

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



The church office
will be **CLOSED** on
Monday, July 4th
in observance of
the Independence
Day holiday.

July Birthdays, Anniversaries
and Upcoming Events

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

75th+ Birthday

July 1 Judy Schuster
July 3 Harold Meisel
July 6 Joan Mays
July 12 Tom Maloy
July 18 Sandy Reger
July 25 Janet Piller
July 25 Joanne Maloy

Happy 50+ and Milestone
Anniversary Wishes!

Ron & Marlene Egler
July 4th — 53 years
Harold & Darlene Meisel
July 6th — 76 years
Gerald & Sandra Eich
July 6th — 64 years
Todd & Monica Zimmerlein
July 23rd — 10 years

July Calendar of Events

2	Chapel worship 5pm
4	Office Closed — Independence Day
9	Chapel worship 5pm
11	High School Mission Trip begins
12	Quilting 9am
16	Chapel worship 5pm
21	Church Council 6:30pm
23	Task Force/Outreach "Care Kits"
23	Chapel worship 5pm
26	Quilting 9am

Periodicals

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Save the Date – July 23, 2022

St. John's Outreach Team and Task
Force will need Your hands to do
God's work from 10am to noon, on
Saturday, July 23rd. We will be as-
sembling 200 School Kits and 400
Personal Care Kits for ELCA Lutheran
World Relief. These kits will be dis-
tributed to those in need around the
world. More information will be an-
nounced, but for now, put the date
on your calendar. Thanks!

St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

Volume 52, Issue 7

July 2022

Special items of interest:

- **Worship in our Sanctu-
ary continues** each Sun-
day morning at 9am. If you
are unable to attend, you
can join us for virtual wor-
ship on our YouTube page.
(Go to YouTube.com and
search for STJ LUTHER-
AN MENDOTA.)
- **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 **Electron-
ic Giving.** If you are in-
terested please contact
Susan in the office. You
can also **give online**
through the link on our
website.
- **QUILTING DAYS** will be
Tuesday, July 12th and
Tuesday, July 26th.



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Well, How Are You Doing Pastor?

The above question is one I receive fairly often these days and to be honest it is a difficult question to answer. I know what folks want me to say and how most people want me to be, but to be honest, some days I am just not very good.

I would like to provide an update on what is happening in the lives of my grandsons and son-in-law as of late, as we all continue to figure out how to live without Lauren. My son-in-law, Nate, is still a few years away from being able to retire from his commitment as a Special Forces Green Beret in the US. Army. As such, Nate's mom has retired a bit early and is moving out to Colorado Springs to assist with the raising of the boys. As I write this month's article, the grandsons, Lukas and Odin, are on their way back to Colorado with Grandma Elizabeth. They have been on the East Coast with her this past week while Nate is on a short vacation in the Florida Keys. It is good that she is able to retire a bit ahead of schedule to be with Nate and the boys. I am thankful for such. At the same time, I long to be with the boys and Nate to do my part in assisting with their care. Although I can't do as much as Nate's mom at this point, I plan to do all I can.

So then, "How am I?" I know I am a loved child of God and that carries me through. I am also a human being and one who hurts deeply. My grief comes on like the waves. They are always there lapping against the shore. Yet at times the waves are so large that I fear I will be overtaken by the depth of it all. It all comes crashing in.

So, thanks for asking, and thanks for asking Yvonne, too, as she mourns the loss of her dear sister, Carol. Although our house is filled with waves of emotions these days, we are grateful for the prayers, love and support you have shown us. It helps carry us through.

Remember, God loves you and so do I.

~ Pastor Ken Gibson

Church Council Highlights

The following are some highlights from the June 16, 2022 meeting of our church council.

- Council will continue to review Covid-19 safety measures and make adjustments to our guidelines as needed.
- Council accepted the bid from Associated Crafts and Willet Hauser Architectural Glass Company for repair of our stained glass windows that are the considered the “highest priority.” Additionally, Council approved Jeff Simonton as chairperson of the “Special Window Campaign.”
- The Task Force had a few items to report: four rose bushes were replaced at the Mendota Swimming Pool garden; plans are being made along with the Outreach Team to assemble Care Kits on Saturday, July 23rd; and \$500 was given to Tim Oloffson (Another Child Foundation) to cover the cost of shipping shoes.
- The next All Teams Meeting is set for Thursday, August 4th at 7pm (there is no July meeting). The next Council meeting will take place on Thursday, July 21st at 6:30pm.

Finance Report Year To Date thru May 2022:
Budgeted Income \$150,651 Actual Income \$147,357
Budgeted Expense \$157,146 Actual Expense \$160,424

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.

Dinner Is Ready!

DINNER
IS
READY!

The theme for our youth ministry trip to Milwaukee is food. Growing food, serving food, and even eating food! Food is quite literally, vital, for our survival. Everyone and everything needs to eat and drink in order to live. In Scripture, Jesus feeds thousands upon thousands of people because He recognizes its importance, not only to live but to enjoy community with others.

Now, I like to eat — the start of my pot belly is proof of that. But rarely do I get the opportunity to sit and share a meal with other people. My routine, since I was young, is to sit in front of the TV and eat. Now, of course, I have to guard my meal from my dogs, but we still sit and watch whatever looks good on Netflix.

My question is, when is the last time you shared a meal with someone? With someone other than your family or friends? Have you ever invited your neighbors over to eat? Embarrassingly, I don’t often invite people over to my home — the girls would freak out. But while I was at Lutherdale Bible Camp with a couple of our Confirmation students, I got to share every meal with new people. I loved it.

Over the breaking of bread we shared in fellowship together, told stories, and got to know one another. The world being small we discovered connections to each other or their congregations. I had forgotten how nice it is to eat with other people.

And so, St. John’s, I’m going to ask you this July to share a meal with someone you normally wouldn’t. It might be your neighbor, an old friend, or someone at Church. Experience the joy that can come from eating together, laughing, and telling stories. We’ll be doing that same thing in Milwaukee! And then, tell me how it went!


Happy eating,
Vicar Anthony

St. John’s Youth News

"Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others"

St. John’s Youth Mission Trip to Milwaukee

July 11th to 15th



Thank you for your ongoing support of the youth ministry! Because of your generosity, our trip to Milwaukee is nearly *free* for every attendee! Our time in the “Cream City” (so called because of the cream colored bricks used) our five students and two adults will be focusing on food ministry. We’re going to:

- * Serve at Trickle Bee Café, making and serving meals to impoverished people. This program is so effective it has been recognized city-wide! We’ll be spending two whole days here.
- * Learn about the urban environment with the Urban Ecology Center, including how the Milwaukee River’s pollution is negatively affecting people, and we’ll even lend a hand in cleaning it up a little.
- * Plant and tend an urban farm at Alice’s Garden. Maybe we can teach these city-folk a thing or two about gardening!
- * Meet other high school aged youth from Kingo Lutheran Church (Vicar’s home congregation) and share a meal together.
- * Finally, have lots of fun exploring the big city!

Thanks again for all your support! Look forward to pictures and stories from the youth about our trip!

~Vicar Anthony

We had an awesome week of Vacation Bible School!!

Thank you to all of the kids who participated in VBS, and to all of our wonderful adult and youth volunteers who made the week so special. This year, our VBS curriculum provider is partnering with kids around the world to help bring alpacas to needy families in Ecuador. Adding an alpaca to a family farm in Ecuador transforms the family and provides jobs and resources to their entire community. We are excited to announce that our VBS kids raised enough money to provide 15 alpacas to Ecuadorian families!! As part of the wrap-up to our week, we invited Prairie Center Alpacas to our courtyard so we could see these amazing animals up close.

