



# THE VINE

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School Newsletter  
*FEBRUARY 2024*

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

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## Lord, Teach us To Pray

Once when Jesus disciples observed Him praying, they asked Him to teach them how to pray. In response He gave them the prayer we know as The Lord's Prayer. This prayer serves as both a prayer to pray and pattern for structuring our daily time in prayer. But above all, it reveals what our Lord knows we need on our Lenten journey.

February 14 (Ash Wednesday)

February 21

February 28

March 6

March 13

March 20

"Hallowed Be Thy Name

"Thy Kingdom Come; Thy Will Be Done"

"Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread"

"Forgive Us Our Trespases"

"Lead Us Not Into Temptation"

"Deliver Us From Evil"



Hello St. John's, I am calling on all soup, stew, and chili makers to share your talent with the St. John's family as we break bread every Wednesday evening before our Lent evening services. We will be sending out a digital sign-up sheet in February and posting a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for those that are interested in helping with this special time of Faith and Fellowship.

Thanks,  
Josh W.

# Sunday Bible Classes

We have two Bible Classes on Sunday mornings after worship. Pastor Mike is leading “Foundations” in Room 10 (see below). Joel Wahlers is leading a study on the Gospel of Mark in Room 8. (see below)

## *The Gospel of Mark*

The Gospel of Mark chronicles Jesus’s journey from Galilee to Jerusalem. Along the way, the Messiah gathers a ragged band of disciples. As crowds grow and dwindle on the road to Jerusalem, only a few stick by the Suffering Savior on the road of discipleship.

In this 11 part class, Joel Wahlers will be making use of a Right Now Video course led by author and speaker Francis Chan. Tracing the steps of Jesus and the Twelve through Israel, Francis explores the major themes of the Gospel of Mark, and asks: Are we willing to take this journey to embrace discipleship?

## *Foundations: An Overview of the Christian Faith*

What are the essential teachings of the Christian faith? What do they mean in our lives and in our world today?

Pastor Mike is leading a nine-session overview of the basic teachings of the Christian Faith. This study in basic Christianity will cover all the essential teachings, how they fit together into one compelling story, and what they mean for our lives today.

This class is required for those who are interested in membership at St. John’s. But it is also helpful for those who seek to better understand the Christian story in order to grow in their faith and be better equipped to share it with others. Throughout the class we will be considering the major challenges to faith, and how the Christianity provides a better story for our world today.

## **Worship Tech Overhaul** **Faith Comes From Hearing**

We’ve heard your feedback and understand that one of the biggest challenges you and our visitors face when attending worship in person or watching the livestream is participating in the service because it’s difficult to see or hear God’s Word, the lessons, and the beautiful music that’s raised up to God in praise. With these concerns in mind, we’re doing a complete and total overhaul of the audio and visual technology in the St. John’s sanctuary and Faith Chapel. We’re working to create an experience that is free of distractions, allowing our members, visitors, students, and families to focus on the most important element of any gathering held at St. John’s: God’s Word.

If you would like to help support this mission, we ask that you do so through your offerings. There are three ways you can give:

1. In person using your offering envelope
2. By clicking: Donate to St. John’s Lutheran (<https://bit.ly/DonatetoStJohnsLutheran>)
3. By using the Vanco Mobile app

We ask that you notate your donation with “Faith Comes From Hearing” or “Worship Tech Overhaul” to ensure it is applied to this project.

## Caring for Caregivers



The CNH District is presenting an event, “*Caring for Caregivers*”, on Saturday, February 10, 2024. This event is a unique opportunity for individuals who encounter caregivers in their professional or daily lives, specifically tailored for Christians in ministry and beyond.

Led by the esteemed Dr. Martha Garmon, this presentation promises to provide an understanding of the often-overlooked perspective of family caregivers. These unsung heroes can find themselves unintentionally isolated as they selflessly care for others. Dr. Garmon has identified simple yet impactful ways to support these caregivers, and this event is your chance to learn more about who they are and what they might need. The event will not only be informative but also interactive, allowing you time to engage in discussions and explore valuable resources. Lunch will be offered for those attending in person.

For those unable to join the event in person, the program committee has arranged a Zoom link to connect with the event virtually. They encourage you not to watch alone but to extend the invitation to others, fostering a sense of community even in the virtual space.

To secure your spot at this enlightening event, please register soon!

**What:** Caring for Caregivers Event

**Where:** CNH District Office at 2772 Constitution Dr., Livermore, CA & Virtual

**When:** Saturday, February 10, 2024 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

**Cost:** \$25

**Questions:** Contact Silas Perez, (925) 245-4000, [silas@cnh-lcms.org](mailto:silas@cnh-lcms.org)

[The registration form is available directly from Silas Perez or if you are a subscriber to the CNH District newsletter, \*IN-TOUCH\*, you will find a link for it in the article about the Caring for Caregivers event.](#)

You could also contact Elaine Zimmerman (707) 225-4291, [zimeleine@comcast.net](mailto:zimeleine@comcast.net) and she could forward the newsletter article containing the registration link to you. Elaine will be attending the event in person and can assist with transportation arrangements.

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## St. John’s Facebook Group

Are you on Facebook? Have you joined the St. John’s Facebook Family Group? Please click here to join and participate in Facebook Live events, discussion and more.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/stjohnsfamilynapa>

Why join our Facebook Group? We are planning live devotional events, prayer times, as well as other interactive events. Our group is a great place to encourage one another and walk together as a family of God. In this time when gathering in person is so difficult, this is an option to fellowship together.

Also, if you have something you'd like to see us talk about or promote on social media, please use the same contact info.



# SO, WHAT'S NEW AT THE FARM?

Submitted by Ted Zimmerman

It pleases me to announce the results of our participation in the CanDo's 2023 Give!Guide campaign to raise money for the Mission Farm's next crop year.



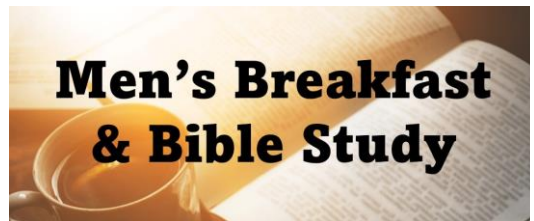
We were able to raise **\$4,100** in donations that came from 40 donors, 10 from the congregation and 30 from the community. You can do the math, but this means the average donation was over \$100! Add to this a total of **\$9,960** donations that came in through the regular donation portals of the congregation during that same November-December period. That was an increase in the predictable donations that would have been received of **\$7,194**. So I believe it would be safe to say that the results of all the Give!Guide promotion encouraged member giving to the Mission Farm account through the normal donation portals as well. Adding the \$4,100 for Give!Guide to the total \$9,960 receipts in November and December (\$14,060) resulted in our ability to cover all the expenses incurred by the Mission Farm since July 1 (\$12,309)! By the grace of God we have demonstrated the ability to raise more than corn and squash and tomatoes in our fields, but can do so in a sustainable manner. Thank God for your generosity!

Speaking of raising corn and squash and tomatoes in our fields, by the grace of God we were able to turn over a total of 19,174 lbs. of fresh produce to the CANV Food Bank! It was a bit less than we have been able to do in the past several years. This was a challenging year, with rains coming, but not always at the right times. We lost most of the stone fruit this year. Other crops exceeded our expectations. Either way, food insecure families were provided for, and that is the main thing.



**Greetings, all women of St. John's Lutheran Church. We are excited to get back to our study in Ephesians . We are a friendly group of women who welcome all newcomers who want to study God's Word, and see what He has for us in this new year. If that idea speaks to you then come join us! We meet every Monday morning at 10:00 in our sanctuary. For further information please contact Judi Rock at 707-738-6707.**

**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.**





January brought back the beloved HIT Basketball tournament. 2024 marked the 34<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tournament that Bob Hauch started. It was an enjoyable, albeit busy, weekend of basketball and fellowship. Many alumni returned to cheer on our boys' and girls' tournament teams. A

huge thank you to Matt Uffmann for organizing this tournament and to Lori Hunt and Dean Bledsoe for running the Eagle Rock Cafe.

We had our annual Open House on Thursday, January 25, 2024. It is always wonderful to see what all of the students have created, as well as have fellowship with current families and prospective families.

We have many exciting events currently planned for February!

On Friday, February 2, we will be having a Dine and Donate at Southside. We invite you to come and support our school. Please email the school office for more information.

The biggest highlight for February will be the Lutheran Elementary School Tournament at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington. LEST is a long held tradition here at SJL and we are excited that 71 students will be competing in over 20 events. This is such an exciting time for our students to interact with other Lutheran students from schools all over the Northwest (Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and California).

Looking forward to March, we will be having our Main Event Dinner and Auction on Saturday, March 9. It is not too late to get your ticket and enjoy a great evening supporting SJL.

Many blessings to you and your family!

*Dr. Christy Wood*

*Principal*

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

These words that the Apostle Paul spoke, sum up the good news message of the Gospel. When we are faced with the pressing problems of life, we need to remember that we are being made righteous by a direct intervention from Jesus Christ. Earlier in the epistle, Paul tells us that we have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer all about me, but about being a new creation in Christ. The old ways of reacting to our circumstances have been replaced with the new ways as we strive to "walk in a manner worthy of the Lord." We are further encouraged by Paul to see that new life in Christ is one of being reconciled to God and becoming more Christ-like through the trials and temptations of life.

When problems seem to overwhelm, remember that you are an adopted child of God through the merciful and gracious act of a loving Father that took your sins and nailed them to the cross of Christ. "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." (Romans 8:1) Paul lets us know that we are held tight by your loving Father through Christ. Paul further reminds; "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us." (Romans 8:18) Christ knows your struggles, you are never alone.

Dr. Steve Rock

## OFFERING UPDATE

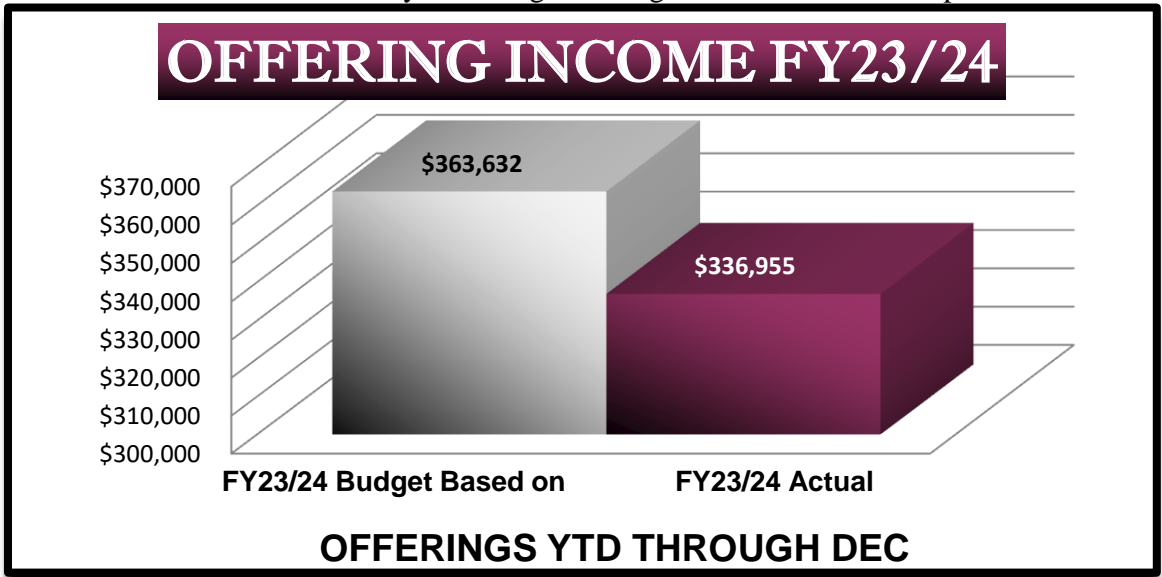
Actual Offering Income for Dec:

**\$66,250.**

Total Offerings for FY23/24 (as of 31 Dec 23):

**\$336,955** which is **7.34%** or **\$26,677** 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:

*“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men...”*  
*(Colossians 3:23)(ESV)*

### Have a Heart

February: the month devoted to love. Stores are filled with heart-shaped boxes of candy and heart-shaped cards and vases of flowers with heart-shaped gift tags. All this is available for the consumer so that he can find the appropriate expression of his devotion to his loved one. If that expression of love has been preceded by a year of thoughtful and loving words and deeds, it is welcomed and cherished by the recipient. If not, it is just an empty ritual, done out of duty rather than true devotion.

Our relationship to the Lord is similar. He, too, desires our sincere devotion, not empty lip service. *“The Lord says: ‘These people come near to Me with their mouth and honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me’ ”* (Isaiah 29:13).

Stewardship is serving, helping, giving, but love is the basis for stewardship. Without love, our good deeds are empty and without merit. The first act of true stewardship is to *“love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength”* (Deuteronomy 6:5). Jesus called this the most important commandment (Mark 12:29, 30). With that love for the Lord in us, we are enabled to be good stewards. Then we can do acts of good stewardship, acts of true devotion. We are enabled to . . .

- “Give generously to Him and do so without a grudging heart” (Deuteronomy 15:10).
- “Carefully observe [His decrees and laws] with all your heart and with all your soul” (Deuteronomy 26:16).
- “Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality” (Romans 12:13).
- “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men” (Colossians 3:23).

God, through Ezekiel, promised, “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit in you and move you to follow My decrees and be careful to keep My laws” (Ezekiel 36:26-27). This promise He has fulfilled in His Son, Jesus, Who has followed His Father’s decrees and kept His laws for us. As we strive to live fruitful lives of stewardship, at the same time, we rest in Christ Who has been the perfect steward for us.

**Prayer:**

Dear loving Father, Your love for me is steadfast and gracious. I confess that, often, my life of worship and Christian living is “empty lip service” to You. For Jesus’ sake, have mercy and forgive me when my heart is not devoted to You. Remove my “heart of stone.” Fill me with Your Spirit and grant me a loving heart that will honor and glorify You. Enable me to be generous, to obey Your commandments, to love my neighbor and to serve and love You above all else. 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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# FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

DATE                      ♥ COUPLE                      YEARS

1	Steve & Christy Wood	27
1	David & Kathy Fitzgerald	38
13	Doug & DeDe Messner	31
14	Tom & Elaine Hoff	37
25	Sandra & Stewart Mehrens	40





## LCC K-9 COMFORT DOG MINISTRY UPDATE

To God be the Glory!

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup> in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. *Proverbs 3:6*

Thank you to all of you who continue to support our LCC K9 Comfort Dog Ministry here at St. John's. Your prayers and donations are so appreciated! Aaron is on a bit of a break from ministry but will return soon!

Thanks for your support and prayers! Please check out Facebook, Instagram, and our website for all the latest news. [napavalleycomfortdogs.org](http://napavalleycomfortdogs.org)

Aaron Comfort Dog



### *Stephen Ministry: What a Friend We Have*

**What a Friend we have in Jesus**, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! ... Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? ...Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge—take it to the Lord in prayer! \*

Such a familiar hymn with wonderful, comforting words. God *is* our refuge and our strength, and we are so grateful that we can take everything to Him in prayer. Sometimes we also need a human friend to talk with, someone who can walk alongside us, someone to listen and offer support. Someone like an encouraging, caring Stephen Minister.

It's difficult to ask for help. Perhaps you've felt embarrassed that you're not "tough enough" to handle it on your own. Perhaps you feel your problems are too small, that others must have bigger issues. Perhaps you believe what our culture promotes – self-help is the answer. Perhaps you don't feel you deserve help. Or that you are too tired to reach out, feeling defeated before you start.

Please know that YOU matter to God and to the people at St. John's Lutheran Church. We have Stephen Ministers who are trained, ready, and willing to help. God carries you and your problems in His loving hands, and He provides hands-on help through Stephen Ministers. If you feel undeserving, just know that none of us deserve anything good, but God freely gives us every good and perfect gift through His amazing grace. 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). Thank you, God, for the Friend we have in Jesus, and for the friends we have at St. John's.

\*(Charles Converse music / Joseph Scriven lyrics)





# ATTENTION ALL CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS!!

The congregation will now accept applications for student grants for the 2023-2024 academic year. All members of St. John's, who plan to attend any of our seven synodical universities or our two seminaries, are eligible to apply. All you have to do is send a brief note to St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church, ATTN: Tim Kramer, or an e-mail to

[tkramer@stjohnslutheran.net](mailto:tkramer@stjohnslutheran.net), announcing your intent to enroll in the 2023-2024 academic year.

All applications must include the following information:



- a) Your Name
- b) School Name
- c) Student ID or Account # (if returning student)
- d) Degree you are pursuing
- e) Year and Level of study (e.g. Junior year, Undergrad; 5<sup>th</sup> year, teacher certification, or student teaching; Graduate studies)
- f) Attending Fall Term or Spring Term (or both)
- g) Briefly explain why you're attending Concordia and how you plan to use your studies/future vocation to shine the light of Christ and to witness for Jesus as His kingdom representative in the world.

Deadline for applications is March 31, 2023. Actual grant amount to each student is undetermined but will be based, in part, upon the number of students requesting assistance. So, if you are considering attending a synodical university--*even if you have not made a final decision*--please send a brief note informing us of where you are in your decision process so that we can plan accordingly.

## February Birthdays

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 3  | Grayson Roberts, Lisa Thornton, Katya Kampton                        |
| 7  | Tim Bouchet, Steve Rock  |
| 9  | Stephen Santora, Andrew Schluter                                     |
| 10 | Karen Schoenfeld, Carson Dahl  |
| 11 | Sarah Franklin   |
| 12 | Scott Ondek  |
| 15 | Teresa Schmid, Clayton D'Angelo, Kimberly Uffmann                    |
| 18 | Ruth Peterson  |
| 19 | Tessa Mello  |
| 20 | Cliff Burmester  |
| 21 | Jakob Chaudhary, Leonard Bommersbach                                 |
| 22 | Ayne Ondek, Erin Wilson<br>Steven Jeffery, Lucas Wedding, Tom Carey, |
| 23 | Gisela Chaudhary   |
| 24 | Nina Montes, Blake Rollin  |
| 25 | Jeffrey Craft  |
| 26 | Christopher Vecera   |
| 27 | Mark Zeller, Cindy Zeller  |
| 29 | Elizabeth Munoz  |





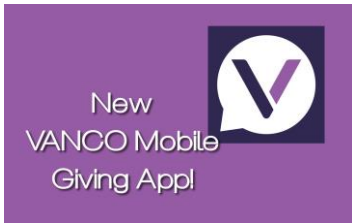
We are blessed to have so many young kids with us each Sunday, but we are running low on Children's Church leaders. If you are looking for a place to serve here at St. John's, I ask you to consider working in Children's Church. It's an awesome way for the kids to hear the Good News of Jesus delivered 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](mailto:kevin@stjohnsnapa.org)

How did February arrive so quickly?! We're into the shortest month on the calendar, but we still have some events you won't want to miss!

**High School:** Sunday, February 25th at 5-8pm. We are going scavenging! Join us for dinner, a Bible study, & a wild Napa Scavenger Hunt! Bring a friend!

**Confirmation:** We only have one regular event this month on February 7<sup>th</sup> in Room 10. The rest of the Wednesdays will involve the midweek Lenten Service.

**Surge:** Surge takes place on February 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> from 6-7:30 PM in Room 10. Calling all 5-8th graders to come out and have a blast with games, food, & a devotion!



The Give+ Mobile App from VANCO shut down 1 Oct 21 and is longer be available for download as a mobile app. The new app is called **VANCO Mobile**.

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

**February 25, 2024  
at 5:00 PM**



Prayer & Praise is a Sunday night opportunity to join together with our St. John's Family and beyond for a time of praising God through song and a time of prayer. We are super excited, so help us spread the word! Go to our **Instagram & Facebook** pages and share our post to let the Napa community know about Prayer & Praise.

# Daily Bible Readings for February

	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
1	Psalm 18:37-45	Genesis 32:1-21	Matthew 12:9-21
2	Psalm 18:46-50	Genesis 32:22-33:20	Matthew 12:22-32
3	Psalm 19:1-6	Genesis 34	Matthew 12:33-45 1 Corinthians 9:16-23;
4	Psalm 147:1-11, 20	Isaiah 40:21-31	Mark 1:29-30
5	Psalm 19:7-14	Genesis 35:1-36:8	Matthew 12:46-13:9
6	Psalm 20	Genesis 36:9-43	Matthew 13:10-23
7	Psalm 21	Genesis 37	Matthew 13:24-35
8	Psalm 22:1-8	Genesis 38	Matthew 13:36-46
9	Psalm 22:9-21	Genesis 39	Matthew 13:47-58
10	Psalm 22:22-28	Genesis 40:1-41:16	Matthew 14:1-14 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
11	Psalm 50:1-6		Mark 9:2-9
12	Psalm 22:29-31	Genesis 41:17-57	Matthew 14:15-24
13	Psalm 23	Genesis 42	Matthew 14:25-15:9
14	Psalm 24	Genesis 43	Matthew 15:10-20
15	Psalm 25:1-7	Genesis 44	Matthew 15:21-28
16	Psalm 25:8-22	Genesis 45	Matthew 15:29-16:4
17	Psalm 26	Genesis 46:1-27	Matthew 16:5-20
18	Psalm 25:1-10	Genesis 9:8-17	1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15
19	Psalm 27:1-6	Genesis 46:28-47:31	Matthew 16:21-28
20	Psalm 27:7-14	Genesis 48	Matthew 17:1-13
21	Psalm 28	Genesis 49	Matthew 17:14-27
22	Psalm 29	Genesis 50	Matthew 18:1-14
23	Psalm 30:1-5	Exodus 1:1-2:10	Matthew 18:15-35
24	Psalm 30:6-12	Exodus 2:11-3:22	Matthew 19:1-12
25	Psalm 22:23-31	Genesis 17:1-7,15-16	Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38
26	Psalm 31:1-5	Exodus 4:1-5:9	Matthew 19:13-22
27	Psalm 31:6-9	Exodus 5:10-6:12	Matthew 19:23-30
28	Psalm 31:10-20	Exodus 6:13-7:24	Matthew 20:1-16
29	Psalm 31:21-24	Exodus 8	Matthew 20:17-28



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Visit our school website at: [www.stjohnsnapa.org](http://www.stjohnsnapa.org)

Facilities Calendar Link: <https://teamup.com/ks059311afd6a21c57>



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

**Church**

Phone: (707) 255-0119

Email: [churchoffice@stjohnsnapa.org](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsnapa.org)

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](mailto:kbroyles@stjohnsnapa.org)

Dr. Christy Wood, Principal (ext. 103)

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

Mrs. Joy Dahl, Director of Preschool (107)