

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Periodicals

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SPRING
FORWARD
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Sunday,
March 10th



Find us on Facebook!
Search for "St. John's
Lutheran Church" and
join our page.



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 JoAnn Kidd
Marlene Simonton
Mar. 16 Joan DeWeerth
Mar. 17 Marianne Daniels
Mar. 20 Geraldine Sauer
Mar. 28 Marlin Hoelzer
Carol Kerchner
Mar. 31 Melanie Schroeder



Upcoming Events

March

2 Jr. High provide PADS meal
5 Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner
6 Ash Wednesday worship at 6:30pm
7 All Teams meeting at 7pm
13 Lenten Meal 5:30pm to 6:15pm
13 Midweek Worship at 6:30pm
20 Lenten Meal 5:30pm to 6:15pm
20 Midweek Worship at 6:30pm
21 Church Council mtg. at 6:30pm
27 Lenten Meal 5:30pm to 6:15pm
27 Midweek Worship at 6:30pm
28 Men's Lenten Dinner - 1st Methodist 6pm
31 First Communion at 9am worship

April

3 Lenten Meal 5:30pm to 6:15pm
3 Midweek Worship at 6:30pm
4 All Teams meeting at 7pm
10 Lenten Meal 5:30pm to 6:15pm
10 Midweek Worship at 6:30pm
18 Maundy Thursday worship at 7pm
19 Ecumenical Good Friday worship at 7pm
21 Easter Sunday worship at 9am
22 Office Closed — Easter Holiday

Pulpit Supply Schedule:

Mar. 3 Pastor Grafe
Mar. 10 Pastor Hillenbrand
Mar. 17 Pastor Ufkes
Mar. 24 Pastor Hillenbrand
Mar. 31 Pastor Kenyon
Apr. 7 Pastor Ufkes
Apr. 14 Pastor Hillenbrand
Apr. 21 Pastor Grafe
Apr. 28 Pastor Hillenbrand

Reminder: March 26th 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. 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.

St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

Volume 49, Issue 3

March 2019

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 & April to host Fellowship Time. Sign up in Kitchen.
- Please check the March Volunteer Schedule carefully. The volunteers for Midweek Lenten Services are listed at the bottom of the page.

We Welcome Rev. Harold Grafe, Interim Visitation Pastor



Rev. Harold Grafe is pictured with his wife, Sue, and their granddaughter at her Confirmation.

I have been a pastor for 51 years, serving congregations in Indiana and Illinois. My last congregation was St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Crescent City, Illinois, serving there for 12 years before I retired in 2006. Several years ago I did a two-year interim pastorate at Bethany Lutheran Church in Leland. I have been a volunteer chaplain at Iroquois Memorial Hospital in Watseka and at Kishwaukee Hospital in DeKalb. I enjoy visitation.

I have been married to Suzanne (Sue) for 55 years and we have four children and nine grandchildren. I enjoy yard work and gardening and Sue is a retired nurse. We are members of First Lutheran Church in DeKalb.

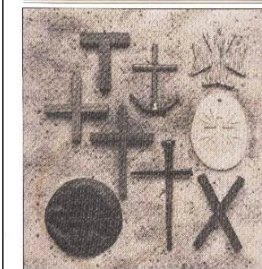
Blessings,

Pastor Harold Grafe

(Note: Pastor Harold will be in the office one day a week, will lead midweek Lenten services, Holy Week services, and worship one Sunday each month. He will also be available for funerals. Pastor Presley will continue leading Saturday worship and will be available for emergencies.)

The Crosses Of Lent — 2019 Lenten Series

THE CROSSES
OF LENT
SERMON BOOK



Lenten Studies and Sermons
for Ash Wednesday to Easter
Dale A. Meyer and Hubert F. Beck

The Cross is absolutely central to Lent. But more, it is crucial to our whole Christian life. Not only is the cross the instrument on which our Savior died for us, it is also descriptive of our Christian life. Rev. Harold Grafe will be following the outline and structure of *The Crosses of Lent*, a book by Dale Meyer and Hubert Beck. Each week we will focus on a different style of cross with a unique theme for each. The Tau Cross — Prophecy (Nicodemus); The Saltire Cross — Humility (Andrew); The Anchor Cross — Hope; The Maltese Cross — Regeneration (Paul and Silas); The Greek Cross — Suffering; The Celtic Cross — Redemption; and finally on Easter — The Glory Cross of Victory. May God bless us as we walk with Jesus' cross during this Lenten season.

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Church Council Highlights

The following are some highlights from the February 21, 2019 Church Council meeting.

- Approved the Finance Report to change the name of the fund from “Contingency Fund Budget Deficit” to “Contingency Fund Operational Deficit”;
- Approved the request from the quilting ladies to hold a Silent Auction of quilts during the Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper;
- The Council was pleased to receive Rev. Harold Grafe as Interim Visitation Pastor. He will be in office one day a week, will lead midweek Lenten services, and worship one Sunday each month. Pastor Presley will continue leading Saturday worship and will be available for emergencies;
- Approved Ash Wednesday service at 6:30pm, midweek Lenten services at 6:30pm, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services at 7pm.

Finance Report Year To Date thru January 2019:

Budgeted Income \$31,923 Actual Income \$30,346
Budgeted Expense \$30,417 Actual Expense \$19,064
Behind Budget on Regular Offerings by -\$1,404

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

Steve Florschuetz	President, Stewardship
Ken Ladenburger	Vice President, Call Committee, Benevolence
Carol Wheeler	Treasurer, Finance
Melissa Nosalik	Secretary, Educational Ministry
Ed Bock	Property
Dorothy Brandner	Youth Huddle, Memorial
Gary Duttlinger	Property
Bill Garthe	Property
Nancy Holland	Scholarship, Food Service
Dawn Kendall	Youth Huddle
Roberta Wendel	Youth Huddle, Memorial

Thrivent Financial Members

Please be sure that you have designated St. John’s Lutheran Church, Mendota for your 2019 Choice Dollars before the end of March.

In 2018, we received \$2,519.00 through the Thrivent Choice Dollars Program. We thank you for choosing St. John’s!

Also, don’t forget that Thrivent provides promotional resources and up to \$250 in seed money to jump-start a fundraiser, educational event or service project. Members are eligible for up to two Thrivent Action Team grants per year.

Fat Tuesday Pancake & Sausage Supper



Please join us on **Tuesday, March 6th** for our annual Mardi Gras themed Fat Tuesday Pancake & Sausage Supper!

Our middle school and high school youth will be serving delicious pancakes, sausage patties, applesauce and beverages (milk, orange juice & coffee) from 5pm to 7pm in the Fellowship Hall. All proceeds from this freewill offering meal will support our many youth events and activities. The public is invited to attend. Carry-outs are available.

An exciting addition to our Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper this year is a Silent Auction of several small quilts and wall-hangings. Our talented quilting ladies have created and generously donated these quilts with proceeds given to the Youth for their mission trips and youth events.

Lent 2019 — Information and Important Dates

Please mark these upcoming dates on your calendar and watch for more information in the April *Eagle* newsletter and the weekly bulletin announcements: **Ash Wednesday Worship** — March 6th at 6:30pm; **Midweek Lenten Worship Services** — each Wednesday at 6:30pm; **Midweek Lenten Meals** — Wednesdays in the Fellowship Hall, beginning March 13th from 5:30pm to 6:15pm. We still needs groups to provide the meals on March 27th and April 3rd. Please call the church office to sign-up.

Men’s Lenten Dinner

The 61st Annual Men’s Lenten Dinner will be held at First Methodist Church at **6pm on Thursday, March 28th**. Men of all ages are welcome to come and enjoy a great meal and a pie auction, fun and fellowship.

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 will also be responsible for providing volunteers to assist with set-up, serving, or clean-up after the meal. Details will be shared as the date approaches.



St. John's Youth News

"Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others"



****Confirmation Students****

We hope you're going to join us!!



All current 7th and 8th graders are eligible to attend Confirmation camp at Lutherdale. **Due to limited spaces available, we will be attending the week of June 16th to 21st this year.**

Those interested students/families need to contact Karen Goy at (815) 228-2391 by March 4th. Each student planning to attend will be responsible for a \$100 deposit and the church will pay for the remaining costs.

This is an amazing week and a great opportunity to grow in your faith - one that you'll want to take advantage of if it works out in your family schedule!! Hope you can join us!!



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, 2019**. For further information, please contact Nancy Holland, Chair of the Scholarship Team.

Looking Forward To Growing Our Table



First Communion Classes for our 2nd graders and any older students who have not received instruction will be held after Sunday School on March 10th, March 17th, and March 24th. Students will meet with Karen Goy in the Library from 11:05am to 11:45am. We will celebrate First Communion during worship on Sunday, March 31st.

Wednesday Lenten Meals

High School youth will provide the meal on **March 20th**, and 5th thru 8th grade youth will provide the meal on **April 10th**. Watch for more information on how you can help!



Plans are being made for an exciting new version of Vacation Bible School this summer entitled *ROAR! Life is Wild... God is Good!*

VBS will be held on Monday, June 17th through Friday, June 21st from 9am to Noon. **We are in need of a few adult teachers and high school aged teacher assistants to help us this year.** It's sure to be a week filled with fun, friendship, and worshipping God!! Those interested in helping, please contact one of the co-coordinators, Valerie Kreiser at (815) 866-4946 or Deb Rose at (815) 866-5833 as soon as possible so we can finalize plans.

Thank You, St. John's Family!

Your encouragement and support of the “Textathon” we held last month helped us pray for cancer patients, share information about free services available to patients, be part of a great community cause (Relay For Life *March To A Million*) and to raise over \$6,000! The day was a memorable example of how we are to be Christ in the world!

