



THE VINE

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School Newsletter

JULY 2024

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

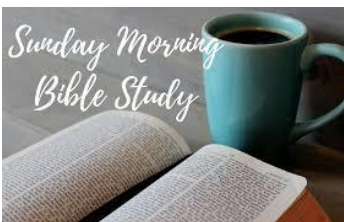
Associate Pastor Call Process

We are beginning the process of Calling an associate pastor. The Board of Directors has appointed a Call committee to oversee the search process. The members of the Call committee are Tyler Roberts (Board Member), Dr. Christy Wood (Principal), Kristi Carey, Tom Hoff, Clint Holdsworth, Rebekah Kramer, and Chris Vecera. Pastor Mike will serve as an ex-officio member of the committee. The Call Committee will gather names, conduct interviews and work with the CNH District as it pursues its goal of bringing to the Board of Directors its recommendation regarding the one whom the congregation should Call. The Call Committee will also keep the congregation informed of the process as we move forward in discerning God's will.

Please keep this committee and this process in your prayers, that God bless and guide this process to His glory and the good of our congregation and its mission.

Congregational Budget and Election Meeting

The congregational meeting took place on June 9 after worship. At this meeting, the following people were elected to two-year terms on the Board of Directors: Bob DeYoung, Ron Johnson, Dick Lemin, Martin Meissenhalter, and Gail Vandeburgt. The assembly also adopted the proposed 2024-2025 Ministry Plan and Budget.



Sunday Bible Classes

Sunday morning Bible Classes are in recess for the summer. Classes will resume on August 25.



New Email Addresses for the Church

Please make a note that we are changing the email addresses for the church. Please use the following email addresses for correspondence.

- Church Office: churchoffice@stjohnsnapa.org
- Pastor Mike: pastormike@stjohnsnapa.org
- Kevin Mathison: kevin@stjohnsnapa.org
- Tim Kramer: tkramer@stjohnsnapa.org

What is different? The domain “stjohnsnapa.org” instead of “stjohnslutheran.net.” We are moving away from the “stjohnslutheran.net” so that all emails, church and school, will be “stjohnsnapa.org.” The old emails will remain active for a time to make sure we don’t miss anything, but please update your address books accordingly.

LCC K-9 COMFORT DOG MINISTRY UPDATE

To God be the Glory!



Stay Tuned for information on applying for a second LCC K9 Comfort Dog!

We will need more team members for the second dog. Please prayerfully consider if God is leading you to participate in this amazing ministry!

Please contact Tim and Christy Kramer if you are interested.

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:9

Thanks for your support and prayers! Please check out Facebook, Instagram, and our website for all the latest news. napavalleycomfortdogs.org

Aaron Comfort Dog



Children's Ministry

- SCUBA VBS was the highlight of June! Sharing the Gospel with young kids alongside some of the best volunteers is truly a blessing! We took a deep dive into Friendship with God and taught the kids how awesome it is to trust God with all things. **Thank you for all who served and prayed for this totally awesome week of VBS!** Until next time...
- **CHILDREN'S CHURCH WILL CONTINUE THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER!** It's so exciting that we have so many kiddos each week that we simply can't take the entire summer off! If you would like to find a way to get involved with Children's Church, even if it's just once every couple months, please get in contact with Kevin Mathison.



Surge

- Mark your calendars for our Summer Surge Movie Series. July 16th & July 30th. Each of these will begin at 6pm in the gym. All students in 5th-8th grade are invited to catch some movies with us and to even bring friends!
- District Youth Gathering! The CNH District is hosting an event on Saturday, July 13th, in Rocklin! Students entering 6th, 7th, & 8th grade are all invited to attend. If you are interested, please contact Kevin Mathison by June 30th.

High School

- High School Hang out! This is the place to be if you are in 8th grade or high school! We will meet in Room 10 after church on July 7, 14, & 21. Join us for some food, fun games, & Bible study.
- The National Youth Gathering is just 12 months away now! We are gearing up for what is sure to be a humid trip to New Orleans! Our Youth will soon begin fundraising for this big trip. Stay tuned for some of the fun events that we will be hosting!

Lutheran Braille Workers Update

Large Print Ministry will be taking a break during July.



SJLS Admissions News

SJL is excited to announce that we are anticipating full enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year, with the exception of a few openings in **6th grade**. If you know anyone who might be looking for the opportunity to begin **middle school at SJL**, please encourage them to contact Admissions (kgoller@stjohnsnapa.org) or the School Office at 707-226-7970.

Thank you!





June brought to us the end of the 2023-2024 school year. As we look back and reflect on all that this year has brought to us, we remember God's plan for each and every one of us as stated in Jeremiah 29:11 - "'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares

the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'" As we started off in August, we still had so many unknowns as to how this school year would play out. As we lived under the theme "Live Love(d)" we witnessed how important it is to "Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." (Ephesian 5:1-2)

The summer is always a bittersweet time on a school campus. As we rejoice that another academic year is in the books, it means that we will be saying farewell to the graduating class of 8th graders and sending them off to high school in the fall. We are excited to see where God leads each of our graduates and pray that, as said in the words of the prophet Isaiah in Chapter 40, verse 31, "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Once a St. John's Eagle, always a St. John's Eagle! Soar high!

Many blessings to you this summer. We pray that this is a time to relax, rejuvenate, and make memories with your family and friends. We look forward to seeing you in August!



Pictured are two from the Young Farmers and Ranchers organization who regularly help out at the Mission Farm. Nicholas and August are tying up the tomato vines to the fencing in order to keep the fruit off the ground. The plants are already much taller today than when this picture was taking. And they are heavy with fruit for future harvesting.



This is the time of year when we especially need many helping hands. Harvesting is the fun part. If you can't take the bending, we need people at the prepping table cleaning, sorting, weighing and boxing the produce for delivery to the Food Bank. We are already harvesting summer squash, radishes, and cucumbers. Right behind will be bell peppers and jalapenos, and behind those will be corn, tomatoes, melons, and tree fruit. There will also be further planting of fall squash.

Work days are Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday mornings, 8:30 to 11:30. Bring water, a floppy hat, and work gloves.

Submitted by Farmer Ted

JULY BIRTHDAYS

2	Laura Kostelac, Gabriel Gutierrez, Abigail Munoz
3	Craig Underhill
4	Nancy Henry, Jeron Chaudhary
5	Liam Alexander
6	Katie Chagonjian, Roxana Castro
7	Karen Dalen, Christine Zanone
10	Cynthia McFarland-Johnson
11	Noah Helfrich, Andy Schweiger
12	Natalie Bouchet, Alexander Winkler
14	Michael Quinn
15	Landon Abraham
16	Riann Engelbracht, Melinda Herrera, Teri Mitchell
17	Matthew Commander, Laurie Bresee
18	Tatum Chagonjian, James Henry
19	Amali Svien
20	Samuel Hoff
21	Robert Ehlen, Todd Mitchell
23	Alexander Christie
25	Shanna Caceres, Bryce Mathison
26	Karol Underhill, Michele Roberts
27	Dennis Arnett
28	Nathan Kaufmann
29	Rodney Skillings
30	Judi Rock, Gary Virkus, Susan Clark, Todd Yoder
31	Katie Wedding



Bible Class for people with special needs
meets the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays
at 9:30-10:15 a.m. in classroom #10



Contact information:

Elaine Zimmerman at zimelaine@comcast.net or 225-4291
Rebecca Vitkus at havegoalstomeet@gmail.com or 775/685-6201

OFFERING UPDATE

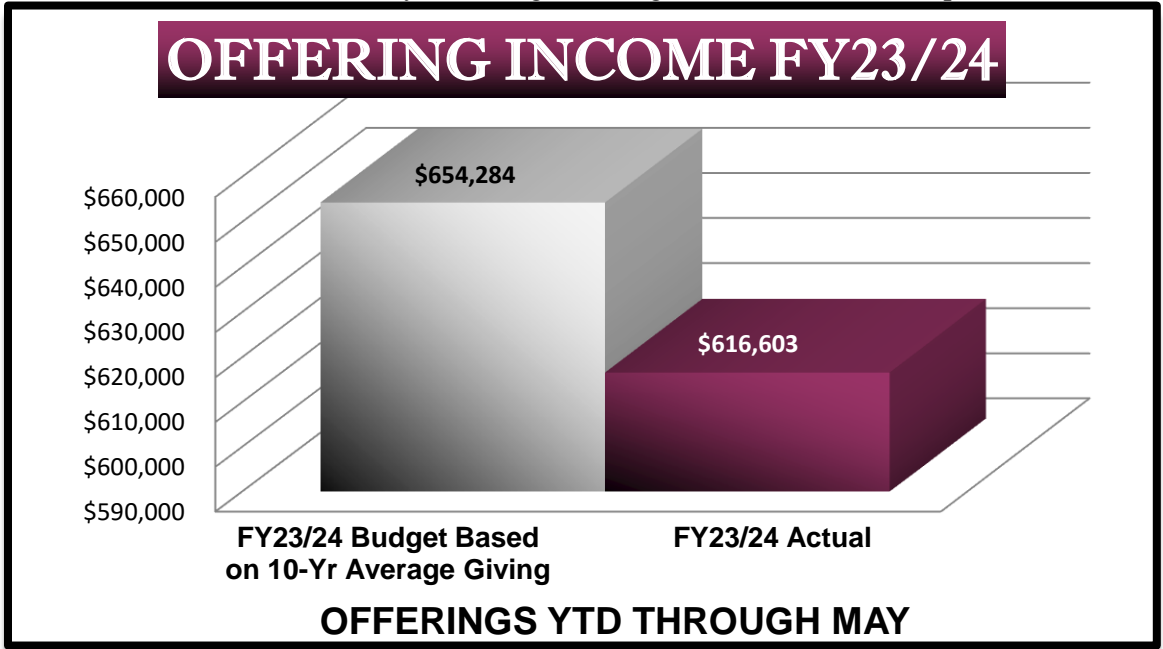
Actual Offering Income for May:

\$52,221.

Total Offerings for FY23/24 (as of 31 May 24):

\$616,603 which is **5.76%** or **\$37,681** 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:

“But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also.”

(2 Corinthians 8:7)(ESV)

Giving an Opportunity or Obligation

As the Apostle Paul traveled to churches, he collected offerings for the Christians in Jerusalem who were experiencing hard economic times. When Paul was speaking to the Corinthians, he used the Macedonian believers as an example of people who, in spite of their own economic troubles, gave joyfully to the people in Jerusalem. The Macedonians’ love for Christ and their concern for their fellow believers moved them to give beyond their ability. The Macedonians gave themselves first to the Lord, and then, Paul said, they “urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints” (2 Corinthians 8:4). In Christ, they saw their giving as an opportunity to help other believers in need.

Does someone who views giving as an obligation plead for the opportunity to give? Probably not. When giving is an obligation, we will give, but giving as an obligation will not give us the joy or the attitude of pleading for the privilege to give that the Macedonians had. As God's people, we have both an obligation and an opportunity. Scripture is clear that we are called to give. Paul said, "*On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made*" (1 Corinthians 16:2). Giving is an obligation, but, just as God changed the hearts and minds of the Macedonian people, He changes us so our attitude toward giving can change from being an obligation to an opportunity. As renewed and changed people, our attitude toward giving changes from a "got to" to a "get to" attitude. We stop giving grudgingly, and we start giving willingly and cheerfully. We want to give, because giving is an expression of our love and gratitude to God for Who He is and what He does for us.

The more we give of ourselves and our gifts, the closer our relationship with Christ becomes, and the more we want to give, and the more God blesses us which enables our continued giving. "*You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God*" (2 Corinthians 9:11).

Prayer:

Dear God, thank You for filling me daily with Your love so that I, as a member of Your Church here on earth, see giving as a privilege and an opportunity to praise and thank You. In Your precious 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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The Give+ Mobile App from VANCO shut down 1 Oct 21 and is longer be available for download as a mobile app. The new app is called **VANCO Mobile**.

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

HEARING God's Word and HEARING One Another

St. John's congregation is very thankful to all who participated in the project for the replacement of the audiovisual system for the sanctuary and the Faith Chapel area!



The Board of Directors and the tech team envisioned what was needed, did the research, and created a project plan. The congregation members prayed for wisdom and for the resources to complete such a large investment. Members contributed the necessary financial gifts. Workers volunteered their time and strength when a “deconstruction” team was needed to remove the old tech control center. The tech team members spent hours and days learning how to operate the new system and doing the programming for the first worship service! At the same time, they had to set up the old system to provide audio support for two Sunday worship services outside in Faith Chapel while construction was taking place in the sanctuary! Many thanks to everyone who gave their time, money, energy, labor, skills, and prayers for the success of this project!

One of the blessings we have with the sound system is advanced technology to assist worshipers who have a hearing impairment. During the past year a hearing loop was installed in the church building to provide an opportunity for people, who have newer hearing aids with T-coil technology, to connect directly with the sound system and get the feed into their hearing aids. Others who need hearing assistance, but do not have hearing aids, can still be supported with the use of a head set which is available at the sound center. Being able to hear and participate in worship is a wonderful blessing! Jesus instructed the crowd (and us): “*He who has ears, let him hear*” (Matt. 11:15). As we hear the Word of God, let us have open hearts to “*grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!*” (2 Peter 3:18).

When communicating or interacting with a person who has a hearing impairment, here are some helpful hints for you to remember:

- **Face the individual and speak at normal pace and pitch. Some people may ask you to speak more slowly and enunciate clearly.**
- **Be sure the light accentuates your face and does not glare in this individual's eyes.**
- **Attract the individual's attention before trying to communicate.**
- **Use meaningful hand and body gestures.**
- **Remember, for those who are hard of hearing or fully deaf, language is largely a visual activity. If they cannot see your mouth, they cannot “hear” you.**

Information from “Disability Etiquette” - joni&friends.org/church

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.



Stephen Ministry – Did you know...



“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest”

Matthew 11:28

77 percent of people experience stress that affects their physical health. Regardless of age, sex, ethnicity, and religion, no one is immune to the burdens of stress.

An estimated 31.1% of U.S. adults experience anxiety at some time in their lives.

Depression affects approximately 17.3 million American adults, or about 7.1% of the U.S. population age 18 and older, each year.

There are common causes of grief, including: Death of a loved one, Divorce, Loss of a Job, or Death of a pet.

More than one-third of adults aged 45 and older feel lonely, and nearly one-fourth of adults aged 65 and older are considered to be socially isolated.

In the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, global prevalence of anxiety and depression increased by at least 25%, according to a scientific brief released by the World Health Organization (WHO).

God never intended for us to go through these experiences alone. That’s why God has brought us together as a congregation, and why we have Stephen Ministry.

Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who are trained caregivers, to minister to people experiencing a crisis, facing a challenge, or simply going through a tough time. They are prayerfully matched with people who are going through a stressful time or life difficulty.

A Stephen Minister will meet with you on a weekly basis to listen, care, encourage, provide emotional and spiritual support, and remind you of Christ’s presence in your life. The care you’ll receive is confidential, free, and very helpful.

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).

Copyright Stephen Ministries 2020



Hello Ladies of St. John’s Lutheran Church!

Hope you’re having a great summer so far! Come the first week in September, we will be continuing our study of the apostle Peter. Come join us as we begin Peter’s second letter. This is a great study and a wonderful time of fellowship. Day and date will follow! God bless you all! Judi Rock (707)738-6707.





We are blessed to have so many young kids with us each Sunday, but we are running low on Children's Church leaders. If you are looking for a place to serve here at St. John's, I ask you to consider working in Children's Church. It's an awesome way for the kids to hear the Good News of Jesus delivered in a way suitable for them to understand and hold on to. Please get in contact with Kevin Mathison if you have any questions about getting involved. We would love to have you join the team! kevin@stjohnsnapa.org

Biblical Counseling at St John's The Biblical Counseling Center of Napa Valley

Fear and Worry

We human beings have a problem with fear and worry. Ever since the fall of man we struggle with this aspect of life. We worry about the future, we are fearful of other people and their opinion of us, especially when public speaking. Nothing is better established in the New Testament than the propensity for men to be fearful and worry.

If this wasn't the case, the Bible wouldn't have to comment on this reality. Jesus makes clear in Matthew 6:25-34 that we tend to worry about the wrong things and redirects the focus of our attention when He says: "But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore, do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient is the day for its own trouble." In the book of John, Jesus is recorded as saying: "Let not your heart be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in Me." (John 14:1)

Where do you focus your mental energies? Do you fearfully focus on all the real and potential problems you face and worry about the possible outcomes, or do you trust in your loving Savior that says He will; "never leave you or forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5)

When we are overcome with fear or worry, remember the words of Jesus: "Come to Me all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

If you struggle with fear and worry and would like to talk, give me a call at 707-738-5306 and leave a message if I can't answer.

In His service,

Dr. Steven Rock – The Biblical Counseling Center of Napa Valley

Daily Bible Readings for July

	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
1	Psalm 80:12-19	Deuteronomy 9:7-10:22	Luke 6:27-38
2	Psalm 81:1-5	Deuteronomy 11	Luke 6:39-49
3	Psalm 81:6-10	Deuteronomy 12	Luke 7:1-17
4	Psalm 81:11-16	Deuteronomy 13:1-14:21	Luke 7:18-30
5	Psalm 82:1-4	Deut. 14:22-15:18	Luke 7:31-38
6	Psalm 82:5-8	Deut. 15:19-17:7	Luke 7:39-50
7	Psalm 123	Ezekiel 2:1-5	2 Cor. 12:2-10, Mark 6:1-13
8	Psalm 83:1-8	Deut. 17:8-18:22	Luke 8:1-15
9	Psalm 83:9-12	Deuteronomy 19:1-20:9	Luke 8:16-25
10	Psalm 83:13-18	Deut. 20:10-21:23	Luke 8:26-39
11	Psalm 84:1-7	Deuteronomy 22	Luke 8:40-56
12	Psalm 84:8-12	Deut. 23:1-24:13	Luke 9:1-11
13	Psalm 85:1-7	Deut. 24:14-25:19	Luke 9:12-27
14	Psalm 85:8-13	Amos 7:7-15	Ephesians 1:3-14, Mark 6:14-29
15	Psalm 85:8-13	Deut. 26:1-27:13	Luke 9:28-36
16	Psalm 86:1-10	Deut. 27:14-28:24	Luke 9:37-50
17	Psalm 86:11-17	Deuteronomy 28:25-57	Luke 9:51-62
18	Psalm 87	Deut. 28:58-29:21	Luke 10:1-16
19	Psalm 88:1-5	Deut. 29:22-31:8	Luke 10:17-24
20	Psalm 88:6-12	Deuteronomy 31:9-32:9	Luke 10:25-42
21	Psalm 23	Jeremiah 23:1-6	Ephes. 2:11-22, Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
22	Psalm 88:13-18	Deuteronomy 32:10-43	Luke 11:1-13
23	Psalm 89:1-8	Deut. 32:44-33:17	Luke 11:14-28
24	Psalm 89:9-18	Deut. 33:18-34:12	Luke 11:29-36
25	Psalm 89:19-29	Joshua 1,2	Luke 11:37-54
26	Psalm 89:30-37	Joshua 3,4	Luke 12:1-12
27	Psalm 89:38-45	Joshua 5,6	Luke 12:13-21
28	Psalm 145:10-18	2 Kings 4:42-44	Ephesians 3:14-21, John 6:1-21
29	Psalm 89:46-52	Joshua 7	Luke 12:22-34
30	Psalm 90	Joshua 8:1-29	Luke 12:35-48
31	Psalm 91:1-8	Joshua 8:30-9:27	Luke 12:49-59

DATE	COUPLE	YEARS
1	Thomas & Christine Commander	29
3	Todd & Teri Mitchell	42
4	Cameron & Debra Hopkins	43
7	Todd & Natalie Yoder	24
9	Rodney & Marie Skillings	6
10	Ken & Michelle Arnold	31
14	Joseph & Amali Svien	12
15	Jeffery & Cynthia McFarland-Johnson	40
20	Scott & Ayne Ondek	5
21	Timothy & Lauren Huss	34
21	George & Andrea Clark	50
27	Kevin & Megan Mathison	5
31	Kevin & Lezlee Cootey	42



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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>



<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/248942728988437/st-johns-lutheran-church/>

Church

Phone: (707) 255-0119

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

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, Director of Preschool (107)