

SEPTEMBER 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 September

### Set Free: Paul's Letter to the Galatians

Our current worship series is "Set Free," focusing on Paul's letter to the Galatians. In this letter, Paul is intent on helping 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.

#### **September 7**

"Unbreakable Promise" – Galatians 3:15-29

The law was temporary and preparatory. God's promise in Christ is permanent and inclusive—all are one in Christ Jesus.

#### **September 14**

"From Slaves to Sons" – Galatians 4:1-11

We are no longer slaves under the law but sons and daughters with full rights. Don't return to slavery after receiving sonship!

#### **September 21**

"A Pastoral Plea" – Galatians 4:12-20

Paul appeals with deep emotion to the Galatians, warning them not to be misled. True shepherds seek Christ formed in others.

#### **September 28**

Guest Preacher: Rev. Paul Ferguson

We are pleased to welcome Rev. Ferguson as our preacher on September 28. He serves as Assistant to the President for Strategic Mission Leadership for the California-Nevada-Hawaii District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

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# BIBLE CLASSES AND STUDIES



### **Pastor Mike's Bible Class**

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

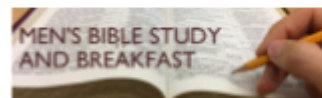
Join us in Room 8 on Sunday mornings at 11 for a study of 1 John. In this poetic sermon by John, he paints a compelling picture of the Christian life as walking in the light and living in God's love. John emphasizes authentic discipleship, urging followers to live in the truth, reject false teaching, 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.



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

What are the essential teachings of the Christian faith? What do they mean in our lives and in our world today? Pastor Mike will be leading a nine-session overview of the basic teachings on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM starting on September 17 in Room 8. This study in basic Christianity will cover all the essential teachings, how they fit together into one compelling story, and what they mean for our lives today.

This class is required for those who are interested in membership at St. John's. But it is also helpful for those who seek to better understand the Christian story in order to grow in their faith and be better equipped to share it with others. If you have questions or are interested in participating in the class, please contact Pastor Mike at [pastormike@stjohnsnapa.org](mailto:pastormike@stjohnsnapa.org).



### **Men's Bible Study**

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.



### **Women's Bible Study**

The Women's Bible Study will resume on Monday, September 8, and will be meeting in the Sanctuary from 10:00-11:30 AM. This fall, we'll be 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).

# NEWS AND EVENTS



## September 3 - Meet & Greet with Associate Pastor Candidate

We're pleased to announce that a potential candidate for our associate pastor position will be visiting St. John's this month. You're warmly invited to a Meet & Greet with the candidate on Wednesday, September 3 at 5:00 PM in the St. John's Sanctuary. This informal gathering is open to everyone—come say hello, ask questions, and get to know the candidate as we discern this next step together.



## September 9 - Dine and Donate

St. John's Lutheran School invites you to Dine and Donate with Super Duper Burgers on Tuesday, September 9. Just visit the Super Duper Burgers location at 3900 Bel Aire Plaza D (in the Trader Joe's Shopping Center) any time from 10:30AM to 9:30 PM on September 9. Pick up a flyer in the church lobby and present it when you order, and Super Duper Burgers will donate 20% of all sales to support our school!



## September 13 - High School Kickoff Party

Calling all High Schoolers! Join us on Saturday, September 13 at 5 PM in Fellowship Hall for a fun night full of food & friends & games! Stay tuned for more information... In the meantime, don't forget about Sunday morning High School Hangouts after church until noon!



## September 14 - Congregational Call Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting after church on September 14 in the Sanctuary. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on calling a new associate pastor. Your presence and participation are deeply valued as we seek God's guidance in this important decision.

# NEWS AND EVENTS



## September 14 - Church BBQ Bash

Join us for an afternoon of good food, great company, and relaxed summer fun! Whether you're here for the brats or just the breeze, this is a gathering for everyone.



### On the menu:

- Juicy burgers
- Classic hot dogs
- Savory brats
- (All hot off the grill!)



### What to bring:

- Your favorite non-alcoholic beverage
- A side dish or dessert to share - please make sure it's fully prepared and ready to eat! (Our Grill Masters will only be cooking church-provided food.)
- Any family-friendly outdoor games you'd like to share - think cornhole, frisbee, or badminton!



### We need a few helping hands:

- Volunteers to set up tables
- Helpers for clean-up after the event
- 1 or 2 Grill Masters to man the BBQ

Please RSVP and volunteer to help using the link in the E-Vine. Let's enjoy the sunshine, share a meal, and spend time together as a church family. Come hungry and ready to relax - we'll bring the grill!



# NEWS AND EVENTS



**October 12 - St. John's Oktoberfest**  
Come for the brats, stay for the banter.

Fall is here, and while pumpkin patches and Pinterest mums are great...you know what's better? Brats. Beer. Belly laughs. And desserts so mysterious they deserve their own reality show.

**We're serving up:**

- Brats, hot dogs, and potato salad (professionally handled)
- Beer, wine, lemonade, soda, and coffee
- Desserts - wildly diverse, lovingly potluck, possibly German in nature

**When and where:**

- Sunday, October 12, 12:30-3:30 PM
- St. John's Lutheran Church Patio

Free entry. Real fun. \*Bring a dessert to share! Homemade, store-bought, weirdly shaped - yes, please!

We need **volunteers and leaders** from the congregation to help Josh Wright make this wonderful event a success. Please consider helping in one or more of these areas:

- Food - Work with caterer to ensure buffet is set up. Also assist with placing desserts and other German-Inspired treats on the dessert table.
- Beverages - Ensure the beverage area is organized and that adult beverage areas vs non-adult beverage areas are clearly marked and separated. We want to ensure that this is a safe event and that we are abiding by state and city law.
- Set up - Coordinate a team to ensure tables and chairs are set up in the designated areas for food and socializing.
- Clean up - Coordinate with a team to clear the area of trash, put tables and chairs away, and return equipment to the appropriate closets.
- Entertainment - Work with those that wish to provide entertainment to set up a schedule and time slots or play music from an iPod/radio when live entertainment is not available.

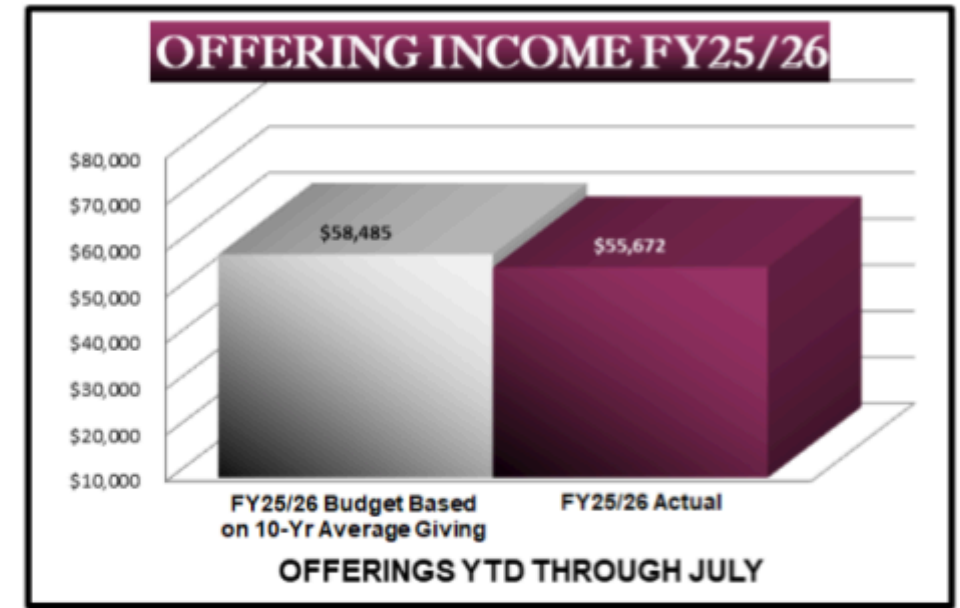
If you're interested in being a part of this amazing fellowship, please reach out to Josh at [joshwright@stjohnsnapa.org](mailto:joshwright@stjohnsnapa.org) or contact the church office. Once we have volunteers signed up, an informational meeting will be scheduled.

# MONEY MATTERS

## OFFERING UPDATE

Actual Offering Income for July: **\$55,672.**  
Total Offerings for FY 2025-26 (as of Jul 31, 2025): **\$55,672.,** which is **4.81%** or \$2,813 below our budgeted offering income.

Total expenses are in line with our budget and we paid all bills received. \*The budget amount shown below is based on the ten-year average offering received for that time period.



## Meditation:

*"Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." (Hebrews 13:15-16 ESV)*

## Faith Empowers God's Stewards

The writer of Hebrews defines faith: "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see" (Hebrews 11:1). Faith enables us to be God-pleasing stewards. "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him" (Hebrews 11:6). The eleventh chapter

of Hebrews is known as the "Faith Chapter." From Abel down through the ages, the writer names the heroes of faith, listing their accomplishments, preceding each one with "by faith."

Through faith, we understand that our stewardship is God working in and through us. It is not what we do, not what we give, now how we serve - but what God does, what God gives, how God serves, and our response to His love and gifts to us. God has shown us His plan for our lives. *"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do"* (Ephesians 2:10). This is the definition of stewardship: doing the good works which God has prepared for us to do. God empowers and equips us to be faithful stewards. God has chosen us to carry out His work on earth. *"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit - fruit that will last"* (John 15:16a).

It is through faith that our pastor confidently speaks the Word of the Lord. It is God's message, God's gift, and he is the only channel through which it flows. Through faith, the servant humbly steps forward to serve. His only motive is that God may receive the glory as he offers his hands, feet, lips, his whole body, soul, and mind in service. Through faith, the teacher diligently prepares her lessons, seeking the leading of the Holy Spirit, studying the Word of God, and looking into the hearts of her students. God creates the learning; His Spirit creates the faith. As stewards, we are the faithful vessels that God uses. Through faith, God can make us into His faithful stewards.

#### Prayer:

*Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!* (Psalm 117 ESV)

Adapted from *"12 Months of Congregational Stewardship"* by Ronald J. and Phyllis J. Chewning, Stewardship Advisors, Inc.

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#### Children's Church - Teachers and Assistant Teachers Needed!

Children in grades preschool through 5th grade are invited to join for us Children's Church every Sunday during the service. We are always looking for volunteers, both adults and teens, to help us teach both the younger kids (ages 3-6) and older kids (ages 7-10). You can teach once a month, once a quarter, or every week - whatever works best for you! Please contact Kevin Mathison at [kevin@stjohnsnapa.org](mailto:kevin@stjohnsnapa.org) for more information and to sign up.



#### Confirmation Classes

The new year of Confirmation is underway! 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 September 10, 17, & 24 in Room 10. 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](mailto:kevin@stjohnsnapa.org).



#### September 13 - High School Kickoff Party

Calling all high schoolers! Join us on Saturday, September 13 at 5:00 PM in Fellowship Hall for a fun night full of food & friends & games! Stay tuned for more info... In the meantime, don't forget about Sunday morning High School Hangouts after church until noon!

# ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Blessings to you as we begin our 2025-2026 school year. Our theme this year is "Love in Action," based on 1 John 3:18: *"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."* This verse is encouraging us to go beyond just *talking* about love - it calls for *showing* love through what we do. The idea is that genuine love isn't just about saying nice things; it's proven by how we treat others, especially those in need. For example, if someone says they care about others but never helps, comforts, or supports anyone, their love may not be sincere. This verse challenges us to live out love in practical, meaningful ways - by being honest, kind, generous, and selfless. **True love is shown through consistent, truthful action - not just words.**

Our time together began this year with Registration Day on Thursday, August 14. How fun it was to have our students see one another and rekindle their friendships. On Monday, August 18, we hosted an ice cream social for all new families. Much laughter and giggles were shared as we got to know one another.



School successfully began for the 2025-2026 school year on Wednesday, August 20, 2025. Back to School Night was held on Tuesday, August 26, with the New Parent Informational Meeting at 5:00 pm and our first APT meeting beginning at 6:00 pm followed by classroom presentations.

We do have two employment opportunities at St. John's: Music Teacher and After School Care assistant. If you are interested in either of these positions, please contact Christy Wood at [cwood@stjohnsnapa.org](mailto:cwood@stjohnsnapa.org).

Some highlights for the month of September include:

- September 1 - Labor Day-No School or PALS
- September 4 - Minimum Day K-8; Faculty Meeting 1-3:30 pm
- September 4 - \$5.00 Free Dress to support SJL Mission Farm
- September 8-12 - HERO Week
- September 10 - APT Meeting via Zoom 7:00 pm
- September 11 - 8th Grade Graduation Parent Meeting 5:00 pm AND DC meeting 5:30 pm
- September 18 - Picture Day 5-8, Preschool-Blue & Yellow
- September 19 - Picture Day K-4, Preschool-Red & Green
- September 22-26 - Lutheran Schools Week
  - Monday - Eagle Wear
  - Tuesday - Comfy Day - pack comfort bags
  - Wednesday - Silly Sock Day
  - Thursday - Colors of Love (Pink, Red, Purple, and White)
  - Friday - Country Fair - Free Dress
- September 26 Country Fair - 3:00-6:00 pm

# ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL

In addition, Girls' volleyball is in full swing. Please contact the school office if you would like a schedule of games.

I ask that you include our faculty and staff in your daily prayers.

School Office - Kristal Broyles, Kristin Clayton

Admissions - Kristin Goller

Preschool Director - Joy Dahl

Preschool Blue Group - Diane Barbosa (teacher), Lisa Thornton (aide)

Preschool Yellow Group - Alice Pridmore (teacher), Sheree Moorhead (aide)

Preschool Red Group - Tammra Knippen (teacher), Becky Sims (aide)

Preschool Green Group - Melissa Burmester (teacher), Maureen Hall (aide)

Preschool PALS - Sue Straw, Nanette Williams, Olivia Neal

Kindergarten - Ayne Ondek

First Grade - Ashley Cloud

Second Grade - Megan Mathison

Third Grade - Shannon Lloyd

Fourth Grade - Justine Rollin

Fifth Grade - Mike Newton

Sixth Grade - Jessica Koen

Seventh Grade - Matt Uffmann

Eighth Grade - Kari Perna

Kindergarten Aide - Casie Wood

Grade 1 and 2 Aide - Ramona Kaufmann

Grade 3, 4 and 5 Aide - Keli Manfred

Student Support Team - Jennie Peskett, Sam Calforda, Betsy Gewirz

Computer - CC Hayne-Regan

Music - Angela D'Angelo

Art - Sandra Cassayre

Physical Education - Johnny Pelfini

Theater - Sarah Kramer, Angela D'Angelo, Cindy Powers

PALS - Ramona Kaufmann, Casie Wood, Dagmor Haugh

Many Blessings!  
Christy Wood  
Principal





Submitted by: Farmer Ted, AKA Pastor Ted

Two important announcements for this September issue:

First, we are in the thick of the harvest season, and many hands are kept busy, to say the least. In the month of August, we delivered 8,980 lbs. of fresh produce to the Napa County Food Bank. The total poundage for this crop season so far is 14,996 lbs. The produce included corn, tomatoes, cucumbers, bell peppers, jalapenos, summer squash, radishes, green beans, melons, peaches, pluots, plums, and apples. Fall squash will be coming up shortly. Then clean up.



It has been a productive year with well-sized and attractive fruits and vegetables. We are grateful to God for that. We are also very grateful to all the willing volunteers from church and school families that joined us gathering in the harvest. We benefited this year from volunteers from the community as well. They believe in what we are undertaking and willing to support in this way.

Second, the Mission Farm will be participating once again in the Napa Valley GiveGuide Campaign raising funds for our mission. Over 100 not-for-profit organizations will be participating as well. The campaign will run during the months of November and December. We trust you will be generous toward our mission again this year. Watch for more information as the time draws closer.



## The Power of Validation

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13*

Below is a story to show how a Stephen Minister can care for someone - by listening in a non-judgmental, patient, accepting manner:

After their previous meeting, Andrew (the care receiver) was feeling more comfortable about meeting with his Stephen Minister, Ben. Andrew had started to dig into his difficult feelings about God and Faith, and he was encouraged that Ben had arrived right on time and stayed focused throughout their meeting. Andrew was still uncertain, though, about how openly he should share. Some of what he'd been thinking about his faith got into uncomfortable territory, and he was worried that, if he let it all out, Ben might be shocked and condemn or dispute his thoughts and feelings.

Andrew decided to go ahead and open up - and Ben remained relaxed and understanding. Ben assured him that what he was thinking and feeling was a natural response to what he's been through; it didn't mean he'd lost his faith. That gave Andrew the confidence to go deeper still until he'd said everything on his mind and heart. It felt good being able to say all that while still feeling accepted.

As their meeting ended, Andrew told Ben, "I can hardly believe I could say those kinds of things out loud without being judged. Thanks so much for listening."

Stephen Ministers are trained to listen well. The definition of validation is the process of learning, understanding, believing, and accepting another person's thoughts and feelings about his or her experience - and letting the other person know you've done so, which communicates that his or her thoughts really do matter. Validation builds trust, strengthens relationships, and lets the other person know it's safe to continue sharing.

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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# MUSIC MINISTRY



# DISABILITY MINISTRY



## Disability Etiquette

In the disability ministry articles this year we have been exploring how we can feel more confident and comfortable in building friendships with people who have disabilities. We hope that this information regarding interactions with people who have various kind of disabilities has been helpful for you. If you have been following the articles, I hope that you have noticed that there are some common denominators in all the various situations.

- Enjoy this person who wants to be valued as your friend and a member of your shared community!
- Show your respect for them with your interest in what they share with you.
- Include them in your friendship groups.
- Pray for them and with them.
- Care for their specific needs, when that is appropriate and welcomed.
- Be genuine in your friendship.
- Rejoice that together we are all a part of the family of God, and dearly loved by Him!



# 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](http://teamup.com/ks059311afd6a21c57).

## Social Media Resources

St. John's Lutheran Church

[@sjlcnapa](https://www.facebook.com/sjlcnapa) [@stjohnsnapa](https://www.instagram.com/stjohnsnapa)

St. John's Lutheran School

[@StJohnsLutheranSchoolNapa](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsLutheranSchoolNapa) [@sjlschool](https://www.instagram.com/sjlschool)

## Contact Information

### Church

Phone: (707) 255-0119

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

### School

Phone: (707) 226-7970

Email: [lbroyles@stjohnsnapa.org](mailto:lbroyles@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	Clareen King, Teresa Price		
2	Luca Montes		
3	Erika Boudreaux	15	Ashley Mehrens
4	Hunter Jones, Parker Jones, Thane Knutson	16	Grayson Cushing
5	Aidan Cushing	17	Amanda Brody, Cathy Enfield
6	Xander Herrera	18	Bryson Chaudhary, John Clark, Kevin Dahl, Jaeden Petersen
7	Kaylani Bresee, Lisa De Young, Kevin Mathison, Stewart Mehrens	19	Corrin Kornovich
8	David Fitzgerald, Seamus Vecera	22	Carl Hammond
9	Troy Carey, Kevin Cootey	23	Tracy Lamb, Madison Perna, Jennie Peskett
10	Tyler Chaudhary, Lois Johnson, Brian Montes	24	Lezlee Cootey, Christy Kramer
11	Stephanie Clark, Herbert Heil	25	Michael Frey, Barb Gmelch
12	Nico D'Angelo, Joyce Dowiat, Bev Holdsworth	27	Hagen Bresee, Sally Vaziri
13	Dawnette Martindale, Melissa Morgenlaender, Harper Uffmann	28	Cindy Aspegren
14	David Frey, Delaney Messner	29	Beau Squibb, Ron Yeske

# ANNIVERSARIES

3	David & Rebecca Newman (42 years)		
6	Howard & Rebecca Scully (28 years)		
12	Jeff & Karen Craft (33 years)	22	Aaron & Meghan Eisberg (18 years)
21	Matthew & Kyleigh Greely (6 years)	23	Neill & Pam Barker (46 years)

# DAILY BIBLE READINGS

	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
1	Psalm 15	Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9	James 1:17-27, Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
2	Psalm 108:8-15	Judges 16, 17	Luke 22:14-23
3	Psalm 105:16-22	Judges 18	Luke 22:24-38
4	Psalm 105:23-36	Judges 19	Luke 22:39-51
5	Psalm 105:37-45	Judges 20:1-31	Luke 22:52-62
6	Psalm 106:1-5	Judges 20:32-21:25	Luke 22:63-71
7	Psalm 106:6-12	Ruth 1	Luke 23:1-12
8	Psalm 146	Isaiah 35:4-7a	James 2:1-17, Mark 7:24-37
9	Psalm 106:13-23	Ruth 2, 3	Luke 23:13-31
10	Psalm 106:24-31	Ruth 4	Luke 23:32-43
11	Psalm 106:32-39	1 Samuel 1:1-2:11	Luke 23:44-56
12	Psalm 106:40-48	1 Samuel 2:12-36	Luke 24:1-12
13	Psalm 107:1-9	1 Samuel 3, 4	Luke 24:13-27
14	Psalm 107:10-16	1 Samuel 5:1-7:1	Luke 24:28-35
15	Psalm 116:1-9	Isaiah 50:4-9a	James 3:1-12, Mark 8:27-38
16	Psalm 107:17-22	1 Samuel 7:2-8:22	Luke 24:36-53
17	Psalm 107:23-32	1 Samuel 9	John 1:1-13
18	Psalm 107:33-43	1 Samuel 10	John 1:14-28
19	Psalm 108:1-5	1 Samuel 11, 12	John 1:29-42
20	Psalm 108:6-13	1 Samuel 13	John 1:43-51
21	Psalm 109:1-7	1 Samuel 14:1-40	John 2:1-11
22	Psalm 54	Jeremiah 11:18-20	James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a, Mark 9:30-37
23	Psalm 109:8-20	1 Samuel 14:41-15:23	John 2:12-25
24	Psalm 109:21-31	1 Samuel 15:24-16:13	John 3:1-15
25	Psalm 110	1 Samuel 16:14-17:31	John 3:16-26
26	Psalm 111	1 Samuel 17:32-58	John 3:27-36
27	Psalm 112	1 Samuel 18:1-19:7	John 4:1-26
28	Psalm 113	1 Samuel 19:8-20:17	John 4:27-38
29	Psalm 19:7-14	Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29	James 5:13-20, Mark 9:38-50
30	Psalm 114	1 Samuel 20:18-21:9	John 4:39-42