

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Periodicals

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Daylight Savings Time comes to an end on Sunday, November 5th.

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday, November 4th or you'll be really early for church on Sunday!

November Birthdays, Anniversaries & Upcoming Events

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

75th+ Birthday



- Nov. 4 June Pollex
- Nov. 6 Charles Betz
- Nov. 12 Marilyn Schaller
- Nov. 13 Connie Pohl
- Nov. 15 Ruth Wedemeyer
- Nov. 24 Judy Stewart
- Nov. 27 Barb Zinke
- Nov. 27 Donna Hasse
- Nov. 29 Betty Dufour

November Calendar of Events

- 2 Sarah Circle 1pm
- 2 All Teams meeting 7pm
- 5 All Saints Sunday
- 9 Allure (Heritage Health) 10am
- 13 Rebecca Circle 1:30pm
- 15 Stonecroft 10am
- 16 Church Council meeting 6:30pm
- 19 Commitment Sunday (bring Time, Talent & Financial Giving form to church with you)
- 20 Christmas Poinsettia Orders due
- 23 Office Closed — Thanksgiving Holiday
- 26 Courtyard Christmas Tree Lighting
- 28 Quilting 9am



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 November 20th. Order forms will be available in worship bulletins, or you may contact the church office to place your order.

Congratulations

Happy Milestone Anniversary!

Carole & Tim Eich  
November 17th — 45 years

St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

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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.

• **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.



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"Working Together — Celebrating God's Good Gifts"

"For we are God's servants, working together." (1 Corinthians 3:9)

It takes many hands — working together — to accomplish all that takes place in a church like St. John's Lutheran Church. Some of those "hands" are highly visible as they lead worship services, usher, teach Sunday school classes, or participate in musical presentations. Others are not seen as much as they labor behind the scenes cleaning the building, serving on committees, or in many other ways.

That is true of all types of organizations, but what sets the church apart — especially a church like St. John's — is that we are not just working by ourselves and for ourselves. We are working together hand in hand with Almighty God. As Annie Johnson Flint wrote, "Christ has no hands but our hands to do His work today."

What we are doing, whether it is one of the highly visible functions or one of the behind-the-scenes tasks, we are doing for God's glory. We are "God's fellow servants." We are truly working together with God! And as we do so, we have the opportunity to celebrate God's good gifts to us.

As God's children, sometimes our emphasis is on things like food, clothing, shelter, crops, and a land which brings forth His bounty in abundance. As we benefit from God's good gifts like these and many others, our response should be one of thanksgiving and gratitude to Him.

But God's good gifts are also spiritual in nature. For example, God gave the gift of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to be our Savior. Without doubt, this is the greatest gift of all! God gives the gift of faith so that people can trust Christ for salvation. God gives the gift of grace, which is an expression of His unconditional love towards us. God gives the gift of wisdom to those who ask Him. God gives the Holy Spirit to us to help us in our Christian lives and in our praying. God gives spiritual gifts which enable us to serve Him and to minister to others. He even provides as special gifts the people who work in His kingdom as pastors, teachers, and missionaries.

Perhaps the gifts of God are best summarized in James 1:17. Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Think about it: Every good gift is from God. All He requires of us, His children, is that we diligently follow Him with the full expectation and confidence that He will reward our faithful obedience. Obedience has been defined as doing what God says, when God says, with the right heart attitude. A spirit of willing obedience is essential as we seek to use the time, talents and treasure that God has entrusted to us for God's glory and for the good of other people. So is a willingness to listen to God.

Max Lucado wrote, "Once there was a man who dared God to speak. 'Burn the bush like you did for Moses, God, and I will follow. Collapse the walls like you did for Joshua, God, and I will follow. Still the waves like you did on Galilee, God, and I will follow.'"

And so the man sat by a bush, near a wall, close to the sea, and waited for God to speak. And God heard the man, so God answered. He sent a fire, not for a bush, but for a church. He brought down a wall, not of brick, but of sin. He stilled a storm, not

(Continued on top of page 2)

of the sea, but of a soul. And God waited for the man to respond. And He waited . . . and waited. But because the man was looking at bushes, not hearts, bricks, and not lives, seas, and not souls, he decided that God had done nothing. Finally, he looked to God and asked, "Have you lost your power?" And God looked at him and said, "Have you lost your hearing?"

What is your response to God's good gifts? As one who is "working together" with God and listening to God, will you make a fresh commitment to use the time, talents and treasure you have received from Him in an even greater way in 2024?

" . . . we are God's servants, working together."

~ St. John's Stewardship Team

### Church Council Highlights


The following are some highlights from the October 19, 2023 meeting of our church council.

- We should have some information on a possible Part-time Interim Pastor within the next few weeks. The office has Pulpit Supply scheduled through the end of the year and will adjust this as needed. James Younger continues to coordinate the worship services with our musicians and the visiting pastors.
- The Stewardship Team stated that the four lay speakers have been scheduled for the 2023 Stewardship Campaign, "Working Together — Celebrating God's Good Gifts."
- The Youth Huddle shared that the high school group is planning a bonfire/get together on Saturday, October 28th from 6:30pm to 9pm in the courtyard. They also announced that the Spaghetti Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 3rd. Information will be shared with the congregation as the date approaches.
- The Outreach Team announced that the quilting group boxed 79 quilts and 6 school kits for Lutheran World Relief. Everything was delivered to Rockford on October 8th.
- The Call Committee said Candidate #1 was interviewed, but then withdrew their name from the process. The Candidate was highly complimentary of the Call Committee and cited "other reasons" for their decision to withdraw.
- Regarding Christmas Eve Worship — We plan to have one blended service on December 24th at 4:30pm. This will work out best for our scheduled Pulpit Supply pastor who will also preside at 9am worship that day (4th Sunday of Advent). We will not be holding midweek Advent services this year.
- The next All Teams Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 2nd at 7pm; and the next Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 16th at 6:30pm.

#### Finance Report Year To Date thru September 2023:

Budgeted Income \$242,427 Actual Income \$236,844  
Budgeted Expense \$228,912 Actual Expense \$219,695

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.



**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: Roger Carr, Joan DeWeerth, Lynn Dewey, Duane Fassig, Gregory Forney, Jerrene Grey, Phyllis Hitchins, Thomas Kerns, Harold Meisel, Betty Lou Radefeld, Daniel Randecker, Harry Schaller, Patricia Schrader, William Silfies, and Gerry Zimmerman.

**Join us on Sunday, November 19th for "Commitment Sunday"**  
At this service we will celebrate God's generosity and indicate how we will generously share our gifts in response to God's grace. Additional Time, Talent & Giving forms are available in the office, Narthex, and Information Booth. Everyone Confirmation age and older is invited to fill out a form. Please bring it to worship on Commitment Sunday, or drop it off in the church office. These forms are used to schedule all of our worship volunteers. Even if you are a regular volunteer, please fill out the form. Thank you!



## St. John's Youth News

"Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others"



### Congratulations to our Fall Festival Chili Cookoff & Dessert Competition Winners!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our 3rd Annual Fall Festival! We especially thank the members of the Task Force, Youth Huddle and the Outreach Team for organizing such a wonderful intergenerational event. We are already looking forward to next year! Pictured below are the Chili Cookoff winners Jaxson Zimmerlein (2nd place), Karson Sundberg (1st place), and Roberta Wendel (3rd place); and the Dessert Competition winners Delle Vercimak (2nd place), Lillian & Stephanie Hansen (1st place), and Dave Brandner, accepting for Grace Brandner (3rd place).



### Spaghetti Dinner

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 homemade 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 support our mission trips and many other youth activities. Following the dinner, you are invited to join us in the Sanctuary for a special performance by the Mendota High School Madrigal Singers.

Our talented St. John's Quilting Ladies will have several handmade quilts on display as part of a Silent Auction that will conclude on December 10th. 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.

**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.)

### Hey Church Family... Want to Help Us Bless our College Students?!



The High School Sunday School class will be packing care packages for our St. John's college students on Sunday, Nov. 4. We want to remind them there are people here at St. John's who are thinking of them as the semester gets stressful and the weather gets colder. We are looking for donations of small, empty cardboard boxes to pack in as we plan to pack for about 20 people.

If you would care to donate items to include in the packets – we'd love it! Ideas for donation might include: Vitamin C drops; cough drops; individual tissue packets; cuties or oranges; microwave popcorn; hot chocolate packets or other warm things; breakfast bars; individually wrapped items such as rice krispie treats, muffins, trail mix, chips, cookies; candy; gum; warm or fun socks; headbands for out in the cold; fun pens; \$5 Starbucks gift cards; strings of white or colored lights; positive messages; money to cover postage or item purchase; or anything else you can think of. Items would need to be at church by Monday, Oct. 30 so that we know what we have and what we need to get.

It's important that we all stay connected and support each other! We hope these packages will carry joy and encouragement to a great group of young people; and we hope you'll feel free to add to the joy and encouragement. Any donations can be dropped off at the church office. Please feel free to contact Garret Zinke or Karen Goy if you have any questions.

### It's Almost Time To Light The Tree!



We hope that you and your family will join us for the Lighting of our St. John's Courtyard Christmas Tree on Sunday, November 26th!

We will share all of the details once everything is finalized, but you can be sure that there will be hot chocolate and cookies for everyone to enjoy before heading outside to light the tree!

Also, our quilting ladies will have all of the quilts on display for the Silent Auction. Be sure to check them out and bid on your favorites.

### Attention Sunday School Families

- There will be NO Sunday School classes on Sunday, November 26th due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.
- The Sunday School Christmas Program will be held during gam worship on Sunday, December 17th. More information will be shared soon!