

NEWS FROM ST. JOHN'S

MAY 2025

FROM THE PASTOR

I shared these words after the sermon on Palm Sunday with those who were present:

On a personal note, it was just about 12 years ago that I accepted the call to serve here as a pastor at St. John's. Some of the reasons for moving here include this amazing sanctuary and music space, the presence of a Lutheran school for my children, and our close proximity to Lake Michigan. Each of these offer aspects of beauty that I greatly appreciate. Most of all, in conversation with the elders, it was clear to me that this congregation values our Lutheran beliefs and putting them into practice in our worship services. Here at St. John's, we just use the hymnal, which might seem simple or assumed to some of you, but unfortunately it is not. This is what I wanted most for my own family, because this is the clearest way to understand and be assured that we are rescued by God's grace through His gift of faith. Today I am thankful to welcome the first of the four daughters God gave to my beautiful wife Jenny and me, our sweet Amalia Marie, who was just slightly over 2 years old when we moved here, as a confirmed member of St. John's Lutheran Church. Thank you for giving this to my family and to me.

In Christ,
Pastor Gilbert

OFFICIAL ACTS

Junior Confirmands:

Ana Marie Douglas	4/13/2025
Amalia Marie Gilbert	4/13/2025
Emily Kim Grant	4/13/2025
Taylor John Griner	4/13/2025
Micah John Hasseldahl	4/13/2025
Aidan Michael Henslin	4/13/2025
Jayce Daniel Klimowicz	4/13/2025
Rolando Jose Morales III	4/13/2025
Finnigan Avery Palenik	4/13/2025
Carter Paul Sandbach	4/13/2025
Elizabeth Annalyn Smith	4/13/2025

Funeral:

Joyce Weber	4/28/2025
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MILAEGER'S MONEY SALE

Spring is almost here! In order to prepare for your plantings and garden, order your Milaeger Money and support St. John's Lutheran PTL at the same time. Milaeger Money also makes a great Mother's Day gift! Milaeger Money is the same as cash. For example, if you buy \$50 dollars in Milaeger Money then you have \$50 to spend at Milaeger's on plants. Milaeger Money can be used at either Milaeger's store (Racine or Sturtevant); it does not expire. **Remember - Milaeger Money is good on living plants only.** Select from thousands of plants---annuals, hanging baskets, perennials, roses, and more!

Order forms can be picked up in the back of the sanctuary or are attached to church emails. Orders along with payment are due back by May 2. Orders will be delivered before Mother's Day!

LWML ZONE 21 RALLY

The ladies from St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 145 S. 6th Street in Waterford invite you to join us for our LWML Zone 21's Spring Rally on Saturday May 3rd at 9:00 a.m. Fellowship will be from 9:30-11:30. Our Bible Study Leader will Pastor Chris Lockie. Pastor William (Bud) Palmer will speak on the Deaf Ministry/Outreach. An ingathering for Twin Oaks Shelter for the Homeless Walworth County will be taken. Please bring: cleaning supplies, paper towels, toilet paper, shampoo/conditioner, liquid body soap (kids and adults), Clorox wipes, diapers and wipes, baby teething gel, baby powder, tampons

CRADLE ROLL PLAYDATE

Please keep an eye out in upcoming bulletins 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.

SPRING CLEANUP DAY

Come join us for our annual Spring Cleanup Day on Saturday, May 10th from 9 - 10am. We will spend 1 hour cleaning up in the neighborhood around church and school. This is a wonderful way to give back to the community that directly surrounds your church and school. We hope that you can join us!

"And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

Micah 6:8

Please sign up at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0E49ACAA28A7F58-55170202-spring>

MOTHER'S DAY ROSE SALE

Roses will be available for a \$3 donation on Sunday, May 11th after the early and late services in the hallway by the school cafeteria. The Mother's Day Rose Sale is sponsored by Wisconsin Right To Life, Kenosha Chapter.

FELLOWSHIP FRIDAY WITH PTL SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

Join us for our next Fellowship Friday on Friday, May 16 from 5:30-7:30pm. Pizza will be served as the main meal. Everyone connected to St. John's is invited to attend this event. Please come as individuals or families, and if you do, please bring a side, dessert, or drink to share. St. John's PTL will be sponsoring the Family Game Night and Used Book Exchange during this Fellowship Friday.

In order to get an accurate count of those planning to attend so that we can plan accordingly when ordering the pizza, we ask that if you plan to attend, that you RSVP to Kimberly in the church office at chapman@stjohnsracine.org or (262) 637-7011 or Sharon at adel@stjohnsracine.org by Wednesday, May 14. Thank you!

QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING

The next quarterly voters' meeting will be held on Sunday, May 18 at 9am in the sanctuary. The 2025-2026 budget will be presented along with board elections. Please join us.

2025-2026 BOARD POSITIONS

At the May voters' meeting, elections will be held for positions on all the boards. If you are interested in serving on one of the boards, please contact Pastor Gilbert, Rod Adel, or the church office. Elections will take place at our quarterly voters' meeting on May 18. Thank you!

SUMMER SERVICE SCHEDULE

Our summer worship schedule begins on Sunday, May 25. Beginning on May 25, there will be one service on Sundays at 9am with Bible study to follow at 10am. The Wednesday following will mirror the Sunday service. This schedule will run through Labor Day weekend.

"BIBLE AND BREW" MEN'S STUDY

Our May Bible and Brew Men's Study will take place on Wednesday, May 28 at 8:30pm. This month's study will be held at Pastor Gilbert's house, 501 Augusta.

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.

TEXTING OUR SHUT INS

Some of our shut ins have expressed an interest in connecting with other members through text. If you are interested in reaching out to our shut ins by text, please contact me in the church office, and I will provide information for those shut ins that would like to be contacted via text. Thank you!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Volunteers needed! We would like to hold VBS 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 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 2.

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 to let her know how you would like to serve.

We will need to have the following volunteer spots claimed by Sunday, May 25 in order to hold VBS this year, so if this is something you want your children to be a part of, please play a role in making it happen! If we are not able to hold a full VBS program, we will consider offering VBSS (Vacation Bible Sunday School). This will take place for a number of weeks on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am and will be open to all students going into PK3-8th Grade.

Director/Co-Directors (1 -2)

Decorator (1)

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)

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

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

Snack Coordinator (1)

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 has 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.



FROM YOUR DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

I feel so blessed to be part of St. John's Lutheran Church and to sit at an amazing pipe organ each week to help you all sing God's Word. For me, my contribution each week is more than just background music. I desire to make sure that the Scriptures that are read and preached each week echo back from the balcony and pew in thanksgiving, praise and confession of Jesus Christ. My passion and goal is to continue this music ministry as it relates to the enhancement of each worship service.

End of Year Choral Gathering: We are nearing the end of this beautiful Choral season. From the beginning of September through Pentecost Sunday, Senior Choir, Handbell Choir, Children's Choir, Cherub Choir, Hand Chime Choir, instrumentalists, and soloists, have freely given their time and talents to the work of our Church, and its Music Ministry. We have worked throughout this choral season learning new music and enjoying many of our favorites! This *is* something worth celebrating. On **Tuesday, May 27, 2025 beginning at 6:00 pm**, we will gather at Reefpoint Marina for fellowship as we rejoice in a beautiful choral season. There are so many individuals that have been trustworthy servants of God and have made giving of their time and talents a priority towards our Music Ministry. Thank you all and God Bless you during the summer months ahead. Your Sister in Christ, Sharon Adel

Student Piano Recital: Sunday, June 8th, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. The recital will be held on the main floor of the sanctuary. Light refreshments will follow the piano recital. Join us!

Save the Date: Thursday, July 24, 2025 at 12:00 pm *Music and More Concert Series* at First Presbyterian Church. Admission is FREE! I am joined by Kristina Beier, and my grandson, Laine Beier. The *Concert Series* offers noon concerts from June 6th through August 8th. For a complete concert schedule follow the website <https://firstpresracine.org/music-more/>. I look forward to seeing you at our concert!

The true beauty of music is that it connects people!

MAY BIRTHDAYS

1-May	Joanne Griffin	19-May	Amalia Gilbert
2-May	Michael Terselic	20-May	Vicky Krenzke
3-May	Robert Albrecht	20-May	Carter McCluskey
3-May	Elaine Billings	20-May	Susan Monson
3-May	Leif Lovdahl	21-May	Holly Henslin
3-May	Haley Sollman	23-May	Miley Allesxandro
3-May	Julie Velasquez	23-May	John Bruening
4-May	Tony Chaudoir	23-May	Aaron Henslin
4-May	Kevin Hasseldahl	24-May	Gary Filicetti
4-May	Peter Tigges	24-May	James Hlavka
5-May	Carter Sandbach	24-May	Philip Kading
6-May	Cole Salinas	24-May	Jonathan Rosborough
6-May	Randall Schaeffer	24-May	Louis Schneider
6-May	Hunter Stauffer	25-May	Sydney Clausen
7-May	Scott Phillips	26-May	Timothy Naegeli
8-May	Marcella Geyer	26-May	Tim Otto
9-May	Donald Riegelman	27-May	Janet Hanneman
10-May	Susan Erickson	28-May	Curt Adel
11-May	Jayden Davis	28-May	Hannah Clemons
11-May	James Lesnjak	28-May	Cherie Dittmann
14-May	Brynn Paulick	29-May	Sharon Schaeffer
14-May	Frankie Zanotti	30-May	Daniel Widmar
15-May	Jonah Mandli	31-May	Kristine Borgardt
15-May	Alyssa Stauffer	31-May	Tom Meier
16-May	Micah Van Schyndel	31-May	Haden Sollman
17-May	Darleen Cummings	31-May	Tyler Stauffer
18-May	Taylor Griner	31-May	Brayden Teglia
18-May	Jillian Rosborough		



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

CHURCH ROOF 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!"**

SCHOOL NEWS CORNER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

They say that April showers bring May flowers- let's hope the season of chilly temperatures will give way to warmer weather soon. As you think about planting this spring, consider purchasing a Milaeger's certificate through our school to help support our PTL- they fund some amazing events for our families during the year, including a Mother-Daughter event, a Field Day for our students, grants for special projects that the teachers can use in their classrooms, and many others. In the month ahead, we look forward to end-of-year field trips (including the DC trip for our 8th graders), track meets, a middle school musical, and graduation celebrations. Thank you for keeping our students and staff in your prayers as they finish out this school year!

DINING OUT AT CHARCOAL GRILL

Join us for our last Dining Out Night at Charcoal Grill, 8300 Washington Ave., Mt. Pleasant, from 11:30-8pm on Thursday, May 15. Show the flyer attached to the May newsletter or pick up a copy in the back of the sanctuary when you place your order. Thanks for supporting this tasty fundraiser!

STEWARDSHIP CORNER - MAY 2025

May 4 – Misericordia Domini

John 10:16 – “And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice.” On their own sheep are in great danger. They need a shepherd to guide them. The sheep know the Shepherd’s voice, and we delight to go where He leads. Of course, the world, the devil and our own sinful flesh want to pull us in another direction. Namely, they want to pull us in the direction of death. But following the Shepherd means life. So, no matter how difficult the path is, let us follow the Shepherd!

May 11 – Jubilate

1 Peter 2:11 – “Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.” Passions of the flesh — that means the things our flesh desires. One way to sum up all the “passions of the flesh” is to call them greed: the desire to have more things to bring us comfort and peace of mind. But that shows us the real problem with greed. It wages war against our soul, and it urges us to place our trust in the things of this world and not in God. But St. Peter reminds us that we are sojourners and exiles. We belong to the kingdom of God. We have been purchased by the blood of Christ and belong to Him. That knowledge frees us from greed, and it frees us for generosity.

May 18 – Cantate

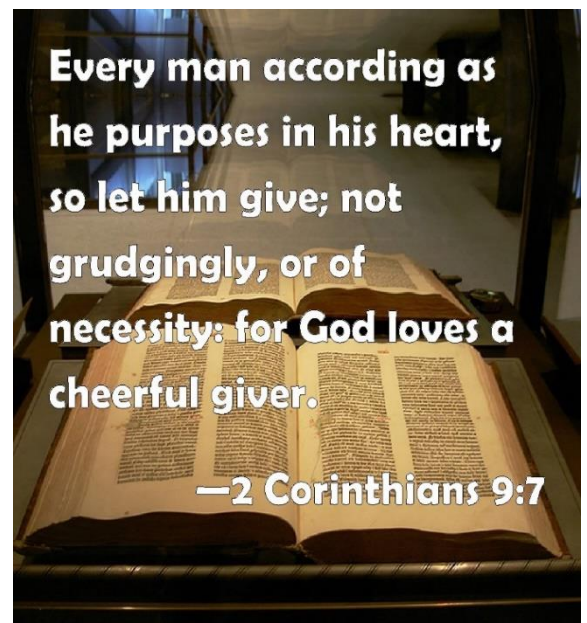
James 1:17 – “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.” The thought James captures here is repeated over and over again in the Bible. Everything good we have is from God. He loves to give. He loves to bless. He loves to show us generosity time and again. And He desires that we grow into His image and reflect His love. That is why God wants us to give to the ministry of His church. God can do anything He wants to without our help. But He commands us to give so that we will grow in our imitation of His own generosity.

May 25 – Rogate

James 1:22 – “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” Martin Luther said this about our faith: “Oh, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. And so it is impossible for it not to do good works incessantly.” The Word of God is not merely to be heard, but to be received and believed, and implemented. James reminds us of this, and he encourages us to examine our lives and come to repentance, where we can see that we are not living out our faith in sincerity.

May 29 – Ascension Day

Acts 1:11 – “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven.” Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ is ascended, and Christ will come again. We live our lives in this world in the sure confidence of the world to come. We live as people who know our Lord Jesus and who know that He is coming back. This makes all the difference in how we approach our stewardship and how we prioritize our lives.



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



LIFE THOUGHTS FOR LUTHERANS – MAY 2025

May 4 – Easter III (Misericordias Domini) –

The Good Shepherd means for His whole flock to walk through death's shadow (Psalm 23:4), not to lie down or leave one another there. Abandoning embryos, elders, or any other neighbor to abortion or assisted suicide amounts to devilish thievery (John 10:12-13). When our voices rise and our hands reach to bind up the injured and strengthen the weak (Ezekiel 34:16), then we know real goodness and mercy (Psalm 23:6).

May 11 – Easter IV (Jubilate) – “Silence.”

“Dust.” “Strikes.” “Insults.” “Grief.” Lamentations knows right where it hurts. And this Word of the Lord gives us a God who comforts just how each needs: “steadfast love,” “mercies,” “faithfulness,” “salvation,” “compassion,” and “abundance.” Let us diagnose abortion by naming it sinfulness, so that we may directly dispense the healing that the hearts it has broken long for.

May 18 – Easter V (Cantate) –

The people of Christ do not sit still or stay silent. We shout, sing, praise, and bless (Psalm 66:1-2, 8). May we each raise our Gospel-motivated voice For Life to advocate against death as the ultimate consequence of sinfulness (James 1:15) and to celebrate every neighbor from the youngest to the oldest among us (James 1:27) as a good gift from the loving Father (James 1:17).

May 25 – Easter VI (Rogate) –

Surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis come with risks and costs. But as with the ancient Israelite serpent infestation, the real enemy is neither one's neighbor nor the Maker (Numbers 21:8). Only impaling the snake (not terminating each other) brought deliverance, and the antidote called for faith instead of death. Christians insist that real truth and love celebrate every last human life as worth having (1 Timothy 2:4-5).

SENDING WORDS AS MAY FLOWERS TO OUR SHUT-INS

The month of May brings delight in so many ways...longer daylight, the sounds of birds and most of all the vibrant color and wonderful scent of blooming flowers. This is truly God's handiwork, and he created it for us to enjoy and share. Consider sharing with our shut-ins words of encouragement, support and hope that our Risen Lord wants us to share. Your kindness will certainly be flowers to them. They are truly part of our St. John's family who can no longer worship with us on Sundays in our beautiful sanctuary. Be a "May Flower" to one or more of our shut-ins.

Anyone interested in being a visitor of one of these cherished people, please contact me to see how you can try a new thing in your faith life. Be ready to bloom!

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	9311 Angelica Drive Sturtevant WI 53177	
Gary & Shirley Filicetti	4710 N Main St, Racine, WI 53402	
Janet Fisa	McMynn Tower 110 7th St, Racine, WI 53403 Room #904	
Marcella Geyer	3139 Conrad Drive, Racine, WI 53404	
Gail Gotch	1916 Wisconsin Avenue, Apt. 359, Racine, WI 53403	
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	