

Youth

Confirmation Resumes

Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.

Confirmation classes for all 7th and 8th grade youth resume this coming Wednesday, September 9, from 6:30-7:45 in Classroom A/B in the Lower Level. Come and join us for this high-energy experience of growing in our Christian faith! This week's topic: God the Creator (Exploring the 1st Article of the Apostles' Creed). A light supper for confirmation students and their families will be served each week at 5:45 p.m. in the PLC Lobby. If you haven't yet had a chance to sign-up, please be in touch with Pastor Greg prior to Wednesday's class (pbusboom@stjohns-springfield.org). See you there!

Encounter Returns

2nd and 4th Sundays, 6-8 p.m.

All 9th-12th graders and their friends are invited to Encounter this Sunday night, in the PLC. Live Music provided by Andy Lazarides and friends - Specialty coffee drinks and smoothies provided by Solid Rock Cafe - Best party games ever! - Worship led by Pastor Greg - Small group discussion time. It's all back! And, it's NEW and IMPROVED! Don't miss it!

t.b.d.

Sunday, September 16, 9:15 -10:15 a.m.

Beginning next Sunday, Pastor Greg will be leading a new Sunday morning experience for 9th-12th graders in the Youth Room titled "t.b.d." Each week from 9:15-10:15 a.m., we will load up on unlimited supplies of chocolate milk, donuts, and apple slices dipped in caramel, followed by an engaging discussion of important faith topics! This fall's topic will be 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? C. u. @t.b.d. this fall. Friends and foes are welcome!

Children

Volunteer with Us!

If you are here during the Sunday School hour most weekends, please consider serving with us as a classroom assistant for our children's classes! We need at least 5 more assistants. Work with your child's class, or volunteer with a different group! Sign up to volunteer at our registration tables on Rally Day.

Rally Day Activities

Sunday, September 9, 9 a.m.

Join us in the Parlor for Sunday School registration (PreK-6th) this Sunday at 9:00 a.m and then head to the sanctuary at 9:30 for an exciting magic show! Kids, make sure you stop by our tables to vote for the ministry you would like our Sunday School offering to go toward this year! Children are encouraged to write or draw a card for their new teachers and bring it to Rally Day registration.

Bible Presentation & 3rd Grade Bible Class

September 12, 6:30 p.m.

Our 3rd Grade Bible Class for third graders and their caregivers will meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:45 p.m. We will meet in Classrooms C & D downstairs. Each student must be accompanied by at least one adult. This Rally Day, our children's ministry leaders will present all our 3rd graders with a brand new NRSV Bible during 10:30 worship to celebrate this milestone! Sign up for this class with Sam Neahring at sneahring@stjohns-springfield.org.

Sunday School Info

Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

Beginning next Sunday, September 16, children in PreK-4th grade will meet in the PLC at 9:15 a.m. for Music & Opening, and then we will head down to our classrooms with our teachers. 5th and 6th graders will meet downstairs in their classroom at 9:15. Meet us at the Welcome Table in the PLC Lobby for directions!

Children Needed: Citywide Hymn Fest

Sunday, September 23, 3:30 p.m.

Calling all young voices, 2nd-8th grade! We are getting together a group of youth singers to take part in Hymn Fest this September 23 at 3:30 at the Carillon at Washington Park. If you are interested, please contact Alicia Huntley at ahuntley@stjohns-springfield.org. What a neat experience and great way to share God's gifts with others!

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

All events can be found at www.stjohns-springfield.org
There you will also be able to sign up for weekly event emails.

SATURDAY 9-8

SEE RALLY WEEKEND AD

Fair Trade Coffee Sales

St. John's Ministry Fair

UPPER LEVEL 6 p.m.

SUNDAY 9-9

SEE RALLY WEEKEND AD

Fair Trade Coffee Sales

Youth Encounter

PLC 6 p.m.

MONDAY 9-10

Stephen Ministry Peer Support

OFFSITE 10:30 a.m.

Preschool Board

AMR 4:30 p.m.

Altar Flower Delivery

Ministry Team

PLC 5:15 p.m.

Endowment Fund Committee

PARLOR 5:30 p.m.

TUESDAY 9-11

Coffee and Conversation

PLC LOBBY 8 a.m.

Women's Bible Study

AMR 9 a.m.

Men's Bible Study

PARLOR 9 a.m.

Stephen Ministry Peer Support

AMR 1:30 p.m.

Stephen Ministry Training

AMR 6 p.m.

Group LOYAL

PLC LOBBY 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 9-12

Cancer Companions Training

PARLOR 10 a.m.

Wednesday Night Supper

PLC LOBBY 5:45 p.m.

Confirmation

CLASSROOM A/B 6:30 p.m.

Third Grade Bible Class

CLASSROOM C/D 6:30 p.m.

Worship Band Practice

PLC 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY 9-13

Grief Support Group

PARLOR 5:30 p.m.

Bells of Glory

SANCTUARY 5:30 p.m.

Chancel Choir

PLC 6:40 p.m.

FRIDAY 9-14

Stitch n' Share

PLC LOBBY 1:30 p.m.

SATURDAY 9-15

Worship/Communion

SANCTUARY 5 p.m.

SUNDAY 9-16

Worship/Communion

SANCTUARY 8 a.m.

Sunday School/

Adult Forum/t.b.d.

VARIOUS 9:15 a.m.

Fellowship

PLC LOBBY 9:15 a.m.

Worship

SANCTUARY 10:30 a.m.

Contemporary

Worship/Communion

PLC 10:30 a.m.

Community Care Vision Team

AMR 11:45 a.m.

Worship Vision Team

PARLOR 12 p.m.

Parents in Christ Small Group

OFFSITE 6 p.m.

Sunday Night Small Group

OFFSITE 6:30 p.m.



ST. JOHN'S

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pentecost 16

September 8-9, 2018



Evelyn Lorene Xuhuan Bangert after being baptized last weekend.

The Messenger

Welcome

to St. John's Lutheran Church on this Rally Celebration Weekend! 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. In this weekend's gospel from Mark, Jesus' conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles. As we worship together, COME AND SEE how Jesus opens up the kingdom of God to include all of God's children--even us!

This Weekend

5 p.m. Saturday

Worship/Communion (Sanctuary)

Pastor Adam Connolly, Preaching Minister

8 a.m. Sunday

Worship (Sanctuary)

Pastor Adam Connolly, Preaching Minister

9 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School Registration (Parlor)

9:15 a.m. Sunday

St. John's Ministry Fair (Upper Level)

9:30 a.m. Sunday

Children and Family Magic Show (Sanctuary)

10:30 a.m. Sunday

Contemporary Worship/Communion (PLC)

Pastor Adam Connolly, Preaching Minister

Pastor's Message

"A woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about [Jesus], and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter" (Mark 7:25-27).

The woman in today's gospel reading from Mark knows exactly what she is looking for. She is looking for Jesus. And, more particularly, she is looking for Jesus so that he can heal her daughter of the unclean spirit. After an interesting theological exchange, the woman finds what she was seeking. Jesus heals her daughter.

I wonder, "What am I looking for on this Rally Weekend?" "What are you looking for from your participation at St. John's?" "What is the world looking for from the Christian church in this increasingly complex 21st century?"

Read on →

Pastor's Message Continued

My fervent hope is that, at least on some level, the answer to each of these questions is the same as that of the Syrophenician woman. My fervent hope is that each of us—you, me, and the world—is looking, searching, yearning, either consciously or unconsciously, for Jesus and all that Jesus brings— healing, hope, forgiveness, love, mercy, grace, new life, justice . . . the list goes on and on.

On this Rally Weekend, we here at St. John's are kicking off a new ministry called Connect. Created and written by Pastor Adam, Pastor Pam, and myself, Connect is designed to help us grow together in our relationships with Jesus, with one another, and with the world around us as we spend six weeks this fall exploring the question, "What are you looking for?"

How does Connect work? We currently have 14 pairs of trained Connect leaders ready to lead a Connect Huddle, each comprised of 6-8 disciples at St. John's. This weekend and next, we are asking every disciple at St. John's to consider signing up to participate in one of these Huddles. Each Huddle will meet once a week for six consecutive weeks. You choose the Huddle whose meeting time and meeting place work best for you. Then, beginning the week of September 23, each Huddle will spend their weekly meeting

watching a short video by one of the pastors and then sharing in guided conversation around the topic lifted up in the video. Our six themes this fall include:

- Week 1 - Looking for Belonging**
- Week 2 - Looking for Identity**
- Week 3 - Looking for Relationship**
- Week 4 - Looking for Community**
- Week 5 - Looking for Security**
- Week 6 - Looking for Purpose**

On Saturday, November 3, after the six weeks are complete, everyone who participated will be invited to a Connect Celebration to share in food, fellowship, and story-telling about what we experienced.

If you are looking for Jesus in your life, which I certainly hope includes each and every one of us, then I invite and encourage you to sign up for a Connect Huddle this fall. Come and see how Jesus will find you wherever you are. Come and see how being an active participant in the community of faith can strengthen and encourage you. Come and see how Jesus is waiting to heal you. What are you looking for? COME AND SEE!!!

Come and See +

Pastor Greg

Nursery Available We love having children with us in worship here at St. John's! However, we also realize that participating in worship is often difficult for parents of especially young children. We offer a fully staffed, safe, and secure nursery for children ages birth through 4-years-old each weekend during all four of our worship services. All of our nursery staff are fully screened and trained to provide the best care possible for our little ones. The nursery is located across from the restrooms in the Parish Life Center (PLC) Lobby. We are glad you are here and want you to have the most meaningful worship experience with us as possible.

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of his wife, JoAnn, by Kurt Flaherty.

Remember in Prayer Judy Ahrens, Dottie Beach, Marie Bomke, Marlene Carnduff, Ralph Chambers Sr., Bernadine Dickson, Darlene Edwards, David Fischer, Natalia Foad, Jim Greene, Steve Hardy, Eileen Kerasotes, Betty Lunik, Joe Merrick, Ken Martin, Donna Moore, Judy Nika, Johneita Osterhuber, Claire Papai, Nellie Pieper, Gene Poehlman, Dean Rademaker, Priscilla Rademaker, Liz Saner, Jean Sergent, Ed Skube, Debbie Slater, Katie Smith, Pat Sriner, Richard Stoye, Perry Taylor, Anna Temperelli, Carole Tracy, Helen Traeger, Suzie Weissberg, Stephanie van Ulft

General

COME AND SEE!

RALLY WEEKEND 2018

SEPT. 8-9

The kick-off of all of our fall ministries!

ST. JOHN'S MINISTRY FAIR
Saturday 6-7 p.m.
Sunday 9-10:15 a.m. and 12-2 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION (PARLOR)
Sunday, 9 a.m.

A DON'T-MISS-MAGIC-SHOW (SANCTUARY)
Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

COMBINED CELEBRATION WORSHIP (PLC)
Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

ALL-CONGREGATION MEAL (LAWN)
Sunday, 12 p.m.

CHILDREN'S GAMES (LAWN)
Sunday, 12 p.m.

SIGN-UPS FOR OUR NEW CONNECT MINISTRY

COME SEE

New Ministry Guides and Spiritual Gift Inventories

The Holy Spirit is alive at St. John's in many different ways and you are invited to be part of it! Updated ministry booklets with team and group descriptions, related spiritual gifts, and contact information will be available at the Welcome Centers this weekend. And, in less than five minutes you can find out how God has uniquely designed you for ministry! Look for quick, updated spiritual gift inventories inside the ministry guides. COME AND SEE how God is calling you to get involved in all that God is doing in and through this place! For more information, contact Kristen Schmid Schurter at 217.793.3933, or ksschurter@stjohns-springfield.org.

College Connection

The College Connection Ministry team is looking for updated addresses for college age youth from St. John's. Please let the church office know any new addresses for our college aged youth (freshmen through seniors) so that we can keep in touch with them this school year.

Meals on Wheels

Volunteers are needed to assist with driving and delivering Meals on Wheels during the month of October. Please contact Janet Moulton at 217.971.9535 to sign up!

Grief Support Group

Our St. John's Grief Support meets each Thursday at 5:30 p.m. We welcome people who have participated before, as well as those who would be new to the group. To register, please call the church office, 217.793.3933. If you have questions, please get in touch with Pastor Pam at pmitcham@stjohns-springfield.org.

Thursdays, 5:30 p.m.

Flu Vaccines Available

St. John's Faith Community Nurse Ministry Team will offer a clinic to administer flu vaccines on Saturday, September 15, from 4:30-5 p.m. and Sunday, September 16, 9-10:30 a.m. in the PLC Lobby. Please bring your insurance card, Medicare or Medicaid card, and wear short sleeves.

Visitor from Madagascar

During our Discipleship Hour, Toromare Mananato, our sister in Christ from the Malagasy Lutheran Church, will be sharing updates from Madagascar, as well as a time for conversation. Please plan on joining us as we give Toromare a hearty Midwestern welcome.

Spiritual Gifts Discussion

Whether you are new to spiritual gifts, or an expert, you are invited to come learn and share ideas about serving with God's strength, how God is working through you, and how to recognize and encourage others' gifts. Visitors and disciples of all ages are welcome to join us in the AMR! For more information contact Director of Spiritual Gifts Ministries Kristen Schmid Schurter at 217.793.3933, ext. 206 or ksschurter@stjohns-springfield.org.

City Wide Hymn Fest

The annual 2018 City Wide Hymn Fest will be held in Washington Park at the Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon. This interdenominational hymn sing is free to the public and open to everyone who enjoys singing along with, or listening to, traditional hymns. The Trinity Summer Band will provide musical interludes. Our own Carlo van Ulft will provide Carillon music, beginning at 3 p.m., as well as accompanying the hymns on the Carillon. Bring lawn chairs or blankets. New this year is a joint effort of seven Springfield churches, including St. John's, to assemble a children's choir to sing various hymn verses during the event. For more information call the Carillon Office at 217.546.3853.

Women's Bible Study

We will begin again this coming Tuesday in the AMR. This will be a time for sharing our summer activities and getting re-acquainted. On September 18, we will continue our Bible study from the Jesus Calling series by Sarah Young: *Experiencing God's Presence*. We welcome everyone!

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group

Do you care for someone diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia? St. John's hosts a group that meets monthly on the third Monday in the AMR. These 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 and click on 'Support Groups.'

Novel Bunch Book Club

This book club small group studies books, both faith-based and secular, and meets on the last Friday evening of each month. September's book will be *The Storyteller* by Jodi Picoult, and the group will meet at Bunn Gourmet. October's meeting will be on Friday, October 26. For more info, please contact Traci Michaud at traci.michaud02@gmail.com.

Parenting the Early Years

This small group for parents of elementary aged children is welcoming new families! Please consider joining us one or two Sunday evenings a month, beginning October 7, as we meet to grow together toward intentional parenting. This fall's study is designed to help parents grow from being "quick-fix" parents into parents who build strong foundations for their families in their day-to-day lives. We gather in the home of a group family, with in-home childcare. Please contact Dawn Moulton at MissW23@gmail.com or call/text 217-741-7174.

Day Trip To Hannibal, MO

Join with the Adult Ministries at St. John's as we visit Hannibal, Missouri's two highest rated attractions, Rockcliffe Mansion, and Mark Twain's "Huckleberry Finn" buildings. Transportation and cost of Rockcliffe Mansion tour are included in price, only \$16. Reservations must be made before September 11. To sign up or for more information, contact Ron Engstrom, 217.636.7591.

Thursday, October 11, 9 a.m.

September 15-16

Sunday, September 16, 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Sunday, September 23, 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Sunday, September 23, 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 11, 9 a.m.

Monday, September 17, 1 p.m.

Friday, September 28, 7 p.m.

1st & 3rd Sundays, 6 p.m.