



# THE VINE

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School Newsletter

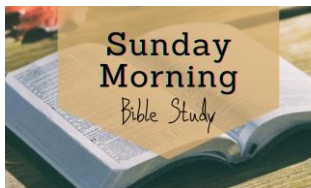
*JULY 2023*

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



We continue our study of the letter to the Hebrews. This letter is a written sermon to believers who were struggling with their faith. They were being tempted to go back to a life without Jesus, a life rooted in the unfulfilled promises and pictures of the Old Testament. The writer of this letter seeks to show them in many ways that Jesus is better, not only better than what they had before, but better than everything.

July 2	Heb. 12:18-29	A Tale of Two Mountains	Preacher: Pastor Mike
July 9	Heb. 13:1-2	Hospitality	Preacher: Pastor Mark Heine
July 16	Heb. 13:3	Compassion	Preacher: Pastor Mike
July 24	Heb. 13:4	Marriage	Preacher: Pastor Mike
July 31	Heb. 13:5-6	Contentment	Preacher: Pastor Ted Zimmerman



## Sunday Bible Class

Sunday morning Bible Classes are in recess for the summer. Classes will resume on August 27.

## Congregational Budget and Election Meeting

At the meeting on June 11, the proposed Ministry Plan and Budget was approved with no changes. The assembly also elected Dennis Arnett, Tyler Roberts, Judi Rock, and Paula Schweiger to two-year terms on the Board of Directors.



VBS is in the books at St. John's. It was a "Stellar" week! We have a big thanks to give to all of the volunteers who made it possible. Jesus' light was shining very bright all week through the kids and volunteers.

Stay tuned to the E-Vine for any upcoming Youth Events this summer.



**When: Sunday, July 30**  
**Time: 5:00 PM** 🕒  
**Where: Sanctuary & Parish Hall**

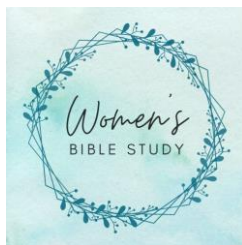
Prayer & Praise is another opportunity to join together for a time of worship that consists of a devotion and many contemporary worship songs. Help us spread the word about this amazing opportunity and grow the fellowship! After the time of worship, we gather together for a family meal and fellowship. 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!

### ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL ENROLLMENT OPPORTUNITIES

St. John's Lutheran School is gearing up for a record enrollment for the 2023-2024 School Year. With that being said, many prospective school families don't even inquire about enrolling at SJL because they assume there are no openings and long waiting lists. While this is true for most classes, we currently do have **openings in select grades**, Preschool-Green Group, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, for the 2023-2024 school year.

If you know anyone who might be interested, please encourage them to call SJL Admissions for additional information at 707-226-7970, Ext. 125.



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

## OFFERING UPDATE

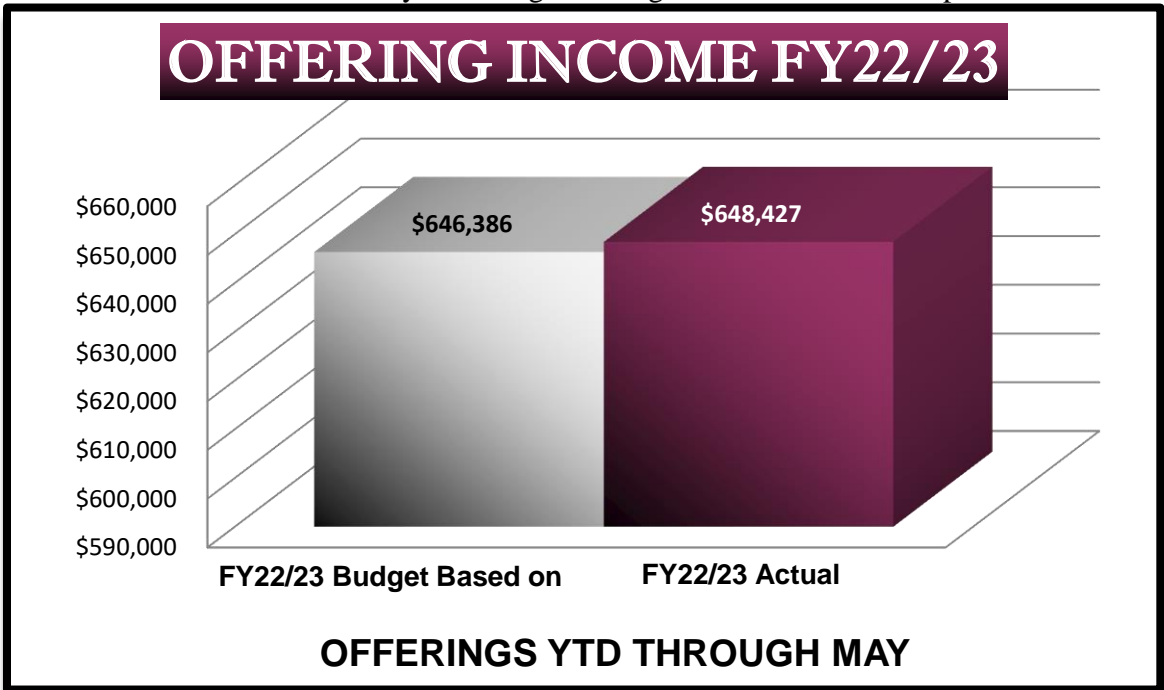
Actual Offering Income for May:

**\$48,208.**

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

**\$648,427** which is **0.32%** or **\$2,041** 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:

*“At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” And calling to Him a child, He put him in the midst of them and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 18:1-4)(ESV)*

### Giving a Cup of Cold Water

During Jesus’ last three years on earth, He spent much time nourishing and teaching His disciples. Only when they were prepared to go out into the world to preach, teach, and heal did he send them. Leaving without provisions, the disciples were totally dependent upon those whom the Lord would send them for their support. The disciples relied upon the power of the Gospel to move the hearts of their listeners who would willingly provide for their needs. They were to travel light and trust in the Lord.

In Matthew 10:40-42 Jesus, referring to His disciples, said, “*He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives the One who sent Me. Anyone who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and anyone who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man’s reward. And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is My disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward.*” Jesus told His disciples that whoever gives to you is also giving to Him. Although support today doesn’t fund the work of the 12 original disciples, we assist the spreading of the Gospel by supporting today’s disciples and missionaries around the world. As we provide for church workers locally and abroad in the name of Jesus, we are serving the Lord Himself.

As we express our Christian faith through our giving and serving, God is pleased. God notices every act of compassion and kindness that we express. In the verse above, He refers to even the simple gesture of giving a cup of cold water to a thirsty person. Through our faith, we are empowered to do acts of service. When we act in response to the Lord and not for recognition, God will bless us. Having already been assured of salvation by God’s grace through faith, blessings such as peace, contentment, patience, and hope are added rewards.

Only a small number of people make their living as full-time church workers, but we all are given the privilege and opportunity to be Christ’s ambassadors. May God bless us all as we work to further His kingdom.

### **Prayer:**

Dear Heavenly Father, certainly, in order to measure up to Your standards, I must ask You to increase my faith. Still I fail, for I do not love You with my entire being, nor do I love my neighbors as myself. I lack humility and I serve my own interests before those of others. Therefore, I thank You for the gift of Your Son Who has met Your standard of perfection and has lived that standard in my place. Forgive me, Lord, for my failures. Teach me to depend on You to give me grace to be obedient to Your command to love and to serve others even as You love me. Through Christ 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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### Cry Room Transformation

Our cry room has been updated! Stop by and take a look. Thank you to the St. John's class of 2023 for taking on the project of updating and improving our cry room.

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### Campus Security Fence Project

The campus security fence construction has begun! 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. Regarding accessing the campus, please be assured that all groups that are currently making use of the campus will still have access to the campus. We will be working out procedures and issuing appropriate keys over the next several weeks.

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Save the Date:  
Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>!  
Time: TBD

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## Biblical Counseling at St John's? The Biblical Counseling Center of Napa Valley

If you desire 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:*  
July 10, 11, 24, 25, and every Friday morning at 9:00 AM. Join us!

DATE	COUPLE	YEARS
1	Thomas & Christine Commander	28
3	Todd & Teri Mitchell	41
4	Justine & Alex Rollin	8
6	Jonah & Amelia Laws	4
7	Todd & Natalie Yoder	23
9	Rodney & Marie Skillings	5
10	Ken & Michelle Arnold	30
14	Joseph & Amali Svien	11
14	Bret & Debbie Skillings	44
15	Jeffery & Cynthia McFarland-Johnson	39
20	Scott & Ayne Ondek	4
21	Timothy & Lauren Huss	33
21	George & Andrea Clark	49
27	Kevin & Megan Mathison	4
31	Mark & Lindsey Albrecht	13
31	Kevin & Lezlee Cootey	41



## LCC K-9 COMFORT DOG MINISTRY UPDATE

**To God be the Glory!**

The LORD Himself goes before you and will be with you;

He will never leave you nor forsake you.

Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

*Deuteronomy 31:8-9*

Happy Summer! I hope yours has been going well. I have been very busy visiting my regulars as well as a few new locations.

June was full of **graduation fun** with our own eighth graders at St. John's as well as with my friends at Camille Creek School. I am so proud of them! They have all worked hard. The students at St. Helena H.S. honored me by including me in their yearbook!

*(continued)*

### Camille Creek Graduation





## Medic Ambulance



I also had my first visit to Medic Ambulance in Vallejo where I spent time with our own Deidre Newton and her team. First responders are very special people!

I was invited to Zion Lutheran S.F.'s "Edge Camp" as well as our VBS where we had a "stellar" time learning how to "Shine a light on Jesus' love!" I am still singing those fun songs!

July will shape up to be another busy month. I will travel to Rogue River, OR to attend the ordination and installation of Rev. Jonah Laws at Faith Lutheran Church. Rev. Jonah is the son-in-law of my handlers Ken and Michele Arnold. Praise God for Jonah and Amelia's commitment to serve their Lord and Savior!

## SHHS Yearbook



## SJLS Graduation



The end of the month I will be with my team in Northbrook, IL at our annual [Lutheran Church Charities \(LCC\) K9 Comfort Dog Conference](#). We haven't been able to meet for a while due to the pandemic, but we are excited to be back together again. Imagine 100 golden retrievers all at the Hilton in Northbrook, IL. That's what I call a "Golden-palooza"!

I encourage you to [join with us](#) as we go out on our visits. Amazing things happen when we are serving our Lord and Savior! Please call Christy in the church office to check the schedule!

## "Edge Camp" at Zion S.F.



## Our "Stellar" VBS



**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: Discipline

*“I am the true vine, and My Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in Me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.”*  
John 15:1-2



Stephen Ministry at St. John's is a caring ministry that pairs a trained Stephen Minister with someone who is experiencing a difficult time of life. Recently, Pastor Mike spoke of God training his people, God's discipline, which sometimes occurs when we experience hardship, a crisis of faith, or opposition. We might ask, "If God is for me, why am I suffering?" Pastor Mike answered this by explaining that hard times may be a tool for our training within the context of our lives. We might have pain or difficulties which God allows for our personal and spiritual growth.

Stephen Ministers have gone through disciplined training which combines sound theological principles with contemporary psychology. The skills our Stephen Ministers learn and practice prepare them to provide a very high level of Christian caregiving. The training is intense as it explores some serious life issues and gives the opportunity for their own personal and spiritual growth.

The 50 hours of Stephen Ministry training is broken down into twenty 2 ½ - hour sessions that are held weekly. Among the training topics are:

- Feelings: Yours, Mine, and Ours
- The Art of Listening
- Distinctively Christian Caring
- Assertiveness: Relating Gently and Firmly
- Maintaining Boundaries in Caregiving
- Confidentiality
- Ministering to Those Experiencing Grief
- Caring for People before, during, and after Hospitalization

If you, or someone you know, is suffering, feeling depressed, overwhelmed, or going through difficult times, please know that you don't have to go through a crisis alone. God carries you and your problems in His loving hands, and He provides hands-on help through Stephen Ministers. 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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### **Welcome Mrs. Ashley Cloud as our new 1st Grade Teacher**

Mrs. Cloud is well known to the SJL community as she recently served as our Kindergarten long-term sub for Mrs. Ondek's maternity leave. In addition, her three children, Levi, Lachlan, and Lainey, are all students at SJL.

Mrs. Cloud taught for five years in elementary schools prior to taking a break from the classroom to stay at home with her three children. She obtained her BA and teaching credential from Sonoma State University. We are excited to have Mrs. Cloud join our staff!



# SO, WHAT'S NEW AT THE FARM?

Submitted by Ted Zimmerman

There is an old farmers' saying that the corn should be "knee high by the 4<sup>th</sup> of July". Well, that might be more true for the Midwest than for us here in Northern California. Normally we can get into our fields sooner than they can. However, this year, because of late rains and cooler weather thus far, our first planting of corn will just barely attain that height by that marker. We have often had it approaching head high and tasseling by the 4<sup>th</sup>. Not to worry. There will be plenty of corn.



The whole harvest from our Mission Farm is somewhat delayed. This matches a recent report in the local paper that the farmers who bring produce to the Farmers' Market have less produce to offer than normal at the point in time. Will this be the new normal with the much ballyhooed climate changes? We shall have to wait and see. Meanwhile we will shortly be in need of additional volunteer help when the ingathering of fruits and veggies picks up. Work days on the Farm are Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday mornings, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

We have applied to participate again this year in CanDo's Give!Guide 2023 campaign, and assume we will again be selected. The campaign will begin the last week in November and run through December. Participation has been very helpful to get the word out to our community about the charitable mission of our Farm, as well as help generate supporting gifts for our operation.

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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.



@sjlnapa

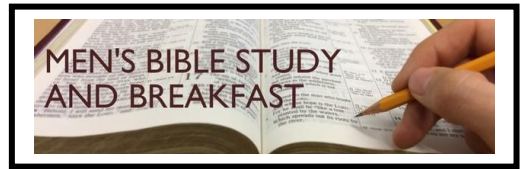


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MEN, JOIN US EVERY SATURDAY MORNING FOR FELLOWSHIP AT 7:30 AM AND BIBLE STUDY AT 8:00 - 9:00 AM  
CALL RON JOHNSON FOR INFORMATION.



## JULY BIRTHDAYS

1	Byron Fitzpatrick
2	Laura Kostelac, Gabriel Gutierrez, Abigail Munoz
3	Craig Underhill
4	Nancy Henry, Jeron Chaudhary
5	Liam Alexander, Graham Albrecht
6	Katie Chagonjian, Roxana Castro
7	Karen Dalen, Christine Zanone
10	Cynthia McFarland-Johnson
11	Noah Helfrich, Andy Schweiger
12	Natalie Bouchet, Alexander Winkler
14	Michael Quinn
15	Pastor Mark Heine, Landon Abraham
16	Riann Engelbracht, Melinda Herrera, Teri Mitchell
17	Matthew Commander, Laurie Bresee
18	Tatum Chagonjian, James Henry
19	Amali Svien
20	Samuel Hoff
21	Robert Ehlen, Todd Mitchell
23	Alexander Christie
24	Mary Kosanke
25	Sara Zaia, Shanna Caceres
26	Karol Underhill, Michele Roberts
27	Dennis Arnett
28	Nathan Kaufmann
29	Rodney Skillings
30	Judith Rock, Gary Virkus, Susan Clark, Todd Yoder
31	Katie Wedding



# Daily Bible Readings for July



	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
1	Psalm 80:8-11	Isaiah 14	Ephesians 1:1-10
2	Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18	Jeremiah 28:5-9	Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42
3	Psalm 80:12-19	Isaiah 15, 16	Ephesians 1:11-23
4	Psalm 81:1-5	Isaiah 17:1-19:17	Ephesians 2:1-10
5	Psalm 81:6-10	Isaiah 19:18-22:14	Ephesians 2:11-22
6	Psalm 81:11-16	Isaiah 22:15-23:18	Ephesians 3:1-13
7	Psalm 82:1-4	Isaiah 24, 25	Ephesians 3:14-4:6
8	Psalm 82:5-8	Isaiah 26, 27	Ephesians 4:7-16
9	Psalm 145:8-14	Zechariah 9:9-12	Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
10	Psalm 83:1-8	Isaiah 28	Ephesians 4:17-28
11	Psalm 83:9-12	Isaiah 29	Ephesians 4:29-5:7
12	Psalm 83:13-18	Isaiah 30, 31	Ephesians 5:8-20
13	Psalm 84:1-7	Isaiah 32:1-33:16	Ephesians 5:21-33
14	Psalm 84:8-12	Isaiah 33:17-35:10	Ephesians 6:1-9
15	Psalm 85:1-7	Isaiah 36:1-37:13	Ephesians 6:10-24
16	Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-13	Isaiah 55:10-13	Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
17	Psalm 85:8-13	Isaiah 37:14-38	Philippians 1:1-11
18	Psalm 86:1-10	Isaiah 38:1-40:5	Philippians 1:12-22
19	Psalm 86:11-17	Isaiah 40:6-41:7	Philippians 1:23-2:4
20	Psalm 87	Isaiah 41:8-42:9	Philippians 2:5-18
21	Psalm 88:1-5	Isaiah 42:10-43:21	Philippians 2:19-30
22	Psalm 88:6-12	Isaiah 43:22-44:23	Philippians 3:1-11
23	Psalm 86:11-17	Isaiah 44:6-8	Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
24	Psalm 88:13-18	Isaiah 44:24-45:25	Philippians 3:12-4:1
25	Psalm 89:1-8	Isaiah 46:1-48:6	Philippians 4:2-13
26	Psalm 89:9-18	Isaiah 48:7-49:21	Philippians 4:14-23
27	Psalm 89:19-29	Isaiah 49:22-51:16	Colossians 1:1-14
28	Psalm 89:30-37	Isaiah 51:17-53:12	Colossians 1:15-27
29	Psalm 89:38-45	Isaiah 54, 55	Colossians 1:28-2:10
30	Psalm 119:129-136	1 Kings 3:5-12	Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
31	Psalm 89:46-52	Isaiah 56, 57	Colossians 2:11-23



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Napa, California 94558-2703

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

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Dr. Christy Wood, Principal (ext. 103)

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

Mrs. Joy Dahl, Director of Preschool (107)