

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

607 10th Avenue
Mendota, IL 61342



Rev. Janet Lepp
Phone: 815-539-5626
E-mail: office@stjohnsmendota.org

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
ST. JOHN'S CONGREGATION
IS SCHEDULED FOR
SUNDAY, JANUARY 27TH
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

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

Happy 50+ Anniversary

Elwood & Jo Ann Kidd
December 6th — 60 years

Charles & Shirley Roloff
December 26th — 64 years

Daniel & Rita Randecker
December 28th — 60 years

Congratulations!

Bryan & Jamie Denault
December 6th — 15 years

Merry Christmas

Periodicals

St. John's EAGLE (USPS 639-560) is published monthly by St. John's
Lutheran Church, 607 10th Ave., Mendota, Illinois 61342-1935.

Periodicals nonprofit postage paid at Mendota, IL 61342-7935.

Postmaster, please send address change to St. John's Lutheran Church,
607 10th Ave., Mendota, IL 61342-1935. Susan Garner, editor.



St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

Volume 48, Issue 12

December 2018

Special items of interest:

We hope you will join us for
worship!

Saturday worship - 5pm
Sunday worship - 9am
Fellowship - 10am
Sunday School - 10:10am
to 11:10am

The hospital does not contact the church when you are hospitalized. Please have a family member call the office and we will arrange to have Pastor Kim Lee-Brown contact you.

St. John's offers **Electronic Giving**. If you are interested please contact Susan in the office.

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 3rd**. 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 22, 2019.

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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. 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.

St. John's Sunday School Christmas Program December 16th at 9am

This year's Sunday School Christmas program is called *Make Room* and it promises to be fun and inspiring for all of us. (See page 3 for more information regarding the program and the activities that will follow.)

December 23rd at 9am

Join us for worship on this Fourth Sunday of Advent. (Please note that there will be

NO Saturday Chapel service on December 22nd.)

Christmas Eve — 7pm

A beautiful worship service is being planned for this Holy Night when we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. Holy Communion and candlelight will be included in the service. Rev. Susan Presley will be our guest pastor.

December 30th at 9am

Join us for worship on this First Sunday of Christmas. (Please note that there will be NO Saturday Chapel service on December 29th.)

Call Committee Update from Richard Althaus, Committee Chair

Your church council and call committee planned a meeting for Monday, November 26 to discuss the call committee's final choice of a candidate and recommendation to extend a call. That was the plan until mid-morning on the 26th when the candidate withdrew their name from consideration! The candidate cited being unable to leave the people they have served for the last ten years. Understandable, but disappointing. The synod office will be contacting our church president to plan further actions. This is definitely a setback, but only because we don't know God's whole plan for St. John's. The bottom line is six months of preparations need not be done again. Thanks for all the prayers!

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

St. John's staff

Interim Visitation Pastor Kim Lee-Brown,
Karen Goy, Susan Garner,
Laurie Zimmerman, Karyn Bock,
Rob Guardiola, Dawn Kendall,
James Younger, Delle Vercimak,
Vicki Wujek, and Kevin Wohrley.





An Update From Our Seminarian, Maria Bonine...

Internship life has been treating me well. St. John’s of Evansville, Wisconsin has been very welcoming and supportive in my first quarter of internship. (I am quite relieved that the church name is the same, it’s much easier when answering the phone!) My days are jam-packed with meetings, Bible Study, planning and preparations for worship, and many interactions with staff and members of St. John’s-Evansville. Wednesdays are a hoot as we see over 150 children and youth in our 4.5 hours of educational programming, and St. John’s youth of Mendota helped prepare me well for this! I am preaching regularly, usually twice a month, and enjoy monthly worship at three nursing homes/retirement communities. I am learning a lot about creativity in worship as we have had worship services with Polka and Beatles music and a backwards worship service, as well as the incorporation of visual aids for sermons. Brent has been enjoying weekend visits and is serving as a regular worship steward and on altar guild. Your prayers have brought me this far, and I have 1.75 years to go. Thank you all so much for your encouragement, love, and support. ~ Maria Bonine

Mail for Maria can be addressed to:
Vicar Maria Bonine, St. John’s Lutheran Church, 312 South Third Street, Evansville, WI 53536

Church Council Highlights

The following are some highlights from the November 15, 2018 Church Council meeting.

- The Constitution revision continues and will wait for approval until a new pastor is called;
- Council leaders will continue to welcome guest pastors at the beginning of the worship services;
- Council voted to use “actual offering” figures (instead of “budgeted offering” figures) for Synod Mission Support.

Finance Report Year To Date thru October 2018:

Budgeted Income \$292,331 Actual Income \$261,435

Budgeted Expense \$312,922 Actual Expense \$288,423

Behind Budget on Regular Offerings by -\$29,031

Special Offerings: \$804 (Hurricane Relief), \$270 (Food Pack event), \$250 (PADS Generosity Offering)

Join Us For Our Annual Spaghetti Dinner



Our annual Spaghetti Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 2nd 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 2019 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 16th. And then count yourself as a Christmas angel. Thank you!

FIRST, WE GIVE OF OURSELVES: Giving in Generosity



We thank the members of the Stewardship Team for their leadership this year. 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 many worship volunteers.

As of the end of November, we have received 73 Time & Talent sheets as well as 41 Financial Commitments totaling \$182,382.



St. John's Youth News

"Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others"



No Sunday School classes on December 16th, December 23rd, or December 30th. Classes resume on Sunday, January 6th.



We have exciting news to share! The High School Mission Trip Team will be serving the community of St. Louis, MO from July 14th to 19th! You can reserve your spot on *Team St. Louis* with a \$50 deposit due by December 2nd (the remaining \$50 will be due in June). All current 8th grade through high school students are encouraged to participate. Please see Karen Goy if you have any questions or financial concerns. Scholarships are available.



Our High School ENOUGH group will be preparing and serving the evening meal at PADS on Saturday, January 5th. Details will be sent out. Meal prep will be at church at 4:15pm, and we will depart for PADS at 5:40pm. We'll plan to leave PADS by 7:30pm and stop to eat together in Peru before returning to St. John's.



Be watching for details and order forms for our annual Super Bowl Pizza sale on February 2nd. Order forms will be available in January.



The Sunday School Christmas Program “*Make Room*” will be presented during the 9am worship service on December 16th.

Our Sunday School students are rehearsing the program during the Sunday School hour. 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, December 15th from 9am to 10:30am. On December 16th, please have your child to church by 8:40am so we can prepare prior to worship.

Immediately following the program, we invite you to *Make Room* in your morning to join us in the Fellowship Hall for coffee, hot chocolate, and cookies as well as opportunities for you and your family to “be the gift” to someone this Christmas. Young children are invited to watch a Christmas Story video at the south end of the Fellowship Hall while enjoying their refreshments. Your family is invited to take an ornament off of the “Be the Gift” tree that will suggest one way that you might *Make Room* in your Christmas season to “be the gift” to someone through an act of caring. You're also invited to help write a Christmas card to be included in a Christmas bag for one of the guests spending their Christmas at the Peru



UPCOMING CHRISTMAS PARTY INFORMATION!

The 5th & 6th grade party is set for Monday, December 17th from 5:45pm to 8pm in the Fellowship Hall.

The CONFIRMATION party will be held on Thursday, December 20th from 6pm to 8pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Karen Goy will provide a taco/nacho bar and fruit for each event. If you can provide cookies or a dessert, please let her know. In addition to fun Christmas activities, each group will do a gift exchange (not to exceed \$10) for those who care to participate.



The High School ENOUGH group is invited to “*Flannels & Flapjacks (among other things)*” at St. John's on Friday, December 21st immediately following your last final exam. Exhale, be comfy in your flannel or fleece, and enjoy a quick breakfast before starting your Christmas break. Your friends are welcome to join us, too! Just let Karen know so that there will be adequate food.

PADS homeless shelter this season. At 11am join us in caroling as a group to the nursing homes, hospital, and a few of our church family shut-ins before going home. It will be a fun morning of sharing your gift of “presence” and *Making Room* in our hearts for God to continue writing his story of caring through our St. John's family. We hope you'll be a part of it – it won't be the same without the gift of YOU!!

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.