

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Mendota, IL 61342



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THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
ST. JOHN'S CONGREGATION
IS SCHEDULED FOR
SUNDAY, JANUARY 29TH
FOLLOWING 9AM WORSHIP.

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 Rita Randecker
Dec. 10 Betty Croisant
Carol Fischer
Dec. 12 Dorothy Wieman
Dec. 18 Kenneth Miller
Dec. 31 Elden Miller

Happy 50+ Anniversary

Elwood & Jo Ann Kidd
December 6th — 58 years

Charles & Shirley Roloff
December 26th — 62 years

Daniel & Rita Randecker
December 28th — 58 years

75th+ Birthday

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

Happy 50+ Anniversary!

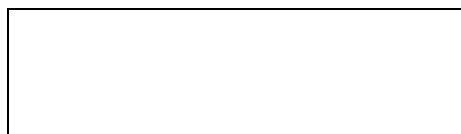
William & Edith Silfies
January 14th — 66 years

Periodicals

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607 10th Ave., Mendota, IL 61342-1935. Susan Garner, editor.



- ♦ The church office will be CLOSED on Monday, December 26th in observance of the Christmas Holiday. The office will also close at 12:30pm on December 27th through December 29th.
- ♦ The church office will be CLOSED on Friday, December 30th and Monday, January 2nd.
- ♦ Remember that December 31st is the last day for financial contributions for 2016.
- ♦ 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.

Merry Christmas

St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

Volume 45, Issue 11

December 2016

Special items of interest:

- We hope you will join us for worship!
Saturday worship 5pm
Sunday worship 9am
Fellowship 10am
Sunday School 10:10am
- If you want Pastor Lepp to know when you are hospitalized, please contact the church office. Because of privacy laws, the hospital will not contact us.
- 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".
- It's that time of year to order Poinsettias to decorate the church during the Christmas Season. The cost is \$10.00 and orders must be received in the church office by December 1st. Order forms are available in the worship bulletin or the office.

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Join us for Christmas at St. John's

Advent and Christmas are in the air! Plans are being made for meaningful worship, special gatherings, and ways to generously reach out to others (also see page 2). Please invite your family and friends to join with us in all these events honoring Christ who comes to dwell with us.

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.

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.

Christmas Day – December 25th at 9am – This service of carols and readings will include Holy Communion by kneeling at the altar.

New Year's Day – January 1st at 9am – This New Year worship celebrating the naming of Jesus will also include Holy Communion by kneeling at the altar.

Programs

Festival of Music for the Season – November 27th at 2pm – This festival of organ music, singing, instruments, and readings is free and open to the public. It will prepare us for the upcoming Advent and Christmas seasons.

Mendota High School Madrigal Singers – December 7th at 7pm – Join us in the Sanctuary for a special treat as the Madrigal Singers from Mendota High School share Christmas music with us.

The Sunday School Christmas Program – December 18th at 9am – This year's program is called *The First Christmas Present Ever* and promises to be fun and inspiring. (See page 3 for more information regarding the program and the "birthday party" that will follow.)

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

St. John's staff

Pastor Janet Lepp, Maria Bonine, Susan Garner,
Laurie Zimmerman, Karyn Bock, Rob Guardiola,
James Younger, Vicki Wujek, Delle Vercimak,
Kevin Wohrley, and Kevin Champlin.



Thrivent Choice Dollars!

St. John's has received \$2,207 so far this year through the Thrivent Choice Dollars program. Thank you to our members for designating St. John's for their Choice Dollars.

Eligible Thrivent Financial members can recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable outreach funds using a vehicle called Choice Dollars. Please make sure you have designated St. John's.

Thrivent members may also apply for two \$250 grants for church activities and events during the year through the Thrivent Action Team program. For more info please contact the office or talk to Roger Anderson.

Inquiry Class and New Member Reception



Pastor Lepp will be holding an "Inquiry Class" on Sunday, December 4th at 10:15am during the Education Hour. This class is for anyone interested in learning more about the ministry of St. John's. We will also be talking about what it means to be Lutheran. Please grab a snack and a cup of coffee, and then join her in the south side of the Fellowship Hall near the Luther Lounge. This class promises to be really interesting, particularly for those who are considering membership. Everyone is welcome!

New members will be received during worship on Sunday, December 11th.

The Advent and Christmas seasons at St. John's provide us with many ways to generously reach out to others:

Spaghetti Supper – December 4th – 4:30pm to 7pm – Come to enjoy a wonderful meal with friends while supporting the youth as they prepare for their mission trips and other youth activities. The youth will be serving you at your table again this year. The menu includes spaghetti with meat sauce, breadsticks, lettuce salad, desserts and beverages.

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.



Angel Tree – now until December 14th – We invite you to come to the Fellowship Hall 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 powder, 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 14th. And then count yourself as a Christmas angel. Thank you!



We thank the members of the Stewardship Team for their leadership in coordinating the delicious Congregational Potluck held on November 20th in conjunction with our Celebration of Ministry and Commitment Sunday.

We also thank everyone who returned their completed Time & Talent sheets and Financial Commitment forms. If you are still working to complete yours, please bring it to the office as soon as possible. The forms are used in scheduling worship volunteers.

Crossroads Counseling Center Opens

Pamela Wolf and Michael Lau from Allied Counseling Group will provide counseling services.

Call (815) 224-4522 for an appointment. Ask for the Mendota site.



~ Maria's Seminary Update ~

Maria's first semester at Wartburg Theological Seminary will be completed on December 16th and she is looking forward to a brief time off for Christmas.

On January 2nd, Maria will begin "J Term" with coursework taking her and other seminary students to Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota for a two-week intensive multi-cultural study. Your continued prayers are appreciated.

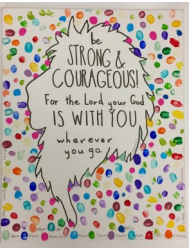


St. John's Youth News

"Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others"



Confirmation Class News...



Our pajama-themed Christmas Party will be held on Wednesday, December 21st from 6pm to 8pm. Sloppy Joes, buns, and beverages will be provided. Please bring your favorite finger-food or snack to share with the group. We will have lots of fun playing some games too. Watch your mailbox for the invitation containing all the details. We hope you will plan to attend. And don't forget to wear your pajamas or other comfy lounge-wear!



The votes are in! The High School Mission Trip Team will be serving the community of Red Lake Reservation, Minnesota from July 16th to 21st! You can reserve your spot on this team with a \$50 deposit due by December 4th (the remaining \$50 will be due in July). All current 8th grade through high school students are encouraged to participate. See Maria if you have any questions. If there are any financial concerns, please speak to Maria. Scholarships are available. (The theme for 2017 trips is shown above.)

*No Sunday School classes on December 18th, December 25th, or January 1st.
Classes resume on Sunday, January 8th.*

High School Class News...

Our High School class spent time recently creating "Random Acts of Kindness" Advent Calendars. You are invited to pick one up from the Information Booth. It's a fun and easy way to get in the spirit of Christmas!

The High School class will meet for brunch at Cindy's on 34 on Sunday, December 18th at 11am. Please meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:45am to carpool.



Our annual Spaghetti Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 4th from 4:30pm to 7pm. We will be serving you a delicious dinner of spaghetti with meat sauce, breadsticks, salad, dessert, and beverages. 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 2017 Mission Trips and other youth activities.



The Sunday School Christmas Program "The First Christmas Present Ever" be presented during the 9am worship service on December 18th.

Our Sunday School students are rehearsing the program during the Sunday School hour. Therefore, it is very important that your child attends Sunday School these next few weeks leading up to the pro-

gram so they feel comfortable about the program and can be prepared. We will have a final dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 17th from 9am to 10:15am. On December 18th, please have your child to church by 8:40am so we can prepare prior to worship.

Following worship on December 18th, all families and guests are invited to gather in the fellowship hall for a "Happy Birthday, Jesus!" party. We thank the members of the Soul Sisters Bible study group for helping to organize this Christ-

mas fellowship time! (Please note that there will be NO Sunday School classes on this day.)

Teachers and Students, instead of buying gifts for each other this year, it is suggested that you bring food pantry items or monetary gifts to the Birthday Party for the Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry.

*Please note that there will be NO Sunday School classes or Children's Worship on December 25th and January 1st. **Sunday School classes and Children's Worship will resume on January 8th.***