

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

607 10th Avenue
Mendota, IL 61342



Phone: 815-539-5626
Pastor Ken's email: pkgibson@stjohnsmendota.org
Email: office@stjohnsmendota.org
Website: www.stjohnsmendota.org



Find us on Facebook!

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

**SPRING
FORWARD**
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

**Sunday,
March 13th**



March Birthdays

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

75th+ Birthday



March 4	William Simonton
March 6	Thomas Truckenbrod
March 10	Roger Anderson
March 11	Gary Sutton
March 12	JoAnn Kidd
	Marlene Simonton
March 16	Joan DeWeerth
March 17	Marienne Daniels
March 18	Karyn Bock
March 20	Geraldine Sauer
March 31	Melanie Schroeder

If you would like to provide
Altar Flowers
for any Sunday worship service,
please contact the church office.

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.



It's Time to Order Easter Flowers



If you would like to purchase blooming plants
(Easter lily, geranium, cyclamen, begonia, tu-
lips or kalanchoe) to help decorate the sanctu-
ary for Easter, please call or email the church
office. Plants are \$12.00 each and orders are
due by Monday, March 28th. As usual, we will
indicate if the plant is given "In Memory of",
"In Honor of", or "In Thanksgiving for" someone special and
you will be invited to take your plant home with you after
worship on Easter Sunday. Thank you in advance.

Thrivent Financial Members



Please be sure that you have designated St.
John's Lutheran Church, Mendota for your 2022
Choice Dollars before the end of March. In
2021, we received \$572.00 through the Thrivent Choice
Dollars Program. We thank you for choosing St. John's!
Also, don't forget that Thrivent provides promotional re-
sources 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. Please speak to someone in the church office if you
would like help applying for a Thrivent grant.

St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

Volume 52, Issue 3

March 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.)
- **Sunday School classes
for all ages begin at
10am.** Please sign-in at
the table in the north fel-
lowship hall.
- **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.



Inside this issue:

Church Council Highlights	2
Sackcloth and Ashes	2
Updated Covid-19 Guidelines	3
Welcome, Melissa Nosalik	3
First Communion Instruction	3
St. John's Scholarships	3
March Birthdays	4

A Note From Pastor Ken

Where do I begin? As all of you know, my life as I once knew it
changed forever on February 6, 2022. Please allow me to share some
thoughts that are mostly random, as I am unable to think coherently
of late.

One observation I have come to realize is that I walk differently now.
I have noticed that my gait is slower, and my head is much lower. I
once walked, I believe, with my head high and ready to greet anyone
who looked my way. Lately, I walk with my head down and my
thoughts kept to myself. I don't mean to offend anyone, but I know not
how long my gait will be slower and my head held lower.

If you have talked with me at any length, you know I loved to talk
about my girls. Lauren and Joy are my identity in so many ways. I
loved sharing about how wonderful these two women are. Now I speak
of one of them in the past tense and it causes me more pain and hurt
than I can begin to put into words.

I have often shared with people in their grief that if someone cut off
your arm, I could help you and you would survive, but as a result of
the injury, you would never be the same. Having lost a major part of
who I am, I am certain that these words now apply to me as I go for-
ward into the future.

Yvonne and I and our entire family are so very thankful for the love,
prayers and support that have been sent our way. We know that you
are hurting with us, and we are grateful for all of you.

And so, I ask that you continue to love your children as I know you do
and to hold them a little tighter. And one way you can continue to be
supportive is in fact to find your way to the pews on Sundays and on
Wednesday evenings as we now head into the Lenten season. A full
church mends my heart like nothing else.

Remember God loves you and so do I.
Pastor Ken Gibson

Church Council Highlights

The following are some highlights from the February 10, 2022 meeting of our church council.

- The Council made the following Team assignments: *Ken Ladenburger* - President, Task Force, Seminary Intern; *Todd Zimmerlein* - Vice President, Benevolence; *Roberta Wendel* - Secretary, Youth Huddle, Task Force, Memorial; *Dorothy Brandner* - Youth Huddle, Memorial; *Gary Duttlinger* - Property; *Carole Eich* - Outreach/Evangelism, Food Service, Scholarship; *Dawn Kendall* - Educational Ministry Team.
- High School student Ella Martin will join the Seminary Intern Team as the youth representative.
- Council approved use of Memorial funds for the purchase of two new office computers.
- All Teams Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 7pm.
- Council approved the youth pizza fundraiser as well as their use of the kitchen and fellowship hall on March 12th.

Finance Report Year To Date thru January 2022:

Budgeted Income \$30,137 Actual Income \$36,865

Budgeted Expense \$31,210 Actual Expense \$31,471

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.

Sackcloth and Ashes

Dress yourself in sackcloth and cover yourself with ashes. Repent! Repent! Repent!

Ah, Lent. What an uplifting time in the Church year. A time to remember (frequently) that as human beings we constantly fall short of the glory of God. That through no work of our own can we obtain salvation. A time to don our sackcloth robes and cover ourselves with ashes, remembering we are but dust, and to the dust we shall return. Fun, right?

Lent takes the idea of the Law to the extreme. Every Sunday we hear the Law/Gospel preached, that is, with the Law we are told we are not good enough and that we are sinners. The Gospel says, who cares!? Through Christ, God sees you as MORE than enough! Lent acts as a 40-day reminder of our human sinfulness, leading up to the greatest proclamation of the Gospel, the triduum, or three Holy Days. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and best of all, Easter Sunday. God in Christ Jesus was crucified for our sakes, was buried, and then defeated death through the resurrection! Thanks be to God.

This Lent, we and our fellow Lutheran churches in the area are examining out of the ordinary ways to connect with God. Often Lent is used to give something up or to start a new practice, so we've partnered up with our fellow Lutherans to put on a Lenten Round-Robin. Each Wednesday evening during Lent, a Lutheran pastor will be coming to lead worship, and then teach a spiritual practice. I'll be teaching people how to write their own psalms. Others are going to teach about daily prayer, silence, centering prayer, *Lectio Divina*, and mindfulness.

*Each Wednesday in Lent, St. John's will be doing Holden Evening Prayer. Ash Wednesday is on March 2nd, and services are at 6:30pm, with *no* supper due to Covid.*

So, repent, repent, repent, and put on your sackcloth and ashes. You may be dust, but you're dust that God loves. You might even be STAR dust! This year, try starting a new spiritual practice, join us for Wednesday evening worship, and remember that you are loved!

In peace, Vicar Anthony Windau

Updated Covid-19 Guidelines



The Council has approved the following updated building usage guidelines as Covid-19 restrictions have changed. They will continue to review the guidelines each month when Council meets. The following updates will be effective Sunday, March 6th.

Per local health mandates, wearing a face mask is at your discretion.

- We ask everyone to maintain 6 feet of social distancing.
- Hand sanitizer is available at the entry.
- We will use individual, disposable communion only.
- Offering baskets are on the table as you enter. We do offer automatic giving.
- Media screens will be used.
- There will be no nursery provided.
- We will keep the length of the service to 40-45 minutes or less.
- We will not have food service/coffee fellowship at this time.
- There will be Council Approved activities in the building at this time.
- The Sanctuary will be cleaned/sanitized and we will wipe down all arm rests, pews, door knobs etc.

If you have any concerns or health issues, are high risk or have been sick or around someone who has tested positive for Covid-19, we strongly recommend you remain at home and watch on YouTube (STJ LUTHERAN MENDOTA).

Welcome, Melissa Nosalik!



We are very happy to welcome Melissa Nosalik to the St. John's office staff as our new administrative assistant. She will be in the office Monday through Thursday, from 10am to 3pm.

Melissa is very familiar with St. John's as she has served on Church Council and on the Executive Team as Council Secretary. She has been a 3rd & 4th grade Sunday School teacher for many years and currently leads the Educational Ministry Team.

Melissa and her husband, Chris, have been married for 18 years and have two children—Alayna and Cole.

First Communion Instruction Offered



Pastor Ken will offer First Communion instruction for our current second graders (and any older students who haven't already received communion) on Saturday, April 9, 2022. The students and a parent will be invited to meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30am where they will learn about communion, make the bread to be used for their First Communion, and share a meal together.

First Communion will take place during worship on Palm Sunday, April 10th at 9am.

St. John's Scholarships



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 or as a .pdf file on our website. If you would like an application emailed to you, please contact the church office.

Completed forms must be returned to the office no later than April 15, 2022.



If you would like to provide breakfast treats (donuts, breakfast pizza, etc.) for either our Confirmation Class or our

High School Class, please contact the church office. We have dates available in March and April. Thank you in advance!



All Teams Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 3rd at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please confirm with your Team leader that your group is meeting.

