

NEWS FROM ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN

AUGUST 2025

FROM THE PASTOR

"For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from Him (Psalm 62:5)

Every two years, my family all gets together in Copper Harbor, Michigan. It's as far north as you can get in the Upper Peninsula. Lake Superior greets us coldly upon our arrival and stays that way all summer.

I am thankful for the work God has given me here at St. John's, now for just over twelve years. Our congregation is a wonderful group who trusts in God's promises and receives them each week in the Divine Service. Our school prepares young minds to better understand the world through the lens of God's Word, and readies them to serve Him and those around them according to His will.

There is rarely a quiet time when it comes to the workload before us here at St. John's, and that's a good thing! Our principal, faculty, and staff are committed to the furthering of what we do as a congregation and school, and Pastor DeYoung and I are glad to be a part of it all! At the same time, just as the Lord rested on the seventh day of history, it is good to take a break from time to time. I am thankful to have been able to take some vacation with my family again this summer. I hope you have had a chance to do the same, and if you're looking for a quaint place by a Great Lake other than the one here in town, I recommend Copper Harbor!

The picture below is my entire family—all 31 one of us! God's blessings to you and your family as this summer comes to its close!

In Christ,
Pastor Gilbert



OFFICIAL ACTS

Baptism:

Leighton Joe Schulz

7/20/2025

Funeral:

Joanne Griffin

7/14/2025

FELLOWSHIP FRIDAY

Please note that there will not be a Fellowship Friday in August. Please come to the Church Picnic on Sunday, August 24!

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH PICNIC

Join us for a fun-filled **Church Picnic** on **Sunday, August 24th, 2025**, from **12:00 PM to 3:00 PM** at **Smolenski Park**! ****This is a different location than previous years****

We'll be serving **tacos** and **hotdogs (for the kids!)**, along with **lemonade** and **water** to keep everyone cool and refreshed.

Please **sign up** to help us get an accurate count and let us know what **dish you'd like to bring to share**!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0E49ACAA28A7F58-56918403-stjohns>

Come enjoy great food, fellowship, and fun in the sun—we can't wait to see you there!

"BIBLE AND BREW" MEN'S STUDY

Our August Bible and Brew Men's Study will take place on Wednesday, August 27 at 8:30pm. This month's study will be held at Pastor Gilbert's house, 501 August Steet.

CRADLE ROLL PLAYDATE

Please keep an eye out in upcoming bulletins, the church/school calendar, and church emails for new Cradle Roll playdates. These playdates are intended for the youngest among us (newborn to those who haven't started school yet). We look forward to having you join us for our next activity.

LCMS YOUNG SINGLES RETREAT

Saint John Lutheran Church in Sycamore invites LCMS singles (high school graduates thru age 30ish, not dating, dating, even engaged) to join them on Saturday, August 9 (1:00-7:00pm) for a Singles Retreat titled *The Marriage Mindset*. This retreat will feature prayer offices, presentations by Pr. David Ramirez, indoor and outdoor activities, food, and fun. Participants are welcome to hang around after 7:00pm and play board games. Come and get to know other LCMS singles who faithfully confess Jesus Christ and the one true faith. More info and registration are available by scanning this QR code. Saint John is located at 26555 Brickville Road in Sycamore, Illinois.



FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN TRIP

Please join the Stewardship Board on Saturday, September 13th, for a fall 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.

Last April, we packed 122 boxes of food for Uganda, which will feed 193 children for an entire year. That is 70,727 meals...and we are hoping to see those numbers grow this fall!!

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.fmssc.org/join-group?joincode=EKBB7K>

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE ENDS

Sunday, August 31 and Wednesday, September 3 mark the end of our summer worship schedule.

TACKLING TOUGH TOPICS

We have a new online educational opportunity for you! It is called "Tackling Tough Topics" and will be focused primarily on addressing issues related to the Christian morality, parenting, and marriage from a scriptural perspective. You can find my new page on Substack and on YouTube by searching "Tackling Tough Topics" and following the link or scanning the QR code on the flyer attached to the email. (The flyer can also be picked up at the back of the sanctuary.) I encourage anyone who is interested to subscribe. If you have any suggestions on topics that you would like to be tackled, please reach out to Pastor DeYoung. This is different way to address relevant topics that I pray will be a blessing to St. John's and the wider church.

COLLEGE STUDENT MAILING LIST

Do you have a college student who would enjoy receiving mail from St. John's throughout the year? We'd love to stay in touch with them! Please update their current mailing address by filling out a form—available on the table at the back of the sanctuary—or by emailing the church office. Thank you for helping us keep our students connected and encouraged! Our first mailing will go out early in the fall!

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.

CHURCH ROOF PROJECT UPDATE

FROM ROD ADEL

Our church roof project is nearing completion and has gone very well so far. The tear off and reshingling of the church's main roof was completed much faster than our anticipated schedule. Christiansen Roofing wanted to complete the shingle portion of the roof work as quickly as possible so they could get the church watertight and avoid any weather issues. Increasing their crew size to 30 men during the tear off work and as many as 20 men during the shingling phase enabled them to complete the shingle work in 3 weeks' time. We also needed to remove the existing exterior light fixtures from the shingle roof and install new fixtures in alternate areas because they could not be installed on the new roof shingles.

Christiansen Roofing is currently working on the flat rubber membrane roof around the base of the main steeple. This work is very detailed and is installed on the outside and inside of the steeple structure. You may have noticed the removal of the large metal louvers that are located around the base of the steeple. Removing and reinstalling these louvers was the only way that the roofers could gain access to complete this work. Christiansen Roofing is also working on inspecting and installing new caulking in all of the joints of the metal fascia and masonry flashings on the exterior of the entire church. This work should be completed in about one more week. When the roof work is completed JDR Painting will begin to paint all of the exterior metal fascia trim, flashings, gutters and downspouts on the church. The decision to paint this exterior metal was made because of the fact that the small steeple above the chancel area is rusting extensively, peeling and needs to be repaired. All of the exterior metal trim was installed when the old roof was installed, so it is all faded and in need of painting. Like the old roof, after 30 plus years it made sense and was the perfect time to paint the trim and complete this work in conjunction with the roof work.

The anticipated cost for the roofing, painting and electrical work will be in the range of \$550,000.00. The funding for this work will be from various sources including the Endowment Fund, a matured CD we own, designated accounts and member gifts and donations. *To date, we have received almost \$15,000 in member gifts for the church roof project.* Thank you to all those members who have given or have pledged to give towards the project.

CHURCH ROOF FUNDRAISERS

LEAF FUNDRAISER

Help us "leaf out" our tree branches this spring by purchasing a leaf for our tree. Over 30 new leaves have been purchased and installed on the tree since January 1. If you wish to purchase a leaf, the money raised will be put towards the new church roof. If we fill all the branches with all the new leaves, we can raise nearly **\$60,000** towards the roof!

There are 3 different levels to choose from: Gold for \$300, silver for \$200, and bronze for \$100. There are order forms available in the back of the sanctuary, in the church office and attached to emails that Kimberly sends out. **Thanks in advance for your support of this Church Roof Fundraiser!"**

ROOF PLEDGE CARDS

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." (Hebrews 13:16)

In 2012, a significant amount of planning and work went into the renovation of our sanctuary to mark the 150th anniversary of our congregation. It required time, sacrifice, and money! We continue to appreciate and put to good use this space and our thanks go to those behind that renovation.

Today we find ourselves in need of a new roof, as has been discussed at a number of voters' meetings. Just like with a home, a new roof is an expensive venture! God's house is no different, although here at St. John's is a bit higher and larger. The drone footage used in two recent promotional videos on our YouTube channel offer a closer look at it.

Please consider making a sacrificial donation to help with these costs. Our congregation has always valued our building, and what takes place in our sanctuary readies us for our eternal home. In addition, our congregation has also valued the comfortable position of paying down large debts quickly. You can play a part in this as we go into this new roof, knowing that there will always be a place for you under it.

Thank you for your continued prayer, support, and for being those who receive God's good gifts of forgiveness and strengthened faith here week after week at St. John's!

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

August 2025

I am a busy person. There... I've said it in print! But I find joy in what I do in my daily personal life, here at St. John's Lutheran Church and School, and I love teaching piano privately.

Rest is essential for our personal and spiritual well-being, yet it's often underrated. Carving out time to be still and quiet is the most restorative for me. (yes, I do this!!) This gives me time to pause and rest in God's Word.

Jesus moved at a different speed as well. There were times Jesus needed to step away from all the good he was doing to commune with God. Jesus modeled the restorative practice of prayer and communion for us. Why don't we follow His restful example, not only during the summer months, but daily.

Workshop Tuesday, September 2, 2025, we begin the season with a handbell and choral workshop lead by Dr. Steven Wente, Professor of Music Emeritus Concordia University Chicago and Music Director First St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Chicago. We will begin preparing music for Sunday services and special festivals throughout the church year, including our traditional Christmas Concert. Our Choral Workshop is a wonderful way to try out Handbell Choir, Senior Choir, or both! *Join us and be prepared to be welcomed and loved by our members!*

"Fall" Hymn Festival Sunday, October 5, 2025 – 1:00 pm

I am so excited about this Hymn Festival. Thank you everyone who emailed me their favorite hymns. I had so many to choose from! Based on the request for many *hymns of faith*, this festival will be more like a "Fall" Hymn Festival. I know you will enjoy this time together. Please join me after the festival for light refreshments in Fellowship Hall. I look forward to kicking off this annual event with you all.

Save the Date – Christmas Concert Sunday, December 14, 2025.

As we wrap up the summer season, God Bless you all! Sharon Adel (262)822-1338.

Soli Deo Gloria – To God Alone be the Glory!

SCHOOL NEWS CORNER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Summer is flying by- hard to believe we are rounding the corner into August, and school will be starting before we know it. Thank you to everyone who helped raise money for our school by coming out for the 4th of July Parade Parking fundraiser- it was a rainy day, but we still managed to fill the majority of our spaces and earn some money for our school! There is a PTL meeting coming up soon- please look for the Zoom link in the email sent by Ms. Pesch to join in planning fun events for our students. We look forward to hosting the Bugenhagen conference this last week in July-- and then shortly after that you will see glimpses of teachers, hard at work in their classrooms. We will be welcoming several new staff members this year, so keep an eye out for their official introductions in the next newsletter. Our "Back to School Night" is Thursday, August 14th from 4-7 pm, and school begins on August 18th. Keep our students and their families in your prayers as they prepare for a great year ahead!

ONLINE GIVING CARDS

Giving a tithe or offering online has been available here at St. John's for a number of years. If you participate in this and would like to place something in the offering as it is passed during the service, please pick up one of the laminated cards in the back as you walk in. This is a simple way of showing, especially to children who are watching and learning, the importance of giving to the work of the Lord here at St. John's!

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

You can also scan the QR code below to set up electronic giving or make a one-time gift through our church/school website giving page.



STEWARDSHIP CORNER – AUGUST

August 3 – Trinity 7

Mark 8:2 – “I have compassion on the crowd.” Still today the Lord has compassion upon those who follow Him. He knows our needs, and He provides for us. Indeed, He does all this for us long before we think to pray for what we need, before we even know that we need it. Knowing the Lord's provision frees us from worry about our bodily needs. The Lord really does provide for us out of His unending compassion.

August 10 – Trinity 8

Matthew 7:17 – “So, every healthy tree bears good fruit.” As fruit follows from a good tree, so our good works flow from the cleansing the Lord has given us in Holy Baptism. In Baptism we have a new identity — we are the “new man in Christ” as St. Paul says. Of course, on this side of glory we still have the world, the devil and the flesh to wrestle with. That means that our growth in sanctification is a struggle. So if it's sometimes a struggle for you to be generous — don't give up! Keep fighting the good fight of faith, trusting in your Lord and His provision.

August 17 – Trinity 9

Luke 16:8 – “For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light.” The sons of this world know that they should use their wealth wisely to provide for their future. Shouldn't we “sons of light” know that the wealth God has allowed us to manage should be for God's purposes in the roles He has given us to play in church, home and society? Don't we have more to live for, more to work for, and more to give toward?

August 24 – Trinity 10

Luke 19:46 – “It is written, ‘My house shall be a house of prayer,’ but you have made it a den of robbers.” The Lord's House is not a house of merchandise or profit — it is a House of Prayer where people freely offer up their petitions to the Lord and their produce for His purposes. Generosity and joy characterize the House of the Lord, not compulsion or sharp dealing. “Freely you have received; freely give” (Matt. 10:8). That's pretty much the opposite of the world's marketplace!

August 31 – Trinity 11

Luke 18:14 – “I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.” Our works never impress God; they are always lacking in some way and fall short of perfection. So there is no point in taking pride in them. But a broken and contrite heart the Lord will not despise — and the works that flow from a broken and contrite heart are indeed pleasing to the Lord in and through Christ. These works will be used by the Lord for His purposes and to His glory!

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1-Aug	Connie Bernhardt	17-Aug	Wendy Struebing
1-Aug	Ashley Gasau	17-Aug	Wesley van Sliedrecht
2-Aug	Aidan Henslin	18-Aug	Spencer Knoell
2-Aug	Amelia Salinas	19-Aug	Mary Lee Anderson
3-Aug	Brandon Bernal	19-Aug	Valerie Garcia
3-Aug	Benjamin Holewinski	20-Aug	Eric Reisdorf
3-Aug	Cheri Petkus	20-Aug	John Smith
4-Aug	Kathleen Enstrom	21-Aug	Silas Gasau
4-Aug	Robert Palamolla	21-Aug	Jaime Rosso
4-Aug	Wren Paulson	22-Aug	Emily Heins
5-Aug	Jennifer Baylon	22-Aug	Amalia Morales
5-Aug	Kari Rosborough	24-Aug	Kyle Schulz
5-Aug	Ellie St. Martin	25-Aug	Shane Beecraft
6-Aug	Amberlyn Yohn	25-Aug	Jayden Cummings
7-Aug	Charles Fernandez	25-Aug	Lauren Mandli
7-Aug	Melanie Knoell	25-Aug	Hunter McCluskey
7-Aug	Carol Zanotti	25-Aug	Ricky Polack
8-Aug	Glenn Blaesing	25-Aug	Steven Riegelman
8-Aug	Melissa Mang	26-Aug	William Jorgensen
8-Aug	Kenneth Paulick	27-Aug	Aaron Block
9-Aug	Bryson Davis	27-Aug	Jennifer Dyess
10-Aug	Grace Allesxandro	27-Aug	Samuel Nolte
11-Aug	James Mahnke	27-Aug	Kathy Riegelman
11-Aug	Susan Prough	27-Aug	Ryleigh Wiesner
12-Aug	Joel Grant	27-Aug	Cody Winiarski
12-Aug	Roger Lofquist	28-Aug	Carl Benecke
13-Aug	Jon Grant	28-Aug	Randolph Cole
13-Aug	Mike Mohar	28-Aug	Lyla Martin
13-Aug	Chrystal Waterfield	28-Aug	Jackson Williams-Cannon
14-Aug	Allen Albright	29-Aug	Robert Smith
15-Aug	Brendan Naegeli	31-Aug	Henry Gall
16-Aug	Jelaine Douglas	31-Aug	Theodore Krewal
16-Aug	Paula Winiarski	31-Aug	Mara Widmar



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

LIFE THOUGHTS FOR LUTHERANS – AUGUST 2025

August 3 – Trinity VII – A human life’s significance depends on the breath of God from the very beginning (Genesis 2:7), even when it looks like microscopic specks of dust. What comes from one’s own or anyone else’s cannot impair or improve upon it. So let us receive them all as gifts (Romans 6:23) from fertilization to forever, even in surprise pregnancies or with terminal diagnoses.

August 10 – Trinity VIII – Adoption’s not an afterthought for our Almighty God. It delights Him to bring every human life into His family this way (Romans 8:15). This relationship captures the very heart of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. His grace has taught us how no child ever goes entirely unwanted. The same heavenly joy awaits all those who open their homes to little ones in need.

August 17 – Trinity IX – Abortion exists primarily to enable indulging in sexual immorality, and it always has destructive consequences (1 Corinthians 10:8-9). Instead, Christ Jesus encourages us—and even commands it!—to use all available means—mouths as well as money!—for receiving every neighbor’s life as precious (Luke 16:9). We have not only the responsibility but the privilege of ushering them to a sacred escape (1 Corinthians 10:13)!

August 24 – St. Bartholomew – Abortion and euthanasia aim to avoid disabilities by eliminating the persons who have them. The Christian community, on the other hand, regards persons with disabilities as reasons for rejoicing. Even the most fragile human bodies testify to the goodness of the God who created and sustains them (2 Corinthians 4:7-11). Let us declare and demonstrate how the life of Jesus manifests in every neighbor!

August 31 – Trinity XI – Only in 1 Corinthians 15:8 (“untimely born”) do the Scriptures use a technical term for “abortion.” Paul labeled himself like a miscarriage or one designated for intentional termination. But the Lord God intervened by reaching out with the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Savior dying and rising makes abortion entirely unnecessary—and diametrically opposite to the Gospel message and community.

THINKING OF THOSE WHO CANNOT BE WITH US FOR WORSHIP (our Shut-Ins)

2 Corinthians 9:8 says, "God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, YOU MAY SHARE abundantly in every good work." And so, I am asking you to SHARE for the sake of some of our most very special members of the St. John's family.

Can you share 10 minutes to write out a card this week? You can, because if God asks of your time, then you can assume that He has given you enough time.

Can you spend some money on stamps and notecards? You can because if Elijah could ask a widow to use her last flour to feed him (and she did) Elijah and the widow knew God would make it abundant! What we often forget when God ask us to give of ourselves, is that He has already supplied the means!

Consider blessing one or more of our shut-ins with a call, a note, or even a visit. If you struggle with what to say, just tell them their church family says "hello". Let them know we are thinking of them. Tell them "God bless you"! Remind them, their church family is praying for them.

Be blessed by blessing some of our church family.

May God bless you!

Julie

Julie Hagen 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	2262 Loni Lane, Racine, WI 53406	
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	
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	