

APRIL 27/28, 2024



ST. JOHN'S WEEKLY NEWS

ZAMBIA

**DROUGHT RELIEF
& EDUCATION FUND**

St. John's has been helping ELC-Zambia pastors by raising funds to help pay for school expenses of their children.

Thanks to your contributions, the pastors have been able to afford to keep their children in school.

The government has declared a **NATIONAL DISASTER**, due to the failure of more than half of the nation's crops and the most severe drought in 40 years. There were five weeks with no rain during the most crucial time for the corn crop, resulting in dried crops of undeveloped corn.

We can make a real difference for these pastors and their families. Gifts for the **ZAMBIA DROUGHT RELIEF & EDUCATION FUND** will be sent to them as soon as possible, because the need is immediate. Your donation will help these children continue their studies, with food in their stomachs, during this devastating time.

GIVE NOW AT
www.bit.ly/SJLCGive

Global and Local Missions Fund / Zambia Education & Drought Relief Subfund

From Pastor David

8,325 miles. That is how far it is from Bloomington/Normal to Lusaka, Zambia. The average flight takes well over 33 hours each way, and an economy ticket costs nearly \$4,000. The good news is you get two free checked bags!

Now, I don't think any of us will be "popping" over any time soon, but that doesn't mean we can't be a blessing to people nearly halfway around the world. We at St. John's have been connecting with the pastors of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Zambia (ELC-Za) for years, offering a small but vital gift to enable ministry in a setting far different from ours. Covering school fees and enabling education is a noble and thoughtful gift. But this year, we are expanding the scope of our gift to allow more flexibility in the face of an ongoing drought in this part of the world. Over the next few weeks, we will learn more about this effort and be encouraged to share our gifts to bless our neighbors—our brothers and sisters in Christ in Zambia.

Partners in ministry enable us to extend and multiply our efforts to share the love of God here in our community and all over the world. While our Zambia focus is once a year, there are many other partnerships to keep in mind that are at work year-round, meeting emergent and ongoing needs. One of them is Luther World Relief (LWR). Most Tuesdays at 9:30 AM, St. John's quilters gather in the Fellowship Hall and produce quilts that will be sent by LWR to help meet the needs of our neighbors who have had their lives turned upside down. Recently, I have heard that we have set up more tables for more quilters, which is fantastic!

One of LWR's blessings is that it is present long after the headlines fade, bringing hope and God's love over the long haul. If you'd like to learn more about LWR's ongoing work in Ukraine and Türkiye, bringing clean, drinkable water and health care to those still in crisis, visit www.lwr.org/frontlines.

Where do you hear God's call to serve, help, and share in Jesus' name? No, you don't need to travel halfway across the world; you can do it right in your own neighborhood and through the partnerships we as the church have that make a difference every single day. Keep these ministries in your prayers, and open your lives to where God might use you to bless others in Jesus' name.



Next Weekend

Life Stories, Inclusion—Acts 10:44-48

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).

Save the Date—Council Quarterly Forum

Sunday, May 19, 9:30 AM, Chapel

Council members will be on hand to ask questions.

LOVE *welcome, care, and share*

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.

CPR Courses Offered at St. John's

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.

St. John's Book Club

Monday, April 29, 1–2:30 PM, Room 179

The group will discuss *The Canary Girls* by Jennifer Chiaverini. The book for May will be *Iona Iverson's Rules for Commuting* by Claire Pooley.

Kaffehuset

Wednesday, May 1, 10 AM Refreshments, Fellowship Hall*

All are welcome—young and not-so-young, members and guests. This month Sherri Lewis, Megan Thoennes, and Anya Mekuria, Noah's Ark Preschool, and Noah's Ark children will share its history. All your questions will be answered, along with a few surprises! *The program will begin promptly at 10:15 AM due to the children's 10:50 AM dismissal time.

GROW *learn, discover, and equip*

Weekend Adult Studies

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

Sunday mornings, 9:30–10:30 AM

Lectionary Study, Loft—discuss the weekly scripture lessons

Video Study, Conference Room—*Trite, Not True*. Much of what passes as wisdom today has the ring of biblical truth. How do you tell the difference?

Jarrett Stephens tackles these statements in this series. Discover how to decipher superficial insights from the real truth of God's Word, as well as how to apply biblical wisdom to everyday life.

JoyZone Sunday Morning Children's Program

Sunday mornings, during 10:30 AM worship

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

PRAYER Workshop

Wednesday, May 1, 6:30-8 PM
Worship Center

Do you desire to have a more vibrant and rich prayer life? You're invited to this interactive prayer workshop, designed for junior and senior high youth and adults. Please contact Gudrun Dunt, gudrun@stjblm.org or (309) 827-6121 ext. 214, for more information.

Visit www.bit.ly/SJ_PrayerWorkshop to register.

Faith in Life Adult Bible Study

Wednesdays (except the first of the month), 10 AM, Fellowship Hall
All are invited to this study on the Gospel of Mark.

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.

Friday Morning Men's Group

Fridays, 7:30-8:30 AM, Loft

The group is studying a new book in the Augsburg Adult Bible study series titled *Examining Our Faith*. Contact David Roehrig, xusaf1@gmail.com, or Kerri, kerri@stjblm.org for more information.

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (LOMC) Opportunity

Sunday, July 14–Friday, July 19

All students entering 6th–12th grade this fall are invited to attend LOMC this summer for hiking, swimming, canoeing, games, crafts, bonfires, daily Bible study and devotions, and fun in the beautiful Rock River Valley! Cost to participants is just \$50; the remaining \$450 is provided through the Garage Sale proceeds! Transportation and a St. John's chaperone provided. Contact Amy for more information. Register at www.bit.ly/SJ_LOMC24.

GIVE *time, treasure, and talents*

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.

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

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.

Faith In Action Volunteer Orientations

Tuesday, May 7, 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.

Carle BroMenn Compassion Cupboard Service Event

Thursday, May 9, 12 PM-5 PM Drop-off

Carle BroMenn provides basic food and resource information for those in need in addition to the Compassion Closet (which provides clothing). Items such as tuna/chicken packages, protein bars and drinks, granola bars, jerky sticks, peanut butter, are sought. Cans with pull tab tops and items that are easily transported are appreciated. Donations can be taken to the hospital's Conference Center entrance, by parking Lot E, during drop-off hours.



American Red Cross

Saturday, June 1, 8 AM-12 PM, Fellowship Hall

St. John's has partnered with the American Red Cross of McLean County since 1997. The need for blood is constant, and every contribution is important for a healthy and reliable blood supply. Sign up at www.redcrossblood.org using the sponsor code **STJOHNS**. Contact Lynn Carpenter, (309) 830-2588, if you would like to donate food.

Holy Communion Stepping Stone

The following children have completed the Holy Communion Stepping Stone and will be celebrating this weekend: Olivia Anderson, Mason Derege, Leah Erslund, Grace Hottop, Matthew Hottop, Abigail Lapping, Falynn Menke, Colton Meuser, Cameron Petersen, Alexa Vogelsang, Charlie Waddell, Savannah Warne, Ian Welch, Norah Whitworth.

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/In Need of Healing

Jim Christian, Linda Cully, Scott Laughlin

New Baby

- Scarlet Rose Hanson daughter of Adam and Grace Hanson
- Oswald Johnson son of Andrew and Becca Johnson and grandson of Robert and Marsha Johnson

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 and 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, 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 memory of John and Gail Bazzarre and Charles and Carrie Byerly given by the Byerly family
- In loving memory of Dan Hinrichsen, given by Dee Hinrichsen