

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Periodicals

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ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

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Special items of interest:

• **We hope you will join us for worship!**

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

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

• **We are missing a handbell case.** Please contact the office if you have any information. Thank you.

• **Our quilting ladies have been sewing more "Walker Bags".** You will find a basket of these colorful and handy fabric bags in the Narthex. Please feel free to take one for yourself or someone you know.

• Everyone in the Northern Illinois Synod is invited to attend this year's **Reformation Ordination celebration** on Sunday, October 30th at 4pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Sterling.

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First, We Give Of Ourselves: Giving in Grace

As we look ahead to ministry as a family of faith at St. John's, we are embarking on an initiative that will help us grow in ministry in ways that bring connections with people and Christ. This initiative is a three-year opportunity for the whole congregation in which we look to grow in discipleship. It is called *First, We Give Of Ourselves* because as we consider the gift of grace in Christ, we in turn will explore the joy of generous giving of ourselves.



Kick-Off Sunday — October 2nd

Our Kick-Off Sunday for *First, We Give Of Ourselves: Giving in Grace* will be Sunday, October 2nd. Rev. Kurt Nordby, Assistant to the Bishop for Stewardship and Development, will join us for worship as we begin our Stewardship Event. Following worship, Rev. Nordby will give a presentation in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

Giving in Grace Bible Study

Another important element of this emphasis is a Bible Study for all congregational members entitled *Giving in Grace*. This four-week study will take place as part of our current adult study options. You are invited to be a part of these conversations.

Heaven's Kitchen — October 30th



Heaven's Kitchen is scheduled for Sunday, October 30th at 11:15am, following Sunday School and small groups. The thrust of this event is the mission of sharing God's love with others. Please invite anyone in need to this time of fellowship and a free meal. Also think of anyone you know who cannot make it to the lunch but who would be warmed by a nice, free, homemade takeout meal delivered to them that day. Please watch your weekly bulletins for more information.

Celebration Sunday — November 20th

Our fall emphasis will culminate with a Celebration of Ministry Sunday and the sharing of commitments of how we can "give of ourselves" in ministry on Sunday, November 20th. We will also enjoy a congregational potluck luncheon following worship.

Women of the ELCA South Conference Fall Gathering

All women are invited to join us for the Fall Gathering on Saturday, October 29th from 9am to 11am at St. John's Lutheran Church, Peru. Although not every South Conference congregation has an organized WELCA unit at present, almost all are involved in one or more Lutheran World Relief projects.

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



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. 31 Jan Schuster

Congratulations!

David & Debra Hof
October 11th — 30 years

Michael & Sandra Maas
October 23rd — 40 years

Upcoming Events

October

1 Highway Pick-up at 9am
2 Stewardship Kick-off
6 Sarah Circle at 1pm
6 All Teams meeting at 7pm
10 Rebecca Circle at 7pm
12 Nominating Committee at 7pm
13 Task Force for Ministry at 6:30pm
15 Sunday School planning meeting at 9am
20 Church Council at 6:30pm
24 Newsletter Deadline
25 Mission Quilt Day at 9am
26 Newsletter Assembly at 10:30am
27 Task Force for Ministry at 6:30pm
30 Heaven's Kitchen at 11:15am

November

3 All Teams meeting at 7pm
6 All Saints Sunday
17 Church Council at 6:30pm
19 No Saturday worship
20 Celebration of Ministry Sunday followed by congregational potluck
24 Office Closed — Thanksgiving Day
27 Hymn Festival at 2pm

Task Force for Ministry

A new Task Force has been formed at St. John's through the direction of the Congregational Council.

The purpose of this year-long Task Force is to discern a ministry focus for St. John's Lutheran that addresses a need in our community or world, and invites the participation of our congregation in addressing that need.

Members of the Task Force include: Michelle Beetz, Dave Brandner, Karyn Bock, Steve Brown, Jean Carnahan, Sarah Coss, Amy Devitt, Don Goy, Aimee Holland, Valerie Kreiser, Shirley Pierson, Ken Ladenburger, and Pastor Janet Lepp.

We thank these members for answering the call to serve on this Task Force, and we look forward to hearing from this dedicated group of people in the upcoming months.

Adult Education on Sunday Mornings

Growing in Faith through the study of the Bible, serving with others to make a difference in the world, and making lasting friendships give purpose to Christians of all ages. With that in mind, please note all the opportunities there are to become involved in Adult Small Groups at St. John's following worship on Sunday mornings.

- * **Wired Word** – This group for both men and women is led by Richard Althaus and effectively applies the Bible to stories taken from the headlines of the day. They meet weekly in the library following Fellowship Time.
- * **Soul Sisters** – This is a women's group for women of all ages. Currently they are reading together the book: *The Jesus We are Yearning For* by Lisa Harper. They meet in the Luther Lounge.
- * **New Bible Study Group** – This is a newly forming group for both men and women which will meet for the first time on October 16. They will be using the series: *Making Sense of the Bible* by Adam Hamilton. Everyone is invited to be at the ground floor of establishing this new Adult group which will meet following Fellowship Time in the North Fellowship Hall (on the other side of the wall.)
- * **Fellowship Time** – Volunteers set out coffee, lemonade and light snacks each week in the Fellowship Hall so that people have the opportunity to greet friends and meet new people. There is still time to attend other classes following this time of friendship.

These groups are open to all people. We invite you into the friendships and learning and service they provide.

Wartburg Seminary Update from Maria

The fall semester in underway at Wartburg Seminary! My course load is 12.5 credit hours consisting of classes in Worship, New Testament Study, Church History/Mission, Jesus Christ in a Pluristic World with a fieldwork assignment, and Spiritual practices. Thus far, these classes are interesting and I am enjoying the format and getting to know the Professors. We worship and have fellowship daily as a faith community (I love that). I recently met my supervisor for my fieldwork study and learned that I will be serv-

ing at Operation New View Community Action Agency. I am very excited about this opportunity as they provide many services to those in poverty. I have also been elected as my class representative to the Community Life Committee. Mail can be addressed to Maria Bonine, Wartburg Seminary, 333 Wartburg Place, Box #10, Dubuque, IL 52003 and I can also be reached on my cell phone at (815) 499-5789. Your continued prayers are appreciated.

The 2016-2017 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 & Shylah Ward; *1st and 2nd* — Melissa Doll, Angie Jackson & Lisa Tillman ; *3rd and 4th* — Barb Anderson, Dorothy Brandner & Mel Schroeder; *5th and 6th* — Tara Champlin & Jeni Holland; *7th and 8th (Confirmation)* — Pastor Janet & Dan Lepp; *High School* — Maria Bonine & Karen Goy; *Superintendents* — Dennis & Kathy Politsch; *Art Unit* — Melissa Nosalik; and *Music Unit* — James Younger. After visiting their classrooms, meeting their teachers, and enjoying a snack, our students spent time doing God's Work with Our Hands by assembling school kits for Lutheran World Relief; tying fleece blankets for Nachusa Children's Home; interviewing residents of Mendota Lutheran Home; and folding & packing quilts for Lutheran World Relief.



St. John's Youth News

"Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others"



Confirmation Class News...

Confirmation students will be helping in many ways during worship — as acolytes, assisting with children's worship, helping in the nursery, reading scripture, ushering and greeting. Thank you, Confirmation students for your service to our congregation!

The students who took part in the Acolyte Training on September 25th 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.

Thank you to all of the Confirmation families who have signed up to provide our Sunday School snack. We really appreciate you!



Our 2nd Annual Confirmation Class LOCK-IN will begin on Friday, October 21st at 7pm. Everyone should plan to bring their pillow, sleeping bag, and flashlight. Pizza will be served for dinner and snacks will be shared throughout the night. The LOCK-IN will end on Saturday, October 22nd at 7am. Put this date on your calendar now. You won't want to miss out on the fun! (Parents of confirmation youth, please contact Pastor Janet or Maria Bonine if you are able to chaperone for an hour or two.)

Attention 5th through 7th Grade Students!

Get your calendars out and save the date now! The *Poured Out Mission Weekend* is scheduled for Friday, June 2nd through Sunday, June 4th in Belvidere, IL. You really do not want to miss all that this weekend includes... a variety of service projects in the Belvidere community, fellowship with other junior high students from throughout the area, and lots and lots of fun! More information will be available in the spring.

High School Class News...

High School Sunday School class meets weekly for breakfast and a relaxed atmosphere of conversation. Your friends are always welcome to join us!

Fall is in the air — it's campfire, hot chocolate and s'mores season! High school youth are invited to the Bonine home on Saturday, October 29th from 7pm to 10pm for a campfire and conversation time. Hot dogs, s'mores, hot chocolate, water and some seating will be provided. Bring your favorite chair and warm clothing. Come and enjoy a relaxing few hours under the stars. Well-behaved friends are welcome to join us. Please see Maria if you need directions.



Are you thinking about being part of the 2017 high school mission trip team? It's not too late for you to join us! All current 8th graders through high school students are invited. Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 2nd at 11:15am. We will be sharing a shortened list of possible site locations at this meeting. Please add the YouthWorks staff and mission teams to your prayer list as they prepare their hearts to hear God's call for Summer 2017.



Our High School youth begin their Sunday School hour by sharing breakfast together, catching up with one another on the week's activities, and by sharing prayer requests. **Would you like to provide breakfast snacks for the class?** Donuts, baked goods, pre-packaged snacks, fruit, breakfast casseroles, breakfast pizzas, etc. are always a big hit! Do you have a new recipe that you've been wanting to try? We'd be happy to be your taste-testers! Thanks in advance for your generosity and in carrying the tradition of feeding the youth of "The Upper Room."

