

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Periodicals

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Please remember that the standard rule for canceling worship services & meetings is for you to stay safe! If ice, snow, or dangerously low temperatures would endanger your drive or entrance to the church, please stay home! We will do our best to have the office open during normal hours, but if school is canceled, it would be a good idea for you to phone the church office to be sure we are open before venturing out.

February Birthdays, Anniversaries & Upcoming Events

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

February Calendar of Events

- 9 Heritage Health 10am
- 13 Rebecca Circle 1:30pm
- 15 Stonecroft 10am
- 16 Church Council meeting 6:30pm
- 20 Office Closed—Presidents' Day
- 21 Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner serving 5pm to 7pm
- 22 Ecumenical Ash Wednesday worship at 1st Methodist 6:30pm
- 27 Lutherdale Deposit due
- 28 Quilting 9am



Congratulations

Happy 50+ Anniversary!

Jim & Dawn Mathesius
February 14th — 52 years

William & Marlene Simonton
February 14th — 63 years

St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

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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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Lenten Sermon Series and Bible Study

It is already time to start thinking about Lent and the lead-up to Holy Week. There are lots of opportunities to show up for worship and fellowship. We have been invited to an ecumenical service on Ash Wednesday with the Methodists in town, and we will host an ecumenical service on Good Friday. Once again, we will participate in a Lenten round-robin with other Lutheran church in our conference. Also, this year we are returning to hosting meals beforehand. Start thinking if you'd like to provide food!



Outside of the Wednesday evening service, I would like to invite you to participate in an after-church Bible Study on Sunday mornings, beginning on February 26th. It will be paired with a sermon series and short testimonials from various members ranging in age and background who will share

why they are members at St. John's. The focus of the series and study covers three major questions surrounding our identity as Christians and as members of St. John's. They are: Why Jesus? Why Church? Why *this* church? These are simple but profound questions that I am confident will lead to fruitful conversation as we begin the Call process and search for a new pastor. The sermon during worship will help set the stage for the study during fellowship time, all the while connecting to the larger church and mentioning the love and grace God freely pours out. People of all ages are invited to attend the study, and we'll model it after the High School Youth class, so come prepared with a high and a low for the week!

Peace!
Vicar Anthony

Annual Meeting of St. John's Congregation

The annual meeting was held in the Fellowship Hall following worship on Sunday, January 22nd. Council President Ken Ladenburger called the meeting to order and after determining that there was a quorum, Vicar Anthony led the opening devotion. A video message from Bishop Stacie Fidler was shown.

Council President Ken Ladenburger shared our gratitude for Pastor Ken Gibson who retired on January 15th. He hopes that we will honor Pastor Ken's time with us by continuing the courtyard events that he began: Cones in the Courtyard, Fall Festival, and Lighting of the Courtyard Christmas Tree. Ken thanked the outgoing Council members, Gary Duttlinger and Dawn Kendall, for their years of service to the church. 2023 will find us looking to call a full-time pastor. A Transition Team consisting of Richard Althaus, Aimee Holland & Myrna Simon will work on finalizing our Ministry Site Profile. A Call Committee (2 Council members and 4 members of the congregation) will be assembled soon.

Interim Minister, Vicar Anthony Windau shared his Report (found on page 6 of the Annual Report). He encourages us to reframe our perception of St. John's, and to shift our outlook on the life and future of our beloved community. He assured us that our church is growing, not dying. "Let's remember the past, building on ideas that have worked, but release ourselves from the self-imposed expectation that everything has to be the way it was 20 years ago."

Treasurer Jeff Simonton presented the 2022 Treasurer's Report which was approved. He then presented the 2023 Annual Budget which was also approved by the congregation.

All of the Team reports, the 2023 Ballot, and the 2023 Benevolence/Ministry Enhancement distribution were approved. The new Council members include Melissa Doll, Tom Meinhardt, and Tony Troyer.

Assistant to the Bishop, Rev. Jen Beamsley spoke about the future plans for us in this time of transition, and she explained the Call process. A handout from the Synod outlining the steps in the Call process was shared. (This handout is available in the office if you are interested.)

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

The next Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 28, 2024.

Church Council Highlights

The following are some highlights from the January 22, 2023 organizational meeting of our Church Council:

- The Council elected officers who comprise the Executive Team (*listed below*).
- Council appointed Jeff Simonton to serve as Treasurer.
- Council approved the annual "Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper" scheduled for February 21st.

The next Council meeting will be held on Thursday, February 16th.

2023 St. John's Church Council, Delegates & Committee Members

The newly-elected Church Council gathered following the Annual Meeting on January 22nd 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, Melissa Doll, Carole Eich, Tom Meinhardt, and Tony Troyer.

We thank the following members for volunteering to serve St. John's as committee members and delegates: Nominating Team - Gary Duttlinger; Northern Illinois Synod Assembly Delegates - Aimee Holland, Sophie Holland; Memorial Team - Ed Bock.



St. John's Youth News

"Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others"



Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper



Mark your calendars now for our annual Mardi Gras themed Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper on **Tuesday, February 21st from 5pm to 7pm**. The menu will include pancakes, sausage patties, applesauce and beverages.

All 5th through 12th graders are invited and encouraged to help make this delicious fundraiser meal a success again this year. We will need people to donate supplies as well as many workers to set up, cook, serve, and clean up for the event; and we hope that you will consider those ways that you can be a part. There will be a Help Needed/Supply Sign-up sheet on the Information Booth or you can contact Vicar Anthony or the church office to let them know how you'd like to participate. We're looking forward to a festive night of deliciousness and thank you in advance for helping us to make this a fun night to kick off our Lenten season!

Confirmation Camp Information

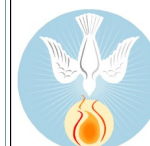


We are making plans for our Confirmation Camp experience at Lutherdale Bible Camp in Elkhorn, Wisconsin! We plan to attend camp the week of June 18th to 23rd. This is a week of Confirmation Camp that is so very special to faith formation in our young people. Vicar Anthony is planning to attend Camp with 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 Vicar Anthony (in private) at 414-364-9504. Scholarships are available.

Registration must be completed (and deposit paid) by Monday, February 27th.

Confirmation Class Update



Since Pastor Ken has retired from St. John's and will no longer be teaching Confirmation, we are happy to report that Todd & Monica Zimmerlein have agreed to lead our Confirmation class for the remainder of the school year. This year's 8th grade students will be confirmed during worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 28th.



**Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School!!
Monday, June 12th to Friday, June 16th**
(pending Council approval)

It's going to be a great week filled with fun, friendship, and worshipping God!
If you are interested in helping, please contact Melissa Nosalik in the church office.

First Communion Instruction Offered



Vicar Anthony will offer First Communion instruction for our current second graders (and any older students who haven't already received communion) on Saturday, April 1, 2023. 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 2nd at 9am.