

NEWS FROM ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN

OCTOBER 2026

FROM THE PASTOR

So...How does the Call Process Work?

One thing that confuses many is just how the call process works. As many of you know, I recently received a Divine Call to Atonement Lutheran Church in Glendale, Arizona. But how did this happen?

The answer is somewhat complicated. When a congregation enters the call process, they establish a call committee. This committee often facilitates what is called a self-study, where they determine what kind of pastor they want and need. After this is concluded, the process gets a bit tricky. They can ask for names from members of the congregation, as we always do here at St. John's. But they also usually receive names of pastors who have indicated to their district that they are open to receiving a call. If a name is proposed by a member, the committee then asks the district for their information; the district is required to give the name regardless of the pastor's status (open to receiving or not open to receiving). The most important document in this process is called the SET (Self-Evaluation Tool), which, through a series of questions, gives whoever is looking at the paperwork (congregation, committee, or district president) an idea of where a pastor stands on a variety of topics related to doctrine and practice.

From here, the committee usually narrows things down by selecting pastors who they believe will be a good fit at their church. The next steps are again variable. Some congregations will ask pastors to interview, which the pastor has an option to participate in, giving the committee more information and a general idea of the personality of the pastor they are considering. From there, they can recommend a name or multiple names to then be voted on at a scheduled voters' meeting. Some congregations choose to simply pray about it and select a name without an interview to go to the voters' assembly. Most church constitutions require a 2/3 majority to call a pastor. From here, the paperwork is sent to the pastor who is called.

From here on out, it is completely up to the man who is called to prayerfully make the decision. Neither his current congregation nor the calling congregation has a say in the matter. He has to pray about it and wisely consider the many factors that go into making such a decision. What are the needs of his family? Is the calling church closer to family? Is the calling church a place where his skills and abilities can be put to better use? And the list goes on. Often, a pastor will be invited to visit the congregation and may choose to do so. After this, he has to make a decision and inform the calling congregation and his current call of his decision whether he is going to stay or leave.

As for how I got on the call list for a church in Arizona, I am not sure. One thing is for sure: no pastor is allowed to contact a congregation they know is in the call process to suggest their own name. I certainly did not, nor will I ever do this. By the time this is published, you will know that I returned (declined) the call to Atonement Lutheran Church in Glendale, Arizona. They are an exceptionally faithful congregation, a healthy and growing church, with a fine school. I wish them the Lord's blessings as they move forward to find a pastor who will serve them well. My time here is not yet done, and I look forward to serving each of you to the best of my ability according to the Lord's will. I hope this article was helpful to you and that you have a better idea of how this process works. Feel free to reach out to me or Pastor Gilbert if you have any further questions. We're happy to talk.

Pastor Joshua DeYoung

OFFICIAL ACTS

Baptism:

Lucy Jean Martin
9-20-2026

Funeral:

Joan Cicona
9-18-2026

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 School News Corner.

NEW MEMBER CLASS

Our New Member Class began on Sunday, September 27 at 9:00 am. There is still time to join! We will meet in the Fifth Grade Classroom (upstairs in the school building). The class will conclude on December 20. If you or someone you know would like to become a member at St. John's, please enroll in this class through the church office at 637-7011 or by email at chapman@stjohnsracine.org.

The material used for the class will be provided during our first morning together. The class is also open to any current members of St. John's who would like a refresher on what we believe and why!

SJLC MEN'S GATHERING

Our next SJLC Men's Gathering will be held on Saturday, October 24 at Scott Schweitzer's house, 1900 Neptune Avenue. Menu is yet to be determined! Bring your beverage of choice. If you plan to attend, please use the link to sign-up!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040B4AACA62EA3FB6-66115935-sjlc#/>

SPECIAL REFORMATION SCHEDULE

On Sunday, October 25, 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!

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 COLLECTION

As fall approaches, it is time to go through books, cds, and dvds in your home and donate them towards a good cause. Racine Lutheran High is looking for these items to sell at the Harvest Fair. The funds go to support all the students at Racine Lutheran High. Please bring those items to the school office or a box placed in the back of the sanctuary. We will be collecting from Sept. 20th -Nov. 1st. Questions email Jill Hasseldahl at jill.hasseldahl@cune.org.

CRAFT SALE – SAVE THE DATE!

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!**

COLLEGE STUDENT/MILITARY MAILING LIST

Do you have a college student/military member 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/military connected and encouraged! Our next mailing will go out in December.

CALL FOR ACOLYTES

We are looking for boys (Ages 10-16) who are members of St. John's and who are interested in serving as acolytes. This would be a commitment to learning the role and duties of an acolyte and serving regularly during our worship services in various ways, but especially the lighting/extinguishing of candles and occasionally taking part in processions for feast days.

This opportunity provides a way for boys to learn responsibility and duty, to see first-hand how services are conducted, to take an active role in reverent worship, and give them a glimpse of what it is like to be a pastor. We pray that this can foster a love and appreciation for the importance and beauty of Lutheran liturgy for a lifetime of active membership.

If you are interested in being an acolyte or have questions, please contact Pastor DeYoung— call: (262) 900-7448 or email: deyoung@stjohnsracine.org.

JUNIOR ALTAR GUILD

We are offering an opportunity for girls (Ages 8-16) to serve alongside our faithful Altar Guild in the important work that they do. This will be an opportunity to assist following services in the care of our sacramental vessels and leftover consecrated elements.

If you have questions or are interested in hearing more about this opportunity, please contact Pastor DeYoung at deyoung@stjohnsracine.org or (262) 900-7448.

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

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.

TACKLING TOUGH TOPICS

"Tackling Tough Topics" 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 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.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1-Oct	Alexandria Dickey	17-Oct	Marilyn Davis
1-Oct	Kathy Hagemann	17-Oct	Shirley Filicetti
2-Oct	Timothy Jaeck	17-Oct	Nancy Preuss
3-Oct	Brynn Beier	18-Oct	Claire Holewinski
3-Oct	Eva Chaudoir	19-Oct	Tracy Wasik
4-Oct	Ashleigh Dickey	20-Oct	Eli Gasau
4-Oct	Aaron Douglas	21-Oct	Kristin Chiappetta
5-Oct	Carol Day	22-Oct	Carl Seils
5-Oct	James Riegelman	23-Oct	Alyssa Gilliam
5-Oct	Alex Van Schyndel	23-Oct	Alice Peterson
6-Oct	Samantha Andersen	23-Oct	Lucia Peterson
7-Oct	Kristina Beier	24-Oct	Jim Beversdorf
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	Joseph Zanotti
11-Oct	Joelle Griner	25-Oct	Emily Polack
11-Oct	Griffin Radtke	26-Oct	Patricia Clemons
11-Oct	Evelyn Schneider	26-Oct	Amanda Patzke
12-Oct	Jennifer Kellner	27-Oct	Emily French
13-Oct	Eddie Stein	28-Oct	Christopher Davis
15-Oct	Noah Fisa	29-Oct	Evelyn Olley
16-Oct	Ayden Hlavacek	30-Oct	Abigail Grant
16-Oct	Megan Sollman	31-Oct	Brianna Davis
16-Oct	Analisa Trevino		



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

FROM YOUR DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

OCTOBER, 2026 CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

The change in season invites a 'colorful' change in routine. The leaves are turning the most beautiful colors as we move back into our 'brisk' fall rhythms.

Senior Choir and Handbell Choir had a wonderful evening on September 8, 2026, learning from Greg Berg/Senior Choir and Greg Schroeder/Hand Bells. Thank you, Greg(s) for joining us, and sharing your knowledge and love of your own music ministry. We welcome new members to our fold this season! We are so happy you are joining us!

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. 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.

This year, I have many eager young musicians that have joined either my Advanced Hand Chime Choir or Beginning 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. Our Children's Choir sang a beautiful anthem on Sunday, September 20th at our 10:15 am service. We are truly blessed to have so many 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!" Psalm 100:2

SCHOOL NEWS CORNER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The winds of fall have just begun, and after a full month of school, we are over halfway through our first quarter. Volleyball, cross country, and soccer teams are in the middle of their seasons and have already managed to bring home a few Cougar trophies. Our big Play for Pink volleyball fundraiser is October 12th- we would love to have you come and support our teams- all proceeds go towards the fight against breast cancer. We are also coming up on Trunk or Treat- and we love it when our congregation gets involved! Bring a bowl of candy, decorate the trunk of your car, and come park in our Kewaunee lot on October 16th to join in the fun!

We'd also like to thank the congregation for their support as they voted to begin a fundraising campaign for our renovation/expansion project. Please watch newsletters and emails for updates on the campaign as we move forward. We are so thankful for the support and prayers of our congregation members! Have a wonderful October.

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. 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

OCTOBER DINING OUT

Our next Dining Out Night of the school year is on Tuesday, October 20 at Chipotle's, 5720 Washington Avenue from 4-8pm. Please show the flyer attached to this email or the weekly emails so that they know you are supporting St. John's. A flyer can also be picked up in the back of the sanctuary.

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 - OCTOBER 2026

October 4 – 18th Sunday after Trinity

Matthew 22:40 – “On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” We serve God and our neighbor through the various vocations (holy callings) that God has given us. We do not need to go searching for good works or inventing our own: God has given us roles to fill in home, church and society and that will keep us plenty busy! When we seek to fulfill the duties of these vocations in a spirit of faith, God-pleasing works are the result.

October 11 – 19th Sunday after Trinity

Ephesians 4:24 – “Put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.” We have a new identity in Christ. Our old identity was in Adam; we were sinners, enemies of God, destined for death and destruction. But in Christ, we have a new identity: we are forgiven, the children of God, cleansed, destined for life everlasting. These two identities continue to struggle as we exist in this fallen world. So St. Paul encourages us to “put on the new self” — to consciously cling to Christ in faith and claim our new identity in Him. Coming to the Lord's House, faithfully supporting the ministry, praying and reading Scripture daily — these are the works of the new self.

October 18 – 20th Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 55:2 – “Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?” What Isaiah says here is reminiscent of what Jesus says about putting our earthly wealth in places “where moth and rust destroy” (Matt. 6:19). Where we put the money God has given us to manage says a lot about how we actually view life. What do your spending priorities say about what you think is truly important in life?

October 25 – Reformation Day (Observed)

John 8:36 – “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” Today we celebrate Reformation Day. Luther is rightly remembered as a champion of the Gospel — but he also called himself “the apostle of good works.” For, only by being set free by the Gospel, can we do good works. Jesus has set us free: His blood covers our sins, and now we stand before God as His beloved children, invited to live our lives to His glory for the good of His kingdom.

LIFE THOUGHTS FOR LUTHERANS

OCTOBER 2026

October 4 (Trinity XVIII) – To love God is to obey His commandments. “If you love Me, keep My commandments,” says our Lord. The commandments shape our love in how we live with one another. Therefore, love is not what I want, but what my neighbor needs. And what my neighbor needs for his or her body is care and protection, for “love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law.” And God's love for us is that “Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God.”

October 11 (Trinity XIX) – What care and compassion are seen by the men who brought their paralyzed friend to Jesus! What burden they gladly bore to carry this man that he could be brought to Christ! They sought nothing for themselves, but only the welfare of their brother! What great compassion, therefore, does our Lord have for us? “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.” And so, then, our Lord commands: “Therefore, go and do likewise.”

October 18 (St. Luke) – The Church remembers the evangelist St. Luke, physician, on October 18. A physician's first and foremost duty is to provide healing and relief to a patient, not destruction or harm. While there may not always be a cure for a terminal disease, we must always give bodily care and spiritual comfort. When death is in the near future, we do not use our enemy (i.e., death/euthanasia) as the tool. Rather, we give the care and comfort of the resurrection of the body and the life of the world to come promised us in our Holy Baptism.

October 25 (Reformation) – Luther said, “My conscience is captive to the Word of God.” The Word of God teaches clearly that God is our Maker: “You formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.” The Word of God holds us captive to the truth that all human life is wonderfully made by God, and no laws, nor politicians, nor celebrities, nor councils, nor anything will sway us otherwise. We, too, are persuaded by the Word of God “that neither death nor life ... shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

SEASONS ARE CHANGING AND THEY CHANGE IN OUR FAMILY AS WELL

Once upon a season, some of our elderly members and shut-ins were the very people who visited shut-ins! They had children and grandchildren in our school. They went to Bible classes, served on boards, volunteered for projects and events, sang in the choir, and baked for bake sales. They lived the church life that we are living now. But their seasons changed. They are now the “shut-ins”. Every one of us will move into that season of life. Can we go there now? Can we enter their season? Can we let them know that as we follow them along the path of changing seasons, we do so with the God who remains constant for both us and them? Please pray about walking into their lives! Walk into their “season,” whether praying for them, sending cards, notes, making a visit, or making a phone call. Please ask God to move you forward on the path of changing seasons, to make theirs brighter. For inspiration in your prayer, look over: Gen.8:22, Heb. 13:8, Ps. 104:19.

For encouragement, please email me or call.

Julie Hagen Julie_hagen@hotmail.com
262-331-0052

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	