

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Find us on Facebook!

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



If you would like to provide
breakfast treats (donuts,
breakfast pizza, etc.) for
either our Confirmation Class
or our High School Class,
please contact the church office. We have
dates available in February and March. Thank
you in advance!

February Birthdays
and Anniversaries

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

75th+ Birthday



Feb. 2 Elwood Kidd
Feb. 3 Joanne Politsch
Feb. 4 Ron Egler
Feb. 6 Carol Schinzer
Feb. 17 Bruce Wilhelm
Feb. 18 Dennis Pohl
Feb. 23 Elizabeth Robinson
Feb. 27 Jerrene Gray

Happy 50+ and Milestone Anniversary!

Jim & Dawn Mathesius
February 14th — 51 years

William & Marlene Simonton
February 14th — 62 years

Happy
Valentine's
Day

Periodicals

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I want to thank you all so much
for the beautiful artwork, cards,
gifts, flowers and candy upon
my retirement. These past 13
years have been a wonderful ex-
perience for me and I have been
truly blessed to be a part of the St. John's family. I will
miss you all, however I will be here on Wednesdays as I
continue on very part time as the Financial Secretary.

Thank you again for your generosity and kindness
throughout the years.

Blessings!
Susan

Please remember that the standard rule for canceling worship
services during our snowy, icy, wintry months is for you to
stay safe! If snow, ice, or dangerously low temperatures would
endanger your drive or entrance to the church, please be safe
and stay home.

We will do our best to have the office open during our normal
hours, but if local schools are canceled, it would be a good idea
for you to phone the church office to be sure we are open be-
fore venturing out. Let safety be your guide.



St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

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February 2022

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.)
- **Sunday School classes for all ages begin at 10am.** Please sign-in at the table in the north fellowship hall.
- **If you want Pastor Ken Gibson 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.
- We hope you are joining Pastor Ken for **daily devotions, Monday through Thursday mornings at 8am on his personal Facebook page ("Pastor Ken Gibson").** It's a nice way to start your day!

Inside this issue:

Annual Meeting Recap	2
Church Council Highlights	2
2022 Council, Delegates etc.	2
Youth News	3
Hello from Vicar Anthony	3
Birthdays & Anniversaries	4
Thank you from Susan Garner	4

"Pitchers and Catchers Report in 22 Days"

by Pastor Ken Gibson

The quote above is one that I grew up hearing every year around this time. It is a quote my dad was sure to bring up. Today's temperature, as I pen this article, will be around 9 degrees and the low tonight is forecasted to be -14 without the windchill, so a quote or saying like the one above is one way to bring a sense of warmth to us northern folks who are stuck in the grips of winter.

I wonder how many people in Florida or Arizona or other warm climates even grasp the hope that comes to us in the north when we think of the notion of playing baseball. For us baseball is played on warm days with sunshine and hotdogs and "take me out to the ball game" and the hope that our team, GO CUBS, will once again win it all. Yes, hope springs eternal. "So where is this all going PK?" you may be asking. Well, my thoughts are in Romans chapter 5 where we hear of how suffering produces character, and just let me say again, I am a Cubs fan. The reality is that not only are we hoping for warmer weather, but we are ultimately, as followers of Jesus, living in the promise and the Hope of the promise of God's love that has been poured into our hearts as we read in this wonderful Romans text.

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Yes, we'll have the "pitchers and catchers report" in 22 days but let us also remember that Lent is only 10 days after that. Lent is a forty-day time period, excluding Sundays, and as such, we will soon be rejoicing in the HOPE that has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Annual Meeting of St. John's Congregation

The annual meeting was held in the Sanctuary following worship on Sunday, January 23rd. Council President Ken Ladenburger opened the meeting with remarks of gratitude for the Council members who have completed their terms on Council — Ed Bock, Melvette Jones, and Carol Wheeler; and he also thanked all of the staff, musicians, and volunteers for their continuing dedication to our congregation. Special recognition was given to Vicki Wujek as she completed 40 years as our organist/accompanist. Pastor Ken Gibson and Vicar Anthony Windau led the opening devotion.

In Treasurer Carol Wheeler's absence, Ken Ladenburger presented the Treasurer's Report noting that with the receipt of the Payroll Protection Plan funds, we ended the year better than expected. The congregation approved the 2022 Annual Budget which also included possible stained glass window repairs that are estimated to be approximately \$100,000. A committee will be formed for this project.

All of the Team reports, the 2022 Ballot, and the Benevolence/Ministry Enhancement distribution were approved.

Copies of the Annual Report are available in the church office.

The next Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 22, 2023.

Church Council Highlights

The following are some highlights from the January 23, 2022 organizational meeting of our church council.

- The Council elected officers who comprise the Executive Team *(listed below)*.
- The Council appointed Jeff Simonton to serve as Treasurer.

Finance Report Year To Date thru December 2021:

Budgeted Income \$368,617 Actual Income \$368,854

Budgeted Expense \$386,768 Actual Expense \$362,887

Special Offerings for Tornado Relief \$3,343.00

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.

2022 St. John's Church Council, Delegates & Committee Members

The newly-elected Church Council gathered following the Annual Meeting on January 23rd for a brief organizational meeting.

Executive Team includes: President — Ken Ladenburger; Vice President — Todd Zimmerlein; and Secretary — Roberta Wendel. The Church Council also includes: Dorothy Brandner, Carole Eich, Gary Duttlinger, and Dawn Kendall.

We thank the following members for volunteering to serve St. John's as committee members and delegates: Nominating Team - Ed Bock; Northern Illinois Synod Assembly Delegates - Yvonne Gibson, Melissa Nosalik, Shirley Pierson, and Alayna Nosalik (youth delegate); Memorial Team - Jim Mathesius.

First Communion Instruction Offered

Pastor Ken will offer First Communion instruction for our current second graders (and any older students who haven't already received communion) on Saturday, April 9, 2022. The students and a parent will be invited to meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30am where they will learn about communion, make the bread to be used for their First Communion, and share a meal together.

First Communion will take place during worship on Palm Sunday, April 10th at 9am.

St. John's Youth News

"Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others"

High School Youth Meeting Recap

Our high school youth met on Sunday, January 23rd with Pastor Ken, Youth Coordinator, Lynette Piller, and Vicar Anthony to make Valentine cards for our members at Heritage Health and Stonecroft. They also spent time talking about fundraising opportunities, a summer mission trip, and ways to reach out and give back to our community.

It was decided that the high school youth will spend some time during their weekly Sunday School class at 10am (which will be led by Vicar Anthony) discussing projects, fundraisers, ideas, etc. We will try to organize a bigger meeting or activity once a month. High school youth are asked to please make every effort to attend Sunday School so you are kept up-to-date on all that is happening.

Confirmation Camp Information

We are making plans for our Confirmation Camp experience at Lutherdale Bible Camp in Elkhorn, Wisconsin! We plan to attend camp the week of June 19th to 24th. This is a week of Confirmation Camp that is so very special to faith formation in our young people. Pastor Ken and Vicar Anthony are planning to attend Camp with our students.

Please let us know if your child will be able to attend. All registration for Lutherdale is done online. If your child is planning to attend, please go to www.lutherdale.org to register. You will be asked to make a \$100.00 deposit at the time of registration. St. John's will cover the remainder of the fee due for each of our youth. If you need financial assistance for the deposit, please contact Pastor Ken (in private) at 815-861-9554. Scholarships are available.

Registration must be completed (and deposit paid) by Monday, February 28th.

Hello, St. John's!

By now, I have met many of you, but in case I haven't, I am Vicar Anthony Windau, your new intern from Wartburg Seminary. I cannot express enough how excited and thankful I am to be here for the next eight or so months. Internship is a formative time in a seminary student's education. I can tell already I've landed in a great place with kind people and a great supervisor.

A little about me: I was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the youngest of seven kids! Although born and raised a Roman Catholic, I left and joined the ELCA in High school after working for my home congregation. I attended college at UW-Eau Claire, where I studied History, Religious studies, and Middle Eastern studies. During college, I discovered my call to ministry through my involvement with the Lutheran campus ministry. All my free time in college was spent with the campus ministry or local ELCA congregation, which supported it. It was joked that I was their unofficial associate pastor! After graduation in the spring of 2019, I moved to Dubuque, Iowa, and started attending Wartburg Seminary. I worked with the maintenance crew during my first two years, which was a wonderful experience. You'll hear lots about them in my sermons and stories. Outside of church life, I have two dogs I rescued, their names are Daisy and Chick, and I love them! I also am an amateur woodworker, avid reader, and now published theologian (a book review of mine was put in *Currents in Theology and Mission* Vol. 49 No. 1). I love to hike, spend time with my friends, and play video games online with a few of my brothers.

In the coming months, I hope to get involved with the high school youth group while still learning the day-to-day life of a pastor. Everything from preaching and leading worship to council meetings to mission trips, I'll be doing as your intern! Thank you for this opportunity to be at St. John's and learn from you all.

Peace!
Vicar Anthony