

the MESSENGER

S+JLC
BOERNE

St. John Lutheran Church

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www.stjohnlutheran.com



June 2022 • Volume 93-06

Stay Connected

Council Contacts:

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Ann Peters - 210-639-8918

Property

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Mission

Janet Blackburn - 830-446-9258

Family³ Ministries

George Klein - 210-269-4620

Youth Representatives

Hayden Allen, Gabe Cook

Pastors and Vicar can be reached at 830-249-3651

Pastor Eric Waters

Pastor Mariola Bergquist

Vicar Justin Baker

From the Pastor's Pen

The month of July starts on a high note as the **Boerne Village Band** joins us on July 3 at the 11am service. This Independence Day tradition, when the Band accompanies the congregation as we sing patriotic hymns, has become a favorite of mine. But I'll have to miss it this year. The Waters will be up in Wisconsin for our annual vacation, and that's another tradition I love: boating, swimming, tubing, fishing...long days at the lake and cool nights around the fire. It is so relaxing and restoring to "get away and rest a while" (Mark 6:31). I hope you're able to do the same this summer and enjoy a nice vacation, too.

Shortly after we come back, we'll welcome our newest members into the church. The five-week New Member classes, which focus on our discipleship picture ("Worship Weekly. Walk Daily. Connect Consistently. Serve Monthly."), began in June and lead up toward **New Member Sunday** on July 17, when our newest members will stand before the congregation in worship, confess their faith in Jesus Christ, and formally join our church. That's another tradition I've grown to love. Hope you can join us

that day too, and welcome the dozens of new people God has brought into our church.

Then come back the following Sunday for our special **Congregational Meeting** on July 24 after the 11am service. Last month, Pastor Bergquist announced her intention to retire in about two years. Our denomination, the NALC, tells us that it will take 18-24 months to call an Associate Pastor. Our congregational Council decided to start sooner rather than later. We held a Townhall informational meeting about the process last month. We vote this month to begin the call process by electing a Call Committee. Please join us, cast your vote, and support your church.

July will start on a high note with the Boerne Village Band, continue on a high note as we welcome New Members, and, I trust, end on a high note as we look to the future. Enjoy the music!

- 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

Independence vs. Freedom

As I began contemplating the message I wanted to share with you today, I originally intended to discuss July 4 and how God gave us independence and the choice to follow Him. However, I came to realize that, like many of us, I was conflating independence with freedom. The concepts are very similar and yet also drastically different. God did grant us freedom. In the Garden of Eden, he could have chosen to not create the apple and thus forcibly keep us in a state of innocence. However, He gave us the freedom to either follow His commands or disobey and gain independence from Him. Adam and Eve used that freedom to choose independence from God and that separation caused all of the strife we have in our world today.

He says, “For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” (Galatians 5:13)

In our culture, we often prize independence and scorn dependence. Our heroes are those who blazed their own path and fought against what others said to do. Independence can be a fine and noble trait when it’s used to stand against those who go against God’s commands. However, that very elevation of independence can make it difficult to allow ourselves to depend on God. Jesus said to not worry about tomorrow, to depend on God’s help and guidance, and yet we often find ourselves trying to ensure our lives follow our own path.

We have the freedom to choose to obey God’s commands today, just as Adam

and Eve did in the beginning. I pray that you choose to depend on God’s plan, to serve those in need in our community and to support the missions through the world. Please remember that although summer is a break from our usual routine, St. John’s ministries continue year-round. Your support is greatly appreciated. You can set up automatic donations via our website at www.stjohnlutheran.com or support others with your time and talents. In all things, let us depend on God’s grace and mercy and enjoy the freedom He has given 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	Average Thru Month
2022	\$134,590	\$124,203	\$141,734	\$115,347	\$104,550								\$124,085
2021	\$149,464	\$92,893	\$119,933	\$110,256	\$120,505	\$92,056	\$89,873	\$123,896	\$86,919	\$118,393	\$104,987	\$213,041	\$118,610
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	\$108,044

ATTENDANCE COMPARISON													
Avg Weekly Worship	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Average for Month YTD
2022 ONLINE	131	123	104	84	54								99
2022 IN-PERSON	350	407	459	632	377								458
2022 TOTAL	481	530	563	716	431								557
2021 TOTAL	410	471	522	488	415	420	370	471	459	451	428	676	461
2020 TOTAL	450	480	428	705	546	416	367	451	476	417	364	602	522

* Online attendance added starting April, 2020

A MESSAGE FROM OUR VICAR

Hi folks!

Thank you so much for your warm welcome in the form of greetings, cards, gift cards, snacks, meals, and food. I opened most of them while FaceTiming Nella (my fiancée) and she really appreciated being included. Your generosity is abundant, and we are both very grateful.

I’m looking forward to getting to know as many of you as I can in the next month and a half, and I’m even more excited to introduce you all to Nella after our wedding in July — she’s easily the better half. Nella will be able to continue her job from Pittsburgh—in automotive supply chain distribution—

remotely while she’s in Texas. We are both looking forward to meeting and sharing meals with folks.

Meals are at the very center of the Christian tradition, just as they are the center of all life. It was a forbidden meal (the fruit which Eve and Adam long ago ate) that brought sin and death into the world, and it is the sacrificial meal (that bread and wine which we on Sundays eat) which destroys sin and brings life.

Whereas there are liturgical and theological elements that I appreciate as a Christian in the Lutheran tradition, it was neither the liturgy nor the theology that drew me to the Lutheran tradition. Rather, it was a meal. The first time I

attended a Lutheran church, the great church ladies baked cookies for after church fellowship and then thanked me for eating their homemade cookies. That was exactly backwards, and so, of course, I thanked them.

The gift of those cookies and the over-generosity of thanking me for eating them is one of the main reasons I returned the next Sunday, and the next, and the next. And so, it was a special surprise to find cookies in a welcome bag, and muffins in the fridge.

Meals are not merely ordinary.

+ Vicar Justin



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 on break and return in September. Questions? please email Pastor Mariola at pastormariola@stjohnlutheran.com

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

Wednesdays 9am-10am

Six MORE Psalms of Summer 2022

Women of the Word will do another short summer study on the Psalms.

We'll be studying, praying, meditating on, and even some memorizing of these beautiful words that Jesus used as His prayer book. Please join us! Wednesdays, 9am-10am, June 15-July 27

(with NO class July 6). For more info or to request childcare, email Michelle Waters at watersmichellejoy@gmail.com.



HAPPY HEARTS

Happy Hearts will take a break and return in September.



Mens' Bible Study

Mens' Breakfast

Every other Tuesday 6:30am

"Master Builders Bible For Men" is the foundation for discussion topics. This group now meets in Luther Hall.

Adult Sunday School Classes

9:30am "God Talk"

God Talk began a study on the Parables of Jesus in January. The format is discussion using the book "The Parables of Jesus" by William Barclay. Meet in Room 128.

Contact Peggy Hoppes for more info: heart2love4god@aol.com

9:30am "Seekers" Room 216

Led by Carol Postert

9:30am "Logos"

"The Spiritual Realms" Bible study continues. Learn what the Bible says about Heaven and Hell and places beyond this world, realities of existence beyond what we know and experience every day. Meet in Room 118. Led by Pastor Kurt Wandrey.

Men's Basketball

is for those aged 16 years and older.

Join us for fun, fellowship, and exercise! Gym opens

from 6:30pm-8:30pm

Monday nights in the

summer. Questions?

Talk with Matt. No

Basketball on July 4.



Young Adults (18-20 somethings) Summer Gatherings

Thursdays at 7pm, Room #117

July 7: NO Gathering

July 14: Ecclesiastes chapters 7-9

July 21: Ecclesiastes chapters 10-12

July 28: Fellowship Event with Cross Trails Ministry Staff



Shepherd's Cave
Room 117

The Engagement Project

Shepherds Cave Bible Study and Discussions:

SUNDAY mornings, Room 117

The Engagement Project is a call to the body of Christ to awaken from its slumber and to begin to be the light and salt we were meant to be. Why did Jesus leave? Why does God send? What is God's endgame for you and for me?

July 10: Creation: The Endgame

July 17: Fall: The River of Death

July 24: Redemption: The Heart of God

July 31: Special Guest Speaker in the Family Life Center, Dr. Barbara Geistfeld of Lutherans for Life (see info to the left)



Supporting Life, No Matter What the Size or Age

July 31, 9:30am, 10:45am

Guest Speaker: Dr. Barbara Lane Geistfeld



Dr. Barbara Lane Geistfeld, LFL Assistant Director of Volunteer Relations as of March 2022, and her husband, Dr. James Geistfeld, are "Texans by Choice" after retiring to the Hill Country in 2008. Barb retired from owning a small-animal veterinary hospital and Jim retired from his job as a board-certified laboratory animal veterinarian for Taconic Biosciences. She has taught teen and adult Bible Studies for many years and has been a voice for life in the various churches she has attended. Raised in the First Church of God (Anderson, IN), confirmed by faith into the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS), active in an Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) congregation in New York, and now a member of a Christ-centered Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) congregation. Barb believes these different churches have shaped her faith and reaffirmed her profound desire to be a voice for life. Barb accepted the position of Lutherans For Life Regional Director of Texas in July of 2015, and in those seven years has given LFL presentations to Lutheran churches, schools, and conferences all over Texas. She is a certified Life Team Leader at the church she attends. Barb believes her medical background and her conviction that we are to be "Gospel-motivated voices for life" equips her to help others become gospel-motivated voices for life in Texas. Her ministry has expanded beyond Texas to offer support and encouragement to anyone wanting to become a gospel-motivated voice for life.

Be it in the womb or at the end of many, many years, THE MISSION OF LUTHERANS FOR LIFE IS TO EQUIP LUTHERANS AND THEIR NEIGHBORS TO BE GOSPEL MOTIVATED VOICES FOR LIFE.

Dr. Barbara Geistfeld will speak at 9:30am and 10:45am in the Family Life Center on the topic of Life: A Gift from God. At 12pm there will be lunch and an opportunity for questions and answers regarding Lutherans for Life, especially on how we can get involved and support this ministry.



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 AND S³H.E.E.P.



Children Sermons will be at each Worship Service this Summer

In a season of trying some NEW things (for example, no children or youth Sunday School this summer) we are adding a short Children focused message at each service. During the final verse of the Opening Hymn at the Traditional Services we will welcome children to come up by the altar to sit and hear a message directed to them. The aim is to get them to listen for the coming lessons from the Pastor in his/her coming message. At the Praise Service, children will be signaled to come forward during the final stanzas of the second opening song. Let's see how it goes! We need your kids to be there though to get the true test. See you in church!

Parents' Night Out

Friday, July 15 • 6pm-10pm

\$15/child \$45 max/family

Dinner included! Nursery-Age 10 • CONTACT: tiffany@stjohnlutheran.com

Sign up online: www.stjohnlutheran.com

NURSERY CARE IS AVAILABLE ON SUNDAYS

We will have a nursery care provider present during **Sunday** morning worship and education times for children ages 3 and under..

mission trips

HONDURAS MISSION: Project Talitha Cumi





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

Summer Of Service



A summer dedicated to
youth helping with SOS
calls in our town, nation,
and world.

SOS: Summer Of Service

July 6: NO Gathering

July 13: Hill Country Daily Bread, 1-3pm

July 20: Visiting with Menger Springs residents

Sunday, July 24 – Friday, July 29: Day Camp Volunteering

July 27: Special fellowship event with Cross Trails Ministry Counselors

Please keep in your prayers:

Our Vacation Bible School Day Camp is July 25-July 29. There will be over 60 children participating, six counselors from Cross Trails Ministries and over a dozen of youth and adult volunteers.

Summer is a great time to work
on consistent family devotions.

Here are some possible resources:

- Sola Publishing:

www.holyfamilytime.com

(see the Info Desk area for a handout
about the what, why, and how of "Holy Families")

- See the Info Desk area for Family Devotion books to try at home and use throughout the summer. (Limited supply.)

- Get connected with Rightnow Media resources. Email Matt to be invited to an account.



**CONNECTIONS:
JULY 30, 1PM**

Family

POOL
party

See details on next page



mission trips

YOUTH MISSION: New Orleans Disaster Relief



CHURCH NEWS and UPCOMING EVENTS

Sam's Kids School Supply Drive



It's time for the annual school supply drive benefiting Sam's Kids!

Sam's Kids is an organization that helps Boerne ISD students in need. Sam Champion was a long-time Boerne ISD teacher, principal, and administrator and a member of St. John! Sam was passionate about helping kids and started this organization to "help level the playing field."

These items are specifically requested - though ALL supplies are helpful:
Composition books wide ruled, 70-page wide ruled spirals in red, blue, green, yellow (not purple), 1" white view binders, pencils (Ticonderoga preferred), large glue sticks.

Please leave your items in the designated box in the Gathering Place in the month of July. Contact Maryanna Pearson (maryannapearson@gmail.com) or Marissa Klein (mlmklein03@yahoo.com) if you have questions.

**Patriotic Service featuring
the Boerne Village Band
July 3, 11am**



CONGREGATIONAL Meeting

Join us to cast
your vote to call
an Associate
Pastor and to
elect a Call
Committee.
Support your
church and
vote!

July 24, 12pm



Family POOL party

July 30, 1pm

For our July Connections event, the Rykert family will host a family pool party at the Esperanza Pool on Saturday, July 30 starting at 1pm.

Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided. BYOB and please bring a side/dessert to share.

Hope you can come and have a swimmin' great time!

SAVE THE DATE

More info
to come
this summer.

Check our
website often,
and plan now
to join us!



WOMEN'S RETREAT FALL 2022



**OCTOBER 14-16
CAMP CHRYSALIS**

CHURCH NEWS and UPCOMING EVENTS

Happy Birthday!

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

George Eppinger (07/26) Marjory Olson (07/27)
Sandra Eppinger (07/27) Karen Richmond (07/28)
Bette Lafferty (07/05) Avis Young (07/29)
Marjorie Leverton (07/20) George Young II (07/19)

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

Happy 100th Birthday to Avis Young!

St. John's July Centurion is Avis Young, who will be 100 years old on July 29, 2022! Join us in wishing her a very happy and healthy 100 year birthday!



REMINDER

June Usher Schedule:

8 am services: The Kirby Wisian Team
9:30am services: Rene and Lise Perez
11am services: The Bob Runion Team

August Usher Schedule:

8 am services: The Randy Evans Team
9:30am services: Johnny Moldenhauer Team
11am services: Johnny Moldenhauer Team

September Usher Schedule:

8 am services: The Scott Kramer Team
9:30am services: Dean, Audrey Bearden
11am services: The Mike Schneid Team

*Please remember to arrive early
for your scheduled service!*

Would you like to be an Usher at our Sunday PRAISE service?

If you are willing to serve in this way, please contact the church office at 830-249-3651 or see Johnny Moldenhauer to volunteer.



Rafiki Foundation, Inc. Update

Dadi Ishimwe: Rwanda, Grade 10: Dadi has been learning more about Jesus and the Trinity from the book of John. He has found encouragement from John 1:11-13, where he is reminded that he is a child of God. He will not lose his faith nor his trust in the one who died to save him. Please pray for Dadi to excel in class and discern where God wants him to go or what career he should pursue. Pray that he understands that Christ is all he needs.

Joseph Katebe: Zambia, Graduate: Joseph is very thankful that God saw him through last year's national exams and for the good results he received. He will continue to college studying Biomedical Engineering. **Prayer Requests:** Please pray for Joseph to stay focused on his studies and do his best. Pray that he will continue praying and reading his Bible. Also pray that he will live a godly life - resisting temptation to follow bad influences.



To send mail to Dadi, send letters to: PO Box 6856, 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.

Grieving the death of a spouse?

*Or do you know
someone who is?*

Your life has changed forever. The daily emotions and challenges can seem too hard to bear.

**Find help at a
Loss of a Spouse seminar.**

GRIEF SHARE LOSS OF A SPOUSE

July 31, 2pm

The death of a spouse changes your life forever. Daily emotions and challenges can seem too hard to bear. Find help at the "Loss of a Spouse" seminar on **July 31 at 2pm at St. John Lutheran Church.** All are invited to attend. St. John membership is not required.

**Learn more and register to attend at
www.griefshare.org.**



The physical, emotional, and spiritual effects following the loss of a loved one can be devastating. The good news, is that grieving folks who find a support group often discover that the process from mourning to joy is possible.

GriefShare is a 14-week program where participants will find support and advice. Each of the 14 sessions stands alone, and it is not necessary to begin with the very first one. A participant can start at any point during the cycle.

A new StJLC GriefShare cycle, under the guidance of Pastor Mariola Bergquist, is scheduled to begin in August. Registration at www.griefshare.org is highly recommended but not required.

The Tuesday morning cycle will begin August 16, 10am to noon. The Wednesday evening cycle will begin August 17, 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. More GriefShare information is available at www.griefshare.org.

St. John Lutheran Church
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JULY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					Camp Eagle 1	Camp Eagle 2
8am Traditional Service 3 9:30am Adult Classes 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service 5pm Dominoes, Canasta, Potluck	7pm Al-Anon 4	6:30pm Congregational Care 5 6:30pm Men's Group Bible Study 6:30pm Worship Committee 7pm Internship Committee	7pm New Members Class 6	11:30am Lunch Bunch 7 Eat Out Group 7pm Al-Anon	8	9
8am Traditional Service 10 9:30am Adult Classes 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service	9am Quilters 11 4pm Youth Basketball 6:30pm Men's Basketball 7pm Al-Anon	6:30am Men's Breakfast 12 6:30pm Congregational Life 6:30pm Men's Group Bible Study 6:30pm Mission Committee 6:30pm Outreach Committee 6:30pm Mental Health Support Group	12:30pm HCDB Service 13 4pm Growing Hope Distribution 5:45 Youth Dinner 6:30pm Youth Service Activity 7pm New Members Class	6pm Friends N Faith 14 Eat Out Group 7pm Young Adults 7pm Al-Anon	6pm Parents' Night Out 15	16
8am Traditional Service 17 9:30am Adult Classes 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service-New Member Rite 5pm Canasta, Potluck	12pm Lit N Lunch 18 4pm Youth Basketball 6:30pm Men's Basketball 7pm Al-Anon	11:30am Mens Lunch 19 6:30pm Men's Group Bible Study 7pm Council Meeting	5:30 pm Youth Dinner 20 5:45 Youth Dinner 6:30pm Youth Service Activity	7pm Young Adults 21	22	23
8am Traditional Service 24 9:30am Adult Classes 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service 12pm Congregational Meeting 5pm Canasta, Potluck	Day Camp 25 4pm Youth Basketball 6:30pm Men's Basketball 7pm Al-Anon	Day Camp 26 6:30am Men's Breakfast 6pm Wild Game Dinner Meeting 6:30pm Men's Group Bible Study	Day Camp 27 4pm Growing Hope Distribution 5:45 Youth Dinner 6:30pm Youth Service Activity	Day Camp 28 12pm Obi-Wan Youth Streaming Party 7pm Young Adults 7pm Al-Anon	Day Camp 29	1pm Connections Pool Party 30
8am Traditional Service 31 9:30am Adult Classes, Guest Speaker 9:30am Praise Service 10:45am Guest Speaker 11am Traditional Service 12pm Lunch 2pm GriefShare Loss of Spouse Seminar 5pm Canasta, Potluck						