

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Periodicals

St. John's EAGLE (USPS 639-560) is published monthly by St. John's Lutheran Church, 607 10th Ave., Mendota, Illinois 61342-1935.

Periodicals nonprofit postage paid at Mendota, IL 61342-7935.

Postmaster, please send address change to St. John's Lutheran Church, 607 10th Ave., Mendota, IL 61342-1935. Melissa Nosalik, editor.

Find us on Facebook!



Search for our page "St. John's Lutheran Church, Mendota, IL" and join us.

Join our Wednesday Morning Prayer Group in the Chapel at 9am.



April Birthdays, Anniversaries & Upcoming Events

God's continued blessings to all of those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries!

75th+ Birthday



- April 1 Darlene Meisel
- April 6 Sandy Mosier
- April 7 Albert Schrader
- April 11 Fran Pinter
- April 15 Sandra Eich
- April 19 Herb Champlin
- April 23 Laura Schaefer
- April 29 Linda Buettner
Carol Dilbeck

Happy 50+ Anniversary!

- Tom & Joanne Maloy
April 4th — 60 years
- Richard & Leslie Althaus
April 19th — 60 years
- Raymond & Linda Karstens
April 20th — 55 years
- Dan & Laura Schaefer
April 28th — 50 years

April

- 1 Office Closed — Easter Monday
- 3 Prayer group in Chapel 9am
- 3-18 Get To Know You Gatherings (see article inside for info)
- 4 Sarah Circle 1pm
- 4 All Teams meeting 7pm
- 7 "Give Poverty The Boot" campaign begins
- 8 Rebecca Circle 1:30pm
- 10 Prayer group in Chapel 9am
- 11 Allure worship 10am
- 17 Prayer group in Chapel 9am
- 17 Stonecroft worship 10am
- 18 Executive Team meeting 5:30pm
- 18 Church Council meeting 6:30pm
- 20 First Communion instruction 9am
- 20 Carpool to LOMC Earth Day Earth Church 11am
- 21 LSSI Good Shepherd Sunday
- 21 Richard & Leslie Althaus' 60th Anniversary celebration 2pm to 4pm — All Are Welcome!
- 23 Quilting 9am
- 24 Prayer group in Chapel 9am

St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

Volume 54, Issue 4

April 2024

Special items of interest:

Worship in our Sanctuary continues each Sunday morning at gam. 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 Pastor Elise to visit 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.

The Wednesday prayer group will continue to meet from gam to approximately 9:30am every Wednesday to lift up prayers on behalf of the St. John's community. You can pray aloud or silently, come frequently, or on occasion. All are welcome!



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Dear friends in Christ,

Over the next few weeks, our Sunday worship readings will include excerpts from the book of Acts, and in particular, stories and speeches about Jesus' resurrection and the how the early church responded to Jesus' commission that they tell others about him. I find these stories especially powerful when I consider who the disciples were before and immediately after Jesus' crucifixion: they had denied and deserted Jesus, they were cowering in a locked room out of fear, they went back to fishing in the sea. But something happens to them. They are empowered. By Jesus' own appearance, by his presence and his words. And they are empowered by the Holy Spirit. It's an amazing transformation. And certainly those early apostles were not without challenges.

How do we think about the church now? How do we think about St. John's Lutheran Church? How are we "apostles," those who are sent out with good news? I want to hear more from you about your hopes and your sense of where Jesus and the Holy Spirit may be leading St. John's in our ministry together. I hope you will sign up for one of the Get to Know You Gatherings, so together we can learn how the Spirit is stirring and moving us to be the church, a place of hope, peace, and good news, where all are welcome.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Elise

~ Special Congregational Meeting — April 7, 2024 ~

A special congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, April 7th, immediately following the gam worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to approve the Council's recommendation to replace parts of the church roof. No other business will be conducted. Please make every effort to attend. Thank you!

Church Council Highlights

The following are some highlights from the March 21, 2024 meeting of our Church Council:

- Roofing quote will require a special congregational meeting. MSC to have a meeting on April 7, 2024 to approve the Council's recommendation of the quote.
- Review of St. John's crisis manual is in process; revisions to be approved in April and communicated to staff, ushers, Sunday School teachers and anyone else interested.
- Vacation Bible School will be held from 9am to noon, July 22nd to 26th.
- St. John's will have information available at the Mendota Community Engagement Fair at the Civic Center on May 4th from 9am to 12pm.
- The next All Teams Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 4th at 7pm; and the next Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 18th at 6:30pm.

Finance Report Year To Date thru February 2024:

Budgeted Income \$63,004 Actual Income \$50,677
Budgeted Expense \$54,632 Actual Expense \$43,082

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

Get To Know You Gatherings

The transition team has been tasked with assisting Pastor Elise in getting to know the congregation. To that end, the transition team has arranged **Get to Know You Gatherings**, 90-minute conversations with Pastor Elise and a small group of other St. John's disciples. These gatherings are open to confirmed youth and adults, those who are very involved in ministries at St. John's and those who don't make it here very often or who worship online.

These gatherings will take place the first half of April; dates, times, and locations vary. Some are at St. John's and some are at people's homes. You can find a list of dates and times by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/55vxpprz>. Or you can use the QR code with your phone's camera. You can also call or stop by the church office during office hours and the staff can get you signed up. A paper sign up sheet will be available on Sunday mornings. If you would like to join in, but none of the dates or times work, please let the office know.



You all are a vital part of the ministry we do in Jesus' name! The transition team hopes that you will make time for one of these gathering in your schedule, so that Pastor Elise can continue getting to know you better personally, and be an effective pastor for all those who wish to follow Jesus at St. John's.

St. John's Transition Team — *Aimee Holland, Carol Dilbeck, Myrna Simon, Richard Althaus & Shirley Pierson*



The first Task Force project for 2024 is in support of the "Give Poverty the Boot" campaign by Another Child Foundation, a group St. John's has worked with many times in the past. The project will kick-off on Sunday April 7th and end on Sunday April 28th. For every \$15 collected, a child will receive a beautiful pair of durable rain boots. These boots are a \$35 value and are supplied by Roma Boots, a socially conscious company that combines fashion with philanthropy. The Task Force will match every donation dollar for dollar. There will be envelopes in the pews for you to place your donation of any amount. The donations will be collected and our progress displayed each Sunday in April. If you are writing a check, please make it payable to St. John's Lutheran Church and write "boots" in the memo section. More information will be shared on Sunday April 7th. Let's help them "Give Poverty the Boot!"

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. Please return completed forms to the office by April 15, 2024.

First Communion Classes



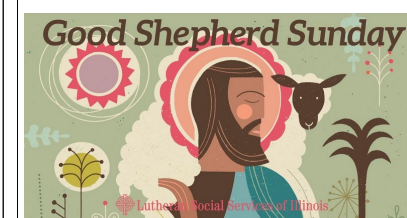
First Communion instruction will be offered for second graders and any older youth who are not yet receiving communion. The first class will be Saturday, April 20th from 9am to 11am, and the second class will be Saturday, May 4th from 1pm to 3pm. First Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, May 5th. Please contact Pastor Elise if you have a child interested and have not yet heard from her. The congregation is encouraged to pray for these young people as they grow in their faith through this sacrament.

Earth Day, Earth Church



Join Pastor Elise in celebration of God's good creation at the Earth Church afternoon at the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center near Oregon on Saturday, April 20th from 12pm to 3pm. There will be lunch, an earth church service, forest meditation walk, prayer labyrinth, and hiking. Families and individuals who would like to attend with Pastor Elise and carpool together: we will meet at the church at 11am. Cost is \$7 per person. Details and registration can be found at <http://lomc.org/earth-day-earth-church/>.

Good Shepherd Sunday



Every year, the Fourth Sunday of Easter lifts up the image of Jesus as our Good Shepherd in our lectionary readings. It is also a day when Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) asks congregations to learn more about what LSSI does across the state of Illinois. On Sunday, April 21st our worship service will offer an opportunity to hear about ministry done on your behalf for those in need through LSSI's work. Information on how to support LSSI's ministry - financial or otherwise - will also be available.

Prayer Requests

During Sundays in Lent, prayer requests of the congregation were gathered and specifically prayed for during worship each week and during the Wednesday morning prayer group meeting. Going forward, prayer requests will be gathered for worship prayers *on the first Sunday of the month*. Prayer requests submitted on other weeks will be prayed for by the Wednesday prayer group.

High School and College Graduates



Please provide a current photo and your future plans to the church office by Wednesday, May 1st. This information will be shared with the congregation during worship on Sunday, May 12th and in an upcoming *Eagle* newsletter. You may also email your picture and information to laura@stjohnsmendota.org.

New Disciples and Members at St. John's



Those who are interested in learning more about following Jesus as a Lutheran Christian and/or officially becoming part of St. John's ministry by joining our congregation are invited to conversation with Pastor Elise in May (dates and times are pending). If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Pastor Elise by email at pastorelise@stjohnsmendota.org.

Vacation Bible School



July 22nd - 26th
9am to 12pm
K thru 5th grade

More details to come!