



# ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

Volume 56, Issue 4

April 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 or at anytime** please contact the church office.

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,

Since January our Scripture reading for worship has been from the gospel of John. We have encountered John's recurring themes of "come and see," hearing and responding to the voice of the Good Shepherd, and most recently, of how Jesus is obedient to his call to face death, be raised to life; and how in all these things, our relationship to Jesus is what brings abundant life. I wonder how you might embrace these themes as you worship during the Holy Days? Is there anyone you might invite to "come and see" what Jesus is about on Easter?

This month we will conclude our weeks in John's gospel, and we will move into Acts, and begin hearing about how the first followers of Christ responded to Jesus' call and were formed as the church. In our time, Jesus asks us to follow and be the church in the world. The church's call is to ensure the gospel of Jesus is proclaimed and to witness to his grace. Our congregation strives to live this out. Being – and becoming – the church is a call and responsibility Christ has given to us all. I invite you to prayerfully consider whether Jesus might be calling you into any these ministries:

- Outreach Team – the Outreach Team's purpose is finding ways to invite new people to St. John's; equipping current disciples at St. John's to be more comfortable talking about faith with others; and help St. John's be present in the Mendota community.
- Ministry Enhancement Team – Formerly known as "Task Force," this team's purpose is to invite the congregation into two or three mission projects for the congregation each year. They are funded with earnings from the Endowment Fund.
- Youth Huddle – This team works on planning and promoting youth activities so that we can welcome and encourage young disciples in faith and community.
- Altar Guild – Do you ever wonder how the bread and wine come to be ready every week for worship? That is the ministry of our altar guild. Their mission is to honor God and the community by preparing our worship space that we might all receive the gifts of Word and Sacrament.

*continue on next page.....*

- Voting Members at Synod Assembly – St. John's is not a congregation unto itself. We are part of body of congregations who share in our mission together. If you want to know more about the ministry we share with other congregations in northern Illinois and across our nation and the world, join Pastor Elise for one a half days in June at Synod Assembly.

We have room for you in these ministries! As you know, people rotate in and out of various ministries for a variety of reasons, and right now we need some people to rotate in! I hope you will prayerfully consider what Jesus might be inviting you into. Please talk to me or call the church office if you can offer your gifts for the ministry of Christ's church!

Your servant in Christ, Pastor Elise

### The Great Three Days and Resurrection of our Lord

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 worship April 3** at Zion Lutheran Church (Clarion) at 7:00 PM, and **Easter worship at 9:00 AM** on Sunday, April 5.

Even more than Christmas, these holy days are the central focus of our Christian faith. Please plan to join us and invite others to join us to hear the good news of God's work for us and the world.

### Easter Egg Hunt!

We are planning to host an Easter Egg hunt for children 5<sup>th</sup> grade and younger immediately following the 9am Easter Worship service. Meet in the Fellowship Hall after service. *Children in 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade who are available to help hide eggs should meet in the Fellowship Hall after Communion.* (We will need many hands to get things ready.)

**THANK YOU to everyone who donated candy !!**

### Easter Flowers

Thank you to everyone who purchased flowers to help brighten our Sanctuary for Easter. You may take yours with you once Easter worship is over. If you cannot remember what flower you purchased, there will be a list in the Narthex by the women's restroom and on the Information Booth in the Fellowship Hall.

### Youth Bowling with LSSI

On Sunday, March 22nd, several of our jr. high and high school youth went bowling in Sterling with members of the LSSI group home.

Thank you to our chaperones: Lynette Piller, Rich Shakespeare, and Todd & Monica Zimmerlein, for helping transport the kids to Sterling and back.



### 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 April 14 and 29.**

### Bible Study on the Book of Revelation

Pastor Elise will lead a study on the book of Revelation on Wednesdays at 7PM, beginning April 22 and meeting for seven sessions. The study will be a combination of video presentation and discussion.

### Church Council Highlights

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

At its March meeting, the St. John's council received thank you letters and appreciation from institutions and organizations for our benevolence, approved being a host site for some of the classes being offered by the city for youth over the summer, and began a review of a cemetery policy and the fundraising guidelines.

**Finance Report Year To Date thru February 2026:**

Budgeted Income \$57,070    Actual Income \$76,571  
 Budgeted Expense \$59,652    Actual Expense \$68,216

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.

#### WELCA Spring Retreat 2026

Join the Northern Illinois Synod Women of the ELCA for the 2026 Spring Retreat on Saturday, April 26th, 2026, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center in Oregon, IL. You do not need to be part of a WELCA group to attend, all women are welcome. Registration is \$30. For more information check out the flyer hanging in the Narthex or on the [nisynod.org](http://nisynod.org) event page. Deadline to register is April 1st.

#### St. John's College Scholarship Reminder

St. John's scholarship applications were sent out to high school seniors and college students for the 2026-2027 school year, Applications are due in the office by April 15th.



#### Dementia Friendly Mendota Groups

**Circle of Friends**— A welcoming, monthly support gathering for people experiencing memory loss (like dementia or MCI) and their caregivers. **This group meets the First Thursday of every month from 1-2:30pm at Zion Methodist Church, Mendota.**

The next meeting is Thursday, April 2nd.

**Dementia Caregiver Support**—Meet with a certified Caregiver Coach. This is for anyone who cares about someone with dementia. Each month includes information on dementia care, time to ask questions, and talk to others. **This group meets the Third Thursday of every month from 1-2:30pm at Zion United Methodist Church, Mendota.**

The next meeting is Thursday, April 16th.

#### Youth Progressive Dinner

6th Grade — College

Sunday, April 12th. Begins at 3pm

Get ready for a night of fun, food, and adventure at our Progressive Dinner on Bikes! We will begin at the church, ride to Don & Karen Goy's for games and snacks, then head to the Zimmerlein's for a taco bar. We will cruise the neighborhood for more fun before ending back at the church with dessert. Bring a friend and RSVP by April 10th—rain or shine, the fun is on!

For questions or to RSVP call the office or text Monica Zimmerlein at 815-343-5073.

#### Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thrivent members, if you have not yet designated your Thrivent Choice dollars for 2025, you can do by March 31st. Thank you to those who have already designated Thrivent Choice dollars to St. John's. It has resulted in \$1,774 for our ministry

Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 4pm  
 St. John's Lutheran Church  
 607 10<sup>th</sup> Ave, Mendota

### Manderley Strings Concert

Manderley Strings will be accepting donations at the door to benefit the Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry. Suggested Donation is \$10.

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

607 10th Avenue  
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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.



**Upcoming Readings for Sunday  
Worship**

- April 5 – John 20:1-18
- April 12 – John 20:19-31
- April 19 – Acts 9:1-19a
- April 26 – Acts 16:16-34
- May 3 – Acts 17:16-31

**April Birthdays, Anniversaries & Upcoming Events**

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

**75th+ Birthday**



- April 6 Sandy Mosier
- April 11 Fran Pinter
- April 15 Sandra Eich
- April 19 Herb Champlin
- April 23 Lonnie Schaefer
- April 27 Marlene Egler
- April 29 Linda Buettner, Carol Dilbeck

**Happy 50+ and Milestone Anniversary!**

- Tom & Joanne Maloy  
April 4th — 62 years
- Richard & Leslie Althaus  
April 19th — 62 years
- Ray & Linda Karstens  
April 20th — 57 years
- Dan & Laura Schaefer  
April 28th — 52 years

**April**

- 1 Prayer group in Chapel 9am
- 2 Maundy Thursday worship 6:30pm (St. John's)
- 3 Good Friday worship at Zion Lutheran (Clarion) 7pm
- 5 Easter Sunday worship 9am w/Egg Hunt to follow
- 8 Prayer group in Chapel 9am
- 9 Allure 10am
- 12 Youth Progressive Dinner 3pm
- 13 Rebecca Circle 1:30pm
- 14 Young Adult Bible Study 6pm
- 15 Prayer group in Chapel 9am
- 15 Stonecroft worship 10am
- 16 Exec Team 545pm/Council 630pm
- 19 Manderley Strings Concert 4pm
- 22 Prayer group in Chapel 9am
- 28 Quilting 9am
- 28 Young Adult Bible Study 630pm
- 29 Prayer group in Chapel 9am

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9am Prayer Group	2 - Maundy Thursday 630pm Service at St. John's	3 - Good Friday OFFICE CLOSED 7pm service at Zion Lutheran (Clarion)	4
5 - Easter Sunday	6	7	8 9am Prayer Group	9 10am Allure	10 OFFICE CLOSED	11
9am Worship <i>Egg Hunt for 5th grade and younger following worship.</i>	OFFICE CLOSED					
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9am Worship 1015am Fellowship 1015am Sunday School 3pm Youth Progressive Dinner	OFFICE CLOSED 130pm Rebecca Circle	6pm Young Adult Bible Study	9am Prayer Group 10am Stonecroft	545pm Exec. Team 630pm Council	OFFICE CLOSED	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9am Worship 1015am Fellowship 1015am Sunday School 4pm Manderley Strings Concert	OFFICE CLOSED	newsletter deadline	9am Prayer Group 7pm Revelation Bible Study		OFFICE CLOSED	
26	27	28	29	30		
9am Worship 1015am Fellowship 1015am Sunday School	OFFICE CLOSED	9am Quilting 6pm Young Adult Bible Study	9am Prayer Group 7pm Revelation Bible Study			

## April 2026 Volunteer Schedule

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

	April 5th	April 12th	April 19th	April 26th
<u>Sundays 9am</u>	Easter Sunday	Traditional	Contemporary	Traditional
Reader	Laurel Politsch	Aimee Holland	Carole Eich	Karen Goy
Communion Assistants	Laurel Politsch Jeff & Lori Simonton	Aimee Holland	Carole Eich & volunteer needed	Karen Goy
Usher/ Greeter	The Nosailik Family	Chris, Christy, Camryn & Callie Perra	Todd & Monica Zimmerlein Charlee & Jaxson	Troy & Aimee Holland, Judy Kerns & Lauren Anderson
Acolyte	Hunter P. & Taylor E.	Brooklyn S.	Ally T.	Jaxson Z.
Altar Guild	Shirley Pierson	Becky Atherton	Shirley Pierson	Kathy Politsch
Sound	David Rothfusz	Eric Anderson	TBA	TBA

<u>April 2nd-Maundy Thursday</u>	
Reader	Confirmation Students
Communion	Confirmation Students
Ushers	volunteers needed
Acolyte	Confirmation Student
Altar Guild	Becky Atherton
Sound	Rich Wujek

April 3rd-Good Friday  
Good Friday Service

will take place at Zion Lutheran (Clarion)