

# NEWS FROM ST. JOHN'S

## FEBRUARY 2025

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### FROM THE PASTOR

Every election year we are often tempted to get caught up in the moment. The news, the stories, the changing details from day to day, the debates, the rhetoric on both sides. For some, it is exhausting for others exhilarating. Perhaps for most of us, a bit of both. But as Christians we are blessed to remain rooted in something that does not change from day to day, week to week, or year to year. Our Lord is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. He still reigns in heaven, still hears our prayers, still cares for us, still forgives us by the shed blood of Christ. None of this has changed, none of this will change until he comes again in glory.

What I have briefly illustrated is actually the Lutheran dichotomy referred to as "The Two Kingdoms". To make this as simple as possible, God operates in our lives both in the "kingdom" of the church and through the "kingdom" of the state. Remember what Jesus said to Pilate when Pilate appeals to his own authority? "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been give you from above" (John 19:11). Pilate, though he believed he had authority of his own was still only operating under the authority of God. As it says in the Small Catechism's Table of Duties "Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God." God operates through the state in what is called the kingdom of the left. This kingdom is a kingdom of power, one which we are all acquainted with when we pay taxes or when we make note of the speed limit to avoid getting a ticket. It operates completely under the law, you cannot appeal to a earthly judge by saying, "Yes, I was speeding but what about the forgiveness of Jesus?". While we never negate our Christian duty to treat others with forgiveness, we do acknowledge that civic society operates differently than the church. At church we confess our complete guilt before God, that we deserve nothing on account of our sins, and yet we appeal to God that we be completely forgiven on account of Jesus. As citizens we cannot make that appeal, we can appeal only to our own innocence or guilt, and the judge must determine what is true or not. Like it or not, we as Christians live with one foot in the kingdom of the left (civic realm) and the other foot in the kingdom of the right (heavenly realm). This dichotomy

helps us understand two things. First, we understand that our civil rulers are all likewise under the authority of God. Therefore, if we refuse to follow the law or pay taxes or if we refuse to pray for our rulers we dishonor God. For God is the one who gave them the authority that they exercise. We are called as Christians to live a peaceful and quiet life which means being a good citizen who operate within the confines of the law and who pray for their rulers for health and to act according to God's Holy Word. It is not up to us to make things go the way we want, and it need not be, since it is God who is ultimately in control and who reigns over the kingdom of the left.

Secondly, this dichotomy gives us an appreciation for the fact that God deals with us by his grace. We cannot make an appeal to the Gospel when standing before an earthly judge. But we can and must appeal to the Gospel when standing before our heavenly judge. God created both realms for different purposes. For the sake of order and peace do we have earthly judges and rulers. But when the earth gives way and all earthly kingdoms fall, there will yet be our heavenly judge who is perfectly just and righteous. When he comes again he will judge the living and the dead. For the faithful who have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb they will come before this judge with pure white garments, perfectly innocent on account of the blood of Jesus (Revelation 7:14). May God grant this to all of us who await his coming, and give us hope and peace as we wait.

"Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation." (Psalm 146:3)

- Pastor DeYoung

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### OFFICIAL ACTS

#### **Funeral:**

Arthur Preuss Sr.	1-10-2025
Ken Weber	1-30-2025

#### **Baptism:**

Elanor Rose DeYoung	12-29-2024
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## **ABOUT THE "GESIMAS"**

On February 16, we enter into a season of the church year before Lent called the season of Septuagesima or "Pre-Lent." This is made up of the three Sundays (Septuagesima, Sexagesima, Quinquagesima) which come between the feast of Transfiguration and Ash Wednesday. The names are Latin for the number of days before Easter. Quinquagesima is exactly 50 days before Easter, Sexagesima 57 days, and Septuagesima is 64 days before Easter. This season serves as a transition between the celebratory season of Epiphany and the penitential season of Lent. During this time, we omit the *Gloria in Excelsis* and the *Alleluia* as we prepare ourselves for the penitential season of Lent.

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## **VOTERS' MEETING**

The next quarterly voters' meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 2 at 9am in the sanctuary.

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## **NEW MEMBER CLASS**

Our next New Member Class will begin on Sunday, February 9 at 9:00 am. We will meet in the Fifth Grade Classroom (upstairs in the school building). The class will conclude on April 13. If you or someone you know would like to become a member at St. John's, please enroll in this class through the church office at 637-7011 or by email at [chapman@stjohnsracine.org](mailto:chapman@stjohnsracine.org).

The material used for the class will be provided during our first morning together. The class is also open to any current members of St. John's who would like a refresher on what we believe and why!

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## **FELLOWSHIP FRIDAY**

Fellowship Friday takes place on Friday, February 21 from 5:30 to 7:30pm. *Pastor DeYoung will be making his St. John's famous tacos as the main meal!* Everyone connected to St. John's is invited to attend this event. Please come as individuals or families, and if you do, please bring a taco topping, side, dessert, or drink to share. If you are coming as a family with younger children, please consider bringing a game of some kind to perhaps play with others. The gym will also be open for part of the evening. If you plan to attend, email Kimberly ([chapman@stjohnsracine.org](mailto:chapman@stjohnsracine.org)) or Sharon ([adel@stjohnsracine.org](mailto:adel@stjohnsracine.org)).

## **"BIBLE AND BREW" MEN'S STUDY**

Our February Bible and Brew Men's Study will take place on Wednesday, February 26 at 8:30pm. This month's study will be held at Pastor DeYoung's house, 1106 Hialeah.

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## **CRADLE ROLL EVENTS**

### **COFFEE WITH THE CRADLE ROLL**

Please join us for a play date! Intended for the youngest among us (newborn to those who haven't started school yet). For the parents(s) there will be coffee and other adults to talk to, and for the kiddos new friends to be made and different toys to play with. We will meet Tuesday, February 18 at 9am(ish) at the Peterson House (1423 Borgardt Rd Sturtevant). Please RSVP to Stephanie at 815-931-8790.

### **COLORS & CUISINE WITH THE CRADLE ROLL**

This event is intended for the youngest among us (birth to those who haven't started school yet) and their families (and older siblings). Join us for playtime and dinner. Bring a food/dish to share and wear the same color as your food/dish. Colors & Cuisine takes place on Saturday, March 1st at Peterson House. Arrive anytime after 4pm. We plan to eat dinner around 5pm. Please RSVP to Stephanie 815-931-8790 by February 26th.

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## **2025 FLOWER CALENDAR**

The flower calendar for 2025 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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## **BLOOD DRIVE**

St. John's Lutheran will be hosting an American Red Cross blood drive on Thursday, February 27 from 10-3 in the school's gymnasium. We are looking to fill up all of our available donation spots. There is also a flyer attached to the email version of this newsletter with more details.

## LENTEN DINNERS 2025

Date	Group Serving	Menu	Group Singing
3/5/25	Board of Elders		Senior/Handbell Choir
3/12/25			Oboe/Piano
3/19/25	Senior/Handbell Choir	Sloppy Joe's	Piano Solo
3/26/25			Cherub Choir
4/2/25			Flute/Organ
4/9/25			Children's Choir/Chime Choir

## LENTEN DINNERS

We are looking forward to our traditional Lenten dinners again this year. The Board of Elders has offered to hold the first dinner on Ash Wednesday, March 5. We are looking for groups or groups of individuals that would be interested in hosting a dinner on the open dates. The Wednesday dates that are currently open are March 12, March 26, April 2, and April 9. If you would be interested in hosting a Lenten dinner, or you have any questions in regards to hosting a Lenten dinner, please contact the church office as soon as possible at (262) 637-7011 or [chapman@stjohnsracine.org](mailto:chapman@stjohnsracine.org). Thank you for your prayerful consideration in hosting a dinner.

## SERMONS ON YOUTUBE

We are now streaming live content through YouTube. The easiest way to watch the sermons live is to subscribe to the channel and turn the notifications on. Our channel can be found by searching "St. John's Lutheran Church and School Racine, WI." Every time a live video is being broadcast, you will get an update and will be able to watch it. The sermons are also archived on the channel, but are now accessible through the tab that says "Live" rather than the "Videos" tab.

## SCHOOL NEWS CORNER

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Every January, we celebrate National Lutheran Schools Week, along with over 2,500 LCMS early childhood centers, grade schools, and high schools around the country. It is a week to embrace what makes our Lutheran schools special- the faith in Christ that is taught and lived in our classrooms and community. We are celebrating with special dress-up days, team activities, fun snacks, and themed bulletin boards- but at the heart of our celebrations is the enduring message that Christ has conquered and that we are made new through Him. Our connection to our congregation is an especially unique and important part of who we are- it is through the love, support, and prayers of our members that St. John's continues to thrive. Thank you for all you do for our school!

## DINING OUT AT TEXAS ROADHOUSE

Join us for our next Dining Out Night at Texas Roadhouse, 6228 Durand Avenue, Mount Pleasant from 4-10pm on Thursday, February 13. A flyer is attached to the February newsletter email or can be picked up in the back of the sanctuary. Thanks for supporting this tasty fundraiser!

## FROM YOUR DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

In the book of Exodus, Miriam's song, "Sing to the Lord, for He has triumphed gloriously; the horse and rider he has thrown into the sea" encouraged God's people to sing of the triumph that God had won for them, how He saved them. St. John's Lutheran Church is a 'singing' church. We gather each week in Divine Service, hear God's Word, and receive the Holy Sacrament. We carefully choose our hymns so that what we proclaim, we sing, and what we sing is always in harmony with its proclamation.

In January, we began our new year remembering a wonderful Christian, man who is now in God's great glory, former Director of Music, and former school teacher, Mr. Arthur Preuss, Sr. It was a beautiful Christian service filled with God's Word and the hymnody that was important to Mr. Preuss and to us all. Thank you all members, past and present, of the Senior Choir for willingly coming together to sing a beautiful Choral benediction in Mr. Preuss' funeral. Thank you also to the Trumpet players that joined us for enhancing our hymns during the service.

May God Bless us all as we move forward into 2025, and may God Bless America!

Where there is devotional music, God is *always* at hand with His gracious presence  
J.S. Bach



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

<b>1-Feb</b>	Steven Matter	<b>18-Feb</b>	Julie Hagen
<b>4-Feb</b>	Joani Miller	<b>18-Feb</b>	Jordyn Radtke
<b>5-Feb</b>	Stephen Bernhardt	<b>19-Feb</b>	Ann Rosenquist
<b>5-Feb</b>	Kristine Reisdorf	<b>19-Feb</b>	Andrew Rosenquist
<b>6-Feb</b>	Joshua Radtke	<b>19-Feb</b>	Cynthia Seils
<b>7-Feb</b>	Mary Preuss	<b>20-Feb</b>	Loralyn Schalinske
<b>7-Feb</b>	Laura Van Schyndel	<b>21-Feb</b>	Dale Ruth Raboldt
<b>8-Feb</b>	Shannon Liebenow	<b>21-Feb</b>	Tyler Yohn
<b>8-Feb</b>	Al Smith	<b>22-Feb</b>	Gail Gotch
<b>9-Feb</b>	Sharon Bartel	<b>22-Feb</b>	Tamara Marini
<b>9-Feb</b>	Taylor Blaesing	<b>22-Feb</b>	Fred Rose
<b>9-Feb</b>	Kelly Glassen	<b>23-Feb</b>	Frank Allesxandro
<b>9-Feb</b>	Kara Kading	<b>23-Feb</b>	Oscar Garcia
<b>10-Feb</b>	David Jaeck	<b>23-Feb</b>	Aimee Marweg
<b>11-Feb</b>	Jennifer Jozwiak	<b>24-Feb</b>	Tucker Krewal
<b>12-Feb</b>	David Gall	<b>24-Feb</b>	Mary Luepkes
<b>13-Feb</b>	Samuel Duchac	<b>24-Feb</b>	Kathleen Patzman
<b>13-Feb</b>	Charlotte Fernandez	<b>26-Feb</b>	Richard Witek
<b>13-Feb</b>	Roy Hagen	<b>26-Feb</b>	Jill Harings
<b>14-Feb</b>	Edward Maresh	<b>28-Feb</b>	Carrie Messersmith
<b>14-Feb</b>	Sebastian Miller	<b>28-Feb</b>	Yvonne Raetzke
<b>15-Feb</b>	Cheryl Holewinski	<b>29-Feb</b>	Lillian Grant
<b>17-Feb</b>	Arlene Hugdahl		



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](mailto:chapman@stjohnsracine.org) or (262) 637-7011.

**GIVING**  
*as an act of worship*  
**BEFORE GOD**  
2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15

## STEWARDSHIP CORNER - FEBRUARY 2025

February 2 – Presentation of Our Lord and Purification of Mary/Candlemas

**Luke 2:24** – “[They went] to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.’” Throughout the Old and New Testaments, God gives us the pattern of proportional giving. If you look at Leviticus 12, you’ll see that the sacrifice for purification was either a lamb or a pair of birds if the family had no means to buy a lamb. God calls us to give in proportion to how He has blessed us — and of course Jesus sets the pattern by giving not only a portion, but His all.

February 9 – Transfiguration

**Matthew 17:8** – “**And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.**” Moses and Elijah point to Jesus, and speak about Jesus and His sacrifice, and then they are happy to fade into the background. They know that what we need is Jesus. With our eyes focused on Him and Him alone, the rest of our lives comes into focus. He is primary, all else secondary. When that order is right in our lives, things truly fall into place. Or as Jesus Himself said, “Seek first the kingdom of God and all these things will be added unto you.”

February 16 – *Septuagesima*

**Matthew 20:9** – “**And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius.**” That’s not what they were expecting! The generosity of God is surprising because we are often so tightfisted. But the Lord gives out of His grace, better than we could deserve or even hope for. Living a godly life means living in imitation of God — and surely one of the foundations of God’s being is His surprising generosity. How is the Lord calling you to generous living in His image?

February 23 – *Sexagesima*

**Luke 8:11** – “**The seed is the word of God.**” The plant begins as a seed — and everything in the church begins with the Word. “In the beginning ... the Word was with God” (John 1:1). “He saved us ... by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit” (Titus 3:5). “The word of our God will stand forever” (Is. 40:8). We never outgrow our need to hear the Word of God. We will never achieve such greatness that we don’t need the blessings of God’s Word. Rather, the Christian life is one of always striving to conform our lives to God’s Word — to live out the truth of our Baptisms, that we are God’s children by the power of His Word.

## LIFE THOUGHTS FOR LUTHERANS – FEBRUARY 2025

**February 2 – Purification of Mary/Presentation of Our Lord** – Ever since sinfulness first afflicted creation, labor and delivery shed a mother’s blood. The Law of the Lord laments that this echo and threat of death operates right where human life emerges from. So He intervenes with atonement to preserve that precious life. And Jesus embodies this opposition to abortion from the very beginning (Luke 2:22-24).

**February 9 – Transfiguration of Our Lord** – God has a habit of hiding great glory in ordinary and otherwise unfit settings. So, in thirty-something manual laborer Jesus, the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily (Matthew 17:2, 5). Through bloody crucifixion, forgiveness and salvation sneak in. Everyday syllables, tap water, bits of bread, and sips of wine smuggle everlasting life. And frightened bellies, frozen labs, nursing homes, and hospitalized comas cradle priceless treasures bearing God’s own image.

**February 16 – Septuagesima** – Our Almighty Maker has blessed us with bodies for enjoyment. He has entrusted them to our control (1 Corinthians 9:26-27), but this means more than the mere “my body, my choice” indulgence of appetites. The greater gratification comes from receiving and serving even the least neighbor (1 Corinthians 9:22). Who are we to lie silent about the sanctity of life and thereby withhold the divine invitation to such a delightful discipline?

**February 23 – Sexagesima** – Surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis confront us with our own weakness. It even leads some to exclude embryos or incapacitated persons from humankind and execute them because of their weakness. Almighty God promises, “My power is made perfect precisely in your weaknesses.” His grace radiates in human frailty, and the blessings He brings in every life more than make up for what we cannot.

## **FEBRUARY SHUT IN INFORMATION**

What's the first thing we associate with the month of February....most likely it's Valentines Day and Love.

The Lord speaks to us in John 13:34

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another."

Please consider doing as our Lord commands and reach out to one or more of our Shut-Ins with a note or phone call to let them know we love and care about them. It just takes a small amount of time, but it means so much to them.

Thank you caring for our St. John's Shut-In Family.

Julie Hagen

[Julie\\_hagen@hotmail.com](mailto:Julie_hagen@hotmail.com)

262-331-0052

### **SHUT INS**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
Ann Beckett	6603 Medley Drive, Racine, WI 53402	
Pat Cole	6551 Mariner Drive, Unit 6, Racine, WI 53406	
Sue Erickson	3205 Wood Road, Rm 225, Racine, WI 53406	
Gary & Shirley Filicetti	4710 N Main St, Racine, WI 53402	
Janet Fisa	<b>McMynn Tower</b> 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	