



# THE VINE

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

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

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## **St. John's and the Purple Tier**

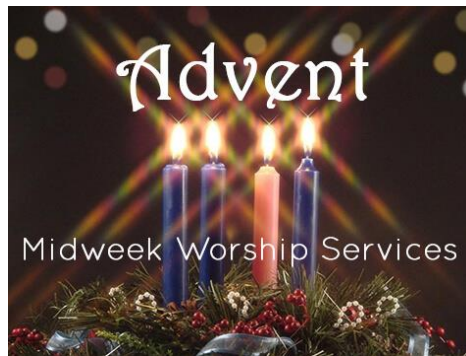
On November 16, Napa County moved from the orange tier to the purple tier because of the surge in COVID-19 cases in the county.

What does this mean for St. John's?

- **Worship** - Worship will be live-stream only. There will be no in-person worship. We are permitted to meet outdoors, but no events are planned at this point.
- **School** – School will continue meeting in our hybrid format.
- **Other In-Person Church Gatherings** – All gatherings will be online only. We are ceasing all other in-person gatherings. This includes choir practice, boy scouts, all youth events, and all other meetings.
- **Church Office** – Staff may be working in the office, but the church office is closed for visits. If you need to drop off or pick up an item, please call ahead to make arrangements.
- **Thanksgiving Food Bank Ingathering** Please drop of your Food Bank donation during church office hours. Leave your donation outside the church office door.

## **Advent Midweek Worship**

Our Wednesday Night Worship will become Advent Midweek worship during Advent. These services will be on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM.



- **December 2 - The O Antiphons of Advent**

For centuries the Church has used the Advent responses known as the Great O Antiphons, so named because each one begins with an "O" addressing Christ by one of His biblical names.

The familiar hymn "O Come O Come Emmanuel" is based on the O Antiphons. Our midweek service features the O Antiphons and the singing of this hymn.

- **December 9 – The ABCs of Christmas**

Our annual trip through the alphabet, thinking of the words and phrases that make up the Christmas Story. People can participate in-person or through the chat stream.

- **December 16 – Lessons and Carols**

A service of Scripture readings and Christmas Carols led by our Sanctuary Choir. This traditional service of the season walks through the story of salvation, culminating in the birth of the Savior.

- **December 23 – Christmas Hymn Stories**

We will focus on the stories and Scripture behind several familiar Christmas carols and hymns. And we will sing them!



## **Christmas Worship**

We are planning on having three services for Christmas this year. All service will be live-stream only. Please check the E-vine for the most up-to-date information.

- **Children's Christmas Service** – An online Christmas service designed for families with small children. Time to be determined
- **Christmas Eve Service** – 7:00 PM.
- **Christmas Day Service** – 9:30 AM.

# LCC K-9 COMFORT DOG MINISTRY UPDATE

To God be the Glory!



***May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.***

***Romans 15:13***

I am happy to announce that our good friends at St. Andrews Lutheran Church in Stockton recently welcomed Rahab Comfort Dog to their congregation! She is the fifth comfort dog to come to the west coast, the fourth California dog, and the first girl in the California. We are so excited to welcome her to our regional team and we are looking forward to getting to know her. Please pray for her team and congregation as they begin this new ministry.

Last month I was able to resume supervised visits to a limited number of participants at Collabria's adult day services. While I was there, I received an amazing hug from an old friend of mine I hadn't seen in many months. She was very excited to show me that she had a picture of the two of us framed on her desk. It felt great to be able to see her, as well as the other participants, again in person.

I am also continuing regular window visits with the residents at Piner's and Brookdale. While I may not be able to feel their touch, I see them as they "pet" me through the window. I am on the schedule work again with the DA's office assisting victims both inside and outside the courtroom. I am so grateful for the opportunities God has provided to share His mercy and compassion with those in need.

Wishing you a blessed Advent and Christmas!

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



# DAILY BIBLE READING

## For DECEMBER

	Psalms	Old Testament	New Testament
1	Psalms 138:6-8	1 Kings 22:29-53	John 20:10-23
2	Psalms 139:1-6	2 Kings 1:1-2:18	John 20:24-31
3	Psalms 139:7-12	2 Kings 2:19-3:27	John 21:1-14
4	Psalms 139:13-16	2 Kings 4:1-37	John 21:15-25
5	Psalms 139:17-24	2 Kings 4:38-5:14	Acts 1:1-14
6	Psalms 85:1-2,8-13	Isaiah 40:1-11	2 Peter 3:8-15a, Mark 1:1-8
7	Psalms 140:1-5	2 Kings 5:15-6:23	Acts 1:15-26
8	Psalms 140:6-13	2 Kings 6:24-7:20	Acts 2:1-13
9	Psalms 141:1-4	2 Kings 8	Acts 2:14-28
10	Psalms 141:5-10	2 Kings 9	Acts 2:29-47
11	Psalms 142	2 Kings 10	Acts 3:1-10
12	Psalms 143:6	2 Kings 11	Acts 3:11-26
13	Psalms 126	Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8,19-28
14	Psalms 143:7-12	2 Kings 12, 13	Acts 4:1-12
15	Psalms 144:1-4	2 Kings 14	Acts 4:13-22
16	Psalms 144:5-8	2 Kings 15	Acts 4:23-37
17	Psalms 144:9-15	2 Kings 16:1-17:6	Acts 5:1-11
18	Psalms 145:1-7	2 Kings 17:7-41	Acts 5:12-16
19	Psalms 145:8-16	2 Kings 18	Acts 5:17-40
20		2 Samuel 7:1-11,16	Luke 1:26-38,47-55, Romans 16:25-27
21	Psalms 145:17-21	2 Kings 19:1-28	Acts 5:41-6:7
22	Psalms 146	2 Kings 19:29-20:21	Acts 6:8-7:3
23	Psalms 147:1-6	2 Kings 21:1-22:10	Acts 7:4-16
24	Psalms 147:7-14	2 Kings 22:11-23:20	Acts 7:17-29
25	Psalms 147:15-20	2 Kings 23:21-24:20	Acts 7:30-43
26	Psalms 148:1-6	2 Kings 25	Acts 7:44-60
27	Psalms 148	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Galatians 4:4-7,Luke 2:22-40
28	Psalms 148:7-14	1 Chronicles 1:1-37	Acts 8:1-8
29	Psalms 149:1-4	1 Chronicles 1:38-2:17	Acts 8:9-25
30	Psalms 149:5-9	1 Chronicles 2:18-55	Acts 8:26-40
31	Psalms 150	1 Chronicles 3	Acts 9:1-9

# **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.



## Christmas: The Real Story Bible Study – Via Zoom

Christmas: The Real Story is a course by Crossways International using colorful visuals to learn and retain the material. It surprises people to discover that many of the images and ideas they have about the birth of Jesus are not found in the Bible, but were added later through years of “tradition.” This course will explore what Scripture actually says – and does not say – about the Nativity story. Pastor Mark will be leading this class via Zoom on Tuesday evenings starting at 7:00 from December 8 to December 22. Please send an email to [pastormark@stjohnslutheran.net](mailto:pastormark@stjohnslutheran.net) to receive the Zoom link and class handouts.

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As we prepare to close out the calendar year 2020, we are reminded of the changes this year has brought. Throughout all of the twists and turns we have encountered, one thing remains constant, Jesus was born for us. Although Advent and Christmas look different this year, there are many

exciting events on campus.

I invite you to like our Facebook page. Each weekday, from November 30 - December 18, students will be sharing a part of the Christmas story with you via Facebook.

We will be celebrating together as a school on December 9 & 10 by wearing Ugly (or cute!) Christmas Sweaters and on December 16 & 17 with a Night Before Christmas PJ Day.

We pray that you and your family find time this Advent season to reflect on Christ's presence in your life and remember that Jesus is the true reason for this season. Merry Christmas!

In Christ,  
Christy Wood

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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

CALL RON JOHNSON  
FOR INFORMATION.

(Meeting virtually)

A graphic for Men's Bible Study and Breakfast. It shows an open Bible with a hand holding a yellow pencil pointing to the text. The text "MEN'S BIBLE STUDY AND BREAKFAST" is overlaid in a large, bold, serif font.

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY  
AND BREAKFAST**



# So, What's New at the Farm?

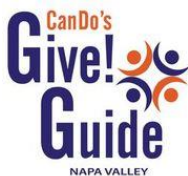
Submitted by Ted Zimmerman



BREAKING NEWS! CanDo's Napa Valley *Give!Guide* 2020 will launch on Giving Tuesday, December 1. St. John's Mission Farm will be one of 60 non-profit organizations serving the Napa County community participating in this fund-raising effort! The *Give!Guide* website

([www.CanDoGiveGuide.org](http://www.CanDoGiveGuide.org)) provides information about the mission of each of these organizations. Further, the website makes it easy to support any or many of these non-profits with supporting gifts, beginning with gifts as little as \$10! Hopefully, our Mission Farm will be one you choose to support. Remember, many \$10 gifts (just like many hands) makes great works possible! Remember the successful March of Dimes campaign to raise funds in the '50s to combat the polio epidemic?

Our Mission Farm surely needs your help at this time. We have expanded the size of our operation in order to turn in more fresh fruits and vegetables to the Napa Valley Food Bank. The Lord blessed our harvest this year so that we could send in more than 20,000 lbs. . . . a record crop total. It was surely needed. The Food Bank distribution center in the town of Napa had been serving about 50 families a week. Because of the economic effects on jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they are now called on to feed more than 300 families a week! The federal government had been providing Food Banks with surplus foods as part of its response to the COVID crisis. However, that is in danger of being sharply curtailed. This makes what we are able to raise and deliver even more important. And the need will not quickly go away, even after we get a handle on this pandemic.



So prayerfully consider a substantial gift this holiday season to our Mission Farm. You can use the *Give!Guide* website ([www.CanDoGiveGuide.org](http://www.CanDoGiveGuide.org)) to make your gift. Or make a gift to St. John's Lutheran Church, designating it for the Mission Farm, sending it in via any of the methods the congregation has made available to you.

And please, also check out on the *Give!Guide* website the other non-profit organizations serving our Napa community. You may be led to help some of those as well. You can make on line a single gift, and have it divided between several worthy service organizations participating in *Give!Guide* 2020. Each organization will acknowledge your gift and certify that it is deductible as a charitable contribution for tax purposes.



## OFFERING UPDATE

Actual Offering Income for Oct:

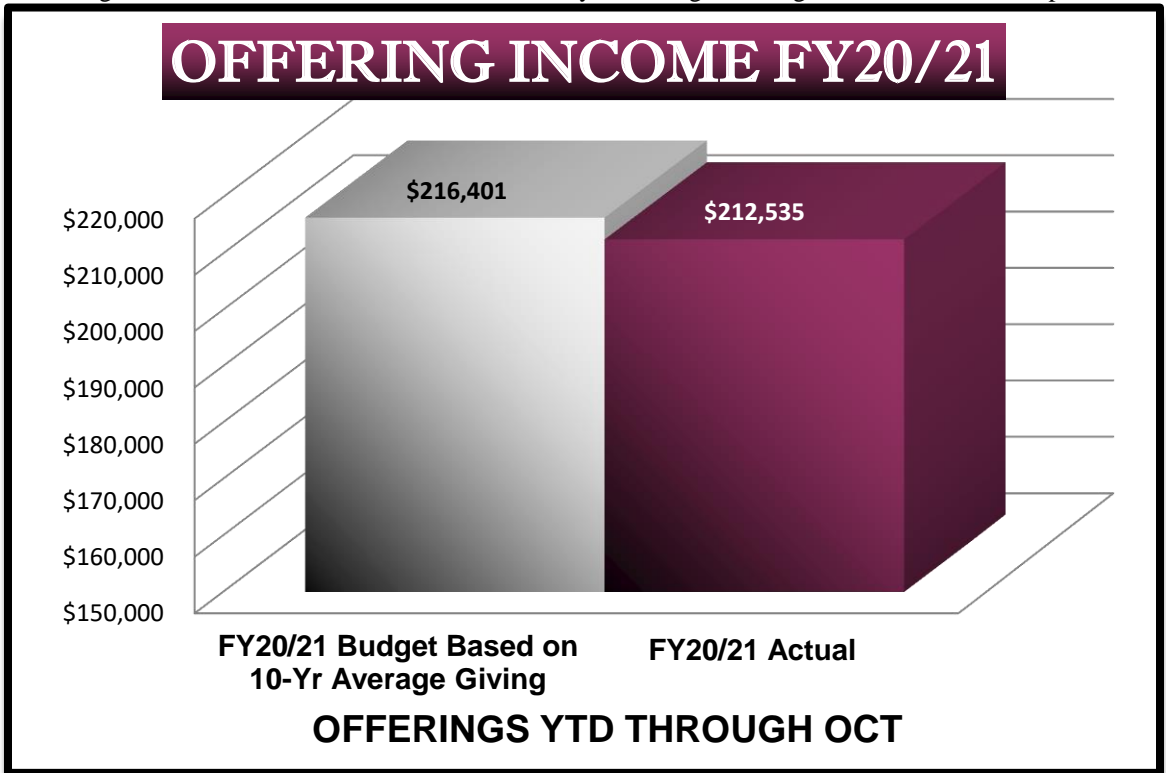
**\$59,744.**

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

**\$212,535** which is **1.79%** or **\$3,866**  
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:

*“So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.” (Galatians 6:10)(ESV)*

## Loving Our Neighbors

In the story of the Good Samaritan found in the tenth chapter of Luke, the Good Samaritan not only helped an injured person, he took him to an inn where he paid for his room and care. The Samaritan sacrificed money, time, and possessions, and risked his own health and safety for the wounded person. He fulfilled the Golden Rule. By putting no limits on how far he was willing to go to help this stranger, the Samaritan

demonstrated the love we should have for our neighbors. He followed Jesus' command to "Go and do likewise." Helping others may mean more than calling 911. We may need to get involved, get our hands dirty, and go the extra mile.

Why don't we become more involved in helping others? One explanation could be that we have become so smug and settled in our material luxury that we are blind to the opportunities to reach out to others. We forget about the thousands and thousands around the country and world who are starving in body and soul. Like the priest and the rabbi who passed by the injured person, we possess the attitude that what is mine is mine and I'm going to keep it.

God will get our attention in many different ways. One day someone observed a wonderful lesson from the little birds hopping around in search of bits of food. Some snowbirds were busy picking up the crumbs that had been thrown out the window. One of the birds apparently had a stiff neck. Because of its injury, it could not stoop over to pick up the crumbs. But the other birds assisted by picking them up and dropping them into his open bill.

God has placed in each of us a heart that can be trained to be unselfish. Through the redeeming sacrifice of our Savior Jesus Christ, Who faithfully gave His own life, we can show love to others. The love of Jesus, strengthened in us by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament, flows through us so we can show love to people around us.

**Prayer:** Lord, the story of the Good Samaritan gives me a wonderful example of how I can share the love that You have given to me. Help me to be ready and willing to come to the aid of those who need my support. Lord, remove my attitude of indifference and grant me a loving and giving heart. 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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## ***Stephen Ministry Training – First 5 Weeks Completed!***

Kudos to the Stephen Minister Class of 2021 for completing their first 5 weeks of training. This first block of weekly sessions began October 26 and finished November 23. Training will resume in January with the second block of 5 weeks of lessons. We are so grateful to God for inspiring these seven people to train to be Stephen Ministers: C.C. Commander, George Clark, John and Pam Footitt, Missy Loban, Sal Pagano, and Sandra Mehrens.

The first five weeks covered these areas:

“The Person of the Caregiver,” -- five foundational characteristics of a caregiver: Compassionate, Trustworthy, Full of Faith, Skilled, and Christ-Centered.

“Feelings: Yours, Mine, and Ours.” -- the importance of recognizing and accepting all the feelings that people have. We learned about Grace-based Acceptance, Empathy, Trust, and Unconditional Positive Regard.

“The Art of Listening.” -- honing our listening skills and finding out that listening well is extremely helpful and caring, but is also hard work. Active and reflective listening skills were practiced.

“Distinctively Christian Caring” – this section was discussed over 2 weeks. Trainees discovered effective ways of using resources such as prayer and Scripture as tools in caring ministry. Ideas from the book ‘Christian Caregiving: A Way of Life’ were discussed, such as remembering that God is the Caregiver and is in charge of results.

These seven trainees are already such a blessing to St. John’s, and we wish God’s blessings upon them. We also appreciate our current Stephen Ministers and all that they do: Clare King, Deidre and Jason Newton, Jeff Mello, Linda Reed, and Roxana Castro. Please keep all of them in your prayers. For more information about Stephen Ministry contact Pam Barker, Penni Cremen, or Pastor Mark.



## 2021 CHURCH DIRECTORIES ARE NOW AVAILABLE.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions,  
directories can be picked up outside the  
church office.

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### DATE                  COUPLE                  YEARS

1	Ed & Ramona Kaufmann	36
2	Eric & Gail Vandeburgt	20
3	Kelsey & Jose Rodriguez	4
5	Wayne & Barbara Miller	56
5	David & Renee Lloyd	39
10	Mary & Randy Kosanke	43
13	Curtis & Theresa Schoenfeld	45
17	Debbie & Steve Stanhope	43
17	Andy & Paula Schweiger	26
21	Clay & Bonnie Thompson	58
28	Jane & Dave Barker	35



- 2 Jennifer Alexander, Will Walter
- 2 William Walter
- 3 Linda Cornils, Elaine Adams, Cason Diviak
- 4 Ivy Alexander
- 5 David Como, Aaron Comfort Dog
- 6 Andres Herrera
- 7 Kristi Carey, Lois Husted, Ellie Ebeling
- 8 Samantha Yoder
- 9 Natalie Yoder
- 10 Pastor Michael Schmid, Elaine Zimmerman, Flynn Irwin
- 11 Roger Mahlandt, Jack Carey, Arvin Chaudhary
- 12 Thomas Cushing
- 13 Markus Obata
- 15 Georgia Bartelt
- 16 Jane Terra  
Gracie Mello, Archie Schluter,
- 17 Rita Bresee
- 18 Angela D'Angelo, Ron Johnson
- 21 Sarah Praeger
- 22 Elena Bresee, Melissa Peterson
- 23 David Lloyd, Noel Schmutz
- 24 Pam Barker, Jane Barker
- 25 Will Obata, Matthew Bresee
- 26 Anavon Kennedy  
Rebekah Kramer, Terry Braddock, Arianna Kampton,
- 27 Kelton Bresee  
Clint Holdsworth, Bob Mueller, Ethan Harkleroad,
- 28 Dean Bledsoe, Robert Miller





## 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.

These devotions will be available online starting on November 29<sup>th</sup> at [www.lhm.org/advent/](http://www.lhm.org/advent/) Other electronic devices will also have the devotions available. Go to [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org) to find the listings for your chosen device. A limited number of printed copies are also available at the church office.



## **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>

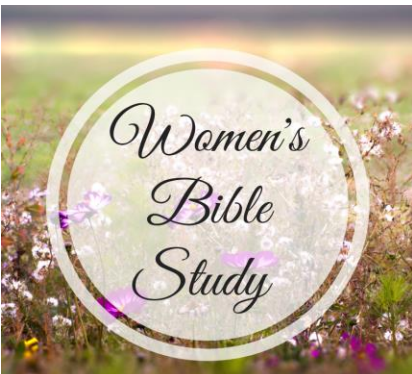


## ***WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY***

(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)!





## 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.



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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**

Phone: (707) 255-0119

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**

Phone: (707) 226-7970

Fax: (707) 226-7974

Email: [czeller@stjohnsnapa.org](mailto: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)