

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

607 10th Avenue
Mendota, IL 61342



Phone: 815-539-5626
Vicar Anthony's email: awindau@wartburgseminary.edu
Email: office@stjohnsmendota.org
Website: www.stjohnsmendota.org

Periodicals

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SPRING FORWARD
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME



Sunday,
March 12th

March Birthdays, Anniversaries & Upcoming Events

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

75th+ Birthday

- Mar. 3 Ronda Radtke
- Mar. 4 William Simonton
- Mar. 6 Thomas Truckenbrod
- Mar. 10 Roger Anderson
- Mar. 12 JoAnn Kidd
Marlene Simonton
- Mar. 16 Joan DeWeerth
- Mar. 18 Karyn Bock
- Mar. 20 Geraldine Sauer
- Mar. 27 Susan Guardiola
- Mar. 31 Geraldine Fisher
Melanie Schroeder

Congratulations

Happy 50+ Anniversary!

Kevin & Melvette Jones
March 10th — 50 years

March Calendar of Events

- 1 Lenten Meal 5:30-6:15pm
- 1 Lenten Worship 6:30pm
- 2 All Teams meeting 7pm
- 5 After-church Bible Study
- 8 Lenten Meal 5:30-6:15pm
- 8 Lenten Worship 6:30pm
- 9 Heritage Health 10am
- 12 After-church Bible Study
- 13 Rebecca Circle 1:30pm
- 15 Stonecroft 10am
- 15 Lenten Meal 5:30-6:15pm
- 15 Lenten Worship 6:30pm
- 15 Illinois Wesleyan Choir 7:15pm
- 16 Church Council meeting 6:30pm
- 19 After-church Bible Study
- 22 Lenten Meal 5:30-6:15pm
- 22 Lenten Worship 6:30pm
- 26 After-church Bible Study
- 28 Quilting 9am
- 29 Lenten Meal 5:30-6:15pm
- 29 Lenten Worship 6:30pm

It's Time to Order Easter Flowers



If you would like to purchase blooming plants (Easter lily, geranium, cyclamen, begonia, tulips, chrysanthemums, or kalanchoe) to help decorate the sanctuary for Easter, please call or email the church office. Plants are \$13.00 each and orders are due by Monday, March 20th. 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.

St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

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March 2023

Special items of interest:

•Worship in our Sanctuary continues each Sunday morning at 9am. If you are unable to attend, you can join us for virtual worship on our YouTube page. (Go to YouTube.com and search for STJ LUTHERAN MENDOTA.)

•If you would like our Interim Minister Vicar Anthony Windau 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 Electronic Giving. If you are interested please contact Susan in the office. You can also give online through the link on our website.



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I Spy with my Little Eye

Since school has started in the past few weeks, I've spent lots of time in my office in the parsonage. That's where I sit for classes, homework, and endless zoom meetings. When I inevitably get bored, I look out the window at the front of our beautiful building. Sometimes I admire the cream color stone (my home city of Milwaukee is nick-named the Cream City because of its brick), and other times I look at the stained glass. Lately, my eyes have been drawn to the Cross high above our doors. What I notice about it is the ring that surrounds it.

The ring around the arms of the Cross is a very Celtic symbol, dating back, likely, to the 6th century. It symbolizes eternity, as a circle is without a beginning or end. The Cross in the center represents God's eternity and Jesus' death (and resurrection) being for all times. It is a simple but beautiful cross. I wonder why the members of St. John's back in the 1930s decided to adorn the top of our building.

Maybe it was meant to symbolize the world, and the Cross as a way to say God in Christ Jesus died for all people. Perhaps as a reminder that God is, was, and always will be. Or, maybe the stonemason just liked the shape of it!

Regardless, in the simple beauty, I am reminded of God's love for all people and creation. I invite you to look closely at the various kinds of art around St. John's. There's beautiful masonry, woodwork, and of course, stained glass. While the church is far more than the physical building, our space tells stories of our past; it reminds us that St. John's has been around for a long time and has overcome a lot. It teaches us about God—through the stories in the stained-glass, symbols adorning the chancel, and various designs on the outside. The physical space and artwork also shows that we can appreciate God in many and various ways. What's your favorite artwork at St. John's?

Peace,
Vicar Anthony



Church Council Highlights

The following are some highlights from the February 16, 2023 meeting of our church council.


- The Council made the following Team assignments: *Ken Ladenburger* - President, Task Force; *Todd Zimmerlein* - Vice President, Benevolence/Ministry Enhancement; *Roberta Wendel* - Secretary, Memorial, Youth Huddle; *Dorothy Brandner* - Youth Huddle, Memorial; *Melissa Doll* - Call Committee, Educational Ministry; *Carole Eich* - Scholarship, Outreach/Evangelism, Food Service; *Tom Meinhardt* - Finance; *Tony Troyer* - Call Committee, Property.
- Council approved the midweek Lenten services & meals beginning on March 1st.
- Council approved use of the sanctuary by the Illinois Wesleyan University Choir for a concert on Wednesday, March 15th at 7:15pm.
- Vicar Anthony will prepare several students to receive their First Communion during worship on Palm Sunday.
- Council approved the Holy Week schedule: Maundy Thursday at 6pm; Ecumenical Good Friday at 6:30pm; Easter Vigil at 6:30pm; Easter Sunrise at 6am; and Easter worship at 9am followed by an Easter Egg Hunt in the Courtyard.
- Council approved Vacation Bible School for the week of June 12th to 16th.
- Youth Huddle reported that there are 11 students signed-up for the mission trip to Altoona, PA this summer.

Finance Report Year To Date thru January 2023:

Budgeted Income \$26,963 Actual Income \$36,564
 Budgeted Expense \$27,678 Actual Expense \$28,562

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.

Lent 2023 — Information and Important Dates


 Please mark these upcoming dates on your calendar and watch for more information in the weekly bulletin announcements: **Midweek Lenten Worship Services** — each Wednesday at 6:30pm (beginning on March 1st); **Midweek Lenten Meals** — Wednesdays in the Fellowship Hall, beginning March 1st from 5:30pm to 6:15pm.

Below is the schedule for the presiding pastor, and the group signed up to provide the meal prior to worship:

March 1st	Rev. Kris Zierke, Our Savior's Lutheran, Seneca	Church Council
March 8th	Rev. Bill Callister, St. Paul's Lutheran, Streator	<i>*Need group to provide meal*</i>
March 15th	Vicar Anthony Windau, St. John's Lutheran, Mendota	Service Team
March 22nd	Rev. Phil Potaczek, Trinity Lutheran, Ottawa	<i>*Need group to provide meal*</i>
March 29th	Vicar Anthony Windau, St. John's Lutheran, Mendota	<i>*Need group to provide meal*</i>

**Please call the church office if you (or your group) are interested in providing a meal.*

Thrivent Financial Members

 Please be sure that you have designated St. John's Lutheran Church, Mendota for your 2023 Choice Dollars before the end of March. In 2022, we received \$779.00 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 jumpstart 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 Youth News

"Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others"

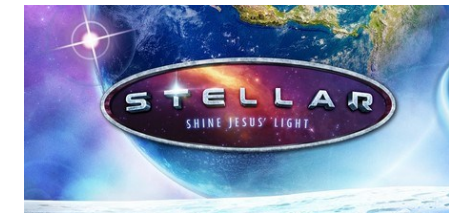


Thank You to all those who helped make our Fat Tuesday Pancake & Sausage Supper such a success!

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.

All proceeds from this supper will support our high school mission trip as well as many other youth activities.



Plans are being made for an awesome week of Vacation Bible School and we hope you will join us!

WHEN: Monday, June 12th to Friday, June 16th 9am to 12pm

WHO: All children in kindergarten through 5th grade are welcome to join the fun! **Children must be 5 years old by June 12th.* Registration forms will be available on Sunday, May 21st and are due to the church office by June 5th.

ALSO: We would love to have several older kids (6th grade through high school) volunteer to help with activities. You don't have to commit to the whole week. We will work with your availability. Please contact Melissa Nosalik or the church office (815) 539-5626 if you are interested in learning more.

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, 2023.



If you would like to provide refreshments for our After-Church Bible Study, please sign-up on the calendar in the Kitchen or contact the church office. The Bible Study will begin on February 26th and continue through March 26th. Thank you in advance!

First Communion Instruction Offered



Vicar Anthony will offer First Communion instruction for our current second graders (and any older students who haven't already received communion) on Saturday, April 1, 2023. 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 2nd at 9am. (A letter will be mailed to these students & families soon.)

