



# THE VINE

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

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

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## **Congregational Budget and Election Meeting**

There will be a meeting after worship on June 11. The purpose of this meeting is to adopt the Ministry Plan and Budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year (starting July 1), as well as to elect who will serve in the four positions on the Board of Directors that are up for election. The meeting will take place in the Sanctuary.

## **Proposed Ministry Plan and Budget**

Copies of the Proposed Ministry Plan and Budget will be available in the church entryway this weekend. You can also pick up a copy at the church office, or download from the church website.

## **Board of Directors Elections**

At the congregational meeting on June 11, we will be electing four members of the Board of Directors for a two year term. There are four candidates on the ballot. Information regarding those nominated will be made available soon.

- Dennis Arnett
- Tyler Roberts
- Judi Rock
- Paula Schweiger

## **The Choraliers Disney Performance**

The Choraliers will next sing in worship on June 4. After worship on that Sunday, they will perform their "Disney" show, the music prepared for their performance at Disneyland. This will take place in the Sanctuary. All are invited.

## **Campus Security Fence Project**

The Campus Security fence construction will begin the week of June 12. This will include the fencing and gate between the church office and the school office, as well as replacing the fencing around the field to match the security fences already installed.

As we look ahead on the calendar, we see VBS sneaking up on June 19<sup>th</sup>. 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.



This is the VBS Link for signups for both volunteers and campers.

<https://vbspro.events/p/events/sjlstellar>



**When: Sunday, June 11**  
**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!

# 2023 High School and College Graduates



## COLLEGE

### **Master's Degree**

Jerry Schweiger

Georgia Institute of Technology; Aerospace Engineering

### **Bachelor's Degree**

Brett Carey

University of Virginia; Economics and Data Science

Gunnar De Young

University of New Hampshire;

Finance and Entrepreneurial Studies, Philosophy

Colby College; Government and Economics

Jack Goller

Bailey Loban

Cal State University Sacramento; Social Sciences and History

Whitney Ann Powers

American University; Communications, Legal Institutions,

Economics, & Government

Matthew Wahlers

Concordia University, Nebraska;

Bachelor of Science in Education

## HIGH SCHOOL

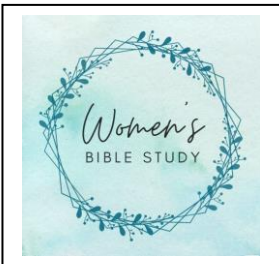
(college attending)

Hunter Ichiro Bledsoe

George Fox University

Jack Schweiker Carey

Duke University



We are on break for the summer. Stay tuned for updates later in the summer!

## OFFERING UPDATE

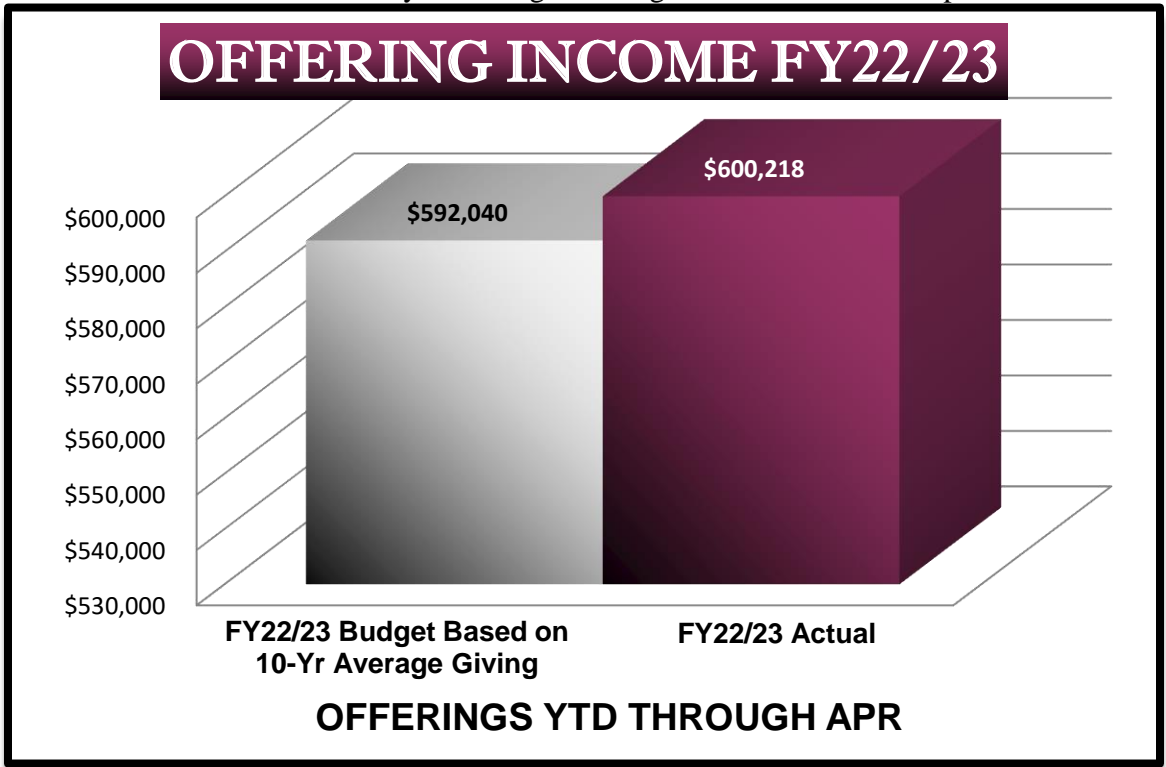
Actual Offering Income for Apr:

**\$70,300.**

Total Offerings for FY22/23 (as of 30 Apr 23):

**\$600,218** which is **1.38%** or **\$8,178**  
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 let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:24-25)(ESV)*

## Summer Stewardship

“Summertime and livin' is easy” the old song goes. Warm weather, vacations, no school, golf, tennis, fishing, hiking, swimming, relaxing, less hectic schedules...all seem to define summertime.

Thankfully our Lord never takes a vacation from blessing us with His abundant love, gracious gifts, and providential care. The Psalmist writes about our Heavenly Father, “He

*who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord watches over you—the Lord is your shade at your right hand.*” (Psalm 121:4-5). The Lord’s care is ongoing. He never tires of caring for us.

Summer presents God’s people with numerous opportunities to be good stewards of His manifold gifts. We care for the wonderful world He has given us when we are outdoors. We treasure the important relationships we enjoy as we spend time with loved ones. Also, we use wisely the material blessings He gives us.

There is great temptation during the summer months to neglect the most precious of all our Lord’s gifts, His holy Word and Sacraments offered in worship. As many other responsibilities are taken more lightly in the relaxed atmosphere of summer living, so, too, are we tempted to take lightly the spiritual aspect of our lives. Vacation plans and recreational activities often replace worship. And we diminish in the stewardship of our Christian faith by letting worldly things take precedence over God in our lives.

In response to our Lord for His grace and mercy, may we place Him first in all our summer plans and activities, allowing adequate time for worship, Bible reading, meditation, and prayer. May we be good stewards of God’s rich blessings. May we all continue to support the mission and ministries of St. John’s Lutheran Church with our regular tithes and offerings given from thankful hearts, even when we are away from home.

### **Prayer:**

Lord, I thank You for choosing me as Your steward. Grant me faith to be a God-pleasing steward. I pray that, through Your Holy Spirit, Your will becomes my will. 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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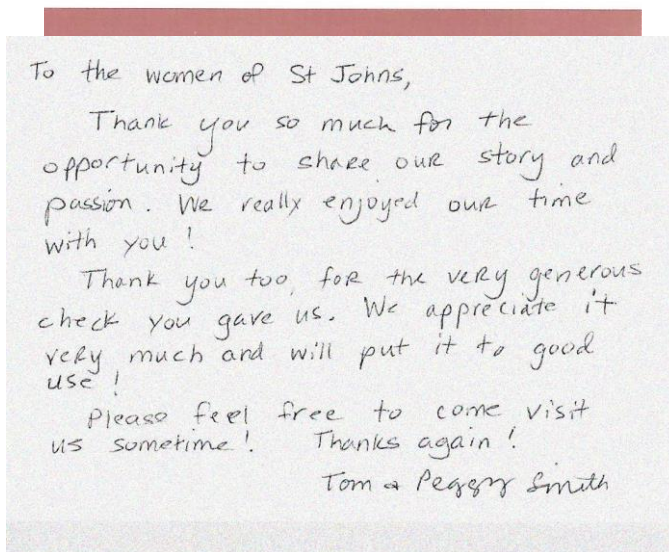
# Thank you !

TO: Ladies' Tea attendees

We wanted to let you know of this appreciation from our speaker,  
Expressions of Hope:



Serving families, offering support, giving  
Hope



Also, some comments from fellow guests: “memorable day”, “conversation and food was not lacking” and “don’t think there was a dry eye in the house when Peggy told the story of Gaby”.  
Thank you for being a part of our mission in “Leading people UP, IN and OUT”!

# **Biblical Counseling at St John's?**

## **The Biblical Counseling Center of Napa Valley**

### **Biblical Counseling – Why do Christians get Depressed?**

Living in the world today creates all sorts of opportunities to sink into depression. The turmoil, the confusion within our culture, and the personal pressures of life (the loss of a loved one, loss of income, sickness) can provide even the strongest Christian ample reason to experience depression. We can easily retreat into ourselves as a means of coping. "How can a child of God, a true believer in Jesus as Lord, become depressed?"

Even that question can send one back to bed with covers over one's head!

But...take heart...there is an answer even for those darkest moments.

As a Christian, God offers us HOPE. Depression always worsens when we don't "plug in" to our very source of help, God's Word.

The following are a few of the verses that we have turned to, personally, and when helping others as we "come along side".

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

1 Peter 5:8-11

Psalms 6, 86, 88

Romans 8:28-39

Proverbs 18:10

Please remember to read verses in full. Isolated verses don't always give the full story. Reading the whole chapter is always recommended.

Your personal connection to the Word, prayer, and the family of God will always be your continued lifeline.

If you desire further help or guidance, we are always available.

The Biblical Counseling Center of Napa Valley (Dr. Steven Rock)

707-738-5306 or call SJL's church office to set up an appointment.

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



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You are invited to join the Large Print Ministries Group

***We'll be meeting in Room 10 on the following dates:***

June 12, 13, 26, 27, and every Friday morning at 9:00 AM. Join us!

# JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

DATE

COUPLE

YEARS

2	Ben & Amy Wilson	33
2	Craig & Karol Underhill	39
5	Robert & Doris Klein	52
5	Robert & Kari Perna	29
9	Christopher & Beth Vecera	11
12	Tim & Christy Kramer	41
13	Cliff & Ellen Burmester	31
14	Bill & Susan Clark	54
15	Carl & Linda Hammond	60
15	Chandler & Jennifer Alexander	21
16	Lucy & David Franklin	32
18	Richard & Karol Bruechert	63
18	Katie & Brett Wedding	12
18	Gerald & Midge Schneider	58
18	David & Rebecca Hudgins	53
20	Herbert & Nancy Heil	58
24	Martin & Eva Meissenhalter	23
25	Dana & Christine Zanone	51
25	Jacob & Sarah Bartelt	7
26	Scott & Autumn Zimmerman	30
26	Rev. Ted & Elaine Zimmerman	58
27	Brent & Jessica Koen	8
28	Pastor Mike & Teresa Schmid	38
28	Gary & Marlen Virkus	55
28	Joel & Dawn Wahlers	26
29	Christopher & Heidi Newman	10
29	Erika & Andrew Boudreaux	9
30	Michael & Janelle Newton	44
30	Michael & Patte Quinn	22



June brings us to the end of the 2022-2023 school year. As we look back and reflect on all that this year has brought to us, we remember God's plan for each and every one of us as stated in Jeremiah 29:11 - " '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.' "As we started off in August, we still had so many unknowns as to how this school year would play out. As we lived under the theme "Better Together", we witnessed how important it is to "Rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you." (2 Corinthians 13:11)



June is always a bittersweet time on a school campus. As we rejoice that another academic year is in the books, it almost means that we will be saying farewell to some beloved faculty members as well as graduating a class of 8<sup>th</sup> graders and sending them off to high school in the fall.

We bid Godspeed to Mrs. Ellen Burmester (1st Grade), Mrs. Dawn Wahlers (Computers), and Mrs. Nina Montes (Spanish). Mrs. Burmester has been a dedicated 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher here at SJL since 1987. Numerous students and their families have had the blessing of learning phonics and God's love from her. We wish her all the best as she enters retirement. Mrs. Wahlers has served as our computer teacher for 20 years. We thank her for teaching every student that has been on campus. Although Mrs. Montes has only been on campus for this academic year, she has made a huge impact on her students and will be greatly missed.

The St. John's Lutheran School Class of 2023 is:

Matteo Barbosa	Faith Fradella	Marco Moschetti
Matteo Bettinelli	Benjamin Freeto	Dugan Perotti-Kline
Giulia Boldrini	Luciano Giovannoni	Sebastian Ruiz
Abrielle Caceres Reed	Savannah Healy	Vivian Sweet
Madelyn Caceres Reed	Dylan Holcomb	Aaron Teeters
Parker Dahl	Abigail Johnson	Audrey Teeters
Riley Dommen	Evan Lewis	Ariel Winkler
Benjamin Dorsey	Liam McCarthy	Sarah Zinghkang
Sophia Edwards	Jenna McNab	

We are excited to see where God leads each of our graduates and pray that, as said in the words of the prophet Isaiah in Chapter 40, verse 31, "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Once a St. John's Eagle, always a St. John's Eagle! Soar high!

*Dr. Christy Wood*  
Principal



# LCC K-9 COMFORT DOG MINISTRY UPDATE

To God be the Glory!

I can't believe it's almost summer! The kids at all the schools I visit every week are getting excited for summer vacation! I'll miss seeing them, and I already can't wait until school starts up again. I'm looking forward to helping our high school students de-stress during finals week, and to celebrating with all our students who are graduating this year!



On May 1<sup>st</sup>, I was asked to attend the Foster Youth Education Summit in Stockton. It was so pawsome to meet some amazing youth in the foster system, as well as the incredible people who support them through all their challenges. My buddies Reuben Comfort Dog and Micah Comfort Dog were there, too. We had some Cuddle Puddles and were in lots of pictures!



The next weekend, Reuben, Micah, and I were invited to a Stand Down for Homeless Veterans event in Mather. I loved meeting all the brave men and women who served our country, and also the VA staff and volunteers who are caring for them.

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, I visited the City of Napa Housing Authority. May was Mental Health Awareness Month, and the wonderful employees there were so thankful to have some time to de-stress by petting me, giving me great scratches, and chatting with my team members about the Comfort Dog Ministry and sharing pictures of their pups at home. I can't wait to go back!



It was so much fun to visit our local law enforcement agencies for National Law Enforcement Appreciation Week! These heroes were so thankful for the cards our SJLS students made and the treats my team delivered. They have a very important and serious job, but let me tell you, they are all so nice and some are downright goofy when they're off duty!

(See more photos next page.)

Thank you Napa PD!



My Hero!



Out for delivery to  
Napa PD!



Brian was a big help packing up  
the goodie bins for our law  
enforcement agencies.

Finally, I want to **invite YOU to come to the Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dog National Conference** in Northbrook (near Chicago), IL! Every member of St. John's is part of our Comfort Dog Ministry, and it's so pawsome to be with 100+ comfort dogs and their teams for fellowship and great sessions about how to share Jesus' love and comfort to our communities. St. John's will cover all expenses except your travel. Join us (and maybe make a Chicago vacation out of it)! We really hope you can come!



Photo from our last conference.

**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](http://napavalleycomfortdogs.org)**

Aaron Comfort Dog



## *Stephen Ministry: What is it?*



### *Stephen Ministers – The After People*

People often ask, “What exactly is a Stephen Minister?” One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the *After People*.

*Stephen Ministers are there:...after* the phone call you hoped you’d never get.

*Stephen Ministers are there:...after* the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you’ve held at bay come crashing in on you.

*Stephen Ministers are there:...after* the relationship falls apart and the bottom falls out of your life.

*Stephen Ministers are there:...after* the doctor says, “I’m sorry, but there’s nothing more we can do.”

*Stephen Ministers are there:...after* the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, “Welcome to your new home.”

*Stephen Ministers are there:...after* the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away – and the house suddenly seems empty.

*Stephen Ministers are there:...after* the gavel comes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.

*Stephen Ministers are there:...after* the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.

*Stephen Ministers are there:...after* you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.

*Stephen Ministers are there:...after* your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are the After People. They are ready to come alongside you – or your friends or relatives – and provide comfort and support for as long *after* as needed.

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



In spite of the late rains this spring (but who's complaining), it took us a while to get the fields prepped for planting. It should be obvious to the eye that many of the fields now have young plants in place which are maturing: tomatoes, cucumbers, bell peppers, jalapenos, zucchinis, egg plants, melons, etc. In addition, seeds of corn and radishes have been planted. Fall squash and onions will follow later. The late rains appear to have contributed to a reduced crop of peaches, plums, and apricots. The apple trees, however, look like we could have a bumper crop. What's good for the some plants isn't necessarily good for the stone fruit.

Not only have the volunteers been busy as bees to accomplish the above, but we now have a colony of busy bees making their home in a beehive in the midst of our farm. Hopefully a second colony of bees will join them in the future. Bees, while they gather the nectar from flowers to make honey to sweeten our lives, also help pollinate our tree and row crops, increasing our food production.

By the time I write next month's article, we will need lots of volunteers to help with harvesting and prepping fruits and vegetables for sending to the Food Bank. Join us any Monday, Wednesday, and/or Saturday morning, 9 to noon. Bring water, gloves, and a floppy hat!

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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.



@sjlcnapa

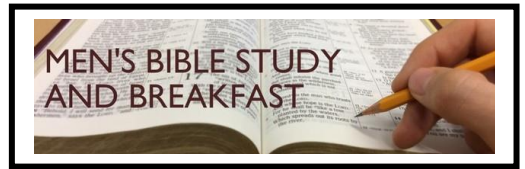


@sjlcnapa



@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.



## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1	Brent Koen
2	Matthew Seiter, Stephanie Diviak
3	Kelsey Rodriguez, Rebecca Newman
4	Barbara Miller, Sandee Schachner
5	Joel Wahlers, Bob Harvey
6	John Van Hofwegen
9	Kristin Goller, Dean Ehlen
10	Bennett Goller
11	Abigail Zimmerman, Ken Tews
12	David Reimler
13	Haley Cremen, Doug Braddock
14	Tyler Lamb
14	Abriana Helfrich, Darlene Elia
17	Tyler Koen
18	Bailey Loban
19	Jaxson Uffmann
20	Jessica Bresee, Ezekiel Anderson, William Smith
21	Pam Foottit, Elaine Hoff
22	Ellen Burmester, Douglas Braddock, Tyler Morgenlaender
23	George Clark
24	Amy Smith, Brian Bresee, Lenora Balsiger
25	Brian Youngblood, Grace Bouchet, Carolyn Fruchtenicht
26	Thomas Commander
27	Dustin Messner, Lisa Walter
28	Gunnar De Young, Aaron Eisberg
29	Tracy Cushing
30	Jeffery McFarland-Johnson





# Daily Bible Readings for June

	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
1	Psalm 71:1-8	Proverbs 23	2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2
2	Psalm 71:9-18a	Proverbs 24	2 Corinthians 6:3-18
3	Psalm 71:18b-24	Proverbs 25	2 Corinthians 7:1-13a
4	Psalm 8	Genesis 1:1-2:4a	2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20
5	Psalm 72:1-11	Proverbs 26	2 Corinthians 7:13b-8:9
6	Psalm 72:12-20	Proverbs 27	2 Corinthians 8:10-21
7	Psalm 73:1-12	Proverbs 28	2 Corinthians 8:22-9:9
8	Psalm 73:13-20	Proverbs 29	2 Corinthians 9:10-10:6
9	Psalm 73:21-28	Proverbs 30	2 Corinthians 10:7-18
10	Psalm 74:1-9	Proverbs 31	2 Corinthians 11:1-11
11	Psalm 50:7-15	Hosea 5:15-6:6	Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26
12	Psalm 74:10-17	Ecclesiastes 1:1-3:8	2 Corinthians 11:12-15
13	Psalm 74:18-23	Ecclesiastes 3:9-5:20	2 Corinthians 11:16-33
14	Psalm 75	Ecclesiastes 6:1-7:14	2 Corinthians 12:1-13
15	Psalm 76	Ecclesiastes 7:15-9:18	2 Corinthians 12:14-13:4
16	Psalm 77:1-9	Ecclesiastes 10:1-12:14	2 Corinthians 13:5-13
17	Psalm 77:10-15	Song of Solomon 1:1-2:7	Galatians 1:1-12
18	Psalm 100	Exodus 19:2-8a	Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)
19	Psalm 77:16-20	Song of Solomon 2:8-4:16	Galatians 1:13-24
20	Psalm 78:1-8	Song of Solomon 5, 6	Galatians 2:1-14
21	Psalm 78:9-16	Song of Solomon 7, 8	Galatians 2:15-3:5
22	Psalm 78:17-31	Isaiah 1	Galatians 3:6-18
23	Psalm 78:32-39	Isaiah 2:1-4:1	Galatians 3:19-29
24	Psalm 78:40-55	Isaiah 4:2-5:30	Galatians 4:1-16
25	Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18	Jeremiah 20:7-13	Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39
26	Psalm 78:56-64	Isaiah 6, 7	Galatians 4:17-27
27	Psalm 78:65-72	Isaiah 8:1-9:7	Galatians 4:28-5:6
28	Psalm 79:1-8	Isaiah 9:8-10:11	Galatians 5:7-18
29	Psalm 79:9-13	Isaiah 10:12-11:9	Galatians 5:19-6:5
30	Psalm 80:1-7	Isaiah 11:10-13:22	Galatians 6:6-18



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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)