

NEWS FROM ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN

MARCH 2026

FROM THE PASTOR

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me" (John 10:14).

Do you have a moment? There's a confidential matter I'd like to discuss with you. Toward the end of February we received another reminder that the world is a broken place and is full of liars and would-be thieves! Every so often someone sends out messages with an email address that is intentionally close to a pastor's email address and uses his name. They do this with text messages and use the pastor's name as well. Rather than being impressed that there are people out there who want to be me, I know that this is a common scam that happens to many other pastors and churches.

You can be sure that neither Pastor DeYoung nor I will ever reach out to any of you to ask for gift cards or anything like that in order to offer assistance to shut-ins or people in the hospital. We have a system for that here at St. John's and it doesn't involve anything like this! The scam pattern often goes as follows:

- An email/text message is sent using a pastor's name that is recognizable to the recipient.
- The message puts forth a request for a discreet or confidential conversation and includes an inability to talk on the phone due to a meeting or being out of town.
- If you respond, the request for gift cards comes next, usually toward the supposed goal of helping people who are in need.
- If someone actually goes out and purchases gift cards, then the scammer on the other end asks for pictures of the cards with all the information/numbers needed to use them.

The first time this happened here at St. John's, I thought my email address had been hacked. If that happens, the first thing to be done is to change your password. I changed my password, and I still miss that one. I was proud of it but now it's gone. As it turned out, no one had gained access to my email account, someone simply made one to look similar to mine. The key in this is not reading

the name provided of who sent the email (which can be written to be anyone's name), but by clicking on the small downward facing arrow to the right ("show details") of the sender's name. If it's a text message on the phone, you can check it against my cell phone number, which I'm sure you all have memorized. Just kidding, but is printed in the bulletin each week. And of course, if you're not sure, you can always call Pastor DeYoung or me to check in and see what's going on. I expect it will result in an enjoyable conversation!

We think the past attempts have come about as a result of information and phone numbers shared in the monthly newsletter, which is also published online. We have done our best to remove this type of information and I think we've done a good job of it. I'm not sure what led to the recent attempt, and found it particularly odd that some non-members of St. John's received them.

I think most of you who have received these scam attempts have seen through them, but we can continue to keep an eye out for them because, as far as I know, there is very little that can be done to prevent them in the future. I wish it would stop, and if it must continue, I prefer it to not take place over the weekend when it is more difficult to send out a warning to the whole congregation! In the meantime, we'll continue to hear our Good Shepherd's voice each week in worship and every day through His Word as we look forward to His return according to His good timing. When He comes back to judge the living and the dead, there will be no doubt that it's truly Him!

In Christ,
Pastor Gilbert

OFFICIAL ACTS

Baptism:

Tyler Joseph Blazei

2-22-2026

SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING

A special voters' meeting will be held on Sunday, March 1 at 9am for the purpose of calling a middle school Science teacher for the 2026-2027 school year. A candidate bio list can be picked up in the back of the sanctuary.

LENTEN DINNERS 2026

Date	Group Serving	Menu	Group Singing
3/4/2026	Senior/Handbell Choir	Sloppy Joe's	Cherub Choir
3/11/2026	None	Soup Supper	Children's Choir
3/18/2026	Board of Trustees	Pulled Pork Sandwiches	Vocal Solo
3/25/2026	None	Soup Supper	Piano Solo

SOUP SUPPERS

Again this year on the weeks where no group is hosting a Lenten meal, we will be having "Soup Suppers." ***This Lenten tradition is common in many Lutheran parishes and is a simple meal of soup and crackers/bread.*** An online sign-up will be provided if you are able to bring a soup (you may also call the church office). ***This meal will be self-serve; disposable bowls, plates, cups, utensils, and decaf coffee will be provided. There is no group assigned to clean up anything that isn't disposable. We ask that you take the vessel in which you brought your soup when you leave, along with whatever contents remain.*** Feel free to bring your own beverages if you want to drink something other than water or coffee. If you have any questions, please contact Kimberly Chapman in the church office.

The link for the two March soup suppers are listed here:

March 11 -

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040B4AACA62EA3FB6-61543458-lenten#/>

March 25 -

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040B4AACA62EA3FB6-61543459-lenten#/>

FELLOWSHIP FRIDAY

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

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY RETREAT MARCH 6 & 7, 2026

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Pleasant Prairie (4311 104th St.) is pleased to host the annual Marriage & Family Retreat! This retreat is for everyone: couples, families, and singles! Our keynote speaker is Rev. Dr. Brian German (professor at CUW) who will give multiple presentations on "Marriage & the Matriarchs." There are also multiple breakout sessions led by local pastors and professionals. The \$25 registration fee covers Friday dinner and Saturday breakfast and lunch. Childcare costs \$25/family, which includes meals. Presentations, discussions, fellowship, worship/preaching - all meant to strengthen Christian marriage and family. Visit goodshepherdluth.org for registration and details.

LWML PRAYER SERVICE AT HOLY CROSS

The members of Cross and Crown Mission Society invite you to join us Sunday, March 8th at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 3350 Lathrop Avenue, Racine, for this year's Prayer Service based on the acronym P.R.A.Y.E.R—Praise, Remember, Ask, Yield, Excitement, Rejoice. It will be led by our LWML Zone Counselor, Rev. Lockie and Rev. Otten, and will begin at 2:00 P.M. After the service we will gather for fellowship in the classroom for refreshments. We look forward to having you as our guests in worship and fellowship!

"BIBLE AND BREW" MEN'S STUDY

Our March Bible and Brew Men's Study will take place on Wednesday, March 25 at 8:30pm. This month's study will be held at Pastor DeYoung's house, 1106 Hialeah Drive.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN TRIP

Please join the Stewardship Board on Saturday, April 25 for a spring service field trip to Feed My Starving Children, a Christian organization in Libertyville, Illinois that partners with volunteers to pack life-saving meals for children in need around the world.

Last September, our group packed 80 boxes of food, providing enough meals to feed 127 children for an entire year—that's 46,080 meals! This spring, we're hoping to build on that incredible impact and pack even more.

Our packing session will take place from 2:00–3:45pm. We will meet at the Highway 20 Park and Ride at 12:45pm and caravan together to Libertyville.

This is a meaningful and hands-on opportunity to give back, and we hope you and your family will consider joining us. *Please note: for safety reasons, Feed My Starving Children requires all participants to be at least 5 years old.*

Please sign up at <http://www.fmssc.org/join-group?joincode=8762ZB>

CRADLE ROLL PLAYDATE

Stay tuned for upcoming Cradle Roll playdates this month!

EASTER FLOWERS

Flowers to decorate the church for Easter are available by signing the sheet posted in the narthex or by calling or emailing the church office. (chapman@stjohnsracine.org, (262) 637-7011) Flowers available this year are hyacinths, daffodils, tulips, and Easter lilies at \$15.00 each. Checks should be made payable to "St. John's Church." Sunday, March 8 is the last day to sign up for Easter flowers. You may take your flowers home after the 10:15 a.m. Easter service.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER NEEDED

We are still looking for someone willing to teach our 6-8th grade Sunday School or someone who would be willing to trade off teaching every other week. The material used for the class can be provided by St. John's through Concordia Publishing House. If you'd like to learn more about it, please contact the church office or one of the pastors.

USHERS NEEDED

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

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.

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]. You can also scan 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.

MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER NOTE – DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

On My Heart Imprint Your Image, (LSB 422) this beautiful hymn is sung by many congregations throughout the Lenten season. The Forty days of Lent are about God's faithful servants asking God for a clean and new heart. "Create in Me a Clean Heart O God, and renew a right spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10). We ask God to continually imprint Himself on our hearts. Unfortunately even after we are granted His imprint upon our hearts, we immediately need His great mercy time after time. We are sinners and the need for God's forgiveness will always be there, until we reach eternal life with Him!

Let us get ready, let us prepare our hearts that are imprinted with the image of our beautiful Lord and Savior. We know for sure that Jesus died on the cross for our sins. He is our salvation.

Blessings to you all throughout this Lenten season. Sharon Adel

*Jesus, may our hearts be burning with more fervent love
for You, may our eyes ever be turned towards your
cross! In Jesus Name, Amen*

SCHOOL NEWS CORNER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

At St. John's, March always brings the promise of warmer temperatures- and this year, it also brings a flurry of activity! The school will celebrate its annual Kids Heart Challenge on March 6. That event is followed quickly by a Social Studies Fair that will celebrate our nation's 250th birthday on Thursday, March 12th. We invite you to join us- there will be Revolutionary War re-enactors, 8th graders dressed as historical figures, and special activities around the school to celebrate the passage of time in our nation. March also brings the Father-Daughter Dance, the end of the 3rd quarter, Palm Sunday and Confirmation for our 8th graders. We are so blessed at St. John's- thank you for your continued support of our school!

DINING OUT NIGHT

Join us on Tuesday, March 10 at Georgie Porgie's, 5502 Washington Avenue, Mt. Pleasant from 4-8pm for our next Dining Out Night. A flyer can be picked up in the back of the sanctuary or is attached to the emailed copy of the church newsletter

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

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

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

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

STEWARDSHIP CORNER – MARCH

March 1 – Second Sunday in Lent (Reminiscere)

Matthew 15:27 – “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” These are the words of faith, for faith means receiving what God gives. And God has given us so much more than just the crumbs that fall from the table — He has given us life, salvation, body and soul, eyes and ears, possessions and income. That’s where our stewardship starts: with faith in the God who is the greatest Giver.

March 8 – Third Sunday in Lent (Oculi)

Luke 11:21–22 – “When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil.” Jesus has disarmed Satan in a most unusual way: He has disarmed him by allowing Satan to cast all his weapons into Jesus. Satan has nothing left to attack us with — he spent it all on Jesus. And now Jesus is our stronger man. He guards and keeps us and ours. We have none to fear.

March 15 – Fourth Sunday in Lent (Laetare)

John 6:5 – “Jesus said to Philip, ‘Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?’” Of course Jesus knows the answer to that question — He knows how He means to care for His people. The Lord provided, and He still provides. This knowledge frees us for generosity without fear.

March 22 – Fifth Sunday in Lent (Judica)

Hebrews 9:12 – “He entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.” The only price that could redeem us was the very blood of the Christ. This is the only sacrifice of true worth. His sacrificial giving sets the pattern for our life, for how can we who are redeemed by the self-giving of God not also give of ourselves to His kingdom?

March 29 – Palm Sunday

Matthew 21:3 – “If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” Did Jesus really *need* the donkey? If the man had refused to give the donkey, would the work of salvation have been derailed? Of course not. But what an honor for the man who owned this donkey and foal! Likewise, with us — the Lord needs none of us, but what an honor for God to choose to use our generosity in the work of His church.

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.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1-Mar	Julia Kellner	17-Mar	Robert Pirk
1-Mar	Sutton Schaefer	18-Mar	Terri Tigges
2-Mar	Lisa Hlavacek	18-Mar	Jan Vuvunas
3-Mar	Scott Schweitzer	19-Mar	Janice Albright
4-Mar	Scott Albright	19-Mar	Christopher Nelson
5-Mar	McKenna Bowe	20-Mar	Michael Bennett
5-Mar	Amanda Knoell	20-Mar	Karalynn Franke
5-Mar	Nathan Knoell	20-Mar	Daniel Palenik
6-Mar	Jean Adel	20-Mar	Penny Paulson
6-Mar	Evan Kotowski	21-Mar	Caleb Jozwiak
6-Mar	Erhard Reimann	21-Mar	Gary Miller
7-Mar	Timothy Boeselager	22-Mar	Ethan Schaefer
7-Mar	Rodney Darge	23-Mar	Annistyn Anzalone
7-Mar	Lisa Eickhorst	23-Mar	Richard Pierce-Ruhland
8-Mar	Marianne Gilbert	24-Mar	Tim Beier
8-Mar	Theodore Patzke	24-Mar	Liliana Kading
10-Mar	Lydia Balke	25-Mar	Tim Busarow
11-Mar	Amber Davis	25-Mar	John Krenzke
13-Mar	Olivia Terselic	25-Mar	Scott Miller
14-Mar	Grace Block	26-Mar	Matthew Nelson
14-Mar	Patricia Cole	26-Mar	Leighton Schultz
14-Mar	Owen Kotowski	27-Mar	Gavin Moser
15-Mar	Mara Douglas	27-Mar	Whitney Riegelman
15-Mar	Vanessa Luther	29-Mar	Madison Kuske
15-Mar	Dennis Polak	29-Mar	Jessica Schuler
15-Mar	Nancy Rooney	30-Mar	Timothy Beuschel
15-Mar	Mark Schaefer	30-Mar	Cherie Mayrand
17-Mar	Nancy Blaesing	31-Mar	Pamela Stein
17-Mar	Stephanie Peterson		



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

LIFETHOUGHTS FOR LUTHERANS

MARCH 2026

March 1 – Salvation comes only through faith in Christ, who was “lifted up” on the cross as the payment for the world’s sins (John 3:14-15). Not even Abraham our forefather was saved by his works or inner worth (Romans 4:2-3). In choosing to redeem us by His own grace apart from our works, God shows us that our value is not found in a person’s own qualities. Instead, every person is precious to God and worthy of dignity because “God so loved the world that He gave His only Son” (John 3:16).

March 8 – The world tells us to avoid suffering at all costs, even justifying murder (abortion, suicide, assisted suicide) on the grounds that death can be used to avoid further suffering. However, St. Paul reminds us that instead of trying to avoid suffering through death, we “can rejoice in our sufferings” (Romans 5:3), knowing that God uses our suffering to increase our hope in Him and bring us to everlasting glory. Therefore, when suffering comes, “let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker (Psalm 95:6), entrusting ourselves into the hands of the One who “died for us” (Romans 5:8).

March 15 – Sin makes us blind to the things of God (Isaiah 42:16, 18). Not only do we often fail to recognize our neighbors and the many needs they have, but we also have a hard time seeing our own lack of love (John 9:41) and need for salvation. Thankfully, Jesus has come to open our blind eyes and turn our darkness into light (John 9:6, Isaiah 42:16). The Lord not only grants us faith to see Him and know His salvation, He also empowers us to “walk as children of light” (Ephesians 5:8) to better see and serve our neighbors in need, from the least of them to the greatest.

March 22 – Jesus is the “resurrection and the life” (John 11:25), the one true God who raises the dead from their graves and gives them new life (Ezekiel 37:5-6). Everything Jesus has said and done testifies that He gives, sustains, and loves life. It is inconceivable to think that Jesus, who raised Lazarus from the tomb and who died to “give life to our mortal bodies” (Romans 8:11), would approve of the murder of any innocent person, regardless of their size or condition.

March 29 – When Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, he gave up, washed his hands, called himself innocent, and let the Innocent One, our Lord Jesus Christ, be taken away and crucified (Matthew 27:24-26). As the world around us continues to call for the death of the innocent, it may seem that we are gaining nothing, and we will be tempted to wash our hands and give up like Pilate did. But the Lord, in His mercy, has given you a tongue to speak that you may sustain with His Word those who are weary (Isaiah 50:4). God grant us the strength to speak up on behalf of the innocent ones and let “every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:11).

Thinking About Our Shut-ins:

LENTEN THOUGHTS and THOUGHTS OF OUR SHUT-INS

Lent is a time of reflection and repentance and shows us our separation from God. Our shut-ins, whether in the season of Lent, or any other season, often feel a separation from their church...from us! As we reflect on Christ's sacrifices during the Lenten season, please sacrifice a moment to pray for the shut-ins of our congregation. Consider the sacrifice of your time for them as well, with a visit, a phone call, a card and your continuing prayers. A suggestion, send them your favorite Lenten hymn. Let them know why it's so important to you, and then, let them know how important THEY ARE to you and all of us at St John's!

God bless your efforts!

God bless our shut-ins!

Julie Hagen (Cell phone 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	
Janet Fisa	Marion House 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	