

JANUARY 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 January



January 4 - Epiphany

They Opened Their Treasures

The Magi are rather unlikely examples of discipleship, considering that it was astrology that started them on their journey. But the journey ended with them bowing down and worshipping the infant Jesus. As part of that act of worship, they "opened their treasures" and worshiped Him with their offerings. What does that mean for us? How do we worship the Lord Jesus with our treasures? And how will we do so in the coming year?



January 11 - Baptism of Our Lord

I'm Baptized! So What?

What does it mean that I am baptized? Is it just about an event sometime in the past, one that I may not even remember? Or is it a description of a present reality, my identity itself, and my relationship with my Savior? Today as we commemorate the Baptism of our Lord, we reflect on our own baptisms and what they mean in our lives today.



January 18 - Epiphany Season

To Be Announced

Kevin Mathison will be delivering the message.



January 25 - Epiphany Season

Following Jesus

Would you have dropped everything to follow Jesus if He had called you the way He did Peter, Andrew, James, and John? But hasn't He called us? The truth is that while we may not have been called to the same role or tasks as these men, we have been called to follow Jesus. What does that mean? How do we follow Him in our lives today?

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NEW MEMBER WELCOME



Please join us on Sunday, January 11 to welcome the following new members to our congregation:

- Mark, Laura, Henry, and Theo Budz
- Keith, Cheyanne, Nova, Hezekiah Hutchins
- Megan, Grant, and Juliet Meyers
- Matt, Kelsi, Jalde, Karlie, and Tera Snyder

- Shane Sikes
- Talan Smith
- Kristy and Lucia Watkins

BIBLE CLASSES AND STUDIES

Pastor Mike's Bible Class

Angels and Demons



If we take the scriptures seriously, we will acknowledge that there is a spiritual realm and there are spiritual beings all around us that we cannot see. The Bible is full of references to angels as God's servants. In this multi-week study, we're going to look at and discuss what the Bible says about these spiritual beings, compare and contrast with the views of popular culture, and what it means for us today. We will 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.

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

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 January 7, 14, 21, & 28 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 at kevin@stjohnsnapa.org.



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 at kevin@stjohnsnapa.org.



NEWS AND EVENTS



Wonderful news – thanks to your generosity, we have reached our initial \$50,000 goal and our \$2,500 stretch goal for the new sanctuary lights! However, if you feel led to continue donating toward this project, we would be most grateful. Any "Let There Be Lights" contributions received over and above the initial and stretch goals will reduce the amount of available reserves needed to fund the project.



For an offering by check, please indicate "Let there Be Lights" on the memo line (and on your envelope, if applicable). For online giving, please use the "Let there Be Lights" option to make your designation. Thank you again to all who have helped brighten our sanctuary with your offerings!

2026 Offering Envelopes

Don't forget to pick up your 2026 offering envelopes in the narthex! If you do not yet have offering envelopes and would like to order some, please contact Kristy in the Church Office.



Charitable Contributions Reminder for Donors

Church Law & Tax has provided a helpful information packet outlining year-end giving reminders as you prepare your 2025 tax returns. We have several copies available in the narthex, and you can also access the packet electronically using the link in the E-Vine.



February 12-14, 2026 - Best Practices for Ministry Conference

BPM is back! 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.

NEWS AND EVENTS



In Search of Sunday Transportation

A young adult with special needs, who lives in Suisun City, is looking for transportation to and from St. John's on Sunday mornings. He is ambulatory and needs no special accommodations, just a ride. He is friendly and talkative! If you are able to help him out, please leave your name and contact information (phone and/or email) with the Church Office Manager, Kristy Watkins (churchoffice@stjohnsnapa.org).

Maintenance Technician (Part-time)

The maintenance technician is primarily responsible for implementing and carrying out the preventive and routine maintenance tasks to prolong and ensure appropriate operation of equipment and systems. For the full position description, please click on the link in the E-Vine. To inquire about this position, please contact Howard Scully (hscully@stjohnsnapa.org) or Pastor Mike Schmid (pastormike@stjohnsnapa.org).

Music Teacher at St. John's Lutheran School

The Music Teacher position at St. John's Lutheran School includes Classroom instruction for Preschool - Grade 5 and Choir direction for Grades 6-8. This is a part-time position, scheduled for classroom instruction Tuesday and Thursday, and accompaniment/directing of students during our weekly Chapel first thing Wednesday morning. In addition, accompaniment/directing takes place approximately twice a month during our Sunday Worship. For more information, please contact Principal Christy Wood at cwood@stjohnsnapa.org.

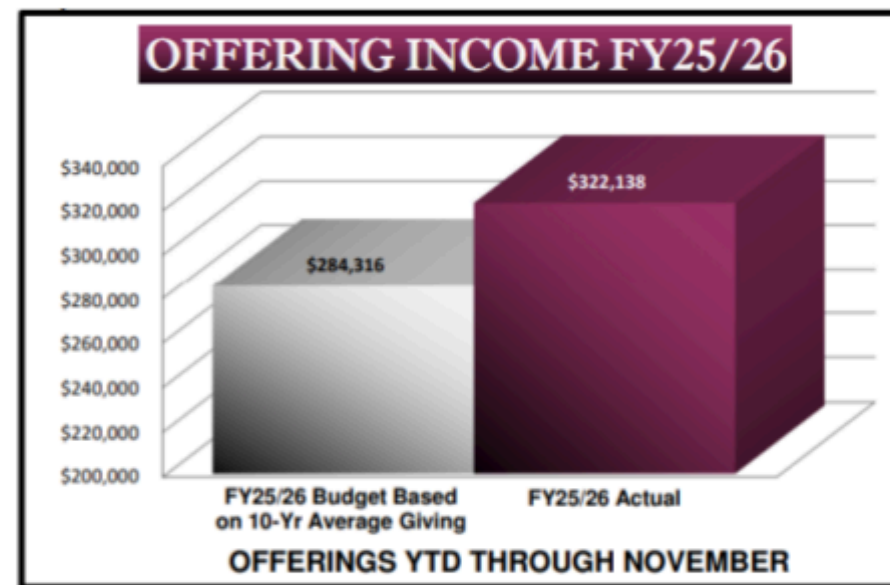


MONEY MATTERS

OFFERING UPDATE

Actual Offering Income for November: \$76,420.
Total Offerings for FY 2025-26 (as of Nov 30, 2025): \$322,138, which is 13.30% or \$37,822 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:

"For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." (Romans 15:4 ESV)

Hope in God

Do you have a roof over your head? What about money set aside for retirement? Surely you carry house and vehicle insurance. And probably long-term-care insurance as well. Now, is your heart at ease? You've taken care of everything, right?

It certainly is wise to plan ahead, especially so that we will not be burdens to others. But listen to the words of Paul as recorded in 1 Timothy 6:17: *"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment."*

MONEY MATTERS

In this Scripture, Paul reminds us that worldly wealth is still uncertain. He boldly states that, if we're trusting in worldly wealth, we are acting arrogantly. The only thing that is certain is God's love for us. He loves us and enables us to make our livings. He loves us so much that He *"richly provides us with everything"* – and here's the surprising part – *"for our enjoyment"*!

How do you plan to "enjoy" God's rich blessings to you? Take a cruise around the world? Buy a new luxury car every year? What really brings you enjoyment? God has blessed us, not so that we can enjoy His gifts by hoarding them, but so that His purposes in the world can be fulfilled. In 1 Timothy 6:18, Paul tells us how to enjoy the gifts God gives us: *"Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share."*

When our hope is in God, we have no need to amass worldly wealth. When our hope is in God, we trust Him to provide for us all that we need and even more so that we'll always have something to share. In 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, Paul makes this point with these words: *"Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."* God has called us to be His stewards. He also enables us to carry out His will. And there's another bonus! Not only will we receive enjoyment from sharing God's gifts, *"In this way [we] will lay up treasure for [our]selves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that [we] may take hold of the life that is truly life"* (1 Timothy 6:19). Put your hope in God.

Prayer: Lord, there are many things in this world to which I can attach my heart and in which I place my security. Grant me a discerning heart that helps me understand that my only security is found in You. Help me to faithfully read Your Word which will encourage me to place my hope and trust in You. In Christ's 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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ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL



36th Annual HIT Basketball Tournament

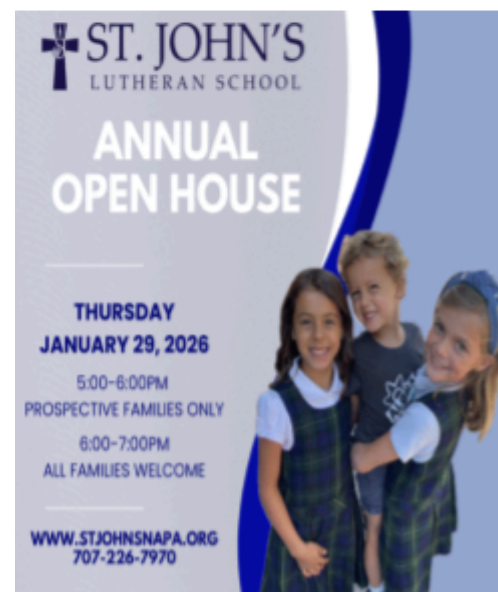
We are excited to invite you to our 36th Annual Hauch Invitational Basketball Tournament - one of the most anticipated events of the year! The tournament will take place on **January 15-18** in our gymnasium.



The tournament will feature our **7th/8th Boys Tournament Team** and our **7th/8th Girls Tournament Team**. Our **Cheer and Dance team** will be performing at the tournament as well!

The tournament never fails to provide intense competition, camaraderie, and unforgettable moments on the court. We are blessed with the opportunity to host this special event, and we look forward to witnessing our students and families create a spirited and welcoming atmosphere.

Make sure to mark your calendar for this exciting tournament of basketball action. Join fellow parents, fans, and supporters in celebrating the spirit of sportsmanship and teamwork. Your encouragement makes a significant impact on the players, creating an unforgettable experience for everyone involved. We look forward to sharing this memorable experience with you!



Join us for an evening of fun, fellowship, and fundraising at **Boots, Bubbles & BBQ** on April 25, 2026, benefiting St. John's Lutheran School! This exciting community-building night will feature a lively auction, great company, and the chance to make a big impact for our school. Don't miss out - come for the fun, stay for the cause, and help us support our students.

MISSION FARM



Submitted by: Farmer Ted, AKA Pastor Ted

Lately we have been busier raising donations for the Mission Farm than raising actual crops. We do have cabbage and broccoli growing out in the field closest to the Parish Hall-Gym, but the other fields are resting, and the fruit trees are dormant in preparation for the next growing season. We were successful in reaching once again our goal of 20,000 lbs. of produce delivered to the CANV Food Bank

The raising of donations ended December 31, at least for receiving donations through the CanDo Give!Guide campaign. I will not be able to provide the final figures for what was received through that community campaign, nor through our offering receipts in the congregation, until next month's Vine. However, I will publish them in the weekly E-Vine as soon as available. Donations and gifts of kind are always welcome, no matter what the calendar says.

We truly appreciate the many volunteers from the congregation who stepped up to assist us in the fields this past year, as well as those from the Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers organization. Their strength, energy, and enthusiasm is deeply appreciated by our more "senior" members of the Farm Team.



COMFORT DOG MINISTRY



Blessings to all for a happy and healthy 2026!

Each month that passes, brings us closer to the arrival of our next LCC K9 Comfort Dog. Our team continues to prepare by gathering for Bible study and teambuilding events. We also will be attending the Spiritual First Aid course offered by Lutheran Church Charities. Our Top Dogs plan to attend a Top Dog Gathering for fellowship, brainstorming of ideas, encouragement, and goal setting at LCC headquarters in March. This will be a time to learn, grow and celebrate in the name of Jesus.

There is always room for anyone interested in serving our community in this ministry. Contact Tim or Christy Kramer at (707)681-1917.

Please continue to keep our ministry in your prayers. Thank you to all those who faithfully support our ministry through financial gifts! We will have a lot of expenses coming up so your continued support is much appreciated!



STEPHEN MINISTRY



Consider Serving as a Stephen Minister

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." - Matthew 11:28

On **Sunday, January 25**, the work of Stephen Ministry will be highlighted during the worship service. St. John's Lutheran Church has been blessed to have an active Stephen Ministry since 2018. Stephen Ministry is based on the idea that all Christians are ministers. The responsibility for passing on God's love is for all Christians, not just our pastors. God has given us all gifts for ministry, and he calls us to put those gifts to use. Stephen Ministry is a way for people with gifts of caring to bring Christ's love to people in need.

Who are Stephen Ministers? Stephen Ministers are very well-trained individuals who provide a high level of emotional and spiritual care to people experiencing a wide range of life difficulties. After 50 hours of training, they are equipped to care in situations such as divorce, grief, loss of a job, hospitalization, relocation, or loneliness. Stephen Ministers make a commitment to meet with an assigned care receiver for about an hour a week. This caring relationship may be short or long term, depending on the specific situation.

Stephen Ministers Grow in the Lord. The more you focus on the Lord and do God's work, the more satisfaction you will find. Are you looking for more satisfaction in your life? Consider serving our congregation as a Stephen Minister. By helping others, you will help God's kingdom grow – and you will grow too!

Prayerfully Consider Becoming a Stephen Minister. Stephen Ministers bring distinctively Christian care to those in need. If this job description fits your personal goals for ministry, **will you consider serving as a Stephen Minister?**

Praying for Stephen Ministers. "So we fasted and petitioned our God about this, and He answered our prayer" (Ezra 8:23). Right now, we are praying for the individuals God is calling to serve as Stephen Ministers. Please include this need in your prayers. God answers our prayers because He is faithful.

Information meeting January 25, 11am, after church in Room 10. For more information about becoming involved in Stephen Ministry, please come to the meeting after church Jan 25. If you're not able to attend, please contact Penni Cremen 707- 483-9321 or Pastor Mike at the church office 707-255-0119

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DISABILITY MINISTRY



A Christmas Memory

Before we completely let go of our Christmas spirit, I want to share with you the memory of an amazing event that took place during Christmas week, 33 years ago in 1992. Ted and I, together with our four children, were living in San Francisco as Ted served as pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in the Richmond District of the city. We had moved there in 1986, following a 15-year ministry at St. John's Lutheran Church in Napa.



Our third child, Stacie, had been born in Napa, just two weeks after our arrival there from our five years of ministry in St. Paul, Nebraska. Stacie was born on December 15, 1971, and Queen of the Valley Hospital staff tucked her into a Christmas stocking for her trip home. A precious gift from God. Christmas was very special that year!

Just after Stacie's third birthday, she began experiencing seizures. She was diagnosed as having a rare seizure syndrome known as Lennox-Gestaut Syndrome. Her case involved four different types of seizures making it difficult to medicate for control of them. The disorder is usually accompanied by intellectual and development disabilities, and Stacie began to exhibit these characteristics. During that first year, we saw her losing body strength and her voice. By the time she turned four, her speech was gone. Over the following years, she also lost the ability to eat, and finally had to be tube fed when she turned thirteen. Mobility became a challenge. She needed leg bracing and often required a wheelchair and an assistant.

DISABILITY MINISTRY

That brings my story to Christmas, 1992. Stacie had just had her 21st birthday. The Sunday before Christmas Day, all the Sunday school classes and Bible classes met in the Fireside Room to sing Christmas carols. As the singing began, Stacie got so restless. By using sign language, she insisted that she was not ill and did not need to leave the room. I finally realized she was trying to use her voice and sing, but could not do it which frustrated her. Still, it excited me to see this attempt to be able to sing praises to God.

At the Christmas Eve candlelight service, as the organ and carols rang out through the church, we all began to hear a soprano descant. It was Stacie! These were her first vocalizations after 17 years of silence! The memory of that moment still thrills me and brings me to tears. This marked the beginning of an incredible year of recovery –of her ability to speak, to eat, and to walk unaided! God is so faithful. Two things Stacie had said, as a three-year old before she had lost her voice: “My Jesus is holding me” and “I bless you, Jesus, because You love me.”



I thank all of you, who take time to listen to Stacie and to visit with her. She has had quite a journey with “Jesus holding her.” Remember that ALL people have their unique journey in life. Encourage one another with friendship and prayer. Share some precious memories with one another! May God bless you in this New Year!

- Submitted by Elaine Zimmerman

BIBLE CLASS
FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Bible Class for people with special needs meets the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays at 9:30-10:15 am in classroom #10. For more information contact Elaine Zimmerman at zimelaine@comcast.net or (707) 225-4291 or Rebecca Vitkus at havegoalstomeet@gmail.com or (775) 685-6201

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

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.

Visit our **school website** at school.stjohnsnapa.org.

Our **facilities calendar** can be viewed at 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

School

Phone: (707) 226-7970

Email: kbroyles@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)

Dr. Christy Wood, Principal (ext. 103)


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

Mrs. Joy Dahl, Preschool Director (ext. 107)

BIRTHDAYS

1	Brodie Mooers		
2	Jan Newton, Charles Scott		
3	Nancy Heil, Beth Vecera		
4	Michael Santora	18	Susan Novotny
5	Rebecca Hudgins	20	Bryce Powers, Ella Powers
6	Tami Van Hofwegen	21	Ed Mulsoff, Bob Perna
7	Shelby Edmeyer, Kennley Price, Megan Schweiger	23	Heidi Newman, Melissa Seiter
9	Grant Meyers	24	Matteo Robertis
10	Declan Bresee, Lori Gutierrez	25	Janet Peterson
11	Joy Dahl	27	Ben Frey
12	Rita Alexander	28	Jeffrey Faig, Tom Peterson
14	Bob Klein	29	Karen Craft
15	Madison Edmeyer, Midge Schneider	30	Susan Von Kaenel
17	Everly Bresee	31	Ariel Winkler

ANNIVERSARIES

		7	Salvador & Shanna Caceres (10 years) Bill & Linda Cornils (48 years)
		18	Tony & Leslie Nicholson (35 years)
		19	Ed & Sharlene Mulsoff (62 years)
1	Tom & Laura Peterson (25 years)	20	Kevin & Joy Dahl (19 years)
2	Hugh & Echo Connell (40 years)	24	Glen & Missy Loban (45 years)
4	Matthew & Carly Bresee (12 years)	30	Hoag & Lois Husted (44 years)
5	Terry & Joan Gard (24 years)	31	John & Tami Hofwegen (22 years)

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
1	Psalm 1	Genesis 1:1-2:3	Matthew 1:1-17
2	Psalm 2	Genesis 2:4-25	Matthew 1:18-25
3	Psalm 3	Genesis 3, 4	Matthew 2:1-12
4	Psalm 147:12-20	Jeremiah 31:7-14	John 1:(1-9), 10-18; Ephesians 1:3-14
5	Psalm 4	Genesis 5	Matthew 2:13-23
6	Psalm 5	Genesis 6:1-7:10	Matthew 3
7	Psalm 6	Genesis 7:11-8:22	Matthew 4:1-11
8	Psalm 7:1-9	Genesis 9	Matthew 4:12-25
9	Psalm 7:10-17	Genesis 10:1-11:9	Matthew 5:1-16
10	Psalm 8	Genesis 11:10-12:9	Matthew 5:17-26
11	Psalm 29	Isaiah 42:1-9	Matthew 3:13-17; Acts 10:34-43
12	Psalm 9:1-10	Genesis 12:10-13:18	Matthew 5:27-42
13	Psalm 9:11-20	Genesis 14, 15	Matthew 5:43-6:4
14	Psalm 10:1-11	Genesis 16, 17	Matthew 6:5-18
15	Psalm 10:12-18	Genesis 18	Matthew 6:19-34
16	Psalm 11	Genesis 19:1-29	Matthew 7:1-12
17	Psalm 12	Genesis 19:30-20:18	Matthew 7:13-23
18	Psalm 40:1-11	Isaiah 49:1-7	John 1:29-42; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9
19	Psalm 13	Genesis 21	Matthew 7:24-8:4
20	Psalm 14	Genesis 22	Matthew 8:5-22
21	Psalm 15	Genesis 23:1-24:25	Matthew 8:23-34
22	Psalm 16:1-6	Genesis 24:26-67	Matthew 9:1-13
23	Psalm 16:7-11	Genesis 25	Matthew 9:14-26
24	Psalm 17:1-7	Genesis 26	Matthew 9:27-38
25	Psalm 27:1, 4-9	Isaiah 9:1-4	Matthew 4:12-23; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18
26	Psalm 17:8-15	Genesis 27:1-29	Matthew 10:1-16
27	Psalm 18:1-6	Genesis 27:30-28:9	Matthew 10:17-25
28	Psalm 18:7-15	Genesis 28:10-29:14	Matthew 10:26-42
29	Psalm 18:16-24	Genesis 29:15-30:24	Matthew 11:1-10
30	Psalm 18:25-29	Genesis 30:25-31:21	Matthew 11:11-24
31	Psalm 18:30-36	Genesis 31:22-55	Matthew 11:25-12:8