



THE VINE

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School Newsletter

January 2025

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



Best Practices for Ministry Conference

BPM is back! BPM 2024 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 go to: <https://cclphoenix.org/bpm/>


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.

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


! Venetian Masquerade

March 22nd, 2025



Please help support our School!

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





Children's Church is really taking off with tons of kids and families in worship each week. We are in constant need of new teachers to really help this ministry grow. Please contact Kevin Mathison if you would like any information on how to get involved with Children's Church.

Confirmation continues in January!
All events will take place in Room 10 from 7-8:30pm.



- January 8: Fellowship Night. Bring a Friend!
- January 15: Learning Event
- January 22: Learning Event
- January 29: Small Group Week



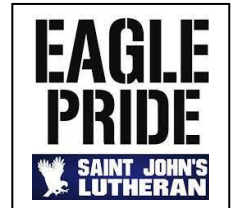
High School Hangouts

Join us for High School Hangouts on Sundays after church! Games, friends, and a devotion in Kevin's Office. January 5th & 26th.

St. John's Lutheran School Open House

For Preschool through Eighth Grade

Thursday, January 30, 2024
5:00-6:00 p.m. Prospective Families Only Please
6:00-7:00 p.m. Current and Prospective Families Welcome
Stop by for as little or as long as you'd like.
There is no formal presentation. Kids are welcome!



Visit the classrooms and teachers and learn more about the specific grade-level programs at St. John's.

Come see what's happening at St. John's Lutheran School and experience what makes it a special place for learning!

Prospective families, please R.S.V.P. to:

Kristin Goller, SJL Admissions: 707-226-7970, Ext. 125; kgoller@stjohnsnapa.org.

We hope you can join us!

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

DATE	COUPLE	YEARS
1	Tom & Laura Peterson	24
2	Hugh & Echo Connell	39
4	Matthew & Carly Bresee	11
5	Terry & Joan Gard	23
7	Shanna & Salvador Caceres	9
7	Linda & Bill Cornils	47
14	Lauren & Ben Frey	14
18	Leslie & Tony Nicholson	34
19	Ed & Sharlene Mulsoff	61
20	Joy & Kevin Dahl	18
24	Melissa & Glen Loban	44
30	Hoag & Lois Husted	43
31	John & Tami Van Hofwegen	21



SAVE THE DATE:

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN LADIES TEA

Saturday, MARCH 8, 2025. 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Additional information will be in January's Vine.

Rebecca Vitkus



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Brodie Mooers
2	Janelle Newton, Charles Scott
3	Nancy Heil, Beth Vecera
4	Kerrie Diviak, Michael Santora
5	Rebecca Hudgins, Lloyd Zuehlke
6	Tami Van Hofwegen
7	Megan Schweiger, Shelby Edmeyer, Kenley Price
8	Lucy Franklin
9	Paulette Cooper
10	Lori Gutierrez, Declan Bresee
11	Joy Dahl
12	Rita Alexander
14	Bob Klein
15	Madison Edmeyer, Midge Schneider
18	Susan Novotny
20	Bryce Powers, Ella Powers, Ashley Diviak
21	Robert Perna, Ed Mulsoff
23	Melissa Seiter, Rebecca McAhren, Heidi Newman
24	Matteo Robertis
25	Janet Peterson
27	Ben Frey, Joseph Svien
28	Tom Peterson
29	Karen Craft
30	Susan Von Kaenel
31	Ariel Winkler



LCC K-9 COMFORT DOG MINISTRY UPDATE



Where do we go from here?

We have officially applied with Lutheran Church Charities to receive another LCC K9 Comfort Dog. The wait time could be approximately 18-24 months.

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!



Thank you for your faithful response to our Savior's steadfast love. Please use these envelopes, found in the Narthex in **2025**, if you prefer to place your offerings in the plate during worship services. These new envelopes will help our counting team and office staff efficiently and accurately record and credit your contributions.

Please do not use 2024 envelopes after December 31st, and do not use these new envelopes until January 1, 2025.

For your convenience, your box contains some pre-printed envelopes for specific ministries or projects; you may use these to indicate your preference or desire to support those ministries. While we will endeavor to use the funds as you desire or suggest, we may use the gift for other purposes in the event the intended ministries, projects or purposes are canceled, oversubscribed or are no longer relevant to the mission of our congregation.

OFFERING UPDATE

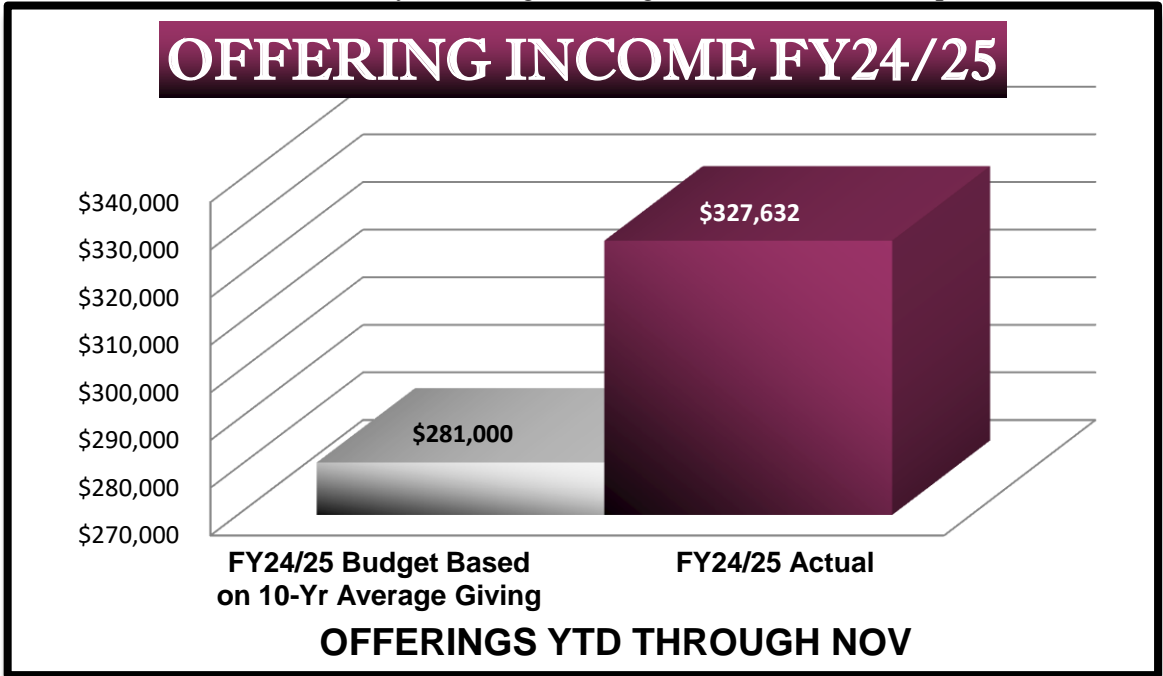
Actual Offering Income for Nov:

\$54,155.

Total Offerings for FY24/25 (as of 30 Nov 24):

\$327,632 which is **16.6%** or **\$46,632** 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:

“Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” He said, ‘The one who showed him mercy.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘You go, and do likewise.’” (Luke 10:36-37)(ESV)

What Is Mine Is Yours

Scripture is filled with wonderful and moving stories about sharing. Possibly the most quoted story is the Parable of the Good Samaritan. God used a despised Samaritan to encourage us to share our time, talents, and treasures with those in need. The Samaritan showed us what it means to have compassion on someone and to give sacrificially as he tended to the man beaten by the robbers. Not only did the Samaritan provide immediate aid, he brought the injured person to an inn where he could be cared for further. The Samaritan used his own funds for the man’s care. The Samaritan demonstrated the attitude, “What is mine is yours.” Our challenge as Christians is to show our

compassion as willingly and generously as the Good Samaritan. God wants us to be His channels of His love and care to those in need.

In contrast to the Samaritan, the priest and Levite, who passed by the victim before the Samaritan came along, showed no compassion for the beaten person. They had the attitude, “What is mine is mine.” They didn’t want to give any time, care, or comfort to the victim.

God has blessed us with many talents, gifts, and resources. Because God has blessed us, He will give us opportunities to use what He has given us for His purposes. Through faith, we receive God’s wisdom to acknowledge that He is the provider of all things so we become more willing to share our blessings with others. When God shows you a need, are you ready to respond?

Discussion Thoughts:

1. Why was it so significant that the person sharing his gifts was a Samaritan?
2. In what ways have you demonstrated the attitude “What is mine is yours” at home, at work, and at church?
3. What are some other examples in Scripture where people have shared so freely?

Prayer:

Dear good and gracious Heavenly Father, You show Your love for me in so many different ways. Forgive me when I fail to thank You for all that You do for me. I thank You for Your constant presence in my life. I pray that You will grant me a loving heart that will be willing to respond to those in need. Help me to love my neighbors. 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.

Scripture quotations marked (ESV) are from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (ISV) are from *The Holy Bible: International Standard Version*. Release 2.0, Build 2015.02.09. Copyright © 1995-2014 by ISV Foundation. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED INTERNATIONALLY. Used by permission of Davidson Press, LLC.

35th Annual HIT Basketball Tournament



We are excited to invite you to our 35th Annual Hauch Invitational Basketball Tournament - one of the most anticipated events of the year!

The tournament will feature our **7th/8th Boys Tournament Team** and our **7th/8th Girls Tournament Team**. Our **Cheer and Dance team** will also be performing at the tournament as well! The boys will compete in an 8 team bracket while the girls will play in a 4 team round robin. The bracket schedule is still in progress, and we'll provide you the brackets as soon as they're finished.

The tournament will take place on **January 16th - 19th** in our gymnasium.
(over)

This year will feature teams from Napa, American Canyon, Sonoma, Vallejo and Bakersfield! The tournament never fails to provide intense competition, camaraderie, and unforgettable moments on the court. We are blessed with the opportunity to host this special event, and I look forward to witnessing our students and families create a spirited and welcoming atmosphere.

Admission to the tournament will be \$3.00 for students and \$8.00 for adults per day (\$6.00 and \$20.00 for 4 day tournament passes). **CASH ONLY for admission.** There will be a complete snack bar with meals available throughout the tournament. Tri-tip sandwiches, homemade chili, walking tacos and teriyaki bowls are just a few of the delicious items our Eagle Rock Cafe has to offer!

Make sure to mark your calendar for this exciting tournament of basketball action. Join fellow parents, fans, and supporters in celebrating the spirit of sportsmanship and teamwork. Your encouragement makes a significant impact on the players, creating an unforgettable experience for everyone involved. We look forward to sharing this memorable experience with you!

Happy New Year!

For the volunteers at the Mission Farm it has been a busy year, and in the main, a fruitful year. Although it may not appear to be so currently. It's awfully quiet at the Farm. We lost all our cool weather seedlings, and so have no crops to tend or to harvest. So for this month, we might as well take some well-deserved time off and let our bodies heal.



However, things will start to get busy again around March, and you may hear or receive some “All hands on deck” messages for special work parties. I can tell you that this past crop year ended up with a total of 19,292 lbs. of produce being delivered to the Food Bank from our Mission Farm! That's a bit south of our average, but then, remember, no cool weather crops (cabbages, broccoli, etc.) were being raised and harvested.

When we are not raising produce, we are busy raising cash donations for our Mission. We participated again this past year in the CanDo Give!Guide campaign. While I don't have the totals yet since I am writing in December for this January issue, I can say that we are running ahead of our pace this time last year. Neither do I have the totals received from special donations receive from our members through their church offerings. Sometime after mid-January I should be able to give you a more complete report.

What I can tell you is that our Mission Farm receives some county wide publicity and recognition through our participation in the Give!Guide campaign. And we have some very generous community people who remember us each year with a generous gift. They believe in what we are doing, and I know that you do too! Thank you!



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

Stephen Ministry: Peace



“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you...Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

John 14:27

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)

Here we are, beginning another New Year! 2025 already! We’ve enjoyed a beautiful Advent and Christmas season. Time to start thinking about New Year resolutions and what 2025 might bring. Did we experience peace in 2024? Will we feel peaceful in the coming year?

Peace is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, which is given to each one of us when we receive the Holy Spirit in baptism. We receive Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control (*Galatians 5:22*) There are so many verses in the Bible about not being afraid, including the one above when Jesus tells his friends to accept his amazing Peace and not be afraid. When we have peace in our souls we do not need to fear anything.

Since we are humans, we tend to worry, have anxiety, feel fearful, fret, get worked up about things we can’t control. Where is peace when all the news headlines show how the world is falling apart? The answer is always God. God is in control. God loves us and wants us to have his Peace. How do we find Peace? We pray as Paul taught us in the second verse above. Pray with thanksgiving, asking God for our needs. And there is a promise that we will have God’s peace which far surpasses what our minds can understand.

Even with this promise of peace we may still feel anxious, worried, depressed, or upset about circumstances. It can help to have someone to meet and talk with, who will listen and help sort through difficult feelings. Stephen Ministers are trained to walk alongside you during rough times.

St. John’s is blessed to have 6 **peace-filled** Stephen Ministers who are available to care for those in need. If you, or someone you know, could benefit from talking with a Stephen Minister, contact Penni Cremen 707-483-9321 or Pastor Mike at the church office 707-255-0119.



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.

Daily Bible Readings for January

	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
1	Psalm 1	1 Chron. 4:1-23	Acts 9:10-22
2	Psalm 2	1 Chron. 4:24-43	Acts 9:23-35
3	Psalm 3	1 Chron. 5:1-22	Acts 9:36-10:8
4	Psalm 4	1 Chron. 5:23-6:30	Acts 10:9-23a
5	Psalm 147:12-20	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Eph. 1:3-14; John 1:1-18
6	Psalm 5	1 Chron. 6:31-81	Acts 10:23b-33
7	Psalm 6	1 Chron. 7	Acts 10:34-43
8	Psalm 7:1-9	1 Chron. 8	Acts 10:44-11:10
9	Psalm 7:10-17	1 Chron. 9:1-34	Acts 11:11-24
10	Psalm 8	1 Chron. 9:35-11:3	Acts 11:25-12:5
11	Psalm 9:1-10	1 Chron. 11:4-47	Acts 12:6-19
12	Psalm 29	Isaiah 43:1-7	Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-11
13	Psalm 9:11-20	1 Chron. 12	Acts 12:20-13:7
14	Psalm 10:1-11	1 Chron. 13:1-14:7	Acts 13:8-20a
15	Psalm 10:12-18	1 Chron. 14:8-15:29	Acts 13:20b-33
16	Psalm 11	1 Chron. 16:1-36	Acts 13:34-47
17	Psalm 12	1 Chron. 16:37-17:27	Acts 13:48-14:7
18	Psalm 13	1 Chron. 18	Acts 14:8-20
19	Psalm 36:5-10	Isaiah 62:1-5	1 Cor. 12:1-11; John 2:11
20	Psalm 14	1 Chron. 19, 20	Acts 14:21-15:5
21	Psalm 15	1 Chron. 21:1-26	Acts 15:6-18
22	Psalm 16:1-6	1 Chron. 21:27-22:19	Acts 15:19-31
23	Psalm 16:7-11	1 Chron. 23	Acts 15:32-16:3
24	Psalm 17:1-7	1 Chron. 24	Acts 16:4-15
25	Psalm 17:8-15	1 Chron. 25	Acts 16:16-29
26	Psalm 19	Neh. 8:1-10	1 Cor. 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21
27	Psalm 18:1-6	1 Chron. 26	Acts 16:30-17:3
28	Psalm 18:7-15	1 Chron. 27	Acts 17:4-15
29	Psalm 18:16-24	1 Chron. 28, 29	Acts 17:16-28
30	Psalm 18:25-29	2 Chron. 1,2	Acts 17:29-18:7
31	Psalm 18:30-36	2 Chron. 3:1-5:1	Acts 18:8-21



Disability Etiquette

Welcome to **2025!** During the coming months, this Disability Ministry space in *The Vine* will be used to review with you some key points of disability etiquette. The information that will be shared comes from two well-qualified organizations which have many years of experience in disability ministry: Bethesda Lutheran Communities (now known as AbleLight) and the Joni and Friends organization.

The Purpose of Disability Etiquette

Unlike etiquette for taking tea with British royalty, disability etiquette is full of exceptions. There are no hard-and-fast rules. But guidelines, like handrails on a staircase, give people a greater degree of confidence to step forward boldly. Uncertainty about norms and appropriate language may paralyze someone and prevent them from entering into a friendship with a person with a disability! The recommendations that will be shared in the upcoming *Vine* articles should not be seen as barriers that restrict, but guidelines that empower! These guidelines will be far from exhaustive, but as you use good judgment and ask heartfelt questions, you will find friendship with a new circle of people.

People First

Begin by using “people-first language,” putting the emphasis on the individual, not on the disability. It’s a subtle difference but speaks volumes! For example, say “the woman who is blind,” rather than “the blind woman.” A people-first focus also includes how we talk to people with disabilities. Talk directly with adults and children with disabilities, rather than “through” spouses or caregivers. Talk “with” and not “at” an individual using age-appropriate language and tone. Speak naturally.

Like any relationship, time spent together builds trust and mutual understanding. Do not ignore or disregard a person with disabilities who may be in the room or with the group. Be respectful. The key is honoring the other person’s preferences and reflecting God’s heart for people of all abilities. You can do this. It’s easy. As they say at Joni and Friends, begin with, “Hello!”

Information from: “*Disability Etiquette*,” joniandfriends.org and “*Communicating for Success*” Bethesda LC

To all the women of St. John’s:

We are currently studying the book of Acts. In these exciting times please consider joining us as we study the beginning of the first Century Church. The amazing courage, 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



3521 Linda Vista Ave.
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>



@sjlcnapa



@sjlcnapa



@stjohnsnapa

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 (ext. 107)