

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Periodicals

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~ Holy Week Schedule ~

Maundy Thursday worship at 6:30pm

Ecumenical Good Friday worship at 6:30pm

Easter Vigil at 6:30pm

Easter Sunday Sunrise worship at 6am

Easter Sunday worship at 9am

April Birthdays, Anniversaries & Upcoming Events

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 10 Patricia Schrader
- April 11 Fran Pinter
- April 14 Duane Fassig
- April 15 Sandra Eich
- April 19 Herb Champlin
- April 29 Linda Buettner

Happy Milestone and 50+ Anniversary!

- Carl & Susan Ambler
April 3rd — 30 years
- Tom & Joanne Maloy
April 4th — 59 years
- Richard & Leslie Althaus
April 19th — 59 years
- Raymond & Linda Karstens
April 20th — 54 years

April Calendar of Events

- 1 First Communion class 10:30am
- 2 First Communion during Palm Sunday worship 9am
- 4 Polling Place — All Day
- 6 Sarah Circle 1pm
- 6 Maundy Thursday worship 6:30pm
- 7 Good Friday worship 6:30pm
- 8 Easter Vigil worship 6:30pm
- 9 Easter Sunrise worship 6am
- 9 Easter worship 9am
- 9 Easter Egg Hunt after 9am worship
- 10 Office Closed — Easter holiday
- 10 Rebecca Circle 1:30pm
- 13 All Teams meeting 7pm
- 15 Scholarship Applications due
- 20 Church Council meeting 6:30pm
- 25 Quilting 9am



April 25th is Quilting Day

You are invited to join St. John's quilting group on the fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 9am. You do not need to know how to quilt or sew in order to help create these beautiful and versatile quilts that are sent worldwide through Lutheran World Relief. Volunteers are needed to cut fabric, assemble the three layers of the quilt, sew the edges, and tie the quilts. If you are unable to attend the work day, you may take a Quilt Top Kit (found in the Information Booth in the Fellowship Hall) home with you and return it when you are finished.

Also, the walker bag basket in the Narthex has been replenished with some pretty Easter or spring-time patterns. Please help yourself to a bag if you or someone you know can use one.

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.)

• **If you would like our Interim Minister Vicar Anthony Windau 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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Holy Saturday

Have you ever heard of "Holy Saturday" before? It comes after Maundy Thursday, the day Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper, and after Good Friday, the day Jesus is crucified. Yet, it comes before the Easter Vigil and Easter morning proclamation of the Good News of the risen Christ.

So what is Holy Saturday?

Take yourself back to the original events. Jesus was just crucified and then buried. This man you had spent years following around was suddenly dead. Sure, Jesus occasionally mentioned that He would rise again, but that was confusing parables, right? So you're left to wander aimlessly. A hole has taken place where Jesus was in your heart. Grief, sadness, loneliness, and many other emotions take hold. Death hurts, it is scary, something to be avoided, and it seems so final.

This is Holy Saturday.

It is the space in-between the death of Jesus and the coming Resurrection. It is a time filled with unknowns and painful emotions. Paradoxically, it is easy to get stuck in Holy Saturday, yet also to jump quickly to Easter, avoiding one's feelings.

Yet I see Holy Saturday to be necessary. It speaks to a reality in life we all have, are currently, or will face. The pain and sting of death. The deep emotions that the death of a loved one brings, and the abyss which is easy to get lost in.

Holy Saturday is a very human experience.

Yet, on the horizon is the sun, and with it comes the news proclaimed by women that the tomb is empty and Christ is risen.

My friends, we have hope in the Resurrection of Jesus. God in Christ has "descended to the dead" and rose again. What makes Holy Saturday "Holy"? The promise and realization that you are not alone. That you are *never* alone. It is okay to feel and express emotions. There is no shame in grief or sadness.

God suffers with you. God does not magically take away pain and sorrow but sits with you in your grief instead. This is what the Easter proclamation is all about. Holy Saturday, as difficult and painful as it can be, gives way to Resurrection Joy. It takes time, but there is always hope because God loves you.

We know the end of the story. The grave cannot hold God! Alleluia, Christ has risen!

In peace,
Vicar Anthony

Church Council Highlights

The following are some highlights from the March 16, 2023 meeting of our church council.

- The Worship Team shared information regarding upcoming Holy Week services — Maundy Thursday 6:30pm, Good Friday 6:30pm, Easter Vigil 6:30pm, Easter Sunrise 6am, and Easter Sunday 9am with an Easter Egg Hunt to follow worship. They also reported that Vicar Anthony's "after church Bible study" has been very successful.
- First Communion will be held during worship on Palm Sunday with instruction the day before.
- Youth Huddle reported that Lunch in the Park is set for Friday, July 21st.
- A Call Committee has been appointed by Council. The Call Committee includes *Charlie Betz, Sarah Coss, Sue Florschuetz, Karen Goy, Mike Maas, Lisa Martin, Nick Piller, Garret Zinke, and Council reps Melissa Doll and Tony Troyer.*
- The Property Team reported that the project manager for stained glass window repair will be here for a walk-through on Monday, March 20th. Work will get started right away. They also reported that the boiler is now repaired with a new part being installed.
- The Council appointed Dennis Bieser to a 3-year term on the Scholarship Committee.
- There was discussion about changing the days/times for Council meetings in May through August to Sunday at 10:15am. This will allow one of the Council members to be able to attend.
- The Council approved joining the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce.
- The next All Teams Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 6pm. Dinner will be served as part of the meeting.

Finance Report Year To Date thru February 2023:

Budgeted Income \$53,896 Actual Income \$60,130
 Budgeted Expense \$53,175 Actual Expense \$48,981

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.

Stained Glass Window Repair Update



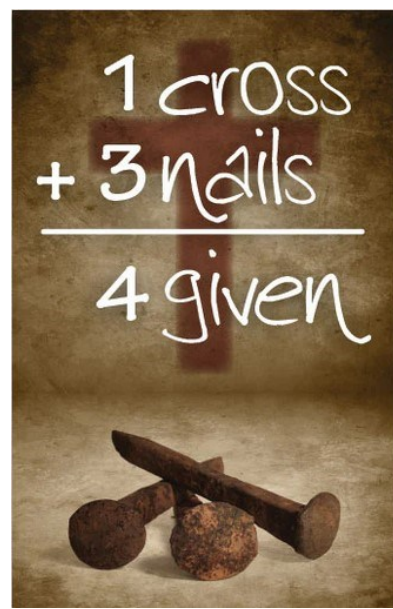
Representatives from Willet Hauser, the company repairing our stained glass windows, arrived and began work on our windows on March 21st. They expect to complete the job in two to two and a half weeks, hopefully wrapping everything up right before Easter!

We have collected \$38,000 toward the \$60,000 total needed. Donations toward the repair work continue to be accepted. Checks can be written to St. John's with "stained glass" in the memo. We thank you for your support of this necessary maintenance project.

Adopt-A-Highway is Hitting the Road Once Again!



We are returning to our commitment to clean up two miles of roadside along Route 251. This is the perfect service opportunity for our Confirmation students, High schoolers, and adults! We can only have 10 people participate out on the highway, but if more people show up on the designated days, we'll clean up other areas, like around the church. Stay tuned for more details including dates & times.



Happy Easter from the Stewardship Team

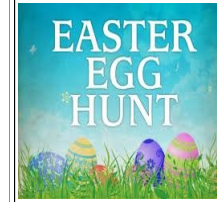


St. John's Youth News

"Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others"



Easter Egg Hunt!



We are planning to host an Easter Egg hunt for children 4th grade and younger immediately following the 9am 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 on the Sunday School sign-in table. (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 Sunday School registration table or the church office prior to Wednesday, April 5th.

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 24th. This information will be used when we recognize our high school graduates during worship on Sunday, May 7th. 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 24th, or email the requested information to laura@stjohnsmendota.org.



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 6:30pm on April 6th. Plan to wear black clothing.



Plans are being made for an awesome week of Vacation Bible School and we hope you will join us!

WHEN: Monday, June 12th to Friday, June 16th
9am to 12pm

WHO: All children in kindergarten through 5th grade are welcome to join the fun! **Children must be 5 years old by June 12th.* Registration forms will be available on Sunday, May 21st and are due to the church office by June 5th.

ALSO: We would love to have several older kids (6th grade through high school) volunteer to help with activities. You don't have to commit to the whole week. We will work with your availability. Please contact Melissa Nosalik or the church office (815) 539-5626 if you are interested in learning more.

Palm Sunday Procession



On Palm Sunday, April 2nd, 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, 2023.