



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church • Springfield, Illinois

BE BOLD

A 2020 VISION

Moving forward
boldly in God's
vision and mission
for the future

BOLD IN
WELCOMING ALL

BOLD IN
PROCLAIMING
THE GOSPEL

BOLD IN EQUIPPING
DISCIPLES TO LIVE
OUT THEIR FAITH

Text
"Be Bold" to 31996
to participate in a special moment
every day over the next month.
Disciples all over the city will
stop what they are doing and
simultaneously consider what
it means to **BE BOLD** in our
own lives with the help
of scripture.

Since we have
such a hope,
we are very bold.

2 Corinthians 3:12 ESV



ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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BOLDNESS YESTERDAY

Since 1870, we have faithfully, consistently, and gladly opened our doors wide to welcome the community. 147 years of thoughtful prayer, courage, and boldness have led us to today's mission to be and make disciples for Christ in response of God's grace.

HISTORIC MILESTONES

- June 18, 1870** A group of Christians gathered in Wittmer's Hall, at the corner of Eighth and Washington Streets, and founded St. John's German Evangelical Lutheran Church.
- November 1871** St. John's members purchased their first property on the southeast corner of Third and Washington.
- May 1910** St. John's members purchased property on College and Monroe to escape the loud trains and smelly stable next door.
- May 1952** Inadequate space due to the growing congregation made it apparent that renovation was needed.
- November 1983** As St. John's continued to grow, we sought more space West of town, which brought us to our current location.
- November 2004** As more disciples joined St. John's, we expanded our worship and educational space.

BOLDNESS TODAY

The bold change of St. John's constitution in February of 2015 and new leadership structure has generated enormous growth at St. John's, and enabled disciples to continue to build a community that deeply loves one another by going out into the community and world around us. We can now react quickly and boldly to God's call. As a result, our family has expanded to over 500 in weekly attendance, 8% of which are first time worshipers.

St. John's currently offers 60 different ministry teams. Each and every day, disciples act courageously in a wide variety of ways, whether that is by connecting with our neighborhood, caring for the homeless, visiting the sick, or even by changing the church air-filters. We as disciples of Jesus use the boldness of God's gifts as we continue to share them beyond the walls of St. John's. Those who serve in a ministry will tell you that it is not easy work. Taking part, whether you decide to step in front of a welcome table, a prison, an international plane, or a group of screaming children, requires boldness from God.

St. John's has more than 25 small groups of all shapes and sizes, from parenting groups to golf outings. They have a presence throughout the city; meeting in living rooms, coffee shops and workplaces to tackle big issues of faith, by listening, sharing, and loving with each other. These groups boldly discuss their personal faith in public spaces as well as with newcomers on a regular basis.



BOLDNESS TOMORROW: THE 2020 VISION

Our congregation's 150th anniversary brings with it a new era, defined by those which preceded it, and written in bold. We are unashamed of our faith, and willing to do whatever it takes to show our community the unconditional love of Jesus Christ. By 2020, St. John's will have significantly more impact on our city by equipping our disciples to go out into the world with God's love, whether that is through one of our many growing ministries, or in everyday life.

Our Goals

- Pay for the proposed building renovation and addition (Estimated range \$1.3 - \$1.7 million.)
- Eliminate the existing mortgage (\$1.2 million as of April)
- Complete these items by our 150th anniversary in 2020 in order to move forward, unencumbered in our mission and ministries by investing in outreach, programs, and staff.

In doing so, we will...

- BE BOLD in welcoming all**
- BE BOLD in proclaiming the gospel**
- BE BOLD in equipping disciples to live out their faith**

Every decision made now, and in the next three years will be made with these goals in mind. However, we know that we could never tackle this on our own. The **BE BOLD** campaign is about trusting completely in God, and fiercely acting on that trust in order to be where He wants us to be. In putting everything we have into this next step, we are trusting that God provides for our family; now, during the next three years, and in the future.

