

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Periodicals

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Find us on Facebook!



Search for our page "St. John's Lutheran Church, Mendota, IL" and join us.

Join our Wednesday Morning Prayer Group in the Chapel at 9am.



October Birthdays, Anniversaries & Upcoming Events

God's continued blessings to all of those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries!

75th+ Birthday



- Oct. 4 J. Leonard Schaller
- Oct. 5 Gene Schinzer
- Oct. 5 Sue Shirey
- Oct. 10 Gary Duttlinger
- Oct. 19 Leo Quick
- Oct. 31 Jan Schuster

Congratulations

Happy Milestone Wedding Anniversary!

Jim & Michele Meyer
October 28th — 40 years

October

- 2 Prayer group in Chapel 9am
- 3 Sarah Circle 1pm
- 3 All Teams meeting 7pm
- 5 Blessing of the Animals in the Courtyard 1pm
- 6 Sunday School children sing during 9am worship
- 6 Confirmation/HS/Adult — Class on Prayer and Art 10:15am
- 6 Fall Festival following Sunday School 11:15am
- 9 Prayer group in Chapel 9am
- 10 Allure worship 10am
- 13 High School Sunday School preparing care packages
- 14 OFFICE CLOSED — Columbus & Indigenous Peoples' Day
- 14 Rebecca Circle at Judy Kerns' home
- 14 Congregational book read 6:30pm-8pm
- 15 World Food Day online viewing in Sanctuary 7pm
- 16 Prayer group in Chapel 9am
- 16 Stonecroft worship 10am
- 17 Executive Team 5:45pm / Church Council 6:30pm
- 22 Quilting 9am
- 23 Prayer group in Chapel 9am
- 26 Confirmation retreat 10am-5pm
- 27 Reformation Sunday
- 30 Prayer group in Chapel 9am

St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

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October 2024

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 Pastor Elise to 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.

The **Wednesday prayer group** meets from 9am to approximately 9:30am every Wednesday to lift up prayers on behalf of the St. John's community. You can pray aloud or silently, come frequently, or on occasion. All are welcome!



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Dear friends in Christ,

I'd like to think I'm a generous person. I know that sometimes I am. I also know that sometimes I'm not. I've discovered that, like a lot of people I know, I'm on a journey of generosity. That is, I'm figuring out month by month, year by year, how I can keep growing in my generosity. The reason I want to keep at generosity is that I find joy in giving.

I think it's similar to learning to read. At first, it's uncomfortable, even difficult. But as letters and sounds become more familiar with practice, reading becomes natural and can become a source of joy.

I continue to learn about generosity from people I've met through my life. From my parents and in-laws, to my home congregation that provided a scholarship for seminary. I remember a parishioner, Brad, who had become more interested in the Bible and started listening to the Old Testament during his commute to work. He approached me one day, saying he had listened to a section about the offering of animals and first fruits offering to honor God. He had a hobby farm, and asked me what I thought about him dedicating the sale of his first calf of the season for part of his offering. A few months later we received his check with a note about how special that first calf had been to him, knowing that it was a gift received from God and now would support God's work through our congregation.

During the pandemic pastors shared with me how they had people in their congregations who did not need the pandemic relief checks from the government and so donated them fully to the church's ministry during such a trying time.

My experience of St. John's is that you are a generous congregation! There is a culture here of wanting to give – and doing it! From my arrival and receiving so many gifts of welcome, to learning about the Ministry Enhancement Fund, which has inspired many more acts of generosity, to witnessing the outpouring of gifts for rain-boots for children in Honduras and Romania. In my experience, generosity begets generosity, and creates a culture of generosity.

I am so grateful to be surrounded by generous people who continue to teach me about generosity. We are entering "stewardship season," and we will be on a generosity journey together these next weeks. We will share stories of past generosity and hopes for what God will bring forth from us for ministry in the coming year. I look forward to hearing more of *your* stories of generosity as we begin this generosity journey together.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Elise

Church Council Highlights

The following are some highlights from the September 26, 2024 meeting of our Church Council:

- The Task Force and the Outreach Team have been working on the upcoming Fall Festival. Task Force is also planning a Trivia Night for Saturday, November 9th.
- Property Team reported the Fellowship Hall floor is in the process of being replaced from the water heater leak. Insurance has covered the entire project as well as replacement of the water heater that malfunctioned.
- Educational Ministry Team reported that the Sunday School offering this year will coincide with the 50th Anniversary of ELCA World Hunger.
- New business included Council approval of the Scholarship Policy and Application Revision.

Finance Report Year To Date thru August 2024:

Budgeted Income \$219,548 Actual Income \$230,001
 Budgeted Expense \$255,393 Actual Expense \$221,153

We are grateful for your continued financial support, through your offerings in person, through the mail, and through electronic giving. We are blessed to have such a faithful St. John's family.

50th Anniversary of ELCA World Hunger

St. John's has been one of the most generous givers to ELCA World Hunger. Come hear how your generosity makes a difference in people's lives. ELCA World Hunger is sponsoring an online celebration of World Food Day and the 50th anniversary of ELCA World Hunger on Tuesday, October 15th at 7pm.

Join us in St. John's Sanctuary on Tuesday, October 15th at 7pm as Pastor Elise hosts a viewing to hear firsthand stories from ELCA World Hunger partners — including Educación Popular en Salud (EPES), a community health organization in Chile founded over 40 years ago, and more recent starts such as **Tapestry Farms, a Midwestern urban farm system in the Quad Cities of Iowa and Illinois**. You'll hear about their work with ELCA World Hunger and their impact on these communities — all as we celebrate 50 years of ministry and get excited for our shared work toward a just world where all are fed. This special online event will be hosted by the Rev. Amy Current, bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, and Imran Siddiqui, vice president of the ELCA. (You may also register to join the event from your home: elca.org/WH50)

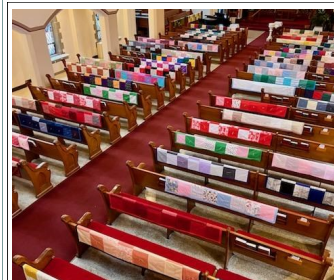
St. John's Annual Fall Festival Sunday, October 6th at 11:15am (following Sunday School)

It's time for our Chili Cookoff and Apple or Pumpkin Dessert Competition! Who will take the top prizes this year?! Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for lots of fun and lots of food! In addition to chili and desserts, we will have hot dogs and apple cider for everyone. Games and activities for all ages, too!

Blessing of the Animals

*O LORD, how manifold are your works!
 In wisdom you have made them all;
 the earth is full of your creatures.*
 (Psalm 104:24)

Pastor Elise will host a short blessing of the animals on **Saturday, October 5th at 1pm** in the St. John's courtyard. Your pets are welcome to come receive a blessing. Dogs must be leashed, and smaller animals in carriers. (The commemoration of Saint Francis, lover of the earth and its animals is October 4th.)



We celebrated our annual Quilt In-Gathering during worship on Sunday, September 29th with a display of over 75 quilts in the Sanctuary. These quilts are the handiwork of countless hours of work performed by many dedicated women throughout the year. Thank you to everyone for your continuing support of our mission work for Lutheran World Relief. You are invited to join the group at our next work day on Tuesday, October 22nd at 9am. You do not need to know how to sew to help create the quilts. Everyone working together makes for a very successful outcome!

Join Us for Sunday School!



The 2024-2025 Sunday School year kicked-off on September 10th with the Installation of our Sunday School teachers & staff during worship, and the fun continued with doughnuts and a cross-generational Zacchaeus activity in the Fellowship Hall after worship.

We would like to extend a BIG thank you to all of the dedicated adults who volunteered to join our Sunday School team this year and lead our children on their faith journey: *Melissa Doll & Linda Erlenborn* (Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd); *Melissa Nosalik & Dawn Kendall* (3rd & 4th); *Sarah Coss, Angela Kent, Valerie Kreiser & Monica Zimmerlein* (5th & 6th); *Pastor Elise Rothfusz* (Confirmation); *Karen Goy* (High School); *James Younger* (music); *Sue Guardiola, Sarah Landers, Camryn and Callie Perra; Shashawna Stanbach & Jillian Younger* (classroom assistants); *Kora Jones, Lisa Martin & Lynette Piller* (substitutes).

We hope that all of our Kindergarten through high school aged students will join us for Sunday School, every Sunday morning at 10:15am, following worship at 9am.

Hey Church Family...do you want to help us bless our college students?!

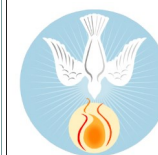


The High School Sunday School class will be packing care packages for our St. John's college students on Sunday, October 13th. We want to remind them there are people here at St. John's who are thinking of them as the semester gets stressful and the weather gets colder. We are looking for donations of small, empty cardboard boxes to pack in as we plan to pack for about 15 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 or Dunkin Donuts gift cards, etc.; 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 or let Karen Goy know you plan to contribute by Thursday, Oct. 3rd 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. Any items you care to donate can be dropped off at the church office. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Karen Goy.

Confirmation Class News



Please keep our Confirmation Class in your prayers as they continue their studies this school year. The class includes 7th graders: *Lila C., Taylor E., Chloe K., Cooper K., Hunter P., & Lyla R.* as well as 8th graders: *Molly B., Liam J., Christopher K. & Brayden W.* If you would like to provide classroom snacks for the Confirmation class, please sign up on the bright orange sheet at the sign-in table, or call the church office. Thanks in advance!

High School Sunday School



High School Sunday School will meet on Sunday mornings at 10:15am in the high school classroom.

The high school class will continue their tradition of enjoying breakfast treats as part of their time together. If you are able to provide breakfast treats for the class, please sign up on the bright orange sheet at the sign-in table, contact Karen Goy, or call the church office. Thank you!

All-Church Confirmation Class on Prayer and Art

Do you miss Confirmation class? Or do you wonder how Confirmation classes are different than when you attended? Or did you never go to Confirmation class and wonder what it's all about? **You can find out on Sunday, October 6th during Sunday School hour** (while waiting for the Fall Festival to begin). Pastor Elise will be leading the current Confirmation students, high school class and any adults in a session about art and prayer. Please meet in the sanctuary.