

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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.



The church office will be **CLOSED** on Monday, July 5th in observance of the Independence Day holiday.

Find us on Facebook!

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



July Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

75th+ Birthday

July 1	Judy Schuster
July 3	Harold Meisel
July 9	Carol Kellen
July 12	Tom Maloy
July 25	Janet Piller
July 25	Joanne Maloy



Happy 50+ Anniversary!

Ron & Marlene Egler
July 4th — 52 years

Harold & Darlene Meisel
July 6th — 75 years

Gerald & Sandra Eich
July 6th — 63 years



Harold & Darlene Meisel will celebrate their 75th Wedding Anniversary on July 6th!

Their family is holding a card shower and everyone is invited to participate.

Your congratulations and well-wishes can be sent to Harold & Darlene at 1000 14th Avenue, Mendota, IL 61342.

St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

Volume 51, Issue 7

July 2021

Special items of interest:

- 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.
- **Worship in our Sanctuary continues** each Sunday morning at 9am. If you are unable to attend, we hope you will join us for virtual worship on Facebook Live.
- We hope you are joining Pastor Ken for **daily devotions, Monday through Thursday mornings at 8am on St. John's Facebook page**. It's a nice way to start your day!
- The church office will be **closing early the last week of June/first week of July** due to staff vacations. It would be a good idea to phone the office before stopping by. The office will be **CLOSED** on July 5th.

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Summer Re-Creation

by Pastor Ken Gibson

Well, here we are with a good start into our summer months and all the activities that eat up our summer daylight time. Often summer goes so fast and happens so quickly that it feels as fast as a pit crew changing tires at the Indy five hundred. It is over in 8.2 seconds, and we are left trying to figure out; "Just how did all that happen so quickly?"

I have a few possible solutions to making sure that the summer is not over so fast. #1. Take time to worship. We have just spent months on end being apart. It is time to come together for worship and human connectedness. Far too often we end up placing other events ahead of our worship time, our time with God and with our church family and when we do, we find ourselves feeling flat, flustered, frustrated, and fatigued. Summer is about recreation, I get that, we have been penned up and apart for nearly a year and a half and I know we want to be outside doing things. Well look above at how the word "recreation" is broken down. Recreation is about re-creating and all of that comes from God.

I recall once hearing a member telling how he told a coach; "God before Baseball." And I thought to myself – WOW! How cool is that? Not to pick on Baseball or coaches but the whole idea of what is of most importance for this parent, was for me, really a spiritual moment.

Remember we have a God who loves us so much that we are given the choice as to decide if coming to church and taking one hour a week out of all that we do to worship God and to be with our church family is worth it. God loves us so much that we are given the freedom to decide such things. For in all we do God is with us and claims us when we work and when we play and yes – when we pray.

What is my second solution that helps make sure that summer is not over too fast? Do not forget #1. Have a great summer! See you in the pews!

Church Council Highlights

The following are some highlights from the June 16, 2021 Church Council meeting.

- Council reviewed the Building Use/Covid-19 Restrictions. They remind everyone that whether a person is wearing (or not wearing) a face mask is not an indication of their vaccination status. Someone who is vaccinated may choose to wear a face mask for other health or personal reasons. We ask members to be respectful of others' rights to wear or not wear a face mask and to not ask others about their vaccination status.
- Following worship on Sunday, July 25th there will be a "Camp Breakfast" celebrating the return of our Sky Ranch Mission Trip Team. Watch for more information to be shared via email and Facebook.
- Pastor Ken's Installation is scheduled for Sunday, August 29th. More information will be shared as the date approaches.
- A "Ministry Fair" is being planned to follow worship on August 29th. The various teams of St. John's have an opportunity to share about their team and will offer some sort of game or activity. Refreshments will be served.
- In-person "All Teams Meeting" will occur quarterly. The next meeting is Thursday, August 5th at 7pm.
- "Cones in the Courtyard" was a success, but there was some leftover ice cream. (Council enjoyed ice cream cones after their meeting.)

Finance Report Year To Date thru May 2021:

Budgeted Income \$153,599 Actual Income \$149,776


Budgeted Expense \$161,191 Actual Expense \$148,284

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.



The Educational Ministry Team is gearing up for the return of Sunday School this Fall. We are working on narrowing down a teaching curriculum to use. We would love to invite members of the congregation to help teach our younger members. It's only an hour out of your week and the lesson has a step-by-step guide for you to follow. It is an easy, painless, and very rewarding experience. Please give this opportunity some prayerful consideration and let one of the EMT members know if you are interested in teaching Sunday School or if you have any questions. Thank you!

Melissa Nosalik, Melvette Jones, Sandi Maas & Charnelle Fara



The Christ In Our Home daily devotional booklets for July, August, and September are available in the church office and the narthex.

Upcoming Guest Pastors

While Pastor Ken is away with our youth at camp, on vacation, or completing continuing education this summer, we have arranged for the following guest pastors to lead worship:

June 27 — Dr. Ann Fritschel

July 11 — Rev. Gary Erickson

July 18 — Rev. Ralph Kespert

August 8 — Dr. Winston Persaud


August 15 — Dr. Craig Nesson

Each of these pastors is affiliated with Wartburg Theological Seminary or the Northern IL Synod, and we are very happy that they are able to join us.

St. John's Youth News

"Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others"

Sky Ranch Information




We are so excited that it's almost time for Sky Ranch!! We ask for your continued prayers for our entire team — *Bailey Baird, Ella Coss, Samantha Katschke, Ella Martin, Matt Miller, Alayna Nosalik, Jillian Younger, Garret Zinke, Gracie Zinke, Pastor Ken Gibson, Yvonne Gibson, James Younger, and Mike Anderson* — as they travel, work, study, and play during this trip.

Team Sky Ranch will meet at St. John's on Friday, July 9th at 8:00am to check-in and pack the vans for the drive to Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp in Fort Collins, CO. They plan to be on the road at 9:00am after a blessing and send-off which everyone is invited to attend. The team will make their first stop at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, IA to eat their sack lunches and enjoy a tour before continuing on to Wartburg College in Waverly, IA where they will tour campus, eat dinner, spend time swimming at the "W" and sleep over in one of the dormitories. Saturday will have our team driving through Iowa and Nebraska with worship and an overnight stay at First Lutheran in Kearney, NE. They will be back on the road early Sunday morning to arrive at Sky Ranch around 2pm. The team will be on-site at Sky Ranch from July 11th to 16th.

On Friday, July 16th, our team will have an afternoon of fun and excitement as they whitewater raft on the Cache la Poudre River before spending the night at Peace Lutheran Church in Sterling, CO. Saturday will have them driving through Nebraska with a stop at Midland University in Fremont where they will enjoy dinner, a tour, and overnight accommodations. On Sunday, they will attend worship at a local ELCA Lutheran Church before getting back on the road with an estimated arrival back at St. John's around 8pm on July 18th.

The entire congregation is invited to join in the daily Sky Ranch Bible Study which is included in this month's newsletter.


Gardening Opportunity at OSF St. Paul Medical Center



For the past few summers, we have had the opportunity to help out with weeding and harvesting produce at the community gardens located behind OSF St. Paul Medical Center (1401 E. 12th Street, Mendota). Everyone is invited to join our Junior High youth (6th through 8th graders) on Tuesday, July 20th at 9am and/or our High School youth on Thursday, July 22nd at 9am. Food grown and harvested from the garden is first offered to the hospital's kitchen to be used in providing fresh vegetable meal options to patients. Remaining produce is donated weekly to the Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry and/or the Body and Soul Food Pantry run by the Baptist church.

Help with the gardens is always needed! If you would like to volunteer your time, please contact the OSF Community Garden volunteer coordinator, Marissa Kibble, at (815) 539-1466. Your help would be appreciated!

Thank You! Thank You!



Thank you to everyone for your very generous support of our youth sponsored "Lunch In The Park" on June 11th!! Whether you made a donation; helped set up, serve, or clean up; joined us for lunch; or helped spread the word... we appreciate each one of you! Even though the temperature was nearly 90 degrees, we were able to enjoy the beautiful shade of Veterans' Park and serve so many of our church family and community members. (A very special Thanks! to our two grill guys, Don & Bill, for handling what was undoubtedly a really hot job!)