

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Periodicals

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Tornado Relief

We collected \$867.00 in Special Offerings for the ELCA Disaster Relief for the recent tornado in Naplate and South Ottawa.

Find us on Facebook!
Search for "St. John's Lutheran Church" and join our page.



April Birthdays, Anniversaries, Special Days, Upcoming Events

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

75th+ Birthday

Apr. 1 Darlene Meisel
Apr. 14 Duane Fassig
Apr. 15 Patricia Bieser
Sandra Eich
Apr. 19 Marjorie Nance
Apr. 21 Patricia Despain
Apr. 27 Frank Etheridge
Apr. 29 Linda Buettner

Happy 50+ Anniversary!

Richard & Leslie Althaus
April 19th — 53 years

Congratulations!

Shaun & Pam Bauer
April 15th — 40 years
David & Elizabeth Knottnerus
April 25th — 25 years
Curtis & Laura Zimmerman
April 25th — 25 years

Upcoming Events

April

2 Jr. High Mission Trip mtg at 11:15am
5 Lenten supper 5:30pm - worship 7pm
6 All Teams meeting at 7pm
9 Palm Sunday worship at 9am
13 Maundy Thursday worship at 7pm
14 Ecumenical Good Friday worship 7pm
15 NO Saturday worship
16 Easter Sunday worship at 9am
(Egg Hunt following worship)
17 Office Closed—Easter Monday
20 Church Council meeting at 6:30pm
25 Mission Quilt Day at 9am
26 Newsletter Assembly at 10:30am
29/30 Bishop Clements preaching
30 Reformation Fair here 3pm to 5pm

May

4 All Teams meeting at 7pm
6 Confirmation students meet at 11am
13 Confirmation rehearsal at 1pm
14 Confirmation during 9am worship
18 Church Council meeting at 6:30pm
24 Newsletter Assembly at 10:30am
29 Office Closed — Memorial Day

The South Conference Spring Assembly will be held on April 27th at 6:30pm at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Seneca (300 E. Union Street). St. John's Synod Assembly delegates are encouraged to attend, but everyone is welcome.



St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

Volume 47, Issue 3

April 2017

Special items of interest:

- We hope you will join us for worship!
Saturday worship 5pm
Sunday worship 9am
Fellowship 10am
Sunday School 10:10am
- The hospital does not contact Pastor Lepp or the church when you are hospitalized. Please have a family member contact us.
- Volunteers needed in April to host Fellowship Time. Sign up in Kitchen.
- Parents with infants or small children are welcome to use the Nursery or the Cry Room (near the Women's restroom in the narthex) during Sunday services. TV monitors are provided in both locations so you may view the service. Please ask an usher for assistance.

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Come Experience:

Luther's Door

Lutheran Pretzels

Refreshments

See Martin Luther

Print your own
Luther's Seal

Luther's Seal
Craft Project

Reformation Art

Hymns of Luther

Reformation Choir

Closing Worship:
Luther's Chorale

Freed & RENEWED
in Christ 500
YEARS OF THE GREAT
GRACE



South Conference
of the Northern Illinois Synod - ELCA

Reformation
Fair

Sunday, April 30
3 pm to 5 pm

at
St. John's Lutheran Church
607 10th Ave
Mendota, IL

Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend the Reformation Fair on Sunday, April 30th.

This event is planned and hosted by all of the churches that make up the South Conference of the Northern Illinois Synod. We are fortunate to host this event in our Fellowship Hall.

There will be hands-on activities and entertainment for all ages. Refreshments will be served.



2017 Holy Week Schedule



Palm Sunday — April 9th at 9am

Worship will begin with a procession of palms. All Sunday School children should meet in the Fellowship Hall near the sign-in table at 8:45am to receive a palm and line up for the procession. The drama, "Who are We on Palm Sunday?" will be presented during worship.

Maundy Thursday — April 13th at 7pm

At the heart of Maundy Thursday worship is Jesus' commandment to "Love One Another." The Confirmation students will strip the altar following Holy Communion.

Good Friday — April 14th at 7pm

This will be an ecumenical service held here at St. John's. Members of First Presbyterian, First United Methodist, and Zion United Methodist churches will be joining us for this service of prayer, song, and the reading of Holy Scripture.

Easter Sunday — April 16th at 9am

Celebrate with us as we worship the risen Lord! An Easter Egg Hunt for our youngest children will follow worship.



St. John's hosted a Kids Against Hunger food pack event in our Fellowship Hall on Saturday, March 25th. We had approximately 100 volunteers of all ages help assemble and pack 24,000 meals which will be sent to 65 countries worldwide. Several boxes of food were also delivered to the Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry for distribution locally. We appreciate everyone who participated and extend a special thank you to our Feed The Need committee for organizing this event.



The second activity of our **Feed The Need** project, will kick off on Sunday, April 30th and continue through Sunday, May 28th.

Our mission will be to stock **St. John's Barnyard** with honey bees, chicks, pigs, goats, and cows.

These animals will then be donated to **God's Global Barnyard**, part of the ELCA Good Gifts program. Farm animals are gifted to families around the world to help them escape the cycle of hunger and poverty for good. Animals provide food to eat, fertilizer to grow crops and offspring to sell on the market. Give a man a meal, and you feed him for a day. Help a man be a farmer, and he will feed himself and others for a lifetime!

2017 Highway Clean-up Dates



The Saturday pick-up dates for 2017 are as follows: April 1st, June 3rd, August 5th, and October 7th. We will meet in the church courtyard at 9am to issue safety vests, litter bags and to organize into groups. Our route begins at the US 251 South viaduct and travels 2 miles south on both sides of the road. This is a great volunteer/service project for kids, too. We require that students be at least Confirmation age in order to participate. We are usually done in an hour with 8-10 volunteers — hope to see you on April 1st!

**Bishop Clements to visit St. John's
April 29th and 30th**



Bishop Jeffrey Clements will be visiting St. John's and preaching for our worship services on Saturday, April 29th at 5pm and Sunday, April 30th at 9am. He also will join us for fellowship and conversation following worship on Sunday.

Bishop Clements has a heart for ministry and a love of the church. He is a faithful servant of Christ, which includes being a remarkable listener. We are extremely pleased that he will have this opportunity to visit with us and get to know us better, just as we are excited to meet him and hear his message of hope for us. Please plan to attend and invite your friends and family.

St. John's offers **Automatic Giving** for your offerings. There are currently 19 families signed up to give through this program. One of our automatic givers recently said, "The auto withdraw from our checking has been great. We have been doing it for a long time now. Since Susan has been there it is consistently done when designated. It is a great way to remain spiritually disciplined with regard to the resources one has been blessed with. You make your commitment at the beginning of the year and it's like a bill you know is coming due. So it is easy to stay on track." Please contact Susan in the church office if you would like more info or if you would like to sign up.



St. John's Youth News

"Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others"



High School Students...

On Sunday, April 23rd, we will have breakfast at Cindy's during our class time. Please meet in the Fellowship Hall after worship and we will carpool. Please let Maria know if you are driving yourself.

If you are graduating from High School or College this spring, we will be honoring you on May 21st at the 9am worship service. Please submit a photo and information regarding your future plans to the office by Monday, May 1st.



**~ Current 5th through 7th Graders ~
Junior High Mission Trip
Friday, June 2nd - Sunday, June 4th**



Have you been praying about joining us for *"Poured Out 2017"*, the junior high mission trip to Belvidere planned for this summer? Information and registration forms are available in the mailbox outside of Maria's office. Your registration form and \$25.00 deposit payable to "St. John's" is due by Sunday, May 7th. If you have any questions, please speak with Maria.

Confirmation Class News...

•The Confirmation class is responsible for "Stripping The Altar" at the Maundy Thursday worship at 7pm on April 13th. Plan to wear black clothing.

•We will practice on Wednesday, April 12th. Please join Maria in the Fellowship Hall for dinner at 5:30pm. Practice will begin at 6pm and should be done by 7pm. *If you are unable to participate on Maundy Thursday, please let Maria or the church office know.*

•Confirmation Day for our 8th grade students (Christian, Cole, Dylan, Lauren, Matthew & Shashawna) is set for Sunday, May 14th during 9am worship.



•We will meet on Saturday, May 6th at 11am to work on our stoles.

•We will hold a rehearsal and take a group picture on Saturday, May 13th at 1pm. (7th graders should also plan to attend the rehearsal.)



College Scholarship Applications are now available in the church office and on the Information Booth. Completed forms must be returned to the office no later than April 15, 2017. For further information, please contact Bill Garthe, Chair of the Scholarship Team.



Donations of plastic eggs and individually-wrapped candies are needed for the Easter Egg Hunt. If you are able to help out, please bring your eggs and/or candies to the office. Thanks!



All 3 to 11 year olds are invited to participate in an **Easter Egg Hunt** on Easter Sunday, April 16th following 9am worship. Please meet Maria and the Confirmation youth in the Fellowship Hall.



We are excited to announce that counselors from Lutherdale Bible Camp will again conduct Vacation Bible School at St. John's for all students who have completed Kindergarten through 5th grade. We will welcome the counselors on Sunday, June 18th and camp will be held from Monday, June 19th through Thursday, June 22nd. Registration forms and additional information will be available as the date approaches.