

# THE MESSENGER



## MISSION STATEMENT

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

## VISION STATEMENT

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is called to GROW in Christ-centered belonging, connection, and discipleship; to CULTIVATE Christian community, both in-person and online; and, to EQUIP all God's children for living each day as followers of Jesus.

Welcome to St. John's Lutheran Church on this Fourth Weekend of Easter. If you do not yet have a church home and would like to become part of Christ's community at St. John's, we invite you to contact Pastor Len (phoffmann@stjohns-springfield.org) or Pastor Linda (pstrader@stjohns-springfield.org). The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.

## SATURDAY 4-20

5:00pm Worship/Communion - Sanctuary  
6:00pm Community Gathering - Welcome Center

## SUNDAY 4-21

*4th Sunday of Easter*

8:30am Worship/Communion - Sanctuary  
9:45am Fellowship - PLC Lobby  
9:45am Sunday Forum - Meeting Room  
9:45am Sunday School - Lower Level Classrooms  
10:45am Contemporary Worship/Communion - PLC  
12:00pm Community Gathering - Meeting Room  
6:00pm Youtherans - Youth Room  
6:30pm Youtherans LITE - Classroom C & D

## MONDAY 4-22

4:30pm Stephen Ministry Leaders - Music Room  
5:45pm Preschool Board - Meeting Room  
5:15pm Property Ministry Team -Workroom

## TUESDAY 4-23

8:30am The Parlor Coffee Bar Open - The Parlor  
9:00am Property Ministry - Workroom  
9:30am Women's Bible Study - Meeting Room  
12:00pm Staff Meeting - Meeting Room

## WEDNESDAY 4-24

8:30am The Parlor Coffee Bar Open - The Parlor  
11:15am Preschool Chapel - Sanctuary  
5:30pm Worship Band Rehearsal - PLC  
6:00pm Pickleball - Gym  
6:30pm Confirmation Class - Classroom A & B

## THURSDAY 4-25

11:15am Preschool Chapel - Sanctuary  
5:30pm Bells of Glory - Sanctuary  
6:00pm Children's Choir - Music Room  
6:30pm Girl Troop - Meeting Room  
6:30pm Pack 38 Den Meetings - PLC  
6:30pm Scout Troop 210 - Gym  
6:45pm Chancel Choir - Music Room

## FRIDAY 4-26

7:00pm Novel Bunch Book Club - Off-site

## SATURDAY 4-27

5:00pm Worship/Communion - Sanctuary  
6:30pm LSSI Presentation/Meal - Meeting Room

## SUNDAY 4-28

*5th Sunday of Easter*

*Scout Plant Pick-up*

8:30am Worship/Communion - Sanctuary  
9:45am Fellowship - PLC Lobby  
9:45am Sunday Forum - Meeting Room  
9:45am Sunday School - Lower Level Classrooms  
10:45am Contemporary Worship/Communion - PLC  
6:00pm 5th-12th Grade Family Potluck - PLC

PLC = PARISH LIFE CENTER

# THIS WEEKEND

**5:00 P.M. SATURDAY**

**(WORSHIP/HOLY COMMUNION - SANCTUARY)**

*Pastor Len Hoffmann, Preaching/Presiding Minister*

**8:30 A.M. SUNDAY**

**(WORSHIP/HOLY COMMUNION - SANCTUARY)**

*Pastor Len Hoffmann, Preaching Minister*

**9:45 AM. SUNDAY**

**(DISCIPLESHIP HOUR)**

*Sunday School (Lower Level Classrooms C/D)  
Sunday Forum The Letters of John (Meeting Room)  
Fellowship (Parish Life Center Lobby)*

**10:45 A.M. SUNDAY**

**(CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP/  
HOLY COMMUNION - PARISH LIFE CENTER)**

*Pastor Len Hoffmann, Preaching Minister*

## NURSERY FOR CHILDREN

We welcome and value children of all ages in worship! However, we also know how difficult it can be for young parents to worship while trying to care for their little ones. Our St. John's Nursery is open and professionally staffed during all of our weekend worship services for children ages birth through 4-years-old. The nursery is located across from the restrooms in the Parish Life Center (PLC).

## THE ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by Bob & Sally Borcharding in loving memory of Brent Borcharding.

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

During the flu and cold season we will return to having each person receiving communion to take the cup from the tray so if need be, rock them gently. Thank you for helping keep the community safe.

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**Judy Ahrens, Dan Barkley, Libby Bee, Mary Lou Booker, Darlene Bruntjen, Ann Charland, Genny Cowden, Mary Kay Cravens, Pastor Florent, Linda Geno, Harry Gunn, Mike Hall, Keith Hamann, Sue Hampton, Vicki Korte, Barbara Kuhnly, Debbie Slater, John Stuemke, JoAnn Thrasher, Char Woodruff**

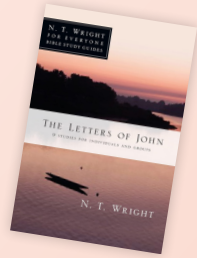
## THIS MONTH, PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE DISCIPLES WHO ARE CONFINED TO THEIR RESIDENCE:

Jimmy Anderson, Jane Broadbooks, June Ann Deaner, Phyllis Holmin, Pastor John Kelley, Steve Lashbrook, Lois Miller, Margaret Niederer, Gene Poehlman, Mary Lou Senalik, Katie Smith, John Stuemke, Don & Linda Wilson

## SUNDAY FORUM

# THE Letters of John

Pastor Linda is facilitating a study on 1 John in the Sunday Forum. She 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.



**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)

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



## Lutheran Social Services of Illinois *weekends at St. John's Lutheran!*

LSSI weekends April 20/21 and April 27/28. This weekend we will hear from Connie Frankenfeld, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Cornerstone Foundation. She will give a brief temple talk about LSSI.

Next weekend we welcome David Novak, Vice President for Advancement at LSSI. He will share a brief message about the work of LSSI and will be present at the Sunday Forum for a more in depth conversation.

On Saturday evening at 6:00 p.m. there will be a light supper with David as our guest speaker. Everyone is invited to attend, and we especially welcome all those who currently support LSSI.



## Stay Connected WITH REALM!



Available on the App Store and Google Play.

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 the Welcome Center.

### DO YOU HAVE THE REALM CONNECT APP?

Download the REALM CONNECT App.

### NEED TO JOIN REALM?

Contact the church office for assistance.

## ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN COMMUNITY GARDEN NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

Do you have a green thumb? It is time to prepare our St. John's Lutheran Community Garden! We are looking for volunteers to help till/prepare, plant, weed, water, and pick vegetables in the garden. Vegetables from the garden are placed in the basket by the Little Free Food Pantry for our neighbors, or brought inside for disciples to enjoy. If you love gardening and would like to help, contact Chris Groth at [cgroth@cmtengr.com](mailto:cgroth@cmtengr.com) or through REALM.

## BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

FIRST & THIRD WEDNESDAYS | 5:00 P.M. | MEETING ROOM

Bitsy Knepler, Memorial Hospital Bereavement Services Coordinator, leads a Bereavement Support Group at St. John's. Open to anyone in the community who has lost a loved one.

## ALTAR FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

Would you like to provide the altar flowers that beautify our worship services each weekend? Sign-up books are in the Welcome Center or you can call Kristin Petersen at 217.793.3933. Cost is \$30 per arrangement.



# LIVESTREAM UPDATE

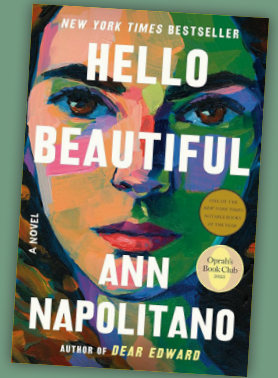
Beginning this weekend our 10:45 a.m. worship will be recorded, but will not be available on YouTube until Monday morning. You can access the 10:45 a.m. worship on our YouTube channel under videos after 10:00 a.m. on Mondays. This will be in effect until we are able to upgrade our livestream setup. Thank you for not giving up on us as we work through these issues and upgrades.

If you have any issues accessing the recording/livestream, please contact Brandy Link at 217.793.3933 or [blink@stjohns-springfield.org](mailto:blink@stjohns-springfield.org).

## ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH NOVEL BRUNCH BOOK CLUB

The St. John's Novel Brunch Book Club will meet on Friday, April 26 at 7:00 p.m. at Tacology 201. All are welcome to join us as we discuss "Hello Beautiful" by Ann Napolitano.

Questions? Contact Lori Crossmock.



## 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 include:** Stephanie Alumbaugh, Cynthia Fain, Sundae Johnson, Rose Moser, Jacob Schlosser, Mark Steen, and Paul Wells.

**VISIT [STJOHNS-SPRINGFIELD.ORG/PASTORALTRANSITION](http://STJOHNS-SPRINGFIELD.ORG/PASTORALTRANSITION) FOR ALL RESULTS**



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

**THE PARLOR COFFEE AND TEA  
STATION IS 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!"**

## OFFERING ENVELOPES

**IF YOU ARE GIVING ELECTRONICALLY AND NO LONGER WISH TO RECEIVE OFFERING ENVELOPES PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE TO DISCONTINUE CHURCH ENVELOPE MAILINGS AS A COST SAVING MEASURE.**

## WAYS TO GIVE



**CASH/CHECK IN  
OFFERING PLATE**



**TEXT EAGLE  
TO 73256**



**REALM APP OR VISIT  
[STJOHNS-SPRINGFIELD.ORG](http://STJOHNS-SPRINGFIELD.ORG)**



**SCAN QR CODE  
WITH PHONE**





## HAVE YOU TURNED IN YOUR M&M TUBE?

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

# m&m's

## FUNDRAISER

HELP US SEND 18  
SWEET YOUTH TO  
THE ELCA YOUTH  
GATHERING!



1 FILL TUBE WITH  
QUARTERS OR CASH

2 RETURN TO CHURCH  
(PLACE IN OFFERING  
PLATE OR IN THE BASKET  
OUTSIDE OF AMANDA  
LAWLER'S OFFICE)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
CONTINUED SUPPORT  
IN OUR YOUTH!

# 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. Questions? Contact Amanda Lawler.

**APRIL 21** - Bible Study in the Youth Room from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.. Please bring your bible!

**APRIL 28** - 4th Sunday of the Month Family Potluck for 5th - 12th graders!

## ST. JOHN'S LEADERSHIP BOARD

Dan Simmons - *President*

Steve Barteau - *Secretary*

Allen Mayer - *Treasurer*

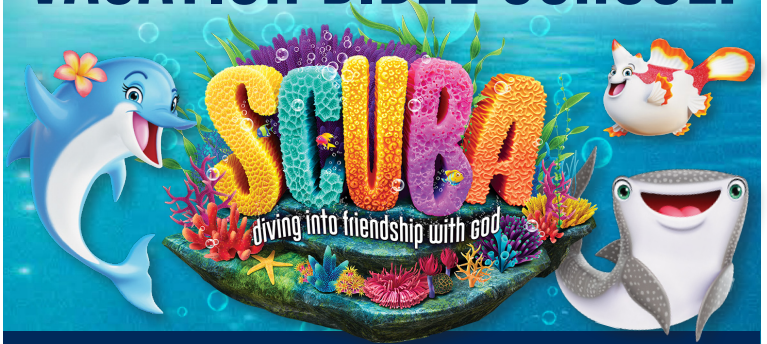
Nikki Baker, Kathy Crum,  
Rich Frankenfeld, & John Porter

## ST. JOHN'S 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 (BLINK@STJOHNS-SPRINGFIELD.ORG) BY THE DEADLINES.

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

## SAVE THE DATE FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!



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

## VBS REGISTRATION OPENS SUNDAY, APRIL 28!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS BECAUSE SCUBA VBS  
REGISTRATION OPENS ON SUNDAY, APRIL 28!  
KIDS AGES 3-11 CAN ATTEND! WATCH FOR MORE  
REGISTRATION DETAILS COMING SOON!

# Youtherans LITE

ALL 5TH AND 6TH GRADERS

**SUNDAY, APRIL 21 | 6:30-7:30 P.M.**  
**DOWNSTAIRS IN CLASSROOMS C & D**

Join us for a night of fun, fellowship,  
snacks, and Bible time!

HAVE QUESTIONS? CONTACT SARAH HEMBROOK

**APRIL 21, 2024  
FOURTH SUNDAY  
OF EASTER**



*The Good Shepherd comes with power to love.*

### **DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 10:11-18</b>	<b>The Good Shepherd</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Acts 4:5-12</b>	<b>Peter and John before the council</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>1 John 3:16-24</b>	<b>Love one another</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Luke 15:1-7</b>	<b>Parable of the lost sheep</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Ezekiel 34:11-16</b>	<b>God, the true shepherd</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 15:1-11</b>	<b>The resurrection of Christ</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalm 23</b>	<b>The Lord is my shepherd</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 15:1-8</b>	<b>Jesus the true vine</b>

### **SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

*Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. Psalm 23:4 (NRSV)*

### **PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Shepherding God, we thank you that your care for us is never ending and filled with your abundant goodness and mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear Jesus, just as you are with us and protect us each day like a good shepherd, we thank you for feeding us with this food, a sign of your abundant love. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the love of God in Jesus, the Good Shepherd, give you comfort and peace.



APRIL 21, 2024

## HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Shepherd Me, O God*



taking  
faith  
home

## WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Talk or think about a time you experienced fear or anxiety.
- How does Jesus, the Good Shepherd, comfort and protect you during fearful times?

## DEVOTIONS



*Read:* John 10:11-18.

The focus in John 10 on being the good shepherd is directly related to Jesus healing the man born blind in John 9. The man born blind was cast out of the synagogue, out of the religious community, out of a protective sheepfold. Jesus as the good shepherd knows us and loves us enough to lay down his life for us. Jesus does not abandon us or cast us out. Unlike the disinterest of a hired hand who runs away when our needs are the greatest, Jesus cares for us as those who need the protection of a shepherd. This is the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. He has power and he uses that power to care for us and to give us the abundant life, the life overflowing with goodness (John 10:10). All of this power to love, to give us life overflowing with goodness and abundance, comes not from the abusive power of Pharisees, synagogues, or any disinterested individuals or institutions, but from the divine. This is the command that Jesus has received from God and passes on to us, the command to love sacrificially.

*Discuss:* When has your life been blessed by the sacrificial love of another?

*Pray:* **Loving God, help us to know that we are not abandoned in our time of need, but blessed with overflowing love through the power and grace of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Amen.**

## SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you give sacrificially to someone in need?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



The fourth Sunday of Easter is known as Good Shepherd Sunday. Both readings from John 10 and Psalm 23 follow the theme of shepherd. Draw the shape of a sheep on a sheet of paper. Write Jesus in the center of the shape and then words you would use to describe a good shepherd. Think or talk about what the words you wrote mean to you. Finish with prayer using the words from Psalm 23:6 as a reminder of God's comfort: **You, LORD, are my shepherd. I will never be in need. Your kindness and love will always be with me each day of my life, and I will live forever in your house, LORD. Amen.** (CEV)



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)