

AUGUST 2026

THE VINE

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

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

Worship in August

This month we continue our summer worship series, "You Asked For It!" Thank you to all who submitted topics for this series.

August 2

Entertaining Angels

God's Word encourages Christians toward hospitality, welcoming and caring for others. Why is this important in today's world? How can we do this when our lives are often so busy and hectic?

August 9

Walking on Water

Guest Preacher: Rev. Mark Heine

Walking on the water for Jesus was as simple as one step in front of the other. It wasn't so simple for Peter. Fear and his uncertainty about Jesus caused him to sink. At times life feels like we have stepped out of the boat and are sinking with each step or worse, immediately plunging into the depths. Just like Peter, we need and have a Savior who reaches out His hand and catches us.

August 16

Peace In/Peace Out

School Year Theme for 2026-2027

In Colossians 3, Paul reminds us that the peace of Christ is not something we manufacture; it is a gift that rules in us, shaping our words, our choices, and our life together. Today we celebrate the God who brings peace in through His forgiveness, His presence, and His Word, and who sends peace out through acts of kindness, compassion, and love.



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Worship in August



August 23

For Hearth and Home

What does it mean to be a Christian family? How do we incorporate and reflect our identity in Christ in our marriages, our parenting, our grandparenting?

August 30

A Fruitful Branch



Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. This agricultural metaphor is one that we relate to quite well here in our valley. The only way the branches can be fruitful is to remain connected to the vine. What does it mean to be pruned by the Gardener? What does it mean for us today to be connected to Jesus, the Vine, so that we might bear fruit?

BIBLE CLASSES AND STUDIES



Pastor Mike's Bible Class

The Book of Revelation

Pastor Mike is leading a Bible study series on the Book of Revelation. What is the meaning of this book? What does it say to us today? What are we to make of the striking images and symbols? We will be going through the entire book in the months ahead, seeking to understand and apply Jesus' revelation to John, and through him, to us today. We meet in Room 10 each Sunday after worship at 11:00 AM.



Men's Bible Study

The Men's Saturday Morning Bible Study is currently studying Paul's Letter to the Colossians. All men are welcome to join us every Saturday morning in Room 10. Breakfast will be at 7:30 AM, and the Bible study will be from 8:00-9:00 AM.



Women's Bible Study

The Women's Monday Morning Bible Study has wrapped up for the summer, but we will resume in the fall with a study of Genesis. In the meantime, if you would like more information, please contact Judi Rock at goalyce2041@gmail.com.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Join Us For Children's Church!

All children ages preschool through 5th grade are invited to join us for Children's Church, an age-specific time of teaching and fellowship during the main worship service every Sunday morning.

The children will spend the first part of the service in the sanctuary, then join their teachers for Children's Church in one of the classrooms. The children then rejoin their families for the last part of the worship service. We are also looking for more adults and teens to help lead these classes, so if you are interested, please reach out to Kevin at kevin@stjohnsnapa.org.



Confirmation Classes

It's almost Confirmation season again! 7th and 8th graders are invited to our Confirmation Information Night on September 2 at 7pm in Room 10. This is designed for both student and parent as we discuss what this year in Confirmation will look like. Contact Kevin Mathison at kevin@stjohnsnapa.org if you have any questions beforehand.



Tuesday Night High School Hangouts

Tuesday is Youth Night! Join us for an apologetics series to better prepare ourselves for sharing our faith. Join us as we dive into the Word and have a little fun while doing so! Invite a friend and come join us! We'll meet on Tuesday nights from 7:00-8:30 PM in the SJL Library. For more information, please contact Kevin Mathison.



LARGE PRINT MINISTRY

LARGE PRINT MINISTRIES



Please join us producing Bibles for people all over the world with sight impairments

We meet in room 10
9:00-11:00 a.m.
Every Monday and Friday

NEWS AND EVENTS

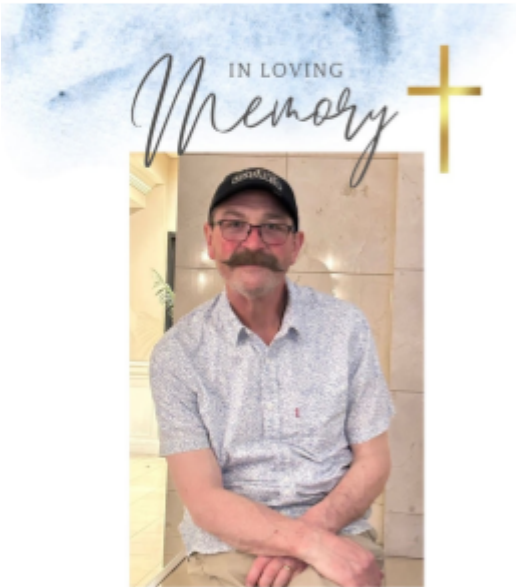
July 27-August 7 – Main Parking Lot Closed

The main parking lot will be closed beginning July 27 for the parking lot repaving. We expect the parking lot to be done by August 7. The new lighting will be completed after that. The north (small) parking lot will remain open. For Sunday, August 2, we ask that the small parking lot be used by those for whom mobility is in issue. Otherwise, since the main parking lot will be closed on that Sunday, plan to carpool, park on the street, or meet and carpool from the carpark by the highway.



August 2 - Worship in the Faith Chapel

On Sunday August 2, we will be worshipping in the Faith Chapel while the Sanctuary floor is receiving its annual stripping and waxing. We are also looking for several people to arrive at 9:00 AM to assist in the setting up of the chairs. If you are able to help, please let the church office know.



MARTIN MEISSENHALTER

8/2/1964 – 6/12/2026

MEMORIAL SERVICE & RECEPTION TO FOLLOW
SUNDAY, 8/9/2026, AT 2:00 PM
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
3521 LINDA VISTA AVENUE, NAPA, CA 94558
PLEASE RSVP BY 8/1/2026

August 6-7 - Campus-Wide Rekeying

We will be changing the locks on all campus doors and gates on August 6-7, and new keys will be issued to all employees and volunteers who need access to the campus. We will provide further updates as to when new keys will be available to pick up.

August 9 - Memorial Service for Martin Meissenhalter

Our dear brother, Martin Meissenhalter, went home to be with the Lord last month, and a memorial service for him will be held on Sunday, August 9, at 2:00 PM in the Sanctuary, with a reception to follow in the Parish Hall. All at St. John's are warmly invited to attend.

August 14 - Memorial Service for Lenora Balsiger

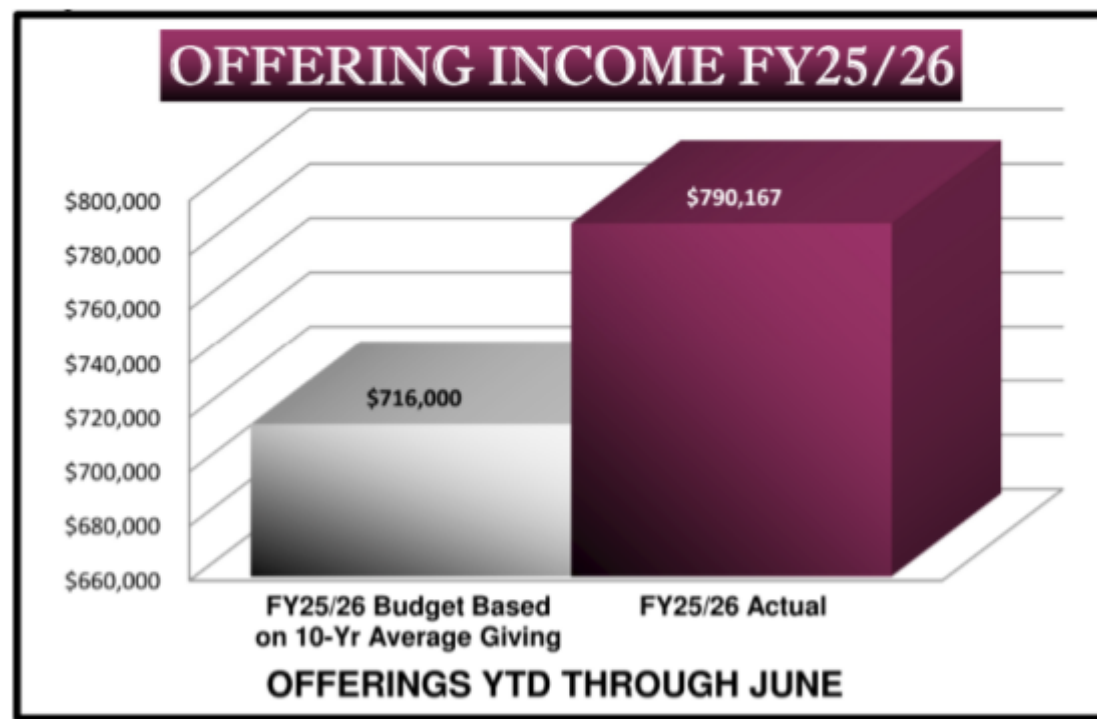
We give God thanks for the life and faith of our sister in Christ, Lenora Balsiger. There will be a memorial service for her on Friday, August 14, at 1:00 PM in the sanctuary with a light reception to follow.

MONEY MATTERS

OFFERING UPDATE

Actual Offering Income for June: **\$55,067.**
Total Offerings for FY 2025-26 (as of June 30, 2026): **\$790,167** which is **10.36%** or **\$74,167** above our budgeted offering income.

Total expenses appear to be relatively 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:

"Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'" (Matthew 9:35-38)

MONEY MATTERS

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 (1 Timothy 2:3-4; 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 all this 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.

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ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL



St. John's Lutheran School is busy with planning for the 2026-2027 school year and is progressing at a rapid pace.

Our faculty and staff retreat will be August 9 - 11, 2026. The first day of school will be Wednesday, August 19, 2026, with a half day for the elementary students.



Our school theme for the 2026-2027 school year is "Peace In - Peace Out", based on Colossians 3:15, "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful." This verse is reminding us that although we will face challenges in life, there are many things that all of us can be GRATEFUL and THANKFUL for. We don't have to be afraid or worried about our sins, because Jesus took them all away. His forgiveness gives our heart a quiet, safe, and happy feeling. God gives us everything we need, and most importantly, the gift of eternal life.



As we focus on being back together, I would like to share some of the planning that is going into the 2026-2027 school year. Ms. Jena Knoblock will be our 5th Grade teacher, Mr. Caleb Sinclair will be teaching Music (PS-5) and conducting Choraliers (6-8) and Ms. Angie Maciel will be teaching Spanish (PS-8). Mr. Newton will continue to be our Handbells Director. Please keep each of these teachers, and all our teachers, in your prayers as they are making preparations for the new school year.

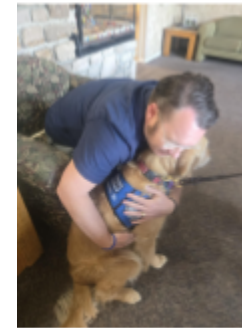


I am excited that the APT is working diligently on creating fellowship opportunities for our community. Our APT Board for 2026-2027 will be: Kate Daw- President, Jeni Schluter- Vice President, Brandt Mori- Treasurer, Nicole Sciandri- Secretary, Rikki Cortese- Member at Large, Kati DeGuilio- Member at Large, Cassan Macarig- Member at Large, and Tiff Marcotte- Member at Large. Please save the dates for the following activities: September 25 - Country Fair and October 23 - 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.

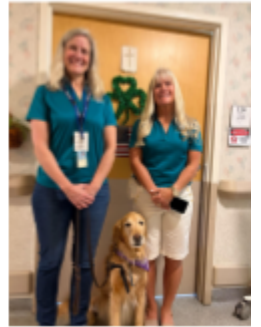
COMFORT DOG MINISTRY

Dear friends, and supporters of our St. John's LCC K9 Comfort Dog ministry,

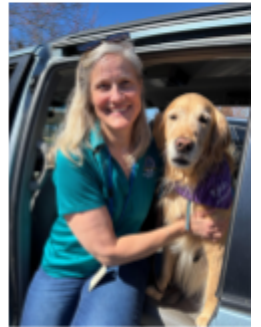


We are waiting patiently (?) to hear from LCC regarding the arrival of our new LCC K9 Comfort Dog. The next step in the process will be LCC interviews with our perspective handlers.

As we wait, we meet regularly as a group doing devotions, Bible studies, and studying literature from LCC to help us better support those who God puts in front of us to serve.



We are fortunate to be able to occasionally "borrow" Rahab, Comfort Dog from St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Stockton. Her visits give us an opportunity to keep in touch with those we have served in the past in our Napa area and keep everyone focused on the fact that we will have another dog soon. Rahab will be at church on Sunday, July 27 and August 2. Please make sure to stop by and say hi after services.



Please continue to keep our team in your prayers. We would love to have you join our Comfort, Dog Team family. There are lots of different roles and ways to serve. Please contact Tim or Christy Kramer for more information. (707) 681-1917 Thank you for your continued support!



MISSION FARM



Submitted by: Farmer Ted, AKA Pastor Ted

May I have a drumroll, please! I have a special announcement.

In the month of July, we have turned over to the Napa Valley Food Bank a total of 5,674 lbs. of fresh fruits and vegetables grown on our farm. The total for year to date is 7,751.5 lbs. God has richly blessed our crops this year, despite it being an unusual growing season this year!

About a third of our planted corn has been harvested and delivered, with the rest coming along very well. Tomatoes are ripening, and we have delivered the first of them this past week. We planted an extra line of tomatoes this year because of their popularity at the Food Bank. We are turning in two to three dozen nice-sized melons three times a week. Most of ours have a French accent and others an Italian accent. They have a much richer flavor than the more familiar American cantaloupe. The melons ripen very quickly and must be picked daily. But it is worth it! All our peaches, plums, pluots have been picked and delivered. We are even picking some varieties of apples, although it seems early. The zucchinis keep on keeping on. The bell peppers and jalapenos are producing nicely.



At times, our only shortage has been volunteers to keep up with the produce ready for harvest. But the Lord answered our prayers. On Friday the 24th, we welcomed about sixty special volunteers. The Young Farmers and Ranchers, (YF&R), a Farm Bureau program for people ages 18 to 35 with farming interests, were in Napa for a two-day state leadership meeting. As part of the event, they schedule tours of area farms and vineyards, along with volunteer projects. Our farm was one of their stops.

After a brief tour, the visitors were ready for direct work. Suddenly, a whole swarm of experienced harvesters entered our fields, and they picked more than 550 lbs. of produce in about 30 minutes! They were genuinely impressed with our project, and we were just as impressed with their eagerness and energy. Over the past six years, we have benefited many times from participants in the local YF&R chapter.

STEPHEN MINISTRY



You Restore My Soul

"Reliable friends who do what they say are like cool drinks in sweltering heat – refreshing!"

- Proverbs 25:13 MSG

"He leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul." - Psalm 23:2-3 NRSV

A friend recently talked about her experience of being listened to. She had been able to share some feelings that had been stuffed so deeply that she couldn't even find words to name them at first. She said it felt so refreshing to talk, almost non-stop, for close to an hour with a sympathetic person. It felt like a drink of cool water on a hot day.

Jesus was the model of a good listener. He demonstrated how much He really cared about people by listening. He broke cultural traditions by having a conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well. Other examples are Nicodemus who sought out Jesus, the blind beggars who called out to Jesus, and the disciples on the road to Emmaus. Jesus cared by first listening to people. We can always come to Jesus in prayer, and He listens. He wants to refresh our souls with cool water.

With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can live out God's love and light by being the body of Christ and listen to those in need. Listening is one of the most powerful ways that we care for each other. To be fully present, non-judgmental, patient, and focused, to ask for clarification and restate what has been said – all these validate the person who may be trying to work through complicated feelings.

St. John's is a caring place, where everyone can truly feel cared for. Reach out to someone today and listen to how they're doing. And if you need someone to listen to you, our Stephen Ministers are available to meet with you. They've been trained to use good listening skills to communicate God's refreshing love.

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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BIRTHDAYS

		17	Jeffrey Squibb
		18	Madeleine Bresee, Cailyn Helfrich, Debra Laratta
1	Cathy Bunnell, Sal Pagano, Amy Thompson, Casie Wood	19	Echo Connell, Devin Lamb, Tera Snyder
2	Rogelio Saldivar	20	Kerri Thompson
3	Abigail Sneed	21	Tony Carafa
4	Kaylie Martindale	22	Morningdove Bain
5	Wendy Helfrich, Wayne Miller	23	Matthew Uffmann
8	Marco Barbosa, Paul Han, Jacqueline Price	24	Dick Lemin
9	Lindsey Engelbracht, Nancy Gressinger, Eva Meissenhalter	25	C.J. Meissenhalter, Abigail Ondek
11	Bradly Lloyd, Isabella Munoz, Jason Newton, Jeni Schluter	28	Cameron Hopkins, Allen Owens
13	Suzzette Heathcote, Peyton Koen	29	Grady Greely
14	Paul Bartelt	31	Parker Dahl, Tiffany Tucker

ANNIVERSARIES

1	Thane and Sarah Knutson (17 years) Jeff and Carri Mello (28 years) Mark and Cindy Zeller (39 years)		
2	Mark & Corrin Kornovich (10 years)	17	Leonard & Tracy Lamb (37 years)
3	Dennis & Judie Arnett (58 years) Dean Bledsoe & Lori Hunt (24 years)	19	Walt & Barbara Gmelch (17 years)
7	Ron & Judy Irwin (61 years)	20	Mark & Christine Lesti (32 years)
11	James & Rita Bresee (36 years)	21	Leonard & Deborah Bommersbach (55 years)
13	Charles & Elaine Scott (65 years)	28	Tony Carafa & Karen Schoenfeld (27 years) Dean & Nancy Ehlen (55 years)
14	Michael & Amy Smith (27 years)	30	Ken & Sharon Tews (51 years)
15	Dan & Angela D'Angelo (28 years)	31	John & Kristi Clark (52 years)

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
1	Psalm 91:1-8	Joshua 8:30-9:27	Luke 12:49-59
2	Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21	Isaiah 55:1-5	Matthew 14:13-21; Romans 9:1-5
3	Psalm 91:9-16	Joshua 10:1-27	Luke 13:1-17
4	Psalm 92:1-8	Joshua 10:28-11:23	Luke 13:18-30
5	Psalm 92:9-15	Joshua 12:1-13:7	Luke 13:31-14:6
6	Psalm 93	Joshua 13:8-14:5	Luke 14:7-24
7	Psalm 94:1	Joshua 14:6-15:19	Luke 14:25-35
8	Psalm 94:12-23	Joshua 15:20-63	Luke 15:1-10
9	Psalm 85:8-13	1 Kings 19:9-18	Matthew 14:22-33; Romans 10:5-15
10	Psalm 95	Joshua 16, 17	Luke 15:11-32
11	Psalm 96:1-9	Joshua 18:1-19:9	Luke 16:1-15
12	Psalm 96:10-13	Joshua 19:10-39	Luke 16:16-31
13	Psalm 97:1-6	Joshua 19:40-21:8	Luke 17:1-10
14	Psalm 97:7-12	Joshua 21:9-45	Luke 17:11-19
15	Psalm 98	Joshua 22	Luke 17:20-25
16	Psalm 67	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8	Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
17	Psalm 99	Joshua 23:1-24:13	Luke 17:26-37
18	Psalm 100	Joshua 24:14-Judges 1:16	Luke 18:1-17
19	Psalm 101	Judges 1:17-2:23	Luke 18:18-30
20	Psalm 102:1-11	Judges 3	Luke 18:31-43
21	Psalm 102:12-22	Judges 4	Luke 19:1-10
22	Psalm 102:23-28	Judges 5	Luke 19:11-27
23	Psalm 138	Isaiah 51:1-6	Matthew 16:13-20; Romans 12:1-8
24	Psalm 103:1-5	Judges 6	Luke 19:28-44
25	Psalm 103:6-18	Judges 7	Luke 19:45-20:8
26	Psalm 103:19-22	Judges 8	Luke 20:9-19
27	Psalm 104:1-9	Judges 9:1-33	Luke 20:20-26
28	Psalm 104:10-18	Judges 9:34-10:18	Luke 20:27-40
29	Psalm 104:19-23	Judges 11:1-27	Luke 20:41-21:4
30	Psalm 26:1-8	Jeremiah 15:15-21	Matthew 16:21-28; Romans 12:9-21
31	Psalm 104:24-30	Judges 11:28-12:15	Luke 21:5-28