

# NEWS FROM ST. JOHN'S

## February 2022

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From the Pastor

As introduced by Pastor DeYoung last month, this portion of the newsletter will be examining the saints that we commemorate in the Lutheran Church throughout the year. In the month of February, those remembered include Jacob (Feb 5), Silas (Feb 10), Aquila, Priscilla, and Apollos (Feb 13), Valentine (Feb 14), Philemon and Onesimus (Feb 15), Philipp Melancthon (Feb 16), Martin Luther (Feb 18), and Polycarp of Smyrna (Feb 23) [LSB xii].

Much can be read in the Scriptures about Jacob the Patriarch from his birth to his death in **Genesis 25-49**. His life is a very interesting one, and the name change to "Israel" which he received after an all-night wrestling match with God is an important piece of history for God's covenant people.

Silas is found in **Acts 15-18** as is known as a companion of Paul, beginning with his second missionary journey. He is also identified as Peter's secretary (**I Peter 5:12**). Silas suffered along with Paul and other leaders in the Early Church due to an unswerving commitment to teaching about Jesus Christ and His victory over sin and death. He was with Paul when God offered a way of escape from imprisonment, and then stayed back to teach the faith to the jailer who went from preparing to take his own life to being baptized along with all of his family.

Valentine is likely the most well-known saint among the secular world because he has a day named after him! Though there is far more lore attributed to Valentine than is truly known, the Church remembers him each year on February 14 as a martyr who was put to death around AD 270 under the Roman Emperor Claudius II. According to tradition, he was perhaps both a doctor and a priest, known for offering care to others in both body and soul. In the time leading up to his execution, it is said that the young daughter of the jailer where he was being kept was understandably quite sad at the thought of his death. He purportedly sent her a small note to give her comfort and encouragement amid his impending death. This is attributed to the custom of sending notes on St. Valentine's Day every year. As a Christian martyr, he knew with certainty of the victory every believer has even in the face of death because of Jesus Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection from the grave.

Polycarp of Smyrna was born roughly forty years after the death, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord. He served as the bishop of Smyrna, which is known today as the city of

Izmir and is located on the western shores of the Aegean Sea, almost directly west of Athens. Classified as one of the Apostolic Fathers, Polycarp was burned at the stake and then stabbed with a spear during a time of severe Christian persecution. It is of note that Polycarp was a disciple of John the Apostle, and therefore was one generation removed from Jesus Christ Himself! One writing of his has been preserved through history, an epistle written to the believers in Philippi. Though of course this and other writings of the Church Fathers are not inspired by the Holy Spirit or included among the books of Holy Scripture, they are certainly helpful in gaining insights about our faith and the lines of history by which it can be traced. When faced with martyrdom and coaxed to renounce Christ, he replied: "Eighty and six years have I served Him, and He never did me any injury. How then can I blaspheme my King and my Savior?"

God's blessings as we make our way together through the month of February!

In Christ,

Pastor Gilbert

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### WHAT ABOUT CHANTING IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

You have all likely noticed an increase in the amount of chanting/singing taking place at St. John's by us, your pastors! There have been some questions with regard to this matter, and this handout is meant to address it more broadly. We sought out a conversation about chanting at a recent Sunday morning Bible Class, so we have compiled a few questions and answers for everyone to consider.

#### **Q: "Is chanting Lutheran?"**

A: Chanting has always been part of the rubrics (instructions) and liturgy of the Lutheran Church. Although it has fallen out of practice in some congregations, there is nothing in our rubrics that discourages chanting. Martin Luther himself took great pains when translating the service we follow each week from Latin to his local language of German to supply directions on how to chant all the parts of the liturgy. To this day, our hymnal (LSB) contains all of the sung parts for both the pastor and the congregation in worship.

**Q: “Why chant?”**

A: All good traditions support what the Holy Scriptures teach us as Christians and as Lutherans. We retain formal practices, including chanting, because they back up what we have been taught about and believe is happening in the Divine Service. In particular, chanting serves to highlight the reality that we are worshiping the living God who, as we confess, comes to us physically from the altar in the Lord’s Supper. It also draws attention to the importance and holiness of the particular words that are being chanted. All of this leads to and is most evident with the Words of Institution which are used when the pastor consecrates the bread and wine used in the Sacrament. The formality that chanting brings teaches us that what is taking place right in front of us is both miraculous and special. It is more important than anything that can take place throughout our week, so it looks and sounds different. Consider why we dress up for church, for a wedding, a funeral, or another special occasion, or how we prepare our homes for a guest. We do this, in part, to acknowledge the importance of the occasion and out of respect. Nothing should compare in any given week than when we receive the gifts of God, and there is no guest more deserving of our reverence, honor, respect, and welcome.

**Q: “Why did this fall out of practice, and why don’t we recognize it when we hear it?”**

A: There are many possible reasons, and every situation is different. In many cases, pastors have simply not been formally trained on how to chant, or they are not good at it so they choose not to do it. In other cases, the influence of other Christian denominations and their worship styles have inspired a shift away from formal worship and toward an embrace of what is considered a more informal style of worship. No doubt, these changes were done with good intentions, but the desire we have here is to remain rooted in the traditional liturgical worship that has been handed down to us as Lutherans. This can include the re-introduction of practices that, with time, may have fallen out of practice. Our hymnal shows this in the many Scriptural references next to each of the parts of the liturgy, many of which call for or allow for chanting.

**Q: “Is it wrong not to chant?”**

A: Not at all, and it is understandable to wonder whether the introduction or re-introduction of what seems to be a new practice implies that what has been done in the past was wrong. The desire we have is not to change what has been established, but to build upon it. There have been a great many faithful pastors in the history of St. John’s, some of whom did not commonly chant. Every pastor has his own strengths and weaknesses and therefore brings different abilities and expertise to his work. Our goal is to use our God-given abilities to serve you as best as we can as we point to our Savior Jesus Christ who invites us to and meets us in worship each week.

**Q: “What if I just don’t like it?”**

A: This addresses the more subjective nature of one’s personal preferences when it comes to worship. It is normal for us to find ourselves more comfortable with the changes brought into worship by influences of what the world around us is doing or what is perceived may be more preferred. Though the order we follow in worship has not changed, and is in fact drawn from and soaked with the Scriptures themselves, the reality we do well to appreciate is that God’s Word and how He calls us to worship Him and receive His gifts of Word and sacrament have not changed! If you don’t like the way it sounds, you do well to consider these points and look to why things look and sound somewhat different when compared to what you are accustomed to, including your time here at St. John’s.

**Q: “What if I like chanting and I missed it when it was not used?”**

A: This is also a subjective matter, and you’re welcome to share your thoughts on it as many at St. John’s have over the past couple of months. Much of this depends on what we grew up with or have perhaps come to appreciate later in life. Music is something that finds its way into our hearts and minds, and this is why the hymns we sing and the musical parts of our liturgy have been set to music.

**Q: “What if I have more questions about this which have not been addressed here?”**

A: Please come to either of us and bring those questions! We will answer them as we are able, and some of these conversations may need to be addressed with more time than can be offered at the end of a service. We want to talk about this with anyone who has interest in discussing it further, and that may require a time set aside specifically for it. We will happily do this with you!

There is no denying the fact that our sanctuary here at St. John’s was built for sound and serves our worship quite well when it comes to music and singing! We encourage everyone to think about these matters and to give this some time with them in mind. All of this is done to point to Jesus Christ, our Savior, who leads us to our forgiveness and readies us to stand before the Father when this life ends.

In service to our Lord and to all of the people at St. John’s,

Pastor Jack Gilbert  
Pastor Joshua DeYoung

## **FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

Music in the life of the church was the creation *and* gift from God! Throughout the years, (125 years in our current building, where our foundation is rock solid), St. John's has certainly acknowledged the fact that music is given to us from our Lord and Savior. On December 12, 2021, our Choirs praised God and proclaimed the promise through His Word. There are two opportunities for members and friends of St. John's to enjoy listening to the Christmas Concert. You are welcome to pick up a CD (there is **no charge** for the CD), or listen to the Concert through our YouTube channel. Please contact Kimberly Chapman (262)637-7011 or [chapman@stjohnsracine.org](mailto:chapman@stjohnsracine.org) to reserve your CD. Our Music Ministry is the living voice of the Gospel! We proclaim it! Sharon Adel, Director of Music

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## **QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING**

The next quarterly voters' meeting will be held on Sunday, February 27 at 9am in the sanctuary. Please plan to attend!

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## **1511 N. WISCONSIN UPDATE**

Did you notice that the white duplex at 1511 N. Wisconsin Street is no longer there? The house was built in the late 1800s. We had the opportunity to purchase the home in August of 2021. Our intent was to purchase the home to create additional space for the playground area which now will include green grass. The house was taken down on January 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> to the delight and entertainment of our teachers and students. On January 13<sup>th</sup>, the earthmovers backfilled the hole and graded it. On Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> and Monday the 17<sup>th</sup>, the land was topsoiled, seeded, and matted. A temporary fence is currently around the property.

This spring, the playground fence will be relocated to include the new grass area. We are very excited about the additional space that we now have for our students to enjoy.



## **WINTER BLOOD DRIVE**

St. John's Lutheran Church and School will be hosting an American Red Cross blood drive on Friday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> in the school's gymnasium! Blood donations are critically low across the country. We are looking to fill up all of our available donation spots which are all located at the following link (scroll to locate our church and school):

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=53402>

If you have any questions, please contact Rachel Duchac ([duchac@stjohnsracine.org](mailto:duchac@stjohnsracine.org)).

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## **2022 ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR**

The flower calendar for 2022 has been posted in the church narthex. To sign up to provide altar flowers, simply write your name and contact information next to any available Sunday.

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## **ESTATE SALE**

The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual St. John's Estate Sale is Saturday, April 23 from 8:00am – 2:00pm. There will be household items, furniture, and various other items. Please drop your donated items off at the school April 18-21 between 8:30am and 12:00pm. A bake sale will also be held during the Estate Sale. If you would like to volunteer to help set up or to provide baked goods for the sale, please contact Curt Adel at 262-681-1114. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 262-637-7011.

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## **MAH JONGG**

Mah Jongg will meet on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month at 1:00pm in the school library. New players welcome! Contact Kristine Phillips at (262) 884-4703 if you have any questions.

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## **DINING OUT DAYS AT MARCO'S PIZZA**

St. John's PTL invites you to their next Dining Out Days at Marco's Pizza, 2061 Lathrop Avenue on February 17 and February 18. Please watch the bulletin and church emails for a flyer and more details about these Dining Out Days. Thank you for your support!

## HOW TO APPRECIATE YOUR PASTORS

There are many websites that offer suggestions of ways to appreciate pastors. Some of their suggestions include giving a card, holding special banquets in their honor, giving a trophy, or even a surprise vacation.

Now, these are nice things to do and yet they are also unnecessary. This is not how you should appreciate your pastors.

So how should you show appreciation for your pastor? To answer that question, you must first ask "Why should a pastor be appreciated at all?"

It's not because he's well liked, has a good personality, or is a snappy dresser. It's not because he's really good with kids or tells funny jokes. It's not because he's likable in any way. Your pastor may very well be someone you can't stand at all. Maybe you even pray that he takes a call somewhere else, and yet, you should still appreciate him.

Why? Because he's the one chosen to stand in the place of Christ for you. He's Christ's mouth for you, delivering the Holy Words of God in Law and Gospel. He's Christ's hands for you, delivering life, salvation, and the forgiveness of sins in the Sacrament.

You appreciate your pastor not because of him as an individual, but because of the office in which he stands.

So back to my original question, how should you show appreciation for your pastor?

Here it is: Simply let him do those things for which he is called to do. Go to Church. Go to Bible Study. Let your ears be filled with the Word of God and your mouths be filled with the Body and Blood of Christ. Receive what your pastor is there to give you. For when I urge you to go to the Divine Service and go to the Sacrament, I am doing nothing less than urging you to be a Christian. Be a sheep unto your under-shepherd, your pastor. Do this and your pastor, if he's worth his salt, will feel more appreciated than ever.

"For the gospel is not delivered unto us that we should thereby seek our own praise and glory, or that the people should honor and magnify us which are the ministers thereof; but to the end that the benefit and glory of Christ might be preached and published, and that the Father might be glorified in his mercy offered unto us in Christ his Son, whom he delivered for us all, and with him hath given us all things."

Martin Luther, *A Commentary on St. Paul's Epistle to the Galatians*, 5:25

Submitted by Peter Glassen

## AMAZON SMILE

St. John's just received a **\$85.80 donation from AmazonSmile**. Please consider supporting St. John's Lutheran Church through the AmazonSmile Foundation. AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support St. John's every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.

On your first visit to AmazonSmile [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you need to select St. John's to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) will result in a donation. Search for St Johns Lutheran Church – Racine, WI. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to St John's.

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## NEW VANCO MOBILE GIVING APP

St. John's is pleased to announce that we have an upgraded mobile app! Vanco, our eGiving provider, has launched an updated mobile app called Vanco Mobile Faith. With Vanco Mobile Faith, you can send a one-time donation or set up recurring gifts.

Downloading the new Vanco Mobile is easy! Head over to the App Store or Google Play to download Vanco Mobile for free.

To give using Vanco Mobile, follow these seven easy steps:

1. Search for our church by entering St Johns Lutheran
2. Do not use any punctuation, and it is case sensitive
3. Log in using your GivePlus Mobile user name and password if you have one, otherwise create a new account
4. Select your gift amount, fund, and frequency
5. Enter your payment method
6. Choose whether you want to cover processing fees
7. Click Submit to complete your donation.

Please contact Kimberly in the church office if you have any questions about or need assistance with your existing online giving or if you need help setting up a new mobile giving account. [chapman@stjohnsracine.org](mailto:chapman@stjohnsracine.org) or (262) 637-7011

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

4-Feb	Joani Miller	18-Feb	Julie Hagen
5-Feb	Stephen Bernhardt	18-Feb	Jordyn Radtke
5-Feb	Kristine Reisdorf	18-Feb	Kelly Zimmerman
5-Feb	Joshua Topel	19-Feb	Ann Rosenquist
5-Feb	Zachary Topel	19-Feb	Andrew Schaefer
6-Feb	Ashley Marweg	20-Feb	Cynthia Seils
6-Feb	Joshua Radtke	20-Feb	Elizabeth Roy
7-Feb	Kirk Albright	20-Feb	Loralyn Schalinske
7-Feb	Mary Preuss	21-Feb	Reilly Geary
7-Feb	Laura Van Schyndel	21-Feb	Dale Ruth Raboldt
8-Feb	Shannon Liebenow	21-Feb	Tyler Yohn
8-Feb	Al Smith	22-Feb	Gail Gotch
9-Feb	Sharon Bartel	22-Feb	Tamara Marini
9-Feb	Taylor Blaesing	22-Feb	Fred Rose
9-Feb	Kelly Glassen	23-Feb	Frank Allesxandro
9-Feb	Kara Kading	23-Feb	Oscar Garcia
10-Feb	Davi Jaeck	23-Feb	Aimee Marweg
11-Feb	Jennifer Jozwiak	24-Feb	Mary Luepkes
12-Feb	David Gall	24-Feb	Kathleen Patzman
13-Feb	Samuel Duchac	26-Feb	Jill Harings
13-Feb	Charlotte Fernandez	26-Feb	Richard Witek
13-Feb	Roy Hagen	27-Feb	Dean Bornofska
14-Feb	Amber Burton	28-Feb	Kevin Christensen
14-Feb	Edward Maresh	28-Feb	Carrie Messersmith
15-Feb	Cheryl Holewinski	29-Feb	Lillian Grant
17-Feb	Arlene Hugdahl		



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

## Life Thoughts for Lutherans – February

2022

### **Epiphany IV**

The whole creation groans (Romans 8:22) because of sin's brokenness. Every life involves suffering, especially as last days draw near and bodies begin to fail. Still such circumstances have significance—our Lord describes them as the labor of childbirth. Jesus redeems our weaknesses to bear witness of a better life by His power that sustains us in our pain (Romans 8:18). Injuries, infections, and impairments only affect us as far as He permits (Matthew 8:26), and elderly and terminal lives matter eternally! *Almighty Maker, comfort us with community in You even as our flesh crumbles. Amen.*

### **Epiphany V**

Abraham and God thought Lot's household worth having though they resided in Sodom (Genesis 18:23-32). Jesus dealt gently with fields of worthless weeds because He beheld the wheat He had hidden within (Matthew 13:29-30). Like surprise pregnancies and terminal diagnoses, there are inconvenient (and even evil) aspects about us all. If God desires and saves us still, how much more does the One Righteous Man's sacrifice make every human life a privilege, no matter what age, appearance, or ability! *Gracious Savior, lend us Your eyes to see past nuisance and receive every neighbor as gift. Amen.*

**Transfiguration of Our Lord** – Jesus radiates the glory of God among human beings humbled by sinful brokenness. This glory resides not in a certain age or a particular appearance or a specific ability but in God's love for us creatures as His children. Let us behold this glory embodied in the least of these and remind neighbors of their eternal worth. *Holy Son of God, lead us to listen and mimic You in respecting, protecting, advocating, and assisting. Amen.*

**Septuagesima** – God our Father can draw water from rock (Exodus 17:6), reward the unworthy (Matthew 20:9), and make the last first (Matthew 20:16). Surely He will overhaul our hopeless circumstances and lost causes, even when human pains and mistakes have brought them about (1 Corinthians 10:1-5). Indeed, we not only witness it but participate in it as well (Exodus 17:5). *Keeper of our souls, work faith in us and those we serve to await great transformation at Your hand. Amen.*

**Sexagesima** – God's Word does things, guaranteed (Isaiah 55:11)! That's because God Himself works in and through His Word, accomplishing His will. His work through the Word made flesh changes hearts. That is why Lutherans For Life bases everything upon that Word. When hearts and minds are changed, people change. People changed and motivated by the Word can influence and bring change to our society. *Almighty Father, bring forth fruit from the seeds You plant in and through us. Amen.*



Share the Love of Christ on VALENTINE'S DAY!  
 Send a note of love and care to our Shut-Ins.  
 "Let us love one another, for love is from God."

Louise Borgardt  
[louiseborgardt@gmail.com](mailto:louiseborgardt@gmail.com)

**SHUT INS**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
Merle Barta	5321 Douglas Avenue #304, Racine WI 53402	262-898-4000
Ann Beckett	6603 Medley Drive, Racine, WI 53402	
Betty Borgardt	<b>Home Inspired</b> 1201 Village Center Drive, Kenosha, WI 53144	262-859-2500
Leola Christian	5321 Douglas Avenue, Apt. 1324, Racine, WI 53402	262-886-0734
Pat Cole	6551 Mariner Drive, Unit 6, Racine, WI 53406	
Sue Erickson	5101 Wright Ave #215, Racine, WI 53406	262-260-8454
Gary & Shirley Filicetti	4710 N Main St, Racine, WI 53402	262-639-3721
Janet Fisa	<b>McMynn Tower</b> 110 7th St, Racine, WI 53403 Room #904	262-234-9859
Marcella Geyer	3139 Conrad Drive, Racine, WI 53404	262-634-8105
Gail Gotch	1916 Wisconsin Avenue, Apt. 352, Racine, WI 53403	262-221-6912
Mimi Hynek	5321 Douglas Avenue, Apt. 1156A, Racine, WI 53402	
Susan Monson	418 Shoreland Drive, Racine, WI 53402	262-639-8490
Kathy Patzman	5404 Idlewood Drive, Racine, WI 53402	
Linda Puchter	1463 28th Ct, Kenosha, WI 53140	262-553-9470
Edna Roberts	5321 Douglas Avenue #1323, Racine, WI 53402	
Marlene Roepke	1201 Kingston Avenue, Racine, WI 53402	
John Smith	1636 Raintree Lane, Racine, WI 53406	262-456-0073

