

Stay Connected

Council Contacts:

President Brandt Klutts - 830-305-4623

Vice-President Allen Hornung - 830-741-1082

Secretary Gloria Baker - 830-431-0522

Treasurer Lil Rogers - 210-452-5583

Congregational Care Rachel Edwards - 210-347-3277

Congregational Life Teri Folkerts - 210-273-7245

Stewardship Michael Hoeppner - 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 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 Holiday Season is here! We prepare ourselves to celebrate Christmas by taking a close look at the "other" characters in the story: **Zechariah and Elizabeth, Joseph and Mary**. Pastor Bergquist, Vicar Justin, and I will preach on these parents of Jesus and John the Baptist to find what they can tell us about how to prepare for and receive the Lord.

Then on December 11 we'll gather for our annual **Christmas Program and Meal**. The 8am service

will meet that day as usual. But there will 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 story of Jesus' birth, and the Praise Band and Choir will lead us in song while the Bell Choir, chimes, and guest instrumentalists praise the Lord. It promises to be a wonderful service! You won't want to miss it—and be sure to stay for the annual Christmas Congregational Meal right after. Come and join us!

Then bring your family and friends back on December 24 for our **Christmas Eve services**. We'll have three services this year, at **4pm**, **6pm**, **and 8pm**. The 4pm is a Children's Service, highly interactive and tailor-made for the little ones. They'll hear the story of Jesus' birth, sing carols, and hang ornaments on the

tree. We've scheduled it early enough in the day that your little ones won't have to wait to worship on Christmas Eve at our church. Then at 6pm comes 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, wherever

they are. Be sure to
let them know! The
8pm service follows
the same format, only
this time without the
livestream and with
different musicians. No
matter which service
you choose, we'll worship

Jesus and sing His praise! Come and join us!

Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year. We'll still gather for worship that day, but only at one service so that our volunteers can enjoy time at home with family. Join us at 11am in-person, since that service won't be livestreamed.

New Year's Day falls on a Sunday as well. Once again, we'll gather for worship only at one service. The **11am** service will offer Communion and be livestreamed online so people can join us from home or on vacation.

The Holiday Season is upon us. Come celebrate the birth of the Lord!

- Pastor Eric Waters

A NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

Being a Gift to Others

The Christmas season is once again upon us. For children, the season primarily means a time of gifts. The gifts become less important as we age, but we should always remember the greatest gift we have received or will ever receive - Jesus' coming to redeem a sinful world. God's gift was a service to mankind and he tells us throughout the Bible that we should in turn be servants to others.

In Jesus' parable about the good samaritan, we learn of a man who gave the gift of life to another who had done nothing to earn it. The Jew bleeding on the side of the road had in all likelihood held the predominant beliefs at the time that the Samaritans were an impure

"'Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?' The expert in the law replied, 'The one who had mercy on him.' Jesus told him, 'Go and do likewise." -Luke 10:36-37

people not as worthy of respect as the Jews. However, the Samaritan man gave his time and his money to care for him and restore him to life. Jesus then underlined the point, telling us to "go and do likewise." He commands us to give of what we have been given to help others in need, regardless of who they are or what they have done

This season, I challenge you to find one small way to help someone. Whether by making a donation, volunteering your time, or simply talking to someone in need, reach out and show what it means to truly be a Christian. Imagine

what this world would be if everyone just made that small effort to support and care for each other like Jesus tells us to do. Amen.

As a final note, this will be my last message to the congregation as the Stewardship Chair. I have enjoyed sharing my time with you over the last two years and hope that I have inspired you to give of your time, talents, and treasures as God moves you. Judi Catalon will be taking over for me next year and will be a fantastic guide for our committee. Thank you Judi for taking on this service and I look forward to reading your messages in the coming months.

Your Brother in Christ, Michael Hoeppner, 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	\$106,229	\$114,850	\$122,472	\$96,083	\$116,396			\$117,645
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	\$110,419
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	\$104,808

ATTENDANCE COMPARISON													
Avg Weekly Worship	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Average for Month YTD
2022 ONLINE 2022 IN-PERSON 2022 TOTAL	131 350 481	123 407 530	104 459 563	84 632 716	54 377 431	91 353 444	74 344 418	81 382 463	66 359 425	70 372 442			88 410 498
2021 TOTAL	410	471	522	488	415	420	370	471	459	451	428	676	448
2020 TOTAL	450	480	428	705	546	416	367	451	476	417	364	602	474

^{*} Online attendance added starting April, 2020

THE VICAR'S CORNER

Advent is upon us. Christmastime is soon to be here. Each day checks off another advent calendar box as we all march along towards Christmas.

Advent means coming. For us as a church, we remember with joy and expectation the coming of the Savior to Bethlehem. From hosts of angels to lowly folks, the coming of Jesus was surreal and strange and special. Something really is different now, thanks to Christ's birth.

The incarnation – the second person of the trinity come to earth in the flesh – is remarkable. Should it have been? The Old Testament is full of prophecies, metaphors, themes, hints, and suggestions that this would happen – Jesus tells us this. Yet Israel was not only caught by surprise, but largely rejected Jesus.

Advent means coming. And though we are in the special season now awaiting the birth of Jesus, we also are in a season that looks forward to Christ's second coming. At his coming, every knee will bow; the last judgment will take place; those who place their trust in Jesus will be vindicated once and for all.

But though both the Old and New Testament speak of this Last Day, the day of Christ's return, we sometimes, just like Israel in the time of Christ, do not take Jesus at his word.

So as we prepare our hearts again for the birth of Jesus, let us also prepare our hearts for his return. Let us be sure to place our trust in him, the one who is absolutely trustworthy and faithful

Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

+ Vicar Justin

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Your Call Committee has been busy in completing our Congregational Profile, which has been sent to the NALC and LCMC for posting and publicizing. The next step is to draft the job description at our next meeting on December 8.

We will take a break during the Christmas season, and begin making contact with potential candidates early next year.

Thank you for your prayers as we seek the "right" Associate Pastor, not the "perfect" one for St. John. Pray also for that one, God's choice, to respond and answer God's Call in His time.

FAMILY³ MINISTRIES

Know Jesus and Make Jesus Known.

Together, in our Home, Church and World **Families**

ADULT FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Ladies' Bible Study

PRECEPT

Thursdays 9:15am-11am, Room 118

Precept class class will not meet in the month of December. The study of Isaiah will resume on January 5, 2023. Questions? Contact Pastor Mariola at pastormariola@stjohnlutheran.com

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

Wednesdays 9am-10am

Women of the Word will do a short Advent study to prepare our hearts for Christmas. We will be following the Sunday morning sermon series, studying the lives of Zechariah, Elizabeth, Joseph, and Mary. Join us for three Wednesdays (Nov. 30, Dec. 7, and Dec. 14) from 9am-10am. If you've ever wanted to "come and see," this is your opportunity! No registration is necessary. For more info, contact Michelle Waters at watersmichellejoy@gmail.com.



Shepherd's Cave Room 117

The Engagement Project

Bible Study and Discussions: SUNDAY mornings, Room 117

Let us be the light and salt we are meant to be. Let's get the mission down... Why did Jesus leave? Why does God send? What is God's endgame for you and for me? This is not just important truths for each of us, but it also is what we are to pass on to our children and grandchildren. Come and be equipped.

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 Luther Hall.

Men's Small Groups

New groups are forming as men step forward with interest. How about going through the first book of Every Man a Warrior on Sunday mornings at 9:30am? Please let Matt know if you are interested. Email:



Adult Sunday School Classes

9:30am "God Talk"

"Parables of Paul: The Master of the Metaphor" by J. Ellsworth Kalas. Meet in Room 128. Led by Peggy Hoppes.

> 9:30am "Seekers" Room 216 Led by Carol Postert

9:30am "Logos"

This class is studying the book of Romans. Meet in Room 118. Led by Richard Wagner.

Happy Hearts December 12, 6pm

"Happy Hearts" will celebrate the special season on Monday, December 12, with a Christmas potluck (please bring food to share) and singing Christmas carols with Linda Miller.

Please join us for an evening of food, fun and fellowship.

For more info, please email pastormariola@stjohnlutheran.com

Registration is Open NOW. Sign Up TODAY!



Scan to learn more and register

Women's One Day Retreat at St. John January 28, 2023 • 9am-3pm

A livestream/Zoom option is available

Music will be provided by Alison Ritch. Messages by Michelle Waters. Closing Communion service will be led by Pastor Mariola Bergquist. Lunch will be catered by Hungry Horse. Refreshments, coffee, and childcare will be available.

Early Bird Cost is \$35, if you register before December 20.

Learn more and register online: www.stjohnlutheran.com, under 'Events'



Men's Basketball Continues!







FAMILY³ MINISTRIES

Know Jesus and Make Jesus Known.

FAMILY³
Together, in our Home,
Church and World
Families

ellowship

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

Sunday School 9:30am

Kindergarten-5th Grade

December 4: Preschool through 5th Grade Christmas Program practice. Meet in classrooms, be picked up in Luther Hall.

December 11: Christmas Program rehearsal at 9:30am in the Sanctuary. **11am Christmas Program**

December 18: K-5th **Bible Quiz Bowl** and **Christmas party** in the

Family Life Center.



NO Sunday School December 25 and January 1. A blessed Holidays to you and your family!

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

F3 Fellowship Wednesdays:

4pm Open Gym5:30pm Youth Bells (music room)6pm Meal in Luther Hall

5th -8th Graders

December 7: SPECIAL ADVENT Celebration led by Vicar Justin and Nella Baker from 6:30-7:30pm. Meet in the FLC

December 14: Christmas Party (see next page)

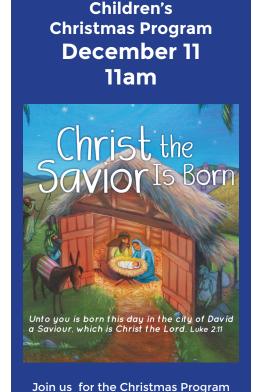
*5th graders will have their own space for this event.

High School

December 7: Final Crossways Bible Study for 2022 from 6:30-7:30pm in the Upper Room.

December 14: Christmas Party (see next page for details)

NO F3 Fellowship Gathering on December 21 and 28. A blessed Christmas break for you and your family.



that will be held on Sunday,

December 11 at the 11am service.



\$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.



Tuesday, December 20 9am - 3pm

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 online: www.stjohnlutheran.com under 'Events'



FAMILY³ MINISTRIES

Know Jesus and Make Jesus Known.

FAMILY³
Together, in our Home,
Church and World
Families

S³HEEP: <u>s</u>tudents, <u>s</u>eeking and <u>s</u>erving HIM <u>e</u>verywhere, <u>e</u>veryday, <u>p</u>assionately



YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION



LAMBS³:

<u>l</u>earning <u>a</u>nd

<u>m</u>emorizing <u>B</u>ible

<u>s</u>tories, <u>s</u>ongs,

and <u>s</u>ervice



Weihnachts Christmas Parade • December 3

Do you want to be in a parade? St. John is participating in the Weihnachts Parade on December 3. The parade starts at the north end of Main Street at 6pm.

We will have a tailgate party prior to the parade starting at 4:30pm.

If you would like to help plan the float, decorate, and/or be in the parade, please contact Marissa Klein 210-393-4653.





December 11

Middle School and High School

Come get your Christmas gift and help serve lunch to the congregationa at the Annual Christmas Meal



Looking Ahead:

Young Adults Fellowship

Sunday, January 8 12pm at St. John



Texas Rally for Life

Saturday, January 28
1pm-4pm in Austin



We will leave together from St. John at 10am. We will return at approximately 7pm. ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!

CHURCH NEWS and UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Program

December 11 at 11am followed by our annual Christmas Meal

Join us at the 11am service on December 11 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.

Poinsettias

The Christmas Poinsettias will be for sale for \$15 each and can be taken home on Christmas Eve. Fill out a form online or use the insert in the Sunday bulletins. The last day to purchase is December 12.



Each week in December, check the box for any cards addressed to you. We encourage everyone to check each week so you don't miss any wonderful cards!

Cards not picked up by January 8 will be discarded.



Tuesday, December 20 • 9am - 3pm

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'



CHURCH NEWS and UPCOMING EVENTS



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

Marlene Barnes (12/09) J.J. Johnson Jr. (12/28) Willena Becker (12/27) John Rogers (12/09) Jackie Blackman (12/17) Anita Smoot (12/21) Dick Capps (12/19) Cathy Crites (12/20) William Hallin (12/08) Joyce Young (12/30)

Mavis Anderson (12/17) Judith Heiligmann (12/06) Shirley Steitle (12/22) Bill Warncke (12/18)

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

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

St. John held it's annual Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection Week from November 14-22. 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!

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Women's One Day Retreat at St. John

January 28, 2023 • 9am-3pm

A livestream/Zoom option is available

Music will be provided by Alison Ritch. Messages by Michelle Waters. Closing Communion service will be led by Pastor Mariola Bergquist. Lunch will be catered by Hungry Horse. Refreshments, coffee, and childcare will be available.





Early Bird Cost is \$35, if you register before December 20. The cost for registration after December 20 is \$40. Final deadline to register is January 15.

Refreshments, lunch, and childcare provided.

Scan the QR code to learn more and register or register on our website under 'Events': www.stjohnlutheran.com

Our next New Member Classes begin in January

If you or someone you know is interested in joining St. John, please register online or contact the church office. Classes will be held on Sundays, 12:15pm-1:30pm, January 15 - February 5. The new members will be welcomed into our church at services on Sunday, February 12.

Will you be a new member sponsor? We are looking for current members to sponsor our new members. This is a great way to become more active and help our new members to feel welcomed and at home here. Please consider signing up! For more information, please contact the church office.

REMINDER

December Usher Schedule:

8 am services: 9:30am services:

Richard Wahl Team Judy Cavazos Shoquist

Rodney, Patricia Hitch

11am services: Jim Peters Team

January Usher Schedule:

8 am services: 9:30am services:

Richard Wahl Team The Mikulencak's

3rd Grade Sunday School

11am services: Johnny Moldenhauer Team

February Usher Schedule:

8 am services: 9:30am services:

Randy Evans Team Pete, Carolyn Rivera

2nd Grade Sunday School

11am services:

Bob Runion Team

Please remember to arrive early for your scheduled service!

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

To volunteer, please contact the church office at 830-249-3651 or see Johnny Moldenhauer.



The care you you can trust.

After the funeral, when the cards and flowers have stopped coming, most of the people around you return to their normal lives. But your grief continues and you feel alone.

Often friends and family don't know how to help. That is the reason for GriefShare. Our group is led by caring people who have experienced grief and have successfully rebuilt their lives. We understand how you feel because we've been in the same place. We will walk with you on the long path through grief toward healing and hope for the future.

The 14-week program consists of encouraging videos from leading grief recovery experts, small group discussion, and a workbook for journaling and personal study. The program is nondenominational and features biblical concepts for healing from grief.

If you or someone you know is in need of support, please contact us! www.griefshare.org Connie 512-779-5508. Barbara 210-373-9070 St. John office 830-249-3651

the MESSENGER Newsletter

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					
				9:30am Music Together® 1 with Wendy Valentic 7pm Al-Anon	5pm Middle School 2 Late Night Event/Altitude Trampoline Park	4:30pm 3 Weihnachts Parade Tailgate Party, Parade at 6pm					
8am Traditional Service 4 9am Bethlethem Christian Families Art Display 9:30am Adult and Youth Classes 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service 12pm Movie Viewing 5pm Dominoes, Canasta, Potluck	6pm Property Meeting 5 6:30pm Men's Basketball 7pm Al-Anon	8am Roberta Buckles Painting 6 6:15pm American Heritage Girls 6:30pm Men's Group Bible Study 6:30pm Congregational Care 6:30pm Worship Committee 7pm Internship Committee	3pm Growing Hope Distribution 4pm Open Gym 5:30pm Bells Practice 5:30pm F3 Fellowship, Dinner, Activities 6:30pm Choir	9:30am Music Together® with Wendy Valentic 11:30am Lunch Bunch 7pm Al Anon	9	10					
8am Traditional Service 11 9:30am Adult and Youth Classes 11am Traditional Service: Christmas Cantata 11am Children's Program 12pm Christmas Meal	6pm Happy Hearts 12 7pm Al-Anon	6:30am Men's Breakfast 13 8am Roberta Buckles Painting 6:15pm American Heritage Girls 6:30pm Congregational Life 6:30pm Mission Committee 6:30pm Men's Group Bible Study	3pm Growing Hope Distribution 4, 4pm Open Gym 5:30pm Bells Practice 5:30pm F3 Fellowship, Dinner, Activities 5:30pm Youth Christmas Party 6:30pm Choir	9:30am Music Together® 15 with Wendy Valentic 5:30pm Friends of Faith Dinner Club 7pm Al-Anon	High School Trip to Dallas 6pm Parents' Night Out	High School 17 Trip to Dallas					
High School Trip to Dallas 18 8am Traditional Service 9:30am Adult and Youth Classes 9:30am Praise Service 9:30am Quiz Bowl and Children's Christmas Party 11am Traditional Service 12pm Movie Viewing 5pm Canasta, Potluck	12pm Lit N Lunch 19 6:30pm Men's Basketball 7pm Al-Anon	Parents' Day Out 9am-3pm 20 11:30am Mens Lunch 6:30pm Men's Group Bible Study 7pm Council Meeting	5:30pm Bells Practice 6:30pm Choir	9:30am Music Together® 22 with Wendy Valentic 7pm Al-Anon	23	Christmas Eve 24 Services: 4pm (Children's Service), 6pm 8pm					
Christmas Day 25 Service at 11am	7pm Al-Anon 26	6:30am Men's Breakfast 27 6pm Wild Game Dinner Committee 6:30pm Men's Group Bible Study	6:30pm Choir 28	9:30am Music Together® 29 with Wendy Valentic 7pm Al-Anon	30	31					