

THE GLORY OF RESURRECTION

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. – Psalm 118:24

I have been serving alongside the disciples of St. John's for just over a year and a half now, and there have been so many changes in such a short time! The building project was underway when I arrived in August of 2022. The Welcome Center opened the following December. Pastor Greg became Bishop Greg. Pastor Len arrived as our interim lead pastor. And those are just a few of the changes at St. John's! Each of you has undoubtedly experienced transition and change in your own lives as well – I know I have in mine.

Whenever there is change, even when it's a good change, there is usually a bit of grief as well. For example, when a child marries the "right one", we rejoice. And yet, there is a bit of sadness knowing that the child's primary relationship is going to be with someone other than the family of origin. At St. John's, we have seen so many good changes, and yet, there continues to be some grief at the loss of what was.

I think that for many of us, The Parlor serves as a prominent symbol of joy mixed with grief. It's still there, but it looks nothing like it did before. It's more open. It's more casual. It's more contemporary. So, when we see it, some of us may focus on what's not there anymore. Merriam-Webster defines the word "parlor" as "a room used primarily for conversation or the reception of guests." You know what?!?!? That means that the Parlor is STILL the Parlor! Its primary purpose is unchanged!

This month, we will be opening The Parlor two mornings per week to preschool parents, disciples, and the community to enjoy coffee or tea, our free Wi-Fi, and conversation. We will be welcoming guests and getting to know one another. That's not all, though! To help remind us of our connection to the past, the property team is working on pulling some of the stained glass out of storage and using it as artwork in The Parlor.

Please join me in praying that The Parlor, just as it always has been, will continue to be a space of welcome and Christian hospitality. Please join me in rejoicing that God has used our past to get us where we are today. Please join me in proclaiming, "THIS is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!" And by all means, let's sit down for a cup of coffee together!

In God's grace,

Pastor Linda



**PASTOR LINDA
STRADER**

Pastor of Outreach & Discipleship
pstrader@stjohns-springfield.org

WORSHIP

"This is the day
the Lord has made;
let us rejoice
and be glad in it"
(Psalm 118:24).

Worship with us!

SATURDAYS

5:00 P.M.

CASUAL TRADITIONAL
WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY
(IN-PERSON)

SUNDAYS

8:30 A.M.

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP
IN THE SANCTUARY
(IN-PERSON & LIVE-STREAMED)

9:45 A.M.

DISCIPLESHIP HOUR
(SUNDAY SCHOOL, ADULT
FORUM, AND FELLOWSHIP)

10:45 A.M.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP
IN PARISH LIFE CENTER (PLC)
(IN-PERSON & LIVE-STREAMED)



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois
weekend at St. John's Lutheran!

David Novak, Vice President for Advancement, of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) will be joining us the weekend of April 27/28. All are invited to learn more about the ministries of LSSI Saturday evening after worship and/or at the Sunday Forum.



Stay Connected **WITH REALM!**

Just a reminder. Please update your email address in REALM to make sure you receive all our emails and publications. Beginning in April we will begin to email *The Messenger Weekly* and *The Eagle Monthly*. Limited number of printed copies of each will be available in Welcome Center.

DO YOU HAVE THE REALM CONNECT APP?

Download the REALM CONNECT App.



NEED TO JOIN REALM?

Contact the church office for assistance.

APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

JOIN US EACH WEEKEND FOR WORSHIP AS WE CELEBRATE THE GLORY OF RESSURECTION.

APRIL 7 // SECOND SUNDAY IN EASTER

1 JOHN 1:1-2:2 - Walking in the light

APRIL 14 // THIRD SUNDAY IN EASTER

1 JOHN 3:1-7 - The revealing of the children of God

APRIL 21 // FOURTH SUNDAY IN EASTER

1 JOHN 3:16-24 - Love in truth and action

APRIL 28 // FIFTH SUNDAY IN EASTER

1 JOHN 4:7-21 - God's love perfected in love for one another

HOW TO ACCESS LIVETREAM

We would love to have you join us in-person, but also rejoice with those who worship with us online. Below are two ways to access our online worship. Both Sunday services are livestreamed each weekend.

1

GO TO OUR ST. JOHN'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL AT
[YOUTUBE.COM/@STJOHNSLUTHERANSPFLD](https://www.youtube.com/@stjohnslutheranspfld)

2

FROM OUR WEBSITE ([STJOHNS-SPRINGFIELD.ORG](https://www.stjohns-springfield.org))
CLICK ON THE "WATCH WORSHIP" BUTTON NEAR
BOTTOM OF HOMEPAGE.

"How good and pleasant it is to live together in unity" (Psalm 133:1).

COMMUNITY CARE

MEET OUR NEWEST STAFF MEMBER AT ST. JOHN'S!



We are excited to welcome Bridgit Melton-Williams as our newest staff member at St. John's! Bridgit will serve part-time as our Coordinator for Discipleship Connections. In this role, she will be connecting disciples to ministries that match their gifts, skills, and interests. As part of this responsibility, she will help us utilize Realm more effectively to support our ministries. Please welcome Bridgit and if you have not met her, please introduce yourself to her!



THE PARLOR

COFFEE AND TEA STATION AT ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

BEGINNING APRIL 9

THE PARLOR COFFEE STATION WILL BE OPEN ON TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY MORNINGS FROM 8:30-11:30 A.M. THROUGH MAY 22!

ALL ARE WELCOME TO STOP BY, GRAB A CUP OF COFFEE OR TEA, AND ENJOY THIS SPACE!

JOIN THE ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN COFFEE HOSPITALITY TEAM

Beginning April 9, The Parlor will be open on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. through May 22! We will offer hospitality to the preschool parents, St. John's disciples, and the community.

If you like the idea of opening our doors to our disciples and our neighbors, please consider being part of the Coffee Hospitality Team! Team members will prepare the coffee and service station and will enjoy the "perks" of this ministry: coffee, tea, and community connection! Each team member will receive **on-the-job training at 8:30 a.m. either Tuesday, April 9 or Wednesday, April 10.** After that, each team member is asked to sign up for three-hour shifts according to their availability.



PREPARE THE COFFEE AND SERVICE STATION.



WELCOME GUESTS TO THE PARLOR.



ENJOY THE "PERKS"
COFFEE, TEA, & COMMUNITY CONNECTION!

Have questions, or want to be apart of this team?

Email Pastor Linda: pstrader@stjohns-springfield.org.

DISCIPLESHIP

CHILDREN
& FAMILY

YOUTH
& FAMILY

ADULTS

CUPCAKES & GAMES



FRIDAY, APRIL 19
7:00 - 8:30 P.M. | PLC

You are invited to join us for a night of fun, games, and cupcakes!

Bring a six cupcakes for a cupcake exchange along with a couple of your family's favorite games! You can sit at one table and play what you brought, or float around and try something new! Please register for this event on Realm beginning April 2.

STJOHNS-SPRINGFIELD.ORG/CUPCAKESGAMES

Youtherans LITE

5TH AND 6TH GRADERS

SUNDAY, APRIL 21
6:30-7:30 P.M.

DOWNSTAIRS IN CLASSROOMS C & D

All 5th and 6th graders are encouraged to join us for a night of fun, fellowship, snacks, and Bible time! Meet in Classroom C/D downstairs!

Please note: We will only have one Youtherans LITE this month.

FIRST COMMUNION classes

MAY 1 / MAY 8 / MAY 15
6:00 - 7:30 P.M.

IN THE MEETING ROOM

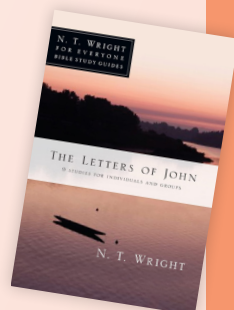
All of our 3rd graders should have received a letter in the mail with all the information for upcoming first communion classes! If you did not receive a letter and you think your child is ready for first communion classes, please contact Sarah Hembrook at shembrook@stjohns-springfield.org. We look forward to sharing this important milestone with your child!

CONTACT SARAH HEMBROOK WITH ANY QUESTIONS AT SHEMBROOK@STJOHNS-SPRINGFIELD.ORG.

New SUNDAY FORUM

During the Season of Easter, our readings in worship will include passages from the First Letter of John. Therefore, beginning April 7 at 9:45 a.m., Pastor Linda will facilitate a study on 1 John in the Sunday Forum. Pastor Linda will use N.T. Wright's book

The Letters of John: 9 Studies for Individuals and Groups to guide the discussion. You do not need the book to participate, but if you'd like Pastor Linda to order a copy for you, **please let her know via email by April 1.**



SUNDAYS | 9:45 A.M. | MEETING ROOM

APRIL 7
THE WORD OF LIFE
(1 JOHN 1:1-2:2)

APRIL 14
GOD'S CHILDREN NOW
(1 JOHN 3)

APRIL 21
GOD IS LOVE
(1 JOHN 4)

APRIL 28
DAVE NOVAK FROM LSSI

MAY 5
**FAITH CONQUERS AND
THE TRUE GOD**
(1 JOHN 5:1-21)

5TH-12TH GRADE FAMILIES

SUNDAY POTLUCK

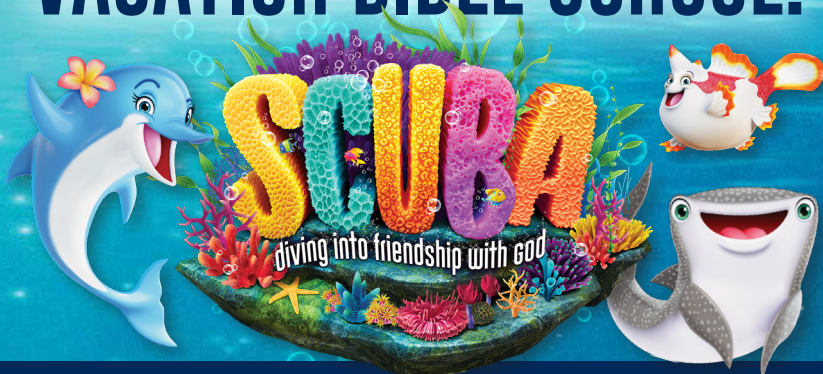
APRIL 28 | 6:00 P.M. | PLC

All families with kids in grades 5-12 are welcome to join us for our 4th Sunday family potluck! We'll provide the main course, you bring a side or dessert to share! We look forward to seeing you all there!

"The Lord does wonders for the faithful"

(Psalm 4:3).

SAVE THE DATE FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!



JULY 8-12 FROM 9:00-11:30 A.M.

FAMILY PICNIC WILL BE A LUNCH AT 11:45 A.M. FOLLOWING
THE FINAL LARGE GROUP CLOSING ON JULY 12!

ST. JOHN'S SPRING CLOTHING SWAP

**SATURDAY, APRIL 13 | 8:00 A.M. - NOON
IN THE WELCOME CENTER**

Clean out your closets, basements, and attics of gently-worn clothes and pick up something new for yourself or your whole family. Clothing for all ages and sizes accepted. All clothing remaining after the swap will be donated to local charities.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- ▶ Start collecting gently-worn clothing donations and bring them to the St. John's Welcome Center starting Sunday, April 7.
- ▶ Join us Saturday, April 13 and pick up some new threads for FREE!
- ▶ We need volunteers to help with this event on Saturday! If interested contact Zac Chase via Realm, or zac.chase@gmail.com.



APRIL EVENTS

Youtherans

ALL 9TH - 12TH GRADERS OF ST. JOHN'S AND THEIR FRIENDS ARE INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND YOUTH GROUP EACH SUNDAY NIGHT FROM 6:00-7:30 P.M.. DURING OUR TIME TOGETHER WE WILL BE SHARING, ENCOURAGING, PLAYING GAMES, EATING SNACKS, AND ENJOYING A BIBLE STUDY TOGETHER.



APRIL 7 // BIBLE STUDY
6:00-7:30 P.M. AT ST. JOHN'S
DOWNSTAIRS IN YOUTH ROOM

Please bring your Bible!



APRIL 14 // ESCAPE ROOM
MEET AMANDA AFTER 10:45 A.M. WORSHIP

Youtherans will be going to an Escape Room following the 10:45 a.m. worship service. We will have lunch here at the church before we head to the escape room! The cost is \$25 per person and Amanda Lawler needs to know by April 7th if you will be attending.



APRIL 21ST // BIBLE STUDY
6:00-7:30 P.M. AT ST. JOHN'S
DOWNSTAIRS IN YOUTH ROOM

Please bring your Bible!



APRIL 28 // SUNDAY FAMILY POTLUCK
6:00-7:30 P.M. IN THE PARISH LIFE CENTER

Please see article for more details!

QUESTIONS? CONTACT AMANDA LAWLER.

OUTREACH & MISSION

"All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord" (Psalm 22:27).

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Our preschool had a fun month of March! We celebrated Lutheran Schools Week with daily chapel, a special art project, theme dress-up days, a mission item collection for Grace Food Pantry, and a visit from a Highland calf from Bomke's Patch. We also enjoyed a Scholastic Book Fair. Registration is ongoing for Fall 2024. Please recommend our school to any families you know who are looking for a preschool.



PRESCHOOL SUMMER CAMP!

JUNE 10-14, 2024 | 8:30-11:30 A.M.

Preschool will hold a week of summer camp in June. Registration information is available on our website. Camp is open to all children ages 3-6. Cost is \$100 per child.



WWW.PRESCHOOL-STJOHNS.ORG

THANK YOU, DISCIPLES OF ST. JOHN'S!

Your faithful support of fair-trade products sales has placed our congregation into the top 100 organizations that purchase coffee, tea, olive oil, cocoa and chocolate. By doing so, you have helped farmers in developing countries to receive a fair price for their products, allowing them to send their children to school instead of having them work the land. You have helped families to have enough to eat and to buy clothing and other necessities; you have helped farm co-ops to employ agronomists and other specialists to improve yields, and so much more. Thank you again!



PIPE ORGAN RENOVATION UPDATE!

We are excited to announce that our Organ Renovation Fund goal has been reached with a combination of pledges (some to be received in 2024 and 2025); gifts designated by the board from estates; generous individual and year-end gifts; and many other gifts. A contract has been signed with Robert Dial, Organ Builders, with work to begin this summer. Thank you to everyone who supported this important project.

Dear Disciples of Jesus at St. John's,

THANK YOU for the strong leadership you provide in our Synod through your faithful and generous giving. You are appreciated!

Bishop Greg Busboom

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want" (Psalm 23:1).

STEWARDSHIP

WHY I SUPPORT THE MINISTRY OF ST. JOHN'S

BY DAN SIMMONS

PRESIDENT OF ST. JOHN'S LEADERSHIP BOARD



One of the reasons I support St. John's ministry is that a healthy, faith-based, Christ-centered church foundation allows us to do ministry in changing times in positive and dynamic ways. The transition meetings have allowed us to provide and hear input from the congregation's disciples about the church that will allow us to move toward calling a new Lead Pastor. What strikes me about these meetings is that although there are sometimes different points of view, everyone is respectful and mutually engaged about the direction of the church.

Continued participation in the last meetings in April that will specifically focus on gifts and skills that we are looking for in our next Lead Pastor is vital.

The interim that we are in has provided us the opportunity to engage in discernment about who we are and how we can best be the church in the future. I am grateful that St. John's disciples have embraced fully the challenges presented in this transition period. 2024 is an exciting time in the life of St. John's! Thank you for your faithful support of St. John's ministry.

APRIL PASTORAL TRANSITION TEAM

small groups



For our final set of small groups we will be identifying gifts and skills required for the next Lead Pastor. All are welcome and encouraged to attend! Location of group meetings may change depending on size of group.

Please stop by table after worship or scan QR Code to sign up for a group!



THE TRANSITION TEAM MEMBERS INCLUDE:

STEPHANIE ALUMBAUGH, CYNTHIA FAIN, SUNDAE JOHNSON, ROSE MOSER, JACOB SCHLOSSER, MARK STEEN, AND PAUL WELLS.

APRIL SMALL GROUP SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, APRIL 16

10:30 A.M.
(COFFEE AND SNACKS)

TUESDAY, APRIL 16

6:00 P.M.
(DINNER & CHILDCARE)

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

6:00 P.M.
(DINNER & CHILDCARE)

SUNDAY, APRIL 21

NOON
(LUNCH & CHILDCARE)

WWW.STJOHNS-SPRINGFIELD.ORG/PASTORALTRANSITION

GENERAL OPERATING FUND

As of February 29, 2024

Income:	\$	154,611
Expenses:	\$	179,036
Ahead/(Behind):	\$	(24,425)

BUILDING FUND

Target each month:	\$10,000
Received in February:	\$18,364

STEWARDSHIP MATTERS

Welcome our Spring 2024 NEW DISCIPLES

The weekend of April 6 and 7, we will be receiving nine new disciples into the St. John's community! Please introduce yourself and welcome them to the congregation!



Sonja Bromann, who grew up in suburban Chicago, is a pharmacist at Meijer. She and her fiancé, Matt, will be married at St. John's in August! Sonja's sponsor is Emma Busboom.

Carolyn Greer is retired and has been attending the Saturday evening service. Fun fact: Long-time disciple Sharon Cassens worked at the same school as Carolyn many years ago! Carolyn's sponsor is Becky Wietes.



Brian and Liz Hoffman first became acquainted with St. John's through our preschool program. All three of their children, **Megan** (19), **Trevor** (15), and **Courtney** (9), are alumni of the St. John's Preschool! John and Lori Crossmock are sponsors for the Hoffman family.

Dave and Nancy Palmer have been worshipping at St. John's for several years. We are so pleased to welcome them as "official" disciples in our congregation! Their sponsors are Gary and Lois Corrigan.



MARCH PASTORAL TRANSITION TEAM SMALL GROUP RESULTS



Mission Statement: Team consensus is that the current Mission Statement is good and does not need any changes:

To be and make disciples of Christ, in response to God's grace

Vision Statement: March community gatherings provided a lot of feedback on the current Vision Statement and how it could be improved. The team considered all feedback and would like to propose that the Leadership Board consider adopting the following new Vision Statement:

A community of faith, inviting all to experience Jesus' love

Values: The congregation has not adopted a Core Values Statement. These should be core values that the congregation is not willing to compromise. The team discussed the community gatherings feedback and would like to propose that the Leadership Board consider adopting the following Core Values Statements:

Grace: Through Jesus Christ

Worship: Gathering around word and sacrament

Generosity: Inviting all to use their time, talent, and treasure

Compassion: Serving the needs of others

Inclusivity: Showing Christian love and respect to all people

The Transition Team Members: Stephanie Alumbaugh, Cynthia Fain, Sundae Johnson, Mark Mifflin, Rose Moser, Jacob Schlosser, Mark Steen, and Paul Wells.



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PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Attention Ministry Leaders. If you would like your upcoming event in *The Messenger* or *The Eagle* please submit a short article to Brandy Link at blink@stjohns-springfield.org by the deadlines listed below.

MESSENGER: WEDNESDAYS BY 8:00 A.M.
EAGLE: 14TH OF EACH MONTH

STAY CONNECTED AND FOLLOW US!



STJOHNSLUTHERANSPFLD