

# NEWS FROM ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN

## JUNE 2026

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### FROM THE PASTOR

#### The Joy of Ordinary Time

The church year is typically divided into two parts: the *festival half* and the *non-festival half*. For those of us who follow the Historic Lectionary (the One-Year Lectionary), the non-festival half stretches from the Feast of Holy Trinity to *Ad Te Levavi* (the First Sunday in Advent). Depending on the year, it can last up to twenty-seven weeks, usually spanning late spring through late fall.

The main difference between these two halves is that, while the festival half generally follows *the chronological life of Jesus*, the non-festival half focuses primarily on *His teachings*. It is not bound to chronology but is instead arranged thematically to sustain us through the profound teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Consider the color green. Green is the color of nature and the most common biological color on earth. Most plants depend on photosynthesis — the light of the sun absorbed through their green leaves — in order to live and grow. Certainly there are times when plants flower, and we marvel at the beauty of their blossoms. But most of the time, they are simply green. The flowers last only a short while, but the green remains, sustaining the whole plant until it blooms again in its proper season.

Very soon we will see quite a lot of green — not only in nature, as summer arrives and the trees become full, but also at our altar, pulpit, lectern, and in the vestments worn throughout the season. This color was chosen to teach us that, like nature itself, we must continually be sustained by the light of the Word throughout our days.

We rejoice during the festival half of the Church Year as we follow the life of our Lord Jesus. We likewise rejoice during the non-festival half, as our Lord sustains us through His teaching. Year by year, He preserves us during this season. Though there are fewer moments when flowers emerge, we are nevertheless kept and nourished in anticipation of those times, basking in the pure teachings of Christ.

Thus, the Trinity season, though less festive, is no less joyful. It is a necessary blessing that shows us how God preserves us in His Word and faith until we die and go to be with Him in the feast that has no end.

So let us not grow weary or complacent during this time. If you travel during the summer, find a church to attend on Sunday (your pastors can help you find a faithful one). And as you enjoy the warmth of the sun, remember the God who fashioned that sun, and the Son whom He gave to be our light and life — He who sits enthroned at the right hand of the Father and sustains us to the end.

For the day is coming when no sun shall shine, because the radiance of God Himself will be our light; when there will be no more tears, nor pain, nor death.

*O Lord, since You never fail to help and govern those whom You nurture in Your steadfast fear and love, work in us a perpetual fear and love of Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen*

## OFFICIAL ACT

### **Funeral:**

Barry Anderson

5-16-2026

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## SUMMER SERVICE SCHEDULE

Our summer worship schedule began on Sunday, May 24. Beginning on May 24, there will be one service on Sundays at 9am and one service on Wednesday at 6pm. The Wednesday will be the full Divine service which mirrors the previous Sunday service. This schedule will run through Labor Day weekend.

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## “NEW” HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Jenny Gilbert and Sofie Kading are organizing some gatherings for our female high school students over the coming months. Pastor Gilbert is doing the same for the male high school students. **We will meet at St. John's from 6:00-7:00 pm.** This is open to all graduating 8th grade students through graduating 12th grade students. Please join us on the following dates:

June 22 (6-7 pm)

July 20 (6-7 pm)

August 10 (6-7 pm)

There will be other events as well, but this will get us started!

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## FELLOWSHIP FRIDAY

There will not be a Fellowship Friday held in June. Please join us on Friday, July 17 for our next Fellowship Friday get together! Also, please save the date for our Church Picnic on Sunday, August 23.

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## CHURCH PICNIC – SAVE THE DATE!

Please join us for our Annual Church Picnic on Sunday August 23rd from 12-3pm at Smolenski Park in Mt. Pleasant. Watch for sign up information in August. Hope to see you there!

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Volunteers needed! We will hold VBS from June 28-July 1 for any students going into PK3-4th Grade! It will be held in the morning with an opening event and first day following the 9:00 am service on Sunday, June 28. The other days will run from 9:00 - 11:30 am. The final day will include an encouragement for all attendees to rejoin us that evening to sing together as a group at the start of the 6:00 pm service on Wednesday, July 1.

As in the past, we will need a fair number of volunteer positions to be filled. Some have been taken already, but please look over these needs and contact Kimberly in the church office at 637-7011 or [chapman@stjohnsracine.org](mailto:chapman@stjohnsracine.org) to let her know how you would like to serve.

If this is something you want your children to be a part of, please play a role in making it happen!

~~Director/Co-Directors (1-2)~~ Filled!

~~Decorator (1)~~ Filled!

Assistant Decorators (4-6; ideal for students in grades 5-12)

Arts and Crafts Coordinator (1-2)

Arts and Crafts Assistant (1 or 2; ideal for students in grades 5-12)

~~Recreation Coordinator (1)~~ Filled!

~~Music (1-2)~~ Filled!

Recreation Assistants (2-3; ideal for students in grades 5-12)

~~Snack Coordinator (1)~~ Filled!

Snack Assistant (1 or 2; ideal for students in grades 5-12)

Guides (8-10; ideal for students in grades 5-12)

All information and tasks needed by each position have been compiled, so all we will need is people to make it happen! This is a great opportunity for students going into 5th Grade or higher to help St. John's as volunteers.

## **2026-2027 BOARD POSITIONS**

Thank you to all those who had their names on the ballot for our elections at the May voters' meeting. Thank you also to those already serving and those whose term is up and have served. We appreciate your willingness to serve here at St. John's. Listed below are the 2026-2027 board members.

Chairman: Rod Adel      Vice-Chairman: Dave Sjostrom

Board of Elders: Curt Adel, John Bruening, Jim Day, Aaron Douglas, Steven Johnson, Dave Messersmith, Gary Miller, Clint Olley, Matt Patzke, Eric Peterson, Steven Riegelman, Michael Terselic

Board of Trustees: Tim Beier, Wayne Henslin, Philip Kading, Roy Karpinsky, Leif Lovdahl, Jim McCluskey, Ben Nolte, Tim Otto, Richard Pierce-Ruhland

Board of Christian Day School: Carla Hammermann, Scott Hansing, Kerry Jacquet, Julia Miller, Bill Pringle, Laura Van Schyndel

Board of Stewardship: Kevin Hasseldahl, Lynn Janke, Amy Salinas, Diane Schweitzer

## **2026-2027 WHO IS MY ELDER?**

<b>Last Name Begins With</b>	<b>Your Elder Is</b>
A - Ben	Steven Riegelman
Ber - Cha	John Bruening
Chi - Don	Jim Day
Dou - Gea	Aaron Douglas
Gey - Hou	Michael Terselic
Hug - Les	Clint Olley
Lie - Met	Matt Patzke
Mia - Oll	Dave Messersmith
Pal - Reim	Eric Peterson
Reis - Schae	Gary Miller
Schal - Sor	Steven Johnson
Sp - Z	Curt Adel

## **MOTHER'S DAY ROSE DAY THANK!**

Wisconsin Right to Life extends their sincere appreciation to Pastor Gilbert and Pastor DeYoung and the members of St. John's church for your warm and enthusiastic response to the Mother's Day Roses for Life.

## **LUTHERAN WITNESS SUBSCRIPTION**

Anyone wanting to subscribe or renew their subscription to "The Lutheran Witness," please let the church office know ([chapman@stjohnsracine.org](mailto:chapman@stjohnsracine.org); 262-637-7011) The cost for the subscription is \$23.50. Please make your check payable to St. John's Lutheran Church, include in the memo line "Lutheran Witness," and turn it in by Sunday, June 21. (Please note: If you are currently receiving the subscription and no longer wish to receive it, please let the church office know that as well.)

## **PART-TIME POSITIONS AT ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL**

St. John's has a few part-time positions open for the 2026-2027 school year. We are looking for the following:

- Extended Care Worker- this position is three days a week, from 3:30-5:30.
- Teacher Aides- we are looking for a 3rd grade aide and an afternoon 4K aide. Hours vary depending on the position.

If you or someone you know is interested in one of these positions, please contact Ms. Heins at [heins@stjohnsracine.org](mailto:heins@stjohnsracine.org) to learn more.

## **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, contact an elder or Kimberly in the church office; [chapman@stjohnsracine.org](mailto:chapman@stjohnsracine.org); (262) 637-7011.

## A NOTE FROM OUR SEMINARIAN

Dear friends in Christ,

It is with great joy that I write to you. As of April 29, I have been called to be the pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Mechanicsville, Maryland. As I write this, I have under two weeks of classes left at seminary before graduation. This summer, we will be moving and preparing to move to Maryland. Please keep us in your prayers as our family takes this next step. I thank you all especially for your continual prayers and support throughout our time at seminary. It has meant the world to us, and I will always be thankful for the role St. John's played in my path to becoming a pastor.

In other news, our daughter, Eden is walking! As much as we tried to teach her, she wanted to teach and learn how to stand and walk by herself. We are very proud! Oliver is still growing very quickly and is quite tall for his age. Please continue to keep us in your prayers, as you are in mine.

In Christ,  
Jacob Stefanec

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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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## 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)] or by scanning the QR code attached to the church emails, and on flyers posted in the narthex.

## TACKLING TOUGH TOPICS

We have an 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 found on the attached flyer. (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.

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## SCHOOL NEWS CORNER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

With Field Day and field trips, butterfly releases and ducklings hatched, yearbooks signed and graduation ceremonies performed, that is a wrap on the 2025-2026 school year. We pray that God will continue to guide the footsteps of our 8th grade graduates as they start a new chapter in high school, and we pray that He provides rest for the teachers and students over the summer before they gear up for the new year in August. There are three more renovation and expansion information meetings scheduled- Wednesday, May 27 after the service; Sunday, May 31 after the service; and Tuesday, June 2 via Zoom (link to be sent out closer to the date). Please join us at one and bring your questions and feedback. God's blessings on your June!



## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1-June	Linda Fox	17-June	Emily Hlavacek
2-June	Alana Bernal	17-June	Benjamin Nolte
2-June	Andy Block	19-June	Daniel Barber
2-June	Jonah Jacquet	19-June	Joshua Hlavacek
3-June	Rod Adel	19-June	Alexander Lofquist
3-June	John DeYoung	19-June	Brianna Velasquez-Bernal
3-June	Kimberly Hoffmann	20-June	Douglas Andersen
4-June	Arliss Albrecht	21-June	Louise Borgardt
4-June	Harold Cole	21-June	Leven Schaefer
5-June	Liam Fernandez	21-June	Todd Schalinske
5-June	Nicholas Naegeli	22-June	Bobby Bernal
7-June	Evan Hansing	22-June	Timothy Riegelman
7-June	Megan Phillips	22-June	Ryan Rosenquist
8-June	Allison Rosborough	22-June	Paul Wiesner
9-June	Micah Hasseldahl	24-June	Mike Nelson
9-June	Lynn Janke	25-June	Lucy Milaeger
9-June	Judith Matus	27-June	Rolando Morales
11-June	Violet Milaeger	27-June	Sandra Naegeli
12-June	Charles Kading	27-June	Daniel Reisdorf
12-June	Samuel Patzke	27-June	Cara Schielie
12-June	Benjamin Schuler	28-June	Amela Smith
14-June	Joseph Terselic	28-June	Aaron Wentzel
15-June	Faye Boehler	29-June	Janet Fisa
15-June	Finnigan Palenik	29-June	Marilyn Urban
16-June	Harper Blint	30-June	Tanner Christensen
16-June	Ashley Schaefer		



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

## FROM YOUR DIRECTOR OR MUSIC – JUNE 2026 NEWSLETTER

For many of us, church music has been a constant presence in our lives. Most of us grew up either here at St. John's Lutheran Church or possibly another Lutheran church. Through psalms and great hymnody, we have a solid foundation on the Word of God. We know that 'next to the Word of God, Music deserves the highest praise'. Martin Luther.

My parents brought me up attending Sunday School and Church services each week. My parents both served in church. Dad taught Sunday school and was on various church boards throughout my life and my mother was a church organist and choir director for well over 30 years. In my early teens, my mother encouraged me to play piano/organ duets with her during the summer months at church. Little did I know, this was the beginning of my formation as a Church musician. I am forever grateful to my parents and most grateful that God provided me wonderful opportunities to learn and grow musically throughout these years.

The musical gifts that were shared with me have now come full circle. I now have the honor of teaching piano, teaching and leading hand chime choirs here at St. John's Lutheran School, leading Hand Bell Choir, Senior Choir, and playing the most beautiful Schlicker Pipe Organ each week. It is a privilege to share the Word of God through music with so many individuals.

**Music and More Concert Series: Thursday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 at 12:00 pm** - First Presbyterian Church, Racine. Admission is FREE! I am joined by Kimberly Chapman. You will hear music **Bach, Behnke and Buxtehude**. For a complete concert schedule follow the website <https://firstpresracine.org/music-more/>. I look forward to seeing you at our concert!

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

The true beauty of music is that it connects  
people

## 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.

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## 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.



## STEWARDSHIP CORNER – JUNE 2026

June 7th – First Sunday after Trinity

**Luke 16:19 – “There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day.”** There is another rich man in this story — Abraham. Obviously, these two men used the gift of riches that God gave them in very different ways. The life and decisions of Abraham flowed from faith; the rich man's life and decisions flowed from disbelief and self-centeredness. Abraham's kindness and generosity reflected his trust in a kind and generous God. And the rich man...well, you saw what happened to him and what god he served.

June 14 – Second Sunday after Trinity

**Luke 14:19 – “And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please have me excused.’”** The things of this world tempt us to cast aside the things of God. The things of this world demand our attention, time, finances, etc. But Jesus invites us to the feast — what could be more important than this gracious invitation? Today's parable invites us to examine our own priorities and excuses, and then come home in humble repentance to the Lord who invites us.

June 21 – Third Sunday after Trinity

**Luke 15:10 – “Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”** Jesus eats with sinners, not so that they will remain stuck in their sins, but so that they will come to know His love and repent. To repent means to turn, that is, to turn away from sin and toward Jesus in faith. Whether the sin we struggle with is pride, greed, doubt or any number of other sins, the Lord calls us to turn to Him again in faith and away from our sin.

June 28 – Fourth Sunday after Trinity

**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 applies 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.

## LIFE THOUGHTS FOR LUTHERANS

**June 7 – Trinity 1** – Our Lord’s plan is not our own plan. This is one of the greatest struggles for every single person born to the human race. We assume that, because we seem to have destiny in our hand, we have the ability to plan every single aspect of our lives, right down to the very time and place we have a child. Abraham was just like us. He had accumulated great wealth and was well respected in the new place God had sent him to. He had everything except a child—and thus no one to whom to pass on his wealth and wisdom. However, God promised him a child! While God does not promise us the same, He does promise us a family built on the blood of Jesus who names us His heirs and gives us His wisdom.

**June 14 – Trinity 2** – Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him (1 John 3:14b). John the Apostle leaves none of us unscathed. He reminds us that we cannot hate our brother and not be guilty of breaking the Fifth Commandment, which condemns us to death. How many of us speak with malice against our brother’s health and wellbeing? How many of us fail to speak God’s Word to our brother? God does hold us accountable for our thoughts, words, and deeds. There have been quite a few Hollywood storylines lately about groups of people determining value based on society’s ability to support a certain number and type of people. Hollywood is a reflection of where our culture is already. If we think we are better off because we do not have certain people in our midst or because there are too many, we stand guilty before God of John’s warning. Do not close your heart to your brother but give to him in need and love him as God wills.

**June 21 – Trinity 3** – “Bless the Lord, O my soul” (Psalm 103). Our Lord is worthy of being praised with pure voices forever because He has done for us what we could not and would not deign to do for ourselves. He forgives us our sins, heals disease, redeems us from hell, crowns us with love and mercy, satisfies us, and renews us. How could we ever thank or praise our God and Lord enough? We cannot—but we can honor and obey Him as a portion of our thanks and praise. How do we honor Him? Hear His Word and believe. God has called us to care for human life, for God has done all this for human life. Every human life is precious from the womb to natural death. So, bless the Lord and care for your neighbor.

**June 28 – Trinity 4** – “Am I in the place of God?” Joseph asked his brothers. Joseph’s brothers feared that because Jacob was dead, Joseph would finally take vengeance. In our human world, there is nothing more powerful than the ability to take vengeance on those who have done us wrong. It is a wild and hungry desire that is deep within our bones. We think we can correct the injustices done to us by our own hands and by our own devices and schemes. Joseph had every right to hate his brothers and desire vengeance according to the law of man. His brothers had removed him from the eyes of his father, lied to his father, sold him into slavery, and caused him to suffer all sorts of trials—and now Joseph stood above them, able to command anything, and his father was dead. He could have killed his brothers, and no one in Egypt would have cared or been surprised. Even the Hebrews would have understood. But God says, “Vengeance is the Lord’s.” It is not for us to take in our own hands but for the Lord to accomplish through His kingdoms. Joseph was blessed for giving vengeance over to the Lord and we will be as well.

## OUR SHUT-INS COULD USE OUR SUNSHINE!

Many of us find that with extra daylight hours during the summer we can accomplish a few more things each day. With that in mind, please consider adding our shut-ins to your summer schedule! Could you make a phone call to one of them? Maybe you could drop off a small picnic basket or a bouquet of fresh picked flowers from your yard? Do you need a craft project with your kids? ...Handmade cards would be so appreciated by these dear members of our church! As we are now blessed with longer summer days, please pray that God would lead you to find your path to a new summer adventure by serving within our church family. If you would like some guidance on how to begin, please feel free to contact me.

Julie Hagen 262-331-0052

Julie\_hagen@hotmail.com

### SHUT INS

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
Pat Cole	6551 Mariner Drive, Unit 6, Racine, WI 53406	
Sue Erickson	2262 Loni Lane, Racine, WI 53406 – Please add “In Care of Tracy Wasik”	
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	