

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Periodicals

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Several adult small group study options are being planned for the fall.

Please watch your bulletin announcements and our website for more information.

Find us on Facebook!

Search for "St. John's Lutheran Church" and join our page.



September Birthdays, Anniversaries, Special Days, Upcoming Events

God's continued blessings to the following members of our congregation...

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 — 54 years

Gary & Mary Kay Sutton  
September 4th — 51 years

Dale & Louise Epps  
September 26th — 64 years

Congratulations!

Stephen & Susan Florschuetz  
September 18th — 40 years

Upcoming Events

September

1 Sarah Circle at 1pm  
1 All Teams meeting at 7pm  
5 Labor Day - Office Closed  
11 "God's Work. Our Hands" Sunday  
11 Sunday School Rally Day  
12 Rebecca Circle at 7pm  
15 Church Council at 6:30pm  
17/18 Sunday School Teacher Installation  
18 Confirmation Orientation at 10:10am  
24/25 Bibles presented to 3rd & 7th graders  
25 Acolyte Training at 10:10am  
26 Newsletter Deadline  
27 Mission Quilt Day at 9am  
28 Newsletter Assembly at 10:30am

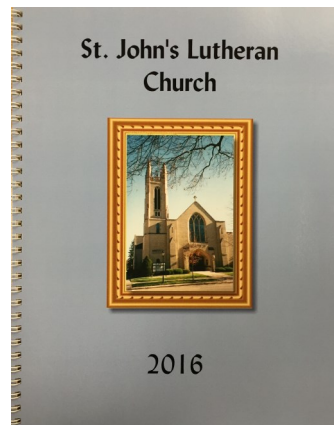


Photo Directories

Here at last! Here at last! St. John's church directories have arrived — one free copy for each St. John's household who had a photograph taken. Please pick up your copy at the north end of the Fellowship Hall. Family names are labeled on the front covers. Thank you.

St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

Volume 45, Issue 8

September 2016

Special items of interest:

•We hope you will join us for worship!  
Saturday worship 5pm  
Sunday worship 9am  
Fellowship 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.

•Several of our quilting ladies have been working on "Walker Bags" for residents of area nursing homes. They are also making them available to members of our congregation. You will find a basket full of these colorful and handy fabric bags in the Narthex. Please feel free to take one for yourself or someone you know.

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



The 2016-2017 Sunday School year resumes on **Sunday, September 11th at 10:10am with special Rally Day activities!** This is also "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday throughout the ELCA. All youth and their families should plan to join in the fun. Following a visit to their classrooms to meet their teachers and enjoy a snack, all of our students

and parents are invited to the Fellowship Hall at 10:40am to participate in some special activities. Our youngest students will be working to assemble school kits for Lutheran World Relief; 3rd through 6th graders will tie fleece blankets which will be distributed to children at Nachusa Lutheran Home; and our high schoolers will help our quilting ladies fold and pack quilts for LWR. The Confirmation class will meet at 10:10am and walk to the Mendota Lutheran Home where they will spend time interviewing some of the residents. **PARENTS: Please plan to attend Sunday School with your child/children on Rally Day, September 11th at 10:10am.** What a great way to kick off another Sunday School year!



We have ordered a limited number of "God's Work. Our Hands." t-shirts in various adult sizes and should have them available for purchase in the office by September 7th. They will also be available in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, September 11th. The cost is \$7.00 each. These are the same shirts that many of you received a couple years ago. You are encouraged to wear them on September 11th.

Worship in September

Throughout September we will begin our worship services with **Thanksgiving for Baptism**. Each week we will spend some time remembering our own baptisms, and then talk about what baptism means for our daily life. Does anyone have a baptism story you would like to share? Let me know.

Also, have you been thinking about joining the choir or praise band? **The choir meets for practice on Wednesdays at 6pm. The praise band rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 7pm.** If you would like more information, please speak to Susan Garner or James Younger. We hope to have you join us!

~Pastor Janet



2016 Quilt In-Gathering for Lutheran World Relief

On September 10th and 11th, in conjunction with Rally Day, we will celebrate our annual Quilt In-Gathering. Over 100 quilts will be displayed on the pews in the Chapel and Sanctuary. The quilts are the handiwork of countless hours of work performed by many dedicated women throughout the year. Their diligent work has resulted in assembling these quilts for Lutheran World Relief (LWR).



In addition, the sewing group has also expanded their outreach to include providing quilts and fleece blankets to the PADS homeless shelter in Peru. Quilts and blankets are also given to the Another Child Foundation in Princeton for the Romanian orphans they support. New this year, the group also sewed over 60 walker bags which have been distributed to residents at Heritage Health, Mendota Lutheran Home, and Stonecroft.

Your continuing support of our mission work is greatly appreciated. God's Work, Our Hands at St. John's!

Wartburg Seminary Update from Maria

Maria will complete her first seminary class, Greek, on August 31st. She is enjoying this class and is now able to translate some New Testament scriptures from Greek into English. Maria will continue her Seminary coursework in September with four classes and a fieldwork study. While she is gone to Seminary during the week, she will be returning to Mendota on the weekends. She is able to continue her employment with us on a more part-time basis through the use of technology during the week and is available in person on the weekends. Your outpouring of prayers and support is very uplifting while she is away from home during the week. Maria's address at Wartburg Seminary is 333 Wartburg Place, Box #10, Dubuque, IL 52003 and she can also be reached on her cell phone at 815-499-5789.



We had many students and teachers participate in the **Backpack Blessing** on August 21st. Each of them received a tag to attach to their backpack. The prayer on the reverse reads:

Dear Lord,  
Use my eyes to see new friends.  
Open my ears to hear my teacher.  
Open my mind to learn new things.  
Let my heart remember you are near when I'm afraid.  
Help me to love others like you do. Amen.



Installation of our Bishop-elect, the Reverend Jeffrey Clements



You are invited to share in the Service of Holy Communion and the Installation of our Bishop-elect, the Reverend Jeffrey Clements. The celebration will be held on Saturday, September 24th at 10am at First Lutheran Church, 225 South 3rd Street, Rockford, IL. A reception will follow immediately in Shepherd's Gate at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 3300 Corbridge Land, Rockford. Sharing with us will be Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, the bishops of our Region, the bishops of our Global Companion Churches, and representatives from our Full Communion Partners. The Augustana College Choir and a Synod-wide choir will be singing. Instrumental music will be provided by members of the Rockford Symphony Orchestra and youth from synod congregations. Please note that persons with disabilities and worship leaders may park at First Lutheran. All other worship attendees are asked to park at Our Savior's. Bus transportation will be provided from Our Savior's to First Lutheran and back again at the conclusion of the Installation. The reception will include a light lunch.



St. John's Youth News  
"Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others"



Confirmation Class News...

Confirmation Classes will resume with Rally Day on Sunday, September 11th at 10:10am. 7th and 8th graders should plan to sign-in at the table in the north Fellowship Hall (as usual) and gather there. Your class will be walking to the Mendota Lutheran Home to spend some time interviewing residents there. You will return in time for 11:10am dismissal.

On Sunday, September 18th, we will meet in the Disciples' Den at 10:10am for class. Parents are encouraged to join the class for "Confirmation Orientation."

Our 7th graders will receive their Confirmation study Bibles during worship on Saturday, September 24th or Sunday, September 25th. More information will be sent home with students as the date approaches.

Acolyte training and fitting for albs will be held during class on Sunday, September 25th. It is very important that our 7th and 8th graders make every effort to attend this training session. Once trained, our 7th graders will be scheduled to acolyte during Sunday worship.

Save the date!! We will hold our 2nd Annual Confirmation Class LOCK-IN from October 21st to October 22nd. More information will be shared as the date approaches, but put this on your calendar now! You won't want to miss out on the fun!

Plans and prayers have begun for the 2017 high school mission trip. Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 2nd at 11:15am. We will continue the planning process, and we will work toward a possible site location. 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.



If you were unable to attend the August 21st meeting, but are interested in learning more about participating in the 2017 high school mission trip, please stop by Maria's office mailbox and pick up the informational handout (bright green paper). If you have any questions, please contact Maria at (815) 499-5789.

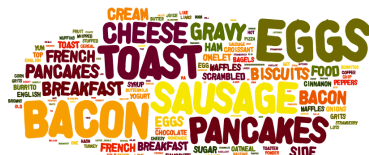
High School Class News...

High School Sunday School class resumes on Sunday, September 11th at 10:10am. Please sign-in at the table in the north Fellowship Hall. On Rally Day, the high school class will be assisting the quilting ladies with folding and packing up the quilts which will be on display in the Chapel and Sanctuary. Thank you in advance for your help! This day is also "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday throughout the ELCA. If you have one of the yellow "God's Work. Our Hands." tshirts, please wear it on the 11th. (Shirts can be purchased for \$7 if you'd like one.)



A PRAYER FOR OUR TEACHERS

DEAR GOD,  
THANK YOU FOR THE AMAZING TEACHERS  
WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR LIVES  
TO SERVE OUR CHILDREN.  
AS THEY PREPARE FOR THE NEW YEAR,  
FILL THEM WITH STRENGTH TO LEAD,  
GRACE TO GUIDE AND HOPE TO THRIVE  
IN THEIR CLASSROOM.  
BLESS THEM BEYOND MEASURE  
FOR THEIR WILLINGNESS  
TO POUR INTO THE NEXT  
GENERATION THROUGH EDUCATION. AMEN



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."