



THE VINE

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School Newsletter
March 2021

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

Worship in March

We are now able to worship in person. There are several restrictions, however.

- Masks are mandatory for all worshipers.
- All worshipers are to observe safe social distancing.
- There will be no indoor singing.

Please watch the e-vine for any updates regarding COVID restrictions



Lent 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.

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 and in-person at 7:00 PM.

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!!



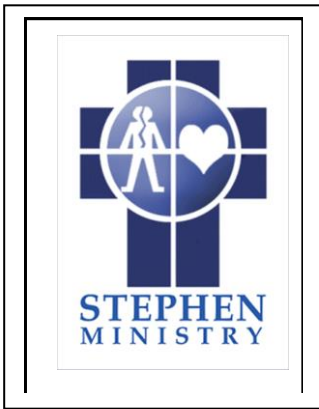
The congregation will now accept applications for student grants for the 2021-2022 academic year. All members of St. John's, who plan to attend any of our ten synodical universities or our two seminaries, are eligible to apply. All you have to do is send a brief note to St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church,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

What Is Stephen Ministry?



Stephen Ministry is a national Christian ministry of trained men and women, called Stephen Ministers, who bring healing and love to hurting people. St. John's Lutheran Church joined this national ministry in 2018. It is an important way in which our congregation carries out its mission and moves us toward our vision. Stephen Ministers are caring Christians who listen, understand, accept, and pray for and with care receivers who are working through a crisis or a tough time. One-to-one care is provided during weekly meetings between the Stephen Minister and the person receiving care.

Stephen Ministers are caregivers. They have engaged in over 50 hours of training in Christian caregiving, including such topics as listening, emotions, boundaries, assertiveness, using Christian resources in caregiving, and specialized topics such as ministering to the divorced, hospitalized, bereaved, and aging. We are truly fortunate to have five active Stephen Ministers: Clare King, Jeff Mellow, Jason Newton, Linda Reed, and Roxana Wright. Our congregation is also very blessed to have seven people who are in the last 20 hours of their training: George Clark, CC Commander, John and Pam Foottit, Missy Loban, Sandra Mehrens, and Sal Pagano.

Care receivers are the recipients of Stephen Ministers' care. Anyone from our church, school, or community who is experiencing divorce, grief, loss of a job, loneliness, hospitalization, terminal illness, or any other life's difficulties would benefit from this ministry. We are all broken and in need of God's healing. Care receivers can feel safe expressing their needs, sharing their burdens, and then receiving confidential, Christian care from a Stephen Minister, whether it is during a crisis or just during a difficult time.

Stephen Leaders oversee and direct each congregation's Stephen Ministry. They recruit, select, train, organize, and supervise our Stephen Ministers, identify people in need of care, and match them with a Stephen Minister. Pastor Mark, Pam Barker, and Penni Cremen are the current Stephen Leaders at St. John's. Contact any of them if you know of someone who might benefit from having a Stephen Minister, if you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, or if you have any questions and want to learn more about Stephen Ministry.

Prayer -- As with all ministries of St. John's Lutheran Church, your prayer support is essential. Please include current and future Stephen Ministers, Care Receivers, and Stephen Leaders in your prayers. May God continue to bless and grow this ministry, strengthen all those involved in it, and provide daily wisdom in the caring relationships.

OFFERING UPDATE

Actual Offering Income for Jan:

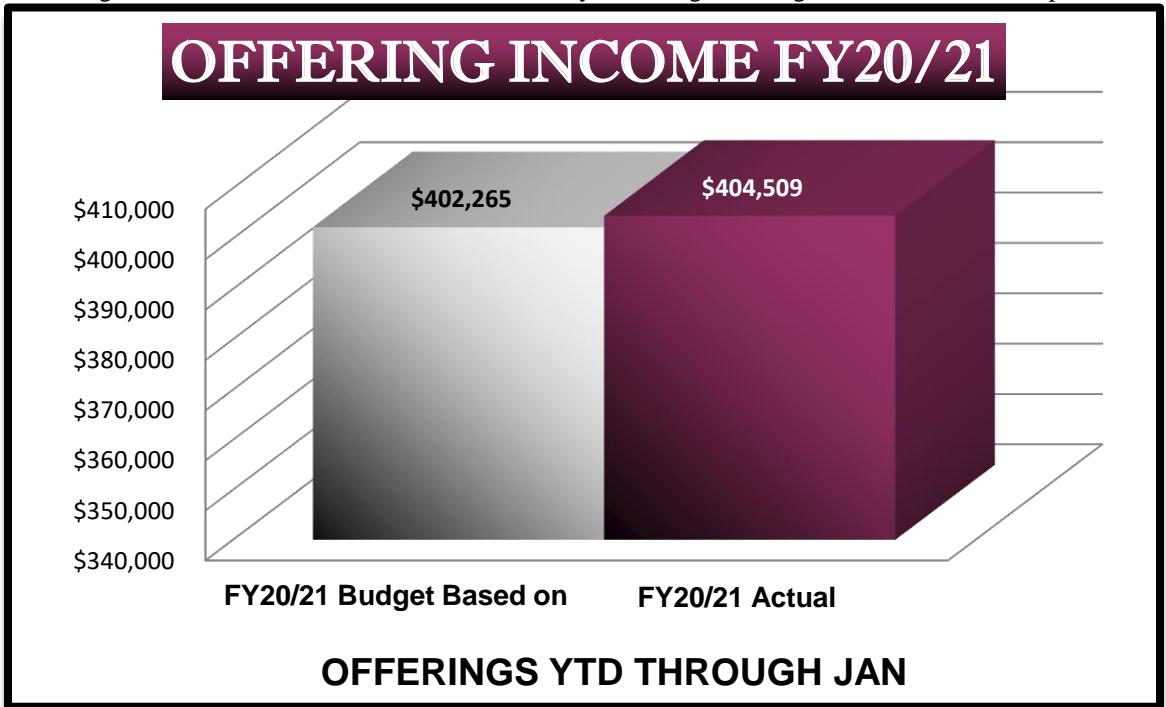
\$57,603.

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

\$404,509 which is **0.56%** or **\$2,244** above 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 what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?”
(Matthew 16:26)(ESV)***

The False Hope of Wealth

In Luke 19 we read the story of Zacchaeus, the tax collector, who was a wealthy man. Zacchaeus, knowing that Jesus was passing by, climbed the sycamore-fig tree in order to see Him. When Jesus reached the spot where Zacchaeus was, He said to him, ***“Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.”*** (v. 5) Out of joy and gratitude, Zacchaeus told Jesus that he would give half of his possessions to the poor and if he had cheated anyone he would give back four times the amount. Jesus said to him, ***“Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.”*** (v. 9)

Zacchaeus was more than willing to give--he was eager to give. Having come to a knowledge of Who God is, he was excited about giving his earthly possessions for the glory of God.

Contrast Zacchaeus' reaction to that of the Rich Young Ruler (Luke 18:18-30) who asked Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus told him he must keep the commandments. Because Jesus knew the Rich Young Ruler's god was his riches, He added, "***Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come follow Me.***" (Luke 18:22) Unfortunately the Rich Young Ruler placed his love and security in his riches so he went away sadly.

Jesus did not demand that everyone become poor to be His disciple, but in this case, He knew that the young man, although he had tried to be a model of virtue according to the Jewish law, was actually an idolater in violation of the first commandment. His god was his wealth.

Jesus correctly gauged Zacchaeus' spiritual condition by his willingness to part with his money, and He also saw the hardness of the heart of the Rich Young Ruler who was unwilling to part with his money.

Often money is a barrier to our spiritual growth. Money can possess us. Jesus said again and again that there is no security in wealth. Our society identifies possessions with happiness and an adequate income with security. Do we possess our money or does our money possess us? Does our behavior suggest that we, like the young man, are idolaters of money? Do we place our hope in money? If we hold onto our earthly treasures with a tight grip, we need to question where our hearts are. If we look at our pocketbooks we will see where we have our priorities. Our giving is a true indication of our commitment to the Lord.

May God grant us all faithful and discerning hearts so that we will place our hearts and our hope in God alone.

Prayer: Lord, I thank You for the opportunity that I have to work and earn an income. Grant me wisdom to be a good manager of the money that You entrust to me. Help me develop a proper attitude toward it so that it doesn't become overly important and help me to see that money is a tool to help extend Your kingdom. 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.

Scripture quotations marked (ESV) are from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway

LCC K-9 COMFORT DOG MINISTRY UPDATE

To God be the Glory!

He called a little child to Him, and placed the child among them. ³ And He said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵ And whoever welcomes one such child in My name welcomes Me.”

Matthew 18:2-5



This past month I have had the privilege of visiting many children, both virtually and in-person. Micah Comfort Dog (Light of the Valley Lutheran Church, Elk Grove), Lois Comfort Dog (First Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Las Vegas, NV) and I had a blast doing a Zoom virtual visit with the Kindergarten class from Faith Academy in Las Vegas. The students were very polite and asked so many questions. I think they may have as just as much energy as Micah, Lois and I!

I am so excited to be back on campus at Justin-Siena High School. Members of the Class of 2021 recently invited me to visit and I was honored to hang out with “my kids” again. I have really missed seeing them and all the hugs and ear scratches. I also enjoyed watching some of the students work on chalk art drawings.

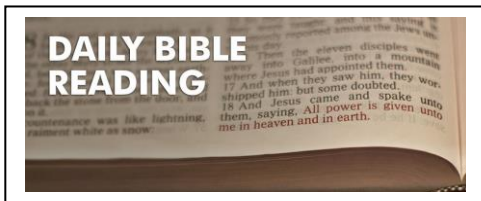
Now that some of our local schools are returning to campus, I am looking forward to resuming my visits to some of the places I used to go. I am especially looking forward to getting back on campus here at St. John’s and reconnecting with everyone. Now that we are back to in-person worship, I eagerly await seeing many of you. I have missed you.

Stay safe. I hope to see 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 MARCH

	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
1	Psalm 31:10-20	Ezra 1,2	Acts 27:21-38
2	Psalm 31:21-24	Ezra 3	Acts 27:39-28:6
3	Psalm 32	Ezra 4	Acts 28:7-16
4	Psalm 33:1-5	Ezra 5:1-6:12	Acts 28:17-31
5	Psalm 33:6-11	Ezra 6:13-7:28	Romans 1:1-12
6	Psalm 33:12-22	Ezra 8:1-20	Romans 1:13-25
7	Psalm 19	Exodus 20:1-17	1 Corinthians 1:18-25, John 2:13-22
8	Psalm 34:1-7	Ezra 8:21-10:6	Romans 1:26-2:4
9	Psalm 34:8-18	Ezra 10:7-44	Romans 2:5-16
10	Psalm 34:19-22	Neh. 1:1-2:10	Romans 2:17-3:2
11	Psalm 35:1-10	Neh. 2:11-3:32	Romans 3:3-18
12	Psalm 35:11-18	Nehemiah 4	Romans 3:19-31
13	Psalm 35:19-28	Neh. 5:1-6:14	Romans 4:1-12
14	Psalm 107:1-3,17-22	Numbers 21:4-9	Ephesians 2:1-10, John 3:14-21
15	Psalm 36	Neh. 6:15-7:73a	Romans 4:13-25
16	Psalm 37:1-6	Neh. 7:73b-8:18	Romans 5:1-11
17	Psalm 37:7-15	Neh. 9:1-10:27	Romans 5:12-6:4
18	Psalm 37:16-22	Neh. 10:28-11:36	Romans 6:5-16
19	Psalm 37:23-26	Neh. 12:1-43	Romans 6:17-7:6
20	Psalm 37:27-33	Neh. 12:44-13:14	Romans 7:7-20
21	Psalm 51:1-12	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Hebrews 5:5-10, John 12:20-33
22	Psalm 37:34-40	Neh. 13:15-31	Romans 7:21-8:8
23	Psalm 38:1-8	Esther 1	Romans 8:9-19
24	Psalm 38:9-16	Esther 2:1-18	Romans 8:20-33
25	Psalm 38:17-22	Esther 2:19-3:15	Romans 8:34-9:7
26	Psalm 39:1-6	Esther 4,5	Romans 9:8-21
27	Psalm 39:7-13	Esther 6,7	Romans 9:22-33
28	Psalm 31:9-16	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Philippians 2:5-11, Mark 11:1-11
29	Psalm 40:1-8	Esther 8:1-9:17	Romans 10:1-13
30	Psalm 40:9-17	Esther 9:18-10:3	Romans 10:14-11:6
31	Psalm 41	Job 1,2	Romans 11:7-18

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**

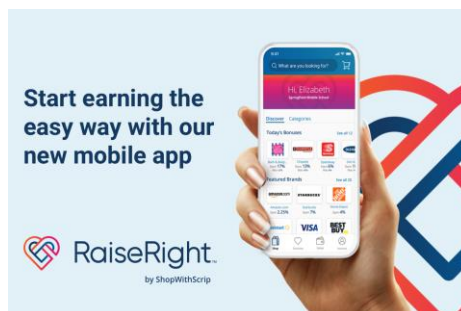
- **Buy gift cards and earn for your organization**

- 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.

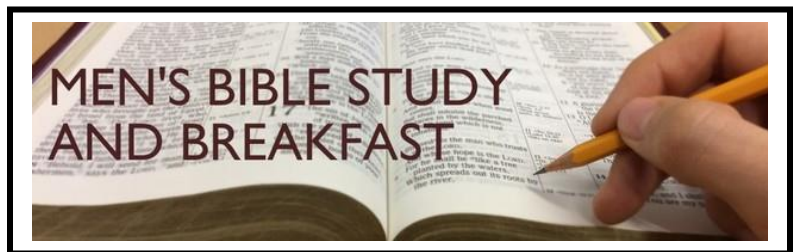
Also, if you have something you'd like to see us talk about or promote on social media, please use the same contact info.



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)



The logo for 'GIVE+' in a bold, sans-serif font, with a yellow plus sign.

**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.



Please join us on Easter Sunday after our Easter service for a fun,
“**un-traditional**” egg hunt!

This year we will meet out in the north field
(by the track) to hunt for eggs!

Don’t forget to bring your basket to collect the Easter eggs!

This event is for young children up to 4th Grade.

So that we may prepare for proper **social distancing**, you must pre-register your children to participate. Please email or call Janis King to sign up...jking@stjohnsnapa.org or (707) 226-7970 ext. 107 include your children’s names and ages.



DONATIONS OF STUFFED EASTER EGGS will be greatly appreciated in the month of March! Please no unwrapped candy! The eggs can be dropped off in the Preschool or Church Office.

Thank you!

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>



February was a very busy month for St. John's Lutheran School.



We started off the month celebrating World Cancer Day. Our students donated over \$1000 for the Queen of the Valley Cancer Wellness Program. This program offers a personalized exercise plan, nutritional and stress mastery counseling, and psycho-social and

spiritual support at no charge to all cancer patients who reside in the Napa Valley, regardless of where they are treated, and for all cancer patients treated at the Queen, regardless of where they live. This program is fully funded through generous community support.

A very successful parent workday was held on Saturday, February 6 in anticipation of our students returning to campus full time. Plexiglas was installed, social distancing markers were placed, and furniture was placed into storage. Students were greeted Monday morning by our Eagle and lots of fun and excitement was had seeing old friends and meeting new friends.

Life on campus is beginning to settle into our new routine. Face masks, hand sanitizer and social distancing are our new friends. We have three new teacher aides on campus to help our teachers with this transition. We welcome Valerie Owens, Keli Manfred, and Indra Flores on campus.

As we navigate through learning in the age of COVID, we have the blessing here at St. John's Lutheran to know about Jesus and we have the opportunity to share His love with others. As we enter Lent, and wear our purple wrist bands from Ash Wednesday, it is our prayer that others can see Jesus through our words and actions.

We are currently in the process of re-enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year and have openings in our school. If you are interested in enrolling your child in our school, please do not hesitate to contact the school office at 707-226-7970.

In Christ,
Christy Wood, Principal

So, What's New at the Farm?

Submitted by Ted Zimmerman



One might think that winter is a slow time on the Farm. Crops all safely in. Volunteers taking time off to take care of their own projects at home. Water shut off, and letting God take care of the irrigation. Letting Mr. Kubota cool his heels for a while in the shed after a long season of tilling, toting, and the like.

Well, think again! We have cool weather crops in the ground that need tending: carrots, onions, beets, and only recently did we finish harvesting the cabbages, broccoli, and cauliflower. Weeds grow all year around, and we are fighting the battle to keep them from swallowing up the onions, garlic, leeks, carrots, etc. We take the time to repair and repaint all the garden signs that identify what crops we have planted where. This is a service to some of our volunteers as well as to school and church members who come over to see what we are raising. We also take the time to clean, sharpen and repair all the various garden tools. Crop plans for next year are being made. A new fence line for tomatoes is being put into place. The fruit trees all received their annual “haircuts” (a real time consuming activity), just in time for them to dress up with their spring blooms. Seeds are being purchased, starter pepper and squash plants being planted under grow lights at Ron and Lois Johnson’s property, and orders placed with nurseries for still other starter plants like tomatoes and onions. Soon enough Dick Lemin will be firing up Mr. Kubota to mow the cover crops and begin disking it into the soil as green manure. And you should soon see some improvements being made around the storage area.

So, no, things have continued to be quite busy around the Mission Farm. But all the farmers are looking forward to the next crop season, and pray that God will bless the harvest abundantly as He did this past year! Amen!



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1	Soren De Young, Elora Stepp
2	Beckett Koen, Kennith Reed
5	Cindy Powers
6	Colin Nicholson, Brody Rollin
7	Aven Kampton
8	Christian Craft
9	Vicky Bartelt, Ryan Chagonjian, Pastor Ted Zimmerman
10	Sophie Alexander, Matthew Wahlers
11	Paula Schweiger
12	Debbie Kirkpatrick, Kari Perna, Gail Vandeburgt
13	Isaac Anderson, Mac Engelbracht, Anne Heine
14	Jacob Cremen, George Fleischmann
15	Judy Biggs, Ronald Irwin
16	Linda Hammond
17	Caitlin Newton, Linda Reed
18	Amelia Laws, Tony Nicholson
19	Janelle Mason, Teresa Yeh
20	Colette Hjerpe, David Newman
21	Sarah Kramer, Brad Seiter
22	Judie Arnett
23	Nancy Ehlen
25	Linda Harvey
27	Douglas Messner
28	Sandra Mehrens
29	John Foottit, Sigrid Dobat, Cathy Hartwig, Caroline Zaia
31	Sophia Frey, Patrick Yoder, Logan Rodriquez



DATE	COUPLE	YEARS
8	Steven & Christi Jeffery	35
9	Pastor Mark & Anne Heine	2
11	Richard & Karen Dalen	62
21	David & Kristin Goller	23
31	Joshua & Roxana Wright	9
31	Derek & Danielle Irwin	25

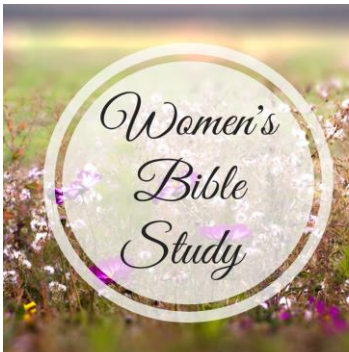


Welcome to March! St. John's Youth Ministry is looking forward to this month's activities. We have been gathering on Zoom for about a year now and are looking forward to any future opportunity to gather in person again.

Surge: We will meet on Tuesday the 2nd, 16th, 23rd, & 30th from 6-7pm.

High School: We will be meeting every Thursday this month from 7-8pm.

Contact Kevin Mathison with any questions on how to get involved with these groups.



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 Womensminsity@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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Our weekly sermons are available on the St. John's website at: www.stjohnslutheran.net.

Visit our school website at: www.stjohnsnapa.org

Facilities Calendar Link: <https://teamup.com/ks059311afd6a21c57>



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<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/248942728988437/st-johns-lutheran-church/>

Church

Phone: (707) 255-0119

Fax: (707) 255-3041

Email: churchoffice@stjohnslutheran.net

Rev. Michael A. Schmid, Lead Pastor (ext. 122)

Rev. Mark G. Heine, Director of Care Ministries (ext. 124)

Mr. Tim Kramer, Business Administrator (ext. 121)

Mrs. Christy Kramer, Church Office Manager, (ext. 120)

Mr. Kevin Mathison, Dir. of Youth Ministry (ext. 106) or 255-7451

School

Phone: (707) 226-7970

Fax: (707) 226-7974

Email: czeller@stjohnsnapa.org

Mrs. Christy Wood, Principal (ext. 103)

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

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