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Lutheran Church*" and
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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 |
| | Linda Truckenbrod |
| Oct. 19 | Alice Boehm |
| Oct. 22 | Edith Silfies |
| Oct. 31 | Jan Schuster |

Congratulations!

Todd & Nancy Holland
October 2nd — 35 years

Marshall & Farrell Holland
October 13th — 5 years

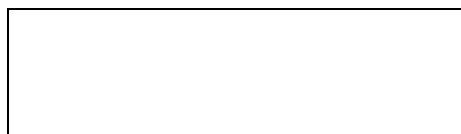
Richard & Virginia Gansemer
October 17th — 30 years

Periodicals

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**Pastor Lepp
will be holding
an "Inquiry
Class" on Sun-
day, October
1st at**

10:10am during the Education Hour. This class is for anyone interested in learning more about the ministry of St. John's. We will also be talking about what it means to be Lutheran. Please grab a snack & a cup of coffee, and then join her in the south side of the Fellowship Hall near the Luther Lounge. This class promises to be really interesting, particularly for those who are considering membership. Everyone is welcome! *New members will be received during worship on Sunday, October 22nd.*

Upcoming Events

October

1 Inquiry Class at 10:10am
5 All Teams meeting at 7pm
7 Highway Clean-up at 9am
14 Confirmation Class to LOMC
19 Church Council meeting at 6:30pm
22 New Members received during worship
22 Confirmation Chimes during worship
23 Newsletter Deadline
24 Mission Quilt Day at 9am
25 Newsletter Assembly at 10:30am
29 Sunday School students sing at worship
29 Synod Reformation Service at 4pm

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
28 Mission Quilt Day at 9am

St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

Volume 47, Issue 9

October 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.
- **Regular Offerings received Year to Date thru Sept. 30 are \$236,151.** Budget Goal for this time period is \$258,312. We are behind on Regular Offerings -15,710.
- **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.
- **Highway Clean-Up** is scheduled for Saturday, October 7th. This is a great service opportunity for Confirmation and High School youth. Meet in the courtyard at 9am. Wear long pants, closed toe shoes, and bring gloves. Thank you!

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Dear Friends in Christ,

These are exciting days at St. John's! They are days filled with God's blessings and gratitude. Blessings and gratitude are the focus of this year's stewardship program, ***First, We Give of Ourselves: Giving in Gratitude***. Together, we will explore the many ways we are blessed by God, especially with God's grace in Christ and how our response of gratitude moves us to be a blessing to others.



Over the next several weeks, through Bible Study, sermons, opportunities to acknowledge and express gratitude, and congregational activities expressing gratitude, we immerse ourselves in the delight of blessing and thanksgiving. These weeks will focus our attention on God's gracious giving in Christ and how gratitude for these blessings enable us to grow in our lives as disciples and in our sharing of blessings – to give of ourselves in gratitude.

The **Kick-Off Sunday** for *“First, We Give of Ourselves: Giving in Gratitude”* will be Sunday, October 1st when we will celebrate **Gratitude Sunday**, which focuses on the blessings God has shared with us and our cumulative expressions of gratitude as individuals and congregation. Our **Celebration and Commitment Sunday** will be Sunday, November 12th. At this service, we will celebrate the ministry we have as a congregation and indicate how we will share our gifts in gratitude for God’s blessings and the ministry of our congregation.

Giving in Gratitude All Congregation Bible Study — An integral component of our program is the all congregation Bible Study, ***Giving in Gratitude***. This is a four-week series that explores God's giving and our response of gratitude. Together, we explore questions such as God's blessings, their impact upon our lives, how we receive and use God's blessing, and the difference gratitude makes in our lives as disciples and stewards. Please join us each Sunday in the Fellowship Hall following worship beginning on October 1st. Or, you may instead wish to attend on Monday evenings at 7m beginning on October 2nd.


Plan to be on hand in worship and join a *Giving in Gratitude* Bible Study this fall as we consider how ***“First, We Give of Ourselves”***. How exciting it will be to grow together in discipleship and the delight of gratitude.

~ Pastor Janet Lepp

St. John's Church Informational Survey

Starting on Sunday, October 8th, you will have an opportunity to give your feedback to our church leadership through the “St. John’s Church Informational Survey.” This survey is an important tool to help determine your opinions (anonymously) about many aspects of the church, including youth ministry, attendance, worship services, and other key areas. Your honest input is crucial to help shape the future of St. John’s. You can complete a survey online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/StJohnsMendota>, through the link on St. John’s website (www.stjohnsmendota.org), or through St. John’s Facebook page. Paper copies of the survey will also be available in the office. **EVERY CONFIRMED MEMBER** in your household should fill one out!

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 these Sunday morning opportunities at 10:10 – following Sunday morning worship.

New Bible Study Group – This is a newly forming group for both men and women which will meet for the first time on October 1. All those who are interested are invited to gather at the tables in the North Fellowship Hall (on the other side of the wall) following Fellowship Time. This new group invites those who were previously participants in Wired Word and Making Sense of the Bible, and anyone else who would like to talk about faith issues with others.

Soul Sisters – This is a women’s group for women of all ages. They meet in the Luther Lounge located next to the Fellowship Hall.

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 fellowship.

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

Wartburg Theological Seminary Update from Maria

Our seminary student, Maria Bonine, is back at Wartburg Theological Seminary for the fall term. In addition to her classes, Maria is excited about her fieldwork assignment at Catholic Charities with their Prison Re-Entry Program. She is also serving on Chapel Staff as one of two Chapel Sacristans this year. As Chapel Sacristan, Maria meets with students to plan the daily worship services, trains and rehearses with the students on leading worship, and takes care of communion set up and clean up, including securing homemade bread and care of the linens. She also works with Chapel Musicians to choose and prepare music for worship, and with the Chapel Sexton in arranging the worship space. Maria's experience serving at St. John's has prepared her quite well to serve at Wartburg in this capacity. Your continued prayers are always appreciated!



The 2017-2018 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: *Pre-school* — Gary & Sheila Duttlinger; *PreK and Kindergarten* — Sarah Coss, Sammye Schumacher & Cameron Schumacher; *1st and 2nd* — Melissa Doll, Kris Baird & Peyton Baird ; *3rd and 4th* — Melissa Nosalik & Dawn Kendall; *5th and 6th* — Tara Champlin & Jeni Holland; *7th and 8th (Confirmation)* — Pastor Janet Lepp, Dan Lepp & Bonni Kaiser; *High School* — Dean & Shylah Ward and other adults; *Superintendent* — Lori Losey; and *Music* — James Younger. After visiting their classrooms and meeting their teachers, our younger students spent time in the Fellowship Hall playing various games and enjoying a snack. They also went outside to the Courtyard to paint garbage cans to be placed in Mendota parks. Our high schoolers assisted with the games and painting while our Confirmation class spread mulch around the play equipment at nearby Apple Orchard Park.




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, 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 24th 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.

Upcoming Events:

- Sunday, October 1st — we will be walking to the Mendota Lutheran Home to spend some time with the residents during the Sunday School hour.
- Saturday, October 7th — please consider joining the Highway Clean-up crew that will meet in the church courtyard at 9am. Wear long pants, closed toe shoes, and bring gloves.
- Saturday, October 14th — we are planning to have a great day at our retreat to Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center (LOMC) near Oregon, IL. As part of the day, we will go zip-lining! Please meet at the church at 8:45am. (Bring your permission slip.)
- Sunday, October 22nd — our class will be playing chimes during worship.


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.

We continue to work toward assembling a Team of adults to lead our High School Sunday School class this year, and we are excited that Dean & Shylah Ward have agreed to be part of that Team. If you have an idea of an adult in our congregation who you would like to invite to be part of our High School Team, please share that information with Pastor.

October Breakfast Snack Calendar

| Confirmation classroom | High School classroom |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 — Pastor & Dan Lepp | 1 — Brown family |
| 8 — Miller family | 8 — <i>Date available</i> |
| 15 — Landgraf family | 15 — Peasley family |
| 22 — Martin family | 22 — Glazebrook family |
| 29 — Jackson family | 29 — <i>Date available</i> |

 We thank each of you for volunteering to provide the breakfast snack for our Confirmation and High School students. If you did not have an opportunity to sign-up for a date, please call the office or look for the sign-up sheet in the classrooms.

Here are just a few pictures from our Mission: Mendota work day on September 9th...

Our 3rd through 6th grade Sunday School students will provide some special music for us during worship on Sunday, October 29th.

