

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

607 10th Avenue  
Mendota, IL 61342



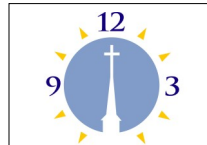
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Periodicals

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**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**  
The church office is open Monday through Thursday beginning at 8:30am. The church office is **CLOSED** on Fridays and this is also Pastor Ken's day off. In case of an emergency, you can reach Pastor Ken at (815) 861-9554.

Find us on Facebook!

Search for "St. John's Lutheran Church" and join our page.



May Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

75th+ Birthday

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



Happy 50+ Anniversary!

Jon & Joyce Dinges  
May 29th — 62 years

Quilting News!



We are happy to announce that Council has approved the resumption of Mission Quilt Days. The group will meet monthly on the 4th Tuesday at 9am. Participants will be asked to follow current church guidelines regarding mask wearing and social-distancing.

The Quilting Ladies have replenished the walker bag basket in the Narthex. If you know of someone who would enjoy a bag, or if you would like one, please feel free to take one. They have also been able to assemble some Quilt Top Kits. If you would like to sew at home, the Kits are now available at the Information Booth and the Church office.

If you are thinking of doing any Spring cleaning and have cotton fabric or sheets that need a new home, we would be more than happy to be that new home! You can drop them off in the church office during regular hours.

Thank you for your continuing support of our projects for Lutheran World Relief.

St. John's Lutheran Church



# ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

Volume 51, Issue 5

May 2021

Special items of interest:

- 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 **Electronic Giving**. If you are interested please contact Susan in the office. You can also **give online** through the link on our website.
- **Worship in our Sanctuary continues** each Sunday morning at 9am. If you are unable to attend, we hope you will join us for virtual worship on Facebook Live.
- We hope you are joining Pastor Ken for **daily devotions, Monday through Thursday mornings at 8am on St. John's Facebook page**. It's a nice way to start your day!



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## Dancing Into May ... Tanz in den Mai

by Pastor Ken Gibson

As we head into May and the Spring season of the year, I am recalling a spring tradition that I first remember celebrating as a young boy while living with my Aunt and Uncle in rural Iowa. It was May Day. I had never heard of May Day, yet my cousins and I were instructed to make May baskets for someone you were sweet on. I remember that I made a May Day basket for Katie Davis, the farm girl who lived up the road. Boy, did my cousins give me a raze about that basket. In truth, they still do. LOL! But my Aunt took us around to the different homes and we dropped off these May baskets full of candies and such. It was a different tradition to me, but one I really sort of liked. It surely does not hurt to tell someone you like them at any age.

I later came to realize that the tradition of May Day has its roots in Europe and if you have ever been to Germany and toured there, you may have seen the May Poles found often in the village center. With a little research and some Wikipedia assistance we come to understand: *{that in rural regions of Germany, especially the Harz Mountains, Walpurgisnacht celebrations of pagan origin are traditionally held on the night before May Day, including bonfires and then wrapping of a Maibaum (maypole). Young people often use this opportunity to party, while the day itself is used by many families to get some fresh air. Motto: "Tanz in den Mai" ("Dance into May").}* (source Wikipedia)

I like this image of dancing into May and with our roots at St. John's being German, let us do just that. Let us dance into May together. Maybe at some point we should all gather in the courtyard on the Eve of May Day and celebrate all that we have going on in the church in the spring. Maybe even take a moment to tell someone that you like them as a sister and/or a brother in Christ, and that it is a joy to share in their lives. If nothing else, we should be dancing as we come to work our way through the Covid-19 pandemic and our survival through it all. Our life together continues and our mission as a church goes forth. Now that is worth a dance.

Let me simply share with you all that we have going on in this wonderful month of May. It is going to be a great month.

We will **welcome new members on May 2nd**, and I believe that will be eight persons that we will welcome into our life together. This is worth a dance. On **May 16th we will recognize our 2021 graduates**, and they are certainly worth a dance. On **May 23rd we will celebrate Pentecost Sunday** highlighted with the **Rite of Confirmation** service for last year's confirmation students. I know they will be dancing and so shall we in celebration with their saying yes to the baptismal gift.

So **"Tanz in den Mai"** everyone! We most definitely have much to dance about. Oh, and by the way, God loves you and so do I! Happy May Day!

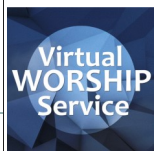
## milesintosmiles



We've been cooped up for quite some time and if you are ready to get up and get moving, the Task Force needs your help to turn milesintosmiles! For every ten miles that St. John's members walk, run or bike, we will donate one pair of shoes to Another Child Foundation. Our goal is 2000 miles, which will end up as 200 pairs of shoes and 200 smiles. A little exercise for us and some needed shoes for the foundation! Kickoff is Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> and will end on Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. We will update our progress each Sunday at worship, so you will be asked to email your weekly total by noon the Saturday before. Cash donations will also be accepted to go towards the shipping costs. We will be having a group walk after worship on Sundays May 2, 9, 16 and 23. So bring some walking shoes to church with you if you would like to participate.

Included with this newsletter is a "milesintosmiles Home Log Sheet" to help you keep track of your miles. We ask you to send an email of your weekly total of miles per member by noon each Saturday to [milesintosmiles@yahoo.com](mailto:milesintosmiles@yahoo.com) or call the church office and leave a message. If you have any questions, reach out to Ken Ladenburger, Roberta Wendel or Jeff Simonton.

### Changes to "Virtual Worship" beginning in May



Due to ongoing glitches and difficulties with Zoom, Council has decided to no longer offer worship via Zoom. **Virtual Worship will continue to be available on Facebook Live.** You are able to watch the worship services via Facebook Live even if you don't have a Facebook account yourself. Search for St. John's Lutheran Church Facebook page. Once you find us, simply scroll past any invitations to create a Facebook page and you'll see the Facebook Live video. Also, we will soon resume posting worship services to our YouTube channel and our website.

### New Member Information

Please update your directory to include the following new members of St. John's congregation:

**Pastor Ken & Yvonne Gibson**, 610 10th Avenue, Mendota, IL 61342

**Veronica (Ronnie), Connor, Paul & Robert Bailey**, 509 Plaza Drive, Apt. 203, Mendota, IL 61342

**Linda Buettner**, 1902 Diana Drive, Mendota, IL 61342

**Cheryl Christiansen**, 826 N. Vernon Street, Apt. 1, Princeton, IL 61356

### Church Council Highlights

The following are some highlights from the April 8, 2021 Church Council meeting.

- Council reviewed the Building Use/Covid-19 Restrictions update and did not make any changes at this time. Guidelines will be reviewed by Council monthly and updated as needed.
- Council approved an in-person "All Teams Meeting" on Thursday, May 13th at 7pm so that Pastor Ken can meet all of the Teams and their members.
- New Members will be received during worship on Sunday, May 2nd.
- Council approved discontinuing the use of Zoom for worship.
- Council approved using alternating worship styles on Sundays throughout the summer months.
- The Executive Team reported that all staff reviews have been completed.

#### Finance Report Year To Date thru March 2021:

Budgeted Income \$92,166	Actual Income \$97,701
Budgeted Expense \$96,741	Actual Expense \$95,659

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.



## St. John's Youth News

"Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others"



We will celebrate Pentecost Sunday on May 23rd with the Rite of Confirmation for the 2020 class which includes **Connor Bailey, Paul Bailey, Jace Baird and Haden Shakespeare**. It is important for these students to attend a brief rehearsal on Saturday, May 22nd at 10am.

### Start Getting Excited... For Lunch in the Park!!



Weather's getting warmer. School will be out soon. It's time to begin looking forward to Lunch in the Park! St. John's Youth will be providing Lunch in the Park on Friday, June 11th. Our young people will be serving freshly grilled hot dogs, hamburgers, and pork chop sandwiches along with chips, desserts, and drinks. We hope you'll mark your calendars and plan to join us for lunch and fellowship... and bring your friends, neighbors, and coworkers! The monies raised will help with the costs of mission trips and other youth activities.

We would welcome any donations of bottled water, iced tea, or soda; ice; buns; individually bagged assorted chips; and individually wrapped desserts such as bars, cookies, or cupcakes. Volunteer and donation sign-up sheets will be posted in the Narthex in mid-May or you can email the church office.

### Mission Trip to Sky Ranch



We are excited to announce the members of our 2021 High School Mission Trip Team — *Connor Bailey, Paul Bailey, Bailey Baird, Ella Coss, Samantha Katschke, Abby Kunz, Ella Martin, Matt Miller, Alayna Nosalik, Jillian Younger, Garret Zinke, and Gracie Zinke*. Chaperones will include *Pastor Ken & Yvonne Gibson, Ronnie Bailey, James Younger, and Mike Anderson*. Please add our Team and Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp in Ft. Collins, Colorado to your prayer list. **Team members** — Don't forget to return all of your signed forms to the church office as soon as possible. Thank you!

### Internship Update



We are entering into a teaching relationship with Wartburg Theological Seminary. We had hoped for an intern for this year, but it seems the candidate that WTS had in mind for us is unable to go on internship at this point. What this means for us at St. John's is that we will start as an internship teaching congregation after the first of the year in 2022. This will be an exciting opportunity for all of us as we enter into this partnership. Watch for future updates as we head into the start of next year.