

# NEWS FROM ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN

## JUNE 2025

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### FROM OUR SEMINARIAN

This Ascension, we recall how Christ ascended into heaven so that he might “fill all things” (Ephesians 4:10) and reign over them. One way to reflect on this is to consider and compare the reign of Solomon to that of Christ. Solomon was the son of David and succeeded David on the throne of Israel. When David desired to build the temple for God to dwell in, God told him, “When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish his kingdom forever. I will be to him a father, and he will be to me a son,” (1 Samuel 7:12-14).

When Solomon becomes king of Israel at the end of David’s life, he reigns with wisdom and righteousness—at first. He puts to death his enemies and is given exceptional wisdom by the grace of God. He builds the temple of God with excellence, and his kingdom is blessed with riches and abundance. However, Solomon is led away from the Lord when he marries foreign wives who lead his heart away from the Lord. He even builds high places for other gods. So, like every man who came before him, Solomon is not ultimately the deliverer of his people.

Yet, there is another, truer Son of David: Christ. Although Solomon was the offspring of David, Christ is the true offspring who came from David’s own body. Although he is the Son of David, he is the most-high God. Although Solomon was the son of David, Christ is the Son of God. As the psalm says, “The Lord says to my Lord, ‘sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool,’” (Psalm 110). Although Solomon put to death his enemies, the true King of Israel put to death sin on his throne of the cross. Although Solomon was given wisdom, Christ is the personification of Wisdom. Although Solomon built the temple of God, Christ’s body is the Temple. Although Solomon’s kingdom was great, Christ’s is greater still and will have no end. Although Solomon fell into idolatry, Christ bore the idolatry of his people and carried it to the grave. Although Solomon’s reign ended when he died, Christ’s reign was inaugurated when he took his last breath. For Christ is the Son promised to David who reigns forever.

So, let us remember the perfect king is Christ this Ascension. As we face trial and tribulation in the world, let us remember that Christ is ruler over all and is with us always. Let us look to our King as the one who defeated death by death and patiently await the final consumption of his kingdom. For there, the peace and abundance will be greater than that of Solomon, and there will be sin no more.

Let us pray: *Heavenly Father, you promised your servant David that his offspring would reign forever. Let us repent of our sin and find our promised rest in his kingdom, so that we may abide in your presence within your kingdom of all eternity. Through Jesus Christ, your Son, Amen.*

This newsletter article was written by our adopted seminarian Vicar Jacob Stefanec. This summer he will move back to Fort Wayne for his final year of academic study at Concordia Theological Seminary where, God willing, he will receive a call to serve in Christ’s Church. I encourage you to pray for him and his family as they move, as he concludes his studies, and as he prepares for a call to serve as an under-shepherd of the one Good Shepherd.

- Pastor DeYoung

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### OFFICIAL ACTS

#### **Wedding:**

Tyberius Neideffer and Joy Craig     5/4/2025

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### 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.

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

Our June Bible and Brew Men's Study will take place on Wednesday, June 25 at 8:30pm. This month's study will be held at Pastor Gilbert's house, 501 Augusta.

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## **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.

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## **FELLOWSHIP FRIDAY**

A Fellowship Friday will not be held this month. Join us on Friday, July 18 for the next Fellowship Friday!

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## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

We look forward to holding I Am the Vine, You Are the Branches VBS this year from June 29-July 2 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 29. The other days will go from 9-11:30pm. 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 6:00pm service on Wednesday, June 26.

If your child(ren) plan to attend VBS, please use the link provided here to sign up!  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040B4AACA62EA3FB6-56792959-iamthe>

We still have volunteer positions that need to be filled. We need 6-8 high school students or adults that can help out during VBS hours. No planning or prep work needed! We are also in need of prepackaged snacks for our snack time during VBS. Please prayerfully consider these needs and contact Kimberly in the church office 637-7011 or [chapman@stjohnsracine.org](mailto:chapman@stjohnsracine.org) if you are able to serve. We appreciate your willingness to serve in this way!

## **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 **Smoklenski 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!

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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 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.



## 2025-2026 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 2025-2026 board members.

Chairman: Rod Adel      Vice-Chairman: Dave Sjostrom

Board of Elders: Curt Adel, Tim Beuschel, John Bruening, Jim Day, Joel Grant, Gary Miller, Clint Olley, Matt Patzke, Eric Peterson, Steven Riegelman, Scott Schweitzer, Michael Terselic

Board of Trustees: Tim Beier, Tim Busarow, Charlie Fernandez, Wayne Henslin, Philip Kading, Roy Karpinsky, Leif Lovdahl, Jim McCluskey, Ravi Velasquez

Board of Christian Day School: Charlotte Fernandez, Carla Hammermann, Scott Hansing, Kerry Jacquet, Bill Pringle, Dan Widmar

Board of Stewardship: Kristina Beier, Anita Grant, Kevin Hasseldahl, Diane Schweitzer

## 2025-2026 WHO IS MY ELDER?

Last Name Begins With	Your Elder Is
A - Ben	Steven Riegelman
Ber - Cha	John Bruening
Chi - Don	Jim Day
Dou - Gea	Tim Beuschel
Gey - Hou	Michael Terselic
Hug - Les	Clint Olley
Lie - Met	Matt Patzke
Mia - Oll	Scott Schweitzer
Pal - Reim	Eric Peterson
Reis - Schae	Gary Miller
Schal - Sor	Joel Grant
Sp - Z	Curt Adel

## MOTHER'S DAY ROSE SALE THANK YOU!

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 \$20.65. 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 22. (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.)

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

## NEW ADDRESS FOR RANDALL AND LOUISE BORGARDT

The Borgardt family has moved! Their new address is 23816 Apple Road, Waterford, WI 53185. Please make a note. Thank you!

## **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](mailto:chapman@stjohnsracine.org).

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## **FROM YOUR DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

Now is the time to rest and refresh over the summer months, a time to spend with family and friends and hopefully do some traveling. Thank you choirs and all talented musicians for your dedication to this past season.

For Lutherans, music is a high priority. According to Martin Luther, music stands as the 'living voice of the Gospel', a way in which the Gospel can be proclaimed. We are enthusiastic singers here at St. John's, enthusiastically responding to God's Word.

**Student Piano Recital:** Sunday, June 8 2025 at 1:00 pm Join us!

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

**Save the Date - Choral Kickoff evening:** Tuesday, September 2, 2025. This year we welcome Dr. Steven Wenthe, Professor of Music Emeritus of Concordia University, River Forest. Currently, Dr. Wenthe serves as Cantor of First Saint Paul's Lutheran Church, Chicago.

**Celebration of Hymns Festival:** Watch upcoming newsletters for more information on 'Celebration of Hymns Festival' I am preparing for this fall.

The true beauty of music is that it connects people

May God bless and keep you this summer!  
Sharon Adel (262) 822-1338

## **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 150<sup>th</sup> 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. The contract is signed and the work is set to begin in early June, concluding towards the end of July. 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!

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

<b>1-June</b>	Linda Fox	<b>17-June</b>	Benjamin Nolte
<b>2-June</b>	Alana Bernal	<b>19-June</b>	Daniel Barber
<b>2-June</b>	Andy Block	<b>19-June</b>	Brianna Bernal
<b>2-June</b>	Jonah Jacquet	<b>19-June</b>	Joshua Hlavacek
<b>3-June</b>	Rod Adel	<b>19-June</b>	Alexander Lofquist
<b>3-June</b>	John DeYoung	<b>20-June</b>	Douglas Andersen
<b>3-June</b>	Kimberly Hoffmann	<b>21-June</b>	Louise Borgardt
<b>4-June</b>	Arliss Albrecht	<b>21-June</b>	Leven Schaefer
<b>4-June</b>	Harold Cole	<b>21-June</b>	Todd Schalinske
<b>5-June</b>	Liam Fernandez	<b>22-June</b>	Bobby Bernal
<b>5-June</b>	Nicholas Naegeli	<b>22-June</b>	Timothy Riegelman
<b>7-June</b>	Evan Hansing	<b>22-June</b>	Ryan Rosenquist
<b>7-June</b>	Megan Phillips	<b>22-June</b>	Paul Wiesner
<b>8-June</b>	Allison Rosborough	<b>24-June</b>	Mike Nelson
<b>9-June</b>	Micah Hasseldahl	<b>25-June</b>	Lucy Milaeger
<b>9-June</b>	Lynn Janke	<b>26-June</b>	Donovan Smith
<b>9-June</b>	Judy Matus	<b>27-June</b>	Rolando Morales
<b>11-June</b>	Violet Milaeger	<b>27-June</b>	Sandra Naegeli
<b>12-June</b>	Charles Kading	<b>27-June</b>	Daniel Reisdorf
<b>12-June</b>	Samuel Patzke	<b>27-June</b>	Cara Schielie
<b>14-June</b>	Joseph Terselic	<b>28-June</b>	Amela Smith
<b>15-June</b>	Faye Boehler	<b>28-June</b>	Aaron Wentzel
<b>15-June</b>	Finnigan Palenik	<b>29-June</b>	Janet Fisa
<b>16-June</b>	Harper Blint	<b>30-June</b>	Tanner Christensen
<b>16-June</b>	Ashley Schaefer	<b>30-June</b>	Benjamin Rosso
<b>17-June</b>	Emily Hlavacek	<b>30-June</b>	Lillie Rosso



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

School is out for the summer! As of May 30, 2025, we have said goodbye and congratulations to our 8th grade graduates, and we now keep them in our prayers as they continue onto the next step of their education. May also brought field trip season, as students ventured out to museums, nature centers, and zoos to get some hands-on learning before school let out. Chicks were chirping in the 3rd grade classroom, and caterpillars turned to butterflies in front of our 1st graders. It was an exciting and full month, and now our students and teachers get a welcome break before gearing up for next school year. God's blessings on your summer, Cougars!

### 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.

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





## STEWARDSHIP CORNER – JUNE 2025

June 1 – *Exaudi*

**1 Peter 4:10 – “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”**

Grace is God’s undeserved mercy toward us. And what do we have that is not a gift flowing from God’s grace? He gives all these gifts so that we may use them in service toward one another. Chief among the ways we serve one another is to support the church’s work of bringing more of God’s grace to more of God’s people. That’s what it means to be a steward!

June 8 – Day of Pentecost

**Acts 2:1 – “When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.”** Notice that Pentecost was actually an Old Testament festival. It happened around the time when the wheat and oats were ready to be brought in. In the New Testament, Pentecost foreshadowed the great harvest of humankind that God will bring in through the preaching of His Word. God gives the seed, and God brings about the harvest through the work of His church.

June 15 – Holy Trinity

**Isaiah 6:3 – “And one called to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!’ ”** Three times the angels cry out: “Holy, holy, holy!” It is an indication of the three-ness in God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is the Name into which we are baptized. We have been made a part of God’s family and are now called to live lives that are in harmony with this new family. We are to be godly and live in God’s image. As God is loving, kind and generous, so also are we called to be.

June 22 – Trinity 1

**Luke 16:19 – “There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day.”** This is often called the story of “The Rich Man and Lazarus.” But it should really be called the story of “The Two Rich Men and Lazarus.” The other rich man in this story is 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 choices flowed from disbelief and self-

centeredness. Abraham was kind and generous, reflecting 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 29 – Trinity 2

**Proverbs 9:9 – “Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.”** We need the Lord’s instruction and wisdom. We just don’t know enough on our own. It seems foolish to the world that Christians drop their hard-earned money into the collection plate every week. The world just doesn’t see a benefit to the preaching of the Word, the administration of the Sacraments, the sending of missionaries, or the educating of children in the faith. But from the Lord’s instruction and wisdom, we know better. Giving teaches us generosity. The work of the church is the salvation of mankind, and we are blessed to be called to participate in it in this way.



## LIFE THOUGHTS FOR LUTHERANS – JUNE 2025

**June 1 – Easter VII (Exaudi)** – Psalm 51 proclaims two clear testimonies to the sanctity of human life. Verse 5 affirms that our humanity and identity—and that of our every neighbor—begins at conception in mother’s womb. And verses 7-12 clearly acclaim Almighty God’s forgiveness that intervenes to prevent abortion from claiming the guilty parent as abortion’s second victim. Do not hesitate to speak these oracles of God (1 Peter 4:11).

**June 8 – Pentecost** – The only ways embryos differ from adults are age, location, appearance, and ability. These qualities present no obstacle to the Lord and Giver of life. He easily and eagerly overcomes helplessness (Psalm 143:3-4) and distances (Acts 2:9-11) to bestow sanctity on the youngest and the oldest of us (Acts 2:17-18). Will it not delight us just as much to tell these mighty works of God (Acts 2:11)?

**June 15 – Trinity** – Almighty God makes Himself known to us as Father, Son, and Spirit (Isaiah 6:3, 8). He delights in nothing more than bringing forth children (Psalm 29:9; John 3:3-5). Childbearing means more than just political controversy or personal choice. It belongs to the Gospel’s essence to cherish all the little ones. Whom shall He send to celebrate it? Here we are—send us!

**June 22 – Trinity I** – Every human life comes directly from the hand of God, regardless of size or skills or circumstances (Psalm 33:13-15). He Himself ushers each one both into and out of bodily existence, from fertilization in mother’s womb (Genesis 15:3-5) to final breath and Father’s everlasting embrace (Luke 16:22). Such perfect love doesn’t hold back from driving out all the fear that feeds abortion and assisted suicide (1 John 4:17-18).

**June 29 – Sts. Peter and Paul** – The Christian reality does not assess human worth by power (Galatians 2:6), appearance (Galatians 2:9), or origin (Acts 15:7-9). From the beginning, believers insisted on loving both Jews and Gentiles. We need not accept the false dichotomy of choosing between mother’s life and unborn child’s. Jesus has given us a God big enough (Psalm 46:1, 8-9) to value, receive, and serve both and all.

## 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

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.



## **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	
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	