the MESSENGER

St. John Lutheran Church St. John Lutheran Church 315 Rosewood Ave., Boerne TX 78006 Phone: 830-249-3651 Email: info@stjohnlutheran.com www.stjohnlutheran.com

Stay Connected

Council Contacts:

President Kirby Wisian - 210-835-4691

Vice-President Gloria Baker - 830-431-0522

Secretary Kim Klutts - 210-859-4040

Treasurer Lil Rogers - 210-452-5583

Congregational Care Sharon von Rosenberg-830-431-0046

Congregational Life Geneva Sinclair - 830-446-6919

Outreach Frank Bush - 210-602-6220

Worship Ann Peters - 210-639-8918

Property Brandt Klutts - 830-305-4623

Mission Jennifer Kuentz - 210-834-2811

Family³ Ministries George Klein - 210-269-4620

Youth Representatives Luke Christman, Logan Klein

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

Pastor Eric Waters Pastor Mariola Bergquist Vicar Justin Baker

From the Pastor's Pen

April is a full month at St. John Lutheran Church. It begins with Holy Week, the most important week of the entire year. Palm Sunday falls on April 2 this year. On Palm Sunday, the crowd welcomed our Lord into Jerusalem and hailed Him as a King. We recreate that moment in worship, processing into the Sanctuary with palm branches held high and "Hosanna!" on our lips. Tuesday, April 4, is a special opportunity to celebrate Christ as the Passover Lamb. We've invited Jews for Jesus to give a special presentation called "Christ and the Passover." Michelle and I attended it last year and were amazed by all the connections between the Passover Seder and the Last Supper. We celebrate that Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, April 6, the only day of the year when we receive Communion around the altar. Then the altar is stripped in preparation for Good Friday the next day, April 7. On this good day when Jesus died for the sins of the world, we'll hear His words from the Cross and sing His praise in hymns. The following day we welcome the children of the community to our church for our annual Easter Eggstravaganza. Then on Sunday, April 9, we celebrate Easter Sunday and Christ's Resurrection from the dead! I've got a good Gospel sermon outlined and ready to go. Invite your family and friends!

Holy Week is the most important week of the year, and a very busy week for us. The rest of April is full, too. On **April 16**, we'll welcome a scholarship student and celebrate a baby. **Luke Beaver** is a student at the North American Lutheran Seminary and the first recipient of our St. John Lutheran Legacy Endowment Fund scholarship. Luke will preach at all three services that Sunday and share his story of faith. Then after the Late Service, all are

invited to the Family Life Center for a **baby shower** for Nella and Justin Baker. Share the joy with the Bakers and help them get ready to welcome God's gift into their life.

The Sunday after that is **Confirmation**, April 23. Close to a dozen of our young people (including my son, Jonny!) will stand before the congregation at the Late Service and confirm their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

The final weekend of the month brings the **Wild Game Dinner** on April 29. It's been a few years, but the Wild Game Dinner is back bigger than ever. Come celebrate its return, enjoy delicious food, share in the fellowship, and generously support local and international charities. See you there!

- Pastor Eric Waters

A NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

	INCOME COMPARISON												
Monthly Operating Income	January	February	March	April	Мау	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Average Thru Month
2023	\$152,340	\$106,982											\$129,661
2022	\$134,590	\$124,203	\$141,734	\$115,347	\$104,550	\$106,229	\$114,850	\$122,472	\$96,083	\$116,396	\$123,143	\$311,256	\$129,397
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	\$121,179
ATTENDANCE COMPARISON													
Avg Weekly Worship	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Average for Month YTD
2023 ONLINE 2023 IN-PERSON 2023 TOTAL	101 464 565	79 562 641											74 457 531
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	66 375 441	103 545 648	517
2021 TOTAL	410	471	522	488	415	420	370	471	459	451	428	676	468

THE VICAR'S CORNER

It's done (almost) – as of March 10, I'm officially approved for ordination.

Approval for ordination is the tail end of a five-step process of candidacy. You might find it interesting just how the candidacy process works in the NALC.

Candidacy is the process through which a layperson becomes ordained in the NALC. There are essentially five steps: 1) Entrance, 2) Endorsement, 3) Completion of a Master of Divinity, 4) Approval, and 5) Ordination.

First, the Candidacy Committee evaluates whether a layperson should begin the process of candidacy - this is the entrance step, and it involves a psychiatric evaluation, a series of essays, and an interview. Concurrent with this step is beginning seminary, where the layperson begins to learn foundations for Lutheran theology, Biblical studies and preaching, church history, pastoral counseling, and the like. Once the layperson has achieved sufficient study (either completion of the M. Div. or one year of studies remaining), the candidate is invited out for a second interview, to determine whether the layperson should be endorsed for a pastoral internship (to be a vicar). With each of the interviews comes a new set of essay questions, always with some variation on this question: What do you believe about the Bible as the Word of God? (Hint: the committee is looking to make sure candidates in the NALC view the Bible as authoritative and as God's honestto-goodness Word.) When a candidate is endorsed, a process of matching a candidate with a church site takes place to find a suitable and amenable pastoral internship (both for the vicar and the church). Towards the end of the internship, the layperson is again invited for the approval interview.

My approval interview took place on March 7. For this step, I submitted a sermon and responses to three essay questions: How do you understand Scripture as the word of God? Describe the four core values of the NALC in light of the ordination vows. Describe what the emphasis of the NALC on the Great Commission would look like on the congregational level. (Unsurprisingly, I might have gone a bit longer than the recommended 20 pages, double-spaced.) I chose my Go and Tell: Peter's Story sermon because the congregation here overwhelmingly resonated with it – folks really could see themselves as Peters, returning again and again to the faith. And, I thought it important that those evaluating me for ministry have a grasp on my story.

Serendipitously, my sending pastor, Evan McClanahan from First Lutheran Church in Houston (where I first became a member of the Lutheran church) was the chairperson of my approval panel. The interview itself was relatively painless and enjoyable—by this point in the process, the committee has likely already weeded out candidates who are unprepared or unqualified for pastoral ministry—consisting more of questions of how I might approach ministry, rather than whether I should do ministry. The committee recommended that I (as well as my fellow pastoral interns) be approved for ordination, and this decision was ratified by the executive committee with an official datestamp of March 10.

Thus begins my last and final step, which is to enter the call process. This is a prayer and Spirit-filled process, whereby I seek to be called by a particular church, one in which we are mutually joined, pastor together with flock. And so, I ask that you pray for me, Nella, and our little one, that we would be called by a church for our first call, that I may begin Word and Sacrament ministry.

St. John has been integral to my call. The support, encouragement, and gifts that St. John has provided and continues to provide along the way have made this a wonderful pastoral internship. In particular, Eric Waters has been a faithful, shrewd, and even-keeled mentor, making the internship clear with straightforward goals. Mariola Bergquist has been a wonderful associate with which to do pastoral visits and from which to learn from her many years of pastoral ministry. Mike Miller and the Intern Committee he has chaired proved themselves a valuable resource. The Church Staff, with whom I weekday-daily work, are welcoming, enjoyable, and good-natured. Nella and I have very much appreciated being a part of the youth on Wednesdays under the leadership of both Matt Olson and Mark Lynn. We have enjoyed getting to know the council and the congregation and we owe the Canasta crowd a special shoutout for keeping us fed and feeding us fun.

FAMILY³ MINISTRIES FAMILY³

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 will continue with the study of the Book of Isaiah through April 20. We will take a summer break and resume in September. Questions? Contact Pastor Mariola: pastormariola@stjohnlutheran.com

Women of the Word (W.O.W.) Wednesdays 9am-10am

The study that began January 11 continues. Grab a front row seat to the amazing. Holy Spirit-filled action of the early church as we study the book of Acts. Come, Holy Spirit! We will meet Wednesdays through April 26, 9am-10am. For questions or to request childcare, contact Michelle Waters at watersmichellejoy@gmail.com.

Sunday Morning Women's Bible Study

April 16 9:30am and 10:45am

This NEW Bible Study will begin April 16 and be led by Marissa Klein. The group will be going through the book Unshakable. Classes will meet at 9:30am in the Family Room (off of the Family Life Center) and at 10:45am in the Shepherd's Cave (Room 117). Contact Marissa with questions: 210-393-4653

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. Upcoming dates: Tuesday, April 4 and Tuesday, April 18

Attention Men of St. John: **Tuesday Nights** 6:30pm



Walking with God; Join the journey of developing one's relationship with God. Through a nine-week course, participants will be equipped in knowing what the Bible says about growing this vital relationship. Reserve your time for Tuesdays, 6:30pm in the Shepherd's Cave #117.

April 11 - Lesson #1. Why **Discipleship?**

April 18 - Lesson #2. Finding the "One Thing"

April 25 - Lesson #3. Why Men Fail



Happy Hearts Monday, April 10

"Happy Hearts" will look at the beautiful Texas wildflowers. We will travel through the Hill Country and stop for lunch in Mason. For details and to sign up, please contact Pastor Mariola: pastormariola@stjohlutheran.com





Young Adults ZOOM! (18-20 somethings) Sunday, April 23, 8pm

Please email Matt for the link information: matt@stjohnlutheran.com to join our Zoom.

Men's Basketball Continues!

Fun, fellowship, and exercise! Gym opens from 6:30-8:30pm Monday Nights except

when the Happy Hearts group meets. For more info, talk with Mark Lynn or Matt Olson, April's schedule: April 3, 10, and 24



Adult Sunday School Classes

9:30am "God Talk"

God Talk is continuing the study of the Apostle Paul, looking at the Benefits of the Gospel according to Paul, Meet in Room 128. Led by Peggy Hoppes.

9:30am "Seekers"

Seekers is studying a book written by Paul H Wright, PH.D. It is a compilation of different characters in the Bible and covers biblical backgrounds and cultures. Meet in 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.



Shepherd's Cave **Room 117**

SUNDAY mornings 9:30am

Be strengthened in knowing the evidence and the arguments for the truth of Christianity. If you don't believe, be a part of this series before you dismiss it. On Sundays, April 16 and 23 we will go through part I and then part II of the film "The Case for Christ." Lee Strobel, the former legal editor of the Chicago Tribune, draws upon his investigative skills in this compelling film that follows his two-year investigation of the Bible and the life of Jesus Christ. Topics include: The historical accuracy of the Gospels, the personal claims of Jesus, and His resurrection from the dead.

We will watch approximately 35 minutes of the film each of the two Sundays thus leaving space for discussion.

Following our same format, on April 30 we will start the film The Case for Faith. In this powerful biblical apologetic, Lee Strobel tackles two of the most emotional questions posed about Christianity: "Why is Jesus the only way to God" and, "How could a loving God exist if there is evil and suffering in the world?"

We will follow this with The Case for a Creator. Does contemporary scientific evidence point toward or away from a supernatural Creator? Featuring interviews with scientists and scholars from a wide range of disciplines, this remarkable film traces Strobel's own journey from spiritual skepticism to profound faith.

FAMILY³ MINISTRIES

Know Jesus and Make Jesus Known.

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-12th Grade

April 2: A regular Bible story learning day

April 9: NO Classes due to Easter

- April 16: A regular Bible story learning day.
- Music Sunday for 3rd 5th Graders.
- April 23: A regular Bible story learning day.

April 30: Service Sunday

K – Ushering	3rd – Greeting
1st - Cards	4th - Hospitality
2nd – Bulletin Board	5th - Quilting

MEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Middle and High School Wednesdays

4pm "Hang Out" in the Family Room
5:30pm Youth Bells (music room)
5:30pm Meal in Luther Hall
6:30pm Study and Fellowship Activities



FAMILY³ Together, in our Home,

Church and World

Families

April 5, 12, and 26: 5th – Fellowship in Rm. 119 M.S. – Fellowship in Rm. 212 H.S. – Crossways in Rm. 213

April 19: NO Youth Activities...

...except for the 8th Grade and Mentor Confirmation Rehearsal at 6:30pm

FAITH MARKER

CONFIRMATION Sunday, April 23 11am

Join us at the 11am service and witness the confirmation of several of St. John's youth.

Please keep our 8th grade Confirmation Students in your prayers as they prepare to make a public affirmation of their baptism.

SPOT LIGHT



Jake Pearson

One of St. John's young adults will be working at a youth Bible camp this summer.

Jake Pearson will be a Camphand at Camp Chrysalis.

Please keep him in your prayers as he prepares to venture out to serve our community and our Lord in this meaningful way!

Parents' Night Out

Friday, April 21 • 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.



8th Graders and High Schoolers: Show up in the Family Life Center after church for some explosive fun and games! *No actual bombs will be present at this event

Children's Day Camp

Cross Trails Ministry Day Camp at St. John is scheduled for July 24-28. This is a day camp program for kids who have completed Kindergarten-5th grade in the 2022-2023 school year.

Pre-School: 7:30am (doors open) to 11:30am (prioritized for siblings of those going to morning session of Day Camp). Preschoolers register through St. John only!
K-5th Grade Morning Session: 7:30am (doors open) to 11:30am
K-5th Grade Afternoon Session: 1pm (doors open) to 5pm

Morning and afternoon sessions are the same programming. Only one session per day for students and they need to be committed to either morning or afternoon. (NOTE: There is NOT an afternoon pre-school option.)

Find more info and register at www.stjohnlutheran.com under 'Events'

Children's Day Camp

July 24-28

Registration Is Open!

Volunteers:

We will need Middle, High School and Adult Volunteers for the Day Camp week. We need at least a dozen volunteers to help the entire day while other volunteer options can be for a half day. Lunch will be provided for volunteers over the 11:30am-1pm break.

Please pray for this exciting event where well over 120 children and their families may be served in our community.

CHURCH NEWS and UPCOMING EVENTS

Congregational Work Day April 1, 10am - 2:30pm

Come join us for some spring cleaning and landscaping at the church! We plan to polish the pews and window



sills, clean out gutters, blow out AC enclosures, pressure wash, do some light trimming outside, and possibly mulching. All are welcome!

Special Presentation April 4, 6:30pm

Join us to hear a dynamic, inspiring presentation on how Jesus is found in every aspect of the Jewish Passover



meal. Karol Joseph, of Jews for Jesus, will make our Holy Week observance come alive by reminding us of how beautifully the Scriptures point to Jesus throughout the entire Old Testament. Pastor Waters and Michelle attended this presentation last year and are happy we can host it at St. John.

This event will encourage your faith and deepen your understanding of God's amazing grace.

Guest Preacher Luke Beaver, St. John's Scholar April 16

St. John's first scholarship recipient, Luke Beaver, will preach at all three services on April 16. To learn more about donating to St. John's Endowment Fund that supports this scholarship opportunity, please contact the church office.



PALM SUNDAY: APRIL 2 Worship Services: 8am, 9:30am, 11am

MAUNDY THURSDAY: APRIL 6 Worship Service at 6:30pm

GOOD FRIDAY: APRIL 7 Worship Services at 12pm and 6:30pm. The 6:30pm service will be livestreamed.

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA: APRIL 8 Community Event 11am - 1pm with Easter Egg Hunt, Music, Food, Games!

EASTER SUNDAY: APRIL 9 Worship Services 8am, 9:30am, 11am. Breakfast will be served: 7:30am - 11am The 11am service will be livestreamed.



at St. John Lutheran Church This is a FREE COMMUNITY EVENT, all are welcome! There will be an Easter Egg Hunt, food, music, games, activities, a bounce house, and more!



Join us in the Family Life Center after the late service to celebrate. A light lunch will be served. They are having a girl and the theme of the nursery will be 'The Chronicles of Narnia'.

CHURCH NEWS and UPCOMING EVENTS

Kendall County Women's Shelter Annual Fundraiser • April 27

The evening will consist of tastings, raffle prizes, and a live auction with all proceeds benefiting survivors of domestic violence. Ticket prices and info are available at kcwstexas.org.



The Wild Game Dinner April 29

St. John's Wild Game Dinner to raise money for local and international charities is set for April 29 at the Kendall County Fairgrounds with doors opening at 4pm.

This event features delicious wild game fare, door prizes, silent and live auctions, kids' games, and more. Get your tickets on Sunday between services or in the church office.

Learn more on our website under 'Events'.



GAME Charity **DI ST. IOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH**

This month we encourage young families to participate in the Easter Eggstravaganza on Saturday, April 8, from 11am – 1pm and/or the Wild Game Dinner on Saturday, April 29. Plenty of food, fun, and fellowship will be had by all!

Happy Hearts Field Trip in March



The Happy Hearts group visited the Coming King Sculpture Prayer Gardens in Kerrville for their March gathering. It was a wonderful trip and they even found St. John's prayer bench plaque!

Happy Birthday

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

Frank Arnold (04/02) Ken Nietenhoefer (04/03) Gladys Turner (04/23)

Alton Tschirhart (04/08) Ron Walter (04/06)

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

Call Committee Update Save the Date: May 7

The Call Committee has invited a potential candidate for our Associate Pastor position for an onsite visit May 5-7. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend worship and a potluck luncheon with a Q&A session following the 11am service on May 7.

REMINDER

April Usher Schedule:

8 am services: 9:30am services:

11am services:

Kirby Wisian Team Hornung Team Kindergarten Sunday School Mikulencak Team Tom Harden Team

April 6, Maundy Thursday - Mikulencak Team April 7, Good Friday 12pm - Moldenhauer Team April 7, Good Friday 6:30pm - Pearson Team

May Usher Schedule:

8 am services: 9:30am services: 11am services:

Scott Kramer Team Thompson Team Blackburn Team Schneid 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 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 14-week cycle, as each class is a stand-alone unit. There is no charge for this ministry. Attendees find welcome, support, and respite in the company of others who are struggling with the many aspects of grief. Registration at www. griefshare.org is highly recommended but not required.

Meeting options are:

Tuesdays, 10am to noon through May 30 and Wednesdays, 6pm to 8pm through May 31. Childcare is available with prior notice. Both groups meet in the Education Wing, first floor. 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 online at www.griefshare.org.

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



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APRIL										
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY				
						10am Church Workday Team Life Camp				
Palm Sunday 2 8am Traditional Service 9:30am Adult and Youth Classes 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service 5pm Dominoes, Canasta, Potluck 2000000000000000000000000000000000000	9am St. John Quilters 3 6pm Property Meeting 6:30pm Men's Basketball 7pm Al-Anon	10am GriefShare 4 6:30am Men's Breakfast 6:15pm American Heritage Girls 6:30pm Christ and the Passover 5pecial Presentation 6:30pm Worship Committee 7pm Internship Committee	9am WOW Bible Study 3pm Growing Hope Distribution 4pm Open Gym 5:30pm F3 Fellowship, Dinner, Activities 6pm GriefShare 6:30pm Choir 7pm Endowment Committee	Maundy Thursday 9:30am Music Together® with Wendy Valentic 6:30pm Worship Service 7pm Al Anon	Good Friday Church Office Closed 12pm Worship Service 6:30pm Worship Service	11am-1pm 8 Easter 8 Eggstravaganza				
Easter Sunday 9 8am Traditional Service 9:30am Adult Classes 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service	9am St. John Quilters 10 9:30am Happy Hearts- Special Event 6:30pm Men's Basketball 7pm Al-Anon	10am GriefShare 11 6:30pm Men's Group Bible Study 6:30pm Congregational Life	9am WOW Bible Study 4pm Open Gym 5:30pm F3 Fellowship, Dinner, Activities 5:30pm Handbells 6pm GriefShare 6:30pm Choir 6:30pm Crossways Bible Study	9:15am Precept 9:30am Music Together® with Wendy Valentic 7pm Al-Anon	14	15				
Guest Preacher-Luke Beaver16 8am Traditional Service 9:30am Adult and Youth Classes 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service 12:15pm Justin and Nella's Baby Shower 5pm Canasta, Potluck	12pm Lit N Lunch 17 7pm Al-Anon	6:30am Men's Breakfast 18 10am GriefShare 6:15pm American Heritage Girls 6:30pm Men's Group Bible Study 7pm Council Meeting	9am WOW Bible Study 19 3pm Growing Hope Distribution 4pm Open Gym 5:30pm Dinner 5:30pm Handbells 6pm GriefShare 6:30pm Cohir 6:30pm Confirmation Rehearsal 6:30pm Crossways Bible Study	9:15am Precept 20 9:30am Music Together® with Wendy Valentic 11:30am Quilting Around The Bend 5:30pm Friends of Faith Dinner Club 7pm Al-Anon	6pm Parents' Night Out 21	6pm Confirmation Banquet 22				
Confirmation Sunday 11am 23 8am Traditional Service 9:30am Adult and Youth Classes 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service 5pm Canasta, Potluck 8pm Young Adult Zoom	6:30pm Men's Basketball 24 7pm Al-Anon	10am GriefShare 25 6pm Wild Game Dinner Meeting 6:30pm Men's Group Bible Stud 6:30pm Congregational Care 6:30pm Congregational Care	9am WOW Bible Study 4pm Open Gym 5:30pm F3 Fellowship, Dinner, Activities 5:30pm Handbells 6:30pm Choir 6pm GriefShare 7pm Crossways Bible Study	9:30am Music Together® 27 with Wendy Valentic 7pm Al-Anon	28	4pm 29 Wild Game Dinner				
8am Traditional Service 30 9:30am Adult and Youth Classes 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service 12:15pm 8th Grade and High School Event 5pm Canasta, Potluck										