

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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**Periodicals**

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**Stay safe when snowy and icy!**

If the roads are bad please stay home.

Let safety be your guide.

**Find us on Facebook!**

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



**February Birthdays, Anniversaries, Special Days, Upcoming Events**

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

**75th+ Birthday**

- Feb. 2 Elwood Kidd
- Feb. 3 Joanne Politsch
- Feb. 6 Carol Schinzer
- Feb. 9 Dale Epps
- Feb. 10 Louise Epps
- Feb. 11 Lois Etheridge
- Feb. 17 Virginia Piller  
Bruce Wilhelm
- Feb. 22 James Armstrong
- Feb. 23 Elizabeth Robinson  
Charles Roloff
- Feb. 24 John Fassig
- Feb. 27 Jerrene Gray

**Happy 50+ Anniversary!**

William & Marlene Simonton  
February 14th — 56 years

**Congratulations!**

Happy 35th Wedding Anniversary to  
John & Sheryl Bowne  
on February 28th

**Upcoming Events**

**February**

- 3 Luke Bible Study at 6:30pm
- 4 All Teams meeting at 7pm
- 5-6 IF: Gathering
- 6 Pizza pick-up in Fellowship Hall
- 9 Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper
- 10 Ash Wednesday worship at 7pm
- 14 Sunday School students sing at 9am
- 17 Lenten supper 5:30pm - worship 7pm
- 18 Church Council meeting at 6:30pm
- 19 Lenten supper 5:30pm - worship 7pm
- 28 Confirmation play Chimes

**March**

- 2 Lenten supper 5:30pm - worship 7pm
- 3 All Teams meeting at 7pm
- 9 Lenten supper 5:30pm - worship 7pm
- 12 Congregational Resourcing Event
- 13 Daylight Savings Time begins
- 16 Lenten supper 5:30pm - worship 7pm
- 17 Church Council meeting at 6:30pm
- 24 Maundy Thursday worship at 7pm
- 25 Good Friday worship at 7pm
- 27 Easter worship at 9am

The 2016 Congregational Resourcing Event (CRE) will be held on Saturday, March 12th at Kishwaukee Community College in Malta, IL.

The CRE is one of the synod's finest yearly events. There are workshops available that everyone — pastors, council members, teachers, musicians, staff, volunteers, leaders — can take advantage of to strengthen skills, gather resources, network with others, and discover new ways to enhance congregational and individual ministries. More information will be shared in upcoming worship bulletins. You may also go to <http://nisynod.org/cre> for a listing of workshops and to register. More info on the Information Booth.



St. John's Lutheran Church



**ST. JOHN'S EAGLE**

Volume 46, Issue I

February 2016

**Lent 2016**



We are entering the Season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10th, and ends with Easter Sunday. Lent is a time for us to prepare for the mystery of Easter, and this year there are several opportunities for everyone to participate in preparing our hearts and minds for the mystery and joy of Easter. I invite you to set aside times of worship and prayer with us.

**Special items of interest:**

- **We hope you will join us for worship!**  
Saturday worship 5pm  
Sunday worship 9am  
Fellowship 10am  
Sunday School 10:15am
- St. John's offers **Electronic Giving**. If you are interested please contact Susan in the office.
- **In 2015 St. John's received \$5,585 through the Thrivent Choice Dollars program.** Thank you to our members who use Thrivent Financial and have designated St. John's as the recipient of the Choice Dollars. Please be sure that you have designated St. John's for 2016.
- **The Annual Meeting of the Mendota Lutheran Home Corporation** will be held at 2pm on March 20 at MLH. We thank our delegates, Becky Atherton, Jean Carnahan, Cyndy Kreiser, Myrna Simon and Melvette Jones for attending this meeting on our behalf.
- **Volunteers needed** in March to host Fellowship Time. Signup in Kitchen.

**Worship during Lent – Sundays at 9am**

On Sunday mornings during the season of Lent our Bible readings from the Gospels of Luke and John tell stories about God's salvation intended for the whole world. Each Gospel story that we will be reading 'paints a picture' of what God's merciful and loving salvation through Jesus Christ looks like. I invite you to come to worship each week as we envision together ways and places the saving work of Jesus is revealed to us.

**Ash Wednesday – February 10 at 7pm**

Lent begins with this worship service of repentance where we will experience the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion. The sign of ashes reminds us of our human frailty, and Holy Communion reminds us of God's love and mercy through Jesus Christ.

**Midweek Worship Services at 7pm – Bearing Fruit**

During five Wednesday evening worship services we will be reflecting upon the words of the Biblical book of Colossians. The music of Holden Evening Prayer Service will assist us in our worship. Services will be preceded by a light supper in the Fellowship Hall starting at 5:30pm.

**Looking Ahead: Holy Week**

We follow Jesus during the week of his crucifixion, death, and resurrection.

- ◆ Sunday of Passion/Palm Sunday – March 20 at 9am
- ◆ Maundy Thursday – March 24 at 7pm
- ◆ Ecumenical Good Friday – March 25 at 7pm
- ◆ Easter Sunday – March 27 at 9am

We are providing the following three **Devotionals** for the purpose of assisting those of all ages in growing closer to God through the reading of Scripture, prayer, and reflection.

**Bearing Fruit:**

Daily Devotions for Adults, High School & Confirmation.

The readings in this devotional are taken from the book of Colossians and will be used as the basis for the Lenten Midweek Worship Services at 7pm on Wednesday.

**Were you There:**

Daily Devotions for Older Children & Their Families.

Through questions posed to the biblical characters that witnessed Holy Week, children will get a firsthand account of Jesus' journey to the cross and the open tomb of Easter when Jesus rose from the dead. These will be passed out in Sunday School.

**Upon This Tree:**

Daily Devotions for Young Children & Their Families.

Throughout Lent, children will add a sticker to their tree of Life each day and read a Bible verse. The stickers help to tell the story of God's plan for all creation, including the happy truth that Jesus has risen from the dead. These will be passed out in Sunday School.



**Inside this issue:**

Annual Meeting Update	2
IF Gathering	2
Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper	2
Youth News	3
Vacation Bible School Info	3
First Communion Students	3
Birthdays & Anniversaries	4



### An Update from the Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of St. John's congregation was held on Sunday, January 24, 2016.

During the meeting, the congregation approved all the reports, the 2016 Budget, the 2016 Ministry Enhancement Distribution and the 2016 Ballot.

**Church Council**—Richard Althaus, Dorothy Brandner, Shylah Ward, Becky Lowers, Lauren Anderson, and Bill Garthe. They join Ron Rose, Melissa Nosalik, Carol Dilbeck, Eric Anderson, Karyn Bock, and Steve Florschuetz. Our thanks to outgoing Council members Alice Fritz and Roberta Wendel for their service.

**Nominating Team** — Jeff Simonton.

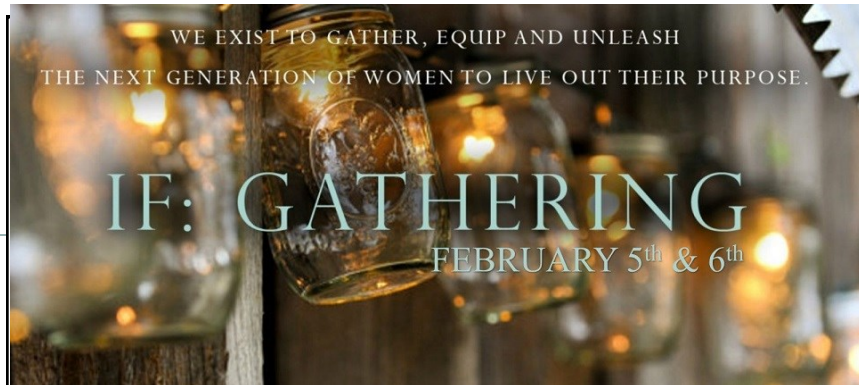
**Mendota Lutheran Home Delegates** — Becky Ather-ton, Jean Carnahan, Cyndy Kreiser, Myrna Simon, and Melvette Jones.

**MLH Auxiliary Representative** — Ellen Olson.

**Northern Illinois Synod Assembly Delegates** — Sue Guardiola, Maria Bonine, and Gary Duttlinger, with Sheila Duttlinger as the alternate.

**Memorial Team** — Jean Carnahan and Russ Mungor.

Thanks to the Nominating Team of Sheila Duttlinger, Jean Carnahan, Dennis Politsch, and Betsy Westrick for their work in securing the 2016 ballot.



**“What IF?”**  
It's a powerful way to think... to live! So ladies, what if we chose to gift ourselves with a Friday night and/or Saturday with time away from expectations and performing to just BE!?

To BE welcomed as a part of a whole group of women of all ages who made the same choice. To BE inspired,

encouraged, affirmed and challenged by hearing all kinds of Christian women speakers. To BE connected and blessed through sharing around a table. To BE fed with great food and laughter and conversation. And to BE renewed and empowered as we leave to gift others around us with some renewed “What if?” energy. What a choice it could be!

We hope you'll choose to join us for any part of IF: Mendota that works in your schedule right here at St. John's - **Feb. 5, 6pm-10pm and/or Feb. 6, 9:30am-5pm.**

We'll join 1000's of women at the national IF: Gathering in Austin, Texas via livestream for an inspiring conference. No cost. Food provided (contribute a snack if you wish).

Invite a friend or two. Come when you can for as long as you can. Check out posters around the church for more details. For general plans for food please RSVP if possible to Tammy Landgraf (815) 910-6525 or Karen Goy (815) 228-2391. Can't wait to see you there!

### Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper



Please join us on **Tuesday, Feb. 9th** for our annual Mardi Gras themed Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper!

We will be serving delicious pancakes, sausage patties, applesauce and beverages (milk, orange juice & coffee) from 5pm to 7pm in the Fellowship Hall. All proceeds from this freewill offering meal will support our many youth events and activities. The public is invited to attend. Take Outs available!!!

### Men's Lenten Dinner

The Annual Men's Lenten Dinner will be held at **6pm on Thursday, March 3rd** at Holy Cross Catholic Church. The meal will be catered by Kevin Goy and the program will feature an illusionist “Message in Magic”.

If you are planning to attend the Men's Lenten Dinner, please sign up on the sheet on the Information Booth or on the sheet in the Narthex. **Please indicate if you are willing to contribute a homemade pie for the pie auction.** St. John's is also responsible for providing four volunteers to assist with clean-up after the dinner.



## St. John's Youth News

*"Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others"*



We are excited to announce that counselors from Lutherdale Bible Camp will again conduct Vacation Bible School at St. John's for all students who have completed Kindergarten through 5th grade. We will welcome the counselors on Sunday, July 10th and camp will be held from Monday, July 11th through Thursday, July 14th. Registration forms and additional information will be available as the date approaches.

### Confirmation Class News...



All confirmation youth are encouraged to attend the Wednesday evening Lenten services with your families. We will also be providing at least one of the meals prior to the Confirmation Wednesday evening services. We will share that information with you once the dates have been confirmed with the Service Team.

We will play **Chimes** on Sunday, Feb. 28 at 9am Worship. Meet at SS Registration at 8.45am.

**Confirmation Camp** is set for June 26th to July 1st at beautiful Lutherdale Bible Camp. Please turn your registration form and deposit in to Maria as soon as possible.

### High School Students...

Join us in *The Upper Room* on Sunday mornings at 10:15am for "breakfast" and a laid-back time of conversation, reflection and prayer. Well-behaved friends are always welcome to join us!

### Our First Communion Students

First Communion was held on Sunday, January 24th for 11 of our 2nd grade students.

We welcome to the Lord's Table — from left to right

Brody Hartt, Gracie Politsch, Meredith Politsch, Alex Holland, Payton Gagliardo, Aden Tillman, Grady Jones, Ally Denault, Sarah Brown, Addyson Champlin and Joshua Shakespeare.



### Attention Youth: Annual Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper Is February 9th!

Please sign-up on the sheet in the high school room or in the youth hallway by Maria's office indicating what items you are willing to donate. We are in need of "just add water" pancake mix, sugar-free syrup, squeeze bottles of butter, applesauce, milk, and orange juice. Many helping hands will be needed to make this annual event a success!



### Thank you for your support of our Annual Super Bowl Pizza Fund-raiser!

Our High School students and Mission Trip participants will get together on Saturday, February 6th at 9am in "Norma's Kitchen" to assemble the pizzas. Pizzas will be available for pick-up on February 6th from 11am to noon in the Fellowship Hall. If you requested delivery on your order form, your pizza will be brought to you during that same timeframe.