

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. 7 Robert Shaddick
- Mar. 10 Roger Anderson
- Mar. 12 JoAnn Kidd
- Mar. 16 Joan DeWeerth
- Donald Pollex
- Mar. 17 Marienne Daniels
- Mar. 20 Geraldine Sauer
- Mar. 28 Marlin Hoelzer
- Carol Kerchner
- Mar. 31 Melanie Schroeder

Congratulations!

Kevin & Melvette Jones  
March 10th — 45 years

Happy 50+ Anniversary!

Donald & June Pollex  
March 14th — 65 years

Upcoming Events

March

- 1 All Teams meeting at 7pm
- 7 Lenten supper 5:45pm - worship 7pm
- 8 Men's Lenten Dinner at Zion 6pm
- 9 5th Grade Girls Lock-In
- 11 Daylight Savings Time begins
- 14 Lenten supper 5:45pm - worship 7pm
- 15 Church Council meeting at 6:30pm
- 21 Lenten supper 5:45pm - worship 7pm
- 28 Newsletter Assembly at 10:30am
- 29 Maundy Thursday service at 7pm
- 30 Ecumenical Good Friday service 7pm
- 31 NO Saturday Chapel worship

April

- 1 Easter Sunday worship at 9am (Children's Egg Hunt following worship)
- 2 Office Closed - Easter Holiday
- 5 All Teams meeting at 7pm
- 19 Church Council meeting at 6:30pm
- 25 Newsletter Assembly at 10:30am

Reminder: March 27th is Mission Quilt Day. You are invited to join St. John's quilting group on the fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 9am. You do not need to know how to quilt or sew in order to help create these beautiful and versatile quilts that are sent worldwide through Lutheran World Relief. If you are unable to attend the work day, you may take a Quilt Top Kit (found in the Information Booth) home with you and return it when you are finished.

Northern Illinois Synod Women of the ELCA is holding a Spring Retreat, "HERstory — A String of Pearls" on Saturday, April 28th from 8:15am to 3pm at LOMC in Oregon, IL. Find out more and register at nisynod.org/women. The registration deadline is April 10th.

St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

Volume 48, Issue 3

March 2018

Special items of interest:

- We hope you will join us for worship!  
Saturday worship - 5pm  
Sunday worship - 9am  
Fellowship - 10am  
Sunday School - 10:10am
- The hospital does not contact the church when you are hospitalized. Please have a family member contact us.
- 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. Sign up in Kitchen.
- We have Volunteer Opportunities available at St. John's. Please complete your Time & Talent sheets and return them to the church office ASAP.
- If you would like to purchase blooming plants to help decorate the sanctuary for Easter, please fill out the form included in the weekly bulletin (or available in the office) and return it to the office by Monday, March 19th.

Inside this issue:

- A Note from Pastor Kim 2
- Church Council highlights 2
- Men's Lenten Dinner 2
- Holy Week Schedule 2
- Youth News 3
- Birthdays & Anniversaries 4
- Upcoming Events 4

Message from Steve Florschuetz, Council President, to St. John's Congregation — February 16, 2018

I really love being a part of this congregation. Very few people have been members here longer than I have, so I have seen my share of changes over the years. Fellow members of the Church Council see this time in our history as very challenging and very exciting at the same time.

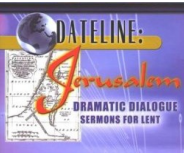
Recently, on the morning of the Annual Meeting, some comments were made during the service that seemed both harsh and confusing. We, as a Council are concerned about any hurts or misunderstandings that this may have caused. We are your Church Council — not above any of you, but actually we are your servants. The people who have just left the Council were outstanding examples of how servants work in our midst and we thank them again for their service. It seems, however, that people may not realize how approachable we can be in that role. Did you know that all of our meetings are open to the congregation? Yes, you could come and observe how we operate any time, but not participate unless you have asked to be on the agenda for that particular meeting.

This past fall, when the whole congregation was asked for their opinions on several issues, we got a huge response. We heard both positive and negative comments. You need to know that your voices were heard. We don't take those responses lightly. We are sad to see Pastor Janet leave, but we are also looking forward with great anticipation to what God has in store for St. John's. It is really His church anyway isn't it?

Looking forward, it is apparent that some people love the traditional service with our fantastic organ accompanying and playing the music. Many other people love the Praise type service which is a lot less formal. We never should have gotten away from the two separate services, and it has cost us in fewer people worshiping each week. That is why the previous Council voted to go back to the two separate and very different services. This change will begin happening on Sunday, March 4, but this will happen as it does in the summer with every other Sunday being different with still one service. We are also gearing toward the fall to implement both services on Sunday mornings, much the same as it used to be. We are also looking at the possibility of having an interim youth director to fill in until we can get a full time pastor, and full time youth director. The future is bright. Talk to us if you feel the need, and we will try to do the same with you.

Steve Florschuetz, Church Council President

Midweek Service Info



Join us in the Sanctuary on Wednesday evenings at 7pm and you'll feel like you are right on the scene viewing the events of Holy Week! **Dateline: Jerusalem** is an innovative series that presents the familiar story of Jesus' death and resurrection in a novel, engaging, and entirely modern way. In a television-style interview format, six witnesses share their point of view in up-to-date language and references — making each person more accessible to contemporary congregations. We thank James Younger (Pontius Pilate), Mitch Landgraf (Caiaphas), and Dave Schroeder (Peter) for their participation during the first three weeks. We are looking forward to hearing from Maya Martin (Mary Magdalene), Steve Florschuetz (John), and Kevin Wohrley (the Centurion) as this weekly series continues. A light meal is offered prior to the service beginning at 5:45pm

Brothers and Sisters,

I am happy to be helping out with pastoral care and Saturday services during the interim until a new pastor is called. I hope to get to know you, and you, me. However, since my hours are limited, it is important that you let the church office know when you or a loved one is hospitalized, has moved into or out of a care facility, and/or could benefit from a pastoral visit. That way I can make the most my Tuesdays at St. John's.

When I am not calling upon members of St. John's or leading worship, I am the part-time pastor of another St. Johns, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church also known as "The Church on the Hill" (Princeton, IL), a wife and mother (my husband, Barry, and I have three grown children), and a volunteer at PADS homeless shelter.

I have been an ELCA minister of word and sacrament for over 25 years. Prior to ordination I was a lay youth minister and an early childhood educator. An interesting fact: Pastor Dell Olson presided at my installation service at "Church on the Hill" 12½ years ago while he and his wife Pastor Fran Olson were pastors here at St. John's.

I have had the privilege of serving on Synod Council, being an intern supervisor, visiting our companion synod the Arcot Lutheran Church in S. India, and teaching Diakonia.

Interests include performing the Gospel of Mark from memory, singing in choir (I'm an alto), swing dancing with my husband, knitting, and hiking. My favorite animal is the hippopotamus.

Joyfully yours, Pastor Kim Lee-Brown

**Thrivent Financial Members**

Please be sure that you have designated St. John's Lutheran Church, Mendota for your 2018 Choice Dollars before the end of March.

In 2017, we received \$2,308.00 through the Thrivent Choice Dollars Program.

We thank you for choosing St. John's!

<b>Our newly-elected Church Council met recently and made the following appointments:</b>	
Steve Florschuetz	President, Stewardship
Ken Ladenburger	Vice President, Worship
Karyn Bock	Treasurer, Finance
Melissa Nosalik	Secretary, Youth Huddle
Dorothy Brandner	Youth Huddle
Kevin Champlin	
Gary Duttlinger	Property
Bill Garthe	Property
Nancy Holland	Scholarship, Food Service
Dawn Kendall	Youth Huddle
Becky Lowers	Memorial & Remembrance, Stewardship
Shylah Ward	Educational Ministry

**Church Council Highlights**

The following are some highlights from the February 15, 2018 Church Council meeting:

- Decision to resume two distinct worship services – alternating Sundays;
- Task Force Projects - Kids Against Hunger, Mission Mendota, Another Child Foundation shoe collection;
- Starting to search for Call Committee members;
- Discussed hiring an Interim Youth Director.

Finance Report thru January 2018:

Budgeted YTD Income	\$33,479
Actual YTD Income	\$31,608
Budgeted YTD Expense	\$29,609
Actual YTD Expense	\$29,509

Behind Budget on Regular Offerings by -\$2,951

Special Offerings \$1,190 (Mendota Lutheran Home in Honor of Pastor Lepp and St. John's "Feed the Need" Task Force)


**Men's Lenten Dinner**

The 60th Annual Men's Lenten Dinner will be held at Zion United Methodist Church at **6pm on Thursday, March 8th**. Men of all ages are welcome to come and enjoy a great meal and a pie auction, fun and fellowship. Following dinner, we will enjoy listening to inspiring, uplifting stories told in a wonderfully engaging fashion by experienced Storyteller, Chaplain Kent Terry.

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 also indicate if you are willing to contribute a homemade pie for the pie auction.**

St. John's is also responsible for providing two volunteers to assist with set-up at 4pm, serving, and clean-up after the meal.

**~ Holy Week Schedule ~**

 March 25th — Palm Sunday worship at 9am; Sunday School at 10:10am.

March 29th — Maundy Thursday worship at 7pm.

March 30th — Ecumenical Good Friday worship at 7pm (at St. John's).

April 1st — Easter Sunday worship at 9am; No Sunday School; Easter Egg Hunt for our youngest members following worship.



# St. John's Youth News

*"Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others"*



**Confirmation Class News...**

- Confirmation Students, please mark your calendars now! Confirmation Camp is set for June 24th to June 29th at beautiful Lutherdale Bible Camp in Elkhorn, Wisconsin. Please turn in your registration forms and deposit as soon as possible.
- We say "Thank You!" to all of the parents who have been providing breakfast snacks for our class as well as those who have signed up to be an adult helper in our classroom. It's nice to have you with us!
- The Confirmation Class is asked to join Karen Goy in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, March 29th at 4pm to prepare the eggs for the Easter morning Egg Hunt and enjoy dinner together. You will then attend Maundy Thursday worship together.
- Don't forget that your class is responsible for "Stripping The Altar" at the Maundy Thursday worship at 7pm on March 29th. Plan to wear black clothing. *(Practice will take place during Sunday School on March 25th. It is very important that you attend.)*

 **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, 2018. For further information, please contact Nancy Holland, Chair of the Scholarship Team.

 **On Palm Sunday, March 25th**, our Sunday School Students should meet in the Fellowship Hall near the Sunday School sign-in table at 8:45am to get their palm branch and be ready to process into the Sanctuary at the beginning of worship. Students will then sit with their families during worship.

**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, June 17th and camp will be held from Monday, June 18th through Thursday, June 21st. 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 10:10am for a breakfast snack and a laid-back time of conversation, reflection and prayer. Invite your friends to join us!

 **Thank You to all those who helped make our Fat Tuesday Pancake & Sausage Supper such a success!** Whether you donated items, helped decorate the Fellowship Hall, cooked pancakes, served our guests, or assisted with clean-up, your helping hands and servant hearts were very much appreciated! **We are very grateful to everyone who came out to support our youth and hope that you enjoyed your meal with us.** A special thank you to Brent Bonine, Tony Troyer, and Curt Zimmerman for braving the chilly temperature to grill the sausage. All proceeds from this supper will support our high school and junior high mission trips as well as many other youth activities.

 All 3 to 11 year olds are invited to participate in an **Easter Egg Hunt** on Easter Sunday, April 1st following 9am worship. Please meet with the Confirmation youth in the Fellowship Hall. They will take you to your hunting area. **\*\*Donations of individually-wrapped candies are needed for the Easter Egg Hunt. If you are able to help out, please bring your candies to the office. Thanks!**