

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

607 10th Avenue
Mendota, IL 61342



Phone: 815-539-5626
Fax: 815-539-9006
E-mail: office@stjohnsmendota.org

The Annual Meeting of St. John's congregation will take place in the sanctuary after worship on Sunday, January 28th. Please make plans to attend this important meeting.

Find us on Facebook!
Search for "St. John's Lutheran Church" and join our page.



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. Susan Garner, editor.



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. 11 Lois Etheridge
Feb. 17 Bruce Wilhelm
Feb. 22 James Armstrong
Feb. 23 Elizabeth Robinson
Feb. 24 Charles Roloff
Feb. 27 Jerrene Gray

Happy 50+ Anniversary!

William & Marlene Simonton
February 14th — 58 years



Upcoming Events

February

- 1 All Teams meeting at 7pm
- 3 Pizza pick-up in Fellowship Hall
- 13 Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper 5-7pm
- 14 Ash Wednesday worship at 7pm
- 15 Church Council meeting at 6:30pm
- 19 Office Closed - Presidents' Day
- 21 Newsletter Assembly at 10:30am
- 21 Lenten supper 5:45pm - worship 7pm
- 28 Lenten supper 5:45pm - worship 7pm

March

- 1 All Teams meeting at 7pm
- 7 Lenten supper 5:45pm - worship 7pm
- 11 Daylight Savings Time begins
- 14 Lenten supper 5:45pm - worship 7pm
- 15 Church Council meeting at 6:30pm
- 21 Lenten supper 5:45pm - worship 7pm
- 28 Newsletter Assembly at 10:30am
- 29 Maundy Thursday service at 7pm
- 30 Good Friday service at 7pm

April

- 1 Easter Sunday
- 2 Office Closed - Easter Holiday
- 5 All Teams meeting at 7pm
- 19 Church Council meeting at 6:30pm

"Embracing a Life of Meaning"

Women's Lenten Studies begin February 21st - 9:30am

As we begin Lent, it is great to find a way to spend time thinking about God in our lives. Please join us for this year's Wednesday morning Lenten study series sponsored by Mendota Church Women, an ecumenical group representing a number of local churches. This series will be held for five Wednesdays in Lent at the First Presbyterian Church.

This year's programs are based upon the study "Embracing a Life of Meaning." We will meet in the sanctuary for worship, a video presentation and a brief time of discussion in smaller groups. Following the service, refreshments will be served in Fellowship Hall.

The event lasts for about one hour each week. Come and bring a friend!

St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

Volume 48, Issue 2

February 2018

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 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 are needed** in February & March to host Fellowship Time. Sign up in Kitchen.
- **We have Volunteer Opportunities available at St. John's.** Please complete your Time & Talent sheets and return them to the church office ASAP.

Inside this issue:

- Pastor Janet Lepp Retires 2
- Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper 2
- Mission Work Days Continue 2
- Confirmation Camp Dates 3
- Vacation Bible School Dates 3
- Birthdays & Anniversaries 4
- Upcoming Events 4

A Time of Transition at St. John's

Assistant to the Bishop, **Rev. Marilyn Hanson** met with the church Council on January 4th to discuss the next steps in the transition process. She will be working closely with the Council as we walk through the call process to find our next Pastor. Rev. Hanson will also be preaching this Sunday, January 28th and she will then join us for the Annual Meeting of the congregation to communicate the transition process to the membership.



Exiting news! We have secured an Interim Pastor, the **Rev. Jeff Chubb** of Morris. Rev. Chubb will begin his Interim Ministry with us on Thursday, February 1, 2018. Pastor Chubb will be working 25 hours per week and will lead worship on Sundays as well as teach the Confirmation Class. His office hours will most likely be on Wednesdays and Thursdays. You will receive more information about Pastor Chubb in the March *Eagle* newsletter.

We are also happy to announce that we have secured the help of two other Pastors who will be sharing leading the Saturday Chapel Worship service. **Rev. Kim Lee-Brown**, current pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church on the Hill in Princeton, will be joining our staff to lead Chapel Worship every other Saturday. She will also be working up to 10 hours per week to support Rev. Chubb with pastoral care duties such as hospital and nursing home visits.



Also helping out with leading Chapel Worship every other Saturday is **Rev. Susan Presley**, the current pastor of our neighboring church, First Presbyterian Church of Mendota.

We are blessed by God's provision in this time of transition!

Lent 2018 — 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: **Ash Wednesday Worship** — February 14th at 7pm; **Midweek Lenten Worship Services** — each Wednesday at 7pm; **Midweek Lenten Meals** — Wednesdays in the Fellowship Hall, beginning February 21st at 5:45pm.

~ Pastor Janet Lepp Retires ~

The word ‘call’ can mean so many things!

A **call** can be what we receive on our phones when someone wants to talk with us. As a pastor I’m familiar with what it means to be **called**, sometimes at all hours and in all circumstances.

Or we can be **called** certain names and titles. I’m called Janet. I’m called Pastor. I’m called friend or colleague. I’m called Mom or wife or sister.

At our baptism each of us is **called** by the Holy Spirit to trust in the grace and love of God, who **calls** us by name and gives us the identity of beloved son or daughter, marked with the cross of Christ forever. Then those who are gathered around the newly baptized **call** them into a shared mission of bearing God’s creative and redeeming word to all the world now **called** a member of the body of Christ.

Then there is the ‘**Call of the Church.**’ In June of 2015 I received a **Letter of Call** from St. John’s into a ministry of Word and Sacrament to serve as your pastor. We have faithfully journeyed together in this **sacred calling**.

Now I’m being **called** to enter into retirement. Although I’m not entirely sure what retirement will be like for me, I am certain that God will continue to **call** me into faithful living as a baptized Child of God.

And you, as members of St. John’s Lutheran Church, have a **calling** too. You are **called** to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

As I answer God’s Call to Champaign, Illinois I thank you: For all your kind words, cards, and gifts; For the really lovely Godspeed party – and those who organized it – Lori Simonton, Nancy Holland, and others; And for the gift given to Mendota Lutheran Home in honor of Dan and myself. The MLH is one of our legacies as a congregation. Through the caring ministry which happens there, we have made a difference in the lives of many people for over 65 years. My prayer is that this ministry will continue way into the future – with the full support of St. John’s.

On the Sunday I came – I told you my favorite Bible verse – Romans 8:39. Of course, there are many Bible verses which I hold in my heart and in my head – but this verse constantly remains with me – because it sums up for me the essence of the Christian faith. St. Paul writes that: ***Nothing in all of creation, nothing in life or in death, no power on earth or in heaven, no evil that may come our way, absolutely nothing can separate us from the love of God which comes to us through Jesus Christ our Lord.*** Amen. Amen. May this be so!

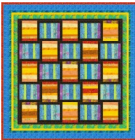
In Christ’s Love,
Pastor Janet Lepp

Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper

Please join us on **Tuesday, February 13th** 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.



St. John’s Mission Work group would like to extend a big thank you to the congregation for all their support throughout 2017. With your generous donations of material, school supplies and drawstring school bags, we were able to assemble 144 quilts and 109 school kits for Lutheran World Relief. Special thanks to the 3rd & 4th grade and 5th & 6th grade Sunday School students and helpers who assembled all of the school kits. Also, thank you to the Rebecca Circle for supplying all of the school bags. The group meets in the Fellowship Hall on the 4th Tuesday of each month from 9am to noon. The next work day is Tuesday, February 27th and we hope you will join us! If you would like to work at home, quilt top kits are available in the Information Booth.



St. John's Youth News

"Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others"



Confirmation Class News...



Confirmation Students, please mark your calendars now! Confirmation Camp is set for June 24th to June 29th at beautiful Lutherdale Bible Camp in Elkhorn, Wisconsin. Please turn your completed registration form and deposit in to the church office by Sunday, February 25th so we can take advantage of the March 1st Early Bird Discount!

High School Students...

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



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

Our Mission Trip participants will get together on Saturday, February 3rd at 9am in "Norma's Kitchen" to assemble the pizzas. Pizzas will be available for pick-up on February 3rd 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.

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 17th and camp will be held from Monday, June 18th through Thursday, June 21st. Registration forms and additional information will be available as the date approaches.

Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper is February 13th!



Many helping hands will be needed to make this annual event a success again this year! Our youth helpers will serve as "waiters & waitresses" for our guests. Some of our high school students will be making pancakes in the kitchen. We will need help with clean-up after the event. Please sign-up on the sheet on the Sunday School sign-in table indicating what items you are willing to donate. You may also call or email the church office (laura@stjohnsmendota.org). 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.

Our First Communion Students

First Communion was held on Sunday, January 21st for our 2nd grade students. We welcome to the Lord's Table — from left to right

Corbin Doll (son of David & Melissa Doll), ***Shea Kreiser*** (son of Mike & Valerie Kreiser), ***Christopher Fara*** (son of Andrew & Charnelle Fara), ***Kade Jackson*** (son of Brad & Angie Jackson), ***Cole Tillman*** (son of Luke & Lisa Tillman), ***Klaire Knaff*** (daughter of Kyle & Kelly Knaff), ***Riley Erlenborn*** (daughter of Jim & Linda Erlenborn), and ***Grace Schlesinger*** (daughter of Eric Hagemann & Carla Schlesinger), and ***Pastor Janet Lepp***.

