



THE VINE

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

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



Confirmation

Confirmation Sunday

We will be celebrating Confirmation on May 7th during the 9:30 AM service. As part of the service, the Confirmands will be reading their prepared faith statements as confessions of committing their lives to following Jesus and will be blessed in that confession and commitment. Please keep our Confirmands in your prayers as they prepare for this day.

May God bless our Confirmands!

Matteo Giovanni Barbosa
Madelyn Sofia Caceres Reed
Abrielle Delaney Caceres Reed
Parker Jon Dahl
Abigail June Johnson

Liam Andrew Johnson
Evan Robert Lewis
Dugan Piero Perotti-Kline
Ariel Marie Winkler

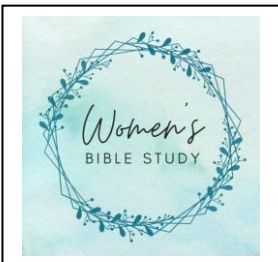
SUNDAY BIBLE CLASSES

"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 weekly on Tuesdays, at 10 AM in the sanctuary.

God gives us so many reasons to praise Him and I think May is one of the coolest months on the calendar for youth ministry here at St. John's because of our Confirmation service. Hearing the kids share their faith in front of the congregation is a really cool moment and allows us all to see and hear about the Kingdom from the perspective of a youth. I ask you to join us in praying for each one of these students as they continue to prepare for and share their Faith Statements with us all on May 7th.



As we look ahead on the calendar, we see VBS sneaking up on June 19th. We would love for you to join our team and volunteer at this year's VBS! Please contact Kevin Mathison with any questions on how to do that.



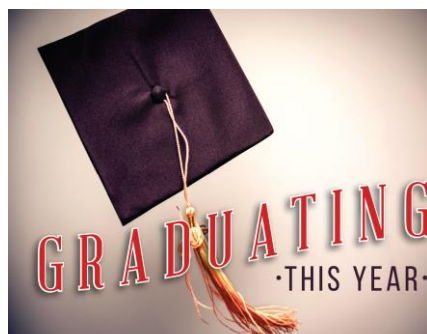
2023 High School and College Graduates

We would like to publish a list in the June Vine of our 2023 high school and college graduates.

For our college graduates, please provide the student's name, college name, and major.

For our high school graduates, please provide the student's name, and the name of the college they plan to attend.

You can email this information to:
churchoffice@stjohnslutheran.net or call the church office at (707) 255-0119.



OFFERING UPDATE

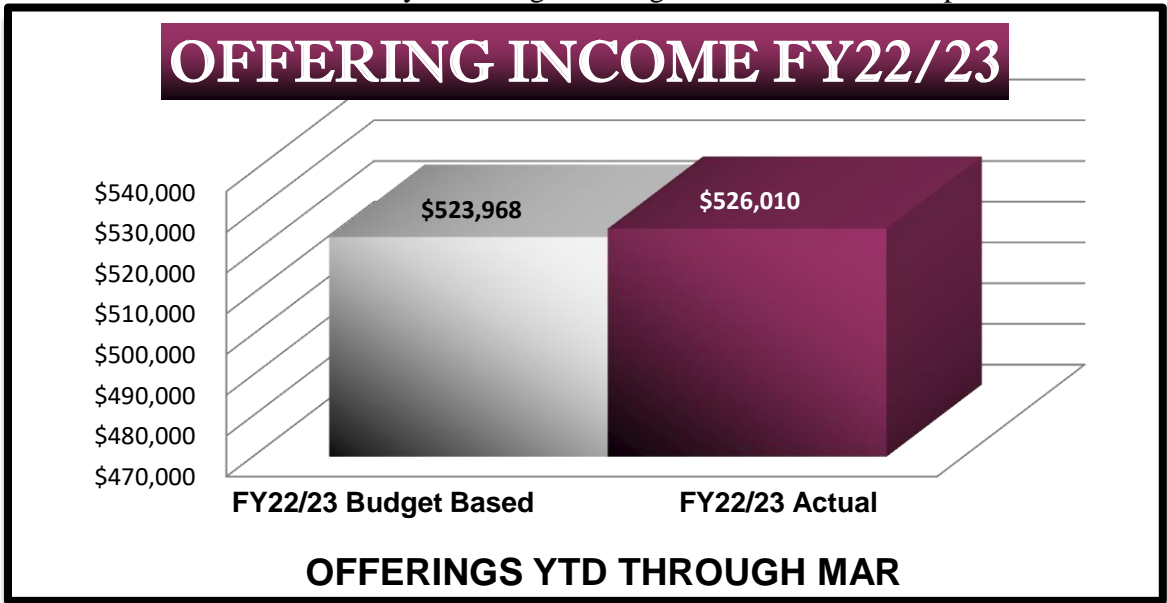
Actual Offering Income for Mar:

\$56,654.

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

\$526,010 which is **0.39%** or **\$2,042**
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, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”
(Hebrews 12:1-2)(ESV)

Whom Are You Looking At?

The disciples were thrilled. They had their Lord back in their presence once again. Since His Resurrection, He had appeared to them and others several times. They were still a little confused, though, when He talked about *“wait[ing] for the gift [His] Father promised”* (Acts 1:5), and, then, *“He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid Him from their sight”* (Acts 1:9).

You can imagine their bewilderment. He had died and been buried and then had risen from the dead! He had walked among them and taught them again, and now . . . He is taken up into the clouds. No wonder they stood there – probably with mouths agape – looking into the sky where they had last seen Him.

It took “two men dressed in white” (Acts 1:10) to bring them back to their senses. “ ‘Men of Galilee,’ ” they said, ‘why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, Who has been taken from you into Heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into Heaven’ ” (Acts 1:11).

Back they went to Jerusalem. Their eyes were no longer on the clouds, but they were still looking at Jesus. They waited. They prayed. They chose another disciple. And they waited some more – all the while looking at Jesus.

Whom are you looking at? Yes, Jesus has ascended. We can only imagine His joyful, triumphant return as all the hosts of Heaven welcomed back the risen, victorious Savior. Because He is that Savior, because He is the Author and perfecter of our faith, “let us fix our eyes on Jesus” (Hebrews 12:2). Through His Word and Sacraments, He will lead us in His ways; He will teach us obedience and self-sacrifice; He will teach us love for our neighbors. With joyful and generous hearts, we celebrate the new life that Easter brings us by sharing the message of the Cross and the Empty Tomb with all who will listen. Keep looking at Jesus until in Heaven you see Him face to face!

Prayer:

Dear Lord, You endured so much suffering, pain and even death for my sake. Keep me steadfast in faith and help me to focus on You, my Ascended Savior. 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 Adv., 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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When: Sunday, May 21
Time: 5:00 PM 🕒
Where: Sanctuary

Prayer & Praise is another opportunity to join together for a time of worship that consists of a devotion and many contemporary worship songs. Help us spread the word about this amazing opportunity and grow the fellowship! After the time of worship, we gather together for a family meal and fellowship. Start times are 5 PM on Sunday evenings. To stay in the loop on when each month these are happening, follow us on **Instagram** & **Facebook**. To help spread the word, share our posts to let the Napa community know about Prayer & Praise!

Biblical Counseling at St Johns?

The Biblical Counseling Center of Napa Valley

The Biblical Counseling Center of Napa Valley is a ministry to the families of St. John's Lutheran Church and all Christians in the greater Napa area. Our center began some 25 years ago to offer strength and direction to those Christians suffering through trials and tribulations using the promises and hope the Bible offers to those who trust Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Dr. Steven Rock and Judi Rock are both accredited Biblical counselors with years of experience in what could be called "Clinical Theology." Simply put, we view the struggles and hardships of life through the lens of God's Word. What does the Bible say about depression, anxiety, conflict and other life challenges? How can we honor God as we work through these difficulties?

If you, or someone you know, is struggling with life's stressors, please consider giving us a call at **707-738-5306 (We are a free ministry to all).**

Having seen Scripture change lives repeatedly, we are convinced that God offers the very best solution to all who are "burdened and heavy laden". God has HOPE for the weary soul and offers rest through His Word.
(Matthew 6:33-34; 11:28-30)

The Biblical Counseling Center of Napa Valley is Accredited by:
The Association of Certified Biblical Counselors (ACBC)
The international Association of Biblical Counselors (IABC)

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

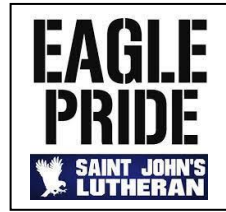


MAY ANNIVERSARIES



DATE	COUPLE	YEARS
1	Matthew & Kelsey Uffmann	12
8	Robert & Courtnee Gingras	3
9	Robert & Lisa De Young	31
11	Linda & Bob Harvey	32
12	John & Pam Foottit	44
21	Trisha & John Tortolani	21
21	Brian & Nina Montes	13
24	Nancy & Sal Zaia	36
28	John & Janelle Mason	35
30	Elizabeth & Matthew Munoz	24
30	Douglas & Terry Braddock	31
31	Ronald & Lois Johnson	19

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

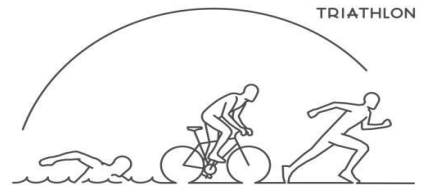


During the first week of May we will be celebrating Teacher Appreciation week! We at SJL are so blessed to have a Faculty and Staff that is dedicated to the academic, emotional, physical, social, and most importantly, spiritual growth of each and every student. *"As every man hath received the gift, [even so] minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."* ~ 1 Peter 4:10

SJL will be the host for the California- Nevada- Hawaii Elementary School Knowledge Bowl on Thursday, May 4. The Knowledge Bowl allows academically gifted students the opportunity to match their intellectual skills against others of comparable ability and provides an avenue for fellowship among CNH participants.

Track and field has begun and is huge here at SJL. Students in Grades 1-8 practice during their morning recess in running events, relays, high jump, broad jump, shot put, and long jump. A huge thank you to Mr. Uffmann, Coach Johnny, Mr. John Cortese and all of the coaches that are helping our students practice and learn new skills. Our students will be participating in two track meets, with the next one being held at Justin Siena on Friday, May 12.

Our 11th annual Triathlon will take place on Friday, May 26, 2023. This is a unique opportunity for our Middle School students to do 3 sports at a time - **SWIM + BIKE + RUN = Triathlon!** It is a super fun event that challenges the students and is a HUGE accomplishment.



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

Dr. Christy Wood
Principal



You are invited to join the Large Print Ministries Group
We'll be meeting in Room 10 on the following dates:
May 8, 9, 22, 23, and every Friday morning at 9:00 AM. Join us!



LCC K-9 COMFORT DOG MINISTRY UPDATE

To God be the Glory!

Run for Respect

On Sunday, April 23rd we participated in the annual 5K run/walk for Special Olympics at Pontiac High School in Illinois. This year we had 16 states represented, 55 LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs, and over 400 people participating from the LCC K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry. Comfort Dog Teams Genesis, Reuben, and Micah joined us for worship and a meet and greet after service. We then moved out to the track for pictures and the walk/run in the neighborhood. During our 5K, we visited Napa Fire Station #3 and finished with a celebration lunch. All proceeds from *Run for Respect* benefit Pontiac Township High School's *Special Olympics* and *Peers In Action* programs. We thank **Thrivent Financial** for supporting this event!



National Law Enforcement Week ... Once again, we will be honoring our law enforcement community during the week of May 14-20. Team Aaron is asking you to consider donating healthy snacks/treats to be added to our treat baskets that will be delivered to all eight agencies during the week. Donations can be dropped off in the church office. Thank you for helping us support our law enforcement heroes!

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:9

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



***“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and
I will give you rest”*** *Matthew 11:28*



What Exactly Is Stephen Ministry? Stephen Ministry is a ministry in our congregation in which trained and supervised lay persons, called Stephen Ministers, provide one-to-one Christian care to individuals facing life challenges or difficulties.

Who Is Involved?

Stephen Leaders oversee and direct our Stephen Ministry. They recruit, select, train, organize, and supervise our Stephen Ministers, identify people in need of care, and match them with a Stephen Minister. We have four Stephen Leaders: Pastor Mike, Pam Barker, Penni Cremen and Roxana Castro.

Stephen Ministers are the caregivers. They have over 50 hours of training in Christian caregiving, including topics on listening, feelings, boundaries, assertiveness, and using Christian resources in caregiving. In addition, training covers specialized topics such as ministering to the divorced, hospitalized, bereaved, and aging. We are blessed to have eight dedicated Stephen Ministers: Roxana Castro, John and Pam Foottit, Clare King, Missy Loban, Sandra Mehrens, Jeff Mello, and Linda Reed.

Care receivers are the recipients of Stephen Ministers' care. They are people from our church, school, or community who are experiencing divorce, grief, loss of a job, loneliness, hospitalization, terminal illness, or any number of life difficulties. Stephen Ministers usually meet with their care receivers once a week for about an hour, for as long as the care receiver will benefit by the relationship.

What Do Stephen Ministers Do?

Stephen Ministers listen, understand, accept, and pray for and with care receivers who are working through a crisis or a tough time. They are not counselors; they are trained lay caregivers. Stephen Ministers are also trained to recognize when a care receiver's need exceeds what they can provide. When that happens they work with the care receivers to help them receive the level of care they really need.

Can I Trust a Stephen Minister?

Trust is essential to a caring relationship, and Stephen Ministers are people you can trust. Confidentiality is one of the most important principles of Stephen Ministry, and what a care receiver tells his or her Stephen Minister is kept in strictest confidence.

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



The month of May will be a very busy one in the fields of our Mission Farm. There is going to be a lot of planting seeds and transplanting young seedlings on each of the Saturdays of this month (6th, 13th, 20th, 27th). The fields have been prepped, trellis lines relocated, and drip irrigation lines put into place. Now it's time to get the seeds and seedlings into the ground. Naturally we will be calling for a lot of volunteers to join us for each of these Saturdays. "Many hands make light work!" as the old saying goes.

However, May 6, the first of those Saturdays in May, will be especially important. At the beginning of that planting day (9:30 a.m.), we will observe an ancient church custom known as "Rogation Day". By tradition this always fell in spring on the Sixth Sunday of Easter. This year that would be Sunday, May 14. We will be jumping the gun by 8 days, but we will be in full harmony with the spirit of the traditional observance. For on Rogation Sunday ("rogation" comes from the Latin "rogatio . . . to ask") God's people were led in procession into the nearby fields "to ask" God's blessing for those fields, for those who labor in the fields, for good weather conducive to a good harvest, and for the well-being of the community nearby, the beneficiaries of a good harvest. The rite will involve Scripture readings, a hymn, and a number of collects. Having worshipped together, we will continue by planting and fellowshiping together. Oh, and you won't go home hungry either! Hope you can join us!

St. John's Facebook Group

Are you on Facebook? Have you joined the St. John's Facebook Family Group? Please click here to join and participate in Facebook Live events, discussion and more.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/stjohnsfamilynapa>

Why join our Facebook Group? We are planning live devotional events, prayer times, as well as other interactive events. Our group is a great place to encourage one another and walk together as a family of God. In this time when gathering in person is so difficult, this is an option to fellowship together.

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



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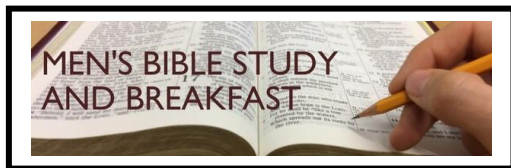


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@stjohnsnapa

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.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

1	Jeff Mello
2	Dede Messner
3	Penni Cremen
5	Jean Gonzales, Hoag Husted
6	Samantha Carey, Ben Wilson, Zina Zaia, Trisha Tortolani
8	Jax Rodriguez, Chad Alexander
9	Tom Hoff, Melissa Loban, Brett Wedding
11	Kenneth Van Houten III, Ari Knutson
12	Deana Ehlen
13	Naomi Knutson, Sarah Santora
14	Meghan Eisberg, Debbie Stanhope
15	Orion Boudreaux, Julie Peterson, Henry Eisberg
16	Donald Hatfield, Donovan Messner, Gail Valeskie
17	Jack Goller
18	Walt Gmelch, Sharlene Mulsoff
19	Alexzander Svien
21	Brett Carey
22	Deborah Bommersbach, Alex Rollin, Rebecca Lowe-Vitkus
23	Elena Irwin
24	Lauren Frey
25	Bill Clark, Hadrian Newman, Jordan Petersen, Aaron Craft, Tegan Behlmer
26	Daniel D'Angelo, Jameson Mehrens, Sharon Quick
27	Lisa Chaudhary
28	Mia Wagner
29	Doris Klein, Megan Mathison
30	Anthony Munoz, Christopher Vaziri
31	Carson Mooers, Domenic Hjerpe





Daily Bible Readings for May

	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
1	Psalm 56:1-8	Job 36:1-26	1 Corinthians 9:1-12a
2	Psalm 56:9-13	Job 36:27-37:24	1 Corinthians 9:12b-27
3	Psalm 57:1-6	Job 38	1 Corinthians 10:1-10
4	Psalm 57:7-11	Job 39	1 Corinthians 10:11-22
5	Psalm 58	Job 40	1 Corinthians 10:23-11:2
6	Psalm 59:1-9	Job 41	1 Corinthians 11:3-16
7	Psalm 31:1-5,15-16		Acts 7:55-60; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14
8	Psalm 59:10-17	Job 42	1 Corinthians 11:17-30
9	Psalm 60	Proverbs 1:1-2:8	1 Corinthians 11:31-12:11
10	Psalm 61	Proverbs 2:9-3:20	1 Corinthians 12:12-26
11	Psalm 62	Proverbs 3:21-4:27	1 Corinthians 12:27-13:7
12	Psalm 63	Proverbs 5	1 Corinthians 13:8-14:5
13	Psalm 64	Proverbs 6	1 Corinthians 14:6-19
14	Psalm 66:8-20		Acts 17:22-31; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21
15	Psalm 65:1-8	Proverbs 7	1 Corinthians 14:20-35
16	Psalm 65:9-13	Proverbs 8:1-9:6	1 Corinthians 14:36-15:2
17	Psalm 66:1-7	Proverbs 9:7-10:32	1 Corinthians 15:3-16
18	Psalm 66:8-15	Proverbs 11	1 Corinthians 15:17-28
19	Psalm 66:16-20	Proverbs 12	1 Corinthians 15:29-41
20	Psalm 67	Proverbs 13	1 Corinthians 15:42-58
21	Psalm 68:1-10,32-35		Acts 1:6-14; 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11
22	Psalm 68:1-6	Proverbs 14	1 Corinthians 16:1-11
23	Psalm 68:7-18	Proverbs 15	1 Corinthians 16:12-24
24	Psalm 68:19-27	Proverbs 16	2 Corinthians 1:1-11
25	Psalm 68:28-35	Proverbs 17	2 Corinthians 1:12-22
26	Psalm 69:1-12	Proverbs 18	2 Corinthians 1:23-2:13
27	Psalm 69:13-21	Proverbs 19	2 Corinthians 2:14-3:11
28	Psalm 104:24-34,35b		Acts 2:1-21; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 20:19-23
29	Psalm 69:22-29	Proverbs 20	2 Corinthians 3:12-4:6
30	Psalm 69:30-36	Proverbs 21	2 Corinthians 4:7-18
31	Psalm 70	Proverbs 22	2 Corinthians 5:1-15



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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

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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

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)