

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Periodicals

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April & May Birthdays, Anniversaries, Special Days, and Upcoming Events

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

75th+ Birthday

- Apr. 1 Darlene Meisel
- Apr. 14 Duane Fassig
- Apr. 15 Patricia Bieser
- Apr. 19 Marjorie Nance
- Apr. 29 Linda Buettner

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

Upcoming Events

All events, activities, and worship services at the church are canceled until the Governor's stay-at-home order is lifted.

Happy Anniversary!

Richard & Leslie Althaus
April 19th — 56 years

Ray & Linda Karstens
April 20th — 51 years

Jon & Joyce Dinges
May 29th — 61 years

Ken & Laurie Ladenburger
May 31st — 40 years

(Continued from Youth Page)

**Do you have Gallon-sized or slightly larger plastic flower pots you are done with? St. John's youth are in need of plastic flower pots for part of a mission project Karen is organizing for the first week in May. They can even be the black ones that potted plants come in from the nursery (we'll beautify them). If you have any that we could pick up from your driveway or curb, please call or text Karen Goy (815-228-2391). We will need a total of 40. Thanks!



Congratulations

St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

Volume 50, Issue 5

May 2020

Special items of interest:

- We hope you will join us for worship throughout the month of May on Zoom! Sunday worship - 9am
- 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.
- We will recognize our high school and college graduates once we resume worshipping together in the Sanctuary.
- Once we are allowed to resume activities and worship in our church building, we plan to celebrate with an "Easter service." We will order special flowers and also have our annual Easter Egg Hunt for our youngest members.

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From the Pastor ...

A few months ago, I told our confirmands that you only needed four things to have a church: 1. A Bible; 2. Bread; 3. Wine; 4. Water.

These days, when we can't gather at the font and the table, it seems that our list perhaps looks more like: 1. A Bible; 2. A computer; 3. The internet.

I long for the bread and cup lifted up for us all to see and receive. I long for the water of baptism, waiting for us to bless ourselves when we gather to partake of the Holy Supper. I know that some congregations are practicing "virtual" Communion — everyone has his bread and wine at home, and the pastor blesses the gifts remotely, so to speak. While I won't sit as a judge over such things, I believe that there are good reasons to fast from Communion and delay baptism until we can be a real gathered community again (I will have had more to say about this in my April 26th sermon if you tuned into Zoom that day).

Yes, we are deprived of some of what makes us church, but we are resilient.

We are using our computer screens and phones to praise God and hear God's word. I so look forward each week to see all of you smiling at me from your little icons on my Zoom page. I even had a graveside funeral last week that a family member who lives in Japan could be with us by a video call link.

We are reaching out to help one another and help our community. We have resources available for anyone who is struggling. We have folks continuing to serve at the local food pantry so our neighbors don't go hungry. Many of you are calling or texting one another regularly to check in. And we are praying for strength and courage to meet the challenge of this pandemic with God's sovereign grace and empowering Spirit.

And we are maintaining St. John's financial integrity with our tithes and offerings. Our financial health continues to be sound in spite of the constraints that all of us are living with.

So, let your dining room table remind you of the Holy Table where Christ offers you the bread of life, his perfect sacrifice. Let your shower or bath tub remind you that you are a washed and forgiven child of God. Let a card you send or phone call you make remind you that we are a blessed and holy body of Christ.

~ Pastor Steve Mindrup

Church Council Highlights

The following are some highlights from the April 16, 2020 Church Council meeting held via Zoom.

- The Council reported that worship services will continue to be conducted by Zoom through the month of May.
- The Council reported that Confirmation will be rescheduled for later this summer or early fall.
- The Council reported that Confirmation Camp, Vacation Bible School, and the High School Mission Trip are all canceled this summer.
- The Council advised that all worship services and activities will be suspended until the Governor lifts the stay-at-home order.
- The Call Committee reported that they are reviewing a resume for a candidate, but there is a "hold" on the interview process during the COVID-19 situation.
- The Council discussed the process for re-opening the church after the stay-at-home order is lifted.

Finance Report Year To Date thru March 2020:

Budgeted Income \$88,157	Actual Income \$88,170
Budgeted Expense \$93,530	Actual Expense \$79,226

Thank you to everyone for sending in your offerings while the church building is closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are blessed to have such a faithful St. John's family.

Zoom Log-in Information for May worship services

Fourth Sunday of Easter: May 3, 2020 9am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84653229744>
Dialup: 1 312 626 6799
Meeting ID: 846 5322 9744
Password: 014673

Fifth Sunday of Easter: May 10, 2020 9am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82905436195>
Dialup: 1 312-626 6799
Meeting ID: 829 0543 6195
Password: 030808

Sixth Sunday of Easter: May 17, 2020 9am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88095104820>
Dialup: 1 312 626 6799
Meeting ID: 880 9510 4820
Password: 017898

Ascension Sunday: May 24, 2020 9am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83759890429>
Dialup: 1 312 626 6799
Meeting ID: 837 5989 0429
Password: 019573

The Day of Pentecost: May 31, 2020 9am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81641824069>
Dialup: 1 312 626 6799
Meeting ID: 816 4182 4069
Password: 026416

This information will be emailed to you so that you can click on the active link. We will also post this on our website and Facebook as we have been doing (without sharing the password).

"Thank You!" to our Sunday School Teachers



We would like to take this opportunity to say "Thank You!" to everyone who invested their time in the faith development of our children during this shortened Sunday School year!

Gary & Sheila Duttlinger (*PreSchool & PreK*); Sarah Coss, Sammie Schumacher, Linda Erlenborn, Lynette Piller (*Kindergarten / 1st / 2nd*); Melissa Nosalik, Dawn Kendall (*3rd / 4th*); Tara Champlin, Jeni Holland (*5th / 6th*); Pastor Steve Mindrup, Shirley Pierson (sub) (*Confirmation 7th / 8th*); Liz Miller (*High School*); James Younger (*Music*); Melissa Doll, Kora Jones, Jamie Kreiser, Valerie Kreiser, Lisa Martin (*substitute teachers*); Ed & Karyn Bock, Dave & Dorothy Brandner, Grace Brandner, Laurie Ladenburger, Sandi Maas, Ron & Deb Rose, Dave & Mel Schroeder, Jeff & Lori Simonton, Laurie Zimmerman (*Sunday School Greeters*). We also thank our Educational Ministry Team of Melvette Jones, Cyndy Kreiser, Sandi Maas & Melissa Nosalik for all of their hard work this year.



St. John's Youth News

"Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others"



Youth Events Postponed and/or Canceled Due to Corona Virus Concerns



Confirmation has been postponed until a later date. Hopefully it will take place on a beautiful Sunday morning this Fall. Please keep our Confirmation students in your prayers during this uncertain time — *Connor Bailey, Paul Bailey, Jace Baird, Cindy Bumgarner, Macy Hartt, and Haden Shakespeare.*



Confirmation Camp at Lutherdale has been canceled. We are so disappointed that seven of our 7th graders — *Ava Beetz, Ella Coss, Lauren Holland, Kennedy Knaff, Dessa Komitas, Ella Martin, and Jillian Younger* — won't be able to experience all that Lutherdale has to offer this summer. We hope that each of them will be able to participate next year.



Vacation Bible School has been canceled. We thank our VBS coordinators, *Valerie Kreiser and Deb Rose*, for the work that they had put into planning this fun week of faith-building for our younger children. We're looking forward to next summer!



The High School Mission Trip to Gatlinburg has been canceled. We hope to complete some service projects in our community this summer once the stay-at-home order has been lifted. In the meantime, we ask you to please keep our Mission Trip Team in your prayers — *Bailey Baird, Sammi Katschke, Abby Kunz, Matt Miller, Tim Miller, Alayna Nosalik, Isabella Tolentino, Cole Zimmerman, Garret Zinke, and Gracie Zinke.*

~ ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES ~

High School Seniors — Please email a current photo, a baby (or younger self) photo, and your future plans to laura@stjohnsmendota.org by Friday, May 15th. This information will be used in an upcoming *Eagle* newsletter and also when we recognize all of our graduates during an upcoming worship service (date to be announced). Thank you!

College Graduates — We would like to recognize your accomplishments by including a photo and information regarding your degree and future plans in an upcoming *Eagle* newsletter. Please email a photo and details to laura@stjohnsmendota.org by Friday, May 15th. We will also use this information when we recognize all of our graduates during an upcoming worship service (date to be announced). Thank you!

Are you looking for places to join your hands, feet, and heart to care for those in our community and BE the Church?

"...I was in prison, and you visited me..." *Matthew 25:36.*

****Would you like to join the St. John's Youth** in a ministry opportunity from your own home? Residents of Heritage Health are now required to stay in their rooms or possibly sit in the hall just outside their doors AND doors will be locked down to visitors for quite a while - sounds kind of imprisoning doesn't it? In speaking with personnel there, we will be provided a list of patients by first name only, that receive little or no contact from their families. We will be partnering a youth with either a resident from St. John's or from the list provided and sending cards, letters, or inspirational materials to them on a regular basis... "visiting" them in print with love. Would you like to be partnered with a resident who needs to know someone is thinking of them and would LOVE to receive something to brighten their days? The staff is so excited by this possibility! Please call or text Karen Goy (815-228-2391) and she will give you someone to "visit" in print as well as any other details needed.

****A second possibility:** if you are able to post a musical performance, read a passage from scripture or Daily Word or read a book, etc. some way online, staff at Heritage are going to resident's rooms and playing the videos on their ipads for residents to listen to and watch. Let Karen Goy know if you have a video and she can get the information for sending your video to staff.

(Continued on back page)