

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Mendota, IL 61342



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~ Holy Week Schedule ~

Maundy Thursday worship at 6pm

Good Friday worship at 6pm

Easter Vigil at 6pm

Easter Sunday worship at 7am and 9am

Find us on Facebook!

Search for "St. John's Lutheran Church" and join our page.



April Birthdays
and Anniversaries

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

75th+ Birthday

Apr. 1 Darlene Meisel
Apr. 6 Sandy Mosier
Apr. 7 Albert Schrader
Apr. 11 Fran Pinter
Apr. 14 Duane Fassig
Apr. 15 Patricia Bieser
Sandra Eich
Apr. 27 Frank Etheridge
Apr. 29 Linda Buettner



Happy 50+ Anniversary!

Tom & Joanne Maloy
April 4th — 57 years

Richard & Leslie Althaus
April 19th — 57 years

Raymond & Linda Karstens
April 20th — 52 years

Periodicals

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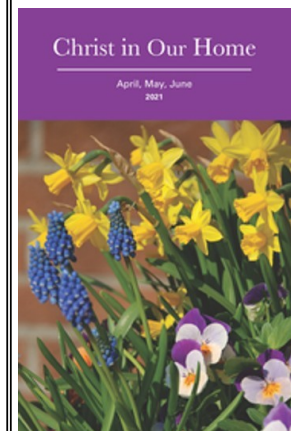
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The church office is open Monday through Thursday beginning at 8:30am.

The church office is **CLOSED** on Fridays and this is also Pastor Ken's day off. In case of an emergency, you can reach Pastor Ken at (815) 861-9554.



The new *Christ in Our Home* devotional booklets for April, May & June are now available in the narthex and the church office.

St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

Volume 51, Issue 4

April 2021

Special items of interest:

- If you want Pastor Ken Gibson to know 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.
- **Worship in our Sanctuary continues** each Sunday morning at 9am. If you are unable to attend, we hope you will join us for virtual worship online via Zoom or Facebook Live.
- We hope you are joining Pastor Ken for **daily devotions, Monday through Thursday mornings at 8am on St. John's Facebook page**. It's a nice way to start your day!
- **Quarterly offering statements** will be sent out in early April.



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**Palm Sunday, Holy Week Happenings
and Easter Celebrations!**

by Pastor Ken Gibson



Holy Week will begin this year with our Palm Sunday service at 9am on March 28th. The excitement of the day begins as we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem with the traditional waving of our palms. We will also have a dramatic reading of the entire passion story according to Mark presented by members of our St. John family. This will also most certainly be a special day for several of our second-grade students who will take part in their first communion.

Then, as Holy Week continues, we will offer up a unique and prayerful way to journey toward the Easter event by offering up three services called "The Triduum." The Triduum is the time of the Church year when we celebrate the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This three-day celebration begins with Holy Thursday and continues on Good Friday with the liturgy of the Lord's Passion. At the end of this liturgy, we leave the church in silence, waiting to celebrate the glory of our Lord's resurrection. Then, on Saturday at sundown, the Church re-gathers to celebrate the final and most grand moment of the Triduum: The Resurrection of our Lord.

The Triduum is somewhat like a three-day prayer marathon with the services of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday both ending in silence. As the Maundy Thursday service ends and we depart in silence, it allows us to journey with our thoughts toward the next service on Good Friday. Again, as we depart in silence, we continue the journey to the cumulating worship event of Holy Week, the Easter Vigil and the end of Lent.

The Easter Vigil is the service that I think will be additional to what has been done recently here at St. John's. This service is incredibly special, and I hope as many as possible might take it in. We will begin in the courtyard around an actual fire in a fire pit similar to the fire that Peter found himself gathered around as he waited to see what would happen to Jesus. There at that fire we will light the paschal candle and from it all present will also light a candle. We will then proceed into the sanctuary, signifying the light of Christ coming back into our lives. Also, during this service, we will bring the Glorias and the Alleluias back into our worship experience. It will be time to sing Glory to God again as Lent has ended.

The next day we have Easter! Alleluia! We will shout: "Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!" Our Easter services this year will be at 7am and 9am on April 4th. I truly hope that we all take part, in some form or another, in these special worship services.

See you in the pews or on line!



RO-GA-TION {ro-gā-shen} “Rogation Sunday!” by Pastor Ken Gibson

“Hey Pastor Ken; What does Rogation mean?” This question has been somewhat frequent the past few weeks as we begin to put a service and activities together to celebrate Rogation Sunday. I even heard it said: “I think it is a term Pastor Ken invented to find a way to get tractors to church and have tractor rides.” Well, I wish I could take credit, but the truth is that it is a term with long standing traditions tied to it.

Here’s a little history. Rogation Days were traditionally celebrated during the fifty days of Easter on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday before Ascension Day. The word “Rogation” has its roots in the Latin word that means to ask or petition, and it comes from the ancient introit for the Sunday proceeding Ascension. In some places, the celebrations were very elaborate and included processions from the church to and around fields while asking for God’s blessing. We will have petitions asking for a good and bountiful growing season and to ask us to remember the gifts of God’s earth and our role as stewards of the earth.

Although Rogation Days are agricultural celebrations, they are not solely for rural congregations. The truth is we are all tied to the land for our very existence, we all eat and we are all called to be stewards of God’s creation.

Here at St. John’s, I believe we have many connections to the land and the prayerful petition for a good growing season is most appropriate. In this special service on Sunday, April 11th, we will indeed have a prayer and seek blessing upon the seed, soil, and water. We will also have a blessing for the machinery to be used for the season ahead, and that is where things get fun. At least I think it is fun! Following our worship service, we will have a tractor parade and blessing on machinery. We have invited many of our farmers to be around to parade by and receive a blessing as they perhaps literally head to the field to proceed with the spring planting season.

Please make plans to be part of this special worship service. I will have my antique tractor on display and invite others who wish to have a tractor on display as well, to feel welcome to do such. If you have questions just seek me out and let’s chat.

Church Council Highlights

The following are some highlights from the March 18, 2021 Church Council meeting.

- Council approved an updated set of guidelines for in-person worship and church activities. Guidelines approved on June 18, 2020 (and updated in September) remain in place. The only two changes include allowing for “limited congregational singing and recitation” and only “Council approved activities in the building at this time.” Guidelines will be reviewed by Council monthly and updated as needed.
- Council approved the Task Force “shoe drive” project which will kick-off on Sunday, May 2nd.
- Council approved new member Cheryl Christiansen.
- Allied Counseling Group notified us that they will be ending their tenure at Crossroads Counseling Center here at the church.

Finance Report Year To Date thru February 2021:

Budgeted Income \$61,449 Actual Income \$62,081
Budgeted Expense \$64,515 Actual Expense \$53,842

We collected \$1,000 for the “Texas Storm” special offering.

We are grateful for your continued financial support, through your offerings in person, through the mail, and through automatic giving. We are blessed to have such a faithful St. John’s family.

“Virtual Worship” Information for April



The **Zoom log-in information** for our April worship services has been set so that the Meeting ID and Passcode are the same for each week during April. **This is not an error.** We hope that it will make it easier for those logging in to Zoom. The log-in information will also be emailed to you each Saturday.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8191024353>

Dial up: 1 312 626 6799
Meeting ID: 819 102 4353
Passcode: 316316

You are also able to **watch the worship services via Facebook Live** even if you don’t have a Facebook account yourself. Search for St. John’s Lutheran Church Facebook page. Once you find us, simply scroll past any invitations to create a Facebook page and you’ll see the Facebook Live video.



St. John’s Youth News

“Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others”



Last year’s 8th grade confirmation class will be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021. More information will be shared with those students & their families as the date approaches.

Confirmation Classes Continue



Confirmation classes for our 7th and 8th grade students continue to meet weekly on Sunday mornings at 10am. Confirmation classes are held in-person with class offered virtually on Zoom for any students who may be quarantined or who are remote-learners. Masks will be required and social distancing will be practiced. An email containing the login information will be sent to all confirmation students and families on Thursday prior to class. Please don’t forget to bring your Worship Notes to class with you!

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 26th. This information will be used when we recognize our graduates during worship on Sunday, May 16th. You may also email your pictures and information to 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 26th, or email the requested information to laura@stjohnsmendota.org.

Mission Trip to Sky Ranch



We are excited to announce the members of our **2021 High School Mission Trip Team** — *Connor Bailey, Paul Bailey, Ella Coss, Samantha Katschke, Abby Kunz, Ella Martin, Matt Miller, Alayna Nosalik, Jillian Younger, Garret Zinke, and Gracie Zinke*. Chaperones will include *Pastor Ken & Yvonne Gibson, Ronnie Bailey, and James Younger*. Please add our Team and Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp in Ft. Collins, Colorado to your prayer list.

Team members — Don’t forget to return all of your signed forms to the church office as soon as possible. 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. College Scholarship Applications are now available in the church office, or you can download it from our website. If you would like an application emailed to you, please contact the church office. Completed forms must be returned to the office no later than April 15, 2021.

St. John’s Task Force Update



The St John’s Task Force is happy to announce that our first project for 2021 will be a shoe drive for Another Child Foundation. The drive will kick off on Sunday, May 2nd and continue to Sunday, May 30th. The Task Force is still organizing the project and more information will be available in the *May Eagle* newsletter.