

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Periodicals

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Find us on Facebook!



Search for our page "St. John's Lutheran Church, Mendota, IL" and join us.

Confirmation Beach Party

Friday, January 3rd — 5pm to 11pm

Pizza, games,
ice cream sundae bar.
Bring a friend.
RSVP by December 30th.



January Birthdays & Upcoming Events

God's continued blessings to all of those celebrating birthdays this month!

75th+ Birthday



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

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
ST. JOHN'S CONGREGATION
IS SCHEDULED FOR
SUNDAY, JANUARY 26TH
FOLLOWING WORSHIP.

January

- 1 Office Closed — New Year's Day
- 2 Office closing at 12:30pm
- 3 Confirmation Class New Years "Beach Party" 5-11pm
- 5 Sunday School classes resume at 10:15am
- 8 Prayer group in Chapel 9am
- 9 Allure 10am
- 9 Sarah Circle 1pm
- 12 Current 8th grade-HS Mission Trip meeting 4:30pm
- 13 Rebecca Circle 1:30pm
- 13 Congregational Book Read 6:30pm
- 15 Prayer group in Chapel 9am
- 15 Stonecroft worship 10am
- 16 Executive Team 5:45pm / Church Council 6:30pm
- 20 Confirmation & High School Service Project 10am-2pm
- 22 Prayer group in Chapel 9am
- 26 Annual Meeting of St. John's Congregation after worship, followed by Potluck and Barn Dance
- 26 No Sunday School classes
- 28 Quilting 9am
- 29 Prayer group in Chapel 9am

St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

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January 2025

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 Pastor Elise to visit when you are hospitalized, please contact the church office. Because of privacy laws, the hospital will not contact us.

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 Wednesday prayer group meets from 9am to approximately 9:30am every Wednesday to lift up prayers on behalf of the St. John's community. You can pray aloud or silently, come frequently, or on occasion. All are welcome!



Inside this issue:

Church Council Highlights	2
Welcome, New Members!	2
Join us on January 26th	2
Mission Trip Meeting-Jan. 12	3
Youth Service Project-Jan.20	3
Birthdays	4
Upcoming Events	4

Dear friends in Christ,

What new year's resolutions have you made this year? Maybe you don't make any. Maybe you've given up making any. For most people, resolutions don't stick. It's hard to create new habits, especially when it's a big change.

We all have things we would like to change about ourselves, whether habits and behaviors or the way we interact with others. Most of us long to fully be the person God created and fully to embrace the gifts and potential in us. And sometimes we don't find these things out about ourselves into well into decades of our lives.

This month the stewardship team will be asking you to fill out Time and Talent Sheets. They will look a little different this year, and we hope you will take some time to reflect on how you might serve and participate in Jesus' ministry here at St. John's. In the meantime as you wait, I offer you this prayer, written by one of my seminary professors, Wendell Frerichs:

Faithful Lord, all our lives you have been working in us, shaping us, hoping to make us into your image. How has it gone?

We even at times pray that it would happen. But have you gotten anywhere? By the time our lives are over, in extreme old age, will we at last be Christlike? We ask because we cannot tell how it is going. We ask because we resist the very thing for which we pray. We ask because we know some old people who are anything but saintly.

Keep trying, Lord. Don't give up on us. The world needs to see you in every one of us. We want for others to meet you through us, to be loved by you through our love, to be served by you through our serving. You have so much left to do in this imperfect world. As long as we live, let your spirit work in us and through us. If at first you don't succeed, try, and try again. Amen.

~ Pastor Elise

Church Council Highlights

The following are some highlights from the December 19, 2024 meeting of our Church Council:

- All Teams will not meet in January; individual teams may meet as needed.
- Council approved a budget to recommend to the congregation at its annual meeting on January 26th.
- Council discussed future options for the Ministry Enhancement Fund.
- Council continued discussing priorities and goals for St. John's ministry in 2025.

Finance Report Year To Date thru November 2024:

Budgeted Income \$297,819 Actual Income \$308,389
Budgeted Expense \$308,899 Actual Expense \$301,596

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



During worship on December 15th and December 22nd, the following disciples were received into membership at St. John's:

Jeff, Elaine & Molly Bumgarner; Melissa Clark-MacDonald; Jeff & Jean Doll; Jim, Linda & Taylor Erlenborn; Brad & Brenda Grothen; Peter, Theresa, Christopher & Evan Komitas; and James Younger.

Join Us on Sunday, January 26th

Worship at 9am will be followed by the Annual Congregational Meeting. We will remain in the Sanctuary after worship so we can utilize the media screens for the annual meeting. At the conclusion of the meeting, everyone will move to the Fellowship Hall for a delicious potluck meal — BBQ sandwiches, beverages, cake and table service provided by the Service Team. Please bring a dish to share. After our luncheon, we'll enjoy an old-fashioned Barn Dance! This will definitely be fun for all ages! We hope you will join us!

Mission Trip Informational Meeting

Current 8th grade through High School
Sunday, January 12th — 4:30pm
Pizza and games after the meeting.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Youth Service Project for 7th to 12th grade
Monday, January 20th — 10am to 2pm
Watch your mailbox and bulletins for info.



Thank you to everyone who helped with Christmas preparations at St. John's. Our worship services were 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 through the "Angel Tree" project, gift cards to LSSI through the "Holiday Hope Chest" tree, and our other outreach ministries.

Pastor Elise 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 guidance in the new year.

Notice of Annual Congregational Meeting — January 26, 2025



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Pastor Elise Rothfusz

December 16, 2024

Dear St. John's Disciples,

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday, January 26th, following our 9am worship service. This meeting is both a review of 2024 and a looking forward to our ministry opportunities in 2025. All confirmed members who have communed and made a contribution of record are eligible to vote.

Following the meeting we will feast together with a potluck, hosted by the St. John's service team. Please bring a dish to share.

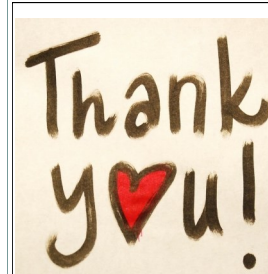
In the grace of Christ,
Pastor Elise



If you ordered a beautiful poinsettia to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas, you may take one home with you after worship on December 29th or you can stop in the church office during office hours.



The church office follows the lead of our local school districts when it comes to closing because of wintry weather conditions. If the schools are closed, it is likely we are closed also. Please call before coming to the office.



Thank you to everyone who joined us at the Spaghetti Dinner on December 8th. Because of your generosity, approximately \$1,200 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
**January 5th at
10:15am.**