

THE VINE

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

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



Advent Sunday Worship Series 2022

Why He Came

Our Advent Series this year leads us to take a step back and look at the big picture of what we will celebrate at Christmas. Why did Jesus come? It was more than showing us the love of God. It was more than living as an example. It was more than the forgiveness of our sins. It was nothing less than bringing about a new creation, free from sin and all its corruption.

Each week of Advent, using the readings from the prophet Isaiah, we'll look at one of the aspects of the New Creation that Christ has won for us. We prepare to celebrate His coming by celebrating the blessings that will be ours in eternity because of His coming.

November 27 Advent1: Peace

We need peace. Our world is in need of peace. International tension. Domestic political and cultural animosity. Even conflicts between and within families. Not to mention the lack of peace within as a result of all of this. Jesus came to bring peace. Because of His coming, we live with the hope of a new creation in which there will be perfect peace. As citizens now of this new creation, we strive to be agents of peace in our lives.

December 4 Advent 2: Justice

We need justice. Our world is in need of justice. So much corruption, deception, unfairness. Too many taken advantage of and denied what should be theirs. Biblical justice refers not only to fairness in law, but also that people are able to live the lives that God intends them to live. Jesus came to bring justice. Because of His coming, we live with the hope of a new creation in which there will be perfect justice. As citizens now of this new creation, we strive to be agents of biblical justice in our lives.

December 11

Advent 3: Healing

We need healing. Our world is in need of healing. So much sickness: physical, mental, emotional. There is so much that is unhealthy and life draining. Jesus came to bring healing. Because of His coming, we live with the hope of a new creation in which there will be perfect healing. As citizens now of this new creation, we strive to be agents of biblical healing in our lives.

December 18 Advent 4: Presence

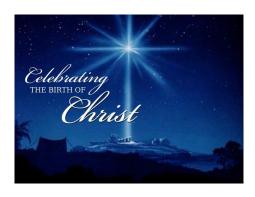
We need God. Our world is in need of the presence of God. Not a god who is remote, impersonal, uninvolved and indifferent to our lives and our needs. In Jesus, God has drawn near. He came to be present as the Word made flesh. Because of the coming of Jesus, we live with the blessing of God's presence now, and look forward to the new creation where we will be in the presence of God for eternity.



During the season of Advent, we will also offer worship services on Wednesday evenings at 7:00. Each of the four services are unique with a different focus and style. Each service will also be preceded by a soup supper in the Parish Hall starting at 6:00 PM.

PLEASE NOTE: These services will NOT be streamed live. They may be recorded for later uploading to our YouTube channel.

- **November 30 Health and Healing Service:** Focus on healing in Christ, including prayer and optional anointing with oil.
- **December 7 The ABCs of Christmas:** A name or title of Jesus from each letter of the alphabet as we focus on the birth of our Savior.
- **December 14 Lessons and Carols:** Led by the Sanctuary Choir. A service of Word and Song, tracing the prophecies of the Messiah through the announcement of His birth.
- **December 21 The Hymns of Christmas** We will countdown your favorite Christmas hymns to sing, along with a brief devotion on each one about the hymn's background and message. Watch for an upcoming survey to indicate your favorites!



Christmas Worship

We will have three services in celebration of the birth of the Savior.

- Christmas Eve, 4:00 PM Children and Family Service, including a birthday cake for Jesus!
- Christmas Eve, 7:00 PM In Person in the Sanctuary, Communion and Candlelight.
 This service will include both the worship band and the organ, along with the Sanctuary Choir. This service will also be streamed
- Christmas Day, 9:30 AM In Person in the Sanctuary, Communion



Prayer & Praise is a Saturday night opportunity to join together with our St. John's Family and beyond for a time of praising God through song and a time of prayer. We are super excited so help us spread the word! Go to our **Instagram** & **Facebook** pages and share our post to let the Napa community know about Prayer & Praise.

When: Sunday, December 18

Time: 5:00 PM Where: Sanctuary

St. John's Lutheran School Christmas Programs

The School Christmas programs will be on Sunday afternoon, December 11. There will be two programs, each with different classes and music groups. The Choraliers and the Handbells will take part in both programs.

1:00 – 1:30 Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade

• 1:45 – 2:25 3rd, 4th and 5th Grade





As we prepare to close out the calendar year 2022, we are reminded of the blessings that God has given us this year and look towards the Bethlehem star high in the sky and loudly proclaim that Jesus was born for all of us.

Christmas is definitely on campus with all of our singing and practicing for Christmas events. Beginning on December 5, our Choraliers will be performing during the Justin Siena Christmas Tree Lighting celebration. The elementary school Christmas programs are on Sunday, December 11, 2022. K-3 will have their performance at 1:30 p.m. in the Church Sanctuary, followed at 3:00 p.m. with the grades 4-5 performance. Our Choraliers and Handbells will be sharing their gifts of music at both performances. Our Preschool will be hosting their Christmas performance during our Chapel service on Wednesday, December 14 at 8:45 a.m. We invite you to come and celebrate the birth of Jesus with the students at St. John's.

 $7^{\rm th}$ and $8^{\rm th}$ Grade Basketball is coming to a close. We wish our teams the best as they enter playoff and championship games. Thank you to our students, coaches, and families for their dedication to our Athletic program. Looking forward, we are excited that the HIT Basketball tournament will be held January 12-15, 2023, here at SJL.

We pray that you and your family find time this Advent season to reflect on Christ's presence in your life and remember that Jesus is the true reason for this season.

> Merry Christmas! Christy Wood, Principal

St. John's Lutheran School Open House

For Preschool through Eighth Grade

Thursday, January 26, 2023
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.

We hope you can join us!



Best Practices for Ministry Conference

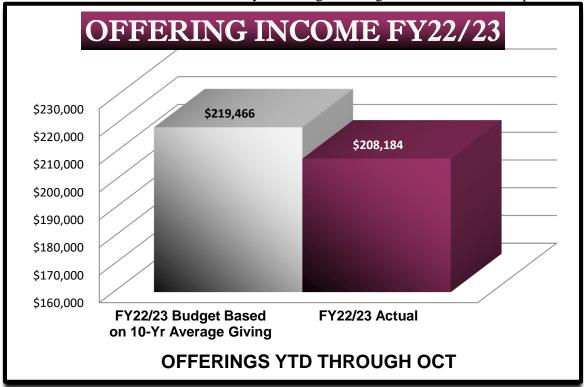
BPM is back! BPM 2022 will take place on February 17-19 at Christ Church Lutheran in Phoenix, Arizona. Best Practice for Ministry is a free conference for pastors, church workers and lay people. The purpose is to learn and share ideas and practices to help us grow in living God's Mission. For more information, please go to: https://cclphoenix.org/bpm/

As we have done in the past, St. John's will be covering lodging for all participants from St. John's, but not transportation. The conference itself is free. If you are interested, in addition to registering at the link above, please notify the church office.

OFFERING UPDATE

Actual Offering Income for Oct: Total Offerings for FY22/23 (as of 31 Oct 22): **\$58,331. \$208,184** which is **5.14%** or **\$11,282** 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:

"But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us." (2 Corinthians 4:7)(ESV)

Who Are We, Anyway?

At this time of year, our minds are drawn to thoughts of our Savior, as they should be. The ages-old story is always fresh and exciting to us as Christians as we rejoice in our Father's great love for us shown in His sending His own Son for us. That Son came in the form of a Baby Who was nurtured inside His mother's body, a "treasure in a jar of clay."

The angels announced His birth; the shepherds left their sheep and came to worship Him; the Wise Men traveled many miles to adore Him and bring Him their gifts. "But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart" (Luke 2:19). She still had "this treasure in a jar of clay."

We, too, have this "treasure . . . this all-surpassing power . . . from God and not from us." We have the Word dwelling in us! His great power enables and equips us to be stewards who can fulfill any task our Savior lays before us. He gives us courage to witness of His birth and life and death and resurrection. He gives us gifts to serve His people and to reach out to those still outside His kingdom. He gives us financial resources to support the mission and ministry of our churches.

During this time of Advent and Christmas, let us "treasure . . . these things and ponder them in [our hearts]." And let us ask God to use us according to His plan to spread the news of that treasure.

Discussion Thoughts:

- 1. Read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. How do these verses relate to our theme verse, 2 Corinthians 4:7?
- 2. What does Matthew 13:44 say about the value of the "treasure"?
- 3. What are you doing with the "treasure in [your] jar of clay"?

Prayer:

Oh gracious and loving Father, thank You for the love You have shown in giving me Your Son, my greatest treasure. Give me the desire and the courage to avail myself of the great power that You have given me through Jesus. In His name I pray. Amen.

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!

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders.

And He will be called Wonderful Counselor,

Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

The season of Advent is now upon us. Advent: a time to wait and prepare. Sometimes it is hard to wait for things, especially if they are special, like the celebration of the birth of Christ. It is easy to get caught up in the preparation (shopping, baking, cooking, wrapping) and then forget to focus on preparing our hearts for Jesus. Let us all remind each other to keep things simple and to focus on what is most important: celebrating Christ's birth and preparing for His second coming.

My team is throwing me a birthday party and you are invited! (For those who are wondering, I will turn 9 on Dec. 5^{th} .) We are celebrating Comfort Dog Sunday on December 4^{th} with a special ministry moment during the service and a birthday bash after. Please join us for some delicious treats prepared by our team!

We look forward to our annual partnering with Camille Creek Community School as we seek donations for gift cards to give to students and their families who are financially challenged. Some are even facing eviction. It is hard enough to keep up with the bills let alone buy Christmas gifts or have a delicious Christmas meal. Our congregation has been so generous in the past, and we again ask you to help us share the love of Christ this holiday season with those who are struggling. Please mark your gifts "Camille Creek/Comfort Dog gifts" and we will purchase the gift cards to be brought to the school. Thanking you in advance for your support!

In December, I look forward to checking-in with the many schools that I visit, as well as the senior living locations. There is always something special in the air during these Christmas season visits. I continue to be on "standby" for the victim advocate department of the Napa County District Attorney's office. It is always rewarding to work alongside those who help others who are hurting.

What would make me very happy is to have you join me on my visits. I promise that you will be blessed if you do. It is an easy way to get out there and be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community.

Have a blessed Advent and Christmas season! See you on December 4th!

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

Aaron Comfort Dog



Stephen Ministry: Joy

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy..."

Philippians 1:3-4



Such loving, joyful words from Paul in his letter to the Philippians! These words are also heartfelt by our Stephen Ministers as they pray for their care receivers and for each other. Stephen Ministers rejoice in being able to serve others. A common feeling among them is they want to do more, serve more, bring more joy and comfort to hurting people, as they share Christ's care and love so people can experience hope and healing.

Stephen Ministers are **compassionate**. They are willing and able to share their care receivers' feelings, and journey with them through their crisis. They often minister out of their personal understanding of what it's like to go through a difficult time. Stephen Ministers are passionate about this ministry. They care deeply and personally about their care receivers.

Stephen Ministers are full of faith as minister in Jesus' name. They trust God to provide the courage and love they need to care for their care receivers. They believe that God can and will bring healing and wholeness to their care receivers. They follow their care receivers' lead in knowing when and how much to share their faith. They trust the Holy Sprit to actively draw the care receiver to Christ.

Stephen Ministers are skilled with essential caregiving skills such as listening, understanding and dealing with feelings, beginning and ending care relationships, maintaining boundaries, and helping their care receivers find more appropriate care when necessary. Stephen Ministers are aware that sometimes they must refer their care receive to professional caregivers, such as pastors, counselors, or mental health professionals, to meet the care receiver's need.

Stephen Ministers are **trustworthy** and reliable caregivers. Even in challenging moments, they remain committed to their care receivers and the caring relationship. They maintain confidentiality and are careful to avoid identifying their care receiver. They faithfully attend twice-monthly continuing education and supervision meetings to ensure they and their fellow Stephen Ministers provide the best care possible.

St. John's is blessed to have 8 joy-filled Stephen Ministers who are available to care for those in need. If you, or someone you know, could benefit from talking with a Stephen Minister, contact Penni Cremen 707-483-9321 or Pastor Mike at the church office 707-255-0119.

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Welcome to the Christmas Season!

We are very excited to celebrate the birth of our Savior around here and we would love for you to join us on Christmas Eve for our Children & Family service. This service is designed for the kids as it offers visual aids and simple elements to explain the importance of this great story. This service takes place at 4pm on Christmas Eve

and we even have a birthday party for Jesus immediately following.



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.



"A Son is Given", Advent Devotions for 2022 are now available in printed form in the church entry. If you wish to subscribe to the online versions, go to www.lhm.org/advent to sign up. Advent begins on November 27th.

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.



SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL BY USING SCRIP

Holiday shopping is right around the corner.

Everything we are hearing this year is to **shop early** because there are limited supplies of many popular items. Should you see something you want to purchase, check the RaiseRight app and see if you are able to purchase it with Scrip. Quick and Easy!

How it works







Scrip can be purchased in the School office or download the RaiseRight app to your phone, use the enrollment code below and shop right from your phone. For Amazon, all you will need to do is purchase a dollar amount, copy the code and paste it to your Amazon account. You are able to reload many of the grocery store gift cards right from your couch. QVC shoppers~we receive 5% back!!

Our Enrollment Code: 912E7L6F9161





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 NOVEMBER



	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament		
1	Psalm 138:1-5	1 Kings 21:17-22:28	John 19:38-20:9		
2	Psalm 138:6-8	1 Kings 22:29-53	John 20:10-23		
3	Psalm 139:1-6	2 Kings 1:1-2:18	John 20:24-31		
4	Psalm 72	Isaiah 11:1-10	Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12		
5	Psalm 139:7-12	2 Kings 2:19-3:27	John 21:1-14		
6	Psalm 139:13-16	2 Kings 4:1-37	John 21:15-25		
7	Psalm 139:17-24	2 Kings 4:38-5:14	Acts 1:1-14		
8	Psalm 140:1-5	2 Kings 5:15-6:23	Acts 1:15-26		
9	Psalm 140:6-13	2 Kings 6:24-7:20	Acts 2:1-13		
10	Psalm 141:1-4	2 Kings 8	Acts 2:14-28		
11	Psalm 146:5-10	Isaiah 35:1-10	James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11		
12	Psalm 141:5-10	2 Kings 9	Acts 2:29-47		
13	Psalm 142	2 Kings 10	Acts 3:1-10		
14	Psalm 143:1-6	2 Kings 11	Acts 3:11-26		
15	Psalm 143:7-12	2 Kings 12, 13	Acts 4:1-12		
16	Psalm 144:1-4	2 Kings 14	Acts 4:13-22		
17	Psalm 144:5-8	2 Kings 15	Acts 4:23-37		
18	Psalm 80:1-7,10-14	Isaiah 7:10-16	Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25		
19	Psalm 144:9-15	2 Kings 16:1-17:6	Acts 5:1-11		
20	Psalm 145:1-7	2 Kings 17:7-41	Acts 5:12-16		
21	Psalm 145:8-16	2 Kings 18	Acts 5:17-40		
22	Psalm 145:17-21	2 Kings 19:1-28	Acts 5:41-6:7		
23	Psalm 146	2 Kings 19:29-20:21	Acts 6:8-7:3		
24	Psalm 147:1-6	2 Kings 21:1-22:10	Acts 7:4-16		
25	Psalm 98	Isaiah 52:7-10	Hebrews 1:1-4,(5-12); John 1:1-14		
26	Psalm 147:7-14	2 Kings 22:11-23:20	Acts 7:17-29		
27	Psalm 147:15-20	2 Kings 23:21-24:20	Acts 7:30-43		
28	Psalm 148:1-6	2 Kings 25	Acts 7:44-60		
29	Psalm 148:7-14	1 Chronicles 1:1-37	Acts 8:1-8		
30	Psalm 149	1 Chronicles 1:38-2:17	Acts 8:9-25		
31	Psalm 150	1 Chronicles 2:18-55	Acts 8:26-40		



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



2	Jennifer Alexander, Will Walter				
3	Linda Cornils, Elaine Adams, Cason Diviak				
4	Ivy Alexander				
5	David Como, Aaron Comfort Dog				
6	Andres Herrera				
7	Kristi Carey, Lois Husted				
8	Samantha Yoder				
9	Natalie Yoder				
10	Pastor Michael Schmid, Elaine Zimmerman, Flynn Irwin				
11	Roger Mahlandt, Jack Carey, Arvin Chaudhary				
12	Thomas Cushing, Joan Gard				
13	Markus Obata				
15	Georgia Bartelt	M.			
16	Jane Terra				
	Gracie Mello, Archie Schluter, Happy Birthday				
17	Dita Drace				
18	Angela D'Angelo, Ron Johnson to everyone born	เก			
21	Sarah Praeger December!	4			
22	Elena Bresee, Melissa Peterson	Ain			
23	David Lloyd, Noel Schmutz				
24	Pam Barker				
25	Will Obata, Matthew Bresee				
26	Anavon Kennedy				
	Rebekah Kramer, Terry Braddock, Arianna Kampton,				
27	Kelton Bresee				
	Clint Holdsworth, Ethan Harkleroad, Dean Bledsoe,				
28	Robert Miller				

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

DATE COUPLE YEARS

1	Ed & Ramona Kaufmann	38
2	Eric & Gail Vandeburgt	22
3	Kelsey & Jose Rodriguez	6
5	Wayne & Barbara Miller	58
5	David & Renee Lloyd	41
10	Mary & Randy Kosanke	45
13	Curtis & Theresa Schoenfeld	47
17	Debbie & Steve Stanhope	45
17	Andy & Paula Schweiger	28
21	Clay & Bonnie Thompson	60

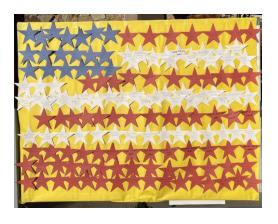


Check us out on Social Media!



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: silcsocialmedia@gmail.com. Thank you!



In honor of Veterans Day 2022, we the St. John's community created a unique version of the American flag in the Narthex of our church. This flag was made out of blue stars, red stars, and white stars. The BLUE stars represented the names of current active military personnel. The RED stars represented the names of former military personnel, still living. The WHITE stars represented the names of former military personnel, deceased.

Thank you to everyone who contributed a name to this special American flag.

God richest blessings to all of our military personnel!

SO, WHAT'S NEW AT THE FARM?

Submitted by Ted Zimmerman

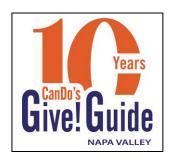
<u>Update on the harvest of blessings for hungry families in Napa County:</u> 3,130.5 lbs. of fresh produce during October: 20,497 lbs. for the year! God is good.



A major fund raiser for the Mission Farm each year is participation in the Napa Valley CanDo Give!Guide campaign. This year's campaign kicks off on November 29, and runs through the month of December. The Mission Farm will be one of 72 nonprofits featured that serve the community, seeking to make life for all residents a bit more friendly, safe, and healthy. Our Mission Farm, of course, seeks to address a need, even in this agricultural community, to alleviate the food anxiety many families face each year.

The CanDo Give!Guide campaign in December makes it exceptionally easy for people to support us and the other nonprofit organizations participating. Click on the campaign website, *CanDoGiveGuide.org* and explore the catalogue of participating organizations describing their mission in some detail. You will be surprised by the many services provided to people of the county by these organizations. Then you can conveniently make a donation(s) on line to one or as many organizations as you choose, for as little as \$10 for each. Receipt of your gift will be recognized both by the Give!Guide campaign, and by the organization(s) you support, providing evidence of the amount and tax deductibility of your donation. Your donation can be made by credit card, or you may choose to honor your commitment by sending in a check. The latter assures that the organization receives the full amount of your donation, with no credit card company service charge deducted.

A good number of our church members support us throughout the year with financial donations, as well as donations of time and energy, as they are able. You can continue to make your financial donations any time of year by sending in to the church office or placing in the offering plate a check made out to the church, but earmarked for the Mission Farm. Or you can make your donation online in December through the Give!Guide campaign, if you choose. Any donation you make during the month of December will be added to the campaign total being directed in support of St. John's Lutheran Mission Farm.





3521 Linda Vista Ave. Napa, California 94558-2703

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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







https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/248942728988437/st-johns-lutheranchurch/

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Email: churchoffice@stjohnslutheran.net 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 Dr. Christy Wood, Principal (ext. 103)

Mrs. Kristal Broyles, School Office Manager (ext. 101) Email: kbroyles@stjohnsnapa.org

Mrs. Joy Dahl, Director of Preschool (107)