

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Periodicals

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Dear St. John's,

Words cannot express my gratitude for the outpouring of love and support you all have shown. Thank you for the cards, gifts, and cake celebrating my time with you. Thank you!

With love,
Anthony and Riley

September Birthdays, Anniversaries & Upcoming Events

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

75th+ Birthday

September 4 Jean Schwingle
September 13 Jean Carnahan
September 29 Richard Althaus



Happy 50+ Anniversary!

Jan & Judy Schuster
September 1st — 61 years

Gary & Mary Kay Sutton
September 4th — 58 years

Rex & Kris Blunk
September 22nd — 51 years

September Calendar of Events

4 Office Closed — Labor Day holiday
7 Sarah Circle 1pm
7 SS Teachers pick up info 6:30pm / All Teams meeting 7pm
10 Sunday School Rally Day!
12 Quilting 9am (possibly on the 26th also)
14 Allure / Heritage Health 10am
18 Rebecca Circle 1:30pm
20 Stonecroft 10am
21 Church Council meeting 6:30pm
24 Quilt Sunday

"Share The Bounty" Surplus Garden Produce Table



Bring your surplus garden produce to the "Share The Bounty" table in the courtyard on Sunday mornings and take whatever you would enjoy using! Any produce left on the table after fellowship time will be donated to the micro pantry at First Presbyterian Church.

Attention St. John's Teams and Members

If you would like to use the church building for your meetings, please contact the church office so we can put you on the calendar. This is especially important as the building is being used more during the Call Process and with the addition of an outside mental health counselor seeing clients here. Thank you!

St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

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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 would like a pastoral visit 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.



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What Now?

by Ken Ladenburger, Council President

So, here we are. We said our goodbyes to Vicar Anthony, Riley and his girls (Chick & Daisy). We gave him a weekend of reluctant farewells. We wished him and Riley nothing but the best; and we thanked him for being a part of our lives for the last 20 months.

The weekend began Saturday night with a Trivia Competition in the Fellowship Hall. About 70 people gathered for pizza and fellowship prior to the competition. Smiles and laughs were all around. Nine teams competed for the chance to distribute a total of \$6,000 of Task Force money to a charity of their choice. (See page 2 for more information on Trivia Night.)

Then came Sunday, Vicar Anthony's last worship service with us. With over 140 in attendance, once again there were smiles and laughs, but this time they were joined by tears and hugs. Rev. Jen Beamsley, assistant to the Bishop, joined us as we officially ended our contract with Vicar Anthony as our Interim that began on January 16, 2023. The worship service was beautiful in so many ways. From the music provided by Raise the Praise band, the extra special music from Delle and Vicki, the closing Benediction from our St. John's Choir, the Backpack Blessing, the welcoming of Al and Kari Huff as new members, to the Laying on of Hands on both Anthony and Riley and of course, that special little hug from Lily Grace to Anthony. The service was followed with a wonderful reception organized by the Service Team, where we enjoyed cake and punch and each of us had a chance to say goodbye and wish Anthony well.

As I reflect on the time we shared with Anthony, first as our intern then as our interim, I can't help but point out that he came to us as a second chance. For some reason, God decided that Anthony needed to be here at St. John's, and He was right. I believe that Anthony needed us as much as we needed him. Pastor Ken was certainly a great mentor to Anthony for that first year, but for the last 8 months, we, the congregation of St. John's, became his mentor, his teacher and his family. If you think about it, what Anthony accomplished here is unprecedented and we should be very proud. Our Synod not only believed that he could step into the shoes of an interim pastor but trusted that we would not allow him to fail. And by God, he didn't! He blossomed into a one of a kind leader, filled with love and compassion for all of God's children. We've all said it. We were blessed to have Anthony here. But he was blessed to have us as well.

As we move forward, I ask that we all look back at what we've been through. Not to lament but to be excited for what is to come. We don't know when or who it will be, but God will decide. After all, we did pretty well when he sent us Anthony. He won't let us down. But we, as a church family, need to continue to gather together each and every Sunday until that void is filled. Lean on each other. Hug each other. And know that good things are on the way! Don't ever forget that St. John's is a special, well-established congregation with 165 years of experience; and we will continue Celebrating God's word with God's people, Living God's Great Commandment through His Great Commission for many, many more years to come!

Church Council Highlights

The following are some highlights from the August 17, 2023 meeting of our church council.

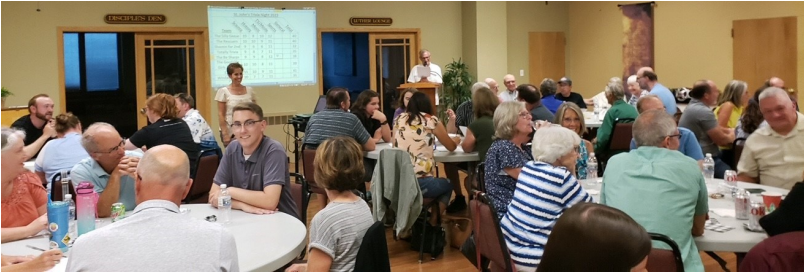
- This was Vicar Anthony’s final Council meeting. He shared a list of all of his Pastoral Acts for this year.
- Task Force reported that everything is ready for Trivia Night and Pizza as a final farewell for Vicar Anthony.
- Service Team will host a reception for Vicar Anthony following worship on August 20th. Also, plans are being made for Cocoa & Cookies to be served after Caroling and the Lighting of the Courtyard Christmas Tree on Sunday, November 26th.
- Educational Ministry Team indicated that Sunday School registration forms and letters will be mailed to families. Sunday School Rally Day is set for Sunday, September 10th.
- Property Team is contacting contractors about removing the dead tree at the parsonage, and sealing/painting the parking lot.
- Stewardship Team has reviewed this year’s Stewardship Campaign. It will begin on October 29th and end with “Harvest Celebration Sunday” on November 19th.
- Memorial Team approved using funds to purchase curriculum for our Confirmation and High School students.
- Outreach/Evangelism shared that they have donated over 80 quilts to the Veterans’ Home, Heritage, Stonecroft, and Another Child Foundation (Romania & Guatemala).
- Call Committee shared that Ken Ladenburger has talked with Rev. Jen Beamsley who stated that she’s been passing our information out, but has no news to report.
- Council voted to accept Allen & Kari Huff as new members. They will be recognized during worship on August 20th.
- The next All Teams Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 7th at 7pm; and the next Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 21st at 6:30pm.

Finance Report Year To Date thru July 2023:

Budgeted Income	\$188,561	Actual Income	\$193,412
Budgeted Expense	\$180,662	Actual Expense	\$173,810

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.

Task Force Trivia Night



On Saturday, August 20th, the Task Force hosted St. John’s second Trivia Competition in the Fellowship Hall. About 70 people gathered for pizza and fellowship prior to the competition. Nine teams made up of St. John’s members, some of Anthony’s family, friends and even one of his retired high school teachers competed for the chance to distribute a total of \$6,000 of Task Force money to a charity of their choice. The nine teams were: The Silly Geese, The Rescuers, Shootin’ for Second, Totally Trivia, The Be Sharps, The Good Ole Girls & Guys, SIT (Seniors in Training), The Windau Tribe (members of Anthony’s family) and Unnamed Table 9. There were 6 categories of trivia: Science, History, Music, TV/Movie, Sports and General, plus a double points category twist at the end. The first place team of SIT (Seniors in Training) chose to donate their \$3,000 to MASS (Mendota Area Senior Services). Second place winners, The Rescuers (Vicar Anthony’s team) donated their \$2,000 to Lucky Tales Rescue, the rescue where Vicar Anthony adopted Chick & Daisy. Then after a 3-way tie for third place was broken, The Be Sharps donated their \$1,000 to The Mendota Area Food Pantry new building fund. Thank you to everyone who organized and participated in this fun, all-ages event!

St. John’s Youth News

"Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others"



Mark your calendars for our

INTERGENERATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY!!

Sunday, September 10th

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

Following worship — Join us in the Fellowship Hall for Bible Trivia Bingo and Doughnuts!

It’s going to be a great year of Sunday School

and will be even better if YOU join us!

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 10th – 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 Robert B., Evalyn E., Lillian H., Kylynn T., Quinton T., and Lily Grace W. We hope that each child will bring their Bible to Sunday School each week, and spend some time reading and learning at home, too.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Sunday School teachers & staff will be installed during worship on Rally Day, September 10th.

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



Families with College Students...

If your student would like to receive the Eagle newsletter, either by email or regular mail, please let the office know. We would love to be able to keep in touch with them while they’re away at school.