

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Find us on Facebook!

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



We hope that everyone enjoys the
76th Annual Sweet Corn Festival
August 10th to 13th.

Periodicals

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August Birthdays, Anniversaries & Upcoming Events

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

75th+ Birthday



Aug. 3 Pearl Merritt
Aug. 4 Joyce Dinges
Donna Hagemann
Aug. 9 Leslie Althaus
Aug. 12 Mary Kay Sutton
Aug. 29 Ed Bock
Aug. 31 Allan (Tim) Munson

Happy 50+ Anniversary!

Roger & Barbara Anderson
August 5th — 62 years

Matt & Jamie Kreiser
August 16th — 20 years

Len & Marilyn Schaller
August 22nd — 64 years

John & Carol Wheeler
August 23rd — 54 years

Dennis & Connie Pohl
August 26th — 56 years

August Calendar of Events

3 Sarah Circle 1pm
3 All Teams meeting 7pm
6 Vicar Anthony gone; Rev. Leo Patterson leads worship
10 Heritage Health 10am
12 Saturday worship with baptisms 5pm
16 Stonecroft 10am
17 Church Council meeting 6:30pm
19 St. John's Trivia Night 6pm (pizza 5:30pm)
20 Vicar Anthony's last Sunday worship service w/Backpack Blessing
20 Farewell Reception and Card Shower after worship
22 Quilting 9am

Attention St. John's Teams and Members

If you would like to use the church building for your meetings, please contact the church office so we can put you on the calendar. This is especially important as the building is being used more during the Call Process and with the addition of an outside mental health counselor seeing clients here. Thank you!

St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

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August 2023

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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Midwest Goodbye: Part Three

It has been an absolute pleasure to walk alongside you in ministry, worship God together, and serve as your seminary intern, then staff vicar, and finally as your interim minister. It is time, however, to say goodbye. I am still asked why I have to leave, and please know that it has nothing to do with you. St. John's is a wonderful congregation, and Mendota a great little city.

But the next part of my journey has arrived, where I'll begin life with Riley, which means moving to Dubuque while she finishes seminary. From there God only knows where we'll be called.

In this last newsletter article, I am going to share some closing thoughts on boundaries, the future, and hope.

First is the importance of maintaining healthy boundaries. As I depart and eventually you call a new pastor, I will no longer be your pastoral guide. I am not allowed to continue pastoral relationships—meaning pastoral visits, phone calls, messages, and also baptisms, weddings, and funerals. The role of pastoral care becomes the responsibility of your next pastor, interim, or fellow congregation member. We may, of course, remain friends and occasionally stay in touch, social media is great for that. At first, though, allow some time for separation. Setting and maintaining these boundaries is difficult but incredibly important.

Moving on to the future, I have high hopes for St. John's. I see the great things God is working in and through you, but I also truly believe there is more potential. I encourage you to take Holy risks and try new things. A youth and family director or cross-generational minister would be a great investment, but be open to what God might be calling you to. Which leads me to my last point. Hope. There is much to be hopeful about, despite our feelings of uncertainty and fear of the unknown. Every day of our lives, God journeys by our side. God promises to be with us through it all, the good, the bad, and the ugly. God is with you. Our hope is secure in God because of Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection. We are inspired now through God the Holy Spirit to share with others the Good News we all long to hear. St. John's is a place to hear the Word proclaimed, receive the Sacraments, and enter life together as the Body of Christ.

And so, my friends, this ends my Midwest goodbye. Take good care, and remember that God loves you.

Love,
Anthony, Daisy and Chick

Church Council Highlights

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

- Vicar Anthony shared that the Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry has broken ground on a new location. Council approved the use of our church for a fundraiser (a men’s quartet will perform) on Friday, October 20th. More details will be shared as the date approaches.
- Vicar Anthony will be gone on Sunday, August 6th, and he has arranged for Rev. Leo Patterson to lead worship.
- Worship Team reported that Altar Guild asked about going back to intinction for Communion. After discussion, Council recommends continuing the use of the little cups for the Communion wine and juice.
- Task Force reported that plans are coming together for Trivia Night and Pizza on Saturday, August 19th.
- Educational Ministry Team is working on recruiting Sunday School teachers for the upcoming school year.
- Stewardship Team is looking into a campaign for the fall.
- Outreach/Evangelism shared that they are planning a “Homecoming Day” to invite all prior and current members back to St. John’s. This will be held the same day as our courtyard Fall Festival, Sunday, October 15th.
- The next All Teams Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 3rd at 7pm; and the next Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 17th at 6:30pm.

Finance Report Year To Date thru June 2023:
Budgeted Income \$161,628 Actual Income \$172,364
Budgeted Expense \$155,164 Actual Expense \$154,758


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.

TRIVIA
NIGHT

In honor of Vicar Anthony’s last weekend at St. John’s, the Task Force is planning a Trivia Night on Saturday August 19th in the Fellowship Hall. Pizza dinner will be at 5:30pm. The trivia competition, with teams of 6 to 8 members, will begin around 6pm. Lemonade, water and an assortment of sodas will be provided, along with snacks and dessert. By choosing from a list of charities, the top 3 teams will determine where \$6,000 of Task Force money will be distributed (1st Place - \$3,000, 2nd Place - \$2,000 and 3rd Place - \$1,000).

Please sign-up on the sheet included in the Sunday bulletin, or by calling the church office. Sign-up sheets should be returned to Ken or Laurie Ladenburger or the church office by Sunday, August 13th. You can sign-up as a team or as individuals and the Task Force will organize teams. If you don’t want to participate in the trivia competition, you can simply sign up as a spectator and still enjoy the evening. Be sure to write “Spectator” on your sheet. Make sure to include your pizza choice and let us know if you prefer a gluten-free crust.

We really need to know how many plan to attend and their pizza choice in order to determine the pizza order and set-up. The trivia competition will be most enjoyable for children in junior high and older, but all are welcome. This is a “church family” event for all of St. John’s, so please come and join us for a fun night out! If you have any questions, please contact a Task Force member (Ken or Laurie Ladenburger, Roberta Wendel or Jeff Simonton).



We wish the best of luck to two of our recent MHS graduates, **Abby Kunz & Alayna Nosalik**, who will be participating in the Sweet Corn Festival Queen Pageant on Friday, August 11th!

“Share The Bounty”
Surplus Garden Produce Table



“Share The Bounty” starts this month and continues throughout the growing season! Bring your surplus garden produce to the table in the courtyard and “Share The Bounty” with others.

Vicar Anthony’s last day with us
will be Sunday, August 20th.



Our annual Backpack Blessing will be held during the Children’s Sermon. We would LOVE to have the altar steps full of kids and backpacks on Vicar’s last day!

Plans are also being made for a Farewell Reception and Card Show-er after worship that we hope everyone will attend.

St. John’s Youth News

"Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others"

Well done, Team Altoona!! We are proud of you. Thank you for being a blessing to those you served.

