

NOVEMBER 2025

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 November

Set Free: Paul's Letter to the Galatians

This month, we conclude our worship series on Paul's letter to the Galatians. In this letter, Paul has been seeking to help the Galatian Christians to better understand how the Gospel has set them free - from sin, from death, and from the demands of the law. Because of what Christ has done, we now live in the freedom of God's grace.

November 2

All Saints Sunday: "The End of the Story"

One of the blessings of the story we are living is that we know the ending. Like looking to the end of a novel to know how it ends, our reading from Revelation shows us how the story ends for the people of God. Because of Easter, eternity is sure for those who follow Christ. John has seen us there! And no matter how difficult the struggle, or many the obstacles, how challenging the road, nothing can take away the certainty of the glorious conclusion.



November 9

"A Gospel Community" – Galatians 6:1-10

What does it mean to be a community shaped by the Gospel? How does the Gospel affect how we live among each other? In our passage Paul describes church life in terms of caring for one another, and doing good to one another.



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Worship in November

November 16

"Boasting in the Lord" – Galatians 6:11-18



We conclude our study of Galatians, a study of the gospel, by joining Paul in meditating on boasting. Why is this a fit conclusion? Because our boasting is an indicator of whether we truly understand the gospel. As Christians, we boast of nothing in ourselves before the Lord, but rather boast in the Lord before the world.



November 23

Christ the King Sunday

The church year concludes with a celebration of how all time will conclude: with Christ proclaimed as King over all. We celebrate the truth that He is King over all now, even though it may not seem so. But we follow a crucified King who rules and reigns in a crucified way.



November 26

Thanksgiving Worship

Join us for a special service of Thanksgiving on Wednesday, November 26 at 7:00 PM. This will be a communion service. We also ask that you bring an offering of a non-perishable food item for the Napa Food Bank.



November 30 - First Sunday of Advent

Preparing the Way: Watch!

Advent is about waiting for the Lord's coming. We celebrate His first coming and we look forward to His return, strengthened along the way by His coming to us in Word and Sacrament. Jesus calls His followers to "watch" for His return. But this is not a passive waiting, but rather an active hope.

PASTORAL CALL UPDATE

Our Call Process Continues

Pastor Tanner Wade and Whitney Wade have declined our calls to come to St. John's to serve as Associate Pastor and Music Teacher. They will be continuing their ministries at St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School in Des Peres, MO. Please keep our congregation in your prayers as we continue our call process.

BIBLE CLASSES AND STUDIES

Pastor Mike's Bible Class

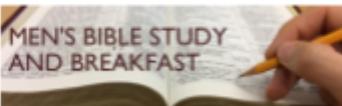
1 John: Walking in the Light of God's Love

Join us in Room 8 on Sunday mornings at 11 for a study of 1 John. In this poetic sermon by John, he paints a compelling picture of the Christian life as walking in the light and living in God's love. John emphasizes authentic discipleship, urging followers to live in the truth, reject false teaching, and demonstrate love not just in word but in action. In so doing, we live in the fellowship God has given us – with Himself and with one another. When we conclude 1 John, we will go on to 2 John and 3 John.



Men's Bible Study

Beginning in November, the Men's Saturday Morning Bible Study will be 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. This fall, we're 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

November 2 - Parent Information Meeting for Christmas Pageant

We would love to work with our Children's Church kids to stage a Christmas pageant this December, and we invite all interested families to attend an Information Meeting with Kristy Watkins and Kevin Mathison on November 2 at 11:00 AM in Room 10. We invite all children ages preschool through 5th grade to participate in the pageant, and we may have roles for older children as well! The performance date will likely be Saturday, December 6. Feel free to reach out to Kristy Watkins at churchoffice@stjohnsnapa.org if you have 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 November 5, 12, 19, & 26 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.

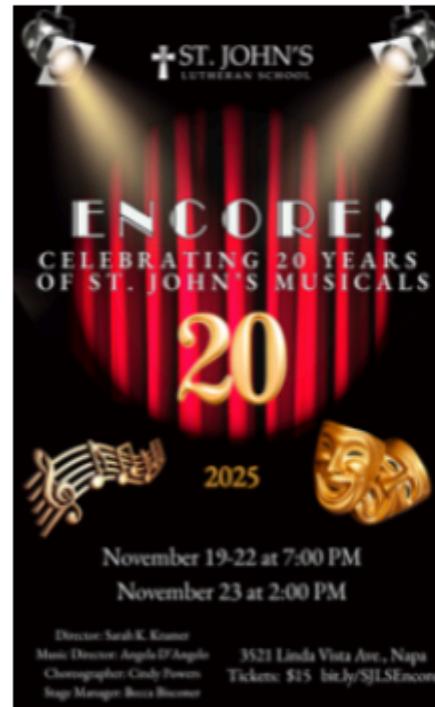


NEWS AND EVENTS

November 19-23

St. John's Lutheran School Theatre Program
Proudly Presents:

Encore! Celebrating 20 Years of St. John's Musicals



We invite you to see our amazing SJLS actors perform in our 20th annual musical production, *Encore!* Come celebrate with us as we journey through our 20-year musical theatre history.

Performances will be on November 19, 20, 21, & 22 at 7:00 PM, and on November 23 at 2:00 PM.

Tickets are on sale now at this link:
bit.ly/SJLSEncore

Questions? Email theatreboxoffice@stjohnsnapa.org



Join Our Fellowship Team!

We are putting together a Fellowship Team to plan and oversee all of our fellowship activities, from soup suppers to special events to Sunday morning coffee. This team will work with Connections Ministry leader Josh Wright in planning and promoting the fellowship life of our congregation. If you are interested in serving on this team, please contact Josh (joshwright@stjohnsnapa.org) or Pastor Mike.

Sanctuary Lighting Upgrade

The new Sanctuary LED lights have been installed. Thank you again to all who have supported "Let There Be Lights!" with your offerings. We are over 90% of the way to reaching our goal of \$50,000! You can make an offering to support the lighting upgrade for the sanctuary in different ways. For an offering by check, just indicate "Let there Be Lights" in the memo line. For online giving, please use the "Let there Be Lights" option to make your offering.



NEWS AND EVENTS



St. John's Fam, Advent will be here before you know it! ☀️

Advent is just around the corner, and with it our Wednesday evening services - a midweek pause to breathe, reflect, and gather. And of course, no Advent Wednesday is complete without our tradition of soup suppers beforehand.

This is more than just a meal. It's a chance to sit shoulder-to-shoulder, share stories, laugh a little, and warm up together before stepping into the evening service.

Here's what to know:

- Soup suppers happen before each Wednesday service - the dates will be December 3, 10, and 17.
- Gather your group, your family, or your "secret recipe squad" and think about hosting one of the suppers.
- We invite volunteers to help set up, serve food (2-3 soups, a salad (optional), and a dessert or two) and help clean up. If you'd like to volunteer for one of the suppers, sign-ups will be available starting November 3 at the link in the E-Vine. You can also reach out directly to Josh Wright at joshwright@stjohnsnapa.org.

Let's make this Advent season one where the tables are full, the soup pots are stirred with love (and maybe a little friendly competition), and the midweek gatherings feel like the heartbeat of our community.

December 6 - The Best (SJLC) Christmas Pageant Ever!

Join us for our inaugural St. John's Lutheran Church Christmas Pageant, proudly presented by our Children's Church kids. The pageant will take place on Saturday, December 6. More details to come soon!



December 21 - Christmas Singalong

Mark your calendars for a festive Christmas celebration and singalong at Pastor Mike and Teresa Schmid's home on Sunday, December 21 (time TBD). Please bring a favorite hors d'oeuvre or dessert to share.



We also invite children and teens to perform a Christmas-themed musical piece of their choosing. If your child would like to play or sing at the event, please contact churchoffice@stjohnsnapa.org to sign up.

MONEY MATTERS

OFFERING UPDATE

Actual Offering Income for September:

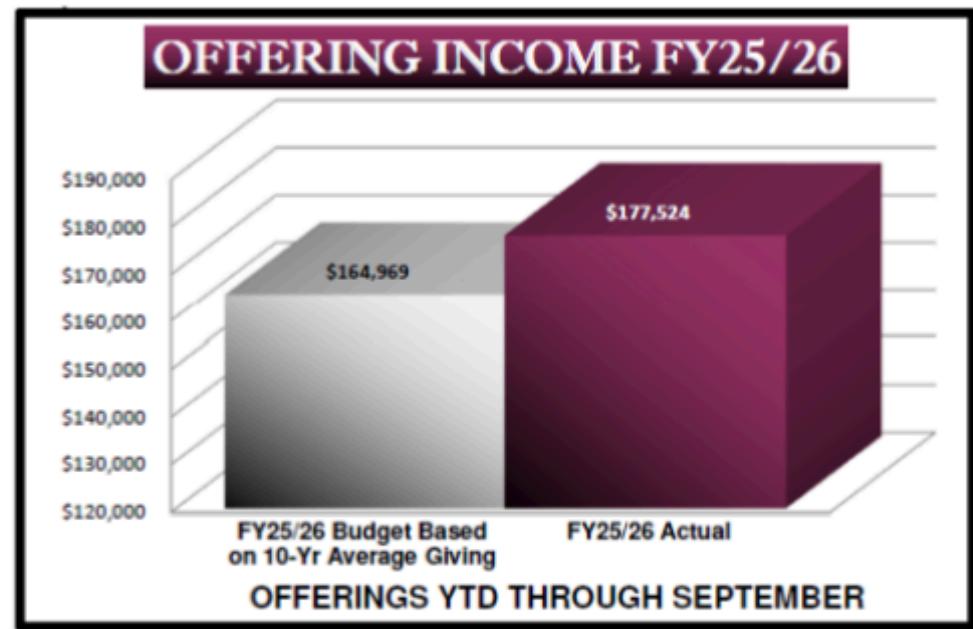
Total Offerings for FY 2025-26 (as of Sep 30, 2025):

\$56,678.

\$177,524, which is **7.61%** or **\$12,555** 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:

"We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."
(Romans 6:4 ESV)

God's Stewards are Saints and Sinners

This means that God's stewards rejoice in and live out what the Lord has declared them to be through the cross. At the same time, His stewards recognize they are sinners who fight sin and its consequences each day.

Sometimes in life, especially being cognizant of life with God, we take one step forward and two back! Some days we seem to "grow up" and become more Christ-like, and the next day we slip back to that "old self" we don't want to be. Growing as a follower of Christ, reflecting Him, His will, His values, His purposes is not an easy or quickly accomplished goal! It is our calling.

We are saints and sinners, forgiven by God in Christ, loved, totally and fully accepted and acceptable to God, and at the same time we sin because we are sinners. Christian stewards live in that awareness and need to be reminded and encouraged to remember the promises of God in the face of sin, weakness, and failure. Romans 6:1-11 is a good section of the Bible to recall, especially verse four.

Daily contrition, heartfelt sorrow for having failed and offended God, and others, is a spiritual discipline for all stewards. The practice of repentance, change of heart, mind, spirit and will is no easy matter. It takes courage, practice, and intentionality. Many Christian stewards do this in regular morning and evening Bible reading and prayer times, in regular corporate worship, and in special times of need or decision-making. Some people do this as part of a supportive small-group ministry.

God's stewards are saints and sinners.

Prayer: Lord, in Your Gospel You show Your love. Lord, in Your Law I see my sin. Forgive me. Instruct me so I know how I can live in obedience to You. Give me strength, Lord, as Your steward to serve You and my neighbor with all You have entrusted to my care. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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October held a successful Kindergarten Information Night on Wednesday, October 22. It is always a pleasure to be able to share the St. John's community with others. If you are interested, or know of someone who has a child of school age for 2026-2027, please contact Kristin Goller at kgoller@stjohnsnapa.org.

A huge thank you to Kevin Mathison and all of the volunteers who helped put on the Trunk-or-Treat. A wonderful, and sugar filled, evening was had by all!

November will be a busy month for St. John's Lutheran School!

We start off the month with our Veteran's Day Chapel on Wednesday, November 5. We invite all Veterans to attend this special Chapel service with our students.

We will be finishing the first trimester on Friday, November 7. Parent Teacher Conferences will follow on Thursday, November 20 and Friday, November 21. What a blessing that our parents and teachers will be able to meet and to share the academic, spiritual, social, and emotional growth of each child. There will be no school on these days.

We invite you and your family to attend the school musical "Encore!," a follies of the last 20 productions of musicals from SJL. The performances will be held on Wednesday, November 19- Sunday, November 23. Under the direction of Sarah Kramer, Angela D'Angelo, and Cindy Powers, over 70 St. John's Lutheran School students are busy learning lines, songs, and choreography. This will be an amazing performance. We hope to see you there!

On Sunday, November 23 through Tuesday, November 25, all elementary teachers and the four year old preschool teachers and staff, including Pastor Mike, will be attending the California- Nevada- Hawaii/ Pacific Southwest District Lutheran Educators Conference. This conference will take place in Phoenix, AZ. We look forward to a wonderful lineup of speakers and the opportunity for fellowship amongst other Lutheran educators. Please pray that this conference will be a learning experience for all of our teachers and for our safe travel.



I wish you and your family a blessed Thanksgiving.

*"Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.
For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations." Psalm 100:4-5*

In Christ,
Christy Wood

News and Events

November 5 - Veterans Day Chapel

The public is invited to attend Chapel on Wednesday, November 5 at 8:40 AM, as St. John's Lutheran School honors and recognizes all veterans. Please share the information with anyone who may be interested in attending.

For children who attend SJL and have family members who are veterans, we ask that you invite them to our Chapel Service! If you are a veteran, we would be honored to have you attend this very special Chapel Service. If you know a veteran, please pass along this invitation.



After-School Assistant at St. John's Lutheran School

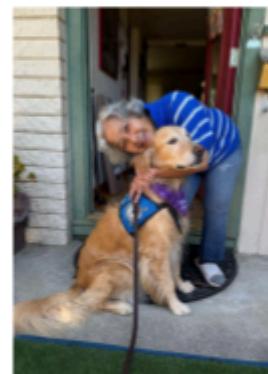
We are looking for an assistant for PALS, our after-school program for St. John's Lutheran students. The hours would be 2:30-5:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

If you are interested in applying, or would like more information, please contact Ramona Kaufmann at rkaufmann@stjohnsnapa.org.



Even though we are in the queue with Lutheran Church Charities (LCC) for our next K9 Comfort Dog, our team is still quite busy.

In August, we had a visit from Rahab Comfort Dog (St. Andrews Lutheran Church, Stockton, CA). We were able to "borrow" Rahab to visit with several of our previous ministry sites. What a blessing it was to continue to maintain our relationships with our community and we look forward to continuing with our own dog in the near future.



Our team meets monthly (First Tuesday of each month @ 6:30 PM in Room 10) to do Bible study and to continue our study of *The Nine Arts of Spiritual Conversations*. It is important to continue to build our team relationships and to fine-tune our ministry skills. All are welcome and encouraged to join us!

In October, our team participated in an LCC sponsored, 200+ person Zoom training session for Ministry Partners. Connecting with fellow LCC affiliates nationwide provides valuable opportunities to exchange ideas and experiences, as well as to offer mutual support and encouragement.

We are looking for more handler volunteers to be added to our team. LCC requires a certain number of handlers before we can receive our dog. Please consider this important and rewarding role. You can contact Tim or Christy Kramer for more specific information at NapaK9Comfort@gmail.com.

We also want to thank those who continue to bless our ministry with donations and prayers!



MISSION FARM



Submitted by: Farmer Ted, AKA Pastor Ted

We have been busy raising fruits and vegetables for the CANV Food Bank. We will reach the 20,000 lbs. mark by the end of October. It has been a good year!

Now it is time to raise some funds for the next crop year. We are participating once again in the CanDo Napa Valley Give!Guide 2025 campaign. We are joining 91 other non-profits serving the Napa Valley. You want to give; Give!Guide makes it easy. The campaign kicks off November 1 and runs through December 31. The Website is up (CanDoGiveGuide.org) and donations to St. John's Mission Farm (or any other participating Napa Valley non-profits) can be made as of November 1. You will find the St. John's Mission Farm under the "Community" grouping. You can donate either by credit card or mail in a check to the address provided. Donation minimum is \$10. Carefully read the instructions, but they are easy to follow. Give early; give often.

You can also give your donation to the Mission Farm the "old-fashioned" way, placing your donation in the offering plate on Sunday or mailing it to the Church Office. Checks sent that way should be made out to St. John's Lutheran Church; add a memo on the check for the Mission Farm.

If you have any questions, talk to me at Church or call at 707-294-2033. Also, if you are considering a gift of \$500 or more, and are willing to work with me to set it up to match other donations given up to that amount on a day like "Giving Tuesday", please talk to me.



STEPHEN MINISTRY



Acceptance

"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!"

1 John 3:1

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Romans 5:8

"Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God."

Romans 15:7

God accepts us as we are, with all our faults and humanness. He knows we fall short of perfection and knows how much we need his unconditional love. We can rest in His arms and receive refreshment for our souls, forgiveness for our shortcomings, nourishment to grow, and energy to face another day.

Acceptance by God, by our family, our friends, coworkers, even acquaintances can make us feel respected and understood. It is a great gift to give to each other. Stephen Ministers provide acceptance when they meet with a person receiving their care. The Stephen Minister will listen with empathy, reflect with care and respect, and accept what the person is feeling. The distinctively Christian nature of care creates an atmosphere of acceptance and encouragement so the care receiver can feel comfortable sharing about what's going on, including what he or she is dealing with spiritually. Stephen Ministers know that God is always present in the caring relationship and that the Holy Spirit is working through them to bring healing to the care receiver.

Perhaps you've heard the saying: *God loves you just as you are, but too much to leave you that way* (attributed to several authors). A Stephen Minister accepts the person who is receiving care and helps that person along the path to healing and greater wholeness. The changes are up to God and the care receiver, with the Stephen Minister supporting, validating, and accepting the care receiver.

If you, or someone you know, would like to learn more about connecting with a Stephen Minister, please contact Penni Cremen (707-483-9321) or Pastor Mike in the church office (707-255-0119).

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DISABILITY MINISTRY



Looking for Assistance

St. John's Lutheran Church has been blessed for many years to have a ministry for Adults with Developmental Disabilities. The Special Needs Bible Class has two leaders, Rebecca Lowe-Vitkus and Elaine Zimmerman, who take turns teaching the class on the second, fourth, and fifth Sundays of each month. The group meets in Classroom 10 from 9:30 AM to 10:15 AM. There are five members who are quite regular in attendance. They thoroughly enjoy sharing Christian fellowship as they continue to grow in their faith through the Bible lessons. At the end of the class time, the group joins the congregation in the sanctuary for the prayers, Holy Communion, and the closing hymn at the end of the worship service.

Rebecca and Elaine are hoping to find one or two other people within the congregation who would be interested in learning more about the class and who would be willing to consider getting into the teaching rotation with the present team. Adding to the team would help to relieve scheduling challenges when both teachers are unavailable on some class days.

We invite you to visit our Sunday morning class to see what we do and experience our fellowship. Yes, this would take you out of a major portion of the regular worship service, but you and the class members will join the congregation for the last part of the service. We focus our Bible class lesson on the same scriptures and theme of that service, so when you enter the sanctuary, you will already feel connected with the message. Another blessing that we have at St. John's is that you would be able to see and hear the entire service and sermon later that day on the website, and the sermon will also be archived on the website for later viewing.



Please contact either Elaine (707-225-4291) or Rebecca (775-685-6201) if you would be interested in learning more about this ministry or visiting during a class.

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/ks059311af6a21c57.

Social Media Resources

St. John's Lutheran Church



St. John's Lutheran School



Contact Information

Church

Phone: (707) 255-0119

Email: 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

Dr. Christy Wood, Principal (ext. 103)

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

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

BIRTHDAYS

1	Theresa Schoenfeld	 <h2>NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS</h2>
2	Wanda Miller, Howard Scully	
3	Levi Cloud, David Hudgins, Kyle McAhren	
4	Leonard Lamb, Gerry Schneider, Whitney Powers	19 Michele Arnold, Renee Lloyd
5	Bruce Mooers, Cameron Vaziri	20 Marilyn Lemin, Patte Quinn
7	Marie Skillings, Karen Zachry	21 Melanie Dal Cielo, Kelsey Uffmann
9	Christi Jeffery, Dustin Jones, Bodhi Knutson, Katie Zachry	22 Jaicee Vecera
10	Richard Dalen, Daphne Rodrigues	23 Timothy Bouchet, David Franklin, Michael Newton, Stella Squibb
11	Alex Sneed	24 Anna Seiter, Chelsey Squibb
13	Thomas Zimmerman	25 Sarah Knutson
14	Kristi Clark	26 Carolyn Hintze
15	Hunter Bledsoe, Ed Kaufmann	27 Autumn Zimmerman
17	Betty Rawlins, Clay Thompson, Lucia Watkins	29 Carri Mello, James Regan
18	Edel Van Houten	30 Mike Biggs, Benjamin Franklin, Erin Nicholson

ANNIVERSARIES

 <h2>NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES</h2>	10	Brad & Anna Seiter (41 years)
	18	William & Colette Hjerpe (36 years) Cal & Pam Watkins (46 years)
1	Mike & Judy Biggs (39 years)	
6	Andrew & Jennifer Schluter (15 years)	
9	James & Nancy Henry (67 years) Kennith & Linda Reed (51 years)	
	30	Paul & Vicky Bartelt (34 years) Thomas & Kristi Carey (29 years) Steven & Judith Rock (51 years)

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
1	Psalm 119:129-136	Ezekiel 39:14-40:16	2 Peter 1:12-21
2	Psalm 32:1-7	Isaiah 1:10-18	Luke 19:1-10; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12
3	Psalm 119:137-144	Ezekiel 40:17-49	2 Peter 2:1-10
4	Psalm 119:145-152	Ezekiel 41:1-42:9	2 Peter 2:11-22
5	Psalm 119:153-160	Ezekiel 42:10-43:21	2 Peter 3:1-13
6	Psalm 119:161-68	Ezekiel 43:22-44:27	2 Peter 3:14-1 John 1:4
7	Psalm 119:169-176	Ezekiel 44:28-45:25	1 John 1:5-2:11
8	Psalm 120	Ezekiel 46:1-47:12	1 John 2:12-17
9	Psalm 17:1-9	Job 19:23-27a	Luke 20:27-38; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17
10	Psalm 121	Ezekiel 47:13-48:22	1 John 2:18-29
11	Psalm 122	Ezekiel 48:23-Daniel 1:21	1 John 3:1-10
12	Psalm 123	Daniel 2:1-33	1 John 3:11-24
13	Psalm 124	Daniel 2:34-3:18	1 John 4:1-16a
14	Psalm 125	Daniel 3:19-4:18	1 John 4:16b-5:5
15	Psalm 126	Daniel 4:19-5:16	1 John 5:6-21
16	Psalm 98	Malachi 4:1-2a	Luke 21:5-19; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
17	Psalm 127	Daniel 5:17-6:18	2 John
18	Psalm 128	Daniel 6:19-7:22	3 John
19	Psalm 129	Daniel 7:23-8:27	Jude 1:1-10
20	Psalm 130	Daniel 9:1-10:7	Jude 1:11-25
21	Psalm 131	Daniel 10:8-11:19	Revelation 1:1-8
22	Psalm 132	Daniel 11:20-12:7	Revelation 1:19-20
23	Psalm 46	Jeremiah 23:1-6	Luke 23:33-43; Colossians 1:11-20
24	Psalm 133	Daniel 12:8-Hosea 2:15	Revelation 2:1-11
25	Psalm 134	Hosea 2:16-4:19	Revelation 2:12-23
26	Psalm 135:1-12	Hosea 5, 6, 7	Revelation 2:1-24-3:6
27	Psalm 135:13-21	Hosea 8, 9	Revelation 3:17-18
28	Psalm 136	Hosea 10, 11, 12	Revelation 3:19-4:8
29	Psalm 137	Hosea 13, 14	Revelation 4:9-5:10
30	Psalm 122	Isaiah 2:1-5	Matthew 24:36-44; Romans 13:11-14