

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Mendota, IL 61342



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Everyone Is Invited!

In celebration of **Generosity Sunday**, we invite you to join us for a catered dinner following Sunday School on October 28th at 11:15am in the Fellowship Hall. If you plan to attend, please call the office to RSVP by Monday, October 22nd.

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 blessings to...

75th+ Birthday

Oct. 1 Eldon Hoelzer
Oct. 4 J. Leonard Schaller
Oct. 5 Gene Schinzer
Oct. 14 Albert Elsesser
Richard Gansemer
Linda Truckenbrod
Oct. 31 Jan Schuster



Congratulations to Marshall & Farrell Holland on the birth of their son, Taeden Gideon on September 18th.

Grandparents are Todd & Nancy Holland and Rick & Becky Lowers.

Upcoming Events

October

4 Sarah Circle at 1pm
4 Executive Team meeting at 6:30pm
4 All Teams meeting at 7pm
6 Highway Clean-up at 9am
8 Office Closed — Columbus Day
8 Rebecca Circle at 7pm
18 Church Council meeting at 6:30pm
19 Kids Against Hunger set-up at 6pm
20 Kids Against Hunger event here
22 Newsletter Deadline
22 RSVP due for Generosity Sunday dinner
23 Mission Quilt Day at 9am
25 Newsletter Assembly at 10:30am
27 No Chapel worship
28 Generosity Sunday dinner at 11:15am

November

1 All Teams meeting at 7pm
10 No Chapel worship
11 Commitment Sunday
15 Church Council meeting at 6:30pm
22 Office Closed — Thanksgiving Day

A BIG Thank You to all who have supported our mission work for Lutheran World Relief (LWR). 173 quilts and 112 school kits have been completed this year. Thank you to our quilters for donating your time and talents; to those who donated fabric and school supplies; to the Rebecca Circle for donating school bags; and to those who helped pack the quilts and kits. Your continued support of our mission work is greatly appreciated. Everyone working together makes for a successful outcome. God's work, our hands.

The Mission Quilting group meets in the Fellowship Hall on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 9am. All are welcome to join us as we continue our year-round work of assembling quilts.

St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

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October 2018

Special items of interest:

- **We hope you will join us for worship!**
Saturday worship - 5pm
Sunday worship - 9am
Fellowship - 10am
Sunday School - 10:10am to 11:10am
- **The hospital does not contact the church when you are hospitalized.** Please have a family member call the office and we will arrange to have Pastor Jeff or Pastor Kim contact you. If you have an emergency outside of office hours, please contact Pastor Jeff at (815) 931-8324.
- St. John's offers **Electronic Giving**. If you are interested please contact Susan in the office.
- **Volunteers are needed** in October to host Fellowship Time. Sign up in Kitchen.
- **Highway Clean-Up** is scheduled for Saturday, October 6th. 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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Take It Personally!

"Don't take it personally; it's just business!" Chances are, if you've heard that statement directed at you, it was personal, and very hard to take ... especially if you'd just been given your walking papers. When it comes to our religion, we seem to want it both ways: we want both a personal God, and a God who "does business." We want the ability to trade our goodness—our good intentions, good piety, good faith—all for God's love and forgiveness. How easy it is to lose sight of the real meaning and power of the gospel!

So, it's good to have a Reformation Sunday to help us remember our heritage and celebrate Martin Luther's rediscovery of the gospel back in the sixteenth century. Luther's story begins with a German father's dream for his child—a dream of success and fame—a dream that his son would grow up to be a great lawyer. But that dream was never to be realized, at least not in the way good old dad envisioned. God had other plans for Martin.

On the way home from classes one day Luther found himself caught in a deadly thunderstorm. A bolt of lightning hit the ground very close to him, and in a panic he cried out, "Save me, St. Anne, and I'll become a monk!" That was both very personal and very business-like. Luther was bargaining for his life. Long story short, Luther lived...and kept his word.

Why would Luther do that? Quite simply, he was like every other person of his era who was scared to death of a God they saw as hating sinners and looking for an excuse to damn them all! So when a man by the name of Tetzel came along selling "indulgences" that promised people pardon for all their sins, they naturally lined up to get in on this cheap way to heaven. All the church had to do in those days to raise money was to play on the fear of damnation. Just literally scare the hell out of people and you could very easily scare their money out of them too! Not a very ethical approach to stewardship, but it worked—until Luther saw the light!

While teaching at a university Martin Luther came to his own awakening concerning the truth and power of the gospel after an intensive study of the book of Romans, in which he heard, for the first time, the good news God had for God's people in Jesus. The truth, Luther said, is that God indeed hates sin, but intensely loves the sinner—so much so that God sent Jesus to die for us all, that we might receive forgiveness and new life. That is the unanimous witness of the entire New Testament! Very strange, then, that this truth had gotten lost.

The power of the gospel is this: salvation is a free gift—no strings attached—no good intentions, no good works, no good piety required. It's free, period! We can do absolutely nothing to earn it or deserve it. And that's the truth! The only business transaction required has already been completed, by Jesus, on the cross, through his death and resurrection. His death for our eternal life. The deal's done. It's over. We are saved! And that's about as personal as you can get!

Take it personally! Luther said. But make sure you understand that it's God's personal love and not God's anger or God's hatred that is directed at you. You have been saved by God's grace—by God's love—in Christ Jesus, and not by your own works. That's the good news Luther rediscovered, and that's the good news we need to celebrate every day. From a Halloween perspective: there are no divine tricks; only our Lord's saving treat!

~ Pastor Jeff

Kids Against Hunger®

Feeding families around the world...and around the corner.

Our Kids Against Hunger food pack event will be held here on Saturday, October 20th. We will need *MANY* helping hands — 10 people to help with set-up for the event on Friday evening, 100 people to work the event from 12pm to 3pm, and 12 people to help with clean-up following the event. We have created a way for you to sign up online through SignUpGenius. Just type this link into your internet browser: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0C45AEA92CA2FB6-kids>, choose how you would like to help, and fill in your information. You can also go to the St. John's Facebook page or our website (www.stjohnsmendota.org) to find the SignUpGenius link and sign up there. Paper sign-up sheets are also posted on the bulletin board outside of the Fellowship Hall. Or, you can call the church office and we will sign you up that way. Please invite your family and friends to join you in this event. It will be a very fun time and will touch 52,000 people in a life-giving way!!



FIRST, WE GIVE OF OURSELVES: *Giving in Generosity*

This fall we enter into the final leg of our three-year journey exploring discipleship and growing as stewards. We began our first leg with an emphasis on “Giving in Grace”. Year two was one filled with the meaning of gratitude as we centered our attention of “Giving in Gratitude”. Now, as we enter year three of this emphasis on discipleship and stewardship, we turn our attention to “Giving in Generosity”. Over the next number of weeks, we will explore the concept of generosity, both God's and ours. What does God's generosity look like? How do we live each day in God's generosity? How does God's generosity provide a model for our own? These are just a few of the questions we will explore together.

Mark These Dates on Your Calendar

September 30 – “Kick Off Sunday”

October 28 – “Generosity Sunday” This is a special day providing an opportunity for the combined generosity of our congregation in sharing a gift for a ministry outside our congregation. Be watching for more news about this opportunity for generosity. Following Sunday School at 11:15am, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a delicious catered dinner. It is important that you RSVP to the church office by Monday, October 22nd. We hope you will join us!

November 11 – “Celebration and 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 and for our ministry of sharing this grace.

“Giving in Generosity” All Congregation Bible Study

Gathering around God's Word enriches all we do. As we experience our conversation about generosity, we have the opportunity to share in an all-congregation Bible Study entitled, “Giving in Generosity”. This is a four-week study that will examine generosity from the perspective of God's grace, God's generosity, and how God's generosity is model for our own. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall following worship for four Sundays beginning on October 7th. Be sure to grab some refreshments and join us!

~ Call Committee Update ~

- The Call Committee completed the Ministry Site Profile which describes St. John's, our community and our goals. It was approved by the Church Council and then submitted to the Northern Illinois Synod.
- The Committee met with Pastor Chubb to do a candidate mock interview. The Assistant to the Bishop came to St. John's to coach us in proper interview procedures and helped us with choices of questions.
- The Committee has received a candidate profile and will start the interview process. They ask for your prayers as they go forward.

Church Council Highlights

The following are some highlights from the September 20, 2018 Church Council meeting.

- Rev. Gene Vincent, visiting on behalf of the Synod, led the opening devotions;
- The Executive Team reported that staff reviews have been completed;
- The Constitution Committee has met with Pastor Jeff and are working on updating the St. John's Congregational Constitution.

Finance Report Year To Date thru August 2018:

Budgeted Income \$235,626 Actual Income \$213,939

Budgeted Expense \$251,953 Actual Expense \$228,974

Behind Budget on Regular Offerings by -\$22,296

Special Offerings: \$222 (School Kits)



St. John's Youth News

"Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others"



Agents of Change (6th, 7th and 8th Graders)

On Saturday, October 6th we will be cooking and serving the evening meal for the PADS Homeless Shelter. Details have been mailed to your homes along with a permission slip. Please be sure to let Karen know how you're able to participate. If you are unable to help with this event, but would like to contribute supplies for the meal, please contact Karen.

← CHECK THIS OUT !

We have a great service opportunity for you and your family or friends! If you are able to provide and serve the evening meal for the PADS Homeless Shelter on Saturday, April 6th, please sign up on the sheet outside the office or see Karen for details.

The 2018-2019 Sunday School year is under-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 and PreKindergarten* — Gary & Sheila Duttlinger; *Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd* — Sarah Coss, Sammye Schumacher, Linda Erlenborn & Lynette Piller; *3rd and 4th* — Melissa Nosalik & Dawn Kendall; *5th and 6th* — Tara Champlin & Jeni Holland; *7th and 8th (Confirmation)* — Pastor Jeff Chubb; *High School* — Karen Goy and other adults; and *Music* — James Younger. Our youngest children enjoyed the music opening with Mr. Younger in the Chapel before going to their classrooms. Our older children visited their classrooms and met their teachers before everyone gathered in the Fellowship Hall to enjoy a Potluck Brunch. Thank you very much to those of you who provided the selection of delicious dishes.



This year our **High School youth** are going to live out the concept “Love DOES” as our approach to our time together on Sunday mornings. As we prayerfully carry out a host of different kinds of giving and serving, we trust that we will come to know God and each other better as well. In mid-September our group had a great time conducting a *Random Acts of Kindness Blast* throughout Mendota. If you have ideas for us, or if you would be willing to serve as an additional transporting adult, please speak with Karen. We are excited that we get to be the vessels of God's love!



During the month of October, our Confirmation Class will be watching and discussing the movie, *Luther*. This movie introduces us to Martin Luther, a brilliant man of God whose defiant actions changed the world.

High School student, Samantha Katschke, is pictured on the bench that was installed in the new playground in Paw Paw.



Sammi and her Girl Scout Troop #5158 would like to thank St. John's for the generous donations of bottle caps to help them reach their goal.

St. John's was well-represented on the MHS Homecoming Court this year! Congratulations to Katie, Ally, Maya & Ted!



Senior Attendant Katie Beetz and Mini Queen Ally Tillman



Freshman Attendants Maya Martin and Ted Landgraf