



# THE VINE

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

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

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## The Letter to the Hebrews

### **Jesus is Better**

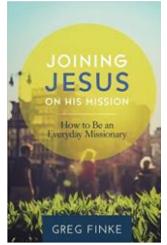
We continue our study of the Letter Hebrews. This letter is a written sermon to believers who were struggling with their faith. They were being tempted to go back to a life without Jesus, a life rooted in the unfulfilled promises and pictures of the Old Testament. The writer of this letter seeks to show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

|              |                |                                     |  |
|--------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| September 4  | Heb. 4:12-13   | "Sharper than a Double-Edged Sword" | The Word of God is no ordinary communication. We do not merely read it; it reads, examines, rebukes and comforts us.   |
| September 11 | Heb. 4:14-5:10 | "The Great High Priest"             | Jesus is the ultimate high priest, identifying with us, yet sinless, and offering the perfect sacrifice for all sin.   |
| September 18 | Heb. 5:11-6:12 | "The Discipleship Diet"             | We are called to grow as disciples, to move from milk to solid food, so we don't fall away in hard times.  |
| September 25 | Heb. 6:13-20   | "A Better Hope"                     | Christian hope is not wishful thinking. Rather, it rests on the character of God, who cannot lie. Far from being uncertain, Christian hope is an anchor for our souls in troubling times |

## Joining Jesus

### Navigation Zoom with Rev. Greg Finke on September 15

Our next “Navigation Zoom” with Pastor Greg Finke is on Thursday September 15, 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.



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### Sunday Bible Class Starting September 11

#### **Foundations: Basic Christian Teachings**

Pastor Mike will be leading an eight-session overview of the basic teachings of the Christian Faith. This hour-long class will begin on Sunday, September 11 in Room 10. This is an opportunity to grow in understanding what it means to follow Jesus, and to learn about what it means to be part of our faith community. **Foundations** is also part of the process of becoming a member of St. John’s Lutheran Church. If you have questions about **Foundations** or would like to sign up, please contact Pastor Mike or the church office.



Save the Date:  
Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>!  
Time: TBD

“Calling all volunteers! Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> we will be hosting our first ever Okoberfest that will feature food, drinks, fellowship, and entertainment. Please let Josh or the church office know if you’d like to help make this an incredible event for the church, school, and community.



Blessings to you as we begin our 2022-2023 school year with the theme “Hand in Hand!” As we start this year, we look forward to having fellowship activities and strengthening our relationships on campus as we learn in our academically challenging program. We are truly blessed here at St. John’s! It is a great place to grow - spiritually, academically, emotionally, physically, and socially.

Our time together began this year with Registration Day on Thursday, August 18. How fun it was to have our students see one another and rekindle their friendships. On Monday, August 22, we hosted an ice cream social for all new families. Much laughter and giggles were shared as we got to know one another.

School successfully began for the 2022-2023 school year on Wednesday, August 24, 2022.

Some highlights for the month of September include:

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| September 1         | Early Dismissal for Staff Professional Development |
| September 5         | Labor Day-No School or PALS                        |
| September 6         | Choraliers Parent Meeting in Sanctuary at 6 pm     |
| September 8         | Back to School Night-7:00 pm                       |
| September 12 and 13 | Picture Day  |
| September 23        | Country Fair 4:00-7:00 pm                          |

In addition, Girls’ volleyball is in full swing. Please contact the school office for a schedule of games.

I ask that you include our faculty and staff in your daily prayers.

School Office- Kristal Broyles, Nicole Paltrineri  
Admissions- Kristin Goller  
Preschool Director- Joy Dahl  
Preschool Blue Group- Joan Perez (teacher), Tonya Kerruish (aide)  
Preschool Yellow Group Alice Pridmore-(teacher), Joy Dahl (aide)  
Preschool Red Group- Tammra Knippen (teacher), Melissa Burmester (aide)  
Preschool Green Group- Diane Barbosa (teacher), Lisa Thornton (aide)  
Preschool PALS- Sue Straw, Nanette Williams, Heather Hodges, Casie Wood

(next page)

Kindergarten- Ayne Ondek  
First Grade- Ellen Burmester  
Second Grade- Megan Mathison  
Third Grade- Betsy Gewirz  
Fourth Grade- Justine Rollin  
Fifth Grade- Mike Newton  
Sixth Grade- Jessica Koen  
Seventh Grade- Matt Uffmann  
Eighth Grade- Kari Perna  
Grade 1 and 2 Aide- Ramona Kaufmann  
Grade 3, 4, and 5 Aide- Keli Manfred  
Student Support Team- Jennie Peskett, Sam Calforda  
Computer- Dawn Wahlers  
Music- Angela D'Angelo  
Art- Sandra Cassayre  
Physical Education - Johnny Pelfini  
Spanish- Nina Montes  
Theatre- Sarah Kramer  
PALS- Ramona Kaufmann, Danielle Irwin, Casie Wood, Nathan Kaufmann

Many Blessings!  
Christy Wood  
Principal



## OFFERING UPDATE

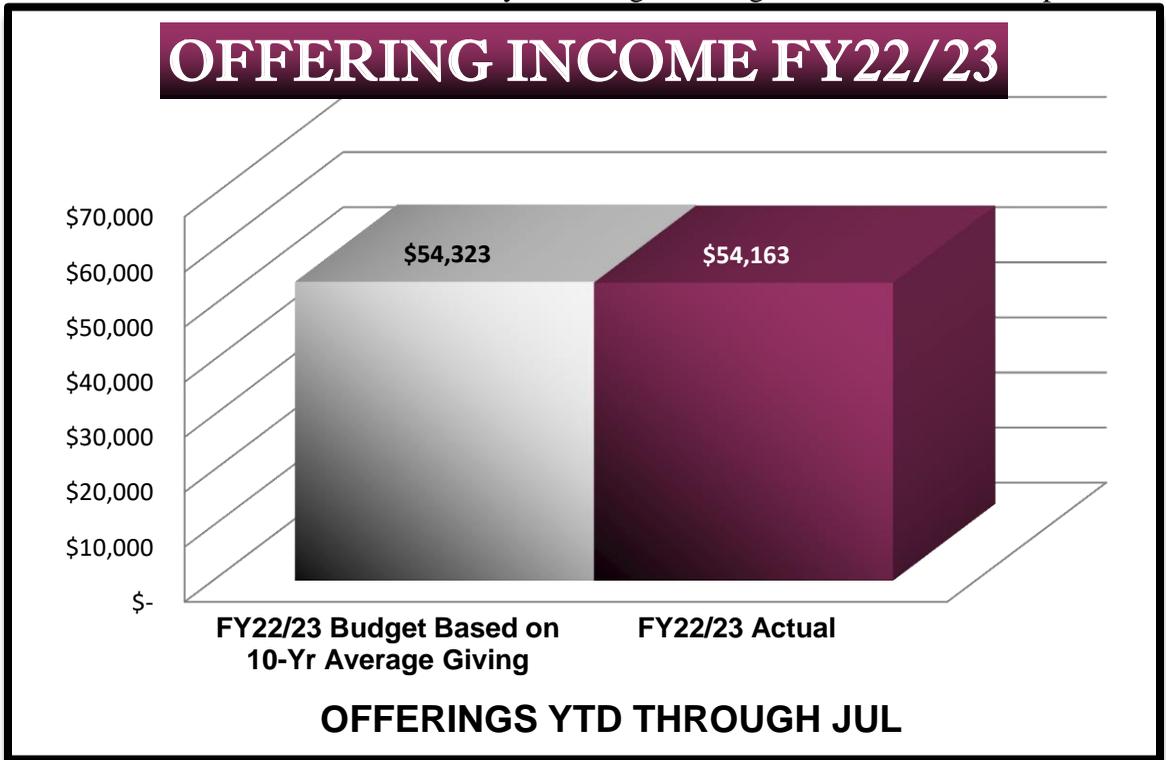
Actual Offering Income for Jul:

**\$54,163.**

Total Offerings for FY22/23 (as of 31 Jul 22):

**\$54,163** which is **0.29%** or **\$160**  
below 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:

*“Through Him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge His name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” (Hebrews 13:15-16)(ESV)*

## Faith Empowers God’s Stewards

The writer of Hebrews defines faith: *“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see”* (Hebrews 11:1). Faith enables us to be God-pleasing stewards. *“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him”* (Hebrews 11:6). The eleventh chapter of Hebrews is known as the “Faith Chapter.”

From Abel down through the ages, the writer names the heroes of faith, listing their accomplishments, preceding each one with “by faith.”

Through faith, we understand that our stewardship is God working in and through us. It is not what we do, not what we give, not how we serve – but what God does, what God gives, how God serves, and our response to His love and gifts to us. God has shown us His plan for our lives. *“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do”* (Ephesians 2:10). This is the definition of stewardship: doing the good works which God has prepared for us to do. God empowers and equips us to be faithful stewards. God has chosen us to carry out His work on earth. *“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last”* (John 15:16).

It is through faith that our pastor confidently speaks the Word of the Lord. It is God’s message, God’s gift, and he is only the channel through which it flows. Through faith, the servant humbly steps forward to serve. His only motive is that God may receive the glory as he offers his hands, feet, lips, his whole body, soul, and mind in service. Through faith, the teacher diligently prepares her lessons, seeking the leading of the Holy Spirit, studying the Word of God, and looking into the hearts of her students. God creates the learning; His Spirit creates the faith. As stewards, we are the faithful vessels that God uses. Through faith, God can make us into His faithful stewards.

## **Prayer:**

*Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol Him, all peoples! For great is His steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!* (Psalm 117)(ESV)

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!

***This is the day that the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24***

I am so excited that school is back in session and it has been great seeing all of my kids around the SJLS campus. I had a blast at the ice cream social held a few days before school began to welcome new families. I met so many new friends and I am looking forward to getting to know them better this year.

Last month my team met with other teams from the Western Region at an LCC regional gathering held at Light of the Valley Church in Elk Grove (Micah Comfort Dog's home church). Representatives from LCC headquarters joined us as we gathered for fellowship, training, and team bonding. Teams from Spokane Valley, WA (Isaac), Yuba City (Reuben), Stockton (Rahab), and Las Vegas, NV (Lois and Salome) came together.



Additionally, we had the pleasure of meeting the newest comfort dog in the region, Genesis, and her team from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Turlock, CA. Several members of our team attended Genesis' installation on August 28<sup>th</sup>. We are so excited to welcome Genesis and her team to the comfort dog family!

I also joined our West Coast dogs at University of the Pacific in Stockton for their return to classes.

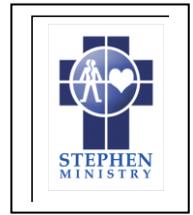
Recently, the Napa Police Department invited me to resume visiting on a regular basis. It has been several years since I have been able to go there and I've really missed seeing everyone there, especially the 911 dispatchers. I can hardly wait. I am also looking forward to going back to St. Helena Elementary School this fall. I am so happy to be back out in the community and am looking forward to where God is leading me.

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 Comfort Dog



## *Stephen Ministry – You restore my soul*



***“Reliable friends who do what they say are like cool drinks in sweltering heat – refreshing!”***

***“He leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.”***

*Proverbs 25:13 MSG*

*Psalms 23:2-3 NRSV*

A friend recently told me about her experience of being listened to. She had been able to share some feelings that had been stuffed so deeply that she couldn't even find words to name them at first. She said it felt so refreshing to talk, almost non-stop for close to an hour, with a sympathetic person. It felt like a drink of cool water on a hot day.

Jesus was the model of a good listener. He demonstrated how much He really cared about people by listening. The woman at the well, Nicodemus, blind beggars who called out, the disciples on the road to Emmaus are just a few examples of how Jesus cared by first listening to people. We can always come to Jesus in prayer, and He listens. He wants to refresh our souls with cool water.

With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can be the body of Christ and listen to those in need. Listening is one of the most powerful ways that we care for each other. To be fully present, non-judgmental, patient, and focused, to ask for clarification and restate what has been said will validate the person who may be trying to work through complicated feelings.

We all want St. John's to be a caring place, where everyone truly feels cared for. Reach out to someone today and listen to how they're doing. And if you're like my friend and need someone to listen to you, our Stephen Ministers are available to meet with you. They've been trained to use good listening skills to communicate how much they care.

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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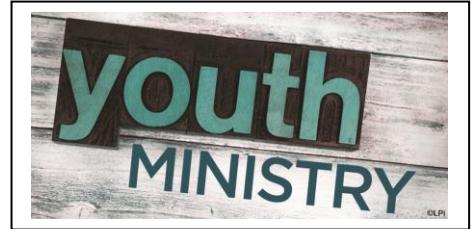


Prayer and Praise  
September 18 @ 5:30 PM in the Sanctuary

Prayer and praise is an informal worship opportunity including a time for reflection, music, and fellowship. We will see you there!

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St. John's Youth Ministry offers a few different opportunities for youth and families to get involved. Each one of these opportunities start in the 5th grade. If you are a younger family and are wondering where you fit in, have no fear, we have other opportunities for you such as Children's Church on Sundays and VBS in the summer.



Surge is a middle school youth group that meets nearly every week on Tuesdays for 5th-8th graders. We get together to enjoy a snack, play games and hangout, as well as take a dive into the Word together. This group doesn't require a sign-up nor a commitment and students can drop in from week to week.

Confirmation is a bit more intense than Surge and it does require a commitment from 7th & 8th grade students and their families. This class meets on Wednesday nights and focuses on becoming a disciple. We take a much deeper dive into the Word and look to apply it to our lives as we strengthen our faith together.

High Schoolers have opportunities too! We get together each week for food, fun, & fellowship and take a bite out of some hot topics that teenagers deal with each day. Our goal of this group is to build and strengthen a strong foundation before heading off to College.

If you have any questions about any of these ministries please contact Kevin Mathison.

# 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!

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.

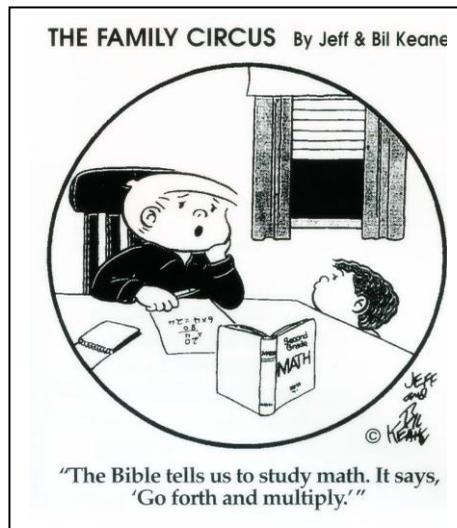
Also, if you have something you'd like to see us talk about or promote on social media, please use the same contact info.



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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>

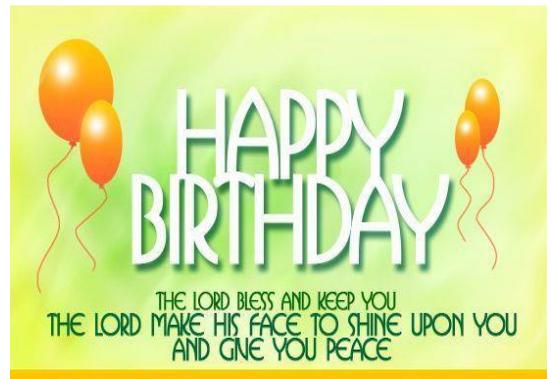


# Daily Bible Readings for September

|    | <b>Psalm</b>    | <b>Old Testament</b>           | <b>New Testament</b>                        |
|----|-----------------|--------------------------------|---|
| 1  | Psalm 104:31-35 | Jeremiah 31:23-32:15           | 2 Timothy 3:1-9                             |
| 2  | Psalm 105:1-7   | Jeremiah 32:16-33:5            | 2 Timothy 3:10-4:8                          |
| 3  | Psalm 105:8-15  | Jeremiah 33:6-34:7             | 2 Timothy 4:9-22                            |
| 4  | Psalm 105:16-22 | Jeremiah 34:8-35:19            | Titus 1:1-9                                 |
| 5  | Psalm 146       | Isaiah 35:4-7a                 | James 2:1-10,(11-13),14-17,<br>Mark 7:24-37 |
| 6  | Psalm 105:23-36 | Jeremiah 36                    | Titus 1:10-2:5                              |
| 7  | Psalm 105:37-45 | Jeremiah 37:1-38:13            | Titus 2:6-3:2                               |
| 8  | Psalm 106:1-5   | Jeremiah 38:14-39:18           | Titus 3:3-15                                |
| 9  | Psalm 106:6-12  | Jeremiah 40, 41                | Philemon 1:1-11                             |
| 10 | Psalm 106:13-23 | Jeremiah 42, 43                | Philemon 1:12-25                            |
| 11 | Psalm 106:24-31 | Jeremiah 44                    | Hebrews 1:1-9                               |
| 12 | Psalm 116:1-9   | Isaiah 50:4-9a                 | James 3:1-12, Mark 8:27-38                  |
| 13 | Psalm 106:32-39 | Jeremiah 45, 46                | Hebrews 1:10-2:8a                           |
| 14 | Psalm 106:40-48 | Jeremiah 47:1-48:25            | Hebrews 2:8b-18                             |
| 15 | Psalm 107:1-9   | Jeremiah 48:26-49:16           | Hebrews 3:1-15                              |
| 16 | Psalm 107:10-16 | Jeremiah 49:17-38              | Hebrews 3:16-4:5                            |
| 17 | Psalm 107:17-22 | Jeremiah 50:1-40               | Hebrews 4:6-16                              |
| 18 | Psalm 107:23-32 | Jeremiah 50:41-51:23           | Hebrews 5                                   |
| 19 | Psalm 54        | Jeremiah 11:18-20              | James 3:13-4:3,7-8a, Mark 9                 |
| 20 | Psalm 107:33-43 | Jeremiah 51:24-64              | Hebrews 6:1-12                              |
| 21 | Psalm 108:1-5   | Jeremiah 52                    | Hebrews 6:13-7:3                            |
| 22 | Psalm 108:6-13  | Lamentations 1:1-15            | Hebrews 7:4-17                              |
| 23 | Psalm 109:1-7   | Lamentations 1:16-2:10         | Hebrews 7:18-28                             |
| 24 | Psalm 109:8-20  | Lamentations 2:11-3:15         | Hebrews 8                                   |
| 25 | Psalm 109:21-31 | Lamentations 3:16-66           | Hebrews 9:1-10                              |
| 26 | Psalm 19:7-14   | Numbers 11:4-6,<br>10-16,24-29 | James 5:13-20, Mark 9:38-50                 |
| 27 | Psalm 110       | Lamentations 4, 5              | Hebrews 9:11-22                             |
| 28 | Psalm 111       | Ezekiel 1, 2                   | Hebrews 9:23-10:4                           |
| 29 | Psalm 112       | Ezekiel 3-4:5                  | Hebrews 10:5-18                             |
| 30 | Psalm 113       | Ezekiel 4:6-6:7                | Hebrews 10:19-31                            |

# SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 1  | Clareen King   |
| 3  | Erika Boudreaux  |
| 4  | Hunter Jones, Parker Jones, Thane Knutson                                  |
| 5  | Aidan Cushing  |
| 6  | Xander Herrera   |
| 7  | Stewart Mehrens, Lisa De Young, Kevin Mathison, Kaylani Bresee             |
| 8  | David Fitzgerald, Seamus Vecera  |
| 9  | Raquel Howle, Kevin Cootey, Troy Carey                                     |
| 10 | Tyler Chaudhary, Mark Albrecht, Lois Johnson                               |
| 11 | Herbert Heil, Brendan Peterson, Stephanie Clark                            |
| 12 | Bev Holdsworth, Nico D'Angelo, Joyce Dowiat                                |
| 13 | Sophia Kampton, Dawnette Martindale, Harper Uffmann, Melissa Morgenlaender |
| 14 | David Frey, Delaney Messner  |
| 16 | Grayson Cushing  |
| 17 | Cathy Enfield, Zane Kampton, Sami Zaia                                     |
| 18 | Kevin Dahl, Bryson Chaudhary, Jaeden Petersen, John Clark                  |
| 19 | Corrin Kornovich   |
| 22 | Carl Hammond   |
| 23 | Tracy Lamb, Madison Perna, Jennie Peskett                                  |
| 24 | Lezlee Cootey, Christy Kramer  |
| 25 | Michael Frey, Barb Gmelch  |
| 26 | Dylan Goodrich   |
| 27 | Hagen Bresee, Sally Vaziri   |
| 28 | Cindy Aspegren   |
| 29 | Peggy Meister, Ron Yeske   |
| 30 | Bonnie Wilson  |



**DATE                  COUPLE                  YEARS**

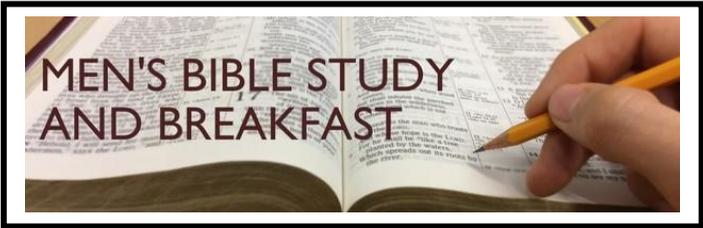
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|----|--------------------------|----|
| 3  | David & Rebecca Newman   | 39 |
| 12 | Jeff & Karen Craft       | 30 |
| 21 | Matthew & Kyleigh Greely | 3  |
| 22 | Aaron & Meghan Eisberg   | 15 |
| 23 | Neill & Pam Barker       | 43 |



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.

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](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: [kbroyles@stjohnsnapa.org](mailto:kbroyles@stjohnsnapa.org)

Dr. Christy Wood, Principal (ext. 103)

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

Mrs. Joy Dahl, Director of Preschool (107)