

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Fabric Face Masks Needed



The supply of fabric face masks that we received from the Yorkville Mask Makers are about depleted. Please contact the church office if you are able to help. Thank you.

Find us on Facebook!

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



November Birthdays  
and Anniversaries

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

75th+ Birthday



Nov. 4 June Pollex  
Nov. 6 Charles Betz  
Nov. 8 Phyllis Hitchins  
Nov. 9 Joyce Hoelzer  
Nov. 12 Marilyn Schaller  
Nov. 14 Tom Kerns  
Nov. 15 Ruth Wedemeyer  
Nov. 27 Barb Zinke  
Nov. 27 Donna Hasse  
Nov. 29 Betty Dufour



Happy Anniversary Wishes!

Nicholas & Lynette Piller  
November 27th — 10 years

Periodicals

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We received the following Thank You message from Pastor Steve & Kelley Mindrup as they headed east on their vacation:

Hi Everyone,

Thanks for the lovely send-off. We got as far as Waynesboro, VA and Steve had to have emergency surgery. Bye bye gallbladder. He'd do anything to get out of going to the beach.

Lots of love, Kelley & Steve

St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

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November 2020

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.

• The Quilting Ladies have replenished the walker bag in the Narthex with lots of fall themed bags. If you know of someone who would enjoy a bag, or if you would like one, please feel free to take one.

• 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 online via Zoom, Facebook Live, or on the St. John's website. ([www.stjohnsmendota.org](http://www.stjohnsmendota.org)).

• Poinsettia order forms are due in the church office by Tuesday, December 1st.

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Hello Sisters and Brothers,



We want to thank all who have made us feel so welcome here at St. John's. Yvonne, Bob and I feel very much loved and we so look forward to getting to know folks over the next many days, weeks, months and years.

Bob has quickly become the church office hound as he comes with me every day to the church office. He has settled in nicely to the routine and both of us are glad to be spending time with all the wonderful staff that

we have at St. John's.

Yvonne is settling into getting the parsonage all arranged and making such a wonderful home. Most days yet she finds herself still unpacking boxes. Truthfully, I think we have decided perhaps we have way too much "stuff." We truly do not want to move again for many, many, many years to come.

In truth we have been remarkably busy. So busy in fact, I am lamenting that I have not found a chance to go out and be on a combine or drive a tractor pulling a grain cart or do fall tillage work or anything. Doing such was and will remain a desire of mine always especially now that we are down here in the heart of the grain belt. I am sure my chance will come.

As the year now turns toward the last couple of months and the weather will force us indoors, it remains my prayer that we can all stay healthy. These are trying times, but we will get through them. As Luther would state; "This is most certainly true." We get through such times by doing as the church has done for over two thousand years and as our Lord commanded us to do. We love one another, and in so doing we know the Spirit is with us.

May God be with you all.

Pastor Ken, Yvonne and Bob!

All Saints Sunday — November 1st



Scripture speaks of grief and its heavy toll on those who have suffered loss. More frequently, however, in the New Testament we read about the "joy that comes in the morning". That Joy comes when we lift our faith to remember the Resurrection and the Victory won by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. During worship on November 1st, we will remember in thanksgiving the saints who have gone before us, those who this past year have joined the Church Triumphant. We remember: James Armstrong, Paul Betz, Tamra Bierbom, Piper Cahill, James Christmann, Steven Dewey, Sheila Duttlinger, Lois Etheridge, John Hartt, Helen Jackson, Carol Kerchner, Gerald Knowlton, Dorothy Ladenburger, Georgia Mathesius, Robert Meinhardt, Stacy Olesen, John Pierson, David Piller, and Dorothy Wieman.



Church Council Highlights

The following are some highlights from the October 15, 2020 Church Council meeting.


- It was reported that the Task Force donated \$5,000 of their funds to Lutheran Disaster Relief for the wildfires out west.
- Council approved opening the Sanctuary for funeral services as long as our current guidelines regarding social distancing and mask wearing are followed.
- Confirmation Classes will resume following worship on Sunday, November 1st. All other Sunday School classes remain on hold.
- Beginning November 1st, we will resume Communion during worship. Disposable, pre-filled units will be used.
- The Installation Service for Pastor Ken will be held on Sunday, December 6th.

Finance Report Year To Date thru September 2020:

Budgeted Income \$264,500	Actual Income \$227,924
Budgeted Expense \$273,567	Actual Expense \$231,518

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.

"Virtual Worship" Information for November




The **Zoom log-in information** for our November worship services have been set so that the Meeting ID and Passcode are the same for each week during November. **This is not an error.** We hope that it will make it easier for those logging in to Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8191024353>  
Dial up: 1 312 626 6799  
Meeting ID: 819 102 4353  
Passcode: 316316

The log-in information will also be emailed to you each Saturday at noon.


You are also able to **watch the worship services via Facebook Live** even if you don't have a Facebook account yourself. Using your web browser, 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.

**Worship** will also continue to be **shared on our website** ([www.stjohnsmendota.org](http://www.stjohnsmendota.org)).




A Thank You from Pastor Maria Bonine

As we settle into our new home in Altamont, we continue to marvel at the abundant ways God has blessed us. Thank you for the beautiful banner gifted in honor of my ordination. (I love the Mendota colors!) I will enjoy telling the story of the people who made and gifted it with love. Your prayers and on-line presence for my ordination service continue to fill my heart with joy. THANK YOU! With God's help, you raised up and generously supported a new leader for the church. Your faithfulness has been a part of another congregation's answered prayer. Dearest people of St. John's, your siblings in Christ at St. Paul's in Altamont rejoice in the gift of a new beginning with me as their new pastor. May we continue to love and support one another in our prayers! If you are ever in the Southern Illinois area, there is always room for you at the "inn." (We have guest rooms at the beautiful parsonage.)



In Christian love,  
Maria and Brent Bonine

Mailing address-  
Rev. Maria and Brent Bonine  
2295 E. US HWY 40  
Altamont, Illinois 62411



St. John's Youth News

"Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others"



Sunday School Information



Our Sunday School classes for 2020-2021 continue to be on hold. As soon as plans are finalized, we will send information and registration forms to our Sunday School families.

Thank you so much for your continued patience.

Confirmation Date Not Yet Set

We are very eager to set a Confirmation date for our 2019-2020 Confirmands:

*Connor Bailey, Paul Bailey, Jace Baird, Cindy Bumgarner, and Haden Shakespeare.*

We will share this information with everyone just as soon as the date is set.

Confirmation Classes for 7th and 8th Grade Students



We will begin Confirmation classes for our 7th and 8th grade students on Sunday, November 1st starting at approximately 10am. Please make your way to our fellowship hall, and just like at your school, wear a mask and stay 6' apart. We will have the tables set up in such a way as to allow everyone to be safely distanced. Please fill out the registration form that you recently received in the mail and bring it with you on November 1st.

We ask our congregation to keep our Confirmation students in your prayers as they study our Lutheran heritage: *Ava Beetz, Sarah Brown, Addyson Champlin, Ella Coss, Ally Denault, Natalie Hanaman, Brody Hartt, Alex Holland, Lauren Holland, Quin Holland, Grady Jones, Kennedy Knaff, Dessa Komitas, Ella Martin, Gracie Politsch, Meredith Politsch, Joshua Shakespeare, Aden Tillman, and Jillian Younger.*

High School Students "Meet & Greet" with Pastor Ken



Pastor Ken says, "Sharing in the lives of the youth of the church is one of the joys for me as a pastor." We are really looking forward to all of our high school students having the opportunity to spend some time with Pastor Ken. A meet & greet has been planned for Sunday, November 1st at 4pm in the fellowship hall. Please wear a mask and we will do our best to safely distanced. Refreshments will be provided.

Please RSVP to Pastor Ken at [pkgibson@stjohnsmendota.org](mailto:pkgibson@stjohnsmendota.org).

Commitment Sunday — November 8th

Included with this *Eagle* newsletter, you will find a commitment card and a sheet for "Time & Talents." These items were previously mailed to your home along with a letter from Pastor Ken.

The mission for us at St. John's has been a critical source of goodness for the Mendota area for over 160 years. We have stood the test of our trials made possible through the commitment to our members and this community. We now ask us all to commit again to the mission of sharing in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to our life together in that task. We ask you to consider filling these forms out as a spiritual exercise, knowing that in so doing we are once again committing to the historic ministry that is St. John's Mendota. We will, as a church, work through these times and we will also go beyond these times. Please bring your commitments to worship with you on November 8th or simply return them to the church office. Thank you.