



# THE VINE

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

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

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## Welcome Christy Wood

Warmest Greetings and thank you for allowing me to introduce myself.

My name is Christy Wood, and I am so excited to be your new principal at St. John's Lutheran School.

I grew up in San Francisco and am a 5<sup>th</sup> generation San Franciscan. I had the privilege of attending West Portal Lutheran and Mercy High School before earning a BS at San Francisco State in Liberal Studies. Knowing the importance of Lutheran education, I attended Concordia University Irvine for my Lutheran Teaching Diploma and California teaching credential. To further my education, I have a master's in Curriculum and Instruction from Concordia University-Irvine, a master's in Educational Leadership from Concordia University Portland and am currently two-thirds finished with a doctorate in Educational Leadership from Concordia University-Irvine, with an anticipated graduation in December 2021.

My husband, Steve, and I have been married for 23 years, and we have been blessed with two children. Our son, Justin, will be a senior at Concordia University – Irvine, where he is majoring in Music education and pre-seminary in preparation to become a pastor. Our daughter, Katelyn, is a nursing student in Nebraska.

I have over 23 years of experience in Lutheran education; I have served as a second, fourth and fifth grade teacher at West Portal Lutheran, a second grade and junior high teacher at Faith Lutheran in Tucson, AZ, and a kindergarten teacher and preschool director at Open Arms- Messiah Lutheran in Tucson, AZ. The majority of my ministry has been at West Portal Lutheran in San Francisco where I was Assistant Principal for 16 years. During that time, I also taught at every grade level for extended periods. For the two years prior to the move to St. John's, I was serving as Director of School Ministries (Principal and Preschool Director) at Lamb of God Lutheran School, Las Vegas, NV.

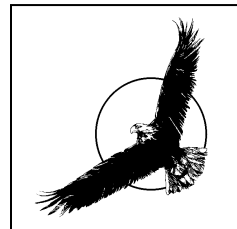
In 2015, I received the Lumen Christi Award from the English District of the LCMS. This award, The Lumen Christi award, is presented to publicly recognize the service of teachers, to further promote and encourage all professional teachers, and to recognize the use of their talents and abilities in service to our Lord. In 2017, the Lutheran Education Association recognized me as the Distinguished Lutheran Elementary Administrator. It is a blessing to now be serving the Lutheran Education Association as a member of their Board of Directors.

Thank you for your warm welcome, and I look forward to meeting you in person soon and serving with you here at St. John's.

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## **SCHOOL NEWS**      by Christy Wood

St. John's Lutheran School is planning for the 2020-2021 school year in high-speed. As plans are continually being made and revised, we are confident that God is with us every step of the way.



The first day of school will be Wednesday, August 26. At this point in time, we will be starting in a distance learning platform. We are so blessed with an incredible group of dedicated individuals here at St. John's who have spent countless hours working this summer to make plans for distance learning, a hybrid model where a limited number of students would be on campus each day, and the goal of returning full time to campus. This next year will definitely be full of challenges and opportunities and lots of prayer.

I look forward to working with everyone at St. John's, and I want to thank you for the warm welcome I have received. It is definitely an interesting time to start a new chapter of ministry.

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).

# Daily Bible Readings for August

	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Old Testament</b>	<b>New Testament</b>
1	Psalm 91:9-16	Joshua 10:1-28	Luke 13:1-17
2	Psalm 145:8-9,14-21	Isaiah 55:1-5	Romans 9:1-5, Matthew 14:13-21
3	Psalm 92:1-8	Joshua 10:29-11:23	Luke 13:18-30
4	Psalm 92:9-15	Joshua 12:1-13:7	Luke 13:31-14:6
5	Psalm 93	Joshua 13:8-14:5	Luke 14:7-24
6	Psalm 94:1-11	Joshua 14:6-15:19	Luke 14:25-32
7	Psalm 94:12-23	Joshua 15:20-63	Luke 15:1-10
8	Psalm 95	Joshua 16, 17	Luke 15:11-32
9	Psalm 85:8-13	1 Kings 19:9-18	Romans 10:5-15, Matthew 14:22-33
10	Psalm 96:1-9	Joshua 18:1-19:9	Luke 16:1-15
11	Psalm 96:10-13	Joshua 19:10-39	Luke 16:16-31
12	Psalm 97:1-6	Joshua 19:40-21:8	Luke 17:1-10
13	Psalm 97:7-12	Joshua 21:9-45	Luke 17:11-19
14	Psalm 98	Joshua 22	Luke 17:20-25
15	Psalm 99	Joshua 23:1-24:13	Luke 17:26-37
16	Psalm 67	Isaiah 56:1,6-8	Rom. 11:1-2a,29-32, Matt. 15:(10-20),21-28
17	Psalm 100	Joshua 24:14-Judges 1:16	Luke 18:1-17
18	Psalm 101	Judges 1:17-2:23	Luke 18:18-30
19	Psalm 102:1-11	Judges 3	Luke 18:31-43
20	Psalm 102:12-22	Judges 4	Luke 19:1-10
21	Psalm 102:23-28	Judges 5	Luke 19:11-27
22	Psalm 103:1-5	Judges 6	Luke 19:28-44
23	Psalm 138	Isaiah 51:1-6	Romans 12:1-8, Matthew 16:13-20
24	Psalm 103:6-18	Judges 7	Luke 19:45-20:8
25	Psalm 103:19-22	Judges 8	Luke 20:9-19
26	Psalm 104:1-9	Judges 9:1-33	Luke 20:20-26
27	Psalm 104:10-18	Judges 9:34-10:18	Luke 20:27-40
28	Psalm 104:19-23	Judges 11:1-27	Luke 20:41-21:4
29	Psalm 104:24-30	Judges 11:28-12:15	Luke 21:5-28
30	Psalm 26:1-8	Jeremiah 15:15-21	Romans 12:9-21, Matthew 16:21-28
31	Psalm 104:31-35	Judges 13	Luke 21:29-38



## So What's New at the Farm?

Submitted by Ted Zimmerman

OK, sound the trumpets! May I have a drum roll, please! I have an exciting announcement to make.

During the month of July, the Mission Farm volunteers have harvested and turned over to the Napa Valley Food Bank a total of 5,215 lbs. of fresh, organically grown fruits and vegetables!

This makes a total of 7,009 lbs. for the year so far!

The volunteers took a prayerful gamble and increased the area for row crops. In effect, all three acres are now in production. We made that decision prior to the emergence of the COVID crisis, and its impact on many families who lost jobs and incomes and putting food on their tables became even more challenging. The number of people the Napa Valley Food Bank had been serving would increase by nearly five times! The Lord has been blessing the seedtime, growth, and production in the fields, while also rather dramatically rebuking the devourers. (He and we are still being challenged by the gophers, however.) And the volunteers are having a deep sense of satisfaction as they behold the Lord obviously blessing the works of their hands. Obviously, the need in our county and country today is far greater than we can meet by our efforts here. We are, however, having a significant impact.

The Lord has also been blessing us with additional volunteers from the community! Several neighbors have seen what we are doing and have asked if they can join in. A group of volunteers have also been coming from the local Young Farmers and Ranchers organization, and we are especially blessed and impressed by their energy and enthusiasm!

So rejoice with us! And, should you choose, come and join in with us in the fun and satisfaction of serving others in these challenging times . . . in Jesus' name!

## OFFERING UPDATE

Actual Offering Income for Jun:

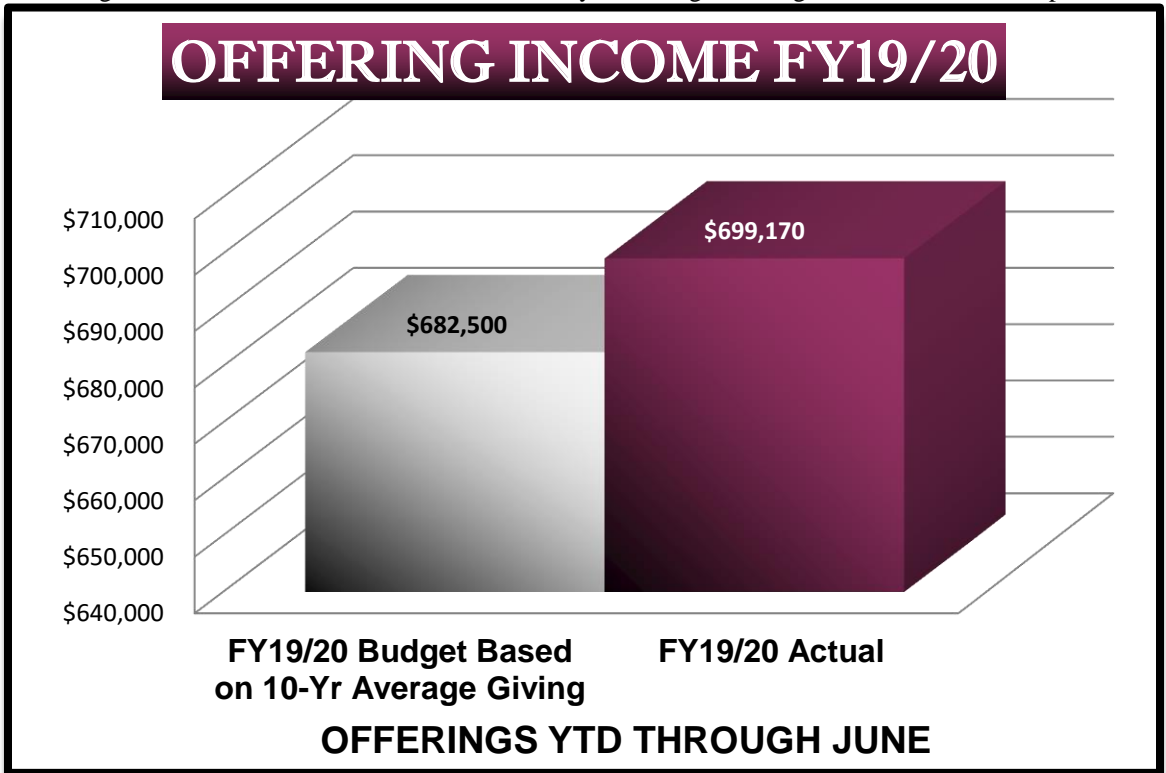
**\$58,355.**

Total Offerings for FY19/20 (as of 30 Jun 20):

**\$699,170** which is **2.44%** or **\$16,670** 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:

*“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” (John 15:12)(ESV)*

## Loving All People

Jesus showed His tremendous love for us by going to the cross to suffer and die for us so that we can be reconciled with our heavenly Father. Christ’s love is in us, and He asks us to reflect His love to others. As Christ loved all people, we are called to love all people whether or not they like us.

Former President Abraham Lincoln exemplified the ability to reach out in love to an enemy. His staff often criticized him for his positive treatment of his sworn enemies. One of the president's enemies once stated in print that he thought Lincoln was an obvious incompetent in the White House. The nature of the critic's attack on Lincoln even degenerated to the level that Lincoln's physical features were compared to those of a gorilla. Later, when war broke out between the States, Lincoln asked that critic to serve as his secretary of war.

Lincoln's advisors were appalled with the president's actions. When they asked him why he would choose his critic for such an important post, he responded that he thought Stanton was the best man for the job. When they advised him that he should seek to destroy his enemies rather than treat them like friends, he reminded them he was destroying his enemies when he made them his friends. When Lincoln died some years later, Stanton was standing by the president's bedside. As he watched Lincoln breathe his last breath, he uttered the words, "There dies the greatest ruler of mankind the world has ever seen."

We show our spiritual maturity by how we respond to those who have treated us wrongfully. It is easy to show kindness to friends or people who treat us with kindness. God's love is most evident when we show our love to those who dislike us or mistreat us. It is by God's grace that we are enabled to show Christian kindness to all people.

**Prayer:** Lord, You show Your love for me in so many ways. You've placed me in a wonderful world filled with all that I need to sustain and enjoy life. You love me so much that You sent Your one and only Son to the cross to atone for my sinful ways. I thank You for Your love. Help me, Lord, to share Your love with those around me. Grant me strength to show love and compassion to all people so You will be glorified. In Christ's 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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Support our School!

The new Scrip year has begun. Please go to [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com) and register with our program. **Our Enrollment Code: 912E7L6F9161. Scrip is also available in the school office.**

**Scrip, simply put, is gift cards that you use to purchase many items you would normally buy with cash. By buying Scrip first, St. John's Lutheran School will receive a percentage from each vendor. Percentage varies with each vendor.**

Many businesses are temporarily closed, so it's hard to know where you can get the things you need. You can still buy all your household essentials and help support SJLS with gift cards to: WalMart, Target, Safeway, Lucky's, Nob Hill/Raley's, Shell, Chevron, Arco, CVS, Staples, Amazon.com and Visa.

**Now is a great time to introduce yourself to Scrip (gift cards) if you are unfamiliar with how our program works.** It benefits you and SJLS all at the same time. Once you start using Scrip you will see how easy and convenient it is. If you are a family who budgets their monthly expenses, Scrip is a great tool to use. Please contact Cindy Zeller in the school office with any questions 226.7970 ext. 101.

Credit cards are no longer accepted in the school office to purchase Scrip, but you may use them through Shopwithscrip. By enrolling online you can order ecards, reload cards as well as place an order to pick up in the school office.

## 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

# LCC K-9 COMFORT DOG MINISTRY UPDATE

“Walking Together / Serving as One”

To God be the Glory!

***In all your ways submit to Him,  
and He will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:6***



Training is a big part of my life. I spent more than 14 months training at LCC in Illinois before I came to California. Once I arrived in Napa, I spent many hours training with my team members so that they might be prepared to work with me. Training requires me to submit to my handlers. When I do, they are able to lead me into situations where God has called us to serve.

Although recent circumstances have changed the way I train and how we visit others, God continues to reveal opportunities where we can share His love and compassion with others. While I've been able to do window visits with some of my friends at residential care facilities, I have not been able to physically visit my friends at the Collabria Adult Day Program, since the participants are all sheltering-in-place at their homes. I have really missed seeing all my friends there, so I was very excited to learn that the staff had organized a socially-distanced event in their parking lot and invited me to join them! Later this month, I will be participating with staff and volunteers at the “Drive By and Say ‘Hi’” party. We will be spaced apart in the Collabria parking lot so that participants can see us (and wave) as they ride by in their cars. Those participants who are unable to attend will be able to “join” us via a Zoom meeting.

Even though I may not always know where I am headed, I have learned to trust my handlers to guide and protect me. In these uncertain times, it is comforting to know that the Lord is faithful, guiding and protecting those who place their trust in Him. God is good, indeed!

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



**EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!**



## **NEW CHILDREN'S CHURCH MATERIALS**

I am excited to let you know that we will be using a new Children's Church Curriculum beginning at the end of August! Whether we continue to Livestream Worship or come back to meet in person, I'm sure the kids are going to enjoy these lessons!

It's called **Simply Loved.**

### **Simply for Kids**

**Every activity, song, and visual in Simply Loved is designed to help kids remember each lesson long after their children's ministry years.**

***Age-Specific Teaching*** Elementary kids (1st-4th grade) learn differently than Pre-K & K kids (ages 3-5), so we've intentionally designed two separate, age-appropriate programs.

***Captivating Bible Memory*** When kids meet a character they love, they remember! That's why we include animal characters called Bible Memory Buddies to help kids remember who God is and how much He loves them.

***Connecting God to His Creation*** Every week uses a different animal characteristic to cement Bible learning. These fun facts fascinate kids and show them how God can be seen in every corner of His creation!

***Hands On Learning*** Kids don't learn best when all they do is sit and listen. We get kids moving and experiencing God's Word through multiple multi-sensory activities.

### **Simply for Families**

**Simply Loved brings families together and provides great resources for parents.**

*(next page)*

*Same Scope and Sequence* All ages follow the same scope and sequence, including the same Bible story, Bible Memory Verse, and Bible Memory Buddy, so siblings learn and share together!

*Month-Long Themes* Made for today's busy families, each Simply Loved Unit features a single Bible Point, so kids who miss a week or two still get great Bible learning. And kids who come every week go even deeper!

*Take-Homes* Simply Loved Take-It-Home Flyers and Coloring Creation pages take the fun and excitement of that week's lesson and bring it home. Created to provide intentional, practical, and easy ways for kids and the rest of the family to discuss that week's Bible Point and apply it to their lives. Plus, kids receive a super-cool Bible Memory Buddy sticker to wear, keep, or collect.

*Parent Resources* Additional digital resources for parents, including email and social media assets, are included in the Simply Loved Plus Digital Kit.

# AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1	Salvatore Pagano, Amy Thompson, Cathy Bunnell
2	Martin Meissenhalter
3	Abigail Sneed
4	Dana Zanone, Kylie Martindale
5	Wayne Miller, Wendy Helfrich
6	Victoria Elder
8	Linda Diviak, Marco Barbosa, Paul Han
9	Lindsey Engelbracht, Eva Meissenhalter, Nancy Gressinger
11	Jason Newton, Jacob Peterson, Brad Lloyd, Jennifer Schluter, Isabella Munoz
13	Amy Wilson
14	Paul Bartelt
15	Betty Grant
17	Jeffery Squibb
18	Janis King, Ken Arnold, Cailyn Helfrich
19	Devin Lamb, Eric Vandeburgt
21	Devon Mason, Tony Carafa
22	Dove Bain, Donna Gillette, Alexa Svien, Heather Faria
23	Matthew Uffmann
24	Dick Lemin
25	CarlJohn Meissenhalter
29	Brayden Faria
31	Tiffany Tucker, Curtis Schoenfeld, Parker Dahl



Thank you to all the thoughtful and kind people  
who phoned while I was in “hibernation.”

Nancy Gressinger

## AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

DATE	COUPLE	YEARS
1	Thane & Sarah Knutson	11
1	Jeff & Carri Mello	22
1	Mark & Cindy Zeller	33
2	Kenneth & Bonnie Wilson	51
2	Corrin & Mark Kornovich	4
3	Dennis & Judie Arnett	52
3	Dean & Lori Bledsoe	18
5	James & Anita Regan	25
7	Ronald & Judith Irwin	55
8	Kyle & Melissa Ebeling	5
11	Rita & James Bresee	30
13	Charles & Elaine Scott	59
14	Amy & Michael Smith	21
15	Daniel & Angela D’Angelo	22
17	Betsy & Irv Gewirz	45
17	Leonard & Tracy Lamb	31
21	Leonard & Deborah Bommersbach	49
28	Dean & Nancy Ehlen	49
28	Tony & Karen Carafa	21
29	Barbara & Walt Gmelch	11
30	Ken & Sharon Tews	45



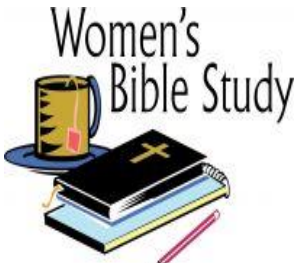
## New mobile phone application makes supporting ministry even more convenient.

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.

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## SHOPPING ON AMAZON?

Please consider using “Amazon Smile” when placing 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>



### ***WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY***

(Temporarily postponed)

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. (Meeting virtually)



**Men's  
Breakfast & Bible  
Study**

# THE VINE

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

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

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



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

## **Church**

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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**

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Mrs. Christy Wood, Principal (ext. 103)

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

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