

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

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 can be reached at 830-249-3651

Pastor Eric Waters Pastor Mariola Bergquist

From the Pastor's Pen

It's the most wonderful time of the year, the season when we celebrate our Savior's birth! We begin with the **Weihnachts Parade** on December 2. "Weihnachts" is German for "Holy Night." StJLC will host a float to keep the "Holy" in "Holy Night." Our church will be

there to remind people that Jesus is the reason for the season, and invite them to come and celebrate His birth with us. Join us on the float or come and cheer us on as we pass by. Hope to see you there!

Make plans now to join us for our annual Christmas Program and Meal on December 10. The 8am service will meet as usual, but there will be no Praise Service that day. The 9:30 hour will be used instead for rehearsal. The 11am service will feature our musical ensembles-choir, handbells, and Praise Band—with the Children and Youth giving the message through their Christmas program. We'll celebrate Communion, then head across the way to the Family Life Center for our Christmas Dinner. The food will be outstanding, the fellowship too, and it's free-just pick up a ticket so we can get a good count and make enough for everyone. It will be a wonderful day of worship and singing, fellowship and food. Hope to see you there!

Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. We won't hold any worship services that morning.

Instead, we'll gather for worship at **4pm**, **6pm**, **and 8pm**. The 4pm service 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. The 6:00 service is a Traditional Christmas Eve service with carols, choir, brass, Communion, and (of course!) "Silent Night" by candlelight. We'll livestream the 6pm service so you can join us if you're out of town with family and friends. The 8pm service follows the same format, but without the livestream and with different musicians. No matter which service you choose, we'll worship Jesus and sing His praise on this "Holy Night!" I hope you can join us.

Then come back the following Sunday and worship with us on **New Year's Eve**. We'll return to our regular worship schedule that day, but we'll hear from a special guest. **Jake Allen** is a son of our congregation and a student at Baylor University. God is calling Jake into the ordained ministry of the NALC. We want to support Jake and give him the opportunity to preach. I am eagerly looking forward to hearing Jake deliver the sermon at all three services that day. I hope you can join us!

- Pastor Eric Waters

A NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

INCOME COMPARISON													
Monthly Operating Income	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Average Thru Month
2023	\$152,340	\$106,982	\$105,872	\$121,481	\$96,133	\$117,134	\$118,348	\$115,725	\$103,778	\$117,023			\$115,482
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	\$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

					ATTE	NDANCE	COMPA	ARISON					
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	77 519 596	90 606	93 413	95 417	107 395	88 388	89 397	97 372			87 442
2023 IOIAL		041	290	696	506	512	502	476	486	469			528
2022 ONLINE	131	123	104	84	54	91	74	81	66	70	66	103	
2022 IN-PERSON	350	407	459	632	377	353	344	382	359	372	375	545	485
2022 TOTAL	481	530	563	716	431	444	418	463	425	442	441	648	
2021 TOTAL	410	471	522	488	415	420	370	471	459	451	428	676	446

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL

At St. John Lutheran School our mission is to Know Jesus and Make Jesus Known through Academic Excellence and Christian Character. We value the education of every child that walks through our doors. Your child will grow intellectually, morally, and spiritually with a solid Christian education, small classroom sizes, one-on-one attention, and excellent teachers.

This Month's Update from Tiffany Jureczki, St. John Lutheran School Director

The school year is already halfway over! With one semester down we have already begun the planning for next year. Advertising has continued, word of mouth continues to spread and our involvement in the community not only brings attention to StJLC School but the news of Jesus to our community!

November was a short month because of the Thanksgiving holidays, but we managed to squeeze in our normal lessons (phonics, long division and diagramming sentences, just to name a few) and some extra activities. Our visits to Morningside at Menger Springs continue to be a blessing to everyone involved. We invite all church members who live there to join us in the memory care lobby on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Thursdays at 9am. We joined Ambleside in their 'Run for the Good' to promote student health and do a little fundraising at the same time. Our night at Fritze's brought in \$132 and everyone had a great time at Peter Piper Pizza Thanksgiving week! The next fundraiser event will be at Texas Roadhouse in Leon Springs on December 19 (make sure to tell them you are with St. John).

Thank you, volunteers!! Cindy Morrison taught us how to make soap. Chela Langenberg helps every week in the St. John Vineyard with our gardening. Rachel Edwards and Linda Bush come every week for tutoring. Linda Christensen keeps our books. Please see me if you would like to volunteer at St. John Lutheran School, we'd love to have you!

Thank you, also, to everyone who rode in the

Comfort Christmas parade with us!

December is also a very short month at school, but we have our two most important events that we hope you can attend! **December 6** from 10am-12pm is our St. Nicholas Market. This is the culmination of our Economics Unit that we have been working on all throughout the fall semester. This cash-only market showcases items the students have made while learning about supply and demand, saving and spending money, quality work, how to be an employee, teamwork, donating to a cause, and, as the students put it. "doing lots of fun math problems!" Wednesday, December 13 at 6pm is our Christmas program. We hope you will join us and fill the sanctuary as the school students tell the story of the birth of our Savior!

Merry Christmas! Tiffany











MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Weihnacht's Parade: December 2, 5pm

St. Nicholas Market: December 6, 10am-12pm

School Christmas Program:

December 13, 6pm

Parent's Night Out: December 15, 6pm

Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser:

December 19

Parents' Day Out:

December 20, 9am-3pm









FAMILY³ MINISTRIES

Know Jesus and Make Jesus Known.

Adult Sunday School Classes 9:30am "God Talk"

Please join us for our continuing study of

Paul as we turn our focus to his letter to

the Roman. We will be using the book "Be

Right: How to be Right With God, Yourself,

and Others" by Warren Wiersbe. 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

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

ADULT FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Ladies' Bible Studies

PRECEPT

Thursdays 9:15am-11am, Room 118

Precept Bible study is taking a holiday break and will resume with the study of Jeremiah Part 2 on January 4, 2024, Ouestions? Contact Pastor Mariola: pastormariola@stjohnlutheran.com

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

Wednesdays 9am-10am

Women of the Word will take a break through December. We will start a new study on January 10. Contact Michelle Waters for more information at watersmichellejoy@gmail.com.

Happy Hearts December 11, 6pm



On Monday, December 11 at 6pm, Happy Hearts will meet for some merry Christmas fun! After a yummy potluck meal, we will gather for a white elephant gift exchange (each person should bring a small gift). Expect to enjoy some hilarity and laughter as we put a whole new spin on gift giving. Come and enjoy the fun!

Hosts: Kurt and Diann Wandrey For more info, please email pastormariola@stjohnlutheran.com

BIBLE

formerly Theology on Tap

Mens' Bible Studies

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 date: Tuesday, December 12.

Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Studies are on break for DECEMBER but will resume in January with a special focus on being equipped with the Armor of God.

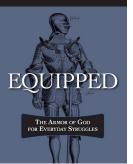
See Men's Retreat information below and on page 6.

Room 216. Led by Carol Postert. 9:30am "Logos" This class is studying 1 Corinthians. Meet in Room 118. Led by Richard Wagner.

Men's Retreat at Camp Chrysalis

January 19-21, 2024

See page 6 for more information, or visit our website under 'Events' for full details and to register. **Registration is** open!



Women's One Day Retreat at St. John **January 27, 2024**



See page 6 for more information, or visit our website under 'Events' for full details and to register.

Registration is open!



Sundays, through December 10 at 9:30am

Equipping for Parents, Grandparents, and Young Adults

We will finalize our study of the God D esign of Family, The Family Project, DVD and discussion series. (Note: No class on December 24 and 31 due to Christmas and New Years Break) We will resume on January 7.



Young Adults Gatherings (18-20 somethings) December 17, 6pm

Join us for food and fellowship while we catch up and get updates on your home church's upcoming adventures!

Men's Basketball

The gym opens from 6:30-8:30pm MOST Monday Nights. For more info, talk to Mark or Matt. December schedule is Mondays, December 4 and 18.



Our next meeting will be on January 14. Watch for details to come.



FAMILY³ MINISTRIES

Know Jesus and Make Jesus Known.

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

Sunday School classes at 9:30am for all ages (preschool-high school)

December 3: Christmas Program Rehearsal

December 10: 9:30am Rehearsal, 11am Christmas Program

December 27: Quiz Bowl ans Party

No Sunday School on December 24 or 31.

StJLC School's St. Nick's Market December 6 10am-12pm

All are welcome to come and find some handmade Christmas treasures.



WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Wednesdays Activities

4pm K-5th - Special Events (see next page)

6th-12th - Volunteer with F3 Kids

5:30pm Meal for all ages in the FLC

6:30pm Study and Fellowship Activities for

5th grade-Adults

7:30pm Classes and activities conclude



December 6:

5th-8th grade - Program practice and Christmas Party (see next page for details)

High School - Regular activities

No Youth Activities December 13, 20, 27 and January 3



Christmas Cantata and Children's Christmas Program

December 10

Join us for the Christmas Program that will be held on Sunday,
December 10 at the 11am service.

Parents' Night Out

Friday, December 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.



Wednesday, December 20 9am - 3pm

PARENTS! Bring your children, infant age to 10 years old, to St. John for a day of fun and activities and take some time to get your own things done. We will provide lunch and snacks. The cost is \$25 per child. You must register as spots are limited.

Register online today: www.stjohnlutheran.com under 'Events'



FAMILY³ MINISTRIES

Know Jesus and Make Jesus Known.

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



December 6

5th -8th Graders! Join us for our F3 night of fun! We will have a quick run-through of the Christmas Program and then it's time to party! Please bring a White Elephant Gift (something from around the house or something purchased for \$5 or less) and dress festively.



Friday, December 15 - 5:30pm to 8pm

High Schoolers, meet us at church and we will head out for a festive night of food and fellowship. We will travel to different houses of church members to eat appetizers, a main course, and dessert. Bring a White Elephant Gift - Something from around the house or something purchased for \$5 or less. Pickup at the church by 8pm.

We are still looking for volunteers to open up their homes and provide one of the three courses. If you will help, please email Mark: mark.lynn@stjohnlutheran.com

Elementary Kids Events



Wednesdays, 4pm

December 6: Christmas Caroling No activities on December 13, 20, or 27.

Middle School and High School

December 10

Put on your ugly Christmas sweaters and come and help serve the congregation at the Annual **Christmas Meal**





this holy-day season. May this gift from your St. John Family² be a

blessing for your home family¹.

Weihnachts Christmas Parade • December 2

St. John will participate in the Weihnachts Parade. All are welcoome to walk with us in the parade and join us on the float! We will gather at 5pm for food. Parade begins at 6pm. Contact Marissa Klein 210-393-4653 or Tiffany 830-328-3744 with questions or for more details.

NALC Continental Youth Gathering

HOST HOMES NEEDED: June 30-July 5, 2024

On July 1-4, 2024 St. John will be hosting the FIRST ever NALC Youth Gathering. We are expecting 500 students and adult leaders from all over the USA and Canada. We need more host homes! Please prayerfully consider and sign-up as plans are being made! Thanks for supporting your "World Family". Sign up on our website!



SAVE THE DATE

Camp Eagle: June 9-13, 2024 • Camp Chrysalis: June 9-14, 2024

Watch for details and registration information to come.

Want to keep up with everything that is happening at St. John?

Find us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. Check out our website: www.stjohnlutheran.com and subscribe to our 'Week-at-a-Glance' weekly email: http://eepurl.com/X4f4X









CHURCH NEWS and UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Program

December 10 at 11am followed by our annual **Christmas Meal**

Join us at the 11am service on December 10 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. The Grill Guys will prepare steak dinners with all the fixings. Pick up your free ticket on Sunday in the Gathering Place, 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 in December.

Rudolph's Mail Delivery Christmas Card Exchange

Bring your Christmas cards for fellow congregation members and put them in the accordian file folder (filed alphabetically). No postage necessary! The box is located outside the Sanctuary.

Check the box each week for cards addressed to you.

Cards not picked up by January 8 will be discarded.

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

The 4pm is a Children's 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.



REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Women's One Day Retreat at St. John

January 27, 2024 • 9am-3pm



December 20

The cost for registration after December 20 is \$40. Final deadline to register is January 15.

Refreshments, lunch, and childcare provided.

A livestream/Zoom option is also available. There is no cost for the livestream event, but YOU MUST REGISTER! All are welcome! Join us and bring a friend!

Scan the QR code to learn more and register or sign up on our website: www.stjohnlutheran.com

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

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

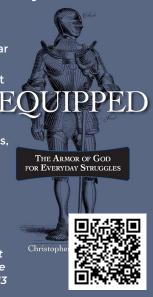
Men's Retreat at Camp Chrysalis

January 19-21, 2024

Join this weekend retreat as we hear testimonies, receive Biblical teaching, and enjoy encouragement from fellow brothers in Christ. We will learn to be 'equipped with the Armor of God' and be strengthened for everyday struggles, as well as big spiritual battles.

There is a Saturday only option, if that fits your schedule best. The cost is \$110 for the weekend. \$30 for Saturday only.

"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil..." - Ephesians 6:11-13



Scan the QR code to learn more and register or sign up on our website: www.stiohnlutheran.com

CHURCH NEWS and UPCOMING EVENTS



Honoring our Senior Members (80+) With Birthdays In December Mavis Anderson (12/17) Marlene Barnes (12/09) Willena Becker (12/27) Jackie Blackman (12/17) Dick Capps (12/19) Cathy Crites (12/20) William Hallin (12/08) Judith Heiligmann (12/06) J.J. Johnson Jr. (12/28) John Rogers (12/09) Anita Smoot (12/21) Shirley Steitle (12/22) Ronald Stowe (12/20) Bill Warncke (12/18) Joyce Young (12/30)

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

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

A candidate visited our church November 7-9 to tour the facilities, meet the pastors and staff, and interview with the Council and Call Committee. The Call Committee is currently discerning next steps in the process.

Mission Updates

Honduras Mission Update









Every journey begins with a first step and the Honduras Mission Team traveled to Intibucá, Honduras. They worked on a variety of projects for Project Talitha Cumi. While there, the team had the opportunity to worship at Mount Zion Baptist Church in La Esperanza.

Praise report from Uganda

The Uganda Mission Team has successfully completed two water wells and started the third and final borehole. They met with tribes in Northern Uganda who are really suffering beyond imagination for clean water. They prayed in Jesus name with the Chief of the tribe!





Our prayer is that the water well work will ease the miserable conditions and the people will feel the love of Jesus Christ as it is shared with them through the service of these volunteers.

Thank you, St. John, for your prayers and support!

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

A big "thank you" to everyone who filled shoeboxes and volunteered during this event. In addition to filling shoeboxes on behalf of StJLC, we collected a large number of shoeboxes from our community. St John volunteers helped to make this happen!! Volunteers greeted and prayed with donors, unloaded boxes, recorded donations, packed cartons, loaded the trailer. Whew! What a great team! These gifts will be sent to children around the world that may have never heard about the Good News of Jesus Christ. The generosity of time and resources given by our StJLC family is making a difference and beaming out the love of Jesus Christ around the world. None of this could have been done without all who stepped up to fill shoeboxes and volunteer time. I am grateful to have served with all of you.

-Gloria Baker, StJLC OCC Project Leader

REMINDER

December Usher Schedule:

8 am services: Richard Wahl Team 9:30am services: The Hitch Team 11am services: Jim Peters Team

December 24 Services:

4pm: Rivera and Thompson Teams

6pm: Bob Runion Team 8pm: Richard Wahl Team

January Usher Schedule:

8 am services: Richard Wahl Team 9:30am services: Judy Shoquist Team

3rd Grade Sunday School

11am services: Moldenhauer Team

Please remember to arrive early for your scheduled service!

Would you like to be an Usher? We need your help!

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



The care you need. Information 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, you continue to grieve and you feel alone.

GriefShare is led by caring people who have experienced grief and have successfully rebuilt their lives. We will walk with you on the path through grief toward healing and hope for the future.

The 14-week program consists of encouraging videos featuring leading grief recovery experts, small group discussion, and a workbook for exercises that reinforce the weekly topics. The program is nondenominational and features biblical concepts for healing from grief. If you or someone you know needs support, please contact us!

www.griefshare.org Barbara—210-373-9070 Pat—210-379-5441 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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		D	ECEMBER			
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	Weihnacts 2 Parade 6pm
8am Traditional Service 3 9:30am Adult and Youth Classes 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service 5pm Dominoes, Canasta, Potluck	9am St. John Quilters 4 6:30pm Men's Basketball 6:30pm Property Committee 7pm Al-Anon 7pm Ala-Teen	6:15pm American Heritage Girls 5 6:30pm Worship Committee	12pm StJLC School St. Nicholas Market 3pm Growing Hope Distribution 4pm F3 Kids Event 5:30pm Bells 5:30pm F3 Dinner, Fellowship 6:30pm Choir	9:30am Music Together® 7 with Wendy Valentic 7pm Al-Anon	8	9
Bethlehem Christian Families 10 8am Traditional Service 9:30am Adult Classes 9:30am NO Praise Service 11am Christmas Cantata/ Children's Christmas Program 12pm Christmas Meal	9am St. John Quilters 6pm Happy Hearts 7pm Al-Anon 7pm Ala-Teen	6:30am Men's Breakfast 6:30pm Congregational Life Ambleside Christmas Program	3pm Growing Hope Distribution 6:30pm StJLC School Christmas Program	9:30am Music Together® 14 with Wendy Valentic 12pm Lunch Bunch 7pm Al-Anon	5pm High School Progressive Dinner 6pm Parents' Night Out	16
8am Traditional Service 9:30am Adult and Youth Classes 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service 5pm Canasta, Potluck	12pm Lit N Lunch 18 6:30pm Men's Basketball 7pm Al-Anon 7pm Ala-Teen	11am School Fundraiser at Texas 19 Roadhouse 11:30am Men's Lunch at Mamacita's 6:15pm American Heritage Girls 6:30pm Council Meeting	9am Parents' Day Out 5:30pm Bells 6:30pm Choir	9:30am Music Together® 21 with Wendy Valentic 5:30pm Friends of Faith Dinner 7pm Al-Anon	CHURCH OFFICE 22	23
Christmas Eve 4pm Christmas Eve Family Service 6pm Christmas Eve Service 8pm Christmas Eve Service	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 7pm Al-Anon 7pm Ala-Teen	6pm Wild Game Dinner Committe 2 6	3pm Growing Hope Distribution 5:30pm Bells 6:30pm Choir	9:30am Music Together® 28 with Wendy Valentic 7pm Al-Anon	29	30
New Years Eve 8am Traditional Service 9:30am Adult Classes 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service 5pm Canasta, Potluck				Anna anna anna anna anna anna anna anna		