

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Periodicals

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THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
ST. JOHN'S CONGREGATION
IS SCHEDULED FOR
SUNDAY, JANUARY 28TH
FOLLOWING WORSHIP.

January Birthdays & Upcoming Events

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

75th+ Birthday



- Jan. 1 Steve Dancey
- Jan. 4 Shirley Pierson
- Jan. 13 Joanne Miller
- Jan. 14 Ron Hohertz
Ray Karstens
Ron Reger
- Jan. 24 Leon Mosier
- Jan. 25 Rich Wujek

January Calendar of Events

- 1 Office Closed — New Year's Day holiday
- 7 Sunday School resumes at 10:10am
- 11 Allure (Heritage Health) 10am
- 17 Stonecroft 10am
- 18 Church Council meeting 6:30pm
- 21 Coffee Fellowship after worship
- 23 Quilting 9am
- 28 Annual Meeting of St. John's Congregation with Welcome Reception/Luncheon to follow the meeting



Upcoming Office Closures and Information

The church office will be CLOSED on Monday, January 1st in observance of the New Year Holiday.

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 54, Issue I

January 2024

Special items of interest:

- **Worship in our Sanctuary continues each Sunday morning at 9am.** If you are unable to attend, you can join us for virtual worship on our YouTube page. (Go to YouTube.com and search for STJ LUTHERAN MENDOTA.)
- **If you would like a pastoral visit when you are hospitalized,** please contact the church office. Because of privacy laws, the hospital will not contact us.
- **Sunday School classes for all ages will resume on January 7th and begin at 10:10am.** Please sign-in at the table in the north fellowship hall.
- St. John's offers **Electronic Giving.** If you are interested please contact Susan in the office. You can also **give online** through the link on our website.
- **The Annual Meeting of St. John's Congregation** is scheduled for Sunday, January 28, 2024.

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From the Pastor...

Grace and peace to you in this new year!

I am so excited for you, St. John's congregation! After waiting, anticipating, praying, and seeking God's will for St. John's, you have called a pastor. Did you feel the Holy Spirit in the congregational meeting on December 17th? In Bishop Fidler's words about Pastor Elise, in Tony's presentation, and in the unanimous vote, we glimpse that God is at work. God is leading you into your new future!

As I write this newsletter article it is still Advent – December 17th. We have been hearing about watching, waiting, and anticipating God's coming to us in the midst of all of our situations.

And, in our Christmas celebrations we have rejoiced in God's coming to us. In the Christmas story in Luke 2, in the hymns we sang, in the candles lit as we sang "Silent Night, Holy Night," we rejoice that in the midst of whatever else is happening – God is with us!

And now, as we begin the new year 2024, it is almost like we are back in Advent. We are watching, waiting, and anticipating Pastor Elise's coming to St. John's. We are waiting and anticipating the relationships that will be built with her. We are anxious for the new ways that she will reveal God's love and grace. We await the ways she will lead the congregation in enhancing and expanding its ministry. And while we watch, wait, and anticipate, we know that God is guiding the future.

I want to thank you all for the warm welcome you have extended to me. It has been an honor and privilege to walk along side of you these past several months. I am grateful for your invitation to serve as your interim pastor. And I will hold you, and Pastor Elise, in prayer as you watch and see and experience what God is bringing in your new partnership in ministry.

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Karen

Church Council Highlights

The following are some highlights from the December 21, 2023 meeting of our church council.

- Rev. Karen Tews attended the meeting as our Interim Pastor. She reported that she has been with us for a month already, leading worship services, teaching Confirmation Classes, and making visits to our members. She has enjoyed meeting so many people, attending the Sarah Circle and All Teams meetings, as well as our Courtyard Christmas Tree Lighting & Caroling and the Spaghetti Supper.
- Council approved the 2024 Budget as outlined in the Treasurer's Report.
- The Service Team reported that approximately 70 people attended the Meet & Greet for our Pastoral Candidate, Rev. Elise Rothfus, following worship on December 10th. The Team is planning a welcome reception/luncheon after the Annual Meeting on January 28th. Meat, drinks, and cake will be provided. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass. (Information will be shared with the Congregation.)
- Council is looking into purchasing two 86" TV monitors and mounts for the Sanctuary.
- The Outreach Team shared that the Quilt Silent Auction was a big success again this year. Thank you to our quilting group for making this available to our congregation and community. Proceeds will be donated to the Youth fund.
- Youth Huddle met on December 13th to review the Spaghetti Supper and make notes of any changes to be considered for the coming year.
- The Property Team reported that the work is done on the parsonage and it looks good! The bushes around the parsonage will be cut back in the Spring.
- There will be NO All Teams Meeting in January; and the next Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 18th at 6:30pm.
- The Annual Meeting of St. John's Congregation is set for Sunday, January 28, 2024 (in the Fellowship Hall following worship). All teams should have their annual reports turned in to the office by Thursday, January 4, 2024.

Finance Report Year To Date thru November 2023:

Budgeted Income \$296,293 Actual Income \$279,066
Budgeted Expense \$274,419 Actual Expense \$253,867

We are grateful for your continued financial support, through your offerings in person, through the mail, and through automatic giving. We are blessed to have such a faithful St. John's family.



Thank you to everyone who helped with Christmas preparations at St. John's. Our worship service was filled with beauty and inspiration. As a congregation, we also touched the lives of many, many people beyond our walls by our gifts to Allure (Heritage Health) through the "Angel Tree" project, and our other outreach ministries.

Pastor Karen and the entire St. John's staff gives thanks to all of you for the cards, gifts and Christmas blessings so generously poured out during this holiday season! We appreciate you and pray for God's leadership and guidance in the new year.



If you ordered a beautiful poinsettia to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas, you may take one home with you after worship on December 31st or you can stop in the church office during office hours.



St. John's Lutheran Church

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December 21, 2023

Dear Congregational Members,

We are contacting all members to remind you that our **Annual Congregational Meeting** will be conducted on **Sunday, January 28, 2024** immediately following the 9am worship service.

Annual Reports should be available by January 21st. We'll acknowledge our past year as well as celebrate a New Year of ministry together. All this and much more will be covered at the **meeting on January 28th**.

Please pray for this meeting to give us the excitement and motivation to do great things for our Lord in 2024 here at St. John's. Your involvement is needed!

We will move to the Fellowship Hall following worship, so everyone will have a chance to grab a cup of coffee before getting comfortable at a table.

God's Blessings,

Ken Ladenburger
President, Church Council



Thank you to everyone who joined us at the Spaghetti Dinner and/or participated in the Quilt Silent Auction which benefitted our Youth.

Because of your generosity, approximately \$1,250 (Spaghetti dinner) and \$1,100 (Quilt Auction) was donated to our St. John's Youth. These funds will support the high school mission trip and many other youth events and activities.

Sunday School resumes on
January 7th at 10:10am.
Please note the new start time!