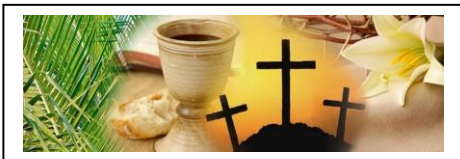




THE VINE

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

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



Holy Week at St. John's

Holy week commemorates the culminating week in the life of Jesus, and the events at the heart of the salvation which is ours through Jesus.

- *Palm Sunday (April 2)*. On this day, we commemorate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, riding on a donkey to shouts of "Hosanna" from the crowd waving palm branches. This is a welcome for a king coming in peace, and points ahead to the mission He was bringing to fulfillment that week. We will begin our Palm Sunday service in the Faith Chapel (weather permitting) and process into the sanctuary with palm branches, praising Jesus. The service will include the Choraliars singing and the dramatic narrative reading of the passion account.
- *Maundy Thursday (April 6)* is a commemoration of Jesus' "Last Supper." At this meal, He transformed the Passover meal into a sharing of Himself in bread and wine as His body and blood. At our Maundy Thursday worship (7:00 PM), we will also be celebrating the First Communion of those who have been preparing to be welcomed to the Lord's Supper.
- *Good Friday (April 7)* marks the day that Jesus was crucified. Our evening service (7:00 PM) is a Tenebrae Service. This is an ancient and beautiful service of gradually darkening the sanctuary as we read of account of the crucifixion and sing hymns and songs in response, ending with the sanctuary in darkness.
- *Easter Vigil (April 8)* is the first celebration of the resurrection and serves as a counterpart to the Good Friday Tenebrae. We process into a darkened sanctuary with candles, and as we meditate on history of God's saving activity as the sanctuary is gradually lightened. This service begins at 8:00 PM.

- *On Easter Sunday (April 9th)*, we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus with two opportunities to worship. The **8:30 service in the sanctuary** is led with traditional hymns and the choir. The **10:30 service in the Faith Chapel (weather permitting)** is led by the worship band. Our Easter morning also includes an egg hunt and an Easter Breakfast in the gym (9:00 – 10:30).

“The Hallelujah Chorus” Rehearsal The Sanctuary Choir will be singing “The Hallelujah Chorus” by G.F. Handel at the 8:30 Easter Service. If you have sung this before and would like to join the choir for this amazing anthem of praise, there will be a special choir rehearsal after the service on **April 2**, Palm Sunday.

Please Join Us For Easter Breakfast!

Where: St. John’s Lutheran Parish Hall
When: 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
 Sunday, April 9, 2023
Sponsored by: St. John’s Lutheran Youth

Our Menu:

Egg Bake Casserole
 Assorted Pastries
 Fresh Fruit
 Assorted Juices
 Milk, Coffee and Tea



Free Will Donation:

All proceeds from this year’s breakfast will support our youth budget and continue to push the ministry forward.

“Give what you have decided in your hearts to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

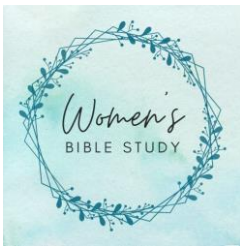
SUNDAY BIBLE CLASSES

“Digging Deeper”

Pastor Mike’s Bible 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 is leading a study on the second half of Paul’s letter to the Romans on Sundays in Room 8. He will be making use of Right Now Video teaching by J.D. Greear.



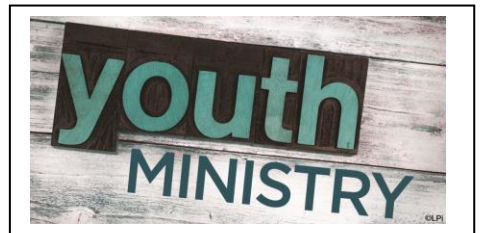
We are studying the book of Philippians, which will include some video, and a Bible study guide. We're getting this via Right Now Media. Please join us on Tuesday, April 4th & 18th at 10 AM in the sanctuary.

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



@sjlcnapa



@stjohnsnapa

OFFERING UPDATE

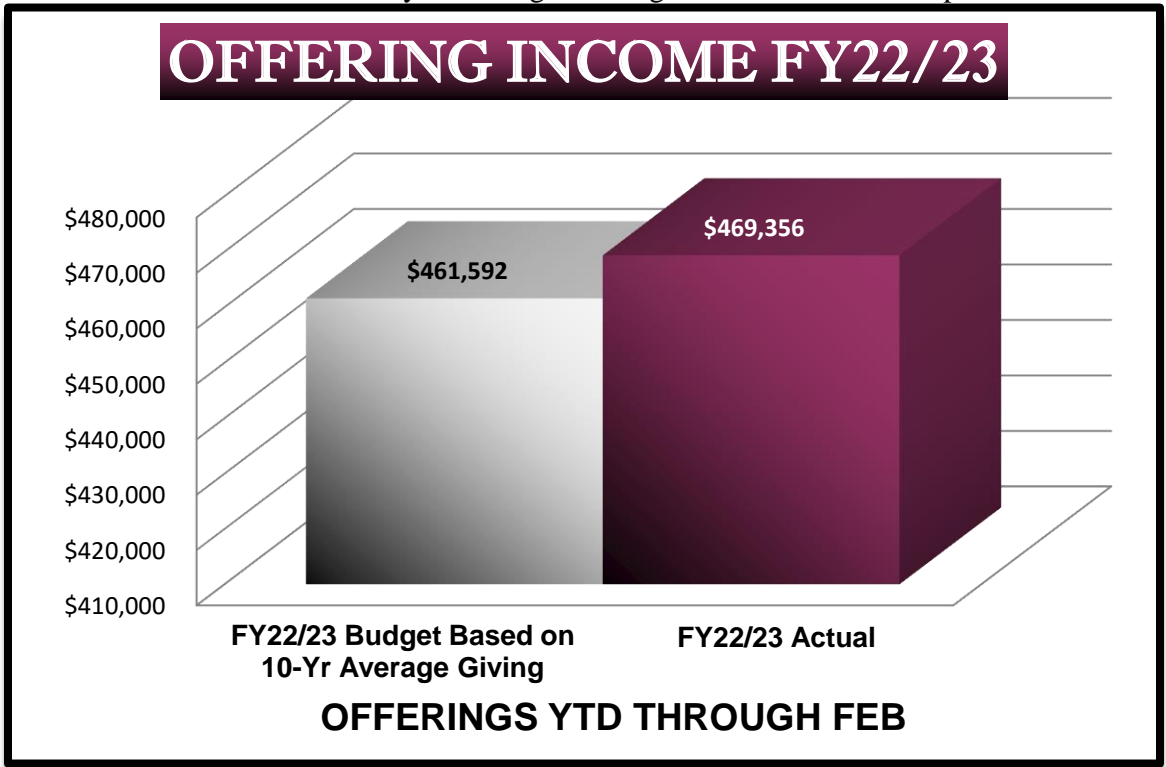
Actual Offering Income for Feb:

\$49,757.

Total Offerings for FY22/23 (as of 28 Feb 23):

\$469,356 which is **1.68%** or **\$7,764** 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:

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.” (2 Corinthians 5:17-19)(ESV)

Christ's Ambassadors

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Some people find it difficult to believe in God because they cannot reconcile the evil and hurt in the world with a good and loving God. One person said, “If God were really good, all this misery would just break His heart.”

It is then that we faithful point to Christ, our crucified Savior, and answer, “It did.” The story of the suffering and death of Jesus Christ is truly the story of the breaking of God’s heart. It is broken because the same sin that brings evil and misery into this world has also estranged us from our Heavenly Father.

Thanks be to Christ! He has paid the price for our sins. He has bridged the chasm that lay between us and our Father. By His Resurrection from the dead, He has triumphed over sin, death, and the devil. He has reconciled us to the Father.

In 2 Corinthians 5:15, we read, “*And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him Who died for them and was raised again.*”

Listen again to the words of the Apostle Paul: “*[We] should no longer live for [ourselves] but for Him Who died for [us].*” In light of what Christ has done for us, we stewards respond with a desire to serve and glorify Him. Paul says that God, Who has reconciled us to Himself in Christ, has now given us this ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18). “*We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors,*” writes Paul, “*as though God were making His appeal through us*” (2 Corinthians 5:20).

We are Christ’s ambassadors. Every day He places opportunities before us to speak of the great love of God that gave His Son for the sins of the world. He has equipped and enabled us through His Word and Sacraments (2 Timothy 3:16-17) to be His representatives. Let us, with broken and contrite hearts, seek His forgiveness when we fail to represent Him as we should and ask for His continued strength and presence to help us to carry out this task.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, You have taken away the sting of death through Your death and resurrection. You have given me a new victorious life to live in You each day. Keep me steadfast in faith until the end and use me to spread the Good News of victory in 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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Board of Directors Nominations

The Board of Directors is receiving Board nominations for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. There are nine members of the Board of Directors. Four of these positions are up for election this year. Board members serve for a two-year term, and can serve a maximum of three consecutive terms.

What are the responsibilities of a member of the Board of Directors?

The Board of Directors is the governing board for St. John's Lutheran Church and School. Its main duty is to ensure the fulfillment of St. John's Mission and Vision. It does this by holding the Lead Pastor accountable for implementing a ministry plan that pursues the mission and vision for our church and school and supporting him in the fulfillment of that plan.

The Board of Directors also prepares and maintains a [policy manual](#) that defines the goals of the congregation, the relationship between the Board and the Lead Pastor, the limitations on the Lead Pastor, and the way in which the Board will carry out its duties. The Board members do not represent any particular group or constituency in the church. Rather, the Board acts on behalf of the entire St. John's ministry, especially as it confesses its purpose through the Mission and Vision statement.

What are the qualifications to serve on the Board of Directors?

[The By-Laws](#) state that Board members must be committed to the mission and vision of St. John's Lutheran Church and School. Therefore the ideal board member is someone who is:

- Faithful in Worship
- Regularly in the Word: Bible Study or Small Group
- Active in service: Serving in a ministry of the congregation
- Supportive of tithing: Either tithing or working toward it.
- Strong support for the Mission and Vision
- Strong support for the governance structure
- Able to see the big picture of the church's mission

Both the By-Laws and the Policy Manual are available on the St. John's Lutheran Church website: <https://stjohnslutheran.net/ministry-documents-2/>

How do I nominate someone for the Board of Directors?

There will be a Board Information Forum on Tuesday, April 25 at 7:00 in the Library for those who are interested in being nominated for the board. This forum is also open to anyone who just wants to learn more about the governance polity of St. John's, and how the Board works.



LBW
LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKER!

*You are invited to join the Large Print Ministries Group
We'll be meeting in Room 10 on the following dates:
April 10, 11, 24, & 25, and every Friday morning at
9:00 AM. Join us!*



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

When: Sunday, April 23

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.



He is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed! Many blessings to you and your family from St. John's Lutheran School.



March was another full month at our school. We had a very successful APT Main Event Dinner and Auction. Our school appreciates all of the hard work done by our co-chairs Wendy Flynn and Alyssa Howard and their amazing team. The theme of the evening was "The Great Gatsby" and it was a wonderful evening of fellowship.

During the week of March 8, we celebrated Science Week! Everyone from Preschool through Grade 8 joined in the fun week full of catapults, experiments, and egg drops. It was so much fun to see the excitement in our students' faces.

Holy Week will be a special week for our St. John's community. Mrs. Gewirz, Mrs. Perez, Mr. Newton, Ms. Cassayre, and Mrs. Peskett planned activities around the theme "The Lord is My Shepherd" Our students will learn about miracles, prayer, love, forgiveness and peace. Grades 5-8 will participate in a Seder meal on Maundy Thursday.

Track and field has begun and is huge here at SJLS. Students in Grades 1-8 practice during their morning recess in running events, relays, high jump, broad jump, shot put, long jump. A huge thank you to Mr. Uffmann and all of the coaches that are helping our students practice and learn new skills. Our students will be participating in three track meets, the first one being held at Justin Siena on Friday, May 13.

We are in the final stages of enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year. If you are interested or know of someone who is interested, please contact Kristin Goller at kgoller@stjonhsnapa.org.

Thank you for always including St. John's Lutheran School in your prayers!

Dr. Christy Wood
Principal



Holy Week

Jesus Christ, He can only be one of two things. Either He's a liar and a demon from hell, a blasphemer under God's judgement, or the Lord of Life, calling you to trust Him, receive His sacrifice on your behalf, take up your cross in love for your neighbor and follow Him.

New for 2023 and available via podcast on **April 3rd**, are two half-hour specials hosted by Lutheran Hour Speaker Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. This special programming for Holy week includes dramatic multi-voice readings of the account of the betrayal, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth as recorded in the 26th, 27th, and 28th chapters of Matthew, one of the four ancient biographies of Jesus. Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler and Mark Eischer reflect on the unique features of Matthew's account of history. Part 1 focuses on the events of Holy Thursday, part 2 the events of Good Friday and the resurrection.

These specials invite the listener into the Passion of Jesus' and prompt the listeners to consider the questions: Who is this Jesus? and "Why does He matter? All must consider the significance of this man, the Christ, whose life was so extraordinary that it separates the entirety of time into B.C. (before Christ) and A.D (anno Domini).

The specials feature new original musical arrangements of hymns by internationally known vocalist Erin Bode. These beautiful hymns allow the listener a time of introspection in the holiest season of Christianity. The program is narrated by Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. It includes performances by the cast members: Christy Bond, Rev. Dr. Jason Broge, Jonathan Christopher, Mark Eischer, Dean Evans, Chris Macky, Megan Mehrle, Jeremy Knapp and John Spangler. For more information, please go to www.lutheranhour.org/holyweek/



LCC K-9 COMFORT DOG MINISTRY UPDATE

To God be the Glory!

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

Hebrews 12:1

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!

I am really looking forward to Holy Week and all the amazing services. Please join us as we commemorates the culminating week in the life of Jesus, and the events at the heart of the salvation which is ours through Jesus!

Our team looks forward to Sunday, April 23rd, as we join together with LCC K9 Comfort Dog teams from all over the country to participate in the **5K Run for Respect** sponsored by the Life Skills class of Pontiac Township High School (Illinois). This virtual event raises funds and awareness for Special Olympics. Teams Reuben, Micah, and Genesis will be joining us!

After worship, we will have a light lunch and then head out to our track to walk/run. Water and snacks will be provided. You don't need to run the 5K, walking is just fine, and you don't even have to go the entire distance. Just join us for the fellowship. It would be helpful for planning purposes if you would let the Kramers know you plan to attend. Thank you!



On March 15th my team took me to Stockton, CA to attend the memorial service for Canine Officer Duke from the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office. Sadly, Duke was killed while apprehending a burglary suspect. K9 Duke's courageous actions quite possibly saved his deputy from being killed. We were there to honor Duke's career and sacrifice as well as support the sheriff's department as they mourned his passing. It was an honor to be invited and to serve there with Teams Reuben, Micah, Genesis, & Rahab.

April looks to be another busy month for our team. We are excited to report that through our regular visits to Camille Creek School, we have begun visits to Crossroads H.S., a division of Juvenile hall. Our first visit was very exciting and rewarding, and we look to continue our visits twice a month.

Along with my regularly scheduled visits, I will also attend a Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Resource Fair, a military "Stand Down" event in support of homeless veterans at Mather Field, and a Napa Community Health Fair.

Have a blessed Easter!

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



Stephen Ministry: The Power of Hope

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Romans 15:13



Hope from God is one of the most powerful sources of comfort. Because we know that Jesus rose from the grave on the third day, we have the best reason for hope -- spending eternal life with him! Having Christian hope means that we don't have to place our trust solely in human capacities, institutions, or ideals. Instead, our hope is in God.

Stephen Ministers can be instruments through which Christian hope flows into care receivers. The following are eight practical ways they can provide care:

1. **Be consistently supportive** by words and actions, through good times and bad.
2. **Be available** when the care receiver needs to reach out, especially in an emergency.
3. **Empathize**, see the care receiver's situation from his or her point of view.
4. **Acceptance** of the care receiver, without criticism or judgement.
5. **Encourage** the care receiver to look beyond perceived flaws and negatives, to see the good in him- or herself.
6. **Point out opportunities for growth** to help the care receiver recognize where he or she might grow and get stronger.
7. **Acknowledge Jesus presence** by verbalizing how God is with us in a moment-by-moment basis.
8. **Be distinctively Christian**, remembering that we offer care in God's name, and that Christ is at work in and through Stephen Ministry to bring healing.

None of us can make someone else hopeful – only God can produce that divine reassurance, faith, and confidence that we call hope. God's compassionate presence is evident in the relationship between the Stephen Minister and care receiver.

Please know that YOU matter to God and to the people at St. John's Lutheran Church. God carries you and your problems in His loving hands, and He provides hands-on help through Stephen Ministers. 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).

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SO, WHAT'S NEW AT THE FARM?

Submitted by Ted Zimmerman

Prayers of the Mission Farmers are being answered! I'm not just talking about the abundance of rain God has showered upon us this winter. We need bees out in our Farm in order to have an abundance of fruit and veggies to share with families facing grocery insecurity.



The fires of the past several years have disturbed the local bee colonies. Those that did not perish had to relocate in order to survive. The bee population in the Valley hasn't yet fully rebounded. Recently, and quite out of the blue, we were contacted by the Farm Manager at Meadowood Farm and Charter Oak. They want to start a bee project this season, and are looking for places where they can move their bees this Easter. They are familiar with our project here, and felt this would be an idea place to locate some of their bees. That's an answer to our prayers. Our hives have been empty for two years!



As for the rain – “I’m through with all this rain!” said one person interviewed on local TV. I suppose the fact she was homeless made her sentiment understandable. But the rain has been a blessing for our famished soils and near empty reservoirs. But that means the tractors thus far have not been able to get out and prepare the soils for planting. There still is time, but Mr. Kubota will have to put in some overtime. Some of the seedlings have been planted, and soon enough will be ready for transplanting. That’s when we will need every hand on deck. We’ll try to get the word out to all when you are needed!

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



You buy a gift card
You get the full value.



The brand gives back
No extra money comes out of your pocket.



Your organization earns
Impacting what matters most to you.

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!!

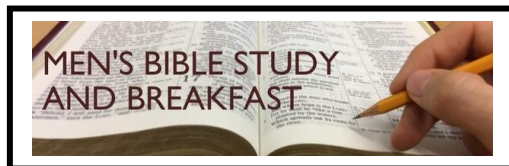
Our Enrollment Code: 912E7L6F9161

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES



DATE	COUPLE	YEARS
8	Jason & Diedre Newton	6
8	Kyle & Rebecca McAhren	34
29	Dick & Marilyn Lemin	6

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.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS



- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Neill Barker |
| 2 | Clint Mason |
| 5 | Kaden Kennedy |
| 6 | J.T. Mason |
| 8 | Emily Peterson |
| 9 | Rachel Carey, Travis Goodrich |
| 10 | Christopher Newman, Elizabeth Robertis |
| 11 | Adleigh Koen, Eva Winkler, Danielle Irwin, Colt Lawrence-Maloney |
| 12 | Courtnee Gingras |
| 13 | Christine Commander |
| 18 | Robert De Young, Sean Johnson |
| 19 | Grace Walter, Samuel Smith |
| 20 | Pamela Watkins, Gina Brady |
| 21 | Rex Schluter, Michael Edmeyer |
| 22 | Peter Santora, Yvette Morgenlaender, Karol Bruechert, Eliana Rollin |
| 23 | Justine Rollin |
| 24 | Christy Wood, Nathan Luna |
| 25 | Trent Mooers, Gerald Schweiger |
| 26 | Ella Eisberg |
| 30 | Joshua Wright |

Daily Bible Readings for APRIL

	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
1	Psalm 42	Job 1,2	Romans 11:7-18
2	Psalm 31:9-16	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 21:1-11
3	Psalm 43	Job 3,4	Romans 11:19-32
4	Psalm 44:1-8	Job 5,6	Romans 11:33-12:8
5	Psalm 44:9-16	Job 7	Romans 12:9-21
6	Psalm 44:17-26	Job 8	Romans 13
7	Psalm 45:1-9	Job 9	Romans 14:1-12
8	Psalm 45:10-17	Job 10	Romans 14:13-15:2
9	Psalm 118:1-2,14-24		Acts 10:34-43; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-18
10	Psalm 46	Job 11:1-12:12	Romans 15:3-16
11	Psalm 47	Job 12:13-13:19	Romans 15:17-29
12	Psalm 48	Job 13:20-14:22	Romans 15:30-16:7
13	Psalm 49:1-12	Job 15-16	Romans 16:8-20
14	Psalm 49:13-20	Job 17, 18	Romans 16:21-1 Corinthians 1:1-9
15	Psalm 50:1-6	Job 19	1 Corinthians 1:10-20
16	Psalm 16		Acts 2:14a,22-32; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31
17	Psalm 50:7-15	Job 20	1 Corinthians 1:21-2:2
18	Psalm 50:16-23	Job 21	1 Corinthians 2:3-16
19	Psalm 51:1-6	Job 22, 23	1 Corinthians 3:1-11
20	Psalm 51:7-12	Job 24	1 Corinthians 3:12-23
21	Psalm 51:13-19	Job 25-27	1 Corinthians 4:1-15
22	Psalm 52	Job 28	1 Corinthians 4:16-5:8
23	Psalm 116:1-4,12-19		Acts 2:14a,36-41; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35
24	Psalm 53	Job 29	1 Corinthians 5:9-6:8
25	Psalm 54	Job 30	1 Corinthians 6:9-20
26	Psalm 55:1-8	Job 31	1 Corinthians 7:1-16
27	Psalm 55:9-15	Job 32, 33	1 Corinthians 7:17-24
28	Psalm 55:16-19	Job 34:1-28	1 Corinthians 7:25-40
29	Psalm 55:20-23	Job 34:29-35:16	1 Corinthians 8
30	Psalm 23		Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10



3521 Linda Vista Ave.
Napa, California 94558-2703

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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@stjohnsnapa

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/248942728988437/st-johns-lutheran-church/>

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Rev. Michael A. Schmid, Lead Pastor (ext. 122)

Mr. Tim Kramer, Business Administrator (ext. 121)

Mrs. Christy Kramer, Church Office Manager (ext. 120)

Mr. Kevin Mathison, Dir. of Youth Ministry (ext. 106) or 255-7451

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

Mrs. Joy Dahl, Director of Preschool (107)