

What's Next?

With the boys home for the holiday break, we heard this question a lot! They almost always seemed ready for the next game, next activity, or wondering when the next big event was happening. Partially, they were curious about the schedule. Partially, they were bored. A normal school day keeps them moving more than relaxing days at home.



This is the time of year when we ask the same question. We wonder what a new year will bring. If life has been particularly difficult lately, we wonder “what’s next” with an exasperated tone. If we’re looking for a change, we wonder “what’s next” with curiosity. If we want things to remain the same, we may not even consider what’s next.

It’s a good thing to wonder what’s next. As followers of Jesus, it keeps us open to the ways that God will move among us. It will help us to look for God’s presence around us. Asking “what’s next?” leaves room for God’s creative work in and through us. It doesn’t mean that we’re looking for the next big thing that will solve all the problems, fix every issue, and lead to complete stability. Life doesn’t work like that. Staying curious about what’s next is an expression of faith in a God who makes all things new.

So, what do you think is next for St John? I would love to know your answer! I’m asking this question along with you. Then will come the most important part...listening for the answer. As we make our way into this new year, let us ask, pray, listen, and then move as God guides us in Jesus Christ through the power of the Spirit. Happy New Year!

In Christ, Pastor Jonathan

Poinsettia Donations

Thank you to those who brought poinsettias to add beauty to our sanctuary. They are in the library and can be taken home.



Church Office Closed

Wednesday - Thursday, December 31st - January 1st for New Years.



Christmas Decoration Clean Up

Saturday, January 3rd at 9:00am

Join us on Saturday, January 3rd at 9:00am to help us clean up Christmas decorations around the church. Many hands make the work light!



Board Directors' 2025 Annual Reports

are due Monday, January 5th to Lauren. This will give her time to prepare and publish the 2025 Annual Report two weeks before the January 25th Annual Congregational Meeting. Thanks!



Lys Family Traveling

Pastor Jonathan and his family are traveling from January 9th – 17th. The Church Office will be covered by members while Lauren is gone. If you have a pastoral care emergency during that time, please contact Don Thigpen and he can help, or he'll connect you with Pastor Fred Klinker of Galilean Lutheran.



Church Office Coverage Needed January 12-15

Lauren needs help covering the office Monday – Thursday, January 12-15 from 9am - 2pm. Duties are simple and include answering the phone and receiving deliveries. If you can help one or more days, please contact the church office:

stjohnrobstown@gmail.com, 361-387-9481. Thank you!



Ladies Bible Study

January 13th @ 11:30am

Bring your sack lunch. Drinks will be provided.

Desserts will be provided by

Chris Knetig and Karen Duplantis.

The study will be on “Lydia,” page 217 in *Women of the Bible* by Jean E. Syswerda, and led by Lauren Miller.

Come for quality God/good time with your sisters in Christ.



Confirmation Class

for 7th & 8th Grade students is held on 1st & 3rd Sundays at 2:00pm at St. John Lutheran, **on break January 4th and returning January 18th.** See Pr. Jonathan for questions.



New Year's Family Party

**Rescheduled to Sunday, January 18th,
4:00 – 6:00pm**

All ages are invited to celebrate the beginning of 2026! Bring **Finger Foods** to share. We'll be playing **White Elephant Bingo**, so bring **White Elephant Prizes** either wrapped or in a bag. We plan to give out nice **Door Prizes** so your help donating one would be very appreciated. *Our Doubles & Singles group looks forward to celebrating with you with food, fun, & fellowship!*



Installation of New Council Members

Sunday, January 18th during worship



Installation of
New Council Members

St. John Food Pantry

Wednesday, December 21st, 9:00 – 11:00 am

Third Wednesday of Every Month.

Thank you to those who serve!

Volunteers appreciated, arrival time 8:15am.



St. John's Quilters

On break, returning January 21st.

When we return, join for a time of fellowship & service. Extra hands appreciated! *No experience necessary.*



Newsletter Deadline

Thursday, January 22nd

stjohnrobstown@gmail.com



Noisy Offering

Sunday, January 25th beginning of worship

Bring noisy coins or quiet bills to donate toward our outreach ministries. **Check out page 9 for where donations went in 2025!**



Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 25th after worship

Please attend to hear about our 2025 and so we reach quorum. *The agenda will be shared in the 2025 Annual Report.*



2025 Annual Report

The 2025 Annual Report with the agenda for the January 25th Annual Meeting will be available mid-January. It will be emailed to the congregation, mailed to those on our mailing list, and available in paper form in the narthex.



2025 Contribution Statements

2025 Contribution Statements will be available in the narthex beginning mid-January. *Those not picked up from the narthex will be mailed at the beginning of February.* Please contact Lauren in the front office if you have questions about your statement.



Sunday School

8:30am – Children’s Sunday School is held in the Sunday School classrooms (first door on the left as you go down the hall toward the Fellowship Hall). *On break January 4th for the New Year.*



Following Worship – Adult Sunday School
in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank You for Staff Christmas Gift

Thank you all for your generosity to us as a staff for Christmas! It was wonderful to receive your gift. We are blessed to serve with you in Jesus' name. Happy New Year! From Pastor Jonathan, Lauren, Frank, Roy, & Sylvia.



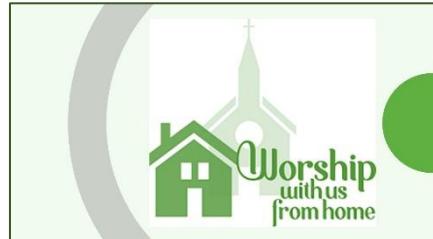
2026 Altar Flower Sign-Up

is available on the narthex bulletin board. If you'd like to add beauty to our Sanctuary, please print your name and your celebration or remembrance on the sign-up sheet on the Sunday when you can bring an altar flower.



Not Able to Attend Worship in Person?

Our 9:00am Sunday Worship is always available to view on St. John's [YouTube & Facebook pages](#). Don't forget to register your online attendance!: stjohnrobstown.org/onlineworship



Quilt Blessing on December 7th

St. John's Quilters lovingly handmade 83 quilts during 2025! This year they were donated to CASA of the Coastal Bend supporting children in Nueces and Aransas County foster care. Representatives joined us for that worship to share more about CASA's advocacy work in our area.



Nursing Home Christmas Caroling & Cold Weather Donations

Cold Weather donations were gathered and shared with three of our local nursing homes on December 14th when a group of our members went caroling at each location, sharing their hearts & voices with residents.



Children's Christmas Program on December 21st

It was a joy to behold! We're grateful to our young disciples for presenting it, and the adults who helped plan it and make it a reality. Thank you!



Evangelism Benevolence in 2025

Thanks to *your* continued generosity during 2025, St. John's Evangelism Board was able to make the following monetary and physical donations to the following non-profits organizations!



Date	Organization	Amount	Source
January 2025	Lutheran Disaster Response	\$500.00	Noisy Offering
February 2025	St. John's Women Group Conference Gathering	\$250.00	Noisy Offering
March 2025	Sinton Fire Relief Fund	\$500.00	Noisy Offering
May 2025	Calallen HS Wildcat Project Graduation	\$250.00	Noisy Offering & Direct donations
August 2025	Upbring Foster in Texas School Supplies	\$410.00	Direct donations
August 2025	Local ISDs School Supplies Donations	Physical donations	Direct physical donations
August 2025	40 Adult Protective Services Care Baskets	\$678.00 and physical donations	Direct physical & monetary donations, Thrivent Community Impact Card, Noisy Offering
December 2025	3 Local Nursing Homes	Cold weather donations	Direct physical donations
December 2025	St. John's Quilting Ministries	\$91.19	1% Special Benevolence* & Noisy Offering
December 2025	St. John's Food Pantry	\$1,560.00	1% Special Benevolence* & Noisy Offering
December 2025	Coastal Bend Food Bank, Corpus Christi	\$780.00	1% Special Benevolence* & Noisy Offering
December 2025	The Bridge Church, Robstown	\$260.00	1% Special Benevolence* & Noisy Offering
December 2025	Church Staff Donations	Direct monetary donations	Direct monetary donations

*1% Special Benevolence: Each month, our congregation sets aside 1% of our General Fund offerings for local benevolence.

January Birthdays

1	Karen Duplantis	6	Paula Campbell
9	Emily Ham	11	Javona Karnei
18	Brent A. Beverly	20	Dee Hornung
25	Sylvia Hellberg	31	Karen Boyd



Altar Guild Volunteer Schedule

Call Nola Gustafson at 361-215-3388 if you can volunteer.

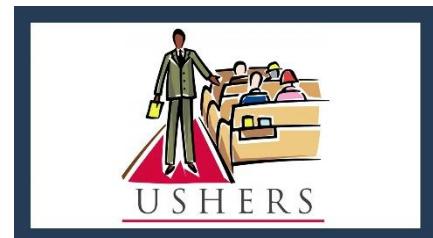
Jan	Paula C., Shotzie A.	Feb	Jennifer J., Misty Ham
Mar	Cindy R., Janice K.	Apr	Amelia S., Karen B.
May	Nola G., Karen B.	June	Paula C., Shotzie A.
July	vacant	Aug	Priscilla J., Amelia S.
Sept	Paula K., Cindy R.	Oct	Lauren M., Karen D.
Nov	Sally F., vacant	Dec	Stephanie V., Monica B.



January Ushers

Howard Fels	Capt. Steve Miller
Jimmy Kimball	Randy Emshoff
David Marion	Donnie Schwirtlich
	Steven Tenpenny

February Ushers



Yard Care – Help Needed

Call Howard Fels at 361-877-9618 if you can join the volunteer lawn crew rotation. Many hands make the job light!

Dec – Jan	29-3	Mando Vasquez
January	5-10	Howard Fels, Terry Signor
January	12-17	Volunteer(s) Needed
January	19-24	Don Thigpen
January	26-31	Mando Vasquez



December Worship Attendance

November 30 th	70		
First Sunday	39		
Second Sunday	53		
Third Sunday	80	Christmas Eve	67
Fourth Sunday	37		



PRAYER CONCERNS LIST

Prayer requests are removed after four weeks unless the church office is otherwise notified.

Long-Term Prayers remain until requester asks for removal.



'And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.'
-Ephesians 6:18

Prayer list submissions can be emailed to stjohnrobstown@gmail.com or submitted with the Sunday attendance card.

MEMBERS:

12/28: **Sylvia Hellberg** (Surgeries in January)

FAMILY & FRIENDS:

12/14: **Ruthie Weathersby** (Janice Kimball's sister); **Pansy White** (Mary Sue Schieble's request); **Autumn Brueck** (Bette Bernsen's request); **Jarrell Family** (David Hartman's request)

OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY & FRIENDS OF:

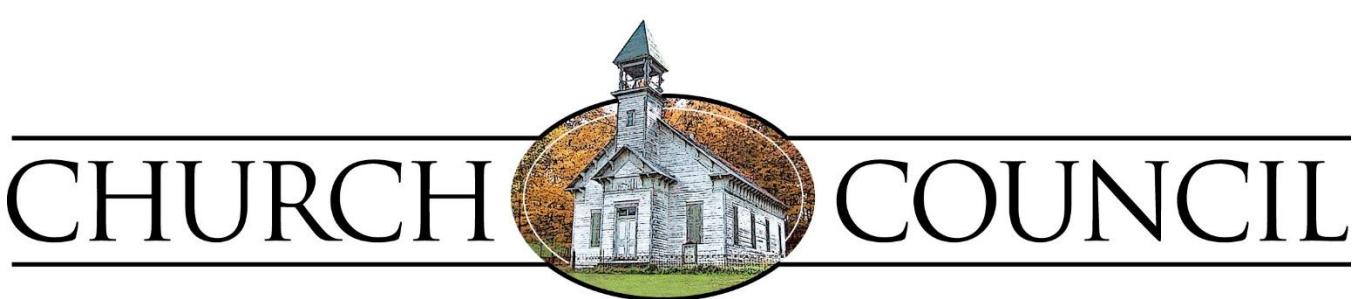
12/28: **Julian Galloway** (Ham Family's 10yo family friend, passed away from brain cancer, funeral the week of 12/28)

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING:

12/24: **Glory of God!** (David Hartman's request); **Blessed be St. John Lutheran Church** (Leroy Haverlah's request)

LONG-TERM PRAYERS:

Richard Alvord; Peggy Butler; Paula Campbell; Regina Emshoff; Margie Fair; Paula Kennedy; Loleta Riley; Donnie Schwirtlich; Mando Vasquez



December Council Meeting was on break for the Christmas holidays.

STEWARDSHIP

SHARING THE GIFTS WE HAVE



Thank you for your continued support of St. John Lutheran Church and its ministries.

General Fund				Special Fund Bal Nov 30, 2025	29,685.17
Cash at October 31, 2025			66,097.47		
Current Benevolence		12,872.37			
Trans from Special Fund					
Trans from Memorial Fund		-			
Misc		1,724.76	***		
Less: Monthly Expenses		(13,629.25)			
		967.88	967.88	Mem Fund Bal Nov 30, 2025	25,866.08
Change in Short term liabilities			206.85		
Cash at November 30, 2025			67,272.20		
Year To Date General Fund Cash					
Cash at Jan 1, 2025			72,034.68		
Cash at November 30, 2025			67,272.20		
Decrease in cash 2025			(4,762.48)		

***The Misc amount is a refund of IRS penalties. During the church audit for 2022, it was discovered that payroll taxes had not been paid and payroll reports had not been filed. The reports were then filed and taxes were paid. The IRS assessed penalties for late payment and filing. Abatement of penalties were requested which was denied. We filed an appeal which was finally approved. The IRS penalties have been refunded in full with interest.

St. John Contribution Options:

Online or Through a Mobile App

If you would like to financially support St. John, you can do so through your smart phone by downloading the Vanco Mobile app from your phone's app store.

Or you can give online by visiting our website:

stjohnrobstown.org. Click Donate Now. You will be directed to our own secure online donations page where you can choose your donation type, one-time or recurring donation, and payment method.

Thank you for supporting the ministries of St. John! ~Stewardship Board



January 2026						
St. John Lutheran Church 3316 Hummingbird Lane, Robstown, TX 78380-6067			Church Office: (361) 387-9481, sjohnrobstown@gmail.com Pastor Jonathan: (979) 255-4148, pastorjly@gmail.com			
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				31 Church Office Closed Happy New Year! Church Office Closed 6:00pm Stewardship	1	2 9:00am Christmas Decoration Clean Up
4 9:00am Worship 10:15am Adult Sunday School	5 7:30pm Church Prop Board Directors' Annual Reports Due	6 6:00pm Worship Board	7 6:00pm Christian Ed	8	9	10
11 8:30am Children's Sun. School 9:00am Worship 10:00am Evangelism Mtg. 10:15am Adult Sunday School	12 11:30am Ladies Bible Study 2:00pm Lay Ministry	13 14	15	16	17	
18 8:30am Children's Sun. School 9:00am Worship/Installation of New Council Members 10:30am Adult Sunday School 2:00pm Confirmation Class 4:00pm New Years Family Party hosted by Doubles & Singles	19 6:00pm Church Council	20 9:00am Food Pantry 9:00am Quilters	21 9:00am Food Pantry 9:00am Quilters	22 Newsletter Deadline	23	24
25 8:30am Children's Sun. School 9:00am Worship/Noisy Offering 10:00am 2025 Annual Congregational Meeting 10:30am Adult Sunday School	26	27 9:00am Quilters	28	29	30	31

Updates to calendar after publication of newsletter will be made on sjohnrobstown.org/news-calendar