



St. John Lutheran Church

315 Rosewood Ave., Boerne TX 78006

Phone: 830-249-3651

Email: info@stjohnlutheran.com

www.stjohnlutheran.com



May 2021 • Volume 92-05

the MESSENGER

Stay Connected

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Mission

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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

May is here, the school year is coming to a close, and our church program year with it. What a year it's been! I was just at a pastors conference (online, of course) where one of the speakers put it this way: "This last year was like ten years of change packed into one." A year ago, I was sitting around the kitchen table with my family, folding and preparing the May newsletter for mailing because the church was still closed.

When we reopened a few weeks later, I set a goal that we'd have two-thirds of our people come back to worship in-person by the time the school year was over. I am delighted to report that we have met that mark. Our in-person attendance has been over 275 for the last three Sundays. It's great to see so many people back in church again. It feels like we've been reborn!

That's what this month is about. May is not only the month we celebrate Mother's Day and the miracle of birth; it's also the month we celebrate **Pentecost** and the birth of the Church. Forty days after He rose from the dead, Jesus ascended back into heaven. Ten days after that, the Father and the Son poured the Holy Spirit out upon the Apostles. Peter, the same man who three times denied even knowing Jesus, now preached a sermon that brought 3,000 people to faith! What happened? What changed? The Spirit happened, and

the man was changed! The Holy Spirit anointed Peter, set Peter's soul on fire, and freed Peter's mouth to proclaim the Good News of Jesus, crucified and risen from the dead.

Two thousand years later, we preachers still rely on that same Spirit, too. A few years ago, I put together the **Preacher's**

Prayer Team, a

weekly email with specific prayer points for that Sunday's sermon. Almost 200 of you signed up for that Preacher's Prayer Team, but there's room for plenty more. If you'd

like to receive that weekly email and haven't signed up already, please let me know and I'll add you to the list. Pastor Bergquist, Vicar Alliyah, and I count on your prayers every week.

Speaking of **Vicar Alliyah**, she's entering the final weeks of her internship year here at StJLC. She'll start interviewing with churches around the nation. Please, pray for Vicar Alliyah every day in your devotional time, asking that the Holy Spirit will direct and lead her to just the church He has in mind. It's obvious to us all that God has a calling upon her life to serve the Church. Pray that His call to serve a particular congregation will be loud and clear.

- Pastor Eric Waters



A NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

Cheerful Giving

The church needs your help in order to fulfill its God-given mission to spread the Good News throughout the world. It needs your time, it needs your talents, and it needs your financial support. But you must choose what to offer - God will never compel you. In fact, the only thing he does ask is that you give generously and cheerfully. It's not the absolute amount of time or money that God cares about, but rather that you are giving what you can without objections.

Remember that everything God does is meant for our benefit. While the

church certainly needs your contributions, there is nothing you have that God needs from you. Rather, God asks that you give

*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
2 Corinthians 9: 6-7*

of your time and money because through this sacrifice we conform our lives more closely to Jesus' life. Our cheerful service unites us with the community around us and reminds us to let go of our earthly possessions and goals, and to strive for God's goals for us. Our generous gifts will be repaid generously by our Father who loves us and cares for 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	\$92,893	\$119,933										\$362,290
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	341,503
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	343,976

ATTENDANCE COMPARISON

Avg Weekly Worship	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Average YTD
2021 ONLINE	223	151	122										165
2021 IN-PERSON	289	276	328										298
TOTAL	512	427	450										463
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

Important Update to St. John's Covid Policy: Effective May 1



St. John's Council met in April and unanimously voted to lift the covid restrictions in the following ways, **effective May 1**:

- Masks are welcomed but not required
- Communion servers will continue to wear masks. *Council will revisit this decision at the May Council meeting*
- The Offering will be brought back into all worship services
- Restrictions on food service are lifted and Sunday Breakfasts will be phased back in over the course of the next few weeks. *Watch for further information to come.*



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

WOW will wrap up our study of the Gospel of Mark in mid-May. We will be starting a summer study on June 14. Look for details in the June MESSENGER. Contact Michelle Waters for more info: watersmichellejoy@gmail.com

Adult Sunday School Classes

9:30am "God Talk"

Studying the Psalms. Room 128. 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.

HAPPY HEARTS

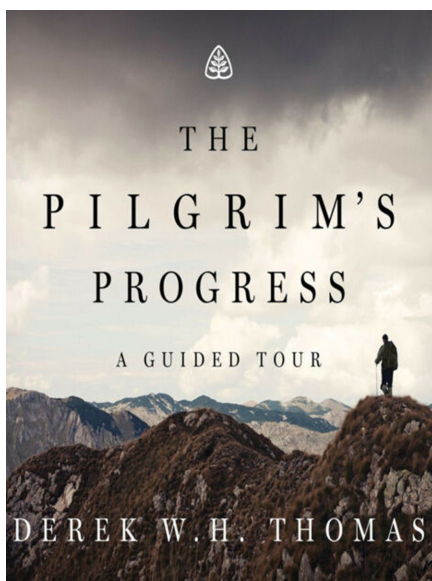
potluck and fellowship is on hold for now due to COVID 19. We will resume when it's safe and possible.



For Parents, Grandparents, Adults and Young Adults:

Join us for 'The Pilgrim's Progress' Sundays beginning May 2

**8am and 9:30am in the Shepherds Cave (Room 117)
or join us via Zoom at 8am**



The Pilgrim's Progress, written by John Bunyan over 300 years ago, is one of the most widely-circulated books ever to be published in the English language. In spite of its popularity in the past, many people today are not familiar with this masterpiece. Join Dr. Derek Thomas as he leads a guided tour of this allegorical work, showing that Christians have as much to gain from this book today as they did hundreds of years ago.

May 2: Intro to the Pilgrim's Progress with a DVD viewing of a documentary on John Bunyan

May 9: The City of Destruction

May 16: The Wicket Gate

May 23: The Interpreter's House

May 30: Today we will watch the animated movie version of the John Bunyan Story with our children

Vacation Bible School Volunteers needed!

June 7 - 10, 9am - 11:30am

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

Mingle in the Marketplace: 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 Disciples and Zealots are needed in the St. John town square. 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!**

Note: Our children and youth will be going through the animated Pilgrim's Progress story this summer for Sunday School. These same themes will be taught and discussed with them. (See next page for additional information).



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 MAY

Children and Youth Sunday School

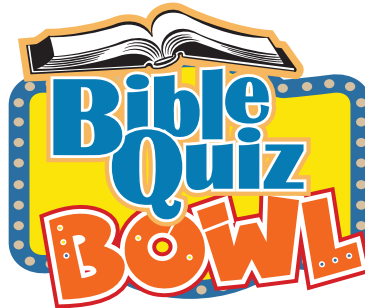
May wraps up our age-focused Bible studies for the school year.

We will bring closure to this school year with a

BIBLE QUIZ BOWL MAY 23

to test our knowledge.

Join us in the Family Life Center to enjoy the fun!



Thank You

We want to thank all our children and youth teachers and mentors that worked with us this past year. We will be celebrating God's work and showing our appreciation with a **Special Event on May 12** starting at 6:30pm at St. John.

SPECIAL SUNDAY MORNING PRESENTATION

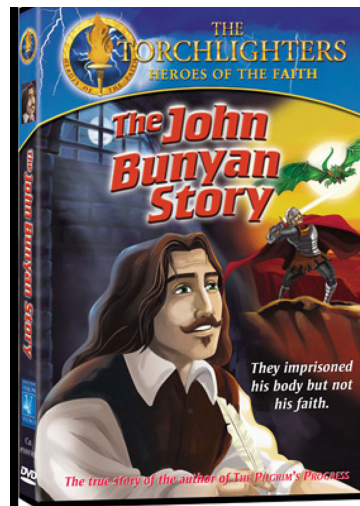
THE JOHN BUNION STORY

Animated Movie

MAY 30, 9:30AM

Join us as we all watch the animated Torchlighter movie 'The John Bunyan Story' together in the Family Life Center.

John Bunyan spends his days in prison, separated from his wife and children. Living in the cold, stone cell is the price he pays for going against the established state religion. If only he would agree to stop preaching, John could walk out a free man! Why does he choose to stay in jail, and how will he serve his Lord in this wretched place? Find out in this episode of the Torchlighters.



John Bunyan is the writer of Pilgrim's Progress, which we will be studying this summer.

Starting in June, the Sunday School schedule will be:

9:30am: Play outside.

9:55am: Watch a part of the movie together in the Family Life Center

10:15am: Discuss with students in appropriate grade groups.

10:30am: Dismissal

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.

Congrats!

Congratulations to all of our recent Confirmants. Blessings to you on this new stage of your faith journey. Let us press on, encouraging one another in Him!



NURSERY CARE IS AVAILABLE ON SUNDAYS

We will have a nursery care provider present during **Sunday** morning worship and education times.



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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!

MAY IS 'WATER BALLOON WAR' MONTH

You won't want to miss this!

HIGH SCHOOL:
MAY 2

MIDDLE SCHOOL:
MAY 16

High Schoolers will do battle on Sunday, May 2. Middle Schoolers will play on Sunday, May 16. Each group will meet after church for lunch and then the Water Wars will begin!



GRADUATE RECOGNITION MAY 23, 11AM



Join us on Sunday, May 23 at the 11am service to help us recognize and celebrate our high school graduates with a blessing for the graduates and their parents.

GRADUATE REHEARSAL NIGHT
MAY 19, 7PM

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS AND PARENTS

**LUNCH AT
DOG AND
PONY GRILL**
MAY 23
12PM



YOUTH ALPHA COMING IN JUNE

Calling all St. John s³Heep Youth!
Alpha is coming!

Middle School will meet
Tuesday nights at 6pm
starting June 1.

High School will meet
Wednesday nights at 6pm
starting June 2.

Alpha



VBS REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Learn more and sign up on our website under 'Events'

VBS

This year's theme:

BLAST

To the

PAST



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 7-10
9AM - 11:30AM

Come explore what it might have been like when Jesus lived. Everyone will dress like they did in Bible times, participate in historic games and crafts, and even witness Jesus performing miracles!

We're Trying Something NEW This Year!

Your **FAMILY** is invited to live like Jesus from June 7-10, 9am-11:30am. *This year, an adult must attend VBS with your children to enjoy the fun together!* This could be a parent, grandparent, babysitter, nanny, neighbor or friend...as long as they are over 16 years old. Learn more and register on our website TODAY!

CHURCH NEWS and UPCOMING EVENTS

Boerne Community Coalition Community Work Day • May 8

The Boerne Community Coalition organizes workdays in neighborhoods with homes needing repairs. These days include cleanup and repair, coordinated children's games and activities, and a shared meal with the volunteers and neighborhood families.

The Love Boerne Neighborhoods Workday is scheduled for **Saturday, May 8**. If you are interested in participating in the cleanup day and can bring any of the needed tools, trucks, or trailers, please visit www.stjohnlutheran.com to find the link to sign-up to volunteer.



The Outreach Committee is looking into replacing the basketball goals on a basketball court in the neighborhood. If you would like to donate money toward buying new basketball steel backboards, goals, and support brackets, or would like to help put them up, please contact George Klein at georgek@msaofsa.com or 210-269-4620. We also may need someone with a welder and who is experienced at welding.

IT'S BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG TIME!

Fundraiser for Hill Country
Pregnancy Care Center



Pick up a baby bottle beginning on May 9 (Mother's Day) in the Gathering Place. Between Mother's Day and Father's Day, fill the bottle with cash, coins, or checks. Return it to church by June 20 and your generous gifts will be given to Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center to help save the lives of unborn children. Learn More at: www.lifesprecious.org

Clothing Drive! Can YOU help?

On May 16, at StJLC, bags will be provided with information on each sponsored child, including age and sizes. Sponsors should return bags
Suggested new clothing **no later than June 13 to StJLC.**

items to purchase:

- 1-2 new bottoms (1 pair denim and 1 pants, shorts or skirt)
- 1-2 tops (1 dress in lieu of top for elementary girls)
- Athletic Shoes • 1 Package of Socks
- 1 Package of Underwear



To Sponsor One or More Children, please contact:
Sara Moldenhauer: jrmoldenhauer@sbcglobal.net

**Additional HCPCC
fundraising events are happening
for Mother's Day:**

1. Order a Yard Sign to display in your yard in honor of your Mom or Grandma. Find details and order your sign at: www.lifesprecious.org

2. Order Mother's Day flowers from An Empty Vase or The Flower Shop and a part of your purchase will benefit HCPCC. Contact HCPCC at 830-249-9717 to learn more.

SAVE THE DATE JUNE 13 • VICAR ALLIYAH CELEBRATION

It's hard to believe our time with Vicar Alliyah is drawing to a close, but we would like to give her a big St. John send-off! On June 13, we will have a special blessing during worship and then a church-wide luncheon cooked by our Grill Guys. More details to follow, but please mark your calendars now to join us!



CHURCH NEWS and UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL IN PICTURES:



Happy Birthday!

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

Pearl Hillrichs (05/10)

Bob Sousa (05/20)

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



It's time to do some growing!

There is still time to get a plot
and start growing things in the
community garden. Call Alex Post,
our Vineyard overseer. He can be
reached at (210) 315-5516 or at email:
alexflyfish@gmail.com

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

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. Attendees find
welcome, support,
and respite in the company of others
who are struggling with the many
aspects of grief.



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315 E. Rosewood
P.O. Box 1081
Boerne, TX 78006
Return Service Requested



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MAY						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						Heal the Soul Walk 1
8am Traditional Service 2 9am Coffee and Pastries 9:30am Adult and Youth Classes 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service 12pm High School Water War 6pm Dominoes	9am Quilters 3 6pm Property Meeting 6:30pm Men's Bible Studies 7pm Al-Anon	6:30am Men's Breakfast 4 8am Roberta Buckles Painting 10am GriefShare 6:30pm Congregational Care 6:30pm Worship Committee	4pm Growing Hope 5 Distribution 5pm GriefShare	7pm Al-Anon 6	7	Boerne Community Coalition Work Day 8
MOTHERS DAY 9 8am Traditional Service 9am Coffee and Pastries 9:30am Adult and Youth Classes 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service	9am Quilters 10 6:30pm Men's Bible Studies 7pm Al-Anon	8am Roberta Buckles Painting 11 10am GriefShare 6pm American Heritage Girls 6pm Mission Committee 6:30pm Congregational Life 6:30pm Outreach Committee	5pm GriefShare 12 6:30pm Family3 Teacher and Mentor Thank You Event	7pm Al-Anon 13	14	15
8am Traditional Service 16 9am Coffee and Pastries 9:30am Adult and Youth Classes 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service 12pm Middle School Water War 5pm Canasta	11:30am Mens Lunch at 17 Mamacitas 12pm Lit N Lunch 6:30pm Men's Bible Studies 7pm Al-Anon	6:30am Men's Breakfast 18 8am Roberta Buckles Paintin 7pm Council Meeting	4pm Growing Hope 19 Distribution 7pm Graduation Recognition Service Rehearsal	6pm Friend N Faith Eat Out 20 Group 7pm Al-Anon	21	22
GRADUATE RECOGNITION 23 8am Traditional Service 9am Coffee and Pastries 9:30am Adult and Youth Classes 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service 12pm Elementary Youth Event: Dog and Pony Grill 5pm Canasta	6:30pm Men's Bible 24 Studies 7pm Al-Anon	8am Roberta Buckles Painting 25 6pm Wild Game Committee	26	7pm Al-Anon 27	28	29
8am Traditional Service 30 9am Coffee and Pastries 9:30am Adult and Youth Classes 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service 5pm Canasta	MEMORIAL DAY 31 6:30pm Men's Bible Studies 7pm Al-Anon					