

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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 Bruce Wilhelm  
Feb. 22 James Armstrong  
Feb. 23 Elizabeth Robinson, Charles Roloff  
Feb. 27 Jerrene Gray

### Happy 50+ Anniversary!

William & Marlene Simonton  
February 14th — 57 years

### Congratulations!

Happy 45th Wedding Anniversary to  
John & Cathy Betz  
on February 19th

Happy 1st Wedding Anniversary to  
Michael & Delle Vercimak  
on February 20th

### Upcoming Events

#### February

2 All Teams meeting at 7pm  
4 Pizza pick-up in Fellowship Hall  
16 Church Council meeting at 6:30pm  
19 3rd-6th graders sing during worship  
19 Rev. Winston Persaud presentation during Sunday School hour  
19 Rev. Winston Persaud public presentation at 2pm  
22 Newsletter Assembly at 10:30am  
28 Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper

#### March

1 Ash Wednesday worship at 7pm  
2 All Teams meeting at 7pm  
8 Lenten supper 5:30pm - worship 7pm  
10 WinterJam Concert  
12 Daylight Savings Time begins  
15 Lenten supper 5:30pm - worship 7pm  
16 Church Council meeting at 6:30pm  
22 Lenten supper 5:30pm - worship 7pm  
23 Men's Lenten Dinner at 6pm  
29 Newsletter Assembly at 10:30am  
29 Lenten supper 5:30pm - worship 7pm

### Periodicals

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607 10th Ave., Mendota, IL 61342-1935. Susan Garner, editor.



The 2017 Congregational Resourcing Event (CRE) will be held on Saturday, March 11th 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.

Happy  
Valentine's  
Day

St. John's Lutheran Church



# ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

Volume 47, Issue I

February 2017

### Special items of interest:

- **We hope you will join us for worship!**

Saturday worship 5pm  
Sunday worship 9am  
Fellowship 10am  
Sunday School 10:10am

- **The hospital does not contact Pastor Lepp or the church when you are hospitalized.** Please have a family member contact us.

- St. John's offers **Electronic Giving**. If you are interested please contact Susan in the office.

- **Volunteers needed** in March to host Fellowship Time. Sign up in Kitchen.

- **Due to a lack of use and a small number of volunteers, we are not offering a staffed nursery during Sunday morning worship at this time.** However, parents with infants or small children are welcome to use the Nursery or the Cry Room (near the Women's restroom in the narthex) during Sunday services. TV monitors are provided in both locations so you may view the service. Please ask an usher for assistance.

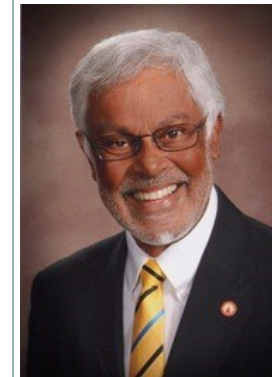
### Inside this issue:

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Lent 2017 Info & Dates     | 2 |
| Task Force for Ministry    | 2 |
| Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper | 2 |
| Mission Quilt Day          | 2 |
| Youth WinterJam Outing     | 3 |
| Vacation Bible School Info | 3 |
| Birthdays & Anniversaries  | 4 |

## Who Is Christ For Us?

Presented by Pastor Winston D. Persaud, PhD

Sunday, February 19th



Pastor Winston Persaud will join us for worship on Sunday, February 19th as well as during the education hour following worship.

As part of the observance of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, Prof. Persaud will also give a presentation in our Fellowship Hall at 2pm on the historic Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification (JDDJ), signed by Lutheran World Federation and The Roman Catholic Church, 31 October 1999. We will look at how the JDDJ points us forward in living in the truth of Jesus' prayer, "Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one" (John 17:11b). This presentation is open to the public.

Pastor Winston D. Persaud, PhD, is a native of Guyana, where he served his home congregation, Re-

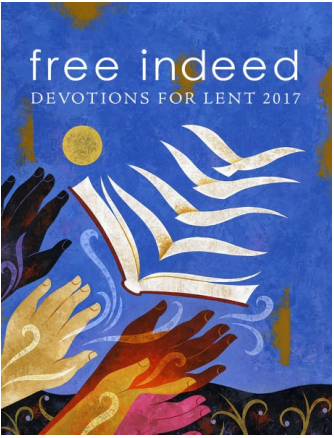
deemer Lutheran Church, prior to joining the faculty of Wartburg Theological Seminary, in February 1984.

His teaching and research are focused on defining and confessing the gospel of Jesus Christ in a world of religious and non-religious alternatives.

Pastor Persaud loves teaching the Christian faith in a variety of settings — in seminary classrooms, bishop's academies, congregational adult education classes, youth camps and church assemblies. He has taught in the USA, Guyana, and elsewhere internationally as he seeks to speak of God's justifying grace in and through Jesus Christ in a way that connects with the questions people are asking.

He is married to May Burt Persaud, D.D., Instructor in Biblical Languages at Wartburg Theological Seminary. They have two grown sons, Winston (married to Jamie) and Alexander.





**Lent 2017 — Information and Important Dates**

Please mark these upcoming dates on your calendar and watch for more information in the March *Eagle* newsletter and the weekly bulletin announcements. (This year’s Lenten devotional, *Free Indeed*, will be distributed at the end of February.)

**Ash Wednesday Worship** — March 1st at 7pm

**Midweek Lenten Worship Services** — each Wednesday at 7pm

**Midweek Lenten Meals** — Wednesdays in the Fellowship Hall, beginning March 8th at 5:30pm

**Mendota Church Women** — Wednesdays at 9:30am at First United Methodist Church, beginning on March 8th

**Men’s Lenten Dinner** — Thursday, March 23rd at 6pm at St. John’s.

**Task Force for Ministry Update**

Task Force member Aimee Holland provided an update to the congregation recently, describing several events that St. John’s will participate in to address hunger issues, both locally and globally. More information on each event will be shared through bulletin announcements and future *Eagle* newsletters. We thank the Task Force for all of their work! Well done!

- Mobile food pack (Kids Against Hunger) to be held at St. John’s on March 25th at 1pm (sign up by March 13th);
- Working with Mendota elementary schools to provide weekend and summer food items for identified children who are food insecure;
- Building a global barnyard through the ELCA Good Gifts program (kicking off April 30 and continuing through May);
- Working on a variety of projects to help improve Mendota on *God’s Work, Our Hands* weekend this fall, followed by a celebratory cook out for the congregation.

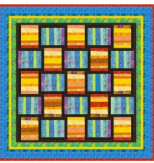
**Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper**

Please join us on **Tuesday, February 28th** for our annual Mardi Gras themed Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper!



Our middle school and high school youth 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. Carry-outs are available.

**Thanks to your faithful prayers, encouragement and support Maria has successfully completed her first semester of seminary coursework.** After returning from her two week J-term Multicultural Class assignment in Pine Ridge, SD (a Native American Reservation) this month she is eager to return to “the castle” (Wartburg Seminary) to continue her studies. This semester Maria will be taking classes in Pas-



**February 28th is Mission Quilt 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.

toral Care, Systematic Theology, Discipleship with a fieldwork assignment, New Testament Letters, and Spiritual Practices. While at school, Maria is reachable by email and cell/text during the week. She looks forward to seeing everyone in worship on the weekends. Your continued prayers and support are deeply appreciated for Maria and her family as her journey in theological education continues.



**St. John’s Youth News**

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



**High School Students...**

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



Maria is organizing an outing to WinterJam for any interested junior high or high school students. We will travel to AllState Arena on Friday, March 10th to enjoy a evening of Christian music for \$10. We will leave from St. John’s at 3:45pm and return late. Parents, please contact Maria if you are able to help with transportation!

**Confirmation Class News...**



Confirmation Camp is set for June 25th to June 30th at beautiful Lutherdale Bible Camp. Please turn your registration form and deposit in to Maria or the church office by Sunday, February 26th.

**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, June 18th and camp will be held from Monday, June 19th through Thursday, June 22nd. Registration forms and additional information will be available as the date approaches.**



**Our First Communion Students**



First Communion was held on Sunday, January 22nd for our 2nd grade students. We welcome to the Lord’s Table — from left to right

*Abbie Kreiser* (daughter of Matt & Jamie Kreiser), *Collin Coss* (son of Ryan & Sarah Coss), *Cole Nosalik* (son of Chris & Melissa Nosalik), *Taxon Ward* (son of Dean & Shylah Ward), and Pastor Janet Lepp.

**\*\*Sunday School students in 3rd through 6th grades will be singing during worship on Sunday, February 19th.\*\***

**Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper is February 28th!**



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. Monetary donations for the purchase of sausage are also welcome. Many helping hands will be needed to make this annual event a success!



**Thank you for your support of our Annual Super Bowl Pizza Fundraiser!**

Our High School students and Mission Trip participants will get together on Saturday, February 4th at 9am in “Norma’s Kitchen” to assemble the pizzas. Pizzas will be available for pick-up on February 4th 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.