

NEWS FROM ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN

OCTOBER 2025

FROM THE PASTOR

Over the past couple of weeks, we have seen a nationwide trend of people kindling or re-kindling their connection to the Church. The recent murder of Charlie Kirk, who was a confessing Christian, is no doubt playing a role. We know from church history that when Christians were martyred the church often grew. In Acts 8:1 following the martyrdom of Stephen we saw a scattering of Christians in Jerusalem bringing the Gospel to people in surrounding regions. Consider what happened in Samaria after they had been scattered.

"But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." —Acts 8:12

It seems that for many, a secular life just isn't cutting it anymore. They yearn for something more, something objective, something really True. In the midst of a turbulent and dangerous world, the Church offers something altogether different. We do not skirt around the truth — we do not try to sugar-coat sin or death.

"...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" — Romans 3:23

"...there is no one who does good, not even one." — Psalm 14:3b

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." — Romans 6:23

Instead we acknowledge sin and death for what they are and with vigor and zeal proclaim the greater truth that Jesus has conquered the both. We offer a better way, a way of grace, of forgiveness, and of true hope and peace. As Christians we pray that many more will come, confess their sins, and take hold of the forgiveness wrought for them by Jesus on the cross. That they will turn away from the idols of the flesh and find joy in living a Christian life of faith. Regardless of the circumstances or whatever the motivation, we rejoice when the Holy Spirit draws hearers to the Gospel.

I have been heartened to hear that many visitors feel welcomed at St. John's. But I think it is important to remind ourselves of the courage it takes to step foot in a church for the first time. You walk into an unfamiliar space, filled with many people you do not know, unsure of what to expect. It likewise takes courage to return to church where you have been delinquent. Guilt is often what keeps people from coming back to begin with, but even if they do return, that guilt does not go away the moment they enter the sanctuary. Consider again the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Upon seeing his son's return, the father responds with joy, running to him, demanding the fattened calf be killed and a feast prepared. The older son, who had faithfully served in his father's household for years, scorns the younger son.

"But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!" — Luke 15:30

And the father finally responds —

"My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'" — Luke 15:31

Of course, we should all want to be like the father, and avoid the temptation to scorn those who return. None of us deserves what is given to us in the Divine Service regardless of how long we've been here or how regular our attendance is. And yet, our Lord gives it to us all by His grace. In this spirit of love and grace, here are a few tips to welcome both newcomers and returning sons.

1. Pay Attention — When you see someone new or returning, greet them, welcome them, and if they are sitting in your pew, graciously allow it. This may seem obvious, but it really does make a difference!
2. Offer Help — The Divine Service is not always intuitive, especially to those who have never been to church with a liturgical order of service. If you see someone who you can tell is unfamiliar with our service or the hymnal itself, offer to help, show them the hymn boards, point out things in the bulletin, or even offer to sit with them.
 - People who have young children are often concerned with the distraction they may cause. This is especially true with visitors or newcomers. Show them grace, and if they are willing, offer to help them. Never make it seem like they or their children are unwelcome. If it is necessary for them to leave with an unruly child, help guide them to the nursery in the undercroft.
3. Invite Them — If you personally know someone who is visiting or returning invite them to church functions personally, or perhaps, invite them to lunch or to your home for dinner. Show them Christian hospitality in whatever way you are able.

These are just a few things you can consider. Perhaps you can come up with some ideas yourself. Either way, I hope this is a good starting point for you as you continue to serve God and your neighbors in Christian hospitality, charity, grace, and love.

***This article is also posted on Substack. The link is here:

<https://joshuadeyoung.substack.com/p/welcoming-visitors-and-prodigals>

OFFICIAL ACTS

Funeral:

Linda Puchter

9-15-2025

SUNDAY SCHOOL INFORMATION

Join us for Sunday School! We meet from 9:00-10:00. Bring your children and grandchildren to hear the stories of God's love. What greater gift can you give them? Our classes meet in the following locations:

3, 4, & 5 year olds — Pre-K 4 classroom in the basement

1st & 2nd grades — Chapel by the Erie Street door

3rd, 4th, & 5th grades — library on the second floor

6th, 7th, & 8th grades — faculty room near the N

Wisconsin Street door

high school students — 7th grade room on the second floor

LWML ZONE 21 FALL RALLY

Come travel with us to Guatemala by only traveling to Burlington, Wisconsin! Join the women of Lutheran Women in Mission Zone 21 on Saturday, October 11 from 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM at Our Savior, Burlington; 417 S. Kane Street. We will travel through God's Word in Bible study with Rev. Chris Lockie followed by our journey to Guatemala missions with Rev. Paul Muther. Join us in helping a local mission, Lutheran Mission Attic Workshop, by donating feminine pads, soap, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, combs, band-aids, antibiotic ointment, gauze pads and medical tape. We look forward to seeing you!

FELLOWSHIP FRIDAY

Fellowship Friday will not be held in October due to the Trunk or Treat event. Please consider participating in Trunk or Treat instead. More details about this event can be found in the "From the Principal" section in the School News Corner.

LUTHERAN HIGH FAIR DONATIONS NEEDED

Lutheran High is looking for donations of gently used books, cds, and dvds for the Harvest Fair. You may place your donation in the back of the church or in the school office. Donations will be collected until Sunday, Oct. 19.

Questions contact Jill Hasseldahl
at jill.hasseldahl@cune.org.

RLHS OPEN HOUSE

RLHS is excited to share that their **Open House** is right around the corner — a key event for prospective families and the kickoff to our 2026–2027 enrollment process.

We may have just started this school year, but we're already looking ahead! Families interested in 2026–2027 enrollment are invited to the RLHS Open House on Monday, October 13 from 5-7pm. See the poster attached to the newsletter for more details! Come meet our Crusader family and kick off the application season—we can't wait to see you there!

SPECIAL REFORMATION SCHEDULE

On Sunday, October 26, St. John's will hold only one service in the morning at 9:00 am. There will be no Bible Class, New Member Class, or Sunday School. Later that afternoon, we will host the annual Racine/Kenosha circuit Reformation Service at 3:00 pm. Everyone who is interested in singing with the mass choir is welcome to do so. A cake and coffee reception will follow the service, so we ask that you consider bringing a dessert item to share if you plan to attend. Please join us for this special event!

CRADLE ROLL PLAYDATE

Please join us for a play date! Intended for the youngest among us (newborn to those who haven't started school yet). For the parents(s) there will be coffee and other adults to talk to, and for the kiddos new friends to be made and different toys to play with. We will meet Monday, October 27 at 9am(ish) at the Peterson House, 1423 Borgardt Rd Sturtevant. Text or call Stephanie at 815-931-8790 with questions.

"BIBLE AND BREW" MEN'S STUDY

Our October Bible and Brew Men's Study will take place on Wednesday, October 29 at 8:30pm. This month's study will be held at Pastor Gilbert's house, 501 Augusta.

FALL CLEANUP DAY

Come join us for our annual Fall Cleanup Day on Saturday, November 1st 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

BUGENHAGEN FUNDRAISER SAVE THE DATE

Save the date for our Bugenhagen fundraiser featuring Curt's famous dill pickles, some holiday arrangements, antiques, gift items, and more! Please join us in between services and after late service on Sunday, November 9. All money raised from this sale will be used to help support the Bugenhagen Conference. Our crafters and bakers do not receive any money for their materials or time.

Please come and check out the wonderful selection of items and support the Bugenhagen Conference.

If you have any questions or would like to donate some craft items to the sale - please contact Curt Adel (262) 681-1114. We look forward to seeing you. CASH OR CHECK ONLY.

COLLEGE STUDENT MAILING LIST

Do you have a college student who would enjoy receiving mail from St. John's throughout the year? We'd love to stay in touch with them! Please update their current mailing address by filling out a form—available on the table at the back of the sanctuary—or by emailing the church office. Thank you for helping us keep our students connected and encouraged! Our first mailing will go out early in the fall!

USHERS NEEDED

The Board of Elders is in need of individuals interested in ushering during worship services. ***We only have ten 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, 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.

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 below. (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.



FROM YOUR DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

October 2025 Church Newsletter

The change in season invites a change in routine. We are all shifting back into our 'brisk' fall rhythms, penciling in commitments and activities in every calendar square – with coffee in hand. There is energy and excitement in the rush of being busy.

Many days lately, the world feels like it's spinning with reckless abandon, and we're stuck on the carousel. *'The whole culture is telling us all to hurry, while music tells us to take your time . . . and always listen . . .'*

Senior Choir and Handbell Choir had a wonderful evening on September 2, 2025, working with Dr. Steve Wentz (a/k/a 'Steve'). Thank you, Steve, for joining us, and sharing your knowledge and love of your own music ministry.

Possibly no other ensemble in the entire field of musical demands is the musical discipline and total precision of choral and hand bell work. We understand that as a choir (either Handbell or Senior Choir) we are willing to be one of a team, one of the whole, rather than a star yourself. Our choirs subscribed to this! We have an amazing group of individuals from all walks of life that come together each week, support one another, and prepare for our weekly church services.

Welcome back, 7th and 8th grade Hand Chime Choir. This year, I am so happy to begin a 5th and 6th grade Hand Chime Choir. We will work together and prepare music for our Chapel services, Church services and our Christmas Concert. Hand Chime Choir is a beautiful segway to high school handbell choir as well as our adult handbell choir here at St. John's.

Welcome back Children's and Cherub Choir. We are truly blessed to have students willing to serve the Lord with gladness as they share their musical talent throughout our Church and School.

We are all, through faith, serving the Lord with gladness! It brings us joy to come into His presence whether it is through using our voices to sing or hands to ring! Blessings! Sharon Adel

"Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into His presence with singing! Know that the Lord, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture." Psalm 100:2-3

SCHOOL NEWS CORNER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It's hard to believe that we're already over halfway through our 1st quarter of the school year. Our mission statement at St. John's says we are "preparing and educating God's children for life-long service to Christ"- which means our days have been filled with math facts, spelling lists, art projects, and memory verses. Outdoor Education was a highlight for our 6th and 7th graders, who headed to Phantom Ranch once again on September 24-26. They always enjoy the opportunity to explore God's creation and build teamwork with their classmates. This year we are celebrating Rockstar students each week- kids who stand out for service to others and joy in learning! Check out the bulletin board above the first-floor drinking fountain to see which students have been highlighted for the week. Our volleyball team is hosting its annual Play for Pink game on Monday, October 6th, to support those who have been impacted by breast cancer- this year we play our fellow Lutheran school, Trinity Lutheran. We invite all to join us for this special fundraiser.

We'd also like to extend a special invitation to our congregation members to participate in our school's annual Trunk or Treat on Friday, October 17th. Come decorate the trunk of your car and hand out candy to our students as they trick-or-treat their way through the parking lot and stay for concessions sponsored by our PTL. The trunk-or-treat event will take the place of our regular Fellowship Fridays, so we'd love to see our congregation members come and join with us for some fellowship that evening! You can arrive between 4:45 and 5:00 to set up your car, and trick or treating will begin at 5:30. Our students love this event- we hope to see you there!

DINING OUT NIGHT

The next Dining Out Night will be held at Chipotle, 5720 Washington Avenue on Wednesday, October 15 from 4-8pm. 25% of all event sales are donated back to the PTL. A flyer is attached to this newsletter or can be picked up in the back of the sanctuary. Join us for this tasty fundraiser!

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS NEEDED

St. John's is always looking for substitute teachers to add to our substitute contact list. If you are interested in helping in this way, please contact Ms. Heins at heins@stjohnsracine.org. The only requirements are a college degree in any field and a love (and patience!) for children.

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!

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.



CHURCH ROOF FUNDRAISERS

LEAF FUNDRAISER

Help us "leaf out" our tree branches this spring by purchasing a leaf for our tree. 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.

Listed below are more leaves that have been purchased for this project.

In Memory of Majorie (Mahnke) Sjostrom
Praise To The Lord – Butch and Vanessa Luther
Arthur Preuss Sr. – Senior and Handbell Choirs
Saved by Grace – Eph 2:8-10 – Beversdorf Families
Art Preuss – Dedicated Teacher and Children's Choir Director
Filicetti Family – Psalm 23
Walter and Bernice Krause – David and Ken
Karon A. Morse - #2 TWIN
Emily Heins – Great is thy Faithfulness

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)

Today we find ourselves in need of a new roof, as has been discussed at a number of voters' meetings. 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!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1-Oct	Alexandria Dickey	17-Oct	Shirley Filicetti
1-Oct	Kathy Hagemann	17-Oct	Nancy Preuss
1-Oct	Camryn Mang	18-Oct	Claire Holewinski
2-Oct	Timothy Jaeck	19-Oct	Tracy Wasik
3-Oct	Brynn Beier	20-Oct	David Donaldson
3-Oct	Eva Chaudoir	20-Oct	Eli Gasau
3-Oct	Beverly Trobaugh	20-Oct	Mimi Hynek
4-Oct	Ashleigh Dickey	21-Oct	Kristin Chiappetta
4-Oct	Aaron Douglas	22-Oct	Carl Seils
5-Oct	Carol Day	23-Oct	Alyssa Gilliam
5-Oct	James Riegelman	23-Oct	Alice Peterson
5-Oct	James Riegelman	23-Oct	Lucia Peterson
5-Oct	Alex Van Schyndel	23-Oct	Pamela Sorenson
6-Oct	Samantha Andersen	24-Oct	Jim Beversdorf
7-Oct	Kristina Beier	24-Oct	Alisha Burger
7-Oct	Tracy Naegeli	24-Oct	Peggy Busarow
7-Oct	Joanne Ruble	24-Oct	Rebekah Gilbert
8-Oct	Wayne Henslin	24-Oct	Andrew Rosenberg
10-Oct	Sharon Polak	24-Oct	Taylor Timler
11-Oct	Joelle Griner	24-Oct	Joseph Zanotti
11-Oct	Griffin Radtke	25-Oct	Emily Polack
11-Oct	Evelyn Schneider	26-Oct	Patricia Clemons
12-Oct	Jennifer Kellner	26-Oct	Amanda Patzke
15-Oct	Noah Fisa	27-Oct	Emily French
16-Oct	Ayden Hlavacek	28-Oct	Christopher Davis
16-Oct	Megan Sollman	29-Oct	Evelyn Olley
16-Oct	Analisa Trevino	30-Oct	Abigail Grant
17-Oct	Marilyn Davis	31-Oct	Brianna Davis



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

STEWARDSHIP CORNER – OCTOBER 2025

October 5 – Trinity 16

Ephesians 3:20-21 – “Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” God delights in exceeding expectations and in pouring out mercies in abundance. This truth stands in contrast to our fears about lacking what we need for “this body and life.” We have an abundantly-blessing God who has proven His love for us on the cross. How could we not trust Him? How could we not respond to His love with generosity toward His mission in the church? How could we not have a desire to imitate Him in blessing others?

October 12 – Trinity 17

Luke 14:11 – “For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (Prov. 9:10). That’s called humility. The Lord is God, and we are not. With that in mind, how could we not seek to follow His Word in all aspects of life? Once we see His love for us in the cross of Christ, how could we not trust Him? He knows what He is talking about, and we don’t. He loves us and wants to bless us. If you believe that, then striking out on a path of faithfulness in the realm of stewardship is a lot easier. It just makes sense.

October 19 – Trinity 18

1 Corinthians 1:4 – “I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus.” The grace of God and thanksgiving go together. God has given us everything we possess and everything that we are. He is the Giver. Once we realize this, then thankfulness wells up inside of us. How could it not? And as Paul shows us here, it’s not only the grace given to us individually that causes us to give thanks. It’s even the grace given to others. We certainly have much to be thankful for when we look at the gifts of grace all around us. And how do we say thank you to the Lord? In any number of ways — in prayer, in sacrificial giving to His mission and in imitating His love and kindness to those around us.

October 26 – Reformation Day (Observed)

Revelation 14:6 – “Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people.” During the Reformation, this text was used to refer to Luther’s ministry and the Lutheran message. We have an eternal Gospel to proclaim. Christ has freed us from our sins without any works on our part. We are saved by grace alone! And, ironically enough, Luther said this should make him the “apostle of works.” Once we are freed by grace, we are truly free to serve God in works that flow from thankfulness and praise.

THE CRISP AIR BRINGS NEW RHYTHMS AND NEW BEGINNINGS FOR THE SAKE OF OUR SHUT INS

WELCOME FALL! As anticipation fills our hearts, let's open them to the confident hope that the Lord has something beautiful prepared for us in this new season and beyond. Maybe that includes a renewal of hospitality and community focused on our **SHUT-INS!**

- Add a fallen leaf from your yard into your next greeting card to them.
- Drop a pretty, little pumpkin off to the shut-in visit.
- Offer to take someone on a drive to see how God is painting the trees.
- Bring some pumpkin spice creamer to your next coffee visit.

This would be a wonderful season to think of our Shut-Ins. Make a call, arrange a visit, drop a note or say a special prayer, for these special members.

And if you need any help in getting started, just call or email me! My information is listed below.

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	
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	
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	
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	