

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Periodicals

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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

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

75th+ Birthday



- April 1 Darlene Meisel
- April 6 Sandy Mosier
- April 7 Albert Schrader
- April 11 Fran Pinter
- April 14 Duane Fassig
- April 15 Sandra Eich
- April 29 Linda Buettner

Happy 50+ and Milestone Anniversary Wishes!

Tom & Joanne Maloy
April 4th — 58 years

Shaun & Pam Bauer
April 15th — 45 years

Richard & Leslie Althaus
April 19th — 58 years

Raymond & Linda Karstens
April 20th — 53 years

Curt & Laurie Zimmerman
April 25th — 30 years

Rogation Sunday – April 24th



What does Rogation mean? 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 preceding 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.

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 24th, we will indeed have a prayer and seek blessing upon the seed, soil, and water. Mr. Bill Christ will be with us as our guest presenter for the day. We will also have a blessing for the machinery to be used for the season ahead, and that is where things get fun. Following our worship service, we will head outdoors to bless the tractors and machinery. We have invited many of our farmers to bring their tractors by and receive a blessing before they head to the field to proceed with the spring planting season. We hope you'll join us!

St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

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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 STJ LUTHERAN MENDOTA.)
- **Sunday School classes for all ages begin at 10am.** Please sign-in at the table in the north fellowship hall.
- **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.



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LENT A SEASON OF BRIGHT SADNESS

Each of us are observing Lent as we head toward the promise of the resurrection at Easter. One definition I found in my reading described Lent as "The season of bright sadness." A time set apart to prepare the believer for Easter through prayer, mortifying the flesh, repentance of sins, almsgiving and simple living and self-denial.

I also recall my early days as a boy growing up in private Roman Catholic schools, learning that in Lent we sacrifice as a way of remembering the great sacrifice our Lord Jesus made for all of us.

I personally have used the Lenten season as a way of offering up more time in prayer and solitude and deeper reflection on God as a source of strength in my life.

As most all know, this Lent has been extremely hard for me as I face the reality of losing my precious daughter Lauren. There are no words to adequately describe the hurt that I am experiencing with each and every breath I take. But I am trying very hard to journey through this Lent faithfully. I do thank everyone for the love and support shown me and my family. I do see you and hear you and I thank God for your being in my life.

I close with a prayer/psalm I recently found myself writing while participating with Vicar Anthony in a Lenten service on writing your own psalm/prayer.

Did You Weep, O God?

By Pastor Ken Gibson

God of comfort,
I know I am but a humble servant,
not worthy of your love,
but please hear my cry.
I hurt so deeply,
never before-
have I felt such brokenness.
My identity as a parent,
of which you know such a reality,
is Crushed.

I wonder, Oh God,
Did you weep when your son gave up his life?
My tears flow so often, day and night they come to my eyes,
I fear I shall dry up completely.
Replenish my heart and soul, O God.
Bring your life-giving water unto me and wash me again in your love.

Church Council Highlights

The following are some highlights from the March 17, 2022 meeting of our church council.

- Council will continue to review Covid-19 safety measures and make adjustments to our guidelines as needed.
- All Teams meetings will take place MONTHLY. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 7th at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- Pastor Ken reported that the Executive Team decided that Vicar Anthony Windau will be brought on staff at the conclusion of his internship. He will attend his final year of Seminary classes via Zoom and continue his learning while here with us.
- Vicar Anthony reported that the youth pizza fundraiser was a great success. Thank you to everyone who supported our youth.
- The Educational Ministry Team reported that Vacation Bible School will be held the week of June 20th.

Finance Report Year To Date thru February 2022:

Budgeted Income \$60,265 Actual Income \$67,087
Budgeted Expense \$62,707 Actual Expense \$63,005

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.

What is a Vicar?



A few weeks ago, I was asked, "What is a vicar?" A simple but profound question! I'm pretty sure I stumbled over my words, trying to describe my job. I'm like a pastor, but not quite. Not yet ordained, but still called to ministry. We ended up looking at the dictionary definition, though that was no help. So, over the past few weeks, I've come up with a better answer.

A vicar is, as I said, a title used for seminary interns who are on the path to ordination. It is an old-timey word, but at least in the ELCA, it's coming back into style. Saying "vicar" before my name reminds us that I am called to ministry, yet still in the learning process.

A vicar is an opportunity. You, St. John's, have graciously invited me into your community to preach, teach, visit the sick and dying, and spend time with the high school youth. In this way, I learn by doing. Plus, I have Pastor Ken to nudge me in the right direction. How else can I learn ministry if not participating?

But a vicar is an opportunity for you as well. A chance to get to know someone new you'd otherwise not meet. But most of all, a vicar is an opportunity to throw away the tired line of "we've always done it this way" and embrace the nature of change, trial and error, and learning. St. John's may be a teaching congregation, but I hope it can also be *taught*. I bring new eyes, my (few) years of experience and schooling, and other gifts. I hope to use these for the benefit of St. John's, suggesting change when needed and reinforcing traditions near and dear.

I'm thankful that God has placed me here among the sinners and saints gathered together as St. John's Lutheran Church. In the following months, we are going to learn from each other. We will mess up from time to time, but we'll also get it right.

Peace,
Vicar Anthony

Easter Egg Hunt!



We are planning to host an Easter Egg hunt for children 4th grade and younger immediately following the gam Easter Worship service. *Children in 5th through 12th grade who are interested/available to help hide eggs near the end of worship and monitor the egg hunt should sign-up on the sheet in their Sunday School classroom.* (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 on Sunday, April 3rd or Sunday, April 10th.

Confirmation Class to Strip The Altar on Maundy Thursday



Members of this year's 7th and 8th grade Confirmation class will be responsible for "Stripping The Altar" at the Maundy Thursday worship at 6pm on April 14th. Plan to wear black clothing.

High School and College Graduates



****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 25th. This information will be used when we recognize our high school graduates during worship on Sunday, May 8th. 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 25th, or email the requested information to laura@stjohnsmendota.org.

If you would like to provide breakfast treats (donuts, breakfast pizza, etc.) for either our Confirmation Class or our High School Class, please contact the church office. We have dates available. Thank you!

First Communion Instruction Offered



Pastor Ken will offer First Communion instruction for our current second graders (and any older students who haven't already received communion) on Saturday, April 9, 2022. The students and a parent have been invited to meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30am where they will learn about communion, make the bread to be used for their First Communion, and share a meal together.

Please let the office know that you plan to attend so we are sure to have enough bread-making supplies and food for lunch.

First Communion will take place during worship on Palm Sunday, April 10th at 9am.

Palm Sunday Procession



On Palm Sunday, April 10th, 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.

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 as a .pdf file on 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, 2022.