



# THE VINE

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School Newsletter

MAY 2025

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

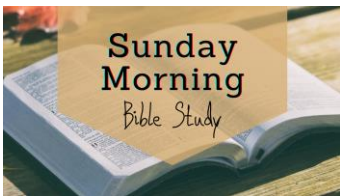


## Confirmation Sunday

We will be celebrating Confirmation on May 4<sup>th</sup> during the 9:30 AM service. As part of the service, the Confirmands will be reading their prepared faith statements as confessions of their faith. They will also be committing their lives to following Jesus and will be blessed in that confession and commitment. Please keep our Confirmands in your prayers as they prepare for this day. May God bless our Confirmands!

Kaia Jordyn Blackwood  
Carson Kim Dahl  
Riann Renee Engelbracht  
Sophia Rose Frey  
Nevaeh Christine Lee Johnson  
Amaya Pollicena Kawachi

Brodie Meadows Mooers  
Kiley Rose Reach  
William Michael Smith  
Elora Amber Stepp  
Kimberly Ann Uffmann



## Pastor Mike's Bible Class

Pastor Mike is currently leading a study of the history and meaning of the Nicene Creed. We are looking at the history of the first few centuries of the Church, leading up to the council of Nicaea in 325 AD. But the class is not just history; we will also be examining the meaning of the Creed, its Biblical basis, and why it is still relevant and important today.

The class will not be meeting on May 4, but will resume on May 11. We meet at 11:00 AM in Room 8. All are invited!



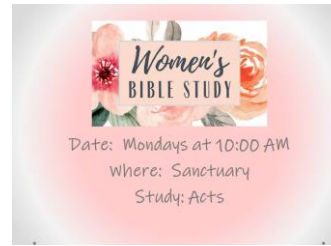
## Mission India Partnership

We are thankful to the Lord for the privilege that we have to partner with Mission India for the spread of the kingdom and the changing of lives in India. We will soon be making our decision regarding our partnership with Mission India for the coming year. Namely, how many Literacy projects, Children's Bible Club projects and Church Planters we will sponsor in the coming year. We will make that choice based on the balance in the "Mission India Fund" on June 3. If you would like to support our partnership financially, please mark your offering for Mission India. You can do this with a physical check or online.

## To All the Women of St. John's:

Please join us as we study the beginning of the First Century Church. The amazing courage and boldness of our brothers and sisters will encourage you as we meet the times ahead!

If you have a question please contact Judi Rock  
707-738-6707.



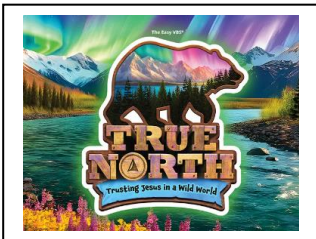
The Men's Saturday Morning Bible Study is currently studying the Gospel of Luke. Join us for fellowship at 7:30 AM and Bible Study from 8-9 AM.

**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](mailto:zimelaine@comcast.net) or (707) 225-4291 or Rebecca Vitkus at [havegoalstomeet@gmail.com](mailto:havegoalstomeet@gmail.com) or (775) 685-6201



**Confirmation Sunday is here!** You're invited to join us on May 4<sup>th</sup> for regular worship on Sunday morning, but you'll catch a glimpse of what Jesus is doing in the lives of our Confirmation Students. Please join me in praying for them as they get ready to share their story in front of everybody.



## Save the Date! Vacation Bible School

Registration is Open! [Head over to register a student or volunteer.](#) VBS is completely free, but spots do fill up so please don't wait. Can't wait to journey at True North VBS June 16-19!



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

# MAY ANNIVERSARIES



DATE	COUPLE	YEARS
1	Matthew & Kelsey Uffmann	14
9	Robert & Lisa De Young	33
11	Linda & Bob Harvey	34
12	John & Pam Fottit	46
21	Brian & Nina Montes	15
25	Brian & Casie Wood	11
28	Carl & Susanna Crowe	37
30	Elizabeth & Matthew Munoz	26
31	Ronald & Lois Johnson	21

## Disability Etiquette

The subject of autism has been in the news lately, and we are glad that it is receiving some recognition. While more children have been diagnosed with autism in recent years, it is in part because of better awareness and the availability of diagnostic resources. The current increase of autism diagnosis in children though has been incorrectly referred to by some people as an epidemic.



Epidemics describe diseases that are extremely contagious. Epidemics describe situations that must be fixed by preventing and curing the diseases. Autism is NOT a disease. It is NOT contagious. Autism is not something to be afraid of. People with autism do not need to change; they cannot cease being autistic. People with autism can be accommodated, and our world can show them more hospitality than it currently does.

People with autism and their families may experience great challenges, but we want them to know they are beloved by God. We have an opportunity to extend God's love and welcome to them by our understanding, our friendship, and choosing to walk alongside them.

## (Continued)

## Autism Spectrum Disorder

- Autism is a spectrum. *If you've met one person with autism, you've met one person with autism!* There's great diversity in the characteristics of this population. Some have no speech and others talk a lot. Some have challenging behaviors, and others may have a particular skill or ability that is outstanding. Each one is unique!
- Individuals with autism may be apprehensive about social interaction.
- Some individuals will avoid eye contact with you when you speak with them.
- Give information clearly in few words. Pause between words and phrases to give the person time to understand and think of a response.
- Keep directions simple and direct.

- Be accepting and offer encouragement.
- Discover the person's interests. Find ways to help them share those interests.
- Individuals with autism like predictable routines. Tell them how long the current activity will last and what is coming next.
- Loud sounds, bright flashing lights, strong smells, unusual tastes or textures of food ---all these things can be overstimulating and cause the person to be very uncomfortable.
- Praise the person for the things they do correctly.
- Recognize this person as a beloved child of God.

Information from: "Disability Etiquette," jonianfriends.org and "Communicating for Success," Bethesda LLC and notes from Andrew Jones. For other information, contact Elaine Zimmerman at [zinelaine@comcast.net](mailto:zinelaine@comcast.net)

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

1	Jeff Mello
2	Dede Messner
3	Penni Cremen, Andrew Biggs
4	Bill Cochran
5	Jean Gonzales, Hoag Husted
6	Samantha Carey, Raegan Lloyd,
8	Jax Rodriguez, Chad Alexander
9	Tom Hoff, Melissa Loban
11	Kenneth Van Houten III, Ari Knutson
13	Naomi Knutson, Sarah Santora, Rachel Frisinger
14	Meghan Eisberg, Debbie Stanhope
15	Orion Boudreaux, Henry Eisberg
16	Donald Hatfield, Donovan Messner, Gail Valeskie
17	Jack Goller
18	Walt Gmelch, Sharlene Mulsoff
21	Brett Carey
22	Deborah Bommersbach, Alex Rollin, Rebecca Lowe-Vitkus
24	Lauren Frey
25	Bill Clark, Hadrian Newman, Aaron Craft
26	Daniel D'Angelo, Jameson Mehrens, Sharon Quick
27	Lisa Chaudhary, Ashley Cloud
29	Doris Klein, Megan Mathison
30	Anthony Munoz, Christopher Vaziri
31	Carson Mooers





Friends of St. John's Mission Farm,  
Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 3, @ 9 a.m. At that time, we will meet at the Farm to pray God's blessings upon the seed, the ground, the workers, and the harvest at our fields for the year 2025. This follows a Church tradition of long duration doing so between Easter and Ascension Day. We have been observing this tradition at the Mission Farm for about four years now.

If your schedule doesn't permit you to physically join us on May 3, you can certainly join us in spirit by praying for our efforts to aid families stressed trying to pay all their bills to serve healthy meals. Last year we were able to deliver to the Napa County Food Bank nearly 20,000 lbs. of fresh produce for distribution to these families. It appears that our contribution will be especially important in the future as Food Banks are already experiencing some reduction of surplus foods ordinarily made available to them for distribution to needy families. Pray for a bumper crop at St. John's fields!

Again, if you cannot join us Saturday morning for prayer, you can support the mission of our Farm by making a financial contribution so we can cover the costs of water, fertilizer, irrigation equipment, fuel for the tractor, seed, replacement of farm tools, etc. Many \$10 to \$20 gifts can help us accomplish a lot. This can be done at any time by sending a check to the Church Office or making a contribution on a Sunday morning earmarked for "St. John's Lutheran Mission Farm." The check itself, of course, should be made out to St. John's Lutheran Church.

What will be especially supportive of our mission is a whole lot of people willing to get their "skin in the game", so to speak. That is, people willing to put in a few hours a week or when they can, getting their hands dirty, working up a bit of sweat, and getting some healthy exercise outdoors while gardening. The motto fits: "Many hands make light work". A number of our faithful volunteers who have matured a bit since the Farm began a dozen years ago will be very appreciative of your assistance.

~Pastor (Farmer) Ted



## LCC K-9 COMFORT DOG MINISTRY UPDATE



- LCC K9 Comfort Dog Conference in Northbrook, IL – July 2025
  - 16 of our current team members will be attending
- Micah Comfort Dog from Light of the Valley Lutheran will be visiting Napa from May 8-13
  - Micah will be visiting several of our regular locations with our handlers and ministry partners
- **We still need THREE more handlers for our next dog.**
  - If an LCC dog becomes available and we don't have enough handlers, they will pass us up and assign that dog to another congregation.
  - Please prayerfully consider becoming a handler – Contact Tim or Christy Kramer



Many blessings to you and your family from St. John's Lutheran School.

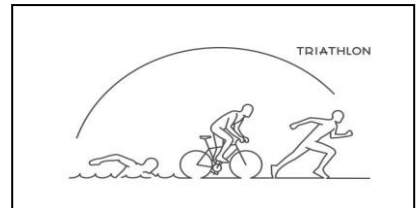
During the week of May 6, we will be celebrating Teacher's Appreciation week! We at SJL are so blessed to have a Faculty and Staff that is dedicated to the academic, emotional, physical, social, and most

importantly, spiritual growth of each and every student. *"As every man hath received the gift, [even so] minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."* ~ 1 Peter 4:10

SJL will be the host for the California- Nevada- Hawaii Elementary school Knowledge Bowl on Tuesday, May 13. The Knowledge Bowl allows academically gifted students the opportunity to match their intellectual skills against others of comparable ability and provides an avenue for fellowship among CNH participants.

Track and field has begun and is huge here at SJL. Students in Grades 1-8 practice during their morning recess in running events, relays, high jump, broad jump, shot put, long jump. A huge thank you to Mr. Uffmann, Coach Johnny, Mr. John Cortese and all of the coaches that are helping our students practice and learn new skills.

Our 12th annual Triathlon will take place on Friday, May 23, 2025. This is a unique opportunity for our Middle School students to do 3 sports at a time - **SWIM + BIKE + RUN = Triathlon!** It is a super fun event that challenges the students and is a HUGE accomplishment.



Thank you for always including St. John's Lutheran School in your prayers!

Christy Wood, Principal



## ***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, May 18**, 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 special gifts of caring can 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 are each assigned a care receiver and meet with that care receiver for about an hour a week. This caring relationship will last for as long as the care receiver needs it.

**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!

(continued)

**Prayerfully Consider Becoming a Stephen Minister.** Stephen Ministers bring distinctively Christian care to those in need. They use both words and deeds to express Christ’s care for others – listening and comforting, calling on the training they have received, and employing the tools of faith. 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.

For more information about becoming involved in Stephen Ministry, please contact Penni Cremen 707-483-9321 or Pastor Mike at the church office 707-255-0119

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Napa, California 94558-2703

Our weekly sermons are available on the St. John’s website at: [www.stjohnsnapa.org](http://www.stjohnsnapa.org)

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

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

 @sjlcnapa     @sjlcnapa     @stjohnsnapa

**Church**

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Rev. Michael A. Schmid, Lead Pastor (ext. 122)  
Mr. Howard Scully, Business Administrator (ext. 121)  
Ms. Debra Laratta, 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, Preschool Director (ext. 107)

## ***Daily Bible Readings for May***

	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Old Testament</b>	<b>New Testament</b>
1	Psalm 56:9-13	Job 38	1 Corinthians 10:1-10
2	Psalm 57:1-6	Job 39	1 Corinthians 10:11-22
3	Psalm 57:7-11	Job 40	1 Corinthians 10:23-11:2
4	Psalm 30		Acts 9:1-6,(7-20); Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19
5	Psalm 58	Job 41	1 Corinthians 11:3-16
6	Psalm 59:1-9	Job 42	1 Corinthians 11:17-30
7	Psalm 59:10-17	Proverbs 1:1-2:8	1 Corinthians 11:31-12:11
8	Psalm 60	Proverbs 2:9-3:20	1 Corinthians 12:12-26
9	Psalm 61	Proverbs 3:21-4:27	1 Corinthians 12:27-13:7
10	Psalm 62	Proverbs 5	1 Corinthians 13:8-14:5
11	Psalm 23		Acts 9:36-43; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30
12	Psalm 63	Proverbs 6	1 Corinthians 14:6-19
13	Psalm 64	Proverbs 7	1 Corinthians 14:20-35
14	Psalm 65:1-8	Proverbs 8:1-9:6	1 Corinthians 14:36-15:2
15	Psalm 65:9-13	Proverbs 9:7-10:32	1 Corinthians 15:3-16
16	Psalm 66:1-7	Proverbs 11	1 Corinthians 15:17-28
17	Psalm 66:8-15	Proverbs 12	1 Corinthians 15:29-41
18	Psalm 148		Acts 11:1-18; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35
19	Psalm 66:16-20	Proverbs 13	1 Corinthians 15:42-58
20	Psalm 67	Proverbs 14	1 Corinthians 16:1-11
21	Psalm 68:1-6	Proverbs 15	1 Corinthians 16:12-24
22	Psalm 68:7-18	Proverbs 16	2 Corinthians 1:1-11
23	Psalm 68:19-27	Proverbs 17	2 Corinthians 1:12-22
24	Psalm 68:28-35	Proverbs 18	2 Corinthians 1:23-2:13
25	Psalm 67		Acts 16:9-15; Revelation 21:10,22-22:5; John 14:23-29
26	Psalm 69:1-12	Proverbs 19	2 Corinthians 2:14-3:11
27	Psalm 69:13-21	Proverbs 20	2 Corinthians 3:12-4:6
28	Psalm 69:22-29	Proverbs 21	2 Corinthians 4:7-18
29	Psalm 69:30-36	Proverbs 22	2 Corinthians 5:1-15
30	Psalm 70	Proverbs 23	2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2
31	Psalm 71:1-8	Proverbs 24	2 Corinthians 6:3-18