



# THE VINE

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School Newsletter  
*FEBRUARY 2022*

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

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## *Connections Ministry Leader*

We are adding a new part-time staff position to our St. John's ministry team. The Connections Ministry Leader will work with the pastor to oversee and facilitate connecting people with each other and connecting people with opportunities to serve and grow.

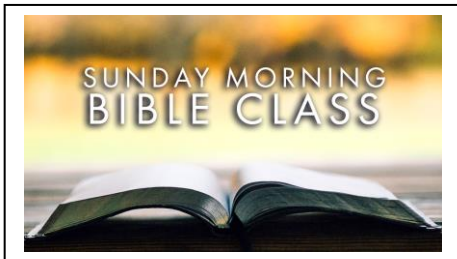
We are looking for someone who is highly committed to the mission of St. John's, and has good communication, organizational and relational skills.

Key responsibilities include

- Enhance our efforts to maximize all of the ways we engage in witness and outreach
- Encourage and facilitate participation in opportunities for discipleship growth and involvement:
- Oversee Social Media Presence

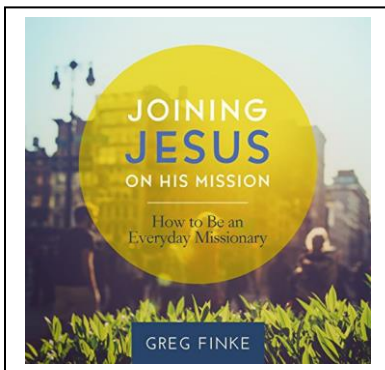
Please contact the church office or check the E-vine for the complete job description. Contact Pastor Mike if you have questions or are interested.

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## **The Gospel of Matthew**

Pastor Mike is leading a study of the Gospel of Matthew on Sunday mornings after worship (approximately 11:00). The study meets in Room 10. Each week, we study what the text says, along with what it says to us as Christians today. All are welcome!



Re-Scheduled  
for May 14

## **Joining Jesus on His Mission**

Rev. Greg Finke, author of *Joining Jesus on His Mission*, will be leading a workshop at St. John's on May 14, 2022. This workshop, originally scheduled for February 5, is intended to help us grow in being the everyday missionaries that God has called us to be.

The workshop on Saturday morning, May 14, will take place in the Sanctuary from 9:00 – 12:00. Rev. Finke will also be preaching at St. John's on Sunday, May 15 and will be leading a bible class in the sanctuary after worship.

May God bless the people of St. John's as we join Jesus on His mission!

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## **The Rising of the Sun**

Our Solar Project is still in the permitting process with the city. As soon as that is complete and a start date and schedule is announced, we will notify the congregation.

In the meantime, please Pray for God's blessing and guidance on this project and safety for those who are working. Pray also for the God to provide the funds needed to complete the project. Please also prayerfully consider making an offering for the completion of this project. Please designate such offerings as "Rising of the Sun Solar Project."



## OFFERING UPDATE

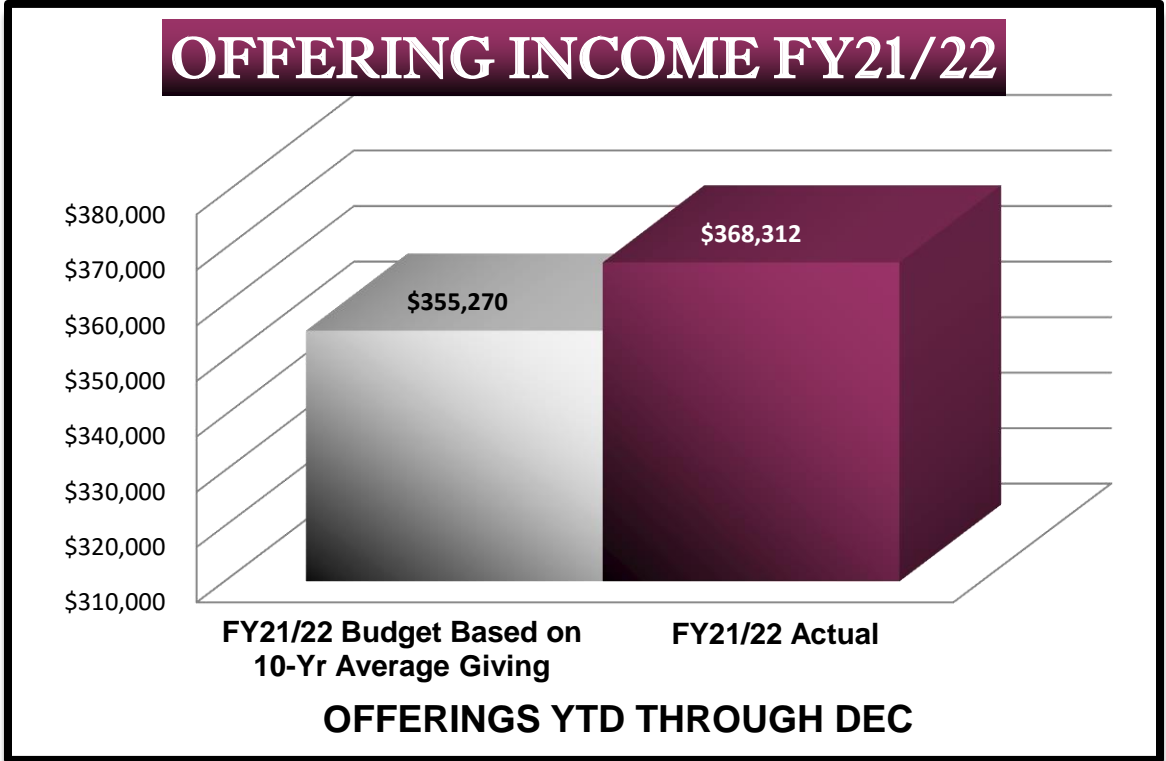
Actual Offering Income for Dec:

**\$81,678.**

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

**\$368,312** which is **3.61%** or **\$13,042** 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:

*“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.” (1 Corinthians 16:2)(NIV)*

## What is Tithing?

A steward is a manager, a caretaker, actually a servant of another. We don't choose to be God's stewards. We are chosen by Him to be His stewards. God has given each of us time, abilities, and possessions, not to own, but to manage for Him. This is a big responsibility. We own nothing but manage everything. God gives firm direction on how we are to carry out our responsibility.

In the Old Testament, God commanded the Israelites to tithe (Leviticus 27:30). It was the duty of His people to tithe, although many gave their gifts willingly out of love, trust, and faith in God.

- Exodus 25:1-2: “*You are to receive the offering for Me from each man whose heart prompts him to give.*”
- Chronicles 29:3-6: “*. . . the officials in charge of the King’s work gave willingly*”

The people gave not because they were commanded to give, but because of an inward desire to give.

As New Testament Christians, we are not commanded, but we are motivated by God’s grace to give generously and to use the tithe as a Biblical guide for our giving. Three giving principles are found in 1 Corinthians 16:2:

- We are to give regularly--systematically (“*on the first day of every week*”)
- We each have a personal responsibility to give (“*each one of you*”)
- We are to give in proportion to the income that we receive (“*in keeping with your income*”)

Giving is not an option for Christians. Just as God gave, we are called to give. Through faith, we give out of gratitude for who God is and what He has done for us through His Son, Jesus. Because of Christ’s love for us, we are compelled to give (2 Corinthians 5:14). In the Old Testament, people gave their tithes, and, for special needs, they gave offerings. As New Covenant Christians, who live under grace, we are empowered to give even more. As we grow spiritually, we will, with God’s strength, aim to become tithers and even go beyond the tithe.

## **Prayer:**

Dear Heavenly Father, forgive me when I am unwilling to return to You what is rightfully Yours. Forgive me, also, for not even acknowledging that everything I have is a gift from You. Help me to trust You and obey Your will for my giving. Thank You for fulfilling the law in my place. Through Christ Who gives me strength. Amen.

Adapted from “*Empowered by Grace to Tithe*” by Ronald J. and Phyllis J. Chewning, Stewardship Advisors, Inc.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, New International Version*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1984.



# LCC K-9 COMFORT DOG MINISTRY UPDATE

To God be the Glory!



***May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands. Psalm 90:17***

I am so excited to be back on (the new) campus at Camille Creek Community School! There were many new faces since my last visit and it was great to meet new friends. I also re-connected with the dedicated staff members that have been there since I first began visiting. My team and I are thrilled to be back visiting on a regular basis.

Recent closures may have caused us to hit the “pause” (or is that “paws”?) button on some of our regular visits, but God has graciously provided us with opportunities to reach out in other ways within our community and beyond. A canceled visit to Collabria Adult Services resulted in our meeting with the chaplain and a hospice nurse in the parking lot. They were returning from a difficult home visit and we were able to spend time with them, sharing some comfort and love.

Gomer joined fellow comfort dogs Reuben, Micah, and Rahab in providing comfort to the Elk Grove Police Department as they mourned the loss of one of their officers. The dogs were invited to the briefings with family and colleagues of officer Ty Lenehan, who was killed in the line of duty. Please continue to pray for this community.

Later this month, Gomer and I will join members of the congregation at the Best Practices in Ministry conference in Phoenix. The purpose of the conference is for attendees “to learn and share ideas and practices to help us grow in living God’s Mission.” My humans and I have been blessed to attend this conference in the past and we have enjoyed meeting and exchanging ideas with others from across the country. We are looking forward to sharing information and updates about the Comfort Dog Ministry with them this year.

Stay safe and we hope to see you soon!

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



## ATTENTION ALL CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS!!



The congregation will now accept applications for student grants for the 2022-2023 academic year. All members of St. John's, who plan to attend any of our ten synodical universities or our two seminaries, are eligible to apply. All you have to do is send a brief note to St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church, ATTN: Tim Kramer, or an e-mail to

[tkramer@stjohnslutheran.net](mailto:tkramer@stjohnslutheran.net), announcing your intent to enroll in the 2021-2022 academic year. All applications must include the following information:

- a) Your Name
- b) School Name
- c) Student ID or Account # (if returning student)
- d) Degree you are pursuing
- e) Year and Level of study (e.g. Junior year, Undergrad; 5<sup>th</sup> year, teacher certification, or student teaching; Graduate studies)
- f) Attending Fall Term or Spring Term (or both)
- g) Briefly explain why you're attending Concordia and how you plan to use your studies/future vocation to shine the light of Christ and to witness for Jesus as His kingdom representative in the world.

*Deadline for applications is March 31, 2022.* Actual grant amount to each student is undetermined but will be based, in part, upon the number of students requesting assistance. So, if you are considering attending a synodical university--*even if you have not made a final decision--* please send a brief note informing us of where you are in your decision process so that we can plan accordingly.

**POSTPONED**

St. John's Lutheran School's annual Open House was postponed and did not take place on January 27 as originally scheduled. Please note the new date and times.

**New Date:** Tuesday, March 29, 2022

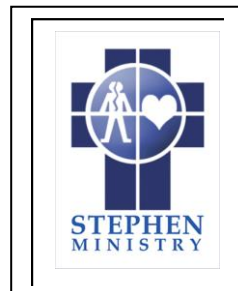
**New Time:** 5:00-6:00 p.m. (Prospective Families Only Please)

6:00-7:00 p.m. (Current and Prospective Families Welcome)

Prospective families please R.S.V.P. to SJL Admissions:  
707-226-7970, Ext. 125; [kgoller@stjohnsnapa.org](mailto:kgoller@stjohnsnapa.org)

## ***Stephen Ministry: What a Friend We Have***

**What a Friend we have in Jesus**, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! ... Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? ...Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge—take it to the Lord in prayer! \*



Such a familiar hymn with wonderful, comforting words. God *is* our refuge and our strength, and we are so grateful that we can take everything to Him in prayer. Sometimes we also need a human friend to talk with, someone who can walk alongside us, someone to listen and offer support. Someone like an encouraging, caring Stephen Minister.

It's difficult to ask for help. Perhaps you've felt embarrassed that you're not "tough enough" to handle it on your own. Perhaps you feel your problems are too small, that others must have bigger issues. Perhaps you believe what our culture promotes – self-help is the answer. Perhaps you don't feel you deserve help. Or that you are too tired to reach out, feeling defeated before you start.

Please know that YOU matter to God and to the people at St. John's Lutheran Church. We have Stephen Ministers who are trained, ready, and willing to help. God carries you and your problems in His loving hands, and He provides hands-on help through Stephen Ministers. If you feel undeserving, just know that none of us deserve anything good, but God freely gives us every good and perfect gift through His amazing grace. By God's grace we can trust and confide in a Stephen Minister, start to heal, and become whole again.

If you, or someone you know, would like to learn more about connecting with a Stephen Minister, please contact Penni Cremen (707-483-9321) or Pastor Mike in the church office (707-255-0119). Thank you, God, for the Friend we have in Jesus, and for the friends we have at St. John's.

\*(Charles Converse music / Joseph Scriven lyrics)



**SCRIP is the way to budget your funds: Do you make New Year's Resolutions?** One of the top resolutions is to save money. Scrip has been talked about in Financial Peace as a great tool to use for your monthly budget.

Budget your monthly expenses; purchase your gift cards to use for your shopping. Whenever you shop you have a visual of what you have left and you can shop accordingly. If you have not yet used Scrip, please read below on how easy it is.

**Join the program online or Scrip is always available in the school office...We love seeing you!**

- Download the RaiseRight mobile app from the app store using your smartphone or tablet.
- 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**
  - e-cards are delivered to the app within minutes—view them in your Wallet.
- Physical gift cards are mailed to your coordinator or now to you directly. 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.

**Scrip is sold in the school office M-F during regular school hours.**



# For FEBRUARY



	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
1	Psalm 18:30-36	Genesis 31:22-55	Matthew 11:25-12:8
2	Psalm 18:37-45	Genesis 32:1-21	Matthew 12:9-21
3	Psalm 18:46-50	Genesis 32:22-33:20	Matthew 12:22-32
4	Psalm 19:1-6	Genesis 34	Matthew 12:33-45
5	Psalm 19:7-14	Genesis 35:1-36:8	Matthew 12:46-13:9
6	Psalm 138	Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)	1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11
7	Psalm 20	Genesis 36:9-43	Matthew 13:10-23
8	Psalm 21	Genesis 37	Matthew 13:24-35
9	Psalm 22:1-8	Genesis 38	Matthew 13:36-46
10	Psalm 22:9-21	Genesis 39	Matthew 13:47-58
11	Psalm 22:22-28	Genesis 40:1-41:16	Matthew 14:1-14
12	Psalm 22:29-31	Genesis 41:17-57	Matthew 14:15-24
13	Psalm 1	Jeremiah 17:5-10	1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26
14	Psalm 23	Genesis 42	Matthew 14:25-15:9
15	Psalm 24	Genesis 43	Matthew 15:10-20
16	Psalm 25:1-7	Genesis 44	Matthew 15:21-28
17	Psalm 25:8-22	Genesis 45	Matthew 15:29-16:4
18	Psalm 26	Genesis 46:1-27	Matthew 16:5-20
19	Psalm 27:1-6	Genesis 46:28-47:31	Matthew 16:21-28
20	Psalm 37:1-11,39-40	Genesis 45:3-11,15	1 Corinthians 15:35-38,42-50; Luke 6: 27-38
21	Psalm 27:7-14	Genesis 48	Matthew 17:1-13
22	Psalm 28	Genesis 49	Matthew 17:14-27
23	Psalm 29	Genesis 50	Matthew 18:1-14
24	Psalm 30:1-5	Exodus 1:1-2:10	Matthew 18:15-35
25	Psalm 30:6-12	Exodus 2:11-3:22	Matthew 19:1-12
26	Psalm 31:1-5	Exodus 4:1-5:9	Matthew 19:13-22
27	Psalm 99	Exodus 34:29-35	2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36,(37-43)
28	Psalm 31:6-9	Exodus 5:10-6:12	Matthew 19:23-30

# FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

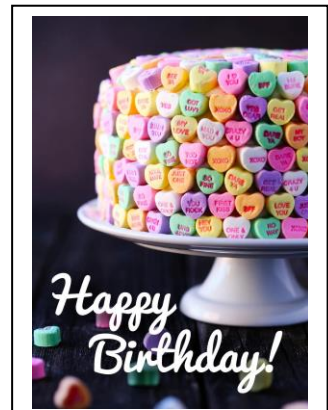
DATE                  COUPLE                  YEARS

DATE	COUPLE	YEARS
1	Steve & Christy Wood	25
1	David & Kathy Fitzgerald	36
13	Doug & DeDe Messner	29
14	Tom & Elaine Hoff	35
25	Sandra & Stewart Mehrens	38



# FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 3      Grayson Roberts, Lisa Thornton, Katya Kampton, Terry Peterson
- 4      Jenece Como
- 6      Bret Skillings
- 7      Tim Bouchet, Steve Rock
- 9      Stephen Santora, Andrew Schluter
- 10     Karen Schoenfeld, Carson Dahl
- 11     Sarah Franklin, Steve Dierker
- 15     Teresa Schmid, Clayton D'Angelo, Kimberly Uffmann
- 18     Ruth Peterson
- 19     Tessa Mello
- 20     Cliff Burmester
- 21     Jakob Chaudhary, Leonard Bommersbach
- 22     Erin Wilson
- Steven Jeffery, Lucas Wedding, Tom Carey,
- 23     Gisela Chaudhary
- 25     Jeffrey Craft
- 26     Christopher Vecera
- 27     Mark Zeller, Cindy Zeller
- 29     Elizabeth Munoz



# SO, WHAT'S NEW AT THE FARM?

Submitted by Ted Zimmerman

I have a couple of “totals” for you that may be of interest.



First, the total amount of fresh produce raised on the Mission Farm and turned into the Napa Food Bank during 2021 – 28,976.5 lbs. Far and away greater than any other year in our service history! God is good!

Second, the total amount raised for our ministry through our participation in the *CanDo Give!Guide 2021* campaign -- \$4,299.67. Some of this support came from our own members; yet the larger portion came from people in the community who are pleased to support our efforts with their donations. God's people reflect His generosity!

Third, I wish I could tell you how many volunteer hours were donated this year to wrestle in all those crops. Actually, I could, if I were willing to put in the time. We keep a log, with the names of those who worked on any particular day and the nature of their service. But it would take a whole lot of rainy days keeping one out of the fields to tempt us to total up all the hours to combat stir-craziness. Suffice it to say that God's people who volunteer to serve on the Farm have been very generous with their time and energy!

January has definitely been a period of flexibility for St. Joh's Lutheran School. We are so blessed at SJL that our faculty and staff are able to adapt to the ever changing dynamics of their classroom, and to the students and their families who care so much about our community that they follow the protocols that are in place for the safety of all.



Out of an abundance of caution with the omicron variant sweeping through our community, we decided to postpone the HIT basketball tournament until February 23-26, 2022. In addition, we will be celebrating National Lutheran Schools week the last week of March (March 27-31). Our Open House will now be on Tuesday, March 29, 2022. These were difficult decisions to make, but we want to be able to enjoy and celebrate these important traditions on campus.

We did have the opportunity to celebrate the installation of Joy Dahl as our Preschool Director on Sunday, January 9, 2022 at the 9:30 a.m. service. Mrs. Dahl is replacing Mrs. King who has retired after 40 years in Lutheran education. Her celebration was on Sunday, January 23, 2022.

We have many exciting events currently planned for February!

On Tuesday, February 8, we will be having a Dine and Donate at Fazerrati's Pizza. We invite you to come and support our school.

Our Choraliers, under the direction of Mrs. Angela D'Angelo, will be performing on Thursday, February 17 at Disneyland. Please pray for our 40 students who will be representing SJL and their families as they travel to and from Southern California. What a wonderful witness our students will be!

Many blessings to you and your family!

*Christy Wood, Principal*

# 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>



## 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.

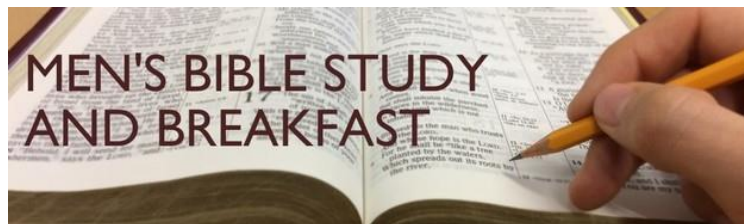
The social media team is all-volunteer, and we could use a few more tech-savvy people to help us out. If you are a fan of social media and would like to help us communicate to our members, parents, students, and community, we could use your help.

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

Thank you!

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 Give+ Mobile App from VANCO shut down 1 Oct 21 and will no longer be available for download as a mobile app. The new app is called **VANCO Mobile**. Giving through Vanco Moblie is easy! Just download the new app and create a new user profile in VANCO Mobile.

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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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Napa, California 94558-2703

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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**

Phone: (707) 255-0119

Fax: (707) 255-3041

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

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

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)

Dr. Christy Wood, Principal (ext. 103)

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

Mrs. Joy Dahl, Director of Preschool (107)