



# THE VINE

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School Newsletter  
*December 2019*

“Leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ, His followers, and His world.”

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## Christmas is about Jesus

That statement shouldn't be controversial. But I suspect that when we take it to heart and really apply it to our lives in the coming month, it is controversial. I'm not talking about out in the secular world and the debate over “Merry Christmas” and “Happy Holidays.” Frankly, I've gotten over expecting non-Christians to have a clue about what Christmas is really all about.

But Christians should know better. It's about Jesus.

And since it's about Jesus, our celebration of Christmas should be about Jesus. It should focus on Him. It should reflect His heart. It should work toward His purposes. It should honor His values. It should overflow with His love.

Because that's what Christmas is: It's about Jesus giving of Himself completely and totally for the undeserving and needy. It's about God in Christ walking across the universe into this broken world. God's heart, overflowing with love for broken people like you and me, entered this world as a helpless, vulnerable infant, so He could taste our tears, feel our burdens, cringe with our pain, and ultimately bear our guilt and die our death. It's all about Jesus.

Advent is a time of preparing our hearts and our lives to celebrate the birth of our Savior. But the way our culture observes this time of year presents significant distractions and obstacles. We almost have to be subversive to keep Christ in the center of Christmas. It's like we're conspiring against the cultural distractions.

That's what Advent Conspiracy is all about: Focusing on Christ throughout Advent. Seeking to celebrate His birth by emulating the way He lives. Seeking to celebrate the incarnation by being incarnations of life and mercy in the lives of others.

Join the conspiracy.

And have a truly blessed Advent.

*Pastor Mike*



# Advent Conspiracy

Our Sunday Advent Series this year will focus on the four themes of our Advent Conspiracy Emphasis as we anticipate celebrating the birth of the Savior.

- **December 1 - [Worship Fully]** - Keep Jesus at the front and center of your Christmas celebration. Why not put times for worship first on the calendar, along with times for personal and family devotions?
- **December 8 - [Spend Less]** – We don't have to spend a lot to communicate love, and spending money we don't have certainly does not honor Christ. Why not spend less and say no to the rampant materialism of the secular aspects of the holiday?
- **December 15 - [Give More]** - The most meaningful gifts are those of time – time spent making something unique, time spent with people we love. Why not give truly valuable gifts – your time and yourself? Give relationally – like Jesus did.
- **December 22 - [Love All]** - It would certainly honor the meaning of Christmas to give to help those most in need. Why not take some of the money saved by [Spend Less] and donate it to where it is most needed?

## Advent Midweek Services

There will be three additional worship opportunities to worship this Advent. The 7:00 services will be preceded by a light soup supper at 6:00.



### Wednesday, December 4

#### **The ABC Advent Service**

Our traditional trip through the alphabet, celebrating Advent and Christmas. The Choraliers will be singing, and the Hand Bells will be ringing.

### Wednesday, December 11 (7:00)

#### **Service of Health and Healing:**

This service will focus on the power of God's Word to bring healing in the midst of physical ailments, strained relationships, and other difficulties and challenges in life. An extended period of time for community and personal prayers will be a part of the service, as well as anointing with oil.

### Wednesday, December 18 (7:00)

**Service of Lessons and Carols:** This service, led by our Sanctuary Choir, consists of alternating scripture readings, and hymns and anthems, sung by both the choir and the congregation. The readings and carol texts follow highlight the anticipation and coming of the Messiah.

# Christmas Worship

Come celebrate the birth of the Savior.



## Christmas Eve

- December 24            4:00 PM Children and Family Service
  - This Christmas celebration is designed for children, but all are welcome!
  
- December 24            7:00 PM Communion Service
  - This celebration of the Savior's birth will be a Communion service. The Worship Band will be leading the singing.
  
- December 24            9:00 PM Communion Service
  - This celebration of the Savior's birth will be a communion service with traditional hymns and carols. The Sanctuary Choir will be singing at this service.

## Christmas Day

- December 25            9:30 AM Communion Service
  - The Sanctuary Choir will also be singing at the Christmas Day Service.

# Habitat for Humanity Mission Trip

**Team Leaders:** Pastor Mark and Anne Heine

**Where:** ‘Ele’ele, Kaua’i

**When:** June 15 – 25, 2020

**Who:** Current college students and those who are 20 and older

**What:** Assisting families with the building of their new homes

**Estimated Cost:** \$800

**How Many:** This event is limited to 10 participants

**Registration Deadline:** Applications are due January 31, 2020

## **Kaua’i Habitat for Humanity**

On Kaua’i, 41% of households are living in what are considered unaffordable housing situations. Habitat for Humanity has completed the infrastructure of the ‘Ele’ele Iluna Subdivision Project with the goal to build 107 new affordable homes. They have also purchased additional land which will be ready for future builds in 2020.

## **Type of Work**

This Travel & Build trip will include various stages of new home construction for a group of homes in Phase 2, Increment B of the ‘Ele’ele Iluna Subdivision. Depending on the current stage of construction, the activities may include: foundation, framing, painting, installing fixtures, siding, roofing, installing cabinets, finish work. We will have a more concrete idea of the tasks at hand when we are about 2 weeks out from our departure date.

## **Application**

Contact Pastor Mark to receive an application [pastormark@stjohnslutheran.net](mailto:pastormark@stjohnslutheran.net). The team will be quickly selected after the application due date and plane tickets will be purchased. Once the team is selected information will be given on how to register online for the trip and make payments.

## OFFERING UPDATE

Actual Offering Income for Oct:

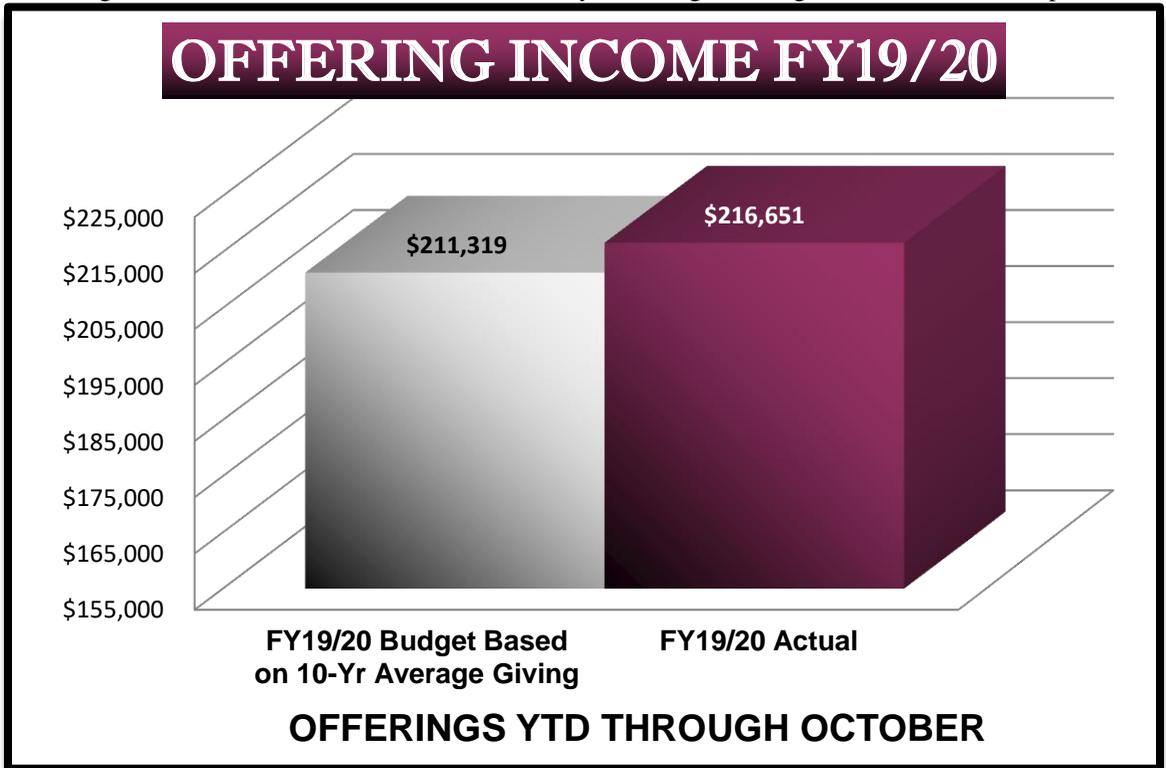
**\$55,349.**

Total Offerings for FY19/20 (as of 31 Oct 19):

**\$216,651** which is **2.52%** or **\$5,332** above our budgeted offering income.

Total expenses remain in line with our budget and we have paid all bills received thus far.

\*The budget amount shown below is based on the ten-year average offering received for that time period.



### Meditation:

*“And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.” (Luke 2:17-18) (ESV)*

## Stewards of the Christmas Gospel

As Christians, we are all stewards of the Gospel. We are to be messengers of God’s Good News that Christ was born to save.

Sometimes it's difficult to share this news. We don't want to put anyone off; the "perfect" opportunities don't come along; we don't know what to say. There is perfect opportunity, however. God has given us exactly the right words, and rarely does the Christmas story put anyone off.

Let's not waste our opportunity! What message does your Christmas card convey? Does it announce the birth of Jesus or wish your loved ones "Happy Holidays"? Does your Christmas letter mention how God has shed His grace on you and your family during the past year? God so loved the World that He gave His only Son. Personalize that message. Tell others how the birth of Christ has touched YOUR part of this world. Remind others that they are unique creatures whom Christ came to save. Tell them that they are among "*all the people*" to whom the angels brought "*good news of great joy*" (Luke 2:10). Tell them that Christ, the Baby in the manger, became a man Who died for their sins so that they can live eternally in heaven with Him. Invite them to church where God's Word is preached and sung and confessed and where His Sacraments are administered. Join the "*great company of the heavenly host*" and sing, "*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests*" (Luke 2:13-14).

**\*Prayer:**        *My heart for very joy must leap;  
                         My lips no more can silence keep.  
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue  
                         That sweetest ancient cradlesong:*

*Glory to God in highest heav'n,  
                         Who unto us His Son has giv'n!  
While angels sing with pious mirth  
                         A glad new year to all the earth. Amen.*

*\*("From Heaven Above to earth I Come," Verses 14 & 15, #358, Lutheran Service Book, CPH, 2006)*

Adapted from "*12 Months of Congregational Stewardship*" by Ronald J. and Phyllis J. Chewning, Stewardship Advisors, Inc., 2007.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, New International Version*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1984.

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# SCHOOL NEWS

By Joel Wahlers



Our school Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 15. The Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grades will be presenting a Christmas Musical at 2:00 p.m. followed by a Choir Concert by our 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders at 3:30 p.m. Please come join us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior.

Our annual APT Main Event Dinner and Auction is scheduled for March 21. If you are interested in being an official Event Sponsor or just sponsoring a teacher to attend the Main Event, please contact the school office or look on the following link for more information - <https://stjnapa.ejoinme.org/MainEvent2020>

We are currently enrolling students for the 2020-21 school year. If you know of someone who is interested in our school, please tell them to contact us soon. If you or anyone is interested in these information nights, please contact the school office for more information and to RSVP to attend.

As always, please keep St. John's Lutheran School in your prayers! For ongoing information on what is happening at St. John's, please pick up our weekly newsletter in the narthex or visit our website at [www.stjohnsnapa.org](http://www.stjohnsnapa.org).

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## St. John's Lutheran School Open House

For Preschool through Eighth Grade

Thursday, January 30, 2020

6:00-7:00 p.m. Prospective Families Only Please

7:00-8:30 p.m. Current and Prospective Families Welcome

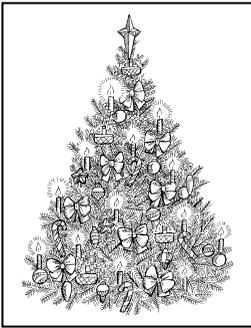
*Stop by any time; there is no formal presentation. Kids are welcome!*

Visit the classrooms and teachers and learn more about the specific grade-level programs at St. John's.

Come see what's happening at St. John's Lutheran School and experience what makes it a special place for learning!

**Prospective families, please R.S.V.P.**

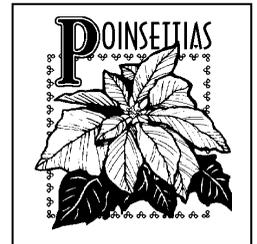
Kristin Goller, SJL Admissions: 226-7970, Ext. 125; [kgoller@stjohnsnapa.org](mailto:kgoller@stjohnsnapa.org).



## Do you love decorating for Christmas? We hope you can join us!

The Worship Preparation Team will be putting up Christmas trees and decorating the church on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:00 AM. If you would care to lend a hand and be a part of this joyful activity, please join us! Let us know if you are planning to come by contacting Betsy Gewirz at [bgewirz@stjohnsnapa.org](mailto:bgewirz@stjohnsnapa.org) or Doris Klein at [dorisklein@comcast.net](mailto:dorisklein@comcast.net).

Please consider a gift to help defray the cost for the beautiful trees, flowers, and decorations for the church during the Advent and Christmas season by using the envelopes provided in the chair pockets. Thank you!

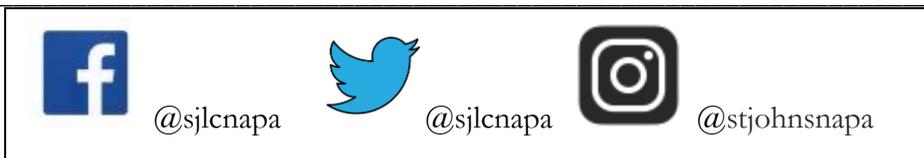


## Did You Know That St. John's is on Social Media?

St. John's and its ministries stay in contact with the community in many ways, including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and our own websites. It takes a lot of effort to keep the websites up to date and to keep the communication current and flowing on social media. The social media team is all volunteer and we could use a few more tech-savvy people to help us out. If you are a fan of social media and would like to help us communicate to our members, parents, students, and community, we could use your help.

Contact us by email: [sjlcsocialmedia@gmail.com](mailto:sjlcsocialmedia@gmail.com)

Also, if you have something you'd like to see us talk about or promote on social media, please use the same contact info.



# LCC K-9 COMFORT DOG MINISTRY UPDATE

“Walking Together / Serving as One”

To God be the Glory!

My team and I have done a lot of travelling this past month. Shortly after our regional team meeting in Las Vegas, the Kincade Fire broke out in Sonoma County. Micah Comfort Dog joined Reuben and myself as we visited first responders and firefighters at the Cal Fire base camp. Base camp is the temporary home for the firefighters who are battling the fires and provides them an opportunity for much needed rest. Micah, Reuben and I were very blessed to bring a bit of “normalcy” for these brave heroes while they were away from (and missing) their homes, families and pets.



Following the terrible shootings at Saugus High School, LCC Comfort Dogs were invited to Santa Clarita, CA by Bethlehem Lutheran Church, where we had visited several times before, to comfort those affected by this tragedy. Micah, Lois and I answered the call and we were joined by Ruthie, who came out from Lutheran Church Charities headquarters to meet us. In addition to spending time with students and staff, we also participated in a candlelight vigil to remember the victims. In the days following the incident, we continued to offer comfort, meeting with the community at several local parks. I am so grateful for the prayers and send-off by members of the church and St. John's Lutheran School prior to my deployment.

**\*Please take the time to read the story at the end of this article. It comes from an LCC K9 Comfort Dog team member from Faith Communities Lutheran Church in Las Vegas who joined us for the deployment. (They are “expecting” their first dog.)**

Last month Reuben and I joined the community of Paradise, CA as they commemorated the one-year anniversary of the terrible fires that swept through their town and surrounding communities. God remains faithful and these people are resilient and strong. Please pray for them as they continue to heal and rebuild.

When not deployed, I participated in several unique opportunities here at St. John's. In October, SJLS hosted a visit by Sgt. Ryan Guerra and the California Air National Guard Anti-Drug Task force team. They arrived in their Pave Hawk helicopter, landing on St. John's athletic field! I have ridden in cars and been aboard a boat, but I have never seen a helicopter up close before. I was fascinated to see it seemingly drop out of the sky when it landed and then disappear from view after take-off. They did not take me up for a ride, but they did invite me in for a tour of the helicopter. It was very cool!

*Extraordinary Dogs* was released last month, and I feel so humbled to have been included on the cover of this wonderful book. My first book “signing” was a lot of fun! Thank you to everyone for supporting the book and hanging out with me.

Wishing all of you a blessed Christmas and Advent season.

Thanks for your support and prayers! Please check out Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and my website for all the latest news. [napavalleycomfortdogs.org](http://napavalleycomfortdogs.org)

Aaron Comfort Dog



## **REQUESTING AN AARON COMFORT DOG VISIT**

**Remember, it is LCC's and our policy to only go where invited. So if you would like Aaron to visit, please contact Tim or Christy Kramer at the church office. We would be happy to schedule a visit! 707.255.0119**

\*(Spoken to the LCC K9 teams at the Saugus H.S. deployment...) “I’m not sure if you guys remember the gentleman that I connected with Saturday at Central Park. He was the man riding the Harley Motorcycle. His name is David. Anyway, he told me “something” compelled him to stop at the park and then to come say hello to me. He told me he lost his 15 yr. old daughter in 1994 in a high profile accident and the Saugus tragedy reminded him of that. He said after his daughter was killed he went down a very destructive road of drugs, self-inflicted wounds and that he hurt others. A lot of what he said was very “heavy” psychological stuff that I did not feel equipped for, so I just started talking about Jesus and let the Holy Spirit take over.

He initially said he did not feel worthy of God or coming back to the church. I told him that God loved him and that Jesus forgave him. We talked about Paul and how he did some very terrible things and how Jesus turned him into a magnificent light and disciple. I then introduced him to Pastor Joe and invited him to Bethlehem Lutheran Church. We prayed and exchanged emails. Then last night, back at the hotel, I opened my LCC devotion and it was about St. Paul! I forwarded the devotion to him. Well, he emailed me this evening and said he went to Bethlehem Lutheran Church today and met with Pastor Joe again, who introduced him to some people who he felt could help him and that he also felt good about going back to church. God is amazing!”

## Serving in Worship December 2019

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>USHERS</u>	<u>LAY READERS</u>	<u>ACOLYTES</u>
1 December Advent 1	8:30 AM HC Traditional	Curtis Schoenfeld The Ehlen Family	Susan Clark	Tim Kramer
	10:15 AM Blended	The Hammond Family & The De Young Family	Andy Schweiger	Soren DeYoung Grayson Cushing
4 December Midweek 1	7:00 PM	The Cremen and Perna Families	Ella Powers	
8 December Advent 2	8:30 AM Traditional	George Fleishmann, Gary & Marlen Virkus	Sarah Kramer	Mike Newton
	10:15 AM HC Blended	Ron Irwin, Missy Loban, Tyler Koen	Kristi Carey	Patrick Yoder Donovan Messner
11 December Midweek 2	7:00 PM	Bev & Clint Holdsworth	Cassie Richardson	
15 December Advent 3	8:30 AM HC Traditional	Bev & Clint Holdsworth	Lois Johnson	Gary Virkus
	10:15 AM Blended	The Cremen and Perna Families	Jennie Lovie	Tyler Koen Eva Winkler
18 December Midweek 3	7:00 PM	Bev & Clint Holdsworth	Sanctuary Choir	
22 December Advent 4	8:30 AM Traditional	Bob Klein, Gerry Schneider, Bill Clark, Ben & Amy Wilson	Gail Valeskie	Sam Schneider
	10:15 AM HC Blended	The Hammond Family & The De Young Family	CarlJohn Meissehnalter	Samantha Carey Abigail Munoz
24 December Christmas Eve	4:00 PM			
	7:00 PM HC	The Virkus Family	Megan Schweiger	
	9:00 PM HC	Curtis Schoenfeld The Ehlen Family	Ruth Peterson	
25 December Christmas Day	9:30 AM HC	Curtis Schoenfeld The Ehlen Family	Lois Johnson	
29 December Christmas 1	8:30 AM HC	George Fleishmann, Gary & Marlen Virkus	Gail Vandeburgt	Mike Newton
	10:15 AM HC Blended	Ron Irwin, Missy Loban, Tyler Koen	Samantha Yoder	Tyler Koen Soren De Young

## CALENDAR

## CALENDAR

# Serving in Worship December 2019

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>SOUND TECHS</u>	<u>COMMUNION ASSISTANTS</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>
1 December Advent 1	8:30 AM HC Traditional	Kaleb Anderson	Gerry Schneider Bill Clark, Ron Johnson, Ben Wilson	Ruth Peterson
	10:15 AM Blended	Flynn Irwin		The Bresee Family
4 Dec. Mid. 1	7:00 PM	Jack Carey		
8 December Advent 2	8:30 AM Traditional	Bill Clark		The Miller Family
	10:15 AM HC Blended	Grant Menzel	<i>Team Leader:</i> <i>Andy Schweiger</i> Dove Bain, Tim Bouchet, Paula & Megan Schweiger	The Mason Family
11 Dec. Mid. 2	7:00 PM	Kaleb Anderson		
15 December Advent 3	8:30 AM HC Traditional	Kyle Ebeling	Bob Klein, Gary Virkus Ron Johnson Gerry Schneider	The Ehlen Family
	10:15 AM Blended	Bryce Powers		The Kampton Family
18 Dec. Mid 3	7:00 PM	Bill Clark		
22 December Advent 4	8:30 AM Traditional	Kaleb Anderson		Nancy Gressinger
	10:15 AM HC Blended	Whitney Powers	<i>Team Leader:</i> <i>Tim Huss</i> Dove Bain, Pam Barker, Kari & Bob Perna	The Bouchet Family
24 December Christmas Eve	4:00 PM	Flynn Irwin		
	7:00 PM HC	Whitney Powers	The Schweiger Family	The Hammond & De Young Families
	9:00 PM HC	Bill Clark	Bob Klein, Tim Kramer Mike Newton, Joel Wahlers	The Meissenhalter Family
25 December Christmas Day	9:30 AM HC		Tim Huss, Kim Kramer, Mike Newton, Ben Wilson	Ron & Lois Johnson
29 December Christmas 1	8:30 AM HC	Bill Clark	Mike Newton, Ron Johnson, Tim Kramer, Ben Wilson	Sharon Mitchell
	10:15 AM HC Blended	Chris Newman	<i>Team Leader:</i> <i>Joel Wahlers</i> Tim Bouchet, Pam Barker Samantha & Natalie Yoder	The Bresee Family

## Daily Bible Readings for December

	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Old Testament</b>	<b>New Testament</b>
1	Psalm 122	Isaiah 2:1-5	Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44
2	Psalm 138:6-8	Joel 1:1-2:14	Revelation 5:11-6:8
3	Psalm 139:1-6	Joel 2:15-3:21	Revelation 6:9-7:8
4	Psalm 139:7-12	Amos 1, 2	Revelation 7:9-17
5	Psalm 139:13-16	Amos 3, 4	Revelation 8
6	Psalm 139:17-24	Amos 5	Revelation 9:1-11
7	Psalm 140:1-5	Amos 6, 7	Revelation 9:12-21
8	Psalm 72	Isaiah 11:1-10	Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12
9	Psalm 140:6-13	Amos 8, 9	Revelation 10
10	Psalm 141:1-4	Obadiah 1; Jonah 1, 2	Revelation 11:1-14
11	Psalm 141:5-10	Jonah 3, 4	Revelation 11:15-12:6
12	Psalm 142	Micah 1-3:7	Revelation 12:7-18
13	Psalm 143:1-6	Micah 3:8-5:15	Revelation 12:19-13:10
14	Psalm 143:7-12	Micah 6, 7	Revelation 13:11-14:5
15	Psalm 146:5-10	Isaiah 35:1-10	James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11
16	Psalm 144:1-4	Nahum 1, 2	Revelation 14:6-16
17	Psalm 144:5-8	Nahum 3; Habakkuk 1	Revelation 14:7-15:8
18	Psalm 144:9-15	Habakkuk 2, 3	Revelation 16:1-11
19	Psalm 145:1-7	Zephaniah 1,2	Revelation 16:12-21
20	Psalm 145:8-16	Zephaniah 3; Haggai 1	Revelation 17:1-8
21	Psalm 145:17-21	Haggai 2; Zechariah 1-3	Revelation 17:9-18
22	Psalm 80:1-7,10-14	Isaiah 7:10-16	Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25
23	Psalm 146	Zechariah 4,5	Revelation 18:1-10
24	Psalm 147:1-6	Zechariah 6, 7	Revelation 18:11-24
25	Psalm 147:7-14	Zechariah 8, 9	Revelation 19:1-8
26	Psalm 147:15-20	Zechariah 10, 11	Revelation 19:9-21
27	Psalm 148:1-6	Zechariah 12-13:6	Revelation 20-21:8
28	Psalm 148:7-14	Zechariah 13:7-14:21	Revelation 21:9-21
29	Psalm 148	Isaiah 63:7-9	Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23
30	Psalm 149	Malachi 1,2	Revelation 21:22-22:7
31	Psalm 150	Malachi 3,4	Revelation 22:8-21

**DATE                  COUPLE                  YEARS**

1	Ed & Ramona Kaufmann	35
2	Eric & Gail Vandeburgt	19
3	Kelsey & Jose Rodriguez	3
5	Wayne & Barbara Miller	55
5	David & Renee Lloyd	38
10	Mary & Randy Kosanke	42
13	Curtis & Theresa Schoenfeld	44
15	Gisela & K.C. Chaudhary	57
17	Andy & Paula Schweiger	25
17	Debbie & Steve Stanhope	42
21	Clay & Bonnie Thompson	57
28	Jane & Dave Barker	34




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## CHRISTMAS SHOPPING ON AMAZON?

Please consider using “Amazon Smile” when you place your orders, designating St. John’s Lutheran Church fund. (There is no additional cost to you!) Just go directly to: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-6001864>



### Second Sunday Potluck

We will resume potlucks in January.

## So what's new at the Farm?

Submitted by Ted Zimmerman



“Farmer Ted, how does your garden grow?”

It's been a long time since I've sat on Santa Claus' lap. I'm sure he wouldn't want me to do that today! I've become a big boy in more ways than one. But if I were invited to do so, and he would ask me, “Teddy, what would you like me to bring you for Christmas?” I know exactly what I would ask for. I would like him to bring me some new recruits for the Mission Farm Crew!

What's required of members of the Mission Farm Crew?

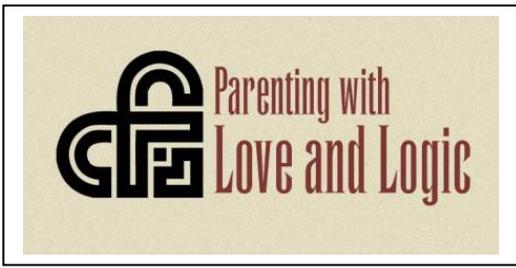
- Availability on any of the work days: Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday mornings, from 8:30 a.m. 'til 11:30 a.m. (You don't have to stay the entire time.)
- A reasonable degree of flexibility and balance.
- Work clothes, wide brimmed hat, work gloves.
- A sunny disposition (even on rainy days).
- A desire to serve economically challenged families in Jesus' name.

What's not required?

- Tools (we provide those).
- Garden or farm experience (helpful, but we will train).
- Being there each and every work day (we all have lives to live). If we send out a notice that we need many helping hands for a particular project, do make an effort to respond if possible.

Weather can be an issue during the winter months. However, we try to get as much work in as weather permits. We do have winter crops in the ground.

The total poundage of produce turned over to the Food Bank in October was 689.5, for a total for 2019 of 11,410 lbs.! Now can you see why we need Santa Claus to come through for us with some additional planters and pickers and preparers of produce (oh, and weeding too)?!



Beginning January 10<sup>th</sup>, we will be offering a parenting class called “Early Childhood Parenting Made Fun: Creating Happy Families and Responsible Kids” This is a video/discussion type class for parents of young children.

“When parents start Love & Logic in their children’s early lives, they dramatically up the odds that the teenage years will be fun instead of frantic. Parents will learn a practical set of tools to help raise super kids!”

Some of the topics covered are:

- Whining and arguing
  - Misbehavior in public
  - Smooth mornings and bedtimes
  - Calm sibling bickering and battling
  - Calm mealtimes, tooth brushing, bathing etc.
  - Fun potty training
  - Teaching respect responsibility and self-discipline
- .....

We will meet on Fridays on the following dates:

- January 10<sup>th</sup>
- January 17<sup>th</sup>
- January 24<sup>th</sup>
- January 31<sup>st</sup>
- February 7<sup>th</sup>

**THE CLASS WILL BE FROM 8:35 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. in Room 10.**

Please join us right after you drop your preschooler off!

Pre-Registration is necessary because we have to order a workbook for each parent/couple participating. The cost is \$15, payable to St. John’s Lutheran School. We would like to limit the class to 12 people so space is available to the first 12 to pre-register with Janis King.

You can call, email or do this in person. Any questions, please feel free to ask for clarification.



## YOUTH NEWS

**Crew 34** is going total Christmas style! Last year we had a great time with our white elephant gift exchange, but this year we are changing it up. We are going to host a baby shower for Jesus! Instead of bringing gifts for each other, we will be collecting baby shower gifts that can be donated. You won't want to miss this baby shower! Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, from 6-7:30 p.m. in the preschool.

**Surge** has been awesome this year and we have 2 more events before the New Year! On December 3<sup>rd</sup> we will have a regular Surge event and we will host our Christmas party on December 10<sup>th</sup>. Both events will take place from 6-7:30 p.m. in Room 8. Come hang out with us in December as we celebrate the birth of our Savior!



**Christ Church Lutheran, Phoenix, Arizona**  
**Feb. 20-22, 2020**

**Best Practices for Ministry 2019.** Registration is open for this free conference on mission and ministry at Christ Church Lutheran in Phoenix, AZ. The conference is for lay people and church workers. It is a gathering of people to encourage one another for mission and ministry, and to share ideas and resources to help us grow as the people of God.

Bible-Based. Gospel-Centered. Mission Driven. Future-Oriented.

To register, go to [www.cclphoenix.org](http://www.cclphoenix.org) and click on “BPM.”

If you are interested in attending, please let the church office know so that we can coordinate transportation and lodging.

We have funds from our endowment fund for hotel lodging for the conference.



## Disability Ministry: Feeling Comfortable With People Who Have Disabilities

Submitted by Pastor Ted Zimmerman

Do you recall the biblical character Mephibosheth? Probably not. Not even many preachers know much about him, or at least seldom refer to him. Even fewer can pronounce his name without sounding as if they have a serious lisp. You can read about him in 2 Samuel 9:1-13.

Why do I ask? We can learn something about ministry to people with disabilities by what King David chose to do for Mephibosheth. Mephibosheth was the son of Jonathan and the grandson of King Saul. Saul and Jonathan were killed in the battle of Gilboa (1 Sam. 31). David mourned the death of Jonathan (a good friend of his) and King Saul (even though Saul had sought to kill David—he was still the Lord’s anointed). David inquires whether there is anyone of the house of Saul to whom he could show kindness for Jonathan’s sake. He is told about Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan. He was crippled in both feet. David did two things for Mephibosheth—he restored certain lands owned by Saul so that Mephibosheth’s sons could farm and make a living, and he arranged that Mephibosheth should enjoy honor and hospitality at King David’s table each and every day. While others might look upon Mephibosheth and see only a “cripple”, David saw in him the image of his friend Jonathan and the dignity of his grandfather, the Lord’s Anointed.

We have been talking about St. John’s attempting to become an “irresistible church” (Joni Eareckson Tada’s term), a church that intentionally reaches out to people with disabilities, welcomes and involves them fully in the life, worship and ministry of the congregation. Such a church doesn’t look at people with disabilities as “cripples”, but they see in them what David saw in Mephibosheth—someone who bore the image of a beloved friend (Jonathan) and King of Israel (Saul). Thus David was moved to extend not only “hospitality”, but “royal treatment” to one that otherwise might have been seen only as an object of pity, or someone requiring public assistance.

People, no matter what challenges they face emotionally or physically, all bear the image of God in which they were created (Gen. 1:27). They are persons who have been redeemed by the precious blood of our Savior, and in whom he is pleased (or will be pleased) to dwell with his Spirit through Baptism (Acts 2:38-39). With that Spirit they are given not only the gift of faith, but gifts for service (Rom. 12:5-8). Thus they are not just people we have to do for. They are people gifted to do for others in the church and for the sake of the world. Let us begin by extending “hospitality” and “giving the royal treatment” to all. Soon enough the gifts resident in them will reveal themselves to us.



Have you ever considered coming to work on the Lutheran Hour float that appears in the Rose Parade? The Mission of the Lutheran Hour Ministries Float Committee, the sponsor of this float, is "To provide a Christian witness and hope in Jesus Christ to the un-churched, who view the float in person and through the media."

**The Lutheran Hour Ministries Float Committee (LHMFC)** is an all volunteer group of

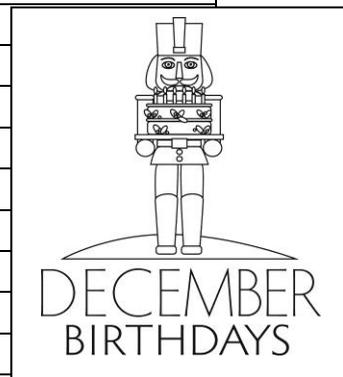
Lutherans with NO paid staff. The committee is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization that raises all the monies necessary to annually place the Lutheran Hour Ministries Float, the only Christian float, in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses parade. We are not funded or budgeted by Lutheran Hour Ministries or the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod; however, both are supportive of our mission. The Committee is funded primarily by donations of our Christian friends and by multiple fund raising activities. **The Lutheran Hour Ministries Float will participate in the Rose Parade for the 70<sup>th</sup> year on January 1, 2020.**

The **PetalPushers®** is a group of 4,000-5,000 volunteers from across the US and Canada, who decorate floats. These volunteers are organized and coordinated by the LHMFC. PetalPushers® volunteers will decorate the LHM float this year along with as many as nine additional floats. Phoenix Decorating, our float builder, makes a donation to LHMFC in proportion to the number of hours worked by the PetalPushers® volunteers. If you would like more information about supporting this effort or volunteering as a Petal Pusher, just talk to Pam or John Foottit. Petal Pushers work primarily starting December 26<sup>th</sup> until the float is completed on December 31<sup>st</sup> at the construction site in Irwindale, California. You can also go to the Petal Pusher's website at [www.petalpushers.org](http://www.petalpushers.org) for more information.

**The Lutheran Hour airs on nearly 1,800 stations throughout North America and reaches more than one million listeners each week.** The Lutheran Hour, can be heard locally on KCBC, AM 770, at 7:30 pm on Saturday, 7:30 am and 4:30 pm on Sunday or 3:00 am on Monday. It is also available KAWZ, FM 88.1 at 7:00 am on Sunday or on the internet anytime at [www.lutheranhour.org](http://www.lutheranhour.org).

# December Birthdays

2	Jennifer Alexander
3	Linda Cornils, Elaine Adams, Cason Diviak
4	Ivy Alexander
5	David Como III
7	Kristi Carey, Lois Husted
8	Samantha Yoder
9	Natalie Yoder
10	Flynn Irwin, Pastor Mike Schmid, Elaine Zimmerman
11	Arvin Chaudhary, Roger Mahlandt, Jack Carey
13	Markus Obata
16	Jane Terra
17	Gracie Mello, Rita Bresee, Archie Schluter
18	Angela D'Angelo, Ron Johnson
22	Melissa Peterson, Elena Bresee
23	David Lloyd, Noel Schmutz
24	Pam Barker, Jane Barker
25	Will Obata, Matthew Bresee
26	Anavon Kennedy
27	Rebekah Kramer, Arianna Kampton, Terry Braddock
28	Dean Bledsoe, Robert Miller, Ethan Harkleroad, Clint Holdsworth



**New mobile phone application makes supporting ministry even more convenient.**

Go to the App Store or Google Play and search for “GivePlus Church” to download for free. Then enter St. John’s Lutheran Church or tap “Find Churches Near Me” to start your search. Enter your desired contribution amount, card or bank information, review and select “Complete Donation.” It’s that easy! Please call the church office if you have questions.



“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” *Galatians 6:9-10*

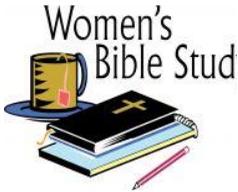
Come join us! No matter what our situation or season in life, we all need discipleship, fellowship, encouragement, and opportunities to serve. St. John’s has many options in all of those areas, and we are always open to new ideas!

*“The mission of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League is to assist each woman of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world.”*

**The big blue wooden LWML box** is in the Narthex (church entryway) for you to drop in your loose change (or checks designated “Mites”).

**Goal:** Help fund LWML projects in the U.S. and around the world.

**Info:** [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org).



## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

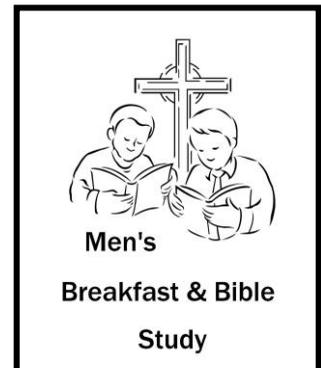
Women's Thursday afternoon Bible Study meets in the Sanctuary on Thursdays at

1:00 PM. Looking forward to seeing you all!

Contact [Womensministry@stjohnslutheran.net](mailto:Womensministry@stjohnslutheran.net)!

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MEN, JOIN US EVERY SATURDAY MORNING FOR FELLOWSHIP AT 7:30 AM AND BIBLE STUDY AT 8:00 - 9:00 AM IN ROOM 10. CALL RON JOHNSON FOR INFORMATION.



# THE VINE

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Our weekly sermons are available on the St. John's website at: [www.stjohnslutheran.net](http://www.stjohnslutheran.net).

Visit our school website at: [www.stjohnsnapa.org](http://www.stjohnsnapa.org)

Facilities Calendar Link: <https://teamup.com/ks059311afd6a21c57>



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<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/248942728988437/st-johns-lutheran-church/>

## **Church**

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Rev. Mark G. Heine, Director of Care Ministries (ext. 124)

Mr. Tim Kramer, Business Administrator (ext. 121)

Mrs. Christy Kramer, Church Office Manager, (ext. 120)

Mr. Kevin Mathison, Dir. of Youth Ministry (ext. 106) or 255-7451

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Email: [czeller@stjohnsnapa.org](mailto:czeller@stjohnsnapa.org)

Mr. Joel Wahlers, Principal (ext. 103)

Mrs. Cindy Zeller, School Office Manager (ext. 101)

Mrs. Janis King, Director of Preschool and Children's Ministry (107)