



THE VINE

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

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

The Letter to the Hebrews

Jesus is Better

We continue our study of the Letter to the Hebrews. This letter is a written sermon to believers who were struggling with their faith. They were being tempted to go back to a life without Jesus, a life rooted in the unfulfilled promises and pictures of the Old Testament. The writer of this letter seeks to show them in many ways that Jesus is better, not only better than what they had before, but better than everything.

August 7	Heb 3:1-6	"A Better Moses"	Because of Jesus, we are people of the Gospel.
August 14	Heb 3:7-19	"Faithfulness in Times of Trouble"	What can we learn from these verses that help us in times of trouble today?
August 21		"Hand in Hand"	Our school theme for the coming year focuses on the blessing of being led by the hand of God.
August 28	Heb 4:1-11	"A Better Rest"	What does it mean to keep the Sabbath? What is the rest we are to embrace?

Joining Jesus

Navigation Zoom with Rev. Greg Finke on August 11

Our next "Navigation Zoom" with Pastor Greg Finke is on Thursday, August 11, at 6:30 PM. Watch the E-Vine for the link to join the Zoom discussion.

As Pastor Finke mentioned at the workshop and on Sunday, May 15, the follow up Navigation Zooms are designed to help us receive the encouragement, coaching, and accountability we need to help us "navigate" the process of joining Jesus throughout the next six months. The Zoom session will last between 40-45 minutes.



St. John's Lutheran School's planning for the 2022-2023 school year is progressing at a rapid pace.

Our faculty and staff retreat will be August 14 - 16, 2022. The first day of school will be Wednesday, August 24, 2022, with a half day for the elementary students.

Our school theme for the 2022-23 school year is **"Hand in Hand"**, based on Isaiah 41:13 *"For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you."* As a community, we have endured a lot for the past two years, but one thing has been constant - God's presence in our lives. In this verse, we are reminded that whenever we fall down, or whenever we reach out to God, He takes our hand and helps us up. This is reassuring. This is comforting. This is wonderful. The promise of God to be there personally to pick us up is powerful. Our goal with this theme is to help our students see the importance of God in our lives to help us and guide us in our lives.

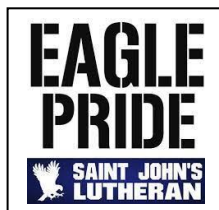
As we focus on being back together, I would like to share some of the planning that is going into the 2022-2023 school year. Mrs. Kristal Broyles has assumed all responsibility of the School Office. She can be reached at kbroyles@stjohnsnapa.org.

I am excited to announce that we have a K-8 PE teacher as well as a K-8 Spanish teacher. These two positions have been difficult to fill, and I am so excited to add these co-curricular programs back into our program.

I am excited that the APT is working diligently on creating fellowship opportunities for our community. Please save the dates for the following activities: September 23 - Country Fair, October 14 - Get on Track, and March 4 - Main Event.

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.

Principal Christy Wood



OFFERING UPDATE

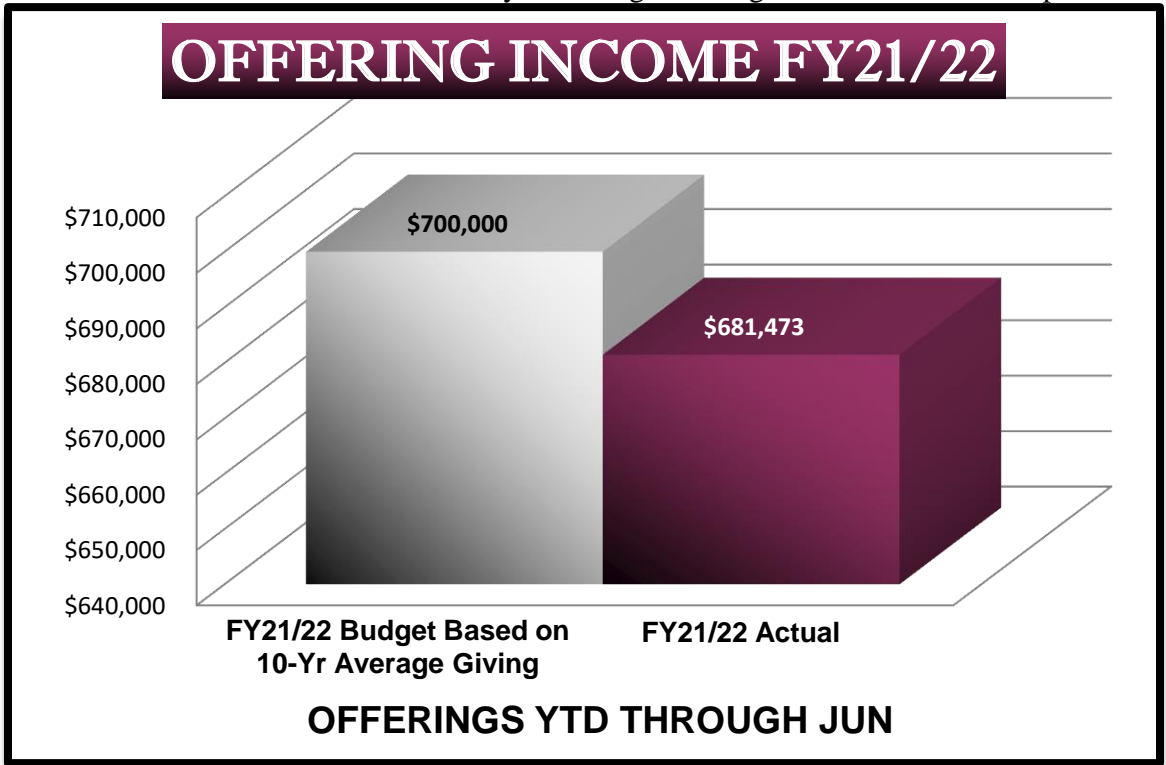
Actual Offering Income for Jun:

\$45,602.

Total Offerings for FY21/22 (as of 30 Jun 22):

\$681,473 which is **2.65%** or **\$18,527**
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:

“By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts...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 11:4, 6)(ESV)

The Gifts of Cain and Abel

It’s the attitude of our hearts and minds toward God that matters most to Him.

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.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, I am a sinner. The attitude of my heart is not pure, it is not often focused on You but rather towards myself. The gifts that I sometimes give, I give grudgingly and often without thought or consideration of Your love. Forgive me for being weak in my faith. Grant me a faithful, loving and giving heart. Lead me to joyously look to Jesus, “the perfecter of our faith,”^a for the inspiration and motivation to give generously and cheerfully. In Your precious name I pray. Amen.

^a Hebrews 12:2

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

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. Colossians 3:17

I hope everyone is having a great summer! Last month I had the opportunity to visit the Napa Youth Theatre summer production taking place at St. John's. This year's production was "The Lion King KIDS." Participants gave me a "behind the scenes" tour and let me "pose" next to some of the amazing backdrops that they had created. You may have seen a picture of me on social media channeling my inner "Simba" while standing on a giant rock on set.

Recently, I visited the staff at Kaiser Vallejo. We had such a great time together that they invited me back and I was able to visit with some of the patients. I am excited about continuing these visits in the future.

My team and I are looking forward to our upcoming Regional Gathering later this month. Comfort Dog teams from our western region will be meeting in Elk Grove, CA, for training and fellowship. Representatives from LCC Headquarters in Northbrook, IL, will be joining us as well. I am so excited to see my friends from the other teams. I know we will be working hard, but I also know that we will have opportunities to play together. (Don't tell my humans, but playtime just might be my favorite part of the weekend.)

Summer is really flying by and, in just a few short weeks, students will be returning for a new school year. I can hardly wait to see my SJLS kids and resume school visits. I have really missed seeing them!

I hope to see you at church.

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

Aaron Comfort Dog



Stephen Ministry -- Keeping Confidences



“Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.”

Proverbs 12:18

Confidentiality is a cornerstone of Stephen Ministry. It gives care receivers the reassurance they need so that they can risk revealing to their Stephen Ministers their deepest thoughts and feelings, details they might not be able to discuss with anyone else. It is through the sharing of innermost feelings that God can work the miracle of healing, restoring faith and hope to care receivers' lives. Without the assurance of confidentiality, most care receivers would have a difficult time opening up, which would impede the healing process.

Think about the importance of confidentiality in your day-to-day relationships. When someone shares a personal feeling, a thought that is troubling him or her, or something for which he or she might feel guilty, it might be tempting to pass along that information. Even when motives are noble (for instance, wanting to pass the information along as a prayer request), it could be damaging or painful to the person who first shared the information.

If you really believe it is something that needs to be passed along – to a prayer group, pastor, Stephen Leader, or someone else who could help – tell that to the person who shared it. Explain why you believe others should know and encourage him or her to pass it along to the appropriate person(s). Or get permission from the individual for you to share the information yourself.

Confidentiality is a standard of conduct all of us need to live by – not just those involved in our Stephen Ministry. Confidentiality promotes trust, builds one another up, and encourages healing in a Christian community.

A Stephen Minister is ready to meet with you on a weekly basis to listen, care, encourage, provide emotional and spiritual support, and remind you of Christ's presence in your life. The care you'll receive is confidential, free, and very helpful.

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).

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Prayer and Praise

August 7 & 21 @5:30 PM in the Sanctuary

Prayer and praise is an informal worship opportunity including a time for reflection, music, and fellowship. Join us as we continue our message series on "The Christian Life." We will see you there!



The **National Youth Gathering** was awesome! God was at work the whole time, and it was hot enough in Texas that maybe even He was sweating. The theme of the week was "In All Things", and we discussed all of the different ways that Jesus has, is, and will be in "All Things" at all times. As a teenager, it's sometimes hard to think of God as being present when we go through hard times, but it

was made so clear that God never leaves and always loves us. I want to say a big thank you to those who have or would like to support the youth ministry to enable us to continue to benefit from these kinds of opportunities.

Where did the summer go? We have entered the school month of August and **Confirmation** is just around the corner. Please 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!



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.

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.



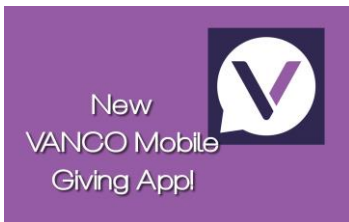
Daily Bible Readings

	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
1	Psalm 90	Joshua 8:1-29	Luke 12:35-48
2	Psalm 91:1-8	Joshua 8:30-9:27	Luke 12:49-59
3	Psalm 91:9-16	Joshua 10:1-27	Luke 13:1-17
4	Psalm 92:1-8	Joshua 10:28-11:23	Luke 13:18-30
5	Psalm 92:9-15	Joshua 12:1-13:7	Luke 13:31-14:6
6	Psalm 93	Joshua 13:8-14:5	Luke 14:7-24
7	Psalm 33:12-22	Genesis 15:1-6	Hebrews 11:1-3,8-16; Luke 12:32-40
8	Psalm 94:1-11	Joshua 14:6-15:19	Luke 14:25-35
9	Psalm 94:12-23	Joshua 15:20-63	Luke 15:1-10
10	Psalm 95	Joshua 16, 17	Luke 15:11-32
11	Psalm 96:1-9	Joshua 18:1-19:9	Luke 16:1-15
12	Psalm 96:10-13	Joshua 19:10-39	Luke 16:16-31
13	Psalm 97:1-6	Joshua 19:40-21:8	Luke 17:1-10
14	Psalm 82	Jeremiah 23:23-29	Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56
15	Psalm 97:7-12	Joshua 21:9-45	Luke 17:11-19
16	Psalm 98	Joshua 22	Luke 17:20-25
17	Psalm 99	Joshua 23:1-24:13	Luke 17:26-37
18	Psalm 100	Joshua 24:14-Judges 1:16	Luke 18:1-17
19	Psalm 101	Judges 1:17-2:23	Luke 18:18-30
20	Psalm 102:1-11	Judges 3	Luke 18:31-43
21	Psalm 103:1-8	Isaiah 58:9b-14	Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17
22	Psalm 102:12-22	Judges 4	Luke 19:1-10
23	Psalm 102:23-28	Judges 5	Luke 19:11-27
24	Psalm 103:1-5	Judges 6	Luke 19:28-44
25	Psalm 103:6-18	Judges 7	Luke 19:45-20:8
26	Psalm 103:19-22	Judges 8	Luke 20:9-19
27	Psalm 104:1-9	Judges 9:1-33	Luke 20:20-26
28	Psalm 112	Proverbs 25:6-7	Hebrews 13:1-8,15-16; Luke 14:1,7-14
29	Psalm 104:10-18	Judges 9:34-10:18	Luke 20:27-40
30	Psalm 104:19-23	Judges 11:1-27	Luke 20:41-21:4
31	Psalm 104:24-30	Judges 11:28-12:15	Luke 21:5-28



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1	Salvatore Pagano
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	Ken Arnold, Cailyn Helfrich, Madeline Bresee
19	Devin Lamb, Eric Vandeburgt
21	Devon Mason, Tony Carafa
22	Dove Bain
23	Matthew Uffmann
24	Dick Lemin
25	CarlJohn Meissenhalter, Abigail Ondek
31	Tiffany Tucker, Curtis Schoenfeld, Parker Dahl



The Give+ Mobile App from VANCO shut down 1 Oct 21 and is longer be available for download as a mobile app. The new app is called **VANCO Mobile**.

Giving through Vanco Mobile is easy! Just download the new app and create a new user profile in VANCO Mobile.

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>

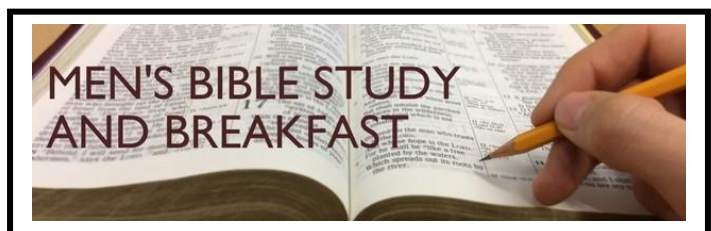




DATE	COUPLE	YEARS
1	Thane & Sarah Knutson	13
1	Jeff & Carri Mello	24
1	Mark & Cindy Zeller	35
2	Kenneth & Bonnie Wilson	53
2	Corrin & Mark Kornovich	6
3	Dennis & Judie Arnett	54
3	Dean & Lori Bledsoe	20
7	Ronald & Judith Irwin	57
11	Rita & James Bresee	32
13	Charles & Elaine Scott	61
14	Amy & Michael Smith	23
15	Daniel & Angela D'Angelo	24
17	Betsy & Irv Gewirz	47
17	Leonard & Tracy Lamb	33
21	Leonard & Deborah Bommersbach	51
28	Dean & Nancy Ehlen	51
28	Tony & Karen Carafa	23
19	Barbara & Walt Gmelch	13
31	John & Kristi Clark	48
31	Ken & Sharon Tews	47

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.





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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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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

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Dr. Christy Wood, Principal (ext. 103)

Mrs. Kristal Broyles, School Office Manager (ext. 101)

Mrs. Joy Dahl, Director of Preschool (107)