



THE VINE

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School
Newsletter

September 2020

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

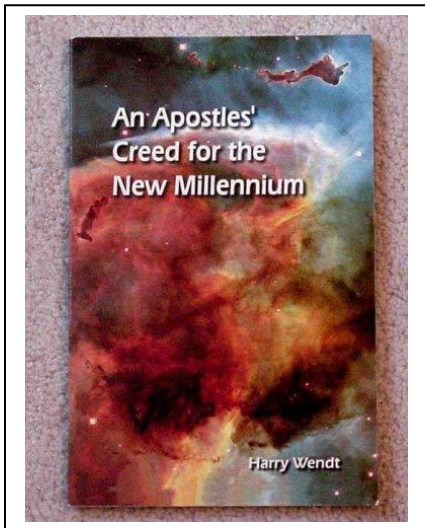
Wednesday Morning Bible Class Starts Again – Via Zoom

Pastor Mark will resume teaching 2 Samuel picking up at chapter 12 starting September 2. The class will be held via Zoom until we are able to meet in person. We meet on Wednesday mornings from 10:30 to 11:30. Please send an email to pastormark@stjohnslutheran.net to receive the Zoom link and class handouts. Previous attendance is not necessary to be part of this class.



Four Week Apostles' Creed Bible Study – Via Zoom

An Apostles' Creed for the New Millennium is a course by Crossways International using colorful visuals to learn and retain the material. Here is an opportunity to have a better understanding of what you are confessing when you say the creed. Pastor Mark will be leading this class via Zoom on Tuesday evenings starting at 7:00 from September 8 to September 29. Please send an email to pastormark@stjohnslutheran.net to receive the Zoom link and class handouts.





SCHOOL NEWS **by Christy Wood**

As you know, our theme for this year is “Look Up!” taken from Psalm 121:1. What an appropriate theme as we begin our school year with COVID-19 restrictions. The beginning of this academic year has been full of twists and turns, but with God as our guide, this will be a great year.

Preschool, which is under Child Care licensing, was able to physically return to campus for the first day of school on August 26. Mrs. King and all of the preschool teachers deserve a huge “THANK YOU” for their dedication in planning for this school year. None of them had much of a summer as there are many new rules and guidelines that have to be followed this year. The preschool staff greeted new students warmly and we are so excited to have some students back on campus.

205 students in nine classrooms started off the year with distance learning in the elementary school. As a school, we are cautiously optimistic that we will be able to come back to having school on campus, albeit in a hybrid format where the students will come onto campus just a few days every week.

We as a school community are gathering together to ensure the health and safety of everyone. Between COVID-19 and the wildfires we are currently experiencing, we are so thankful that we can lean on God for guidance and comfort. Many blessings to you and your family!

Daily Bible Readings for September

	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
1	Psalm 105:1-7	Judges 14, 15	Luke 22:1-13
2	Psalm 105:8-15	Judges 16, 17	Luke 22:14-23
3	Psalm 105:16-22	Judges 18	Luke 22:24-38
4	Psalm 105:23-36	Judges 19	Luke 22:39-51
5	Psalm 105:37-45	Judges 20:1-31	Luke 22:52-62
6	Psalm 119:33-40	Ezekiel 33:7-11	Romans 13:8-14, Matthew 18:15-20
7	Psalm 106:1-5	Judges 20:32-21:25	Luke 22:63-71
8	Psalm 106:6-12	Ruth 1	Luke 23:1-12
9	Psalm 106:13-23	Ruth 2, 3	Luke 23:13-31
10	Psalm 106:24-31	Ruth 4	Luke 23:32-43
11	Psalm 106:32-39	1 Samuel 1:1-2:11	Luke 23:44-56
12	Psalm 106:40-48	1 Samuel 2:12-36	Luke 24:1-12
13	Psalm 103 (1-7),8-13	Genesis 50:15-21	Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18:21-35
14	Psalm 107:1-9	1 Samuel 3, 4	Luke 24:13-27
15	Psalm 107:10-16	1 Samuel 5:1-7:1	Luke 24:28-35
16	Psalm 107:17-22	1 Samuel 7:2-8:22	Luke 24:36-53
17	Psalm 107:23-32	1 Samuel 9	John 1:1-13
18	Psalm 107:33-43	1 Samuel 10	John 1:14-28
19	Psalm 108:1-5	1 Samuel 11, 12	John 1:29-42
20	Psalm 145:1-8	Jonah 3:10-4:11	Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16
21	Psalm 108:6-13	1 Samuel 13	John 1:43-51
22	Psalm 109:1-7	1 Samuel 14:1-40	John 2:1-11
23	Psalm 109:8-20	1 Samuel 14:41-15:23	John 2:12-25
24	Psalm 109:21-31	1 Samuel 15:24-16:13	John 3:1-15
25	Psalm 110	1 Samuel 16:14-17:31	John 3:16-26
26	Psalm 111	1 Samuel 17:32-58	John 3:27-36
27	Psalm 25:1-9	Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32	Philippians 2:1-13, Matthew 21:23-32
28	Psalm 112	1 Samuel 18:1-19:7	John 4:1-26
29	Psalm 113	1 Samuel 19:8-20:17	John 4:27-38
30	Psalm 114	1 Samuel 20:18-21:9	John 4:39-42

Stephen Ministry – Crisis: An emotionally charged time of instability during which a crucial change occurs.

The Chinese word for crisis is a combination of two Characters: one for “danger,” the other for “opportunity.” This drives home the fact that every crisis, though it involves impending danger, also offers opportunities for personal or spiritual growth. Stephen Ministers are trained to walk with you through the dangers of your crisis and to help you find the opportunities God has in store for you.

God did not create us to be independent. We were created to be interdependent. God’s Word is clear on this all the way back to Genesis: “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him” (Genesis 2:18). The New Testament underscores this theme with more than 50 verses that contain the words “one another,” such as “love one another,” encourage one another,” build up one another,” and “pray for one another.”

We are to love, encourage, build up, and pray for other people. The “one another” wording gives a reciprocal meaning. It also tells us that we are to allow other people to love, encourage, build up, and pray for us!

It can be difficult for people to ask for help. Whether it is because of guilt, shame, inadequacy, or fear of rejection, many would much prefer to suffer alone than ask for help. But suffering alone is not God’s intent for us. Jesus promises, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28). We can receive this promised rest when we turn to one another for comfort and help.

Our Stephen Ministers know all about receiving care. Many of them have been on the receiving end of care at an earlier point in their lives – something that has motivated them to give care now. They know how difficult it is to ask for help, but they also know the great personal and spiritual growth and healing that follow. They know how to respond in a loving, caring, and nonjudgmental manner. They are equipped, ready, and waiting to provide the comfort and care God very much desires you to have.

If you find yourself now or in the future facing difficulties in life, don’t suffer alone. Take the courageous step of seeking help. Open your heart to receiving God’s love and grace through another person. Our Stephen Ministry offers the opportunity for a very confidential relationship with someone who will listen to you and provide you with the care and encouragement you need, while Christ works inside to bring rest to your weary, burdened heart.

For more information on Stephen Ministry, please contact Penni Cremen, Pam Barker, or Pastor Mark at the Church Office 707-255-0954

So What's New at the Farm?

Submitted by Ted Zimmerman



I know, I know, here comes Farmer Ted again, you are saying, with his endless appeals for volunteers at the Mission Farm!" Well, even Jesus had to ask for help at times because of the size of the need . . . or the size of the blessings He wanted to pour out in response to that need.

There was the time Jesus preached to a crowd numbering 5,000 or more people. The disciples said, "Jesus, send these people away to look for meals for themselves. It's late and the villages where they might buy supplies are far away." Jesus said, "You feed them." "How?" they responded. "The number of mouths to feed are too many, and the supplies available to us are too sparse!" Jesus miraculously took care of the "how", but He involved His disciples in the serving tables' end of things.

We are very much aware of the need of many families struggling to put meals on the table in the midst of the COVID crisis. Some of us may be having a personal struggle ourselves. The core team of volunteers at the Farm has put more ground into production to try to address the growing need. And the Lord has richly blessed our efforts! I don't have the latest numbers of pounds of produce we have turned into the local Food Bank. We were at 7,000 lbs. at the end of July. And we have had several 1,500 lbs. weeks thus far in August! We've been taxed to handle it all. At the same time humbled by how with the Lord's blessing our efforts are making a big difference.

That we could use more volunteers goes without saying. At the same time I was shocked to sit down and count just how many volunteers we do have. According to my reckoning, we have about 35 "regular" volunteers. Seven put in 3 days a week (or more) at the Farm – 7 put in 2 days – 17 put in 1 day – another 4 come from time to time. When they come, they usually put in 3 hours that day. That's a total of 640 volunteer hours per month! That's pretty much year round since we are now raising winter crops. That's fantastic! And gratifying!

Praise God for the bountiful harvest He is providing. Pray that He rebukes the devourers (especially those pesky gophers)! Pray for the families He has given us the opportunity to serve in His name. Thank God for the many faithful volunteers He has provided. And thank God for the opportunities He is still offering others to join in this blessed work – whether by putting on work gloves and a wide brimmed hat and helping us glean . . . or praying for the crops . . . or remembering the Mission Farm with supporting gifts!

OFFERING UPDATE

Actual Offering Income for Jul:

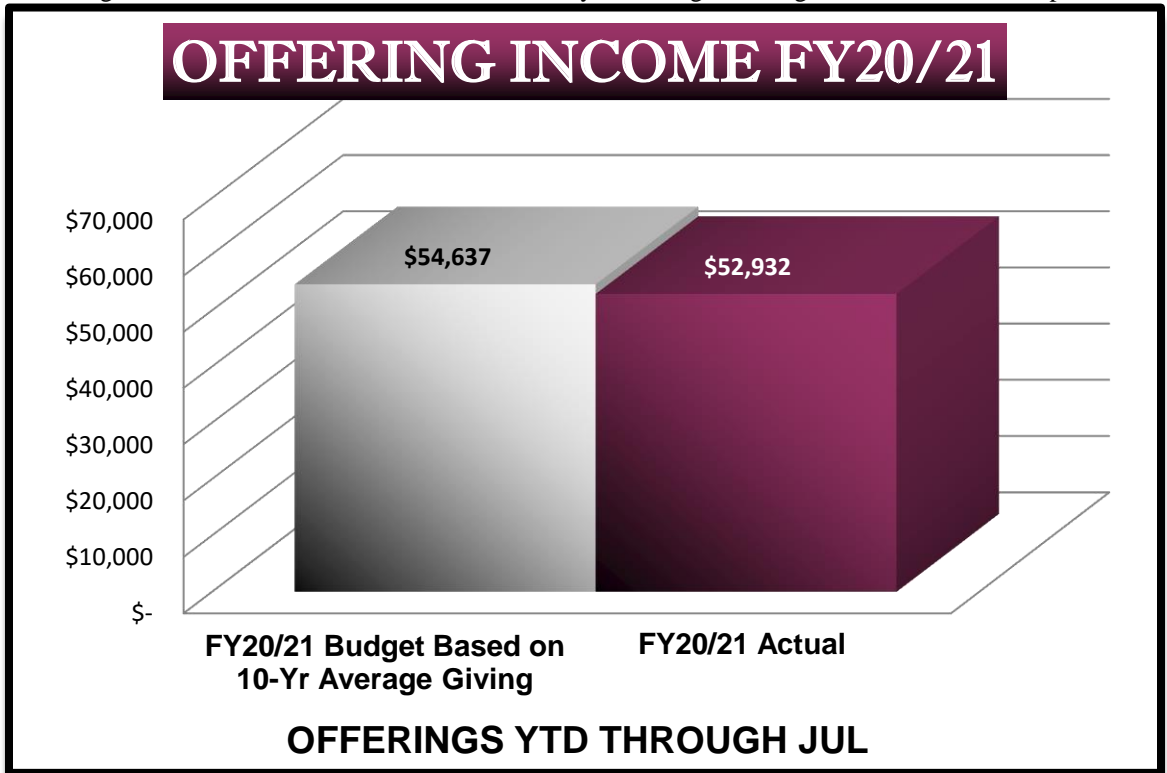
\$52,932.

Total Offerings for FY20/21 (as of 31 Jul 20):

\$52,932 which is **1.12%** or **\$1,705**
below 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:

“Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.” (Romans 12:13)(ESV)

Loving All People

A young girl was dying. Her only hope lay in a complete blood transfusion, but she had a very rare blood type. Only her brother, even younger than she, had the same type blood. His parents and doctors explained the situation to him, giving him time to ask questions. He agreed and, without delay, he was laid on a bed, the needle was pushed into his tiny vein, and slowly his blood seeped from his small body into the bag hanging from his bed. He lay quietly as the nurse stood next to him, ready to attend to any need he might have. “How do you feel?” she asked. “Ok,” he answered, “but, Nurse, when do I die?”

What love this little boy had for his sister! What must he have thought when, from his limited knowledge, it seemed that his own parents were willing for him to sacrifice his life in order to save his sister's.

The boy's love for his sister can help us see how much Jesus loves us. Jesus suffered abuse, torture, persecution, and death for all of us. ***“Greater love has no one than this, that He lay down His life for His friends”*** (John 15:13). He demonstrated His tremendous love not because of our worthiness, but because He is a God of tremendous love. Jesus' love for His heavenly Father and for us changed the world. Through His death and resurrection from that death, we, through faith, have received the forgiveness of our sins and life eternal. God's love for us in Christ is that power that enables us to love Him. *“We love because He first loved us”* (1 John 4:19).

The love of Jesus empowers us to be His stewards. Because of Jesus' love, we change from people giving to a need to people responding out of love. Certainly, we give to needs such as our church budget, Christian causes, and people, but our primary reason for giving is out of love and commitment to Jesus. When needs arise, Jesus opens our eyes and hearts so we can respond to those needs. However, our primary reason for giving is a desire to express our gratitude and thanksgiving for our Lord and the love that He shows us every day. Because our love for Jesus is our motivation for giving, our giving becomes joyful. Love changes our giving from an obligation to a privilege.

We live in difficult and changing times. How wonderful it is that, as Christians, we know that there is the certainty that Jesus always reaches out to us and loves us. May our lives and our giving genuinely reflect His love for us.

Prayer: Lord, You fill me with love which I am to share with my family, neighbors, and co-workers. I know that I can love because You first loved me. Place in me the desire and strength to seek out opportunities to share the love that comes from You with others. May my thoughts and deeds bring You honor and glory. 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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The new Scrip year has begun. Please go to 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.

LCC K-9 COMFORT DOG MINISTRY UPDATE

To God be the Glory!

***I keep my eyes always on the LORD.
With Him at my right hand, I will not
be shaken. Psalm 16:8***



I always look forward to the beginning of the new school year and all the opportunities and possibilities that come with it. Since school this year began virtually, I was not able to see and meet everyone in person, but I am looking forward to the time when everyone is back on campus. I cannot wait to meet new friends and reconnect with all of my old “buddies”.

Prior to the start of school, I was thrilled to meet and spend some time with St. John’s Lutheran School’s new principal, Christy Wood, as she recorded her welcome message to our school families. I was also blessed to be able to join our preschoolers for a socially distanced visit their first week on campus.

Micah Comfort Dog and I spent time at the Alameda fairgrounds CalFire base camp, greeting firefighters and workers from the Conservation Corps as they returned from fighting the recent northern California wildfires. During our visit, I also met several old “friends” there who said they remembered meeting me previously during one of my visits to other fire base camps in the past few years. It is always a joy to be able to thank and support these hardworking individuals who sacrifice so much to keep us safe.

My team and I also continue to visit people virtually. Last month, Reuben Comfort Dog, Micah Comfort Dog, and I had a Zoom meeting with a wonderful group of young adults living in a group home in southern California. Their caregivers do a “paw”some job of engaging them with activities throughout the day, and we were blessed to share our ministry and bring a little of the outside world to them. Our visit ended with a very special moment when we all joined in prayer together.

I am excited to announce that we have a new LCC Comfort Dog who has joined us in the western region! Isaac Comfort Dog was recently welcomed by the congregation at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Spokane Valley, Washington. My team and I are looking forward to meeting Isaac and working with his team.

Even though things look and feel a little different than usual right now, it is comforting to remember that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” (Hebrews 13:8) Knowing this, we can face our changing circumstances with confidence, trusting that He is

walking alongside us. Like the beginning of a new school year, we can look forward to the opportunities and possibilities ahead when we focus on Him.

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



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 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.

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!

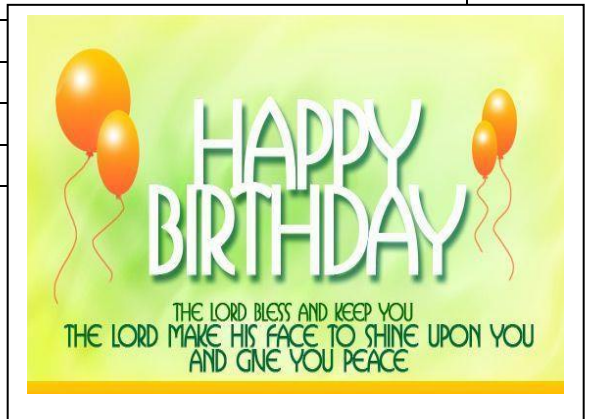
Take-Homes Simply Loved Take-It-Home Flyers and Coloring Creation pages take the fun and excitement of that week's lesson and bring it home. Created to provide intentional, practical, and easy ways for kids and the rest of the family to discuss that week's Bible Point and apply it to their lives. Plus, 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.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Clareen King
3	Erika Boudreaux
4	Hunter Jones, Parker Jones, Thane Knutson
5	Aidan Cushing
6	Xander Herrera
7	Stewart Mehrens, Lisa De Young, Kevin Mathison, Kaylani Bresee
8	David Fitzgerald, Seamus Vecera
9	Raquel Howle, Kevin Cootey, Troy Carey
10	Tyler Chaudhary, Mark Albrecht, Lois Johnson
11	Herbert Heil, Brendan Peterson
12	Bev Holdsworth, Nico D'Angelo, Joyce Dowiat
13	Sophia Kampton, Dawnette Martindale, Harper Uffmann, Melissa Morgenlaender
14	David Frey, Delaney Messner
16	Anavon Anderson, Grayson Cushing
17	Amanda Brady, Cathy Enfield, Zane Kampton, Sami Zaia
18	Kevin Dahl, Bryson Chaudhary, Jaeden Petersen
19	Corrin Kornovich
22	Carl Hammond
23	Tracy Lamb, Madison Perna, Jennie Peskett
24	Lezlee Cootey, Christy Kramer
25	Michael Frey, Barb Gmelch
26	Dylan Goodrich
27	Hagen Bresee, Sally Vaziri
28	Cindy Aspegren
29	Peggy Meister, Ron Yeske
30	Bonnie Wilson

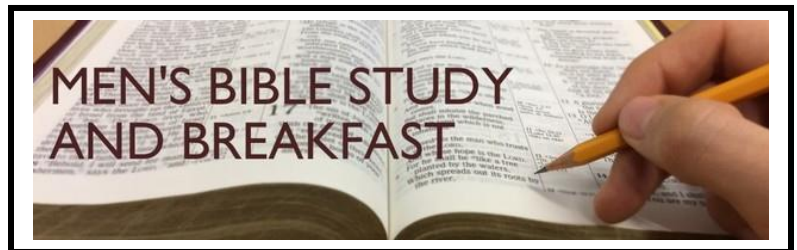


SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

DATE	COUPLE	YEARS
3	David & Rebecca Newman	37
12	Jeff & Karen Craft	28
21	Matthew & Kyleigh Greely	1
22	Aaron & Meghan Eisberg	13
23	Neill & Pam Barker	41

HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY

MEN, JOIN US EVERY
SATURDAY MORNING FOR
FELLOWSHIP AT 7:30 AM
AND BIBLE STUDY
AT 8:00 - 9:00 AM
CALL RON JOHNSON
FOR INFORMATION.
(Meeting virtually)



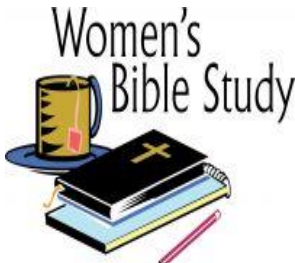


New mobile phone application makes supporting ministry even more convenient.

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 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!



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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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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Email: 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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Email: czeller@stjohnsnapa.org

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)