



# THE VINE

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

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

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## **Mission India Presentation**

**Date: Sunday, March 8, 2020**

**Time: 12 noon**

**Place: Parish Hall**

You are invited to a presentation by Pastor Mike and Tom Hoff about their recent trip to India with Mission India. They will share stories, pictures and videos of the trip, answer questions, and provide more information about the work God is doing in India through this ministry. You will also have the opportunity to take a quick virtual trip to India, using VR equipment brought by Mission India Staff, Michael Blaser, who will be on hand to answer questions about the work of Mission India

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).

## The Challenge and the Cross

This Lent, we are invited to go on the 40 day Red Letter Challenge 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.



<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.

# 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 and 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 pm in the parish hall.

### **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.

### **Wednesday, March 11**

### **The Wounds of Violating the Sabbath**

In this service, we remember that the wounds of violating the Sabbath we committed against our Lord were laid on Christ on the cross. Our Lenten observance reminds us that though we have been brought low by sin, our Lord will bless us with new life in Him through the cross.

### **Wednesday, March 18**

### **The Wounds of Murder**

In this service, we remember that the wounds of murder and violence we committed against our Lord were laid on Christ on the cross. Our Lenten observance reminds us that though we have been brought low by sin, our Lord will bless us with new life in Him through the cross.

### **Wednesday, March 25**

### **The Wounds of Adultery**

We remember that the wounds of adultery and unfaithfulness we committed against our Lord were laid on Christ on the cross. Our Lenten observance reminds us that though we have been brought low by sin, our Lord will bless us with new life in Him through the cross.

# 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](http://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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## NEW SOUTH CAMPUS FENCING

You have probably noticed the new rod iron fencing going in between the Sanctuary and the Parish Hall as well as the breezeway by the church office. As we announced in the fall, this fencing is part of our Campus Security Plan (approved by the Board of Directors and discussed at a congregational open forum in October).



This plan has included a number of other security measures intended to keep our students and staff a little safer. Once complete, gates by the bell tower and the breezeway will be keyed to the master church/school key. So, if you can get into the church, parish hall, or classrooms, the same key will work on these gates. At this time, the area between the school and church offices will still be open for access to the campus at all times. Please remember to sign in at the church or school office while on campus during the school day (8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.).

## ***What Exactly Is Stephen Ministry?***

Stephen Ministry is a ministry in our congregation in which trained and supervised lay persons, called Stephen Ministers, provide one-to-one Christian care to individuals facing life challenges or difficulties.



## ***Who Is Involved?***

**Stephen Leaders** are the ones who oversee and direct our Stephen Ministry. They recruit, select, train, organize, and supervise our Stephen Ministers, identify people in need of care, and match them with a Stephen Minister. We have 3 Stephen Leaders. They are Pastor Mark, Pam Barker, and Penni Cremen.

**Stephen Ministers** are the caregivers. They have engaged in 50 hours of training in Christian caregiving, including general topics such as listening, feelings, boundaries, assertiveness, and using Christian resources in caregiving. In addition, training covers specialized topics such as ministering to the divorced, hospitalized, bereaved, and aging. We currently have seven active Stephen Ministers. They are: Clare King, Jeff Mellow, Deidre Newton, Jason Newton, Linda Reed, Karen Wall, and Roxana Wright.

**Care receivers** are the recipients of Stephen Ministers' care. They are people from our church, school, or community who are experiencing divorce, grief, loss of a job, loneliness, hospitalization, terminal illness, or any of a number of other life difficulties. Stephen Ministers usually meet with their care receivers once a week for about an hour for as long as the care receiver will benefit by the relationship.

## ***What Do Stephen Ministers Do?***

Stephen Ministers are caring Christian friends who listen, understand, accept, and pray for and with care receivers who are working through a crisis or a tough time.

## ***Are Stephen Ministers Counselors?***

Stephen Ministers are not counselors; they are trained lay caregivers. Their role is to listen and care – not to give advice or counsel. Stephen Ministers are also trained to recognize when a care receiver's need exceeds what they can provide. When that happens they work with the care receivers to help them receive the level of care they really need.

## ***Can I Trust a Stephen Minister?***

Trust is essential to a caring relationship, and Stephen Ministers are people you can trust. Confidentiality is one of the most important principles of Stephen Ministry, and what a care receiver tells his or her Stephen Minister is kept in strictest confidence.

### ***Why the Name Stephen?***

The name *Stephen* comes from St. Stephen, who was the first lay person commissioned by the apostles to provide caring ministry to those in need as recorded in Acts 6.

### ***What's the Pastor's Role?***

Pastors will always be the primary caregivers, but there is no way pastors can meet all the needs for care. God has called all of us, not just pastors, to minister to one another. Stephen Ministry multiplies ministry by turning pastors into equippers so they can enable lay people to provide caring ministry as well.

### ***Where Did It All Start?***

Stephen Ministry has been around since 1975, when Kenneth Haugk, a pastor and clinical psychologist, began it to multiply the caregiving in his congregation in St. Louis, Missouri. Our congregation is now one of more than 13,000 Stephen Ministry congregations from more than 170 Christian denominations.

### ***How Can Someone Receive Care from a Stephen Minister?***

Penni Cremen is our Stephen Leader who coordinates referrals. If you or someone you know could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister, you can talk to her or to Pastor Mark. If you want to talk about Stephen Ministry for someone else, make sure you get his or her permission first.

### ***How Much Does it Cost?***

Stephen Ministry is a caregiving ministry available to members of our church, school, and community free of charge.

### ***How Can Someone Become a Stephen Minister?***

Begin by talking to one of our Stephen Leaders or Stephen Ministers and they can tell you more. We usually train a new class of Stephen Ministers once a year, and we plan to begin our next training class in August 2020. Stephen Ministers make a two-year commitment to train and serve.



You are invited to the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual  
CNH District Missions Conference

# Good News People

Saturday March 21, 2020

9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

(Check In and Continental Breakfast 8:30 – 9:15)

Our Savior, Livermore  
1385 South Livermore Avenue  
Livermore CA

## Featuring Keynote Speakers

Dr. Justin Hannemann , CEO of Grace Point Institute for Relational Health  
Heather Choate Davis, Author, Speaker and co-founder of Icktank  
and 8 breakout sessions on personal and congregational evangelistic witness.

\$35 per person

To register, go to [www.cnh-lcms.org](http://www.cnh-lcms.org)

Deadline is Thursday, March 12



YOUTH NEWS

CREW 34: Our wildest group is back in action on March 26th from 6-7:30pm in the preschool. If you or your child are in 3rd or 4th grade and want more information, please contact Kevin Mathison.

SURGE: We are back on schedule for our 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Tuesday events! March 3rd, 10th, & 24th from 6-7:30pm at St. John's. We will also be hosting a 5th Tuesday Surge on March 31st.

# GIVE+

**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.

# 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 Vandeburgt, Teresa Schmid or Lauren Huss or [womensmisistry@stjohnslutheran.net](mailto:womensmisistry@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!

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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.



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## St. John's March Dine & Donates

- Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> from 11 AM – 9 PM at Hop Creek Restaurant – 20%
- Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> all day at Butter Cream Bakery & Diner – 20%



You can find required flyers in the church and school offices and in the Narthex.  
Thanks for supporting our school!



# 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.

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We will not have potlucks in March, April and May because during March there will be Lent Soup Suppers. Easter is the second Sunday in April, and Mother's Day is the second Sunday in May.



# LCC K-9 COMFORT DOG MINISTRY UPDATE

“Walking Together / Serving as One”

To God be the Glory!

Spring may be just around the corner but the daffodils are already blooming in front of the church office and I am enjoying all the new sights and sounds that signal the start of a new season. There is lots of activity at the Mission Farm now and I really enjoy “checking out” the new growth of crops coming in. I may not have the opportunity to sample the crops but everything looks and smells delicious!



In February, I joined members from St. John’s at the Best Practices in Ministry conference in Phoenix, AZ. This annual conference is particularly special to me because it is the place where many congregations (and members of our team) first learned about the LCC K9 Comfort Dog ministry several years ago. Now that we are a part of this ministry, we are truly blessed to share our experiences with others. I also enjoy reuniting with some of the LCC staff who join us from headquarters in Northbrook, IL. One of the highlights of my time at conference is when I get to play with the other comfort dogs.

I am very excited to be visiting Napa High School on a regular basis now. It is amazing to see how many “doors” God has opened in the time I have been here in Napa. Just a few years ago, I was visiting a handful of schools and now I am visiting many of our Napa Valley schools on a regular basis. I love meeting people and making new friends and I cannot wait to see where God will send me next!

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

# Serving in Worship March 2020

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>SOUND TECHS</u>	<u>COMMUNION ASSISTANTS</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>
March 1 Lent 1	8:30 AM HC Traditional	Bill Clark	Bill Clark, Ron Johnson, Tim Kramer, Gerry Schneider	Dean & Nancy Ehlen
	10:15 AM Blended	Flynn Irwin		The Meissenhalter Family
March 4 Midweek 2	1:00 PM	Kyle Ebeling		
	7:00 PM			
March 8 Lent 2	8:30 AM Traditional	Kaleb Anderson		Nancy Gressinger
	10:15 AM HC Blended	Grant Menzel	<b>Team Leader:</b> <b>Ron Johnson</b> Dove Bain, Bob & Kari Perna, Natalie Yoder	The Bouchet Family
March 11 Midweek 3		Whitney Powers		
	7:00 PM			
March 15 Lent 3	8:30 AM HC Traditional	Kyle Ebeling	Bill Clark, Bob Klein, Tim Kramer, Gary Virkus	Sharon Mitchell
	10:15 AM Blended	Andy Schweiger		The Mason Family
March 18 Midweek 4		Bill Clark		
	7:00 PM			
March 22 Lent 4	8:30 AM Traditional	Bill Clark	<b>Liturgist: Gerry Schneider</b>	The Wayne Miller Family
	10:15 AM HC Blended	Chris Newman	<b>Team Leader: Tim Huss</b> Joel Wahlers, Dove Bain, Pam Barker, Tim Bouchet, Anne Heine	The Bresee Family
March 25 Midweek 5		Chris Newman		
	7:00 PM			
March 29 Lent 5	8:30 AM HC Traditional	Kaleb Anderson	Bill Clark, Tim Kramer, Mike Newton, Gary Virkus	Ruth Peterson
	10:15 AM HC Blended	Whitney Powers	<b>Team Leader: Joel Wahlers</b> Tim Bouchet, Anne Heine, Natalie & Samantha Yoder	The Kampton Family

## CALENDAR

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# Serving in Worship March 2020

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>USHERS</u>	<u>LAY READERS</u>	<u>ACOLYTES</u>
March 1 Lent 1	8:30 AM HC Traditional	Curtis Schoenfeld The Ehlen Family	Sarah Kramer	Tim Kramer
	10:15 AM Blended	The Cremen and Perna Families	Jennie Lovie	Tyler Koen, Patrick Yoder
March 4 Midweek 2	1:00 PM		Tim Kramer	
	7:00 PM	Clint & Bev Holdsworth		
March 8 Lent 2	8:30 AM Traditional	Clint & Bev Holdsworth	Gail Valeskie	Gary Virkus
	10:15 AM HC Blended	Missy Loban, Tyler Koen, Ron Irwin	Kristi Carey	Abigail Munoz, Eva Winkler
March 11 Midweek 3	7:00 PM	The Hammond & De Young Families	Andy Schweiger	
March 15 Lent 3	8:30 AM HC Traditional	George Fleischmann, Gary & Marlen Virkus	Lois Johnson	Sam Schneider
	10:15 AM Blended	The Cremen and Perna Families	Gabi Richardson	Samantha Carey, Eva Winkler
March 18 Midweek 4	7:00 PM	Bob Klein, Gerry Schneider, Bill Clark, Ben & Amy Wilson	Gail Vandeburgt	
March 22 Lent 4	8:30 AM Traditional	Bob Klein, Gerry Schneider, Bill Clark, Ben & Amy Wilson	Ruth Peterson	Bob Klein
	10:15 AM HC Blended	Missy Loban, Tyler Koen, Ron Irwin	Ella Powers	Grayson Cushing Patrick Yoder
March 25 Midweek 5	7:00 PM	The Hammond & De Young Families	Samantha Yoder	
March 29 Lent 5	8:30 AM HC Traditional	George Fleischmann, Gary & Marlen Virkus	Susan Clark	Mike Newton
	10:15 AM HC Blended	The Cremen and Perna Families	CarlJohn Meissenhalter	Tyler Koen, Patrick Yoder

## Daily Bible Readings for March

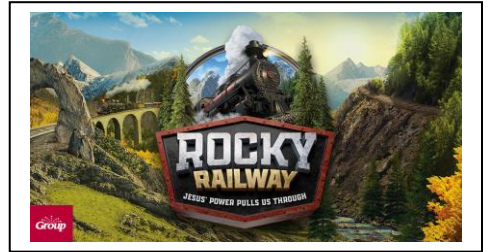
	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Old Testament</b>	<b>New Testament</b>
1	Psalm 32	Gen. 2:15-17;3:1-7	Matthew 4:1-11; Romans 5:12-19
2	Psalm 32	Exodus 9	Matthew 20:29-21:11
3	Psalm 33:1-5	Exodus 10	Matthew 21:12-22
4	Psalm 33:6-11	Exodus 11:1-12:20	Matthew 21:23-32
5	Psalm 33:12-22	Exodus 12:21-51	Matthew 21:33-46
6	Psalm 34:1-7	Exodus 13:1-14:18	Matthew 22:1-14
7	Psalm 34:8-18	Exodus 14:19-15:21	Matthew 22:15-22
8	Psalm 121	Genesis 12:1-4a	John 3:1-17; Romans 4:1-5,13-17
9	Psalm 34:19-22	Exodus 15:22-16:36	Matthew 22:23-40
10	Psalm 35:1-10	Exodus 17:1-18:6	Matthew 22:41-23:12
11	Psalm 35:11-18	Exodus 18:7-19:9	Matthew 23:13-22
12	Psalm 35:19-28	Exodus 19:10-20:21	Matthew 23:23-32
13	Psalm 36	Exodus 20:22-21:27	Matthew 23:33-39
14	Psalm 37:1-6	Exodus 21:28-22:24	Matthew 24:1-25
15	Psalm 95	Exodus 17:1-7	John 4:5-42; Romans 5:1-11
16	Psalm 37:7-15	Exodus 22:25-23:26	Matthew 24:26-35
17	Psalm 37:16-22	Exodus 23:27-25:9	Matthew 24:36-44
18	Psalm 37:23-26	Exodus 25:10-40	Matthew 24:45-51
19	Psalm 37:27-33	Exodus 26	Matthew 25:1-13
20	Psalm 37:34-40	Exodus 27:1-28:14	Matthew 25:14-30
21	Psalm 38:1-8	Exodus 28:15-43	Matthew 25:31-46
22	Psalm 23	1 Samuel 16:1-13	John 9:1-41; Ephesians 5:8-14
23	Psalm 38:9-16	Exodus 29:1-30	Matthew 26:1-13
24	Psalm 38:17-22	Exodus 29:31-30:16	Matthew 26:14-30
25	Psalm 39:1-6	Exodus 30:17-31:11	Matthew 26:31-35
26	Psalm 39:7-13	Exodus 31:12-32:29	Matthew 26:36-46
27	Psalm 40:1-8	Exodus 32:30-33:23	Matthew 26:47-58
28	Psalm 40:9-17	Exodus 34	Matthew 26:59-75
29	Psalm 130	Ezekiel 37:1-14	John 11:1-45; Romans 8:6-11
30	Psalm 41	Exodus 35	Matthew 27:1-10
31	Psalm 42	Exodus 36	Matthew 27:11-31

# St. John's VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**June 22-26, 2020**

Climb aboard for mountains of fun at Rocky Railway! On this faith-filled adventure, kids discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs.

**JESUS' POWER PULLS US THROUGH!!**



**Volunteer Sign-Ups and Registration will be available soon!**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

Registration will begin after Easter! Stay tuned for more information!

**We need a lot of volunteers to make VBS happen; please contact Janis King or Megan Mathison if you are interested in helping out.**

(707)226-7970

[jking@stjohnsnapa.org](mailto:jking@stjohnsnapa.org)

[mmathison@stjohnsnapa.org](mailto:mmathison@stjohnsnapa.org)



Please join us on Easter Sunday in between the two services for a fun, traditional egg hunt! We will meet in the center of Faith Chapel. **The Easter Egg Hunt will begin after the conclusion of the 8:30 am service.** (approximately 9:45am)

Don't forget to bring your basket to collect the Easter eggs! This event is for young children up to 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

**DONATIONS OF STUFFED EASTER EGGS** will be greatly appreciated in early April! They can be dropped off in the Preschool Office. Thank you!

Any questions?

Please contact Janis King: [jking@stjohnsnapa.org](mailto:jking@stjohnsnapa.org)





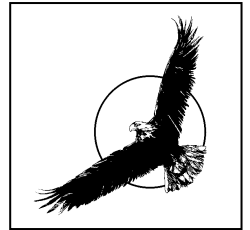
We would be happy to display the flower cross this year for Easter Sunday. Thank you to Penni Cremen who is willing to coordinate the efforts! What a beautiful way to add to the decorations in the sanctuary!! Please bring cut flowers with you on Easter morning to add to the cross. The cross will be out in front of the Parish Hall on Easter morning for you to place the flowers on it. We would like to have this activity completed before we start the Egg Hunt at 9:45am. This is a fun activity for children AND adults!

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## SCHOOL NEWS

By Joel Wahlers

We are currently enrolling students for the 2020-21 school year. If you know of someone who is interested in sending their child to our school, please let them know we have openings in some of our grades.



Over Presidents' Day weekend (February 13-15), our 5-8<sup>th</sup> graders, teachers, and families traveled 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 participated and competed 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. A display in the sanctuary shows how our students did!

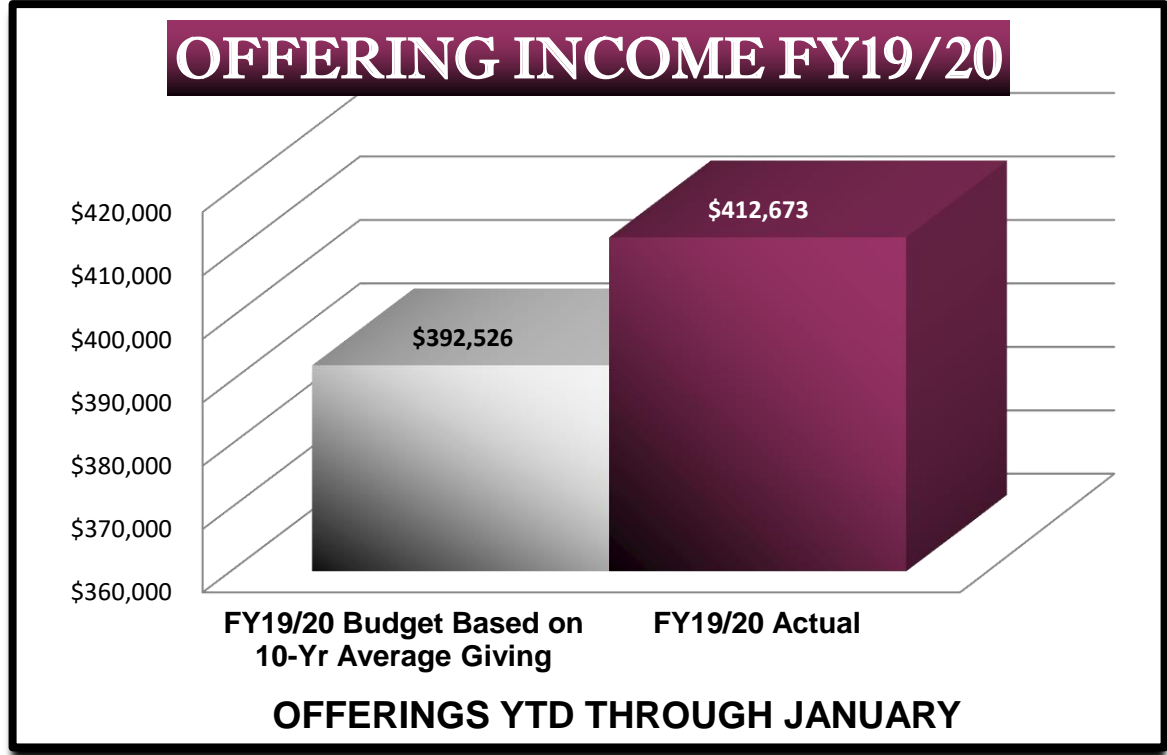
Our annual APT Main Event Dinner and Auction is scheduled for **March 21**. If you are interested in being an official Event Sponsor or just sponsor a teacher to attend the Main Event, please contact the school office or look on the following link for more information - <https://stjnapa.ejoinme.org/MainEvent2020>

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 Jan: **\$53,971.**  
Total Offerings for FY19/20 (as of 31 Jan 20): **\$412,673** which is **5.13%** or **\$20,147** 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:**  
*“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To Him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.” (1 Peter 4:10-11) (ESV)*

**Being a Faithful Steward**

What if someone asked you to give a testimonial about your life as God’s steward? If you were asked to share how you manage and care for God’s property, what would you say? Have you considered what a faithful steward is expected to be and to do?

To be a God-pleasing steward, we need to acknowledge that God is the creator and source of all things. As the creator of all, He owns everything. God's property is on loan to us. As stewards, we are to manage what He has entrusted to us responsibly and for God's purposes. As God's stewards, we are not to be passive managers but active and involved. We are caretakers and managers of God's gifts so we are accountable for what we do with His gifts of time, talents and money. As faithful stewards, we can glorify and honor God with lives of service and faithful use of our gifts.

Stewards live lives expressing gratitude to God for both our created and our redeemed lives. We live lives of saying "thank you" to God for His love and mercy. Stewardship is faith in action. Filled with God's grace, we share our gifts with others.

To answer the question, "Are we being faithful stewards with our lives and gifts?" we may want to check our calendars and check registers. Faithful stewards would have times marked on their calendars for helping others, church meetings, and Bible studies. We would be spending time in prayer and attending worship services. Through faith, we try our best to use our time doing God's will. Our check book register would show regular offerings being made to God through our church, and there would be some checks written to help the needy. Our calendars and check registers will show us what and where our priorities lie.

God has blessed us as stewards with many blessings, but the decision is ours whether or not we will use those gifts for the work of the Lord. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, God enables us to use our gifts faithfully. May God grant us grace to be the faithful stewards that He wants us to be.

**Prayer:** Lord, I give You praise and thanks for who You are and all that You have done for me through Your Son, Jesus. Forgive me, Lord, when I fail to thank You or lead the life that You have called me to lead. Help me to respond as a faithful steward to Your love, goodness and mercy. May all that I do and say give You praise and glory. In Jesus' precious name I pray. Amen.

Adapted from "*Maturing as Stewards through Faith, Love, and Hope*" by Ronald J. and Phyllis J. Chewning, Stewardship Advisors, Inc., 2007.

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## 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>





**Scrip:** What is Scrip? Scrip is simply gift cards. Our school sells gift cards from many vendors as a quick and easy fundraiser. Cards are bought at a discount and sold at face value. The difference goes to our A.P.T. (Association of Parents and Teachers). Examples of cards sold: *Amazon, Bath and Body Works, Chevron, Shell, Arco, Lucky's, Safeway, Target, Raley's/ Nob Hill, Macy's, Starbucks, Peet's.*

Planning a dinner date? We have *Tarla Bar and Grill, Hop Creek Pub, Food Shed and Visa* gift cards available. Stop by the school office during regular school hours to see what is available. The next time you are budgeting for your next shopping adventure, contact the school office and see if they have any Scrip you can use. A list of vendors are available in the school office or on our website [www.stjohnsnapa.org](http://www.stjohnsnapa.org)

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## 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

Normally I include in each article of the Mission Farm the poundage of fruits and veggies that we have sent in to the Napa Food Bank. At this point in the season, that amount isn't very significant. Rather than talk about poundage, let me remind you of the other important "Garden P's" – Planning, Preparing, Planting, Promoting growth, Picking, Prepping . . . did I forget something? Oh, yes, taking note of the Poundage!

A lot of Planning is taking place right now. Those who aim at nothing usually achieve it! Then Preparing the soil by plowing, adding compost, rototilling, etc. Then Planting the seeds, or in some cases the seedling (hoping to get a jump on the season without risking a freeze). Then Promoting growth by fertilizing, protecting with insecticides, weeding, loosening the soil around the plants, watering, etc. When the crops mature, then the fun part begins . . . Picking the produce! Of course, we can't immediately send in the produce. We need to Prep it for the store, trimming the ears of corn, pulling outside leaves of cabbages, washing the carrots, etc. Finally we weigh and note the Poundage and deliver the produce to the Store, the local distribution point for Napa Valley Food Bank.

It's obvious that this takes a lot of time and attention. Many hands make light work. And we certainly could use more volunteers out there this spring and summer and fall. We always have crew members out there on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday mornings, 8 a.m. till 12 noon. If you can only work one of two days a week, that's OK. Come when you can. There are times when we need a lot of hands available, and we will put out an email blast the day before. Come then. Bring a wide brimmed hat and work gloves. We provide water.

Just not available to get your hands dirty? You can put some "green stuff" into the offering plate earmarked "Mission Farm". It too helps immeasurably. And of course, as you are encouraged to do for all of St. John's Ministries, pray for the Farm's success this coming season!

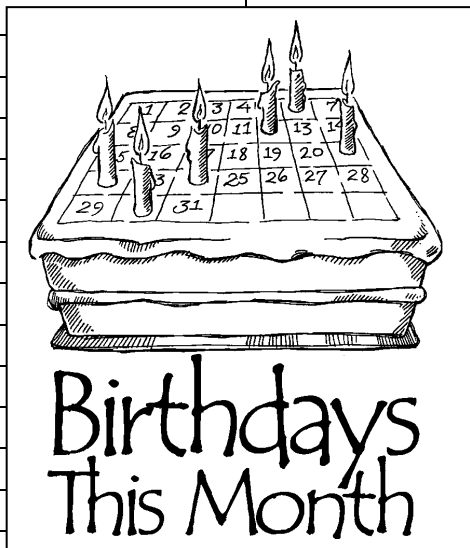
## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

DATE	COUPLE	YEARS
8	Steven & Christi Jeffery	34
9	Mark & Anne Heine	1
11	Richard & Karen Dalen	61
21	David & Kristin Goller	22
31	Joshua & Roxana Wright	8
31	Derek & Danielle Irwin	24



# March Birthdays

1	Soren De Young, Elora Stepp
2	Beckett Koen, Kenneth Reed
5	Cindy Powers
6	Colin Nicholson, Brody Rollin
7	Aven Kampton
8	Christian Craft
9	Vicky Bartelt, Ryan Chagonjian, Pastor Ted Zimmerman
10	Sophie Alexander, Matthew Wahlers
11	Paula Schweiger
12	Debbie Kirkpatrick, Kari Perna, Gail Vandeburgt
13	Isaac Anderson, Mac Engelbracht, Anne Heine
14	Jacob Cremen, George Fleischmann
15	Judy Biggs, Ronald Irwin
16	Linda Hammond
17	Caitlin Newton, Linda Reed
18	Amelia Arnold, Tony Nicholson
19	Janelle Mason, Teresa Yeh
20	Colette Hjerpe, David Newman
21	Sarah Kramer, Brad Seiter
22	Judie Arnett
23	Nancy Ehlen
25	Linda Harvey
27	Douglas Messner
28	Sandra Mehrens
29	John Foottit, Cathy Hartwig, Caroline Zaia
31	Sophia Frey, Patrick Yoder





“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*

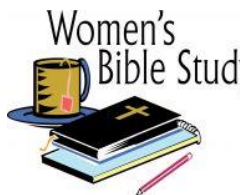
Come join us! No matter what our situation or season in life, we all need discipleship, fellowship, encouragement, and opportunities to serve. St. John's has many options in all of those areas, and we are always open to new ideas!

*“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.



**Men's**

**Breakfast & Bible**

**Study**

# THE VINE

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church, LCMS  
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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. 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

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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)