

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.

Pastor Ken is offering two weekly study options starting in September.

Beginning on Tuesday, Sept. 6th - "by heart: Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism" from 1:15pm to 2:15pm. Beginning on Thursday, Sept. 8th at 6am - Men's Breakfast Group will meet at Ziggy's. We hope you will consider participating!
Please contact PK or the church office if you have any questions.

September Birthdays, Anniversaries and Upcoming Events

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

75th+ Birthday

Sept. 4 Jean Schwingle
Sept. 13 Jean Carnahan
Sept. 29 Richard Althaus



Happy 50+ and Milestone Anniversary Wishes!

Jan & Judy Schuster
September 1st — 60 years

Gary & Mary Kay Sutton
September 4th — 57 years

Rex & Kris Blunk
September 22nd — 50 years

September Calendar of Events

- 3 Chapel worship 5pm
- 5 Office Closed — Labor Day
- 6 "by heart" Study 1:15pm
- 8 Men's Breakfast 6am
- 8 Heritage Health 10am
- 8 All Teams meeting 7pm
- 10 Chapel worship 5pm
- 11 Sunday School Resumes!
- 12 Rebecca Circle 1:30pm
- 13 Quilting 9am
- 13 "by heart" Study 1:15pm
- 15 Men's Breakfast 6am
- 15 Church Council 6:30pm
- 17 Chapel worship 5pm
- 21 Stonecroft 10am
- 24 Chapel worship 5pm
- 27 Quilting 9am
- 27 "by heart" Study 1:15pm
- 29 Men's Breakfast 6am

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. Ken Gibson, editor.



Thank you!!

The Task Force and Outreach Teams want to thank everyone who helped out assembling the 200 School Kits and the 400 Personal Care Kits on July 23rd. Many Hands made God's Work so easy that day.

On August 4th, Pastor Ken, Vicar Anthony, Ken and Laurie Ladenburger delivered the 50 boxes of kits along with 11 boxes of quilts to Church of the Brethren in Elgin. They collect these items year round and once they have a full semi trailer, it is driven to Maryland and the items are then shipped around the world.

Also, a big thank you to those who donated \$800 towards the shipping costs of these items. The Task Force will add to that and send \$1500 to LWR to help defray the shipping costs. Thank you!!



St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

Volume 52, Issue 9

September 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.
- **QUILTING DAYS** will be Tuesday, September 13th and Tuesday, September 27th.



Inside this issue:

Church Council Highlights	2
Making Routine	2
From the Stewardship Team	2
Rally Day Information!	3
Two New Study Options	4
Birthdays and Anniversaries	4
Upcoming Events	4

Before the Color Fades

Each year at this time, I find a special book in our bookcase at home. It is a book with the above title. This book contains many things from days gone by that the author recalled and loved about his life in the Midwest and rural life. The author wanted to get these fond memories of his life onto paper before they faded from his and our collective memories.

There are many stories in those pages that I, too, can recall from my life experiences. There are things like remembering party lines, which allowed several people to share one single telephone exchange. One would only know when to pick up the phone if you listened carefully to the "rings." Two longs and a short might be your ring, while two short rings then a long ring would mean the call was for your neighbor. I know it seems somewhat hard to imagine for many today, especially since most of us carry our own "private" cell phones. I wonder what our youth today would say if I told them they had to share a phone. There were times in those days that you would accidentally pick up your neighbors ring and could overhear a conversation that was not intended to be heard by you. When that did happen, one would simply say: "Oh, I am sorry. I will hang up now." We did not concern ourselves with listening to things that were not our business. Besides, we did not have the time.

There are other stories about such things as "hog butchering day" when the whole family would gather to slaughter a hog and prepare it for keeping and hanging in an old smoke house and how efficient the family was in this process. Everyone had a job to do and together it was done with much skill and expertise, and all would spout proudly: "We are going to use everything but the squeal in processing this animal." And indeed, they did.

The point of my article this month is for us to recall the things in life that have been special for us and are worth sharing. Each fall as we start confirmation class, I often share with the confirmation students the wonderful gift of faith that has been handed down to me through the years from my father and my grandmothers. I share with them the bibles that were handed down to me upon the death of my great grandmother. These bibles, many very tattered and torn, hold within them the message of God's love for us in Jesus Christ. I share how very special it is for me to turn those bible pages and see the passages that were underlined by my great grandmother in a bible she was given at Christmas in 1895. I share how special it is to know that she held onto this bible and read from these pages and how it was passed on to me to hold and to study and be moved by the words therein.

So, here are the questions I raise to the confirmation students and to all of us: "Where are your family bibles?" Where and what are the messages of faith that you want to pass on to your children, your grandchildren and even the great and double great grandchildren you may never come to know? Before the color fades from your memory, be thinking of those things that you wish to pass on in faith. What scripture passage speaks to you most these days? What is your understanding of the love of God for you and for all others? I recall our own family bible, which my sister held onto until her death at the young age of 50 years old. It contained a family tree outline in the front of it telling how we had become a family of faith. My niece now holds that Bible.

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

As the bright colors of the autumnal season develop before us over the next few months, may their brightness and beauty be a reminder to us all to share in the beauty of faith in Jesus Christ. Much like standing and looking at a magnificent forest, ablaze with bright autumnal colors, the beauty we are granted here is not for us to keep to ourselves but to be shared. I believe life in faith is more spectacular when we can say to a sister or brother standing beside us: "Look at that! Isn't it wonderful?" Indeed, before the color fades, share your faith. Isn't it wonderful?

~Pastor Ken Gibson

Church Council Highlights

The following are some highlights from the August 25, 2022 meeting of our church council.

- Council continues to monitor the Covid-19 situation in our area. Beginning on Sunday, September 11th, you are invited to come forward for Communion as we've done in the past. Those wishing to commune from their seats are welcome to do so. Individual, disposable Communion cups will be available in the narthex.
- We have been in contact with Willet Hauser, the company that will repair our stained glass windows. We are just waiting to learn an actual starting date for those repairs.
- Council recognized that Vicar Anthony Windau has completed his Seminary internship with our congregation. Vicar Anthony will now become a staff member as he completes his final year of Seminary classes.

Finance Report Year To Date thru July 2022:

Budgeted Income \$210,909 Actual Income \$192,581

Budgeted Expense \$221,020 Actual Expense \$220,399

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.

Making Routine

I've spoken before about the importance of routine in my life (mainly for the sake of Daisy and Chick). Still, as a creature of habit, once I start making time for something, I always do it. This fall, I invite you to add regular worship attendance to your routine! On September 11th, we kick off the Sunday school season with ice cream and games. Classes begin that next week—a perfect time to plug back in. While the summer is filled with vacation and traveling, the fall brings school, sports, and other commitments. Adding worship might feel like just one more thing on your plate, but I promise that spending at least an hour a week as part of the Body of Christ will add far more than it takes away. If Sunday mornings aren't your thing, St. John's has plenty of ways to get involved—Saturday worship, bible studies, small groups, service opportunities, and more. I'd love to have you at worship, not because I want butts in the pews, but because I sincerely want to see you! I'm looking forward to all we'll do together as Church this fall.

~Peace, Vicar Anthony

A Message from Steve Florschuetz, Stewardship Team Member

Stewardship involves so many things. It is the sharing of the gifts God has given us. This includes our talents, our time, our money, etc., all to be used for God's work. We take so many of these gifts for granted. Recently, I read an intriguing and inspiring book written by an NFL football player named Dennis Byrd who played for the New York Jets. The book is called *Rise and Walk*. In an NFL game in 1992, Dennis was paralyzed. The book is about his struggles after the accident to be able to actually walk again. He went through many triumphs and devastating disappointments along the way. However, through it all, his faith and the faith of his wife never faltered. One of the many things that inspired him was the story of Job in the Bible. Job, who had it all at one time, also had everything taken away from him. Even his good health was taken from him. In spite of all his struggles, he refused to denounce God or his faith. Did he question God? Yes, of course he did, but he still had his faith in spite of everyone around him telling him otherwise. There is so much we can learn from people like Job and Dennis Byrd. We need to be thankful for the gifts we have and be willing to share them with others in God's name. God help us all to be more thankful every day. If we are, the world would be a much better place.



St. John's Youth News

"Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others"



Mark your calendars for our
INTERGENERATIONAL "SUNDAE" SCHOOL RALLY DAY!!
Sunday, September 11th

9am worship — backpack blessing, installation of Sunday School Teachers, presentation of Bibles to our 3rd grade students

Following worship — Join us in the Fellowship Hall for an Ice Cream Social and Bible Bingo with prizes!

(Pastor Ken & Vicar Anthony will be our Bingo callers!)

It's going to be a great year of Sunday School and will be even better if YOU join us!

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Lunch In The Park such a success!!

We are so grateful to those of you who donated items, helped with set-up or tear-down, or worked alongside our youth; and we really appreciate those of you who came and enjoyed lunch with us! We could not have done it without each one of you!

Bibles to be Given to our 3rd Grade Students



When babies and young children are baptized, the parents, the sponsors, and all of us as God's people who surround that newly baptized child make promises. One of those promises is that we will "place in their hands the Holy Scriptures." That is what we will be doing on September 11th – placing the Holy Scriptures in the hands of our children.

Each year, St. John's presents the 3rd grade class with Bibles that are appropriate for their age. This year's group includes *Carissa Doll, Arya Fara, Landon Kent, Krew Knaff, Evan Komitas, Brogan Kreiser, Adelynn Landers, Brayden Piller, and Easton Pyse*. We hope that each child will bring their Bible to Sunday School each week, and spend some time reading and learning at home, too.



Our Sunday School teachers & staff will be installed during worship on Rally Day, September 11th.

We thank these dedicated adults for volunteering to join our Sunday School team and lead our children on their faith journey — *Melissa Doll, Linda Erlendborn, Sophie Holland* (Kindergarten/1st/2nd); *Melissa Nosalik, Dawn Kendall* (3rd/4th); *Sarah Coss, Theresa Komitas* (5th/6th); *Pastor Ken Gibson* (Confirmation 7th/8th); *Vicar Anthony Windau* (High School); *James Younger* (Music); *Kora Jones, Valerie Kreiser, Lisa Martin, Lynette Piller* (substitute teachers). We also thank our Educational Ministry Team of *Charnelle Fara, Dawn Kendall, Sandi Maas, and Melissa Nosalik* for all of their work in preparing for this Sunday School year.