



THE VINE

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School Newsletter

February 2021

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

ST. JOHN'S AND PURPLE TIER

We will continue to have live-stream only worship as long as our county is in the Purple Tier. Please refer to the weekly e-vine for any updates regarding worship

With the lifting of the Stay Home order, we have re-opened the church office. Please keep in mind that masks are required in the church office.

EPIPHANY WORSHIP SERIES: PAUL'S LETTER TO THE COLOSSIANS

We are continuing our worship series on Paul's letter to the Colossians. We encourage you to read through the book several times during the course of this series. In this letter Paul addresses the supremacy and sufficiency of Christ in a challenging world, certainly relevant themes for today.

Upcoming Sundays include:

February 7	Colossians 2:6-15	Spiritual fullness in Christ
February 14	Colossians 2:16-23	Freedom in Christ

WEDNESDAY NIGHT WORSHIP: THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

We will continue live-stream Wednesday Night worship in February. Pastor Mike continues our study of the Gospel of Matthew, picking up with the 8th chapter of Matthew's Gospel.



Worship Series

Road Hazards

Lent is a journey. The Christian life is a journey. Along our journey through the wilderness of life in a fallen world on the way to the promised land, there are dangers. Road Hazards that can derail us and send us spiraling into a ditch. The Good News is that Jesus is with us and calls us to let Him drive.

Our Sunday Worship series this Lent takes a look at common spiritual road hazards that can impede our progress in following Christ.

Feb 21	Temptation of Christ (Mark 1:9-15)	Road Hazard: Not taking Satan and temptation seriously, leaving us vulnerable to their influence. Good News: Jesus has defeated Satan and will defeat him in our lives
Feb 28	Peter's Confession (Mark 8:27-38)	Road Hazard: Having a false view of Christ, a Christ we or the culture have made up to be more accommodating to our likes.
March 7	Jesus Cleanses the Temple (John 2:13-22)	Road Hazard: Think that God's purpose is to serve me, rather than my purpose being to serve God.
March 14	Jesus and Nicodemus (John 3:14-21)	Road Hazard: Not taking perishing and judgment seriously.
March 21	The Request of James and John (Mark 10:32-45)	Road Hazard: Not seeing that the cross is to be the shape of our lives.



God of the Cross

Our God is a crucified God. Not only is this unique among the world's religions, it is center of our faith, the source of our salvation, our hope and the shape of our lives. What does it mean that our God is the God of the cross? Our Lent Midweek series takes a look at different facets of the cross and what they tell us about our God. Join us on Wednesday evenings online at 7:00 PM.

February 17 (Ash Wednesday)	A Judging God	The cross show us God's judgment on our sins. We are called to repent in light of the judgment of God
February 24	A Redeeming God	God has paid the price for our sins completely. We are redeemed because of the cross
March 3	A Loving God	The cross settles for all time the question of whether God loves us. The cross becomes a picture of the essence of God's love.
March 10	A Hidden God	The cross does not look like God saving the world, but it is. Our God's identity and work are often hidden behind images of weakness and loss.
March 17	A Suffering God	Our God is no stranger to suffering. The cross shows us our God as a victim of suffering.
March 24	A Calling God	The cross is also the shape of our lives when we respond to Christ's call to take up our cross and follow Him.

ATTENTION ALL CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS!!



The congregation will now accept applications for student grants for the 2021-2022 academic year. All members of St. John's, who plan to attend any of our ten synodical universities or our two seminaries, are eligible to apply. All you have to do is send a brief note to St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church, ATTN: Tim Kramer, or an e-mail to

tkramer@stjohnslutheran.net, announcing your intent to enroll in the 2021-2022 academic year. All applications must include the following information:

- a) Your Name
- b) School Name
- c) Student ID or Account # (if returning student)
- d) Degree you are pursuing
- e) Year and Level of study (e.g. Junior year, Undergrad; 5th year, teacher certification, or student teaching; Graduate studies)
- f) Attending Fall Term or Spring Term (or both)
- g) Briefly explain why you're attending Concordia and how you plan to use your studies/future vocation to shine the light of Christ and to witness for Jesus as His kingdom representative in the world.

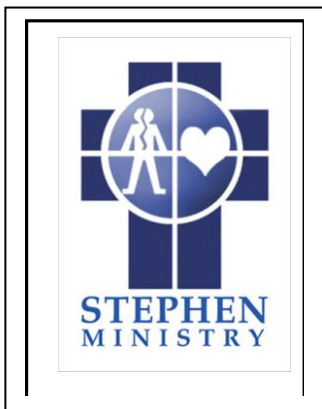
Deadline for applications is March 31, 2021. Actual grant amount to each student is undetermined but will be based, in part, upon the number of students requesting assistance. So, if you are considering attending a synodical university--even if you have not made a final decision--please send a brief note informing us of where you are in your decision process so that we can plan accordingly.

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

Pastor Mark is teaching the book of Jude. 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 to register for the class so he can send you the Zoom link and class handouts.





Stephen Ministry Training – Third Block of Training

The third 5-week block of training for the Stephen Minister Class of 2021 takes place February 22 – March 22. Areas covered will be:

- “Caring between Visits: Caregiving and Communications Technology” – What are the challenges of using technology in a caring relationship? How do we ensure that technology is supportive, confidential, and effective?
- “Using Mental Health Professionals and Other Community Resources” – For needs beyond the scope of Stephen Ministry, when and how do we refer a care receiver to a mental health professional?
- “Ministering to Those Experiencing Grief” – Grief is Normal, Natural, and Necessary for healing. How do we best care for those who are grieving?
- “Caring for those with Depression: The Stephen Minister’s Role” – We will learn to recognize the emotional, mental, relational, and physical characteristics of depression, and how to help those experiencing depression.
- “Understanding Suicide: How to Help People Get the Care They Need” – What are risk factors and signs of suicidal ideation? We’ll learn the steps the Stephen Minister should take to provide help.

We greatly appreciate 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. And thank you for prayers for 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!

This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

1 John 4:9-10



As the shelter-in-place restrictions continue, my team and I are taking advantage of this time to “bone up” on our training and maintain the connections we have made over the past several years.

In January, I was very excited to see many of you when you picked up your offering envelopes and other materials during the “drive-thru” events at the church. I have missed seeing all of you and especially your smiling faces! I also worked with the Napa Police and Fire Chaplains during one of their emergency calls, helping two little girls who witnessed a tragedy. We have also been doing virtual visits as well. I got to meet a “super fan” follower who lives in New York and knows Abraham Comfort Dog. FYI: Abraham is Micah Comfort Dog’s brother! They even look alike too!

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 is Ash Wednesday. For many, the Lenten season is a time for reflection and repentance as we prepare to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. Reflecting back on this past year, I am amazed at all the ways God has allowed my team to pivot so that we might continue offering comfort to people. While it has been challenging at times, God has been faithful in His support, creating new channels and opening new doors (and windows).

Stay safe. I look forward to seeing you soon!

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





For FEBRUARY

	Psalms	Old Testament	New Testament
1	Psalms 18:30-36	2 Chronicles 3:1-5:1	Acts 18:8-21
2	Psalms 18:37-45	2 Chronicles 5:2-6:23	Acts 18:22-19:5
3	Psalms 18:46-50	2 Chronicles 6:24-7:22	Acts 19:6-20
4	Psalms 19:1-6	2 Chronicles 8:1-9:12	Acts 19:21-31
5	Psalms 19:7-14	2 Chronicles 9:13-10:19	Acts 19:32-20:3
6	Psalms 20	2 Chronicles 11:1-12:12	Acts 20:4-16
7	Psalms 147:1-11, 20c	Isaiah 40:21-31	Mark 1:29-39, 1 Cor. 9:16-23
8	Psalms 21	2 Chronicles 12:13-22	Acts 20:17-31
9	Psalms 22:1-8	2 Chronicles 14, 15	Acts 20:32-21:4
10	Psalms 22:9-21	2 Chronicles 16, 17	Acts 21:5-16
11	Psalms 22:22-28	2 Chronicles 18	Acts 21:17-30
12	Psalms 22:29-31	2 Chronicles 19:1-20:19	Acts 21:31-22:2
13	Psalms 23	2 Chron. 20:20-21:17	Acts 22:3-16
14	Psalms 50:1-6	2 Kings 2:1-12	2 Cor. 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9
15	Psalms 24	2 Chron. 21:18-23:21	Acts 22:17-29
16	Psalms 25:1-7	2 Chronicles 24:1-25:4	Acts 22:30-23:11
17	Psalms 25:8-22	2 Chronicles 25:5-26:15	Acts 23:12-24
18	Psalms 26	2 Chronicles 26:16-28:8	Acts 23:25-24:3
19	Psalms 27:1-6	2 Chron. 28:9-29:119	Acts 24:4-16
20	Psalms 27:7-14	2 Chron. 29:20-30:27	Acts 24:17-27
21	Psalms 25:1-10	Genesis 9:8-17	1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15
22	Psalms 28	2 Chronicles 31	Acts 25:15
23	Psalms 29	2 Chronicles 32	Acts 25:16-26:1
24	Psalms 30:1-5	2 Chronicles 33:1-34:7	Acts 26:2-14
25	Psalms 30:6-12	2 Chronicles 34:8-33	Acts 26:15-27
26	Psalms 31:1-5	2 Chronicles 35	Acts 26:28-27:8
27	Psalms 31:6-9	2 Chronicles 36	Acts 27:9-20
28	Psalms 22:23-31	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

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**

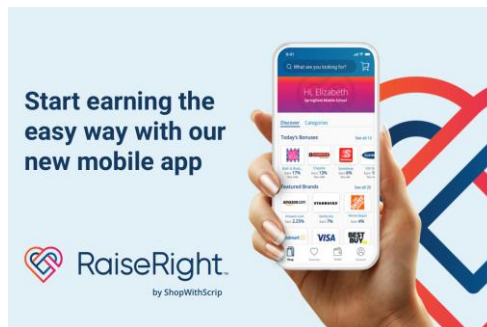
- **Buy gift cards and earn for your organization**

- 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 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.

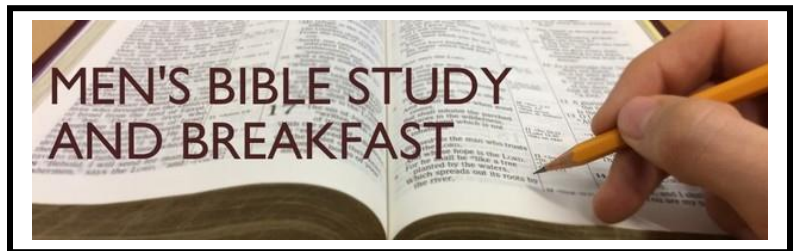
Also, if you have something you'd like to see us talk about or promote on social media, please use the same contact info.



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 21,070 lbs. to be exact!** 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!

Did you see the article about the Farm that appeared in the Napa Register on Christmas Day? What a nice Christmas gift! It certainly helps get the word out about what we are doing on our 13 acres (of which we farm 3 of them) for the good of our community – that together with the Day School and the Comfort Dog Ministry, etc. Actually the article was meant to hold up for recognition the young adults who have come to our assistance on the Farm – the Young Farmers and Ranchers. These young adults, energetic and enthusiastic and idealistic (and did I mention “flexible”) have been a tremendous help. We had nominated them for the Register’s series of articles upon people with generous hearts who are making a big difference in our community. They were selected, but in the process the reporter gave the Mission Farm a nice recognition too!

If you have driven by the church recently, you will note the green fields, contrasting the bare orchard trees. The green fields are cover crop intended to return to the soil some of the nutrients it gives up to nourish the crops we raise. And there is more. This winter we have had a beautiful crop of cabbages (some as big as bowling balls), cauliflowers (one head weighed in at 7.5 lbs.), and broccoli (full of flowers – that’s the part we eat, picked before they bloom).

Pray for the Farm. The volunteers can plan, plant, water, and fertilize the best we know how. But as I began, only God can send seasonable weather and give the growth!



OFFERING UPDATE

Actual Offering Income for Dec:

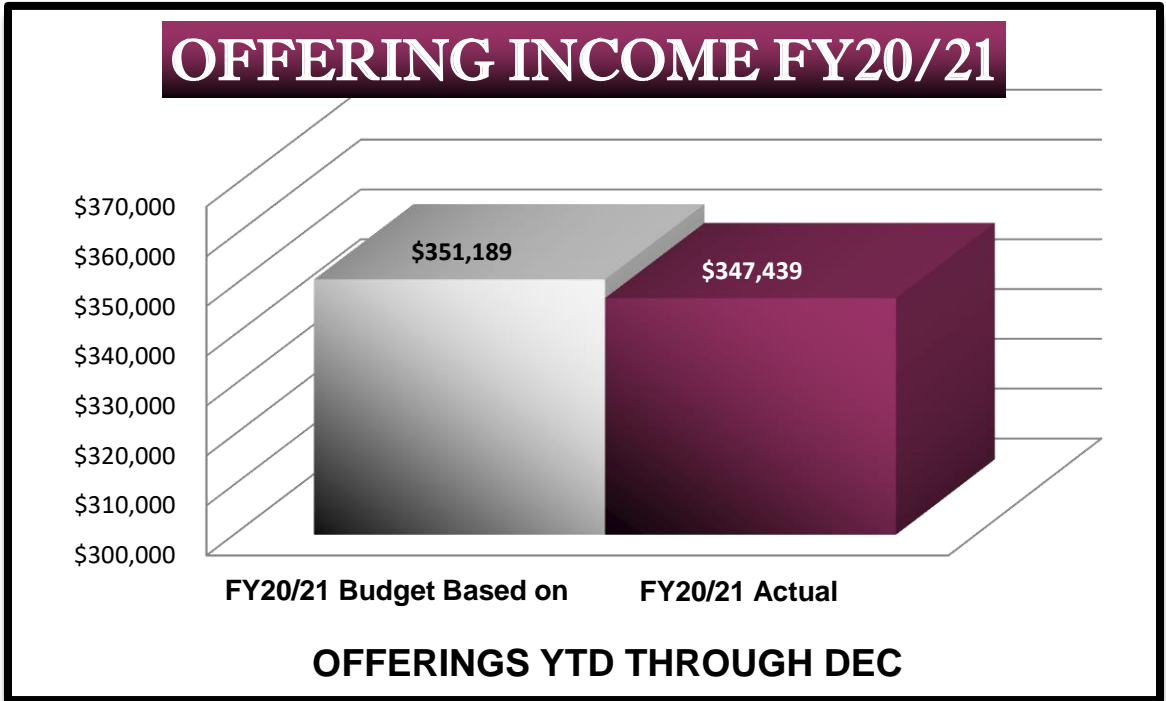
\$84,568.

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

\$347,439 which is **1.07%** or **\$3,750**
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:

“Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for He has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’ ” (Hebrews 13:5)(ESV)

God’s Grip Gives Us Hope

Isn’t it amazing that birds go to sleep on their perches and never fall off? This is because God has created them so that, when their legs are bent, the claws contract and grip like a steel trap. The claws will not let go until the knees are unbent. The bended knee enables the bird to hold tightly to its perch.

As strong as this grip is, it is not as strong as the hold God has on us. Think about Daniel, a young man in a pagan environment. With all the temptations and threats around him, he was safe because of God’s everlasting grip. On his bended knees before his open window, he prayed every

day – three times a day – giving thanks for God’s protection, and God didn’t let go of him, even in the den of lions (Daniel 6:10-22).

We might also consider Joseph who, through all the twists and turns of his lifetime, found one constant: “*The Lord was with Him*” (Genesis 39:3, 21, 23). Taken away from his family at a young age, immersed in an idolatrous culture, tempted by Pharaoh’s wife, he was safe in God’s everlasting grip.

Like both Daniel and Joseph, we live in a sinful world. We may not be facing false accusations and a den of lions, but we, too, face temptations and threats. We, too, earnestly pray for God’s protection and safekeeping of our souls, and His Word assures us that we can rest secure and have hope in His everlasting grip. May God grant us the faith to put our hope in God Who promises to keep His grip on us always.

Prayer: Lord, You are so gracious to me. You gave Your Son to die for my sins, and You give Your Spirit, Who, through Word and Sacrament, convicts me of sin, builds faith in me, and keeps me close to You. Thank You for Your everlasting grip on me, even when I let go of You. In Jesus’ 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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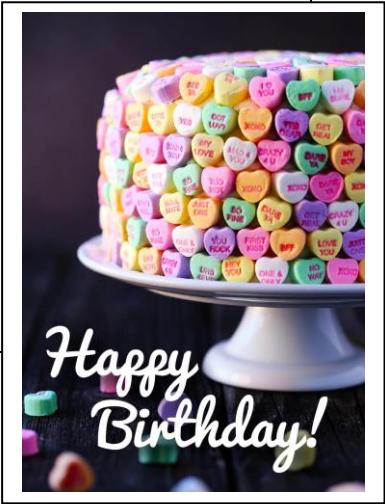
New mobile phone application makes supporting ministry even more convenient.

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.

DATE	COUPLE	YEARS
1	Steve & Christy Wood	24
1	David & Kathy Fitzgerald	35
13	Doug & DeDe Messner	28
14	Tom & Elaine Hoff	34
25	Sandra & Stewart Mehrens	37



3	Lisa Thornton, Katya Kampton, Terry Peterson
4	Jenece Como
6	Bret Skillings
7	Tim Bouchet, Steve Rock
8	Larraine Ewing
9	Stephen Santora, Andrew Schluter
10	Karen Schoenfeld, Carson Dahl
11	Sarah Franklin, Steve Dierker
15	Teresa Schmid, Clayton D'Angelo, Kimberly Uffmann
18	Ruth Peterson
19	Tessa Mello
20	Cliff Burmester
21	Jakob Chaudhary, Leonard Bommersbach
22	Erin Wilson
	Steven Jeffery, Lucas Wedding, Tom Carey,
23	Gisela Chaudhary
25	Jeffrey Craft
26	Christopher Vecera
27	Mark Zeller, Cindy Zeller
29	Elizabeth Munoz





Surge: We will be meeting on Zoom on Tuesday from 6-7pm. If you'd like to get plugged in please contact Kevin Mathison.

Confirmation: This week we have a learning event scheduled on Wednesday from 7-8pm on Zoom. High School: We will be meeting on Zoom from 7-8pm on Thursday. Please contact Kevin Mathison if you'd like any more info on High School Youth.

February

Youth ministry the past number of months has looked vastly different than I or anybody ever expected. Even still, God has shown His goodness in many ways throughout the challenging times. Zoom has become a part of our daily lives and given us the opportunity to gather together for fellowship, learning, and fun. The Youth Ministry at St. John's will continue to meet virtually for the foreseeable future as we aim to do our part in keeping people healthy. If you would like any information about a specific ministry or how to get connected please contact Kevin Mathison.

Surge: We will have Surge events on the 2nd, 9th, & 23rd from 6-7pm.

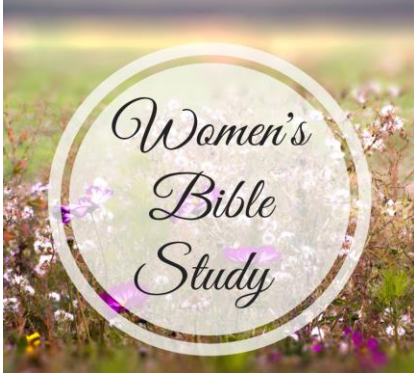
Confirmation: We have just one learning event before Lent scheduled for February 3rd from 7-8pm.

High School: We will meet on the 4th, 11th, 19th, & 26th from 7-8pm.

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



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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. 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

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Phone: (707) 226-7970

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Mrs. Christy Wood, Principal (ext. 103)

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

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