

NEWS FROM ST. JOHN'S

JULY 2024

FROM THE PASTOR

God bless our native land;
Firm may she ever stand
Through storm and night.
When the wild tempests rave,
Ruler of wind and wave,
Do Thou our country save
By Thy great might. (LSB 965)

The month of July brings many things, most famously our nation's celebration of the freedom and independence we enjoy. Racine does the Fourth of July quite well with the parade in the morning and the fireworks over Lake Michigan at night. It's something my family and I look forward to every year, and members of our extended family have timed visits in the past around it.

When examining all that comes with any celebration, it's important to remember what is at its heart. In between Memorial Day and Labor Day we find Independence Day, which points to those who sacrificed their lives for the freedom we enjoy and are able to use in productive and professional ways.

There are many blessings that we can see which God has given to us as a nation. We do well to put to use all that He has given us, including the freedoms secured through the work of our founding fathers. Many of them looked to God's Word for direction and confessed Jesus as Lord. God's Law is the undeniable source of the laws that are used to oversee our nation.

With this in mind, there is also an observable shift away from the authority of God's Word in our culture. There are many ways that our nation has forgotten the importance of taking guidance and comfort from what He offers us in it as He points us to the salvation that comes only by the sacrificial life, death, and resurrection of His Son for us and for all people.

Though the people of Israel had a firm covenant with God, and a promise that they would have their own land and would dwell in it under His care and protection, that came to an end as a result of their continued disobedience and willful disregard for His Law. He used Abraham to bring the Messiah into the flesh, along with his many descendants who are shown to be Jesus' ancestors. Israel's regular

pursuits of idolatry, borne out of their desire to be like the nations that surrounded them, eventually gave way to God's severe judgment and punishment. From various losses on the battlefield to the destruction of Solomon's temple (**II Kings 25:1-21**) to its rebuilding on a much smaller scale (**Ezra 3:8-13**—and pay close attention to the last two verses) to even that temple being destroyed by Rome in AD 70, which Jesus foretold a number of times, including during the week He made His way to the cross (**Matthew 24:1-2**).

In this life, in this country, you and I enjoy many freedoms due to the sacrifice of the family that came before us, the minds far brighter than mine that founded this nation, those who fought and died representing us all, and all the more, through the Word of God—delivered to us personally through the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ in His victory over sin and death. Being a Christian in the United States of America is easier than in some other nations, and we do well to use this as an opportunity to reflect the love of God through His Word to all those around us. The easiest way to do it is to be where He promises to meet us through the New Covenant established with all the world through the means of grace.

I hope you all have an enjoyable Fourth of July, either here in town or somewhere else being together with people you know and love. I hope even more that you keep in mind that God oversees all things. Oh, and I'm glad July 4th skipped a Wednesday due to the Leap Year, so we can still hold our 6:00 pm evening service on July 3!

Please keep these ideas in mind as we make our way through this month, and join us each week for the Divine Service throughout the summer! If you see me at the parade or at the fireworks, I'll be glad to say hello if I see you if I see you, or if you can spot me first with my Cubs hat (note the colors of that particular MLB team) and sunglasses!

In Christ,
Pastor Gilbert

OFFICIAL ACTS

Baptism:

Samuel Paul Patzke 6-23-2024

Weddings:

Tom Radwill and Lynn Ramin 5-31-2024

Brandon Kuske and Madison Henningfeld 6-22-2024

Funeral:

Albert Thomas Radwill Jr. 6-19-2024

THE BUGENHAGEN CONFERENCE

Please consider volunteering to help out at the Bugenhagen Conference again this year! The conference will be held here at St. John's from July 29-31. At this time, there are over 100 pastors signed up and planning to attend with more anticipated to register in the next couple of weeks. This is something many members of St. John's have helped with and more will be appreciated this year! Sign-up sheets can be found outside the pastors' offices and in the narthex.

FELLOWSHIP FRIDAY

Our July fellowship will be help on Friday, July 19 from 5:30-7:30 here at St. John's. Mostaccioli will be served as the main meal. Everyone connected to St. John's is invited to attend this event. Please bring a side, dessert, or drink to share if you plan to attend. Please come as individuals or families! 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, please email Kimberly (chapman@stjohnsracine.org) or Sharon (adel@stjohnsracine.org)

SERMONS ON YOUTUBE

The updated video equipment is working well, and it has brought about an ability to stream live content through YouTube. The easiest way to be able 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. Also, it is planned to offer some more musical pieces as we go forward!

CRADLE ROLL OPPORTUNITY

Kathy Karpinsky has overseen the Cradle Roll here at St. John's for many years. This involves sending out cards and material to the parents of children baptized here at St. John's throughout the first three years of the child's life. Many of you have received these mailings from her! As her time of doing this has come to an end, she has asked that someone else take it up. This is a wonderful way to help families here at St. John's raise their children in the faith in their homes. Everything needed to do this is ready to be used. Please consider your willingness and availability to do this and contact Kimberly in the church office soon!

USHERS NEEDED

The Board of Elders is in need of individuals interested in ushering during worship services. Please prayerfully consider helping out in this way. If you would be interested in ushering or have questions, please contact Kimberly in the church office at chapman@stjohnsracine.org; (262) 637-7011. Thank you!



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday, August 25th at 12:00 PM
Pritchard Park - Weiczorek Pavilion
Bring a yard game to share, a dish to pass and a beverage for your family!

SIGN UP TO ATTEND

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

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Music and More Concert Series: Thursday, July 25, 2024 at 12:00 pm - First Presbyterian Church, Racine. Admission is FREE! I am joined by Kristina Beier, and Kimberly Chapman. The *Concert Series* offers noon concerts from June 6th through August 8th. For a complete concert schedule follow the website <https://firstpresracine.org/music-more/>. Join us! I look forward to seeing you at our concert.

Isn't there something special about having someone else's recipe written in their own handwriting with notes in the margins? I can think of one cake recipe that my mother wrote out for me years ago. It's been several years since I have baked this particular recipe, but when I do bake it, I do my best to develop the recipe as close to the way my mother taught me (it's never the same and the frosting never turns out the way she does it). Our season will begin with **Choral and Handbell Workshops on Tuesday, September 3, 2024** led by Stephen Johnson, Director of Music and Organist at Our Father's Lutheran Church, Greenfield, Wisconsin. I look forward to seeing how he introduces some new choral anthems, as well as the possibility of developing the anthems we know and love already. Our August newsletter will share more information about our guest workshop leader.

Music is an important part of our worship and praise to God here at St. John's Lutheran Church. Have you been thinking about joining our Senior Choir or Handbell Choir? Over the summer months, consider it! If you have any specific questions, you can contact me at any time.

God's Blessings to you!
Your Sister in Christ, Sharon Adel (262) 822-1338

Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. Martin Luther



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

June is a much quieter month in our school building, but not for our Trustees! They have been hard at work updating our building, including our gym floor, which has been stripped, sanded, and repainted with a fresh look for our upcoming school year. Summer school is ongoing during the week, and we continue to add numbers to our enrollment for next year. Know any preschool or kindergartners who are still looking for a school home? Please recommend St. John's! Our PTL will be doing their annual Parade Parking fundraiser again this year. If you plan on seeing the parade, please consider using our lots and donating \$5 to our school. Stay cool and enjoy the rest of your summer!

JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL

Part-time Positions:

There are several part-time positions we are looking to fill for the 2024-2025 school year. If you are interested in any of these positions or have any questions, please contact Ms. Heins.

2024-2025 open positions:

- Teacher aides (2 positions available)
- Lunch Room Coordinator
- Extended Care afternoon assistant (3:30-5:30)

ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL OPENINGS

St. John's Lutheran School has a few openings still for preschool and kindergarten. We'd love to see these classes filled with students ready to learn about Jesus! If you know any 3, 4, or 5 year olds who need a school for the 2024-2025 school year, please have them contact Sharon Adel at 262-633-2758, or email her at adel@stjohnsracine.org.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

1-July	Lily Rossman	18-July	Dodi Sollman
2-July	Allan Storm	19-July	Cheryl Witek
3-July	Steven Rosborough	20-July	Douglas Cole
4-July	Michael Heusdens	20-July	Logan Liebenow
6-July	Joel Grant	20-July	Lincoln Spranger
6-July	Karon Morse	21-July	Sarah Seils
6-July	Kassidy Widmar	23-July	Josiah Hasseldahl
7-July	Christian Olley	23-July	Isaiah Davis
7-July	Audrey Schielie	24-July	Jaclyn Beverdorf
9-July	Anna Zanotti	24-July	Judy Schweitzer
10-July	Lauren Chiappetta	28-July	Tenley Beier
10-July	Landon Spranger	28-July	Kyle Marweg
11-July	Tracy Houdek	28-July	Clint Olley
12-July	Joshua DeYoung	28-July	David Sjostrom
12-July	Mila Iruegas	29-July	Liam Grant
14-July	Amanda Chaudoir	30-July	Ana Douglas
14-July	Diana Meier	30-July	Amy Lesnjak
15-July	Reid Palenik	31-July	Colin Allexandro
15-July	Greta Peterson	31-July	Kaitlyn DeYoung
15-July	Hayden Schneider	31-July	Kathleen Karpinsky
16-July	Randall Borgardt	31-July	John Naegeli
16-July	Cindy Konecny	31-July	Gabriel Phillips
16-July	Rebecca Krewal		



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 – JULY 2024

July 7 – Trinity 6

Matthew 5:24 – “**First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.**” First things first: the Lord won’t be bribed by our giving. Our giving must flow forth from a faithful Christian life that receives Christ’s forgiveness and freely shares that forgiveness. Or, in other words, a good work isn’t a good work if it doesn’t flow from faith.

July 14 – Trinity 7

Romans 6:22 – “**But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.**” The fruits of faith in Christ are the good works of a faithful Christian life. We have received grace upon grace in the free forgiveness of our sins, and so we are now free to go forth and bear fruit in serving our neighbor in the home, the church and society.

July 21 – Trinity 8

Romans 8:16 – “**The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.**” Children are called to grow up into the image of their Father. That’s the basis not only of our generosity, but of our entire life as Christians. God sets the pattern and we follow. God is kind to us in Christ, and so we desire to be kind. God is loving to us in Christ, and so we desire to love. God is generous and open-handed to us in Christ, and so we desire to be generous and open-handed.

July 28 – Trinity 9

Luke 16:8-9 – “**For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.**” The things of this world, including wealth, are merely tools. They can be used for good or ill. They can be squandered or used efficiently. How we use them will be determined by what is most important to us. What is most important to you in your life? Does the way you use the things of this world reflect that?

LIFE THOUGHTS FOR LUTHERANS – JULY 2024

Trinity VI – The death Jesus died, He died “once for all” (Romans 6:10). He purchased “all.” Thus, He gives value to “all.” Every person we encounter, no matter their size or location or condition of health, is someone for whom Jesus died. Our responsibility is to acknowledge their value and lead them to see its true source. *Loving Savior, reflect Your self-giving mercy and devotion in us. Amen.*

Trinity VII – Jesus declares and demonstrates compassion even for those who cannot feed themselves or walk on their own (Mark 8:1-3). He who breathes life into each human body (Genesis 2:7) also provides everything necessary to survive (Mark 8:8) and promises all the abundance of Eden’s paradise in the gift of eternal life (Romans 6:23). And He mercifully involves us in this miraculous ministry (Mark 8:5-8)! *Almighty Maker, show through us the life-giving compassion You have shown to us. Amen.*

Trinity VIII – The relaxing lies our culture prophesies cannot even approach our Lord’s promises (Jeremiah 23:16-18). We speak the Gospel of Jesus Christ boldly and gladly (Jeremiah 23:28-29), though it earns us persecution, because He sets great joy before us. In this faith we will sit around His throne with the cloud of witnesses His Word saved. *Lamb of God, You have given me Your people’s crown of life; forge in me Your prophets’ faith. Amen.*

Trinity IX – Temptations to idolatry exist today as they did in biblical times. The great idol “Death” draws many to its altar. They look to death for rescue from a crisis pregnancy or chronic disease or pain. Death’s allure is so great it even tempts Christians to bow before it. But we have a way out of such temptations to faithlessness: “God is faithful” (1 Corinthians 10:1-13). Christ our “Rock” never leaves us (10:4). We can trust in Him. *Rock of our salvation, may Your faithful service to us through Your cross and resurrection move us to be faithful to You. Amen.*

CARING FOR OUR SHUT-INS THIS JULY

How many times do we truly think about the 4th of July from a Christian perspective? Do we thank God for our freedoms here in America? Do we thank God for the freedom He has given us through His Son, Jesus Christ? Do we thank Him for the ability to worship and serve Him?

Galatians 5:13: ***“For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love, SERVE ONE ANOTHER!”***

Now, I ask you to please consider serving our Shut-Ins, who have lost their physical freedom to worship with us every Sunday. Please read the list below and consider making a phone call, a visit, sending a card, and kneeling in prayer over these names. God has given us ALL the freedom to serve these special members. If you would like some direction on how to begin this **service of love**, please feel free to email me at louiseborgardt@gmail.com.

SHUT INS

Name	Address	Phone Number
Ann Beckett	6603 Medley Drive, Racine, WI 53402	
Pat Cole	6551 Mariner Drive, Unit 6, Racine, WI 53406	
Sue Erickson	5101 Wright Ave #121, 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	
Art Preuss	5643 Erie Street, Room 219, Racine, WI 53402	
Linda Puchter	8500 Corporate Drive, Mount Pleasant, WI 53406	
Marlene Roepke	1201 Kingston Avenue, Racine, WI 53402	
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	