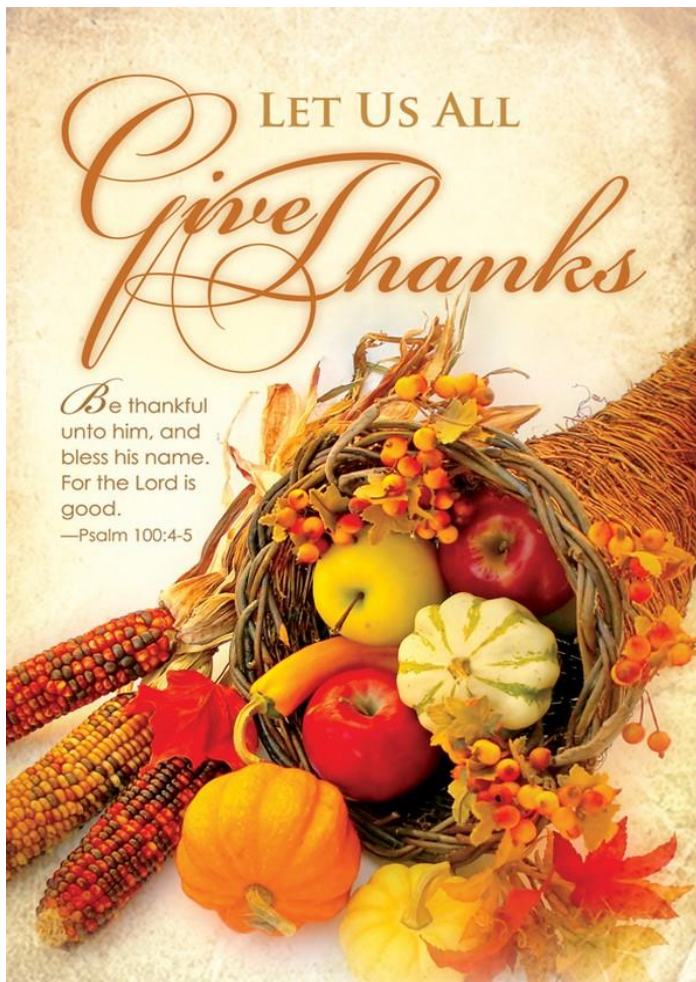




THE VINE

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

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



THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

What are you thankful for this year? Let's gather as the people of God to give God our thanks for His gifts to us.

We will have a Communion worship service on Thanksgiving Day, November 26th at 9:30 AM both in-person and virtually.

Please go to this page (<https://stjohnslutheran.net/live-streaming-worship-at-st-johns/>) to download the link to the live stream worship.

Please bring non-perishable food items for the Napa Food Bank. For those worshipping virtually, items can be dropped off at the church office prior to Thanksgiving.

LCC K-9 COMFORT DOG MINISTRY UPDATE

To God be the Glory!

Happy November Everyone!

I would like to share with you a report from one of my Comfort Dog Ministry Partners following a visit to Foothills Adventist Elementary School 's (Deer Park) students and staff. A large part of their school campus was burned down in the Glass Fire so they reached out to us to help their staff and students on the first day back to school. Pacific Union College Elementary School is sharing their classrooms so classes can resume.



October 20, 2020

Our visit to Foothill Adventist Elementary was so amazing. It truly showed me that God is at work, and our ministry is such an important part of His work. There were tears shed by some and smiles from others. Most of all, there was an amazing amount of love and blessings for these children, staff and families who have been through so much.

Our team included Team Aaron, Team Micah, and Team Reuben. We were warmly welcomed by the principal and Pastor Jessie. We were able to set up 3 stations outside for the children to visit one at a time. As the children began to visit with Aaron, I could tell this day was going to be special. While Aaron's handler, Penni Cremen was sitting with one of the children and Aaron, I stepped back for a moment and one of the parents approached me, telling me her story. Her family had just moved up from San Diego in May. They had been evacuated twice since then. While she and her children are back in their home, her husband is forced to stay at a hotel in Napa as his business relies on the internet and cell service. She expressed how scared she was and that she just wanted to go back to San Diego. I was able to share with her my story of moving to Napa from Southern California and have also been evacuated from our home due to fires. I was able to let her know that I understood how scared she must be feeling, but there were a lot of people at work to make their home safe again. She loved Aaron and we were able to give her and her daughter some quiet time with Aaron. She was so grateful and thanked us for being there.

Another special visit Aaron had was with a young boy. I am thankful to have witnessed this amazing conversation. When he sat down, he began to pet Aaron, and was silent at first. Penni asked him how he was doing and he began to talk. As he talked he felt more and more comfortable with Aaron. Their youth pastor, Pastor Jessie came up to me, and said "This is amazing. He does not talk. To hear his voice right now bring me to tears. What a special blessing your team is for us." She then began to tell me his story. Two years ago, he and his

grandmother lived in Paradise, CA and lost everything, and almost lost their lives that day from the Camp Fire. They moved to Angwin to be closer to family. They have now been evacuated twice in the last few months. Currently they are staying at a hotel in Napa with their dog and two cats. Their home, like many in this area does not have power, electricity, internet or cell service. This whole time, he continued to talk with Penni and pet Aaron. He was able to share with us his fears. He told us of his journey through these fires. He shared with us his anger and frustration with the Presidential candidates, his fear of this pandemic and that he was thankful he could still play games on his iPad and FaceTime with his best friend from Paradise. This little boy had so much on his mind and we were able to give him a place to share and release all those fears and anxieties. Penni and Aaron did an amazing job!

Once all the children had seen Aaron, we decided to give the teachers their time. The school's seventh and eighth grade teacher sat down to pet Aaron and just began to cry. We sat quietly with her and when she was ready, she began to share her story. She had so much on her mind. She was currently staying with the school's principal and his family as she was unable to be in her home. She took the teaching position last year after the former seventh and eighth grade teacher had a stroke. Penni also spent time with the former teacher as he "happened to be" on campus that morning. He also shed tears and was able to take comfort in knowing God has a plan for each of us.

Overall just an amazing experience to be part of this wonderful ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

DeDe Messner

Ministry Partner and Future Handler



Aaron surveying the damage.



Wooden Jesus cut-spared by the fire at the school site.



Praying before we start our visit.

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



DAILY BIBLE READING

For November

	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
1	Psalm 43	Micah 3:5-12	1 Thess. 2:9-13, Matthew 23:1-12
2	Psalm 119:137-144	2 Samuel 23:18-24:25	John 11:31-44
3	Psalm 119:145-152	1 Kings 1:1-27	John 11:45-57
4	Psalm 119:153-160	1 Kings 1:28-53	John 12:1-11
5	Psalm 119:161-168	1 Kings 2:1-38	John 12:12-19
6	Psalm 119:169-176	1 Kings 2:39-3:28	John 12:20-36
7	Psalm 120	1 Kings 4:1-28	John 12:37-50
8	Psalm 70	Amos 5:18-24	1 Thess. 4:13-18, Matt. 25:1-13
9	Psalm 121	1 Kings 4:29-5:18	John 13:1-17
10	Psalm 122	1 Kings 6	John 13:18-30
11	Psalm 123	1 Kings 7:1-33	John 13:31-38
12	Psalm 124	1 Kings 7:34-8:16	John 14:1-14
13	Psalm 125	1 Kings 8:17-53	John 14:15-24
14	Psalm 126	1 Kings 8:54-9:19	John 14:25-15:8
15	Psalm 90:1-8,(9-11), 12	Zephaniah 1:7,12-18	1 Thess. 5:1-11, Matt. 25:14-30
16	Psalm 127	1 Kings 9:20-10:29	John 15:9-17
17	Psalm 128	1 Kings 11:1-25	John 15:18-16:4
18	Psalm 129	1 Kings 11:26-12:24	John 16:5-16
19	Psalm 130	1 Kings 12:25-13:22	John 16:17-33
20	Psalm 131	1 Kings 13:23-14:20	John 17:1-19
21	Psalm 132	1 Kings 14:21-15:8	John 17:20-26
22	Psalm 95:1-7a	Ezekiel 34:11-16,20-24	Ephesians 1:15-23, Matt. 25:31-46
23	Psalm 133	1 Kings 15:9-16:14	John 18:1-11
24	Psalm 134	1 Kings 16:15-17:24	John 18:12-24
25	Psalm 135:1-12	1 Kings 18	John 18:25-40
26	Psalm 135:13-21	1 Kings 19	John 19:1-11
27	Psalm 136	1 Kings 20:1-21	John 19:12-24
28	Psalm 137	1 Kings 20:22-21:16	John 19:25-37
29	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	Isaiah 64:1-9	1 Cor. 1:3-9, Mark 13:24-37
30	Psalm 138:1-5	1 Kings 21:17-22:28	John 19:38-20:9



VETERANS DAY CHAPEL

The public is invited to attend Chapel virtually on Friday, November 13, at 9:00 a.m., as St. John's Lutheran School honors and recognizes all veterans.

To join the Chapel, please use this link:

<https://stjohnslutheran.net/live-streaming-worship-at-st-johns/>

If you are a veteran, we would be honored to have you attend this special Chapel Service. If you know a veteran or someone currently serving, please pass along this invitation and link.

For our students with family members who are veterans or active members of our Armed Forces, we ask that you invite them to our virtual Chapel Service too!

There will be a special Veterans Day Chapel Offering. Offerings will benefit The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) Ministry to the Armed Forces. Offering envelopes will be sent home with students prior to Chapel.

Box Tops for Education

Now all you have to do is scan your store receipt!! So quick and easy. Each *Box Top for Education* is worth 10 cents for St. John's!! You can find these coupons on many items, *General Mills, Lysol, Ziploc, Nature Valley and many more products.* **Download the BoxTops For Education app, search then select our school, easiest if you search by zip code 94558 (St John Lutheran) and simply follow the prompts.**



- Once you are set up, whenever you go to the store, (Grocery Stores, Target, Walmart, Costco) scan your receipt and instantly SJLS will receive credit for any items you may have purchased without you having to clip a thing
- Many times Costco gives double points.
- You may even be surprised to know you purchased a qualifying item for BoxTops for Education.

St. John's Lutheran School Scrip Program:

The new RaiseRight mobile app makes fundraising easier. Shop more than 750 top brands using gift cards, right from your phone. Whether you're at home or at the store, get started with on-the-go fundraising that creates opportunities for the people that matter most to you. **No extra time wasted. No extra money spent.**

Start earning with the RaiseRight™ mobile app today. Concentrate on Groceries and Gas for the rest of the month to see how easy and convenient Scrip can be. Then get ready to shop for the holidays. Black Friday will be different this year. When you find something on Amazon, QVC or another location, check RaiseRight and see if they are part of the program. Large appliances need replacing? Home Depot and Lowe's are both part of RaiseRight.

- **Join the program**

- First, download the RaiseRight mobile app from the app store using your smartphone or tablet.
- Then, enter the enrollment code to join: **912E7L6F9161**

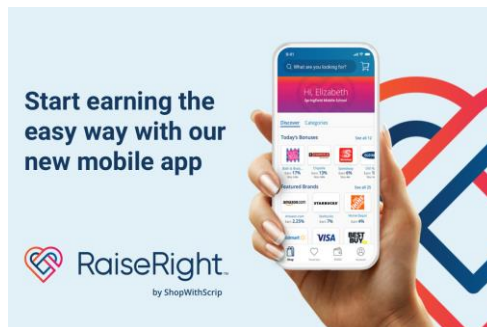
- **Buy gift cards and earn for your organization**

- Browse bonuses, search for a specific brand, shop categories, and more.
- When you're ready to check out, sign up for secure online payments. You can link a bank account, add a credit card, or both.**
- The brand gives back to your organization the moment you buy a gift card—at no extra cost to you.

- **Get and use your gift cards**

- eGift cards are delivered to the app within minutes—view them in your Wallet.
- Physical gift cards are mailed to your coordinator. Many are reloadable so you can keep earning with the ones you have.
- Use both types in-store and online.

** 15 cent charge per order for checking/debit purchase or 2.6% for credit card purchase.





November will be a busy month for St. John's Lutheran School!

We will be finishing the first trimester on Friday, November 13. Parent Teacher Conferences will follow on Thursday, November 19 and Friday, November 20. What a blessing that our parents and teachers will be able to meet, albeit mostly virtually, to share the academic, spiritual, social, and emotional growth of each child. There will be no school on these days.

On Monday, November 23 and Tuesday, November 24, all teachers and staff, including Pastor Mike, Pastor Mark, and Kevin, will be attending the California- Nevada- Hawaii District All Workers Conference. Normally, this conference takes place in Palm Springs, but this year, it will be virtual. We look forward to a wonderful lineup of speakers and the opportunity to attend over 1000 workshops. Please pray that this conference will be a learning experience for all of our teachers.

I wish you and your family a blessed Thanksgiving.

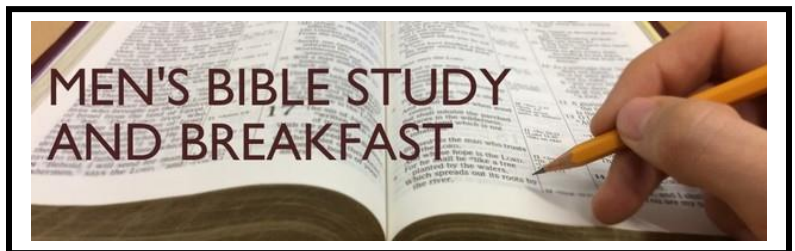
*"Enter His gates with thanksgiving
and His courts with praise;
give thanks to Him and praise His name.
For the Lord is good and His love endures forever;
His faithfulness continues through all generations."* Psalm 100:4-5

In Christ,
Christy Wood

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)



So What's New at the Farm?

Submitted by Ted Zimmerman



What's new at the Mission Farm? We have moved beyond helping feed families facing food anxiety, and now are helping provide affordable housing for families . . . families of owls, that is!

Look carefully the next time you enter the south parking lot of the church. Look to the border of the farm that is closest to Redwood Road. You will see two 10-ft. steel poles. At the top of each pole is a "box". We are hoping that pairs of owls will find these to be suitable homes for raising their families. It will be a win-win arrangement for both the owl families and the Mission Farm. They will get "affordable housing" while they help keep the gopher population under control. We are confident that the owls will find happy hunting in our fields! These owl homes were consecrated with prayer by the Farm volunteers on Saturday, Oct. 17.

More breaking news: the total poundage we have raised and turned into the Napa Valley Food Bank so far in 2020 is (drum roll, please . . . 16,990 lbs. Folks, that's just about 8.5 tons! Thanks be to God!

The Mission Farm will be participating again this year in the *Napa Valley 2020 CanDo Give!Guide* campaign (Note the logo). The COVID situation has forced some creative changes this year . . . the campaign will run only from Dec. 1 to Dec. 31. No catalog will be mailed out, but all details about the 50-plus non-profit organizations serving Napa County (including our Farm) will be on a website, and donations can be made on line (or by mailing a check). The donations begin at \$10. Many gifts, even at that level, make a big difference. Each year that we have participated we have received upwards of \$7,000 in gifts from the community (including many of you)! Remember us this Christmas time, our purpose and our motivation.

Use the easy means of the *Give!Guide* to make your donation, or by the use of your Designated Offering envelopes. Let your friends know about our participation and encourage them to support our Mission by making a gift. We encourage you to "like" us on our Facebook page. That helps get our name and awareness of our mission out there to more people.



OFFERING UPDATE

Actual Offering Income for Sep:

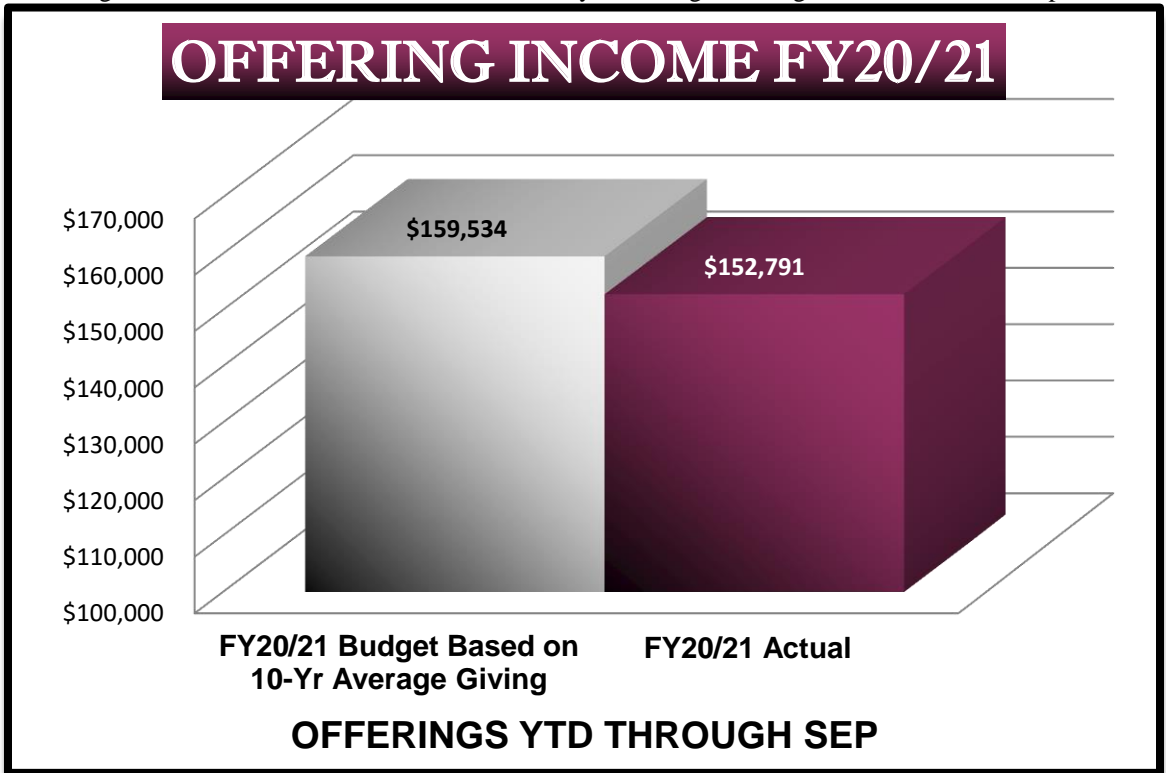
\$52,504.

Total Offerings for FY20/21 (as of 30 Sep 20):

\$152,791 which is **4.23%** or **\$6,743**
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:

“The Lord said to Moses, ‘Speak to the people of Israel, that they take for Me a contribution. From every man whose heart moves him you shall receive the contribution for Me.’” (Exodus 25:1-2)(ESV)

Giving from the Heart

In God’s Word, we find many examples of people who gave in a loving and generous way. In 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, Paul uses the Macedonians as an example of people who, in their extreme poverty, gave beyond their ability. Because of the famine in Macedonia at the time, they didn’t have a surplus to give from; however, they put God first and trusted Him to provide. Out of overflowing joy, they gave from their hearts.

For another example of giving from the heart, we can look at the Widow's Offering found in Luke 21:1-4. In this story, Jesus is at the temple in Jerusalem speaking to His disciples. In the verses just preceding Luke 21, Jesus tells His disciples that the Pharisees were roaming around in their long, flowing robes making sure people saw them and oohed and aahed about them. In a gaudy display of vanity, they tossed big gifts into the temple treasury. In contrast, the widow quietly dropped in two small copper coins which was all she had. She gave from the heart, and she placed her total trust in God. She was relying on Him for her future care. Although the Pharisees gave larger gifts than the widow, they were chastised for having hardened hearts from which they gave to the temple. They gave for recognition and praise. Even though the widow gave only a small gift, Jesus praised her for her generosity because He knew she gave from a loving heart.

A third illustration of one giving from the heart is Zacchaeus. Before he met Jesus, his money was his god so he hoarded it. When Jesus changed Zacchaeus' heart, he cheerfully gave away half of what he had and four times to those from whom he had cheated. With a changed heart, he gave generously.

God wants our giving to come from hearts filled with gratitude for who God is and for all that He has done and continues to do for us. As our faith grows and matures through spending time in God's Word and participating often in the Lord's Table, our attitude toward giving will change from being an obligation to being a privilege. May God change and fill all of our hearts so we can experience the joy of giving to our Lord and Savior.

Prayer: Lord, You are a loving and giving God. I pray that the Holy Spirit will transform me into a loving and giving person. Help me not to grip my money tightly. Grant me a generous heart so I will be willing to share my blessings with others. I pray that my generosity will be an example to others which will encourage them to grow in the grace of giving. To You belong the honor and glory. 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.

Scripture quotations marked (ESV) are from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

New Stephen Minister Training Class Has Begun

Caring ministry at St. John's will be expanding soon as seven members began Stephen Ministry training October 26. At the completion of their training, they will be commissioned as Stephen Ministers to provide one-to-one care to individuals experiencing difficulties in life.

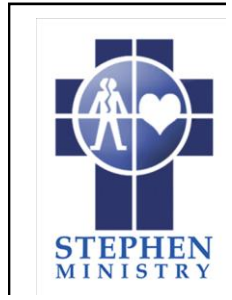
Stephen Ministry training combines sound theological principles with contemporary skills. The skills our Stephen Ministers learn and practice prepare them to provide a Christian caregiving. The training is intense because it explores some serious life issues, but it is also a growth-producing and enjoyable experience.

Stephen Minister training not only provides knowledge about caregiving, but also gives the opportunity for personal and spiritual growth. A close Christian community will form among the trainees by the end of the classes.

More than 600,000 people have gone through Stephen Ministry training in more than 13,000 churches worldwide since the ministry began in 1975.

Please lift up the training class in your prayers over the coming months and watch for regular training class updates in the Sunday announcement page and the E-Vine.

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NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

DATE COUPLE YEARS

1	Mike & Judy Biggs	34
2	Rudy & Lori Gutierrez	29
5	David & Jill Reimler	19
6	Andrew & Jennifer Schluter	10
9	Kennith & Linda Reed	46
9	James & Nancy Henry	62
10	Brad & Anna Seiter	36
18	William & Colette Hjerpe	31
18	Cal & Pam Watkins	41
23	Thomas & Tracy Cushing	20
30	Steven & Judith Rock	46
30	Thomas & Kristi Carey	24
30	Paul & Vicky Bartelt	29



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Theresa Schoenfeld
2	Wanda Miller
3	Rosella Newton, Kyle McAhren, David Hudgins
4	Gerald Schneider, Leonard Lamb, Whitney Powers
5	Bruce Mooers, Cameron Vaziri, John Tortolani
7	Karen Zachry, Marie Skillings
9	Dustin Jones, Brooks Albrecht, Katie Zachry, Christi Jeffery, Bodhi Knutson
10	Richard Dalen
11	Alex Sneed, Rhys Irwin, Mary Kaufmann
13	Lauren Huss
14	Bailey Wilson
15	Nicholas Manning, Ed Kaufmann, Hunter Bledsoe
17	Clay Thompson, Betty Rawlins
18	Zachary Diviak, Edel Van Houten, Florencia Palmaz
19	Michele Arnold, Renee Lloyd
20	John Tortolani, Marilyn Lemin
21	Melanie Wilson, Kelsey Uffmann
22	Jaicee Vecera
23	Michael Newton, David Franklin, Tim Bouchet, Stella Squibb
24	Anna Seiter, Wyatt Irwin, Chelsey Squibb
25	Sarah Knutson
26	Carolyn Hintze, Amelia Wedding
27	Autumn Zimmerman
28	Mark Morgenlaender
29	James Regan, Carri Mello
30	Mike Biggs, Erin Nicholson, Benjamin Franklin





Advent Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries - God with Us

What better news is there than to know that God is always by our side! In God with Us, we learn again what God the Father has done—He has kept His promise. In so doing, He has announced that grace and forgiveness are

available to all, freely given in the birth of Jesus: God’s Son, our Savior. He is Immanuel, “God with us.”

The story of God coming to earth as a human child is a profound one. In God with Us, we find no aloof divinity who is unconcerned and remote somewhere in the cosmos. Rather, He is deeply involved in all our affairs—our joys as well as our heartaches. He knows us for He became one of us. At Christmastime, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, Lord of the universe, Savior of the world, Shepherd of our lives.

Daily Devotions from LHM will help strengthen and encourage your faith as you do the same for others. Have them [delivered right to your inbox](#), [podcast the audio devotional](#), access them on your mobile device through the [FREE app](#), or listen with [Spotify](#), [iHeart Radio](#), [Alexa](#), or [Google Home](#). Devotions are also available in both English and Spanish. Perfect for personal reflection or to share with family and friends, these seasonal meditations will help prepare you to celebrate the true meaning of these seasons.

Printed copies will be available at St. John's in several locations before Advent starts on November 29th.

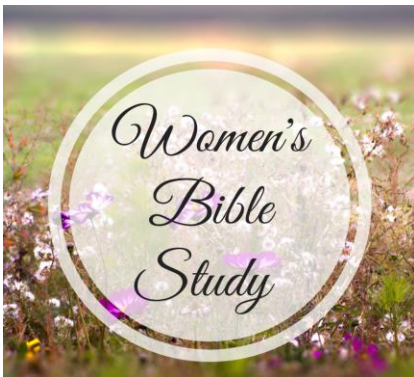


New mobile phone application makes supporting ministry even more convenient.

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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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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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)

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

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