

The Eagle

Grace grows us in
relationship with Christ,
with each other, and with
our community.



April 2019

Lent—A Growing Season • Good Friday Cantata • Family Festival Egg Hunt • Looking Ahead - From Sunday School to VBS! • New Stephen Ministers Commissioned • Something has changed • Follow along with our new missionary! • Leadership Board Goals for 2019 • Be Bold Update • Genesis and Modern Life

GRACE GROWS US IN RELATIONSHIP



Pastor Greg Busboom

Lead Pastor
pbusboom@stjohns-springfield.org

So why do you believe in God?

I was recently asked by one of our high school youth here at St. John's, "So, why do you believe in God?" I am used to difficult questions, but I admit that this one threw me off guard. Of course I believe in God, but it had been a while since anyone asked me to explain why. I assume that this particular high school youth was looking for an intellectual answer based on solid reason or philosophical proofs. However, I have never found such answers to this question very helpful and my

guess was that neither would she.

I stood there in awkward silence and anxious reflection for a few moments as I formulated my response. Then I said, "I can no more say that I don't believe in God than I can say that I don't believe in my grandparents. I know my grandparents are real because I have shared a mutual and loving relationship with them. Likewise, I know that God is real because we have shared a life-long mutual loving relationship. How can I not believe in someone with

whom I am in a daily and living relationship?" I don't know whether my answer was helpful to this young person or not but she didn't have an immediate response and I think my answer at least made her stop and think.

Since then, I have thought a lot about this question and my response to it. On the one hand, it was a rather flippant answer that will require some further fleshing out on my part. On the other hand, I also think that my answer gets to the heart of the issue. We know God most fully through relationship,

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a relationship that is initiated and sustained by God, a relationship that, though marred and broken by our Sin and brokenness, has been made possible for us again through God's self-giving act of love for us in Christ's death on the cross. We know and trust God because of the relationship we now have with God in Christ.

The season of Lent invites us to be intentional in attending to our relationship with Christ. Just as attending to our relationships with others requires intentional commitment, so too does attending to our

relationship with Christ require such intentional commitment. We attend to our relationship with Christ when we are faithful in worship, both on the weekend and on Wednesdays. We attend to our relationship with Christ when we spend time with him each day through Scripture reading and prayer. We attend to our relationship with Christ when we care for the poor and the hurting and the broken in our communities. We attend to our relationship with Christ when we seek to mend and restore the broken relationships we have with others. We attend to our relationship with Christ

when we daily confess our sin and daily return to the promises made to us in our baptism.

Our Lenten theme this year is grace GROWS us in relationship. I invite you to be intentional in your Lenten observance. Return to God. Like the father in Luke 15, God waits for us with arms wide open, always ready to welcome us back. Why do I believe in God? How can I not believe and trust in the God with whom I have been given an eternal relationship in Christ?

"We attend to our relationship with Christ when we care for the poor and the hurting and the broken in our communities."



So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him"

Luke 15:20



W O R S H I P

Lent—A Growing Season

Why Lent? The word "Lent" comes from an Old English word meaning "to lengthen" and was originally used to refer to the lengthening days of spring as the light of day grew longer and the darkness of night grew shorter. The word was picked up by Christians to describe the period of 40 days leading up to Good Friday and Easter, also a time of lengthening days as the darkness of sin and death gives way to the light and life of Christ's rising from the dead.

Historically, the Christian church used the 40-day season of Lent as a time of baptismal preparation in which new Christians were trained and educated in the Christian faith prior to being baptized at the Easter Vigil. Here at St. John's, one of our new disciples' classes each year falls during the season of Lent as we teach and prepare new disciples' for life in our congregation. In this way, we share in the historic practice as a season of baptismal preparation.

Growth is needed, however, not just for those preparing to be baptized, but also for those already baptized. Baptism calls us to daily dying to sin and a daily rising to new life in Christ. The season of Lent invites all the baptized to enter into a season of intentional growth and preparation. We grow as we participate in worship, both on the weekends and on Wednesdays. We grow as we intentionally find ways to serve those who are in need. We grow as we commit ourselves to daily Bible reading and increased times of prayer. We grow as we daily confess our need of God's grace and return to the waters of forgiveness in our baptism.

The vision of our congregation calls us to grow in meaningful relationships with Christ, with each other, and with our community as we are gathered for worship, equipped for discipleship, and sent to serve. The season of Lent gives us a wonderful opportunity to more fully live into our vision as disciples of Christ. Why Lent? It is the growing season and Christ calls us to daily grow in our faith and discipleship to him. Together, let's grow in Christ!



Pastor Greg Busboom

Lead Pastor
pbusboom@stjohns-springfield.org



Lenten Weekend Themes

COME AND WORSHIP WITH US
EACH WEEKEND DURING LENT.

The 40 day journey of Lent, a season of growth as we anticipate the celebration of Christ's death and resurrection, began with Ash Wednesday on March 6.

SATURDAYS 5 P.M.

Casual Traditional Worship in Sanctuary

SUNDAYS AT 8 A.M. AND 10:30 A.M.

Traditional Worship in Sanctuary

SUNDAYS AT 10:30 A.M.

Contemporary Worship in Parish Life Center

March 9/10

Grace GROWS us
in RELATIONSHIP
through obedience
(*Luke 4:1-13*)

March 16/17

Grace GROWS us
in RELATIONSHIP
through mission
(*Luke 13:31-35*)

March 23/24

Grace GROWS us
in RELATIONSHIP
through fruit-bearing
(*Luke 13:1-9*)

March 30/31

Grace GROWS us
in RELATIONSHIP
through forgiveness
(*Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32*)

April 6/7

Grace GROWS us
in RELATIONSHIP
through love
(*John 12:1-8*)



Midweek Lenten Worship

TABLE GRACE

Come to the table each Wednesday during Lent as we gather for food and worship through which Christ welcomes us so that we might go out to welcome others. Table Grace is this year's midweek Lenten theme where we will explore five Biblical stories in which God's radical hospitality is extended to others through the sharing of a meal.

WEDNESDAYS 12:15 P.M.

PLC LOBBY

A delicious, homemade Lenten lunch is served beginning at 12 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS 7 P.M.

SANCTUARY

A delicious soup and sandwich supper is served in the PLC Lobby beginning at 6 p.m.

March 13

Abraham and Sarah share hospitality with strangers (*Genesis 18:1-8*)

March 20

A widow in Zarephath shares hospitality with Elijah (*1 Kings 17:8-16*)

March 27

God invites all to come and feast at God's table (*Isaiah 55:1-13*)

April 3

Jesus teaches an important lesson on hospitality (*Luke 14:1-14*)

April 10

Jesus feeds the multitudes with five barley loaves and two fish (*John 6:1-14*)

Come and grow in your relationship with Christ, with one another, and with our community as we are fed at God's Table, both physically and spiritually!





H O L Y W E E K

Holy Week is a week like none other as we join with Christians around the world in celebrating the events of Jesus' final week on earth as he journeys from life to death to life again. Join us each day during Holy Week for the most meaningful worship experiences of the entire year.

PALM SUNDAY/ SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

APRIL 13/14

We join the crowds in welcoming Jesus into the capital city of Jerusalem. Watch as the joyful shouts of "Hosanna!" change into the hate-filled cries of "Crucify him!"

*5 p.m. Saturday
(Sanctuary)*

*8 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday
(Sanctuary)*

*10:30 a.m. Sunday
(PLC)*

MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK

APRIL 15

A brief devotional service reflecting on the anointing of Jesus by Mary, a foreshadowing of his death and burial.

*12:15 p.m.
(Sanctuary)*

TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

APRIL 16

A brief devotional service reflecting on Jesus' words that a grain of wheat must fall into the earth and die before it may bear fruit.

*12:15 p.m.
(Sanctuary)*

WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

APRIL 17

A brief devotional service reflecting on Jesus' identification of Judas as the one who would betray him.

*12:15 p.m.
(Sanctuary)*

MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 18

A traditional Maundy Thursday worship, including Holy Communion and a Service of Handwashing. This first of the Holy Three Days begins a liturgy that does not end until the joy and celebration of Easter Sunday.

7 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 19

A traditional Maundy Thursday worship, including Holy Communion and a Service of Handwashing. This first of the Holy Three Days begins a liturgy that does not end until the joy and celebration of Easter Sunday.

*10 a.m.
(Sanctuary)*

GOOD FRIDAY CANTATA

APRIL 19

The St. John's Chancel Choir and Orchestra presents the powerfully moving Good Friday Cantata "Who Is Jesus?" by Joel Raney. Invite your neighbors and friends to share in this musical presentation of the final events of Jesus' earthly life and what they mean for our lives today.

*7 p.m.
(Sanctuary)*



Easter Vigil

Come and experience anew the mystery of the resurrection through this ancient four part liturgy of light, Word, baptism, and communion. The service begins in darkness as the light of Christ reenters the sanctuary. Slowly the light of Christ returns until the darkness of Good Friday gives way to the brilliant dawn of Easter morning.

April 20
5 p.m.
Sanctuary



Easter Breakfast

Come and join us on Easter Sunday for our annual Easter breakfast. Prepared and served by our confirmation students and their families, a free-will offering will be taken to support our 25 confirmation kids and their participation in Crossways Confirmation Camp at Augustana College. Bring your friends and family and enjoy a delicious breakfast before or after worship! All are welcome!

April 21
8:30 - 9:30 a.m.
Parish Life Center



Easter Day Worship

Festival Worship including Holy Communion, featuring the music of our St. John's Chancel Choir and Bells of Glory.

April 21
7:30 a.m.
Sanctuary



Easter Day Worship

Festival Worship including Holy Communion, featuring the music of our St. John's Children.

April 21
9:30 a.m.
Sanctuary



Easter Day Worship

Contemporary Celebration Worship including Holy Communion, featuring the music of our St. John's Praise Team.

April 21
10:30 a.m.
Parish Life Center



CHILDREN



If you normally attend sanctuary services, you've probably heard the Chancel Choir share music during worship. We sing on the first Sunday of the month at 8 a.m. worship and on the second, third and fifth Sundays at 10:30 a.m. worship. Depending on the season, you may also hear us sing on the fourth Sunday of the Monday at 10:30 a.m. worship. But we don't limit

our singing to worship services here at St. John's.

For the past two years, we have shared the Christmas cantata with patients at St. John's Hospital when we sang in their chapel. Our cantata was broadcast via closed-circuit tv to patient rooms.

Once a month, a group of us travel to Concordia Lutheran Village to sing during worship led by one of our pastors. It is a wonderful opportunity for outreach! This past December,



Sue Hamilton

Director of Music Ministries
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W

e have a new choir here at St. John's! The Joyful Noise Children's Choir began rehearsals in January and have been preparing music to share during worship in both the sanctuary and PLC services.

Each Wednesday evening, sixteen young singers meet in the Music Room from 6:30 to 9 p.m., following the Wednesday night meal, to learn songs and to study music. In addition to learning the tunes and words of the songs, they're learning music terminology and other elements of music theory. While many children's choirs focus only on unison singing, we are working on two-part songs so that we can improve our musicianship. We pack a lot of work into 30 minutes of rehearsal.

Joyful Noise will sing in the sanctuary on March 3 and May 5 at 10:30 a.m. worship and on April 7 at the PLC worship service. Get ready to hear an enthusiastic young group of singers share their music! If you have a young singer who would like to join us, please contact Sue Hamilton.

we presented our Christmas cantata to an appreciative group of residents and guests. On April 16 we will be sharing this year's Good Friday cantata at Concordia. We are grateful to Rosemary Carlson for her enthusiasm in promoting the Chancel Choir at Concordia.

Concert Series Presentation

On Monday, March 18 at 7:30 p.m. the Bradley University Chorale will present a concert in the sanctuary here at St. John's. This is part of their Spring Tour through Illinois, Missouri and Kansas.

Known for its vibrant approach to sound, the Bradley Chorale embraces the unique spirit and diverse color palate of each singer in exploring music of all genres and stylistic performance practices. They perform extensively across the United States and Europe, receiving national and international honors and singing at conventions across the globe. International performances have included tours of Poland, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ireland, Norway, Italy, and Wales. They sing under the direction of Dr. Cory Ganschow, a college



classmate of Christie Lazarides-Purdy. Dr. Ganschow earned a Ph.D. in Choral Music Education from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance, an MME from Illinois State University and a BME from Millikin University where she studied conducting with Dr. Brad Holmes, known to St. John's disciples for his outstanding Christmas Vespers. Don't miss this incredible group of young singers! Invite your friends and neighbors to this concert which is free and open to the public. A goodwill offering will be taken.

And mark your calendars for Thursday, December 5 at 7 p.m. when we welcome The King's Brass on their 2019 Christmas Tour!

O

ur Good Friday Cantata is entitled Who is Jesus? You will notice that the title is not Who was Jesus? The present tense is used because the cantata is focused on Christ's interactions with our lives today. Accompanied by a small chamber orchestra, piano and organ, along with two narrators, this composition uses some well-known hymns and spirituals, including I Want Jesus to Walk with Me; Lord, I Want to Be a Christian; and I Have Decided to Follow Jesus, to name just a few. The cantata will be presented on Friday evening, April 19 at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary.



DISCIPLESHIP



Something has Changed...



Pastor Adam Connolly

Pastor of Outreach and Discipleship
pconnolly@stjohns-springfield.org

Actually, many things have changed over the 18 months that I have been at St. John's, but there is one that sticks out the most. It's hard to put in words, but I believe there has been a renewed focus in not only growing in our relationships with one another but also with God through the various discipleship ministries at St. John's.

Trying new things can be very challenging. Taking a leap of faith, and not knowing where it will lead can be one of the hardest things as a Christian. That's what I believe brings the excitement through the challenge of starting a new ministry like Connect. The pastors, along with the small group ministry team had a crazy idea in designing and creating our own ministry and curriculum and then inviting you to join with us in this new ministry as we continued living out our mission. Many thanks to all of you who have joined us in taking this leap of faith. However, through the past six months, since the beginning of Connect, I have noticed something change, especially when we gather for worship. People who usually would not be associated with one another are stopping each other in the halls, checking up on one another, asking about family members, life situations, expressing a genuine care for each other, and I believe it is by getting to know one another better through this new ministry.

“ Taking a leap of faith, and not knowing where it will lead can be one of the hardest things as a Christian. ”

Now, this isn't something that just happens through a ministry like Connect. When we come together to study God's Word and what we are being called to as disciples something happens to our relationships with one another. Whether it is through Sunday School, Encounter, Adult Forum, Small Groups, or doing the Faith Five using the "Growing Deeper" Daily Devotions, we are all able to grow in our relationships with one another and with God. We are able to more fully become the body of Christ and are able to help build bridges that unite us, rather than drive us further apart. When we are able to grow in our relationships, we are taking a step towards Jesus' command to love God and to love one another all while continuing to grow into being disciples of Christ.

How do I become a disciple?

The 12, and many others, who followed Jesus were called his disciples. Unlike students who just learn from their teacher, the disciples actively imitated both the life and teaching of Jesus. Here at St. John's, we call each other disciples as we live out our faith following Jesus' commands and teachings. Twice a year we offer New Disciples' classes as a way for people interested in joining our congregation to get to know not only St. John's, but also what it means to be in community, a Christian, a Lutheran, a Disciple, and gifted to serve. Supper and

Childcare are provided. Our next round of classes will happen during Lent, and we will welcome new disciples during the worship services of Palm Sunday weekend. If you are interested in joining us for these classes, please fill out a brief form located on our website, or pick up a paper copy in the Church Office. Contact Pastor Adam if you have any questions.

Sunday Nights
March 10 - April 7
5 - 7 p.m.
AMR

How can I use my gifts?

When the Israelites are building the tabernacle, Moses calls "Bezalel and Oholiab and every skillful one to whom the Lord had given skill, everyone whose heart was stirred to come to do the work" (Exodus 36:2). Not only were they skillful, but also their "hearts were stirred." When we use our gifts, not just our skills, we may be tired, but we will also have a sense of satisfaction and contentment. Do you know what your gifts are? Are you in a new stage of life and need to use your gifts differently? As part of our

New Disciples Classes, you are invited to spend time with our new disciples learning about how God has designed you for ministry, Dinner and childcare are provided; rsvp to Director of Spiritual Gifts Ministries, Kristen Schmid Schurter, at 793-3933 x217 or ksschurter@stjohns-springfield.org. Come enjoy good food, good conversation, and welcome our newest disciples.

Sunday
April 7th
5 - 7 p.m.
AMR

How does my faith compare?

Pastor Greg will be leading a five-week Adult Forum Series titled "Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith." Each week, we will explore together another faith tradition, comparing and contrasting each faith tradition with our own faith as ELCA Lutherans.

All are welcome to come and learn how we can live as Christian neighbors with those whose faith tradition is different than ours.

Sundays
March 10th - April 7th
9:15 - 10:15 a.m.
AMR



Preteen Lego Night

MARCH 8

Ready to bust out the Lego blocks and face-off with your friends?! Join us for some crazy Lego games, experiments, and races. Friends are always welcome! Sign up with Sam Neahring Good at sneahring@stjohns-springfield.org.

Family Festival Egg Hunt

APRIL 13

Want to learn about the meaning of Easter, help our community, and celebrate with a gigantic egg hunt?! Join us Saturday, at 9 a.m. for our fundraiser breakfast and Family Festival Egg Hunt. Get your tickets from the church office starting March 11. Tickets will be FREE, and we are limiting the event to 200 people, so grab tickets for you family before they're gone! We will collect a free will offering at the event. All proceeds from this fundraiser will be given to The Matthew Project to help children get to summer camp!

First Communion Class

APRIL 24- MAY 8

Our 3-week First Communion class for 10 years olds and their parents is designed to teach children about the meaning of Holy Communion. This year, our class will be taught by Pastor Adam! Children in the class will partake in their First Communion during the 10:30 Traditional Worship on Sunday, May 12 in the Sanctuary. To sign up for the class, contact Sam Neahring Good at sneahring@stjohns-springfield.org



Children Yo



Looking Ahead - From Sunday School to VBS!

Children and Preteens will meet for Sunday School each week except on Easter Sunday, April 21. We will meet until Sunday, May 12, when we will wrap up the year and begin registration for this summer's ReNew Green VBS! This year's Vacation Bible School will be open to children age 3 through 5th grade.

We will begin collecting donations for VBS this April, so please check our board for ways you can give this year! Most of our supplies include recyclable items from home, so help us out by keeping your egg cartons, plastic jugs and bottles, drink cartons, metal cans, cardboard boxes, paper tubes, and shoeboxes! We also need old button-down shirts to use as paint shirts.

Children's Music

MARCH 3

Singing My Lighthouse in the Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. worship

APRIL 7

Singing Love One Another in the PLC at 10:30 a.m. worship

APRIL 21

Singing Let It Shine in the Sanctuary at 9:30 a.m. worship

Mercy Me and David Crowder

MARCH 24

Don't miss this great concert! Mercy Me, together with David Crowder! We will leave from the church at 3:00 p.m., enjoy dinner together somewhere up in Peoria, enjoy the concert at 7:00 p.m., and then head back to Springfield. We only have 30 tickets, so sign-up soon! Cost is \$30/person. You can sign up either by e-mailing Pastor Greg or signing up on the sign-up sheet posted outside the Youth Room (Lower Level). Registration deadline is March 15. Friends are welcome!

Encounter

Encounter happens on the 2nd and 4th Sunday evenings of the month in the PLC from 6-8 p.m.! This high energy, interactive, fun, faith-filled youth group experience is for all 9th-12th graders and their friends! Led by Pastor Greg and Pastor Adam you won't want to miss our upcoming Encounters! Come and grow in relationship!

MARCH 10 – Tempted

APRIL 14 – Bring in the donkey

APRIL 28 – Facing our doubts

Cubs vs. Cardinals Game

JULY 30

Adults, join us for an awesomely fun night watching the Cubs vs. Cardinals game at Busch Stadium! Our seats are in the Pavilion Section and have great views of the entire park. \$63 per person includes your ticket to game and bus transportation. The bus will leave church at 4:15 p.m. and return around midnight. Limited number of seats, so sign up soon by contacting Carol Lange 553.4381 or Cindy Engstrom 691.0471.



Youth Adult

t.b.d

What exactly is t.b.d.? t.b.d. is a Sunday morning experience for 9th-12th grade youth that happens each week from 9:15-10:15 a.m. in the Youth Room (Lower Level). Over recent months, Pastor Greg has led energetic discussions on topics such as prayer, immigration, and how we as Lutherans interpret the Bible. During the season of Lent, Pastor Adam will lead t.b.d. Doughnuts, chocolate milk, faith discussions, and lots of fun make this a Sunday morning experience you won't want to miss! All 9th-12th grade youth are invited. See you this Sunday at t.b.d.!

Ski Trip Recap

Talk about growing in RELATIONSHIPS! This past Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend, 20 of our high school youth, together with 6 adults, enjoyed a 2-day ski trip up to Alpine Valley Ski Resort in Elkhorn, Wisconsin. Despite the bitterly cold temperatures (14 below zero!), everyone had a great time skiing the slopes, spending the night at the beautiful Lutherdale Bible Camp, and tobogganing down the hills. In addition, these 26 participants engaged in a meaningful Bible Study and worship experience on Monday morning before returning back home to Springfield! Through our two days together, we grew in our RELATIONSHIPS with Christ and with one another!

Dinner Night Out

On the third Tuesday of every month, we gather at local restaurants to share in a meal. These meals are often accompanied by great conversations, laughs, and a time to connect as disciples. Any Disciple of Jesus at St. John's is welcome to join us. In order to make sure there is adequate space for all, please contact Becky Smith at 217.494.5523 by the Monday prior to each dinner night out.

MARCH 19 – Olive Garden

APRIL 16 – Abe's Hideout



COMMUNITY CARE

“The grace of God worked through those in treatment, in caregivers, and in survivors connecting them in a network of support.”



Growing Relationships Despite Cancer



Pastor Pam Mitcham

Pastor of Community Care
pmitcham@stjohns-springfield.org

The new relationship started with a soft tap on the shoulder. Yep. That's how it has happened for many St. John's disciples whose lives have been touched by cancer. The grace of God worked through those in treatment, in caregivers, and in survivors connecting them in a network of support. And it all happened in a very "Lutheran" way (quietly, without fanfare.) One of our faithful disciples was volunteering at the church one day when another disciple tapped her on the shoulder and said, "I had the same cancer you have eight years ago. If

you ever want to talk, I'm here for you." And so began a relationship of care and support as questions were asked, advice shared, and both tears and laughter flowed freely.

Grace has called many of St. John's disciples into this network of relationships. It's the old idea of "paying it forward." Those who have been helped by a survivor, reach out to the next person. But what about the person whose diagnosis isn't made public? How could the network become available to someone who didn't



Blood Pressure Screening

The Faith Community Nurses Ministry Team will offer blood pressure screening the first week-end of each month. Bring your blood pressure card if you have one, and if you would like to have your home blood pressure equipment checked, bring that also.

March 2, April 6
4:30 - 5:00 p.m.
Parlor

April 6
9:00 - 10:30 a.m.
Parlor



New Stephen Ministers

Seven St. John's disciples, having completed 50 hours of training, were commissioned as Stephen Ministers on March 2. We are blessed to have Rosemary Carlson, Tara Gruenenfelder, Sue Hamilton, Royce Hubert, Sundae Johnson, Steve Lashbrook and Lucas O'Neill serving as care givers in this supportive and meaningful ministry.



10 Warning Signs of Alzheimers

The program is open to anyone interested in learning about Alzheimer's. Michelle Ramlow, Alzheimer's Association Community Educator, will talk about Alzheimer's and other dementias that cause memory, thinking and behavior problems that interfere with daily living. Join us to learn how to recognize common signs of the disease, how to approach someone about memory concerns, and other topics. A light lunch will be served. There is no cost, but participants must register for the event through the Alzheimer's Association of Springfield either by phone at 1-800-272-3900 or online at <https://goo.gl/1t2CgS>

March 11
12:00 - 1:30 p.m.
AMR

Alzheimers Caregiver Support Group

This group provides emotional, educational, and social support for family and friends of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other related dementias.

March 18 and April 15
1:30 - 3:00 p.m.
AMR

want to be so public about their cancer? Several disciples came up with an answer, forming the Cancer Companion Ministry Team to "official-ize" the network. The grace of God continues growing relationships in and among those in treatment, post treatment, and family members through one-on-one contacts.

We are pleased to announce the availability of Cancer Companions ministry here at St. John's for individuals who have been touched by cancer—currently in treatment,

post-treatment, or caregiver. We have a team of trained volunteers to provide encouragement, support, and hope through prayer, scripture, and conversation to those in need. If you are interested in having a team member contact you or if you know of someone who may benefit from this ministry, complete a Contact Request form on the table in the narthex or PLC lobby, or contact the church office or speak with Barbara Klintworth or Pastor Pam Mitcham.



OUTREACH & MISSION

This past fall, we began partnering with The Rev. Kirsten Laderach. Pastor Kristen serves as Country Coordinator for the Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) in Madagascar, a position she has been in since 2015. Working in partnership with the Lutheran Church in Madagascar, she oversees placement of young adults for a year of service in Madagascar, coordinates orientation and retreats, and walks alongside the young adults in their learning and living.

Pastor Kristen also helps keep connections with the four ELCA synods which partner with the Lutheran Church in Madagascar: The Rocky Mountain Synod, The Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, The West Virginia/Western Maryland Synod, and our own Central/Southern Illinois Synod.

The Global Missions Team invites you to keep Pastor Kristen and all the young adults in Madagascar in your daily prayers.



Hams for Harvard Park

It's that time of year. For the 11th year, we will collect special donations to purchase a ham, potatoes, vegetables, and bread to provide Easter dinners for families at Harvard Park who otherwise could not afford it. For \$22, you can provide a meal for a family in need. Last year St. John's disciples blessed 134 families with an Easter meal. In this meal families in need are fed not just with food, but the love of God. We respond to Jesus' call in Matthew 25:40, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Join us again this year in caring for God by caring for God's children.



Summer Mission Trip

A week in the mountains, completing service projects, and growing closer to God and to other St. John's disciples. Join us for the 12th annual cross-generational mission trip to Marion, Virginia. All adults and youth having completed 8th grade are encouraged to join a group of disciples from St. John's in a week of home repair and rehabilitation for low-income residents in the Appalachian region. If you are interested in joining us, we invite you to fill out a registration form either on the website or a paper copy found at each Welcome Center. Registration forms along with a \$100 non-refundable deposit will be due May 5.

June 23-29



"I ran into Pascal today and chatted about the elections and prayer and life. I asked if I could take a picture of the two of us, just to show how calm things are now. Right behind us is City Hall and the place of recent protests, tear gas and molotov cocktails. Today no gatherings, just freely moving people breathing a sigh of relief."

"Living in Madagascar, the fragility of life comes into laser focus more often than any where else I have lived. The price of poverty and lack of development is often a lack of access and services which consequently give way to a closer relationship with death, the unknown and choices thrust upon you. I've watched caskets transported on top of taxi brousses and gotten choked up as I spoke words of condolence to surviving family members."

Read more about Pastor Kristen Laderach's mission and journey at madagascarvaovao.wordpress.com



STEWARDSHIP



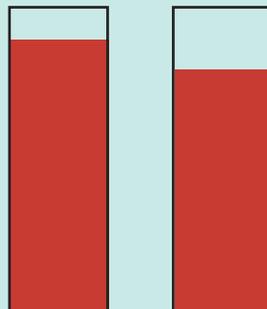
Financial Update

"Mary took a pound of costly perfume and anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume" John 12:3

General Operating Fund

As of January 31, 2019

Income:	\$ 93,447.93
Expenses:	\$ 84,090.98
Ahead/(Behind):	\$ 9,356.95



BE BOLD Campaign Update

Total Pledged through May 31, 2020
\$ 1,595,961.37

Total Given through January 31, 2019
\$ 1,257,777.15

Stewardship: A Matter of Relationship

Stewardship is not just about giving. At its core, Christian stewardship is a matter of relationship—relationship with Christ, relationship with one another, and relationship with our community.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 5:21). Here Jesus makes a direct connection between the location of our treasures and the location of our hearts. Where our treasure is, there our hearts will follow. When we place our earthly treasures—the treasures of our time, talents, and financial resources—with Christ, then our relationship with Christ grows. Stewardship is a matter of relationship!

In his first letter to the Christians living in Corinth, St. Paul encourages, “For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ” (12:12). Using the image of the human body, Paul highlights the connectedness we share one with another. Each part of the human body has a unique purpose that supports the working and well-being of the whole body. So it is in the church. The Spirit has gifted each of us with unique skills, talents, and passion for ministry. When we use the gifts we have

been given for the sake of the whole body, we grow in our relationship with one another. Stewardship is a matter of relationship!

Luke, in the New Testament book of Acts, describes the early Christian community, “All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need” (Acts 2:44-45). From the very beginning, the Christian church has been about the business of caring for those who are in need, both inside and outside the community of faith. As Christ cared for the poor and hungry, so too are we called to care for the poor and hungry. As we generously share from our abundance with those who are in need, we grow in our relationship with the community around us, both locally and globally. Stewardship is a matter of relationship!

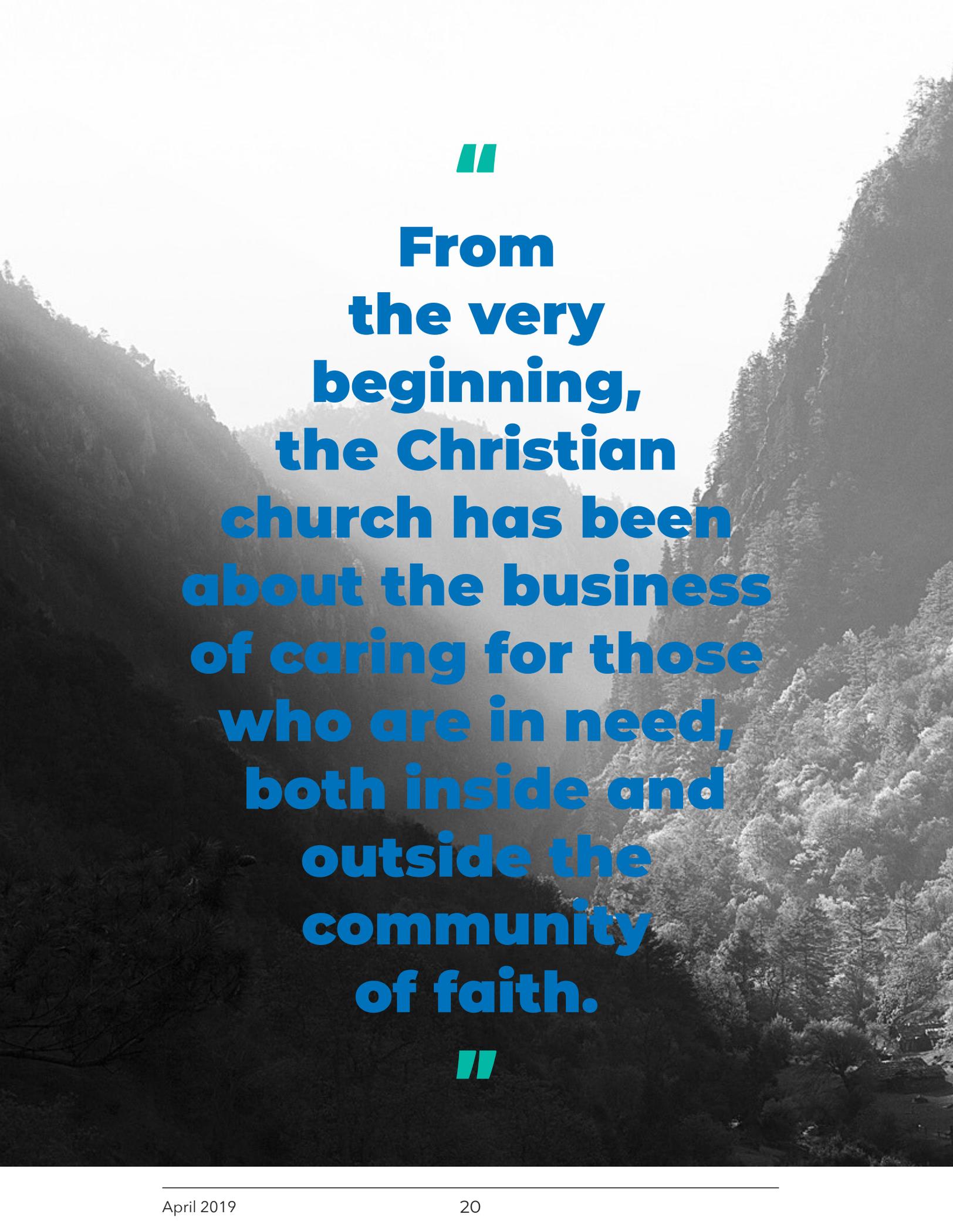
Growing in relationship with Christ, with each other, and with our community! It’s our congregation’s vision for Christ’s community at St. John’s! It’s also a matter of stewardship as we generously share our time, our talents, and our treasures for the sake of Christ’s gospel.



Pastor Greg Busboom

Lead Pastor
pbusboom@stjohns-springfield.org





“

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”



Here we Grow!

As we approach our 150th anniversary in 2020, St. John's is moving **BOLDLY** forward in our plans to more closely align our physical campus with our congregation's mission to be and make disciples of Christ, in response to God's grace.

In early January, the Leadership Board, Property Ministry Team, Vision Team Leaders, and Program Staff, met for a day-long retreat led by Kristin Wiersma, our Consultant with Kairos and Associates. At the retreat, leaders identified the top five missional motivators that drive our congregation:

1 St. John's values serving and caring for one another and for others beyond our doors.

2 St. John's values relationships as integral to growing and sustaining faith and in living out our mission.

3 St. John's values the promise that God's grace is for all people and wants to be a place where all people are welcome.

4 St. John's values the Lutheran understanding that ministry belongs to all people and flows forth from our baptismal identity.

5 St. John's values all generations and seeks to engage all generations in meaningful ministry.

Out of these five missional motivators, leaders identified the top needs and priorities for moving forward with campus improvements. These top needs and priorities include:

A single, unified entrance and gathering space for hospitality that connects the Sanctuary end of the campus with the Parish Life Center end of the campus

Additional and improved parking

Additional and improved exterior and interior signage that provides much needed wayfinding for guests and visitors, as well as current disciples

Additional spaces for small relational gatherings

Improved access and security for the church office and staff offices

Improved security plan for entire campus

Relocation of choir room to the Sanctuary end of the campus

So, where do we go from here?

The Leadership Board has appointed a new Campus Planning Task Force comprised of the following:

Chris Groth, Chair
Mark Books
Sharon Cassens
Ray Boosinger
Matt Mueller
Pastor Busboom
Jennifer Read

The Campus Planning Task Force is in the process of writing and distributing a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for architect and design firms that specialize in working with churches. Once an architect has been chosen, the architect will work with the Task Force to develop a Campus Master Plan and to identify a first phase that falls within our financial capabilities. Thank you for your strong and continued giving to our BE BOLD Capital Campaign as we discern how God is leading us forward for the sake of Christ's mission in this place.



Leadership Board Goals for 2019



The St. John's Leadership Board, elected by the congregation, is entrusted with three primary responsibilities—providing generative, strategic, and fiduciary leadership for the sake of Christ's mission in this place.

Generative leadership involves discerning and caring for God's vision for us as a congregation. Strategic leadership involves planning how to live out God's vision for us as a congregation and aligning congregational resources in such a way that they most effectively support and grow the vision. Fiduciary leadership involves caring for the many resources of the congregation through effective policies, procedures, and practices.

The St. John's Leadership Board is comprised of 9 voting members—7

lay leaders elected by the congregation, the Lead Pastor, and one of the other two called pastors. Those serving on this year's Leadership Board are: Paul Wells (President), Amanda Johnson (Secretary), David Richter (Treasurer/ Finance Chair), Kathy Justison (Personnel Chair), Chris Groth, Levi Slager, Sue Umland, Pastor Busboom, and Pastor Mitcham. In addition, Pastor Connolly participates with the Leadership Board, having voice but no vote. Pastor Mitcham and Pastor Connolly rotate years of serving on the Board. Pastor Connolly was a

voting member of the Board in 2018. Pastor Mitcham is a voting member of the Board in 2019. The Leadership Board meets twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Monday evenings.

Earlier this year, the Leadership Board adopted five goals for 2019 that will guide and direct its work. A Leadership Board member has been assigned to each goal with primary responsibility for holding the Board accountable for meeting the goal during the course of the year.

- 1**

The Campus Master Plan is finalized and approved by the congregation.
Chris Groth
- 2**

The 2017-2020 Be Bold Capital Campaign Building Plan is finalized and approved by the congregation
Chris Groth
- 3**

Grow hospitality at St. John's by engaging in efforts to make the church more welcoming to visitors and members alike.
Amanda Johnson
- 4**

Campus Safety and Security Master Plan is in place and steps have been undertaken to improve the safety of the staff and congregation of St. John's.
Levi Slager
- 5**

Establish and develop a Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Team to grow a sustained vision and structure for children, youth, and family ministry.
Kathy Justison and Sue Umland

We give God thanks for the faithful leadership and service of our St. John's Leadership Board and pray that God would work through them to help our congregation grow in living out the mission and vision God has given to us in 2019.

Genesis and Modern Life

Disagreements over controversial and uncomfortable topics can lead to arguments and silence, or leave relationships and faith lacking depth and meaning. To address this issue many of us experience,

Kristen Schmid Schurter led a four-part adult forum series called Genesis and Modern Life from February 10 to March 3.

The purpose of this class was to learn communication tools and connect the biblical chapter Genesis and its themes to modern day life and concepts. Ultimately, this will help us understand that differing opinions are okay and completely natural while teaching us how to view and approach issues and situations in our lives.

The first part of the series focused on the dialogue tool of respectful communication and mutual invitation, the concept of agency and power analysis, and Genesis 38; the story of Judah and Tamar. Respectful communication involves the acronym RESPECT in which the R stands for taking Responsibility for what you say and not blaming others. The E is for Empathetic listening and viewing the issue from the other person's perspective. S is for being Sensitive to different

communication styles and avoid assuming it is a bad way of communicating. P stands for Ponder to remind us to think before we speak. E follows P and tells us to Examine our own assumptions. C is for Confidentiality and T is for Trusting ambiguity. Mutual invitation is a way of opening the conversation up and allowing people to feel comfortable speaking their mind and voicing their opinions. The facilitator invites a person to respond but does not force them to and that person then invites another and so on until everyone has the opportunity to speak. The

Mutual invitation is a way of opening the conversation up and allowing people to feel comfortable speaking their mind and voicing their opinions.

concept of agency is the state of exerting or using power and the ability to think and act individually. This concept leads to power analysis which is helpful when addressing a situation or attempting to understand something in context.

As a group we read Genesis 38, a story about Judah and Tamar, and used these tools and concepts to have a respectful and helpful discussion about the power and key themes in the story. The second class followed the same structure with the

tool and concept of reflective listening and privilege respectively. We read Genesis 39 about Joseph and Potiphar's wife and broke off into pairs to talk about the passage and use reflective listening in our conversations. The third class was about clarifying questions and intersectionality connected to Hagar and Sarah in Genesis 16 and 21. The final class focused on giving feedback, the concept of interculturality, and contrasting examples of Abram/Abraham encountering Biblical rulers in Genesis 12, 14, and 20.

Overall, the use of the tools and concepts taught during this course will greatly aid many people in their daily lives whether it be at work, school, or home. The use of these will allow people to confidently and respectfully express their opinions while communicating with empathy and good listening and feedback skills. Personally, I encounter difficult or controversial conversations almost every day at school and after communicating with others and learning the tools from these classes, I feel even more confident in my ability to respect the opinions of others and have polite conversations about anything.

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Ultimately, this will help us understand that differing opinions are okay and completely natural while teaching us how to view and approach issues and situations in our lives.



Elizabeth Barkley

St. John's Disciple
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ST. JOHN'S

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