

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
ST. JOHN'S CONGREGATION
IS SCHEDULED FOR
SUNDAY, JANUARY 26TH
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. 19 Myrintha Morton
Dec. 25 Mary Haenitsch
Jan. 4 Shirley Pierson
Jan. 5 Betty Lou Radefeld
Jan. 12 Catherine Radtke
Robert Wilhelm
Jan. 13 Joanne Miller

Happy 50+ Anniversary

Elwood & Jo Ann Kidd
December 6th — 61 years
Daniel & Rita Randecker
December 28th — 61 years

We hope you will make plans to join us for Christmas Eve worship at either 5pm or 10pm. Beautiful worship services are being planned for this Holy Night when we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. Holy Communion and candle-light will be included in both services.

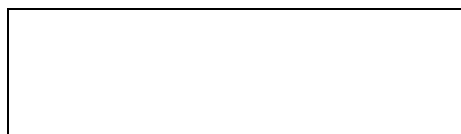
Merry Christmas

Periodicals

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St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

Volume 49, Issue 12

December 2019

Special items of interest:

- **We hope you will join us for worship!**
Saturday worship - 5pm
Sunday worship - 9am
Sunday School - 10:10am
Fellowship - 10am
- **The hospital does not contact the church when you are hospitalized.** Please have a family member contact us.
- St. John's offers **Electronic Giving**. If you are interested please contact Susan in the office.
- **Volunteers are needed** in December & January to host Fellowship Time and/or provide the snack. Please sign up in the Kitchen.
- 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 2nd.
- **The Quilting Group will not meet in December.** The next work day is set for Tuesday, January 28th at 9am. Also, Christmas-themed walker bags are now available in the Narthex for anyone who would like one.

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ADVENT: EXPECTING GOD TO SHOW UP

Advent is about *waiting*. The Advent season's themes — expectation, hope, anticipation — don't really resonate with our open 24 hours, you can get it now culture. We might well ask: What are we waiting for? What do we expect?



We are waiting for God to show up! Not as a vision or a pious emotion but as our own flesh and blood, in our own history, addressing all the realities of our world.

Being a Christian means proclaiming that God has indeed shown up in Jesus. For some, this is a fairy tale with no truth value. For others, Jesus takes a back seat to those activities that so many now call "the holidays" — parties, eating too much, buying too much stuff.

For us? We take our stand with those who witnessed Jesus' life, death and resurrection. We take our stand with all those who have put their faith in him and have been freed from sin and promised eternal life. We take our stand with those who share his death and resurrection in baptism and remember his sacrificial offering in Holy Communion.

In spite of so much evidence to the contrary, we keep Advent to remind us that God's Messiah *has come*, in the person and work of Jesus. We keep Advent to remind us that the Messiah *still comes*, in the power of the Holy Spirit, to comfort and inspire, to push us to live for his Kingdom. And we keep Advent to remind us that the Messiah *will come* at the end of time to establish his justice and bring us to live with him forever. Let us keep a holy, joyful and expectant Advent, and prepare our hearts to celebrate his coming.

~ Pastor Steve Mindrup

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

St. John's staff

Interim Pastor Steve Mindrup,
Karen Goy, Susan Garner,
Laurie Zimmerman, Karyn Bock,
Rob Guardiola, Dawn Kendall,
James Younger, Delle Vercimak,
Vicki Wujek, and Kevin Wohrley.



Church Council Highlights

The following are some highlights from the November 21, 2019 Church Council meeting.

- The Council approved the Proposed 2020 Budget for the Annual Meeting.
- The Council reviewed St. John’s Constitution update to be presented at the Annual Mtg.
- Retired Lutheran Pastor David Hagemann will be the guest preacher on Dec. 7th/8th.
- The Call Committee reported that the most recent candidate did not work out. Steve Florschuetz and Richard Althaus met with Bishop Clements.
- The Church Council, Call Committee, and Team Chairpersons will meet on December 5th.

Finance Report Year To Date thru October 2019:

Budgeted Regular Offerings \$267,500	Actual Regular Offerings \$250,478
Budgeted Income \$284,287	Actual Income \$286,097
Budgeted Expense \$310,062	Actual Expense \$247,756

December 2019: Scriptures for Worship

December 1: First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5 The prophet foresees God’s reign of peace.
Romans 13:11-14 Paul compares the advent of Christ to the dawn of the new day.
Matthew 24:36-44 The Christ will come suddenly and unannounced. Stay awake!

December 8: Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10 The royal line of David will be restored in the coming of the Messiah.
Romans 15:4-13 Let all believers live in harmony and exercise hospitality.
Matthew 3:1-12 John the Baptizer urges his hearers to repent and to prepare for God’s advent.

December 15: Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10 The prophet gives a word-picture of the time of the Messiah.
James 5:7-10 Be patient as you wait for God’s Messiah to come.
Matthew 11:2-11 John the Baptizer asks for assurance: Is Jesus really the Messiah?

December 22: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16 The prophet foresees the birth of a royal child who will be Emmanuel.
Romans 1:1-7 The Messiah promised by the prophets has come.
Matthew 1:18-25 Joseph hears that Mary’s son will become Emmanuel: God with us.

December 24: Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7 The prophet tells of a Messianic King who will bring God’s peace & justice.
Titus 2:11-14 God’s grace appearing in Christ saves us and brings us to holiness of life.
Luke 2:1-20 In a world indifferent to his presence, the Christ is born.

December 29: First Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 63:7-9 God’s own presence brings salvation.
Hebrews 2:10-18 Jesus, our faithful high priest, has overcome death.
Matthew 2:13-23 Joseph is warned in a dream to flee from Herod.

Join Us For Our Annual Spaghetti Dinner



Our annual Spaghetti Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 8th 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 2020 Mission Trip to Gatlinburg, TN and many other youth activities.

During the dinner, our talented group of St. John’s Quilting Ladies will be holding a Silent Auction of a variety of handmade quilts. We hope you will take some time to enjoy the beauty of these quilts and place bids on your favorites. Proceeds from the Silent Auction will be donated to the Youth. Following dinner, we invite everyone to the Sanctuary where local musical group, *We The Least*, will entertain us with a beautiful vocal performance.



We thank the members of the Stewardship Team for their leadership again 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.

Angel Tree Information



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: hand lotion (must NOT say “keep out of reach of children”), soft candy (regular and sugar-free), circle word puzzles, large print books or magazines, stamps, stationery, diabetic socks, sweatshirts (adult XL, XXL, XXXL). Instructions are by the tree. Please bring your unwrapped items to the large box marked “Angel Tree” in the Fellowship Hall by December 17th. And then count yourself as a Christmas angel. Thank you!



St. John's Youth News

"Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others"



No Sunday School classes on December 15th, December 22nd, or December 29th.
Classes resume on Sunday, January 5th.



We have exciting news to share! The High School Mission Trip Team will be serving in and around Gatlinburg, TN from July 19th to 24th! You can reserve your spot on *Team Gatlinburg* with a \$50 deposit due by December 1st (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.



St. John's High School students are invited to the “2nd Annual Flannels & Flapjacks (among other things)” at St. John's on Friday, December 20th 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 there will be enough food.



Be watching for details and order forms for our annual Super Bowl Pizza sale on Saturday, February 1st. Order forms will be available in January.



CHRISTMAS PARTY INFORMATION!

The 5th through 8th grade Christmas party is set for Sunday, December 15th from 5pm to 7:15pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Karen Goy will provide chicken strips and fruit. If you can provide cookies or a dessert, please let her know (815-228-2391). In addition to fun Christmas activities, we will do a gift exchange (not to exceed \$10) for those who care to participate.



Our High School students will be preparing and serving the evening meal at PADS on Saturday, January 4th. 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. Those who are interested are invited to enjoy dinner together at Marcheloni's once we get back to Mendota.

The 5th & 6th grade class will provide the PADS meal on Saturday, February 1st. Details will follow.



The Sunday School Christmas Program “*A Christmas Poem*” will be presented during the 9am worship service on December 15th.

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 it and can be prepared. We will have a final dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 14th from 9am to 10:30am. On December 15th, please have your child to church by 8:40am so we can prepare prior to worship.

Immediately following the program, we invite you to join us in the Fellowship Hall for refreshments.

In lieu of exchanging Christmas gifts between students and teachers, those wishing to give are encouraged to donate non-perishable food donations which will be delivered to the Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry for families in need. (Monetary donations for the Food Pantry are always welcome, too.) Food donations can be placed in one of the shopping carts in the Narthex, outside of the church office, or near the Sunday School sign-in table.