

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Highway Clean-Up is scheduled for Saturday, October 3rd. We will meet in the church courtyard at 9am. Volunteers must be Confirmation-age and older. Please wear long pants and closed-toe shoes, and bring gloves. Thank you very much for your help!

Find us on Facebook!
Search for "St. John's Lutheran Church" and join our page.



Periodicals

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October Birthdays, Anniversaries, Special Days, Upcoming Events

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

75th+ Birthday

Oct. 1 Eldon Hoelzer
Oct. 4 J. Leonard Schaller
Oct. 5 Gene Schinzer
Oct. 7 Irene Mealey
Oct. 14 Albert Elsesser
Richard Gansemer
Oct. 19 Alice Boehm
Oct. 22 Edith Silfies
Oct. 25 Dale Mathesius
Oct. 31 Jan Schuster

Congratulations!

Dennis & Deb Bieser
October 4th — 35 years

Tom & Laura Glazebrook
October 7th — 20 years

Upcoming Events

October

2 MHS Homecoming Service at 2:30pm
3 Highway Clean-up at 9am
8 All Teams meeting at 7pm
15 Church Council at 6:30pm
16-18 Confirmation Class Retreat
18 New Members Class at 10:15am
25 Reformation Sunday
27 Mission Quilt Day at 9am
28 Newsletter Assembly at 10:30am

November

1 All Saints Sunday
1 Heaven's Kitchen
6-8 High School Class Retreat
8 Installation of Rev. Janet Lepp at 3pm
12 NISynod Discipleship Gathering in Somonauk at 6:15pm
12 All Teams meeting at 7pm
19 Church Council at 6:30pm
24 Mission Quilt Day at 9am
26 Office Closed — Thanksgiving Day

We want to wish all the best to our college students as they get back to their studies!

Griffin Anderson — Illinois State University
Sean Bogle — IVCC
Brady Bonnell — Sauk Valley
Sam Bowne — IVCC
Lukas Brandner — University of Iowa
Gillian Brown — Coe College
Justin Delhotal — Western Illinois University
Amy Devitt — University of Illinois
Jared Fritz — North Central College
Devan Holmes — IVCC
Paige Holmes — IVCC
Brady Hughes — University of Illinois
Joey Meyer — IVCC
Molly Meyer — IVCC
Paige Simonton — IVCC
Brock Sutton — Bradley University
Bethany Wohrley — Illinois State University
Grant Zimmerman — Wartburg College
Mark Zimmerman — Iowa State University

When you are home on break or available for a weekend, please let the office know. We would love to have you volunteer as a greeter, usher, reader, assisting minister, etc.

St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

Volume 45, Issue 9

October 2015

Special items of interest:

We hope you will join us for worship!

Saturday worship 5pm
Sunday worship 9am
Fellowship 10am
Sunday School 10:15am

If you want Pastor Janet Lepp to know when you are hospitalized, please contact the church office. Because of privacy laws, the hospital will not contact us.

If you are interested in learning more about membership at St. John's, Pastor Lepp invites you to a New Members Class following worship on October 18th.

Security Cameras have been installed in various locations throughout our premises. Thank you to our media/technology team for your work on this project.

The Flower Schedule for 2015 is available in the church office. Stop in or call the office if you would like to schedule altar or baptismal shelf flowers.

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Education Excitement!

by Pastor Janet Lepp

When children are baptized, promises are made. The parents, with the help of the sponsors, promise to bring their children to live among God's faithful people to hear the word of God and participate in the Holy Supper; they promise to teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, and place in their hands the Holy Scriptures; and they promise to nurture them in faith and prayer. The people of God, as represented by our congregation, promise to support them and pray for them in their new life in Christ.

Excitement is certainly in the air this month at St. John's as these promises are being honored.

- Parents and sponsors assisted 70 students by 'bringing them' to attend Sunday School on Rally Sunday.
- Over 20 teachers and helpers from our congregation of St. John's have made a commitment to help teach classes and lead studies, as a way to 'nurture our young people in faith.'
- Bibles are being 'placed in the hands' of the 3rd and 7th graders, as provided by the congregation and handed to each student by parents or sponsors.
- Confirmation students are beginning 'to learn the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments' as presented in the Small Catechism.
- 'Prayers are being prayed' each week in support of our youth and children during worship.

These children have all been placed within our care as members of the body of Christ, sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Together, let us pray for them.

Almighty God, with a mother's love and a father's care you have blessed us with the joy and responsibility of children. As we bring them up, give us gracious love, calm strength and patient wisdom, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

...live free...

"...do good. Be rich in good works, generous and ready to share..."
(I Timothy 6:18-19)

St. John's Stewardship theme this year is **Live Free** and is based on Galatians 5:1 and I Timothy 6:17-19. During October we will be hearing Temple Talks from a number of individuals in the congregation and we will be reminded how rich we already are and increasingly can be in good works, in generosity, and in being ready to share. We will encourage one another to let go of the uncertainty of living based on our financial lacks or means and commit ourselves to God, who gives us the grace to **Live Free**. We know that generosity is synonymous with St. John's as we extend goodness and generosity in our community and around the world so let's join together to follow Jesus and **Live Free**.



Heaven's Kitchen is Sunday, November 1st at 11:15am following Sunday School and small groups. As in past years, this meal of homemade chili and soups is meant to follow the story of the loaves and fishes in which Jesus directed the disciples themselves to feed the crowd. The emphasis of this meal has been to serve, to welcome, and to reach out. As such, members are again encouraged to deliver take-out orders to anyone who would be warmed in God's love by a nice meal, especially if you take the time to share the meal with them. This is a no-cost, no questions asked event. There will not be a freewill offering basket, so if you feel moved to contribute toward the cost of the food, please do so in advance. This meal is open to anyone and everyone, and fliers will be sent to the food pantry and posted around the community. If you see a visitor or a new family here that day, please welcome them with the radical hospitality Jesus calls us to.

Back by popular demand is the dessert contest! We are in need of cookies, bars, or other desserts that can easily be cut into serving size pieces and sent with take-out orders. Those desserts can be brought to the kitchen before worship that day. If you'd like to be in the "Heaven's Kitchen Top Chef" contest, please include your name along with your dessert. We serve between 400 and 700 people with this meal, so please consider contributing a dessert whether you wish to be in the dessert contest or not. If your dessert is in a dish you need returned, please be sure your name is on the dish.

Finally, while our youth will help with setup and serving, we are in need of volunteers for kitchen prep help during fellowship time (following worship), kitchen help during serving beginning at 11:15am, kitchen cleanup, and fellowship hall cleanup. We also need someone who is willing to pick up the pre-ordered rolls from Sullivan's before worship, and several "Welcomers" at the doors (especially if you speak both English and Spanish). We encourage you to arrange for your own delivery of any takeout orders, but if you know of someone in need and you can't deliver it yourself, we will try to accommodate that. As such, we need a few people willing to be delivery drivers. To sign up as a volunteer, please speak to Mitch Landgraf or call him at (815) 538-6525.



The 2015-2016 Sunday School "Rally Day" activities started our year off in a big way! We are blessed to have classrooms full of eager students... and there's always room for more! We say "Thank You!" to this year's teachers and staff members: *Preschool* — Gary & Sheila Duttlinger; *PreK and Kindergarten* — Sarah Coss, Sammye Schumacher & Angie Sparks; *1st and 2nd* — Tara Champlin, Jennifer Hartt & Jeni Holland; *3rd and 4th* — Barb Anderson & Mel Schroeder; *5th and 6th* — Dorothy Brandner, Aimee Holland, Troy Holland & Tammy Landgraf; *7th and 8th (Confirmation)* — Maria Bonine, Dan Lepp & Pastor Janet Lepp; *High School* — Maria Bonine & Karen Goy; *Super-intendents* — Dennis & Kathy Politsch; *Opening and Music* — James Younger; and *Librarian* — Aimee Holland.

2015 Quilt In-Gathering

On September 19th and 20th, we celebrated our annual Quilt In-Gathering. Over 200 quilts were displayed on the pews in the Sanctuary and Chapel. What an awesome sight! The quilts were then packed in boxes which will be transported to Rockford along with the school kits. From there, they will be taken to a warehouse on the East Coast where Lutheran World Relief (LWR) will distribute them throughout the world as needed. Thank you to all who have participated in and supported our Mission Work for LWR during the year - whether by providing material and sewing supplies, by sewing at home, by working at the church on our work days, or by helping fold the quilts after the In-Gathering. Thank you for your prayers for our continuing efforts for Lutheran World Relief. God's Work, Our Hands at St. John's!



St. John's Welcomes New Staff

We are happy to announce the addition of four individuals to our St. John's Staff.

Our new Media Coordinator is Kevin Wohrley and our new Media Technologist is Kevin Champlin.

Joining our Custodial Team are Karyn Bock and Rob Guardiola.

We are grateful to God for our new staff.



St. John's Youth News

"Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others"



Everyone is invited to the annual MHS Homecoming Service held in our Sanctuary on Friday, October 2nd at 2:30pm. The Homecoming Parade will take place at the conclusion of the service. St. John's high school students are especially encouraged to attend... and be sure to bring your friends with you. It's only once a year that we see our Sanctuary filled with purple and gold! Go Trojans!



Confirmation Class News...

We are participating in an upcoming retreat at Lutherdale Bible Camp from October 16th to 18th. This retreat will focus on the Apostles' Creed. Please bring your \$25 deposit and registration form to class or the church office by September 27th.

The students who took part in the Acolyte Training on September 20th did a great job! We can now add you to the list of students who will handle the acolyte responsibilities during worship. If you did not attend Acolyte Training, please speak to Pastor Janet as soon as possible.



Maria would like to remind you that she LOVES to support you at your sporting events, band concerts, choir performances, etc. If you would please let her know what you are participating in this year, she will be there to cheer you on! Good Luck to all of our youth as they participate in their extra-curricular activities!

High School Students...



Thank you to the high school Sunday School class for helping to fold all of the beautiful quilts that were displayed in the Sanctuary and Chapel for the 2015 Quilt In-Gathering on September 19th and 20th.

You are invited to join Maria Bonine and Karen Goy for class in *The Upper Room* on Sunday mornings at 10:15am for "breakfast" and a laid-back time of conversation, reflection and prayer. Well behaved friends are always welcome to join us!

This fall, we will participate in a Senior High retreat at Lutherdale entitled "On The Way". We will be at the retreat from Friday evening, November 6th to Sunday morning, November 8th. If you didn't receive your retreat information sheet in class, please see Maria. The registration form and \$25 fee are due by Sunday, October 18th.



We are praying about the 2016 Mission Trip... Is God asking you to serve others? Where should our team go? If

you are a current 8th grade through high school student and are interested in participating in the mission trip next summer, please see Maria. Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 15th after Sunday School. Hope to see many of you then!

If you are willing to provide a breakfast snack for our High School Sunday School classes, please contact the church office or Maria. Thank you!