

NEWS FROM ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN

JULY 2025

FROM THE PASTOR

A Parent, Not a Friend

This article is also available, along with other resources on the same topic on Pastor DeYoung's online Substack found here: <https://joshuadeyoung.substack.com/>

One of the trends I've observed in our time is an increased desire among parents to be liked by their children. This shouldn't come as a surprise. We naturally desire peace and harmony with one another—especially with our children (Psalm 133). We want them to feel comfortable speaking with us, particularly when seeking counsel. We don't want to be cold figures who only scold but neglect encouragement, who admonish but refuse to listen. The desire for a peaceful household is a good one, but it must not come at the expense of proper discipline. Discipline is necessary because children are sinners in need of guidance and, at times, admonition.

At this point, I should clarify the distinction between *disciplining* and *teaching discipline*. Discipline goes beyond mere correction or punishment. Yes, a parent should correct and, when necessary, punish their child (Proverbs 13:24). But to discipline also means to *teach* discipline—to model what it means to govern oneself, to deny one's desires, especially when those desires are harmful.

Take a simple example: allowing a child to eat as much candy as they want while neglecting a nutritious dinner is not doing them any favors. The child enjoys candy, may even be addicted to it, so taking it away positions the parent as the “enemy”—at least temporarily. But I'm sure we can agree that a parent should limit their child's candy intake. Furthermore, we can agree that doing so is part of being a good parent, even if it causes temporary discomfort for both parent and child.

A parent has both the *authority* and the *duty* to discipline their child. These two—authority and duty—are inseparable. One cannot exist meaningfully without the other. And both are God-given. God grants the authority because He has given the duty.

Consider the example of a police officer. A police officer has the duty to keep their community safe. Because of that duty, the state grants them the authority to carry it out. If the officer had duty but no authority, he would be impotent. And if he had authority but no duty, he would act only out of self-interest. A police officer must carry out his duty lawfully and answer to a higher authority for his actions.

Now consider the parent. A parent has the God-given duty to “**train up a child in the way he should go**” (Proverbs 22:6). In the *Table of Duties*¹, Martin Luther cites Ephesians 6:4: “**Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.**” A parent, then, is an office-bearer. They are under authority—they answer to God. They are stewards of precious bodies and souls created by Him. And as St. Paul tells us in Ephesians

6:4, the primary responsibility of a parent is that the child entrusted to them would know Jesus.

This is the duty of a parent. But this duty necessarily comes with authority. Authority is granted so the duty can be fulfilled. A parent has the *right* to discipline their child—and indeed, *must* do so. If a parent is faithfully doing their duty, there will be times when their children do not like them. In those moments, the parent must look to Christ and recognize the cross they are called to bear through the office of parenthood.

Love means sacrifice. Nowhere is this more clearly demonstrated than on the cross of Jesus, the perfect example of love begotten of sacrifice. Every parent should understand that sacrifice is part of the job. Parenting can be painful. But nothing truly worthwhile is ever easy. The blessings and the struggles of parenting are often intensely intertwined. A parent sacrifices their time, resources, and body for their children. In turn, children are a joyful, God-given blessing who repay that sacrifice in rich dividends from childhood into adulthood.

But sin is a constant and ever-present reality. A child will not always be obedient. Even a toddler tests the limits—how far they can go before a parent's patience gives way. This requires immediate and decisive action to correct the course. And it only becomes more complex as the child grows. If action isn't taken early on, bad habits can mature into full-blown crises.

One such crisis today is what I call the *crisis of the screen*. Screens are everywhere—tablets, phones, televisions. They are designed to be engaging, and dare I say, addicting. Children and adolescents, with their underdeveloped impulse control, are especially vulnerable. The best way to avoid addiction is never to start. But what can a parent do if that ship has already sailed? Many parents are beginning to realize this but are unsure of what to do next. So, what comes after awareness? I hope to explore that question more fully in the future.

In conclusion, we must remember that a parent is a *parent*, not a *friend*. A parent is an office-bearer with a duty and authority given by God. These two are inseparable. The duty cannot be fulfilled without the authority, and the authority must not be exercised without a clear understanding of the duty. A parent is under God's authority to train their child in the way they should go. This is no easy task—it involves sacrifice. It often means being disliked, saying “no,” and making hard decisions for the child's own good. Sometimes it means setting aside the desire to be liked in order to be faithful to one's parental calling.

OFFICIAL ACTS

Baptism:

Lillyanna Nicole Phillips

6/29/2025

SUMMER SERVICE SCHEDULE

Our summer worship schedule began on Sunday, May 25. There is one service on Sundays at 9am with Bible study to follow at 10am. The Wednesday following will mirror the Sunday service. The Wednesday service remains at 6pm. This schedule will run through Labor Day weekend.

FELLOWSHIP FRIDAY

Our July fellowship will be held on Friday, July 18 from 5:30-7:30pm 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)

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

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 28-30. 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.

"BIBLE AND BREW" MEN'S STUDY

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

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!

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.





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.

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.

ANTIQUE LIBRARY TABLE FOR SALE

The Altar Guild will be replacing the antique library table in the Chapel with a smaller table. If you are interested in looking at the table, it is currently in the chapel near the Erie Street entrance. The Altar Guild is looking to get about \$1,200 for the table. If you are interested in purchasing the table or have additional questions, please contact Curt Adel at (262) 681-1114 or the church office at (262) 637-7011; chapman@stjohnsracine.org.

FROM YOUR DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Music and More Concert Series: Thursday, July 24, 2025 beginning 12:00 pm - First Presbyterian Church, Racine. *Admission is FREE!* I am joined by Kristina and Laine Beier. The *Concert Series* offers noon concerts from June 5th through August 7th. For a complete concert schedule follow the website <https://firstpresracine.org/music-more/>. Join us! I look forward to seeing you at our concert.

In preparation for the upcoming **Hymn Festival**, please email me your top three hymns either out of TLH (The Lutheran Hymnal) or LSB (Lutheran Service Book). There are so many hymns, each with its own purpose, message, and way of expressing the Word "in meter." When a hymn can reflect and expound on (and even proclaim) the Word of God's grace and love, that's a great gift. For this year's Hymn Festival, I plan on choosing ten hymns (that you have chosen for me), put together our Festival where we will read stories behind each hymn and then sing! Please email me your favorites **by July 31st**. My email address is Sharon.adel1963@gmail.com. Watch upcoming bulletins for the Hymn Festival date!

Our choral season will begin with **Choral and Handbell Workshops on Tuesday, September 2, 2025** led by Stephen Wentz, Professor of Music Emeritus at Concordia University Chicago and current Cantor/Director of Music at First St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Chicago, Illinois. I look forward to seeing how Dr. Wentz introduces some new choral anthems, as well as the possibility of developing the anthems we know and love already.

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

Soli Dei Gloria

To God Alone the Glory!

JULY BIRTHDAYS

1-July	Lily Rossman	16-July	Cindy Konecny
2-July	Allan Storm	16-July	Rebecca Krewal
3-July	Steven Rosborough	18-July	Dodi Sollman
4-July	Michael Heusdens	19-July	Cheryl Witek
6-July	Joel Grant	20-July	Douglas Cole
6-July	Karon Morse	20-July	Logan Liebenow
6-July	Kassidy Widmar	20-July	Lincoln Spranger
7-July	Christian Olley	21-July	Sarah Seils
7-July	Audrey Schielie	22-July	Josiah Hasseldahl
8-July	Kerry Jacquet	23-July	Isaiah Davis
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
12-July	Izzi Smith	30-July	Ana Douglas
14-July	Amanda Chaudoir	30-July	Amy Lesnjak
14-July	Diana Meier	31-July	Colin Allesxandro
15-July	Reid Palenik	31-July	Kaitlyn DeYoung
15-July	Greta Peterson	31-July	John Naegeli
15-July	Hayden Schneider	31-July	Gabriel Phillips
16-July	Randall Borgardt		



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

SCHOOL NEWS CORNER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

June and July are quiet months at school, but still quite busy. Summer school is underway, and we look forward to hosting the Bugenhagen Conference at the end of July. This is the perfect time to say thank you to our Trustees, the hardest working volunteers in the building. The summer months are when they are at their busiest, as classrooms are cleaned, repairs are made, and the building is updated to prepare for August. We are truly thankful for all of the work that our Trustees put into our school and church- they are a blessing! Happy Independence Day from the St. John's Cougars- and stay cool!

JOB OPENINGS AT ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL

St. John's has a few positions open for the 2025-2026 school year. We are looking for the following:

-PE Teacher- St. John's is looking for a part-time PE teacher for all grades. This position would be about 20 hours a week; times are flexible. This position requires a college degree.

-Extended Care Supervisor- St. John's is looking for someone to run our afternoon extended care program. The current hours are from 11:45 to 5:30, with some flexibility in the afternoons.

-Teachers Aide- St. John's is looking for teacher aides. Hours vary based on grade, and applicants must have a high school diploma.

If you know of someone who might be interested in either of these positions, please contact Ms. Heins at heins@stjohnsracine.org to learn more.

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!

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.



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!

STEWARDSHIP CORNER – JULY 2025

July 6 – Trinity 3

Luke 15:10 – “Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” Why does Jesus eat with sinners? Certainly not so that they will remain stuck in their sins! Jesus meets sinners where they are so that they will come to know His love and repent. To repent means to turn — turn away from sin and toward Jesus in faith. Whether the sin we struggle with is pride, greed, doubt, etc., the Lord calls us to turn to Him again in faith and away from our sin.

July 13 – Trinity 4

Romans 8:18 – “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.” It is very easy to get caught up in the present and lose track of our ultimate destiny in the Kingdom of God. St. Paul encourages us to keep eternity in mind. This certainly has an application to our support for the Gospel. If we keep our focus on “the glory to be revealed,” we will see our tithes and offerings in a new light.

July 20 – Trinity 5

1 Kings 19:18 – “Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.” Elijah was so sure that he was right — that he was the only one left who had not gone after Baal. But he was too pessimistic; his faith in God was off-center. We can't go by our own wisdom. We must trust the Lord and what He has revealed to us in His Word. Think about how this applies to our support of God's work in the church with our offering. Take a look in Luther's Small Catechism's Table of Duties to see what the Bible has to say about our giving.

July 27 – Trinity 6

Matthew 5:23 – “So if you are offering your gift at the altar. . .” Jesus connects our generosity toward God's Kingdom to our love and forgiveness toward our brethren in the Kingdom. Both grow out of God's love toward us. We forgive as we have been forgiven, and we give as we have been given to. All our growth in sanctification is growing into our Heavenly Father's own actions through thankful imitation.

LIFE THOUGHTS FOR LUTHERANS –

JULY 2025

July 6 – Trinity III – The prodigal's father kept watching every day for his wayward son's return. He had to have done so in order to spot him “while he was still a long way off” (Luke 15:20). Our Gracious God (Psalm 103:10-13) never gives up on a human life, no matter what size, skills, circumstances, or sins it involves. We need not let surprise pregnancies, chronic conditions, or terminal diagnoses steal our hope—or anyone else's!

July 13 – Trinity IV – “Judge not,” Jesus says (Luke 6:37). We have no authority to convict or to acquit. We cannot permit what God forbids—namely, the intentional ending of a neighbor's life, whether elderly or embryonic—nor may we condemn those whom He forgives—namely, those broken by the abortion of their own children. As disciples, we get to become more like our Teacher—and teach.

July 20 – Trinity V – The reason for the hope that is in us (1 Peter 3:15) rests upon the Lord's creating, redeeming, and calling of every human being. And manner matters: we advocate for the sanctity of life with cheerfulness, courage, and compassion, not anger or fear. Along with the cute little babies and the dear old ladies, we get to receive the one right in front of us as precious.

July 27 – Trinity VI – The Gospel of Jesus Christ prioritizes preserving life. You shall not murder (Exodus 20:13), nor shall you harbor any attitude that entertains it (Matthew 5:22). Where flesh and world see only death, we perceive opportunity for immediate, abundant, and everlasting life (Romans 6:5). If the laws of nature are already declaring it (Psalm 19:1-4), why shouldn't we get to lift our Gospel-motivated voices For Life?

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 freedoms 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 Julie_hagen@hotmail.com.

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	262-321-4953 (please text)
Janet Fisa	McMynn Tower 110 7th St, Racine, WI 53403 Room #904	262-865-7849
Marcella Geyer	3139 Conrad Drive, Racine, WI 53404	262-634-8105
Gail Gotch	1916 Wisconsin Avenue, Apt. 359, Racine, WI 53403	262-221-6912
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	262-639-8490
Kathy Patzman	5404 Idlewood Drive, Racine, WI 53402	
Linda Puchter	8600 Corporate Drive, Rm. 18, Mt. Pleasant, WI 53406	262-358-1110
Joanne Ruble	1108 N. Sunnyslope #104, Racine, WI 53406	262-498-3476
Judy Schweitzer	5643 Erie Street, Room 247, Racine, WI 53402	
John Smith	1636 Raintree Lane, Racine, WI 53406	262-498-6554