

THE VINE

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School Newsletter APRIL 2025

"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 13) 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 fulfilment 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 Choraliers singing and the dramatic narrative reading of the passion account.
- *Maundy Thursday (April 17)* 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 18) 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 Oigil (April 19) 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 20), 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 Parish Hall (9:00 – 10:30 AM).



My Shepherd

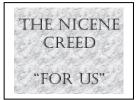
Psalm 23 has provided comfort and hope to the people of God for 3000 years. Our loving and faithful God is presented to us as the one who provides for us, leads us, refreshes us, comforts us, anoints us and welcomes. Jesus identified Himself as this gracious Savior. His loving service of His flock centers in His

laying down His life for us on the cross, only to take it up again in the resurrection. This Lent, we seek to grow as faithful followers of our Good Shepherd as we study the richness of Psalm 23.

Services will be at 7:00 PM on Wednesdays, with a soup supper at 6:00 PM in the Parish Hall.

DATE	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	
April 2	He Anoints Me	"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows" (Psalm 23:5). When it seems as though the enemy is gaining the upper hand, and our path	
		is hindered and obstructed, our Shepherd is still with us, blessing us even though we are surrounded by trouble. He anoints us with His blessing for every trial.	
April 9	He Welcomes Me		

Sundays in Lent

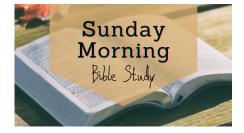


Why did Jesus come to be our Savior? Why was He born? Why did He live His sinless life? Why did He set His face toward the cross? Why did He suffer and die?

The Nicene Creed answers that question: "For us and our salvation." This year we are marking the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea which gave us the Nicene Creed. This statement is at the heart of the creed: Christ came for us, lived for us, died for us, rose for us.

Our Lent Sunday series this year is entitled "For Us." Each week we will focus on a different aspect of what Christ has done for us, and who He is for us.

Date	Title	Description	
Apr 6	Dying for Us	The parable of the wicked tenants presents an obvious parallel to God	
		the Father sending His son to His unfaithful people. But unlike in the	
		parable, God our Father knew what the reception would be. He sent	
		Him anyhow, and the Son went willingly. Such is His love for His	
		unworthy people, for you and me.	

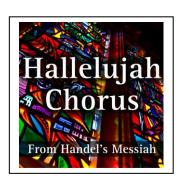


Pastor Mike's Bible Class

Pastor Mike is currently leading a study of the history and meaning of the Nicene Creed. We are looking at the history of the first few centuries of the church, leading up the council of Nicaea in 325 AD. But the class is not just history; we will also be examining the meaning of the Creed, its Biblical basis, and why it is still relevant and important today.

"The Hallelujah Chorus" Rehearsal - (Join Us!

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 on April 6th after church. Stay tuned for details!



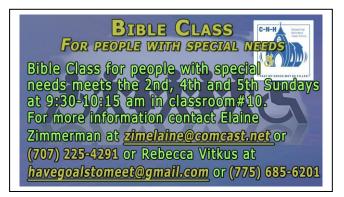


Please Join Us For Easter Breakfast!

"You're invited to join us for breakfast on Easter Sunday. We will begin serving food at 9am and continue to serve through 10:30am to ensure that you can enjoy breakfast no matter which worship service you choose. This is a free breakfast for everybody, lowever the St. John's youth appreciate any donations made and will utilize them to fund the National Youth Gathering trip in July."



The Men's Saturday Morning Bible Study is currently studying the Gospel of Luke. Join us for fellowship at 7:30 AM and Bible Study from 8-9 AM.



Board of Directors Nominations

The Board of Directors is receiving Board nominations for the 2025-2026 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.

If you are interested in nominating someone (or yourself) for the Board of Directors, <u>please click on this link to download information about qualifications and responsibilities.</u> Also included is a nomination form to be completed and returned to the church office, Paula Schweiger, or Pastor Mike.

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 <u>policy manual</u> 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?

<u>The By-Laws</u> 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 Manuel are available on the St. John's Lutheran Church website: https://church.stjohnsnapa.org/about/our-board-of-directors

How do I nominate someone for the Board of Directors?

There will be a mandatory Board Information Forum on <u>Thursday</u>, <u>April 3 at 7:00 PM in the Library</u> 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.

Nomination Forms are available in the E-vine, in the church office, or by coming to the forum. These forms are to be returned to Board Chair Paul Schweiger, or Pastor Mike Schmid by May 1.

LCC K-9 COMFORT DOG MINISTRY UPDATE



Team St. John's continues to serve our Napa community...



Your St. John's Comfort Dog Team was honored to serve at Northwood Elementary School on March 18th following the tragic death of two siblings who attended the school. Team Micah (Light of the Valley-Elk Grove), Team Rahab (St. Andrew –Stockton), Team Genesis (Good Shepherd-Turlock) and Team St. John's provided comfort and a safe place for students and staff to turn to in their grief, loss and sadness.

St. John's Ministry Partner, Andrea Clark, said, "The joy the dogs brought to the kids was so special to see." A handler from Team Micah said "During the visit I could feel the calming effect Micah gave them as they petted and hugged him."

This is an integral part of what the LCC Comfort Dog Ministry is all about. We encourage you all to pray about how you can get involved and support our St. John's Comfort Dog Ministry. It is truly a blessing to be a part of this ministry.



We continue to move forward with LCC by submitting required forms and going through Bible Study and ministry training materials as we await the arrival of our next K9 Comfort Dog.



Also, sixteen members of our team plan to attend the LCC K9 Ministry Conference in Northbrook, IL in July. We ask that you consider helping with financial gifts to send the team to conference.

Please contact Tim or Christy Kramer if you have any questions about the ministry. Thanks for your prayers and support!

To All the Women of St. John's:

Please join us as we study the beginning of the First Century Church. The amazing courage and boldness of our brothers and sisters will encourage you as we meet the times ahead!

If you have a question please contact Judi Rock 707-738-6707.





Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday

"We will host an Easter Egg Hunt at 10am for the kids! Please bring your own basket or bag to collect eggs. There will be a designated area for the young egg hunters.

High School Ministry

We have an upcoming event on April 5th for all 8th graders through high school. Join us for dinner, games & fellowship, and a pre-gathering Bible study. 6-9pm in the Parish Hall (Gym).

Vacation Bible School

We have officially entered the Vacation Bible School season! This year we will take kids on an adventure of "Trusting Jesus in a Wild World" at True North VBS! Jesus is the ultimate True North and He is unshakeable at all times. We will be reminding kids that He is our forever friend and Savior all week long. A website for registration will be up soon, but in the meantime I ask that you prayerfully consider playing a role in delivering a memorable experience for the kids this summer. The dates are set for Monday-Thursday, June 16-19th, from 9am-Noon. Please contact Kevin Mathison with any questions you may have.



Save the Date! Vacation Bible School

We have officially entered the Vacation Bible School season! This year we will take kids on an adventure of "Trusting Jesus in a Wild World" at *True North* VBS! Jesus is the ultimate True North and He is unshakeable at all times. We will be reminding kids that He is our forever friend and Savior all week long. A website for registration will be up at a later date, but in the meantime I ask that you prayerfully consider playing a role in delivering a memorable experience for the kids this summer. The dates are set for **Monday-Thursday**, **June 16-19th**, **from 9am-Noon**. Please contact Kevin Mathison with any questions you may have.



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





You are invited to join the Large Print Ministries Group

We'll be meeting in Room 10 on the second and fourth Mondays, Tuesdays of the month from 9:00-11:00am

<u>Disability Etiquette</u> Engaging People with Visual Impairment

Many of us have some degree of visual impairment which, fortunately, can be addressed with glasses that enable us to read small print, see clearly the computer screen, move around and drive safely, and enjoy the beauty of a distant mountain scene



with all its details. Others wear dark glasses which hide the eyes rather than help them see. They read with their finger tips or with their ears when listening to audio books. They guide their ways with a white cane, or with the assistance of a guide dog. At home or in a setting they are accustomed to and where things do not get moved around a lot, they can get along quite well.

Also, more adaptive devices are available to them today. One device I saw at work enabled the person to pick out his own wardrobe, matching shirt with pants and tie. But when a person with visual impairment is in an unfamiliar setting, it can be very uncomfortable and even dangerous without some assistance. As we have been learning through the disability ministry articles this year, keep in mind that our focus should be on the person, not on the disability!

Some Helpful Guidelines

- Let the individual initiate a handshake or invite them to shake your hand. Otherwise they may be startled by an unexpected touch.
- Announce your arrival and departure, letting them know who you are until they can recognize your voice. Don't leave someone talking to themselves or force them to ask who they are talking to.
- When walking together, guide—don't pull. Allow them to hold on to your elbow, or arm, rather than holding theirs. Or put your hand on their shoulder. Ask them which side they prefer to be guided from.
- Don't assume! Ask, "How can I help you best?" Or, "May I help you across the street?"
- Communicate details such as approaching staircases, which side the handrail is on, and when you are nearing the last step.
- If they have a guide dog, do not touch or distract the dog unless you have permission. Guide dogs are trained to be "on the clock" while wearing their harness.
- Vague statements such as "over there" or "right here" are not helpful. "To the left of your hand" or "right in front of you, waist high" are useful.
- Details matter, so ask if they'd like you to describe your surroundings, particularly the layout of the room, any upcoming obstacles and terrain, especially when moving onto grass, gravel, or a wet surface.

Information from: "Disability Etiquette," joniandfriends.org and "Communicating for Success," Bethesda LC

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1	Neill Barker		
4	Madelyn Ondek		
5	Kaden Kennedy		
9	Rachel Carey		
10	Christopher Newman, Elizabeth Robertis		
11	Adleigh Koen, Eva Winkler, Colt Lawrence-Maloney		
13	Christine Commander		
15	Emma Lloyd		
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		
25	Lainey Cloud, Trent Mooers, Gerald Schweiger		
26	Ella Eisberg, Dan Bunnell, Saoirse Newman		
30	Joshua Wright		

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

DATE COUPLE YEARS

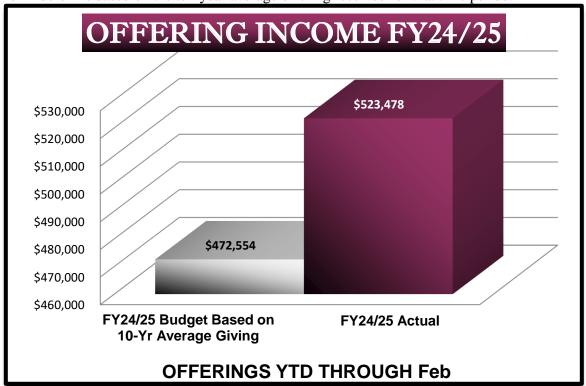
8	Jason & Diedre Newton	
8	Kyle & Rebecca McAhren	36
29	29 Dick & Marilyn Lemin	



OFFERING UPDATE

Actual Offering Income for Feb: Total Offerings for FY24/25 (as of 28 Feb 25): \$51,319. \$523,478 which is 10.78% or \$50,924 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:

"Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed...and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed...The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 15:51, 52b, 56-57)(ESV)

WE'VE WON!

We've all been stung by death. Children die. People in peak physical condition die. Sickness or age or accident creeps up on us, and we all die. Sounds morbid, doesn't it? But death is a final and painful reality. When death comes to one we love, no matter the age of

the person, we are stung. For some the sting remains, even though it may be eased by passing time. When death comes to a Christian, however, the sting of death is momentary. We who mourn do not mourn without hope, for we know that death is not the end.

The disciples who watched their Savior hang on the cross were stung by His death. They mourned without hope, for they didn't know His death was not permanent. That hopelessness turned to great joy, though, when Christ appeared to them alive! Because He rose from the dead, we, too, shall rise. Death could not triumph over Christ and it cannot triumph over us. Through Christ, we've won! Death is defeated. Eternal life begins at our Baptism and carries us into Heaven.

What a profound mystery this is! Our only response is to cry, "Thanks be to God!" The sting of death is removed because, in Christ, we've won!

Discussion Thoughts:

- 1. Read the entire passage in 1 Corinthians 15:5-58.
- 2. According to verse 50, what must we have in order to live in Heaven with Christ?
- 3. According to verse 58, what two things are we to do as we wait for Heaven?
- 4. What is the promise contained in that verse?

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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The last several years we have observed at the Mission Farm an ancient church tradition of the faithful being led out into the fields for the blessing of the fields, orchards, and pastures. The purpose of this practice was to increase our awareness of our dependence upon God's blessing the land and providing timely rains and growing conditions. This, so that the fields will be fruitful and provide food for our need and enough to share with others. The



ancient practice of the Church was to do this on the Sunday before the festival of Ascension. This year that would take place very late, near the end of May. We generally are beginning to plant seed and set out seedlings in the middle of April. But the blessings of the fields are appropriate at any time. We seek God's blessing of the land at the appropriate seeding time, and we will bless God for His goodness at harvest time.

We have generally scheduled the blessing of our land on a Saturday in mid-April. Why Saturday? So we have many on hand to also join us in giving us a hand in planting seed or seedlings. However, we sometimes get rained out. Or with an early date risk a hard freeze. And it is often hard to predict when the seedlings will be ready for planting. So . . .

At this point I just want to alert you to the plans to hold the rite of the blessing of the fields sometime mid-April. But we will wait until closer to that time to firm up that date in the E-Vine and announcements at church. ~Pastor (Farmer) Ted



ST. JOHN'S

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

Please pray for our 6th graders as they experience Outdoor Education at Mount Herrmann in the Santa Cruz Mountains April 8-11. We pray that this is a time for growth: academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually.

We will be celebrating Holy Week April 14-18. We invite you to be a part of daily devotions (Monday - Thursday) at 8:40 a.m. and to join us on Good Friday at 11:30 a.m. Good Friday is a half-day for our students. We will be observing Easter Break from April 19- 27.

We are currently in the final stages of enrollment for the 2025-2026 school-year and have limited openings in our school. If you are interested in enrolling your child in our school, please do not hesitate to contact the school office at 707-226-7970.

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

Christy Wood, Principal



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 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). Copyright Stephen Ministries 2020

Daily Bible Readings for April

	Daily Divie Redailings for 11pt to							
	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament					
1	Psalm 42	Job 3,4	Romans 11:19-32					
2	Psalm 43	Job 5,6	Romans 11:33-12:8					
3	Psalm 44:1-8	Job 7	Romans 12:9-21					
4	Psalm 44:9-16	Job 8	Romans 13					
5	Psalm 44:17-26	Job 9	Romans 14:1-12					
6	Psalm 126	Isaiah 43:16-21	Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8					
7	Psalm 45:1-9	Job 10	Romans 14:13-15:2					
8	Psalm 45:10-17	Job 11:1-12:12	Romans 15:3-16					
9	Psalm 46	Job 12:13-13:19	Romans 15:17-29					
10	Psalm 47	Job 13:20-14:22	Romans 15:30-16:7					
11	Psalm 48	Job 15,16	Romans 16:8-20					
12	Psalm 49:1-12	Job 17,18	Romans 16:21- 1 Corinthians 1:1-9					
13	Psalm 118:1-2,19-29	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 19:28-40 or Luke 22:14-23:56					
14	Psalm 49:13-20	Job 19	1 Corinthians 1:10-20					
15	Psalm 50:1-6	Job 20	1 Corinthians 1:21-2:2					
16	Psalm 50:7-15	Job 21	1 Corinthians 2:3-16					
17	Psalm 50:16-23	Job 22,23	1 Corinthians 3:1-11					
18	Psalm 51:1-6	Job 24	1 Corinthians 3:12-23					
19	Psalm 51:7-12	Job 25-27	1 Corinthians 4:1-15					
20	Psalm 118:1-2,14-24		Acts 10:34-43; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26; Luke 24:1-12					
21	Psalm 51:13-19	Job 28	1 Corinthians 4:16-5:8					
22	Psalm 52	Job 29	1 Corinthians 5:9-6:8					
23	Psalm 53	Job 30	1 Corinthians 6:9-20					
24	Psalm 54	Job 31	1 Corinthians 7:1-16					
25	Psalm 55:1-8	Job 32,33	1 Corinthians 7:17-24					
26	Psalm 55:9-15	Job 34:1-28	1 Corinthians 7:25-40					
27	Psalm 150		Acts 5:27-32; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31					
28	Psalm 55:16-19	Job 34:29-35:16	1 Corinthians 8					
29	Psalm 55:20-23	Job 36:1-26	1 Corinthians 9:1-12a					
30	Psalm 56:1-8	Job 36:27-37:24	1 Corinthians 9:12b-27					



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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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