



# THE VINE

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School Newsletter

July 2021

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



## **"Strength in our Weakness"**

*Encouragement from 2 Corinthians*

COVID has been exhausting on many levels. Even as it appears that in some ways we are coming out of the pandemic, in many ways the disruption is far from over. So many changes, upheavals, and

canceled plans have left many exhausted, discouraged, and stressed – sometimes beyond what we even realize.

We need strength. We need encouragement. God provides this in abundance through His grace.

This summer, we will focus on encouraging words from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians. Rather than going verse by verse through the entire book (as we normally do!), we're just going to hit some of the highlights, as we seek "*strength in our weakness.*" in God's Word.

Here are upcoming themes for the month of July:

4-Jul	4:16-5:10	Eyes Fixed on the Unseen	Our hope is in the resurrection
11-Jul	5:11-21	"I will betrothe you to me forever"	The story of Hosea, Gomer and the grace of God
18-Jul	6:14-18	Come Out From Them	Christ calls us to reject idolatry
25-Jul	8:1-9 or 9:6-14	Giving in our Weakness	We are enriched through the one who became poor for us



## **Questions and Answers about Stephen Ministry**

### **What does a Stephen Minister do?**

Stephen Ministers are people from our congregation who have completed over 50 hours of training to provide care to hurting people. They give grace-based acceptance. They listen openly, with empathy, and build trust, all in a very confidential manner. They are compassionate, trustworthy, skilled, full of faith, and Christ-centered as they provide care.

### **Who should consider having a Stephen Minister (being a care receiver)?**

Anyone in our congregation and community who is going through a difficult time could benefit from having a Stephen Minister. Someone with a chronic illness or who is caring for a loved one with a chronic illness, someone who has lost a spouse or loved one, someone who has just received a difficult diagnosis. Someone who is lonely, maybe new in town, or close friends have moved away. A young person dealing with difficulties, maybe who has lost a job, or going through a divorce, or with a difficult pregnancy or crisis in childbirth. Anyone feeling overwhelmed, hopeless, broken should consider having a Stephen Minister.

### **What happens when a Stephen Minister and care receiver meet?**

After the Stephen Minister is matched with a Care Receiver, they usually meet once a week in person for about an hour, at an agreed upon location. The Stephen Minister provides encouragement and support to the Care Receiver in whatever that person is facing. The Stephen Minister helps the person process through the difficulty but they are not there to fix things, to solve everything, or to force results. The Stephen Minister offers to pray with the Care Receiver and to share encouraging scripture. They listen with empathy. They build a trusting, confidential relationship and share Christ's love and care.

### **If I am interested in having a Stephen Minister, what should I do?**

Contact Penni Cremen. She is our Referrals Coordinator for Stephen Ministry. Her phone number is **707-483-9321**. Also, Pastor Mark can be contacted at the church office at **707-255-0119**.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School is always such an amazing and fun week for the kids! It is also a great opportunity for our members to volunteer and help out! (Did you know we typically have over 75 volunteers who serve over 125 children at VBS?) Vacation Bible School can also provide the chance for us to reach some un-churched people in the Napa community!



Understandably, because of covid-19, we just don't have the commitment this year for our typical strong base of volunteers. The decision has been made to cancel VBS for this summer. We will come back strong in the summer of 2022! Thank you for understanding!

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

We are now looking for Children's Church volunteers! SJL is going to start up Children's Church again in September 2021. Children's Church is for children in Preschool up to 4<sup>th</sup> grade. I would like to hear back from all of our former CC teachers as well as some new volunteers! The commitment is typically one Sunday per month if we receive at least 8 volunteers! One class meets in the preschool building at that is for kids Preschool-1<sup>st</sup> Grade. The other class meets in the school library and that is for kids 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade. Please help us make this a reality for our kids to return to Children's Church! If you have any questions or would like more information don't hesitate to reach out to Janis King.

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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>



## OFFERING UPDATE

Actual Offering Income for May:

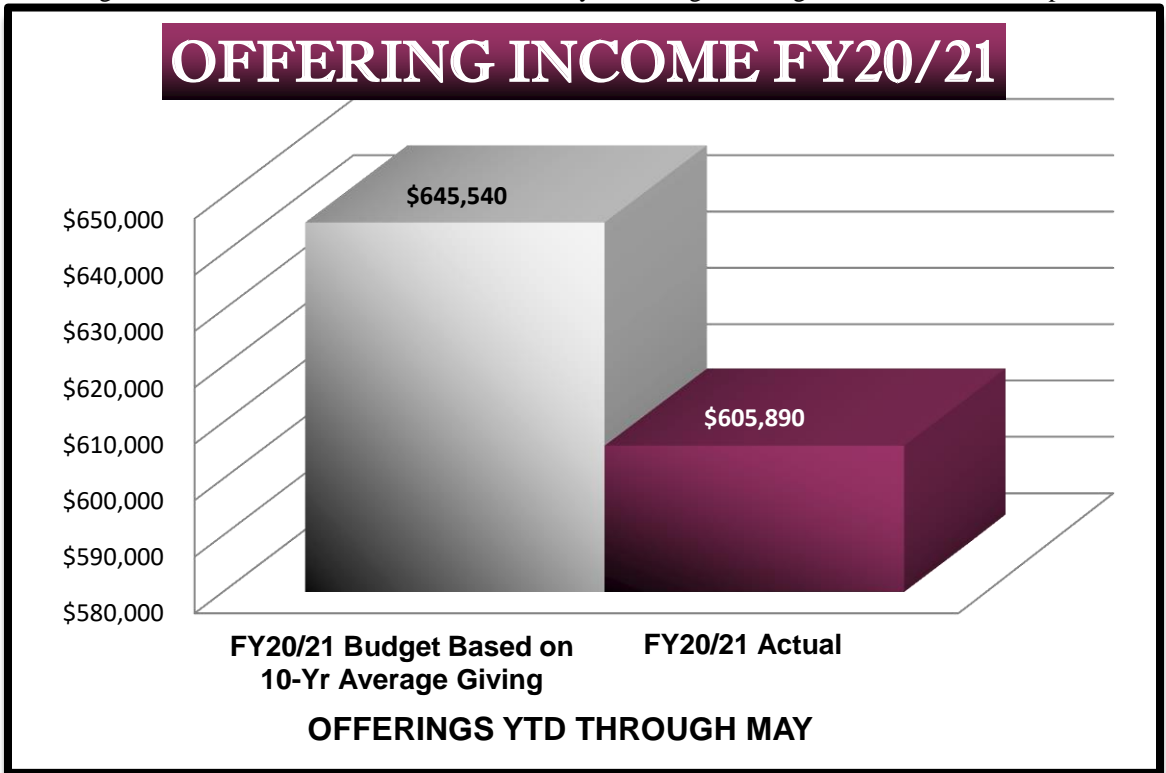
**\$53,094.**

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

**\$605,890** which is **6.14%** or **\$39,650** 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:

*<sup>d9</sup> "I will make you my wife forever—I will make you my wife in a way that is righteous, in a manner that is just, by a love that is gracious, and by a motive that is mercy.*

*<sup>20</sup> "I will make you my wife because of my<sup>[a]</sup> faithfulness, and you will know the LORD." (Hosea 2:19-20)(ISV)*

## The Lord's Great Day of Salvation

Hosea was a prophet serving God in the Northern Kingdom of Israel during the 8<sup>th</sup> Century, BC. During that time, and for many years prior, the people living in the Northern Kingdom had forgotten the LORD. They had turned their backs to God, Who

brought them out of slavery and gave them their inheritance in Canaan. The people made idols, practiced horrific sacrifices, and indulged in unimaginable perversions of every kind. The people, whom God had made His very own, denied Him and were unfaithful to Him.

In the Book of Hosea, we read the prophet's messages of threats and promises, judgment and mercy, law and gospel.

Because the Israelites did not acknowledge that He gave them the grain, the new wine and oil and lavished riches, such as silver and gold, God threatened ***"Therefore I will take away my grain when it ripens and my new wine when it is ready"*** (2:9). Because the Israelites prostituted themselves to things and ideas they made gods and idols, God proclaimed ***" 'So now I will expose her lewdness before the eyes of her lovers...I will punish her for the days she burned incense to the Baals; she decked herself with rings and jewelry, and went after her lovers, but me she forgot,' declares the LORD"*** (2:10, 13).

Israel acted like an unfaithful, promiscuous wife. Yet, over and over again, the LORD wooed her back to Him (2:14-17). He remained faithful and true. He graciously smothered His wayward people with mercy and forgiveness. He showered His steadfast love on them. Martin Franzmann wrote in the Concordia Self-Study Commentary (St. Louis: Concordia, 1971), that "the distinctive note in Hosea is his portrayal of the God who loves when all possibility of loving has rightly ceased...the injured Husband who forgives the unforgivable (chapters 1-3), the father whose "heart recoils within" Him, whose "compassion grows warm and tender" (11:8) for the wayward child whom He led with cords of compassion in His youth (13:3,4), the Healer who hurts in order to restore with compassionate skill and with a love that does not die, simply because it is the love of God and not of man" (7:1; 11:3; 14:4; cf. 5:13; 6:1).

***"In that day I will make a covenant for them..."*** (2:18) It will be a new marriage where God will promise Himself to His people for life. When will "that day" be? According to Rev. Paul E. Eickmann, "That day" is a prophetic way of describing the time when God will come as Savior and Judge. The promises were first fulfilled when Jesus came to earth reconciling the world to God (2 Corinthians 5:19). The "forever" blessings will be fully revealed when Jesus comes again in glory when He will make us His wife forever (v19). ***"Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!"*** (Revelation 19:9)<sup>1</sup>

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, like the Israelites in Hosea's time, I am unfaithful to You and repeatedly go my own way and turn my back to You. Yet, You remain faithful. You are righteous, just, compassionate and ever loving. Thank You! Lord, I repent of my sin. Forgive me. Transform my life to be like my Savior, Jesus. In His name I pray. Amen.

<sup>1</sup> "Hosea, Joel, Amos" (People's Bible Commentary, St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1994)

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, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort. 2 Corinthians 1:3

***Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, you earth; burst into song, you mountains! For the LORD comforts His people and will have compassion on His afflicted ones.***  
***Isaiah 49:13***



The countdown continues as my St. John's partner pup and our human teammates have been training together and working hard in preparation for their final evaluation by an LCC trainer later this month. I am so excited for you to meet my new friend and for us to begin working together! I hope you will join us at church on **Sunday, July 11** for the commissioning of our new Comfort Dog and the rededication of the entire St. John's K9 Comfort Dog team.

In May, LCC Comfort Dogs Reuben, Micah, and Rahab joined me in deploying to San Jose, CA following the shooting at the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) rail yard. In addition to attending a vigil for the victims, we were able to return to the area for several days where we spent time at Yerba Buena High School (where one of the shooting victims attended), visited the San Jose police and fire department 911 center, and attended a service at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Los Gatos, CA. We are truly blessed to have four (soon to be five) Comfort Dogs in California. I love working with the other teams and being able to share God's mercy with so many in need.

Last month I enjoyed a wonderful visit with a very special friend of mine, Lisa. She came all the way from New York to visit me! We met at an LCC conference many years ago and she has kept in touch with me ever since. It was such a treat to be able to see her again in person.

Recently I visited the Napa Police Department Dispatch Center following the death of a sheriff from the Napa Sheriff's Department. This was my first time visiting here in over a year and I was grateful to be able to offer some hugs and comfort to my friends in the midst of a difficult time. I have really missed them and I know they have missed me, too. One of the dispatchers has a poster of me on display right next to her cubicle and she told me that looking at it these past months has really helped her.

Stay safe and I hope to see you soon!

Stay tuned for more details to follow. Have a blessed summer!

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





## For JULY

	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
1	Psalm 80:8-11	Isaiah 15, 16	Ephesians 1:11-23
2	Psalm 80:12-19	Isaiah 17:1-19:17	Ephesians 2:1-10
3	Psalm 81:1-5	Isaiah 19:18-22:14	Ephesians 2:11-22
4	Psalm 123	Ezekiel 2:1-5	2 Corinthians 12:2-10, Mark 6:1-13
5	Psalm 81:6-10	Isaiah 22:15-23:18	Ephesians 3:1-13
6	Psalm 81:11-16	Isaiah 24, 25	Ephesians 3:14-4:6
7	Psalm 82:1-4	Isaiah 26, 27	Ephesians 4:7-16
8	Psalm 82:5-8	Isaiah 28	Ephesians 4:17-28
9	Psalm 83:1-8	Isaiah 29	Ephesians 4:29-5:7
10	Psalm 83:9-12	Isaiah 30, 31	Ephesians 5:8-20
11	Psalm 85:8-13	Amos 7:7-15	Ephesians 1:3-14, Mark 6:14-29
12	Psalm 83:13-18	Isaiah 32:1-33:16	Ephesians 5:21-33
13	Psalm 84:1-7	Isaiah 33:17-35:10	Ephesians 6:1-9
14	Psalm 84:8-12	Isaiah 36:1-37:13	Ephesians 6:10-24
15	Psalm 85:1-7	Isaiah 37:14-38	Philippians 1:1-11
16	Psalm 85:8-13	Isaiah 38:1-40:5	Philippians 1:12-22
17	Psalm 86:1-10	Isaiah 40:6-41:7	Philippians 1:23-2:4
18	Psalm 23	Jeremiah 23:1-6	Ephesians 2:11-22, Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
19	Psalm 86:11-17	Isaiah 41:8-42:9	Philippians 2:5-18
20	Psalm 87	Isaiah 42:10-43:21	Philippians 2:19-30
21	Psalm 88:1-5	Isaiah 43:22-44:23	Philippians 3:1-11
22	Psalm 88:6-12	Isaiah 44:24-45:25	Philippians 3:12-4:1
23	Psalm 88:13-18	Isaiah 46:1-48:6	Philippians 4:2-13
24	Psalm 89:1-8	Isaiah 48:7-49:21	Philippians 4:14-23
25	Psalm 145:10-18	2 Kings 4:42-44	Ephesians 3:14-21, John 6:1-21
26	Psalm 89:9-18	Isaiah 49:22-51:16	Colossians 1:1-14
27	Psalm 89:19-29	Isaiah 51:17-53:12	Colossians 1:15-27
28	Psalm 89:30-37	Isaiah 54, 55	Colossians 1:28-2:10
29	Psalm 89:38-45	Isaiah 56, 57	Colossians 2:11-23
30	Psalm 89:46-52	Isaiah 58, 59	Colossians 3:1-11
31	Psalm 90	Isaiah 60, 61	Colossians 3:12-25



# St. John's Lutheran School Scrip Program:

For those that do not know the Scrip program, Scrip are gift cards that you can use for many of your shopping needs: groceries, gas, coffee, clothing, travel etc. plus gifts. Scrip can easily become our school's #1 fundraiser if we all participate.

Scrip can be purchased in the school office or through the RaiseRight app. **Our ID# is 912E7L6F9161. 100% of the profit will go directly to A.P.T. (Association of Parents and Teachers).**

Be sure to download the RaiseRight mobile app from the app store using your smartphone or tablet. Enter the enrollment code to join:  
**912E7L6F9161.**

**Amazon Gift Cards  
Chevron, Shell & Arco  
Safeway, Lucky, Nob Hill/Raley's  
Target/Walmart  
Starbucks  
Hop Creek Pub  
Foodshed  
Tarla  
Disney  
and so much more**

The School office will be open during the summer Tuesday-Thursday from 10-2, but please call ahead in case schedules change.



## **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.

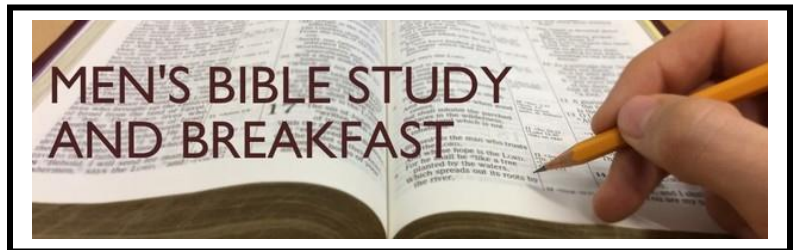
Also, if you have something you'd like to see us talk about or promote on social media, please use the same contact info.



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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.



The logo for the "GIVE+" application, featuring the word "GIVE" in a bold, sans-serif font followed by a large, stylized 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.

# So, What's New at the Farm?

Submitted by Ted Zimmerman



Two thousand, five hundred, thirty one and a quarter pounds (2,531.25 lbs.) and counting! That's the total poundage of produce turned into the CANV Food Bank as of the end of May. By the time you read this early in July it will have increased considerably. The summer harvest is just getting underway: summer squash, green beans, cucumbers, bell peppers, lettuces, onions, garlic . . . and the first of some of the tree fruit, apricots, with some plums and peaches close to following.

We have also enjoyed a rich harvest of young adults from the Young Farmers and Ranchers group pitching in on Saturdays. Many hands make light work, and when the harvest is in full swing, we will all get a good work out!

A number of you have mentioned to us how neat the operation looks this year, with the storage container where we stored Mr. Kubota moved off the parking lot, and joining a second container near the center of the Farm which will provide extra storage for our tools, sprays, fertilizers, seeds, etc. Ultimately a lot of the tractor implements will be parked between the two sheds. We have also neatened (my wife will cringe with my word usage) the area where the sand and compost is stored. It's been a challenge but we have been able to keep up with weed management this year. The abundance of tree chips has certainly helped. A lot of folks with hula hoes and often on their knees with hand hoes have also been an important part of the success.

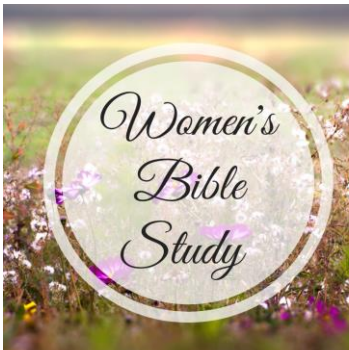
Pray for rains, not only for our Farm, but for all the agricultural areas in our state and country, and for all the community reservoirs. That, or many more in our country will know hunger and thirst. Feeding the nation and the world depends upon the top six inches of soil and the fact God sends rain!



1	Byron Fitzpatrick
2	Laura Kostelac, Gabriel Gutierrez, Abigail Munoz
3	Craig Underhill
4	Nancy Henry, Jeron Chaudhary
5	Liam Alexander, Graham Albrecht
6	Katie Chagonjian, Roxana Castro
7	Karen Dalen, Christine Zanone
10	Cynthia McFarland-Johnson
11	Noah Helfrich, Andy Schweiger, Anita Regan
12	Natalie Bouchet, Alexander Winkler
13	Mary-Anne Karsten
14	Michael Quinn
15	Pastor Mark Heine, Landon Abraham
16	Riann Engelbracht, Melinda Herrera, Teri Mitchell
17	Matthew Commander
18	Tatum Chagonjian, James Henry
19	Amali Svien
20	Samuel Hoff
21	Robert Ehlen, Todd Mitchell
23	Alexander Christie
24	Mary Kosanke
25	Sara Zaia, Shanna Caceres
26	Karol Underhill
27	Dennis Arnett
28	Nathan Kaufmann
29	Rodney Skillings
30	Judith Rock, Gary Virkus, Susan Clark, Todd Yoder, Jennie Lovie
31	Mariah Braddock, Katie Wedding



DATE	COUPLE	YEARS
1	Thomas & Christine Commander	26
3	Todd & Teri Mitchell	39
4	Justine & Alex Rollin	6
6	Jonah & Amelia Laws	2
7	Todd & Natalie Yoder	21
9	Rodney & Marie Skillings	3
10	Kenneth & Michelle Arnold	28
14	Joseph & Amali Svien	9
14	Bret & Debbie Skillings	42
15	Jeffery & Cynthia McFarland-Johnson	37
21	Timothy & Lauren Huss	31
21	George & Andrea Clark	47
27	Kevin & Megan Mathison	2
31	Mark & Lindsey Albrecht	11
31	Kevin & Lezlee Cootey	39



## ***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)!



Welcome Summer! We had quite an odd school year & an even weirder year in youth ministry. It has been a challenge to connect at times, but God has been with us through it all. The summer Calendar is not yet finalized so stay tuned in to the weekly e-vine & social media for the upcoming events throughout the summer! We will have events for

Surge & High School all summer.

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## 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.

eam 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)



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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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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)