

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Periodicals

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If you are able to help with the Backpack Blessing distributions on Saturday, July 15th or Saturday, August 19th from 9am to noon, please contact Valerie at (815) 866-4946 or call the church office.

Find us on Facebook!

Search for "St. John's Lutheran Church" and join our page.



July Birthdays, Anniversaries, Special Days, Upcoming Events

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

75th+ Birthday

July 3 Harold Meisel
July 25 Wilbert Kerchner
Janet Piller

Happy 50+ Anniversary!

Gerald & Sandra Eich
July 6th — 59 years

Harold & Darlene Meisel
July 6th — 71 years

Congratulations!

Happy 1st Birthday to
Callie Martin on July 14th

Upcoming Events

July

- 4 Office Closed—Independence Day
- 6 Sarah Circle at 1pm
Executive Board mtg. at 6:30pm
All Teams mtg. at 7pm
- 9 Mission Trip blessing at 9am worship
Mission Trip Team cookout at 10:30am
- 10 Rebecca Circle at 7pm
- 15 Mission Trip Team departs (early am)
Backpack Blessing distribution 9am - noon
- 20 Church Council mtg. at 6:30pm
- 23 Mission Trip Team leads worship
- 24 Newsletter deadline
- 25 Mission Quilt Day at 9am
- 26 Newsletter Assembly at 10:30am

August

- 3 All Teams mtg. at 7pm
- 17 Church Council mtg. at 6:30pm
- 18 St. John's Youth - Lunch in the Park
- 19 Backpack Blessing distribution 9am - noon
- 22 Mission Quilt Day at 9am
- 28 Newsletter deadline
- 30 Newsletter Assembly at 10:30am



School Supplies will be filling the shelves of area stores soon! When you are doing your back-to-school shopping, would you consider picking up some extras for the Lutheran World Relief school kits? More information will be shared in the August *Eagle* newsletter.



St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

Volume 47, Issue 6

July 2017

Special items of interest:

- **We hope you will join us for worship!**
Saturday worship 5pm
Sunday worship 9am
Fellowship 10am
- **The hospital does not contact Pastor Lepp or the church when you are hospitalized.** Please have a family member contact us.
- **Volunteers are needed** in August to host Fellowship Time. Sign up in the Kitchen.
- **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.
- **Volunteers are needed** to stock the pews with the pew supplies. (Cards, Pencils, Offering Envelopes, etc.) Contact the church office if you can help.

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Northern Illinois Synod Assembly Update

The 30th annual Synod Assembly was held June 16-17, 2017 at Augustana College, Rock Island, IL under the theme "Called Forward Together In Christ." Over 450 voting members from across the synod worshipped, learned, laughed, celebrated, and deliberated together as the highest legislative body of the Northern Illinois Synod. During Bishop Clements' report to the assembly, he spoke of his goal to revitalize the synod together by discerning where God is leading us.



Festive services of Holy Communion opened the Assembly on Friday and closed the Assembly on Saturday. Rev. Malpica Padilla preached on Friday and Bishop Clements preached at Saturday's service. The offering of \$3,619 will be divided between Lutheran Social Services of Illinois and the ELCA Global Mission Unit.

The assembly passed both resolutions as written: R-1 Lutheran Social Services of Illinois Celebrating 150 Years of Ministry and R-2 To Maintain Foreign Assistance and Domestic Safety Net Programs.

Delegate Dennis Bieser noted that the Assembly is a combination of things: an opening ceremony like the Olympics or World Series, music and entertainment like a concert, reports and budgets like a business meeting, forums and lectures like school and the election of officers and committee members like local elections. And last, but not least, there were Worship Services with Holy Communion.

Delegate Melissa Nosalik said the music was phenomenal – very upbeat and in languages from around the world. She said it made her feel closer to Lutherans from around the globe. "Gado de wan bun Gado, So a De!!" in *Surinamese* means "Our God's a good God, Yes He Is!!" Rev. Rafael Padilla shared with us that Jesus didn't come to this world to die; He came to live. It was his mission here that led him to the cross. It is up to us now to carry on Jesus' mission. Rev. Padilla also shared with us Bishop Eaton's message that "We only have this Ministry for a season and this is our season." It is our season now to share our mission in Christ with each other, in our community, and with the rest of the world. Jesus came to this earth to help ALL those in need, and as followers of Christ we are expected to continue his mission.

Delegate Carol Dilbeck said there was so much packed into the 2 days, that it is hard to pick just a few items as highlights. "So many wonderful people attended, each with something enlightening to share." One of the best highlights for her was the honoring of the 50th Ordination Anniversaries of nine pastors. She also appreciated Bishop Clements leadership. "His unique sense of humor really helped the whole experience move along almost seamlessly."

All of our delegates considered it a privilege to attend and represent St. John's; and they encourage others to attend future Northern Illinois Synod Assemblies.



I want to extend my sincere thanks to all who helped make Vacation Bible School a success this year. Thank you very much to Chris & Melissa Nosalik and Roger & Barb Anderson for hosting our 3 counselors. You gave them a warm and welcoming place to stay for 4 nights, along with fixing them breakfast each morning. Thanks to the Lepps, Zimmermans, Kreisers, and Piersons for providing lunches each day, and to the Goys, Bonines, Ambler, and Schallers for making sure they had a supper and evening entertainment. Many thanks to my helpers Alayna, Gabrielle, Hannah, Kianne, and Mariah. I couldn't have done it without you! To Susan and Laurie in the office, thank you for always being there to answer my questions, and to Kevin for getting my pictures into the media display. Shirley, thank you very much for helping me out behind the scenes, and for helping me problem solve. I thank the congregation for continuing to support this program, and Tony for making sure we always had a clean area to work, play, and learn. Most of all, *THANK YOU* to all parents and grandparents for bringing your children to VBS and for providing food for fun snacks each day. Hopefully I did not forget anyone, and I apologize if I did. Sincerely, Susan Ambler, VBS Coordinator



Congratulations to Amy Devitt who secured a summer internship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's office in Chicago. She is working in the ELCA's Strategic Communications department. This

department is part of Mission Advancement. Amy will spend her time rotating between Marketing, Digital Media, and Public Relations. She will have a variety of duties including creating and monitoring social media posts, creating videos for different campaigns (one campaign this summer is the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation), interviewing and writing stories for the *Living Lutheran* magazine, and creating and designing pamphlets and informational mailings.

Our Beautiful Worship Spaces

Each weekend we have the privilege of worshipping together in either the Sanctuary or the Chapel. Before every service, there is a group of women and men — the Altar Guild — who prepare the space for worship.

The Altar Guild has important responsibilities. Before each service they complete several tasks which include setting up for Holy Communion and all Holy Baptisms, preparing the altar cloths and paraments by keeping them clean, arranging flowers and greenery to help create a mood, and sometimes hanging banners to share the message of Christ in our world.

Members of the Altar Guild are also present during each worship service so they can help the assisting ministers and acolytes get robed, make sure the tower bells are rung, deposit the offerings in the safe, and help the pastor and assistants if any concerns arise.

Much of what they do is behind the scenes, but you will certainly notice when the color of the fabric in the paraments changes and when seasonal flowers are added. Please note that during these summer months, extra greens have been added to create an atmosphere of the beauty and growth that happens each summer in God's creation.

If anyone is interested in being a part of the Altar Guild, please contact Myrna Simon.



St. John's Youth News
"Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others"



The twelve students who participated in the **2017 Poured Out Junior High Mission Trip** would like to thank the congregation for their prayers while they were serving in the Belvidere area on June 2nd—4th. The students and their four adult leaders had a great time with several other youth groups from throughout Illinois. The group spent time volunteering in various ways including sorting and packing canned goods for a food distribution center, and cleaning up a park as part of Rockford ShareFest. They also enjoyed inspirational messages from rapper Josh Davies, basketball player Jeremiah Box, and Immanuel Youth Director, Josh Wold.

Ten of our Confirmation students are enjoying a week at Lutherdale Bible Camp. They're spending their time canoeing, zip-lining, challenging themselves on the high ropes course, tackling some team building activities, doing Bible Studies, serving on the camp farm, and planning & leading worship. We thank the congregation very much for continuing to make this camp opportunity possible. We hope you will join us for worship on Sunday, July 2nd when our campers will be sharing some of their experiences with us.



Our high school mission trip team will be serving in Red Lake Reservation, Minnesota during the week of July 16th. We ask for your prayers as we prepare to do God's work with our hands. The team will be commissioned during 9am worship on Sunday, July 9th. Following worship, we will meet at the Zimmerman home to complete some required paperwork and to enjoy a cookout. Please let Maria know how many from your family will be attending. You are reminded that we will be loading the vans on Saturday, July 15th at 6am.

Don't be late! The high school mission trip team will lead worship on Sunday, July 23rd and share our experiences with the congregation.

Team Red Lake will be stopping for meals along the way and for a fun outing to the many attractions at Mall of America, and we ask the congregation to prayerfully consider supporting a mission tripper by making a financial donation. More information can be found in the Narthex. Thank you in advance!

St. John's Scholarship Fund Recipients

Scholarships in the amount of \$13,000 were awarded to several young church members. Congratulations to: Lukas Brandner (University of Iowa), Gillian Brown (Coe College), Kianne Brown (U.S. Army), Amy Devitt (University of Illinois), Jared Fritz (North Central College), Joseph Meyer (Western Illinois University), Cameron Schumacher (Illinois Valley Community College), Paige Simonton (Southern Illinois University), Brock Sutton (Bradley University), Gillian Sutton (St. Ambrose University), Jacquelynn Wendel (Illinois Valley Community College), Bethany Wohrley (Illinois State University), Melissa Wohrley (North Central College), and Mark Zimmerman (Iowa State University).