



MAY 11/12, 2024

ST. JOHN'S WEEKLY NEWS

For mothers

To those who gave birth this year—***we celebrate with you.***

To those who lost a child this year—***we mourn with you.***

To those who are in the trenches with little ones every day and wear the badge of food stains—***we appreciate you.***

To those who experienced loss through miscarriage, failed adoptions, or running away—***we mourn with you.***

To those who walk the hard path of infertility, fraught with pokes, prods, tears, and disappointment—***we walk with you.*** *Forgive us when we say foolish things. We don't mean to make things harder.*

To those who are foster moms, mentor moms, and spiritual moms—***we need you.***

To those who have stepped up to raise grandchildren, nieces and nephews while the mother is unable to do so—***we commend you for your selflessness.***

To those who have warm and close relationships with your children—***we celebrate with you.***

To those who have disappointment, heartache, and distance with your children—***we sit with you.***

To those who lost their mothers this year—***we grieve with you.***

To those who experienced abuse at the hands of your own mother—***we acknowledge your experience.***

To those who lived through driving tests, medical tests, and the overall testing of motherhood—***we are better for having you in our midst.***

To those who have aborted children—***we remember them and you on this day.***

To those who are single and long to be married and mothering your own children—***we mourn that life has not turned out the way you longed for.***

To those who stepparent—***we walk with you on these complex paths.***

To those who envisioned lavishing love on grandchildren, yet that dream is not to be—***we grieve with you.***

To those who will have emptier nests in the upcoming year—***we grieve and rejoice with you.***

To those who placed children for adoption—***we commend you for your selflessness and remember how you hold that child in your heart.***

And to those who are pregnant with new life, both expected and surprising—***we anticipate with you.***

This Mother's Day, we walk with you and we remember you.

From Pastor Lyn

Wouldn't it be nice if we had a catchy and bouncy tune to know where God is leading us in life?

"Follow the yellow brick road; Follow the yellow brick road; Follow, follow, follow, follow, follow the yellow brick road..."

If only!

God's people have always had to *discern* where God was leading. Looking back at the life stories of the faithful, it sure seemed easier than now! "Stay in the garden"; "Follow this cloud through the wilderness"; "Get in this boat"; "Go to the place where the star stops." Many Biblical figures seemed to have heard and followed specific directions from God.

But how do we discern the next right move these days? This way? Or that way?

What if there were a third way? A way that allows for creativity and newness? A way that perhaps is not a part of our dual consciousness, but brings about God's love and fruits and integrity without being "right" or "wrong," but by simply being curious and creative?

As people within our staff have moved and changed, with the Holy Spirit's guidance and time for reflection, I believe we can create anew. As directions and decisions within the church and this community need to be made—where is God at work already and how can we discern a move in a new, third way?

What if life is NOT lived in the black or the white, but in the gray?



Next Weekend

Life Stories, Following the Holy Spirit/Pentecost—Acts 2:1-21
Please wear your red for Pentecost!

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 answer your 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

Saturday, May 18, Junior High Room

- **BLS Renewal**—11:30 AM–1:45 PM (for healthcare providers)—\$65
 - **Heartsaver CPR/AED**—3–5:30 PM (for workplace and community members)—\$65
- St. John's members receive a 20% discount. Please contact Michelle Brown, michelleabrown1985@gmail.com, to register or for more information.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

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, lsbogoe@ilstu.edu or (309) 532-2083.

GROW *learn, discover, and equip*

Weekend Adult Studies

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

Starting May 25 the Saturday group will use a group study for study/discussion.

Sunday mornings through May 19, 9:30–10:30 AM

Lectionary Study, Loft—discuss the weekly scripture lessons

Video Study, Conference Room—*Trite, Not True*. 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 through May 19, during 10:30 AM worship

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

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.



Download the ShelbyNext Membership App from your app store—search for ShelbyNext—to stay connected to your St. John's family! Contact Shari, shari@stjblm.org, for login help.

Join the St. John's Staff

St. John's Lutheran Church is looking for a part-time Worship Arts Technology Technician. This position is responsible for providing leadership and support to ensure quality and effective technological experiences during worship for all services in-house and streaming. The successful candidate will have technical expertise with audio and video equipment and enjoy problem-solving alongside a dedicated team of volunteers. For a complete job description or to apply, visit www.stjblm.org/jobs.

Thrive Junior High

Wednesdays through May 22, 6:30-8 PM, Fellowship Hall

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

Chaos Senior High

Wednesdays through May 22, 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*

Zambia Drought Relief & Education Fund

Thanks to your contributions to the Education Fund through the years, the the ELC-Zambia pastors have been able to afford to keep their children in school. Recently the Zambian government 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. 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. Give NOW at www.bit.ly/SJLCGive (Global and Local Missions Fund / Zambia Education & Drought Relief Subfund). This weekend is the final weekend for the Zambia appeal.

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 Marsha Johnson, (309) 299-9338, or Vicky Kramer, (309) 530-1604, for more information.

Seeking Congregation Council Nominees

The Congregation Council Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for Church Council. You may nominate yourself or another member of the congregation by visiting www.stjblm.org and selecting the 'About' tab. Choose Congregation Council and then click on "nominate yourself" or "nominate someone" button. Forms will also be available at the Resource Counter. Nominations are due by July 31. Contact Council President Dean Brown, cyndee.dean@gmail.com, or Pastor David, dglesne@stjblm.org, or Nominating Committee Chair Debbie Whelton, dkwhelton@gmail.com, to learn more about council.

Nursery Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to care for St. John's littlest ones during the 10:30 AM service. Contact Alecia Crook, Nursery Coordinator, alecia.crook@gmail.com, or Amy, arademacher@stjblm.org, for more information.

Red Cross Blood Drive

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.

Faith In Action Volunteer Orientations

Tuesday, June 4, 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.



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
Registration closes Friday, June 7

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

Norah Whitworth

New Baby

Ava Jade Olson, daughter of Chad and Lisa Olson
and grand-daughter of David and Kathy Olson

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, 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 Bud's birthday on May 9, given by Fran Davis
 - In memory of our beloved wife and mom, Wendy Haase, given by Steve, Clayton, Reagan and Braden
 - In loving memory of Fasil Derege, given by his family
 - In honor of grandson Ryan Gorczyca as he graduates from Missouri State University with an MBA
- In honor of all mothers and especially Michelle, Natasha, Maribeth



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