



THE VINE

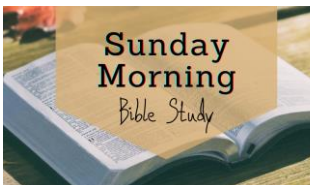
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School Newsletter
AUGUST 2023

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



We conclude 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.

August 6	Heb 13:7-8, 17-19	Leaders	We are called to honor those who have served to lead us in our faith.
August 13	Heb 13:9-16	Offering a Sacrifice of Praise	The writer sums up his main point in a call to offer God a sacrifice of praise because of His grace.
August 20	Ephesians 5:1-2	Live Loved	Our school theme for the coming year: We love because we have been loved by Christ, who offered himself for us
August 27	Heb 13:20-25	Equipped with Everything Good	The letter concludes with a prayer that God equip them with everything good that they may do His will.



Sunday Bible Class

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

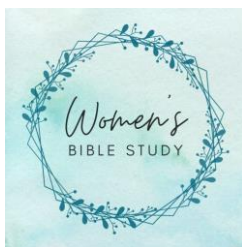
August is the "Back to School" month. For some it is an exciting month and for others it is one they dread. I love it because it means the campus will be filled with laughter and smiling faces! Welcome back! We will be kicking things off with Surge on August 29th and Confirmation Parent Meeting on August 30th. Please stay tuned for more information on both of those events.



**When: Sunday,
August 20**
Time: 5:00 PM 🕒
Where: Sanctuary &

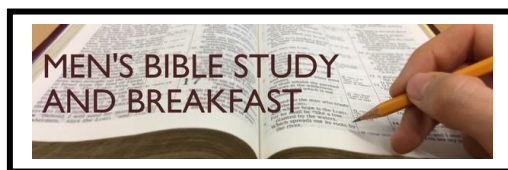
Prayer & Praise is another opportunity to join together for a time of worship that consists of a devotion and many contemporary worship songs. Help us spread the word about this amazing opportunity and grow the fellowship! After the time of worship, we gather together for a family meal and fellowship.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



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

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.



OFFERING UPDATE

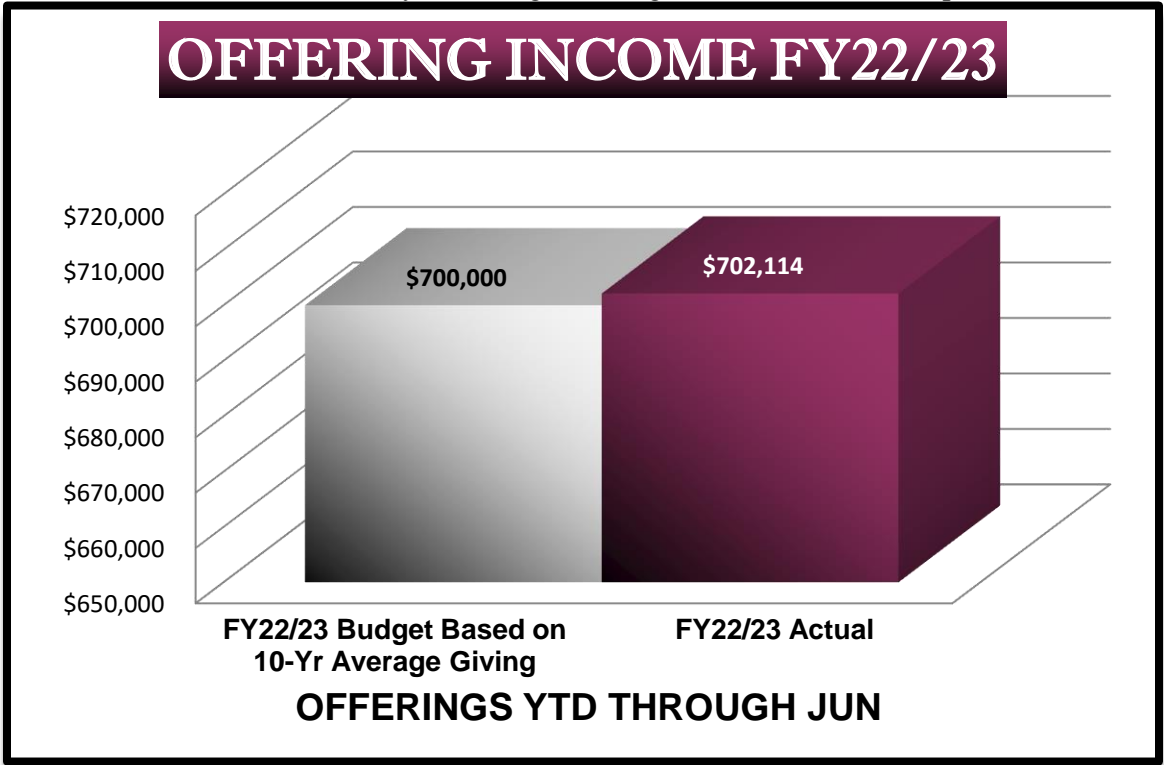
Actual Offering Income for Jun:

\$53,687.

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

\$702,114 which is **0.30%** or **\$2,114**
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 Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When He saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest’” (Matthew 9:35-38)(ESV)

Becoming Workers in the Harvest

Jesus knew that the people needed a shepherd. He was determined to rescue as many as possible. Jesus said to His disciples, as He speaks to us, *“Ask the Lord of harvest . . . to send out workers into His harvest field.”* It is God’s will that all people come to salvation (2 Peter 3:9). The

harvest field belongs to the Lord, and God will see that the people needed for the harvest will be available.

God invites all of us to be His workers in the harvest field. He doesn't need us, but He gives us the privilege to be involved in this very important work. In His sovereignty, God has called and chosen to work through us. What we can offer is our time and our talents. In Christ, we can do work that will be blessed into eternity. We begin this all-important work by asking or praying for a successful harvest with many workers being sent into the harvest field. Because of our prayers, He will provide the workers who are needed.

As we pray for God's work to be accomplished through workers in the field, we are, in essence, allowing Him to make us the answers to our own prayers. God will find ways to use our gifts in ways that will touch others. We are encouraged to pray for God's work to be done, and to be involved in doing this work personally. God will give us the strength to overcome the excuses that often plague us such as I don't have the time or I'm not equipped. As Paul wrote, "*I can do everything through Him Who gives me strength*" (Philippians 4:13).

Discussion Thoughts:

1. In what ways are we similar to sheep?
2. Is survival possible without a shepherd?
3. God had compassion on the people because they were "*harassed and helpless.*" What does it mean that "man's need is God's opportunity?"

Prayer:

Lord, I am in need of You as my Shepherd. Thank You for always being there for me. I thank You for your care and compassion. I thank You for giving me the privilege of serving You as I tell others of Your wonderful love. Please forgive me when I fail to tell others of the Good News. 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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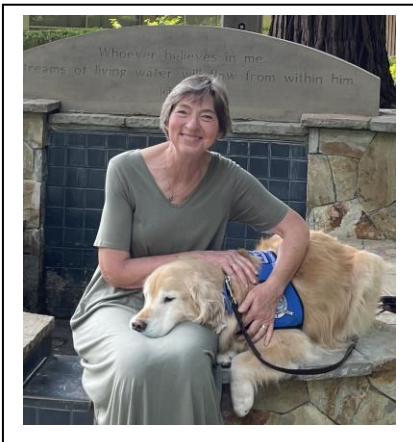
LCC K-9 COMFORT DOG MINISTRY UPDATE

To God be the Glory!

**Send forth your light and your truth, let them
guide me. Psalm 43:3**

July was a great month as I could focus on my regular visits to local Napa locations. I am getting to know the teens in juvenile hall as well as the staff there. We also have our regular visits to Napa Care Center, The Inn on Villa, Camille Creek, Collabria Care, Piner's, NVOEd, and of course Penni's counseling office.

On the 21st of July, we began our road trip to Illinois for the Annual LCC K9 Comfort Dog Conference. The exciting news is that we were able to bring Reuben Comfort Dog with us so that we could meet up with his Top Dog at conference. I will fill you in on our adventures and the specifics of the conference in the September Vine. One of the things I am most looking forward to is reuniting with teams from all over the country as we haven't had a conference since 2019. Can you imagine hundreds LCC team members as well as over 80 golden retrievers all at the Hilton Hotel in Northbrook, IL? My team will be training, listening to keynote speakers, and attending breakout sessions on how to better share the mercy, compassion, presence and proclamation of Jesus to those who are hurting. I will have so much to share in September's Vine.



My friend, Ellen Burmester, is enjoying her retirement after 46 years of teaching. Thirty-five years were here at St. John's. She has touched so many young lives with the love of Christ during her years of teaching and we pray that she will enjoy her well-earned retirement. Maybe she will spend some of her new-found free time going out on visits with me! God bless you Ellen!

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 – Did you know...



77 percent of people experience stress that affects their physical health. Regardless of age, sex, ethnicity, and religion, no one is immune to the burdens of stress.

An estimated 31.1% of U.S. adults experience anxiety at some time in their lives.

Depression affects approximately 17.3 million American adults, or about 7.1% of the U.S. population age 18 and older, each year.

There are common causes of grief, including: Death of a loved one, Divorce, Loss of a Job, or Death of a pet.

More than one-third of adults aged 45 and older feel lonely, and nearly one-fourth of adults aged 65 and older are considered to be socially isolated.

In the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, global prevalence of anxiety and depression increased by a massive 25%, according to a scientific brief released by the World Health Organization (WHO).

God never intended for us to go through these experiences alone. That's why God has brought us together as a congregation, and why we have Stephen Ministry.

Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who are trained caregivers, to minister to people experiencing a crisis, facing a challenge, or simply going through a tough time. They are prayerfully matched with people who are going through a stressful time or life difficulty.

A Stephen Minister will meet with you on a weekly basis to listen, care, encourage, provide emotional and spiritual support, and remind you of Christ's presence in your life. The care you'll receive is confidential, free, and very helpful.

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).

SO, WHAT'S NEW AT THE FARM?

Submitted by Ted Zimmerman



I may be more than a little prejudiced, but has the Mission Farm ever looked lovelier than it does this year? The crops appear to be very healthy, the fields neatly groomed, and color is being added by a lot of marigold plants, sunflowers, and lavender plants, and Western bluebirds flitting back and forth between our fields and their nests.

At the same time, harvests have never poured in more slowly. Yes, the summer squashes are doing their best. Cucumbers too. The tomatoes plants have lots of tomatoes, but no color yet. The first planting of corn is just now beginning to form tassels. We have lovely bunch of melons forming in the field, but are weeks away from harvest. We lost most of our plumbs and peaches due to heavy rains at blossom time. The apples, on the other hand, are trying to make up for it. Persimmon tree too. Well, if farming teaches you anything, it is patience. And the necessity of adjusting your expectations. You simply have to play with the cards you are being dealt, and be grateful for what you have.

Speaking of being grateful, we certainly are for the volunteers that come out to assist us with planting, weeding, gleaning, and prepping the produce for shipping to the Food Bank. There is always plenty to be done, even when the harvests numbers are down at the time. Everyone has exhibited a gracious spirit when they join us. We all love to glean. Planting is fun too. Cleaning up the veggies is fun too because we get to play in the water after working in the dirt. Weeding . . . well, not so much fun. But it must be done in order that there can be a harvest. But when I hand out the hoes, I seldom hear a groan or complaint! All seemingly recognize that all aspects of the mission farm is a labor of love for our neighbor and a liturgy of praise to our Master Gardener!





St. John's Lutheran School's planning for the 2023-2024 school year is progressing at a rapid pace.

Our faculty and staff retreat will be August 13 - 15, 2023. The first day of school will be Wednesday, August 23, 2023, with a half day for the elementary students.

Our school theme for the 2023-2024 school year is "Live Love(d)", based on Ephesian 5:1-2, *"Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."* With this theme, we are reminded that we're to walk in love just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us in His death upon the cross. In other words, we are to love others, just as Christ loved others. We are being led to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength and loving our neighbors as ourselves, just as Christ did when He walked on Earth. Our goal with this theme is to help our students see the importance of Christ's love in our lives. Jesus Christ provided us with an example of how to guide us so that we can show love and compassion to all we interact with and in all that we do.

As we focus on being back together, I would like to share some of the planning that is going into the 2023-2024 school year. Mrs. Ashley Cloud will be our 1st Grade teacher. We are still interviewing for a K-8 Spanish teacher and an IT/Technology teacher. Please keep SJL in your prayers as we go through the interview and hiring process for these important positions

We will be starting the WASC/NLSA Accreditation self-study process this school year, with the anticipation of a Fall 2024 visit. You will be invited to participate in one of our Focus Groups. More information will be forthcoming.

I am excited that the APT is working diligently on creating fellowship opportunities for our community. Please save the dates for the following activities: September 29 - Country Fair, October 20 - Get on Track, and March 3 - Main Event.

As always, please keep St. John's Lutheran School in your prayers! For ongoing information on what is happening at St. John's, please read our weekly newsletter on our website at www.stjohnsnapa.org.

Principal Christy Wood



DATE	COUPLE	YEARS
1	Thane & Sarah Knutson	14
1	Jeff & Carri Mello	25
1	Mark & Cindy Zeller	36
2	Kenneth & Bonnie Wilson	54
2	Corrin & Mark Kornovich	7
3	Dennis & Judie Arnett	55
3	Dean & Lori Bledsoe	21
7	Ronald & Judith Irwin	58
11	Rita & James Bresee	33
13	Charles & Elaine Scott	62
14	Amy & Michael Smith	24
15	Daniel & Angela D'Angelo	25
17	Betsy & Irv Gewirz	48
17	Leonard & Tracy Lamb	34
19	Barbara & Walt Gmelch	14
21	Leonard & Deborah Bommersbach	52
28	Dean & Nancy Ehlen	52
28	Tony & Karen Carafa	24
30	Ken & Sharon Tews	48
31	John & Kristi Clark	49



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1	Salvatore Pagano	
2	Martin Meissenhalter	
3	Abigail Sneed	
4	Dana Zanone, Kylie Martindale	
5	Wayne Miller, Wendy Helfrich	
8	Linda Diviak, Marco Barbosa, Paul Han	
9	Lindsey Engelbracht, Eva Meissenhalter, Nancy Gressinger	
11	Jason Newton, Jacob Peterson, Brad Lloyd, Jennifer Schluter, Isabella Munoz	
13	Amy Wilson, Peyton Koen	
14	Paul Bartelt	
15	Betty Grant	
17	Jeffery Squibb	
18	Ken Arnold, Cailyn Helfrich, Madeline Bresee	
19	Devin Lamb, Eric Vandeburgt	
21	Devon Mason, Tony Carafa	
22	Dove Bain, Alexia Svien	
23	Matthew Uffmann	
24	Dick Lemin	
25	CarlJohn Meissenhalter, Abigail Ondek	
31	Tiffany Tucker, Curtis Schoenfeld, Parker Dahl	



Did you know?

Have you ever heard about the History of the Lutheran Braille Workers?

Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) started in 1943 in response to a shortage of Braille Bibles for blind pastors in Germany. Mrs. Helene Loewe Koehler, with the support of her family, felt God calling her to first learn Braille, and then begin the process of transcribing the Bible into German Braille, one dot at a time, moving backwards across the page.

After months of hard work, and moving manuscripts and pages from under her bed, to her garage, to Trinity Lutheran Church's basement, an entire German Braille Bible was crafted and shipped out. Helene thought her project would be over until she received a letter from somebody who benefitted from the German Braille Bibles. The letter read:

"Thank you for the Braille Bible. It was exactly what we needed. How many more can you send?"

Helene wrote in her journal,

"I think about how much time and effort went into producing one Braille Bible. How in the world can we keep up with demand? But if people are asking for the Gospel, how can we ever say no?"



This is where Lutheran Braille Workers began. Through the support of her brother, Norman Loeber, who created a modern Braille press, friends, women from the local Ladies Aid Societies, and volunteers at other Lutheran Churches, Helene began expanding production of materials into other languages and titles. As production grew, demand also grew even larger.

Eventually, through the encouragement of The Lutheran Hour speaker at the time, Rev. Dr. Oswald Hoffmann, Helene expanded into Large Print production. Eventually, Lutheran Braille Workers also added Audio materials for distribution.

Over 80 years later, Lutheran Braille Workers is the world's largest non-profit producer of Braille, Specialized Large Print, and Audio Christian materials. LBW has shipped over 14 million volumes and millions of other pamphlets, calendars, and other materials, in almost 40 languages, to 164 countries. Millions of people have been reached with the Gospel message.

Even more amazingly, thanks to the generosity of volunteers and donors, every single volume of material has been distributed free of charge. Helene Loewe Koehler's vision of people who are Blind or Visually Impaired receiving the Scripture, free of charge continues to be realized even now!

LBW continues to provide high-quality braille and large print material for the visually impaired and blind community; but we now are using modern technology meant for the growing demand for Christian materials. LBW is the only organization in the world providing free high-quality material free of charge, shipping to recipients domestically and abroad.

LBW's mission to freely share the Gospel with people who are Blind and Visually Impaired is only possible with the mighty force of 3,000+ volunteers (20 volunteers from here at St. John's). Additionally, LBW has partnered with extraordinary organizations and donors that have blessed the ministry with state-of-the-art Braille automation. The technology of today's Braille machines can be traced to the design and engineering achievements of Norman Loeber the brother of the late Helene Koehler, LBW's founder.

If you would like to learn more about LBW or you or someone you know would like to order a Bible set – or perhaps donate to LBW, you can find information on their website: www.LBWloveworks.org You can contact, Rebecca Lowe-Vitkus at havegoalstomeet@gmail.com

Next month you will read testimony from a person who is quoted saying, “Being in this Braille group saved my life” and more information about our ministry here at St. John's.

Until next month,

In Christ, Rebecca

Note: The information above was obtained from the LBW website.



You are invited to join the Large Print Ministries Group
We'll be meeting in Room 10 on the following dates:
August 8, 14, 22, 28, and every Friday morning at
9:00 AM. 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.



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.



**Save the Date:
Saturday, October 14th!
Time: TBD**

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



Daily Bible Readings for August



	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
1	Psalm 90	Isaiah 58, 59	Colossians 3:1-11
2	Psalm 91:1-8	Isaiah 60, 61	Colossians 3:12-25
3	Psalm 91:9-16	Isaiah 62, 63	Colossians 4:1-9
4	Psalm 92:1-8	Isaiah 64, 65	Colossians 4:10-1 Thessalonians 1:5a
5	Psalm 92:9-15	Isaiah 66-Jer. 1:7	1 Thessalonians 1:5b-2:9
6	Ps. 145:8-9, 14-21	Isaiah 55:1-5	Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21
7	Psalm 93	Jeremiah 1:8-2:19	1 Thessalonians 2:10-20
8	Psalm 94:1-11	Jeremiah 2:20-3:13	1 Thessalonians 3
9	Psalm 94:12-23	Jeremiah 3:14-4:22	1 Thessalonians 4:1-12
10	Psalm 95	Jeremiah 4:23-5:25	1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:3
11	Psalm 96:1-9	Jeremiah 5:26-6:30	1 Thessalonians 5:4-15
12	Psalm 96:10-13	Jeremiah 7	1 Thessalonians 5:16-28
13	Psalm 85:8-13	1 Kings 19:9-18	Romans 10:5:15; Matthew 14:22-33
14	Psalm 97:1-6	Jeremiah 8:1-9:9	2 Thessalonians 1
15	Psalm 97:7-12	Jeremiah 9:10-10:16	2 Thessalonians 2:1-12
16	Psalm 98	Jeremiah 10:17-11:23	2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5
17	Psalm 99	Jeremiah 12:1-13:19	2 Thessalonians 3:6-18
18	Psalm 100	Jeremiah 13:20-14:22	1 Timothy 1:1-11
19	Psalm 101	Jeremiah 15:1-16:13	1 Timothy 1:12-2:7
20	Psalm 67	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matt. 15 (10-20), 21-28
21	Psalm 102:1-11	Jeremiah 16:14-17:27	1 Timothy 2:8-3:7
22	Psalm 102:12-22	Jeremiah 18:1-19:9	1 Timothy 3:8-16
23	Psalm 102:23-28	Jeremiah 19:10-21:10	1 Timothy 4:1-10
24	Psalm 103:1-5	Jeremiah 21:11-22:30	1 Timothy 4:11-5:8
25	Psalm 103:6-18	Jeremiah 23:1-32	1 Timothy 5:9-16
26	Psalm 103:19-22	Jeremiah 23:33-25:14	1 Timothy 5:17-6:2
27	Psalm 138	Isaiah 51:1-6	Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20
28	Psalm 104:1-9	Jeremiah 25:15-26:9	1 Timothy 6:3-16
29	Psalm 104:10-18	Jeremiah 26:10-27:22	1 Timothy 6:17-2 Timothy 1:7
30	Psalm 104:19-23	Jeremiah 28:1-29:14	2 Timothy 1:8-18
31	Psalm 104:24-30	Jeremiah 29:15-30:11	2 Timothy 2:1-13



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>



@sjlcnapa



@stjohnsnapa

<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)