

# Outreach

## Blood Drive

7 a.m. - 6 p.m., December 20  
St. John's will sponsor the blood drive at the Central Illinois Community Blood Center, 1999 Wabash Avenue. Thanks to the generosity of those who donate blood, the center is able to collect life saving blood products that have the potential to assist many critically ill patients. Please help if you can!

## United Cerebral Palsy Christmas Gifts

Many thanks to those who picked out names for our UCP Christmas gifts. A reminder to please return the gift(s) to the church by next Sunday, December 16 with the participant's name attached to the gift(s). Thank you for your generous sharing with those in need in our community. Your gift giving will make their Christmas a joyous time.

## ELCA Good Gifts

This December, the Global Missions Team invites you to help change lives of our sisters and brothers around the world through the ELCA Good Gifts program. These gifts help grow the church, fight hunger, and transform lives. During Advent, we invite you to pick up one or more ornaments from tables near the Welcome Centers that represent a gift. Once you've picked out your gift, return it, along with the dollar amount printed on each ornament, either in the offering plate during worship or to the Church Office. As the ornaments are returned, they will be used to decorate the Christmas Trees throughout the church.

## Mitten Trees

Once again mitten trees adorn our Narthex and PLC Lobby during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Thanks to you, they are decorated with mittens, gloves, scarves, and hats for the many children at Harvard Park and Dubois Elementary schools who come to school on cold days without them. This year we are also asking for socks of all sizes which are always needed during the winter months. If you have any slightly used children's coats, you can always bring these as well. Thank you in advance. We look forward to another joyous Christmas with you as we give to others.

# Adults

## Connect: Captain Sign-up and Info Session Wednesday, Dec 19, 6-7 p.m.

A new session of Connect will begin January 20! If you are looking for a chance to connect with disciples and with Christ in a short-term, small group setting, then this is the perfect opportunity for you! Captains (group facilitators) are being organized now, so if you are interested in more information about this easy role, please contact Alicia Huntley at ahuntley@stjohns-springfield.org or 217.714.4524. Pastor Adam will also be providing an info session on Wednesday, December 19 at 6:00 p.m. in the Adult Meeting Room.

## Adult Forum: The Book of Judges

Sundays, 9:15 a.m.  
Pastor Adam's study on the book of Judges continues this Sunday. Grab a cup of coffee and a goodie or two and head into the Adult Meeting Room (AMR) as we continue our study of this Old Testament book.

# Children

## Christmas Program Rehearsals

Wednesdays and Sundays  
All children, preschool through 6th grade, will meet for rehearsal on Wednesdays from 6:00-6:45 p.m. in the Choir Room and on Sundays from 9:15-9:30 a.m. in the PLC. **We have a required dress rehearsal next Saturday, December 15 for all children in the program from 9-11 a.m.** We can't wait to share the Good News on December 16!

## Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 16, 10:30 a.m., PLC  
"Really, Really, Really Good News" will take the congregation on a journey through the story of the first Christmas! Children up to 6th grade are all invited to join in the sharing of this program. All are welcome to enjoy this special message during 10:30 worship in the Parish Life Center (PLC) on December 16. Join us after worship for a cookie reception in the lobby and to see the children after their performance!

# THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

All events can be found at [www.stjohns-springfield.org](http://www.stjohns-springfield.org)  
There you will also be able to sign up for weekly event emails.

## SUNDAY 12-9

Advent 2  
**Fair Trade Fair**  
PARLOR 7:30 a.m.  
**Anti-Racism Working Group**  
PARLOR 12:00 p.m.  
**UCP Cookies & Cocoa**  
PLC LOBBY 3:00 p.m.

## MONDAY 12-10

**Stephen Minister Peer Support**  
OFFSITE 10:30 a.m.  
**Preschool Staff and Board Luncheon**  
AMR 11:30 a.m.  
**Preschool Christmas Program**  
SANCTUARY 1:00 p.m.  
**Preschool Christmas Program**  
SANCTUARY 6:00 p.m.

## TUESDAY 12-11

**Coffee and Conversation**  
PLC LOBBY 8:00 a.m.  
**Women's Bible Study**  
AMR 9:00 a.m.  
**Men's Bible Study**  
PARLOR 9:00 a.m.  
**Staff Meeting**  
MUSIC ROOM 9:00 a.m.  
**Stephen Ministry Peer Support**  
AMR 1:30 p.m.  
**Group LOYAL Christmas Dinner**  
SANGAMO CLUB 5:30 p.m.  
**Stephen Minister Training**  
AMR 6:00 p.m.  
**Preschool Christmas Program**  
SANCTUARY 6:00 p.m.  
**Cancer Companion Training**  
CLASSROOM A 6:30 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY 12-12

**Springfield Pastors Cluster**  
AMR 9:30 a.m.  
**Advent Soup & Song**  
PLC 12:00 p.m.  
**Wednesday Night Supper**  
PLC LOBBY 5:45 p.m.  
**Christmas Program Rehearsal**  
CHOIR ROOM 6:00 p.m.  
**Confirmation**  
CLASSROOM A/B 6:30 p.m.

## Third Grade Bible Class

CLASSROOM C 6:30 p.m.  
**Worship Band Practice**  
PLC 7:30 p.m.

## THURSDAY 12-13

**Grief Support Group**  
PARLOR 5:30 p.m.  
**Bells of Glory**  
SANCTUARY 5:30 p.m.  
**Chancel Choir**  
MUSIC ROOM 6:40 p.m.

## FRIDAY 12-14

**Stitch n' Share**  
PLC LOBBY 1:30 p.m.

## SATURDAY 12-15

**Christmas Program Rehearsal**  
PLC 9:00 a.m.  
**Youth Leadership Team**  
PARLOR 9:00 a.m.  
**Worship/Communion**  
SANCTUARY 5:00 p.m.

## SUNDAY 12-16

Advent 3  
**Worship/Communion**  
SANCTUARY 8:00 a.m.  
**Fellowship**  
PLC LOBBY 9:15 a.m.  
**Sunday School/t.b.d.**  
LOWER LEVEL 9:15 a.m.  
**Adult Forum**  
AMR 9:15 a.m.  
**Worship/SS Christmas Program**  
PLC 10:30 a.m.  
**Cancer Companion Training**  
PARLOR 1:00 p.m.  
**Staff Christmas Party**  
VILLA MARIA 5:00 p.m.  
**Parenting the Early Years**  
OFFSITE 6:00 p.m.  
**Parent in Christ**  
OFFSITE 6:00 p.m.  
**Sunday Night Small Group**  
OFFSITE 6:30 p.m.



# ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Advent 2

December 8-9, 2018



## St. John's Leadership Board

Adam Reiss, President  
Amanda Johnson, Secretary  
David Richter, Treasurer  
Tom Harms Kathy Justison  
Sue Umland Paul Wells

## This Weekend

5 p.m. Saturday

### Worship/Christmas Cantata (Sanctuary)

Come to the Manger by St. John's Chancel Choir and Orchestra

8 a.m. Sunday

### Worship/Christmas Cantata (Sanctuary)

Come to the Manger by St. John's Chancel Choir and Orchestra

9:15 a.m. Sunday

### Fellowship/t.b.d./Sunday School/Adult Forum

10:30 a.m. Sunday

### Worship/Christmas Cantata (Sanctuary)

Come to the Manger by St. John's Chancel Choir and Orchestra

# The Messenger

# Welcome

to St. John's Lutheran Church on this 2nd Weekend of Advent! We are glad you are here! 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 visit with one of our pastors. This weekend our St. John's Chancel Choir and Orchestra present the Cantata "Come to the Manger" by Mark Hayes. As we share in this musical presentation of the gospel story, we join in preparing the way for the coming of the Lord and assisting in capturing a vision of the salvation of God!

## Pastor's Message

"As it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God'" (Luke 3:4-6).

Martin Luther once said, "Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise" (Luther's Works, Vol. 53). As Lutheran Christians, we share a rich and varied musical heritage and music continues to be central to our life together as we worship, as we grow in discipleship, and as we serve.

One of the many ways we prepare our hearts to welcome the Christ-child during this Advent season is through music. Music helps us communicate the story of Jesus' coming among us in ways that speak deeply into our souls and that change our hearts. Over the coming weeks, we invite you to make music part of your Advent preparations. And, as you do, invite others to

## Pastor's Message Continued

join you—a friend, a neighbor, a co-worker—anyone with whom you would like to share the good news of Christ's coming.

This weekend, December 8 and 9, our St. John's Chancel Choir and Orchestra is presenting Mark Hayes' cantata *Come to the Manger* at all of our weekend worship services. Special thanks to Sue Hamilton, our Director of Music Ministries, together with each of our over 50 musicians participating in this moving musical presentation. If you would like to hear the cantata again, the choir will be sharing a special performance with the residents of Concordia Village on Tuesday, December 18 at 1:30 in their chapel. You are welcome to join them!

This coming Wednesday, December 12, our Advent Soup and Song series continues as we welcome Glenwood High School's Concert Choir and Jazz Fusion, featuring several young disciples from St. John's. Come for a bowl of delicious homemade soup at 12 noon, followed by great music beginning at 12:15. Then, on Wednesday, December 19, we welcome Barbara and Michael Lanham as they share a four-handed piano performance with us.

On Sunday, December 16, the children of St. John's will share their presentation of *Really, Really, Really Good News* during a combined 10:30 worship service in the Parish Life Center (PLC). These children have been working really hard on this

year's program and I encourage you to come and receive the gift that they will bring.

Finally, come and join us on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day at any of our celebration worship services, all of which will be filled with music. Our 3:00 Christmas Eve worship involves preschool-aged children and their families in a multi-sensory, participatory worship experience. Our 4:30 traditional service features the music of the children of St. John's, together with our organist Carlo van Ulft. At 7:30, we worship in the Parish Life Center (PLC) featuring the music of our St. John's Praise Team. And, at 11:00, we gather again in the sanctuary for a traditional Christmas Eve worship featuring the music of our St. John's Bells of Glory and Chancel Choir. Come early and enjoy pre-service music shared by a variety of St. John's disciples!

Through music, God invites us again and again into the story of his coming among us. Thank you to all who share God's gift of music with us week after week. As we make music together during this Advent season, we prepare our hearts to be changed yet again by God's amazing grace born in a manger in Bethlehem.

changed by God's GRACE+



**Remember in Prayer** Dottie Beach, Elaine Birtch, Marie Bomke, Marlene Carnduff, Bernadine Dickson, Peggy Dodd, Ursula Edwards, Jim Greene, Steve Hardy, Chad Hicks, James Hicks, Irmgard Lindahl, Betty Lunik, Ken Martin, Mary Marzinzik, Lois Miller, Judy Nika, Johneita Osterhuber, Barbara Pirmann, Gene Poehlman, Liz Saner, Jean Sergent, Debbie Slater, Katie Smith, Betty Stuemke, Perry Taylor, Carole Tracy, Helen Traeger, Stephanie van Ulft, Anita Walbaum

**THANK YOU** The Beyond Bread Christmas Cookie Bake Sale was a huge success. The proceeds, totaling \$642.00, will be sent to the Washington Street Mission. Thanks to all who bought cookies!

St. John's Lutheran Church Members, Thank you all so much for helping serve at my husband Bob's luncheon after the funeral. Your generosity in taking time away from your daily lives is greatly appreciated. Thank you to those that have sent a card and/or offered your sympathies.

God Bless you all,  
Jill & David Good & family

# General

## Christmas Poinsettias and Preschool Scholarship Gifts

It's that time of year again to order your Christmas poinsettias to decorate our worship spaces this coming Christmas season and to support our St. John's Preschool Scholarship Fund with your generous gifts. Simply complete the blue insert in this weekend's bulletin and return it, together with your donation, to the blue box located on the Welcome Centers in both the Narthex and the PLC Lobby. Complete details are found on the insert. Thank you in advance for your joyful generosity!

## Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Worship Schedule

We invite all disciples, friends, family, neighbors, and community members to join us for worship here at St. John's on both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship schedule is as follows:

### Christmas Eve - Monday, December 24

**3:00 p.m.** - Playful Praise Worship Experience designed especially for preschool-aged children and their families. Parish Life Center (PLC). Includes Holy Communion and birthday cupcakes for Jesus!

**4:30 p.m.** - Traditional Family and Friends Worship. Sanctuary. Includes Holy Communion and the Service of Candle Lighting. Featuring the music of our St. John's Children. Pre-service concert begins at 4:10.

**7:30 p.m.** - Contemporary Celebration Worship. Parish Life Center (PLC). Includes Holy Communion and the Service of Candle Lighting. Featuring the music of our St. John's Praise Team. Pre-service concert begins at 7:10.

**11:00 p.m.** - Traditional Festival Worship. Sanctuary. Includes Holy Communion and the Service of Candle Lighting. Featuring the music of our St. John's Bells of Glory and Chancel Choir. Pre-service concert begins at 10:40.

### Christmas Day - Tuesday, December 25

**10:00 a.m.** - Traditional Festival Worship. Sanctuary. Includes Holy Communion. Featuring the music of our organist, Carlo van Ulft.

Keep Christ at the center of your Christmas celebration this year and join us for worship! And, don't forget to invite your families, friends, and neighbors to join us. All are welcome!

## Don't miss out! New and Updated Contact Info Needed

If you are new to St. John's, we invite you to fill out a contact information form at one of the Welcome Centers so we can let you know about future events. If you are a current disciple, it is helpful if you fill out a form as well so we can make sure we have your most up-to-date information. Thank you!

## Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group Monday, December 17, 1:00 p.m., AMR

Caregivers can be overwhelmed with the daily routines and tasks of caring for a family member or friend. During the holidays, the demands can seem impossible. St. John's hosts an Alzheimer's Association Caregiver Support Group. The group meets monthly on the third Monday in the Adult Meeting Room (AMR). The Alzheimer's Association Caregiver Support Groups provide emotional, educational, and social support for family and friends of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other related dementias. For more information, call the Alzheimer's Association Illinois Chapter at 800.272.3900 or go to [alz.org/illinois](http://alz.org/illinois) and click on 'Support Groups.'

## Cancer Companions Ministry

Cancer Companions Ministry beginning January 13. For more information, contact the church office.



## 2019 Commitments

Thank you to everyone who turned in your completed 2019 Commitment Cards and Time, Talent, and Touch Response forms! Your generous response is fueling Christ's mission and ministry in this place. If you haven't yet had a chance to return your commitment, your help is still needed! Please complete and return your commitments as soon as possible. You may mail them to the church, drop them by the church office, or place them in the offering place. Let's join together to grow our generosity by ONE in 2019!

## Grieving During the Holidays 5:30-7:00 p.m., Thursday, December 13

Not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas holidays. Dealing with the death of a loved one can make parties and joviality painful for many people. This week's grief support group will offer a quiet, reflective time in which we can create a sacred space for memories and stories as well as for seeking the comfort of the Christ Child. Our time together will include a brief devotional liturgy, quiet readings and prayer, inviting us to come close to the God who comes close to us. We welcome people who have participated before as well as those who would be new to the group. While we may grieve many kinds of losses, this gathering is for those who have lost a loved one. The death may have been recent or could have occurred in the past. To register, please call the church office at 217.793.3933. If you have questions, please get in touch with Pastor Pam.

## Advent Soup and Song

December 12 & 19, at 12 noon

This year's Advent Soup and Song promises to please with great musical entertainment and wonderful soups and desserts. The remaining line-up for this year's entertainment is:

December 12 - Glenwood High School Concert Choir & Jazz Fusion  
December 19 - *Christmas for Two*, Barbara and Michael Lanham

Lunch begins at 12 noon with the entertainment beginning at 12:15 p.m. Join us over your lunch hour to share in food, fellowship, and music.

## UCP Cookies & Cocoa

Sunday, December 9, 3:00 p.m.

This Sunday, join the clients from UCP in the PLC Lobby as we celebrate Christmas with a festive event. There will be cookies, cocoa, and a carol sing-along. Contact Janet Moulton (971.9535) or Pastor Adam ([pconnolly@stjohns-springfield.org](mailto:pconnolly@stjohns-springfield.org)) if you have any questions.

## End-of-the-Year Giving

For the first time in a number of years, we are facing a deficit in our General Operating Fund as we approach the end of the year. Although expenses for the year are below the budgeted amount approved by the congregation, giving to the General Operating Fund has not kept up with our expenses. Working together, our strong end-of-the-year giving can help us still end the year "in the black." If you would like to make a special end-of-the-year gift to support Christ's ministry at St. John's, we invite you to do so on or before the end of our regular office hours on Monday, December 31. Thanks in advance for your faith-filled generosity to St. John's!

# Youth

## Encounter this Sunday

December 9, 2:45 p.m.

In place of our normal Encounter this Sunday, the 9th-12th graders of St. John's will be assisting with our UCP Cookies & Cocoa Event for our local UCP clients. All 9th-12th graders are invited to meet at the church in the PLC Lobby at 2:45. We will be assisting clients with cookie decorating, ornament making, and enjoying cookies, cocoa, and carols. Following the Carols and Cookies Event, we will enjoy pizza and devotions together at a local restaurant! Hope to see all of our 9th-12th graders there! Friends are welcome!!!

## t.b.d.

Sundays 9:15 - 10:15 a.m.

Each weekend, Pastor Greg, together with St. John's disciple Lucas O'Neill, leads a Sunday morning experience for 9th-12th graders in the Youth Room titled "t.b.d." From 9:15-10:15 a.m., we load up on unlimited supplies of chocolate milk, donuts, and holiday treats, followed by an engaging discussion of important faith topics! During December, we continue our exploration of Christian prayer as we wrestle with questions like: Is prayer important? Is there a right way to pray? Does prayer really change things? Does prayer really change God? All are welcome!