

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Sunday, September 13th - 10:15am

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Lutheran Church" and
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Periodicals

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September Birthdays, Anniversaries,
Special Days, Upcoming Events

God's continued blessings to the
following members of our congrega-
tion...

75th+ Birthday

Sept. 4 Jean Schwingle
Sept. 5 Earl Mathesius
Sept. 10 Dale Fischer
Sept. 18 Robert Politsch
Sept. 28 Linda Jordal
Sept. 29 Richard Althaus

Happy 50+ Anniversary!

Jan & Judy Schuster
September 1st — 53 years

John & Betty Fassig
September 2nd — 59 years

Gary & Mary Kay Sutton
September 4th — 50 years

Dale & Louise Epps
September 26th — 63 years

Upcoming Events

September

7 Office Closed — Labor Day
10 All Teams meeting at 7pm
13 Rally Day - Backpack Blessing and
Installation of Sunday School Staff at
9am worship
13 Sunday School at 10:15am
17 Church Council at 6:30pm
20 Quilt Sunday
20 Acolyte Training at 10:30am
20 Mission Trip Planning mtg. at 11:30am
22 Mission Quilt Day at 9am
27 3rd & 7th grade Bible presentation at
9am

October

8 All Teams meeting at 7pm
15 Church Council at 6:30pm
16-18 Confirmation Class Retreat
25 Reformation Sunday
27 Mission Quilt Day at 9am

The Installation of
Rev. Janet Lepp

will take place on
Sunday, November 8 at 3pm.

Bishop Wollersheim will be
here for this special occasion.

Please watch your bulletin
announcements and news-
letters for more information.

St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

Volume 45, Issue 8

September 2015

Special items of interest:

•We hope you will join
us for worship!

Saturday worship 5pm
Sunday worship 9am
Fellowship 10am

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

•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.

Worship at St. John's

As I write this article, I am aware that exactly one month ago today Dan and I arrived in Mendota to begin our life together with all of you in this community new to us. We have been blessed with a wonderfully warm welcome and thank you for your generous hospitality.

This past week I was asked by a long-time friend, "What's the best part of being in Men-
dota?" My immediate response was, "The worship at St. John's! I love being sur-
rounded by the 'body of Christ' and worshiping with the people here. Each week, in one
way or another, I have experienced the living presence of Jesus Christ in our midst."

I'm delighted that there are so many people of all ages involved in planning, preparing,
and then leading in our worship together. The worship space, the visual presentations,
and the elements of Holy Communion are all prayerfully made ready. The music staff,
Praise Band, and choir are working together to carefully select music which carries the
message of God's salvation in engaging and faith-filled ways.

Bishop Elizabeth Eaton wrote in the May 2015 edition of The Lutheran,

*We are the church. At the heart of what we do is worship, and at the heart of our wor-
ship is the crucified and risen Christ. Everything else we do is formed, nourished, sus-
tained and transformed by our life as a faith community gathered around Word and Sac-
rament, abiding in the love of God.*

*When we gather for worship... we come expecting to be changed. We are touching, tast-
ing, feeling, hearing and seeing the one who knows us and loves us completely. Our lives
are restored. We are set free. Fed for the journey we are set loose to go in peace and
serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

In Christ's love,

Pastor Janet Lepp

****Sunday School Rally Day Information****



PARENTS: Please plan to attend Sunday School with your child/
children on Rally Day, September 13th at 10:15am. Following wor-
ship, all Sunday School students are asked to sit in the front pews on
the north side of the Sanctuary or the choir loft where Mr. James
Younger will be greeting them for the opening. Parents are asked to sign their child in
on the attendance forms in the Fellowship Hall and then return to the Sanctuary where
the Sunday School staff will be introduced and a short video will be shown. Following
the opening, students will be dismissed to their classrooms with their teachers. Par-
ents are invited to visit the classrooms as well. Registration forms can be filled out
and turned in at this time. Teachers will bring their students to the south side of the
Fellowship Hall at 11:15am for dismissal. We are looking forward to another great
year!

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**Babysitting Now Offered
for Choir & Praise Band Rehearsals**

Have you been thinking about joining the choir or praise band, but have small children at home? We are pleased to announce that babysitting is now available during choir practice and praise band rehearsal. The choir meets for practice on Tuesdays at 6pm. The praise band currently rehearses on Tuesday evenings at 7pm. If you would like more information, please speak to Susan Garner or James Younger. We hope to have you join us!



The mural created by artist and pastor Paul Oman is now on display in the choir loft of the Sanctuary. We extend our gratitude to Bill Simonton for building the frame for the mural. We also thank Richard Althaus for assisting Bill with hanging the mural in place. We are pleased to have the painting displayed where it can be enjoyed by everyone.

St. John's Prayer Shawl Ministry

St. John's Prayer Shawl Ministry began this past winter and continues to meet weekly on Wednesday mornings at 9:30am. Knitters of all abilities are invited to join at any time. Prayer shawls are tangible symbols of love. They are warm hugs of empathy and support; a private place of escape in which to rest, relax, and renew; something to hold onto when all else seems to be slipping away. Wrapping others in shawls made with prayer and loving thoughts is the gift. Prayer begins in the heart and the creation of a prayer shawl is a spiritual journey of prayer for the shawl maker. If you know of someone who would benefit from receiving one of the prayer shawls, you are asked to choose one from the basket in the library, and fill in the requested information in the folder near the basket. Currently, 15 prayer shawls have been delivered to those in need.



Join us for Worship

St. John's Church Council has decided that we will continue with two services each weekend, 5pm worship in the Chapel on Saturday evening and 9am worship in the Sanctuary on Sunday morning followed by a hospitality time in the Fellowship Hall. Holy Communion will be offered each weekend

Please note that the Council intends to survey church members toward the end of the year to evaluate if there is a need for additional service times. Pastor Lepp, members of the staff, and members of the Council look forward to hearing from you with suggestions for how our worship together can best carry the message of God's love for all people, while transforming us into caring disciples of Jesus Christ.

2015 Quilt In-Gathering for Lutheran World Relief

On September 19th and 20th, we will celebrate our annual Quilt In-Gathering. Over 200 quilts will be displayed on the pews in both the Chapel and Sanctuary. In addition to the quilts, this year there will be a display of school kits. With the generous support from Rebecca Circle and the congregation, we have been able to complete 80 kits for Lutheran World Relief (LWR). Awesome!! The quilts and school kits will be packed up and the boxes will be transported to Zion Lutheran Church in Rockford. From there, the quilts and kits will be taken to a LWR warehouse to be distributed wherever there is a need around the world.

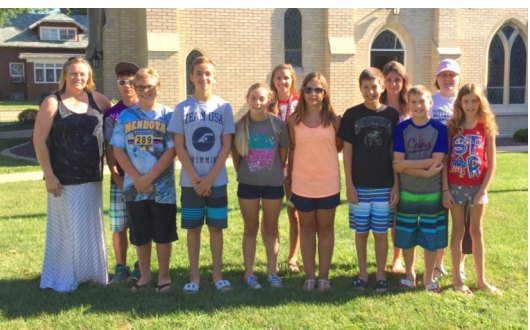


Thank you to ALL who have supported and participated in our mission work for LWR in 2015 - whether by providing material and sewing supplies, by sewing at home, by working at the church on our mission work days, by helping fold the quilts after the In-Gathering, or by assembling the school kits. Thank you for your prayers for our continuing efforts for Lutheran World Relief. God's Work, Our Hands at St. John's!



St. John's Youth News

"Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others"



Several of our junior high and high school students enjoyed a warm and sunny day at Raging Waves Waterpark before heading back to their classrooms. Thank you to Stina Grenter for volunteering to help Maria transport and chaperone everyone!

Congratulations to **Paige Simonton** who was selected one of the 2015 Sweet Corn Queen Attendants! Congratulations also to Amy Devitt and Bethany Wohrley who participated in this year's Pageant. Each of you did a great job and were just beautiful onstage!



Confirmation Class News...

Confirmation Classes will resume with Rally Day on Sunday, September 13th at 10:15am. 7th and 8th graders should plan to meet in the Sanctuary for the Sunday School opening. Sunday School teachers will be introduced and a brief video will be shown. Following the opening, we will gather in the Confirmation Classroom located just south of the Fellowship Hall. Classes will be taught by a team including Pastor Janet & Dan Lepp, Maria Bonine and others. We ask parents to join us on the first day of class for a brief orientation.

Acolyte training will be held on Sunday, September 20th at 10:30am. It is very important that our 7th and 8th graders make every effort to attend this training session as there new acolyte responsibilities.

We are planning to participate in an upcoming retreat at Lutherdale Bible Camp from October 16th to 18th. This retreat will focus on the Apostles' Creed. More information will be shared as the date approaches.

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 — Sunday School classes will resume on September 13th at 10:15am. We ask that you meet in the Sanctuary for the Sunday School opening on Rally Day. All of the teachers will be introduced and a brief video will be shown at this time. Following the opening, you will be dismissed to the High School classroom. Your class will be led this year by Maria Bonine as well as a variety of other adults who are committed to praying for you and helping you nurture your faith. You won't want to miss this weekly opportunity to be spiritually and physically fed (breakfast snacks will be served). Bring a friend!

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. More information will be shared in class as the date approaches.



It's time to start planning for our 2016 Mission Trip. On Sunday, September 20th, there will be a brief meeting in the fellowship hall following Sunday School for any current 8th grade through high school senior who is interested in learning more about next summer's trip. Parents/family members are welcome to attend.

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