

the MESSENGER

St. John Lutheran Church
BOERNE

St. John Lutheran Church

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www.stjohnlutheran.com



January 2024 • Volume 95-01

Stay Connected

Council Contacts:

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Frank Bush - 210-602-6220

Worship

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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

The Call Committee has been hard at work since August, 2022. We're excited to introduce you to the person we hope will be the next Associate Pastor at St. John.

We've been in conversation with Pastor Robert Weber since July. He came for a visit in November. We've invited him down to preach on January 14 and you'll have the chance to meet him, ask

questions of him, and vote on whether he should be our new Associate Pastor.

We wanted Pastor Weber to tell you a little bit about himself - in his own words - so check out his introduction below!

- Pastor Eric Waters

Meet the Associate Pastor Candidate

"New Year's greetings to the faithful people of St. John Lutheran Church. My name is Pastor Robert Weber, and I am excited to introduce myself. I have been happily married for 17 years to my high school sweetheart, Erika. Together, we are blessed with two wonderful daughters, Ariella (10) and Savannah (9). My family is at the core of my values and purpose, and my driving mission is to contribute to creating a better community and world for them.

I am a Long Island, NY native, and my educational journey led me to Concordia in Westchester County, where I earned my Bachelor of Arts in Theology.

Following that, I pursued further studies at Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina, culminating in the attainment of my Masters of Divinity degree. I enjoyed my time in South Carolina and learning about the traditions and culture of the South. I was ordained in July of 2010 when I received my first call to Grace Lutheran Church in Phillipsburg, New Jersey. During my time at Grace Lutheran Church, I started several new programs and

social gatherings for the congregation. While serving Grace, the Phillipsburg police department approached me to become a chaplain and sent me to the Police Chaplain Program for training



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Meet the Associate Pastor Candidate

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and subsequent commissioning. After six fulfilling years, I received a new call to my current position at St. Luke's, a conservative congregation in Farmingdale, New York. This congregation also has a pre-school, and a summer camp that the Pastor oversees. I have started several new programs at St. Luke's including a cancer ministry, a Eucharistic ministry, and angel ballet to

name a few.

My wife and I love taking our girls on adventures and traveling around to explore the world that God gave us. We love being outdoors; going hiking, rafting, fishing, hunting and introducing our girls to new adventures. As you get to know me, I am a huge *Star Wars* fan and can have great conversations

about all the films and shows. My wife and I love playing board games, card games and going to escape rooms and solving all the puzzles. We have two wonderful dogs, a Golden Retriever and a Hungarian Vizsla, Kenobi and Rebel.

I look forward to meeting you all in January!"

- Pastor Robert Weber

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

December was a busy but important month. The highlight was sharing the good news of Jesus' birth with our family and friends at our Christmas program. Thank you for attending and showing your support. In addition, thank you for shopping at the St. Nicholas Market! As we ended our economics unit, the students used the money raised to purchase their own book at Boerne Book Stop and then donated money to local charities, in true St. John fashion. It's always fun to see church and school friends out in public and we enjoyed a nice evening at Texas Roadhouse, waving in the Weihnachts

Parade and entering Oma's Christmas Fair coloring contest. With one semester under our belts, we ended December with parent conferences and report cards. The Abeka curriculum has proven to be thorough, rigorous, Biblical based and relatable.

As we get back into the swing of things after the holidays, we will begin Open Houses and preview days for the 2024-25 school year. We will fall back into our routine Thursday visits to Morningside at Menger Springs. Our next fundraiser will be at Willie's Icehouse and Grill on 110 in Leon Springs on January 16 from

11am-10pm; make sure to mention that you are with St. John.

The school staff cannot say thank you enough for the support they feel from the congregation at St. John! From volunteering to gifts, kind words to donations, prayers to chapel attendance, and everything in between, we appreciate the love and are honored that we were chosen to help carry out St. John's mission to these students and their families!

Merry Christmas! *Tiffany*





ADULT FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Ladies' Bible Studies

PRECEPT

Thursdays 9am-11am, Room 118

Precept will resume on January 4, at 9am in Room 118. We will continue to study the Book of Jeremiah (Part 2). Questions? Contact Pastor Mariola: pastormariola@stjohnlutheran.com

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

Wednesdays 9am-10am

Women of the Word will begin a new study on The Sermon on the Mount on January 10. Join us as we look closely at the most famous sermon the world has ever heard. Wednesdays, 9am to 10am. \$5 materials fee. For more information or to request childcare, email Michelle at watersmichellejoy@gmail.com.

BIBLE and BREWS

formerly Theology on Tap

January 14, 6pm

Start the New Year off with some great fellowship and some important Bible and faith questions. Our first of the year gathering will be Sunday, January 14, 6pm-8pm. Location TBD.

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 dates: January 9 and 23.



Sundays in the Shepherd Cave (All are welcome) and Tuesday Night Men's Bible Study

Come and learn how to be EQUIPPED with the Armor of God. This book study, written by Lutheran Pastor Christopher M. Kennedy, shows how spiritual warfare includes everyday battles of temptation, doubt, and anxiety. This book is both instructional and devotional and it will help one find healing, understanding and peace. Pastor Kennedy will be leading two sessions at the Men's Retreat where one can get an overview of this study.

The cost is \$10 for the book, but the book is free to men who register for the Men's Retreat.

Sunday Morning Study Schedule:

January 7 - Introduction
NO gathering on January 14
January 21 - Chapters 1 and 2
January 28 - Chapters 3 and 4
February 4 - Chapters 5 and 6
February 11 - Chapters 7 and 8

Tuesday Night Study Schedule:

January 9 - Introduction
January 16 - (Service Project Night)
Men's Retreat: January 19-21
January 23 - Chapters 1 and 2
January 30 - Chapters 3 and 4
February 6 - Chapters 5 and 6
February 13 - Chapters 7 and 8

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 Romans. 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 Room 216. Led by Carol Postert.

9:30am "Logos"

This class is studying 1 Corinthians. Meet in Room 118. Led by Richard Wagner.



Happy Hearts January 8, 6pm

Happy Hearts will meet on Monday, January 8 at 6pm in the Family Life Center for a potluck (please bring food to share) and for a presentation by Howard Brandell. Howard will share stories and memories of his father in WWII. His platoon liberated one of the first concentration camps. Mr Brandell's memoirs contain some interesting stories from his WWII experiences. Please join us for an evening of food, fun and fellowship.

For more info, please email pastormariola@stjohnlutheran.com

Men's Basketball

The gym opens from 6:30-8:30pm MOST Monday Nights. For more info, talk to Mark or Matt. January schedule is 15, 22, and 29



Young Adults Zoom! (18-20 somethings) January 28, 8pm

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



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

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

January 7: Music and Bible Lesson

January 14: NO Sunday School classes due to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. weekend.

January 21: Music and Bible Lesson

January 28: Music and Service Sunday

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Wednesdays Activities

- 4pm** **K-5th** - Special Events (see below)
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



January 3: No F3 Fellowship

January 10: 5th grade Lesson #10 Worthiness
Middle School-Lesson #10 Devotion
High School Fellowship and Devotional

January 17: 5th grade First Communion Review
Middle and High School Service Night/Valentine Cards

January 24: 5th grade Student and Parents Seder Meal
Middle School Lord's Prayer Review
High School Fellowship and Devotional

January 31: 5th grade First Communion Rehearsal
Middle School Lord's Prayer Test
High School Fellowship and Devotional

FAITH MILE MARKERS

5th grade students will be getting ready
for their First Communion:

Seder meal with their Parent/s on
Wednesday, **January 24 at 6pm.**

There will be a **rehearsal** on
Wednesday, **January 31 at 6:30pm.**

**The students will receive First Communion on
February 4 at the late service.**

Elementary Kids Events



Wednesdays at 4pm

January 10: First aid and emergency preparedness

January 17: Follow the Boerne Trails

January 24: Boerne Visitor Center

January 31: Winter Crafting

Find more and register on our website under 'Events'.

Parents' Night Out

Friday, January 19 • 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.



FAMILY³ MINISTRIES

Know Jesus and Make Jesus Known.

FAMILY³

Together, in our Home,
Church and World
Families

A December to Remember...



Elementary and Middle School Camp Chrysalis June 9-14

Registration is OPEN NOW!

This camp is for students who have completed 2nd through 8th grades. Find the link on St. John's website under 'Events' to register.



High School Camp Eagle June 9-13

Registration is OPEN NOW!

This camp is for students who have completed 8th through 12th grade. Visit campeagle.org to learn more. Register with the link on St. John's website under 'Events'.



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!**



CHURCH NEWS and UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Decorations Take Down Tuesday, January 9, 9am

Now that the Christmas Season is behind us, it's time to take down and pack away the Christmas decorations.

Please join us on Tuesday, January 9 at 9am.

Meet in the Narthex, even if you only have 1 hour to spare—all help is welcomed!

Crossways Bible Study Resumes January 10

Crossways Bible Study will resume on Wednesday nights, 6:30pm-7:30 pm. Jump in and join us as we continue our study through the Bible.



Registration Closes January 15

Women's One Day Retreat at St. John January 27, 2024 • 9am-3pm



"Take Heart! Daughter, your faith has made you well"

In a heart-breaking world, how do we not "lose heart"? In a time of anxiety and fear, how do we "take heart"? Join us as we learn to surrender our hearts completely to Jesus, who is waiting for us to let him.

Come enjoy worship, refreshments, small groups, a delicious lunch from Riverside Catering, and inspiring messages. **The cost for registration is \$40.** Childcare is available.

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 visit our website: www.stjohnlutheran.com under 'Events'.

Meet Pastor Robert Weber January 14

Hear him preach at our services, ask questions at the Town Hall, and then place your vote!



TOWN HALL MEETING

January 14, 12pm

Join us for a Q & A with Pastor Robert Weber, our Associate Pastor candidate.

CONGREGATIONAL Meeting

January 14

after the Town Hall
Come cast your vote on the Associate Pastor call.

Registration Closes January 12

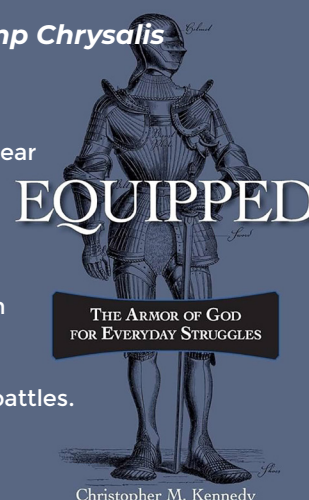
Men's Retreat at Camp Chrysalis January 19-21, 2024

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



Christopher M. Kennedy



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

VOLUNTEER FAIR • JANUARY 21



On January 21, we will have tables set up in the Family Life Center with information about all the serving opportunities that are available here at St. John. Come, learn more, and sign up to serve!

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Our next
New Member
Classes
begin in February

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, February 18 through March 17, 2024 from 12pm-1:30pm. Lunch will be served before class. New members will be welcomed at the services on Sunday, March 24.

CHURCH NEWS and UPCOMING EVENTS

Happy Birthday!

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

Burleigh Arnecke (01/01) Charles Kuentz (01/10)
LeRoy Bartman (01/11) George Lawson (01/25)
Pat Blackman (01/21) Lorraine Massey (01/11)
William Denver (01/11) Gene Roeder (01/16)
Sandra Hegyesi (01/18) Alvin Townsend Sr. (01/19)
Vernell Johnson (01/05) Nancy Ulland (01/28)
Charles Urban (01/16)

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

Thank You

Thank you for the generous Christmas gift from the congregation. St. John is a strong, vibrant, and healthy church. We are honored to serve here and humbled by your generosity. Thank you!

-Pastor Waters and Pastor Bergquist

A special thank you to the Jureczki family for organizing and preparing the float for the Weihnachts Christmas parade. Thanks also to those who came to ride on the float - it was a fabulous evening! We look forward to doing it again next year!

REMINDER

January Usher Schedule:

8 am services: Richard Wahl Team
9:30am services: Judy Shoquist Team
3rd Grade Sunday School
11am services: Moldenhauer Team

February Usher Schedule:

8 am services: The Wisian Team
9:30am services: The Hahn Team
2nd Grade Sunday School
11am services: The Runion Team
2-14 (Ash Wed): 12pm Moldenhauer Team
6:30pm Evans Team
2-21 Lent: 6:30pm Wahl Team
2-28 Lent: 6:30pm Kramer 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.

A few memorable hours. An epic adventure.
FOR ALL AGES

Walk Thru The Bible:
ntLIVE
Sunday, February 4

It's not a class, a typical seminar, or a boring lecture.
It is a highly engaging, dynamic, and memorable event
that helps you understand God's Word
and make the connection between His story and yours.

Experience the story of the New Testament through a fun, compelling, and engaging event that will change the way you read the Bible.

On Sunday, February 4, the morning services will have a guest presenter from "Walk Thru the Bible".

After the morning services, all are invited to stay and join us for lunch and ntLIVE (registration is required). NtLive is two and a half hours of group learning in a fun and exciting way that teaches the big picture of the New Testament. Attendees will learn the major events and people of the New Testament, understand its storyline and how it connects to your life today.

Cost is \$25/person (under 8 years old come for free). Lunch will be served. Childcare provided. Family scholarships are available, talk to Matt Olson or contact the church office.

Session 1: St. John's Three Morning Worship Services (8am, 9:30am, and 11am)...The Adventure Begins!

Afternoon sessions are offered to continue the learning (registration required):

Session 2: 1pm to 2:15pm [Break: 2:15pm to 2:30pm]

Session 3: 2:30pm to 3:30pm

Scan the QR Code to learn more and register
or visit our website under 'Events'.



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 practical 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 January. Registration at www.griefshare.org is highly recommended.

The Tuesday morning cycle will begin January 16, 2024, 10am to noon. The Wednesday evening cycle will begin January 17, 2024, 6pm-8pm. Call the church office at 830-249-3651, Pat Albrecht at 210-379-5441, or Barbara Rogers at 210-373-9070 for more information. More GriefShare info is available at www.griefshare.org.

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JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	New Years Day Church Office Closed 7pm Al-Anon 7pm Ala-Teen 1	6:30pm Worship Committee 2	3pm Growing Hope Distribution 5:30pm Bells 6:30pm Choir 3	9am Precept 9:30am Music Together® with Wendy Valentic 7pm Al-Anon 4	5	Epiphany 6
8am Traditional Service 7 9:30am Adult and Youth Classes 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service 12pm F3 Committee Meeting 5pm Dominoes, Canasta, Potluck	9am St. John Quilters 8 6pm Happy Hearts 6pm School Board Meeting 7pm Al-Anon 7pm Ala-Teen	6:30am Men's Breakfast 9 6:15pm American Heritage Girls 6:30pm Congregational Life 6:30pm Mission Committee 6:30pm Men's Group Bible Studies	9am WOW Bible Study 10 3pm Growing Hope Distribution 4pm F3 Kids Event 5:30pm Bells 5:30pm F3 Dinner, Fellowship 6:30pm Choir 6:30pm Crossways	9am Precept 11 9:30am Music Together® with Wendy Valentic 12pm Lunch Bunch 7pm Al-Anon	12	Council Retreat 13
Pastor Robert Weber, Guest Preacher 14 8am Traditional Service 9:30am Adult Classes 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service 12pm Town Hall with lunch 1pm Congregational Meeting 6pm Bible and Brew	12pm Lit N Lunch 15 6:30pm Men's Basketball 7pm Al-Anon 7pm Ala-Teen	10am GriefShare 16 11am School Fundraiser Willie's Icehouse and Grill 6:30pm Men's Group Bible Studies	9am WOW Bible Study 17 4pm F3 Kids Event 5:30pm Bells 5:30pm F3 Dinner, Fellowship 6pm GriefShare 6:30pm Choir 6:30pm Crossways	9am Precept 18 9:30am Music Together® with Wendy Valentic 11:30am Quilting Around the Bend 5:30pm Friends of Faith Dinner 7pm Al-Anon	Men's Retreat at Camp Chrysalis 19 6pm Parents' Night Out	Men's Retreat at Camp Chrysalis 20
Men's Retreat concludes Volunteer Fair 21 8am Traditional Service 9:30am Adult and Youth Classes 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service 5pm Canasta, Potluck	6:30pm Men's Basketball 22 7pm Al-Anon 7pm Ala-Teen	6:30am Men's Breakfast 23 10am GriefShare 6pm Wild Game Dinner Committee 6:15pm American Heritage Girls 6:30pm Men's Group Bible Studies	9am WOW Bible Study 24 3pm Growing Hope Distribution 4pm F3 Kids Event 5:30pm Bells 5:30pm F3 Dinner, Fellowship 6pm GriefShare 6:30pm Choir 6:30pm Crossways	9am Precept 25 9:30am Music Together® with Wendy Valentic 7pm Al-Anon	26	Women's One-Day Retreat 9am-3pm 27
Church Council Installation 28 8am Traditional Service 9:30am Adult and Youth Classes 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service 5pm Canasta, Potluck 8pm Young Adults Zoom	6:30pm Men's Basketball 29 7pm Al-Anon 7pm Ala-Teen	10am GriefShare 30 6:30pm Men's Group Bible Studies	9am WOW Bible Study 31 4pm F3 Kids Event 5:30pm Bells 5:30pm F3 Dinner, Fellowship 6pm GriefShare 6:30pm Choir 6:30pm Crossways			