

# NEWS FROM ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN

## JANUARY 2026

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### FROM THE PASTOR

In December, as Christmas approaches and then passes by, we talk about the Twelve Days of Christmas. In January, and at the start of a new year, we talk about dropping bad habits and starting up new ones. I hope you'll find a way to add Twelve Minutes a Day that you can dedicate to hearing the Lord as He speaks through His Word!

Some of you are already in the habit of spending time in God's Word each day. This is a very good habit, and one that is fitting for every Christian! Martin Luther is said to have released God's Word among the people through his translation work. He began in while in hiding, after Pope Leo X declared him a heretic and sought his life. Rather than feeling sorry for himself and moping about, he used his time well at the Wartburg castle. There he translated the New Testament into German, over the course of roughly eleven weeks, and with the help of the recently invented printing press, God's Word was placed into the hands of the people.

The Bible is available in a great many languages and translations, including English of course. It is accessible through daily reading apps on a smartphone, or by opening a printed copy and using a good old-fashioned bookmark!

I encourage you to take a look at how you spend your free time, either as an individual or as a family if you live with others in your home. I'm certain you can find twelve minutes every day to examine once more the promises God has set apart for those who love Him. If you do it, you can get through the whole of Holy Scripture over the course of this new year!

God's blessings as we enter into 2026 together! Please note, this is a shorter 'From the Pastor' segment in order for you to get a jump start.

In Christ,  
Pastor Gilbert

### OFFICIAL ACTS

#### **Funeral:**

Mimi Hynek 12-14-2025

#### **Baptisms:**

Carter Thomas Stein 12-23-2025

Nico Brown 12-27-2025

#### **Confirmations:**

Liam Madden 12-21-2025

Sofia Marini 12-21-2025

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### SUNDAY SCHOOL INFORMATION

Join us for Sunday School! We meet from 9:00-10:00. Bring your children and grandchildren to hear the stories of God's love. Our classes meet in the following locations:

3, 4, & 5 year olds — Pre-K 4 classroom in the basement

1st & 2nd grades — Chapel by the Erie Street door

3rd, 4th, & 5th grades — library on the second floor

6th, 7th, & 8th grades — faculty room near the N Wisconsin Street door

high school students — 7th grade room on the second floor

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### SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER NEEDED

Thank you to Vanessa Luther for teaching our 6-8th grade Sunday School for many years! She has found it necessary to step down from this position and we would like to see it filled. The material used for the class can be provided by St. John's through Concordia Publishing House. If you'd like to learn more about it, please contact the church office or one of the pastors.

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### CRADLE ROLL PLAYDATE

Save the date for Monday, January 19 for a cradle roll playdate. Details are pending, but please stay tuned for more information as the date gets closer. We hope to include families with young school age children in this event, since it is an off day for many schools including St. John's. Text or call Stephanie at 815-931-8790 with questions.

## **ENDOWMENT APPLICATIONS**

Applications are now being accepted for consideration by the Endowment Committee for funds from the Endowment Fund. If you have a project or funding request for the Endowment Committee, please submit your endowment application to the church office by **January 15**. An application is attached to the electronic copy of this newsletter. Applications can also be picked up in the back of the sanctuary or from the church office.

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## **FELLOWSHIP FRIDAY**

Fellowship Friday will be held on Friday, January 16 from 5:30-7:30 in the cafeteria. Mostaccioli will be provided 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 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)).

Just a note that we will not have a Fellowship Friday get together in February, March, and April due to Lent and Easter! Please join us at one of the Lenten dinners on Wednesdays during Lent instead.

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## **MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER NOMINATIONS SOUGHT**

St. John's Lutheran School is seeking a candidate for the role of middle school science teacher for the 2026-2027 school year. If you or someone you know might be a good fit for this position, please fill out one of the nomination forms located in the back of the sanctuary and turn it in to the church office, or contact Emily Heins at [heins@stjohnsracine.org](mailto:heins@stjohnsracine.org). ***Nomination forms are due by Sunday, January 25.***

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

Our January Bible and Brew Men's Study will take place on Wednesday, January 28 at 8:30pm. This month's study will be held at Pastor DeYoung's house, 1106 Hialeah.

## **CALLING ALL MEN OF ST. JOHN'S**

Join Pastor DeYoung and hundreds of men across our Synod in the Memento 70 challenge. This is a call to bodily and spiritual discipline, devotion in the Word of God, and brotherly encouragement. You can find out more about Memento by visiting their website [[memento70.com](http://memento70.com)]. You can also scan the QR code attached to the church emails, and on flyers posted in the narthex.

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## **2026 FLOWER CALENDAR**

The flower calendar for 2026 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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## **2026 GIVING ENVELOPES**

Giving envelopes for 2026 are now available! You can pick yours up in the back of the sanctuary. If you give online with Vanco or through another means, envelopes were not issued. If you would still like to receive a box of giving envelopes, please let Kimberly know.

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## **USHERS NEEDED**

The Board of Elders is in need of individuals interested in ushering during worship services. Thank you for your prayerful consideration in helping out as an usher. If you would be interested in ushering, please contact an elder or Kimberly in the church office at [chapman@stjohnsracine.org](mailto:chapman@stjohnsracine.org); (262) 637-7011.

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## **PROPOSED CONSTITUTION BYLAWS CHANGE**

At the last voter's meeting, a possible change to the congregation's bylaws was brought forward with regards to call procedures for teachers. To read the proposed change, please contact the church office for a copy. The change will be voted on at the next congregational voter's meeting on February 1.

## **CHURCH ROOF UPDATE**

The church roof replacement and painting of the fascia metal has been paid in full. Through member special gifts and leaf purchases we have raised approximately \$142,000.00. The remainder came from member memorials, and funds from the designated renovation account. The complete project cost was approximately \$500,000.00. Thank you for your support and special gifts to help defray the cost of the roof project. You can still 'leaf out' our tree branches by purchasing a leaf for our tree. There are three different levels to choose from: Gold for \$300, silver for \$200, and bronze for \$100. There are order forms available at the back of the sanctuary, in the church office and attached to emails that Kimberly sends out.

Rodney Adel, Congregation Chairman

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## **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.

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## **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 below. (A 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.



## **SCHOOL NEWS CORNER**

### **FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

Happy New Year, St. John's! Our hallways were filled with lights, Christmas carols, and joy before letting out for the holiday break. Now as we take down decorations and wrap up second quarter, we prepare for a different festivity- our annual Lutheran Schools Week celebration at the end of January, a tradition that recognizes everything that makes our Lutheran School special. One of the most important parts of being a Lutheran School is our connection to our congregation- we are so grateful for the support our members give us throughout the school year! We hope you will continue to keep our students and staff in your prayers as we head into 2026, trusting in God's plan for our school in the coming year.

### **DINING OUT NIGHT**

Join us for our next Dining Out Day at Panda Express, 5417 Washington Avenue on Tuesday, January 13 from 10am-9:30pm. Please see the flyer attached to this emailed newsletter or pick up a copy in the back of the sanctuary for all the details.

### **BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION**

We have an account with Box Tops for Education. If you would like to help raise funds for our school, please follow the steps below.

- Download the Box Tops for Education app on your phone and create an account.
- You scan your store receipt from the app and submit it. You can also upload a digital receipt. The program will automatically find products that are Box Top eligible.
- You can also link your Walmart account to the Box Tops for Education app, and it will automatically redeem Box Tops points when you shop at Walmart.
- There is a list of eligible products on the app.

Miss Pesch has put an envelope/box by her classroom for store receipts if you are unable to scan your receipts. She'd be happy to scan them for you. If you have any other questions, please let Miss Pesch know.

## NOTES FROM YOUR MUSIC DIRECTOR!

Welcome, 2026! With the Advent and Christmas season behind us, let us continue rejoicing!! The Bible invites us to *'Rejoice in the Lord.'* In his letter to the Philippians, and while he was under house arrest, Paul wrote: *Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. . . .* Philippians 3:1. Even when our circumstances are not what we would like, we are encouraged to *"Rejoice in the Lord always."* Remember, God's love for us never changes. He is *ever faithful!* As we look at the new year ahead, remember to embrace the *joy* of the newborn King and keep that close to our hearts each day.

Thank you for attending our Christmas Concert on December 14<sup>th</sup>, it was wonderful to see so many of you. Each year, we get excited about sharing God's Word foretelling of the Messiah who would be sent by God to earth. Beautiful, sparkling music from our musicians is woven around the promise of our King that *changed the World* not by might, but by the power of His love *alone*.

Thank you, Senior Choir, Handbell Choir, Hand Chime Choir, Children's Choir, soloists, and all instrumentalists for your unconditional time and talent. I am very grateful for the talents you shared with all of us. To my choirs, I send you the warmest of greetings and hope that the new year brings you joy, peace, and meaningful music-making.

The Christmas Concert was streamed through our St. John's Lutheran Church YouTube channel, and you can view it there if you would like.

Thank you, Diane, Peter and Kelly Glassen for setting up and leading the reception after the concert. You made sure everyone had plenty of wonderful treats. I truly appreciate your covering this part of the concert! God bless you!

Our Senior Choir went Christmas Caroling on Tuesday, December 16th. We sang for the residents of The Woods of Caledonia, Shorelight at Sienna, and Sienna Memory Care. We find it a true joy to share the love of God through our music, as we always do each year.

The Advent Hymn-Sing held on Wednesday, December 31st is always a wonderful time for us to come together and choose our favorite Advent or Christmas hymns. Thank you for coming.

Remember, each week we have the wonderful opportunity to come together, listen to God's Word, receive the Sacraments *and* sing beautiful hymns.

May God bless and keep you all in this new year. Sharon Adel

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."* 2 Corinthians 5:17

## 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](http://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

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.



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2-Jan	Kristi Widmar	14-Jan	Rylie Jaeck
3-Jan	Thomas Paulick	14-Jan	Daniel Schweitzer
4-Jan	Ana Borgardt	14-Jan	Ryder Stauffer
5-Jan	Bob Billings	15-Jan	Roy Karpinsky
5-Jan	Tom Dargin	15-Jan	Elizabeth Olley
5-Jan	Jessica Schmidt	15-Jan	Alec Schaeffer
6-Jan	Walter Peterson	16-Jan	Butch Luther
7-Jan	Ruth Feldscher	16-Jan	Kenzie Patzke
7-Jan	Clare Gamroth	16-Jan	Jennifer Rossman
8-Jan	Olivia Knoell	20-Jan	Alex Fones
10-Jan	Alicia Petkus	22-Jan	Hunter Jozwiak
10-Jan	Janet Ruppel	22-Jan	Linda Lloyd
10-Jan	Etta Stanfield	22-Jan	Cameron Porcaro
11-Jan	Carol Busarow	24-Jan	Jennifer Mandli
11-Jan	Peter Glassen	24-Jan	Dean Hugdahl
11-Jan	Bob Nommensen	26-Jan	Quinn Allesxandro
12-Jan	Evie Gamroth	27-Jan	Kevin Barber
12-Jan	Mitchell Jaeck	27-Jan	Suzanne Jaeck
13-Jan	Josephine Blaesing	28-Jan	Cassidy Clausen
13-Jan	Lucy DeYoung	28-Jan	Ashlyn Wasik
13-Jan	Paul Ruppel	29-Jan	Jennah Moe
14-Jan	Joanne Behling	29-Jan	Aria Swiecichowski
14-Jan	Emilie Gilbert		



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

## STEWARDSHIP CORNER – JANUARY

### January 4 – Second Sunday after Christmas

**1 Peter 4:17 – “For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?”** The Gospel had freed us from all fear. God the Father loves us to the ends of love, and He has sent His Son to die for us and call us into His kingdom through the rebirth of water and Spirit. Saint Peter views this not as an excuse to sin but as encouragement for godly living. The judgment of the Lord is a real event, and it applies to the household of God. As members of His household, we desire to serve Him.

### January 6 – The Epiphany of Our Lord

**Matthew 2:11 – “And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.”** For the wise men and for us, worshiping and offering gifts go together. How could this not be, since our God is the great Giver of gifts? We receive His gifts in worship and then, being conformed to His image, we imitate His generosity.

### January 11 – The Baptism of Our Lord

**Matthew 3:15 – “But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.’”** God sent His Son into the world to fulfill all righteousness for us, to do what we could not do. Here, Jesus plunges Himself into our sins and soaks them up in His Baptism, so that in our Baptism we might be cleansed and renewed. The whole of Jesus’ life, everything He did and said, was one great offering to the Father in our stead to fulfill all righteousness for us. All our offerings back to our Lord are in thanksgiving for this one great, true offering.

### January 18 – Second Sunday after Epiphany

**Ephesians 5:27 – “So that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.”** Our Lord has cleansed us with His blood — in His sight we are now pure and holy. He has given Himself, laying down His life for us. Now we are His spotless and beautiful bride. By His sacrifice, we are moved to sacrifice. By His cleansing, we find a desire to ourselves be clean and live blamelessly as He is blameless.

### January 25 – The Transfiguration of Our Lord

**Matthew 17:8 – “And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.”** Jesus is enough. Moses and Elijah point to Jesus and are happy to fade into the background. With our eyes focused on Him and Him alone, the rest of our lives come into focus. He is primary, all else is secondary. When that order is right in our lives, things truly fall into place.



## **“SHUT-IN’S” NOT “SHUT-OUT’S”**

I want to thank everyone who has reached out to our St. John’s shut-ins. Your efforts make them feel “not shut-out”.

Now, I appeal to everyone, please consider making a New Year’s resolution to reach out to one or more of our shut-ins each month. A cute card with a winter greeting would brighten their day. A phone call to say “hello” would warm their heart. A visit, even for 10 minutes, can carry them through a whole week in happiness. I encourage you to pray for all on the “Shut-In list”.

Never lose sight of the fact that old age needs so little, but that little means so much. I assure you, you will feel uplifted through your efforts.

Christmas Blessings to all and Happy New Year as we start 2026.

Julie Hagen 262-331-0052

Julie\_hagen@hotmail.com

### **SHUT INS**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
Carol Busarow	5225 Douglas Avenue #104, Racine, WI 53402	
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	<b>Marion House</b> 4105 Spring Street, #212, Mt. Pleasant, WI 53405	
Marcella Geyer	3139 Conrad Drive, Racine, WI 53404	
Gail Gotch	1916 Wisconsin Avenue, Apt. 359, Racine, WI 53403	
Susan Monson	418 Shoreland Drive, Racine, WI 53402	
Kathy Patzman	5404 Idlewood Drive, Racine, WI 53402	
Joanne Ruble	1108 N. Sunnyslope #104, Racine, WI 53406	
John Smith	1636 Raintree Lane, Racine, WI 53406	