

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Periodicals

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March Birthdays, Anniversaries,  
Special Days, Upcoming Events

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

75th+ Birthday

Mar. 1 Gladys Brantner  
Mar. 4 William Simonton  
Mar. 6 Thomas Truckenbrod  
Mar. 10 Roger Anderson  
Mar. 12 Marlene Simonton  
Mar. 14 Vade Wehmeyer  
Mar. 16 Joan DeWeerth  
Donald Pollex  
Mar. 17 Marianne Daniels  
Mar. 20 Geraldine Sauer  
Mar. 25 Marcy Mills  
Mar. 28 Marlin Hoelzer  
Carol Kerchner

Happy 50+ Anniversary!

Donald & June Pollex  
March 14th — 63 years

Congratulations!

Happy 35th Wedding Anniversary to  
Richard & Rebecca Lowers  
on March 21st

Upcoming Events

March

2 Lenten supper 5:30pm - worship 7pm  
3 All Teams meeting at 7pm  
3 Executive Team at 8pm  
9 Lenten supper 5:30pm - worship 7pm  
9 Youth Huddle at 7:30pm  
12 Congregational Resourcing Event  
13 Daylight Savings Time begins  
15 Polling Place at St. John's - All Day  
16 Lenten supper 5:30pm - worship 7pm  
17 Church Council meeting at 6:30pm  
20 Palm Sunday worship  
22 Mission Quilt Day at 9am  
24 Maundy Thursday worship at 7pm  
25 Good Friday worship at 7pm  
26 NO Saturday worship  
27 Easter worship at 9am  
28 Office Closed—Easter Monday  
30 Newsletter Assembly at 10:30am

April

7 All Teams meeting at 7pm  
7 Executive Team at 8pm  
9 Synod "Safe Church" event hosted here  
21 Church Council meeting at 6:30pm

The 2016 Congregational Re-sourcing Event (CRE) will be held on Saturday, March 12th at Kishwaukee Community College in Malta, IL.

The CRE is one of the synod's finest yearly events. There are workshops available that *everyone* — pastors, council members, teachers, musicians, staff, volunteers, leaders — can take advantage of to strengthen skills, gather resources, network with others, and discover new ways to enhance congregational and individual ministries. More information will be shared in upcoming worship bulletins. You may also go to <http://nisynod.org/cre> for a listing of workshops and to register. More info on the Information Booth.



St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

Volume 46, Issue 2

March 2016

Special items of interest:

- **We hope you will join us for worship!**  
Saturday worship 5pm  
Sunday worship 9am  
Fellowship 10am  
Sunday School 10:15am
- St. John's offers **Electronic Giving**. If you are interested please contact Susan in the office.
- **Volunteers are needed** in March to host Fellowship Time after worship. There is a sign-up calendar in Kitchen.
- **It's time to order flowers for Easter!** A variety of blooming plants are available for \$10.50 and must be ordered by March 7th. Order forms will be available in the bulletins or in the office.
- **The annual meeting of the Mendota Lutheran Home** will take place on Sunday, March 20th at 2pm. We thank our delegates for attending.
- **St. John's received \$4,985 in 2015 through the Thrivent Choice Dollars program.** Thank you to our members for designating St. John's for their Choice Dollars. Thrivent members may also apply for two \$250 grants for church activities and events during the year. For more information, please see Roger Anderson.

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The Promise of Resurrection

As I sit to write this article, it is gray and gloomy outside with a cold bite to the wind. Winter is still here in the Midwest. Although it may look like life is gone when we look at the bare trees and the brown grass and shrubs, only yesterday it was almost 60 degrees with the sun shining bright. It has given us the hope that the new life of spring is not far away. And so we watch for the signs of spring; the return of the robins, a tiny green shoot from a crocus, a fly buzzing on the windowsill.

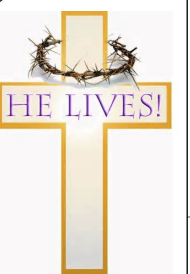
On the first day of the week, following the death of Jesus, women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. Their hearts were filled with despair because of the death of their friend. Everything seemed so drab and gloomy. When they arrived at the tomb, they noticed the stone had been rolled away, and the body was gone! Suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them and asked, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen." It may have looked like death had won, but it hasn't. Jesus is risen from the dead."

Often as we look around us, it is easy to despair over what we see and experience. Our hearts may be filled with fear and dread, and it may seem at times that death has won. But even in those dark moments we are reminded of the words of those two men in dazzling white who were next to the empty tomb on that first Easter morning, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? Jesus is risen. He is risen from the dead!"

So, just as we watch for the first robins of spring and the first crocuses to peek their cheery faces above the ground — we can watch for new life in the world around us: a thank-you on someone's lips, a generous act of kindness, a hug of love, a listening ear that leads straight to the heart, a change of one's mind into an attitude of generosity and hospitality. Those are all signs that the promise of the resurrection is becoming real in our world. It may look like life is gone, but new life may not be so far away — and maybe even now is beginning to arrive.

May that resurrection promise from God which comes to us through Jesus Christ our Lord give us hope this season and always.

In Christ's love,  
Pastor Janet Lepp



INDISPENSABLE: That's how you spell CHURCH DIRECTORY

Together, the pictorial album and the directory combine to give St. John's the tool that brings us all together. It allows us to put names with faces and gives us phone numbers and emails which keep us connected. Pictures will be taken April 13th to 15th and April 22nd to 23rd here at the church. Sign-ups will take place before and after services from March 5th through April 17th, with online sign-up beginning on March 5th. Free 8x10 portraits will be given to individuals and families and a free directory will be given to each St. John's household. Please sign up. You are indispensable to the success of your church directory.



2016 Holy Week Schedule

Sunday of Passion/ Palm Sunday
March 20th at 9am

Worship begins with a palm procession, commemorating Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem. (All Sunday School students should meet in the Fellowship Hall near the sign-in table to receive your palm and line up for the procession.) A drama presentation will assist us in reflecting upon the last week of Jesus’ life before his crucifixion.

Maundy Thursday
March 24th at 7pm

At the heart of Maundy Thursday worship is Jesus’ commandment to love one another. The service will include the forgiveness of sin and Holy Communion.

Good Friday
March 25th at 7pm


This will be an ecumenical service held here at St. John’s. Members of First Presbyterian, First United Methodist, and Zion United Methodist churches will be joining us in this prayer service.

Easter Sunday
March 27th at 9am

Christ the Lord is risen! Celebrate with us the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for our youngest students following worship. Children should gather in the Fellowship Hall for instructions from Maria and the Confirmation youth.

Our newly-elected Church Council met recently and made the following team appointments:

Benevolence/Ministry Enhancement:	Eric Anderson, Carol Dilbeck
Children’s Worship:	Dorothy Brandner, Melissa Nosalik
Educational Ministry:	Lauren Anderson
Finance:	Eric Anderson, Carol Dilbeck
Food Service:	Karyn Bock
Member Care:	Richard Althaus, Shylah Ward
Memorial & Remembrance:	Carol Dilbeck, Becky Lowers
Property:	Bill Garthe, Ron Rose
Scholarship:	Bill Garthe
Stewardship:	Richard Althaus, Steve Florschuetz, Becky Lowers, Shylah Ward
Worship Planning (with staff):	Melissa Nosalik, Shylah Ward
Young Adults:	Melissa Nosalik, Shylah Ward
Youth Huddle:	Dorothy Brandner



St. John’s has a **Scholarship program** to help the youth of our congregation finance their education at a school of higher learning. College Scholarship Applications are now available in the church office and on the Information Booth. Completed forms must be returned to the office no later than **April 15, 2015**. For further information, please contact Bill Garthe, Chair of the Scholarship Team.

**Lenten Meal Freewill Offerings**

St. John’s Church Council has decided that donations collected for the Wednesday evening Lenten meals on February 17th, 24th and March 2nd will be designated to M.A.S.S. (Mendota Area Senior Services). The donations collected on March 9th and 16th will be given to our Youth Group for their Mission Trips.

**The Mendota Church Women invite you to join them on Wednesday mornings throughout Lent for a time of worship and fellowship.** The group will meet at First United Methodist Church at 9:30am each Wednesday morning with local pastors providing the program. Pastor Janet will lead the group on March 9th.

**Worship Survey Update**

The Council has reviewed the Worship Surveys and is taking the information into consideration for future planning. Thank you to everyone who completed a Survey.

**Welcome Home, College Students!**

We are looking forward to having our college students home and worshipping with us again during their Spring Break. If you are interested in assisting in worship as an assisting minister, reader, greeter or usher while home, please contact the office.

**Men’s Lenten Dinner**

The Annual Men’s Lenten Dinner will be held at **6pm on Thursday, March 3rd** at Holy Cross Catholic Church. The meal will be catered by Kevin Goy and the program will feature an illusionist “Message in Magic”.

If you are planning to attend the Men’s Lenten Dinner, please sign up on the sheet on the Information Booth or on the sheet in the Narthex. **Please indicate if you are willing to contribute a homemade pie for the pie auction.**

St. John’s is also responsible for providing four volunteers to assist with clean-up after the dinner.



St. John's Youth News

"Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others"



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, July 10th and camp will be held from Monday, July 11th through Thursday, July 14th. Registration forms and additional information will be available as the date approaches.

High School Students...

Join us in *The Upper Room* on Sunday mornings at 10:15am for "breakfast" and a laid-back time of conversation, reflection and prayer. If you are able to provide our breakfast snack on March 13th or 20th, please let Maria know or contact the office. Thank you in advance!

Wednesday Lenten Meals



Confirmation youth will be serving the Lenten meal on Wednesday, March 9th. Please meet in Norma's Kitchen at 4:45pm to help prepare the soup and sandwiches.

*High School youth* will be serving the Lenten meal on Wednesday, March 16th. We will be offering our famous baked potatoes, chili and hot dogs! Please meet in Norma's Kitchen at 4:45pm.

Check the bulletin board in the Youth hallway for the donations needed to make our meals a success.



Donations of plastic eggs and individually-wrapped candies are needed for the Easter Egg Hunt. If you are able to help out, please bring your eggs and/or candies to the office. Thanks!

Confirmation Class News...



All confirmation youth are encouraged to attend the Wednesday evening Lenten services with your families. Also, please continue to complete and turn in your worship notes.

Don't forget that you are responsible for "Stripping The Altar" at the Maundy Thursday worship at 7pm on March 24th. Plan to wear black clothing. We will practice during Sunday School on March 20th.

Confirmation Camp is set for June 26th to July 1st at beautiful Lutherdale Bible Camp. Please turn your registration form and deposit in to Maria by March 13th to receive the \$15 canteen credit and a free t-shirt.

Join us at WinterJam!



We will be attending the concert at Peoria Civic Center on Sunday, March 20th. We plan to leave from church at 3pm and carpool to Peoria. The doors open at 6pm for first come, first serve seating. The concert begins at 6:45pm. This trip is open for 5th grade through high school students. Adults are welcome and needed to help transport and chaperone our youth. Proceeds from our fundraising will cover the ticket cost. You can find more information at [www.Jamtour.com](http://www.Jamtour.com).



All 3 to 11 year olds are invited to participate in an **Easter Egg Hunt** on Easter Sunday, March 27th following 9am worship. Please meet Maria and the Confirmation youth in the Fellowship Hall.