

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

607 10th Avenue  
Mendota, IL 61342



Phone: 815-539-5626  
Pastor Ken Gibson's email: pkgibson@stjohnsmendota.org  
Email: office@stjohnsmendota.org  
Website: www.stjohnsmendota.org

Find us on Facebook!



Search for our **new** page "*St. John's Lutheran Church, Mendota, IL*" and join us.



**Daylight Savings Time comes to an end on Sunday, November 6th.** Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday, November

5th or you'll be really early for church on Sunday!

November Birthdays, Anniversaries  
and Upcoming Events

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. 14 Tom Kerns  
Nov. 15 Ruth Wedemeyer  
Nov. 24 Judy Stewart  
Nov. 27 Barb Zinke  
Nov. 27 Donna Hasse  
Nov. 29 Betty Dufour



November Calendar of Events

1 "by heart" Study 1:15pm  
3 Men's Breakfast 6am  
3 All Teams meeting 7pm  
5 Chapel worship 5pm  
6 All Saints' Sunday  
8 Election Day — Polling Place  
9 Quilting 9am  
10 Men's Breakfast 6am  
10 Heritage Health 10am  
12 Chapel worship 5pm  
13 Commitment Sunday  
14 Rebecca Circle 1:30pm  
15 "by heart" Study 1:15pm  
16 Stonecroft 10am  
17 Men's Breakfast 6am  
17 Church Council meeting 6:30pm  
19 Chapel worship 5pm  
22 Quilting 9am  
22 "by heart" Study 1:15pm  
24 Office Closed — Thanksgiving Day  
26 NO Chapel worship  
27 Courtyard Christmas Tree Lighting  
29 "by heart" Study 1:15pm  
30 Soup supper 5:30-6:15pm/Advent worship 6:30pm

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. Daisy Windau, editor.



Thank You!

Rick & Becky Lowers, along with several clients of PADS, unloaded all of the paper products we collected for the Peru and Ottawa homeless shelters. Thank you, everyone, for your generous support!



St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

Volume 52, Issue 11

November 2022

Special items of interest:

• **Worship in our Sanctuary continues** each Sunday morning at 9am. If you are unable to attend, you can join us for virtual worship on our YouTube page. (Go to YouTube.com and search for STJ LUTHERAN MENDOTA.)

• **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.

• **Reminder:** St. John's is a polling place on Election Day, November 8th.

• **QUILTING DAYS** will be Wednesday, November 9th and Tuesday, November 22nd.

• **Christmas Poinsettia orders** are due in the church office by Monday, November 28th.

Inside this issue:

Church Council Highlights	2
Commitment Sunday-Nov. 13	2
All Saints Sunday-Nov. 6	2
College Student Address	3
Spaghetti Dinner Information	3
Birthdays and Anniversaries	4
Upcoming Events	4

The Joy of Giving

Many years ago, while I was serving as the Vice President of Wartburg Seminary, I recall receiving a very special letter from a wonderful couple, along with a very generous gift to the Seminary. The gift was a down payment on a continuing gift intended to fund a full scholarship each year for any needy student, as deemed by the seminary. What was so special was the words from the couple as they sent the gift.

In short, the couple shared how it gives them such great joy to be able to offer this gift beginning now, and into the future. They shared how they were just so happy, and joy filled as they wrote out the check. They shared how on a monthly basis they, like everyone else, need to write out checks to cover bills and expenses that any household would have: lights, gas, water, cable tv, garbage pick-up etc. "Not much JOY in writing those checks" they shared. But when they are able to write out the check to the Seminary and their church, the smiles just seem to grow upon them. "We are blessed to 'want to.'" It is what gives them JOY. The desire to give. It is not just a "have to," it is a "want to." I just loved that letter and in fact I am still in touch with this couple on a regular basis.

This couple sums up our stewardship campaign in so many ways this year based upon the lyrics of a great hymn.

***"Give Thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One. Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son."***

Is there a better joy that we have been given than the joy of our salvation through Jesus? I know that it is my true joy to offer up, as biblically called upon, ten percent (10%) of my income each month to the mission and ministry and our life together here at St. John's. It truly gives me great Joy.

I ask us all to consider how blessed we are and how joyful we are when we give thanks to God for the many blessings God has bestowed upon us all. Please pray earnestly and consider what greater joy we share as we each give to this ministry in both our time and our resources. Just the thought of it makes me want to smile and even sing!! *"Give Thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One. Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son."* Be happy in your giving, everyone.

~Pastor Ken Gibson



Church Council Highlights


The following are some highlights from the October 20, 2022 meeting of our church council.

- The Worship Team reported that we will offer a midweek Advent worship service on Wednesdays at 6:30pm with a soup & bread supper available from 5:30-6:15pm. There will be two Christmas Eve worship opportunities again this year: Sunday School Christmas Program at 4:30pm, and a Traditional service at 7:30pm. Worship on Christmas Day will be a Hymn Sing service at 9am.
- The Youth Huddle reported that the Fall Festival was very successful. On December 4th, we will host our Spaghetti Supper and are excited that the MHS Madrigals will perform.
- The Outreach/Evangelism Team corrected the dates of the Silent Auction of handmade quilts: beginning at the Christmas Tree Lighting on November 27th and continuing to Sunday, December 11th.

Finance Report Year To Date thru September 2022:  
Budgeted Income \$271,166 Actual Income \$231,682  
Budgeted Expense \$283,979 Actual Expense \$278,917


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.

Join us on Sunday, November 13th 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 Commitment Sunday, November 13th, or to worship on November 12th. They can also be dropped off in the church office. Additional forms are available on the usher’s pew in the sanctuary and in the office. These forms are used 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. Thank you!

Join us for Christmas Caroling before we light the St. John’s Courtyard Christmas Tree on Sunday, November 27th!



Meet at church at 2:30pm to carpool to our caroling locations — OSF St. Paul, Heritage Health, and Stonecroft Village. Return to St. John’s to warm-up with hot chocolate and cookies before heading outdoors to light the Courtyard Christmas Tree at 5pm. Children are welcome to join the caroling with a parent. Childcare will be available.

Changing Seasons

As the temperature cools, the seasons change, and daylight lessens, I am reminded of the upcoming liturgical season. Pentecost lasts a long time, but not forever! The new season is the start of a new year in the Church calendar. Advent! The road to Christmas begins, but before we celebrate the birth of Christ, we walk this path. Advent is a time of preparation, reflection, and midweek services. That’s right, this Advent season at St. John’s, each Wednesday evening beginning on November 30<sup>th</sup>, we will have a soup supper followed by Holden Evening Prayer. I invite you to attend these services as a way to intentionally form community, connect with our tradition, and worship God. Advent midweek services are one of my favorite things the church does—something about them is warm, cozy, and hearing Holden is always beautiful. Perhaps it’s the warm soup after being in the cold. Maybe it’s the company. Or, the hope and light soon to be brought into the world at Christ’s birth.

Peace, Vicar Anthony

All Saints Sunday — November 6th

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 6<sup>th</sup>, we will remember in thanksgiving the saints who have gone before us, those who this past year have joined the Church Triumphant. We remember: *Brad Dobrich, Carol Kellen, Frank Etheridge, Christina Edgcomb McClure, Holly Brantner, Robert Wilhelm, Lauren Gibson Schindler, Richard Zimmerman, William Basil, Marienne Daniels, Carol Rockwood, and David Schroeder.*

St. John’s Youth News

"Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others"





Congratulations to our Fall Festival dessert & chili competition winners!

Desserts 2nd place-Delle Vercimak (not pictured), Desserts 1st place-Charlee Dankenbring, Chili 1st place-Karson Sundberg, and Chili 2nd place-Tony Troyer.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our 2nd Annual Fall Festival! We especially thank the members of the Youth Huddle and the Outreach Teams for organizing such a wonderful intergenerational event. We are already looking forward to next year!

Confirmation Trip to Boggio’s Orchard

Our 7th and 8th grade confirmation class made the trip to Boggio’s Orchard on Sunday, October 23rd and had a great day! Everyone enjoyed the huge bouncing pillow, corn maze, apple cider and donuts. Thank you to Pastor Ken and Monica Zimmerlein for organizing and chaperoning this outing!



Congratulations to the following students who will be confirmed on Reformation Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup> — Sarah Brown, Addyson Champlin, Ally Denault, Alex Holland, Grady Jones, Gracie Politsch, Meredith Politsch, Joshua Shakespeare, and Aden Tillman. We will share a photo of this class in the December Eagle newsletter.



If you are interested in providing breakfast snacks/treats for our High School Sunday School class, please contact the church office. Dates are available.

Spaghetti Dinner

Our annual **Spaghetti Dinner** will be held on Sunday, December 4th from 4:30pm to 7pm. We will be serving you a delicious dinner of spaghetti with meat sauce, breadsticks, salad, and homemade dessert. Our junior high and high school students are looking forward to serving you at your table again this year. Please invite your family and friends to join you for this freewill offering meal. All proceeds will support the 2023 Mission Trips and other youth activities. Following the dinner, you are invited to join us in the Sanctuary for a special performance by the Mendota High School Madrigal Singers.

Our talented St. John’s Quilting Ladies will have several handmade quilts on display as part of a Silent Auction that will conclude on December 11th. We hope you will take some time to enjoy the beauty of these quilts, and place bids on your favorites. Proceeds from the Silent Auction will be donated to the Youth.

**Students** — *Information will be shared with you very soon regarding how you and your family can help with this terrific and tasty event. (Food donations, kitchen prep, serving, clean-up, etc.)*