



Encounter Jesus Experience Family Embrace the Broken

# The Eagle

December 2024

*Glory to God in the highest heaven and on*



*earth peace among those whom he favors! Luke 2:14*



# Pastor's Page

*For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace.* Isaiah 9:6



It's time to bust out your ugly sweaters and start blaring the Christmas music! It's the most wonderful time of the year! I love this season. I love the time together. I love finding the perfect gift for someone. I love the fellowship and the food. And, of course, I love celebrating the coming of Jesus to the world. Talk about an amazing gift. God knows what we really need this Christmas.

For the month of December, we'll all be together as one family with just one Worship Gathering at 10am on Sunday mornings.

The Advent season gives us many joyful times together. On December 8th, Cross Traffic will be sharing their music with us and we'll learn about our mission partners at the Bethlehem Bazaar. Thanks to The Zozu Project and Iglesia Luterana San Juan Baptista for being with us.

Also on the 8th, we have a Congregational Meeting for the 2025 Budget after worship. Come and vote! We need your voice. If you have questions about the budget, there's a Budget Forum after worship on Sunday, December 1st.

On December 15th, the Christmas Music will be angelic. Be sure to bring a friend for this beautiful morning. Don't forget to bring a dish to share after worship for our "Deck the Crockpots" feast. It's going to be epic.

And, of course, on Christmas Eve, December 24th, we'll gather around the manger at 4pm for Candlelight Communion together. Some people only come to church on Christmas and Easter. Let's be sure to invite them to celebrate the Savior's birth with us this year.

Merry Christmas,

Greg

P.S. Guys, don't miss the Men's Breakfast on Saturday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> at 8 am.



**Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service  
&  
Holy Communion**  
4 pm Tuesday  
December 24th  
Come join us as we  
celebrate the coming  
of the Christ Child

**"Echoes of Joyful Tidings"  
Music Sunday &  
Deck the Crockpots Potluck,  
December 15<sup>th</sup> 10 am**

Musicians & children of Saint John's are pleased to present our annual Christmas worship program, followed by Deck the Crockpots Christmas Brunch in the Fellowship Hall. See pg 11.

**Scrip Sales in December**

Be sure to see George to buy your scrip! He'll be selling the gift cards you want for Christmas in the Commons, every Sunday until Christmas. George will do special orders if you want a card he doesn't normally have, but, check with him early in the month.

(Revenue from scrip sales, comes to Saint John's).

**Dates to remember:**

**December 1<sup>st</sup>** Pick up a 2025 Budget and attend the Budget Forum after worship to get any questions answered

**December 8<sup>th</sup>** Annual Congregational Meeting, Part 1 takes place after our 10 am gathering to vote on the 2025 Budget. Please attend the Budget Forum on Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, to have your questions answered about the 2025 Budget prior to the Annual Congregational Meeting, Part 1. **If you are a member, you have a vote.**



All Sunday Services in December start at 10:00 am

# Youth & Children's Ministry

## Youth Group

It is a great time to jump in and connect with other students! 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders are encouraged to join us for snacks, games, and meaningful discussions Sunday afternoons from noon-2 pm. Friends always welcome!

**Boomers**

## Youth Outing

Students in 7th-12th grade outreach event! BRING A FRIEND!! Meet at Saint John's at noon to carpool. The event is on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you attend youth group at least twice prior to the event... the cost of your attractions will be covered by Saint John's!!

Please bring your own money for snacks, arcade games, and batting cages. Attractions provided by Saint John's include: Go Carts, Rockwall, Bumper Boats, Mini Golf, and Bumper Cars.

## KidsChurch Overview

Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 as we continue to discover the stories and life of Jesus through the Laugh and Grow Bible. We are learning a lot as we are working our way through the New Testament and having a blast making new friends! We'd love to see you!

## Oh, What a Special Night!

We need all kids to help us celebrate the birth of Jesus as we sing this fun song celebrating the birth of Jesus in worship on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. We have been practicing during KidsChurch but please let Lydia or Cindi know if you have a kid interested in singing with us and we can send you a link to practice with a YouTube video.

## Deck the Crockpots - Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> after worship at 10 am



Join us for a Potluck lunch, cookie decorating, scarf tagging, and assembling homebound member gifts thanks to Thrivent. Great for all ages & fun to bring a friend! More details page 11.

# Youth & Children's Ministry

## Scarf Distribution coming January 12, 2025

Save Sunday afternoon for our annual time of distributing scarves in strategic places around the local area. Pam continues to do an amazing job leading our knitting crew and they have been hard at work all year making scarves! Thank you ladies! All ages and friends are welcome! Kids 6th grade and younger need an adult present. Youth can ride with Matthew and Lydia.

## Bible Presentation

Thank you Saint John's for gifting this great group of kids with their own new Adventure Bibles! Keep exploring scripture for years to come! We love you: Clairra Hitchcock, Stephen Park, Tristan Chanley, Charlotte McLean, & Liam McLean.

### Kids getting their Bibles



# **Dress A Girl**

Dress a Girl will not be meeting in December. Our next workshop will be in the New Year on Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars! Be Blessed! Make a Dress!

## **Scarves & Hat Knitting**

Knitters & Crocheters will not be meeting in December but we will be tagging the scarves, hats & blankets we've made this year on December 15<sup>th</sup> when we decorate the Church. There will also be a potluck (Deck the Crockpots) at noon in the Fellowship Hall – all knitters and crocheters are invited to come to the potluck and participate in activities, like tagging the scarves, etc. While we often distribute the scarves, hats and blankets on the last Sunday of December, we will not be distributing them until Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> due to some scheduling conflicts. We invite all of you to participate. Talk to Pam for more info. Our first Knitting session in 2025 will be on Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> – more info to come in the January Eagle.

## **Global-Community Missions Team**

### **Bethlehem Bazaar**

Join us after worship on December 8<sup>th</sup> and buy gifts that really make a difference. Thanks to the Zozu Project for being with us.

### **Angel Tree Project Open for Sponsors**

Thank you for allowing the Christmas spirit to shine in you! Bring joy to a child from the Hispanic mission church in Santa Maria, CA, Iglesia Luterana San Juan Bautista. (formerly Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz). Sponsors provide a Christmas gift to a child who may not have a gift to enjoy on Christmas morning. Be sure to stop by the Angel Tree in the Commons - pick a tag that has the boy or girl's name and age and sign up for this wonderful ministry. If you have questions, call, text or talk to Pat Muran at 805-459-2362. Christmas Blessings, Pat Muran and the Global-Community Missions Team.



# Flo Sasse's 103<sup>rd</sup> Birthday

Happy Birthday  
Flo!



Flo Sasse & her daughter  
Charmaine Velarde  
at Merrill Gardens for Flo's  
103rd Birthday Celebration

Florence Sasse, affectionately known as Flo, marked a remarkable milestone this Thursday, celebrating her 103rd birthday at Merrill Gardens. Surrounded by family, friends, and community members, the joyous occasion was a testament to her vibrant spirit and the deep connections she has cultivated over the years.

Sasse has been a resident at Merrill Gardens, a Santa Maria retirement community, since 2017.

The celebration included heartfelt speeches and anecdotes from Sasse's friends. One of her friends shared a piece of wisdom: "You have to create your own happiness cause Flo told you so."

Sasse's philosophy on life remains clear. When asked about her advice for younger generations, she said, "Live, love, and laugh. Enjoy every day... God only gave us a certain time to be here, and he chose to have me till I was 103, so I feel blessed."

Sasse credits her longevity to her second family — the church. "Always gone to church and my church family is just as close to me as my own family and I've enjoyed everyone," she said.

# December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<p><b>1 Advent</b></p> <p>10:00am Family Sunday NO Kids Church, Worship &amp; Communion</p> <p><b>11:00am Congregational Budget Forum</b></p> <p>12:00pm Youth Group</p> 	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>11:00am Bells Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>10:00am Bible Study 12:00pm Al Anon Meeting</p>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p>10:00am Worship</p> <p><b>11:00am Congregational Meeting - Part I Bethlehem Bazaar</b></p> <p>12:00pm Youth Group</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>11:00am Bells Rehearsal 1:00pm Global &amp; Community Missions</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>10:00am Bible Study 11:30am People's Kitchen 12:00pm Al Anon Meeting</p>
<p><b>15</b></p> <p>10:00am Worship-Holy Communion - "Echoes of Joyful Tidings"</p> <p><b>11:00am Dec the Crockpots Potluck &amp; Decorating of Church</b></p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>6:00pm Council Mtg</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>10:00am Bible Study 12:00pm Al Anon Meeting</p>
<p><b>22</b></p> <p>10:00am Worship 12:00pm Youth Group – Boomer's Outing</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24 Christmas Eve</b></p> <p><b>Office Closed at Noon</b></p>  <p>4:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service &amp; Holy Communion</p>
<p><b>29 Office Closed</b></p> <p>10:00am Worship 12:00pm NO Youth Group</p>	<p><b>30 Office Closed</b></p>	<p><b>31 Office Closed</b></p>

# December 2024

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4	5 6:00pm Worship Team 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	6 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	7 8:00am Men's Breakfast 9:00am Property Day 8:00pm A.A. Speakers
11 12:00pm Women's Ministry Annual Luncheon	12 6:00pm Worship Team 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	13 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	14
18	19 6:00pm Worship Team	20 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	21 <b>First Day of Winter</b>
25 <b>Office Closed</b> <b>Christmas Day</b>	26 <b>Office Closed</b> 6:00pm Worship Team	27 <b>Office Closed</b>	28 <b>Office Closed</b>
1 <b>Office Closed</b> <b>New Year's Day</b>	2 6:00pm Worship Team	3 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	4 8:00am Men's Breakfast 9:00am Property Day 8:00pm A.A. Speakers

# Women's Ministry

## Annual Christmas Luncheon Wed. December 11<sup>th</sup> 12 noon Commons

December is around the corner! Our annual Christmas luncheon is on December 11<sup>th</sup>. Our co-decorators Ruth Kapka and Joyce McGhie with help from the board. Shari Bowman has graciously offered to present an entertaining program, and to also cater the luncheon, which will cost \$15.00 per person. The cut-off date for sign-ups will be Sunday, December 8. Menu choices include a selection of gourmet sandwiches which include ham and turkey. Salads include a Chinese salad, and Sylvia Gold's famous broccoli salad. Kathy Lindstaedt will be baking a lovely seasonal dessert. Gluten free sandwiches will also be available and both salads are GF. Circle your calendars, invite a friend or two, and start out the Christmas Season in a spirit of celebration and gratefulness. For questions and sign-ups contact Louise Frye (805 481 7561) or Ruth Kapka (805 441 1398).

Thank You from the Board of Directors:

Louise Frye & Rena Weiger, co-chairs; Ruth Kapka, Treasurer, Joyce McGhie, and Dianna Muraski

## Fun, Fitness & Fellowship



We will be taking a break for the Holidays and not having a December event. Instead, let's think of new fun activities for 2025! We'd love some new ideas and people willing to "lead" an event! Any and all ideas are welcome, so what is it you've always wanted to do with our family? Contact Adrienne with your ideas!  
805-458-4626 [stjohn.adrienne@gmail.com](mailto:stjohn.adrienne@gmail.com)

# Annual Christmas Worship Program

## "Echoes of Joyful Tidings"

The musicians and children of Saint John's are pleased to present our annual Christmas worship program, **"Echoes of Joyful Tidings" on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.**

Participants include the KidsChurch children, Songfest band, Chancel Choir, Heavenly Handbells, and other instrumentalists. We'll once again tell the story of Jesus' birth with joyful and celebratory songs, all presented by our musically gifted congregants.

Be sure to mark your calendars, and invite family, friends and neighbors too! It's a wonderful way to bring the story of Christmas to life through soul-stirring music and give special meaning to the season.

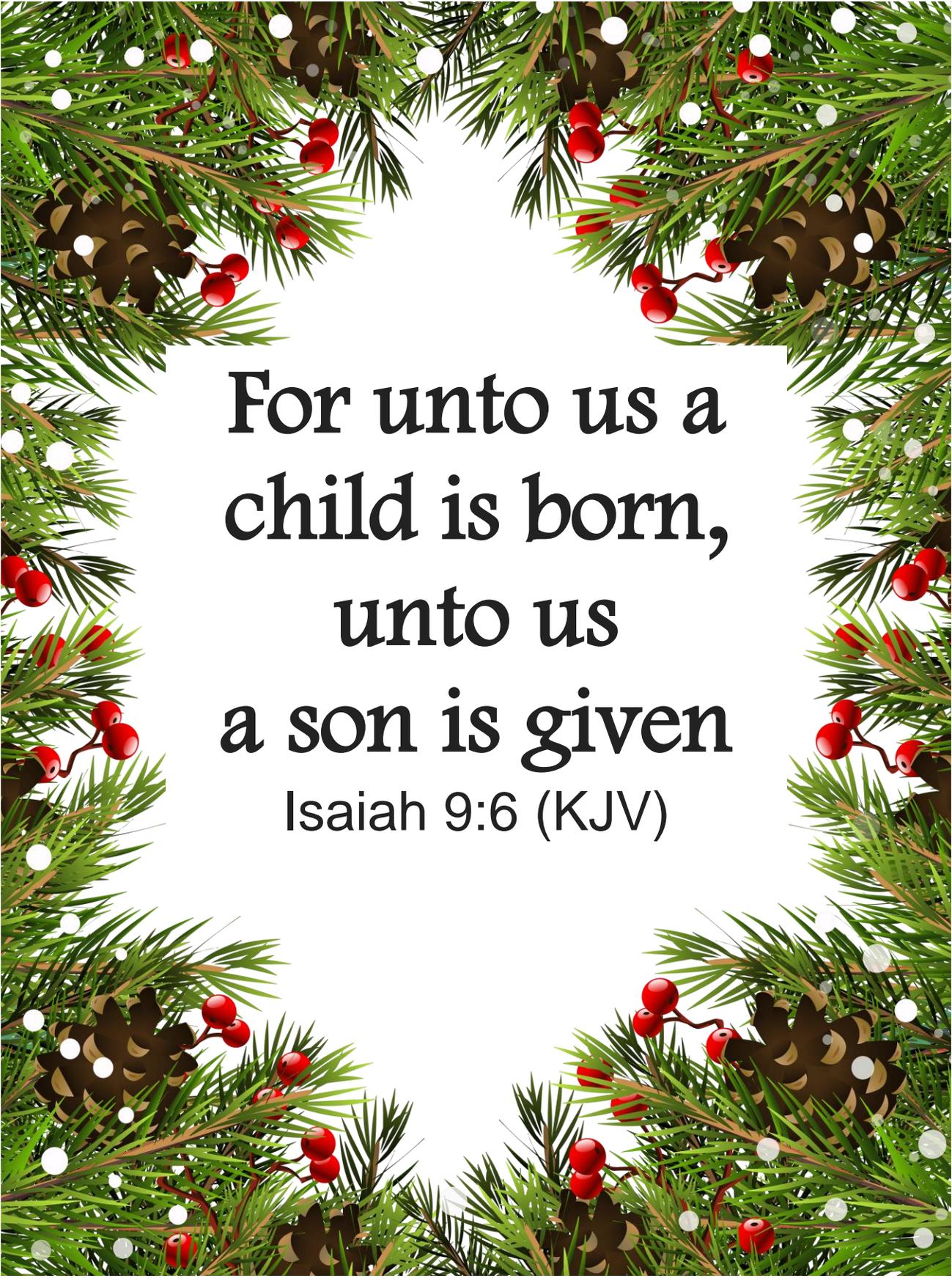
As well, we'd love to once again share in **"Deck the Crockpots"** following worship that morning. Feel free to bring your favorite goodies, from brunch items to main dish to salads to veggies to dessert -- the possibilities are endless and it'll be so much fun to share in a meal together following our uplifting program!

Christmas is a'coming!!

-- Shari Bowman, Choir and Handbells Director



# December Memory Verse



For unto us a  
child is born,  
unto us  
a son is given  
Isaiah 9:6 (KJV)

# Council Highlights

Council Meeting - Monday, November 18, 2024

- ✓ Devotion was led by Pastor Greg with a thought-provoking question: What if you were not a follower of Jesus??
- ✓ Greg reviewed all the exciting activities of late; Trunk or Treat (over 150 attended), Stewardship Luncheon (great ideas shared), 8 new members (Yay!), Veterans' dinner (thanks for your service) and more. Exciting times at Saint John's.
- ✓ Gordon led a detailed and expansive review of our current finances and our proposed budget for 2025. Saint John's has a lot of positive things going on including adding new members and reducing the operating deficit of recent years. Council unanimously approved the 2025 budget for presentation to the members in December. Handouts will be provided November 24<sup>th</sup> with a forum on December 1<sup>st</sup> and voting on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Members are encouraged to contact any Council member with questions in advance of the December 8<sup>th</sup> vote.
- ✓ The huge painting project is wrapping up! Our property looks wonderful!
- ✓ Income opportunities from cell tower & battery storage rentals were discussed. More info coming, but substantial income may be created for our church by these projects, in addition to our Solar Panel savings.
- ✓ Council members reported on their various teams and current activities:
  - \* Property: Lois hired a new landscape company and they are doing great. Ongoing need from members to pitch in and keep our 5 acres beautiful on a daily and weekly basis. Our Nativity scene will be set up very soon. Let Janice know if you can assist.
  - \* Worship & Music are currently realigning teams for best use of talents.
  - \* Youth and Children have scheduled Cindi for a presentation on her research into a potential Christian Children's Center, to be done at the next Council meeting. Updates will be provided to our members as we progress with this possible mission.
  - \* Global Missions distributed funds from their efforts and have an upcoming Bazaar on December 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - \* Women's Ministry will have their annual luncheon on December 11<sup>th</sup>. Contact Louise Frye for details.

# December Birthdays & Anniversaries



Jessica Carlile	12/2
Frank Drake	12/23
Mike Ebersole	12/12
Terry Fibich	12/18
Rebecca Maughmer	12/19
Timothy Myer	12/24
Valerie Reilly	12/22
Irene Rodin	12/8
Gabriela Silverstone	12/11
Scott Taylor	12/22
Priscilla Thomas	12/15
Bob Weiger	12/13
Ron Werner	12/26
Cal Wood	12/7



Gordon & Robin Eiland 12/11

**December  
Food of the Month  
White Rice, Dry Pinto Beans,  
Masa Harina**

Your donation will benefit  
Iglesia Luterana  
San Juan Bautista

## December Workday

**Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> 9 am**

Come one come all & lend a hand to help keep our property beautiful! Feel free to come any day you are able and pick up trash or help Lois with trimming - there's never a lack of things to do. Christmas is right around the corner, so if you're able, we'll need help setting up our nativity scene as well.

**January Newsletter Deadline  
for submission of an article is  
December 13<sup>th</sup>!!**



Please pray for:

Erick, Shawn, Nick, Theresa, Heidi, Merlin, Kleo, Travis, Sarah, Shar, George, Bruce, Morgan, Rena, Kay, Betty, Emanda, Sean; also keep Saint John's in your prayers, including our leaders as they prepare the 2025 budget for congregational approval

# CONTACT information



## Church Council 2024

### **PRESIDENT**

Janice Goodwin

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Bob Weiger

### **TREASURER**

Gordon Eiland

### **SECRETARY**

Mike Johnson

### **Youth & Children**

Dawn Drysdale

### **Worship & Music**

Louise Taylor

### **Stewardship**

Gordon Eiland

### **Property**

Mike Johnson

### **Global Missions**

Jeff Metcalfe

### **Good News**

Louisa Troemel

Jeff Metcalfe

### **At-Large**

Ed Muraski

## Staff

Pastor	Greg Wallace
Office Manager	Pamela Glenn
Asst. Office Manager	Barbara Howard
Children & Youth Director	Cindi Wallace
Music Coordinator	Janice Goodwin
Chancel Choir & Handbells Director	Shari Bowman
Songfest Director	Cal Wood
Choir Accompanist	Shari Bowman
Organist	Dawn Russ
Nursery Attendant	Audrie Greene
Children's Ministry Intern	Lydia Wallace
Student Ministry Intern	Matthew Harter

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Cindi Wallace Child & Youth Ministry Dir	cindi@saintjohnsag.com
Janice Goodwin Council President	janice@saintjohnsag.com
Prayer Ministry Cindi Wallace	cindi@saintjohnsag.com
Kerry Wood Financial Secretary	financialsecretary@saintjohnsag.com
Church Website	www.saintjohnsag.com

## Your 2024 Church Council



**Janice Goodwin**  
President



**Bob Weiger**  
Vice President  
Women's Ministry  
Liason



**Mike Johnson**  
Secretary  
Property Liason



**Gordon Eiland**  
Treasurer  
Stewardship Liason



**Dawn Drysdale**  
Youth & Children's  
Liason



**Jeff Metcalfe**  
Global Missions  
Liason



**Ed Muraski**  
At-Large  
Member



**Louise Taylor**  
Worship & Altar  
Guild Liason



**Louisa Troemel**  
Good News Team  
Liason

**The Eagle**

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