

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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It's that time of year to order Poinsettias to decorate the church during the Christmas Season. The cost is \$10.00 and orders must be

received in the church office by November 29th. Order forms will be available in worship bulletins soon, or you may contact the church office to place your order.

Find us on Facebook!

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



November Birthdays

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. 12 Marilyn Schaller
Nov. 13 Connie Pohl
Nov. 15 Ruth Wedemeyer
Nov. 27 Barb Zinke
Nov. 27 Donna Hasse
Nov. 29 Betty Dufour

Worship Calendar for Choir/Praise Band

Wednesday, Nov. 3rd	6:15pm Choir	7:15pm Praise Band
Sunday, Nov. 7th	Praise Band leads worship	
Wednesday, Nov. 10th	6:15pm Choir	7:15pm Praise Band
Sunday, Nov. 14th	Choir leads worship	
Wednesday, Nov. 17th	6:15pm Choir	7:15pm Praise Band
Sunday, Nov. 21st	Praise Band leads worship	
Wednesday, Nov. 24th	NO Rehearsals—Thanksgiving Eve	
Sunday, Nov. 28th	Choir leads worship	

Periodicals

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Upcoming Events

November

7 Rev. Robin Brown leads worship
7 All Saints Sunday and Commitment Sunday
14 Rev. Gary Erickson leads worship
18 Church Council meeting at 6:30pm
23 Mission Quilt Day at 9am
24 Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve worship at 7pm
25 Office Closed — Thanksgiving Day
28 NO Confirmation Class — All other Sunday School classes meet as usual at 10am

December

24 Christmas Eve worship at 4:30pm and 7:30pm
26 NO Sunday School or Confirmation Classes
27 Office Closed — Christmas Holiday
28 Office Closing at 12:30pm
29 Office Closing at 12:30pm
30 Office Closing at 12:30pm

2022 offering envelopes are available in the north fellowship hall.

St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

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November 2021

Special items of interest:

• **Worship in our Sanctuary continues** each Sunday morning at 9am. If you are unable to attend, you are invited to join us for virtual worship on Facebook Live.

• **Sunday School classes for all ages begins at 10am.** Please sign-in at the table in the north fellowship hall.

• **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.

• 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!

HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL

by Pastor Ken Gibson

Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow, give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow. (ELW 612)

The refrain of this hymn speaks to me on so many levels and I rejoice when we have an opportunity to sing this hymn in worship. As I reflect on all that is happening in our lives these days, I am concerned that we are losing track of our identity and in that confusion of not knowing who we are, we then do not know how to be healed of all the ills that inevitably come upon us.

So much of the pressures of our days appear to come to us as we are asked to claim allegiance to one group or another and at any given time. We may even feel forced into one identity or another. One group or another is asking us; "Are you X or are you Y? You have to be one or the other! There is no other way. You are with us, or you are not." Often times we are making choices and allegiances that run counter to what we truly believe or even want to be associated with overall.

"So, what are you getting at here Pastor?" you may be asking. My concern is this; in the midst of all the things we are asked to be and all the insistence that we be a part of one group or another we are losing the reality of our baptismal identity as a child of God as our paramount identity above all else. I am truly concerned that we risk losing our sense of who we are and whose we are above all else. Maybe next time we are asked to pick an identity we might simply say something like; "First and foremost, I am a child of God. Sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Or as my friend Kurt often shares when someone tries to identify him in some way, Kurt will often respond; "Well, no but I am baptized."

In knowing whose we are and who ultimately has the power to claim us beyond all our ills and bring true light to our lives, we can then come to wholeness and healing. Knowing our true identity, and living in that identity, we then have peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.

Jesus is the Healer of Our Every Ill. Let us claim this truth always. Amen.

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Congratulations to Jeff Landers, the winner of our 2021 Fall Festival Chili Cook-off! Jeff's chili was in crockpot #8. Pictured are Jeff's wife, Sarah, and daughter, Adelynn, who accepted the first place quilt on his behalf while he was working in the field. Our runner-up was Monica Zimmerlein whose chili was in crockpot #1. She took home a beautiful copper ladle. Thank you to everyone who participated in the chili cook-off. We really hope to do this again next fall and give Jeff the opportunity to defend his title!

Church Council Highlights

The following are some highlights from the October 21, 2021 Church Council meeting.

- Council reviewed the Building Use/Covid-19 Restrictions. All pews are now open. We ask you to spread out and use the entire sanctuary which includes using the pews at the front.
- Our first annual Fall Festival was enjoyed by everyone! Thank you to those who participated in the Chili Cook-off and to those who donated the delicious desserts. A \$400.00 donation was given to the Food Pantry along with 160 pounds of non-perishable food items.
- We will be the host church for the Mendota Area Ministerial Association’s ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve service on Wednesday, November 24th at 7pm. Everyone is invited to attend.
- The courtyard events have been well-received by the congregation and will continue in November. We will have a “flagpole Christmas tree-lighting” on Sunday, November 28th at 6pm. The Quilting Ladies will also host a Silent Auction of several beautiful quilts in the north fellowship hall.
- Midweek Advent services using the Holden Evening Prayer will be held on Wednesday evenings at 6pm. The first service will take place on December 1st.
- Two Christmas Eve worship opportunities are being planned. The 4:30pm service will feature our Praise Band and include our Sunday School youth as well as a live Nativity in the courtyard prior to worship. The 7:30pm service will feature our choir and several soloists. More details will be shared in the December *Eagle* newsletter.

Finance Report Year To Date thru September 2021:

Budgeted Income \$276,467 Actual Income \$272,854
Budgeted Expense \$290,092 Actual Expense \$271,098

Special offering for Hurricane Ida Relief — \$1,650.00

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.

All Saints Sunday — November 7th



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 7th, we will remember in thanksgiving the saints who have gone before us, those who this past year have joined the Church Triumphant. We remember: Patricia Bieser, Tiffany Blake, Gladys Brantner, Salvatore (Frank) Cutrano, Traci Given, Robert Hagemann, Frances (Pat) Hrovat, Carl Kerchner, Marjorie Nance, Dennis Piller, Catherine Radtke, Larry Stamberger, Glenn Truckenbrod, Sherry Volkert.



Join us on
Sunday, November 7th
for “Commitment Sunday”

At this service we will celebrate God’s generosity and indicate how we will generously share our gifts in response to God’s grace. Time, Talent & Giving forms have been mailed to homes. Everyone Confirmation age and older is invited to fill out a Time & Talent form. Please bring your completed forms with you to worship on November 7th. Additional forms are available in the church office.

The office uses these forms to schedule all of our worship volunteers. Even if you are a regular volunteer, please fill out the form so we don’t overlook anyone.



Daylight Savings
Time comes to an
end on Sunday,
November 7th.

Don’t forget to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday, November 6th or you’ll be really early for church on Sunday!



St. John’s Youth News
“Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others”



A Few Photos From Our 1st Annual Fall Festival...

