



THE VINE

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

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

Worship in April

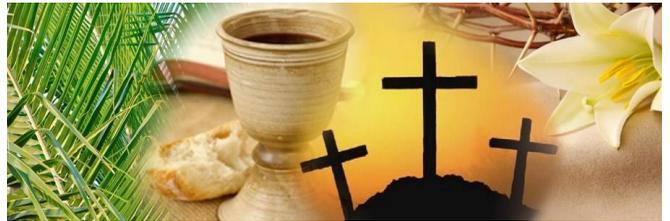
We are now able to worship in person. There are several restrictions, however.

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

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

Holy Week Worship

Our Holy Week services commemorate the final week of our Savior's journey to the cross and the empty tomb. These are the events that procured our salvation, and that give us the forgiveness and hope that are the foundation of our lives. All services will be in person and streamed.



- **Maundy Thursday (April 1), 7:00 PM** – We commemorate the institution of the Lord's Supper. This will be a Communion service
- **Good Friday (April 2), 7:00 PM** – This will be a traditional Tenebrae service, with the gradual darkening of the sanctuary, as we commemorate Christ's death for our salvation
- **Easter Vigil (April 3), 8:00 PM** – The Vigil is the beginning of the Easter celebration. The service will begin with the Service of Light in the Faith Chapel (weather permitting), and process into the sanctuary.
- **Easter Sunday (April 4)** There will be two Communion services on Easter Sunday.
 - **9:30 AM** – In the sanctuary and streamed
 - **11:00 AM** – In the Faith Chapel. Because we will be outside, this service will involve live musicians and congregational singing.

Stephen Ministry – A Ministry of Listening

Think of a time when you really felt cared for. Chances are, someone focused on what you had to say and was attentive to your needs. He or she listened to how you felt instead of telling you how you should feel or what you should do.

Jesus was the model of a good listener. He demonstrated how much He really cared about people by listening. The woman at the well, Nicodemus, or the disciples on the road to Emmaus are just a few examples of Jesus caring by first listening to people.

Listening is one of the most powerful ways that we care for each other. In Stephen Ministry training, a great deal of time is spent teaching and practicing listening skills. You too can become a more caring listener by understanding and applying these six listening concepts:

- 1. Listening is active.** It takes energy and commitment to listen really well. Focus your attention on what the other person has to say instead of thinking of what you'll say next. Look at him or her while you listen, and nod along from time to time so the person knows you're tuned in.
- 2. Listening takes patience.** Often you need to build trust before someone will open up to you. Constant, patient listening is a key.
- 3. Listening involves more than just words.** Pay attention not only to what is *said*, but to what is *not said* – or to what is said with a smile or a sigh. Pay attention to body language. Does it agree with or contradict a person's spoken words?
- 4. Good listeners aren't completely silent.** Restate key thoughts or ideas to be sure you understood correctly, or ask focused questions to encourage the person to reach a little deeper.
- 5. Listening happens over time.** One conversation might build upon an earlier one. As you listen over several conversations, are there any recurring themes or patterns in what the person has said? Are there any contradictions from what was said earlier? These are signs there may be more to explore underneath.
- 6. Listening is confidential.** A great way to build that trust and to show the person you really care for him or her is to maintain confidentiality and not to share with others what was told to you in private conversation.

We all want St. John's to be a caring place, where everyone truly feels cared for. Reach out to someone today and listen to how they're doing. Just as our Stephen Ministers use good listening skills to communicate how much they care, you can too. Follow and practice these listening principles and make a concentrated effort toward becoming a better listener. Listening is a great gift to share.

If you or someone you know would benefit from talking with a Stephen Minister, contact Penni Cremen or Pastor Mark via the Church office. Copyright © 2000 by Stephen Ministries, St. Louis



VOLUNTEER SERVICE FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Hello, faithful servants,

I hope this finds you doing well! It's hard to believe that an entire year has gone by since covid-19 rocked our world! Today at our Leadership Meeting we talked about getting back to "normal" for the kids! Thinking about the Easter Egg Hunt, Children's Church and Vacation Bible School.

I'd like to hear about your comfort level with returning to these children's activities in the future. Are you vaccinated? Do you feel safe? Do you feel comfortable being around kids? Are you willing and able to be a volunteer again for SJL Church?

I am trying to plan for a week of VBS June 21-25, 2021. Of course this can't happen without you, our fabulous volunteers!! I'm also trying to plan for a return to Children's Church in September 2021.

I would appreciate it if you could get back to me through email or call me if that's easier for you. (707-226-7970 ext. 107)

Thank you so much; I look forward to hearing from you!

Janis King

OFFERING UPDATE

Actual Offering Income for Feb:

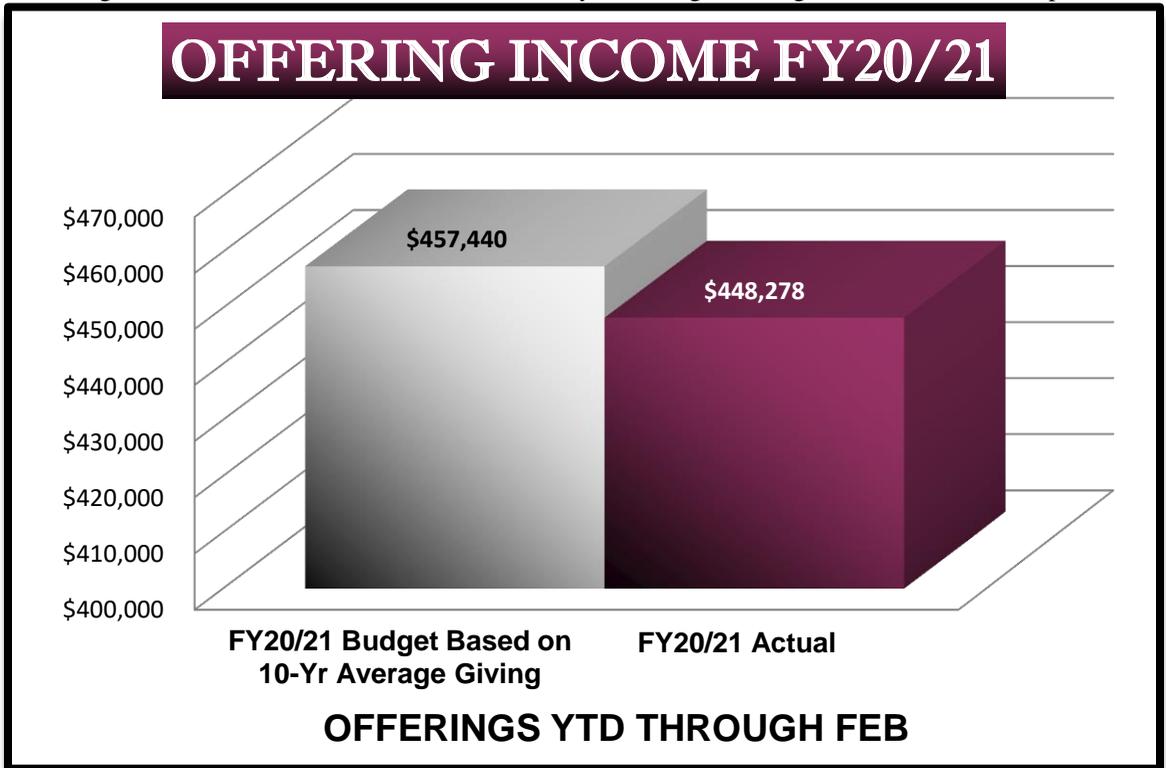
\$44,169.

Total Offerings for FY20/21 (as of 28 Feb 21):

\$448,278 which is **1.92%** or **\$9,162** 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:

“In my father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?” (John 14:2)(ESV)

Conveying Our Final Messages of Hope

Most people want to put off thinking about and preparing for the time when the Lord will take them to His eternal home. We need to be prepared, though, because only God knows each person’s timetable. Whether we are given short or long lives, we can take a final opportunity, through a will or trust, to share a message of our love for and hope in Christ for life eternal and a gift to continue our faithful stewardship. Our last will and

testament can provide an encouragement to our families and friends to grow in their faith. Through a Christian Preamble, which is the way we can begin a will or trust, we can take a last opportunity to witness to our loved ones.

If our will or trust gives a final testimony of our trust in the Lord, it will be a real source of encouragement to those we leave behind. It will comfort our families and friends to know that we believed and trusted in the promise that Jesus gave in John 11:25-26, ***“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die...”*** If a Christian Preamble is in a will, our message will go beyond our families and friends, because a will is filed in probate court which is public record.

A will or trust is also a wonderful time to put our love for the Lord into action with a gift for the Lord’s work through our churches. For many Christians, this may be the biggest gift they make. Bequests in our wills express the message of Christ’s importance to us. A gift for the Lord’s work acknowledges God’s ownership of our lives and things and that we are simply returning them to God, Who provided them for our use. As J. Gregory Pope said, “Planning an enduring gift that supports and perpetuates the Gospel message is a significant—sometimes final—witness of a faithful and maturing disciple in response to the grace of a loving God.”

May God grant us all an abundant measure of His grace so our final messages will bring glory to Him.

Prayer: Lord, You are the source of all good things. Out of love, You have given me life and blessings to sustain life. Because of sin, my life on earth will end. Help me to prepare for my death by sharing my hope and faith in You through my Christian estate plan. Grant me a generous and giving heart so I can continue my faithful stewardship at death with my accumulated assets. In Your precious 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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LCC K-9 COMFORT DOG MINISTRY UPDATE

To God be the Glory!

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3



I am beyond excited to share some **great news** with you: our wait is almost over and we are **expecting** to receive our **second LCC K9 Comfort Dog** in Napa soon!!! As we prepare for his/her arrival, team members will be travelling to LCC headquarters in Illinois for training. I cannot wait to meet my new “co-worker!” More details to follow. Please continue to keep the team and this ministry in your prayers.

This month I will be participating (virtually) in the “Run for Respect” 5K race. The purpose of this race is to raise awareness and replace the r-word with the new r-word “Respect.” I have enjoyed running this race the past few years and I am thrilled that many of my team members will be joining me this year. Also, there are over 50 other LCC dogs and their teams participating this year! Prior to the race, several other comfort dogs and I will be doing a virtual visit with some of the Life Skills students at the Pontiac Township, IL high school which organizes the event.

Now that the courts are beginning to re-open in Napa, I have resumed working with the DA’s office, providing support to victims both before and during trials. I am very blessed to be able to provide some security and comfort to families in the midst of difficult circumstances. I hope to continue providing this support as the courts return to a regular schedule.

Have a safe, blessed Easter. He is Risen!

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 APRIL

| | Psalm | Old Testament | New Testament |
|----|---------------------|----------------------|--|
| 1 | Psalm 42 | Job 3,4 | Romans 11:19-32 |
| 2 | Psalm 43 | Job 5,6 | Romans 11:33-12:8 |
| 3 | Psalm 44:1-8 | Job 7 | Romans 12:9-21 |
| 4 | Psalm 118:1-2,14-24 | | Acts 10:34-43, Mark 16:1-8, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 |
| 5 | Psalm 44:9-16 | Job 8 | Romans 13 |
| 6 | Psalm 44:17-26 | Job 9 | Romans 14:1-12 |
| 7 | Psalm 45:1-9 | Job 10 | Romans 14:13-15:2 |
| 8 | Psalm 45:10-17 | Job 11:1-12:12 | Romans 15:3-16 |
| 9 | Psalm 46 | Job 12:13-13:19 | Romans 15:17-29 |
| 10 | Psalm 47 | Job 13:20-14:22 | Romans 15:30-16:7 |
| 11 | Psalm 133 | | Acts 4:32-35, 1 John 1:1-2:2, John 20:19-31 |
| 12 | Psalm 48 | Job 15-16 | Romans 16:8-20 |
| 13 | Psalm 49:1-12 | Job 17, 18 | Romans 16:21-1, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 |
| 14 | Psalm 49:13-20 | Job 19 | 1 Corinthians 1:10-20 |
| 15 | Psalm 50:1-6 | Job 20 | 1 Corinthians 1:21-2:2 |
| 16 | Psalm 50:7-15 | Job 21 | 1 Corinthians 2:3-16 |
| 17 | Psalm 50:16-23 | Job 22, 23 | 1 Corinthians 3:1-11 |
| 18 | Psalm 4 | | Acts 3:12-19, 1 John 3:1-7, Luke 24:36b-48 |
| 19 | Psalm 51:1-6 | Job 24 | 1 Corinthians 3:12-23 |
| 20 | Psalm 51:7-12 | Job 25-27 | 1 Corinthians 4:1-15 |
| 21 | Psalm 51:13-19 | Job 28 | 1 Corinthians 4:16-5:8 |
| 22 | Psalm 52 | Job 29 | 1 Corinthians 5:9-6:8 |
| 23 | Psalm 53 | Job 30 | 1 Corinthians 6:9-20 |
| 24 | Psalm 54 | Job 31 | 1 Corinthians 7:1-16 |
| 25 | Psalm 23 | | Acts 4:5-12, 1 John 3:16-24, John 10:11-18 |
| 26 | Psalm 55:1-8 | Job 32, 33 | 1 Corinthians 7:17-24 |
| 27 | Psalm 55:9-15 | Job 34:1-28 | 1 Corinthians 7:25-40 |
| 28 | Psalm 55:16-19 | Job 34:29-35:16 | 1 Corinthians 8 |
| 29 | Psalm 55:20-23 | Job 36:1-26 | 1 Corinthians 9:1-12a |
| 30 | Psalm 56:1-8 | Job 36:27-37:24 | 1 Corinthians 9:12b-27 |

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.

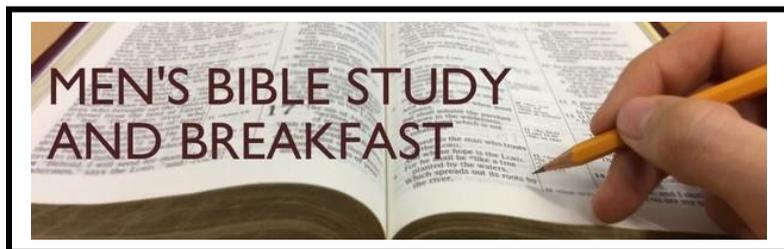
Also, if you have something you'd like to see us talk about or promote on social media, please use the same contact info.



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+" consists of the word "GIVE" in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by a plus sign "+" in a larger, orange color. The entire logo is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

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 between our Easter services for a fun, “**un-traditional**” egg hunt! (10:45 AM on EASTER SUNDAY)

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.



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>





Easter Blessings to you and your family!

March was another full month at our school. During the week of March 8 we celebrated Science

Week! Everyone from Preschool through Grade 8 joined in the fun and what a fun week full of catapults, paper airplanes, bridges, and egg drops. It was so much fun to see the excitement in our students faces.

We had an APT (Association of Parents and Teachers) meeting on Thursday, March 11. Due to COVID, the Main Event was once again postponed. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, March 19, 2022 for the Main Event 2022.

Holy Week was a special week for our St. John's community. Mrs. Gewirz, Mrs. Perez, and Mrs. Peskett planned activities around the theme "See our Savior's Hands: Our students learned about miracles, prayer, love and forgiveness and peace.

When school resumes after Easter Break, April will be a busy month for St. John's. We will be having our APT Get on Track Color walk. This will be the major fundraising event for our APT this year. Val Owens is heading it up. This event will be held on Friday, April 23.

In Christ,
Christy Wood, Principal

2021 St. John's Lutheran Color Walk Event

St. John's Lutheran School is pleased to announce the details of our annual *Get On Track* fundraiser on Friday, April 23, 2021. Traditionally, *Get On Track* is one of our most successful fundraisers. This year, our hope is to provide a sense of normalcy and raise funds that will benefit our students directly. As our one and only fundraiser for the year, our goal is to create a fun event that will follow every safety precaution and give our kids something to look forward to. The 2021 *Get On Track* Event will include: A track color walk adhering to COVID-19 guidelines, an online flat fee donation platform, a NIFTY FIFTY drawing, poster contest and additional classroom and student prizes.

We invite you to show support for St. John's Lutheran School by becoming a sponsor for this fun event benefiting the students.

Three levels of sponsorship are available: \$150 (for a name listing), \$300 (for a logo listing) or \$400 (for a parking lot banner) Organizations as well as individuals and families may be sponsors. Over 400 t-shirts will be printed. Sponsors will receive a complimentary t-shirt.

An additional way to support the event is by making a pledge. Any amount is appreciated! All sponsorships can be purchased online at <https://stjnapa.ejoinme.org/GOT2021>

Thank you in advance for considering this great opportunity.

Please check out our official GOT website for photos and information on this fun event at sjlgetontrack.weebly.com

Please contact Valerie Owens at napamom707@gmail.com for any questions or information.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

So, What's New at the Farm?

Submitted by Ted Zimmerman



Thanks for your growing interest in St. John's Mission Farm. This interest is evident both among congregation members, as well as among people in the community. Lately we have had a number of volunteers come to us from the community eager to join us as volunteers. Also we received a tremendous outpouring of support in the form of donations during our participation in the December *CanDo's GiveGuide 2020* campaign.

On March 6 we held a work party and invited all to come join us, and we had a total of 23 out weeding, painting, putting up a new fence line as trellises for tomatoes, green beans or cucumbers, gleaning, cleaning, packing produce for sending to the Food Bank, and having fun working together on a worthwhile project to help feed hungry families in Jesus' name.

If you are on Facebook, check out either the "St. John's Mission Farm" or the "St. John's Friends" Groups sites for frequent postings of Farm activities, accompanied by pictures. Go to the congregation's website (stjohnslutheran.net), hit the Facebook icon (f), click on "groups", and there you go!

Total amount of produce turned in this year is 1163 lbs. We have a ways to go to match last year's amazing 21,000+ lbs. We are on the way, however!



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

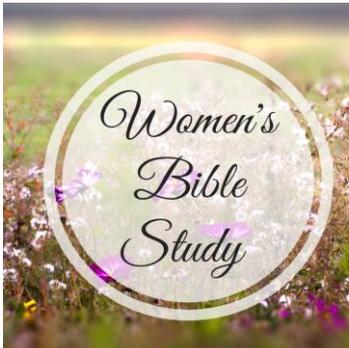
- 1 Neill Barker
- 2 Clint Mason
- 5 Kaden Kennedy
- 6 J.T. Mason
- 8 Emily Peterson
- 9 Rachel Carey, Travis Goodrich, Alma Skillings
- 10 Karen Wall, Christopher Newman, Elizabeth Robertis
Adleigh Koen, Eva Winkler, Danielle Irwin, Michael Thomas,
- 11 Colt Lawrence-Maloney
- 12 Courtnee Gingras
- 13 Christine Commander
- 18 Robert De Young, Sean Johnson
- 19 Grace Walter, Samuel Smith
- 20 Pamela Watkins, Gina Brady
- 21 Rex Schluter, Michael Edmeyer
- 22 Peter Santora, Yvette Morgenlaender, Karol Bruechert, Eliana Rollin
- 23 Justine Rollin, Hailey Regan
- 24 Christy Wood
- 25 Trent Mooers, Gerald Schweiger, Charles Wenzel
- 26 Ella Eisberg
- 30 Joshua Wright



| DATE | COUPLE | YEARS |
|------|------------------------|-------|
| 8 | Jason & Diedre Newton | 4 |
| 8 | Kyle & Rebecca McAhren | 32 |
| 29 | Dick & Marilyn Lemin | 4 |



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 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: sjlsocialmedia@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

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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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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)