

# the MESSENGER

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

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January 2025 • Volume 96-01

## Stay Connected

### Council Contacts:

President

Kirby Wisian - 210-835-4691

Vice-President

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Congregational Care

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Congregational Life

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Stewardship

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Outreach

Dr. Mike Miller - 432-425-6901

Worship

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Mission

Jennifer Kuentz - 210-834-2811

Family<sup>3</sup> 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

Our church's New Year's resolution is to help you grow in your faith. We start a new **sermon series** January 12 called **"Reasons for Hope."** The name comes from Peter's First Letter, where he challenges Christians to "always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that is in you" (1st Peter 3:15). Pastor Weber and I will spend the first two months of the New Year getting you prepared to give your reasons for hope. We've written a sermon series which answers some commonly-asked questions about our faith, like "How do you know there is a God? Did life come through creation or evolution? Can we trust the Bible, and is the Bible true? Did Jesus really rise from the dead? If God is good, why is there evil? How do Islam and Christianity compare?" Pastor Weber and I both love this kind of theology and are eager to preach on the questions. This will be a great series to invite your family and friends, because chances are they've asked some of the same questions themselves. Why not bring them to church to find the answer?

We'll have 15-20 minutes to address the questions on Sunday mornings. Those of you who want to dive into greater depth and detail are invited to come to the **Wednesday night classes** beginning January 15, 6:30pm-7:30pm in the Family Life Center. Pastor Weber and I will



team-teach the classes, sharing more of what we've learned on each subject and devoting plenty of time to your questions and conversation. Jesus commands us to "love the Lord your God with all your mind" (Matthew 22:37). The "Reasons for Hope" sermon series and classes will help you love God with your mind by thinking more deeply about God's truth and growing in your faith.

We also want to help you grow in faith by joining the church.

The New Year is a great time for new starts. If you've been thinking about joining StJLC, now is the time to act. Our **New Member classes** will be held in the Family Life Center on Sunday afternoons after the Late Service, 12 noon to 1:30pm (in time to get you home for football!), beginning January 26. We'll provide lunch and lead you each week through a step in our discipleship pathway: Worship Weekly, Walk Daily, Connect Consistently, and Serve Monthly. We'll receive you into membership during worship services on Sunday, March 2.

Check our website to learn more and sign up online.

*- Pastor Eric Waters*

P.S. In February, I'm travelling to Ethiopia for a two-week trip hosted by the seminary of the Ethiopian Lutheran Church Mekane Yesus. I'm excited to see and experience the fastest-growing Lutheran church in the world!

# 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	\$144,371		\$128,806
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	\$114,494
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	\$118,145

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	102		98
2024 IN-PERSON	418	457	663	408	438	456	392	433	413	453	395		463
2024 TOTAL	526	551	773	513	513	561	477	522	500	545	497		560
2023 ONLINE	101	79	77	90	93	95	107	88	89	97	109	96	89
2023 IN-PERSON	464	562	519	606	413	417	395	388	397	372	361	548	434
2023 TOTAL	565	641	596	696	506	512	502	476	486	469	470	644	523

## 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

December is our favorite time of year as we prepare for Christ's birth! Each day in chapel we discussed Advent and what it means in our daily lives. Our semester-long economics unit ended with the St. Nicholas Market; thank you for coming St. John! After the market, the students had to pay back loans, make a 10% donation, purchase Bethlehem gifts for their parents and then learn about saving money.

December 7 was the Weihnachts parade, a fun-filled night! Texas Farm Bureau Ag to Classroom program had us meeting with a poinsettia farmer and, wow, was that interesting! We will never look at poinsettias the same way.

Our Christmas program was a success, thank you for coming to watch. It is still available to view online if you missed it. The students ended December with kettle bell ringing at Walmart for Salvation Army.

Thank you to Graphix House and Justin Watts for donating a smart board to the school (and church)! Every class has already had a chance to use it.

In January we begin tennis lessons

during PE time, thanks to Boerne Tennis! Our elementary students will be participating in Blessings in a Back Pack and will help pack food bags for children in our own community. Our Inauguration Day celebration will be at Arrows Indoor Playground. Back in November we conducted a whole lesson on democracy and voting. After registering to vote, students, teachers, and parents voted between two field trip locations for inauguration day. The church library hosted the voting booths and patrons

received an "I voted" sticker when they exited. Students counted ballots and discussed the electoral college before they announced the winner.

January is also time to plan for the 2025-26 school year. Our first Open House will be Wednesday, January 22 at 1pm and 7pm. Parents and church members are invited to attend and learn more about our school.

- Tiffany Jureczki  
School Director



**School Open House**  
*to learn about the 2025-26 school year*

**Wednesday, January 22 1pm and 7pm**

**Join us to learn all about StJLC School! All are welcome.**



*Faith-filled  
Adventures  
Homeschool  
Heart*



# FAMILY<sup>3</sup> MINISTRIES

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**FAMILY<sup>3</sup>**  
Together, in our Home,  
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Families

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION NEWS

### Ladies' Bible Studies

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

Wednesdays 9am-10am

Women of the Word will begin a new study on January 15 called "Timeless Truths: Unpacking the Parables of Jesus." Join us as we discover the deep and ancient wisdom found in the simple stories told by Jesus. Wednesdays, 9am-10am. Cost is \$10 for materials. For more information, or to request childcare, 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 at 9:30am and 10:45am. Both classes will be held in the Shepherd's Cave, Room 117. **Contact Marissa with questions: 210-393-4653.**

#### Precept Resumes January 16

The Precept class will resume on Thursday, January 16, at 9:30am and meet each Thursday through May 1. Participants who expressed their preference overwhelmingly chose to study the book of James. Please email [pastorwandrey@gmail.com](mailto:pastorwandrey@gmail.com) immediately to get on the list for ordering materials and indicate if you are a couple who each wants their own materials or if you are planning to share. **This class is open to all adults, men and women.** This class is led by Pastor Kurt Wandrey

### BIBLE and BREWS

January 12, 6pm-8pm

**FREE ROAM** Brewing Company  
325 S. Main Street, Boerne.

Resolution or Surrender? Resolution stresses firm determination to achieve one's ends. Surrender implies giving up after a struggle to retain or resist. To be a fruitful follower of Jesus, which of these is more important in one's life? How do we do it? Join some small and large group discussions. Dress warm, see you there. (No outside food or drink allowed.)

### 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: January 7 and 21.

#### Men's Bible Study

"Men of the Bible" in the Shepherd's Cave (Rm #117) Tuesday evening discussion group, join any time! January's character studies: Jesus, Matthew, James and Mark.

#### Adult Bible Discussion Group January 19

Meet in the Family Room (off the gym) at 9:30am.

The Book to Discuss: "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."

Books are available (suggested donation of \$10). Please get your copy and sign-up at the Info Desk.



#### Young Adults Zoom

Email Matt: [matt@stjohnlutheran.com](mailto:matt@stjohnlutheran.com)

**January 26 at 8pm CT**

#### Men's Basketball

The gym opens from 6:30pm-8:30pm MOST Monday Nights. For more info, talk to Mark or Matt. January schedule is 6, 20, and 27.



### Adult Sunday School Classes

#### 9:30am "God Talk"

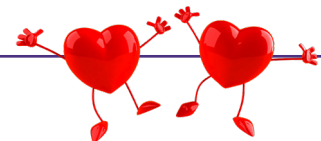
A new study of Proverbs will begin January 5. "The fear of the LORD..." This phrase can refer to a literal fear of God, but in the book of Proverbs it is a virtue, a reverence for God. Proverbs teaches that the fear of the LORD leads us to knowledge that helps us to draw closer to the LORD in humility 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 Romans. Meet in Room 119. Led by Carol Postert.

#### 9:30am "Logos"

This class meets in Room 118. Led by Richard Wagner.



### Happy Hearts

January 13, 6pm

Come join us at Happy Hearts to celebrate a new year! Ted and Danna Kohleffel will be leading Bunco.

Join us for amazing food, great conversation and Bunco. What could be better? Bring a potluck dish to share and your best competitive spirit. Guaranteed fun!!!

Questions? Contact Diann Wandrey: [diannwandrey@gmail.com](mailto:diannwandrey@gmail.com)



# FAMILY<sup>3</sup> MINISTRIES

Know Jesus and Make Jesus Known.

**FAMILY<sup>3</sup>**  
Together, in our Home,  
Church and World  
Families



### Our Family<sup>3</sup> Ministries Team:

Matt Olson, Director of Family<sup>3</sup> 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:

**January 5:** NO Sunday School classes due to New Year Break

**January 12:** Lesson 7A

8th Graders and Mentors begin meeting in Luther Hall

**January 19:** NO Regular classes due to MLK weekend. (A children's gathering option in the FLC)

**January 26 - Service Sunday**

Kindergarten - Hospitality

1st Grade - Quilting

2nd Grade - Ushering (please meet in Sanctuary at 9:15am)

3rd Grade - Cards of Encouragement

4th Grade - Bulletin Board

5th Grade - Greeting (please meet at Info Desk at 9:15am)

## 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!



**January 1:** No Gathering, Happy New Year

**January 8:** No Gathering (still New Year Break)

**January 15:** Service Night

**January 22:** Bible Study Lesson #9

**January 29:** Bible Study Lesson #10

5th Grade and Parents - Sedar Meal

### Elementary Kids Events

Wednesdays 4pm - 5:15pm

We will be using 'Wrangler Roundup' during the spring semester. This curriculum packs the fun and excitement of the Wild West with the discovery of the ultimate good things Jesus gives to God's family. Through engaging lessons and activities, children will develop an awareness and confidence in who they are as followers of Jesus.

**January 15: A Baby in Danger**    **January 22: A Runaway Prince**    **January 29: A Leader for God**



Do you have family, friends, or neighbors with young children?

Tell them about our school!



**Open House**  
**Wednesday, January 22, 1pm and 7pm**

Join us to learn all about StJLC School and the plans for the 2025-26 school year. All are welcome.

## Parents' Night Out

Friday, January 17 • 6pm-10pm

\$15/child \$45 max/family \* Dinner included! Nursery-Age 10  
CONTACT: tiffany@stjohnlutheran.com

Sign up online: [www.stjohnlutheran.com](http://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.



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Together, in our Home,  
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## Youth Mission Trip

**Youth Mission Trip to North Carolina, June 7-14**

**Informational Meeting  
January 12, 9:30am**

6th-12th grade students (and adult chaperones) are invited to join us at our informational meeting to learn more about this mission trip.

We will travel to North Carolina and help with disaster relief efforts. Service work may include sheet rock work, laying flooring, cutting ceilings, passing out Bibles and quilts, etc. Please visit our website under 'Events' for full details and to register: [www.stjohnlutheran.com](http://www.stjohnlutheran.com).

**You can also text MISSION to 830-249-3651 to register now!**

For more info contact Mark Lynn: [mark.lynn@stjohnlutheran.com](mailto:mark.lynn@stjohnlutheran.com).

**Registration and \$100 deposit is due by February 9.**

## Christmas Program and Dinner 2024



**Elementary and Middle School  
Camp Chrysalis  
July 13-18**

### Registration Is Open

This camp is for students who have completed 2nd through 8th grades. **Visit our website under 'Events' for details and registration information.**



**High School  
Camp Eagle  
July 14-19**

### Registration Is Open

This camp is for students who have completed 8th through 12th grade. Visit [cameagle.org](http://cameagle.org) to learn more. **Visit our website under 'Events' for details and registration information.**



# CHURCH NEWS and UPCOMING EVENTS

## Christmas Decorations Take Down • Tuesday, January 7, 8am

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 7 at 8am.**

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

## “Reasons for Hope” Classes Wednesdays beginning January 15

Join us on Wednesday nights, 6:30-7:30pm in the Family Life Center, beginning January 15 for our “Reasons for Hope” classes. These Wednesday classes follow up on the Sunday sermon in greater depth and detail, and with the opportunity to ask questions. No need to sign up, just show up.



## NEW MEMBERS CLASS

January 26

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, January 26 through February 23 from 12pm-1:30pm. Lunch will be served before class. New members will be welcomed at the services on Sunday, March 2.

Register on our website or  
Text JOIN to 830-249-3651

## REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

### Women's One Day Retreat at St. John



January 25, 2025  
9am-3pm

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](http://www.stjohnlutheran.com)

## REGISTRATION IS OPEN!



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

Join us for 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](http://www.stjohnlutheran.com)

# CHURCH NEWS and UPCOMING EVENTS

## Happy Birthday!

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

LeRoy Bartman (01/11)	Lorraine Massey (01/11)
Pat Blackman (01/21)	Leroy Rittmann (01/19)
William Denver (01/11)	Gene Roeder (01/16)
Rodney Gray (01/06)	Jean Sheffy (01/07)
Sandra Hegyesi (01/18)	Alvin Townsend Sr. (01/19)
Vernell Johnson (01/05)	Arnold Ulland (01/08)
Charles Kuentz (01/10)	Nancy Ulland (01/28)
George Lawson (01/25)	Charles Urban (01/16)
Elaine Lunde (01/22)	George Weems (01/11)

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

Thank You

‘On behalf of Pastor Waters and myself, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for the generous Christmas gift from the congregation. Your kindness and thoughtfulness mean so much to us. It is truly a blessing to serve alongside such a loving and supportive community. Thank you for making us feel so appreciated as we continue this ministry together with you.’

-Pastor Rob Weber

REMINDER

**January Usher Schedule:**

8 am services:	The Wahl Team
9:30am services:	The Shoquist Team The Krumbholz Team 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!

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**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.

Stay up-to-date

If you would like to be informed of members who pass away, we are creating a new email notification list. Please call Amy at the church office to be added to the the list.

## Christmas Churches by Candlelight 2024





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 so it is not necessary to begin with Session 1. Participants may start at any point during the cycle.

A new StJLC GriefShare cycle under the guidance of Pastor Robert Weber is scheduled to begin Tuesday, January 14, 2025, 10am to noon and the Wednesday evening cycle begins January 15, 2025, from 6pm to 8pm. The meeting location for both are rooms 118 and 119 in the Education Wing.

Go to [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org) to register for the class day and time of your choice and for additional information available.


For more information call the church office at 830-249-3651 or Ms. Pat Albrecht at 210-379-5441.

St. John Lutheran Church  
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**JANUARY**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>St. John Lutheran School has Chapel at Noon every Monday and 11:30am Tuesday - Friday</p>			New Years Day Church Office Closed 1	7pm Al-Anon 2	3	4
8am Traditional Service 5 9:30am Adult Classes 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service 5pm Dominoes, Canasta, Potluck	9am St. John Quilters 6 6:30pm Men's Basketball 7pm Al-Anon 7pm Ala-Teen	6:30am Men's Breakfast 7 5:30pm Property Committee 6:30pm Worship Committee 6:30pm Men's Group Bible Studies	5:30pm Bells 8 6:30pm Choir	7pm Al-Anon 9	10	11
8am Traditional Service 12 9:30am Adult and Youth Classes 11am Traditional Service: 6pm Bible and Brews	9am St. John Quilters 13 6pm Happy Hearts 6pm School Board Meeting 7pm Al-Anon 7pm Ala-Teen	10am GriefShare 14 6:30pm Congregational Life 6:30pm Mission Committee 6:30pm Men's Group Bible Studies	9am Mommy and Me Group 15 4:30pm F3 Kids 5:30pm Bells 5:30pm F3 Dinner, Activities 6pm GriefShare 6:30pm Choir	9:30am Precept 16 11:30am Quilting around the Bend 5:30pm Friends of Faith Dinner 7pm Al-Anon	6pm Parents' Night Out 17	9am Council Retreat 18
8am Traditional Service 19 9:30am Adult and Youth Classes 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service 5pm Canasta, Potluck	12pm Lit N Lunch 20 6:30pm Men's Basketball 7pm Al-Anon 7pm Ala-Teen	6:30am Men's Breakfast 21 10am GriefShare 11:30pm Men's Lunch at Mamacitas 6:30pm Council Meeting 6:30pm Men's Group Bible Studies	9am Mommy and Me Group 22 4:30pm F3 Kids 5:30pm Bells 5:30pm F3 Dinner, Activities 6pm GriefShare 6:30pm Choir	9:30am Precept 23 6pm ERM Training 7pm Al-Anon	24	9am-3pm Women's One Day Retreat 25
8am Traditional Service 26 9:30am Adult and Youth Classes 9:30am Praise Service 11am Traditional Service 12pm New Members Classes 5pm Canasta, Potluck 8pm Young Adult Zoom	6:30pm Men's Basketball 27 7pm Al-Anon 7pm Ala-Teen	10am GriefShare 28 11:30am Lunch Bunch Group 6:30pm Men's Group Bible Studies	9am Mommy and Me Group 29 4:30pm F3 Kids 5:30pm Bells 5:30pm F3 Dinner, Activities 6pm GriefShare 6:30pm Choir	9:30am Precept 30 7pm Al-Anon	31	Men's Retreat at Camp Chrysalis