

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

607 10th Avenue
Mendota, IL 61342



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THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
ST. JOHN'S CONGREGATION
IS SCHEDULED FOR
SUNDAY, JANUARY 28TH
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. 14 Robert Williams
Dec. 18 Kenneth Miller
Dec. 19 Myrintha Morton

Happy 50+ Anniversary

Elwood & Jo Ann Kidd
December 6th — 59 years

Charles & Shirley Roloff
December 26th — 63 years

Daniel & Rita Randecker
December 28th — 59 years

Congratulations!

Duane & Dawn Kendall
December 29th — 25 years

75th+ Birthday

Jan. 2 Marion Rausch
Jan. 4 Virginia Gansemer
Shirley Pierson
Jan. 5 Betty Lou Radefeld
Jan. 12 Catherine Radtke
Robert Wilhelm
Jan. 13 Joanne Miller
Jan. 25 David Jordal
Jan. 30 Ralph Boelk

Happy 50+ Anniversary!

William & Edith Silfies
January 14th — 67 years

Merry Christmas

Periodicals

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- ♦ The church office will be CLOSED on December 25th and 26th in observance of the Christmas Holiday. The office will also close at 12:30pm on December 27th and 28th.
- ♦ The church office will be CLOSED on Friday, December 29th and Monday, January 1st.
- ♦ Remember that December 31st is the last day for financial contributions for 2017.
- ♦ 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 47, Issue 11

December 2017

Special items of interest:

- We hope you will join us for worship!
Saturday worship at 5pm
Sunday worship at 9am
Fellowship 10am
Sunday School 10:10am
- The hospital does not contact Pastor Lepp or the church when you are hospitalized. Please have a family member contact us.
- Parents with infants or small children are welcome to use the Nursery or the Cry Room (near the Women's restroom in the narthex) during Sunday services. TV monitors are provided in both locations so you may view the service. Please ask an usher for assistance.
- 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 4th. Order forms are available in the bulletins or the church office.
- The Quilting ladies will not meet in December, but they have created some special "Christmas themed" walker bags that are available in the Narthex. They will meet again on January 23, 2018.

Inside this issue:

Church Council Highlights	2
Return of the Angel Tree	2
Wartburg Seminary Update	2
Spaghetti Dinner - Dec. 3	2
Youth News	3
Christmas Program - Dec. 17	3
Birthdays & Anniversaries	4

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. Please invite your family and friends to join with us in honoring our Lord Jesus.

Worship
Sundays 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.

The Sunday School
Christmas Program
December 17th at 9am

This year's Sunday School Christmas program is called *One World—One Christmas* and it promises to be fun and inspiring for all of us. (See page 3 for more information regarding the program and the "Star Studded event" that will follow.)

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24th at 9am

With joy we anticipate the arrival of Jesus into our lives.

Christmas Eve
December 24th at 5pm & 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.

Day of Epiphany
December 31st at 9am

(There will be no Chapel service on Saturday, December 30th.) We celebrate the arrival of the Magi who bowed to worship the Christ Child.

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

St. John's staff

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



St. John’s Church Council Highlights

- Opened with Bible study;
- Accepted survey results and thanked the members of the survey team;
- Approved a change in worship times effective February 3rd & 4th — Saturday 5pm, Sunday 8am (traditional), and Sunday 10:30am (contemporary) with Sunday School at 9:10am;
- Covered Pastors report – acknowledged written team reports;
- Presented and approved Treasurer’s report showing YTD deficit of \$37,175;
- Closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Finance Report through October 31st:

Budgeted YTD Income: \$304,973 Actual YTD Income: \$280,920
Budgeted YTD Expense: \$327,179 Actual YTD Expense: \$318,095
Behind Budget on Regular Offerings by \$-22,616
Special Offerings: \$520 (Disaster Relief)

~ Maria Bonine’s Seminary Update ~

Maria's second semester at Wartburg Theological Seminary is off to a fine start. She is looking forward to being home mid-December for a few weeks and leading worship at St. John's on December 31st. In January, Maria and other Seminary students will participate in a three-week study on domestic violence. They will be visiting several shelters for victims of domestic violence in a few inner cities. Maria thanks all of you for your continued prayers for her and her family as they are very uplifting while she is away from home.

Sarah Circle News

The Sarah Circle will meet for lunch on Thursday, December 7th at 12:15pm at Cindy’s.

Also, please note that the Sarah Circle will not meet in January and February of 2018. We will start meeting again in March on the 1st Thursday of each month at 1:00pm.

Join Us For Our Annual Spaghetti Dinner



Our annual Spaghetti Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 3rd from 4:30pm to 7pm. We will be serving 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 2018 Mission Trips and other youth activities.

The Angel Tree Has Returned!



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!

First, We Give Of Ourselves Giving in Gratitude



We thank the members of the Stewardship Team for their leadership in coordinating the delicious Congregational Breakfast Potluck held on November 12th 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 our worship volunteers.



St. John’s Youth News

"Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others"



No Sunday School classes on December 17th, December 24th, or December 31st.
Classes resume on Sunday, January 7th.



We have exciting news to share! The High School Mission Trip Team will be serving the community of Benton Harbor, MI from July 15th to 20th! And... we have our adult leaders already lined up to help make this an awesome trip! Welcome Troy & Aimee Holland and Mitch & Tammy Landgraf to the Team! You can reserve your spot on Team Benton Harbor with a \$50 deposit due by December 3rd (the remaining \$50 will be due in June). All current 8th grade through high school students are encouraged to participate. Please see Dorothy Brandner or Laurie Zimmerman if you have any questions or financial concerns. Scholarships are available.



Confirmation Students — Just a reminder that we will be visiting the residents of the Mendota Lutheran Home when Sunday School resumes on January 7th. Please be sure to dress for the weather!



First Communion classes for our 2nd grade students and any older students who have not yet received instruction will be held during the Sunday School hour on January 7th and January 14th in the Children's Library (upstairs). First Holy Communion during Worship for those who attend these two sessions will be held on Sunday, January 21st at 9am in the Sanctuary.



The Sunday School Christmas Program “One World — One Christmas” will be presented during the 9am worship service on December 17th.

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 program so they feel comfortable about the program and can be prepared. We will have a final dress rehearsal on Saturday, Decem-

ber 16th from 9am to 11am. On December 17th, please have your child to church by 8:40am so we can prepare prior to worship.

Following worship on December 17th, all families and guests are invited to gather in the fellowship hall for a “Star Studded Event” as we take time to Stop, Take time, And Reflect on the true meaning of the holiday. Christmas cookies and beverages will be available, and the animated movie “The Story of Christmas” will be shown for younger kids to watch while enjoying their cookies. We will also decorate Christmas cards that

will be delivered to our shut-in members and those living at Stonecroft and the nursing homes.

In lieu of exchanging Christmas gifts between students and teachers, those wishing to give are encouraged to bring non-perishable food donations to our party. Food gifts will be delivered to the Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry for families in need.

*Please note that there will be **NO** Sunday School classes or Children’s Worship on December 24th and December 31st. **Sunday School classes and Children’s Worship will resume on January 7th.***



Our annual Confirmation Christmas Party will be held on Wednesday, December 13th from 6pm to 8pm in the Fellowship Hall. Pizza, beef rolls, and beverages will be provided. Let Pastor Janet know if you would like to bring a dessert. Some fun games and activities are being planned to get us into the Christmas Spirit. Watch your email for details.

