

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

607 10th Avenue
Mendota, IL 61342



Phone: 815-539-5626
Fax: 815-539-9006
E-mail: office@stjohnsmendota.org

Periodicals

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Potluck Brunch

Sunday, September 9th

The congregation is invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall following worship on Sunday, September 9th for a Potluck Brunch. Please bring a dish to share. Tableware and beverages will be provided.

Find us on Facebook!

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



September Birthdays, Anniversaries, Special Days, Upcoming Events

God's blessings to...

75th+ Birthday

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

Congratulations

Happy 50th+ Anniversary!

Jan & Judy Schuster
September 1st — 56 years

Gary & Mary Kay Sutton
September 4th — 53 years

Dale & Louise Epps
September 26th — 66 years

Upcoming Events

September

3 Office Closed — Labor Day
6 Sarah Circle at 1pm
6 All Teams meeting at 7pm
9 Installation of SS staff and Backpack Blessing during 9am worship
9 Sunday School resumes at 10:10am
10 Rebecca Circle at 7pm
16 Bibles presented to 3rd & 7th graders during 9am worship
20 Church Council meeting at 6:30pm
22/23 Quilt Sunday
24 Newsletter Deadline
25 Mission Quilt Day at 9am
27 Newsletter Assembly at 10:30am

October

4 All Teams meeting at 7pm
6 Highway Clean-up at 9am
8 Office Closed — Columbus Day
13 Kids Against Hunger event here
18 Church Council meeting at 6:30pm



During the month of September, we have the opportunity to support Abigail Women's Clinic in Mendota by taking home one of their baby bottles and filling it with change, cash or checks. Baby bottles are available in the Narthex, Fellowship Hall and Office. Please return them to church by September 30th. Thank you for your support of Abigail's mission to protect God's most helpless.

St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

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September 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 September to host Fellowship Time. Sign up in Kitchen.

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"All Aboard!"

One of the houses I grew up in as a child was located on a steep hill about twenty feet or so above some train tracks. From that vantage point I enjoyed watching the trains go by on a regular basis. The most memorable of those train-watchings were the times when the freight trains would stop with the caboose directly under my observation point. The conductor would exit the caboose to stretch his legs and munch on some fruit while the train either off-loaded or on-loaded some cargo. If he happened to see me, he'd throw me an orange, which I thought was pretty nice!

Then when it was time for the train to get moving again, he'd hop up on the caboose and holler, "all aboard!" and off they'd go. Ah, those were the days—the simpler ones—when watching trains and even just catching an orange thrown to you was a really good time!

In some ways, the church is like a train during the summer months: lots of starts and stops, with some people getting off for a time while others come on board. We never know just how full our Sunday worship train will be, only that it will come and go on the same regular schedule it does during the rest of the year, sometimes with more passengers, sometimes with fewer.

Now summer is almost over, and fall is just around the corner. What will our church train look like then? Some might look at attendance numbers and say that our train has slowed down and wonder if it will get up to speed again. Others will look at our history and say that the summer slowdown is only temporary and we'll be back up to speed when fall gets here. Still others may be a bit anxious, knowing not what lies ahead on the tracks and who the new conductor (that would be the pastor) will be, or what he/she will be like.

Whatever position one takes, we all know one thing is for certain: our St. John's train has not jumped the tracks, and it will continue on into the future. How do we know this? We have the same engineer we've always had, Christ Jesus, and he's promised to be with us and lead us on our entire journey. Our mission and our goal is to let Jesus drive the train, and then faithfully follow where the Holy Spirit lays the tracks! Sometimes it will be clear where those tracks lead; most of the time, though, our vision will be a bit fuzzier. There may even be some obstacles lying on our tracks that need to be removed or pushed aside in order for us to move forward.

I'm convinced that God has something special in mind for this long-standing, thriving Lutheran congregation we call St. John's Lutheran Church. Remember God's promise in Jeremiah 29:11, "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." What those plans are is anybody's guess, but since God is behind them, they're bound to be great! With that promise firmly in mind, get ready to jump back on the St. John's train on September 9th, when you'll once again here that Rally Sunday call, "All Aboard!"

~ Pastor Jeff Chubb



Join the *Soul Sisters* this fall for a 5-part Bible study based on best-selling author Bob Goff's book, *EVERYBODY ALWAYS*.

Starting September 16, we'll dig into what it truly means to love everybody the way Jesus loved them without fear, insecurity, or restriction. It means not just agreeing with Jesus but actually stepping out and doing what Jesus said.

Following Christ means more than just putting a toe in the water when it comes to loving others. It means grabbing your knees and doing a cannonball! And, as Jesus revealed, it means loving the difficult ones. *Everybody, Always* will provide practical steps to help you take that journey.

FYI About *Soul Sisters*:

- In *Soul Sisters*, we don't do homework.

- Jump in at any time, any Sunday, and you won't feel like you've missed a thing.

- Every woman is welcome, no matter where you are in your faith walk or your life circumstances.

- We share a lot of great ideas and stories, and we lift each other up every week.

Please join us after church from 10:15am to 11:15am.

Church Council Highlights

The following are some highlights from the August 16, 2018 Church Council meeting.

- There will be a Potluck Brunch on Rally Day, September 9th, following the worship service;
- Stewardship update: Kick-off on September 30th, Generosity Sunday on October 28th, and Commitment Sunday on November 11th;
- The Property Team is having a privacy fence installed at the parsonage, and landscaping work done in the church courtyard;
- The Ministry Site Profile was accepted by the Synod office and is now online; and
- Council appointed a "Constitution Revision Team" who will work to update the St. John's Constitution.

Finance Report Year To Date thru July 2018:

Budgeted Income \$207,301 Actual Income \$193,574

Budgeted Expense \$222,607 Actual Expense \$203,431

Behind Budget on Regular Offerings by -\$15,073

Special Offerings: \$165 (Shoe Drive)

2018 Quilt In-Gathering for Lutheran World Relief



On September 22nd and 23rd, we will celebrate our annual Quilt In-Gathering. Over 150 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 expanded their outreach to include providing quilts and fleece blankets to the PADS homeless shelter in Peru. Quilts and blankets have also been given to the Another Child Foundation in Princeton for the Romanian orphans they support. We continue to make walker bags for the residents at Heritage Health, Mendota Lutheran Home, and Stonecroft. There is a basket of walker bags on a table in the Narthex, and you are welcome to take one for yourself or anyone you know who would like to have one.

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

Update from our Seminary Student, Maria Bonine



We are excited to announce that Maria has successfully completed her CPE course (Clinical Pastoral Education) at Mercy Health in Rockford. She will begin her internship at St. John's Lutheran Church in Evansville, WI on September 1st. Once the year-long internship is complete, Maria will spend her final year on campus at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, IA. Please continue to include Maria and her family in your prayers.



We are so happy to share this photo of a smiling Ben Bokus with the *Links for Leukemia* prayer chain that we created and delivered to him at St. Jude's in Memphis! We pray that Ben and his family find strength and encouragement in knowing that we are praying for them as Ben continues his battle with leukemia! Thank you to everyone who participated in the 3-Day Around-The-Clock Prayer Chain in support Ben and his family.



St. John's Youth News

"Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others"



Backpack Blessing



Students of all ages (and teachers, too) are invited to bring your backpack to worship with you on Sunday School Rally Day, September 9th for a special "back to school" prayer. You will be called forward to have your backpack blessed and a gift will be attached to it for you to carry God's Love with you throughout your entire school year. We're looking forward to seeing you on September 9th for the Backpack Blessing and Rally Day!

Confirmation Class News



Confirmation Classes will resume with Rally Day on Sunday, September 9th at 10:10am. 7th and 8th graders should plan to sign-in at the table in the north Fellowship Hall (as usual) and meet in the Disciples' Den.

Acolyte training and fitting for albs will be held during class on Sunday, September 9th. 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.

Our 7th graders will receive their Confirmation study Bibles during worship on Sunday, September 16th. More information will be sent home with students as the date approaches.

On Sunday, September 16th, we will meet in the Disciples' Den at 10:10am for class. Parents are asked to join the class for "Parent & Student Orientation." We will be discussing class expectations, service opportunities, and upcoming activities.

Please keep our Confirmation Class in your prayers as they continue their studies this school year — *Jace Baird, Macy Hartt, Landon Kreiser, Matt Miller, Alayna Nosalik, Laurel Politsch, Haden Shakespeare, Garret Zinke, and Gracie Zinke.*

High School Students



Please plan to join us in the Upper Room on Rally Day, Sunday, September 9th immediately following worship. We will spend some time working together to lay out the new format for our weekly Sunday *ENOUGH* events. We'll also do a short activity prior to joining the congregation for the Potluck Brunch planned for that day.

It's going to be a great start to a good year and YOUR being there is going to make it that way!! Looking forward to seeing you then!

Sunday School Rally Day Information



The 2018-2019 Sunday School year resumes on Sunday, September 9th! A great way to start this year is to attend worship as a family at 9am. Your child can bring his or her backpack to worship to be blessed. There will be a special Children's Message on this day, as well as the Installation of our Sunday School staff. Sunday School sign-in begins following worship (or by 10:10am) in the North Fellowship Hall. Parents of 3 year old through 2nd grade students should stay with their child at the gathering table on Rally Day. This group will travel to the Chapel for music, then move to their classrooms for a lesson and snack. (Parents are invited to stay for a short time, or the entire class on this first day.) Our 3rd through 6th grade students may go to their classroom upstairs after signing-in. Parents are encouraged to visit. At 11:10am, parents of children ages 3 through 2nd grade should pick up their child from their classrooms. Dismissal of 3rd through 6th graders will take place from South Parish Hall. Everyone is invited to enjoy the Potluck Brunch taking place in the Fellowship Hall beginning around 10:30am. Parents can enjoy breakfast while your children are in class, or you can enjoy breakfast as a family once Sunday School has dismissed. Either way, we hope you will plan to join us for breakfast!



Our 3rd grade students will be receiving their Bibles during worship on September 16th. Watch your mailbox for more information about this special day.