



THE VINE

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

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



Forgive

Why Should We and How Can We?

Jesus calls us to forgive one another as we have been forgiven. In The Lord's Prayer, He turns that around and instructs us to ask to be forgiven in the same way we forgive others. What is very clear is that it is very important to the Lord that His followers lead lives of mercy and forgiveness in our dealings with others

But how do we do this? Doesn't forgiveness let people off the hook? What if I don't feel like forgiving? Does God really expect me to forgive everyone?

In our Lent Midweek series, we will explore forgiveness, both the forgiveness we have received from the Lord and the forgiveness He calls us to extend to others.

- February 22 (Ash Wednesday) – As You Have Been Forgiven
- March 1 – What Forgiveness Is
- March 8 – What We Need in Order to Forgive
- March 15 – Christ in the Passover (Special presentation by "Jews for Jesus")
- March 22 – God's Forgiveness and Ours
- March 29 – Forgiveness and Reconciliation

February 22 (Ash Wednesday)

"As You Have Been Forgiven"

The parable of the unmerciful servant (Matthew 18:21-35) illustrates the reason for the Lord's call to forgive. We who have been forgiven so much are called to forgive the sins committed against us. This service will include Communion and the Imposition of Ashes. Please come also for the Soup Supper in the Parish Hall at 6:00 PM.

Lent Sunday Worship Series

“Heart-to-Heart Talks”

We remember important heart-to-heart talks in our lives, when important truths and feelings are shared and discussed. Whether between a parent and child, between friends, or loved ones, sometimes these conversations can deepen relationships, repair hurts or lead to helpful changes.

In our Lent Sunday worship series, “Heart-to-Heart Talks,” we will look at six conversations with Jesus. As people come seeking answers to their questions, or make claims about their faith, or wonder who He is, Jesus engages, challenges, and encourages.

What would we ask Jesus, if we could meet Him at night or at noon, in the wilderness or in the garden? And how might He answer us?

Sunday Bible Class

“Digging Deeper”

Pastor Mike’s class is based on the sermon and readings for worship that day, along with 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 questions that those in attendance may have.

“Romans: Part 2”

Joel Wahlers will be starting the second half of a study on Paul’s letter to the Romans on Sunday, February 5 after worship in Room 8. The study will resume with Romans Chapter 8. He will be making use of Right Now Video teaching by J.D. Greear.



Hello St. John’s, I am calling on all soup, stew, and chili makers to share your talent with the St. John’s family as we break bread every Wednesday evening before our Lent evening services. We will be sending out a digital sign-up sheet in February and posting a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for those that are interested in helping with this special time of Faith and Fellowship.

Thanks,
Josh W.

SO, WHAT'S NEW AT THE FARM?

Submitted by Ted Zimmerman

It pleases me to announce the results of our participation in the CanDo's 2022 Give!Guide campaign to raise money for the Mission Farm's next crop year. We were able to raise **\$6,731** in donations that came to us through GiveGuide's website! The majority of those donations came from the community. Add to this a total of **\$3,630** in donations that came directly to the Church Office earmarked for the Mission Farm during the month of December. These donations came largely through the members and friends of the congregation. That made a total of **\$10,361** received in donations in December alone!



This boost in income in support of our mission is most welcome as we prepare to enter a new crop season. Under the Lord's blessing we were able in 2022 to donate **21,143 lbs.** of fresh, organically grown fruits and vegetables to help feed struggling families. We'd like to match and possibly exceed that total this coming year if we can. The labor costs us nothing, since all workers are volunteers. But we do have significant costs for fuel, fertilizer, seed (we raise our own seedlings for the sake of economy), irrigation materials (we use drip line method wherever feasible), tool and implement replacement, tractor servicing, permitted pesticides, structure repairs, and bearing the Farm's share of the Church's water bill.

Things are quiet on the Farm at present. Most of the fields are under cover crops, helping replenish the soil for sustainable farming. Planning still goes on, and making repairs. One new development will take place beginning near the end of the month. The Farm and the Day School will be collaborating so that our students will have more opportunities to learn about the Farm, its mission, the growing of food, and contributing a bit of labor in support of feeding families in need. More on this development in future articles.

Thank you to all who attended and participated in the Chili Cook-Off in January. It was a ton of fun to bring it back after the Covid layoff. I don't want to get too far ahead of myself, but keep your January 2024 calendar open because we will be bringing it back next January too!



Surge (5th-8th grades) will meet this month on the 7th, 14th, & 28th. All of these events will be on campus at St. John's from 6-7:30pm. Come check it out!



January brought back the beloved HIT Basketball tournament. 2023 marked the 33rd anniversary of the tournament that Bob Hauch started. It was an enjoyable, albeit busy, weekend of basketball and fellowship. Many alumni returned to cheer on our boys' and girls' tournament

teams. A huge thank you to Matt Uffmann for organizing this tournament and to Lori Hunt and Dean Bledsoe for running the Eagle Rock Cafe.

National Lutheran Schools Week was held January 22- 28. Many activities were spent with Chapel Buddies. One new item for this year was that every student at SJL participated in a service activity on Wednesday, January 25. The following projects were completed:

cards to SJLC sick and shut ins, a Linus Project quilt was made, stuffed animal collection for Child Life Specialists at UC Davis Medical Center; cards were made and t-shirts and socks donations for the homeless; campus clean up occurred.

We have many exciting events currently planned for February!

On Tuesday, February 7, we will be having a Dine and Donate at Foodshed. We invite you to come and support our school. Mrs. D'Angelo's sister-in-law and her family are the new owners.

The biggest highlight for February will be the Lutheran Elementary School Tournament at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington. LEST is a long held tradition here at SJL and we are excited that 71 students will be competing in over 20 events. Such an exciting time for our students to interact with other Lutheran students from schools all over the Northwest (Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and California).

Many blessings to you and your family!

Christy Wood
Principal

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.



@sjlcnapa



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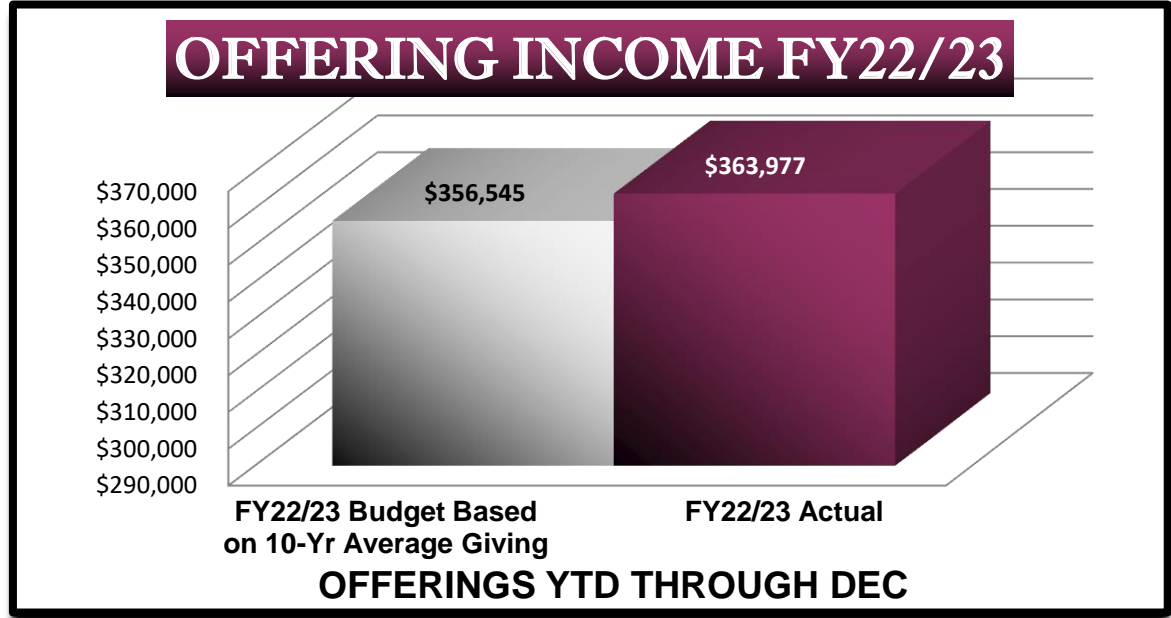


@stjohnsnapa

OFFERING UPDATE

Actual Offering Income for Dec: **\$103,397.**
Total Offerings for FY22/23 (as of 31 Dec 22): **\$363,977** which is **2.08%** or **\$7,432** above 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 I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My Statutes and be careful to obey My rules.” (Ezekiel 36:27)(ESV)

Have a Heart

February: the month devoted to love. Stores are filled with heart-shaped boxes of candy and heart-shaped cards and vases of flowers with heart-shaped gift tags. All this is available for the consumer so that he can find the appropriate expression of his devotion to his loved one. If that expression of love has been preceded by a year of thoughtful and loving words and deeds, it is welcomed and cherished by the recipient. If not, it is just an empty ritual, done out of duty rather than true devotion. Our relationship to the Lord is similar. He, too, desires our sincere devotion, not empty lip service. *“The Lord says: ‘These people come near to Me with their mouth and honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me’ ” (Isaiah 29:13).*

Stewardship is serving, helping, giving, but love is the basis for stewardship. Without love, our good deeds are empty and without merit. The first act of true stewardship is to *“love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength” (Deuteronomy 6:5).* Jesus called this the

most important commandment (Mark 12:29, 30). With that love for the Lord in us, we are enabled to be good stewards. Then we can do acts of good stewardship, acts of true devotion. We are enabled to:

- “Give generously to Him and do so without a grudging heart” (Deuteronomy 15:10).
- “Carefully observe [His decrees and laws] with all your heart and with all your soul” (Deuteronomy 26:16).
- “Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality” (Romans 12:13).
- “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men” (Colossians 3:23).

God, through Ezekiel, promised, “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit in you and move you to follow My decrees and be careful to keep My laws” (Ezekiel 36:26-27). This promise He has fulfilled in His Son, Jesus, Who has followed His Father’s decrees and kept His laws for us. As we strive to live fruitful lives of stewardship, at the same time, we rest in Christ Who has been the perfect steward for us.

Prayer:

Dear good and gracious Heavenly Father, You show Your love for me in so many different ways. Yet, I, all too often, don’t place You first in my life and my actions don’t always show love to You in return. Forgive me when I fail to keep Your laws. Forgive me as I rest in Your Son, Jesus, the perfect steward. 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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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.



LCC K-9 COMFORT DOG MINISTRY UPDATE

To God be the Glory!

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ Love never fails."

Since this is Valentine's Day month, I thought that it would be fitting to mention 1 Corinthians 13, known as the "Love" chapter. I ❤️ my job and I ❤️ the people I visit with! I ❤️ that God continues to provide new places to go. We are excited to now be able to make regular visits at Adventist Health (St. Helena Hospital). I continue to visit at Kaiser Hospital in Vallejo as well. I also ❤️ all of you who faithfully support our LCC K9 Comfort Dog Ministry.

Later this month, along with several dogs from the West Coast Region, I will join members of our congregation at the Best Practices in Ministry conference in Phoenix. The purpose of the conference is for attendees "to learn and share ideas and practices to help us grow in living God's Mission." My humans and I have been blessed to attend this conference in the past and we are looking forward to learning and sharing information about the Comfort Dog Ministry with those in attendance.

Wednesday, February 22, 2023 is Ash Wednesday. The Lenten season is a time for reflection and repentance as we prepare to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. May your Lenten participation be a blessing to you.

Remember, it is LCC's and our policy to only go where invited. So if you would like Aaron to visit, please contact Tim or Christy Kramer at the church office. We would be happy to schedule a visit! 707.255.0119 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: What a Friend We Have



What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! ... Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? ...Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge—take it to the Lord in prayer! * *LSB 770*

Such a familiar hymn with wonderful, comforting words. God *is* our refuge and our strength, and we are so grateful that we can take everything to Him in prayer. Sometimes we also need a human friend to talk with, someone who can walk alongside us, someone to listen and offer support. Someone like an encouraging, caring Stephen Minister.

It's difficult to ask for help. Perhaps you've felt embarrassed that you're not "tough enough" to handle it on your own. Perhaps you feel your problems are too small, that others must have bigger issues. Perhaps you believe what our culture promotes – self-help is the answer. Perhaps you don't feel you deserve help. Or that you are too tired to reach out, feeling defeated before you start.

Please know that YOU matter to God and to the people at St. John's Lutheran Church. We have Stephen Ministers who are trained, ready, and willing to help. God carries you and your problems in His loving hands, and He provides hands-on help through Stephen Ministers. If you feel undeserving, just know that none of us deserve anything good, but God freely gives us every good and perfect gift through His amazing grace. By God's grace we can trust and confide in a Stephen Minister, start to heal, and become whole again.

If you, or someone you know, would like to learn more about connecting with a Stephen Minister, please contact Penni Cremen (707-483-9321) or Pastor Mike in the church office (707-255-0119). Thank you, God, for the Friend we have in Jesus, and for the friends we have at St. John's.

*(Charles Converse music / Joseph Scriven lyrics)

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!

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>



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ATTENTION ALL CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS!!



The congregation will now accept applications for student grants for the 2023-2024 academic year. All members of St. John's, who plan to attend any of our seven synodical universities or our two seminaries, are eligible to apply. All you have to do is send a brief note to St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church, ATTN: Tim Kramer, or an e-mail to

tkramer@stjohnslutheran.net, announcing your intent to enroll in the 2023-2024 academic year. All applications must include the following information:

- a) Your Name
- b) School Name
- c) Student ID or Account # (if returning student)
- d) Degree you are pursuing
- e) Year and Level of study (e.g. Junior year, Undergrad; 5th year, teacher certification, or student teaching; Graduate studies)
- f) Attending Fall Term or Spring Term (or both)
- g) Briefly explain why you're attending Concordia and how you plan to use your studies/future vocation to shine the light of Christ and to witness for Jesus as His kingdom representative in the world.

Deadline for applications is March 31, 2023. Actual grant amount to each student is undetermined but will be based, in part, upon the number of students requesting assistance. So, if you are considering attending a synodical university--even if you have not made a final decision--please send a brief note informing us of where you are in your decision process so that we can plan accordingly.

SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL BY USING SCRIP

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

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

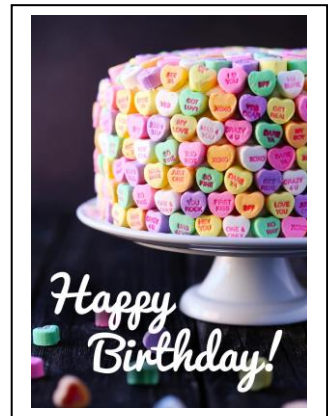
DATE ♥ COUPLE YEARS

1	Steve & Christy Wood	26
1	David & Kathy Fitzgerald	37
13	Doug & DeDe Messner	30
14	Tom & Elaine Hoff	36
25	Sandra & Stewart Mehrens	39



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Grayson Roberts, Lisa Thornton, Katya Kampton, Terry Peterson
- 6 Bret Skillings
- 7 Tim Bouchet, Steve Rock
- 9 Stephen Santora, Andrew Schluter
- 10 Karen Schoenfeld, Carson Dahl
- 11 Sarah Franklin, Steve Dierker
- 12 Scott Ondek
- 15 Teresa Schmid, Clayton D'Angelo, Kimberly Uffmann
- 18 Ruth Peterson
- 19 Tessa Mello
- 20 Cliff Burmester
- 21 Jakob Chaudhary, Leonard Bommersbach
- 22 Ayne Ondek, Erin Wilson
- Steven Jeffery, Lucas Wedding, Tom Carey,
- 23 Gisela Chaudhary
- 24 Sal Pagano, Nina Montes
- 25 Jeffrey Craft
- 26 Christopher Vecera
- 27 Mark Zeller, Cindy Zeller
- 29 Elizabeth Munoz

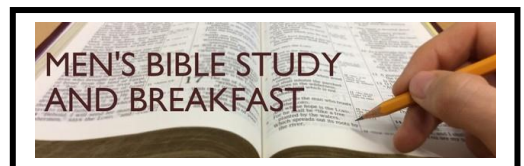




Daily Bible Readings for February

	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
1	Psalm 18:30-36	2 Chronicles 1,2	Acts 17:29-18:7
2	Psalm 18:37-45	2 Chronicles 3:1-5:1	Acts 18:8-21
3	Psalm 18:46-50	2 Chronicles 5:2-6:23	Acts 18:22-19:5
4	Psalm 19:1-6	2 Chronicles 6:24-7:22	Acts 19:6-20
5	Psalm 112:1-9, (10)	Isaiah 58:1-9a, (9b-12)	1 Corinthians 2:1-12,(13-16); Matthew 5:13-20
6	Psalm 19:7-14	2 Chronicles 8:1-9:12	Acts 19:21-31
7	Psalm 20	2 Chronicles 9:13-10:19	Acts 19:32-20:3
8	Psalm 21	2 Chronicles 11:1-12:12	Acts 20:4-16
9	Psalm 22:1-8	2 Chronicles 12:13-13:22	Acts 20:17-31
10	Psalm 22:9-21	2 Chronicles 14, 15	Acts 20:32-21:4
11	Psalm 22:22-28	2 Chronicles 16, 17	Acts 21:5-16
12	Psalm 119:1-8	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37
13	Psalm 22:29-31	2 Chronicles 18	Acts 21:17-30
14	Psalm 23	2 Chronicles 19:1-20:19	Acts 21:31-22:2
15	Psalm 24	2 Chron. 20:20-21:17	Acts 22:3-16
16	Psalm 25:1-7	2 Chronicles 21:18-23:21	Acts 22:17-29
17	Psalm 25:8-22	2 Chronicles 24:1-25:4	Acts 22:30-23:11
18	Psalm 26	2 Chronicles 25:5-26:15	Acts 23:12-24
19	Psalm 2	Exodus 24:12-18	2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9
20	Psalm 27:1-6	2 Chronicles 26:16-28:8	Acts 23:25-24:3
21	Psalm 27:7-14	2 Chronicles 28:9-29:19	Acts 24:4-16
22	Psalm 28	2 Chronicles 29:20-30:27	Acts 24:17-27
23	Psalm 29	2 Chronicles 31	Acts 25:1-15
24	Psalm 30:1-5	2 Chronicles 32	Acts 25:16-26:1
25	Psalm 30:6-12	2 Chronicles 33:1-34:7	Acts 26:2-14
26	Psalm 32	Genesis 2:15-17;3:1-7	Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11
27	Psalm 31:1-5	2 Chronicles 34:8-33	Acts 26:15-27
28	Psalm 31:6-9	2 Chronicles 35	Acts 26:28-27:8

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/>

Church

Phone: (707) 255-0119

Email: 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

Dr. Christy Wood, Principal (ext. 103)

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

Mrs. Joy Dahl, Director of Preschool (107)