

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Periodicals

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We say "Thank You" to everyone who took the time to complete the St. John's Congregational Survey. The survey results are being compiled and will be shared with our Church Council very soon.

Find us on Facebook!

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



November Birthdays, Anniversaries, Special Days, Upcoming Events

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

75th+ Birthday

Nov. 2 Shirley Roloff  
Nov. 4 June Pollex  
Nov. 8 Phyllis Hitchins  
Nov. 9 Joyce Hoelzer  
Nov. 12 Marilyn Schaller  
Nov. 14 Robert Meinhardt  
Nov. 15 Delphine Dalton  
Ruth Wedemeyer  
Nov. 22 Dorothy Ladenburger  
Nov. 26 Florence Ayers  
Nov. 27 Donna Hasse  
Barbara Zinke  
Nov. 29 Betty Dufour

Congratulations!

Wilbert & Carol Kerchner  
November 27th — 63 years

Upcoming Events

November

2 All Teams meeting at 7pm  
11 NO Saturday worship  
12 Commitment Sunday  
16 Church Council meeting at 6:30pm  
19 Confirmation Chimes during worship  
22 Newsletter Assembly at 10:30am  
23 OFFICE CLOSED - Thanksgiving Day  
24 OFFICE CLOSED  
26 "Footsteps of Luther" following worship  
28 Mission Quilt Day at 9am

December

3 Spaghetti Supper 4:30pm to 7pm  
7 All Teams meeting at 7pm  
17 Sunday School Christmas program 9am  
21 Church Council at 6:30pm  
23 NO Saturday worship  
24 Christmas Eve worship 5pm & 10pm  
25 OFFICE CLOSED - Christmas Day  
30 NO Saturday worship

January

1 OFFICE CLOSED - New Year's Day  
4 All Teams meeting at 7pm  
18 Church Council at 6:30pm



DON'T FORGET TO  
"FALL BACK" BEFORE  
GOING TO BED ON SAT-  
URDAY, NOVEMBER  
4TH. SET YOUR CLOCKS  
BACK ONE HOUR AS DAY-  
LIGHT SAVINGS TIME  
COMES TO AN END.

St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

Volume 47, Issue 10

November 2017

Special items of interest:

- **We hope you will join us for worship!**  
Saturday worship at 5pm  
Sunday worship at 9am  
Fellowship 10am  
Sunday School 10:10am
- **The hospital does not contact Pastor Lepp or the church when you are hospitalized.** Please have a family member contact us.
- **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.
- **We welcome New Members to St. John's** — Nicholas & Lynette Piller and their children Hunter, Brayden & Kennedy. We are glad to have you join us!
- **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 4th. Order forms will be available soon.
- **The 2018 Offering Envelopes** are available in the Fellowship Hall.

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First, We Give of Ourselves: Giving in Gratitude



How do you live and give in gratitude? This has been the discussion of our congregation the past few weeks. It is a question that asks us to pause amidst our busy lives and consider how richly God has blessed us, and to what extent gratitude guides our living and giving.

There are two principles that lie at the core of our giving. The first is that our giving is a joyful and faithful response to God's gifts to us through Jesus Christ. The other reason for our giving in gratitude is so that the ministries of our congregation can remain bold and vibrant by what we do in Christ' name for our members and community.

Celebration Sunday with Breakfast – November 12th

Our fall emphasis will culminate with a Celebration Sunday on November 12th. We will gather at 7:45am in the Fellowship Hall for a Breakfast potluck. Please bring something to share. Coffee, beverages and dinnerware will be provided. Following breakfast we will enter worship at 9am.

Time and Talent and Giving Pledges

Please remember to bring your 2018 Time, Talent, and Giving pledge forms with you on Celebration Sunday, November 12th. If you are unable to attend, you may bring or mail your forms to the church office. When filling out your Time and Talent form, remember that the office will schedule volunteers based on this year's 2018 sheet. Even if you've been a faithful volunteer in the past, please fill out this year's form with your preferences.

Exciting events and ministries are happening at St. John's! Because of you, your family, and our congregational family, the gospel is being boldly proclaimed and the joy of God's grace in Christ is celebrated in marvelous ways. Indeed, through our ministry together, countless lives are being touched with the love of Christ.

Thank you in advance for your commitments to Christ's ministry in this place.


~ Stewardship Team




Everyone is invited to join us at the city-wide **Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve worship** to be held at Zion United Methodist Church, 808 Jefferson Street, Mendota on Wednesday, November 22nd at 7pm. Pastor Susan Presley from First Presbyterian Church will deliver the message. Hope to see you there!



All Saints Sunday — November 5th




Scripture speaks of grief and its heavy toll on those who have suffered loss. More frequently, however, in the New Testament we read about the “joy that comes in the morning”. That Joy comes when we lift our faith to remember the Resurrection and the Victory won by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. During worship on November 5th, we will remember in thanksgiving the saints who have gone before us, those who this past year have joined the Church Triumphant. We remember: *Kristyne Gray Curley, Beth Hoelzer Johnson, Melvin Karstens, Marcy Mills, Nancy Schiefelbein, Luann Schmidt, Alice Sharp, and Joyce Stein.*



**The Mendota Lutheran Home will be celebrating its 65th Anniversary on Sunday, November 5th** with a special church service at 1pm in St. Luke's Chapel and refreshments and tours from 2pm to 4pm. Everyone is invited to attend and reminisce with them!

Crossroads Counseling Center



November marks the 1st Anniversary of the new beginning of the Crossroads Counseling Center. A year ago, Allied Counseling Group of LaSalle became our new providers. We are pleased to be able to provide professional behavioral health counseling services for members of our congregation and for the entire Mendota area.

Thanks to the generosity of St. John's, the services provided at Crossroads are affordable to everyone. (Each client is offered five sessions with no out-of-pocket charges.)

Appointments can be made by calling the Allied Counseling office at 815-224-4522 and asking for the Mendota site. Ms. Pamela Wolf, LCPC, who serves at our Crossroads Center, is a credentialed professional licensed therapist.


St. John's Church Council Highlights

- Opened with Bible study;
- Discussed our approach to replace Youth Minister position;
- Recapped the Task Force – Feed the Need efforts as well as start up for next year's group;
- Covered Pastors report – acknowledged written team reports;
- Presented and approved Treasurer's report showing YTD deficit of \$37,487;
- Reviewed Stewardship program;
- Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Finance Report through September 30th:

Budgeted YTD Income: \$274,476     Actual YTD Income: \$253,159  
Budgeted YTD Expense: \$294,460     Actual YTD Expense: \$290,646  
Behind Budget on Regular Offerings by \$-21,041  
Bequests: \$19,165     Special Offerings: \$10,798 (Disaster Relief)

The Footsteps of Luther



Please join us after worship on Sunday, November 26th as Richard Althaus leads us in the footsteps of Martin Luther, the reformer, on the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his posting the 95 theses on the Wittenberg Church door. He had the opportunity to visit virtually every church and city Martin Luther frequented. We will use photos, scripture and text to illuminate Martin's life. We will learn of those before him who inspired him, who his compatriots were and those who looked to him for inspiration. It should be a fun look (with a take-home piece) at A&E's #3 of “The 100 Most Influential Persons of the Past 1,000 Years.”

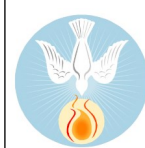
Adult Education Opportunity  
Paul's Letters to the Romans

Meet with us on Sunday mornings after worship as we begin a study of Paul's Letters to the Romans. This Book of the New Testament has always been a foundation and inspiration to both new and old Christians. Paul's writings in Romans have so many parallels between the Roman Empire and the United States. There really is something for everyone no matter where you are on your “faith journey”. The first session on October 29th will be a DVD on Romans as an introduction to our study. After that, we will tackle six burning questions about our Christian life and how to deal with them. Come join us in the north Fellowship Hall!


St. John's Youth News

"Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others"

Confirmation Class News...



Our Confirmation Class traveled to Oregon, IL recently for a day-long retreat at Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center (LOMC). In between periods of rain, they were able to enjoy a few of the outdoor activities in addition to several activities held indoors due to the wet weather. Thank you to Pastor Janet, Dan Lepp, and Troy & Aimee Holland for transporting our youth.




High School Class News...

All of our high school students are invited and encouraged to attend Sunday School in “The Upper Room” each week. This is a time of relaxed conversation, prayer, and of course, a delicious breakfast! You are always welcome to bring a friend along too.

November & December Breakfast Snack Calendar

Confirmation classroom	High School classroom
Nov. 5 — Katschke family	Nov. 5 — <i>Date available</i>
12 — Kreiser family	12 — Miller family
19 — Brandner family	19 — Brandner family
26 — Politsch family	26 — <i>Date available</i>
Dec. 3 — Hanaman family	Dec. 3 — <i>Date available</i>
10 — Jackson family	10 — <i>Date available</i>
17 — Christmas Program	17 — Christmas Program



We thank each of you for volunteering to provide the breakfast snack for our Confirmation and High School students. Please call the church office if you would like to provide breakfast for the high school class on one of the available dates. Thank you in advance!

Upcoming Event: On Sunday, November 19th, our class will be playing chimes during worship.

Youth Works!

**It's not too late for you to join the 2018 mission trip team!** All current 8th graders through high school students are invited to participate. Please contact Dorothy Brandner (815-539-2352) or Laurie Zimmerman (815-910-7505) to indicate your interest and to “vote” for your trip site — Benton Harbor, MI; Cairo, IL; or Kansas City, KS.

A meeting for interested students and parents will be scheduled soon to go over trip details and answer any questions you may have. Please watch your email and bulletin announcements for the meeting date and time.



Our annual Spaghetti Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 3rd from 4:30pm to 7pm. We will be serving you a delicious dinner of spaghetti with meat sauce, breadsticks, salad, and dessert. 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 2018 Mission Trips and other youth activities.

**Students** — Information will be shared with you very soon regarding how you and your family can help with this terrific and tasty event. (Food donations, kitchen prep, serving, clean-up, etc.)