

NEWS FROM ST. JOHN'S

APRIL 2025

FROM THE PASTOR

Fasting to Feasting

Human beings possess both a body and a soul, and Jesus became man to redeem both. As St. Paul writes in Philippians 3:21 (NKJV), "[He] will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself." Our bodies and souls are interconnected, not separate, and neither should be considered more important than the other. Though we are not saved by works, whether spiritual or bodily, physical discipline can yield spiritual benefits.

Fasting—abstaining from certain foods or all food for a time—has a long history in Christianity and is encouraged in Scripture. The prophet Joel urges, "**Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning**" (Joel 2:12). Jesus assumes fasting will be part of Christian discipline but warns against hypocrisy: "**When you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting.**"

Fasting is not for boasting but is a physical discipline to support spiritual growth, drawing us closer to Jesus and reminding us of our dependence on Him. It should always be paired with prayer. When hunger or cravings strike, we turn to God, thanking Him for His abundant gifts, seeking strength for our resolve, and asking Him to deepen our faith.

Fasting also heightens our appreciation for what we abstain from once the fast ends. As Lent concludes and Easter begins, enjoy the feast with thanksgiving and praise to the Lord. Savor a second helping, your favorite drink, or a sweet treat, remembering the eternal banquet awaiting us in heaven. Whether fasting or feasting, do so with joy and gratitude to the Lord who has redeemed both body and soul.

Pastor DeYoung

OFFICIAL ACTS

Funeral:

Ann Beckett

3/21/2025

THANK YOU TO THE PERTTU FAMILY

One of our long-time members who went home to be with the Lord nearly ten years ago had her wish fulfilled a couple of weeks ago. Carol Perttu designated a portion of her will to support the work here at St. John's, and her family was able to bring this to completion. Please consider offering a prayer in thanks to the Lord for how He blessed Carol in this life and for her thoughtfulness in this gift!

LENTEN DINNERS 2025

Date	Group Serving	Menu	Group Singing
4/2/25	Board of Trustees	Pulled Pork Sandwiches	Flute/Organ
4/9/25	-	Soup Supper	Children's Choir/Chime Choir

SOUP SUPPERS

On the weeks where no group is hosting a Lenten meal, we will be having "Soup Suppers." ***This Lenten tradition is common in many Lutheran parishes and is a simple meal of soup and crackers/bread. This meal will be self-serve; disposable bowls, plates, cups, utensils, and decaf coffee will be provided. There is no group assigned to clean up anything that isn't disposable. We ask that you take the vessel in which you brought your soup when you leave, along with whatever contents remain.*** Feel free to bring your own beverages if you want to drink something other than water or coffee. Please sign up for the final soup supper by using the link or calling the church office

Wednesday, April 9

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040B4ACA62EA3FB6-55085500-lenten#/>

FELLOWSHIP FRIDAY

We will not have a Fellowship Friday in April! Please join us at one of the Lenten dinners or Soup Suppers on Wednesdays during Lent.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN TRIP

Please join the Stewardship Board on Saturday, April 12th, for a spring field trip to Feed My Starving Children, a Christian organization in Libertyville, Illinois that utilizes volunteers to pack meals for children in need around the world.

Our group travelled to Feed My Starving Children twice in 2024. If you attended both times, individually you packed almost 1,200 meals!!!

Last September, our group was part of packing 122 boxes of food, which will feed 193 children for an entire year. That is 70,272 meals...and we are hoping to see those numbers grow this spring!!

Our packing time is from **2:00 pm - 3:45 pm**. We plan to meet at the Park and Ride on Highway 20 and leave at 12:45 pm to caravan down to Libertyville.

This is a wonderful opportunity to give back - we hope that you and your family will be able to join us. *Please Note: For safety reasons, Feed My Starving Children does require that anyone participating is at least 5 years old.*

Please sign up at <http://www.fmsc.org/join-group?joincode=N8NXGG>

CRADLE ROLL PARK PLAYDATE

Please join us for a play date! Intended for the youngest among us (newborn to those who haven't started school yet). Hoping the weather will be nice for an outing! Planning to meet at Campus Park in Mt. Pleasant (across from the YMCA) **Wednesday April 16th** at 9ish. In case of bad weather text or call Stephanie at 815-931-8790.

"BIBLE AND BREW" MEN'S STUDY

Our April Bible and Brew Men's Study will take place on Wednesday, April 30 at 8:30pm. This month's study will be held at Pastor DeYoung's house, 1106 Hialeah Drive.

TEXTING OUR SHUT INS

Some of our shut ins have expressed an interest in connecting with other members through text. If you are interested in reaching out to our shut ins by text, please contact me in the church office, and I will provide information for those shut ins that would like to be contacted via text. Thank you!

SPRING CLEANUP DAY

Come join us for our annual Spring Cleanup Day on Saturday, May 10th from 9 - 10am. We will spend 1 hour cleaning up in the neighborhood around church and school. This is a wonderful way to give back to the community that directly surrounds your church and school. We hope that you can join us!

"And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8

Please sign up at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0E49ACAA28A7F58-55170202-spring>

ST. JOHN'S MEN'S SOFTBALL TEAM

St. John's Men's Softball team is looking for new players for the 2025 Season. We are looking for a few utility players to fill vacancies on the 2025 roster. We play on Monday nights at Cliffside Park against other churches in the Racine area. The season lasts from May through August with end of season playoffs for most teams. The only qualifications are to be male, 14 or older, attend or attended St. John's Church or School and enjoy playing softball.

Roster deadline is April 15th. If interested, contact Carl Seils at 498-9357 (call or text)

USHERS NEEDED

The Board of Elders is in need of individuals interested in ushering during worship services. ***We currently only have nine ushers on our team and would love to have more!*** Thank you for your prayerful consideration in helping out as an usher. If you would be interested in ushering or have questions, please contact an elder or Kimberly in the church office at chapman@stjohnsracine.org; (262) 637-7011.

FROM YOUR DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

This Easter Sunday, you will hear our En chamade pipes (the horizontal reed trumpets) play for the first time since the Lenten season began. During this 'quiet' time, Nolte Organ Builders came to clean and tune these reed pipes. Enjoy!

Welcome Spring - a wonderful time to reflect on the seasons in our lives, how they shift and change, pulling us into something new, yet familiar, inviting us to change right along with it. "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1-ESV). We all go through 'seasons', some wonderful, and some not so wonderful. Let us be assured that even through our many seasons, our Heavenly Father is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. He is unchanging and alongside us through any season in our lives.

Save the Date: On Tuesday, May 27, 2025, our Choral End of Season gathering will be held at Reefpoint Brew House.

Save the Date: On Sunday, June 8, 2025, I will hold a Student Piano Recital beginning at 1:00 p.m. Please join us! The recital will be held in the main floor of our sanctuary. Light refreshments will follow the piano recital in Fellowship Hall.

Music is an important part of worship and praise to God. Sharon Adel

The Lord is my light and salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid. ." (Psalm 27:1).

SCHOOL NEWS CORNER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

March may be the official start of spring, but often warmer days are just a tease of what is to come-- still, our students are excited to be outside more frequently as spring arrives! Our attention at school has turned from the basketball court to the stage, as our 2nd graders performed their annual Tacky the Penguin play, and our middle school students have started rehearsing for the May musical, Schoolhouse Rock, Jr. This month brought the start of Lent, and we look forward to confirmation on Palm Sunday, as well as the celebration of Holy Week, including their first communion on Maundy Thursday. We look forward to these outward demonstrations of the work the Holy Spirit continues to do in our school each day. We ask that you keep all of our students in your prayers as we begin the last quarter of our school year.

DINING OUT AT CHICK-FIL-A

Join us for our next Dining Out Night at Chick-fil-A, 5315 Washington Avenue from 4-8pm on Tuesday, April 15. Show the flyer attached to the April newsletter or pick up a copy in the back of the sanctuary when you place your order. Thanks for supporting this tasty fundraiser!



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1-Apr	Daniel Feldscher	16-Apr	Lisa Bowe
1-Apr	Thomas Jaeck	16-Apr	Jenny Gilbert
1-Apr	Julie Schaefer	17-Apr	Bill Badley
2-Apr	Luke Pringle	17-Apr	Jerry Konecny
3-Apr	Grayson Witek	17-Apr	Isabella Petkus
4-Apr	Sarah Rieckhoff	18-Apr	Lauren Sollman
5-Apr	Herman Blaesing	19-Apr	Evan Dondlinger
5-Apr	Samuel DeYoung	19-Apr	Lily Krewal
5-Apr	Elliott Hansing	19-Apr	Samuel Riegelman
5-Apr	Beth Mohar	20-Apr	Lori Jaeck
6-Apr	Josie van Sliedrecht	20-Apr	Jacquelyn Kellner
7-Apr	Paula Bruening	21-Apr	Calvin Christensen
7-Apr	Bonita Liebenow	21-Apr	Samantha Nelson
7-Apr	David Monson	21-Apr	Shvaughn Paulick
7-Apr	Michael Schweitzer	22-Apr	Benaiah Hasseldahl
9-Apr	Jayda Burger	22-Apr	Susan Kish
9-Apr	Marla Gorelik	24-Apr	Daniel Jaeck
9-Apr	Owen Jozwiak	24-Apr	Henry Miller
10-Apr	Jeff Nelson	25-Apr	Mike Moe
11-Apr	Trisha Balke	25-Apr	April Otto
11-Apr	David Milaeger	27-Apr	Dorothy Miller
13-Apr	Patty Roberson	27-Apr	Declan Paulick
13-Apr	Julie Stauffer	30-Apr	Laine Beier
14-Apr	Mateo Bernal	30-Apr	Mitzi Gamroth
16-Apr	Robert Boehler	30-Apr	Brandon Kuske



We apologize if we have forgotten anyone.
Please contact the church office at 637-7011 to correct.
Thank You!

VANCO MOBILE AND ONLINE GIVING

Giving is easier than ever through St. John's Vanco online or the Vanco Faith mobile app. You can access **Vanco online giving** by going to the St. John's Church and School website; stjohnsracine.org. Under the church heading, click online giving. This page allows you to give to different church funds. You can choose a one-time contribution or set up recurring contributions through this site. Giving is also available through the **Vanco mobile app**. Vanco, our eGiving provider, has launched an updated mobile app called Vanco Mobile Faith. Downloading the new Vanco Mobile is easy! Head over to the App Store or Google Play to download Vanco Mobile for free.

To use Vanco Mobile, follow these easy steps:

1. Search for our church by entering St Johns Lutheran. Do not use any punctuation, and it is case sensitive
2. Create a new account or login
3. Select your gift amount, fund, and frequency
4. Enter your payment method and click submit to complete your donation.

Please contact Kimberly in the church office if you have any questions about or need assistance with the Vanco online or mobile app giving. chapman@stjohnsracine.org or (262) 637-7011



STEWARDSHIP CORNER - APRIL 2025

April 6 – Lent 5

Genesis 22:2 – “He said, ‘Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.’” It’s hard for us to even fathom a faith as strong as Abraham’s — he follows the Lord’s Word even when it seems impossibly hard. But he does so because he knows that the Lord only means to bless. What happened here to Abraham should be an encouragement for us: trust the Lord and keep His Word.

April 13 – Palm Sunday

Zechariah 9:9 – “Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” No king ever rode to war like this. But no king had ever come to wage battle by dying. In His Passion, our Lord Jesus gives everything He has and is; He does this to bring us from death to life, to make us His own people, and show us an example of self-giving love that we should follow.

April 20 – Easter

John 20:1 – “Now on the first day of the week ...” All is made new by the resurrection of Jesus! Even the day of worship has transitioned from the Old Testament’s Sabbath (Saturday) to the Lord’s Day of the New Testament (Sunday). For the Lord has made all things new: In rising from the dead as the new Adam, He has begun a new week for a new creation. We are also made new in Him — a new heart, a new life, new desires, a new outlook toward God. All this comes from our risen Lord’s grace. Especially after the sort of year we’ve had since last Easter, it sure is good news to hear that the Lord makes all things start afresh!

April 27 – Easter 2 (*Quasimodo geniti*)

John 20:19 – “Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’” The peace we have in Jesus is what makes a life of good works possible. Since we know that it is Jesus who saved us, and not our works, we are now free to do good works not out of self-interest, but for the right reasons: out of thanksgiving toward God and love for our neighbors.

LIFE THOUGHTS FOR LUTHERANS – APRIL 2025

April 6 – Lent V (Judica) – The Lord God forbade father Abraham from sacrificing his boy Isaac (Genesis 22:12). The lesson extends to us, too. Abortion is immoral because it is unnecessary. Jesus alone serves as beast of burden in the solemn rite of righting wrongs (Hebrews 9:14). This Word has become flesh in order to deliver humankind entirely from the death business (John 8:51). And we get to keep this Word precisely by giving it to neighbors.

April 13 – Palm Sunday/Passion of Our Lord (Palmarum) – Sinful nature prizes popularity, property, and power. It despises dependence and discards aging or gestating neighbors because of it. But Jesus proves that God has designed humankind to rely on Him and each other. His salvation comes about by humbly and happily entrusting oneself to an Almighty Father (Philippians 2:6-8). We need not take life and death into our own hands when we can rest upon His.

April 20 – Resurrection of Our Lord – The Scriptures do not limit the sanctity of human life to a few isolated passages. Almighty God has made abundant and everlasting life the point of the whole story. He intends His resurrection to encompass and affect every member of our race and every moment of our existence from fertilization to forever. Nobody need redo death now that Jesus Christ is undoing it!

April 27 – Easter II (Quasimodo Geniti) – Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed (John 20:29) that even an embryo is a life worth having. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed that even becoming incapacitated or uncommunicative is a life worth living. Blessed are we who believe the Risen Savior proves every life precious, even where mortal eyes behold only despair (Ezekiel 37:5-6)!

REFLECTIONS ON EASTER AND OUR SHUT-INS

Easter Sunday is GLORIOUS here at St. John's! We are blessed with a spectacularly beautiful sanctuary that will be brightened with arrays of spring flowers and an empty tomb. The Hallelujah Chorus brings tingles to our spines and the congregational singing of "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" can reduce any of us to tears of joy. Even if you didn't grow up at St. John's, you know there is no day more glorious here than the celebration of Easter.

But there are members of our church family who can't be with us on that day and will only be able to call upon their memories to remember what we still get to be a part of. Their station in life – through age or illness – is now "shut-in." This is not a message of sadness though; on the contrary, this is a message of an opportunity for **joyous service!** When we truly reflect on Jesus securing our salvation for us, the joy within us should be shared! We can do that by letting them know we are thinking of them with all the love our church family has, through the love of our Risen Savior! Please see the list included in this newsletter and **send Easter cards**, call them, and let them now they are thought of, or make a point to visit those you know... and go through the list and pray for all of them.

May God bless you as you bless them.

Julie Hagen (Cell phone 262-331-0052)

Julie_hagen@hotmail.com

SHUT INS

Name	Address	Phone Number
Pat Cole	6551 Mariner Drive, Unit 6, Racine, WI 53406	
Sue Erickson	9311 Angelica Drive Sturtevant WI 53177	
Gary & Shirley Filicetti	4710 N Main St, Racine, WI 53402	
Janet Fisa	McMynn Tower 110 7th St, Racine, WI 53403 Room #904	
Marcella Geyer	3139 Conrad Drive, Racine, WI 53404	
Gail Gotch	1916 Wisconsin Avenue, Apt. 359, Racine, WI 53403	
Joanne Griffin	3920 N. Green Bay Road, Rm. 74, Racine, WI 53402	
Mimi Hynek	5321 Douglas Avenue, Apt. 1156A, Racine, WI 53402	
Susan Monson	418 Shoreland Drive, Racine, WI 53402	
Kathy Patzman	5404 Idlewood Drive, Racine, WI 53402	
Linda Puchter	8600 Corporate Drive, Rm. 18, Mt. Pleasant, WI 53406	
Joanne Ruble	1108 N. Sunnyslope #104, Racine, WI 53406	
Judy Schweitzer	5643 Erie Street, Room 247, Racine, WI 53402	
John Smith	1636 Raintree Lane, Racine, WI 53406	