



# THE VINE

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School Newsletter

*January 2021*

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

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## **Worship in January**

We will continue to have live-stream only worship for the foreseeable future. Please refer to the weekly e-vine for any updates regarding how to access the services.

## **Napa Stay Home Order**

The church office remains closed. Please watch the e-vine for any updates or changes regarding St. John's and the stay home order.

## **New Sunday Worship Series: Paul's Letter to the Colossians**

We will begin a new worship series on January 17, focusing on Paul's letter to the Colossians. In this letter Paul addresses the supremacy and sufficiency of Christ in a challenging world, certainly relevant themes for today.

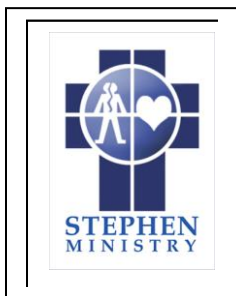
We will cover chapters 1 and 2 of Colossians between January 17 and February 14, the last Sunday before Lent begins. Then we will continue with chapters three and four beginning on April 11, the Sunday after Easter.

## **Wednesday Night Worship**

We will resume live stream Wednesday Night worship on January 13 at 7:00 PM. Pastor Mike will continue our study of the Gospel of Matthew, picking up with the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter of Matthew's Gospel.

## **Wednesday Morning Bible Class Will Study the Book of Jude – Via Zoom**

Pastor Mark will begin teaching the book of Jude on January 6. Jude was the half-brother of Jesus and in just 25 verses deeply and clearly expresses the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ alone. 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](mailto:pastormark@stjohnslutheran.net) to register for the class so he can send you the Zoom link and class handouts.



## ***Stephen Ministry Training – Second Block of Training***

The second 5-week block of training for the Stephen Minister Class of 2021 takes place on the 5 Mondays in January. Areas covered will be:

“A Process Approach to Caregiving” -- Five key elements of a Process Approach are Presence, Service, Skills, Boundaries, and Trust.

“Assertiveness: Relating Gently & Firmly” -- This topic is covered over two weeks due to its importance. Can Christians be assertive? We learn about the differences in being assertive, aggressive, and passive, and how to have a healthy, assertive relationship with our care receiver.

“Maintaining Boundaries in Caregiving” – The significance of self, the value of well-defined boundaries, the differences between friendship and a Caring Relationship are covered.

“Crisis Theory and Practice” – How can Stephen Ministers help people in crisis? Events that can lead to crisis, the course of crisis, and responses to crisis will be covered.

We again ask for your prayers for these seven people who are training to be Stephen Ministers: C.C. Commander, George Clark, John and Pam Foottit, Missy Loban, Sal Pagano, and Sandra Mehrens. We pray for them to grow in wisdom and knowledge, and to be fully equipped for this Ministry. We also appreciate our current Stephen Ministers: Clare King, Deidre and Jason Newton, Jeff Mello, Linda Reed, and Roxana Castro. Thank you for keeping them in your prayers. For more information about Stephen Ministry contact Pastor Mark, Penni Cremen, or Pam Barker.

# LCC K-9 COMFORT DOG MINISTRY UPDATE

To God be the Glory!

***Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!***  
**2 Corinthians 5:17**



Happy New Year!

As this new year begins, I am looking forward to new adventures ahead. While my team and I were limited in our ability to visit people physically last year, we also had the opportunity to find new ways to reconnect with people. In addition to window visits and virtual visits, I was able to participate in several drive-by “parades”. My humans also used this time to reach out via emails, cards, and phone calls.

For the past few years, through the generosity of team members and the congregation, my team and I have been privileged to share some Christmas cheer with the students and families at the Camille Creek Community School. Last month several of my handlers and I were blessed to continue this tradition of dropping off gifts at the school prior to the winter break. This year we were able to provide each student’s family with a Christmas card and a Walmart gift card. Additionally, we presented the staff members with gift cards and a handwritten note, expressing appreciation for all that they do.

Often, I hear my humans say that they are “blessed to be a blessing.” Many times when we visit places we wind up leaving blessed ourselves. Our trip to Camille Creek this year was one of those occasions. Last year, over 70% of the families reached out to the school for assistance with food. The staff was very appreciative of our church and its continued commitment to the school. One of the staff members told my handlers that, “people come and go, but you have always been there.” They were very grateful to be remembered and awestruck by our generosity. My handlers were moved by the “blessing that comes with the 5+ years of Aaron’s gentle presence” in this special place. Thank you to all of you who continue to make this possible through your support.

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 JANUARY

	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
1	Psalm 1	1 Chron. 4:1-23	Acts 9:10-22
2	Psalm 2	1 Chron. 4:24-43	Acts 9:23-35
3	Psalm 147:12-20	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Ephesians 1:3-14, John 1: 1-18
4	Psalm 3	1 Chron. 5:1-22	Acts 9:36-10:8
5	Psalm 4	1 Chron. 5:23-6:30	Acts 10:9-23a
6	Psalm 5	1 Chron. 6:31-81	Acts 10:23b-33
7	Psalm 6	1 Chron 7	Acts 10:34-43
8	Psalm 7:1-9	1 Chron. 8	Acts 10:44-11:10
9	Psalm 7:10-17	1 Chron 9:1-34	Acts 11:11-24
10	Psalm 29	Genesis 1:1-15	Acts 19:1-7, Mark 1:4-11
11	Psalm 8	1 Chron. 9:35-11:3	Acts 11:25-12:5
12	Psalm 9:1-10	1 Chron. 11:4-47	Acts 12:6-19
13	Psalm 9:11-20	1 Chron. 12	Acts 12:20-13:7
14	Psalm 10:1-11	1 Chron. 13:1-14:7	Acts 13:8-20a
15	Psalm 10:12-18	1 Chron. 14:8-15:29	Acts 13:20b-33
16	Psalm 11	1 Chron. 16:1-36	Acts 13:34-47
17	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	1 Samuel 3:1-20	1 Cor. 6:12-20, John 1:43-51
18	Psalm 12	1 Chron. 16:37-17:27	Acts 13:48-14:7
19	Psalm 13	1 Chron. 18	Acts 14:8-20
20	Psalm 14	1 Chron. 19, 20	Acts 14:21-15:5
21	Psalm 15	1 Chron. 21:1-26	Acts 15:6-18
22	Psalm 16:1-6	1 Chron. 21:27-22:19	Acts 15:19-31
23	Psalm 16:7-11	1 Chron. 23	Acts 15:32-16:3
24	Psalm 62:5-12	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	1 Cor. 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20
25	Psalm 17:1-7	1 Chron. 24	Acts 16:4-15
26	Psalm 17:8-15	1 Chron. 25	Acts 16:16-29
27	Psalm 18:1-6	1 Chron. 26	Acts 16:30-17:3
28	Psalm 18:7-15	1 Chron. 27	Acts 17:4-15
29	Psalm 18:16-24	1 Chron. 28, 29	Acts 17:16-28
30	Psalm 18:25-29	2 Chron. 1,2	Acts 17:29-18:7
31	Psalm 111	Deut. 18:15-20	1 Cor. 8:1-13, Mark 1:21-28

# **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.





St. John's Lutheran School would like to wish you and your family a Happy 2021!

As the new year begins, we are still learning via a hybrid platform (students are on campus Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday or distance only) while exploring and making plans for an eventual five days on campus. Many avenues have been explored and solutions to obstacles are being discussed and solved. Please include in your prayers our teachers who are doing an amazing job this year with all of the ups and downs and curves this school year has brought to date.

January is the period in the school year where we begin to plan for the next school year. Budgets are set, re-enrollment begins, and applications are received for the upcoming year. Please include in your prayers for a successful re-enrollment and application season for our school.

As I complete my sixth month here at St. John's, I would like to personally thank you for all of the support and the prayers you have given. It has not been an easy transition during COVID, but I have never felt more supported and cared for than I do here at St. John's. For that I am truly thankful and blessed!

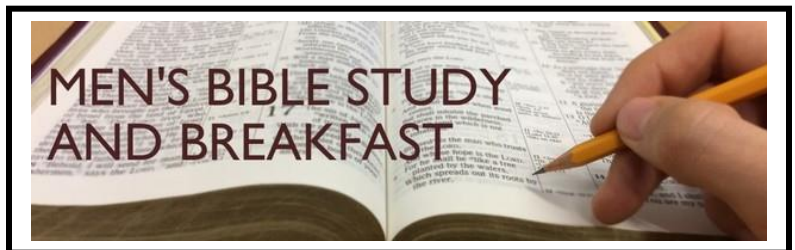
In Christ,  
Christy Wood

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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)



# So, What's New at the Farm?

Submitted by Ted Zimmerman



God gave us a bountiful harvest in 2020 to turn into the Food Bank . . . in excess of 20,000 lbs. This is an increase of approximately 33% over any previous record! Talk about timely, what with the increase of the numbers of families facing food insecurity on account of the impact of COVID. To God be the glory! We can plan, plant, water, fertilize, and weed the best we know how . . . but only God can give the growth!

Just as the volunteers could not have accomplished this feat without the blessing of God, neither could we have accomplished it without the help of others beyond our usual crew. We had some welcomed additions of volunteers from the community this year who were eager to join us in our mission. They brought experience, cheerful spirits, some valuable community contacts, and in one case, a husband with a larger tractor and willingness to employ it in our service on a “need” basis. That was especially helpful this spring when late rains put a rush on prepping the soil for planting.

Then a group of young 20-30 year-olds joined us . . . members of the Napa County Farm Bureau’s “Young Farmers and Ranchers” organization. They joined us most Saturdays, especially when we had a lot of prepping, planting, or gleaning to do. They also came on Thursday evenings to complete gleaning that the regular crew could not get at, and couldn’t wait until Saturday. Many of our regular volunteers, whose age is simply a number, and unlisted at that, welcomed the YF&G’s energetic and cheerful participation, even as we envied their young, flexible bodies. Maybe they gained something in turn. As Julian Clymer, Chair, Napa County Farm Bureau—Young Farmers and Ranchers, put in writing, “As active volunteers with the (Mission Farm volunteers), we all learned a lot about vegetable farming and ourselves!” I should add, they added another dimension to their participation in ministry with us. Hearing that we knew many members of the congregation and community that were battling depression on account of their social isolation, they began reaching out each week targeting several of these, provided cards for all the volunteers to sign, then delivered the cards and a bouquet of flowers to them! Wish you could read some of the “thank you” we received as a result of these acts of kindness made possible by the Young Farmers and Ranchers.



## OFFERING UPDATE

Actual Offering Income for Nov:

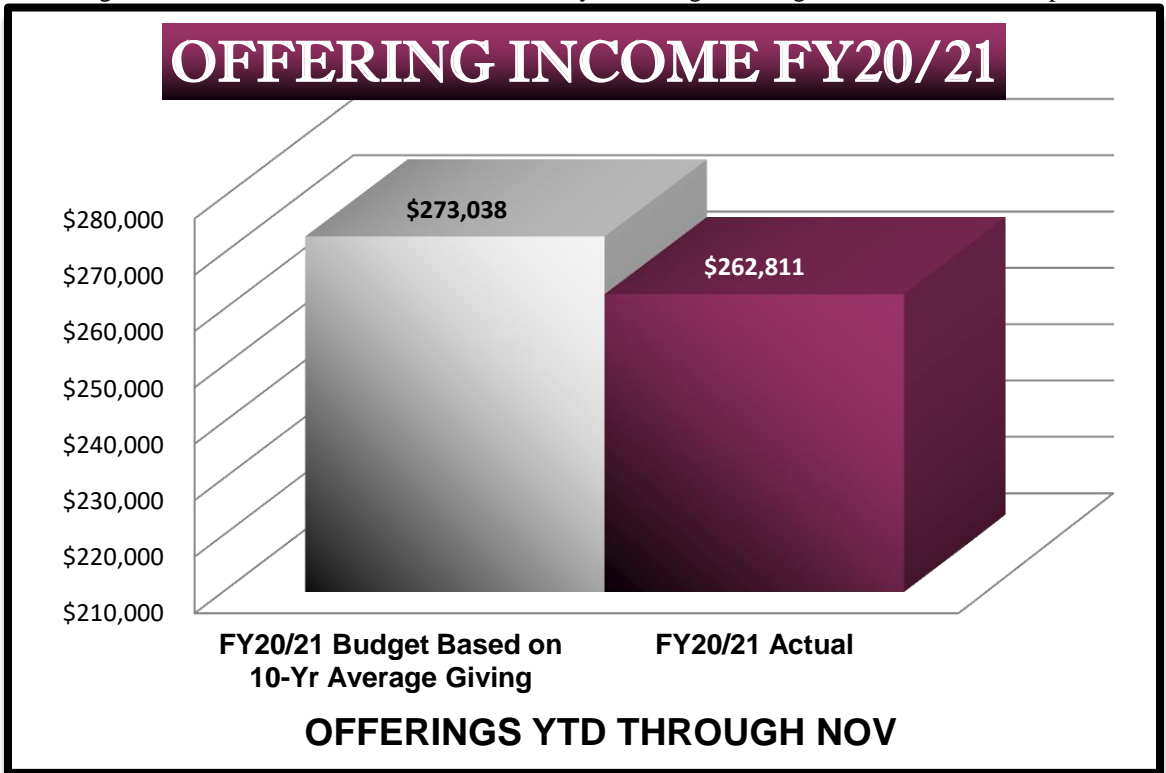
**\$50,276.**

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

**\$262,811** which is **3.75%** or **\$10,227** 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:

*“For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”  
(Romans 15:4)(ESV)*

## Hope in God

Do you have a roof over your head? What about money set aside for retirement? Surely you carry house and vehicle insurance. And probably long-term-care insurance as well. Now, is your heart at ease? You’ve taken care of everything, right?



It certainly is wise to plan ahead, especially so that we will not be burdens to others. But listen to the words of Paul as recorded in 1 Timothy 6:17: *“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, Who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment”* (1 Timothy 6:17).

In this Scripture, Paul reminds us that worldly wealth is still uncertain. He boldly states that, if we’re trusting in worldly wealth, we are acting arrogantly. The only thing that is certain is God’s love for us. He loves us and enables us to make our livings. He loves us so much that He *“richly provides us with everything”* – and here’s the surprising part – *“for our enjoyment”*!

How do you plan to “enjoy” God’s rich blessings to you? Take a cruise around the world? Buy a new luxury car every year? What really brings you enjoyment? God has blessed us, not so that we can enjoy His gifts by hoarding them, but so that His purposes in the world can be fulfilled. In verse 18, Paul tells us how to enjoy the gifts God gives us: *“Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.”*

When our hope is in God, we have no need to amass worldly wealth. When our hope is in God, we trust Him to provide for us all that we need and even more so that we’ll always have something to share. In 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, Paul makes this point with these words: *“Now He Who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”* God has called us to be His stewards. He also enables us to carry out His will. And there’s another bonus! Not only will we receive enjoyment from sharing God’s gifts, *“In this way [we] will lay up treasure for [our]selves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that [we] may take hold of the life that is truly life”* (1 Timothy 6:19). Put your hope in God.

**Prayer:** Lord, there are many things in this world that I can attach my heart to and place my security in. Grant me a discerning heart that helps me understand that my only security is found in You. Help me to faithfully read Your Word which will encourage me to place my hope and trust in You. 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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**2021 CHURCH DIRECTORIES  
ARE NOW AVAILABLE.  
Please contact the church office.**

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**DATE                  COUPLE                  YEARS**

1	Tom & Laura Peterson	20
4	Matthew & Carly Bresee	7
7	Shanna & Salvador Caceres	6
7	Linda & Bill Cornils	43
10	Terry & Melissa Peterson	32
14	Lauren & Ben Frey	10
16	Jennie & Jon Lovie	28
18	Leslie & Tony Nicholson	30
19	Ed & Sharlene Mulsoff	57
20	Joy & Kevin Dahl	14
24	Melissa & Glen Loban	40
30	Hoag & Lois Husted	39
31	John & Tami Van Hofwegen	17



1	Jeremy Koepke, Brodie Mooers
2	Janelle Newton, Charles Scott
3	Nancy Heil, Beth Vecera
4	Kerrie Diviak, Michael Santora
5	Rebecca Hudgins
6	Tami Van Hofwegen
7	Nicholas Cromartie, Megan Schweiger, Shelby Edmeyer
8	Lucy Franklin
9	Paulette Cooper
10	Lori Gutierrez, Declan Bresee
11	Joy Dahl
12	Rita Alexander, Philip Bartelt
13	Gregory King
14	Robert Klein
15	Madison Edmeyer, Midge Schneider
18	Susan Novotny
20	Bryce Powers, Ella Powers, Ashley Diviak
21	Robert Perna, Ed Mulsoff
23	Melissa Seiter, Rebecca McAhren, Heidi Newman
24	Matteo Robertis
25	Janet Peterson
27	Ben Frey, Joseph Svien
28	Tom Peterson
28	Laura Lee Fitzpatrick
29	Karen Craft
31	Ariel Winkler





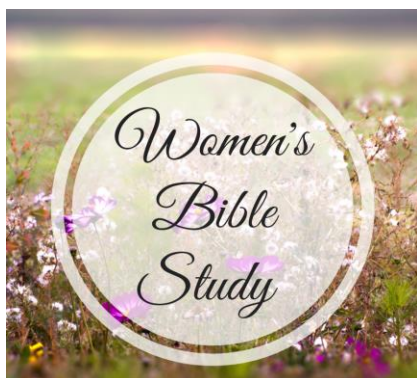
## New mobile phone application makes supporting ministry even more convenient.

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)

### **St. John's Facebook Group**

Are you on Facebook? Have you joined the St. John's Facebook Family Group? Please click here to join and participate in Facebook Live events, discussion and more.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/stjohnsfamilynapa>

Why join our Facebook Group? We are planning Live devotional events, prayer times, as well as other interactive events. Our group is a great place to encourage one another and walk together as a family of God. In this time when gathering in person is so difficult, this is an option to fellowship together.

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



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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**

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)