



THE VINE

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School Newsletter

AUGUST 2024

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

Worship in August

Ephesians: One Body in Christ

Our current worship series is a study of Paul's letter to the Ephesians. In this letter, Paul is addressing what it means to be the people of God who are united to Christ and one another as His Church. What does it mean to be the Church? What are the blessings? What is our calling? This is a timely study as we seek to be the people of God in a “post-Church” culture, but also as our own congregation is preparing for a time of transition in leadership. May God bless His Church universal, and our own congregation, as we seek to follow Him!

August 4

“Made Alive in Christ” – *Ephesians 2:1-10*

God has brought us from death to life. We who were dead in sins have been brought to spiritual life as a gift of grace. This grace is received through faith in Christ, who died and rose again for us. Today we focus on the meaning of grace and what it means for how we think of God, ourselves, and our lives.

August 11

“One People in Christ” – *Ephesians 2:11-22*

Because of Christ's sacrifice, Jews and Gentiles are now one in Him. But this isn't just about Jews and Gentiles. Redemption in Christ means that all who belong to Him are one. We are one people in Christ.

August 18

“Be the Light” – *Matthew 5:13-16*

We focus on our school's theme for the new school year: “Be the Light.” Jesus tells His followers that they are the light of the world and calls them to let their light shine that others may give glory to God. We are called to reflect and shine the light of Christ in all that we think, say, and do, that God might be glorified in our lives.

August 25

“God's Plan for His Mission” – *Ephesians 3:1-13*

Paul writes about being part of God's plan to bring the Good News of Jesus to the Gentiles. Paul was the most unlikely instrument of the Gospel, yet God in His wisdom chose him. You and I are not apostles as Paul was, but still, we have a part to play in God's mission.

Mission India Update



We have received the reports from Mission India regarding our ministry partners of this past year. We will be including the Literacy Class update in this week's e-Vine and in worship, and Pastor Mike will report on the Children's Bible Clubs and Church Planting in the coming weeks.

We partnered with Mission India to provide 2 Adult Literacy Projects. That's 10 classes. 300 students were enrolled. Of those, 250 completed the program and graduated. 117 of those came to faith in Christ during the year, and 55 of those were baptized. The classes led to the formation of 16 prayer groups and 6 new worshipping communities. Many reported dramatic lifestyle improvements as well, including healthy living and improved relationships.

We partnered with Mission India to provide 2 Children's Bible Club Projects: That's 10 clubs. 380 students were enrolled. Of those, 142 came to faith in Christ, along with 98 parents. 61 children and 44 parents were baptized. In addition, the clubs led to the formation of 20 prayer groups and 6 worshipping communities. Students also reported doing better in school, having better relations with family, and improving in showing respect to others.

We partnered with Mission India to support 7 church planters. These church planters collectively planted 10 new worshipping congregations and 21 prayer groups. 324 people came to faith in Christ, and of these, 55 were baptized. The Church planters also started children Bible clubs, enrolling 257 children in these clubs, leading to 39 children coming to faith in Christ.

Praise God for His work through this partnership! Over the years we have partnered with Mission India, we have been part of the formation of 136 congregation and 346 prayer groups. The adults who have come to faith number 2551, along with 724 children. To God alone be the glory!

Confirmation

The end of the summer is getting closer... that means we are almost ready to kick off Confirmation! Mark your calendars for **September 4th at 7pm**. We will meet for our Confirmation Parent Meeting in the sanctuary.



High School

High School Hangouts continue throughout the month on August 4, 18, & 25. Come join us for a Bible Study, games, and snacks!

Hello St. John's family! October will be here before we know it, and you know what that means: Oktoberfest!!! We need volunteers and leaders from the congregation to help Josh Wright make this wonderful event a success.



Oktoberfest will be 10/13/2024 at 12:30 pm and will end by 3:30 pm. We currently need volunteers and leaders for the five major areas of the event:

Food - Ensure everything is organized so that the food can easily be served by volunteers or caterer.

Beverages - Ensure the beverage area is organized and that adult beverage areas vs. non-adult beverage areas are clearly marked and separated. We want to ensure that this is a safe event and that we are abiding with state and city laws.

Set up - Coordinate a team to ensure tables and chairs are set up in the designated areas for food and socializing.

Clean up - Coordinate with a team to clean up the trash area, put tables and chairs away, and return equipment to the appropriate closets.

Entertainment- Work with those that wish to provide entertainment to set up a schedule and time slots or play music from an iPod/radio when live entertainment is not available.

If you're interested in being a part of this amazing fellowship, please reach out to Josh at joshwright@stjohnsnapa.org or contact the church office. Once we have volunteers signed up, an informational meeting will be scheduled.



New Email Addresses for the Church

Please make a note that we are changing the email addresses for the church. Please use the following email addresses for correspondence.

- Church Office: churchoffice@stjohnsnapa.org
- Pastor Mike: pastormike@stjohnsnapa.org
- Kevin Mathison: kevin@stjohnsnapa.org
- Tim Kramer: tkramer@stjohnsnapa.org

What is different? The domain "stjohnsnapa.org" instead of "stjohnslutheran.net." We are moving away from the "stjohnslutheran.net" so that all emails, church and school, will be "stjohnsnapa.org." The old emails will soon be discontinued, so please update your address books accordingly.



St. John's Lutheran School's planning for the 2024-2025 school year is progressing at a rapid pace.

Our faculty and staff retreat will be August 11 - 13, 2024. The first day of school will be Wednesday, August 21, 2024, with a half day for the elementary students.

Our school theme for the 2024-2025 school year is "Be the Light", based on Matthew 5:16, "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." With this theme, we are reminded about the importance of being a positive influence, sharing the message of love, and making a difference in the world. 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 love 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. We are all God's children and are called to "give glory" to our Father in heaven through our "good deeds". This reminds us of the importance of our actions. Our actions allow us to let our light shine. Our actions allow us to share the light of Jesus with those around us.

We will be having our WASC/NLSA Accreditation self-study visit this school year. I ask you to keep this endeavor in your prayers as we focus on ways to continually improve St. John's Lutheran School for the future.

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 27 - Country Fair and October 25 - Get on Track.

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.



Some sort of record was set this past month when on Saturday, July 20, we picked, processed, packed, and delivered to the CANV Food Bank a half-ton of fresh fruits and vegetables. We couldn't deliver all that we picked, so we processed and packed that on Monday, July 22. That was an additional quarter ton of produce. Plus on that Monday, we also picked, processed, packed, and delivered another quarter ton . . . that adds up to a full ton of produce in those two days! That's awesome!

Above is a picture of the workers at the processing table. We couldn't get the corn pickers out of the rows to smile for the cameras. They were a dusty, sweaty sight to say the least.

We often appeal for additional volunteers at the Farm. That is especially needed now when the harvest is in full swing. We work Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays, from 8:30-11:30 am. We work with our paws (OK, hands), then we break and exercise our jaws, eating and making conversation. It's worthwhile, charitable work, and it's fine fellowship.

Submitted by Farmer Ted



LCC K-9 COMFORT DOG MINISTRY UPDATE

To God be the Glory!



Stay Tuned for information on applying for a second LCC K9 Comfort Dog!

We will need more team members for the second dog. Please prayerfully consider if God is leading you to participate in this amazing ministry!

Please contact Tim and Christy Kramer if you are interested.

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

Joshua 1:9

Thanks for your support and prayers! Please check out Facebook, Instagram, and our website for all the latest news. napavalleycomfortdogs.org

Aaron Comfort Dog



DATE	COUPLE	YEARS
1	Thane & Sarah Knutson	15
1	Jeff & Carri Mello	26
1	Mark & Cindy Zeller	37
2	Corrin & Mark Kornovich	8
3	Dennis & Judie Arnett	56
3	Dean Bledsoe & Lori Hunt	23
7	Ronald & Judith Irwin	59
11	Rita & James Bresee	34
13	Charles & Elaine Scott	63
14	Amy & Michael Smith	25
15	Daniel & Angela D'Angelo	26
17	Betsy & Irv Gewirz	49
17	Leonard & Tracy Lamb	35
19	Barbara & Walt Gmelch	15
21	Leonard & Deborah Bommersbach	53
28	Dean & Nancy Ehlen	53
28	Tony Carafa & Karen Schoenfeld	25
30	Ken & Sharon Tews	49
31	John & Kristi Clark	50



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1	Salvatore Pagano, Casie Wood, Cathy Bunnell	
2	Martin Meissenhalter	
3	Abigail Sneed	
4	Dana Zanone, Kylie Martindale	
5	Wayne Miller, Wendy Helfrich	
8	Linda Diviak, Marco Barbosa, Paul Han, Jacqueline Price	
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, Echo Connell	
21	Tony Carafa	
22	Dove Bain, Alexia Svien	
23	Matthew Uffmann	
24	Dick Lemin	
25	CarlJohn Meissenhalter, Abigail Ondek	
28	Cameron Hopkins	
31	Tiffany Tucker, Parker Dahl	

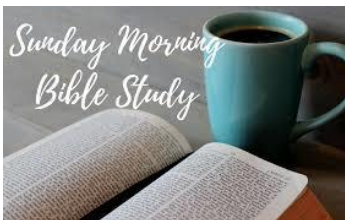
Bible Class for people with special needs
meets the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays
at 9:30-10:15 a.m. in classroom #10



Contact information:

Elaine Zimmerman at zimelaine@comcast.net or 225-4291

Rebecca Vitkus at havegoalstomeet@gmail.com or 775/685-6201



Sunday Bible Classes

Sunday morning Bible Classes are in recess for the summer. Classes will resume on August 25.

OFFERING UPDATE

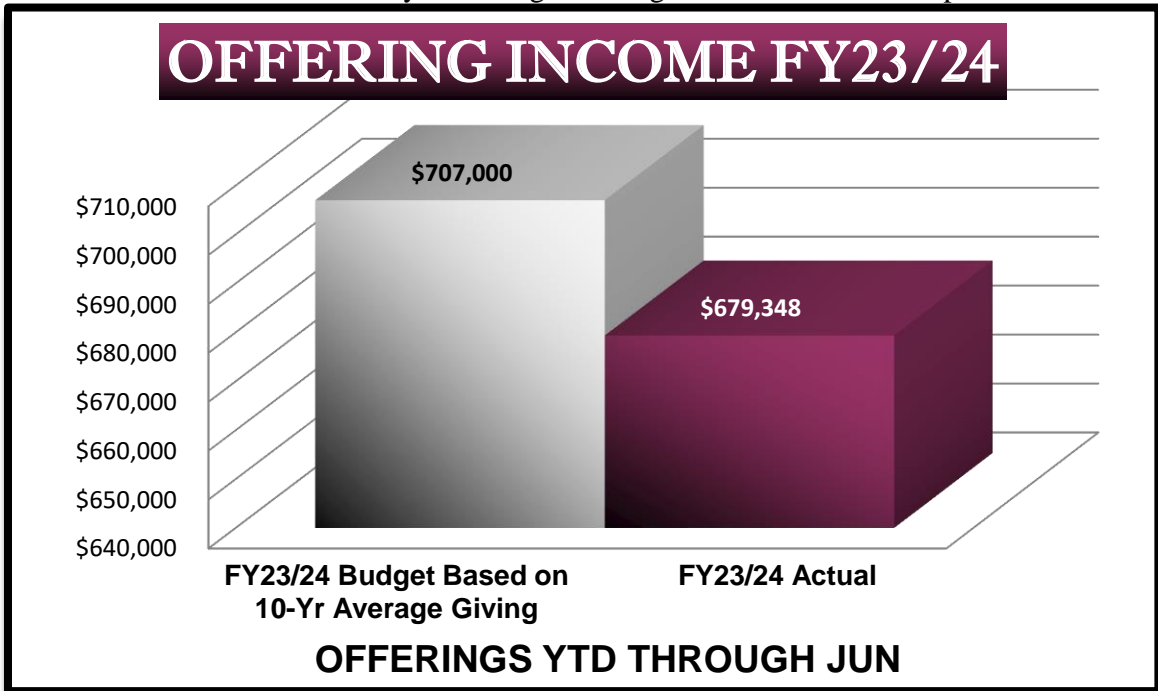
Actual Offering Income for Jun:

\$62,545.

Total Offerings for FY23/24 (as of 30 Jun 24):

\$679,348 which is **3.91%** or **\$27,652**
below 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:

“¹²And she said, “As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die.”¹³ And Elijah said to her, “Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son.”¹⁴ For thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain upon the earth.’”¹⁵ And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days.¹⁶ The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.” (1 Kings 17:12-16)(ESV)

Faithful in all Things

Jesus said, “Whoever can be trusted with very little can be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much” (Luke 16:10). Jesus is saying that a

faithful person will handle God's gifts faithfully regardless of whether they have few or many gifts entrusted to them. What we do with what we have shows our faithfulness.

A faithful person will do the small things well. One day a young man went to a bank to apply for a job. After his interview, he was leaving the bank and happened to notice some small trash on the floor. He picked it up and put it in the waste paper basket. Seconds later, he helped an elderly lady with the door. Unknown to the young man, the man who had interviewed him for the job was observing him. The young man was promptly summoned back and given the job. The employer's comment: "Anyone who pays attention to the small things as you just did needs to work here."

Unfortunately, we Christians may incorrectly think that small things aren't important to God. We may have the attitude that God won't be concerned with the small amount of money or other gifts that we have been given. In the Bible, God spoke mightily through the little that people had. God used the widow and her two mites to teach us a lesson about sacrificial giving. He used the small amount of flour and oil that the Widow of Zarephath had to demonstrate obedience. Jesus used the loaves and fish of a young boy to reveal how God can magnify a small gift. God commended their faith with small things, and He didn't overlook what faithful people did with small things.

Through God's Word, we understand that small things do count. Because we understand our need to be faithful with all things, we should ask ourselves how we are handling the seemingly small things in our lives. Are we handling small things well in our homes, jobs, and churches? Can non-Christians see a difference in us? With God's help, we can be faithful with **ALL** that we've been given. Through our faithfulness, God will be glorified.

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 whole heart, nor am I faithful in all things. 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. Strengthen my faith in You. Teach me to depend on You to give me all that I need. 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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Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Paris 2024



For many of us, summer of 2024 marks the greatly anticipated international sporting events known as the Summer Olympics! The current games are being hosted by the world-class city of Paris, France. The **Summer Olympics** take place from Friday, July 26, to Sunday, August 11, 2024. The **Summer Paralympics** also take place in Paris beginning on Wednesday, August 28, and end on Sunday, September 8, 2024.

About 10,500 athletes from 206 countries will compete in the Summer Olympic Games. There will also be a team of refugee athletes who compete under the Olympic flag. The United States will have 592 athletes in competition. Around 4,400 athletes are expected to participate in the Paralympic Games representing over 150 National Paralympic Committees.

You may wonder: “**What are the Paralympic Games?** It is the largest international event for athletes with disabilities and for societal change, and takes place shortly after every Olympic Games event in the same host city. The Paralympics has grown from a small gathering of British World War II veterans in 1948 to become one of the largest international sporting events by the early 21st century.

The Olympics always are given great media coverage around the world. In contrast, the Paralympics have most often been given little, if any, media coverage! There are some efforts this year to give greater attention to the achievements of these remarkable athletes. I would challenge you, as caring people, to expand your Olympic coverage this year by watching some of the Paralympic Games. The viewing information will be available after the August 11th closing of the Olympic Games. You will be amazed by the strength, skills, ingenuity, and courage of the athletes who have challenged themselves to shine through their disabilities! Too often, society limits the expectations and futures for people who have disabilities. Be a person who encourages and supports the hopes and dreams of others, especially those who have great challenges in their lives! Broaden your awareness of God’s gift in each person!

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.



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Stephen Ministry: The Power of Validation

“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



Below is a story to show how a Stephen Minister can care for someone – by listening in a non-judgmental, patient, accepting manner:

After their previous meeting, Andrew (the care receiver) was feeling more comfortable about meeting with his Stephen Minister, Ben. Andrew had started to dig into his difficult feelings about God and faith, and he was encouraged that Ben had arrived right on time and stayed focused throughout their meeting. Andrew was still uncertain, though, about how openly he should share. Some of what he'd been thinking about his faith got into uncomfortable territory, and he was worried that, if he let it all out, Ben might be shocked and condemn or dispute his thoughts and feelings.

Andrew decided to go ahead and open up – and Ben remained relaxed and understanding. Ben assured him that what he was thinking and feeling was a natural response to what he'd been through; it didn't mean he'd lost his faith. That gave Andrew the confidence to go deeper still until he'd said everything on his mind and heart. It felt good being able to say all that while still feeling accepted.

As their meeting ended, Andrew told Ben, “I can hardly believe I could say those kinds of things out loud without being judged. Thanks so much for listening.”

Stephen Ministers are trained to listen well. The definition of validation is the process of learning, understanding, believing, and accepting another person's thoughts and feeling about his or her experience – and letting the other person know you've done so, which communicates that his or her thoughts really do matter. Validation builds trust, strengthens relationships, and lets the other person know it's safe to continue sharing.

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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Hello Ladies of St. John's Lutheran Church!

Hope you're having a great summer so far! Come the first week in September, we will be continuing our study of the apostle Peter. Come join us as we begin Peter's second letter. This is a great study and a wonderful time of fellowship. Day and date will follow! God bless you all! Judi Rock (707)738-6707



Daily Bible Readings for August

	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
1	Psalm 91:9-16	Joshua 10:1-27	Luke 13:1-17
2	Psalm 92:1-8	Joshua 10:28-11:23	Luke 13:18-30
3	Psalm 92:9-15	Joshua 12:1-13:7	Luke 13:31-14:6
4	Psalm 78:23-29	Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15	Ephesians 4:1-16, John 6:24-35
5	Psalm 93	Joshua 13:8-14:5	Luke 14:7-24
6	Psalm 94:1-11	Joshua 14:6-15:19	Luke 14:25-32
7	Psalm 94:12-23	Joshua 15:20-63	Luke 15:1-10
8	Psalm 95	Joshua 16, 17	Luke 15:11-32
9	Psalm 96:1-9	Joshua 18:1-19:9	Luke 16:1-15
10	Psalm 96:10-13	Joshua 19:10-39	Luke 16:16-31
11	Psalm 34:1-8	1 Kings 19:4-8	Ephesians 4:25-5:2, John 6:35, 41-51
12	Psalm 97:1-6	Joshua 19:40-21:8	Luke 17:1-10
13	Psalm 97:7-12	Joshua 21:9-45	Luke 17:11-19
14	Psalm 98	Joshua 22	Luke 17:20-25
15	Psalm 99	Joshua 23:1-24:13	Luke 17:26-37
16	Psalm 100	Joshua 24:14-Judges 1:16	Luke 18:1-17
17	Psalm 101	Judges 1:17-2:23	Luke 18:18-30
18	Psalm 34:9-14	Proverbs 9:1-6	Ephesians 5:15-20, John 6:51-58
19	Psalm 102:1-11	Judges 3	Luke 18:31-43
20	Psalm 102:12-22	Judges 4	Luke 19:1-10
21	Psalm 102:23-28	Judges 5	Luke 19:11-27
22	Psalm 103:1-5	Judges 6	Luke 19:28-44
23	Psalm 103:6-18	Judges 7	Luke 19:45-20:8
24	Psalm 103:19-22	Judges 8	Luke 20:9-19
25	Psalm 34:15-22	Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18	Ephesians 6:10-20, John 6:56-69
26	Psalm 104:1-9	Judges 9:1-33	Luke 20:20-26
27	Psalm 104:10-18	Judges 9:34-10:18	Luke 20:27-40
28	Psalm 104:19-23	Judges 11:1-27	Luke 20:41-21:4
29	Psalm 104:24-30	Judges 11:28-12:15	Luke 21:5-28
30	Psalm 104:31-35	Judges 13	Luke 21:29-38
31	Psalm 105:1-7	Judges 14, 15	Luke 22:1-13



We are blessed to have so many young kids with us each Sunday, but we are running low on Children's Church leaders. If you are looking for a place to serve here at St. John's, I ask you to consider working in Children's Church. It's an awesome way for the kids to hear the Good News of Jesus delivered in a way suitable for them to understand and hold on to. Please get in contact with Kevin Mathison if you have any questions about getting involved. We would love to have you join the team! kevin@stjohnsnapa.org

Lutheran Braille Workers Update

Large Print Ministry will be taking a break during August.



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>

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<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/248942728988437/st-johns-lutheran-church/>

Church

Phone: (707) 255-0119
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Rev. Michael A. Schmid, Lead Pastor (ext. 122)
Mr. Tim Kramer, Business Administrator (ext. 121)
Mrs. Christy Kramer, Church Office Manager (ext. 120)
Mr. Kevin Mathison, Dir. of Youth Ministry (ext. 106) or 255-7451

School

Phone: (707) 226-7970
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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)