

the MESSENGER

StJLC
BOERNE

St. John Lutheran Church

315 Rosewood Ave., Boerne TX 78006

Phone: 830-249-3651

Email: info@stjohnlutheran.com

www.stjohnlutheran.com



December 2021 • Volume 92-12

Stay Connected

Council Contacts:

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Rachel Edwards - 210-347-3277

Congregational Life

Teri Folkerts - 210-273-7245

Stewardship

Michael Hoepfner - 210-649-8825

Outreach

Frank Bush - 210-602-6220

Worship

Ann Peters - 210-639-8918

Property

David Hemme - 210-273-9298

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

From the Pastor's Pen

I love to sing. The church staff and my family will tell you that I'm singing all the time, often not even aware I'm doing it. We'll be singing all this month at StJLC.

Our sermon series this month is on well-known Christmas carols. Each Sunday in Advent we'll sing a carol about the coming of the Lord, and then hear the pastor preach about it. The two Sundays in Christmas we'll sing and preach about our Savior's birth.

The second Sunday of December is truly a time for singing! On that Sunday, December 12, the 8am service will meet as usual, with a sermon on "Joy to the World." But there'll be no service at 9:30am. The Praise and Late Services will meet together at 11am for our annual Christmas Program. The children will proclaim and act out the Christmas story, the Praise Band and Choir will lead us in song. It promises to be a wonderful worship service—and we'll follow it with a wonderful Christmas Congregational Meal! It's a day you won't want to miss. Come and join us!

Later that week, on December 15, come and join us for the Christmas Churches by Candlelight event. We'll meet here at StJLC, then walk up to St. Helena's Episcopal, and close the night at First United Methodist, enjoying fellowship at each church and singing carols along the way. It's an opportunity to worship with other believers in Boerne. Come and join us!

And, bring your family and friends to our Christmas Eve services. We'll have three services this year, at 4pm, 6pm, and 8pm. The 4pm is an interactive Family Service, tailor-made for the little ones. They'll hear the story of Jesus' birth, sing carols, and put ornaments on the Christmas Tree. It's a hands-on experience held early in the day so your little ones can worship, too. Then at 6pm we'll have our Traditional Christmas Eve service with carols, choir, brass, Communion, and (of course!) "Silent Night" by candlelight. The 6pm service will be livestreamed so family and friends can join us online. The 8pm Traditional Service will follow the same format, but without livestream and with different musicians. No matter which service you choose, we'll worship Jesus and sing His praise. Come join us!

Christmas Eve falls on a Friday this year, which means the day after Christmas is a Sunday. We'll have only one service on that Sunday, December 26, at 11am, so that our volunteers can enjoy time with their families. Come join us the day after Christmas, too—but remember, only at 11am.

There's a lot to sing about this time of year, and we'll be singing all month long. Come join 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

Gifts

Merry Christmas! This is truly the most special time of year, a time of gathering together with friends and family and remembering the most awesome gift which God gave us - his Son, Jesus Christ. As Isaiah said centuries before His birth - this child was born for us and given to us. This was God's gift to us - a teacher, a perfect example, and our one way to salvation. Jesus was freely given to us by God, with no need for compensation or remuneration.

In the same way, we are called to both give and be gifts to others. We give from what God has given us - ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Joyfully, we tithe to the church to help it spread

"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6

God's word to our community and the world. We volunteer in community service, help teach Sunday School, visit and call our homebound members, and help in many different ways. St. John Lutheran Church is only as strong as its members and, with the Holy Spirit to support and guide us, we are strong indeed.

I give thanks this Christmas season that you have all been such a blessing to both

St. John and to our community. Despite the challenges of this past year, you are giving more than at any time in our history. My prayer is that you will continue to show that giving spirit your whole lives, to devote yourselves to Him who was first given to us. Amen.

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
2021	\$149,464	\$92,893	\$119,933	\$110,256	\$120,505	\$92,056	\$89,873	\$123,896	\$86,919	\$118,393			\$1,104,189
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	1,047,461
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	940,868

ATTENDANCE COMPARISON

Avg Weekly Worship	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Average YTD
2021 ONLINE	223	151	122	124	88	85	94	151	163	110			127
2021 IN-PERSON	289	276	328	346	317	335	276	319	296	341			321
TOTAL	512	427	450	470	405	420	370	470	459	451			448
2020 ONLINE				705	513	220	220	241	233	170	143	256	300
2020 IN-PERSON	449	408	331*	142	219	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

Organ Update

As of November 21, we currently have raised \$85,110 of the necessary \$111,000 to fund the new organ for the Sanctuary. To donate, contact the church office. Thank you for your support!



GriefShare is a 14-week program where participants will find support and practical advice from professionals via a video component that addresses many feelings associated with death and grief. Each of the 14 sessions stands alone, and it is not necessary to begin with the very first one.

A new StJLC GriefShare cycle, under the guidance of Pastor Mariola Bergquist, is scheduled to begin in January 2022. Registration at www.griefshare.org is highly recommended..

The Tuesday morning cycle will begin January 18, 2022, 10am to noon. The Wednesday evening cycle will begin January 19, 2022, 6pm-8pm.

Call the church office at 830-249-3651, Connie Harbers at 512-779-5508, or Barbara Rogers at 210-373-9070 for more information.

Additional GriefShare information is available at www.griefshare.org.



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

Thursdays 9:15am-11am, Room 118

PRECEPT class will be taking a break for the holidays. The class will resume on Thursday, January 6, 2021. We will finish our study on I Corinthians. Led by Pastor Mariola Bergquist.

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

Wednesdays 9am-10am

Women of the Word will resume again in January. Look for details soon! For more information, contact Michelle Waters at watersmichellejoy@gmail.com.

Mens' Bible Study

Mens' Breakfast

Every other Tuesday 6:30am

"Master Builders Bible For Men" is the foundation for discussion topics. This group meets in the Family Life Center.



December 13 • 6pm

Happy Hearts will meet for a potluck dinner (please bring food to share) and Christmas music on Monday, December 13, at 6pm in the Family Life Center.

Please join us for an evening of good food and fellowship.

Adult Sunday School Classes

9:30am "God Talk"

Godtalk is currently studying the Psalms.

A new study will begin on the Parables of Jesus beginning on January 3. The format will be discussion using the book "The Parables of Jesus" by William Barclay.

A limited number of books has been ordered and will be available for \$15. The book is available on ebook if you prefer that format.

Meet in Room 128 from 9:30am-10:30am each Sunday. Contact Peggy Hoppes for more information.

9:30am "Seekers" Room 216.

9:30am "Logos"

Logos is currently studying Acts.

Coming Next Year in the Sunday LOGOS class:

"The Spiritual Realms" This is a Bible study on Heaven and Hell and places beyond this world, realities of existence beyond what we know and experience every day.

More details to come!

Meet in Room 118
Led by Richard Wagner.



Shepherd's Cave Happenings:

Sunday Mornings
9:30am
Room 117

Advent Conspiracy: Helping to make this season be what it is all about...JESUS!

December 5: Give More of Your Presence: Your hands, your words, your time, your heart.

December 12: Love All: The poor, the forgotten, the marginalized, and the sick, in ways that make a difference.

Coming Next Year in the Shepherds Cave:

The 21 toughest questions your kids will ask about Christianity and how to answer them confidently. Starts January 9, 9:30am



Mark your Calendars!
The next
Theology on Tap
will be held on
Sunday, January 16
at 6pm

The main discussion topic of this meeting: Is there such a thing as "free will"? What is it? Why do we want it? What does the Bible and our Lutheran Confessions have to say about it?

These are just a few of the questions we will explore and seek to answer, and you may indeed be surprised by some of the answers!



This year,
invite a
friend to our
Christmas Eve
services or one
of our Christmas
events!



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

Mark Lynn, Director of Youth Ministries, Email: mark.lynn@stjohnlutheran.com, Cell: 630-596-7312

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 FOR L.A.M.B.S³

December 5: Christmas Program rehearsal, meet in classrooms.

December 12: Christmas Program rehearsal, meet in classrooms.
11am - Christmas Program in Sanctuary

December 19: Bible Quiz Bowl and Christmas Party in the
Family Life Center

December 26: NO Children or Youth Classes (returns January 9)

SUNDAY MORNINGS FOR S³H.E.E.P.



December 5: 6th and 7th Graders to meet in The Fold

8th - 12th Graders and Parents - *Summer Mission
Trip Information Meeting in Luther Hall

Senior High Gulf Coast Mission Trip: June 4 - 10, 2022
Come hear all about it on December 5 at 9:30am in
Luther Hall.
Both students and parent/s should attend.



**PRAYING
PELICAN
MISSIONS**



December 12: Special Event - Watch for details.

December 19: No study time but fellowship time. Classes resume
on January 9.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES

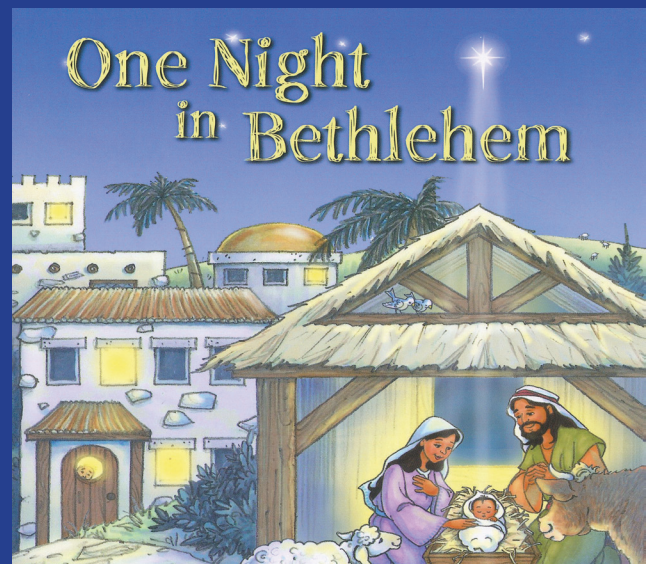
December 1: Children and Youth Christmas Event; 5:45pm start
in Luther Hall for dinner.

December 8: A Walk in Bethlehem. Dinner in Luther Hall
starting at 5:45pm followed by St. Helena's "A Walk in Bethlehem"
all ages event. Tours at 6pm and 7:30pm.

December 15: Christmas Churches by Candle Light 5:30pm meet
in the Narthex - see advertisement to the right...

December 22 and 29: NO Gatherings. Wednesday Ministries
resume on January 12.

Youth and Adult Christmas Program December 12, 11am



Join us for the Christmas Program
that will be held on
Sunday, December 12 at the 11am service.

Wednesday, December 15, 5:30pm



Christmas Churches by candlelight

**Gather the family, bring some friends,
and let's celebrate the season!**

St. John Lutheran Church, St. Helena's Episcopal Church,
and First United Methodist Church welcome you to
celebrate the season during the second annual Christmas
Churches by Candlelight Walk.

Find additional details on page 6.



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

YOUTH SERVICE EVENT: CHRISTMAS DINNER DECEMBER 12

It is our chance to bring joy to the rest of our church family by "serving," at the Christmas Dinner on December 12.

Wear your best Ugly Christmas Sweater and your Smile and meet in the Family Life Center at 11am!



Check out
these
pictures...
Blast from
the Past!

Ski Pilgrimage 2022

Winter Park, Colorado

March 13-19, 2022

NOW OPEN TO ALL AGES!

This Ski Trip is now open to all youth and their families on a first come, first serve basis. All middle school students will need to have a parent join them.

**Visit St. John's website under
'Events' for additional details
and for the link to register TODAY.**

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to Mark Lynn,
Director of Youth Ministry, at
Mark.Lynn@stjohnlutheran.com or
630-596-7312.



COLLEGE STUDENTS

CONNECTION NIGHT

**SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 19, 6PM**

All college students are invited to the Olson's house, 115 Surrey Drive. Reconnect and celebrate Christmas with your church Family2 friends!

Parents'



**Monday, December 20
9am - 4pm**

PARENTS!

Need some help with the kids
so you can get ready for the
holidays?
St. John can help!

Find the details on the next
page of this newsletter or on
our website under 'Events'.

Plan now! Space is limited!

CHURCH NEWS and UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Program December 12 at 11am followed by our annual Christmas Meal

Join us at the 11am service on December 12 for the Christmas Program. There will be wonderful music from the Choir and the Praise Band and the children will tell the Nativity story.

Immediately following the late service, we will host our annual Congregational Christmas Meal in the Family Life Center. Pick up your free ticket for the dinner so we can plan accordingly. The dinner will be cooked by the Grill Guys and served by the youth.

Angel Tree
Gifts
should be
returned by
December 5

Poinsettias

The Christmas Poinsettias will be for sale for \$10 each and can be taken home after the 8pm Christmas Eve service. Fill out a form online or use the insert in the Sunday bulletins in December.

Wednesday, December 15, 5:30pm



Christmas Churches *by candlelight*

St. John Lutheran Church, St. Helena's Episcopal Church, and First United Methodist Church welcome you to celebrate the season with us during the second annual Christmas Churches by Candlelight Walk*.

Come and enjoy Christmas music, fellowship, prayer, and food as we walk to each church by candlelight.

*Meet at St. John Lutheran for appetizers at 5pm. The walk will begin at 5:30pm. We will enjoy music, food, and messages at each church. Festivities will conclude at approximately 8pm. *There will be transportation available for those that cannot walk with us.*

The Easy Way to Get
More Done During
The Holidays!

Parents'



Monday, December 20 • 9am - 4pm

PARENTS! Bring your children age 10 years old and under to St. John for a day of fun and activities and take some time to get your own things done. We will provide a pizza lunch. The cost is \$15 per child with a max of \$45 per family.

You must register as spots are limited.

Register and pay online: www.stjohnlutheran.com under 'Events'

Christmas Eve Services December 24 at 4pm, 6pm, and 8pm

The 4pm is a **Family Service** designed to get young children involved in the Christmas Story and channel that holiday excitement into worship. It starts with a bare Christmas tree which the children will decorate with ornaments as the story of Jesus unfolds. It promises to be boisterous, high-energy, and hands-on, with lots of singing.

The 6pm and 8pm services will feature music from the Praise Band, the choir, along with a brass ensemble. **THIS SERVICE WILL BE LIVESTREAMED AT 6PM!**

We'll sing Silent Night by candlelight at 6pm, and 8pm—and by glowsticks at 4pm.



CHURCH NEWS and UPCOMING EVENTS

NEW Adult Sunday School Classes to begin in January

"God Talk"

The "God Talk" class will begin a new study on the Parables of Jesus on January 3. The format will be discussion using the book "The Parables of Jesus" by William Barclay. A limited number of books has been ordered and will be available for \$15. The book is available on ebook if you prefer that format.

Meet in Room 128 from 9:30am-10:30am each Sunday. Contact Peggy Hoppes for more info.

"Logos"

Next Year the Sunday LOGOS class will be a study of "The Spiritual Realms" This is a Bible study on Heaven and Hell and places beyond this world, realities of existence beyond what we know and experience every day. More details to come, but plan now to join us!

Meet in Room 118. Led by Richard Wagner and Pastor Kurt Wandrey.

Happy Birthday!

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

Marlene Barnes (12/09)	J.J. Johnson Jr. (12/28)
Willena Becker (12/27)	Anita Smoot (12/21)
Billie Bergmann (12/13)	Chuck Straayer (12/01)
Jackie Blackman (12/17)	Maurice Theis (12/12)
William Hallin (12/08)	Bill Warncke (12/18)
Judith Heiligmann (12/06)	Joyce Young (12/30)

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

Women's One Day Retreat

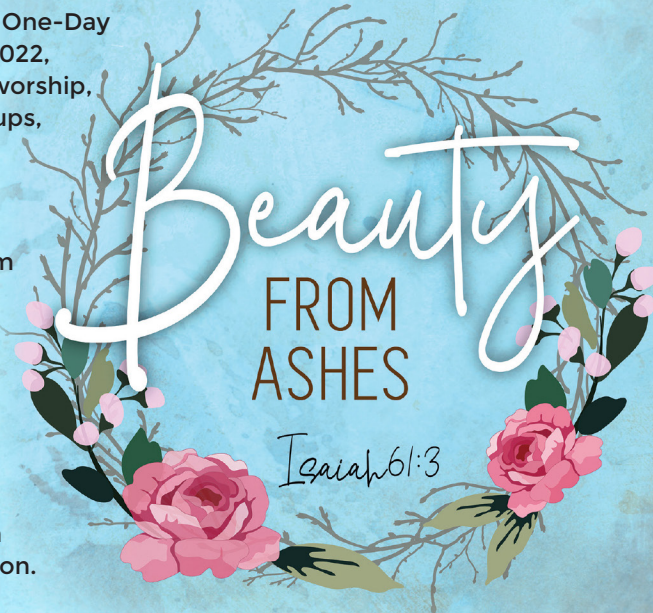
Saturday, January 29, 2022 • 9am-3pm

Join us for the Women's One-Day Retreat on January 29, 2022, 9am-3pm. Come enjoy worship, refreshments, small groups, a delicious lunch, and inspiring messages.

Sign up online at www.stjohnlutheran.com under 'Events'. Register in December for an early bird discount: \$30. After January 1: \$35. Registration deadline: January 15.

Lunch will be provided. Childcare available upon request during registration. Bring your friends!

There will also be a livestream option available with Zoom small group discussions. Register for the free livestream/zoom option online.



Many thanks to all who participated in the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Event!



St. John held our annual Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection Week from November 15-22. Volunteers worked tirelessly donating, greeting, tracking, praying, packing, and loading shoeboxes. What a great team!

These gifts will bless children around the world and introduce these children to the Good News of Jesus Christ. For many of these children, this will be the first gift they have ever received.

The generosity of the time and resources given by our StJLC family is making a difference and beaming out the love of Jesus Christ. Many thanks to all!

Merry Christmas

from all the staff members of St. John

We wish
you and your
family all the joys
that this season
brings: peace, love,
hope, joy...Jesus!

Amy Mark Mark Tracey Meriolo T.J. Tiffany Dave
Matthew Claudia Pr. Eric Linda Dana David

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			9am Decorate the Church for 1 Christmas 5:30pm Children's Bell Choir 5:45pm Youth Christmas Party 6:30pm Choir	9:15am Precept 2 7pm Al-Anon	3	4
8am Traditional Service 5 9:30am Adult and Youth Classes 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service 5pm Dominoes	9am Quilters 6 6pm Men's Groups 6pm Property Committee 7pm Al-Anon	8am Roberta Buckles Painting 7 6:30pm Congregational Care 6:30pm Worship Committee 6:30pm Men's Group Bible Study	4pm Growing Hope 8 Distribution 5:30pm Children's Bell Choir 5:45pm Meal and 'A Walk to Bethlehem' 6:30pm Choir	9:15am Precept 9 7pm Al-Anon	10	11
8am Traditional Service 12 9:30am Adult and Youth Classes NO PRAISE SERVICE 11am Traditional Service with Christmas Program 12pm Congregational Meal	9am Quilters 13 6pm Happy Hearts 6pm Men's Groups 7pm Al-Anon	6:30am Men's Breakfast 14 8am Roberta Buckles Painting 6:30pm Congregational Life 6:30pm Men's Group Bible Study 6:30pm Council Meeting and Christmas Party	4pm Growing Hope 15 Distribution 5:30pm Christmas Churches by Candlelight 6:30pm Choir	9:15am Precept 16 6pm Friends N Faith Eat Out Group 7pm Al-Anon	17	18
8am Traditional Service 19 9:30am Adult and Youth Classes 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service 5pm Canasta 6pm College Connection	12pm Lit N Lunch 20 7pm Al-Anon	8am Roberta Buckles Painting 21	6:30pm Choir 22	7pm Al-Anon 23 Church Office Closed	Christmas Eve Services: 24 4pm, 6pm, 8pm Church Office Closed	Christmas Day 25
11am Traditional Service 26 5pm Canasta	7pm Al-Anon 27	6:30am Men's Breakfast 28	6:30pm Choir 29	7pm Al-Anon 30 Church Office Closed	Church Office Closed 31	