



# THE VINE

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School Newsletter  
*February 2020*

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

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Your Input Invited  
**Congregational Open Forum**

February 18, 2020

You are invited to take part in discussing and planning the future ministry of St. John's. As mentioned in the January Vine, we are seeking input as we develop the ministry plan for fiscal year 2020-2021, and beyond.

There will be an open forum on **Tuesday, February 18, 2020 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm**. Child care will be provided. The purpose of this survey is to gather input for the ministry plan and to discuss ministry priorities. We will be looking at responses to the input survey. We will also be considering the results of an analysis of our congregation's health conducted by lay and staff leaders of our congregation.

The ideas generated and discussed at this forum will be studied by lay and staff leaders and crafted into a draft ministry plan, which will be further refined at another congregation open forum (date to be determined).

If you have not already done so, I encourage you to take part in the input survey based on our mission statement. The survey is available online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DGGLHBP>. There are also print copies in the church narthex and office.

God has called His church to embrace His mission, and each one of us is part of this church. Each of us is welcomed and encouraged to take part in this process as we seek the Lord's will together.

## The Challenge and the Cross



Last fall we were all invited to participate in the Red Letter Challenge. For forty day, in worship, in small groups and in daily devotions, we focused on Jesus' call to discipleship. We sought to grow in following Jesus as we looked at these five aspects of discipleship:

- **Being** – Our discipleship begins with and is empowered by spending time with Jesus. We do this through worship, by being in the Word, having an active prayer life, as well as in other ways.
- **Forgiving** – Our life with Christ rests on His gift of forgiveness by grace through the cross. We seek to grow in living this grace by forgiving others.
- **Serving** – Jesus came to serve. The cross is the central and most extreme way that Jesus lived His servanthood. As followers seeking to imitate Him, we seek to serve others.
- **Giving** – Jesus came to give. He came to give himself completely for us and for all the world in order to give us forgiveness, salvation and resurrection. As followers seeking to imitate Him in living His grace, we seek to grow in generosity.
- **Going** – Jesus came for all the world and so He concluded his earthly mission by sending His followers to make disciples of all the nations. We seek to follow this mandate today in sharing the love of Jesus with others.

This Lent, we are invited to go on the 40 day journey once again. Although we will be reading the same devotions and pursuing the same challenges, our Sunday worship will take a different direction, a Lent direction. Discipleship is all about following and imitating Jesus. So we will focus on Jesus as He approaches the cross and we will see in Him the blessing and challenge of the five targets outlined above.

(Next Page)

<b>March 1</b>	<b>Being</b>	<b>Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.</b> <i>Before his arrest, trial and crucifixion, Jesus spends this time with His Father, and finds strength for the journey ahead.</i>
<b>March 8</b>	<b>Forgiving</b>	<b>Jesus and Peter.</b> <i>Peter sins against Jesus by denying His relationship with Him. Jesus responds with grace and forgiveness.</i>
<b>March 15</b>	<b>Serving</b>	<b>Jesus On Trial Before Caiaphas.</b> <i>Jesus came to serve. He shows His dedication to serve us when He makes a declaration that assures His condemnation by the Sanhedrin.</i>
<b>March 22</b>	<b>Giving</b>	<b>Jesus Takes Up His Cross.</b> <i>In the passion of Christ, we see the depth of the generosity of God. Jesus gives His all for us, taking up a cross for our salvation.</i>
<b>March 29</b>	<b>Going</b>	<b>Jesus Dies For The Sins Of The World.</b> <i>Jesus died not just for my sins and your sins, but for the sins of all the world. All the world needs to hear this message so that this gift might be received.</i>

So get out your Red Letter Challenge booklets and get ready for the challenge! If you need a copy of the book, we will have some available in the sanctuary and in the church office.

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We are delighted to welcome these new members to our St. John's family. They were welcomed during the worship service on January 12, 2020.

Tom, Tracy, Aidan, and Grayson Cushing  
Victoria Elder  
Mary Kaufmann  
Kristen Lawrence and Colt Maloney  
Dave and Becky Newman  
Justine, Brody and Eliana Rollin  
Amy, Sam and Will Smith  
Amali, Joe, Zander, and Alexa Svien  
Chris, Beth, Jaicee and Seamus Vecera  
Rebecca Lowe-Vitkus



## Lent Midweek Series

### **By His Wounds We Are Healed**

The innocent Son of God had no sins of His own for which He deserved to die, yet His enemies falsely accused Him of violating every commandment of God. In each service in this series we will see that it was our sin, our disobedience, that Jesus bore in His body on the cross. The Lord laid on Him “the iniquity of us all.” Jesus suffered the penalty of death in our place, and “by His wounds we are healed.”

All the services will be on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. There will be a soup supper before each service at 6:00 in the parish hall.

#### **Ash Wednesday (February 26)      The Wounds of Blasphemy**

In this service, we remember that the wounds of blasphemy we committed against our Lord were laid on Christ on the cross. Ash Wednesday reminds us that though we have been brought low by sin, our Lord will bless us with new life in him through the cross. *NOTE: There will also be a service at 1:00 PM on Ash Wednesday*

#### **Wednesday, March 4                      A Service for Health and Health**

The Lent service for this week will be a “Health and Healing” service. 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.

The services for March 11, 18 and 25 will be described in the March newsletter

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## **Mision de Jesus**

Our Spanish language ministry, Mision de Jesus, continues to honor Jesus and reach out to the Napa Community, under the leadership of Deacon Francisco Hurtado. The congregation meets at 2790 Kilburn Avenue.

Worship is on Sundays at 10:00 and is entirely in Spanish. Sunday school for children is offered at the same time. There is a prayer gathering at the church on Wednesday evenings and a Bible Study on Friday evenings.

Deacon Hurtado was recently re-authorized by the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Council of Presidents as a Licensed Lay Deacon. This means that he has the blessing of our church body to regularly preach the Word and administer the sacraments, even though he is not ordained. In Deacon Hurtado regularly meets with Rev. Greg Klotz to deepen his knowledge of biblical theology. Rev Klotz, currently serving Grace Lutheran Church in Pittsburg, CA, has spent most of his ministry in Central and South America, training local missionaries and pastors. We are delighted that through Linc Bay Area, Pastor Klotz is bringing his ministry training expertise to our Napa Community.

# Passover Seder Meal and Service

Wednesday, April 1, 2020

*“Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”*  
(John 1:29)

Our Lent Midweek service for April 1 will be a Messianic Passover Seder. This meal and service enables both members and guests alike to remember once again God’s deliverance of Israel from bondage and slavery. The Passover foreshadows our deliverance from bondage and slavery to sin. The event will begin at 6:00 pm and will include the meal and the service.

We are delighted to have leading our Passover Seder Steven Cohen, founder of “Apple of His Eye” ministries (appleofhiseye.org), which seeks to bring the good news of Jesus to people of the Jewish faith.

NOTE: As a congregation, we will be preparing the seder meal itself and all of the items in this traditional meal. If you are interested in being part of the food preparation team, please contact the church office or Pastor Mike. We are seeking to put together a team to plan, coordinate and prepare the meal for this event. Instructions and recipes have been provided by Apple of His Eye Ministries.

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Guest Preacher February 2

## **Rev. Aaron Putnam, LINC Bay Area**

We are delighted to welcome Rev. Aaron Putnam, executive director of LINC Bay Area, as our guest preacher on Sunday February 2. Rev. Putnam will be proclaiming God’s work and will also provide information on the ministry of LINC Bay Area.

LINC Bay Area is part of a network of Lutheran mission agencies across the country seeking to grow the Kingdom of God. The mission goals of LINC Bay Area are threefold

- Engaging local leaders
- Equipping new ministries
- Empowering community impact

Our congregation is partners with LINC Bay Area in providing ongoing ministry training for Deacon Francisco Hurtado. We also support LINC Bay Area with an offering from our endowment fund. To learn more about LINC Bay Area, go to [www.bayarea.link.org](http://www.bayarea.link.org).



## Mission India Trip

St. John's has been partnering with Mission India for the past 12 years. Each Sunday we pray for our ministry partners by name, seeking the Lord's blessing upon them and their work. Through our relationship with Mission India, we have had the chance to partner in the transforming of many lives. For more information about Mission India, go to [www.missionindia.org](http://www.missionindia.org).

Pastor Mike has been invited by Mission India to return to India and see what the Lord is doing there. Mission India has also invited Tom Hoff to come on this trip. We will have the opportunity to visit literacy classes in action, experience children's bible clubs, and to meet with church planters.

Later this month, Pastor Mike and Tom Hoff will be making a presentation to the church about their experiences. Watch for details regarding the timing.

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**It's Tea-Time Again!**  
**Join us for the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Ladies' Tea**  
Saturday, March 7, 2020  
11:00 AM in the Parish Hall



We are thrilled that our speaker is **Elaine Zimmerman** who will be sharing **GOOD NEWS** with us: The **Story of Stacie** and Disabilities Ministry. This is a fascinating journey full of good news for all.

RSVP to attend or to host/set a table, to Gail Vandeburg, Teresa Schmid or Lauren Huss or [womensministry@stjohnslutheran.net](mailto:womensministry@stjohnslutheran.net)

Tea is provided; please bring a finger food to share.

Tickets will be for sale to enter a drawing for prizes including a quilt and other miscellaneous handmade items donated by Focused on Him Quilters. Proceeds will go to a charity yet to be determined.

This is a free event, hosted by SJL Women's Ministry and sponsored in part by Thrivent Financial. Stay tuned for more information!

Instruction for preparing to receive Holy Communion for sixth, seventh, and eighth graders with their parents will be held on three Tuesday evenings, March 16, 23, 30 from 7:00 – 9:00 PM. A letter and registration form was sent out to those in the 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades who have not yet participated in this learning event. If you did not receive this letter, please contact Pastor Mark at [pastormark@stjohnslutheran.net](mailto:pastormark@stjohnslutheran.net) so that one can be sent to you. First Communion will be on Maundy Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> in the 7:00 PM service.



### ***Soup Supper Volunteers***

It will soon be time to enjoy the fellowship of our Lenten soup suppers. We are looking for groups / couples / families to volunteer to host one of the six Wednesday suppers. (February 26, March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1 Seder Meal) Please contact Teresa Schmid, or the church office if you are willing to help.



### **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.

# ATTENTION ALL CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS!!



The congregation will now accept applications for student grants for the 2020-2021 academic year. All members of St. John's, who plan to attend any of our ten synodical universities or our two seminaries, are eligible to apply. All you have to do is send a brief note to St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church, ATTN: Tim Kramer, or an e-mail to

[tkramer@stjohnslutheran.net](mailto:tkramer@stjohnslutheran.net), announcing your intent to enroll in the 2020-2021 academic year. All applications must include the following information:

- a) Your Name
- b) School Name
- c) Student ID or Account # (if returning student)
- d) Degree you are pursuing
- e) Year and Level of study (e.g. Junior year, Undergrad; 5<sup>th</sup> year, teacher certification, or student teaching; Graduate studies)
- f) Attending Fall Term or Spring Term (or both)
- g) Briefly explain why you're attending Concordia and how you plan to use your studies/future vocation to shine the light of Christ and to witness for Jesus as His kingdom representative in the world.

*Deadline for applications is March 31, 2020.* Actual grant amount to each student is undetermined but will be based, in part, upon the number of students requesting assistance. So, if you are considering attending a synodical university--*even if you have not made a final decision*--please send a brief note informing us of where you are in your decision process so that we can plan accordingly.



# LCC K-9 COMFORT DOG MINISTRY UPDATE

“Walking Together / Serving as One”

To God be the Glory!

As my ministry continues to grow, it's always interesting to see the ways God connects me (and my team) with other people. While most of the people I meet are right here in the Napa Valley, sometimes I wind up meeting people from far away. Last month I met a gentleman from Hawaii who had traveled to the Bay Area for medical treatment. He reached out to my team and I was able to visit with him and his wife while he recuperated in San Francisco.



Later in the month, I spent some time in the classroom with a young girl whose father had recently died. A family friend was familiar with my work through Chaplain Lee Shaw and the Napa Police Department and asked us to visit her. I feel very blessed to have been able to spend some time with her and her classmates during such a difficult time. When their teacher asked them how they felt at the end of my visit, many of them said they felt relaxed and comfortable and better than they had before I arrived. That made me smile! We were also called to comfort after the unexpected death of 2 students in our local schools.

Sometimes I make connections with people when I'm out in the community and not on an "official" visit. The other day I met two wonderful women having lunch at a coffee shop. They were on a break from work at the Napa State Hospital and were so excited to see "Please Pet Me" on my vest. They told me that they it had been a tough morning and that seeing me made their day.

I am so grateful for all the opportunities God provides to connect me with those who are in need of comforting and the love of Christ. During this Lenten season, as we turn our focus to Christ and all He has done for us, I look forward to the new connections He has in store for me where I can share His love with others.

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

## Daily Bible Readings for February

	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Old Testament</b>	<b>New Testament</b>
1	Psalm 18:37-45	Genesis 32:1-21	Matthew 12:9-21 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
2	Psalm 15	Micah 6:1-8	Matthew 5:1-12
3	Psalm 18:46-50	Genesis 32:22-33:20	Matthew 12:22-32
4	Psalm 19:1-6	Genesis 34	Matthew 12:33-45
5	Psalm 19:7-14	Genesis 35:1-36:8	Matthew 12:46-13:9
6	Psalm 20	Genesis 36:9-43	Matthew 13:10-23
7	Psalm 21	Genesis 37	Matthew 13:24-35
8	Psalm 22:1-8	Genesis 38	Matthew 13:36-46 1 Corinthians 2:1-12,(13-16)
9	Psalm 112:1-9,(10)	Isaiah 58:1-9a,(9b-12)	Matthew 5:13-20
10	Psalm 22:9-21	Genesis 39	Matthew 13:47-58
11	Psalm 22:22-28	Genesis 40:1-41:16	Matthew 14:1-14
12	Psalm 22:29-31	Genesis 41:17-57	Matthew 14:15-24
13	Psalm 23	Genesis 42	Matthew 14:25-15:9
14	Psalm 24	Genesis 43	Matthew 15:10-20
15	Psalm 25:1-7	Genesis 44	Matthew 15:21-28 1 Corinthians 3:1-9
16	Psalm 119:1-8	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Matthew 5:21-37
17	Psalm 25:8-22	Genesis 45	Matthew 15:29-16:4
18	Psalm 26	Genesis 46:1-27	Matthew 16:5-20
19	Psalm 27:1-6	Genesis 46:28-47:31	Matthew 16:21-28
20	Psalm 27:7-14	Genesis 48	Matthew 17:1-13
21	Psalm 28	Genesis 49	Matthew 17:14-27
22	Psalm 29	Genesis 50	Matthew 18:1-14 2 Peter 1:16-21
23	Psalm 2	Exodus 24:12-18	Matthew 17:1-9
24	Psalm 30:1-5	Exodus 1:1-2:10	Matthew 18:15-35
25	Psalm 30:6-12	Exodus 2:11-3:22	Matthew 19:1-12
26	Psalm 31:1-5	Exodus 4:1-5:9	Matthew 19:13-22
27	Psalm 31:6-9	Exodus 5:10-6:12	Matthew 19:23-30
28	Psalm 31:10-20	Exodus 6:13-7:24	Matthew 20:1-16
29	Psalm 31:21-24	Exodus 8	Matthew 20:17-28

## Serving in Worship February 2020

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>USHERS</u>	<u>LAY READERS</u>	<u>ACOLYTES</u>
Feb 2 Epiphany 4	8:30 AM HC	Curtis Schoenfeld The Ehlen Family	Ruth Peterson	Mike Newton
	Traditional			
	10:15 AM HC	Missy Loban, Tyler Koen, Bon Irwin	Jennie Lovie	Tyler Koen Patrick Yoder
	Blended			
Feb 9 Epiphany 5	8:30 AM	Bev & Clint Holdsworth	Lois Johnson	Tim Kramer
	Traditional			
	10:15 AM HC	The Cremen and Perna Families	Samantha Yoder	Boy Scouts
	Blended			
Feb 16 Epiphany 6	8:30 AM HC	Bob Klein, Gerry Schneider Bill Clark, Ben & Amy Wilson	Susan Clark	Gary Virkus
	Traditional			
	10:15 AM	The Hammond & De Young Families	Gabi Richardson	Samantha Carey
	Blended			Eva Winkler
Feb 23 Transfiguration	8:30 AM HC	George Fleishmann, Gary & Marlen Virkus	Gail Vandeburgt	Sam Schneider
	Traditional			
	10:15 AM HC	Missy Loban, Tyler Koen, Bon Irwin	Megan Schweiger	Grayson Cushing
	Blended			Soren DeYoung
Feb 26 Ash Wednesday	1:00 PM	Marlen & Gary Virkus		
	7:00 PM	Clint & Bev Holdsworth	Ella Powers	

## CALENDAR

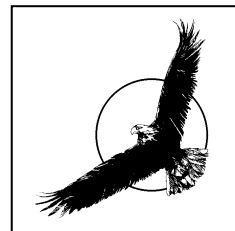
## CALENDAR

# Serving in Worship February 2020

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>SOUND TECHS</u>	<u>COMMUNION ASSISTANTS</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>
Feb 2  Epiphany 4	8:30 AM HC	Bill Clark	<i>Liturgist:</i> <i>Mike Newton</i> Ron Johnson, Gary Virkus	The Miller Family
	Traditional		Ben Wilson Gerry Schneider	
	10:15 AM Blended	Flynn Irwin		The Hammond & De Young Families
Feb 9  Epiphany 5 Scout Sunday	8:30 AM	Kaleb Anderson	<i>Liturgist: Gerry Schneider</i>	Nancy Gressinger
	Traditional			
	10:15 AM HC Blended	Chris Newman	<i>Team Leader:</i> <i>Ron Johnson</i> Dove Bain, Tim Bouchet, Natalie & Samantha Yoder	Boy Scouts
Feb 16  Epiphany 6	8:30 AM HC	Kyle Ebeling	Bill Clark, Bob Klein	The Ehlen Family
	Traditional		Tim Kramer Gerry Schneider	
	10:15 AM Blended	Grant Menzel		The Bouchet Family
Feb 23  Transfiguration	8:30 AM HC	Bill Clark	Bob Klein, Mike Newton, Gary Virkus, Ben Wilson	Sharon Mitchell
	Traditional			
	10:15 AM HC Blended	Whitney Powers	<i>Team Leader:</i> <i>Andy Schweiger</i> Megan Schweiger Pam Barker, Anne Heine, Paula Schweiger	J.T. & Janelle Mason
Feb 26 Ash Wednesday	1:00 PM		Tim Kramer	Nancy Gressinger
	7:00 PM	Kaleb Anderson	Bill Clark, Mike Newton, Joel Wahlers, Bob Perna	The Hammond & De Young Families

# SCHOOL NEWS

By Joel Wahlers



We are currently enrolling students for the 2020-21 school year. We have our annual Spring Open House on **January 30<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.** This is open to anyone who is interested in St. John's or in what is going on at the school.

Over Presidents' Day weekend (February 13-15), our 5-8<sup>th</sup> graders, teachers, and families will be traveling to Portland for the Lutheran Elementary School Tournament (LEST) at Concordia University. This annual tournament invites twenty Lutheran schools from around the Northwest and Northern California. Students will participate and compete in basketball, swimming, dance, cheer, academic events (math, knowledge bowl, science, chess, spelling), choir events (choraliers, handbells, tone chimes), music events (vocal, vocal ensemble, piano, violin), robotics, art, writing, and technology (video production). This is a great experience for our kids, and it is one that allows our students to showcase their gifts and talents and enjoy fellowship with other Lutheran school students.

Our annual APT Main Event Dinner and Auction is scheduled for **March 21<sup>st</sup>**. If you are interested in being an official Event Sponsor or just sponsor 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>

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).

## OFFERING UPDATE

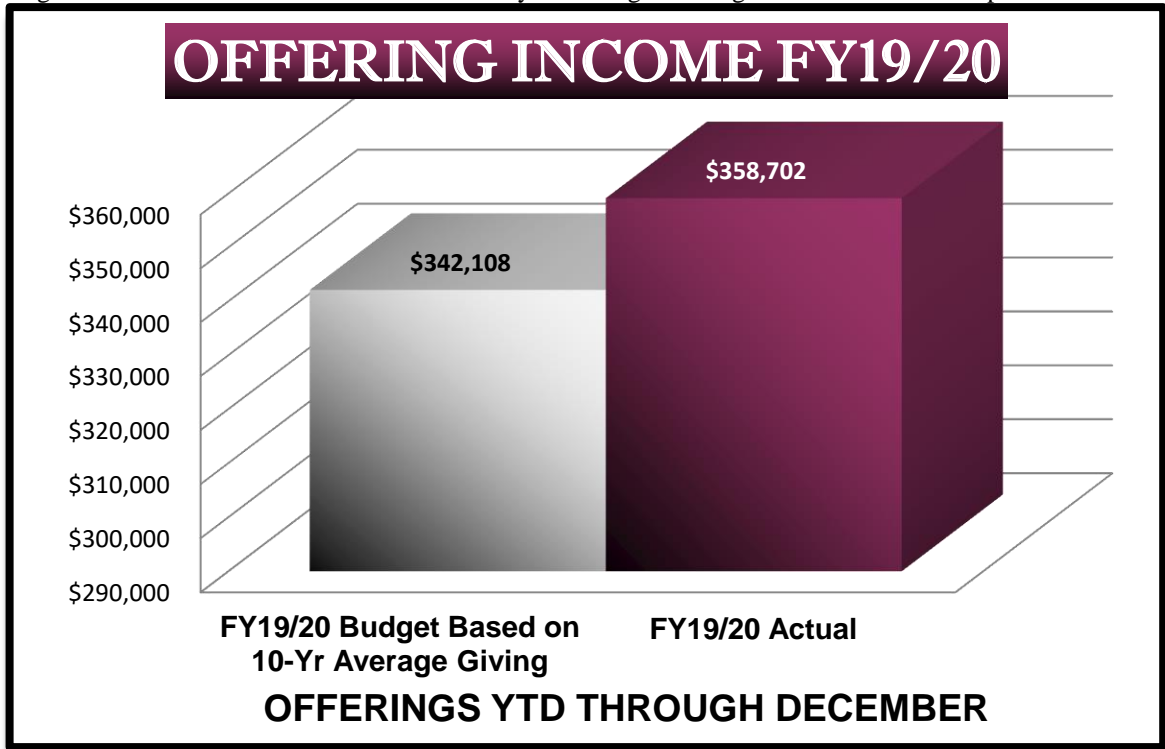
Actual Offering Income for Dec:

**\$83,091.**

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

**\$358,702** which is **4.85%** or **\$16,594** 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:

*“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in Me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.” (John 14:12) (ESV)*

### Faith Empowers God’s Stewards

The writer of Hebrews defines faith: *“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see”* (Hebrews 11:1). Faith enables us to be God-pleasing stewards. *“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to*



*Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him”* (Hebrews 11:6). The eleventh chapter of Hebrews is known as the “Faith Chapter.” From Abel down through the ages, the writer names the heroes of faith, listing their accomplishments, preceding each one with “by faith.”

Through faith, we understand that our stewardship is God working in and through us. It is not what we do, not what we give, not how we serve – but what God does, what God gives, how God serves, and our response to His love and gifts to us. God has shown us His plan for our lives. *“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do”* (Ephesians 2:10). This is the definition of stewardship: doing the good works which God has prepared for us to do. God empowers and equips us to be faithful stewards. God has chosen us to carry out His work on earth. ***“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last”*** (John 15:16).

It is through faith that our pastors confidently preach the Word of the Lord. It is God’s message, God’s gift, and he is only the channel through which it flows. Through faith, the servant humbly steps forward to serve. His only motive is that God may receive the glory as he offers his hands, feet, lips, his whole body, soul, and mind in service. Through faith, the teacher diligently prepares her lessons, seeking the leading of the Holy Spirit, studying the Word of God, and looking into the hearts of her students. God creates the learning; His Spirit creates the faith. As stewards, we are the faithful vessels that God uses. Through faith, God can make us into His faithful stewards.

**Prayer:** Lord, You are the creator and source of all good things. I thank You for the privilege and opportunity that You give me to be a steward of Your creation. I thank You for the faith that You give me which enables me to carry out Your will. I thank You for Your love and grace. Help me to be a faithful steward in telling others of Jesus’ love. I pray that You will continue to work in me so that I can be the steward that You created me to be. In the name of Christ I pray. Amen.

Adapted from *“Maturing as Stewards through Faith, Love, and Hope”* 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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# Disability Ministry: Feeling Comfortable With People Who Have Disabilities

Submitted by Pastor Ted Zimmerman

Adapted from an article written by Art Larson appearing in an earlier issue of C-N-H District Newsletter “In Touch”

It is important to remember that in the context of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA), “disability” is a legal term rather than a medical one. Because it has a legal definition, the ADA’s definition is different from how disability is defined under other laws.

The ADA defines a person with a disability as a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity. This includes people who have a record of such an impairment, even if they do not currently have a disability.

While there is not enough space to define all physical or mental disabilities, the following is a link to the Specialized Ministries Information Sheets from the LCMS web site <http://lcms.org/socialissues.disability>. It includes information about people who are blind, deaf, or having mobility disabilities, mental illness, or developmental disabilities.

The concern of the Church for those with disabilities needs to be how does their particular disability significantly impact their participation with us in worship, fellowship, Christian growth, and service? And what can be done to free them up to feel welcomed and fully participate in normal congregational activities? Here’s where we have to employ “empathy” rather than mere “sympathy”. We need to try to understand their situation and feelings, not just feel sorry for them. With empathy we can better find ways to empower their full participation.

Moreover, while persons with a particular “disability” may be limited in what they can do in some life activities, it does not mean that they have no “abilities”. They have abilities to minister to others, and are not limited to only receiving ministry.

## 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>





Needing ideas on how to budget your spending in 2020? Many people use gift cards (Scrip) to help achieve their goals! Whether you budget weekly or monthly, gift cards could be the answer. Pick up your grocery cards (Safeway, Lucky, Raley's/Nob Hill, Target or Walmart) gas cards (Arco, Chevron, Shell) Starbucks, Visa etc. and use these instead of cash. Stop by the school office during regular school hours, and purchase your gift cards with the money you have budgeted for these expenses. This may help prevent impulse buying. A listing of cards we have available are attached. Wishing you all a very Happy New Year!!

February 9, 2020 at 11:30 AM in Room 10

Roses are Red! And so is the February Potluck! Celebrate Valentine's Day with your friends at the potluck. Bring a dish with red food.....spaghetti, chili, beef, red jello, strawberries....or bring any dish you would like to share. See you there! For questions contact Ron and Lois Johnson, John and Pam Footitt, or Neill and Pam Barker.



## 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.



@sjlcnapa



@sjlcnapa



@stjohnsnapa



## So what's new at the Farm?

Submitted by Ted Zimmerman

Attention, please! It is time to announce the total amount of fresh fruits and vegetables raised on the Mission Farm and submitted to the Napa County Food Bank to help feed financially stressed people. Drum roll, please: tat-a-tat-a-tat-a-

tat. We are pleased to announce that the Mission Farm Team has raised and contributed during the year 2019 the total of 12,166 lbs. -- or, if you prefer, 6.083 tons of produce! The Lord is good!

We've reached a quiet time on the Farm. Nearly all the crops are in, including some of the cool weather crops: broccoli, broccolini, Brussel sprouts, and carrots. Now we are allowing (and encouraging) the Rain Master to send refreshing rains while the volunteers rest and heal from any wear and tear experienced during the busy season. There are still certain activities that need to take place: pruning the trees (thanks Ron and Brian), spreading wood chips on the road ways (thanks Dick), weeding (whenever we can find a relatively dry time), seeding cover crop (thank you team), and planning for the next crop year.

We've added another implement for the Big Orange Dream Machine (otherwise known as Mr. Kubota) – a plow that will allow us to turn the soil over to the depth of 12". That will make for healthier soil, and hence, better crop returns.

What we would also like to add are more volunteers to join us. Mr. Kubota has taken a lot of the back-breaking work out of the equation. No previous gardening or farming experience is required (although helpful). We can teach you what needs to be done and how to do it. We are generally on the site of Monday, Wednesday and Saturday mornings.

If you can't give that much time to the project, come when you can. Or volunteer for our "On Call" list when we have need for a lot of volunteers during planting or harvest times. For more information, call me, Ted Zimmerman (294-2033) or Ron Johnson (299-9517).



## YOUTH NEWS

Crew 34! The Crew will get together this month on February 6th from 6-7:30 in the preschool. We hope you can join us this month even if you haven't been ever before. It will be a blast!

Surge! Surge is going to be in action even with all of the craziness in the month of February. We will be Surging on February 4th an 11th. Each Surge event will run from 6-7:30pm and we will meet in Room 8. Come Surge with us!

PRAYER NIGHT! Yes! We are hosting a family prayer night on February 25th from 6-8pm. We know the power of prayer and that our God is listening every time we call on His name so we will be creating a space for you and your family to pray together. This event will begin in the sanctuary and will include a time of worship along with the prayer stations around campus. We look forward to seeing you there. If you need any information please contact Kevin Mathison.



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DATE	COUPLE	YEARS
1	David & Kathy Fitzgerald	34
13	Doug & DeDe Messner	27
14	Tom & Elaine Hoff	33
25	Sandra & Stewart Mehrens	36

3	Lisa Thornton, Katya Kampton, Terry Peterson
4	Jenece Como
6	Bret Skillings
7	Tim Bouchet, Steve Rock
8	Larraine Ewing
9	Stephen Santora, Andrew Schluter
10	Karen Schoenfeld, Carson Dahl
11	Sarah Franklin, Steve Dierker
15	Teresa Schmid, Clayton D'Angelo, Kimberly Uffmann
16	Kim McGrath
18	Ruth Peterson
19	Tessa Mello
20	Cliff Burmester
21	Jakob Chaudhary, Leonard Bommersbach
22	Erin Wilson
23	Steven Jeffery, Lucas Wedding, Tom Carey, Gisela Chaudhary
25	Jeffrey Craft
26	Christopher Vecera
27	Mark Zeller, Cindy Zeller
29	Elizabeth Munoz





“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)!

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.



**Men's  
Breakfast & Bible  
Study**

# THE VINE

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church, LCMS  
3521 Linda Vista Ave.  
Napa, California 94558-2703

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

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



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## **Church**

Phone: (707) 255-0119

Fax: (707) 255-3041

Email: [churchoffice@stjohnslutheran.net](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnslutheran.net)

Rev. Michael A. Schmid, Lead Pastor (ext. 122)

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

## **School**

Phone: (707) 226-7970

Fax: (707) 226-7974

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)