

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

607 10th Avenue  
Mendota, IL 61342



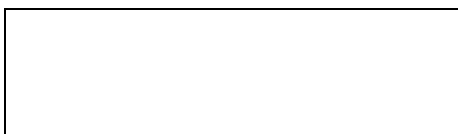
Phone: 815-539-5626  
Fax: 815-539-9006  
E-mail: office@stjohnsmendota.org

Periodicals

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Our church council has created the enclosed Congregational Survey. Please take some time to answer the questions and return the survey to the collection baskets in the Narthex, Fellowship Hall, or Office by December 31st. Your input is important! Thank you!

Find us on Facebook!  
Search for "St. John's Lutheran Church" and join our page.



December and January Birthdays and Anniversaries

God's continued blessings to the following members of our congregation...

75th+ Birthday

Dec. 1 Robert Hagemann  
Dec. 7 Betty Fassig  
Rita Randecker  
Dec. 10 Betty Croisant  
Carol Fischer  
Dec. 12 Dorothy Wieman  
Dec. 18 Kenneth Miller  
Dec. 31 Elden Miller

Congratulations!

George & Janelle Garcia  
December 11th — 5 years

Happy 50+ Anniversary!

Elwood & Jo Ann Kidd  
December 6th — 57 years

Charles & Shirley Roloff  
December 26th — 61 years

Daniel & Rita Randecker  
December 28th — 57 years

75th+ Birthday

Jan. 2 Marion Rausch  
Jan. 4 Virginia Gansemer  
Jan. 5 Betty Lou Radefeld  
Jan. 11 Robert Stein  
Jan. 12 Catherine Radtke  
Robert Wilhelm  
Jan. 13 Joanne Miller  
Jan. 25 David Jordal

Congratulations!

Terry & Roberta Wendel  
January 29th — 20 years

Happy 50+ Anniversary!

William & Edith Silfies  
January 14th — 65 years



We wish God's blessings on you and your family during this Christmas season.

St. John's staff

♦ The church office will be CLOSED on Thursday, December 24th and Friday, December 25th in observance of the Christmas Holiday.

♦ The church office will be CLOSED on Thursday, December 31st and Friday, January 1st for New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

♦ Remember that December 30th is the last day for financial contributions for 2015.

♦ When the snow and ice arrive this winter, please remember that the standard rule for canceling worship services and meetings is for you to stay safe! If either ice or snow would endanger your drive or entrance to the church, please stay home! Let safety be your guide.

St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

Volume 45, Issue 11

December 2015

Special items of interest:

• We hope you will join us for worship!

Saturday worship 5pm  
Sunday worship 9am  
Fellowship 10am  
Sunday School 10:15am

• The Annual Meeting of St. John's Congregation is scheduled for Sunday, January 24th following 9am worship.

• If you have not returned your Time, Talent and Giving form, please do so as soon as possible. The forms are used in scheduling worship volunteers.

• For those of you who subscribe to the Lutheran magazine, the cost for the subscription is \$8.95. Please make your check payable to St. John's with a notation "Lutheran magazine".

• The Sarah Circle will meet on Thursday, December 3rd at 12:00pm for lunch at El Zarape. There will be NO Sarah Circle in January or February.

• Offering envelopes for 2016 are available in the Fellowship Hall for you to pick up at your convenience.

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Come See Jesus

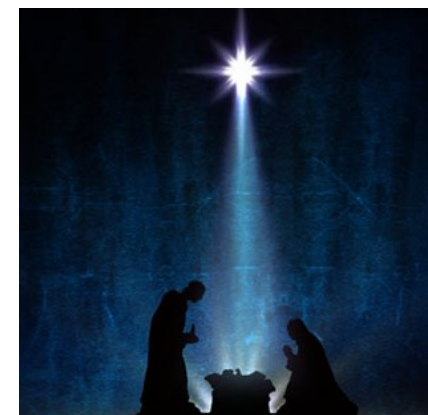
We know that Advent and Christmas are wonderful times for families – with special gatherings and activities planned throughout the month of December. The family of God is no exception. During December the family of God at St. John's will be gathering for worship and special activities designed to make this Holy Season come alive in our lives.

Worship

Worship – each Sunday at 9am – During the Sundays of Advent there will be a special family time of gathering around the Advent Wreath with singing, praying, and reading from the Bible.

Holden Evening Prayer Service – December 9th at 7pm – This will be a reflective worship service of prayer and Holy Communion.

Christmas Eve – December 24th at 5pm and 10pm – Two beautiful worship services are being planned for this Holy Night when we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. Holy Communion and candlelight will be included in both services.



Programs

The Sunday School Christmas Program – December 20th at 9am – This year's program is called "Christmas Jeopardy" and promises to be fun and inspiring.

Outreach

Feed My Starving Children Mobile Food Pack Event – December 5th – Members of St. John's and friends will travel to Normal, IL to assist with packing nutritious meals to be shipped to starving children. Call the church office to register.

Spaghetti Supper – December 6th – 4:30pm to 7pm – Come to enjoy a wonderful meal with friends while supporting the youth as they prepare for their mission trips.

Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry – all month long – This year, rather than buying gifts for each other at church, please consider giving a gift of food or money to the Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry. There will be collection boxes and a shopping cart for items at the church.

Please take the time to invite your family and friends to 'come see Jesus' in our worship, our special programs, our service to others, and our times of fellowship.

Calling All Angels!



We invite you to come to the Fellowship Hall any time between now and December 13th to see the return of the Angel Tree. Once again, you can help brighten the lives of residents in the Mendota Lutheran Home and Heritage Health with gifts listed on the Angel Tree tags. Items needed include unscented lotion, name-brand tissues, Shower-To-Shower, plain envelopes, stamps, soft candy (regular and sugar-free), microwave popcorn, large-print word search books, men's and women's socks, adult XL sweatshirts, all-occasion cards, and memo pads. Instructions are by the tree. Please bring your unwrapped items to the large box marked "Angel Tree" in the Fellowship Hall by December 13th. And then count yourself as a Christmas angel. Thank you!





**St. John's is continuing its Mission Work Days.** The quilting group is on target to complete 280 quilts for 2015. They also completed 123 school kits. A special thank you to the Rebecca Circle for supplying the drawstring bags and to the congregation for donating materials and school supplies.

Our next scheduled work day is **Tuesday, January 26th at 9am.** (*We will not meet in December.*) Anyone interested in helping out with this ministry may join us on the work day or contact Fran Pinter. If you can work from home, quilt tops kits are available in the Information Booth and may be returned to the office.



**The Gospel According to Luke Bible Study Series**

The Gospel according to Luke, as readers through the centuries have discovered, is one of the wonderful treasures of biblical literature. Come join Pastor Janet for five Wednesday evenings so we can study and explore together the stories of Jesus told in this Gospel.

January 6th to February 3rd  
Wednesday Evenings — 6:30pm to 8pm  
in the Disciple's Den at the south end of the Fellowship Hall.

**St. John's says "Thank You!" to Darlene Meisel**



Darlene & Harold Meisel

For over a decade, Darlene Meisel has been a faithful volunteer delivering our weekly bulletins to several of our members who are homebound or who reside at the Mendota Lutheran Home, Heritage Health, and Stonecroft. We appreciate Darlene's dedication to her church family! We hope you enjoy your "retirement".

**Why Sunday Fellowship?**

The Merriam-Webster online dictionary defines a fellowship as a "community of interest, activity, feeling, or experience," and "a company of equals or friends."

God designed His church to be a fellowship, not just a community, but a family of brothers and sisters who share God's ideals and beliefs, and who can help us improve ourselves.

The importance of fellowship in our lives is part of the reason that the people of God are commanded to consider one another in order to stir up love and good works. Every week, on Sunday, Christians gather both to hear the Word of God taught and to strengthen each other through fellowship.

Sunday Fellowship at St. John's requires your participation. We are the Church. Please consider signing up for one Sunday during the year to make coffee and serve donuts to your fellow members so that we can meet, get to know each other and focus on God's desires and goals for us.

There is a calendar in the Church kitchen, pick a Sunday to do your part as a member of the St. John's community.

**Feed My Starving Children MobilePack**

Saturday, December 5th



We are excited to announce that St. John's Lutheran Church is registered for a Feed My Starving Children MobilePack event! The date for the MobilePack is Saturday, December 5, 2015 from 12pm (noon) to 2pm. The MobilePack will take place at Calvary Baptist Church, 1017 N. School Street, Normal, Illinois. This church is located 2-3 blocks east of Highway 51 shortly after exiting I-39 at Bloomington. Please contact the church office at (815) 539-5626 or Shirley Pierson at (815) 539-7160 if you are interested in volunteering. (The minimum age is five.) We hope that you will prayerfully consider joining us in packing food for starving children throughout the world.

**Member Care Opportunity**

St. John's provides large print bulletins and a flash drive of the weekly worship service to the Mendota Lutheran Home, Heritage Health, and Stonecroft. This enables the activity directors to show the worship service to anyone who would like to view it during the week.

We are in the process of compiling a list of homebound members who would like to receive a copy of the Sunday service on a DVD along with a bulletin. If you would like to be added to this list, please call the office at (815) 539-5626.

Additionally, if you would like to volunteer to deliver the DVDs and bulletins to homebound members, please call the office. Thank you!



**St. John's Youth News**

*"Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others"*



**Holy Communion Classes for 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Students and Parents**



Holy Communion Classes for students in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade and their Parents will be held on Sunday, January 10th and Sunday, January 17th during the Sunday School Hour at 10:15am in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Classroom.

First Holy Communion during Worship for those who attend these two sessions will be held on Sunday, January 24th at 9am in the Sanctuary.

*Pastor Janet will be leading these classes and hopes that you will be able to join her on Sunday mornings for this instruction. This is a very important time in the life of our children, and she looks forward to working together with you in offering encouragement and support to them.*



Our annual Spaghetti Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 6th from 4:30pm to 7pm. We will be serving you a delicious dinner of spaghetti with meat sauce, breadsticks, salad, and dessert. Our junior high and high school students are looking forward to serving you at your table again this year. Please invite your family and friends to join you for this freewill offering meal. All proceeds will go to support the 2016 Mission Trips and other youth activities.



**The Sunday School Christmas Program "Christmas Jeopardy" will take place on Sunday, December 20th during 9am worship.** We are rehearsing the program during the Sunday School Openings and the Sunday School classes. It is very important that your child attends Sunday School these next few weeks leading up to the program so they are able to practice. We will have an EXTRA PRACTICE on Sunday, December 6th from 5pm to 6pm. This is during the annual Spaghetti Supper, so families can also enjoy dinner

together either before or after our extra practice, if you choose. Following the program on December 20th, all families and guests are invited to gather in the parish hall for donuts, muffins and fruit. We thank our Service Team for providing this Christmas fellowship time! The Sunday School teachers will be giving to the Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry this year rather than buying gifts for their students. If you were considering buying a gift for a teacher this year, please consider giving to the Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry instead. There will be collection boxes and a shopping cart located throughout the church to put your

**High School Students...**

Join us in *The Upper Room* on Sunday mornings at 10:15am for "breakfast" and a laid-back time of conversation, reflection and prayer. We will be focusing on "Love". Well-behaved friends are always welcome to join us!

**Confirmation Class News...**

Our pajama-themed Christmas Party is scheduled for Wednesday, December 16th from 6pm to 8pm. Please watch your mailbox for the invitation which will include all the details.

Please continue working to memorize the Ten Commandments and the Apostles' Creed; and turn in your worship notes.



The votes are in! We are excited to announce that our 2016 High School Mission Trip Team will be serving in the community of Cincinnati, Ohio during the week of July 17th to 23rd. If you would like to join the St. John's Mission Trip Team, please speak to Maria. Your participation commitment and initial deposit of \$50 are due by December 15th. If there are any financial concerns, please speak to Maria. Scholarships are available.

canned/boxed food items in during this Christmas season of giving. Monetary gifts can be brought to the office. The Educational Ministry Team is making a monetary donation in honor of our Sunday School teachers. *Please note that there will be **NO** Sunday School classes on December 20th (9am program only), December 27th and January 3rd. Please note there will still be Children's Message and Children's Worship during 9am worship on December 27th and January 3rd. **Sunday School classes resume on January 10th at 10:15am.***