



THE VINE

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

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

Christy Wood Accepts Call to Serve as Principal

We are delighted to announce that Christy Wood has accepted our call to serve as the next principal of St. John's Lutheran School. She is currently the principal at Lamb of God Lutheran School in Las Vegas. She will complete the school year there and will be relocating to Napa during the summer.

Please keep Christy Wood in your prayers as she begins this transition. Please also remember Lamb of God Lutheran School as they begin the process of seeking a new principal.

When we Go Back to the Sanctuary . . .

As of this writing, we have no idea when regular worship in the sanctuary will resume. Nor do we know how "regular" it will be regarding what kind of restrictions will still be in force. We will continue to follow the guidance from the public health department and our elected local officials regarding resuming public gatherings. But please know that we will continue to stream our worship services and will continue to provide ministry and content for those who are not ready to resume gathering in public or are not able to. We have learned much during these past several weeks regarding using online tools for ministry, and we intend to continue using these gifts of God to better serve the people of St. John's, as well as the greater community, near and far.

Sunday Worship Series

"Well That Was Unexpected!"

Our lives have been disrupted and changed by this pandemic. It has affected our relationships, our families, our activities, and our schedules. For many, it has affected work and income, savings and expenses. We are left unsure and unsettled about what the future will bring.

These are certainly unexpected changes in our lives. The year 2020 is unfolding in ways that none of us imagined when the year began. How do we respond to these unexpected times? What does it mean for us to confess that Jesus is Lord of All, including this situation, and to seek to follow Him?

Our current worship series is entitled: *“Well, That Was Unexpected!”* We will be looking at people from the Bible whom God led in surprising and unexpected ways. Their entire world was turned upside down, leaving them disoriented and cut off from the way things used to be. What can we learn from their stories that helps us in living out our story today?

On May 3 we will focus on Esther and her unexpected call to put her life on the line to save her people. On May 10 we will focus on Gideon and his unexpected call to lead the fight against the Midianites – without an army or weapons.

Wednesday Night Worship

We have started a new streaming worship service on Wednesday nights at 7:00. This is an opportunity to come together to sing, to prayer, and be in the Word of God together. The teaching is intended to be interactive, with Pastor Mike responding to questions and comments via the chat stream.

Beginning on April 29, the Wednesday Night Worship will be focusing on the Gospel of Matthew. This Gospel concludes with Jesus’ call to *“go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”* What is the content of “everything?” This phrase leads us back into the Gospel of Matthew to seek to discern what Jesus has commanded, and even more broadly, what the Holy Spirit is teaching us about Jesus.

We will be working our way through the entire Gospel, listening to what God is saying to us in His Word for our discipleship today. Upcoming weeks include:

- April 29 – “The Skeletons in Jesus’ Closet” (Matthew 1:1-17)
- May 6 – “What’s in a Name?” (Matthew 1:18-25)
- May 13 – “A Global Vision” (Matthew 2:1-12)

The Lord’s Supper To be Celebrated on May 10 and 24

We will be celebrating the Lord’s Supper on May 10 and May 24 in the same way that we did for the Maundy Thursday Service. Please to go this page on our website for information regarding Holy Communion at St. John’s during COVID-19, as well as how to prepare.

<http://stjohnslutheran.net/the-lords-supper-at-st-johns-during-the-covid-19-crisis/> Also, take a look at this video with an explanation by Pastor Mike:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WNK0XJhQzRQ>



Hello St. John's family! I definitely wish this wasn't the case, but as you know we are experiencing some weird, hard times. My prayer for you is that you do not get discouraged, but keep hope that our God is mighty and powerful and bigger than this virus and will see us through. We have the opportunity to connect

deeply with our God through different avenues during this time and we are committed to helping you do so. We will be uploading and sharing resources and encouragement throughout the time that we are "shut down". The facilities may be closed, but God is still at work in each one of us!



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

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



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**Disability Ministry: Feeling Comfortable
With People Who Have Disabilities**
Submitted by Ted Zimmerman

DISABILITY FRIENDLY LANGUAGE

Adapted from an article written by Art Larson appearing in an earlier issue of C-N-H District Newsletter. This article previously appeared in The Vine in the May '15 issue. If you haven't noticed, the language being used in past articles to describe people with disabilities is "people first" language. That means that when describing people with disabilities, the word "people" comes first, then the word identifying the disability. Instead of saying a "blind person", say, "the woman who is blind". Instead of saying "the wheel chair user", say "the person who uses a wheelchair."

Though a change in grammar may seem like a small detail, it can show respect or a lack of understanding to the person with a disability. Using people first language shows that the person with a disability is a person first, and the disability is secondary to who the person is.

When referring to a person who uses a wheel chair, avoid saying "the person confined to a wheel chair." The person is not "confined" to the wheelchair, but uses it as a mobility aid to make life better for the person. Instead of being bound by a wheelchair, it becomes a liberating device that allows him to work, play, maintain a household, and connect with family and friends, and 'have a life'.

Other hurtful terms include "brain-damaged", "slow learner", or "retarded". Using people first language would include "a man with a brain injury," or "a child with a developmental disability". Using the word "retarded", though still in use as a medical term, is hurtful to people with learning disabilities and their family members. Best that we get rid of the "R-word".

A last note to lighten up the article is "handicapped parking places". First, the word "handicapped" should not be used and should be replaced with "disabled". Even then, a "disabled parking place" would mean that the parking place is "disabled". Better: "Parking for persons with disabilities". No matter how the sign reads, don't even think about parking there if you are not disabled. Nor use somebody else's tag unless they are a passenger in your car. It is not only thoughtless and disrespectful of persons with disabilities who really need it. It also can carry with it a very hefty fine!

OFFERING UPDATE

Actual Offering Income for Mar:

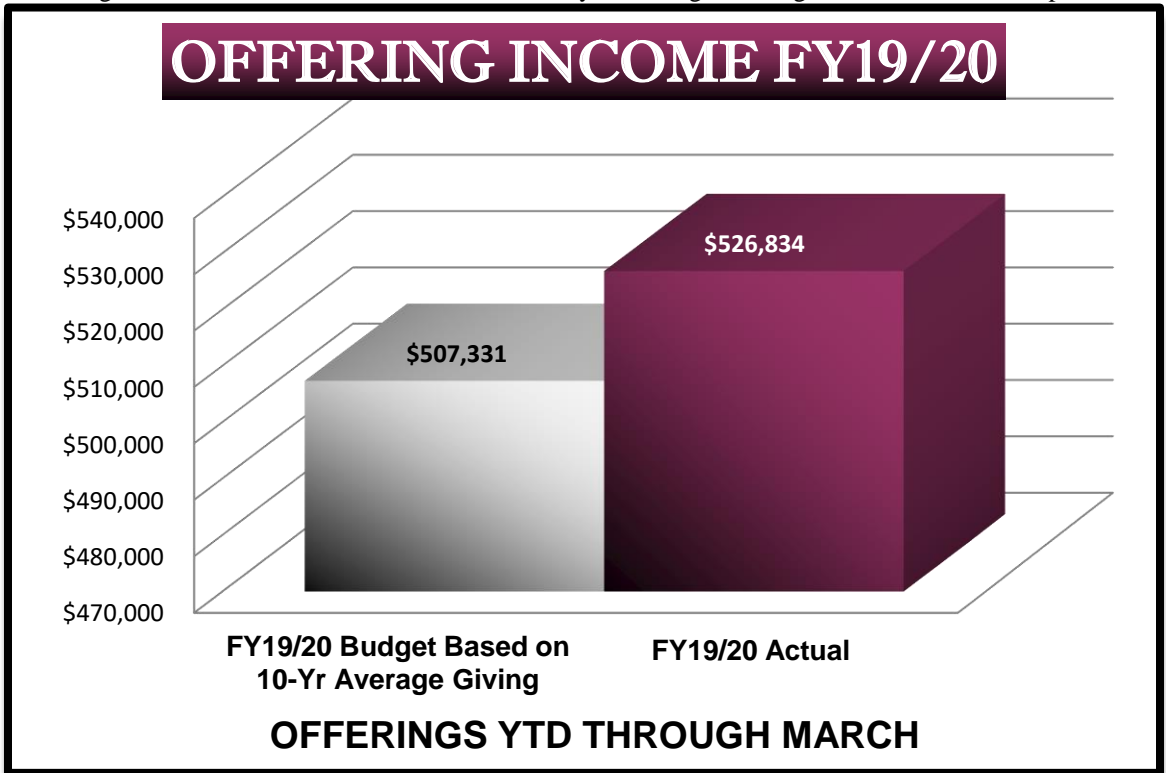
\$54,852.

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

\$526,834 which is **3.84%** or **\$19,503**
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:

“Freely you have received, freely give.” (Matthew 10:8)

Faith Determines the Amount

We, as God’s stewards, should be praying for guidance as we consider the question, “What percentage of my income will I give to the Lord through my church?” Our faith will set the percentage. Jesus said, *“I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you”* (Matthew 17:20). Giving is more a faith issue than a financial

one. Many individuals and/or households enjoy a good income but lack the faith to release it.

We need a faith that dares to sacrifice. Can we be called generous givers when our giving does not cause us to go without at least one single purchase or event? Are we willing to give a sacrificial percentage to God's Kingdom? God does not ask us to give things up just for the sake of giving something up, but He does ask for meaningful self-denial that characterizes our whole lives.

As we answer the question what percentage or proportion to give, we may want to consider God's arithmetic: \$10 minus \$1 for Jesus equals \$10 plus! For unbelievers, this arithmetic does not make sense, but Christian givers who have given proportionately have experienced true spiritual arithmetic. Many have discovered, to their delight, that the remaining part of their incomes goes even further after they have given generously of their firstfruits. Proverbs 11:25 reads, "A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed." St. Paul made a similar statement: "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously" (2 Corinthians 9:6).

Whether God gives us much or little, we are called by faith to give generously. It has been said, "It's not what you'd do with a million / If a million would e'er be your lot / But what you are doing at present / With the dollar and quarter you've got!" (Author Unknown)

Prayer: dear heavenly Father, I thank You that You have given me faith so that I can acknowledge Your love, grace, and mercy for me. Help me always to trust and obey You. I pray that You will use me to tell others of Your love. In Your 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.

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

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So what's new at the Farm?

Submitted by Ted Zimmerman

The current COVID-19 crisis has increased the number of families in our country and county who face food insecurity. I learned from the head of the Napa Valley Food Bank that the number of people they assist with food has quintupled since March! So far they have been able to keep up with the demand, but it is getting to be a real stretch.

The fruits and vegetables raised on our Mission Farm go to the Food Bank. Those served especially appreciate the fresh vegetables we help provide. Last year we turned in over 12,000 lbs. of fresh produce. This year we are going to attempt to raise even more, finally putting into production the last piece of ground closest to the street orchard. We have been hesitant to do so until we were sure we had enough volunteers to help us tend and harvest the crops. With the “social distancing” policies still in effect in our region we haven’t made a big push for additional volunteers, although with three acres of land to work, we don’t all have to be working shoulder to shoulder. And when we meet to discuss things, we can all put on our face masks. We work on the Farm every Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday morning, 8:30 to 11:30. Bring gloves and a wide brimmed hat. You will be especially welcomed when we get to harvest season around the end of May. There will be plenty of produce to harvest and process to take to the Food Bank.

There are other ways to help as well. You can help provide the funds we need to operate by giving designated gifts to St. John’s Lutheran Church, with a memo “Mission Farm”. You can also assist the Napa Valley Food Bank with donations. Sends checks to Napa Valley Food Bank, 1766 Industrial Way, Napa, CA, 94558. And let us not forget to include the “Mission Farm” in our prayers, that the Father in heaven bless the harvest and rebuke the pests (gophers, aphids, grasshoppers, caterpillars, plant diseases, etc.) that devour the crops or cause the trees to cast their fruit – Mal. 3:10-11.

LCC K-9 COMFORT DOG MINISTRY UPDATE

“Walking Together / Serving as One”

To God be the Glory!

***¹ Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.***

***² I will say of the LORD, “He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust.” Psalm 91:1-2***



I hope all of you are staying healthy and safe during this “shelter-at-home” time. I really miss seeing you and am looking forward to a time when we will be together again!

While I may not be able to get out and go on my regular visits, my team has been coming up with creative ways to keep in contact with many of my friends. In addition to sending cards of encouragement to the staff and residents of the local senior living facilities, Veterans Home, fire stations, hospitals and the police department, we have also delivered posters, decorated with photos and favorite memories to let them know we are thinking of and praying for them.

Last month, LCC launched a program that enables the comfort dogs to make “virtual” visits to people as well. So now, we can come “visit” you (on your computer or other electronic device) in the comfort of your own home. It has been a blessing to participate in several of these calls already. Some of my fellow comfort dogs across the country have shared pictures on social media of their virtual visits to hospital workers, first responders, and classrooms. If you are interested in scheduling a virtual visit from me, or any of the other comfort dogs, please visit <https://luthcc.org/virtual-visits>

My “Top Dogs” have been doing an excellent job keeping me active and sharp while at home. We spend time going on walks, working on training, and playtime. I also had the opportunity to get outside for a great cause in April. Joined by my handlers Michele Arnold and Penni Cremen, I once again participated in the “Run for Respect”, a 5k virtual run which supports the efforts of the Special Olympics. This was our third year participating in this “paw”some event, but our first time practicing social distancing!

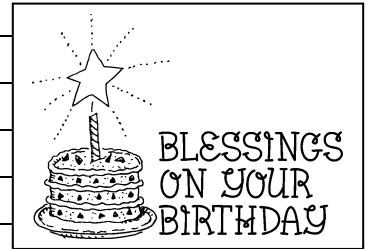
Please stay safe and check out my Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts for updates.

Thanks for your support and prayers! Please check out Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and my website for all the latest news. napavalleycomfortdogs.org

Aaron Comfort Dog



May Birthdays



1	Jeff Mello
2	Dede Messner
3	Penni Cremen
5	Jean Gonzales, Hoag Husted
6	Trisha Tortolani
6	Samantha Carey, Ben Wilson, Zina Zaia
8	Jax Rodriguez, Chad Alexander
9	Tom Hoff, Melissa Loban
11	Kenneth Van Houten III, Ari Knutson
12	Deana Ehlen
13	Naomi Knutson, David Como II, Sarah Santora
14	Meghan Eisberg, Debbie Stanhope
15	Orion Boudreaux, Julie Peterson, Henry Eisberg
16	Donald Hatfield, Melissa Ebeling, Donovan Messner
17	Jack Goller
18	Walt Gmelch, Jay Adams, Sharlene Mulsoff
19	Marissa Griego
21	Brett Carey
22	Deborah Bommersbach
23	Elena Irwin
24	Lauren Frey
25	Bill Clark, Hadrian Newman, Jordan Petersen, Aaron Craft, Tegan Behlmer
26	Daniel D'Angelo
27	Lisa Chaudhary
28	Mia Wagner
29	Doris Klein
30	Anthony Munoz, Christopher Vaziri
31	Carson Mooers, Hudson Faria, Domenic Hjerpe

May Anniversaries



DATE	COUPLE	YEARS
1	Matthew & Kelsey Uffmann	9
9	Robert & Lisa De Young	28
11	Linda & Bob Harvey	29
12	John & Pam Foottit	41
21	Trisha & John Tortolani	18
21	Heather & Daniel Faria	9
24	Nancy & Sal Zaia	33
25	Aven & K.C. Kampton	29
28	John & Janelle Mason	32
29	Karen & Tim Wall	29
30	Elizabeth & Matthew Munoz	21
30	Douglas & Terry Braddock	28
31	Gregory & Janis King	40
31	Ronald & Lois Johnson	17



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.

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>





“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.



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!

(Temporarily postponed)

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. (Temporarily postponed)



**Men's
Breakfast & Bible
Study**

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Our weekly sermons are available on the St. John's website at: www.stjohnslutheran.net.

Visit our school website at: 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/>

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