

# THE MESSENGER



## MISSION STATEMENT

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

## VISION STATEMENT

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

## CORE VALUES

**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

Welcome to St. John's Lutheran Church on this Fifth 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). This Weekend's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

## SATURDAY 4-27

5:00pm Worship/Communion - Sanctuary

6:00pm LSSI Presentation/M meal - Welcome Center

## 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

## MONDAY 4-29

7:00pm Leadership Board - Meeting Room

## TUESDAY 4-30

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

7:00pm Transition Team Meeting - Workroom

## WEDNESDAY 5-1

8:30am The Parlor Coffee Bar Open - The Parlor

8:30am Pastries for the Parents - Welcome Center

1:00am Scout Leadership Meeting - Meeting Room

5:00pm Bereavement Support Group - Meeting Room

5:30pm Worship Band Rehearsal - PLC

6:00pm Pickleball - Gym

6:00pm First Communion Class - Meeting Room

6:30pm Confirmation Class - Classroom A & B

## THURSDAY 5-2

8:30am Pastries for the Parents - Welcome Center

5:30pm Bells of Glory - Sanctuary

6:00pm Children's Choir - Music Room

6:30pm Girl Troop - Meeting Room

6:30pm Scout Troop 210 - Gym

6:45pm Chancel Choir - Music Room

## FRIDAY 5-3

## SATURDAY 5-4

5:00pm Worship/Communion - Sanctuary

## SUNDAY 5-5

*6th 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

5:00pm Stephen Ministry Celebration Dinner - Meeting Room

6:00pm Youtherans - Youth Room

6:00pm Scout Troop 210 - Youth Leadership Meeting - Classroom A

6:30pm Youtherans LITE - Classroom C & D

PLC = PARISH LIFE CENTER

# THIS WEEKEND

## 5:00 P.M. SATURDAY

### (WORSHIP/HOLY COMMUNION - SANCTUARY)

*Pastor Len Hoffmann, Preaching/Presiding Minister*

## 6:00 P.M. SATURDAY

*LSSI Dinner with David Novak (Welcome Center)*

## 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 LSSI with David Novak (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 the disciples of St. John's.

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

During the flu and cold season we will return to having each person receiving communion to take the cup from the tray themselves. The newer cups may be a little sticky to take 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

# A HUGE *Thank You* TO... YOU!

We are just blown away by the amazing support of the disciples at St. John's. You all have been so generous when it comes to donating funds to send us to the ELCA Youth Gathering! We truly could not go without all of your support.



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



**APRIL 27**  
**6:00 P.M.**

LIGHT SUPPER  
IN WELCOME CENTER



**APRIL 28**  
**9:45 A.M.**

SUNDAY FORUM  
IN MEETING ROOM

This 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 adult 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!**



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.

## **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.



## **ST. JOHN'S DISCIPLES LUNCHING TOGETHER**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 8 | 11:30 A.M. | LEPEEP**

The DLT (Disciples Lunching Together) Lunch Group of St. Johns will be meeting at LePeep on Wednesday, May 8th at 11:30 a.m.. To ensure seating and service, please contact Roy Booker at 217.546.4123 by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, May 6. We look forward to sharing Breakfast or Brunch with you and sharing some great fellowship with our church family: see you at LePeep!

## **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.



# 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!"**

## 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).

## SERVE ON OUR GREETER TEAM!



As our church grows and we welcome visitors, as well as long time members, we desire to build a team of faithful volunteers to serve as greeters at all three of our worship services. We are also looking for someone willing to organize and schedule our greeters for our 8:30 a.m. service. Please reach out to Bridgit Williams at [bwilliams@stjohns-springfield.org](mailto:bwilliams@stjohns-springfield.org) or through REALM for more information.

## SERVE ON OUR TECH TEAM!



Are you interested in Technology? We are looking for a couple of Tech volunteers to work with Aaron Duncan and Mike Jagels on implementing new technology in our worship spaces and upgrading our system. Please consider joining our Tech Team. If interested and willing to assist contact Aaron Duncan or Mike Jagels.

## 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.

## 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 [ST.JOHNS-SPRINGFIELD.ORG](http://ST.JOHNS-SPRINGFIELD.ORG)



SCAN QR CODE WITH PHONE





5TH-12TH GRADE FAMILIES

# SUNDAY POTLUCK

APRIL 28 | 6:00 P.M. | PARISH LIFE CENTER

Please join us for our FINAL family potluck of the school year! We will be serving up hotdogs and hamburgers and playing a game of kickball and/or Gaga ball (weather permitting!) Please bring a side or dessert to share! We look forward to seeing you Sunday!

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

**MAY 5** - Bible Study in the youth room from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Bring your Bible!

**MAY 12** - Youtherans End of Year Party! Meet at the church at 6:00 p.m. and we will head out to Malibu Jack's for a night of fun! We will cover the costs but we ask that you have dinner beforehand. *Amanda Lawler needs to know if you will be attending by May 8th.*

## 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

# REGISTER FOR VBS!



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



- OPEN TO CHILDREN AGES 3-11.
- REGISTER APRIL 28 - JULY 1 (OR UNTIL FULL)
- SPACE IS LIMITED, SO REGISTER TODAY!
- CHILDREN 12+ CAN VOLUNTEER! (SEE BELOW)

SCAN TO REGISTER NOW OR VISIT  
[WWW.STJOHNS-SPRINGFIELD.ORG/VBS](http://WWW.STJOHNS-SPRINGFIELD.ORG/VBS)

## SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER!

Ages 12 and up are encouraged to volunteer! It takes A LOT of hands to help make VBS a successful and fun week for our kids! Scan below QR Codes, or visit [stjohns-springfield.org/vbs](http://stjohns-springfield.org/vbs)



SCAN TO REGISTER TO VOLUNTEER!



SCAN TO JOIN DECORATING CREW!

## SCUBA AMAZON VBS WISHLIST

We have a VBS Amazon wishlist if you are interested in helping purchase supplies for VBS! We appreciate your support in helping make this week magical!

SCAN SQ CODE OR VISIT [STJOHNS-SPRINGFIELD.ORG/VBS](http://STJOHNS-SPRINGFIELD.ORG/VBS)



HAVE QUESTIONS? CONTACT SARAH HEMBROOK AT [SHEMBROOK@STJOHNS-SPRINGFIELD.ORG](mailto:SHEMBROOK@STJOHNS-SPRINGFIELD.ORG).

APRIL 28, 2024  
FIFTH SUNDAY  
OF EASTER



*Jesus abides with us like a vine to its branches.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 15:1-8	Jesus the true vine
Monday	Acts 8:26-40	Phillip and the eunuch
Tuesday	1 John 4:7-21	God is love
Wednesday	Ephesians 3:14-19	Christ's love for us
Thursday	Psalms 91	Assurance of God's protection
Friday	Exodus 34:6-7	God of steadfast love and faithfulness
Saturday	Psalms 22:25-31	A vow of thanksgiving
Sunday	John 15:9-17	Love one another

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.*

**John 15:5 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

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

Loving God, we thank you for your steadfast love that remains with us forever and guides us into the future through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, we thank you for feeding us with this food and for nurturing our lives with your presence through the true vine, Christ our Lord, who gives us life. Amen.

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

May God's love lead you to love others. (1 John 4:19)



**APRIL 28, 2024**

## **HYMN OF THE WEEK**

*Like the Murmur of the  
Dove's Song*



## **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:

- When is a time you have felt lost or alone?
- How does knowing of God's love through Jesus help you when you feel anxious or lost?

## **DEVOTIONS**



*Read:* John 15:1-8.

This is the last of Jesus' "I am" statements. Earlier in the Gospel of John he said "I am the bread of life," "I am the light of the world," "I am the gate," "I am the good shepherd," "I am the resurrection and the life," and "I am the way, the truth, and the life." These self-descriptive statements are all introduced with the words, "I am," that is reminiscent of the name for God in the Old Testament. "Yahweh," is translated as "I am who I am." In John, Jesus is presented as one with God without any uncertainty. The final "I am" statement is important because it comes during Jesus' lengthy message to his eleven disciples before his crucifixion (John 14 through 17). Jesus makes it clear that he will not abandon them. He will abide with them. The identity and ministry of the disciples will endure and be full of life because they are intimately part of Jesus, like branches given life by the vine.

*Discuss:* When the future is uncertain and you feel anxious, lost, or alone, what do you do and how can you be reminded that Jesus abides with you always?

*Pray:* **Almighty God, give us confidence in your presence and abide with us in our life's journey through Jesus Christ, the true vine who feeds us with your love and strength. 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 encourage and help those who feel lost or alone?

## **RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**



God sent his only Son, Jesus Christ into the world to teach us about love. 1 John 4:12 tells us that "No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us." It is this love that we are to show to others. Draw the outline of a body with a heart inside. Write God inside the heart. Then write words inside the body that describe how we can show God's love to one another.

*Pray:* **Loving God, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Amen. (1 John 4:7)**



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)