

This Week

Campus Maps available at the Information Ctr.
WC: Worship Center BR: Bride’s Room
KC: Kidz Connection OC: Off Campus
LCR: Large Conference Rm in Admin. Office
SCR: Small Conference Rm in Admin. Office
WCL: Worship Center Lobby
ECCR: Event Center Conference Room
EC: Event Center-North or South

Sunday, January 4
9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
(In-Person & Livestream)
Sanctuary
Children’s Ministry Sunday
School—KC
10:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study—ECCR
Bob Schneider
10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
(In-Person & Livestream)
WC
Children’s Ministry Sunday
School—KC
6:00 p.m. SJ Students High School Night—
The Garage

Monday, January 5
1:00 p.m. Mission Task Force Meeting—
LCR

Tuesday, January 6
1:30 p.m. Women’s Bible Study—ECCR
Judie Fanucchi
6:30 p.m. Elder’s Meeting—LCR

Wednesday, January 7
6:15 a.m. Men’s Bible Study—LCR
Nate Smidt
8:45 a.m. Women’s Wednesday Morning
Bible Study—WC Lobby
9:00 a.m. SJCC Morning Chapel—WC
11:15 a.m. Level 1 Yoga—Music Room
6:00 p.m. AWANA Family Night—KC
First Communion—SJLS
Room 104
Confirmation—LCR
SJ Students Jr. High Night—
The Garage
Celebration Choir Rehearsal—
Music Room

Thursday, January 8
8:30 a.m. Men’s Bible Study—SCR
Dean Nulton
9:00 a.m. MOMCo Meetup—ECCR
6:00 p.m. Bells of Praise Rehearsal—
Music Room

Friday, January 9
8:30 a.m. SJLS Morning Chapel—WC

Saturday, January 10
7:00 a.m. Men’s Bible Study—LCR
Lynn Wheeler



THE RESTROOMS
ARE LOCATED
IN THE LOBBY,
ACROSS FROM
THE NURSERY.

RESTROOM

Prayers

We invite you to submit your prayer petitions using a Prayer Request card or by contacting Hailey Smidt, 665-7815, or by going online through the website or the SJLC App

PRAYER GUIDE

Health Concerns & Illnesses
*Hospitalized or Skilled Nursing/Rehab
Bob Brandt, Nancy Green, Lance Hall, Michael Pennington, Hardie Smith

Guidance & Strength in Transitions, Travel & Faith
John Andrew

Continued Concerns
Michelle Braughton, Frank Fanucchi, Diane Ford, Judy Fritch, Annis Gerner, Laura Hanssen, Steve & Cheryl McConaughy, Bob & Marcia Perry, JoAnn Pettijohn, Dorothy Sundberg, Lisa Vorhees

- Our Veterans & active serving military men & women, those with financial and employment needs, our community, A God fearing nation & world, our nation’s leaders, local and all nations, our military and their families, Law Enforcement, Emergency Services and their families, LIFEGroups, persecuted Christians, St. John’s church body, all staff, Children’s Center, School, Angaza Schools, families, teachers, pastors, leaders, spiritual & kingdom growth

Amount Needed to Meet Fiscal Year 2025-2026: Budget—\$2,044,300 Last Week’s Giving—\$65,151.71 Budget to Date—\$1,064,467 Year to Date—\$1,019,482.85 Year to Date Variance—(\$44,984)

JUNIOR HIGH

hume
winter
camp

JAN 23-25

REGISTER TODAY!
SJLCHURCH.ORG/WINTERCAMP



HOPE LIVES HERE: WE’LL LEAVE THE LIGHT ON FOR YOU

Matthew 2:1-12 (Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 1:3-14)

January 4, 2026 – Pastor Eric Van Scharrel

An illuminated light is a universal sign of _____ and _____.

It would be easy to see Epiphany as a _____ in God’s plan, but it is best understood as the _____ of God’s plan.

It’s pretty clear what kind of king they were looking for; the difference was in the reaction: was this a _____ to be _____ or a _____ to be _____?

Long before Jesus grew, did a miracle, preached a sermon, died or rose again, the wise men bowed down and _____ Jesus. Who is He? Matthew here tells you, if you’re listening.


By the time the Magi got there, Jesus was not in a stable but staying in a proper _____. Hope lived there, and His name was _____.

The hope of Jesus is meant to enter the homes, families and lives of _____ people.

- Doors of _____ in 2026:
- The _____ front door
 - A premium on _____-to-_____, in-the-_____ connection
 - A _____ generational shift
 - A return to _____ health, connecting mental, physical and _____ health

“The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:5).

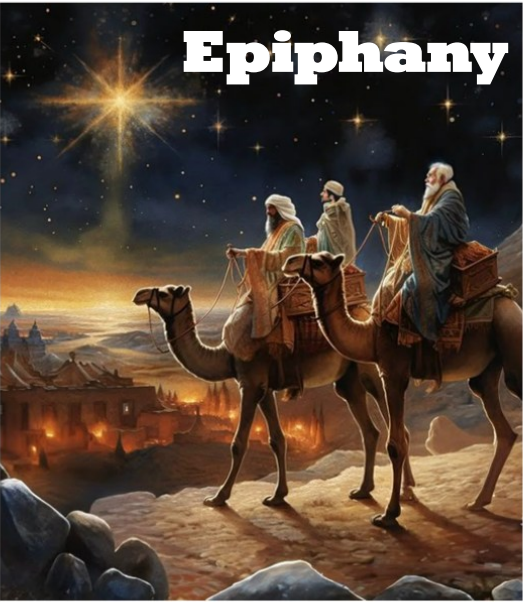
For next week, read Luke 3:15-17, 21-22.

 Didn't get all the blanks filled? Sermon audio and notes online at St. John’s website: sjlchurch.org/sermons. LIFEWork pages can be found at the Welcome Centers.



January 4, 2026
WWW.SJLCHURCH.ORG

LOVE. LEARN. LEAD.



Welcome!

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US,
WE ARE SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU!

*Reminder: Please silence devices during worship.

Sunday School
& Nursery

Nursery (0-35 months) and Sunday School (3 years old to 6th Grade) are available for both services.

*Please check your child into Sunday School before the start of service at the kiosk in front of the Nursery.

NEW SERMON SERIES
STARTING JAN. 11

LIGHT
AND
LIFE



COMMUNION
— SUNDAY —

FOLLOW US @SJLCBAKERSFIELD   

News & Notes

BIBLE Study **Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study** **Resumes TODAY!** Join us at 10:15 a.m., in the ECCR for Sunday morning Adult Bible Study led by Bob Schneider. Bring your Bibles and your curiosity as we hear God’s Word preached and study His word together. Questions, contact Stacey Persons, spersons@sjlchurch.org or 665-7815.

The flowers this morning in the Sanctuary are provided by the women of the Altar Guild to the glory of God and in celebration of the Epiphany, when Jesus revealed himself to the Israelites and the Gentiles as represented by the Wise Men.

Golden Eagles Join us Thursdays, January 15 and January 29, 2026, at 11:00 a.m., in the Large Conference Room as we study God’s Word and enjoy lunch together. Golden Eagles is a Bible Study for seniors. Questions, contact Stacey Persons, 665-7815 or spersons@sjlchurch.org.

ST. JOHN’S LUTHERAN KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION NIGHT
Monday, February 2 6pm
St. John’s Lutheran School
4500 Buena Vista Rd.
Event Center
-Parent Only Event Please-
Questions, please contact kpudw@sjlchurch.org



2025 Milestone ANNIVERSARIES
IF YOU CELEBRATED A MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY IN 2025
CONTACT SPERSONS@SJLCHURCH.ORG
DEADLINE TO BE ADDED TO THE CELEBRATION IS JAN. 19

My Offering **Tithe Envelopes**
If you no longer want the tithe envelopes mailed to your home address, please let the church office know and we will cancel them for you. This process will take a couple of months from the time the company is notified to when they stop mailing the envelopes. Please be patient, thank you. Questions, contact St. John’s Finance Assistant, Michelle Fox, 665-7815.

LOVE • LEARN • LEAD
The people of St. John’s **LOVE** God and others, **LEARN** to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ, and **LEAD** others to discover and live out their calling as God’s people.

Prayer Requests
In December, we received a total of 112 prayer requests. Thank you for allowing us to pray for you.

St. John’s SCRIP **Sunday, January 18,** you can purchase SCRIP, between services, at the School Kiosk, only on Communion Sundays. You can also purchase SCRIP at the school office during the week during the school year. SCRIP is face value gift cards you can purchase from local and national retailers and restaurants. Why use SCRIP? It is easy and a percentage of every purchase of SCRIP comes back to support our School and Children’s Center. Questions, contact the school office, 664-8090.

Prayer Requests
How can we pray for you? See the QR code to submit your prayer requests or you can text prayer requests to (833) 420-7948.



Women’s Monday Afternoon Bible Study
Join us when our Bible study resumes on **Monday, January 12, 2026,** at 3:00 p.m., off campus, at a members home each week. Everyone is welcome. Questions, contact Jan Lundy, 665-7815.

Widow to Widow
2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH
11:45 AM
SJLCHURCH.ORG/WIDOWS
Resumes Tuesday, January 13, 2026, 11:45 a.m., in the LCR.

Women’s Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study
Join us **Tuesday, January 6,** at 1:30 p.m., in the ECCR, as we begin our new study, *Genesis 1-11: Creation, Sin and the Nature of God*, by John MacArthur. Everyone is welcome. Questions, contact Judie Fanucchi, 665-7815.

Women’s Wednesday Morning Bible Study
Join us **Wednesday, January 7,** 8:45 a.m., in the Worship Center Lobby, as we begin our new study, *Meant for Good: A Study of Joseph* by Donna Snow. We look closely at Joseph’s life, which reflected the Gospel themes of goodness, provision, and God’s covenant promise for the faithful. Childcare is available, to register, go to: sjlchurch.org. Questions, contact Stacey Persons, spersons@sjlchurch.org or 665-7815.

Improve your flexibility, balance and strength
Join us **Wednesday, January 7,** at 11:15 a.m., in The Music Room for Level 1 Yoga led by Linda Cole. Questions, contact Stacey Persons, spersons@sjlchurch.org or 665-7815.

Thank you for worshiping with us! Come again soon!



Wednesday Morning Men’s Bible Study
Join us Wednesday mornings, 6:15 a.m., in the LCR, to begin our day in God’s Word led by Pastor Ben. Everyone is welcome! Questions, contact Stacey Persons, spersons@sjlchurch.org, or 665-7815.

WIDOWER’S CONNECTION
Fourth Thursday of the month @10am
EMAIL BSCHRAK@SJLCHURCH.ORG FOR MORE INFO.

Join us **Thursday, January 22,** at 10:00 a.m., in the SCR. Questions, contact Pastor Ben Schrank, 665-7815 or bschrank@sjlchurch.org.

Thursday Morning Men’s Bible Study
Join us **Thursday, January 8,** 8:30 a.m., in the SCR. Questions, contact Dean Nulton, 665-7815.

LCMSFoundation **Estate/Gift Planning**
We live in a “I can do it myself” culture. That has been cultivated by our access to technology. Yet, the question is, “Do I need help to create my Christian estate plan?” This month we consider that your estate plan represents the biggest collection of decisions with far more impact than any others in life. To begin with, a good estate plan will include a good attorney, who can take your goals and put them down into carefully crafted, precise documents. Without an attorney, you risk allowing your will to be contested, that could leave something out you wished to do. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can get you ready to meet with your attorney. Contact Brian Hyde of the LCMS Foundation who will help you address Wills, Trusts, Medical Care at life’s end, Memorial/Funeral/Burial Planning and how to Leave a Legacy for the people and ministries you love. Questions, contact the church office, (661) 665-7815.

STUDENTS JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL
WEEKLY STUDENT MEETINGS
JUNIOR HIGH NIGHT
WED • 6-7:30PM
MEETS IN THE GARAGE
DOORS & SNACK BAR OPEN AT 5:30!
HIGH SCHOOL NIGHT
SUN • 6-8PM
MEETS IN THE GARAGE
young adults group
every other Sunday night @ 8pm in the Garage!
follow us on instagram @sj_youngadults!
contact courtney for details: cjimerson@sjlchurch.org
UPCOMING EVENTS
JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL WAKE UP! WITH SJ STUDENTS
ON THE FOLLOWING SUNDAYS:
FEB 1 • MAR 22
DURING 10:30 SERVICE | ENDS AT 11:50
hume winter camp
JAN 23-25
hume winter camp
FEB 6-9
REGISTRATION IS OPEN!
BOXSLED BLITZ BUILDING PARTIES
JUNIOR HIGH NIGHT: JAN 21 | 6-7:30PM
HIGH SCHOOL NIGHT: FEB 1 | 6-8PM
HANGOUT NIGHT WITH BROOM HOCKEY! GETTING READY FOR WINTER CAMP!
MORE INFO? CJIMERSON@SJLCHURCH.ORG
INSTAGRAM/TIK TOK: @SJSTUDENTS.BAKERSFIELD
YOUTUBE: SJ STUDENTS BAKERSFIELD

Wifi password:
Welcome2SJLC

SJ Kidz MINISTRY
We want to be part of an ongoing conversation with you and your children, talking about the LOVE of God, how to LEARN about God, and how to LEAD friends to know God.
Join us every Sunday
SUNDAY SCHOOL Preschool-6th during both services. Check-in your child at Kidz Min Kiosk.
NURSERY 0-3 year old during both services. Check-in your child at the Kidz Min Kiosk.
WEDNESDAY KIDZ MIN PROGRAMS
AWANA, 1st Communion and Confirmation are on break till the New Year. Have a wonderful time celebrating Christmas together with your family and friends.
Join us back on **January 7, 6:00-7:30 p.m.**
For more information www.sjlchurch.org/AWANA
Questions contact Lorraine Davis 665-7815 ldavis@sjlchurch.org

HIGH SCHOOL hume winter camp
FEB 6-9
REGISTER TODAY!
SJLCHURCH.ORG/WINTERCAMP

Stay in touch!
Text 'Join' to (833) 420-7948
or scan here!
sjlchurch.org TALK TO YOU SOON!

