



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

Volume 56, Issue 1

January 2026

Special items of interest:

Worship in our Sanctuary continues each Sunday morning at 9am. If you are unable to attend, you can join us for virtual worship on our YouTube page. (Go to YouTube.com and search for STJ LUTHERAN MENDOTA.)

If you would like Pastor Elise to visit when you are hospitalized, please contact the church office. Because of privacy laws, the hospital will not contact us.

St. John's offers **Electronic Giving.** If you are interested please contact Le Roy in the office. You can also **give online** through the link on our website.

The **Wednesday prayer group** meets from 9am to approximately 9:30am every Wednesday to lift up prayers on behalf of the St. John's community. You can pray aloud or silently, come frequently, or on occasion. All are welcome!



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Dear friends,

In January you will notice a difference in our Scripture readings for worship. Instead of three readings, we will be moving to one primary reading, which may be accompanied by a psalm or shorter reading. For some of you, worship may feel a little different because of this. If you use the Christ in Our Home devotional, the readings will not be aligned like you are accustomed to.

These readings come from the Narrative Lectionary. The worship team and I, after looking into it, decided to move to this lectionary as a way to focus in on the overarching story the Bible tells of God and God's people. For many years our readings have come from the Revised Common Lectionary, used by many churches, which is a three-year cycle of Gospel readings, with accompanying Old Testament readings, and a selection of readings from the epistles (letters in the New Testament). The Narrative Lectionary focuses more specifically on just one Bible story. It is a four-year cycle. Each year tells us the story of God and God's people from Genesis to the early church, with readings from the Old Testament in September through mid-Advent, then readings from one of the four Gospels January through May. The summer months are open for various sermon series. We hope that this effort allows worshipers to both have a deeper look at some of our primary Christian stories, as well as see the larger arc of the biblical narrative.

This lectionary year is the Gospel of John; beginning January 4, our Sunday readings will highlight Jesus stories according to John. You can find the assigned readings for the upcoming month in this newsletter and on our website. I'll be interested to hear your thoughts as we proceed through John's Gospel in the coming months!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Elise



The church office follows the lead of our local school districts when it comes to closing because of wintry weather conditions. If the schools are closed, it is likely we are closed also.

Please call before coming to the office.

Worship Readings for January

- Jan. 4th — John 1:35-51
- Jan. 11th — John 2:1-11
- Jan. 18th — John 2:13-25
- Jan. 25th — John 3:1-21



If you ordered a beautiful poinsettia to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas, you may take one home with you after worship on December 28th or you can stop in the church office during office hours.

Church Council Highlights

The following are some highlights from the December 18th, 2025 meeting of our Church Council:

- Used the Faith 5 practice for their devotion
- Decided that "All Teams" nights would meet quarterly; teams meet on their own schedule alternate months.
- Passed a budget to recommend to the congregation at its annual meeting..

Finance Report Year To Date thru November 2025:

Budgeted Income \$336,985 Actual Income \$310,459
Budgeted Expense \$348,068 Actual Expense \$346,591

We are grateful for your continued financial support, through your offerings in person, through the mail, and through electronic giving. We are blessed to have such a faithful St. John's family.

Lunches for Learning

Did you know? St. John's has been supporting "Lunches for Learning," a program that provides lunches to school children in Honduras. In November, Lunches for Learning volunteers from the U.S. were able to visit Jose Trinidad Cabañas school, to celebrate graduation with the kindergarteners and 6th graders who benefit from St. John's generosity in the Honduran community. Thank you, St. John's for helping these kids learn and grow!



St. John's Sewing Ministry

Thank you for all your generous support of St. John's Sewing Ministry. The major emphasis of our ministry is making quilts for Lutheran World Relief (LWR). In 2025, we were able to complete 81 quilts. In October, these quilts were forwarded to LWR for their distribution to those in need around the world and in the USA. We already have 14 quilts to start this new year.

The sewing group meets in the Fellowship Hall on the 4th Tuesday of the month from 9am-Noon. All are welcome to join. You don't have to know how to sew as there are several steps to completing a quilt.

Donations of fabric and sheets are always appreciated. We look forward to continuing this ministry in 2026. God's Work, Our Hands.

**St. John's Annual
Spaghetti Supper**
Saturday, January 10th
Serving from 430-630pm

Trivia begins at 7pm

Meal consists of:
Spaghetti, meat sauce, salad,
bread & homemade desserts

St. John's Lutheran Church
607 10th Ave Mendota



St. John's Cemetery Plots

St. John's Lutheran Church is pleased to offer cemetery plots for sale in the Lutheran section of the cemetery located on Rt. 251. Congregation member prices are discounted at \$400 and non-members are \$500. Please contact Carole Eich, cemetery coordinator, for more information at 815-915-5441.

Thank you Thank you to everyone who helped with Christmas preparations at St. John's. Our worship services were filled with beauty and inspiration. Pastor Elise and the entire St. John's staff gives thanks to all of you for the cards, gifts and Christmas blessings so generously poured out during this holiday season!

Sunday School Christmas Program

Thank you to everyone who helped and participated in the Children's Sunday School Program.



Notice of Annual Congregational Meeting — January 25, 2026

Join Us on Sunday, January 25th

Worship at 9am will be followed by the Annual Congregational Meeting that will take place in the Sanctuary. After the meeting everyone is invited to stay for a potluck dinner in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to bring a dish to pass.

Trivia Night



SATURDAY JANUARY 10TH
@ 7PM

JOIN US FOR TRIVIA AFTER
THE YOUTH SPAGHETTI DINNER

*Sign up sheets are available in the office or
you can use the included QR code.*

Caroling

St. John's Singers and Friends went caroling in December at the hospital, Allure, and Stonecroft. Thank you for bringing the good news and cheer of Jesus to others!



Gratitude for the Angel Tree

Over the last 4 years, our Angel Tree giving has increased impressively. From 2022 to 2025, St John's giving increased 48% in items for Allure residents! What a blessing! We were also able to donate 31 gift cards to LSSI for their "Holiday Hope Chest". Thank you for helping us bless so many people beyond our walls.



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Periodicals

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Find us on Facebook!



Search for our page "St. John's Lutheran Church, Mendota, IL" and join us.



SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES
SUNDAY, JANUARY 11th
AT 10:15am

January Birthdays & Upcoming Events

God's continued blessings to all of those celebrating birthdays this month!

75th+ Birthday



- Jan. 1 Steve Dancey
- Jan. 4 Shirley Pierson
- Jan. 13 Joanne Miller
- Jan. 14 Ron Hohertz
- Jan. 14 Ray Karstens
- Jan. 14 Ron Reger
- Jan. 18 Myrna Simon
- Jan. 24 Leon Mosier

January

- 1 Office Closed — New Year's Day
- 7 Prayer group in Chapel gam
- 8 Allure 10am
- 8 Sarah Circle at Stonecroft 1pm
- 10 Youth Spaghetti Supper 4:30-6:30pm
- 10 Trivia Night 7pm
- 12 Rebecca Circle 1:30pm
- 14 Prayer group in Chapel gam
- 15 Stonecroft worship 10am
- 16 Executive Team 5:45pm / Church Council 6:30pm
- 21 Prayer group in Chapel gam
- 21 Stonecroft 10am
- 25 Annual Meeting of St. John's Congregation /Potluck
- 25 No Sunday School classes
- 27 Quilting gam
- 28 Prayer group in Chapel gam

Upcoming Dates

- February 17 Pancake Supper Tuesday
- February 18 Lent begins with Ash Wednesday

**THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
ST. JOHN'S CONGREGATION
IS SCHEDULED FOR
SUNDAY, JANUARY 25TH
FOLLOWING WORSHIP.**