

## ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

607 10th Avenue  
Mendota, IL 61342



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

Christ in Our Home  
October, November, December 2021



**The Christ In Our Home daily devotional booklets** for October, November, and December 2021 are available in the narthex and the church office.

We have regular print and large print copies for you to choose from.

### Find us on Facebook!

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



## October Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

### 75th+ Birthday



Oct. 4	J. Leonard Schaller
Oct. 5	Gene Schinzer
Oct. 10	Gary Duttlinger
Oct. 14	Richard Gansemer Linda Truckenbrod
Oct. 31	Jan Schuster



### Happy Anniversary Wishes!

Mike & Sandi Maas  
October 23rd — 45 years

## 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. Susan Garner, editor.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES BEGINS at 10am!

### Small Group Options for Adults on Sunday Mornings



We are very excited that our "Soul Sisters" group has resumed meeting during the Sunday School hour! All women of St. John's are invited to attend! Join us for laughs, tears, and everything in between as we reconnect with each other and our love for Christ. "But, I've never been part of a women's bible study group." Just come. "Am I too old for the group?" Just come. See you after the 9am service in the Luther Lounge just off of the Fellowship Hall! (Please wear a mask.)



The **Wired Word** group will meet around the tables in the north Fellowship Hall following worship on Sunday mornings. This group for both men and women is led by Mitch Mays and effectively applies the Bible to stories taken from the headlines of the day. We hope you will plan to join us!

St. John's Lutheran Church



# ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

Volume 51, Issue 10

October 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!

### Inside this issue:

Church Council Highlights	2
Susan Garner to "Retire"	2
Staff Update	2
Lunches for Learning	2
Info for 2021 Confirmands	2
Youth News	3
Birthdays & Anniversaries	4

## Harvest Joys

by Pastor Ken Gibson

Can you all tell that Fall/Harvest Season is my favorite time of the year? I am a product of the Midwest and, as you know, a professed "farmer wanna be." As such, the fall time of year is special to me. For me the fall has always been a time to celebrate the bounty of the earth and the goodness of the fruits of our land. With October now upon us I am excited and thankful for so much. I for one love the smells of the harvest season. My eyes are itchy, my nose runs, and I just love it! Yes, soybean dust and all.

Here at St. John's we are rolling like a big John Deere combine on a bright sunny day in a three hundred acre field. We are busy! Much of the business has to do with getting on with all of our usual programming, much of which was on break last year. I realize we are not beyond the Covid-19 pandemic, but still too we realize we must try and carry on with precaution and safety always in mind.

Our Sunday School and confirmation classes are in full swing as well as small groups for adults. These alone create a wonderful amount of activities for which we give thanks.

Make plans to help us celebrate the fall season with a Fall Fest in the courtyard following worship on Sunday, October 17th. There will be food and activities for all ages. Please note that the fall display in the courtyard is suitable for picture taking. Special thanks to Todd and Monica Zimmerlein for their effort in getting this in place.

There is much in this issue of the *Eagle* and I ask us all to find a way to be involved. Let us give thanks for the life together in ministry that we share. Thanks be to God! Pull up the grain cart and let's keep rolling! See you in the pews!!

### We would love to create a new membership directory.

Please take a photo of yourself and/or your family and email it to the church office at office@stjohnsmendota.org.

You are invited to use our fall display, but it is not required. Thank you in advance for sending in a photo. (We will have someone available to take photos during the Fall Fest on October 17th.)





### Church Council Highlights

The following are some highlights from the September 16, 2021 Church Council meeting.

- Council reviewed the Building Use/Covid-19 Restrictions.
- Our Sunday School children will follow Covid-19 guidelines similar to what District 289 has implemented.
- Pastor Ken reported that we will not be getting a Wartburg Seminary intern in January.
- Council approved hiring a Coordinator of Youth Ministry.
- The Task Force reported that they will work with the Mendota Chamber of Commerce on their "Operation Elf Action" program this year. More information will be shared as the time approaches.
- Beginning in October, we will once again be distributing bulletins for use during worship.
- Pastor Ken shared that he is in the planning stages of hosting a trip to the Christmas Markets in Germany in November of 2022. More information to come.
- We are updating records in our membership software.

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

Budgeted Income \$245,750    Actual Income \$250,709  
Budgeted Expense \$257,867    Actual Expense \$237,431

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.

#### ~ Staff Update ~

St. John's Church Council is pleased to announce that James Younger has been approved to be our new Worship/Music Director. James will be managing everything that has to do with Worship and Music, and he will work closely with Pastor Ken.

### Susan Garner set to "Retire"

I have often said that everyone deserves to be able to retire. I am genuinely happy for those who are able and have good and well-deserved time set apart from that which they have been doing over the many years. We should celebrate with folks who are able to enjoy their retirement times. Susan deserves to retire. As you may have noted up above, the word *Retire* is in quotes. "Retire." This is because Susan has agreed to stay on and will be involved in the finances and bookkeeping of the church. This is good news for us at St. John's. She will give up many of the other duties she has been involved in these past 13 years.

All this information leads us to a couple of things:

#1—We need to celebrate the dedicated service that Susan has put forth for our mission and ministry here at St. John's. Watch for more details about an opportunity to do just that.

#2—We will be hiring an office person to take on many of the other responsibilities that Susan has performed so well.

All in all, we have much to be thankful for here at St. John's and a long history of faithful people who have served this church over the years. Let us celebrate Susan's part in this mission and let us look forward to what God might have in store for us in the future.

#### Lunches For Learning



Lunches for Learning program and the specific school children in Honduras who St. John's has been feeding. Please make plans to attend. You will be glad you did!

Phil Dodson, Director of Lunches for Learning, will present a temple talk during worship on Sunday, October 10th. We invite you to join us after worship in the Fellowship Hall to hear more about the

#### 2021 Confirmation Class Information

Plan to join us on Reformation Sunday, October 31st as we celebrate the Confirmation of *Ava Beetz, Ella Coss, Natalie Hanaman, Lauren Holland, Quin Holland, Kennedy Knaff, Dessa Komitas, Ella Martin, and Jillian Younger*. Please keep each of them in your prayers as they prepare for this special day.

On Sunday, October 24th, Aimee Holland will lead these students during the Sunday School hour (beginning at 10am) to be fitted for their robes and to put together their special stoles. They will also be able to walk through their part of the service then as a little rehearsal.



## St. John's Youth News

"Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others"



**The 2021-2022 Sunday School "Rally Day" activities started our year off in a big way!** We are blessed to have classrooms full of eager students... and there's always room for more! Join us at 10am! We say "Thank You!" to this year's teachers: *Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd* — Sarah Coss, Melissa Doll, Linda Erlenborn & Lynette Piller; *3rd and 4th* — Melissa Nosalik & Dawn Kendall; *5th and 6th* — Charnelle Fara & Ronnie Bailey; *7th and 8th (Confirmation)* — Pastor Ken Gibson; *High School* — Lauren & Eric Anderson, Steve Dancey, Aimee & Troy Holland, Theresa Komitas, Kevin Wohrley, Laura & James Younger, and Monica & Todd Zimmerlein. After enjoying a snack in the Fellowship Hall, our 3rd and 4th graders were gifted with their study Bibles, everyone had a craft activity to complete, and students were able to visit their classrooms. Our Confirmation and High School students, along with Pastor Ken & Yvonne Gibson, Steve Dancey, and James Younger, spent the morning sprucing-up Apple Orchard Park with fresh paint on the building, big swing set and picnic area. We're off to a great start!



## Sunday School Classes begin at 10am

#### Confirmation Class News



Please keep our Confirmation Class in your prayers as they continue their studies this school year — *Sarah Brown, Addyson Champlin, Collin Coss, Ally Denault, Ty Florschuetz, Brody Hartt, Alex Holland, Grady Jones, Abbie Kreiser, Cole Nosalik, Gracie Politsch, Meredith Politsch, Joshua Shakespeare, Karson Sundberg, and Aden Tillman*.

#### High School Sunday School



High School Sunday School will meet on Sunday mornings at 10am in the high school classroom upstairs, The Upper Room. This year, our high school class will be led by a variety of adults — *Lauren & Eric Anderson, Steve Dancey, Aimee & Troy Holland, Theresa Komitas, Kevin Wohrley, Laura & James Younger, and Monica & Todd Zimmerlein*.

The high school class will continue their tradition of enjoying breakfast treats as part of their time together. If you are able to provide breakfast treats for the class, please sign up on the orange sheet at the sign-in table, call the office, or send an email to [laura@stjohnsmendota.org](mailto:laura@stjohnsmendota.org). Thank you to those who have already signed-up!