

dramatic and incredibly wet, set in a rich maritime culture on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. We'll explore the life of Jesus in a new perspective.

Wednesday Night Live!

A new high school experience on Wednesday nights! What is Wednesday Night Live? It's a place for youth to come, be themselves, have fun and learn about God. Come and bring your friends for this time of fun, fellowship, Bible Study, games, service, and much more. Come for the Sprout! meal at 5:30 and head down to the Youth Room at 6:15. We'll meet at St. John's 2-3 times a month and the other weeks have either an off-site fun event or a service project. Contact Pastor Adam for more information or with questions.

Ignite!

Ignite! meets Sunday, January 21 after the 10:30 worship services until 1 p.m. for all youth in 6th-8th grades. Pizza, fun, friends, and a little Bible make this something you won't want to miss!

Community Care

Grief Support Group Begins

St. John's is holding a series of Grief Support Gatherings for anyone who has experienced the death of a person whom they loved from January 4 through February 8. Pastor Pam leads the group on Thursdays from 5:30 - 7:00 in the Parlor. 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, 217.793.3933. If you have questions, please get in touch with Pastor Pam.

Outreach and Mission

Help Needed at Harvard Park & Dubois Elementary Schools

If you enjoy working with children and are available during weekdays, we have a great opportunity for you! Harvard Park and Dubois Elementary Schools are looking for mentors and tutors for their students. Teachers have reached out to us with specific needs and timeframes. Any help for any length of time would be deeply appreciated by our partner schools!

To learn more about how you can help, please contact Normajean Sanders (217.726.5230), Pastor Adam (pconnolly@stjohns-springfield.org), or Sam Neahring (sneahring@stjohns-springfield.org) to see how you can get involved.

Serving in Worship

5 p.m. Sanctuary Service

Greeters	Ruth Taylor, Jone VanWinkle
Ushers	Doris Hobbs, Jone VanWinkle
Reader	Bonnie Draughan
Altar Guild	Rose Lambert
Communion Assistants	Bonnie Draughan, Kay VanFossan
Musician	Jan Harms
Preaching/Presiding Minister	Pastor Greg Busboom

8 a.m. Sanctuary Service

Greeters	Mark and Ruthie Steen
Ushers	Bob Borcharding, Michael Bowden, Del Smith, Dick Wieties
Reader	Rose Moser
Communion Assistants	Mike Bloechle, Linda Bryant, Rose Moser, Jonathan Sammons
Altar Guild	Rose Lambert
Acolytes	Cooper Burk, Griffin Burk
Preaching Minister	Pastor Pam Mitcham
Presiding Minister	Pastor Adam Connolly

10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service

Greeters	Levi and Jena Slager
Ushers	Dennis Bomke, Bonnie Busby, Keith Hamann, Steve Umland, Bob Walbaum
Reader	Jill Sproat
Altar Guild	Dee Belter, Shirley Clark
Communion Assistants	Pat Huff, Carol Lange, Ed Smith, Jill Sproat
Acolytes	Carson Brewer, Landon O'Connell
Flower Delivery	Rhonda Neubauer
Preaching Minister	Pastor Pam Mitcham
Presiding Minister	Pastor Adam Connolly

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

Hospitality	Mike Bowden, Cayleigh Lazarides, Nancy Taylor
Reader	Thi Bowden
Communion Assistants	Jay Barnard, Jim Gumm, Leslie Gumm, John Lee, Mike Purdy
Praise Team	Sharon Cassens, Christie Lazarides, Lucas O'Neill, Alex Remolina, Carmen Remolina, Cynthia Thompson, Craig Williams
Keyboardist	Valerie Hunter
Instrumentalists	Gabe Cowan, Andy Lazarides, Dave Lazarides, Matt Mifflin
Technical Team	Thi Bowden, Aaron Duncan, Hannah Duncan, Gabe Eiter, Ron Engstrom
Preaching/Presiding Minister	Pastor Greg Busboom
Weekly Bread Baker	Rose Moser

The Messenger

BULLETIN INSERT



ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Weekend of January 6-7, 2017

St. John's Lutheran Church
2477 West Washington • Springfield, IL 62702
(217) 793.3933 • www.stjohns-springfield.org

Pastor's Message - Epiphany of Our Lord

"Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 3:8-10).

Two thousand years ago, Paul took the good news of Jesus and proclaimed it in a new way to the Gentiles, announcing that, in Christ, all peoples now had access to God's grace. Five hundred years ago, a Roman Catholic priest by the name of Martin Luther took advantage of the brand new, high-tech Gutenberg printing press to proclaim the message of the gospel across Europe. Throughout the ages, the Christian church has had to find ever new ways to share the good news of Jesus, adapting to ever-changing means of communication and technology. The Christian church of today is no exception. Change is happening at a record pace and, while the gospel has not changed, how we communicate the gospel must.

As I shared in last week's Messenger article, in 2018 we are going to be experimenting with some new communication methods. Instead of receiving a monthly Eagle newsletter in the mail, you will be receiving four quarterly Eagle magazines. These will arrive in March, June, September, and December. The primary purpose of these newly designed Eagle magazines will be to tell the story of how God is at work in and through the congregation of St. John's. In the months when you will not be receiving an Eagle, you will receive a postcard in the mail, sharing the highlights of what will be taking place at St. John's over the coming weeks. You should have received your January postcard in the mail this past week. The weekly Messengers included in the worship bulletins will continue and will include all of the needed information about upcoming ministries.

Moving to a quarterly Eagle will allow us to focus more on our internet and social media communication, including e-mail, Facebook, and our newly designed website at www.stjohns-springfield.org. The website is the best place to find all the information you need to know about what's going on at St. John's and how you can get involved. In addition, two weekly e-mails will be sent out to the congregation, one on Tuesdays of each week sharing what's happening "This Week" at St. John's and one on Fridays of each week sharing what's happening "This Weekend" at St. John's. In order to make these e-mail communications most effective, we, of course, need your most up-to-date e-mail address. During this weekend's worship, we will be asking everyone to share with us their most up-to-date e-mail address so that we can make sure you are receiving the information you need. Thank you in advance for your help as we continue in the tradition of St. Paul, Martin Luther, and many, many others of proclaiming the good news of Jesus in ever new and changing ways!

Becoming new +

Pastor Greg

Welcome

Welcome to St. John's Lutheran Church on this Epiphany of Our Lord Weekend! We are glad you are here! If you do not yet have a church home in Springfield and are interested in becoming part of St. John's, we invite you to visit with one of our pastors. In today's reading from Isaiah, Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst. Christ, the Light of the World, is present with us. We go forth from worship to brightly shine the light of Christ in the world.

Saturday, January 6

5:00pm Worship/Communion
- Sanctuary

5:30pm

Sprout! Meal
Sprout! Classes
Worship Band
Practice

Sunday, January 7

Epiphany of Our Lord

8:00am Worship/Communion
- Sanctuary

8:30am Teacher Appreciation
Lattes

9:15am Sunday School/Adult
Forum

9:15am Fellowship

10:30am Worship/Communion
- Sanctuary

10:30am Contemporary
Worship/Communion
- PLC

12:00pm Small Group Vision
Team

6:00pm Parents in Christ
Leadership Board
Dinner

Thursday, January 11

5:30pm Discipleship
Vision Team

5:30pm Grief Support
Group

5:30pm Bell Choir

6:40pm Chancel Choir

Friday, January 12

1:30pm Stitch n' Share

Saturday, January 13

LWR Coffee Sales

5:00pm Worship/
Communion
-Sanctuary

Sunday, January 14

Baptism of Our Lord

LWR Coffee Sales

8:00am Worship/
Communion -
Sanctuary

9:15am Sunday School/
Adult Forum

9:15am Fellowship

10:30am Worship/
Communion -
Sanctuary

10:30am Contemporary
Worship/
Communion - PLC

4:30pm Cub Scout
Committee

5:30pm Parenting the Early
Years

Monday, January 8

10:30am Stephen Minister Peer
Support

4:30pm Preschool Board

Tuesday, January 9

9:00am Staff Meeting

9:00am Men's and Women's
Bible Study

4:30pm St. John's After School
Center

5:30pm Children and Family
Ministry Team

Wednesday, January 10

9:00am Social Ministries Team

1:00pm Women's Bible Study

5:30pm Wednesday Night
LIVE!

Remember in Prayer

Dottie Beach, Marie Bomke, Carol Bull, Marlene Carnduff, Bernadine Dickson, Jim Fisher, Fran Fehring, Natalia Foard, Steve Hardy, Susan Hampton, Richard Hatcher, Richard Hawker, Pat Huff, Evelyn Lageman, Johannes Lesle (currently deployed in South Korea), Betty Lunik, Lesslie Morgan, Judy Nika, Gene Poehlman, Priscilla Rademaker, Harry Sablotny, Liz Saner, Jean Sergent, Debbie Slater, Pat Sriner, Carole Tracy, Stephanie van Ulft

Altar Flowers

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Angelo, Gloria, and Michael by the Wittkoff and Fafoglia families.

Thank You

A big thank you to all of you who donated items to the Mitten Tree. A whopping 253 handmade and purchased items were placed on the trees that decorated them with colorful hats, gloves, scarves, and socks. A lot of school children will have warm hands and feet on these cold days because of you!

Pastoral Absence

Pastor Greg will be out of the office this coming week as he continues his doctoral studies at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. For any pastoral care needs, please contact either Pastor Pam or Pastor Adam. For any administrative needs, please contact our Church Administrator, Rhonda Neubauer.

Stewardship

The Gift of Discernment

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; for many false prophets have gone out into the world," (1 John 4:1). If you naturally have a sense of what is genuine and what is false, and know if words and actions are in accordance with God, then according to Rev. David Ewart's "Spirit-Given Gifts," you are blessed with discernment. What can you do with it? Contact Director of Spiritual Gifts Ministries Kristen Schmid Schurter at 793.3933 x217 or ksschurter@stjohns-springfield.org to find out.

Sign up for St. John's Current Ministry needs at
<http://www.stjohns-springfield.org>

Discipleship

Adult

Discover ACTS: Becoming Church

Beginning this Sunday, January 7, Pastor Greg will kick-off a new Adult Forum from 9:15-10:15 a.m. in the Adult Meeting Room (AMR) titled Discover ACTS: Becoming Church. What does it mean to be the Christian church in our increasingly diverse, complex, and conflicted 21st-century? Come and share in this verse-by-verse study of the New Testament Book of Acts as we explore how the early church began and grew in God's mission and what it means for us today!

Upcoming sessions include:

Sunday, January 7 - Acts 1: The Sequel Begins

Sunday, January 14 - Acts 2: Spirit Power

Sunday, January 21 - Acts 3: Healing Power

Sunday, January 28 - Acts 4: Prayer Power

Bring your Bibles! We're going deep! All are welcome!

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Join us at The Hoogland Theatre on Sunday, January 21 for the 2:00 p.m. performance of this Broadway show with optional dinner at a Springfield restaurant after the show. There is limited seating so contact Carol Lange at 553.4381 before January 7 for tickets.

"Novel Brunch" Book Club

A new book club is forming at St. John's! This group will study books, both faith-based and secular, and will meet on the last Friday evening of each month. January's book will be Kisses from Katie by Katie Davis. The group will meet at Bunn Gourmet at 7 p.m. on Friday, January 26. If you are interesting in joining, contact Traci Michaud at traci.michaud02@gmail.com.

Adult Sprout! New Bible Studies for January

Parenting your Teenager

If you are a parent of a teenager or soon-to-be teenager, mark your calendar for the five Wednesday evenings beginning on January 10 during the *Sprout!* hour. We will be sharing in a video study titled Parenting Your Teenager by Les and Leslie Parrott. No prep required! Just show up to the Adult Meeting Room (AMR) at 6:30 p.m. and spend the hour connecting with other parents who are walking the same path. *Sprout!* classes and nursery are available. Please RSVP to Alicia Huntley at ahuntley@stjohns-springfield.org.

FOLLOW: Becoming New

Jesus' invitation to his first-century audience was really an invitation to relationship. And it began with a simple request - follow me. Beginning in baptism and continuing throughout our lives, we are becoming the followers Jesus has called us to be. Join us for a *Sprout!* class during the season of Epiphany and reflect on how we follow Jesus. We will meet in the parlor on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. beginning January 10. Come at 5:30 to share the *Sprout!* meal, and bring a friend!

Discipleship

Children and Family

Sunday School

Sunday School resumes THIS WEEKEND! Preschool through 6th grade will continue our Whirl! curriculum this winter. Meet at 9:15 a.m. in the PLC for Music & Opening.

Winter Sprout!

Sprout! resumes THIS Wednesday, January 10. Dinner at 5:30 p.m., then join us for Kids' Small Groups, ages 1st-6th grade at 6:30!

After School Center

St. John's After School Center will resume this Tuesday, January 9 at 4:30 p.m.

Sam Neahring, Director of Children & Family Ministries
sneahring@stjohns-springfield.org x.206

Discipleship

Youth and Family

New Youth Schedule!

With a new year comes a new schedule for Youth Programming. Take a look at the changes and come join us for what will be a fun, exciting 2018!

Sunday Morning Bible Study (7-12 Grade)

Come to the Youth Room at 9:15 as we begin a new Bible Study, Crossing the Waters. Get ready for the wettest, stormiest, wildest trip through the Gospels you've ever taken! The Gospels are