



# THE VINE

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School Newsletter

August 2021

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

## *Better Together*

COVID has been hard on community. This has been true for families, for friends, and for the city in which we live. It has also been hard on our congregation as community. For months, we could not worship together, and some are still not ready to resume in person gathering. So many activities that are part of our congregational life had to be put aside in the interest of safety and health.



It's time to reclaim who we are as the community of God's people. It's time to reboot our identity as members of a church, branches on a vine, sheep of a flock, stones in a building, and parts of a body.

The worship series "Better Together," beginning August 22, focuses on what it means to be a congregation. We will be looking at the Biblical metaphors and images for the local church, and seeking to apply these truths to our lives, both individually and as a congregation. Along the way, we will be inviting your participation in activities and events designed to bring us together as church, so that we can rediscover the Biblical truth that as the people of God, we are "better together."

"Better Together" is the theme for both our church and school as we head into the fall. It is the theme for our new school year, but it will also be the theme that we rally around as a congregation.

August 22	Together	The importance of community in Christ.
August 29	Beloved	We are the beloved bride of Christ, for whom He died.
September 5	Family	We are the family of God, caring for one another.
September 12	Flock	We are the flock of the Good Shepherd, fed on His Word.
September 19	Body	We are the body of Christ, each of us equipped to serve for the common good.
September 26	Called	We are on God's mission, in the world to make disciples.
October 3	Church	We are a worshipping community, now and in eternity.

# UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN AUGUST

## PLEASE MARK THESE SUNDAYS ON YOUR CALENDAR!

**Every Sunday is special as the Lord gathers us to bless us, and to receive our prayers and praise. But there are additional special happenings each Sunday this coming month**

- **August 1 – Farewell and Godspeed for Melissa Ebeling.** We give thanks to God for the ministry of Kindergarten teacher Melissa Ebeling, and we bless her as she and Kyle begin their new life in Las Vegas.
- **August 8 – Pastor Mark Final Sermon.** Pastor Mark will proclaim the Word of God in his last sermon as a pastor of St. John's
- **August 15 – Pastor Mark's retirement.** We praise God for the ministry of Pastor Mark, both here at St. John's and in the other congregations he has served. There will also be a dinner after the worship service
- **August 22 – Installation of Megan Mathison.** We are installing our new 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher Megan Mathison and rededicating the entire staff. We celebrate the start of the new school year with our theme "Better Together."
- **August 29 – Installation of the Board of Directors.** We will install the new members of the Board of Directors. There will be a Congregational Open Forum after worship to present and discuss future staffing.

### **Pastor Mark's Retirement on August 15 - RSVP's requested**

We will be celebrating Pastor Mark's ministry and his retirement during worship on August 15. The service will be followed by a meal in the parish hall.

**Please call the church office to RSVP for the meal. 707.255.0119. Thank you!**

### **Calling all Singers...**

For August 15th, I would like to invite anyone who is interested in **celebrating Pastor Mark through song** to join the choir in singing John Rutter's *"The Lord Bless You and Keep You"*. I can pass out music after Sunday services, and I could also leave some copies in the church office. I would encourage those interested to utilize practice parts that are on YouTube. I will hold two rehearsals prior to singing in the August 15th service - August 8th after church, and August 15th prior to the service. All are welcome! *Erin Blackwood*

## Wednesday Night Worship

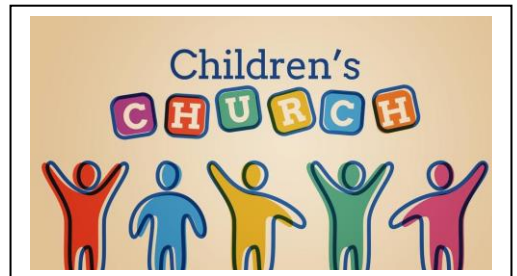
Wednesday Night worship will be continuing through August. Pastor Mark will be teaching through Matthew 10 and 11 this month, unpacking Jesus' words about discipleship. Every Wednesday evening at 7:00 on our YouTube channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/stjohnsnapaca/live>



Where did the summer go? We have entered the School month of August and **Confirmation** is just around the corner. If you haven't received any information about it yet and are in 7th or 8th grade please contact Kevin Mathison.

## Children's Church Needs Teachers!

After a long year of not having Children's Church for our kids, we are ready to start back up! Our kids need you! We are looking for new and returning volunteers to teach on a regular basis on Sunday mornings. The kids would be excused for part of the service to attend Children's Church.



Ideally, if you work with a partner you might only teach once a month. Currently we have two classes every Sunday. The first is a group of 2<sup>nd</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> graders and the second group is preschool- 1<sup>st</sup> grade. All of the lessons are provided for you. There is a teacher's guide which gives you plenty of options on how to teach the main point for the week. Please call and ask questions if you're interested! I am more than happy to walk you through the process!

It would be so sad if we weren't able to offer this important ministry to our children and families. Our precious children need you!! Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions, concerns, etc. please contact Janis King [jking@stjohnsnapa.org](mailto:jking@stjohnsnapa.org) or call (707) 226-7970 THANK YOU!

## *A Stephen Ministry Story: Validation*

Below is a story to show how a Stephen Minister can care for someone – by listening in a non-judgmental, patient, accepting manner:

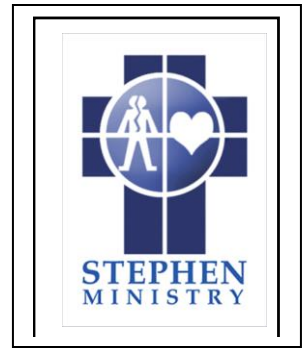
After their previous meeting, Drew (the care receiver) was feeling more comfortable about meeting with his Stephen Minister, Ben. Drew had started to dig into his difficult feelings about God and Faith, and he was encouraged that Ben had arrived right on time and stayed focused throughout their meeting. Drew was still uncertain, though, about how openly he should share. Some of what he'd been thinking about his faith got into uncomfortable territory, and he was worried that, if he let it all out, Ben might be shocked and condemn or dispute his thoughts and feelings.

At their next meeting, though, Drew decided to go ahead and open up – and Ben remained relaxed and understanding. Ben assured Drew that what he was thinking and feeling was a natural response to what he'd been through; it didn't mean he'd lost his faith. That gave Drew the confidence to go deeper still until he'd said everything on his mind and heart. Drew felt good being able to say all that while still feeling accepted.

As their meeting ended, Drew told Ben, "I can hardly believe I could say those kinds of things out loud without being judged. Thanks so much for listening." Stephen Ministers are trained to listen well. The definition of validation is the process of learning, understanding, believing, and accepting another person's thoughts and feeling about his or her experience – and letting the other person know you've done so, which communicates that his or her thoughts really do matter. Validation builds trust, strengthens relationships, and lets the other person know it's safe to continue sharing.

If you, or someone you know, could benefit from talking with a Stephen Minister, contact Penni Cremen 707-483-9321 or Pastor Mike.

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## OFFERING UPDATE

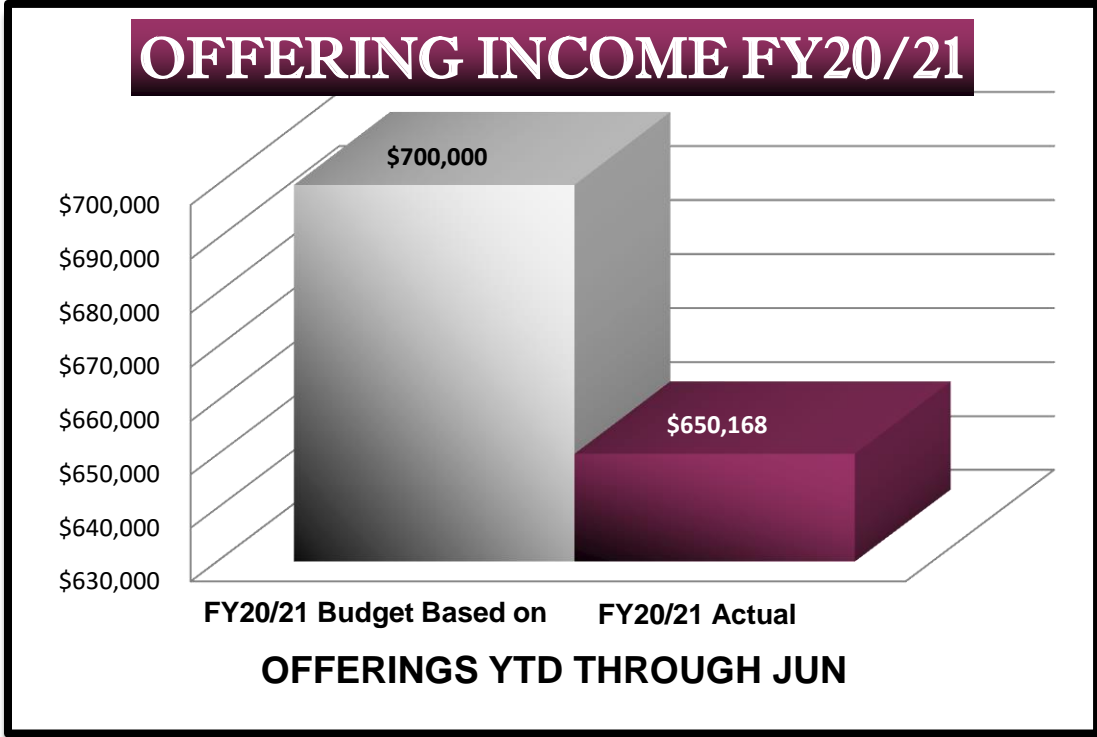
Actual Offering Income for Jun:

**\$44,158.**

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

**\$650,168** which is **7.14%** or **\$49,832**  
below our budgeted offering income.

Total expenses were in line with our budget and we paid all bills received. \*The budget amount shown below is based on the ten-year average offering received for that time period.



### Meditation:

*“And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When He saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.’” (Matthew 9:35-38)(ESV)*

## Becoming Workers in the Harvest

Jesus knew that the people needed a shepherd. He was determined to rescue as many as possible. Jesus said to His disciples, as He speaks to us, *“Ask the Lord of harvest . . . to*

***send out workers into His harvest field.”*** It is God’s will that all people come to salvation (2 Peter 3:9). The harvest field belongs to the Lord, and God will see that the people needed for the harvest will be available.

God invites all of us to be His workers in the harvest field. He doesn’t need us, but He gives us the privilege to be involved in this very important work. In His sovereignty, God has called and chosen to work through us. What we can offer is our time and our talents. In Christ, we can do work that will be blessed into eternity. We begin this all-important work by asking or praying for a successful harvest with many workers being sent into the harvest field. Because of our prayers, He will provide the workers who are needed.

As we pray for God’s work to be accomplished through workers in the field, we are, in essence, allowing Him to make us the answers to our own prayers. God will find ways to use our gifts in ways that will touch others. We are encouraged to pray for God’s work to be done, and to be involved in doing this work personally. God will give us the strength to overcome the excuses that often plague us such as I don’t have the time or I’m not equipped. As Paul wrote, *“I can do everything through Him Who gives me strength”* (Philippians 4:13).

**Prayer:** Lord, I need You as my Shepherd. Thank You for always being there for me. Thank You for your care and compassion. Thank You for giving me the privilege of serving You as I tell others of Your wonderful love. Please forgive me when I fail to tell others of the Good News. In Your precious name I pray. Amen.

Adapted from *“12 Months of Congregational Stewardship”* 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!

***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. I will make you my wife because of my faithfulness, and you will know the LORD.***  
***Hosea 2:19-20***



Have you met the newest addition to our team, Gomer Comfort Dog? I am thrilled to be working alongside her! She and I are just getting to know each other but I can tell we are going to be great friends and co-workers. She is very curious and has a lot of energy, but she is very sweet as well. Named for the prophet Hosea's wife, Gomer's Bible verse is Hosea 2:19-20. *Please check out "Get to Know Gomer Comfort Dog" on page 10.*

Last month my fellow comfort dogs Reuben (First Lutheran, Yuba City), Micah (Light of the Valley, Elk Grove), Rahab (St. Andrews, Stockton), and Lois (First Good Shepherd, Las Vegas) joined us for Gomer's commissioning and the rededication of our comfort dog team at St. John's. What a blessing it is to see how God has grown this ministry in the six years since I arrived in California. Our celebration concluded with group playtime for the dogs. I am not sure who enjoyed this more: the dogs or our humans. If you have never seen six Golden Retrievers playing together with multiple balls and Frisbees, I can tell you it is quite a sight!

While Gomer and I have been training together I have been doing my best to "show her the ropes." We recently deployed to the Cal Fire base camps in Chico, along with the other California comfort dog teams. It was great to share some love and "normalcy" with all those fighting the Dixie Fire. We met firefighters returning from their shifts, as well as the administrative teams that support them. We also met people from the National Forest Service who go ahead of the firefighters and work to try to save historic landmarks and ecological preserves. Rahab Comfort Dog and I helped one of the firefighters, away from home and missing his family, record a special birthday message for his son.

It is amazing when we run into people who remember us from previous fire camps we have visited in past years. It is also very touching when many of them go out of their way to make sure we know how much they appreciate our visits. We plan to continue our visits throughout fire season. Please remember to keep these dedicated individuals and their families in your prayers.

Summer has really flown by and I can hardly believe that a new school year is about to start. I can't wait to see "my kids" again and introduce them to my new paw partner, Gomer. Enjoy the rest of the summer! We look forward to seeing you soon. *Love, Aaron*

Thanks for your support and prayers! Please check out Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and our website for all the latest news. [napavalleycomfortdogs.org](http://napavalleycomfortdogs.org)

Aaron and Gomer Comfort Dogs





# For AUGUST



	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
1	Psalm 78:23-39	Exodus 16:2-4,9-15	Ephesians 4:1-16, John 6:24-35
2	Psalm 91:1-8	Isaiah 62, 63	Colossians 4:1-9
3	Psalm 91:9-16	Isaiah 64, 65	Colossians 4:10-1 Thessalonians 1:5a
4	Psalm 92:1-8	Isaiah 66-Jeremiah 1:7	1 Thessalonians 1:5b-2:9
5	Psalm 92:9-15	Jeremiah 1:8-2:19	1 Thessalonians 2:10-20
6	Psalm 93	Jeremiah 2:20-3:13	1 Thessalonians 3
7	Psalm 94:1-11	Jeremiah 3:14-4:22	1 Thessalonians 4:1-12
8	Psalm 34:1-8	1 Kings 19:4-8	Ephesians 4:25-5:2, John 6:35,41-51
9	Psalm 94:12-23	Jeremiah 4:23-5:25	1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:3
10	Psalm 95	Jeremiah 5:26-6:30	1 Thessalonians 5:4-15
11	Psalm 96:1-9	Jeremiah 7	1 Thessalonians 5:16-28
12	Psalm 96:10-13	Jeremiah 8:1-9:9	2 Thessalonians 1
13	Psalm 97:1-6	Jeremiah 9:10-10:16	2 Thessalonians 2:1-12
14	Psalm 97:7-12	Jeremiah 10:17-11:23	2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5
15	Psalm 34:9-14	Proverbs 9:1-6	Ephesians 5:15-20, John 6:51-58
16	Psalm 98	Jeremiah 12:1-13:19	2 Thessalonians 3:6-18
17	Psalm 99	Jeremiah 13:20-14:22	1 Timothy 1:1-11
18	Psalm 100	Jeremiah 15:1-16:13	1 Timothy 1:12-2:7
19	Psalm 101	Jeremiah 16:14-17:27	1 Timothy 2:8-3:7
20	Psalm 102:1-11	Jeremiah 18:1-19:9	1 Timothy 3:8-16
21	Psalm 102:12-22	Jeremiah 19:10-21:10	1 Timothy 4:1-10
22	Psalm 34:15-22	Joshua 24:1-2a,14-18	Ephesians 6:10-20, John 6:56-69
23	Psalm 102:23-28	Jeremiah 21:11-22:30	1 Timothy 4:11-5:8
24	Psalm 103:1-5	Jeremiah 23:1-32	1 Timothy 5:9-16
25	Psalm 103:6-18	Jeremiah 23:33-25:14	1 Timothy 5:17-6:2
26	Psalm 103:19-22	Jeremiah 25:15-26:9	1 Timothy 6:3-16
27	Psalm 104:1-9	Jeremiah 26:10-27:22	1 Timothy 6:17-2 Timothy 1:7
28	Psalm 104:10-18	Jeremiah 28:1-29:14	2 Timothy 1:8-18
29	Psalm 15	Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-9	James 1:17-27, Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23
30	Psalm 104:19-23	Jeremiah 29:15-30:11	2 Timothy 2:1-13
31	Psalm 104:24-30	Jeremiah 30:12-31:22	2 Timothy 2:14-26





St. John's Lutheran School's planning for the 2021-2022 school year is in high-speed.

Our faculty and staff retreat will be August 15 - 17, 2021. The first day of school will be Wednesday, August 25. We are so excited that we will be starting school fully on campus - five full days a week. As challenging as last school year, many blessings came out of the challenges and we are so excited to have everyone fully back on campus. Before school and after school care will be available again, and activities on campus are being planned. With our theme being "Better Together," SJL is excited to see how we can live this out this school year.

As sad as it was to bid farewell to Mrs. Lovie and Mrs. Ebeling, we warmly welcome Mrs. Megan Mathison as our 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade teacher and Mrs. Anye Ondek as our new Kindergarten teacher. We have a new lower elementary art teacher and a Spanish teacher hired. We are currently looking for a PE teacher and a few aide positions are available as well. Please contact Mrs. Wood at [cwood@stjohnsnapa.org](mailto:cwood@stjohnsnapa.org) if you are interested in one of these positions or know of someone who may be.

As always, please keep St. John's Lutheran School in your prayers! For ongoing information on what is happening at St. John's, please read our weekly newsletter on our website at [www.stjohnsnapa.org](http://www.stjohnsnapa.org).



## Check us out on Social Media!

St. John's and its ministries stay in contact with the community in many ways, including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and our own websites. It takes a lot of effort to keep the websites up to date and to keep the communication current and flowing on social media.

The social media team is all volunteer and we could use a few more tech-savvy people to help us out. If you are a fan of social media and would like to help us communicate to our members, parents, students, and community, we could use your help.

Contact us by email: [sjlcsocialmedia@gmail.com](mailto:sjlcsocialmedia@gmail.com)

## Get to Know Gomer Comfort Dog

- Date of birth: December 25, 2018
- Bible verse: Hosea 2:19-20
- Sibling: Salome Comfort Dog  
(Faith Community Lutheran Church,  
Las Vegas)
- Favorite toy: ball
- Favorite downtime activity: chewing a bone
- Personality traits: loves life, is very curious and sweet
- Quirks: is known to snort and grunt on occasion
- Playtime: likes to retrieve two balls at a time: one in her mouth and the other with her feet “soccer” style
- Favorite reward: it’s a toss-up between playing ball or getting a massage



## 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>



# 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.



@sjlcnapa



@sjlcnapa



@stjohnsnapa

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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.



**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY  
AND BREAKFAST**

**GIVE+**

**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



Recently when I arrived at the Mission Farm I was met by a visitor who wanted to interview me about the Mission Farm. He told me he was a Lutheran pastor and was greatly impressed by what he called “a Garden of Eden”. He had already learned enough from the other volunteers that he had a pretty good idea of what the Mission Farm was all about. The pastor wanted to do a video of the Farm while I described for his intended viewing audience what the project was all about. I didn’t recognize this pastor, nor, because of my hearing, did I catch his name. It turned out that he was a Seminary classmate of mine. We hadn’t seen each other in nearly 54 years! I, of course, haven’t changed a bit. But he sure had!! His wife, it turns out, grew up in this congregation – Ellie Fruchtenicht! What a surprise, and what a delightful visit we had.

“A Garden of Eden”. That’s what my friend called what he saw. And presently, the Farm looks like a veritable Garden of Eden. All the trees are laden with fruit. All the row crops are maturing and we are kept busy harvesting. Presently we are averaging nearly 500 lbs. of produce each harvest day, or 1500 lbs. a week. The total harvest at the end of June was 4,740.75. By the end of July it will likely be close to 10,000 lbs.! In addition we were able to get a lot of cleanup and reorganization done this past winter, so the grounds themselves look much more presentable to our members and visitors on Sundays, and to the community when they drive by. And for many of us volunteers as we work in the Garden, we not only enjoy fellowship with our fellow workers . . . but it often feels like we are enjoying fellowship with the Lord Himself as we work in partnership with Him, feeding the hungry in our society.



1	Salvatore Pagano, Amy Thompson, Cathy Bunnell
2	Martin Meissenhalter
3	Abigail Sneed
4	Dana Zanone, Kylie Martindale
5	Wayne Miller, Wendy Helfrich
6	Victoria Elder
8	Linda Diviak, Marco Barbosa, Paul Han
9	Lindsey Engelbracht, Eva Meissenhalter, Nancy Gressinger
11	Jason Newton, Jacob Peterson, Brad Lloyd, Jennifer Schluter, Isabella Munoz
13	Amy Wilson, Peyton Koen
14	Paul Bartelt
15	Betty Grant
17	Jeffery Squibb
18	Janis King, Ken Arnold, Cailyn Helfrich
19	Devin Lamb, Eric Vandeburgt
21	Devon Mason, Tony Carafa
22	Dove Bain, Alexa Svien, Heather Faria
23	Matthew Uffmann
24	Dick Lemin
25	CarlJohn Meissenhalter
29	Brayden Faria
31	Tiffany Tucker, Curtis Schoenfeld, Parker Dahl





**DATE                      COUPLE                      YEARS**

1	Thane & Sarah Knutson	12
1	Jeff & Carri Mello	23
1	Mark & Cindy Zeller	34
2	Kenneth & Bonnie Wilson	52
2	Corrin & Mark Kornovich	5
3	Dennis & Judie Arnett	53
3	Dean & Lori Bledsoe	19
5	James & Anita Regan	26
7	Ronald & Judith Irwin	56
8	Kyle & Melissa Ebeling	6
11	Rita & James Bresee	31
13	Charles & Elaine Scott	60
14	Amy & Michael Smith	22
15	Daniel & Angela D'Angelo	23
17	Betsy & Irv Gewirz	46
17	Leonard & Tracy Lamb	32
21	Leonard & Deborah Bommersbach	50
28	Dean & Nancy Ehlen	50
28	Tony & Karen Carafa	22
19	Barbara & Walt Gmelch	12
31	John & Kristi Clark	47
31	Ken & Sharon Tews	46





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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**

Phone: (707) 255-0119

Fax: (707) 255-3041

Email: [churchoffice@stjohnslutheran.net](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnslutheran.net)

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

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

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

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

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

#### **School**

Phone: (707) 226-7970

Fax: (707) 226-7974

Email: [czeller@stjohnsnapa.org](mailto:czeller@stjohnsnapa.org)

Mrs. Christy Wood, Principal (ext. 103)

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

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