



Encounter Jesus Experience Family Embrace the Broken



1 Thessalonians 5:17

The Eagle
January 2025

Pastor's Page

"Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17



I know you pray. You pray for your family and your friends. You pray for the church. You're grateful for all of God's many blessings. But how do you pray without ceasing? How does Paul expect us to never be not praying (how's that for a double negative)? What would your life be like if prayer was always happening?

This year at Saint John's we're going focus on growing our prayer life together. We'll learn about prayer, we'll talk about the theology and practice of prayer, we'll have prayer events, and, most importantly, we'll pray! We'll pray as individuals and we'll pray together as a church family. We'll pray on Sunday mornings and find other times during the week to pray. If you're like most Christians, you know prayer is important, but you don't pray as much as you'd like. In 2025, we are going to turn up the heat on prayer and I'm excited.

This month, we're back to our two service rhythms at 9:30am Contemporary and 11am Traditional. We'll start the year off right with, you guessed it, a Call to Prayer, on Sunday, January 5th at both gatherings. We'll have worship together and then we'll walk around the campus praying for all our different ministries and groups and staff and volunteers... And all the people we hope to reach in 2025.

Another big thing coming in 2025 is my pastoral sabbatical. Basically, after eight years here at Saint John's, I'll be taking a three-month renewal leave in July, August, & September. You'll be blessed with great pastoral coverage while I'm gone. See page 9 for more info.

Cindi & I are starting a monthly marriage group. See page 3 for more info.

Praying for you,

Pastor Greg
greg@saintjohnsag.com

Life Together



A Call to Prayer

Sunday, January 5th

During our two Sunday morning gatherings at 9:30am and 11am, we will take time to pray around the campus. We'll pray for the ministries, the staff, the volunteers, the rooms, the people we'll reach, and anything else God brings to mind. You'll have a prayer guide to use that you can take home. You can pray quietly or out loud, no pressure! Ring in the new year with prayer at Saint John's!

Fun, Fitness & Fellowship
Saturday January 25th 5:00 pm



We will be having a Game Night and Potluck in Ouimette Hall! Bring your favorite games and a dish to share and join in this fun evening of fellowship and food! If you have any questions, please contact Janice Goodwin



Chili Cook-Off Sunday

February 2nd 4 pm

Don't forget – we'll be having our annual Chili Cook-Off at the beginning of February! (see page 5 for all the details.)

Congregational Meeting, Part II, Sunday January 26th

We'll be meeting in between gatherings to vote on new Council Members & a new 2025 Nominating Committee & consider a Cell Tower Offer. It'll be a quick meeting, but we need you to sign in on the roster and be present to vote!

Growing Together

G R E A T E R

Tuesday Bible Study
We're back on January 7th
at 10am

A Study in the Book of Hebrews

You're invited to study God's Word together on Tuesday mornings at Saint John's. Pastor Greg leads this engaging study each Tuesday morning in the Commons (or maybe Rooms 7&8 depending on the construction schedule). This season, we're studying the New Testament Book of Hebrews. Come and join us. No experience necessary. All are welcome.



Pastor Greg & Cindi are excited to lead a new monthly-ish Marriage Group. Want to make your good marriage even better? Come and check out the first meeting at the Rule's home in Arroyo Grande, on Sunday, January 12th at 5pm. We'll have a potluck dinner and then a small group time. Childcare will be provided. The next one after that will be February 16th. We'll be using The Marriage Course from Alpha for our discussions. Come have fun and grow together. Questions? Talk to Pastor Greg

Youth & Children's Ministry



Scarf Distribution Coming January 12, 2025

Save Sunday afternoon, January 12th 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 making plenty of scarves and beanies!

Thank you ladies! We'll meet at Saint John's at noon, head to In & Out for lunch together & then, head off to distribute. All ages & friends welcome! Kids 6th grade and younger need an adult present. Youth can ride with Matthew & Lydia.

Youth Group

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

Friends always welcome!



Chili Cook-off Sunday, February 2 at 4 pm!

Come out for a good time of great food, games, and prizes! Help us judge and vote for the best chili or just sample some of the most delicious chilis!

Want to enter your chili?

Here are the guidelines:

- 🌶️ RED Chili only
- 🌶️ \$25 entry fee per person/pot of chili
- 🌶️ Bring a large slow cooker of chili heated
- 🌶️ No additional ingredients can be added for judging (cheese, sour cream, crackers, etc)

Funds raised goes towards scholarships for youth trips and camps.

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 work our way through the New Testament and have a blast making new friends! We'd love to see you!

Dress A Girl



It's a brand new year and Dress a Girl will meet on Saturday, January 11th from 9 am to 2 pm in Saint John's Fellowship Hall. Mark your calendars! Be Blessed! Make a Dress! I am including here, an email I sent to the ladies not just in our local group, but to all the groups we collect dresses from to find homes for, so that everyone could share in this magnificent fulfillment of God's promises – that is, if we have faith enough, we can walk on water with Jesus!

*Just wanted to send out a huge thank you all of you who participated in helping us reach the goal of a thousand dresses by this time! You are all amazing and as always, God's timing is perfect. **As you know, I promised 500 dresses each to two different groups, knowing that if God wanted this to happen in such a short period of time, He would provide a way.** The first part of October, our partner, Operation Christmas Child contacted me and said they needed their 500 dresses as soon as they could come pick them up. I had been holding those dresses for a new group who had also asked for 500 dresses and we were just days away from having them shipped off! But out of the blue there was an issue with the organization providing funding for the shipping fees, and everything there came to a sudden halt. Realizing that resolving the funding issue may take some time, I went ahead and had OCC come get the 500 dresses.*

In the meantime, some of our sewists were cranking away on making dresses - I know a few of you made 25 or 30 dresses each! Then I started getting emails from our groups and individuals who make dresses for us - Christine Kister from House of God in Highland, CA, - bringing us more than 180 dresses; Missy Raymer from Grace Point Fellowship in Yucaipa - bringing us 200 dresses; Judy Borgatello from a Catholic Women's group in Santa Barbara, bringing us 100 dresses; Cindy Hartman from Newport Beach who loves to make dresses for the girls, brought us 20 dresses - she comes to the Central Coast to visit her sister. Our own smallish group easily made 150 dresses to add to the total - Janice, at least 15 dresses completed, not to mention the 20 or so dresses you managed to serge each time we met for a workshop, Colleen who easily made 15 - 20 dresses, but also helped make dress kits, Candy & Abby who serged unknown numbers of kits; also Patti, Peggy, Virgie, Nancy, Mona, Kathy and Marguerite who made so many

beautiful, detailed little dresses! I am so grateful to have you be a part of my team! God bless you all - you are awesome! For those of you who head up teams of sewists, please convey my sincere thanks for all the work they do to fulfill our mission.

Janice - thanks for your email footer - this ministry would not have believed that we could produce an additional 500+ dresses and commit to that in three short months without that promise!

"You can't expect to walk on water with Jesus if you never get out of the boat."

So grateful for that nudge!

Scarf & Hat Knitting & Crocheting

Knitters & Crocheters will meet for the first time in 2025 on Wednesday, January 8th from 9 am to noon. None of our knitters are beginners any more, so we will be trying out some new patterns for scarves and hats both. Some of our knitters also make blankets, so if that is your niche, we would welcome you to come and knit with us – or if you just like to knit and/or crochet, come and join us for a time of fellowship.

The Scarves, hats, and blankets we made this year, will be distributed on Sunday, January 12th. We'll meet at Saint John's at noon, head to In & Out for lunch and then we'll distribute all the wonderful items we have to those who need them. We invite all of you to participate.



January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
29 10:00am Worship 12:00pm Youth Group	30 Office Closed	31 Office Closed	1 Office Closed New Year's Day
5 Day of Prayer 9:30am Family Sunday - NO Kids Church, Worship & Communion 11:00am Worship-Holy Communion 12:00pm Youth Group	6	7 10:00am Bible Study 12:00pm AI Anon Meeting	8 9:00am Knit a Scarf
12 9:30am Worship 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Scarf, Hat & Blanket Distribution with Youth 5:00pm Alpha Marriage Group	13 1:00pm Global & Community Missions	14 10:00am Bible Study 11:30am People's Kitchen 12:00pm AI Anon Meeting	15 6:00pm AI-Anon Mtg 6:30pm Troop 13 Meeting
19 9:30am Worship-Holy Communion 11:00am Worship-Holy Communion 12:00pm Youth Group	20 Office Closed Martin L. King, Jr. Day 6:00pm Council Mtg	21 10:00am Bible Study 12:00pm AI Anon Meeting	22 11:00am Staff Mtg
26 9:30am Worship 10:45am Congregational Meeting, Part II 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Youth Group	27	28 10:00am Bible Study 12:00pm AI Anon Meeting	29

January 2025

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 6:00pm Worship Team	3 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00am Needle Arts Fair Isle Sweaters - Make up day for 11/29/24	4 8:00am Men's Breakfast 9:00am Property Day 8:00pm A.A. Speakers
9 6:00pm Worship Team	10 OFFICE CLOSED	11 9:00am Dress A Girl Workshop
16 6:00pm Worship Team	17 OFFICE CLOSED	18 9:00am Troop 13 Pinewood Derby 11:00am Scleroderma Group
23 6:00pm Worship Team	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25 8:30am Women's Club Bingo 5:00pm Fun, Fitness & Fellowship Game Night
30 6:00pm Worship Team	31 OFFICE CLOSED 11:30am Newcomers Club Pat Bergman Speaker Event	1 8:00am Men's Breakfast 9:00am Property Day 8:00pm A.A. Speakers

JANUARY 2025

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

We're reading through the New Testament together. When you read just five chapters per week, you'll read through the entire New Testament in 2025!

As you read ask yourself these three questions:

- ◆ *What is God saying to me?*
- ◆ *What am I going to do about it?*
- ◆ *Who can I share this with?*

Mo Jan 6 John 1
 Tu Jan 7 John 2
 We Jan 8 John 3
 Th Jan 9 John 4
 Fr Jan 10 John 5

Mo Jan 13 John 6
 Tu Jan 14 John 7
 We Jan 15 John 8
 Th Jan 16 John 9
 Fr Jan 17 John 10

Mo Jan 20 John 11
 Tu Jan 21 John 12
 We Jan 22 John 13
 Th Jan 23 John 14
 Fr Jan 24 John 15

Mo Jan 27 John 16
 Tu Jan 28 John 17
 We Jan 29 John 18
 Th Jan 30 John 19
 Fr Jan 31 John 20



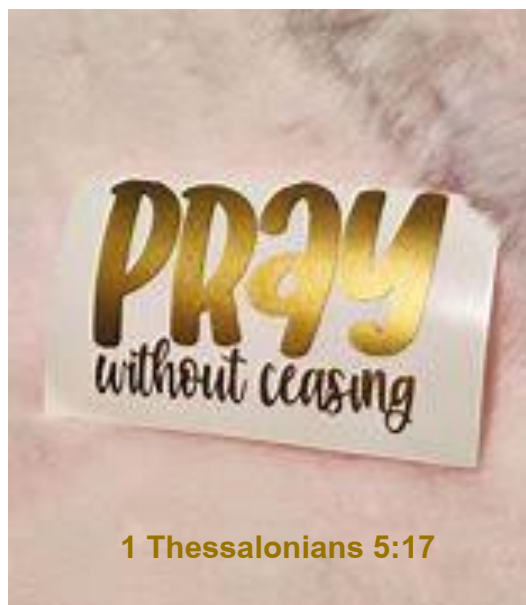
Women's Retreat

Ladies – would you like to have a special weekend away with other women from Saint John's? Janice Goodwin is contemplating arranging a Women's Retreat in Santa Barbara on a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. The focus will be upon prayer (UP), building our sisterly bonds (IN), and service to others (OUT). It would include an outing to the Santa Barbara Zoo with a special team building experience called "Keeper Games" and some special activities there. I can't commit to anything with SBZ until I know if there's enough interest and on what weekend folks would be available. Here are the possibilities:

1. January 17/18/19
2. February 21/22/23
3. March 21/22/23

Send me a text at 805-235-4505 or an email at janice@saintjohnsag.com to let me know what date you are interested in. You can let me know verbally, however, you will still need to send me a text or email as confirmation and so I can have a record of your choice. The details of this retreat are still being written, so stayed tuned.

January Memory Verse



1 Thessalonians 5:17

Women's Ministry

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A BLESSED NEW YEAR!

The Women's Ministry had a very successful Christmas Luncheon on Wednesday, December 11, 2024 in Ouimette Hall this year because of water damage in the Commons. Over 35 people attended including the church staff. Shari Bowman, the original chief cook, got sick at the last minute. Her assistant, Kathy Lindstaedt, filled in for her. Also helping Kathy in the kitchen were Sandy Varley & Pam Webster. The food was delicious. Instead of sandwiches, we ate chicken teriyaki with white rice, a broccoli salad and a Chinese salad. For dessert we had beautiful cupcakes, a variety of cookies & some candy. Shari also planned the Christmas Program with lots of singing, special readings & a piano solo. Janice Goodwin was her replacement, doing a great job of leading the singing and moderating. A big thank you to the above ladies for filling in at the last minute.

MORE THANK YOU'S

Ruth Kapka & Joyce McGhie for the beautiful decorations. The tables were stunning and so colorful.

Dianna Muraski coordinated and provided the lovely door prizes.

Pam Glenn beautifully printed the programs & gave a wonderful heart rending devotional.

Wanda Parker & Barbara Howard offered special readings.

Pastor Greg & Cindi for all their prayers & support of Women's Ministry

Rena Weiger Passing the Torch

Rena Weiger has formally resigned from her long-standing leadership and service to Saint John's Women's Ministry. We miss our dear friend and long-time servant in Women's Ministry. We are very thankful for all of the years of dedication, hard work, and giving of herself to all of the activities involving the Women of Saint John's. Rena has also served faithfully on the Altar Guild in addition to co-chairing the White Elephant Sale with Kay Werner for so many years. I personally have learned so much from Rena. She is a gem to work with and a great mentor for me when I first came on board. We were a great team. She had many ideas for programs, as well as patience and kindness. Our prayers are with Rena and Bob as they explore all the avenues open for healing and recovery. God's blessings & love.

The Women's Ministry Board: Louise Frye, Ruth Kapka, Joyce McGhie & Dianna Muraski

Women's Ministry next meeting is Wednesday March 12, 2025 at 1:00 pm.

Sabbatical Update

“Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.” Genesis 2:1-3

It's amazing to read in Genesis that even God took a rest! After eight years here at Saint John's, I'll be taking a three-month Sabbatical in July, August, & September. The word "Sabbatical" comes from the Bible word, Sabbath, which means "rest." This renewal leave is intended to bring rest, renewal, and revitalization for Pastors as they serve for longer periods in congregations. My letter of call offers a Sabbatical every seven years. I would have gone last summer, but I postponed my time away to apply for a grant. Sadly, we didn't get the grant but that's ok. This summer is a better time for me to be away and God is providing the needed resources in wonderful ways. Stay tuned for some great stories on that.

You may have some questions about what that means for you. Each month, we'll be updating you on my upcoming Sabbatical plans. You'll also hear from the Sabbatical Task Force and our Church Council outlining plans for pastoral coverage and answering a whole bunch of "what if" questions.

The biggest question we get is, "Who's going to preach?" The good news is that you'll be blessed with a summer filled with great preachers and the church will keep on being the church. We'll have local pastors and lay people bringing the messages for those 13 weeks.

I'll be explaining more about the process in the coming months, but, if you have questions, please email or call me. You can also reach out to our Congregational President, Janice Goodwin.

Resting in God's Promises,

Pastor Greg

greg@saintjohnsag.com

Council Highlights

Council Meeting December 16, 2024:

- Pastor Greg led council through another thought provoking and challenging discussion from the book, Canoeing the Mountains.
- Pastor also highlighted all our activities this past month, with the great news that Sunday worshippers have exceeded 100+ the past few weeks - up significantly from the past 2 years. Great things are happening at St. John's!
- Gordon did his usual, amazing recap and forecast of our financial situation. Current trends still indicate St. John's will come in better than budgeted.
- The bulk of this meeting was a presentation by Cindi Wallace detailing her research into a potential Christian Children's Center. Cindi has been to a conference, contacted many, many professionals and has met often with our internal team of child care experts regarding this potential Mission of St. John's. It gives us many avenues of bringing more to Christ, as we follow our Purpose and Mission. Council thanks Cindi for her dedication, passion and professionalism in preparing and presenting this to Council. More info to follow in January for possible presentation to & approval by our congregation.
- Janice provided an update to our flood project. New walls and floors will be installed soon. This will give our Commons area a new and fresh look.
- Team Reports: Property - Mike reported that more members are turning out to help on Work Days. There is always much to do so all hands are welcome any day of the week. Worship and Music - Louise reported on the team's efforts to decorate for our Christmas services. Having to do so twice due to the flood made for a bit more work. Youth & Children - Dawn reported that the annual Chili Cookoff will be 2/2/25. Get your recipes ready (Dawn says she is going to repeat!). Global Missions - Jeff reported on the successful Bazaar and Angel Tree project. Stewardship - Gordon reported that we received more pledges this year than previous years, very good news. Women's Ministry - Bob reported that Rena has resigned as team lead due to health reasons. Annual Christmas luncheon was attended by 37 people. Next meeting March.
- Gordon updated us on the cell tower proposal; review of counter proposal with increased revenue to be done this week. If Council votes to move forward this will be presented for approval to the congregation in January.
- Jeff gave an update on potential income from renting land space for battery storage. Jeff will continue to negotiate but much more information is forthcoming before any decisions can be made.

Merry Christmas from your Council Team!! Peace,
Mike Johnson
805-710-7319

January Birthdays & Anniversaries



Janis Immel	1/3
Lydia Wallace	1/3
Matthew Harter	1/3
Ruby Burke	1/11
Kelly Berch	1/14
Lester Blank	1/14
Brian King	1/17
Ruth Kapka	1/18
Patty Ouimette	1/19
Jamaine Myer	1/23
Betty Knudson	1/29
Barbara Johnson	1/30



Erick & Pat Sturcke 1/10



Please pray for:

Erick, Theresa, Heidi, Merlin, Kleo, Travis, Sarah, Shar, George, Bruce, Morgan, Rena, Kay, Betty, Emanda, Sean; Dawn Drysdale & her family in the loss of her mom. Also keep Saint John's in your prayers, as the church is restored after the flood in the Commons.

January Workday

Saturday, January 4th 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.

**February Newsletter Deadline
for submission of an article is
January 15th!!**

January Food of the Month Canned Soup

Your donation will benefit
Five Cities Christian Women
Food Bank

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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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

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