

The Eagle NEWSLETTER

June
• 2017 •

Special Congregational Meeting Sunday, June 4 – 9:15 a.m. Parish Life Center (PLC)

*For the purpose of voting to issue a pastoral letter of call to Adam Connolly as
Full-Time Pastor of Outreach and Discipleship.*



Adam, (pictured above in yellow shirt) taking a group of youth to the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering.

Adam Connolly is a new seminary graduate of Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, having earned his Master of Divinity Degree with a specialization in Youth and Family Ministry. Prior to entering seminary, Adam earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from the University of Minnesota where he also marched in the marching band. Adam completed his pastoral internship at Trinity Lutheran Church in Sleepy Eye, Minnesota. Gifts and skills that Adam brings to ministry include:

- Worship and Music Leadership
- Youth and Family Ministry
- Preaching
- Social Ministry
- Administration

*A Meet-and-Greet Ice Cream Social with Adam will be held on **Saturday, June 3 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Parish Life Center (PLC) Lobby. Everyone is invited to come and meet Adam and share in conversation with him at this time.*

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Page 2 -	Pastor's Message
Page 3 -	Worship and Music
Page 4 -	Children and Family
Page 5 -	Youth and Family
Page 6 -	Adult Discipleship
Page 7 -	Small Groups
Page 8 -	Community Care
Page 9 -	Outreach and Mission
Page 10 -	Stewardship
Page 11 -	Calendar

"I'm just a common disciple." That's what someone said to me recently. How would you define a "common" disciple? At St. John's, disciples share many things in common, especially our vision. Every part of that vision involves a connection. We are connected with Jesus Christ through water and Word in Baptism. We live out our baptismal calling as we intentionally seek out and participate in relationships with others. Together, we reach out in so many ways, connecting with one another and with our community. Let me mention just two of them.

"Dinner on the Lawn" begins June 7. We continue to strengthen our friendship with our closest neighbors by simply getting together to enjoy a weekly picnic meal, play a few games, have a few activities, just like any family might do on a summer evening. Everyone is welcome at 6:00 on Wednesday evenings beginning June 7. And we extend a special invitation to our neighbors in Georgetown Apartments.

St. John's Communion Ministers and Family Friends help keep us in relationship with disciples who are not able to physically get to church by offering Holy Communion and a friendly conversation. It was Kurt Flaherty, one of our Communion Ministers, who called himself "just a common disciple." He describes his three years serving in this way as "a rewarding experience for the homebound disciples I visit, as well as for me. I believe what the Bible tells us – 'whatever you did for one of the least of my brothers and sisters, you did for me' (Matthew 25:40)."

Thanks be to God for "common disciples," for God is using us powerfully, to make and keep meaningful and sometimes surprising connections with others.

Peace +

Pastor Pam

Synod Assembly Based on Mark 10:45, this year's Synod Assembly theme is "*Redeemed for Reformation*" and features Pastor Sarah Hinlicky Wilson, Adjunct Professor of the Institute for Ecumenical Research in Strasbourg, France, as keynote speaker. The assembly of our Central/Southern Illinois Synod is the annual meeting of the synod and it's 125 congregations. One of the items on this year's agenda is the election of a bishop to a six-year-term. Participating as voting members from St. John's this year include: Bruce and Sharon Cassens, Amanda Johnson, Rose Moser, Sam Simmons, Pastor Busboom, and Pastor Mitcham. Please hold in prayer all those participating in this year's assembly, especially as they discern God's Spirit in electing a bishop.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Come and Worship each Weekend as we are EQUIPPED for DISCIPLESHIP

5:00 p.m. Saturdays – Casual Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
8:00 and 9:45 a.m. Sundays – Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
10:30 a.m. Sundays – Contemporary Worship in the Parish Life Center (PLC)

June 3/4 – Pentecost – John 20:19-23

Equipped with the Spirit

(Note: There will be no 9:45 a.m. worship service this weekend due to the Special Congregation Meeting at 9:15 a.m.)

June 10/11 – Holy Trinity – Matthew 28:16-20

Equipped with a Mission

June 17/18 – Pentecost 2 – Matthew 9:35-10:23

Equipped with Instructions and Warnings

June 24/25 – Pentecost 3 – Matthew 10:24-29

Equipped with Confidence in God's Promises

Choral Concert at St. Agnes On *Trinity Sunday*, June 11 at 3 p.m., members of St. John's Chancel Choir will join St. Agnes Church Combined Choir and the Capital Chamber Singers in concert. The program entitled "Pick 3 – A Trinity of Song," will feature singers and instrumentalists from each of the three participating groups. Each group will sing three selections and will then combine to sing three additional pieces. The concert is free and open to the public and will be held at St. Agnes Church, 245 N. Amos Springfield.

LEMONADE IN THE LOBBY

St. John's **Lemonade in the Lobby** will feature a variety of musical offerings this summer. Our first event is Wednesday, June 28, at 7 p.m. when the Ugandan Kids Choir will present a program in the PLC, following that evening's Community Cookout. The Ugandan Kids Choir is a ministry of Child-care Worldwide, which has been dedicated to empowering children in the developing world since 1981. Through child sponsorship, Childcare Worldwide brings hope to children in need by providing them with an education that will set them up for future employment and break the cycle of poverty in their lives. A free will offering will be taken.

The second of the series is ***Three B's on the Prairie: Music of Bach, Beethoven and Brahms***, which is part of the Road Scholar program. Sue Hamilton will be conducting the choir, following a week of rehearsals. The Road Scholar choir is comprised of singers from across the United States and Canada. They will perform on Thursday, July 13 at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. For our third concert, St. John's disciple Colin Helton, whose guitar and vocal music appeals to all ages, will perform. His concert will be at 7 p.m. on Friday, September 1 in the PLC.

Each event is free and open to the public and is followed by a dessert reception in the PLC Lobby.

10 Reasons to volunteer for VBS

1. KIDS NEED GODLY ROLE MODELS
2. We were created to serve
3. Awesome music
4. Yummy snacks
5. IT HELPS REFRESH OUR FAITH
6. *It makes God happy*
7. *It also helps us to remember to have faith like a child*
8. **CHILDHOOD IS THE BEST TIME TO INTRODUCE KIDS TO JESUS**
9. *We grow in faith along with the kids*
10. **YOU ARE HELPING TO LEAD KIDS, AND ULTIMATELY ENTIRE FAMILIES TO JESUS CHRIST**



VBS is July 17-20 from 9:00-11:30 a.m. with a Friday evening picnic on July 21 at Southwind Park. Registration is available online at www.stjohns-springfield.org

Preschool Summer Camps!

St. John's Preschool will host two different summer camps for children ages 3-6. Camps are open to ALL children ages 3-6, including children who have completed kindergarten, and children who are not regularly enrolled at the preschool. Camp hours are 8:45-11:45 a.m. Fees are \$90 per camp. Space is limited, and registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration forms are available in the preschool office and on the preschool website. Invite your friends!

June 12-16--"If You Give A Mouse A Cookie" (based on the series of books by Laura Numeroff)

July 10-14--"Children Around the World" (featuring Sweden, Kenya, Costa Rica, China, & Australia)

National Youth Gathering in Houston

A reflection on the 2015 ELCA National Youth Gathering by Riley York:

"When I was in Detroit, it felt like I connected with everyone; our group, the other groups who came to the gathering, and the people of Detroit. The services were beautiful and unifying and everyone just had a grand old time every day, dancing and singing together. Hearing the speaker's stories was so touching and moving. The whole entire trip was inspiring because you heard stories of the locals, and the state of Detroit was just kind of sad. This beautiful city with tons of history was becoming a skeleton. There's so much promise and these gatherings are supposed to inspire us to spread joy and improvement to people and the environment all around us. The whole thing was a beautiful growing process that was super progressive. I highly recommend going, you won't regret it."

Houston, June 27 - July 1, 2018! It's officially time to start getting pumped about this. Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the ELCA gather for a week of faith formation known as the Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.

Ephesians 2:8 "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God."

This Gathering is open to Sr. High, and only comes around every few years, so THIS IS YOUR CHANCE. Early bird registration and \$350 is due November 15. However, we will be planning a number of fundraisers. The earlier you know you want to go, the more fundraisers you can be a part of, and the cheaper it will be. Talk to Tucker Good for more info and to sign up, or visit ELCA.org.

22 St. John's Youth to Participate in Confirmation Camp

This coming June 5-9, 22 of St. John's 7th and 8th grade confirmation students will participate in this year's Confirmation Camp at Augustana College in Rock Island. This year's camp theme is *Agents of Change* and takes youth on a journey through the New Testament book of Acts, exploring such agents of change as Jesus, the Holy Spirit, Paul, Lydia, Phillip, Tabitha, and Dorcas! Youth will enjoy high energy worship, Bible Study, Small Group activities, service projects, Wacky Olympics, a water park, mini golf, great food, and lots and lots of fun! Youth participating from St. John's include:

Jack Casey	Jackson Pearce
Josh Eiter	Darviel Johnson
Nolan Kulavic	Luke Read
Joshua Ryan	Adam Sevener
Landon O'Connell	Elijah Scott
Frankie Kulavic	Madi Arnold
Emily Resch	Emma Gilbert
Emily Powers	Jesi Province
Sasha Province	Elizabeth Lee
Elinor Simmons	Ainslie Wilson
Ashley Wolters	Megan Arnold

In addition, adult leaders from St. John's include Pastor Greg, Tucker Good, Taylor Justison, and Carol Lange. Camp nurses include Jan Cazal and Christine Lee. Remember each of these youth and adults in prayer as they grow in their relationships with Christ and with each other!

Hospitality:

MEMBER OR DISCIPLE ?

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it” (Hebrews 13:2).

When it comes to sharing Christ-like hospitality with others at St. John’s, are you a “member” or a “disciple?” Here’s Pastor Greg’s “Top Ten” list of how to tell the difference!

1. When pulling into the church parking lot on Sunday mornings, **members** park as close to the front door as possible so they don’t have to walk as far. **Disciples** park in the back of the lot to save room for visitors or guests.
2. When entering the church, **members** immediately look for those they already know, greeting them warmly. **Disciples** look for those they don’t yet know, making sure that the strangers in their midst are welcomed and feel included.
3. When choosing their pew, **members** grumble when they see someone sitting in their seat. **Disciples** look for guests already sitting in the sanctuary or PLC and sit next to them, introducing themselves and making these guests feel welcome.
4. During the passing of the peace, **members** greet only those persons within a four-foot perimeter of themselves. **Disciples** look for those folks who are sitting by themselves and cross the sanctuary or PLC to share the peace with them.
5. During the fellowship hour, **members** sit with the same people week after week, never inviting anyone new to join their table. **Disciples** choose to sit with those who are sitting by themselves in order to make sure they feel included.
6. Seeing a piece of trash on the floor or a mess that needs cleaned up, **members** grumble among themselves, while **disciples** pitch in to get the mess cleaned up in order to make a good first impression for others.
7. When a new person joins a ministry team, **members** limit what the new person can do, making sure they know “how it’s always been done,” and then complain that no one new ever wants to do anything. **Disciples** eagerly involve new people in ministry, listening to their ideas, and being open to new ways of doing things.
8. **Members** know that their style of worship is the right way and everybody else’s style is the wrong way. **Disciples** realize that God is at work through many different styles of worship and seek to honor and respect such differences.
9. **Members** bemoan the growth of the church and yearn for the good ole’ days when everybody knew everybody. **Disciples** celebrate the growth of the church as the work of the Holy Spirit.
10. When speaking about the church in public, **members** complain about all the little things that annoy them, while **disciples** share about all the wonderful ministries that are happening, inviting others to join in what God is doing.

Which one are you? Member or disciple?

Thanks to everyone who came to our Small Group Connection Cookout!

We had a wonderful time meeting new people who are interested in getting involved. If you have any questions about our Small Group Ministries, please contact Sam Neahring at sneahring@stjohns-springfield.org



June Small Group Events

Friends in Christ: June 7 and June 21 at 1:00 p.m. (Concordia Village)

Home Repair Group: June 5 at 7:00 p.m. (Parlor)

Lutherans at Play: June 11 at 1:00 p.m. (A.M.R.)

Parents in Christ: June 4 at 6:00 p.m. (Parlor)

Stitch 'n Share: June 9 at 1:30 p.m. (PLC Lobby)

**Young Adult Bible Study: June 6 at 7:00 p.m. (Location TBD) -
nmpieper22@gmail.com**

The following groups will begin again in the Fall:

- Parenting the Early Years
- Parents in Christ
- Sunday Morning Moms Group

Check the calendar and Messenger for any Small Group social events this summer!



What a joy it is to greet disciples and friends who arrive for worship in our church van. We are excited to offer a way to stay connected with people who need assistance getting to church. "I am so glad to have a way to get to church and be with my church friends here in the sanctuary," says Evelyn Lageman. "Thank you for helping me get to church; it means so much to be here!"

The van has not only been used for transportation to worship and other church activities, it has taken several congregational groups to events in the Springfield area. With several drivers trained to operate and maintain the van, we invite anyone needing transportation to any of our activities to call the church office to make a reservation. Please call by Wednesday to make sure there are available seats on the van for our weekend services.

Meet Fran Myers, Fran and husband, Ray have been disciples at St. John's since 2006. How did they get to St. John's from up-state New York? By way of Florida, where Ray took a job in maintenance at Kennedy Space Center, how exciting is that?! They were there during the first shuttle launch in 1981. Fran worked as an Assistant Director of Nursing and as Director of In-service Education in nursing homes in the area. After spending twenty-two years in Florida, they moved to Springfield to live close to their son who works for the Department of Revenue. They have a son and daughter in Troy, New York.



Ray likes to do woodworking and take care of their little Havanese dog, BoBo. Fran likes to knit, read, and crochet. But, she also has a unique commitment as a volunteer with "Caregiver Interfaith Volunteer Services." What is CIVS? It is a network of religious and community agencies that provide services free of charge to older adults in the Springfield area regardless of income, religious beliefs, or ethnic backgrounds. Services are provided by trained volunteers of all ages from area congregations to help older adults improve their quality of life and remain independent as long as possible. Her role is to help coordinate requests for services. In addition to Fran's work with CIVS, St. John's disciples Kurt Flaherty and Tom Ryan also volunteer. Some of the services provided are: home repair, taking someone to an appointment, grocery shopping, etc. You can be a part of this volunteer organization, for more information call Fran at (217)789.1961.



THANKS FOR YOUR BLOOD!

St. John's sponsored the April 29 blood drive at the Central Illinois Community Blood Center. Thanks to the generosity of those who donated blood, the center was able to collect life saving blood products that have the potential to assist many critically ill patients. The next date for St. John's to sponsor the blood drive will be Thursday, June 29.

Dinner on the Lawn

Dinner on the Lawn will begin on June 7 and run through August 9 starting at 6:00 p.m. In addition to delicious food, the June calendar includes interactive entertainment by our own Encounter Band, sidewalk painting, a magic show* and the Uganda Children's Choir**! More exciting activities are being planned for July and the first two weeks of August. If you or your group are interested in providing a main dish for one of these Wednesday nights, please contact Carolyn Isham at 544.2286. Where else can you go on a Wednesday night to socialize with your friends at St. John's, make new friends with our neighbors, enjoy a really good meal and have entertainment provided? Everyone is invited to bring a dish to share.

*Janet Riehecky's life has always been about stories. From the time she learned to read, she has always had her nose stuck in a book. As a freshman in college she signed up to take a class on C.S. Lewis because she loved his stories about Narnia and wondered what else he had written. Reading *Mere Christianity* led to her becoming a Christian. Since then God has given her the opportunity to publish 134 books for children, both true stories and fiction. Along the way, she also became a magician. In her program she will be sharing biblical ideas through her magic.

**The Ugandan Kids Choir is a ministry of Childcare Worldwide, which has been dedicated to empowering children in the developing world since 1981. Through child sponsorship, Childcare Worldwide brings hope to children in need by providing them with an education that sets them up for future employment and seeks to break the cycle of poverty in their lives.



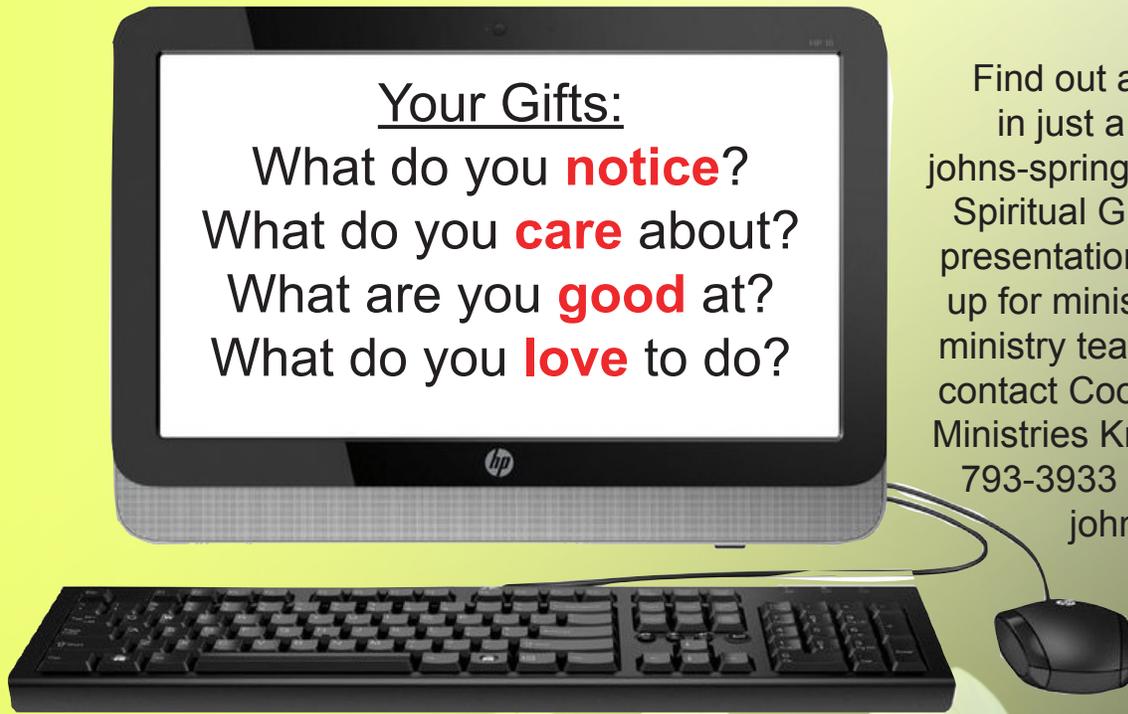
Hungry Mother State Park

MISSION TRIP "SENT TO CARE" JUNE 26-JULY 1

St. John's disciples will be the hands and feet of Christ this summer as we travel to Marion, Virginia to participate in Project Crossroads. We will spend a week together using our gifts, talents, and resources in the Blue Ridge Mountain area of western Virginia, forming and deepening relationships and serving those in need.

Sunday, June 4 – 12:00 noon, Mandatory pre-trip meeting (AMR)

- The final payment of \$150 will be due. Checks should be payable to "St. John's Lutheran Church", or you may pay at the kiosk or online.
- The meeting will begin with lunch at noon and last until around 3:30. We need the participation of everyone going on the trip as we begin to build relationships with each other and fully prepare for the week.
- Packing lists will be distributed.
- Medical forms and insurance information will be collected.



Find out about **Spiritual Gifts** in just a few clicks at www.st-johns-springfield.org under Ministries/Spiritual Gifts. You can see a short presentation, take an inventory, sign up for ministry teams or start a new ministry team. For more information, contact Coordinator of Spiritual Gifts Ministries Kristen Schmid Schurter at 793-3933 x203 or ksschurter@st-johns-springfield.org

BE BOLD Campaign

Thank you to all those who have so generously pledged their support to our three-year **BE BOLD** Capital Campaign as we look toward God's future for St. John's! The response has been very strong so far and for that we are most grateful! It will take all of us working together over the next three years to turn this vision into a reality. If you have not yet returned your pledge, it's not too late! Simply complete your pledge card and turn it in to the church office in person or by mail or drop it in the offering plate during worship! *"Since we have such a hope, we are very **BOLD**" (2 Corinthians 3:12).*



Stewardship Matters

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

General Operating Fund

	April 2017	Year to Date 2017
Income:	\$ 97,980.78	\$ 372,972.03
Expenses:	\$ 83,091.98	\$ 312,054.83
	\$ 14,888.80	\$ 60,917.20

Building Fund

	April 2017	Year to Date 2017
Income:	\$ 19,043.28	\$ 71,039.01
Expenses:	\$ 15,498.00	\$ 61,992.00
	\$ 3,545.28	\$ 9,047.01

Remaining Balance on Mortgage as of 4.30.2017 \$ 1,216,720.00

A Biblical Word about Stewardship

"Then [Jesus] said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest'"

(Matthew 9:37-38).

June 2017 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
Synod Assembly						
						10:30am Funeral Service Betee Rodger 5:00pm Worship/Communion 6:00pm Meet-and-Greet Ice Cream Social
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Confirmation Camp						
8:00am Worship/Communion – Sanctuary 9:15am Congregation Meeting - PLC 10:30am Contemporary Worship – PLC 12:00pm Mission Trip Group Meeting 6:00pm Parents in Christ	5:30pm Personnel Committee 7:00pm Leadership Board 7:00pm Home Repair Group	9:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Young Adult Bible Study	1:00pm Friends in Christ at Concordia 6:00pm Dinner on the Lawn 8:00pm Worship Band Practice		1:30am Stitch n' Share 6:15pm Parenting the Early Years	LWR Coffee Sales 5:00pm Worship/Communion
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
LWR Coffee Sales 8:00am Worship/Communion – Sanctuary 9:15am Farewell Reception for Linda Toro 9:45am Worship/Communion – Sanctuary 10:30am Contemporary Worship – PLC 1:00pm Lutherans at Play 3:00pm Choral Concert at St. Agnes 6:00pm Encounter	10:30am Stephen Minister Peer Support 4:30pm Preschool Board 5:30pm Endowment Fund Committee	9:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Stephen Minister Peer Support 6:00pm Group LOYAL	6:00pm Dinner on the Lawn 8:00pm Worship Band Practice			5:00pm Worship/Communion
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Father's Day 8:00am Worship/Communion – Sanctuary 9:15am Fellowship 9:45am Worship/Communion – Sanctuary 10:30am Contemporary Worship – PLC 6:00pm Parents in Christ	5:00pm Flower Delivery Ministry Team 5:30pm Finance Committee 7:00pm Leadership Board	9:00am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Adult Ministries Team 6:00pm Dinner Night Out	10:00am Social Ministry Team 1:00pm Friends in Christ at Concordia 6:00pm Dinner on the Lawn 8:00pm Worship Band Practice		5:00pm Wedding Rehearsal 7:30pm Thompson/Kalabus Wedding	2:30pm Allen/Harrell Wedding 5:00pm Worship/Communion
25	26	27	28	29	30	
Mission Trip						
8:00am Worship/Communion – Sanctuary 9:15am Fellowship 9:15am Mom's Small Group 9:45am Worship/Communion – Sanctuary 10:30am Contemporary Worship – PLC 6:00pm Encounter	5:00pm Stephen Minister Leaders Team 5:15pm Property Team 7:00pm Stewardship Vision Team	9:00am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Phone Call Ministry Team 6:00pm Military Ministry Team 7:00pm Global Missions Ministry Team	6:00pm Dinner on the Lawn 7:00pm Ugandan Kids Choir Concert 8:00pm Worship Band Practice	Adopt-A-Day Blood Drive		

The Eagle NEWSLETTER



St. John's Lutheran Church

2477 West Washington
Springfield, IL 62702

Phone: (217) 793.3933
Fax: (217) 793.4564
www.stjohns-springfield.org

Worship SCHEDULE

Saturday - 5 p.m.
Casual Service in
Sanctuary

**Sunday - 8 a.m. & 9:45
a.m. Traditional Service**
in Sanctuary

Sunday - 10:30 a.m.
Contemporary Service
in Parish Life Center

**Need a ride
to worship?**

Call the church office at
217-793-3933

Our new van is
wheelchair accessible!

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE - PAID
SPRINGFIELD IL
PERMIT #202

Address Service Requested

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 meaningful relationships with Christ, with each other, and with the community as we are gathered for worship, equipped for discipleship, and sent to care.

St. John's Lutheran Church Staff

Lead Pastor	Pastor Greg Busboom
Pastor of Community Care	Pastor Pam Mitcham
Church Administrator	Linda Toro
Graphic Designer/Office Assistant	Amanda Lawler
Director of Children and Family Ministry	Sam Neahring
Interim Director of Children and Family Ministry	Elizabeth Hearing
Interim Director of Youth and Family Ministry	Tucker Good
Coordinator of Spiritual Gifts Ministries	Kristen Schmid Schurter
Director of Music Ministries	Sue Hamilton
Organist/Bell Choir Director	Carlo van Ulft
Chancel Choir Accompanist	Linda Fairchild
Children's Music Leader	Alicia Huntley
Director of Contemporary Worship	Christie Lazarides Purdy
Youth & Young Adult Worship Leader	Andy Lazarides
Contemporary Worship Keyboardist	Valerie Hunter
Custodians	Dwayne Varner, Brian Yokem
Preschool Administrative Staff	Terri Harms, Melissa Roselle, Courtney Peters
Nursery Attendants	Amanda Lawler, Emily Pfeiffer, Lori Spear, Caitlin Zoschke

NEXT DEADLINE FOR THE EAGLE IS 6-12-2017