



THE VINE

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School Newsletter
MAY 2024

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



Confirmation

Confirmation Sunday

We will be celebrating Confirmation on May 5th during the 9:30 AM service. As part of the service, the Confirmands will be reading their prepared faith statements as confessions of their faith. They will also be committing their lives to following Jesus and will be blessed in that confession and commitment. Please keep our Confirmands in your prayers as they prepare for this day.

May God bless our Confirmands!

Troy Malcolm Carey
Ella Joselyn Eisberg
Aiden Johns Frisinger
Adleigh Teal Koen
Kennley Anastasia Price
Abigail Grace Zimmerman

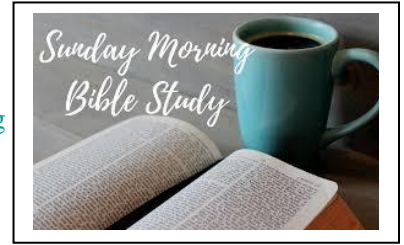


Mission India Partnership

We are thankful to the Lord for the privilege that we have to partner with Mission India for the spread of the kingdom and the changing of lives in India. We will soon be making our decision regarding our partnership with Mission India for the coming year. Namely, how many Literacy projects, Children's Bible Club projects, and Church planters we will sponsor in the coming year. We will make that choice based on the balance in the "Mission India Fund" on May 6. If you would like to support our partnership financially, please mark your offering for Mission India. You can do this with a physical check or online.

Sunday Bible Classes

We have two Bible classes on Sunday mornings after worship. Pastor Mike is leading a follow-up to the “Citizens of Heaven Living on Earth” worship series, focusing on the biblical foundations of the major issues facing our nations. Joel Wahlers is leading a study on the Gospel of Mark in Room 8.



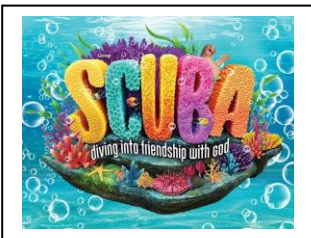
Important Announcement and Forum May 19 after Worship

Please mark your calendar for an important forum on **May 19th** after worship in the Sanctuary. Pastor Mike will be speaking about his future, the future of St. John’s, and what that means for our life together.



Congregational Budget and Election Meeting

The congregational meeting will be on Sunday, **June 9, 2024**, following the service, in the Sanctuary. At this meeting, we will be electing five people to serve on the Board of Directors. We will also be voting on the 2024-2025 Ministry Plan and Budget.



It's officially summertime! Okay, not really, but it is time to make your summer plans. This year we will be diving deep into the fun with Scuba VBS! The kids will learn and be reminded each day that God is a friend that loves them forever! You will not want to miss this adventure into the wonderful water world full of marine life and color! Mark your calendars for **June 17-20, 2024**.

Volunteer Registration will open next week. Please consider working with us to make this week a week to remember for each one of our campers! We can't do it without you! If you have any questions regarding volunteering, please get in contact with Kevin Mathison.
kevin@stjohnsnapa.org

2024 High School and College Graduates

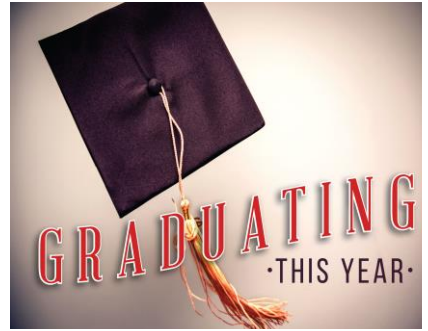
We would like to publish a list in the June Vine of our 2024 high school and college graduates.

For our college graduates, please provide the student's name, college name, and major.

For our high school graduates, please provide the student's name and the name of the college they plan to attend.

You can email this information to:

churchoffice@stjohnsnapa.org or call the church office at (707) 255-0119.



LCC K-9 COMFORT DOG MINISTRY UPDATE

To God be the Glory!



National Law Enforcement Week ... Once again, we will be honoring our law enforcement community during the week of May 12-18. Team Aaron is asking you to **consider donating healthy snacks/treats** to be added to our treat baskets that will be delivered to all eight agencies during the week. Donations can be dropped off in the church office. Thank you for helping us support our law enforcement heroes!

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

- It's time to SCUBA! The VBS date is set, **June 17-20**. We are really in need of adult volunteers. Please check out the website to see if there is a role for you.
- **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

- In May, our Surge events will take place on May 14th & 28th. Each of these events will take place in Room 10 from 6-7:30 PM. All youth in 5th-8th grade are welcome to come play some games, hangout, and take a dive into the Word!

Confirmation

- Confirmation Sunday is approaching quickly! On **May 5th**, our confirmands will confirm their faith and share their Faith Statements with y'all. Please join me in praying for all of our students and families as we near the end of our Confirmation year.

High School

- High School Hang Out! May 5th following the service. Join us for games, snacks, and fellowship! We will meet outside of Room 8.
- Please take a moment to fill out this survey regarding the High School Ministry. There are two surveys, [Student Survey](#) & [Parent Survey](#).

Let the fun begin!

The fields have been disked, soil amendments added, harrowed and readied for planting. They were also prayed over on Saturday, April 20, followed by the planting of the first section of corn. Shortly, tomatoes, peppers and melons will be ready for transplanting, and in due time, cucumbers and summer squashes.

During the winter month, a skeleton crew kept up with clean up, maintenance, weeding, and the like. But now we need to add numbers to the skeleton crew. In addition to the planting, there will be need for cultivating and nurturing the plants so that in due time we can do the really fun stuff . . . harvesting, prepping, and sending the veggies to the Napa Food Bank to help feed families facing food insecurity.

Work at the Farm is focused on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday mornings, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Families welcome, especially on Saturdays when kids aren't in school. Young, flexible bodies are especially in high demand. Previous gardening experience not required because the older hands are happy to teach. Wear old clothes, work gloves, a floppy hat, and use sun protection. We do have water on hand, but it is helpful to bring your own water supply. Join us when you can.

And remember, serving hands, especially when dirty from working in the soil, are next to godliness!



Greetings Women of St. John's Lutheran Church!

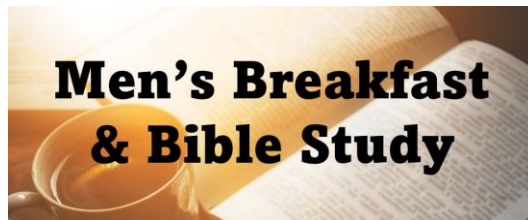
We are studying the book of 1 Peter. Elaine Zimmerman will facilitate some of the teaching moments! Please consider joining us each Monday @ 10:00 AM, in our sanctuary!

Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us..."

Judi Rock (707)738-6707



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.




MAY ANNIVERSARIES



DATE	COUPLE	YEARS
1	Matthew & Kelsey Uffmann	13
9	Robert & Lisa De Young	32
11	Linda & Bob Harvey	33
12	John & Pam Foottit	45
21	Brian & Nina Montes	14
21	Trisha & John Tortolani	22
25	Brian & Casie Wood	10
30	Elizabeth & Matthew Munoz	25
31	Ronald & Lois Johnson	20



**Large Print Ministries
Meets in Room 10
the second and fourth
Mondays, Tuesdays
of the month
9:00-11:00 am
Please come join us!**



I will be glad and rejoice to you;
I will sing the praises of your name,
O Most High. Psalm 9:2

If you LOVE to SING...
Please come and add your voice to the Sanctuary Choir
We meet on Wednesday evenings
Starting at 6:00-7:30 pm in classroom 5
For more information, see Erin Blackwood, Organist and Choir Director

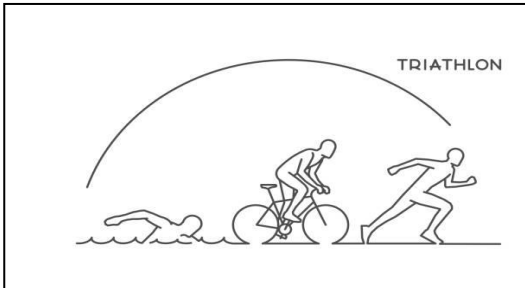
Many blessings to you and your family from St. John's Lutheran School.



During the second week of May (May 13-17), we will be celebrating Teacher's Appreciation week! We at SJL are so blessed to have a faculty and staff that is dedicated to the academic, emotional, physical, social, and most importantly, spiritual growth of each and every student. "As every man hath received the gift, [even so] minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." ~ 1 Peter 4:10

SJL will be the host for the California- Nevada- Hawaii Elementary school Knowledge Bowl on Thursday, May 2. The Knowledge Bowl allows academically gifted students the opportunity to match their intellectual skills against others of comparable ability and provides an avenue for fellowship among CNH participants.

Track and field has begun and is huge here at SJL. Students in Grades 1-8 practice during their morning recess in running events, relays, high jump, broad jump, shot put, long jump. A huge thank you to Mr. Uffmann, Coach Johnny, Mr. John Cortese and all of the coaches that are helping our students practice and learn new skills. Our students will be participating in two track meets, with the next one being held at Justin Siena on Friday, May 10.



Our 11th annual Triathlon will take place on Friday, May 17, 2024. This is a unique opportunity for our Middle School students to do 3 sports at a time - **SWIM + BIKE + RUN = Triathlon!** It is a super fun event that challenges the students and is a HUGE accomplishment.

Thank you for always including St. John's Lutheran School in your prayers!

Dr. Christy Wood
Principal



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.

OFFERING UPDATE

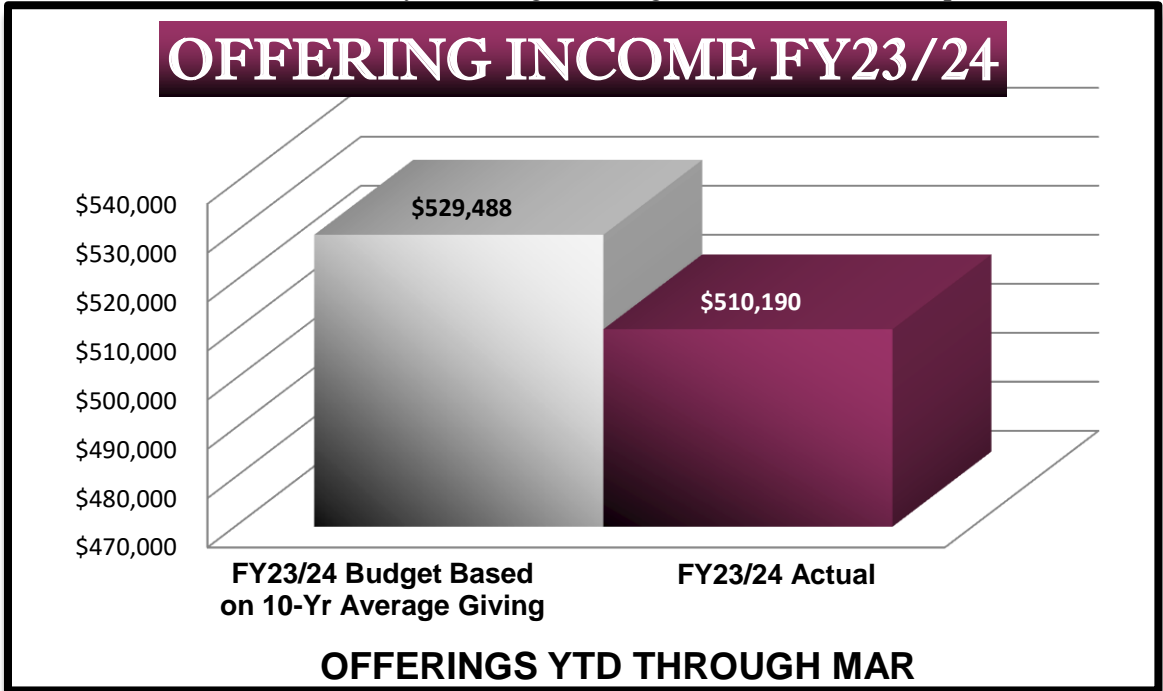
Actual Offering Income for Mar:

\$59,483.

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

\$510,190 which is **3.64%** or **\$19,298** 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:

“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7)(ESV)

Giving Sacrificially

A husband and wife who were traveling around the world saw a boy in Korea one day pulling a crude plow in a field, while an old man held the plow handles and directed it through the rice paddy. The husband was amused by the sight and took a snapshot of the scene.

“That’s very curious,” he remarked to the missionary who was their interpreter and guide. “I suppose they are poor.”

“Yes,” said the missionary. “That is the family of Chi Noui. When the church was built they were eager to give something to it, but they had no money, so they sold the only ox they had and gave the money to the church. This spring they are pulling the plow themselves.”

The husband and wife were silent. Then the wife said, “That was a real sacrifice.”

“They did not call it that,” said the missionary. “They thought it was fortunate they had an ox to sell.”

The two tourists had not much to say, but, when they reached home, they took the photograph to the church and told their pastor about the incident. “We want to double our pledge to the church,” they said, “and give us some plow work to do. We never knew what gratitude or joy or sacrifice really meant until now.”

God spoke to this couple through their experience in Korea about the joy that comes from giving. In His Word, God speaks to all of us about the importance of giving. Jesus said, “*It is more blessed to give than to receive*” (Acts 20:35). He also said, “*Freely you have received, freely give.*” (Matthew 10:8). If we choose not to give faithfully and generously, we forego the blessings that God gives to those who give cheerfully. There is no better time than now to examine your level of giving, and, if need be, to take a leap of faith and increase your giving. In the words of Winston Churchill, “We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.”

Prayer:

Lord, I thank You for choosing me as Your steward. Grant me the faith to be a God-pleasing steward. I pray that, through Your Holy Spirit, Your will becomes my will. 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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Prayer & Praise is a Sunday night opportunity to join together with our St. John’s Family and beyond for a time of praising God through song and a time of prayer. We are super excited, so help us spread the word! Go to our **Instagram & Facebook** pages and share our post to let the Napa community know about Prayer & Praise.



**May 19, 2024
5:00 PM**

MAY BIRTHDAYS

1	Jeff Mello
2	Dede Messner
3	Penni Cremen
5	Jean Gonzales, Hoag Husted
6	Samantha Carey, Raegan Lloyd, , Trisha Tortolani, Ben Wilson
8	Jax Rodriguez, Chad Alexander
9	Tom Hoff, Melissa Loban, Brett Wedding
11	Kenneth Van Houten III, Ari Knutson
13	Naomi Knutson, Sarah Santora, Rachel Frisinger
14	Meghan Eisberg, Debbie Stanhope
15	Orion Boudreaux, Julie Peterson, Henry Eisberg
16	Donald Hatfield, Donovan Messner, Gail Valeskie
17	Jack Goller
18	Walt Gmelch, Sharlene Mulsoff
19	Alexzander Svien
21	Brett Carey
22	Deborah Bommersbach, Alex Rollin, Rebecca Lowe-Vitkus
24	Lauren Frey
25	Bill Clark, Hadrian Newman, Jordan Petersen, Aaron Craft, Tegan Behlmer
26	Daniel D'Angelo, Jameson Mehrens, Sharon Quick
27	Lisa Chaudhary, Ashley Cloud
28	Mia Wagner
29	Doris Klein, Megan Mathison
30	Anthony Munoz, Christopher Vaziri
31	Carson Mooers





The leadership of the California-Nevada-Hawaii District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod sent out the following news flash on April 17, 2024:

**CNH – LCMS
NEW DISTRICT WEBSITE**

www.CNH-LCMS.org

“Your CNH district leadership continually strives to inform, inspire, and invite the larger Church body through our website. We are excited to announce a new and improved layout as well as a library of sharable blog articles. Please visit often, share the resources/articles you find helpful and submit your photos as we continue to share the incredible kingdom work happening throughout our district.”

You might be wondering why the CNH District information would be announced in this St. John’s Disability Ministry article of the Vine. As you take time to check out the district’s new website, click on the category **ABOUT**. Then select **WHO WE ARE**. Scroll down the list until you reach two specialized ministries: **HUMAN CARE MINISTRY** and **DISABILITY MINISTRY**. Take a few minutes to explore these web pages to see the resources that are offered to congregations to encourage them in sharing the love of Christ in their communities.

The CNH District takes seriously the command recorded in Luke chapter 14, when Jesus said, “Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame....Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full.”

If you would like to keep up to date on what is happening in the CNH District, check out the website category **NEWS & EVENTS**. Click on **IN TOUCH NEWSLETTER**. This is a weekly newsletter that is delivered by email to anyone who wants to subscribe to it. Here you will receive information about upcoming events within the district, registration forms for retreats and workshops and conventions. You will see what exciting ministries are taking place throughout the district. You will be encouraged to pray for other congregations in California, Nevada, and Hawaii. There is no charge to subscribe to *In Touch*. Give it a try for a few months. You will be amazed to learn about all the ministry that is happening in our CNH District, and you will be informed in plenty of time to be able to attend some special events!

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

Stephen Ministry: The Power of Hope



“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

Hope from God is one of the most powerful sources of comfort. Because we know that Jesus rose from the grave on the third day, we have the best reason for hope -- spending eternal life with him! Having Christian hope means that we don't have to place our trust solely in human capacities, institutions, or ideals. Instead, our hope is in God.

Stephen Ministers can be instruments through which Christian hope flows into care receivers. The following are eight practical ways they can provide care:

1. **Be consistently supportive** by words and actions, through good times and bad.
2. **Be available** when the care receiver needs to reach out, especially in an emergency.
3. **Empathize:** see the care receiver's situation from his or her point of view.
4. **Acceptance** of the care receiver, without criticism or judgement.
5. **Encourage** the care receiver to look beyond perceived flaws and negatives, to see the good in him- or herself.
6. **Point out opportunities for growth** to help the care receiver recognize where he or she might grow and get stronger.
7. **Acknowledge Jesus' presence** by verbalizing how God is with us in a moment-by-moment basis.
8. **Be distinctively Christian**, remembering that we offer care in God's name, and that Christ is at work in and through Stephen Ministry to bring healing.

None of us can make someone else hopeful – only God can produce that divine reassurance, faith, and confidence that we call hope. God's compassionate presence is evident in the relationship between the Stephen Minister and care receiver.

Please know that YOU matter to God and to the people at St. John's Lutheran Church. God carries you and your problems in His loving hands, and He provides hands-on help through Stephen Ministers. 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).
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Biblical Counseling at St John's

The Biblical Counseling Center of Napa Valley

Dealing with Past Trauma

How can we heal from past trauma? This question can be answered through a brief survey of the Word of God. If we look at the nation of Israel, we can see how God acted for their benefit even though they were regularly unfaithful and disobedient. God would directly address their disobedience by the use of what we could call traumatic actions. He would either cause other nations to punish their disobedience or directly cause disaster to befall them. Either way, they experienced trauma both as individuals and as a group, even though they were the chosen of God! Could it be that God was molding them into a holy nation?

The example of the Israelites can be viewed through the lens of Paul's letter to the Romans. In chapter 8, verse 28-29 he lets us in on a reality that we sometimes miss when dealing with past trauma. He says, "all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose." Could it be that our traumatic experiences can be used for good? Could it be that our past trauma can be transformed by our Lord and Savior for His Glory and for your benefit? The answer is yes.

Jesus Christ was traumatized by the Roman and Jewish leadership. He was tortured and beaten for us so that we would know that we have a Savior that can relate to our past trauma. (*Hebrews 2:18*) His love for you was great enough to die for you, even while you were still a sinner living a life of rebellion. (*Romans 5:8*) He knows your struggles. He knows your trauma, and He has given you a place to rest. In Matthew 11:28-30, our Lord and Savior tells us that **He is the hope** for overcoming our past trauma. "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."

Our Savior is providential over every aspect of your life. He holds you in His righteous hands and will carry you through every difficult moment that you experience; past or present. (*Isaiah 41:10;13*) The apostle John admonishes us, "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe God: believe also in Me." We can trust the living God to deliver us from the ravages of past trauma. In His Word, He has graciously provided for us everything we need for life and godliness. (*2 Peter 1:3*)

If you would like to talk to someone about your struggles with past trauma, please call us at the number below.

Dr. Steven Rock, Ph.D.

The Biblical Counseling Center of Napa Valley

707-738-5306 (*Please leave your contact information*)

Daily Bible Readings for May

	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
1	Psalm 57:1-6	Leviticus 24:10-25:17	Mark 8:1-13
2	Psalm 57:7-11	Leviticus 25:18-55	Mark 8:14-21
3	Psalm 58	Leviticus 26:1-35	Mark 8:22-38
4	Psalm 59:1-9	Leviticus 26:36-27:15	Mark 9:1-10
5	Psalm 98		Acts 10:44-48; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17
6	Psalm 59:10-17	Leviticus 27:16- Numbers 1:16	Mark 9:11-29
7	Psalm 60	Numbers 1:17-54	Mark 9:30-37
8	Psalm 61	Numbers 2	Mark 9:38-50
9	Psalm 62	Numbers 3:1-32	Mark 10:1-12
10	Psalm 63	Numbers 3:33-4:14	Mark 10:13-31
11	Psalm 64	Numbers 4:15-49	Mark 10:23-45
12	Psalm 1		Acts 1:15-17,21-26; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17: 6-19
13	Psalm 65:1-8	Numbers 5	Mark 10:46-52
14	Psalm 65:9-13	Numbers 6	Mark 11:1-11
15	Psalm 66:1-7	Numbers 7:1-35	Mark 11:12-26
16	Psalm 66:8-15	Numbers 7:36-71	Mark 11:27-12:12
17	Psalm 66:16-20	Numbers 7:72-8:4	Mark 12:13-17
18	Psalm 67	Numbers 8:5-9:14	Mark 12:18-34
19	Psalm 104:24- 34,35b		Acts 2:1-21; Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27;16:4b-15
20	Psalm 68:1-6	Numbers 9:15-10:36	Mark 12:35-44
21	Psalm 68:7-18	Numbers 11	Mark 13:1-13
22	Psalm 68:19-27	Numbers 12:1-13:16	Mark 13:14-27
23	Psalm 68:28-35	Numbers 13:17-33	Mark 13:28-37
24	Psalm 69:1-12	Numbers 14	Mark 14:1-11
25	Psalm 69:13-21	Numbers 15:1-31	Mark 14:12-31
26	Psalm 29	Isaiah 6:1-8	Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17
27	Psalm 69:22-29	Numbers 15:32-16:27	Mark 14:32-42
28	Psalm 69:30-36	Numbers 16:28-17:13	Mark 14:43-52
29	Psalm 70	Numbers 18:1-24	Mark 14:53-65
30	Psalm 71:1-8	Numbers 18:25-19:22	Mark 14:66-72
31	Psalm 71:9-18a	Numbers 20:1-21:9	Mark 15:1-20

Church Office

**Occasional Help Needed
when Office Manager is on leave.**

**Please contact Christy Kramer for
information.**



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

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.



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>



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@stjohnsnapa

<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)