



THE VINE

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School Newsletter

October 2021

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



Worship Series

Better Together

Reclaiming our St. John's Community

We continue our worship series "***Better Together***," focusing on what it means to be a congregation. We are 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 are inviting your participation in activities and events designed to bring us together as a church, so that we can rediscover the Biblical truth that as the people of God, we are truly "*better together*."

The last three Sundays of this series focus on how we are *Better Together* not just with each other. We are better together also with those we are trying to reach with the love of Christ. We are called to join Jesus on His mission, better together on the mission field of our lives.

Date	Title	Focus
October 3	Worshiping Community	The end goal of the mission is worship. We will focus on the importance of worship and what happens when we come together. We will introduce ways that we will be enhancing worship as we move forward.

Starting October 10

Better Together: Into the World

The church is better together, but not to become an insular, inward-focused club. We are better together not just for the sake of our own growth. We are better together for the world, for sake of the people beloved by Jesus who do not yet know Him as Savior. In John 17:21 Jesus prayed for all His followers, including us today, *“that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”*



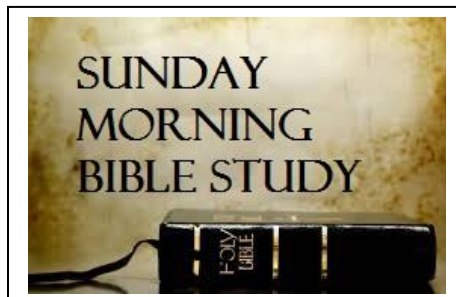
We will follow our **“Better Together”** series with three weeks focused on joining together in mission. We are not only better together with each other. We are also better together with those in our families, neighborhoods and beyond who have yet to come to faith in Jesus.

October 10	Joining Jesus on His Mission Together	Jesus is already at work in the world for the sake of His mission. Our calling is to join Him and so be led and empowered by Him for mission.
October 17	Joining Jesus in our Lives Each Day	How do we join Jesus on His mission? This week we focus on practical steps and practices to join Jesus in what He is doing.
October 24	Joining Jesus for the World	We are also called to join Jesus in His mission for the world beyond our congregation and the importance of world missions and what we can do to be part of it.

Sunday Morning Bible Class

Sunday Morning Bible Class will resume on October 10 at 11:00 AM in Room 10. Pastor Mike will resume the study begun in September on worship.

The class will not be streamed, but they will be recorded and available on our YouTube channel and website.



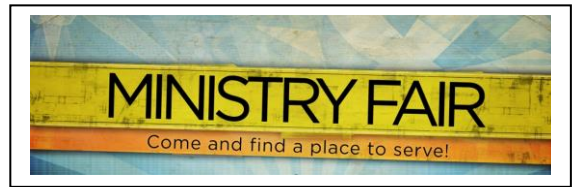
“Foundations” beginning October 6

Pastor Mike will be leading the Foundations class beginning on October 6. This is a class on the basic teachings of the Christian faith, the Christian worldview and the meaning of discipleship. This is class for those looking to join our St. John’s family, but also an excellent opportunity to become more deeply grounded in the truths of the faith and the meaning of following Jesus.

The classes will be on Wednesday evenings from October 6 through November 17 at 6:30 PM in Room 8. The classes will not be streamed, but they will be recorded.

Ministry Fair October 3

After worship on October 3, we will be having a “Ministry Fair” in the Parish Hall.



Representatives from many of the ministries of St. John’s will be present to answer questions about participating in these ministers, as well as being served by them. This is an excellent way to become more connected to your brothers and sisters in Christ at St. John’s.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2021



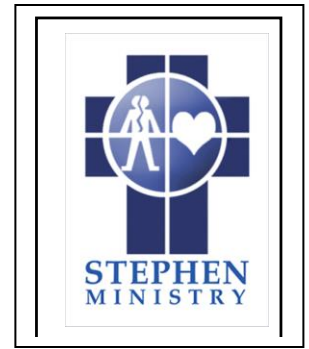
St. John's Lutheran Church
5:00-7:00pm
Fun for all ages!

Come in costume (please no little devils or scary creatures), play some fun Halloween games, win some prizes, do some crafts, eat some yummy food, and hear a great story! Decorate the trunk of your car and be ready to pass out treats and go “trunk or treating”!! Great time to meet other St. John’s families!!

We will meet in the Gym (Parish Hall) at 5:00 pm. Please park in the marked areas of the big parking lot next to the church. Please do not begin handing out candy or have your children go from car to car until after the Pumpkin Gospel story when all of the children are dismissed. SJL Youth will be selling pizza and water. For more information or to register please call Janis King @ 226-7970 ext. 107 or email jking@stjohnsnapa.org

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 ten active Stephen Ministers: Clare King, Jeff Mellow, Linda Reed, Roxana Castro, George Clark, 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 Mike, Pam Barker, and Penni Cremen are the current Stephen Leaders at St. John's. Roxana Castro is currently training to be a Leader. Contact any of them if you know of someone who might need 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

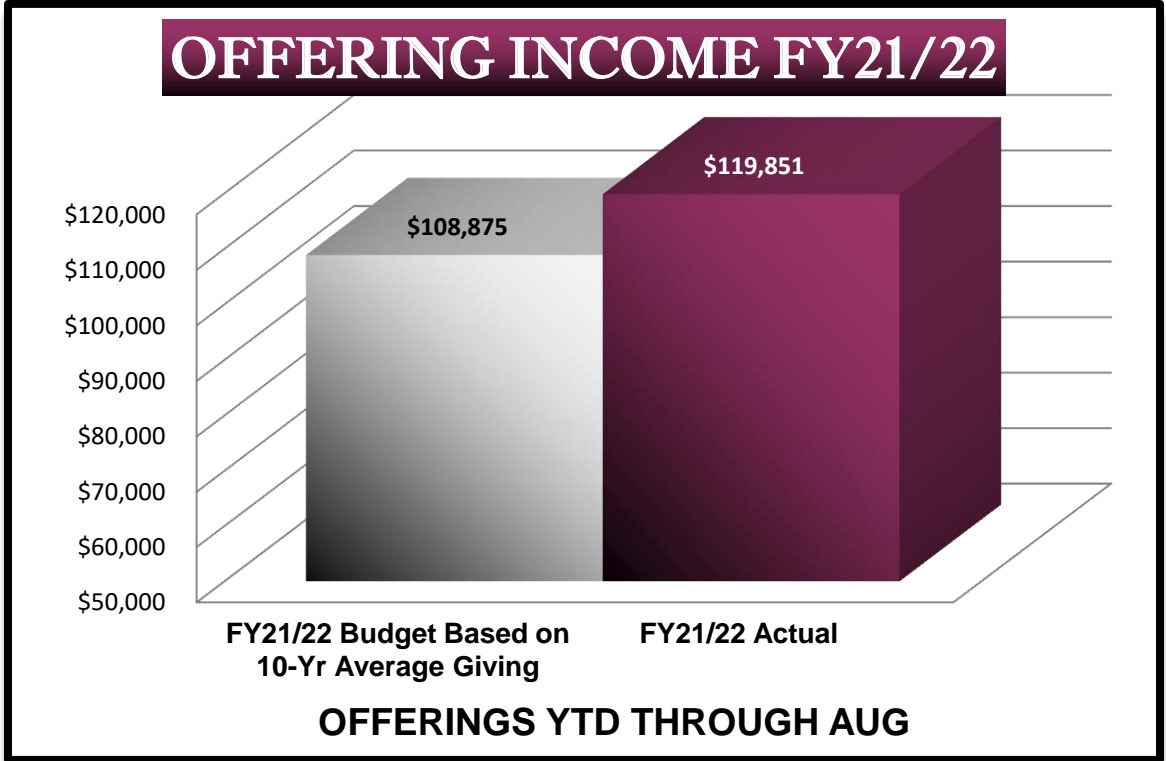
Actual Offering Income for Aug:

\$78,078.

Total Offerings for FY21/22 (as of 31 Aug 21):

\$119,851 which is **10.08%** or **\$10,976** over our budgeted offering income.

Total expenses are 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:

"The heavens are Yours; the earth also is Yours; the world and all that is in it, You have founded them." (Psalm 89:11)(ESV)

God's Stewards are Managers, Not Owners

This means God's stewards are entrusted with life and life's resources and given the privilege of responsibly and joyfully managing them for God.

A steward is a manager of another's belongings; a caregiver, custodian, trustee; a chosen servant; an important person in a privileged, responsible position. Since a steward is NOT the same as an owner, there is a unique sense of accountability that accompanies the title: steward. Stewards do

not hold title to possessions, physical or intellectual, or even talents and skills. They are owned by the Owner. Even life itself is a gift, not fully one's own (1 Cor 6:19), but rather it is a gift of God to be managed to fulfill God's purposes.

Being manager rather than owner is a difficult concept for many modern people, especially those who live in capitalist countries where there is a strong emphasis on individual ownership, and where the words "I, me, mine" are so prevalent in the vocabulary.

Ownership of property is the dream of many people—people of all ages! Ownership often involves thinking about the issues of control, absolute rights, "doing as I please with what is mine," etc. How does this view of life, property, time, etc., compare with the Biblical narrative?

Review the first two chapters of Genesis (especially 1:1 and 2:15), 1 Chronicles 29, Psalm 89 (especially v. 11) and Ps. 24:1; Ps. 50:10-12; 2 Cor. 8:1-7; Luke 12:41-48; and 1 Timothy 6:17-19. What do these portions of the Bible have to say about the concept of ownership?

Here are a couple examples of stewardship in the Bible:

1. Genesis 37-50 tells an exciting story of Joseph, a steward of Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt.
2. Paul considered himself a "steward of the mysteries of God" (1 Cor. 4:1-2), in the sense of being a dispenser of God's good and gracious gifts. Managers distribute the gifts and graces provided by the owner, and in Ephesians 3:1-10, Paul indicates that he personally and the church through the ages (v.9-10) are called to be the managing dispensers of God's gracious purposes, to have all people be saved through faith in Jesus Christ!

It's an amazing privilege: *God's stewards are managers, not owners!*

Prayer: Lord, I am a steward solely by Your Grace. You created me and claimed me as Your own in Holy Baptism. Give me the strength to live as Your steward so that I manage all I am, and have, and do for Your purposes. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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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!

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 15:5-6

This past month my team and I have truly experienced our school and church theme, "Better Together," firsthand as we have had many opportunities to serve alongside our regional comfort dog teams from Yuba City, Elk Grove, and Stockton. I am also so grateful for my newest paw partner, Gomer, who has been a great addition and helpmate. God has been so gracious in His provision to us in growing this ministry.

Last month Reuben Comfort Dog and I had the honor of attending a vigil in Plumas Lake for fallen service personnel in Afghanistan. Reuben and I, along with our fellow comfort dogs Micah and Rahab, also attended a "Back the Badge" event at Bishop's Pumpkin Farm, an event to support families of law enforcement, fire fighters, first responders, and military. Gomer and I attended ceremonies at Yountville and Napa to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy. As always, we were humbled and blessed to bring comfort to those who are hurting.

It has been great seeing many of you and getting back to visiting friends in person. I am having a blast introducing Gomer to my pals at St. John's Lutheran School. We also had the opportunity to meet some new pals at the Veritas Academy and the Custom Kids Christian Preschool. Currently we are visiting students at Brown's Valley Elementary School, Alta Heights Elementary School, Vintage High School and St. Helena High School on a regular basis.

Gomer and I hope you will join us after church on October 3rd at the ministry fair taking place in the Parish Hall. This is a great opportunity to find out more about what we are doing and how you can get involved. Now that we have two dogs, this is the perfect time to expand our ministry within the church and the community. We would love to hear your thoughts on how we can partner with you to reach more people to share the mercy and compassion of Christ. Please stop by and say hello!

Thanks for your support and prayers! Please check out Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and our website for all the latest news. napavalleycomfortdogs.org

Aaron and Gomer Comfort Dogs



For OCTOBER



	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
1	Psalm 114	Ezekiel 6:8-7:27	Hebrews 10:32-11:3
2	Psalm 115:1-8	Ezekiel 8, 9	Hebrews 11:4-16
3	Psalm 8	Genesis 2:18-24	Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12, Mark 10:2-16
4	Psalm 115:9-18	Ezekiel 10:1-11:15	Hebrews 11:17-28
5	Psalm 116:1-7	Ezekiel 11:16-12:28	Hebrews 11:29-40
6	Psalm 116:8-14	Ezekiel 13:1-14:11	Hebrews 12:1-13
7	Psalm 116:15-19	Ezekiel 14:12-15:8	Hebrews 12:14-24
8	Psalm 117	Ezekiel 16:1-42	Hebrews 12:25-13:6
9	Psalm 118:1-9	Ezekiel 16:43-17:10	Hebrews 13:7-19
10	Psalm 90:12-17	Amos 5:6-7, 10-15	Hebrews 4:12-16, Mark 10:17-31
11	Psalm 118:10-14	Ezekiel 17:11-18:18	Hebrews 13:20-James 1:8
12	Psalm 118:15-21	Ezekiel 18:19-19:14	James 1:9-18
13	Psalm 118:22-29	Ezekiel 20:1-29	James 1:19-27
14	Psalm 119:1-8	Ezekiel 20:30-21:17	James 2:1-13
15	Psalm 119:9-16	Ezekiel 21:18-22:22	James 2:14-26
16	Psalm 119:17-24	Ezekiel 22:23-23:27	James 3:1-12
17	Psalm 91:9-16	Isaiah 53:4-12	Hebrews 5:1-10, Mark 10:35-45
18	Psalm 119:25-32	Ezekiel 23:28-24:8	James 3:13-4:6
19	Psalm 119:33-40	Ezekiel 24:9-25:14	James 4:7-17
20	Psalm 119:41-48	Ezekiel 25:15-27:11	James 5:1-12
21	Psalm 119:49-56	Ezekiel 27:12-28:10	James 5:13-20
22	Psalm 119:57-64	Ezekiel 28:11-29:12	1 Peter 1:1-12
23	Psalm 119:65-72	Ezekiel 29:13-30:26	1 Peter 1:13-25
24	Psalm 126	Jeremiah 31:7-9	Hebrews 7:23-28, Mark 10:46-52
25	Psalm 119:73-80	Ezekiel 31:1-32:16	1 Peter 2:1-12
26	Psalm 119:81-88	Ezekiel 32:17-33:20	1 Peter 2:13-25
27	Psalm 119:89-96	Ezekiel 33:21-34:19	1 Peter 3:1-7
28	Psalm 119:97-104	Ezekiel 34:20-36:7	1 Peter 3:8-22
29	Psalm 119:105-112	Ezekiel 36:8-36	1 Peter 4
30	Psalm 119:113-120	Ezekiel 37:1-38:6	1 Peter 5
31	Psalm 119:1-8	Deuteronomy 6:1-9	Hebrews 9:11-14, Mark 12:28-34

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>



DATE COUPLE YEARS

5	Paul & Shau Ching Han	30
	Ryan & Katie	
5	Chagonjian	9
	Catherine & Mike	
5	Enfield	19
5	Jay & Elaine Adams	58
6	Laura & John Kostelac	31
6	Sarah & Peter Santora	37
	Chelsey & Jeffrey	
10	Squibb	7
	Timothy & Natalie	
12	Bouchet	25
20	Zachary & Kerrie Diviak	31
24	Clint & Bev Holdsworth	40



Contact Kevin Mathison for details.



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

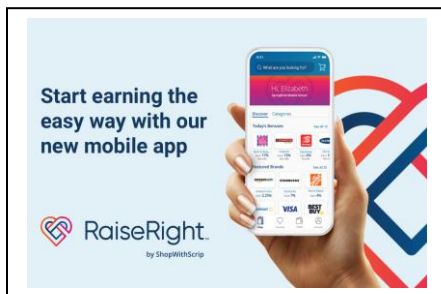
Thank you!

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.**



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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.



**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



It's beginning to look a lot like autumn on the Farm:

- pumpkins in the field (a project of the Young Farmers and Ranchers organization which provides us with many willing volunteers)
- dried cornstalks yet standing in the field (will soon be hog food – we try to recycle as much as possible)
- and summer crops giving way to cool weather plantings (cabbages, broccoli, cauliflower, lettuce)

It has been a very fruitful year, God be praised. At the end of August, we had harvested and sent to the Napa County Food Bank 19,145 lbs. of produce. As I write for this edition of the vine, we will have met or exceeded our total output for last year. We are at approximately 22,000 lbs.

On Sunday, October 3, St. John's will be holding a Mission Fair, and the Mission Farm will have a table where you can get more information from some of the volunteers. If you wish, we can arrange a walking tour of the Farm. Wear shoes you don't mind getting dusty (muddy?). Well, we can hope (and pray), can't we?

Blessings to you and your family from St. John's Lutheran School!

School has now been in session for a little over one month for the 2021-2022 school year. In that time we have:

- Witnessed the installation of Mrs. Mathison as our 2nd Grade teacher, dedication of Mrs. Ondek as our Kindergarten teacher, and the re-dedication of the entire staff.
- Had a successful Ice Cream Social for all new families,
- Welcomed 275 students on campus
- Worshipped together in six Chapel services
- Enjoyed a New Family Orientation
- Participated in Back to School Night
- Had Picture Day
- Held our first APT meeting
- 2nd Graders received their Bibles in a special Chapel service
- 8th Graders went on the first field trip of the year to Donum Wineries
- Enjoyed the APT Country Fair

By Christy Wood



How exciting it is to see our campus alive and well! This is truly a testament that our theme "Better Together" is the best theme we could have for this year!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Scott Zimmerman, Charles Fitzpatrick
- 2 Ramona Kaufmann, Kaleb Anderson, Tim Huss
- 3 Jessica Koen, Otto Wagner, Jacob Bartelt
- 5 James Regan, Lori Hunt
- 7 Derek Irwin, Sharon Mitchell, Trenton Bresee
- 8 Cal Watkins, David Goller
- 9 Betsy Gewirz
- 10 Sharon Tews, Elise Commander, Victoria Christie
- 11 Laura Peterson
- 15 Judith Irwin, Andrew King
Richard Bruechert, Marlen Virkus, Daniel Newton,
- 16 Kristen Lawrence, Rachel Thomas
- 17 Charles Vaziri
Wyatt Newman, Jill Reimler, Ken Wilson, Shirley Knight,
- 18 Elaine Scott
- 19 Kyleigh Greely, Dawn Wahlers, Leslie Nicholson
- 20 Abrielle Caceres Reed, Madelyn Caceres Reed
- 21 Tim Kramer, Cullen Mooers
- 22 Rachael Fitzgerald, Michael Fitzgerald, Bonnie Thompson
- 23 Shau Ching Han
- 24 Kathy Fitzgerald, Jonathan Han
- 25 Eric Fitzgerald
- 26 Andrea Clark, Lindsey Albrecht
William Hjerpe, Tanner Jones,
- 28 Samuel Craft
- 29 Gary Hartwig, Easton Bresee
- 30 Nancy Zaia





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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/>

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

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