

MAY 4/5, 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 Lyn



As we continue our study of the book of Acts, we hear the life story of Peter and the church becoming a church of inclusion. Inclusion has become somewhat of a buzzword these days, along with diversity and equity. All great words when put into practice!

I would venture that all the family of God at St. John's wants to be inclusive! We want to welcome people, be hospitable and create a safe space for all. Jesus modeled inclusion as he traveled and preached... the woman at the well, Matthew the tax collector, the short in stature Zaccheus and the open arms for all the children!

I wonder if it takes more than a verbal invitation and open arms to truly be inclusive?

I think being inclusive means more than the word itself. To be inclusive, we also must be intentional.

To be intentional means we ask questions. We listen. We put actions with the word inclusive: Does our space feel welcoming to all? How do we greet people? How do we include new members in events or outreach? When was the last time you invited someone to worship? I think we are doing a wonderful job of many ways to be inclusive, but with reflection is there any more ways to be inclusive?

When the Holy Spirit blows—will we be ready to change direction? To take on a new course? I hope so! I think we will!

It seems as if the Holy Spirit has proceeded a very new and exciting thing for St. John's. Next summer, July 13-19, 2025, we will be partnering with other organizations to bring a Group Work Camp to Bloomington! This is an opportunity to practice intentional inclusion—by all the efforts it will take to sponsor a work camp. And the benefits of this intentional inclusion will be great—new relationships made, many homes in our community will be painted, etc. AND the residents of the homes and the campers will have an opportunity to experience Jesus in a new and different way! Stay tuned to more opportunities for inclusion through work camp next summer!

Next Weekend

Life Stories, Discerning—Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

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

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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, 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.

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.stjohnsbloomington.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.

Staff Transitions

Natalie Fowler, Contemporary Worship and Senior High Youth, will be leaving the staff as of May 10. Jai Wright, Graduate Assistant, is graduating from Illinois State University, and will be leaving the staff as of May 8. This weekend at worship, there will be a special blessing for both Natalie and Jai. We are grateful for the time that we have had with these young people and pray that God will guide them on their next journeys.

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.

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.

A vibrant graphic for a Vacation Bible School. At the top, the word "STELLAR" is written in large, metallic, 3D letters, with "SHINE JESUS' LIGHT" in smaller white letters below it. The background is a dark purple and blue space with stars. Three cartoon characters are featured: a smiling yellow sun with arms and legs on the left, a pink, glowing nebula-like character in the center, and a green planet with a blue ring and a smiling face on the right. Below the characters, the text "VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL" is written in large, white, bold letters. Underneath that, "Monday, June 17–Thursday, June 20 • 9 AM-12 PM" is written in white. A paragraph of text follows: "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!" Below this, it says "Register your 5-year-old through 5th grade children or register to volunteer (6th graders through adults) at" and finally, the URL "www.bit.ly/SJ_VBS_24" is displayed in large, white, bold letters at the bottom.

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

Jean Larson
Norah Whitworth

Condolences

- Pastor Anne Christensen and family upon the death of her husband Neal Christensen
- Lori Laughlin and family upon the death of her husband Scott Laughlin

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 Poehلمان, 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 husband, Roland Hill, given by Marie Ann Hill
- In memory of my husband, parents, and family, given by Irene Niccum

Sympathy Cards for Pastor Anne

Sympathy cards will be collected at the church and mailed to Pastor Anne. If you'd like to include a card, please drop it off by Friday, May 10.