



THE VINE

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School Newsletter

February 2025

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



Tamar



Rahab

Have you ever paused to consider the fascinating and often overlooked details in the genealogy of Jesus? More specifically, have you ever wondered about the women who are directly tied to His lineage?



Join Pastor Mike as he takes you on a deep dive into the unexpected and powerful stories of the grandmothers of Jesus. Discover how these incredible women, played pivotal roles in God's redemptive plan. It's a journey through history, faith, and legacy that you won't want to miss!



Ruth



Bathsheba

Jesus' Grandmothers

Starting February 9, we'll be looking at the unlikely women who are included in Jesus' genealogy in Matthew 1. It was very unusual at that time to include women at all in a genealogy. But in this case, the women whom Matthew chose to include – Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba – are even more unlikely because of their backgrounds, their stories, and their ethnicities. We will be exploring their stories starting on February 9 as we focus on Tamar. We will also be discussing why Matthew included their stories and what the Holy Spirit is saying to us today through these accounts. We will meet in Room 8 at 11:00 on Sunday.

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.



Date: Mondays at 10:00 AM
Where: Sanctuary
Study: 2 Peter

Attention all soup, stew, and chili enthusiasts!

We're calling on your culinary talents to help bring the St. John's family together for a special time of **Faith and Fellowship**. Every Wednesday evening during Lent, we'll share a meal before our evening services (6 services)—and we need your delicious creations to make it happen!



Keep an eye on our Facebook page in February for a digital sign-up sheet, or use the sign-up sheet that will be posted in the Narthex. Let's make these gatherings warm and memorable—one bowl at a time!

- March 5th
- March 12th
- March 19th
- March 26th
- April 2nd
- April 9th

Thanks,

Josh Wright, Connections Ministry



Best Practices for Ministry Conference

BPM 2025 will take place on February 13-15 at Christ Church Lutheran in Phoenix, Arizona. Best Practice for Ministry is a free 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. For more information, please click here:

<https://cclphoenix.org/bpm/>

Our own Martin Meissenhalter will be presenting at one of the breakout sessions, speaking about his journey with cancer.

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 addition to registering at the link above, please notify the church office.

DATE  **COUPLE** **YEARS**

1	Steve & Christy Wood	28
1	David & Kathy Fitzgerald	39
13	Doug & DeDe Messner	32
14	Tom & Elaine Hoff	38
25	Sandra & Stewart Mehrens	41

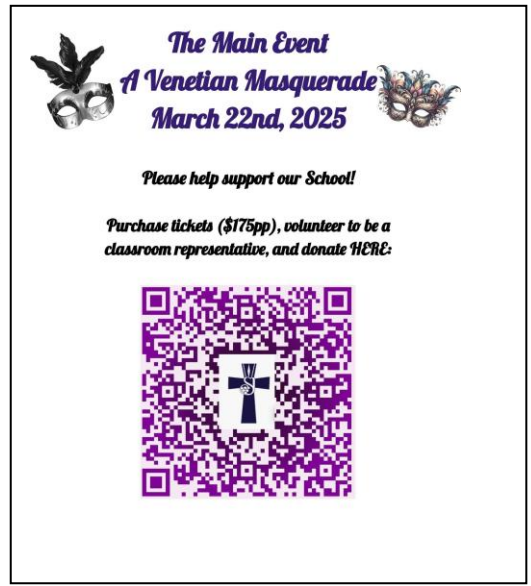


School APT Fund-Raiser

The Main Event

Join us for an evening of fun, fellowship, and fundraising at *The Main Event on March 22, 2025*, 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.


Get your tickets now! Purchase individual seats or reserve a table for friends and family. Scan the QR code to secure your spot today!



The Main Event
A Venetian Masquerade
March 22nd, 2025

Please help support our School!

*Purchase tickets (\$175pp), volunteer to be a classroom representative, and donate **HERE:***



Vacation Bible School

We have officially entered the Vacation Bible School season! This year we will take kids on an adventure of Trusting Jesus in a Wild World at True North VBS! Jesus is the ultimate True North and He is unshakeable at all times. We will be reminding kids that He is our forever friend and Savior all week long. A website for registration will be up at a later date, but in the meantime I ask that you prayerfully consider playing a role in delivering a memorable experience for the kids this summer. The dates are set for Monday-Thursday, June 16-19th, from 9am-noon. Please contact Kevin Mathison with any questions you may have.

Children's Church

We have added a few members to our team and we are always looking for more. It's a joy to share the gospel with the young kids at their level each week! If you are interested in serving in Children's Church occasionally please contact Kevin Mathison or the Church Office.

High School Youth

We will be having our Sunday High School Hangouts each week of February! Join us as we dive into our Bible study on RightNow Media & play some games together.

Mark your calendars for March 1st! We will be getting our whole NYG team together for our first lead-up event for the Gathering. Stay tuned for time and details!

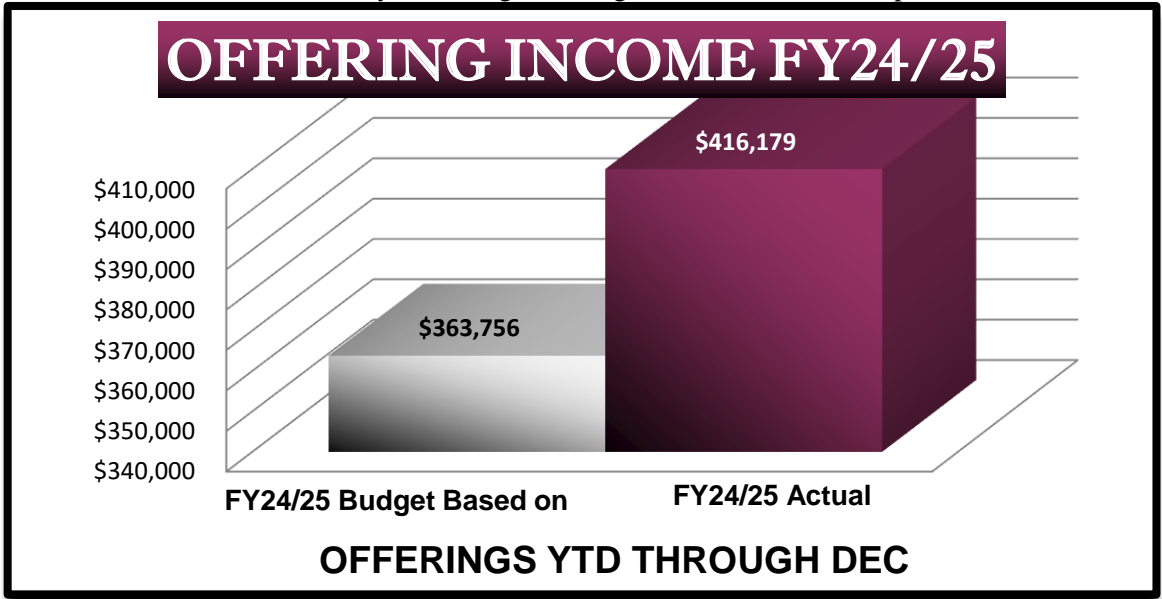
Confirmation

Our February Calendar has Learning Events on February 5th & 19th. February 26th is our open fellowship night! Bring a friend or three!

OFFERING UPDATE

Actual Offering Income for Dec: **\$88,547.**
Total Offerings for FY24/25 (as of 31 Dec 24): **\$416,179** which is **14.41%** or **\$52,423** above 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:

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.” (John 15:12-14) (ESV)

Love Makes Us Do It

A young girl was dying. Her only hope lay in a complete blood transfusion, but she had a very rare blood type. Only her bother, even younger than she, had the same type blood. His parents and doctors explained the situation to him, giving him time to ask questions. He agreed and, without delay, he was laid on a bed, the needle was pushed into his tiny vein, and slowly his blood seeped from his small body into the bag hanging from his bed. He lay quietly as the nurse stood next to him, ready to attend to any need he might have. “How do you feel?” she asked. “Ok,” he answered, “but, Nurse, when do I die?”

What love this little boy had for his sister. What must he have thought when his own parents seemingly agreed, even asked him to sacrifice his life to save his sister’s?

The boys’ love for his sister can help us see how much Jesus loves us. Jesus suffered abuse, torture, persecution, and death for all of us. *“Greater love has no one than this, that He lay down His life for His friends” (John 15:13).* He demonstrated His tremendous love not because of our worthiness, but because He is

a God of tremendous love. Jesus' love for His heavenly Father and for us changed the world. Through His death and resurrection from that death, we through faith have received the forgiveness of our sins and life eternal. God's love to us in Christ is that power that enables us to love Him. *"We love because He first loved us"* (1 John 4:19).

The love of Jesus empowers us to be His stewards. Because of Jesus' love, we change from people giving to a need to people responding out of love. Certainly, we give to needs such as our church budget, Christian causes, and people, but our primary reason for giving is out of love and commitment to Jesus. When needs arise, Jesus opens our eyes and hearts so we can respond to those needs. However, our primary reason for giving is a desire to express our gratitude and thanksgiving for our Lord and the love that He shows us every day. Because our love for Jesus is our motivation for giving, our giving becomes joyful. Love changes our giving from an obligation to a privilege.

We live in difficult and changing times. How wonderful it is that, as Christians, we know that there is the certainty that Jesus always reaches out to us and loves us. May our lives and our giving genuinely reflect His love for us.

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, my precious Savior, You demonstrated Your love for me in that, You did not spare even Your very own life in order that I may be reconciled to our Heavenly Father. May Your Spirit within me cause me to *"walk in Your statutes and...to obey Your rules."* Holy Spirit, empower me to respond to Your love and to grow in the character of Jesus, being generous and returning to my Father what already belongs to Him. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

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

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, New International Version*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1984.

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

ATTENTION ALL CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS!!

The congregation will now accept applications for student grants for the 2025-2026 academic year. All members of St. John's who plan to attend any of our seven synodical universities or our two seminaries are eligible to apply. All you have to do is send a brief note to St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church, ATTN: Tim Kramer, or an e-mail to

tkramer@stjohnsnapa.org, announcing your intent to enroll in the 2025-2026 academic year.

All applications must include the following information:

- a) Your Name
- b) School Name
- c) Student ID or Account # (if returning student)
- d) Degree you are pursuing
- e) Year and Level of study (e.g. Junior year, Undergrad; 5th year, teacher certification, or student teaching; Graduate studies)
- f) Attending Fall Term or Spring Term (or both)
- g) Briefly explain why you're attending Concordia and how you plan to use your studies/future vocation to shine the light of Christ and to witness for Jesus as His kingdom representative in the world.



Deadline for applications is March 31, 2025. Actual grant amount to each student is undetermined but will be based, in part, upon the number of students requesting assistance. So, if you are considering attending a synodical university--even if you have not made a final decision--please send a brief note informing us of where you are in your decision process so that we can plan accordingly.



2025 marked the 35th anniversary of the beloved HIT Basketball tournament, founded by Bob Hauch. It was an enjoyable, albeit busy, weekend of basketball and fellowship. Many alumni returned to cheer on our boys' and girls' tournament teams. A

huge thank you to Matt Uffmann for organizing this tournament and to Lori Hunt and Dean Bledsoe for running the Eagle Rock Cafe.

We had our annual Open House on Thursday, January 30, 2025. It is always wonderful to see what all of the students have created, as well as have fellowship with current families and prospective families.

The biggest highlight for February will be the Lutheran Elementary Schools Tournament at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington. LEST is a long held tradition here at SJL and we are excited that 71 students will be competing in over 20 events. Such an exciting time for our students to interact with other Lutheran students from schools all over the Northwest (Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and California), as well as from British Columbia, Canada.

Looking forward to March, we will be having our Main Event Dinner and Auction on Saturday, March 22. It is not too late to get your ticket and enjoy a great evening supporting SJL.

Many blessings to you and your family!
Christy Wood, Principal





FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----|--|
| 3 | Grayson Roberts, Lisa Thornton, Katya Kampton |
| 7 | Tim Bouchet, Steve Rock |
| 9 | Stephen Santora, Andrew Schluter, Debra Hopkins |
| 10 | Karen Schoenfeld, Carson Dahl |
| 11 | Sarah Franklin |
| 12 | Scott Ondek |
| 15 | Teresa Schmid, Clayton D'Angelo, Kimberly Uffmann |
| 18 | Ruth Peterson |
| 19 | Tessa Mello |
| 20 | Cliff Burmester |
| 21 | Jakob Chaudhary, Leonard Bommersbach |
| 22 | Ayne Ondek, Erin Wilson
Steven Jeffery, Lucas Wedding, Tom Carey, |
| 23 | Gisela Chaudhary |
| 24 | Nina Montes, Blake Rollin |
| 25 | Jeffrey Craft |
| 26 | Christopher Vecera |
| 27 | Mark Zeller, Cindy Zeller |
| 29 | Elizabeth Munoz |



LCC K-9 COMFORT DOG MINISTRY UPDATE



- Tim and Christy Kramer recently returned from LCC headquarters in Northbrook, IL for Top Dog training for our new K9 Comfort Dog. LCC is always trying to improve their process, so it was good to have a review.
- Our handlers have begun filling out their application for LCC.
- Our entire team will begin studying “The Nine Arts of Spiritual Conversations” to help us
- **We are still looking for more handlers and ministry partners – Contact the Kramers if you are interested**

What can our congregation do in the meantime?

- Keep the ministry in your prayers
- Please prayerfully consider joining this amazing ministry. We welcome all those who want to answer God’s call to join Jesus on His mission and to share the mercy, compassion, presence and proclamation of Jesus to those who are suffering and in need. You can be involved in any number of ways, such as:
 - Handler
 - Ministry Partner
 - Social media voice of the Comfort Dog
 - Scheduler
 - Caregiver
 - Prayer Partner
- Please support us with your gifts and offerings
 - We still need the balance of the cost of the dog
 - We need funds to send handlers to training
 - There will be continued ministry costs
- How do I get more information?
 - Call Tim & Christy Kramer – 707.255.0119
 - Watch our Ministry Moments during services

Our LCC K9 Comfort Dog Ministry has had an amazing impact on our own team members, but more importantly, in the Napa community and beyond. It is so important to continue serving in this way. We look forward to having you on the team!

Time to report on the harvests for 2024 . . . the harvest of fresh produce, and the harvest of dollars to support the growth of fresh produce in 2025.

First . . . I am proud to report that the harvest of fresh produce totaled **19,292 lbs.** That’s a bit south of our average, but then every year presents different growing challenges. It still is a very respectable contribution to the Food Bank this year.

Second . . . the harvest of dollars during November and December to tide us through the next crop season. We had two campaigns going on at the same time. We chose once again to participate in the CanDo Give!Guide 2024 campaign that helps us gain a wide exposure of our mission exposure into the community. Through our participation we received 44 donations from the community (plus a few



of our members too) totaling \$6,880. We will receive slightly less than that, since the cost of processing the credit card donations will be deducted. Even though we faced a lot of competition with over 67 organizations participating, our donations through Gift!Guide increased this year over last year by about 55%! That was exciting!

Now I don't have as yet the figure for how many donations and the total that our members gave during December through the regular offering channels. When that is received, the number will increase substantially. In addition to that, we also received recently a special grant from the Community Projects organization for \$10,000! That alone will help us cover our portion of the church's water bill.

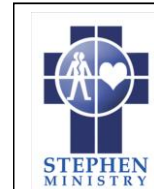
God has been good blessing us with what we need to continue this work. We pray that he will also be blessing us with many volunteers this summer. Watch the next month's Vine for some information about joining the volunteer corps.

~Pastor (Farmer) Ted



Stephen Ministry: What a Friend We Have

What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! ...
Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? ...
Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—take it to the Lord in prayer! *



Such a familiar hymn with wonderful, comforting words. God *is* our refuge and our strength, and we are so grateful that we can take everything to Him in prayer. Sometimes we also need a human friend to talk with, someone who can walk alongside us, someone to listen and offer support. Someone like an encouraging, caring Stephen Minister.

It's difficult to ask for help. Perhaps you've felt embarrassed that you're not "tough enough" to handle it on your own. Perhaps you feel your problems are too small, that others must have bigger issues. Perhaps you believe what our culture promotes – self-help is the answer. Perhaps you don't feel you deserve help. Or that you are too tired to reach out, feeling defeated before you start.

Please know that YOU matter to God and to the people at St. John's Lutheran Church. We have Stephen Ministers who are trained, ready, and willing to help. God carries you and your problems in His loving hands, and He provides hands-on help through Stephen Ministers. If you feel undeserving, know that God freely gives us every good and perfect gift through His amazing grace. By God's grace we can trust and confide in a Stephen Minister, start to heal, and become whole again.

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). Thank you, God, for the Friend we have in Jesus, and for the friends we have at St. John's.

*(Charles Converse music / Joseph Scriven lyrics)

Disability Etiquette

The Disability Ministry space in *The Vine* will be used during **2025** to review key points of disability etiquette. The January article focused on The Purpose of Disability Etiquette and how to use People-First Language. If you missed the article, you can still find it on St. John's website.



Often people are not purposefully rude or disrespectful to people with disabilities; they just have not had the chance to learn how to interact in the most appropriate way. These articles are intended to get you thinking and understanding ways to adapt your behavior when needed. We know that true interpersonal skills develop through strong relationships. Use good judgment and ask heartfelt questions when interacting with people who have disabilities.

Ambulatory Impairments

- Be aware of the environment. Make sure that people using mobility equipment have enough room to move freely.
- Speak directly to the person. Do not speak to others around them as if that person is not there. This is simple basic courtesy that should be given to everyone!
- Treat their wheelchair or walker as an extension of their body, their personal space. It is not something to lean on, sit on, hang things on, or touch without asking.
- Do not assume that the individual needs you to push his or her wheelchair. If the situation warrants it, you may ask if assistance is needed. Honor their answer.
- In a buffet line, you may ask if the person would like assistance. Offer to carry their plate or cup. Again, please honor their answer.
- When speaking with someone using a wheelchair, be mindful of how high you are relative to their eye level. Standing further away, sitting in a chair next to them, or even kneeling can help alleviate neck stress.
- Do not move crutches, walker, cane, or wheelchair without the person's permission. Do not leave the area without returning them to the person or arranging for their return.
- Do not talk about being confined or bound to a wheelchair. Wheels give the person freedom and are a welcomed means of mobility.
- In a situation when you need to help someone out of a wheelchair, set the brake and turn off any power controllers!
- Treasure your friendship!

Information from: "*Disability Etiquette*," joniandfriends.org and "*Communicating for Success*" Bethesda LC
For other information, contact Elaine Zimmerman (707-225-4291) or at zimelaine@comcast.net

Daily Bible Readings for February

	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
1	Psalm 18:37-45	2 Chronicles 5:2-6:23	Acts 18:22-19:5
2	Psalm 71:1-6	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Luke 4:21-30
3	Psalm 18:46-50	2 Chronicles 6:24-7:22	Acts 19:6-20
4	Psalm 19:1-6	2 Chronicles 8:1-9:12	Acts 19:21-31
5	Psalm 19:7-14	2 Chronicles 9:13-10:19	Acts 19:32-20:3
6	Psalm 20	2 Chronicles 11:1-12:12	Acts 20:4-16
7	Psalm 21	2 Chronicles 12:13-22	Acts 20:17-31
8	Psalm 22:1-8	2 Chronicles 14, 15	Acts 20:32-21:4
9	Psalm 138	Isaiah 6:1-8	1 Cor. 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11
10	Psalm 22:9-21	2 Chronicles 16, 17	Acts 21:5-16
11	Psalm 22:22-28	2 Chronicles 18	Acts 21:17-30
12	Psalm 22:29-31	2 Chronicles 19:1-20:19	Acts 21:31-22:2
13	Psalm 23	2 Chron. 20:20-21:17	Acts 22:3-16
14	Psalm 24	2 Chron. 21:18-23:21	Acts 22:17-29
15	Psalm 25:1-7	2 Chronicles 24:1-25:4	Acts 22:30-23:11
16	Psalm 1	Jeremiah 17:5-10	1 Cor. 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26
17	Psalm 25:8-22	2 Chronicles 25:5-26:15	Acts 23:12-24
18	Psalm 26	2 Chronicles 26:16-28:8	Acts 23:25-24:3
19	Psalm 27:1-6	2 Chron. 28:9-29:119	Acts 24:4-16
20	Psalm 27:7-14	2 Chron. 29:20-30:27	Acts 24:17-27
21	Psalm 28	2 Chronicles 31	Acts 25:15
22	Psalm 29	2 Chronicles 32	Acts 25:16-26:1
23	Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40	Genesis 45:3-11, 15	1 Cor. 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6: 27-38
24	Psalm 30:1-5	2 Chronicles 33:1-34:7	Acts 26:2-14
25	Psalm 30:6-12	2 Chronicles 34:8-33	Acts 26:15-27
26	Psalm 31:1-5	2 Chronicles 35	Acts 26:28-27:8
27	Psalm 31:6-9	2 Chronicles 36	Acts 27:9-20
28	Psalm 31:10-20	Ezra 1,2	Acts 27:21-38



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.



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Napa, California 94558-2703

Our weekly sermons are available on the St. John's website at: www.stjohnslutheran.net.
Visit our school website at: www.stjohnsnapa.org

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



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Church

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Email: churchoffice@stjohnsnapa.org

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

Mr. Tim Kramer, Business Administrator (ext. 121)

Mrs. Christy Kramer, Church Office Manager (ext. 120)

Mr. Kevin Mathison, Dir. of Youth Ministry (ext. 106) or 255-7451

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