



# THE VINE

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School Newsletter  
*JANUARY 2023*

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

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## **New Year, Same Promises**

A new year means a new start. And because of that, many of us take up new commitments and resolutions to improve ourselves: diet, exercise, lifestyle, etc. Sometimes things actually change. Other times the change is only temporary.

But despite changes that may come, we can rely on God's promises to be the same. No matter how much our lives change, or this world changes, His promises do not. No matter what good or ill may be around the corner in the coming year, His promises can be counted on to be true and trustworthy through it.

Our Epiphany Worship series, starting January 8, is entitled "New Year, Same Promises." We will consider the enduring grace, mercy and blessing of God's familiar promises and what they mean in the challenges and opportunities of the new year.

January 8 (Baptism of Jesus Sunday)	God' Promise of New Life	Through the waters of Baptism, we are given new life
January 15	God's Promise of Faithfulness	God is faithful, even when we are not
January 22	God's Promise of Ministry	God calls and equips us to serve the kingdom
January 29	God's Promise of Blessing	In the Beatitudes Jesus promises blessing, even in times that don't look like blessing
February 5	God's Promise of Mission	God has made us salt and light
February 12	God's promise of Guidance	Christ has called us to a new way of life

## **Sunday Bible Classes**

### **“Digging Deeper” – Starting January 8**

Pastor Mike’s Sunday Bible Class will resume on January 8 under the new title “Digging Deeper.” Each week’s study and discussion will be based on the sermon and reading for worship that day, and any questions from those in attendance. This will provide an opportunity to dig deeper into themes and questions raised in the sermon, as well as a deeper study into the assigned readings for the day, or any question that those in attendance may have.

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Thank you for your faithful response to our Savior’s steadfast love. Please use these envelopes, found in the Narthex in **2023** if you prefer to place your offerings in the plate during worship services. These new envelopes will help our counting team and office staff efficiently and accurately record and credit your contributions. **Please do not use 2022 envelopes after December 31<sup>st</sup>, and do not use these new envelopes until January 1, 2023.**

For your convenience, your box contains some pre-printed envelopes for specific ministries or projects; you may use these to indicate your preference or desire to support those ministries. While we will endeavor to use the funds as you desire or suggest, we may use the gift for other purposes in the event the intended ministries, projects or purposes are canceled, oversubscribed or are no longer relevant to the mission of our congregation.

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### **Small Groups Forming!**

We will be forming several short-term small groups in January. The goal of these groups is to bring people together around God’s Word and prayer to grow in faith and fellowship. Where and when these groups meet will be up to the leader. Watch for sign-up opportunities starting January 15.



Are you interested in leading one of these groups? It’s very simple using video resources from Right Now Media. Please contact Pastor Mike if you would like to learn more about hosting a video-based small group.

# SO, WHAT'S NEW AT THE FARM?

Submitted by Ted Zimmerman

*“And on the seventh day God finished His work He had done (in creation), and He rested on the seventh day from all the work He had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy.” (Gen. 2:2-3a)*



Well, who could blame Him for being tired! He accomplished creating a whole universe in those preceding six days! Yet the Bible tells us that *“the Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary”* (Is, 40:28). He rested on the seventh day, not because He was weary; but because He knows that His creatures do. He is setting a pattern for them. Indeed, He is the Source of Strength all who require it. *“He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no strength He increases strength.”* (vs. 29)

Well, it's Sabbath time out on the Mission Farm. This year we raised 22,000 lbs. of produce for the Napa Valley Food Bank for those challenged to feed their families! We have good reason to feel deep sense of satisfaction, like God as He looked over His Creation while He rested. We also have good reason to be bone-weary. Even Mr. Kubota needs a rest and time for maintenance service so he's ready to work the soil next spring. Even the ground needs a rest. It has been prepared and sown with cover crop to help put nutrients back into the ground that have been exhausted by the growth of the previous crops. So when you look out at the Farm the next few months, you won't see as much activity. Oh, some will be planning the crop plan, some will be ordering seed and purchasing irrigation supplies, some will be giving the trees of the orchard a haircut, some will be sharpening the tools, some have been busy seeking a different harvest, a harvest of dollars to help cover the expenses. But all will have a good chance for their bodies to catch up with their spirits (if you get my drift)!

Speaking of the harvest of dollars, how did we do in our participation in the CanDo's GiveGuide 2022 campaign and our own in-house appeal? I wish I could give you a report, but the deadline for submitting this article comes before all is accounted for. I will have to get the word out via the weekly E-Vine. But I am confident that in the Lord's economy of grace, we will be able to take satisfaction and rest comfortably, knowing that He will have provided in various ways all that we needed (in dollars, energy, nutrients) for the coming crop year!



St. John's Lutheran School would like to wish you and your family a Happy and Healthy 2023!

January is the period in the school year where we begin to plan for the next school year. Budgets are set, re-enrollment begins, and applications are received for the upcoming year. Please

include SJL in your prayers for a successful re-enrollment and application season for our school.

Art Attack week will be celebrated at SJL the week of January 9, 2023. Each class on campus will learn different art techniques and work with different mediums from master artists from all around Napa Valley. Make sure to watch our Facebook page and Instagram account to see the amazing works of art created this week.

I am excited to share that the Hauch Invitational Basketball tournament will be happening this year! A special thank you to Matt Uffmann for all that you have done to make the HIT tournament occur. We look forward to the tournament on Thursday, January 12 - Sunday, January 15, 2023.

Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> is the start of National Lutheran Schools Week. Our school will be hosting an Open House on Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend and see all that is happening at our school.

Something new for SJL this year will be a dedicated day of service to our community by our students. On Wednesday, January 25, every SJL student will be involved in a service project. To end National Lutheran Schools Week, our Handbell choir will be playing during the January 30 worship service.

Many blessings to you and your family!  
Dr. Christy Wood, Principal

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**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.**

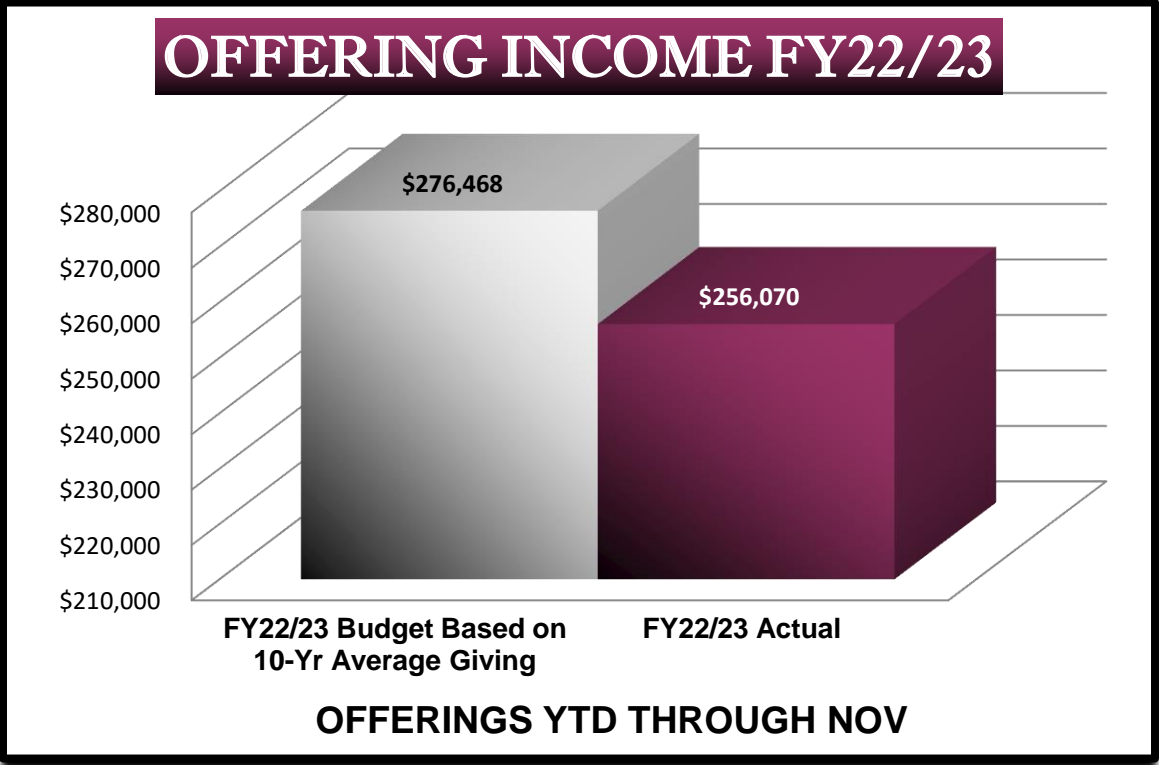
Kristin Goller, SJL Admissions: 226-7970, Ext. 125; [kgoller@stjohnsnapa.org](mailto:kgoller@stjohnsnapa.org).

**We hope you can join us!**

OFFERING UPDATE

Actual Offering Income for Nov: **\$47,886.**  
Total Offerings for FY22/23 (as of 30 Nov 22): **\$256,070** which is **7.38%** or **\$20,398** 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:**  
*“And Jesus said to him, ‘You go, and do likewise.’” (Luke 10:37)(ESV)*

What Is Mine Is Yours

Scripture is filled with wonderful and moving stories about sharing. Possibly the most quoted story is the Parable of the Good Samaritan. God used a despised Samaritan to encourage us to share our time, talents, and treasures with those in need. The Samaritan showed us what it means to have compassion on someone and to give sacrificially as he tended to the man beaten by the robbers. Not only did the Samaritan provide immediate aid, he brought the injured person to an inn where he could be cared for further. The Samaritan used his own funds for the man’s care. The Samaritan demonstrated the attitude,

“What is mine is yours.” Our challenge as Christians is to show our compassion as willingly and generously as the Good Samaritan. God wants us to be His channels of His love and care to those in need.

In contrast to the Samaritan, the priest and Levite, who passed by the victim before the Samaritan came along, showed no compassion for the beaten person. They had the attitude, “What is mine is mine.” They didn’t want to give any time, care, or comfort to the victim.

God has blessed us with many talents, gifts, and resources. Because God has blessed us, He will give us opportunities to use what He has given us for His purposes. Through faith, we receive God’s wisdom to acknowledge that He is the provider of all things so we become more willing to share our blessings with others. When God shows you a need, are you ready to respond?

### **Discussion Thoughts:**

1. Why was it so significant that the person sharing his gifts was a Samaritan?
2. In what ways have you demonstrated the attitude “What is mine is yours” at home, at work, and at church?
3. What are some other examples in Scripture where people have shared so freely?

### **Prayer:**

Dear good and gracious Heavenly Father, You show Your love for me in so many different ways. Forgive me when I fail to thank You for all that You do for me. I thank You for Your constant presence in my life. I pray that You will grant me a loving heart that will be willing to respond to those in need. Help me to love my neighbors. In Your precious 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 I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

*Jeremiah 29:11*

Happy New Year! I would like to say thank you to all who support our ministry with time, prayers, and financial support. This ministry is truly a partnership with our St. John's congregation and our team appreciates you! Even though some can't go out with us to do ministry, each and every one of you is part of the team!

With a new year come new goals and resolutions. Here are some of my goals for 2023:

- Visit with even more people than in 2022
- Begin new visits at St. Helena Hospital in 2023
- Keep up with my daily exercise so that I can continue to serve for a long time
- Help my team to recruit additional ministry partners

These are only some of my hopes for 2023. You can help me achieve the last item on the list by reaching out to Tim or Christy Kramer and let them know that you would like to come along (shadow) with us as we serve in the community.

Have a blessed 2023!

Thanks for your support and prayers! Please check out Facebook, Instagram, and our website for all the latest news. [napavalleycomfortdogs.org](http://napavalleycomfortdogs.org)

Aaron Comfort Dog



**When: Sunday, February 26**

**Time: 5:00 PM** 🕒

**Where: Sanctuary**



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.

## *Stephen Ministry: Peace*

*“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you...Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”*

*John 14:27*



*“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*

*Philippians 4:6-7 (NRSV)*

Here we are, beginning another New Year! 2023 already! We’ve enjoyed a beautiful Advent and Christmas season. Time to start thinking about New Year resolutions and what 2023 might bring. Did we experience peace in 2022? Will we feel peaceful in the coming year?

Peace is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, which is given to each one of us when we receive the Holy Spirit in baptism. We receive Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control (*Galatians 5:22*) There are so many verses in the Bible about not being afraid, including the one above when Jesus tells his friends to accept his amazing Peace and not be afraid. When we have peace in our souls we do not need to fear anything.

Since we are humans, we tend to worry, have anxiety, feel fearful, fret, get worked up about things we can’t control. Where is peace when all the news headlines show how the world is falling apart? The answer is always God. God is in control. God loves us and wants us to have his Peace. How do we find Peace? We pray as Paul taught us in the second verse above. Pray with thanksgiving, asking God for our needs. And there is a promise that we will have God’s peace which far surpasses what our minds can understand.

Even with this promise of peace we may still feel anxious, worried, depressed, or upset about circumstances. It can help to have someone to meet and talk with, who will listen and help sort through difficult feelings. Stephen Ministers are trained to walk alongside you during rough times.

St. John’s is blessed to have 8 **peace-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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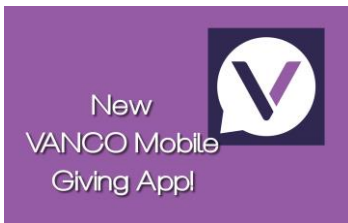




### *Chili Cook-off - For the whole family!*

Get your chili ready for the New Year! We will be hosting an event for the whole family on January 22. You are invited to come out and try some of the best chili in Napa and get down with some games! Please contact Kevin Mathison if you are interested in entering your chili.

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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.

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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.





## **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.

## **SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL BY USING SCRIP**

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**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 January

	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
1-Jan	Psalm 1	Genesis 1:1-2:3	Matthew 1:1-17
2-Jan	Psalm 147:12-20	Jeremiah 31:7-14	John 1:1-18, Ephesians 1:3-14
3-Jan	Psalm 2	Genesis 2:4-25	Matthew 1:18-25
4-Jan	Psalm 3	Genesis 3, 4	Matthew 2:1-12
5-Jan	Psalm 4	Genesis 5	Matthew 2:13-23
6-Jan	Psalm 5	Genesis 6:1-7:10	Matthew 3
7-Jan	Psalm 6	Genesis 7:11-8:22	Matthew 4:1-11
8-Jan	Psalm 7:1-9	Genesis 9	Matthew 4:12-25
9-Jan	Psalm 29	Isaiah 43:1-7	Acts 8:14-17, Luke 3:15-17,21-22
10-Jan	Psalm 7:10-17	Genesis 10:1-11:9	Matthew 5:1-16
11-Jan	Psalm 8	Genesis 11:10-12:9	Matthew 5:17-26
12-Jan	Psalm 9:1-10	Genesis 12:10-13:18	Matthew 5:27-42
13-Jan	Psalm 9:11-20	Genesis 14, 15	Matthew 5:43-6:4
14-Jan	Psalm 10:1-11	Genesis 16, 17	Matthew 6:5-18
15-Jan	Psalm 10:12-18	Genesis 18	Matthew 6:19-34
16-Jan	Psalm 36:5-10	Isaiah 62:1-5	1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11
17-Jan	Psalm 11	Genesis 19:1-29	Matthew 7:1-12
18-Jan	Psalm 12	Genesis 19:30-20:18	Matthew 7:13-23
19-Jan	Psalm 13	Genesis 21	Matthew 7:24-8:4
20-Jan	Psalm 14	Genesis 22	Matthew 8:5-22
21-Jan	Psalm 15	Genesis 23:1-24:25	Matthew 8:23-34
22-Jan	Psalm 16:1-6	Genesis 24:26-67	Matthew 9:1-13
23-Jan	Psalm 19	Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21
24-Jan	Psalm 16:7-11	Genesis 25	Matthew 9:14-26
25-Jan	Psalm 17:1-7	Genesis 26	Matthew 9:27-38
26-Jan	Psalm 17:8-15	Genesis 27:1-29	Matthew 10:1-16
27-Jan	Psalm 18:1-6	Genesis 27:30-28:9	Matthew 10:17-25
28-Jan	Psalm 18:7-15	Genesis 28:10-29:14	Matthew 10:26-42
29-Jan	Psalm 18:16-24	Genesis 29:15-30:24	Matthew 11:1-10
30-Jan	Psalm 71:1-6	Jeremiah 1:4-10	1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30
31-Jan	Psalm 18:25-29	Genesis 30:25-31:21	Matthew 11:11-24

# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Brodie Mooers
2	Janelle Newton, Charles Scott
3	Nancy Heil, Beth Vecera
4	Kerrie Diviak, Michael Santora
5	Rebecca Hudgins, Lloyd Zuehlke
6	Tami Van Hofwegen
7	Nicholas Cromartie, Megan Schweiger, Shelby Edmeyer
8	Lucy Franklin
9	Paulette Cooper
10	Lori Gutierrez, Declan Bresee
11	Joy Dahl
12	Rita Alexander, Philip Bartelt
14	Robert Klein
15	Madison Edmeyer, Midge Schneider
18	Susan Novotny
20	Bryce Powers, Ella Powers, Ashley Diviak
21	Robert Perna, Ed Mulsoff
23	Melissa Seiter, Rebecca McAhren, Heidi Newman
24	Matteo Robertis
25	Janet Peterson
27	Ben Frey, Joseph Svien
28	Tom Peterson
28	Laura Lee Fitzpatrick
29	Karen Craft
31	Ariel Winkler



# JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

DATE	COUPLE	YEARS
1	Tom & Laura Peterson	22
4	Matthew & Carly Bresee	9
5	Terry & Joan Gard	21
7	Shanna & Salvador Caceres	8
7	Linda & Bill Cornils	45
10	Terry & Melissa Peterson	34
14	Lauren & Ben Frey	12
18	Leslie & Tony Nicholson	32
19	Ed & Sharlene Mulsoff	59
20	Joy & Kevin Dahl	16
24	Melissa & Glen Loban	42
30	Hoag & Lois Husted	41
31	John & Tami Van Hofwegen	19



## 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!



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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

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

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)