

FEBRUARY 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 February

This month we come to the end of the Epiphany season with the celebration of the Transfiguration on February 15. Following that, we begin Lent with Ash Wednesday on February 18 and embark on our journey to the cross. Our Lent Sunday Worship Series, "Behold the Son of God," will focus on key events in the life of Jesus that draw us to the cross and the love He poured out for us there.



### February 1

When Good Intentions Go Wrong...and God Still Shows Up  
Guest Preacher: Rev. Paul Ferguson, Assistant to the President of the CNH District of the LCMS for Missions



### February 8

True Fasting  
A question as Lent approaches: What kind of fasting truly honors our Lord?



### February 15 - Transfiguration

Behold the Glorified Christ  
On the Transfiguration mount, Jesus provided a preview of His glory. In the first chapter of Revelation, He showed John His glory achieved.



### February 22

Tested in the Wilderness  
Our Lent journey begins in the wilderness as Jesus is tested by Satan. What does His triumph mean for us?

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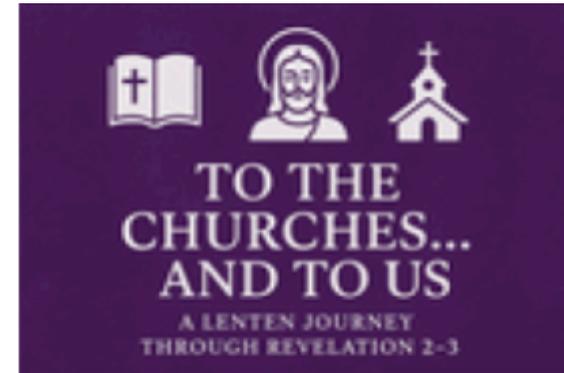
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# LENT MIDWEEK SERIES



## Lent Midweek Series To the Churches...and to Us A Lenten Journey Through Revelation 2-3

The season of Lent invites us to listen again for Christ's voice. In Revelation 2-3, Jesus speaks to seven churches - calling them to remember, to repent, to endure, and to return. These ancient words still search our hearts and strengthen our faith today. As we walk through Lent, we hear Christ addressing His people with truth and mercy, inviting us to renewed love and deeper trust in the One who walks among His churches still.

### February 18 - Ash Wednesday

#### Ephesus: Return to Your First Love

Revelation 2:1-7

Ephesus was a church that kept its works but lost its warmth. Lent begins with an invitation to rediscover the love that first awakened our faith.



### February 25

#### Smyrna: Faithful in Suffering

Revelation 2:8-11

Christ speaks tenderly to a church under pressure: "Do not fear." How does Christ's presence sustain us in trials and strengthen us to remain faithful when life grows hard?



# LENT MIDWEEK SERIES

**March 4**

Pergamum: Hold Fast to the Truth

*Revelation 2:12-17*

Pergamum lived in a culture of compromise - and so do we. Jesus calls His people to cling to His Word with courage and grace. What does it mean to stand firm in truth without losing love?



**March 11**

Thyatira: Guard Your Heart

*Revelation 2:18-29*

Thyatira was a church rich in love and service, yet vulnerable to subtle corruption. Christ invites us to examine the loyalties of our hearts and to hold fast to what is pure and life-giving.



**March 18**

Sardis: Wake Up!

*Revelation 3:1-6*

Sardis had a reputation for life but was spiritually asleep. Jesus' words are a gracious alarm, calling us to renewal. How does the Spirit revive what is fading and fragile?



**March 25**

Philadelphia: Hold On to What You Have

*Revelation 3:7-13*

To a small and weary church, Christ opens a door no one can shut. He honors their quiet faithfulness and calls them to persevere. God gives strength to those who feel they have little left.



**April 2 - Maundy Thursday**

Laodicea: I Will Come In and Eat with You

*Revelation 3:14-21*

Laodicea's lukewarmness meets Christ's persistent love. On this night of the Supper, we hear His promise: "I will come in and eat with you." As we gather at His table, we welcome again the One who knocks and comes in with His grace.



# MINISTRY CONFERENCE

**February 12-14 - Best Practices for Ministry Conference**

Best Practices for Ministry is a free annual conference for pastors, church workers, and lay people. The purpose is to learn and share ideas and practices to help us grow in living God's Mission. BPM 2026 will take place on February 12-14 at Christ Church Lutheran in Phoenix, Arizona. For more information, please go to: <https://cclphoenix.org/bpm/>



As we have done in the past, St. John's will be covering lodging for all participants from St. John's, but not transportation.\* The conference itself is free. If you are interested in attending, please contact Kristy in the Church Office so we can add you to our hotel room block. Please also register for the conference at the website listed above.

## BIBLE CLASSES AND STUDIES

**Pastor Mike's Bible Class**

Angels and Demons

This month we continue looking at what God's Word says about angels and fallen angels. Throughout this multi-week study, we're walking through the Scriptures, looking at the times in which angels and demons show up in the narrative, or are mentioned in the writings. We will study what God's Word says, comparing and contrasting with the views of popular culture, and what it means for us today. We meet in Room 10 each Sunday after worship at 11:00 AM.



**Men's Bible Study**

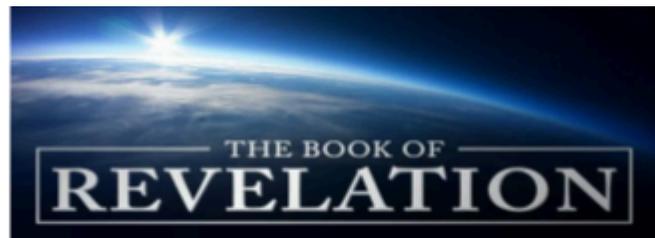
The Men's Saturday Morning Bible Study is currently studying the Epistle (letter) to the Galatians. All men are welcome to join us every Saturday morning in Room 10. Breakfast will be at 7:30 AM, and the Bible study will be from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM.



**Women's Bible Study**

The Women's Bible Study meets on Monday mornings in the Sanctuary from 10:00-11:30 AM. We're currently studying the Book of Romans. All study materials will be handed out at the start of the study. For more information, please contact Judi Rock at [goaluce2041@gmail.com](mailto:goaluce2041@gmail.com).





## A Study of the Book of Revelation

The final book of the Bible offers a powerful message of hope to God's people in challenging times. Yet its vivid images, metaphors, and symbols can leave us wondering what they mean. This month we begin a three-part study of Revelation that will continue over the coming months.

### **Part 1: February 15 (Transfiguration Sunday) - Revelation 1**

Transfiguration Sunday recalls the moment when Jesus revealed a glimpse of His glory to Peter, James, and John. This year, however, we will focus on Christ's glory not as a preview, but as fully accomplished. In Revelation 1, the risen Jesus appears to John in all His resurrected majesty. What is the meaning of His appearance and the imagery He chooses? And how does this vision speak into our lives today?



### **Part 2: Wednesday Worship in Lent - Revelation 2-3**

Our Lenten Wednesday worship series, *"To the Churches...and to Us,"* will explore Revelation 2-3 - the seven letters Jesus sent to seven churches through John. Each letter speaks both to individual believers and to congregations. What encouragement, correction, and promise do these letters offer to us and to our church today?



### **Part 3: Sunday Bible Class - Revelation 4-22**

After Easter, our Sunday Bible class will turn to the remainder of Revelation, beginning with the heavenly vision in Chapter 4. This extended study will continue for several months. Everyone is warmly invited to join us.



### **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](mailto:kevin@stjohnsnapa.org).



### **June 15-19 - Vacation Bible School**

Summer will be here before you know it, so save the date for an amazing week of VBS fun and adventure! This year, we invite kids to step through the mist into Rainforest Falls, overflowing with wild waterfalls, towering trees, and colorful creatures. Beneath a canopy of chattering birds and howling monkeys, kids will plunge into a lifelong adventure of discovering the nature of God. They'll explore what it means to be rooted in relationship with God, their creator, a safe place in life's storms.



A website for registration will be up at a later date, but in the meantime please prayerfully consider playing a role in delivering a memorable experience for the kids this summer. The dates are set for **Monday-Friday, June 15-19, from 9am-noon**. Please contact Kevin Mathison with any questions.

### **Confirmation Classes**

Confirmation, for 7th and 8th graders desiring to know more about God, will be meeting throughout the school year right here at St. John's. This month we will meet on February 4, 11, 18, & 25 in the Library. Each of those Learning Events runs from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. If you have any questions or desire to get involved, please contact Kevin Mathison.



### **High School Hangouts**

Calling all High Schoolers! Join us every Sunday after the worship service for High School Hangouts in Kevin Mathison's office. We'll enjoy games, snacks, and fellowship as we dive into God's Word and talk about what it means for our lives today. If you have any questions, email Kevin Mathison.



# NEWS AND EVENTS

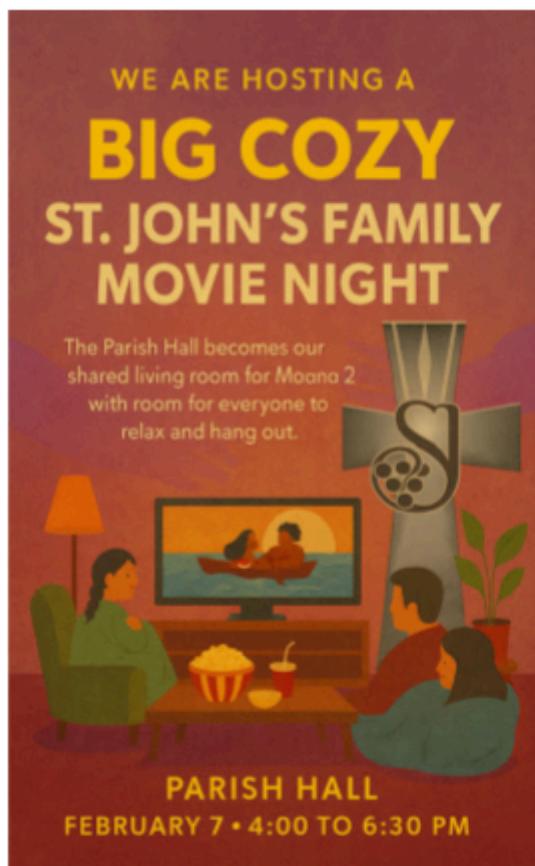
## February 1 - Scout Sunday

Did you know that St. John's Lutheran has its very own Scout Troop? Come meet Scout Troop 83 at the worship service this Sunday and learn about all the exciting things they've been working on over the past year! We'll have the chance to hear from the Scouts during the service, and they will also be available afterwards to answer any questions.



## February 7 - Family Movie Night

Join us for a big cozy St. John's family movie night. Bring your comfiest seat and settle in with your people. Parents and guardians, stay and enjoy the movie with the kids. Our snack bar fundraiser will be open with pizza, candy, drinks, and popcorn to support future ministries.



*Lenten SOUP Suppers*

*Lent is almost here, and our Wednesday evening services are on the way. Soup Suppers return at 6:00 pm every Wednesday, starting February 18 and continuing each week through the season.*

*The hosting schedule is taking shape and the sign up form is live. This is the perfect moment to jump in and help our soup suppers flourish. Gather your group, pick a night, and bring your best recipe or your best enthusiasm. Invite your family, your small group, your secret recipe squad, or that friend who swears their soup could win awards. Hosting a night is an easy way to spark connection and create a warm, welcoming space before the service.*



*Scan the QR code and sign up today. Let your group host a night where the St. John's family feels right at home around your table.*



# NEWS AND EVENTS



## February 22 - Planned Giving Seminar

There are many meaningful ways to honor the Lord and support the ministry of St. John's beyond traditional giving. The St. John's Endowment Fund Committee invites you to a Planned Giving Seminar on **February 22 at 11:00 a.m. in Room 10.**

You'll learn about Donor-Advised Funds, bequests through a will or trust, Qualified Charitable Distributions, and other opportunities for faithful stewardship. We are pleased to welcome **Brian Hyde**, Gift Planning Counselor with the LCMS Foundation, who will present on these topics and answer your questions. All are welcome to attend.

**16<sup>th</sup> Annual St. John's Ladies Tea**  
Saturday March 7, 2026  
11:00-2:00 in the Parish Hall

Please join us for a wonderful time sipping tea, enjoying a sit-down lunch, listening to a speaker and raffle prizes.

To reserve a table for you and seven guests, or you would like to attend on your own or with friends, please contact: Rebecca Vitkus 775-685-6201 or at Havegoalstomeet@gmail.com




## March 14 - Wine and the Word

Our valley is known around the world for its vineyards and the remarkable wines they produce. But have you ever noticed how often wine, grapes, and vineyards appear in the Bible? From Noah's vineyard to the Last Supper, these images play a significant role—both as real, agricultural products and as rich symbols of God's truth.

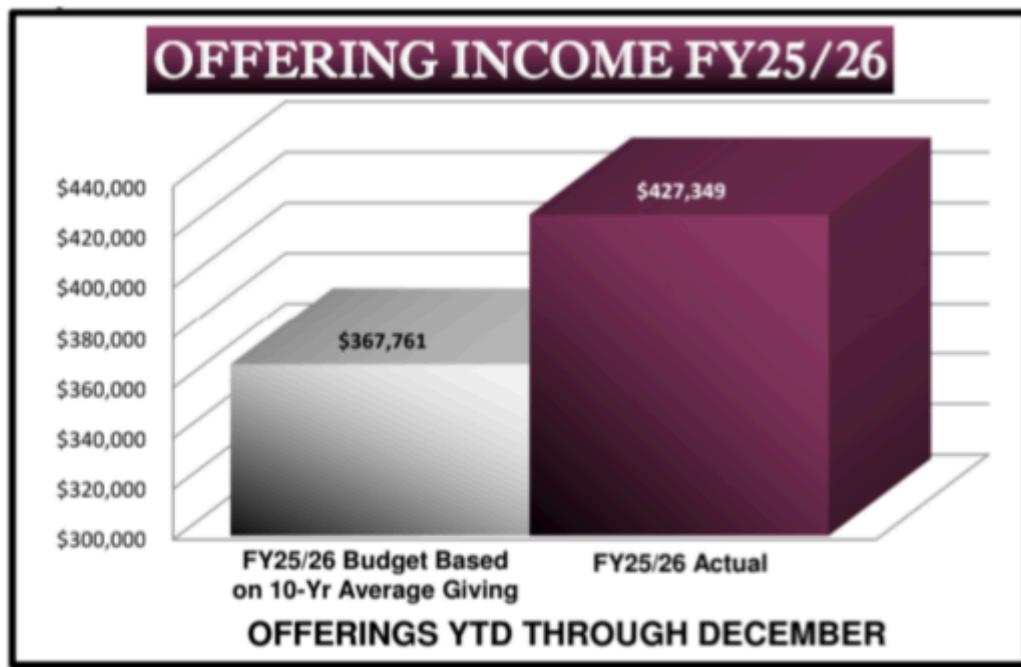
You and your friends are invited to *Wine and the Word*, an evening (time TBD) exploring winemaking in biblical times and the many ways Scripture uses the imagery of wine and vineyards. Winemaker **Andy Schweiger** will share insights into ancient Israelite winemaking, and **Pastor Mike** will teach on the role of wine throughout the Bible.

And yes—there will be wine and refreshments. This event is open to all, so feel free to invite others.

## OFFERING UPDATE

Actual Offering Income for December: **\$105,211.**  
 Total Offerings for FY 2025-26 (as of Dec 31, 2025): **\$427,349** which is **16.20%** or **\$59,588** 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:**  
*"Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'" (Hebrews 13:5 ESV)*

### God's Grip Gives Us Hope

Isn't it amazing that birds go to sleep on their perches and never fall off? This is because God has created them so that, when their legs are bent, the claws contract and grip like a steel trap. The claws will not let go until the knees are unbent. The bended knee enables the bird to hold tightly to its perch.

As strong as this grip is, it is not as strong as the hold God has on us. Think about Daniel, a young man in a pagan environment. With all the temptations and threats around him, he was safe because of God's everlasting grip. On his bended knees before his open window, he prayed every day – three times a day – giving thanks for God's protection, and God didn't let go of him, even in the den of lions (Daniel 6:10-22).

We might also consider Joseph who, through all the twists and turns of his lifetime, found one constant: "The Lord was with Him" (Genesis 39:3, 21, 23). Taken away from his family at a young age, immersed in an idolatrous culture, tempted by Pharaoh's wife, he was safe in God's everlasting grip.

Like both Daniel and Joseph, we live in a sinful world. We may not be facing false accusations and a den of lions, but we, too, face temptations and threats. We, too, earnestly pray for God's protection and safekeeping of our souls, and His Word assures us that we can rest secure and have hope in His everlasting grip. May God grant us the faith to put our hope in God Who promises to keep His grip on us always.

**Prayer:** Lord, You are so gracious to me. You gave Your Son to die for my sins, and You give Your Spirit, Who, through Word and Sacrament, convicts me of sin, builds faith in me, and keeps me close to You. Thank You for Your everlasting grip on me, even when I let go of You. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Adapted from *"Maturing as Stewards through Faith, Love, and Hope"* by Ronald J. and Phyllis J. Chewning, Stewardship Advisors, Inc., 2007.

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2026 marked the 36<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the **HIT basketball tournament**, founded by our beloved former teacher and coach Bob Hauch. It was an enjoyable, albeit busy, weekend of basketball and fellowship. Many alumni returned to cheer on our boys' and girls' tournament teams along with our fantastic Cheer and Dance team. A huge thank you to Matt Uffmann for organizing this tournament and to Lori Hunt and Dean Bledsoe for running the Eagle Rock Cafe (making excellent use of our new Parish Hall ovens!)

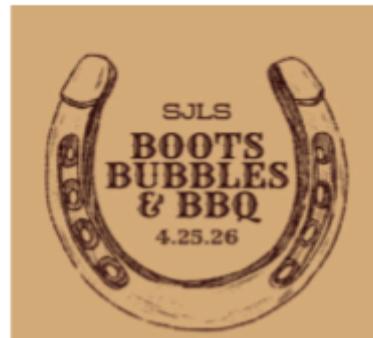


We had our annual **Open House** on Thursday, January 29. It is always wonderful to see what all the students have created, as well as have fellowship with current families and prospective families.



The biggest highlight for February will be the **Lutheran Elementary Schools Tournament** at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, WA. LEST is a long-held tradition here at SJL and we are excited that 55 of our students will be competing this year in 22 events. Such an exciting time for our students to interact with other Lutheran students from schools all over the Northwest (Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and California), as well as from British Columbia, Canada.

Looking ahead to later this spring, we will be having our annual fundraiser event on Saturday, April 25. Please join us at **Boots, Bubbles, & BBQ** and enjoy a great evening supporting our school! This exciting community-building night, held right here at St. John's, will feature a lively auction, great company, and the chance to make a big impact for our school. For more information and to buy tickets, click on the link in the weekly E-Vine.



Submitted by: **Farmer Ted, AKA Pastor Ted**

No, it has been a while since the Mission Farm looked so lovely and laden with vegetable plants. I am submitting the photo below with this article to celebrate what a wonderful and fruitful year we had this last crop season. We raised over 20,000 lbs. of produce to send to the CANV Food



Bank. We also raised more than \$20,000 in supporting funds for the coming crop season as well, and received another \$16,000 in grants to cover our water bill and some farm improvements. We also enjoyed sufficient volunteer labor to plant, cultivate and harvest the fruits and vegetables. God has been good! Thank you for your prayers, gifts, and labor. You all are deeply appreciated.

While it looks quiet out there today, a lot of planning is underway in preparation for the next crop season. An Eagle Scout project will begin in March to make improvements in our irrigation supply system. The tool shed will get a new roof as well as be wired for electricity needed to recharge tool batteries and sharpen the tools themselves. Seeds are being ordered and seedlings started so we can begin planting them around the end of March, beginning of April. Dick Lemin will soon be firing up Mr. Kubota to till the fields and spread chips on the roads and paths on the farm. Soon enough you will see and hear appeals for volunteers. Let's have another wonderful, charitable year!

# STEPHEN MINISTRY



## Peace

*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you...Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." - John 14:27*

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." - Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)*

Peace is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, which is given to each one of us when we receive the Holy Spirit in baptism. We receive Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control (*Galatians 5:22*). There are so many verses in the Bible about not being afraid, including the one above when Jesus tells his friends to accept his amazing Peace and not be afraid. When we have peace in our souls we do not need to fear anything.

Since we are humans, we tend to worry, have anxiety, feel fearful, fret, get worked up about things we can't control. Where is peace when all the news headlines show how the world is falling apart? The answer is always God. God is in control. God loves us and wants us to have his Peace. How do we find Peace? We pray as Paul taught us in the second verse above. Pray with thanksgiving, asking God for our needs. And there is a promise that we will have God's peace which far surpasses what our minds can understand.

Even with this promise of peace we may still feel anxious, worried, depressed, or upset about circumstances. It can help to have someone to meet and talk with, who will listen and help sort through difficult feelings. Stephen Ministers are trained to walk alongside you during rough times.

St. John's is blessed to have 6 **peace-filled** Stephen Ministers who are available to care for those in need. If you, or someone you know, could benefit from talking with a Stephen Minister, contact Penni Cremen at 707-483-9321 or Pastor Mike at the church office at 707-255-0119.

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# LARGE PRINT MINISTRY



## RESOURCES AND CONTACT INFORMATION



3521 Linda Vista Ave.  
Napa, CA 94558-2703

### Website Resources

Our weekly sermons are available on the **church website** at [church.stjohnsnapa.org](http://church.stjohnsnapa.org).

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

Our **facilities calendar** can be viewed at [teamup.com/ks059311afd6a21c57](https://teamup.com/ks059311afd6a21c57).

### Social Media Resources

St. John's Lutheran Church

 @sjlcnapa  @stjohnsnapa

St. John's Lutheran School

 @StJohnsLutheranSchoolNapa  @sjlschool

### Contact Information

#### Church

Phone: (707) 255-0119

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

Rev. Michael A. Schmid, Lead Pastor (ext. 122)

Mr. Howard Scully, Business Administrator (ext. 121)

Mrs. Kristy Watkins, Church Office Manager (ext. 120)

Mr. Kevin Mathison, Dir. of Youth Ministry (ext. 106)

#### 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, Preschool Director (ext. 107)

# BIRTHDAYS



	18	Ruth Peterson
	19	Tessa Mello, Juliet Meyers
	20	Cliff Burmester
2	21	Leonard Bommersbach, Jakob Chaudhary
3	22	Tom Carey, Steven Jeffery, Ayne Ondek, Lucas Wedding, Erin Wilson
7	23	Gisela Chaudhary
9	24	Nina Montes, Blake Rollin, Ron Shively
10	25	Jeffrey Craft
11	26	Christopher Vecera
12	27	Cindy Zeller, Mark Zeller
15	29	Elizabeth Munoz

# ANNIVERSARIES



1	Steve & Christy Wood (29 years) David & Kathy Fitzgerald (40 years)
13	Doug & DeDe Messner (33 years)
14	Tom & Elaine Hoff (39 years)
25	Stewart & Sandra Mehrens (42 years)

# DAILY BIBLE READINGS

	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
1	Psalm 15	Micah 6:1-8	Matthew 5:1-12; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
2	Psalm 18:37-45	Genesis 32:1-21	Matthew 12:9-21
3	Psalm 18:46-50	Genesis 32:22-33:20	Matthew 12:22-32
4	Psalm 19:1-6	Genesis 34	Matthew 12:33-45
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 112:1-9, (10)	Isaiah 59:1-9a, (9b-12)	Matthew 5:13-20; 1 Corinthians 2:1-12, (13-16)
9	Psalm 22:1-8	Genesis 38	Matthew 13:36-46
10	Psalm 22:9-21	Genesis 39	Matthew 13:47-58
11	Psalm 22:22-28	Genesis 40:1-41:16	Matthew 14:1-14
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 2	Exodus 24:12-18	Matthew 17:1-9; 2 Peter 1:16-21
16	Psalm 25:1-7	Genesis 44	Matthew 15:21-28
17	Psalm 25:8-22	Genesis 45	Matthew 15:29-16:4
18	Psalm 26	Genesis 46:1-27	Matthew 16:5-20
19	Psalm 27:1-6	Genesis 46:28-47:31	Matthew 16:21-28
20	Psalm 27:7-14	Genesis 48	Matthew 17:1-3
21	Psalm 28	Genesis 49	Matthew 17:14-27
22	Psalm 32	Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7	Matthew 4:1-11; Romans 5:12-19
23	Psalm 29	Genesis 50	Matthew 18:1-14
24	Psalm 30:1-5	Exodus 1:1-2:10	Matthew 18:15-35
25	Psalm 30:6-12	Exodus 2:11-3:22	Matthew 19:1-12
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