



# THE VINE

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School Newsletter

MARCH 2022

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

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## LENT MIDWEEK SERIES

### **Witnesses to Christ: People From His Passion**

John tells us why he wrote his Gospel: *"Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name"* (John 20:30–31). When we believe that Jesus is the Christ, God gives us life—abundant life, forgiven life, and eternal life.

This Lent in our Midweek Worship series we will hear the witness of those in John's Gospel who journeyed to the cross. Please join us for worship at 7:00 PM as we hear the witness of these people in John's Gospel:

**March 2 - Ash Wednesday:** *John the Baptist*, John 1:29–34

**March 9:** *Mary, the Sister of Lazarus and Martha*, John 12:1–11

**March 16:** *Malchus*, John 18:1–11

**March 23:** *Peter*, John 18:12–27

**March 30:** *Barabbas*, John 18:33–40

**April 6:** *Pontius Pilate*, John 19:1–16

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**EASTER BREAKFAST IS BACK!!!** What a couple years it has been and we surely don't seem to be all the way back to normal, but St. John's Youth Ministry has the chance to bring some normalcy back to our Easter. The empty grave and ultimate victory of our Savior calls for a celebration. We will be open and serving food during and after the first service on Easter Sunday. Stay tuned for more details including the menu!



This year is also a LCMS National Youth Gathering year. We have a few high school youth heading to Houston, Texas in July. Please join us in praying for them as we prepare for our trip. There will also be some opportunities for financial support of this trip.

Since the NYG is only available for those in High School we have an opportunity, sponsored by our CNH District, to attend a District Youth Gathering with our middle school students. This event will take place on June 24-26<sup>th</sup> for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

## VBS IS BACK!!

This year we will be hitting the Rocky Railway as we find that God's power pulls us through. St. John's will host VBS here on our campus June 20-24<sup>th</sup>. We can't wait to share the good news of Jesus with all of the kids that come, but we can't do it without help from y'all. Volunteers are much needed to make this ministry possible. You will find a link to sign up on the website.

For anything youth ministry related please contact Kevin Mathison.



## OFFERING UPDATE

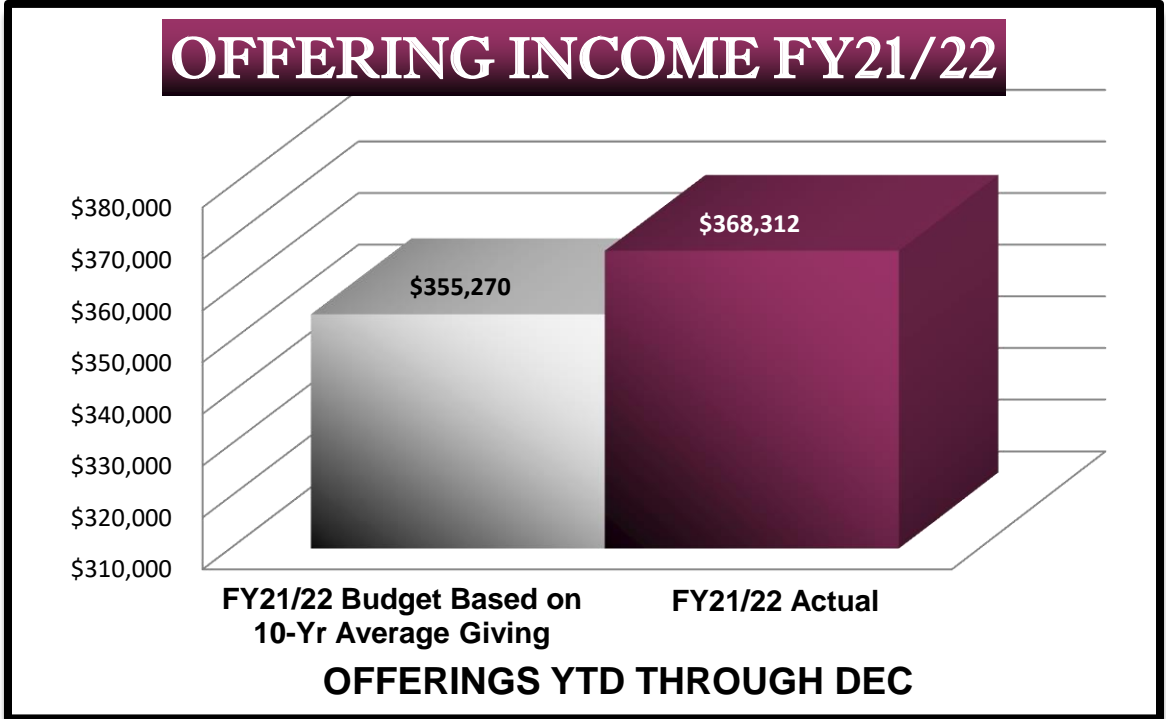
Actual Offering Income for Jan:

**\$49,045.**

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

**\$417,357** which is **2.64%** or **\$10,715** 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:

*“And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him.” (Hebrews 11:6)(ESV)*

## The Gifts of Cain and Abel

The first gifts that we read about in Scripture are the offerings made by Cain and Abel who were the sons of Adam and Eve. In Genesis 4:2-4 we read, “. . . Now Abel kept flocks and Cain worked the soil. In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock.” Cain and Abel, having been instructed by Adam in the knowledge of the Lord, brought offerings or gifts for the Lord. Because one worked the land and the

other raised animals, their gifts were different. We read that Cain “*brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering,*” whereas Abel “*brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock.*”

Between the two brothers there is also an indication of a difference in the attitudes of their hearts. While Cain wasn’t concerned about giving the first or best of his crop, Abel brought in his best. God looked with favor upon Abel’s offering. God looked into the hearts of both Cain and Abel as He looks into our hearts. He saw Abel’s humble faith. In his gift, Abel showed his sincere gratitude for all that God had done for Him.

We need to understand that it’s not the size of our gifts and offerings which makes them acceptable to the Lord, but rather it is the attitude of our hearts and minds toward God. God wants our gifts to be an expression of our love for Him. He wants us to give cheerfully rather than grudgingly. He wants us to give out love through faith. We are told by the writer in Hebrews that without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6).

May this story of giving by Cain and Abel help us to examine our attitude toward giving. If we are not giving our first and best out of faith and love to the Lord, God does not look with favor upon our giving. May God grant us all faithful, loving, and giving hearts. May we, by God’s grace, become committed to a lifetime of generosity.

### **Prayer:**

Lord, I thank You for giving me the time to read and study Your Word. I pray for the continual renewing of my mind and heart. Bless me in the days ahead as I put into practice the things I have learned from this lesson. In Your name I pray. Amen.

Adapted from “*Ten for Ten*” 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.

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# LCC K-9 COMFORT DOG MINISTRY UPDATE

To God be the Glory!



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

**1 Peter 1:3**

As we begin the Lenten season this month, I am looking forward to new beginnings that God has in store for all of us. Gomer and I just returned from the Best Practices in Ministry conference where we made many new friends and our humans were able to share information about the LCC K9 Comfort Dog ministry. We loved being outdoors and seeing all the smiling faces! We also had a blast during our break time playing with fellow comfort dog attendees Lois, Reuben, and Micah. The conference organizers set us up with our own special room where we were able to play or “chill out.” If you follow us on social media, you may have seen us getting our massage “paycheck” after one of our work shifts.

In the coming months, we are hoping to resume some of our regular local visits. Additionally, we have been invited to attend several Yellow Ribbon events in our region. These events allow service members and loved ones to connect with local resources before, during, and after deployments. I had the honor of serving the Air National Guard at the Yellow Ribbon Event in Santa Clara last month, along with fellow comfort dogs Micah and Rahab. It is such a blessing to support the military and their families, all of whom sacrifice so much for us.

Stay safe. 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 2022-2023 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.

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## **Ladies' Tea** **March 19, 2022** **from 11:00 AM - 2 PM.**

Our Featured Speaker is Tom Pickford, VP of The Napa Valley Orchid Society. It's a fun, free event, and we hope to see you there! Please contact Gail Vandeburgt if you would like to attend or host a table.  
[gailvandeburgt@gmail.com](mailto:gailvandeburgt@gmail.com)





## **St. John's Lutheran School Open House**

For Preschool through Eighth Grade

**PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE AND NEW TIME**

**Tuesday, March 29, 2022**

**5:00-6:00 p.m.** Prospective Families Only Please

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

*Stop by any time; there is no formal presentation. Kids are welcome!*

Visit the classrooms and teachers and  
learn more about the specific grade-level programs at St. John's.

Come see what's happening at St. John's Lutheran School  
and experience what makes it a special place for learning!

**Prospective families, please R.S.V.P.**

Kristin Goller, SJL Admissions: 226-7970, Ext. 125; [kgoller@stjohnsnapa.org](mailto:kgoller@stjohnsnapa.org).

**We hope you can join us!**



## ***Stephen Ministry: Be Kind***

**In a world where you can be anything – be kind.\***

Have you seen this saying around recently? It's on T-shirts, coffee cups, bumper stickers, posters, Facebook...all over! What a great reminder to practice one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit – kindness. As Christ followers we have the Holy Spirit within us and we can show the world all of these fruits, and more: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Gentleness, Faithfulness, and Self-Control.



But sometimes we're hurting too much to experience and share these fruits. We're going through a storm of sadness, or sickness, or sin, or shame, or sorrow, or overwhelmed with too many responsibilities. Jesus knows exactly what we're going through and he's carrying us, holding us, loving us, forgiving us, gently showing the way back to abundant Life in him. St. John's Lutheran Church has a team of Stephen Ministers who want to share the comfort and healing of Jesus with those who are hurting, those who are in the midst of a storm.

"Kindness is giving Hope to those who think they are all alone in this world." "To be kind is more important than to be right. Many times, what people need is not a brilliant mind that speaks but a special heart that listens." \* Both of these sayings beautifully express the heart of a Stephen Minister. A Stephen Minister will walk beside you, lift you up, remind you of your worth as a unique, chosen child of God.

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. 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 Kind Friend we have in Jesus, and for the friends we have at St. John's.

\* Authors unknown





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 MARCH



	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Old Testament</b>	<b>New Testament</b>
1	Psalm 31:10-20	Exodus 6:13-7:24	Matthew 20:1-16
2	Psalm 31:21-24	Exodus 8	Matthew 20:17-28
3	Psalm 32	Exodus 9	Matthew 20:29-21:11
4	Psalm 33:1-5	Exodus 10	Matthew 21:12-22
5	Psalm 33:6-11	Exodus 11:1-12:20	Matthew 21:23-32
6	Psalm 91:1-2,9-16	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13
7	Psalm 33:12-22	Exodus 12:21-51	Matthew 21:33-46
8	Psalm 34:1-7	Exodus 13:1-14:18	Matthew 22:1-14
9	Psalm 34:8-18	Exodus 14:19-15:21	Matthew 22:15-22
10	Psalm 34:19-22	Exodus 15:22-16:36	Matthew 22:23-40
11	Psalm 35:1-10	Exodus 17:1-18:6	Matthew 22:41-23:12
12	Psalm 35:11-18	Exodus 18:7-19:9	Matthew 23:13-22
13	Psalm 27	Genesis 15:1-12,17-18	Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35
14	Psalm 35:19-28	Exodus 19:10-20:21	Matthew 23:23-32
15	Psalm 36	Exodus 20:22-21:27	Matthew 23:33-39
16	Psalm 37:1-6	Exodus 21:28-22:24	Matthew 24:1-25
17	Psalm 37:7-15	Exodus 22:25-23:26	Matthew 24:26-35
18	Psalm 37:16-22	Exodus 23:27-25:9	Matthew 24:36-44
19	Psalm 37:23-26	Exodus 25:10-40	Matthew 24:45-51
20	Psalm 63:1-8	Isaiah 55:1-9	1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9
21	Psalm 37:27-33	Exodus 26	Matthew 25:1-13
22	Psalm 37:34-40	Exodus 27:1-28:14	Matthew 25:14-30
23	Psalm 38:1-8	Exodus 28:15-43	Matthew 25:31-46
24	Psalm 38:9-16	Exodus 29:1-30	Matthew 26:1-13
25	Psalm 38:17-22	Exodus 29:31-30:16	Matthew 26:14-30
26	Psalm 39:1-6	Exodus 30:17-31:11	Matthew 26:31-35
27	Psalm 32	Joshua 5:9-12	2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3,11b-32
28	Psalm 39:7-13	Exodus 31:12-32:29	Matthew 26:36-46
29	Psalm 40:1-8	Exodus 32:30-33:23	Matthew 26:47-58
30	Psalm 40:9-17	Exodus 34	Matthew 26:59-75
31	Psalm 41	Exodus 35	Matthew 27:1-10

# MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1	Soren De Young, Elora Stepp
2	Beckett Koen, Kenneth Reed
5	Cindy Powers
6	Colin Nicholson, Brody Rollin
7	Aven Kampton
8	Christian Craft
9	Vicky Bartelt, Ryan Chagonjian, Pastor Ted Zimmerman
10	Sophie Alexander, Matthew Wahlers
11	Paula Schweiger
12	Debbie Kirkpatrick, Kari Perna, Gail Vandeburgt
13	Isaac Anderson, Mac Engelbracht, Anne Heine
14	Jacob Cremen, George Fleischmann
15	Judy Biggs, Ronald Irwin
16	Linda Hammond
17	Caitlin Newton, Linda Reed
18	Amelia Laws, Tony Nicholson
19	Janelle Mason, Teresa Yeh
20	Colette Hjerpe, David Newman
21	Sarah Kramer, Brad Seiter
22	Judie Arnett
23	Nancy Ehlen
25	Linda Harvey
27	Douglas Messner
28	Sandra Mehrens
29	John Foottit, Sigrid Dobat, Cathy Hartwig, Caroline Zaia
30	Myles Mathison
31	Sophia Frey, Patrick Yoder, Logan Rodriquez



# MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

DATE	COUPLE	YEARS
8	Steven & Christi Jeffery	36
9	Pastor Mark & Anne Heine	3
11	Richard & Karen Dalen	63
21	David & Kristin Goller	24
31	Joshua & Roxana Wright	10
31	Derek & Danielle Irwin	26



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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>





St. John's Lutheran School is fully embracing our 2022-2023 theme, Better Together, based on 2 Corinthians 13:11 "Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration,

encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you."

The Choraliers represented SJL at Disneyland on Thursday, February 17. It was a magical experience for our students to see Disney behind the scenes and be cast members for the day. Under the direction of Mrs. Angela D'Angelo, 40 students performed and danced to eight songs. This was a wonderful experience for all of the families that made this experience a reality.

The HIT basketball tournament was held February 23-26, 2022. Four teams participated in the Girls' tournament: SJL, American Canyon Middle School, St. Apollinaris, and Zion Lutheran San Francisco. Our Girls' team came in third place, as well as taking home the Sportsmanship Award. Seven teams participated in the Boys' tournament: SJL, American Canyon Middle School, Holy Spirit Fairfield, St. Apollinaris, St. Helena Montessori, St. Vincent de Paul Petaluma, and Zion Lutheran San Francisco. Our Boys played some nail biting games and ended up in second place. Thank you so much to Matt Uffmann and all of the wonderful volunteers that made this weekend happen. What a fantastic start for our tournament teams!

Moving forward, we will be celebrating National Lutheran Schools Week the last week of March (March 27-31). Our Open House will be on **Tuesday, March 29, 2022. 5:00-6:00 p.m.** Prospective Families only please and then **6:00-7:00 p.m.** Current and Prospective Families Welcome. We invite you to come and see SJL!

On Tuesday, March 8, we will be having a Dine and Donate at Hop Creek. We invite you to come and support our school.

Many blessings to you and your families!

*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.

A graphic for "MEN'S BIBLE STUDY AND BREAKFAST". It features a close-up of an open Bible with a hand holding a yellow pencil writing in the right-hand page. The text "MEN'S BIBLE STUDY AND BREAKFAST" is overlaid in a large, dark, serif font.

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY  
AND BREAKFAST**



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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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)