

NEWS FROM ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN

NOVEMBER 2026

FROM THE PASTOR

"How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

Genesis 28:17

It is a privilege to serve in the house of God. It is a privilege to be a pastor, to be a steward of the mysteries of God and a shepherd of souls. It is a privilege to handle the Holy Body and Blood of Jesus and to say those blessed Words of Institution. It is a privilege to stand in the pulpit before God's people and preach His Holy Word. While it is technically work, it does not feel like work. I feel renewed when I enter the sanctuary, regardless of the weight of the task before me.

It is a privilege to have served you, the people of St. John's, for these past five years. I first stepped foot in St. John's beautiful sanctuary in 2021 for the Bugenhagen Conference. I remember remarking to my friend — "Now who is the lucky guy who gets to be a pastor here?" Little did I know then that only four months later I would be installed as your associate pastor.



Five years later, I remain thankful for the privilege to have served as a pastor at St. John's. It is a beautiful place, with beautiful people. I have had the privilege to bury some of your loved ones. I have had the privilege to baptize some of your babies. I have had the privilege to sit at the bedside of some of you. I have had the privilege to place the body and blood of Jesus in your mouth and preach to you His Holy Word. Thanks be to God.

But now I must say farewell and thank you. Thank you for entrusting me with the privilege to serve you. Thank you for your generosity and prayers and loving encouragement. Thank you for forgiving me when I made mistakes. Thank you for hearing my preaching and accepting my pastoral counsel. Thank you for the kindness you showed my family. And now farewell. I will miss you all for the time being. But I will see you all later, when our Lord comes again, or when we meet in the heavenly realms. For this is our hope and promise from God — that no farewell between saints is a farewell forever. We shall meet again, along with all the saints who have gone before us, in the life to come.

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord shine his face on you and be gracious unto you. May the Lord lift his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen. Amen. Amen.

P.S. I plan to be at Bugenhagen every year, so my farewell should really be, "See you soon!"

God bless you all

-Pastor Joshua DeYoung

OFFICIAL ACTS

Weddings:

Cody Voss and Hannah Messersmith 10-4-2026
David Sprasky and Suzanne Kulas 10-24-2026

Funeral:

Beverly Trobaugh 10-2-2026

FALL BLOOD DRIVE

St. John's will host a Fall Blood Drive on Thursday, November 5 from 10-3pm in the gymnasium. Please see the flyer attached to the emailed newsletter for more information. We'd love to fill all available appointments! You can sign-up online at redcrossblood.org. A flyer is attached to this newsletter

FALL CLEAN UP DAY

Please join us on Saturday, November 7th from 9-10am. We will walk around the surrounding neighborhood and clean up trash. We will meet at the main school entrance. Join us in the morning and then wander over to the RLHS Harvest Fair!

RLHS HARVEST FAIR

The Racine Lutheran High School **HARVEST FAIR** is **Saturday, November 7**, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Racine Lutheran High School, [251 Luedtke Avenue](#).

Browse the many booths filled with handmade crafts and holiday decorations, bakery, fresh vegetables and fruit, homemade canned goods, antiques and collectibles, needlecrafts, art, plants, jewelry, unique gift items, household helpers, homemade treats, books, vintage linens, sports memorabilia, purses and handbags, personal care products, one-of-a-kind resale items and more. Many outside vendors and consultants will be offering their special products.

Enjoy eating at our lunch bar or cafeteria serving homemade sandwiches, soups, salads, and desserts all day. Live music is on site. Free admission and parking. Handicap accessible. Strollers welcome.

Donations of any of the above items – especially bakery and crafts— are needed. Please drop off at the high school office by November 6. More vendors welcome! Contact klong@racinelutheran.org or RLHS [262-637-6538](tel:262-637-6538) for more information.

BUGENHAGEN CRAFT SALE

We will hold our annual Craft Sale on Sunday November 15th. Please join us in between services and after late service. All money raised from this sale will be used to help support the Bugenhagen Conference. Our crafters do not receive any money for their materials or time.

Please come and check out our variety of floral arrangements, Curt's famous Dill Pickles, unique handmade gifts, and so much more!

If you have any questions or would like to donate some craft items to the sale – please contact Curt Adel (262) 681-1114 or Diane Schweitzer (262) 635-3879. We look forward to seeing you! **Cash or Check Only!**

FELLOWSHIP FRIDAY

Join us on Friday, November 20 from 5:30-7:30pm for Fellowship Friday. A baked potato bar will be the main meal. Everyone connected to St. John's is invited to attend. Please come as individuals or families, and if you do, please bring a potato topping, side, dessert, or drink to share. Please consider bringing a game of some kind to perhaps play with others. The gym will also be open for part of the evening. If you plan to attend, email Kimberly (chapman@stjohnsracine.org) or Sharon (adel@stjohnsracine.org).

NON-PERISHABLE FOOD DRIVE

The Stewardship committee is going to be placing food drive baskets in the back of church and in the classrooms for collecting food, gift cards and cash for Families in Need of help. Please donate non-perishable food items and/or gift cards to your favorite grocery store as those are nice as well. We will be collecting food and gift cards from Thanksgiving until December 13. We will be distributing the baskets sometime before Christmas. Thank you!

ENDOWMENT APPLICATIONS

Applications are now being accepted for consideration by the Endowment Committee for funds from the Endowment Fund. If you have a project or funding request for the Endowment Committee, please submit your endowment application to the church office by January 15. An application is attached to the emailed copy of this newsletter. Applications can also be picked up in the back of the sanctuary or from the church office.

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; (262) 637-7011.

CALLING ALL MEN OF ST. JOHN'S

Join 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] or by scanning the QR code on flyers posted in the narthex.

POINSETTIAS TO DECORATE THE CHURCH

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia or two to decorate our sanctuary this year, they will be available for \$15.00. A sign-up sheet is posted in the narthex. You can also email or call Kimberly in the church office if you are interested in purchasing a poinsettia. (chapman@stjohnsracine.org or (262) 637-7011) Please sign-up by Sunday, November 29. Please make your check payable to "St. John's Altar Guild" and place it in an envelope marked "Poinsettia." Poinsettias may be taken home following the Christmas Day service. Thank you!



ADVENT/CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

SCHEDULE

Please see the list below of the special service times from Thanksgiving through the New Year at St. John's. Please join us!

Wednesday, November 25, 2026

Thanksgiving Eve Vespers – 6pm

Wednesday, December 2, 2026

Advent Vespers – 6pm

Wednesday, December 9, 2026

Advent Vespers – 6pm

Wednesday, December 16, 2026

Advent Vespers – 6pm

Wednesday, December 23, 2026

Advent Vespers – 6pm

Thursday, December 24, 2026

Christmas Eve Communion Services at 4 and 11pm

Friday, December 25, 2026

Christmas Day Communion Service – 9am

Wednesday, December 30, 2026

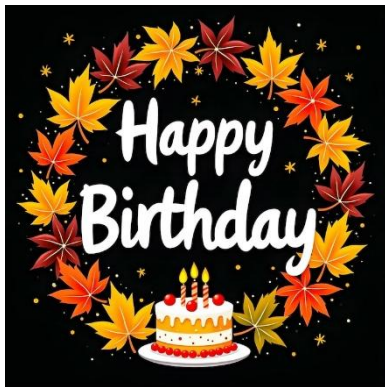
-No Service Held-

SERMONS ON YOUTUBE

We are 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." When a live video is being broadcast, you will get an update and 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.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1-Nov	Diane Schweitzer	15-Nov	Brayden Davis
2-Nov	Merryn Beier	15-Nov	Finley Douglas
3-Nov	Lori Storm	15-Nov	Alicia Hlavacek
4-Nov	Tony Chaudoir	15-Nov	Paul Zanotti
4-Nov	Jim McCluskey	16-Nov	Eleanor Zanotti
5-Nov	Shaun Stauffer	18-Nov	Remy Jacquet
6-Nov	Violet Nehmer	18-Nov	Jasmine Nelson
8-Nov	Michael Christensen	19-Nov	Matt Borgardt
8-Nov	Kyler Cummings	19-Nov	Krista Hansing
9-Nov	Bert Houdek	19-Nov	Jill Hasseldahl
9-Nov	Scott Hansing	20-Nov	Esmee Allesxandro
10-Nov	Rolando Morales	20-Nov	Sadie Allesxandro
10-Nov	Mike Phillips	21-Nov	Isaac DeYoung
10-Nov	Nick Phillips	21-Nov	Violette Knoell
11-Nov	Peter Baylon	21-Nov	Shamaya van Sliedrecht
11-Nov	Amelia Riegelman	22-Nov	Sarah Block
12-Nov	James Dickey	23-Nov	Clayton Baker
12-Nov	Amelia Hansing	23-Nov	Jillian Craig
12-Nov	Sylvia Krause	26-Nov	Amy Donaldson
13-Nov	Melissa Jaeck	26-Nov	Susan Pierce-Ruhland
13-Nov	Cayden Mickelsen	28-Nov	Amanda Kotowski
13-Nov	Colleen Nehmer	28-Nov	Kalli McCluskey
14-Nov	Ben Blint		



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

FROM YOUR DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

NOVEMBER 2026 CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart!

This is the time of the year when it's a good thing to take the time to reflect on and have grateful hearts for all that God has blessed us with. The season of Thanksgiving gives us the opportunity to offer our gifts, show our love, and express gratitude to God for all the good gifts He has abundantly given.

The Hymns we sing each week are a beautiful offering of praise that deepens our joy and our gratitude. It is central to *giving thanks* each week as we hear God's great Word and receive His sacraments.

Hymn Festival **Sunday, November 22nd at 1:00 pm** please join us as we sing some of the most beautiful Lutheran Hymns that we sing throughout the church year.

Save the Date: Our traditional Christmas Concert is set for **Sunday, December 20th**. Pre-service concert music will begin at 5:45 pm and the Concert itself will begin at 6:00 pm. Our concert is free and open to the public. Light refreshments are served after the concert. Join us!

*** We thank and praise our Lord God for His generous provision. Music is a beautiful language, and when we are worshipping, it strengthens our relationship with God and enriches our services***



SCHOOL NEWS CORNER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

"Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace."

This is a hymn I think of often during the month of November. The imagery of tuning a heart, much like one would tune a guitar, to reflect an attitude of grace and gratitude is one that resonates with the spirit of Thanksgiving. At St. John's, we have so much to be thankful for. October was truly full of blessings here at school! We finished our first quarter on October 16th, we held parent-teacher conferences to connect with our families, our volleyball team went to state, and one of our cross-country runners qualified for nationals! Thank you to all who donated or participated in our annual Trunk or Treat event- we had an amazing turnout, bags full of candy, and hearts full of joy. And now, as Advent approaches, we prepare ourselves for the warmth and promise of the nativity. God's continued blessings on each of you this November!

NOVEMBER DINING OUT

Our next Dining Out Day will be held at Panda Express, 5417 Washington Ave., from 10am-9:30pm on Tuesday, November 10. You can place your order online by entering our code or in person by showing the flyer. The flyer is attached to the emailed newsletter or can be picked up in the back of the sanctuary.

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. Receipts need to be uploaded within 14 days of purchase.
- 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.

I'll put an envelope/box by my classroom for store receipts if you are unable to scan your receipts. I'd be happy to scan them for you. If you have any other questions, please let me know. (I just put up an envelope by my door, so just drop your receipts in the envelope.)

If you use the attached referral code when you get the Box Top app and scan a receipt, you can earn 50 extra points for the school, and I will also earn 50 points for the school. It's easy to download the app. If you have any questions just let me know.

Note: When searching for our school, it's easier to put in our zip code 53402 and a list of Racine schools will pop up. You can choose St. John's from that list. ~Miss Pesch

VANCO MOBILE AND ONLINE GIVING

Giving is easier than ever through St. John's Vanco online or the Vanco Faith mobile app. You can access **Vanco online giving** by going to the St. John's Church and School website; stjohnsracine.org.

Under the church heading, click online giving. This page allows you to give to different church funds. You can choose a one-time contribution or set up recurring contributions through this site. Giving is also available through the **Vanco mobile app**. Vanco, our eGiving provider, has launched an updated mobile app called Vanco Mobile Faith. Downloading the new Vanco Mobile is easy! Head over to the App Store or Google Play to download Vanco Mobile for free.

To use Vanco Mobile, follow these easy steps:

1. Search for our church by entering St Johns Lutheran. Do not use any punctuation, and it is case sensitive
2. Create a new account or login
3. Select your gift amount, fund, and frequency
4. Enter your payment method and click submit to complete your donation.

Please contact Kimberly in the church office if you have any questions about or need assistance with the Vanco online or mobile app giving. chapman@stjohnsracine.org or (262) 637-7011

You can also scan the QR code below to set up electronic giving or make a one-time gift through our church/school website giving page.



ONLINE GIVING CARDS

Giving a tithe or offering online has been available here at St. John's for a number of years. If you participate in this and would like to place something in the offering as it is passed during the service, please pick up one of the laminated cards in the back as you walk in. This is a simple way of showing, especially to children who are watching and learning, the importance of giving to the work of the Lord here at St. John's.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER – NOVEMBER 2026

November 1 – All Saints' Day

Matthew 5:7 – “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.” This is one of many Bible passages that remind us that we reap what we sow. Likewise, what God puts into us (His own love, mercy, kindness and generosity) — flows back out of us. It all starts with His self-giving.

November 8 – 23rd Sunday after Trinity

Philippians 3:19 – “Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.” There is danger in setting our minds on earthly things, serving mammon and caring more for our bodily comfort than our spiritual well-being. God does not tell us to be faithful and generous in our stewardship of the things of this earth to ruin our fun. Rather, He tells us to give generously to teach us how to make sure the things of this world do not lay hold of our hearts.

November 15 – 24th Sunday after Trinity

Colossians 1:10 – “Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.” Living a godly life really is its own reward. Does the life St. Paul describes here sound more enjoyable than a life of worry, self-aggrandizement and self-centeredness? God wants us to walk closely to our Lord and imitate Jesus for a reason: so that we will be blessed and happy.

November 22 – Last Sunday in the Church Year

Matthew 25:4 – “But the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.” Why did they take flasks of oil with them? Because they listened to the Bridegroom's words and believed what He told them. Our actions always start with and flow from our beliefs. What do your actions in the realm of financial stewardship say about what you believe?

November 23 – Thanksgiving Day

Deuteronomy 8:3 – “And he humbled you...that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.” The flip side to this statement is what Jesus told us about worrying in Matthew 6:33: “Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” When we put things in the right order — with God, His kingdom and His Word first — everything else falls into place.

LIFE THOUGHTS FOR LUTHERANS - NOVEMBER

November 1 – All Saints Day – Every believer (saint) lives a life of tribulation, being hated by the world and mourning the sin in their own heart and the sins of the world, like abortion, human trafficking and other such evils (Revelation 7:14; 1 John 3:1). Yet, God's children live hopefully awaiting the day in which He will wipe every tear away from our eyes. When we find ourselves in that great, innumerable multitude, we will rejoice to be freed from all such evil and to greet all the saints washed in Christ's blood, including many of the victims of our culture of death (Revelation 7:9, 14, 17).

November 8 – Trinity 23 – As the coin for the tax belonged to Caesar because it bore his likeness (Matthew 22:21), every single person belongs to God and is precious to Him because all are created in His image and likeness. For this reason, God has “sent redemption to His people” (Psalm 111:9), through Jesus Christ, who will restore the believers to His image on the Last Day (Philippians 3:21). As we wait for that day, Christians seek godly wisdom and righteousness, recognizing that “the fear of the Lord is hatred of evil” (Proverbs 8:13), which includes the wanton destruction of lives created in God's image.

November 15 – Trinity 24 – During His earthly ministry, Jesus showed compassion for the sick, dying, and mourning (Matthew 9:18-26). He not only healed their bodily ailments, He removed the underlying cause of these problems by transferring them from the “domain of darkness” into the kingdom of God and offering them everlasting life through the forgiveness of their sins (Colossians 1:13-14). As He has made this promise to all people, the redeemed of the Lord “walk in a manner worthy of the Lord” (Colossians 1:10) by following His example of caring for the bodily needs of our neighbors and sharing the Gospel with them.

November 22 – Last Sunday of the Church Year – We live in a world broken by sin, which unfortunately means it is common for infants and other children to die in their youth. Some of this death comes through intentionally sinful actions like abortion, abuse, and other forms of murder. Other times children die unintentionally because of miscarriages, accidents, or diseases. While we mourn every one of these deaths, we do not despair. Instead, we “encourage one another” (1Thessalonians 5:11), knowing that Christ has died for us and destined us for salvation (1Thessalonians 5:9-10), and that on the Last Day there will no longer be the “sound of weeping and the cry of distress” (Isaiah 65:19).

November 29 – Advent 1 – “Love does no wrong to a neighbor” (Romans 13:10). Since abortion, abuse, neglect, and assisted suicide all seek to intentionally harm another person, they can never be called an act of love, regardless of the circumstances. True love, which is the fulfillment of God's holy Law (Romans 13:10), always seeks the benefit of another, just as Christ our Lord came to us in humility (Matthew 21:5) to seek not His own good but the present and eternal good of the world through His death and resurrection.

WE HAVE BEEN CALLED TO GIVE (and not just money!)

What could you give to our Shut-Ins?

“Freely you have received; freely give.”

Matthew 10:8

So, it's November. We think a lot about giving thanks. But, what about just "GIVING"?

What about "GIVING" your time and consideration to these very special members of our church? Our Creator instructs us to give generously and cheerfully to those in need.

Our Shut-Ins NEED US!

Give them your prayers, as you read the list below.

Give them a call to say hello.

Give them a visit.

Give them a beautiful Thanksgiving card in the mail.

Give them the joy that they are remembered and loved.

Think of yourself as Christ's Ambassador. Remember that whatever we do for the least of these, we also do for Him!

May God bless you!

Julie

Julie Hagen 262-331-0052

Julie_hagen@hotmail.com

SHUT INS

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