

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.



September Birthdays, Anniversaries & Upcoming Events

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

75th+ Birthday

- September 4 Jean Schwingle
- September 13 Jean Carnahan
- September 29 Richard Althaus

Congratulations

Happy Milestone or 50+ Wedding Anniversary!

Gary & Mary Kay Sutton
September 4th — 59 years

Daniel & Kim Truckenbrod
September 12th — 15 years

Rex & Kris Blunk
September 22nd — 52 years

September

- 2 OFFICE CLOSED — Labor Day holiday
- 4 Prayer group in Chapel gam
- 4 Safe Child training for Sunday School staff 6pm
- 5 Sarah Circle 1pm
- 5 Safe Child training for Sunday School staff 6pm
- 5 All Teams meeting 7pm
- 7 Kids Against Hunger food packing event from 10:30am to 12:30pm
- 8 Sunday School Teacher Installation and Bibles presented to 3rd and 7th graders during gam worship
- 8 All Ages Choir sings during gam worship
- 8 Sunday School Rally Day after worship — Everyone!
- 9 Congregational book read 6:30pm-8pm
- 11 Prayer group in Chapel gam
- 12 Allure worship 10am
- 18 Prayer group in Chapel gam
- 18 Stonecroft worship 10am
- 19 Executive Team 5:30pm / Church Council 6:30pm
- 24 Quilting gam
- 25 Prayer group in Chapel gam
- 25 Confirmation Class 6pm to 8pm
- 29 Quilt Sunday

St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

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Special items of interest:

Worship in our Sanctuary continues each Sunday morning at gam. 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 will continue to meet from gam 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,

You've seen it mentioned in the last couple newsletters and bulletins and you might be wondering: why are some of us reading the book *Growing Young*? Is it about counteracting aging or being "young at heart?" Is this some kind of self-help book?

Nope. It's not at all about your personal age – or aging. It's about research that was done in congregations that are being effective in ministry with older youth and young adults, and offers some insights about how other congregations can do that too.

When I interviewed at St. John's and then listened at the Get-to-Know-You Gatherings, it was clear to me that St. John's has a heart for young people and a history of a strong youth ministry. We want to continue that into the future. And like anything, that takes planning. The reality is that "church" is just one of many options for youth and young adults. We need to be clear why it matters that we have young people in our midst. And it isn't simply so they can bring their kids here too. It's not about survival of the church institution. This is about nothing less than knowing that Jesus Christ is a living presence who transforms lives and brings hope. We want young people to know that they belong, that they matter, simply because of who God has created them to be.

So I've been thinking about why you might you want to read it too.

It dispels myths about what actually attracts young people.

It shares moving testimonies about how being church has made a difference. In other words, it's inspiring!

It provides perspective that the difficulty of ministry to youth and young adults is widespread; there are cultural challenges.

How many children or youth in the congregation, who are not related to you, could you greet by name when sharing the peace?

It offers strategies that cross the generations. What works with younger people is effective for welcoming anyone – new or older into our congregations. Ministry for all ages is strengthened.

Let me be clear, we are not reading this because St. John's is only focused on youth. We want to be a ministry that involves all people, young and old, and builds and strengthens disciples of Jesus.

(continued on page 2)

Churches are about the only place where younger and older people interact socially. We know that the more caring adults a child has in their life, the more likely they are to have a positive life course. I also know that adults feel more vibrant and alive when they have kids around too. What an asset the church is! How might God be calling us to make the most of this opportunity.

The St. John's council has committed itself to reading this book and discussing it together at council meetings. They will benefit from *your* responses and conversation about the book too. We are reading just one chapter a month. I hope you will consider joining us on the second Monday of each month through spring.

~Pastor Elise

Church Council Highlights

The following are some highlights from the August 15, 2024 meeting of our Church Council:

- The council discussed the first chapter in *Growing Young*, and talked about St. John's and the challenge of empathizing with younger people and how their lives are different than previous generations.
- Property Team reported that the Automatic External Defibrillator has been installed and that training will be forthcoming. It is located on the wall between the kitchen and boiler room.
- The council adopted a revised Safe Child Policy and Protections document (previously adopted in 2016).
- New business included an update on the Fellowship Hall floor.

Finance Report Year To Date thru July 2024:

Budgeted Income \$193,457 Actual Income \$208,956

Budgeted Expense \$197,558 Actual Expense \$192,453

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.

A Message from Council President, Tony Troyer

It's September! As president of the Council, I wanted to point out this month some of what your Council has accomplished so far this year. We have been quite busy. Just as all of the Teams that have been working hard at spreading the great news of St. John's. Thank you!

- *Removed the trees in the Lutheran Cemetery. Leveled off ground and reseeded.
- *Held a tour of our building with Mendota Fire and Police departments. Per their recommendation, all exterior doors were numbered, and interior doors have identification. A Call List was also created for them.
- *Smoke detectors were all updated with 10-year batteries.
- *Some fire extinguishers were moved to be more visible, and a new one was added upstairs.
- *An AED device was purchased and installed (training will be held soon).
- *Flat roof repairs were completed.
- *Boilers were repaired.
- *All air conditioning units are to be inspected.
- *Building floor plan layouts were updated with tornado shelters and room identifications. Signage was placed in several locations on the main floor and in each classroom.
- *Fellowship Hall floor repairs are being addressed (this is a work in progress).
- *Updated the Safe Child Policy and Procedures Manual (last revision 2013).
- *Updated the Crisis Emergency Response Manual (last revision 2013).
- *All policies are being reviewed in 2024.
- *In the Parsonage: the boiler had new bleeders installed; the bushes were trimmed; and radon mitigation installed.

Sunday School Year to Begin on September 8th



Sunday, September 8th is going to be a BIG day at St. John's! During 9am worship we will celebrate the start of the Sunday School year with the Installation of our Sunday School Teachers and Staff. Bibles will be presented to our 3rd and 7th grade students. As a special treat, an All-Ages Choir will share some music with us.

Following worship, EVERYONE is invited to the Fellowship Hall for Rally Day activities led by Pastor Elise and members of the Educational Ministry Team.

We are looking forward to another great Sunday School year, and hope you will plan to join us for Rally Day!

Safe Child Policy and Protections for Kindergarten through 6th Grade Sunday School Children

PLEASE READ for updated information regarding revised sign-in and sign-out procedures for our kindergarten through 6th grade Sunday School children.

Our Church Council recently adopted a revised Safe Child Policy and Protections document.

For the safety of our children, all parents or guardians are to complete a Student Information Form for their Sunday School aged children. Forms are available on our website and at the Sunday School sign-in table.

Sunday School begins at 10:15am. On Sunday mornings, all Sunday School families are to enter the building through door #4 on the north side of the courtyard or from the Sanctuary. Parents or guardians will sign-in their child(ren) and indicate who will be picking them up at dismissal.

Sunday School dismissal is at 11:15am. Parents should enter the building through door #5 and go to the Fellowship Hall where our kindergarten through 6th grade students will be gathered with their teachers and classmates. The only people allowed to sign out a child will be the parent or guardian who dropped off the child, or the person indicated by them on the sign-in sheet. With parental permission, students in 7th grade or older may sign out a younger sibling.

**All Confirmation and High School students are expected to sign themselves in at the sign-in table and go to their classrooms. Student Information Forms are also available for these students and can be found on our website or the sign-in table.

We appreciate your cooperation with our efforts to keep all of our children safe. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to Pastor Elise.

Kids Against Hunger

MEAL PACKING EVENT

Saturday, September 7th 10:30am to 12:30pm

Hosted by St. John's Lutheran Church
607 10th Avenue, Mendota

In recognition of "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday, we are hosting a meal packing event for Kids Against Hunger.

Thank you to St. John's Task Force for organizing the event, and to everyone who registered to help! It's going to be a great day!