



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

Volume 56, Issue 3

March 2026

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 **St. John's Lutheran Church—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 Le Roy 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,

As many of you know, my mother died a few weeks ago of ovarian cancer. This disease complicated her life for more than a year. I am so grateful to be part of a Christian community that has surrounded my mom and my family with prayer during the ups and downs of her illness, with shared concern, and love. I thank you for your words, spoken and written, and your many expressions of care over these past weeks.

One of the songs my mom had chosen for her memorial service is "When Peace Like a River." This isn't a hymn that I remember singing when growing up, but when I became familiar with it in the first congregation I served. Later, I learned the story behind it. It is a hymn written out of grief – and clinging to faith. Horatio Spafford, wrote this hymn following a disaster at sea, when the ship his four daughters and wife were aboard sank. His wife was saved, but his children died. He suffered many tragedies in his life, before and after that event. By God's grace he proclaimed trust in God's abiding care.

"When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll, whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul. Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest assurance control, that Christ hath regarded my helpless estate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul. It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul."

In these weeks of Lent, we contemplate the suffering and death of Jesus Christ, who for our sake entered into the fullness of humanity, taking onto himself the weaknesses and trials of human flesh, and ultimately taking all our brokenness and sin with him onto the cross and burying it in death. This he did because of his great love, so that we could be assured that in life and death, it is well with my soul.

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Elise

Lent 2026

Over the next Sundays and Wednesdays, we allow John's gospel to seep into us and form us as Jesus' disciples. The narrative lectionary we are currently using will allow us to slowly walk through Jesus' final days over multiple Sundays. On Wednesday evenings we will reflect on some of the conversations Jesus invites us into through the people we hear about in John's gospel. We will gather each Wednesday evening at 6:30 PM in the **chapel** for worship with the beloved Holden Evening Prayer service. There are no Wednesday suppers this year.

Church Council Highlights

The following are some highlights from the February 19, 2026 meeting of our Church Council:

At its regular February meeting, the St. John's congregation council did not have a quorum to conduct business.

Finance Report Year To Date thru January 2026:

Budgeted Income \$28,535 Actual Income \$49,328

Budgeted Expense \$29,826 Actual Expense \$37,373

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.

New Member Orientation

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a member of St. John's and/or wants to know more about being a Lutheran Christian, we will gather on Sunday, March 8 at 1:00 PM in the fellowship hall. This will also be offered at an alternate time as well, yet to be determined. Please talk with Pastor Elise for more information.

Young Adult Bible Study

All young adults out of high school are invited to share in a Bible study. The group meets at St. John's every other week at 6:00 PM and is led by Ted Landgraf and Tim Miller. The next dates are March 3, 17, and 31.

It's Time To Order Easter Flowers!

If you would like to purchase blooming plants to help decorate the sanctuary for Easter, please fill out the order form included with our weekly worship bulletins or call the office. All orders are due by **Thursday, March 12th**. Thank you!

St. John's Scholarships

St. John's has a Scholarship program to help the youth of our congregation finance their education at a school of higher learning. Online applications were emailed to all current college students and high school seniors. Applications are also available in the church office, on our website, or by scanning the QR code.

Completed forms must be returned to the office **no later than**

Wednesday, April 15, 2026.



Mendota Area Men's Lent Dinner

Thursday, March 26th at 6pm

St. John's Lutheran Church, Mendota

St. John's is hosting a Lent Dinner on March 27th at 6pm for men and a youth or younger adult guest. Dinner will be 6pm, with a pie auction and free will offering to support the Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry and Mendota Area Senior Services. The presenter for the evening will be announced soon. Congregations with the most generations represented will receive a free pie!

Upcoming Readings for Sunday Worship

March 1 – John 13:1-17

March 8 – John 18:12-27

March 15 – John 18:28-40

March 22 – John 19:1-16a

March 29 – John 19:16b-22

The St. John's Prayers

Maybe you wonder, what is required to join those who pray on Wednesday mornings? Or maybe you are pretty sure you don't belong in that group because there is no way you could pray aloud in front of others? Please know that your prayerful presence is all that's required. While prayers are spoken, no one is obligated to pray aloud. We pray for the needs of people and situations named by our congregation; we pray for St. John's as a whole, our ministry, and the needs of the world. You are welcome to join us every week, or whenever you can make it.



First Communion

We welcome three new young people to the table of our Lord!
 On February 15th, Gus Eich, Ezekiel Hansen, and Kaedyn Landers received their first Communion with us.



The Great Three Days

We enter into our Lord's Passion with worship on Maundy Thursday, April 2 at 6:30 PM at St. John's.

Good Friday community service will be held at Zion Lutheran Church (Clarion) at 7 PM.

Easter worship will be at 9:00 AM on April 4.

Thank you St. John's

I just wanted to take a moment and thank everyone who helped with the Youth Pancake/Sausage Dinner. Whether you donated items, worked the event, or even just came to eat and support our youth; you are very much appreciated! We have some pretty amazing youth here at St. John's and they can definitely feel the love when you support them in anything that they do. None of our youth events would be possible without the congregations support, love and prayers. Thank you!

Melissa Nosalik

College Care Packages

On Sunday, March 15th during the Sunday school hour, 10:15-11:15am, students Kindergarten through 6th grade will be packing care packages for our college students. They are asking for the congregations help with donations. Things they are looking for are microwavable Mac N Cheese cups, mints, flavor packets for water bottles, and \$5 Starbucks gift cards. Thank you for helping us bring a little of St. John's to our college kids.

Dementia Friendly Mendota

The first Thursday of every month, Circle of Friends meets at Zion Methodist Church from 1pm-2:30pm. This is a welcoming social gathering for people experiencing memory loss (like dementia or MCI) and their caregivers. There will be activities such as music, art, conversation and refreshments.

Youth Game Night

Friday, March 27th



Get ready for a night of fun and friendly competition. All students from 7th grade through high school are invited to join us on Friday, March 27th, from 5:30-10pm for our Youth Game Night.

We will have :

- *Pizza (because no game night is complete without it)
- *Beach Volleyball
- *Ping Pong
- *Scavenger Hunt
- *Gargon
- *And plenty more games and surprises



Bring your friends, bring your energy, and get ready for a great night together. It's going to be a blast!

The third Thursday of every month there is a Dementia Caregiver Support group that meets at Zion Methodist Church from 1pm-2:30pm. Group members will meet with a certified Caregiver Coach. This is for any one who cares about someone with dementia. Each month there will be information of specific topics related to dementia care and time to ask questions and talk with others.

March meetings are:
 March 5th & March 19th

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

607 10th Avenue
Mendota, IL 61342



Rev. Elise Rothfusz
Phone: 815-539-5626
Email: office@stjohnsmendota.org
Website: www.stjohnsmendota.org

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Find us on Facebook!



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



March Birthdays, Anniversaries & Upcoming Events

God's continued blessings to all of those celebrating birthdays & anniversaries this month!



75th+ Birthday

- Mar. 3 Ronda Radtke
- Mar. 4 William Simonton
- Mar. 10 Roger Anderson
- Mar. 11 Gary Sutton
- Mar. 12 JoAnn Kidd
Marlene Simonton
- Mar. 20 Geraldine Sauer
- Mar. 27 Susan Guardiola
- Mar. 31 Geraldine Fisher

Congratulations

Happy 50+ and Milestone Anniversary!

Kevin & Melvette Jones
March 10th — 53 years

Rick & Becky Lowers
March 21st—45 years

March

- 3 Young Adult Bible Study 6pm
- 4 Prayer group in Chapel 9am
- 4 Midweek Lenten service 6:30pm
- 5 Sarah Circle at Stonecroft 1pm
- 9 Rebecca Circle 1:30pm
- 11 Prayer group in Chapel 9am
- 11 Midweek Lenten service 6:30pm
- 12 Allure 10am
- 17 Young Adult Bible Study 6pm
- 18 Prayer group in Chapel 9am
- 18 Stonecroft 10am
- 18 Midweek Lenten service 6:30pm
- 19 Exec. Team 5:45pm/Council meeting 6:30pm
- 24 Quilting 9am
- 25 Prayer group in Chapel 9am
- 25 Midweek Lenten service 6:30pm
- 26 Men's Lenten Dinner
- 27 Youth Game Night 5:30-10pm
- 31 Young Adult Bible Study 6pm

April 2nd— Maundy Thursday 6:30pm

April 3rd—Good Friday 7pm @ Zion Lutheran (Clarion)

March 2026

St. John's Lutheran Church

815-539-5626

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	9am Worship 1015am Fellowship 1015am Sunday School	OFFICE CLOSED	6pm Young Adult Bible Study	9am Prayer Group 630pm Midweek Lenten Service	1pm Sarah Circle at Stonecroft	OFFICE CLOSED	7
8	9am Worship	OFFICE CLOSED	10	9am Prayer Group 630pm Midweek Lenten Service	10am Allure	OFFICE CLOSED	14
	1015am Fellowship 1015am Sunday School 1pm New Member Class	130pm Rebecca Circle					
15	9am Worship 1015am Fellowship 1015am Sunday School	OFFICE CLOSED	6pm Young Adult Bible Study	9am Prayer Group 10am Stonecroft 630pm Midweek Lenten Service	545pm Exec. Team 630pm Council	OFFICE CLOSED	21
22	9am Worship 1015am Fellowship 1015am Sunday School	OFFICE CLOSED	9am Quilting	9am Prayer Group 630pm Midweek Lenten Service		OFFICE CLOSED	28
			newsletter deadline				
29- Palm Sunday	9am Worship 1015am Fellowship 1015am Sunday School	OFFICE CLOSED	6pm Young Adult Bible Study	9am Prayer Group 630pm Midweek Lenten Service		OFFICE CLOSED 6pm Men's Lenten Dinner at St. John's	

UPCOMING DATES

- April 2nd - Maundy Thursday service **6:30pm**
- April 3rd - Good Friday service at Zion Lutheran (Clarion) **7pm**
- April 5th - Easter Sunday service at **9am**
(egg hunt following worship for kids up to 5th grade)

March 2026 Volunteer Schedule

Please switch with another volunteer if you have a conflict and contact the office with the change.

	<u>March 1st</u>	<u>March 8th</u>	<u>March 15th</u>	<u>March 22nd</u>	<u>March 29th</u>
<u>Sundays 9am</u>	Contemporary	Traditional	Contemporary	Traditional	Palm Sunday
Reader	Melissa Nosalik	Rick Lowers	Theresa Komitas	Ken Ladenburger	Troy Holland
Communion Assistants	Melissa Nosalik	Rick & Becky Lowers	Theresa Komitas & volunteer needed	Laurie Ladenburger	Aimee Holland & volunteer needed
Usher/Greeter	Rick & Becky Lowers, Sarah Coss & Becky Atherton	Ken & Laurie Ladenburger, Jeff & Lori Simonton	Carol Dilbeck, Dorothy Brandner, Carole Eich & Lisa Martin	Roberta Wendel, Leann O'Brien, Silveria Stamberger & Susan Ambler	Dennis & Deb Bieser Melissa Nosalik & Ron Rose
Acolyte	Jaxson Z.	Cam F.	Chloe K.	Cooper K.	Hunter P.
Altar Guild	Kathy Politsch	Kris Blunk	Myrna Simon	Shirley Pierson	Becky Atherton
Sound	Quin Holland	Rich Wujek	Corbin Doll	TBA	Jeff Simonton