling his disciples that he is the good shepherd. He says, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; but I have come that you may have life and have it to the fullest." (John 10:10) Jesus wants the best for us. But what do we do when the world (the culture) shouts that God's Word is wrong?

The movie, "In His Image," speaks directly to this as churches wrestle with the culture regarding the truth about homosexuality and transgenderism. It is a conflict that will not go away and we need to be equipped to know both sides of the discussion.

Our current culture has made it clear on how it stands, but what does the Bible

really say? What does science really say? What do some personal testimonies of homosexual and transgender people really say about their life experience?

This two week DVD-led study is too important to pass up. Be informed. Be seeking of God's wisdom and truth in it all and be willing to talk about this uncomfortable topic with those you love.

**Join us as a church family to learn and discuss. But if that doesn't work, be sure to view it on your own within your home as a family. Go to: <https://inhisimage.movie/>**

**Young Adult and Adult Showing:** Parents of Middle Schoolers and Elementary students are encouraged to take advantage of this viewing to help discern if their young person is ready for this information yet. Showing to students will begin the following week. **Sunday, March 14 12noon - approx. 2pm** in the Family Life Center (a light lunch will be served).

**Please RSVP via the church website** in order to make proper food and seating arrangements.

**Parents and Youth Showing:** High schoolers will be allowed to watch without a parent present, but it is strongly encouraged that parents watch this movie with their child/ren so that they can discuss together. Middle School and younger students will need to have a parent with them or have direct permission from a parent to be able to watch the program on their own.

**Sunday, March 21st 9:30am - 10:30am (part I)** High Schoolers and Parents meet in the Shepherds Cave, Rm #117.

Middle Schoolers and Parents meet in the Fold, Rm #212

**Sunday, March 28th 9:30am - 10:30am (part II)** High Schoolers and Parents meet in the Shepherds Cave, Rm #117.

Middle Schoolers and Parents meet in the Fold, Rm #212

# CHURCH NEWS and UPCOMING EVENTS



## **“Leave a Positive Legacy” Seminar March 21, 3pm-5pm**

This season of Lent is when we “remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” We’re all going to depart and leave a legacy eventually. The only question is whether it will be a good or a bad one.

We’re hosting an event to help you leave a good one. It’s called the “Leave a Positive Legacy” seminar and will be

held on March 21 from 3pm-5pm in the Family Life Center. Pastor Bergquist will talk about the importance of leaving a legacy for your family, a funeral director will talk about planning your funeral, a palliative care doctor about end-of-life health care issues, and a financial advisor about planning your estate. We’re not asking for money, so please leave your check books at home. We will give you a resource to begin making legacy plans of your own.

**There’s no cost for the event, but please register online or by calling the church office.**

## **Easter Family Photo Shoot Easter Sunday: April 4**

Due to Covid-19 concerns we will not be hosting an Easter Eggstravaganza this year. However, St. John’s Family3 Ministries is hosting an **Easter Family photo shoot**. ***Come in your Easter best and get a picture of your family and individual shots as well.***

You will receive an email and link to then get 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.

### **Smile! Say, “JESUS!”**

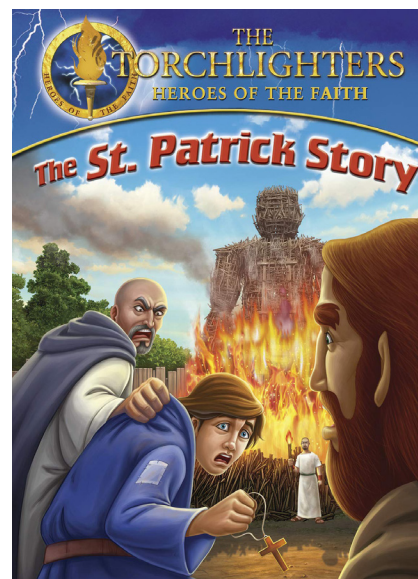
Watch for more information, but know we are looking to have photos start at 7am and continue throughout the noon hour. There are no scheduled appointments - pictures will be first come, first served.



## **Movie and Popcorn Event for All Ages March 17 after the Lenten service**

Join us after the Lenten service on March 17 for a 30 minute movie. We will watch an animated version of the St. Patrick story to find out why the man known as St. Patrick is credited with introducing Ireland to Christ.

The Torchlighters is an ongoing series of animated programs with strong values and educational content for youth ages 8-12. The St. Patrick Story presents the story of a true-life hero from Christian history. Kids will see what God can do and will be challenged to carry their own torch while learning about the history of our faith. Bring the whole family!



## **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, 6pm to 8pm 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](http://www.griefshare.org) or by calling Connie at 512-779-5508, Barbara at 210-373-9070, or the church office at 830-249-3651.





# CHURCH NEWS and UPCOMING EVENTS

## 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](mailto:pp830tx@aol.com).

## Happy Birthday!

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

Selma Blankenship (03/26)	Evin King (03/16)
Bob Brakey (03/25)	Bob Magers (03/08)
Jack Clark (03/27)	Lloyd Markell (03/15)
Peggy Combest (03/25)	Jeanie Theis (03/14)
Betty Cimbrel (03/19)	Mildred Wilson (03/06)

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



**It's time to do some growing!**

Plots are available so plan now on what you want to grow this spring and get ready to swap gardening tips and fellowship with our neighbors.

Alex Post is our Vineyard overseer. He can be reached at (210) 315-5516.



## February "Snowpocalypse" pictures of St. John:



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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	9am Quilters 6pm Property Meeting 6pm EMAW 7pm Al-Anon 1	8am Roberta Buckles Painting 2 10am GriefShare 6pm American Heritage Girls 6:30pm Congregational Care 6:30pm Worship Committee	9am Women of the Word 3 6pm GriefShare 7pm Lenten Services 7:30pm Family3 Classes	9:15am Precept 4 7pm Al-Anon	5	6
8am Traditional Service 7 9am Coffee and Pastries 9:30am Adult Classes-NO youth classes due to Spring Break 9:30am New Members Class 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service 6pm Dominoes	9am Quilters 8 7pm Al-Anon	8am Roberta Buckles Painting 9 10am GriefShare 6pm Mission Committee 6:30pm Congregational Life 6:30pm Outreach Committee	11am Growing Hope Distribution 10 6pm GriefShare 7pm Lenten Services	9:15am Precept 11 7pm Al-Anon	12	13
8am Traditional Service 14 9am Coffee and Pastries 9:30am Adult and Youth Classes 9:30am New Members Class 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service 5:30pm High School Movie Event	11:30am Mens Lunch at Mamacitas 15 12pm Lit N Lunch 6:30pm Mens Bible Study 7pm Al-Anon	8am Roberta Buckles Painting 16 10am GriefShare 6pm American Heritage Girls 7pm Council Meeting	9am Women of the Word 17 6pm GriefShare 6pm 12th grade class 7pm Lenten Services 7:30pm St. Patrick's Day Movie	9:15am Precept 18 6pm Friend N Faith Eat Out Group 7pm Al-Anon	19	20
8am Traditional Service 21 9am Coffee and Pastries 9:30am Adult and Youth Classes 9:30am New Members Class 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service 12pm Middle School Youth Event 3pm Legacy Planning Seminar 5pm Canasta	6:30pm Mens Bible Study 22 7pm Al-Anon	8am Roberta Buckles Paintin 23 10am GriefShare	9am Women of the Word 24 11am Growing Hope Distribution 6pm GriefShare 6pm 12th grade class 7pm Lenten Services 7:30pm Family3 Classes	9:15am Precept 25 7pm Al-Anon	11:30am KCWS Meeting 26	27
PALM SUNDAY 28 New Members Rite: Welcome 8am Traditional Service 9am Coffee and Pastries 9:30am Adult and Youth Classes 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service 12pm Elementary Youth Event 5pm Canasta	6:30pm Mens Bible Study 29 7pm Al-Anon	8am Roberta Buckles Painting 30	9am Women of the Word 31 6:30pm Confirmands and Mentor Supper			