



the MESSENGER

S+JLC

BOERNE

St. John Lutheran Church

315 Rosewood Ave., Boerne TX 78006

Phone: 830-249-3651

Email: info@stjohnlutheran.com

www.stjohnlutheran.com



December 2024 • Volume 95-12

Stay Connected

Council Contacts:

President

Kirby Wisian - 210-835-4691

Vice-President

Gloria Baker - 830-431-0522

Secretary

Kim Klutts - 210-859-4040

Treasurer

Wanda McCarthy - 210-326-4111

Congregational Care

Dede Capps - 832-444-3881

Congregational Life

Geneva Sinclair - 830-446-6919

Stewardship

Cameron Behrend - 512-718-2298

Outreach

Dr. Mike Miller - 432-425-6901

Worship

Ann Peters - 210-639-8918

Property

Don Baker - 830-431-0521

Mission

Jennifer Kuentz - 210-834-2811

Family³ Ministries

George Klein - 210-269-4620

Youth Representatives

Annie Townsend, Karl Gass

Pastor Eric Waters

Pastor Robert Weber

Pastors can be reached at
830-249-3651

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 by preparing ourselves for His arrival with a new sermon series, "**Are you kingdom ready?**" This Advent series, written by Pastor Weber, starts December 1 and walks us through the four weeks of Advent to prepare our hearts, homes, and church for the coming of Jesus Christ.



Speaking of walking, join us on December 4 for our annual **Christmas Churches by Candlelight Walk**. Once again this year we'll partner with St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church to walk by candlelight between their church and ours, enjoying brief times of worship in both sanctuaries and a candlelight service in Veterans Plaza. It's a great time of fellowship and a fun way to bear witness to Christ on the sidewalks of Boerne.

Speaking of fellowship, be sure to pick up your ticket for the annual **Christmas Program and Meal** on December 15. We'll hold our Early service as usual that day, but the Praise Service is cancelled so that the musicians and children can get ready for the Christmas Program at 11am. The children and youth will preach the Gospel through their program, while the Bell Choir, Sanctuary Choir, and Praise Band lead us in worship. We'll celebrate Communion then head to the Family Life

Center for our Christmas meal. It will be a fun time of faith, food, and fellowship—but you must have a ticket to attend the meal.

The last day to pick up your free ticket is Sunday, December 8.

You won't need a ticket to attend our **Christmas Eve services**, but do bring a friend and be sure to come early. We welcomed over 1,000 people on Christmas Eve last year and expect about the same this year. Pray that

God will work through our church to reach people with the Good News that "Christ is born" (Luke 2:11). The 4pm Children's Service is highly interactive and tailor-made for the little ones. They'll hear the story of Jesus' birth, sing carols, and hang ornaments on a tree. The 6pm service is a Traditional Christmas Eve service with carols, choir, brass, Communion, and (of course!) "Silent Night" by candlelight. We livestream the 6pm service so that you can join us even if you're out of town visiting family and friends. The 8pm service follows the same Traditional format, but without the livestream and featuring different musicians. No matter which service you choose, you'll hear "the good news of great joy" (Luke 2:10) and sing our Savior's praise.

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
2024	\$177,209	\$119,607	\$132,304	\$130,219	\$131,199	\$112,010	\$123,608	\$110,261	\$120,597	\$115,483			\$127,250
2023	\$152,340	\$106,982	\$105,872	\$121,481	\$96,133	\$117,134	\$118,348	\$115,725	\$103,778	\$117,023	\$104,620	\$272,595	\$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

ATTENDANCE COMPARISON

Avg Weekly Worship	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Average for Month YTD
2024 ONLINE	108	94	110	105	98	105	85	89	87	92			97
2024 IN-PERSON	418	457	663	408	438	456	392	433	413	453			469
2024 TOTAL	526	551	773	513	513	561	477	522	500	545			567
2023 ONLINE	101	79	77	90	93	95	107	88	89	97	109	96	87
2023 IN-PERSON	464	562	519	606	413	417	395	388	397	372	361	548	442
2023 TOTAL	565	641	596	696	506	512	502	476	486	469	470	644	528

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 our St. John Lutheran School Director, Tiffany Jureczki

From October through December it always seems like a race and this year was no different! November ramped up with Pumpkin Chunkin', Operation Christmas Child shoebox packing, green bean delivery to Hill Country Daily Bread, Veteran's Day Ceremony, Arbor Day tree planting, Ministry of Dance Pre-K recital, Family Thanksgiving Chapel service and lunch, Run for the Good, St. Nicholas Market prep and the Comfort Christmas Parade; whew!! In the meantime, we fit in schoolwork every morning. Our school has grown from 32 students last year, to 46 this year and inquiries have already begun for the 2025-26 school year. Thank you St. John for helping spread the word of Jesus to the next generation of believers in Boerne!

December will slow down a bit but we do have two school events that we hope you will attend. The first is our St. Nicholas Market on Friday, December 6 from 12pm-2pm. The students have been working on a semester long economics unit and want to share their handmade items with you. They have been busy making and pricing lanyards, jam, dog bones, sugar scrub, keychains, tea towels, nativities, and more! Please bring cash to purchase items; our

economics unit continues for another week after the market when students will pay back loans, make donations, purchase gifts for their parents, and divide money. St. John Lutheran students also invite you to our Christmas program on Wednesday, December 18 at 6:30pm.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

- Tiffany Jureczki
School Director





ADULT FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Ladies' Bible Studies

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

Wednesdays 9am-10am

Women of the Word is on break through December and will resume in January.

For more information, please contact Michelle Waters at watersmichellejoy@gmail.com.

Women's Bible Studies Sundays 9:30am and 10:45am

The Sunday Women's Bible Study Class meets on Sundays at 9:30am and 10:45am and is currently taking a journey through Kelly Minter's 'Encountering God' book. Join us as we intimately study the different spiritual disciplines that help us abide in Him.

Both classes will be held in the Shepherd's Cave, Room 117. **Contact Marissa: 210-393-4653 with questions.**

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. This month: December 10..

Men's Bible Study

"Men of the Bible"
in the Shepherd's Cave (Rm #117)
Tuesday evening discussion group
December's character studies:
Daniel, Hosea and Jonah.

Men's Basketball

The gym opens from 6:30pm-8:30pm MOST Monday Nights. For more info, talk to Mark or Matt. DECEMBER schedule is 2, 16 and 23.



Adult Sunday School Classes

9:30am "God Talk"

A new study of Proverbs will begin January 5. "The fear of the LORD..." This phrase can refer to a literal fear of God, but in the book of Proverbs it is a virtue, a reverence for God. Proverbs teaches that the fear of the LORD leads us to knowledge that helps us to draw closer to the LORD in humility and encourages our obedience to His Word. Beginning on January 5 in God Talk, we'll look at the two paths we can walk in this life. Will you follow the wisdom of God which leads to life? Or will you chase folly which leads to destruction? We will be using "Holman Old Testament Commentary: Proverbs", by General Editor and Author Max Anders which will be available for \$6. Contact Peggy Hoppes for more information. We meet at 9:30am Sunday morning 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 119. Led by Carol Postert.

9:30am "Logos"

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

BIBLE and BREWS

Next meeting will be in January.



After the funeral when the cards and calls have stopped coming, most people around you return to their lives while your grief continues. That is the reason for GriefShare, lead by lay volunteers who have experienced grief and

successfully rebuilt their lives. We understand and will walk with you through grief toward healing and hope for the future.

GriefShare is a Christ-centered 14-week program that is nondenominational and features biblical concepts for healing from grief. If you or someone you know needs support, please contact us! GriefShare resumes in January 2025. Learn more: www.griefshare.org, Pat 210-379-5441, St. John office 830-249-3651.

Coming in January:

A discussion group on the book:

"Why I Left / Why I Stayed" by Tony Campolo and Bart Campolo.

Conversations on Christianity between an Evangelical Father and His Humanist Son.

To Be or Not to Be a Christian - A pointed but respectful debate between Tony Campolo, whom the New York Times describes as "one of the most important evangelical Christian preachers of the last fifty year," and his son Bart Campolo, whom the New York Times calls "a rising star of atheism."

Let Matt know if you are interested and would like a book. Discussion groups to be offered during the Sunday School hour and any other time a group wants to get together to discuss. Watch for more details to come.



Happy Hearts

December 9, 6pm

Join us for Happy Hearts on Monday, December 9 at 6 pm to celebrate the holidays!. We have some awesome activities planned to help get the Christmas season off to a great start. Team games and conversation starters will help you to get to know others in the group in new and different ways. Bring your cell phone to have some fun with Christmas trivia and to tap into your competitive spirit. Bring a festive potluck dish to share and join the fun! See y'all then!

Questions? Contact Diann Wandrey: diannwandrey@gmail.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, 9:30am

Schedule for Pre-K through Middle Schoolers:

December 1: NO Sunday School classes due to Thanksgiving Break

December 8: Christmas Program practice

December 15: 9:30am Christmas Program practice in Sanctuary
11am Christmas Program Worship Service

December 22: Bible Quiz Bowl and Christmas Party
in Family Life Center

December 29: NO Sunday School classes due to Christmas Break

Regular Sunday School classes return January 12

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

F3 Fellowship

This includes First Communion, Confirmation,
and High School Gatherings. (Grades 5-12)

5:30pm: Meal

6:00pm: Game / Ice Breaker

6:30pm: Fellowship and Bible Study

7:45pm: Done!

December 4: Christmas Churches by Candlelight

December 11: Youth Christmas Program Practice*

December 18: Middle School Christmas Party

After December 18, F3 Fellowship will take a break until January 15



Thank you!

Thank you to all who donated and helped with the Hill Country Daily Bread Collection of Green Beans for Thanksgiving!

The StJLC School was so helpful this year in collecting cans of green beans for the Hill Country Daily Bread Thanksgiving food drive. The kids moved cans into a storage closet, kept count of how many were collected and loaded and unloaded them.

Thank you to the StJLC congregation for their donations and a thank you to the school students and staff for helping collect, count, and deliver the green beans. HCDBM weighed the bin of cans, and it was 743 lbs. with an average weight 1 lb. per can. St. John collected around 700 cans less the weight of the pallet and bin!



Elementary Kids Events Wednesdays, 4pm



F3 Kids will take a break in December. Watch for details about upcoming events resuming in January!

Parents' Night Out

Friday, December 20 • 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 AND WEDNESDAYS

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



FAMILY³ MINISTRIES

Know Jesus and Make Jesus Known.

FAMILY³
Together, in our Home,
Church and World
Families



Weihnachts Christmas Parade • December 7

All families and youth are invited to come ride with us on the StJLC float in the parade! The parade starts at 6pm and we will line up on the North end of Main Street. Text Tiffany for more details: 830-328-3744.



December 18, 5:30pm - 7:45pm

5th Grade and Middle Schoolers: Join us for a night of food, friends, and fun! Dress festively and bring a White Elephant gift from around your house.



Friday, December 20, 5pm to 8pm

High Schoolers, meet us at church and we will head out for a festive night of food and fellowship. We will have meals and activities at 3 different church members homes. Dress festively and bring a White Elephant gift from around your house.

Please RSVP to Mark: mark.lynn@stjohnlutheran.com

Middle School and High School Youth

COME, SERVE, AND EAT
at our annual Christmas Meal!

December 15



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>



faith • friends • food

fellowship
at **The Cup**

NEW



Voss Middle School Prayer Breakfast Group

This group meets each **Thursday morning, 7:30am-8:15am** at 'The Cup' Coffee House. It's a stone's throw from Voss, and a great way to start the day...faith, friends, and food!

All are welcome to join us!

SAVE THE DATE

Youth Mission Trip North Carolina Disaster Relief

June 7-14

We are planning a mission trip to North Carolina to assist with Disaster Relief efforts. The trip is scheduled for June 7-14.

This trip is for 6th-12th grade students and adult chaperones. Middle School students will need a parent to go on the trip with them.

Questions? Contact Mark Lynn:
mark.lynn@stjohnlutheran.com

CHURCH NEWS and UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Poinsettias

The Christmas Poinsettias will be for sale for \$15 each. Order forms will be available beginning on Sunday, December 1 - December 15. Flowers can be taken home on Christmas Eve. Fill out a form online or use the insert in the Sunday bulletins in December.

Christmas Churches by candlelight

Wednesday, December 4, 5:30pm

St. John Lutheran Church and St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church welcome you to come and enjoy Christmas

music, fellowship, prayer, and food as we walk to Veterans Plaza and each church by candlelight. Come for fingerfood at 4:30pm at St. John and the festivities will begin at 5:30pm. Find details on our website under 'Events'.



Weihnachts Christmas Parade • December 7

Come ride with us on the StJLC float in the parade! The parade starts at 6pm and we will line up on the North end of Main Street. Text Tiffany for more details: 830-328-3744.

Bethlehem Christian Families • December 8

On Sunday, December 8, we will have a special opportunity to view products and creations in wood created by the hands of Christian artisans in and around the Holy Land region. View them online at: <http://www.bethlehem-art.com/>



StJLC School Christmas Events

St. Nick's Market

Friday, December 6
12pm-2pm



Everyone is invited to come purchase handmade Christmas treasures made by our school kids.

School Christmas Program

December 18, 6:30pm

All are welcome to join us!

Christmas Program followed by our annual Christmas Meal December 15

Join us at the 11am service on December 15 for the Christmas Program.

Immediately following the late service, we will host our annual Congregational Christmas Meal in the Family Life Center. We have limited tickets so please stop by and get a ticket while they are available. It does not cost but we will be collecting the ticket the day of the meal. **December 8 will be the last day to get a ticket.** We could always use volunteers to set up, serve and take down, please let us know if you would like to help.

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.



CHURCH NEWS and UPCOMING EVENTS

Happy Birthday!

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

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

Mavis Anderson (12/17)
 Marlene Barnes (12/09)
 Willena Becker (12/27)
 Jackie Blackman (12/17)
 Dick Capps (12/19)
 Elaine Cashion (12/10)
 Cathy Crites (12/20)
 William Hallin (12/08)
 Judith Heiligmann (12/06)

J.J. Johnson Jr. (12/28)
 Fred Loeber (12/14)
 Karen Loeber (12/25)
 Sharon Pace (12/23)
 John Rogers (12/09)
 Anita Smoot (12/21)
 Shirley Steitle (12/22)
 Ronald Stowe (12/20)
 Bill Warncke (12/18)

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

"Thank You!" to all who filled shoeboxes and worked side-by-side with me during this incredible Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Season! Every filled shoebox is a tangible expression of God's love to so many children around the world. The volunteers were awesome! We collected a very large number of shoeboxes from StJLC and our Boerne community. This could not be possible without the dedicated volunteers helping out!! Volunteers greeted donors, unloaded shoeboxes, prayed over shoeboxes with the donors, kept accounting of the number of shoeboxes received, packed shoeboxes in cartons, and loaded cartons onto the trailer. Whew! What a great team! The generosity of time and resources given by our StJLC family is making a difference and beaming out the love of Jesus Christ to thousands of children around the world. I am grateful to have served with all of you.



A message from Franklin Graham, President, Samaritan's Purse - "We deeply appreciate each shoebox gift you packed with prayer and dropped off to begin its journey to a child in need. As Samaritan's Purse sends these Operation Christmas Child gifts around the world, we partner with local churches to deliver them and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with boys and girls and their families. Many of these children also participate in our follow-up discipleship program, The Greatest Journey. Through 12 exciting lessons taught by trained volunteer teachers, millions of children are learning how to follow Christ and share Him with others."

Matthew 19:14 ESV "but Jesus said, Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs to the kingdom of heaven"

Gloria Baker, StJLC Operation Christmas Child Project Leader

REMINDER

December Usher Schedule:

8 am services: The Evans Team
 9:30am services: The Hitch Team
 11am services: The Peters Team

Christmas Eve: 4pm: Rivers, and Thompson Teams
 6pm: Runion Team, 8pm: Wahl Team

January Usher Schedule:

8 am services: The Wahl Team
 9:30am services: The Shoquist Team and 2nd Grade Sunday School
 11am services: The Moldenhauer Team

February Usher Schedule:

8 am services: The Wisian Team
 9:30am services: The Hahn Team and 1st Grade Sunday School
 11am services: The Allen Team

Please remember to arrive early for your scheduled service!

Would you like to be an Usher?

We Need Ushers for Funeral Services

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

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Women's One Day Retreat at St. John



**January 25, 2025
 9am-3pm**

Early Bird Cost is \$35, if you register before December 31. Guests (non-members) are \$20.

The cost for registration after December 31 is \$40 and \$25 for guests. The final deadline to register is January 15.

Refreshments, lunch, and childcare provided.

A livestream/Zoom option is also available at no cost, but YOU MUST REGISTER to get the link.

All are welcome! Join us and bring a friend!

The theme this year is from Isaiah 6:8:
 "Here I am! Send me."



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

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!



**Men's C2 Retreat:
 Called to Courage
 January 31 -
 February 2, 2025**

Friendship, Fellowship and Feasting as we explore the book of Ephesians at Camp Chrysalis in Kerrville.

Cost is \$125 for the weekend, \$35 option for those wishing to just participate on Saturday. **Learn more and register on our website. The deadline to sign up is Sunday, January 19.**



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

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
Advent 8am Traditional Service 9:30am Adult Classes 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service 5pm Dominoes, Canasta, Potluck	9am St. John Quilters 6:30pm Men's Basketball 7pm Al-Anon 7pm Ala-Teen	5:30pm Property Committee 6:30pm Men's Group Bible Studies	9am Mommy and Me Group 4:30pm Food and Fellowship before the Candlelight Walk 5:30pm Christmas Churches by Candlelight (Walk begins) 5:30pm Bells 6:30pm Choir	7pm Al-Anon	12pm StJLC School: St. Nicholas Market	6pm Weihnacht's Parade
Bethlehem Christian Families Art Display 8am Traditional Service 9:30am Adult and Youth Classes 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service	9am St. John Quilters 6pm Happy Hearts 6pm School Board Meeting 7pm Al-Anon 7pm Ala-Teen	6:30am Men's Breakfast 6:30pm Congregational Life 6:30pm Mission Committee 6:30pm Men's Group Bible Studies	9am Mommy and Me Group 3pm Growing Hope Distribution 5:30pm Bells 5:30pm F3 Dinner, Activities 6:30pm Choir	7pm Al-Anon		
8am Traditional Service 9:30am Adult and Youth Classes 11am Traditional Service: Christmas Program 12pm Christmas Meal 5pm Canasta, Potluck	12pm Lit N Lunch 6:30pm Men's Basketball 7pm Al-Anon 7pm Ala-Teen	11:30pm Men's Lunch at Mamacitas 6:30pm Men's Group Bible Studies 6:30pm Council Meeting	9am Mommy and Me Group 5pm StJLC School Christmas Program 5:30pm Bells 5:30pm F3 Dinner, Activities 5:30pm 5th Grade and Middle School Christmas Party 6:30pm Choir	11:30am Quilting around the Bend 5:30pm Friends of Faith Dinner 7pm Al-Anon	6pm Parents' Night Out	
8am Traditional Service 9:30am Adult and Youth Classes 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service 5pm Canasta, Potluck	6:30pm Men's Basketball 7pm Al-Anon 7pm Ala-Teen	Christmas Eve Church Office Closed	Christmas Day Church Office Closed	7pm Al-Anon		
8am Traditional Service 9:30am Adult Classes 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service 5pm Canasta, Potluck	7pm Al-Anon 7pm Ala-Teen	New Years Eve Church Office Closed				



St. John Lutheran School has Chapel at Noon every Monday and 11:30am Tuesday - Friday

