

MARCH 31, 2024



ST. JOHN'S WEEKLY NEWS

He is risen!

Alleluia!

From Pastor David

I just looked at the forecast for Easter, and it calls for rain. While I prefer 65° and sunny, and the rain may cause a little havoc with an Easter Egg hunt or two, and maybe wilt or muddy an Easter bonnet and/or dress (do people still wear these?), it will not ruin the day.

For Christ has risen! He has risen indeed!
Alleluia!



I once heard a speaker on a totally unrelated topic state emphatically, "You gotta' keep the main thing, the main thing." For Christians, Jesus' resurrection from the dead is the "main thing."

Faith is not about laundry lists of rules and regulations. They can be helpful, of course, but they are not the main thing. Sermon series, church buildings, programming, and youth groups are all blessings, but they are not the main thing in and of themselves. All we are and all we do is about life as lived in the hope and promise of Jesus' resurrection.

No matter where you are this Easter: maybe you feel like the weather outside, grey and blustery, the resurrection offers you new hope and the warmth of relationship as Jesus will continue to stay with you as you await your own resurrection of the spirit; maybe you are on top of the world and a beam of sunshine as your family is with you and the ham dinner to follow worship is all ready to go, Jesus is there in your joy and wholeness; maybe you are like most of us, somewhere in between, here the risen Jesus meets all of us as he shows up in our lives building relationships, encouraging growth, and fostering forgiveness. All of this and so much more are only possible because of the resurrection.

Here at St. John's, we seek to keep the main thing, the main thing—the promise of life for all in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The central reality of the resurrection is a relationship with a living, loving God. A relationship not bound or defined by death but by abundant life for all. By keeping the resurrection central to all we are and do, all people (and by all, we mean *all*) are welcome to Worship, Give, Grow, and Love in the grace of God, respecting one another as we live into the promise of new life each day because...

Christ has risen! He has risen indeed! Alleluia!

Happy Easter!

Next Weekend

Life Stories, Giving—Acts 4:32-35

welcome to St. John's!



First-time guest?

Please scan the QR code to share your contact information.



Interested in membership?

Please scan the QR code share your contact information.
The Director of Connections will be in touch!

WORSHIP *gather, praise, pray*

Regular Worship Times

Saturdays, 5 PM / Sundays, 8:30 and 10:30 AM

All worship services are also live-streamed on our Facebook page and YouTube channel (click on the LIVE tab for the latest videos).

LOVE *welcome, care, and share*

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Wednesday, April 10, 6:30 p.m., Gathering Area

Monday, April 15, 1:30 PM, Gathering Area

If you like to knit or crochet, come to a Prayer Shawl gathering. Enjoy a time of fellowship while creating prayer shawls, prayer squares or chemo caps for St. John's members, cancer centers, etc. New members are always welcome. For more information, contact Lynda Bogue, lsbogue@ilstu.edu or (309) 532-2083.

Pickleball at St. John's

Thursday mornings*, 9 AM, Parish Life Center

Interested in playing Pickleball? All skills levels are welcome. Please contact Chris Magnuson, cmagnuson26@yahoo.com or (309) 826-1619, for more information.

*Pickleball will not meet Thursday, April 4

CPR Courses Offered at St. John's

Saturday, April 27, Junior High Room

• BLS Renewal 11:30 AM–1:45 PM (for healthcare providers)—\$65

• Heartsaver 3–5:30 PM (for non-healthcare providers)—\$65

Tuesday, April 30, Junior High Room

• BLS Renewal 10:30 AM–1PM (for healthcare providers)—\$65

• BLS Renewal 2–5 PM (traditional course)—\$65

St. John's members receive a 20% discount. Please contact Michelle Brown, michelleabrown1985@gmail.com, to register or for more information.

GROW *learn, discover, and equip*

Weekend Adult Studies

Saturdays, 4:05-4:55 PM, Gathering Area—discuss the weekly scripture lessons

Sunday mornings, 9:30-10:30 AM

Lectionary Study, Loft—discuss the weekly scripture lessons

Video Study, Conference Room

Studies return next weekend!

JoyZone Sunday Morning Children's Program

Sunday mornings, returning April 7, during 10:30 AM worship

Age-appropriate lessons, activities, games, and crafts in the Children's Wing.

Kaffehuset

Wednesday, March 6, Fellowship Hall

10 AM—Conversation and Refreshments, 10:30 AM—Program

Kaffehuset meets the first Wednesday of the month and presents a variety of programs. All are welcome—young and not-so-young, members and guests. This month Vickie Robertson and Lynn Carpenter of the Mission Outreach team will share about St. John's long history of loving and serving our neighbors. Meet members of St. John's Mission Outreach team to learn how we are called and privileged to participate in His work.

Thrive Junior High

Wednesdays, 6:30-8 PM, Fellowship Hall

Large- and small-group ministry offering learning, fellowship, and service evenings.

Chaos Senior High

Wednesdays, 6:30-8 PM, Senior High Room

Youth are welcome to a large-group gathering for fellowship, service, and prayer.

Holy Communion Stepping Stone

Creative Workshop—Sunday April 14, 1-3:15 PM, Parish Life Center

Learning Workshop #1—Wednesday, April 17, 6:30-7:30 PM, Fellowship Hall

Learning Workshop #2—Wednesday, April 24, 6:30-7:30 PM, Fellowship Hall

Celebration Worship—Sunday, April 28, 8:30 and 10:30 AM

This Stepping Stone is an educational program for students and their parents in 4th grade and up who would like to learn more about the sacrament of Holy Communion. Students are welcome to attend the program even if they already take communion during worship. All workshops are for the student and parent. A cake reception will follow the 10:30 AM Celebration Worship service. Please register for this Stepping Stone at www.bit.ly/SJ_Communion24.

St. John's Garage Sale Saturday, April 13 8 AM-1 PM

3 WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Volunteer—Many hands are needed to set up tables, sort donations, and work the sale. To sign up for a time slot, visit www.bit.ly/SJ_GarageSale. Time slots are available for Thursday, April 11; Friday, April 12; or Saturday, April 13.

Donate—Share your unwanted treasures, please no broken or hazardous items, baby furniture, mattresses, or CRT computer monitors/tube TVs. Drop off donations at the Parish Life Center (south) entryway. Help will be on hand to unload your vehicle. Donation Drop-Off Hours: Thursday, April 11, 5-8 PM; Friday, April 12, 12-7 PM.

Share & Shop—Share the news about the sale with friends and on Facebook and come Saturday, April 13, to shop! Some items will be priced but most will be suggested donation. Proceeds benefit children and youth programs.



STELLAR

SHINE JESUS' LIGHT



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Monday, June 17–Thursday, June 20
9 AM–12 PM

This summer St. John's kids will have an out-of-this-world adventure that's light years of faith-building fun—having a blast shining Jesus' light to the world! Invite a friend and register today!

Register your 5-year-old through 5th grade children
or register to volunteer (6th graders through adults) at

www.bit.ly/SJ_VBS_24

GIVE *time, treasure, and talents*

JoyZone Volunteers Needed

Volunteers for JoyZone are needed. Students 6th–12th grade and adults are encouraged to help with this ministry—once a month, every week, or as often as you'd like! Please contact Amy, arademacher@stjblm.org, for more information.

Quilters

Tuesdays, 9:30 AM, Fellowship Hall

Help make quilts for Lutheran World Relief and local charities. Donations of cotton fabric and flat sheets, new or gently used, are needed. New people are welcome on Tuesdays in addition to fellow quilters and sewers who prefer to work from home. Contact Lori Syring, (815) 641-7159 or Vicky Kramer, (309) 530-1604, for more information.

Faith In Action Volunteer Orientations

Tuesday, April 2, 1–2:30 PM, ARC Center, 600 East Willow Street, Normal
Contact Stacey, (309) 827-7780, to learn more or fill out the volunteer interest form at www.bnfia.org/post-3988 and someone will follow up with you.



Financial giving is easy with the QR code!

Scan the code with your phone camera!

NOAH'S ARK PRESCHOOL
pancake pig out

Sunday, April 7, 8 AM-12 PM
Parish Life Center



Suggested Donation
Adults—\$8 / Kids—\$4
Noah's Ark kids eat free!



Can't make it?
Donate at www.bit.ly/NA_PigOut24

Prayers and Blessings

If you or a loved one will be hospitalized or are undergoing outpatient care, please let us know. Contact Gudrun, gudrun@stjblm.org or (309) 827-6121 ext. 214. If you or a loved one is listed and should be removed, please let Gudrun know.

Hospitalized/Recovering or in Need of Healing

Bob Maubach, Jim Christian

Condolences

- The family and friends of Arlene Gittings
- Scott Segerstrom and family upon the death of his wife Kathy Segerstrom

Partners in Ministry and Healing

- The Lutheran Church of Madagascar
- Christ Lutheran Church, Quincy, Illinois
 - Carle BroMenn Patient Access
- Staff and patients of OSF St. Joseph Hospital
- Agape ISU—A partnership of the Lutheran Student Movement & Judson Fellowship

Keep in Prayer

Curt Addicks, Chris Behl, Gary Brandenburg, Jim Caster, George Childers, Andrea Choban, Nancy Clark, Ed Cronic, Karen Duffield, Cyrus Garnett, Janet Hohman, Nola Johnson, Bunker Kuethe, Mark Kuhn, Scott Laughlin, Tom McKenna, Julie Megli, David Milam, Irma Milam, Nicholas Mueller, Terry Rathbun, Kathy Segerstrom, Lois Skillrud, those who live in senior living communities, care facilities, and the homebound

Prayers for Those in the Military

Dustin Ahlschwede, Benjamin Baur, Sara Coakley, Casey Grogg, Jeremy Grogg, Mike Heuer, David Lehr, Jason Lenz, Andrew Mueller, Jason Murphy, Richard Mutari Jr., Tyler Nelson, Zach Poehlman, John Allen Wagner, A.J. Wunderlin

For Our Congregation

We pray for all those here today and those yet to come; may they hear the good news of your love and spread that love throughout our community and beyond.

Altar Flowers

In loving memory of our son Dan, given by Shirley Moriarity