

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

607 10th Avenue  
Mendota, IL 61342



Phone: 815-539-5626  
Fax: 815-539-9006  
E-mail: office@stjohnsmendota.org

~ PLEASE NOTE ~

Our office hours are changing!  
We will now be **CLOSED** on Fridays.

Regular office hours are  
Monday - Thursday  
from 8:30am to 4pm.

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



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.



May Birthdays, Anniversaries,  
Special Days, Upcoming Events

God's continued blessings to the fol-  
lowing members of our congregation...

75th+ Birthday

May 2 Barb Anderson  
May 5 Verdel Miller  
Dotti Scholz  
May 7 Kenneth Betz  
May 9 Ruth Delhotal  
May 25 Otto Meyer

~ Happy 100th Birthday ~  
**Helen Jackson on May 30th!**

Happy 50+ Anniversary!

Jon & Joyce Dinges  
May 29th — 59 years

Congratulations!

Thomas & Nancy Smith  
May 21st — 45 years

Don & Karen Goy  
May 28th — 35 years

Upcoming Events

May

3 Sarah Circle at 1:30pm  
3 All Teams meeting at 7pm  
6 Confirmation Rehearsal/Photo  
13 Confirmation Day at 9am worship  
14 Rebecca Circle at 7pm  
17 Church Council meeting at 6:30pm  
20 Recognition of Graduates at 9am  
20 Last Day of Sunday School  
21 Newsletter Deadline  
22 Mission Quilt Day at 9am  
24 Newsletter Assembly at 10:30am  
28 Office Closed - Memorial Day Holiday

June

1 Poured Out Mission Trip begins  
2 Highway Clean-up at 9am  
7 All Teams meeting at 7pm  
9 Mission: Mendota Spring Event  
18 VBS week begins  
21 Church Council meeting at 6:30pm  
23 Mission: Mendota rain date  
24 Confirmation Camp week begins  
26 Mission Quilt Day at 9am  
28 Newsletter Assembly at 10:30am

Samantha Katschke and her  
Girl Scout Troop have com-  
pleted their plastic lid collection  
drive and will soon be receiving  
their bench made from recycled  
materials (their bench will be  
purple). Thank you to the en-  
tire congregation for your over-  
whelming support of this collec-  
tion drive!



St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

Volume 48, Issue 5

May 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 hospital-  
ized.** Please have a family  
member contact us.

• St. John's offers **Electron-  
ic Giving.** If you are in-  
terested please contact  
Susan in the office.

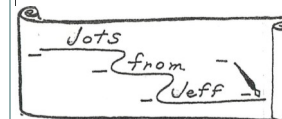
• **Volunteers are needed**  
in May to host Fellowship  
Time. Sign up in Kitchen.

• **Call Committee Update:**  
The Committee has ap-  
pointed Carl Ambler as  
Chairperson. Soon you  
will find a box in the nar-  
thex for "Comments For  
The Call Committee." Also,  
a congregational question-  
naire is being compiled and  
will be mailed out to all  
congregational members in  
the near future.

Inside this issue:

Interim Youth Director info	2
Church Council highlights	2
Mission: Mendota Spring event	2
Youth News	3
New Office Hours	4
Birthdays & Anniversaries	4
Upcoming Events	4

Carry the Light within You



"You are the light of the world. Let your light shine before oth-  
ers, so that they may see your good works and give glory to  
your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:14,16)

As we prepare to confirm eleven of our 8<sup>th</sup> graders, these words of Jesus from his ser-  
mon on the mount come to mind. The same words were spoken at our baptism as a  
candle was lighted and presented to us, or most likely our parents if we were babies.  
But just what do they mean? Here's a story that I think might help answer that ques-  
tion.

A young Rabbi said to the Master, "You know, when I join others in study and  
great feasts, I feel a great sense of light and life. But the minute it's over, it's all  
gone; everything dies in me." The old Rabbi replied: "It is just this feeling that  
happens when a person walks through the woods at night, when the breeze is  
cool and the scent in the air is delicious. If another joins the traveler with a lan-  
tern, they can walk safely and joyfully together. But if they come to a cross-  
roads and the one with the lantern departs, then the first must grope his way  
alone unless he carries the light within him." -- from *Tales of the Hasidim*.

As with anyone who travels the highways of life, whether it be on interstates such as I  
-39 or I-80, or the longer and more fascinating pathways of faith, you need light to be  
able to even undertake, let alone complete, the journey. To travel in darkness only  
leads to bumping into obstacles and failure to reach our destination. So where do we  
find the light that we need?

Power companies provide the lights that are needed on streets and highways. But  
what about the light needed to illumine the road of faith? From where does that light  
come? Jesus says that we are that light, not for ourselves, but for others. The implica-  
tion, of course, is that we are not meant to travel alone. Faith is a life-long journey  
that is meant to be undertaken in community—the community called the church. As  
we walk through life together the light of Christ that we carry within us serves to illu-  
minate the paths of our brothers and sisters who walk beside us.

Think of it this way. We know from experience that our internal lights do not always  
burn with the same intensity. At time of great confidence when faith is strong our  
lights burn their brightest. Then it is easy for us to light the way for others. But there  
are also those times of pain, doubt and fear when those lights flicker and dim almost  
beyond recognition. It is at these times we must rely on the brightly burning lights of  
others. We need each other's support and guidance, for that's what the light is for!

That's not all; there is a bonus, as suggested by the little story above. As we walk to-  
gether, sharing our faith, the Holy Spirit will be at work creating light within those  
with whom we share the good news of God's saving love in Jesus. For many, it may be  
the first time in their lives they will have heard about or experienced God's love. What  
a difference we can make in the world!

As we welcome the newly confirmed to full participation in the mission Christ has giv-  
en us, let us encourage and help each other to let our lights shine brightly in our faith-  
journey together!

We Welcome our  
Interim Youth Director, Karen Goy



I am so excited to get to be “one of the ones” to journey with, encourage, support, and grow and serve alongside the young adults in our church family! Every time I have had the opportunity to do that, I come away so in awe of the people they are and continue to become. They are young adults with amazing gifts, caring hearts, and positive energy and they bring so much that is needed to our church family. It’s been my joy to be praying for each of the kids daily and I look forward to getting to know each one of them individually so that I might learn how I can best join others in supporting them in the many things they are a part of. I also will be gently and consistently inviting them to be sure to take care of their spirits as we look for and plan for all different ways to do that, so that they can each discover ways that are meaningful and “do-able” for them. I commit to do the same. I’m being real with you when I say that I don’t have all the answers when it comes to faith, but I’m inviting each of the kids to the journey and the questions with me. One thing I DO believe and KNOW is that God loves us - as is - and wants us to learn to love better so that we can touch the people and places we’re a part of by reflecting that love into it. So that’s where we’ll start. Who knows where we’ll go from there.

I have been asked to partner with others to plan for mission trips, fundraisers, and other youth activities. I would love for you to share your ideas, gifts, suggestions, wisdom, patience and prayers. Call or text me anytime at (815) 228-2391. What a blessing to be a part of such an amazing church family! Thanks for the opportunity to grow and serve in new ways!

Church Council Highlights

The following are some highlights from the April 19, 2018 Church Council meeting:

- Hired Karen Goy as Interim Youth Director;
- Approved the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation students as Confirmed members;
- Approved change in church office hours during the interim period. Office now closed on Fridays;
- Continued discussion on resuming two Sunday services in the future.

Finance Report Year To Date thru March 2018:

Budgeted Income \$91,779	Actual Income \$90,518
Budgeted Expense \$94,552	Actual Expense \$85,592
Behind Budget on Regular Offerings by -\$2,773	



**Our seminarian, Maria Bonine, is in the final weeks of her second year at Wartburg Theological Seminary.** As the semester concludes Maria will then be preparing for her summer program of CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) with MercyHealth Systems in Rockford, IL. Upon successful completion of the CPE program and a positive Endorsement interview with the Synod Candidacy Committee, Maria will begin a year of internship in the early fall. At this time, Maria's internship location is in Wisconsin. In preparation for the transition to internship Maria and her family are visiting other churches. Your continued prayers and encouragement for Maria and her family are deeply appreciated.

Mission Mendota 2018 Spring Clean-Up  
Project Planning is Underway!



**Saturday, June 9th** (rain date of Saturday, June 23rd)  
**8am to 11am** — general clean-up work at Purple Park, the swimming pool, and the ball diamonds (meet in the swimming pool parking lot).  
**11am to 2pm** — we will focus on clean-up in the Lake Mendota area (meet in the Civic Center parking lot).

We will also be assisting James Younger and his crew of students with painting the playground equipment at Northbrook school (meet in the back parking lot at Northbrook).  
Sign-up sheets will be posted in the Narthex and the hallway into the Fellowship Hall. We'll need people power, prayer partners, cookie makers, water providers. Let's get our game on and do our part to make Mendota a little nicer. So get involved. Sign up today and commit yourself to a few hours of giving back to our town.



St. John's Youth News  
"Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others"



Confirmation Class News...

- Confirmation Rehearsal & Picture Day will take place on Sunday, May 6th during Sunday School. Please wear appropriate clothing and shoes for the photo.
- Our 8th graders and their families are invited to a Confirmation Breakfast served and joined by the 7th graders. This will take place immediately after rehearsal on Sunday, May 6th. It will be the last time you will have together as a group and we want to celebrate all that you have put into and shared this year! Please let Karen Goy know whether you will be able to attend, and how many family members may also be there so that we can appropriately plan for food.
- Confirmation of our 8th graders will take place on Sunday, May 13th. Please keep *Bailey Baird, Marley Bodine, Logan Brandner, Ethan Hanaman, Sophie Holland, Grace Jackson, Jake Jackson, Luke Jackson, Samantha Katschke, Ted Landgraf, and Maya Martin* in your prayers as they prepare for this very special day.

It's a PAW-TY!

Last day of Sunday School — May 20th

Because all of the PAWS at Illinois Valley Animal Rescue (IVAR) are happy with our Sunday School offering donations, we will end the Sunday School year on May 20th with a special "paw-ty" beginning at 10:45am.



The 2017-2018 Sunday School offerings are designated to be divided between IVAR and ELCA Hurricane Relief. On May 20th, come to Sunday School at 10:10am for your final classroom lesson. At 10:45am everyone will gather in the south Fellowship Hall where the offering amounts will be announced and YouTube videos from ELCA & IVAR will be shown. There will be prizes, refreshments, & goodie bags. Our Sunday School staff will be recognized for a great year. The Educational Ministry Team is inviting all Sunday School students, their families, and the whole congregation to join us for this really special PAW-TY! Regular dismissal will be at 11:10am.



High School Students...

We will continue to meet 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!

VBS Summer Camp — June 18th to June 21st



Vacation Bible School information and registration forms have been sent home with our Kindergarten through 5th grade Sunday School students. VBS will be held at St. John's from Monday, June 18th through Thursday, June 21st (9am to 2:30pm). It is extremely important that parents who wish to have their children attend VBS fill out the registration form and return it to their Sunday School teachers or to the church office immediately. The number of camp leaders that Lutherdale Bible Camp will send to us is totally dependent on the number of students who sign up for camp. We would like to have at least 30 students so that Lutherdale will send us four camp leaders. The leaders will arrive on Sunday, June 17th, hopefully in time to be introduced during 9am worship.

We will need two families to host our leaders from Sunday evening through Thursday morning. The host families will also provide them with breakfast. Also needed are persons or families who are able to provide lunches and dinners for the leaders throughout their time with us. These meals can be homemade or purchased. If you would be willing to be a host family or provide a lunch or dinner for the camp leaders, please contact Valerie Kreiser at (815) 866-4946, Deb Rose at (815) 866-5833, or call the church office. We are looking forward to a great week of VBS again this year!