

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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**Periodicals**

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**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 — 55 years
- Raymond & Linda Karstens  
April 20th — 50 years

**Upcoming Events**

**April**

- 3 Lenten Meal 5:30pm to 6:15pm
- 3 Midweek Worship at 6:30pm
- 4 Sarah Circle at 1pm
- 4 All Teams meeting at 7pm
- 8 Rebecca Circle at 1pm
- 10 Lenten Meal 5:30pm to 6:15pm
- 10 Midweek Worship at 6:30pm
- 11 Executive Team meeting at 6:30pm
- 18 Maundy Thursday worship at 7pm
- 19 Ecumenical Good Friday worship at 7pm
- 20 **NO** Chapel Worship
- 21 Easter Sunday worship at 9am
- 22 Office Closed — Easter Holiday
- 23 Newsletter Deadline
- 23 Mission Quilt Day at 9am
- 25 Newsletter Assembly at 10:30am
- 25 Church Council meeting at 6:30pm

Long ago, even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes.

His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave him great pleasure.

So we praise God for the wonderful kindness he has poured out on us because we belong to his dearly loved Son. He is so rich in kindness that he purchased our freedom through the blood of his Son, and our sins are forgiven. ...

God's secret plan has now been revealed to us; it is a plan centered on Christ, designed long ago according to his good pleasure. And this is his plan:

At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ — everything in heaven and on earth. Furthermore, because of Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us from the beginning, and all things happen just as he decided long ago. (Ephesians 1:4-7, 9-11)

St. John's Lutheran Church



**ST. JOHN'S EAGLE**

Volume 49, Issue 4

April 2019

**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 the church when you are hospitalized.** Please have a family member contact us.
- St. John's offers **Electronic Giving.** If you are interested please contact Susan in the office.
- **Volunteers are needed** in April & May to host Fellowship Time. Sign up in Kitchen.
- **Please check the April Volunteer Schedule carefully.** The volunteers for Midweek Lenten Services and Holy Week Services are listed at the bottom of the page.

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**~ Holy Week Schedule ~**



**Palm Sunday, April 14th** — 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. Sunday School for all ages will take place as usual at 10:10am.

**Maundy Thursday, April 18th** — At the heart of Maundy Thursday worship is Jesus' commandment to "Love One Another." The Confirmation students will strip the altar following Holy Communion. Please join us for worship at 7pm. We will reflect on the Celtic Cross (Redemption). Colossians 1:19-23.

**Good Friday, April 19th** — This will be an ecumenical service held here at St. John's at 7pm. 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 21st** — Christ the Lord is risen! Celebrate with us the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Worship begins at 9am. We will reflect on the Glory Cross of Victory. Colossians 3:1-4. Following worship, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for our youngest children (through 4th grade). Children should gather in the Fellowship Hall for instructions from Karen Goy and her Confirmation/Youth helpers.

**Updated Church Council appointments:**

Steve Florschuetz	President, Stewardship
Ken Ladenburger	Vice President, Call Committee, Task Force
Carol Wheeler	Treasurer, Finance
Melissa Nosalik	Secretary, Educational Ministry
Ed Bock	Property
Dorothy Brandner	Youth Huddle, Memorial
Gary Duttlinger	Property
Bill Garthe	Benevolence
Nancy Holland	Scholarship, Food Service
Melvette Jones	Outreach, Educational Ministry
Dawn Kendall	Youth Huddle
Roberta Wendel	Youth Huddle, Memorial

We thank each of these members for their commitment to St. John's!

### Church Council Highlights

The following are some highlights from the March 21, 2019 Church Council meeting.

- Melvette Jones was appointed to a one-year term on the Council and Council revised their team appointments (see front page);
- The Call Committee updated the Council that they had interviewed another candidate who the committee was very excited about, but who ultimately decided not to leave the area where they currently live;
- We received an invitation to the official Installation of Pastor Kim Lee-Brown at her new church in Marion, IL. Our congratulations and a plant were sent to her on behalf of the entire congregation.

Finance Report Year To Date thru February 2019:

Budgeted Income \$62,326 Actual Income \$55,419

Budgeted Expense \$60,484 Actual Expense \$39,268

### Guest Pastor Schedule for April 2019

April 6th — Rev. Harold Grafe

April 7th — Rev. David Ufkes

April 13th — Rev. Susan Presley

April 14th — Rev. Bob Hillenbrand

April 20th — NO Chapel Service

April 21st — Rev. Harold Grafe

April 27th — Rev. Susan Presley

April 28th — Rev. Bob Hillenbrand



If you find yourself in need of pastoral care while we are without a full-time pastor, we ask you to confidentially speak with our Youth Director or office staff. We will connect you with a pastor or appropriate ministry person to assist you.

### Thank You, Pastor Presley!



We say "Thank You!" to Pastor Susan Presley from the First Presbyterian Church for her continued support during this time of transition at St. John's. Pastor Susan has been leading worship on Saturday evenings for us since February of 2018, as well as helping out with emergencies, and hospital and nursing home visitations as needed. This is all in addition to her responsibilities with her own congregation, and her studies at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary as she works to complete an advanced degree.

Pastor Susan will be scaling back her schedule with us as we go forward. She hopes to continue leading Saturday worship for us once or twice a month.

If you have the opportunity, please thank Pastor Susan for her dedication to our church family.

### Confirmation Sunday — May 12th

Plan to join us on Sunday, May 12th as we celebrate the Confirmation of our 8th grade students, *Landon Kreiser, Matt Miller, Alayna Nosalik, Laurel Politsch, Garret Zinke, and Gracie Zinke*. Keep them in your prayers as they spend these last few weeks in preparation.

We are pleased that Rev. Robin Brown will lead worship on this special day! Rev. Brown visits with us often, and is the grandmother of one of our confirmands, Matt Miller.

Confirmation Rehearsal will take place on Sunday, May 5th, and will be followed by a special breakfast served to confirmands and their families by the 7th graders. More information will be shared with those families soon.



**St. John's has a Scholarship program** to help the youth of our congregation finance their education at a school of higher learning. 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, 2019. For further information, please contact Nancy Holland, Chair of the Scholarship Team.

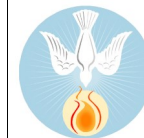


## St. John's Youth News

"Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others"



### Information for Confirmation Students



The Confirmation Class is asked to join Karen Goy in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, April 18th at 4pm to prepare the eggs for the Easter morning Egg Hunt and enjoy dinner together. You will then attend Maundy Thursday worship together.

Don't forget that your class is responsible for "Stripping The Altar" at the Maundy Thursday worship at 7pm on April 18th. Plan to wear black clothing. (Practice will take place during Sunday School on April 14th. It is very important that you attend.)

### Sweet Surprises!



We are planning to host an Easter Egg hunt for children 4<sup>th</sup> grade and younger immediately following Easter Worship. Children in 5<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> grade who are interested/available to help hide eggs during worship and monitor the egg hunt should let Karen Goy know. (We will need many hands to quickly get things ready.) We have an ample supply of plastic eggs, but would welcome bags of individually wrapped candy or Easter baskets that you no longer use so that we can offer them to any guests with us or any children who may not have brought one to church with them. Donations of candy or baskets can be dropped off at the church office or at the Sunday School registration table prior to April 18th. Invite your friends, neighbors, and relatives to join us!!

### LET'S DO THIS!!

On Sunday, March 31st, four young people from our congregation - Charlee Dankenbring, Liam Jones, Christopher Komitas, and Brayden Wilhelm are excited to participate in their First Communion! They have enjoyed learning that Jesus provides this meal for EVERYONE and asks us to bring nothing but ourselves and simply and humbly RECEIVE. The bread and wine are tangible reminders that He promises to be with us and that He forgives us of our sins. No one can explain how he is with us (it's a mystery) - we just have to BELIEVE that He is because he promised it and always keeps his promise. In this celebration of the special meal He provides us we are equipped with blessed reminders integral to living a life of faith amid the storms and challenges of life. **DO THIS!... give thanks... remember** (what Jesus said, has done, has promised)... **receive** (Jesus' loving presence and forgiveness)... and **believe** (because He promised). Come to the table with us and with a renewed awareness of all that is happening in us and for us as we do! It's a meal that is meant to create and equip our community. These four young people along with a parent are going to live out their "thank you" for this special event by preparing and serving the meal at PADS on April 6th. They will invite guests to a table and ask them to bring nothing but themselves. Jesus says that as they share their food and presence with those hungry for those things - they are also sharing it with Him!



On **Palm Sunday, April 14th**, our Sunday School Students should meet in the Fellowship Hall near the Sunday School sign-in table at 8:45am to get their palm branch and be ready to process into the Sanctuary at the beginning of worship. Students will then sit with their families.

**High School Seniors** — Please provide a current photo, a baby (or younger self) photo, and your future plans to the church office by Monday, April 28th. This information will be used when we recognize our graduates during worship on Sunday, May 19th. You may also email your pictures and information to [laura@stjohnsmendota.org](mailto:laura@stjohnsmendota.org). Thank you!

**College Graduates** — We would like to recognize your accomplishments by including a photo and information regarding your degree and future plans in an upcoming *Eagle* newsletter. Please bring a photo and details to the church office before Monday, April 28th, or email the requested information to [laura@stjohnsmendota.org](mailto:laura@stjohnsmendota.org).