

NEWS FROM ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN

SEPTEMBER 2026

FROM THE PASTOR

Please check out the information from the latest Bugenhagen Conference found at the end of this newsletter!! This year's conference was a huge success.
Thank you for your support!

OFFICIAL ACTS

Baptism:

Grayson Wayne Liebenow

8-9-2026

LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

Our Ladies' Bible Class will begin Thursday, September 3. We will be studying the book of Acts. The class meets from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. in the church basement. Please enter through the school doors. All ladies are welcome.

FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Our fall worship schedule begins on Sunday, September 13. We will return to two services at 7:45 and 10:15 am. Bible Study and Sunday School will be held in between the services at 9am.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RETURNS!

Sunday School begins on September 13. 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

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN TRIP

Please join us for our fall FMSC Trip on Saturday, September 12. We are scheduled for the 12-2pm time slot. The link to sign up is listed below:

<https://www.fmssc.org/account/login?ReturnUrl=%2fjoin-group&joincode=EMN51Z&ShowSteps=true>

YOUTH GROUP EVENT

Our Youth Group Kick-off will be held on **Sunday, September 13** at St. Paul's, Union Grove, from 3-6:00 PM. (or later). We will be playing field games until we eat around 5-5:30. Please bring chips, drinks, and chairs.

FELLOWSHIP FRIDAY

Join us on Friday, September 18 from 5:30-7:30pm for Fellowship Friday. Pizza will be served as 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 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).

SJLC MEN'S GATHERING

Our next SJLC Men's Gathering will be held on Saturday, September 19 at Peter Glassen's house, 3329 N. Elmwood Drive, Racine. Brats and potato salad will be served. Bring your beverage of choice and a folding chair. If you plan to attend, please use the link to sign-up! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040B4ACA62EA3FB6-64936965-sjlc#/>

QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING

Our next quarterly voters' meeting takes place on Sunday, September 20 at 9am in the sanctuary. ***The Renovation and Expansion Committee has been actively reviewing the feedback we received from surveys, town hall meetings, and interviews during the feasibility process. We will be sending out some updates soon via email. Please mark your calendars for this meeting. We want all voting members to come and participate in this important decision!***

NEW MEMBER CLASS

Our next New Member Class will begin on Sunday, September 27 at 9:00 am. 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!

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 first mailing will go out early in the fall!

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.

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 [\[memento70.com\]](http://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 attached flyer. (A flyer can also be picked up at the back of the sanctuary.) I encourage anyone who is interested to subscribe. If you have any suggestions on topics that you would like to be tackled, please reach out to Pastor DeYoung. This is different way to address relevant topics that I pray will be a blessing to St. John's and the wider church.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1-Sept	Eliza Hansing	18-Sept	Chris Barber
2-Sept	Yaretzy Carmona	18-Sept	Annette Matera
2-Sept	Mason Klees	19-Sept	Hannah Messersmith
3-Sept	Nick Gasau	20-Sept	Bonnie Beversdorf
4-Sept	Christopher Petkus	20-Sept	Carla Hammermann
5-Sept	Lyndee Anzalone	20-Sept	Asher Howard
5-Sept	Adeline Gasau	20-Sept	Iris Howard
5-Sept	Sandy Kolbow	20-Sept	Sofie Kading
5-Sept	Tanner Naegeli	20-Sept	Laura Terselic
7-Sept	Dean Bartel	21-Sept	Leslie Lofquist
7-Sept	Reed Bowe	21-Sept	Marlene Perkins
7-Sept	Carissa Naegeli	21-Sept	Heather Summerford
8-Sept	Brennan King	21-Sept	Logan Widmar
8-Sept	Janet Pesch	22-Sept	Kayla Schulz
8-Sept	Thomas Sollman	22-Sept	Cameron Yohn
9-Sept	Jack Lofquist	23-Sept	Samuel Albright
10-Sept	Savannah Fernandez	23-Sept	Diane Andersen
11-Sept	Darius Davis	25-Sept	Jason Block
13-Sept	Sharon Adel	25-Sept	Catherine Clark
13-Sept	Rich Radtke	25-Sept	Debbie Lovdahl
14-Sept	Avery Wasik	25-Sept	Andrew Schuler
16-Sept	Dannilynn Griner	27-Sept	Kris Phillips
16-Sept	August Jacquet	28-Sept	Klara Peterson
16-Sept	Christian Pallamolla	29-Sept	Eli Al-Jehani
16-Sept	Daniel Pallamolla	29-Sept	Jaxson Fisa
16-Sept	Kathleen Smith	30-Sept	Shannon Porcaro
17-Sept	Ravi Velasquez		



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

FROM YOUR DIRECTOR OF MUSIC – SEPTEMBER, 2026 CHURCH NEWSLETTER

There is something exciting about opening fresh folders and introducing new music and seeing members reconnect after a busy summer.

Senior Choir and Handbell Choir will begin the season with a Masterclass Music Workshop led by Gregory Berg (Senior Choir) and Gregory Schroeder (Hand Bells) on **Tuesday, September 8, 2026.**

Senior Choir and Hand Bell choirs aren't simply people who make music, but along with our beautiful hymnody led by the most beautiful Schlicker Pipe Organ, trumpets, and instrumentalists, they are our music here at St. John's Lutheran Church. Choir rehearsals prepare us, shape us and build our hearts and voices. Our music ministry begins here each week.

Weekly Rehearsals - Tuesdays: Handbells at 6:00 pm and Senior Choir 7:00 pm.

Join us! Sharon Adel

Save the Dates:

Sunday, October 25, 2026 – ***Reformation Services – morning and afternoon***

Sunday, November 22, 2026 - 1:00 pm ***Through the Church Year - Festival of Hymns***

Sunday, **December 20,** 2026 – ***Christmas Concert – 5:45 pm***

Note - NEW date change of the Christmas Concert

December 20th, 2026 @ 5:45 pm

The Joy of Music

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 – SEPTEMBER

2026

September 6 – 14th Sunday after Trinity

Luke 17:17–19 – “Then Jesus answered... ‘Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?’ And he said to him, ‘Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.’” Faith and thanksgiving go together. How could they not go together? Our Lord gave Himself for us and we trust Him and His every Word. Once we have this faith, we want to say thank you — it's only natural. Thus, our stewardship is a natural part of the Christian faith. We thank the Lord with our gifts which enable the church to reach more people with the Good News of Christ.

September 13 – 15th Sunday after Trinity

Matthew 6:25 – “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on.” Our anxieties and fears all come down to one thing: worrying that we will not have what we think we need. But God is our loving heavenly Father. He will always care for us, His will is always best, and He actually knows what we really need. That confidence should set us free from worry and make us free for service according to the callings God has given us.

September 20 – 16th Sunday after Trinity

Ephesians 3:14–15 – “For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.” We have a Father in heaven. He cares for us. He knows how to give us all good things. This knowledge frees us from worry and anxiety. Jesus returned to this theme again and again, and we should take Him at His Word. Our Father will care for us, so we can be secure in generosity and faithful living.

September 27 – 17th Sunday after Trinity

Luke 14:11 – “For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” The kingdom of God is always upside down and backwards like this. We must die in order to live. We must be humbled so we can be exalted. It's like this with giving as well. When we give away, then we receive much more than we bargained for: peace of mind, contentment, joy.

SCHOOL NEWS CORNER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The end of summer is always a little bittersweet, but we are so excited to be back at school for the 2026-2027 school year! Our teachers continue to use their talents in incredible ways, and this year we welcome Mrs. Debbie Peterson and Ms. Katie Peterson to our teaching staff, as well as our new aides and support staff: Samantha Rendler, Angelica Gonzales, and Corinne Lockie. As we head into September, we want to invite you to join us each Wednesday morning at 9 am for our chapel services for grades 1-8. The pastors are focusing on a different Biblical hero each week to go with our school theme: Rooted in Christ. We hope to see you there. We are thankful for the continued support of our congregation members!

SEPTEMBER DINING OUT

Join us for our first Dining Out Night of the school year on Thursday, September 17 at Culver's, 4542 Douglas 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.

BOCDS POLICY REVIEW

The Board of Christian Day School reviewed several policies at their August meeting. If you would like to look at the recommended policy changes, please see Mrs. Chapman in the church office, and she can make you a copy of the document. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Heins before the September board meeting. The policies would be voted on at the September meeting.

LIFE THOUGHTS FOR LUTHERANS – SEPTEMBER 2026

September 6 – Trinity 14 – The lepers are given to be our example today (Luke 17:11-19). They set themselves apart, for they were unclean. We, too, know the sin of our covetous and lustful hearts revealed by God's Word. Yet, despite their exile and lowly state, the lepers boldly cried out for mercy to the One who is mercy. Jesus comes for sinners. God's mercy is for those who know their need. Whatever you have done to sin against God and your neighbor, repent, confess your sin, and be healed in body and soul. His mercy is for you. Rejoice, beloved, for those in Christ have forgiveness of all their sins.

September 13 – Trinity 15 – The evil one, the world, and your easily influenced sinful flesh preach doubt in God's Word, which is false faith (Matthew 6:24-34). Consider who it is that knows your need, who loves you, who watches over you day and night? It is He who rules all of creation, directing everything in the entire cosmos for the benefit of His children. He is your God. True faith overcomes false faith. Jesus is the object of true faith. We fill our hearts and minds with Him. We daily read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest Him in the Holy Scriptures and His Supper. Beloved in Christ, all your needs are met, and true peace is yours in Jesus.

September 20 – Trinity 16 – Let all men know that the Lord is God (Luke 7:11-17). Yes, He appeared in a form like ours. Yet He has revealed to us His divine power and majesty throughout the Scriptures. He healed diseases and rebuked unclean spirits. He gave the blind their sight. Finally, He even evicted death itself from the bodies of men, death that cruelly and mercilessly had tyrannized humankind from Adam even to you. That widow's son at Nain was raised from death to life amidst the finality of it all. Truly unbelievable apart from faith. Jesus, your Lord, your God, will raise you with those same words: "I say to you, arise." For each of us baptized into Jesus, death has no power.

September 27 – Trinity 17 – Humility is the posture of the Christian (Luke 14:1-11). The lower place is our preference. After all, we are the creatures. Yet, pride is the great prize of our old man. Pride kills the humble new man. Therefore, our pride must be put to death. The One who fulfilled the Law does just that. Humility was on full display in Jesus on the cross. He took our lower place, a place we deserved, that we might be moved up to rejoice in the presence of our Creator Host, our Triune God. "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

The Bugenhagen Conference 2026



Note: Videos will be available on YouTube by searching for "Bugenhagen Conference 2026"



The 2026 Bugenhagen Conference went very well and included four worship services, three keynote addresses, and 35 workshops. 176 pastors registered to attend and 150-160 were in attendance over the course of the conference. These are impressive numbers with the 2026 Synod Convention held earlier in Phoenix in July. Our building was put to good use and is greatly appreciated! Next year will be our 10th anniversary!

Above: Group photo taken after Matins on July 28.

Left: Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador, President of the South Wisconsin District, preaches Matins on July 28.

Below: Rev. Ben Ball, 2nd Vice President of the LCMS, greets the conference in the gym on July 28.



Thank you to all of the congregation for supporting this conference again! A special thanks to Curt, Jean, Rod, and Sharon Adel, Kimberly Chapman, Jim Day, Aaron Douglas, Dean & Sharon Bartel, Tim Busarow, Ninette DeYoung,

Diane, Peter, and Kelly Glassen, Kevin, Josiah, and Micah Hasseldahl, Melanie Knoell, Jim McCluskey, Dave Messersmith, Joani Miller, Ellen Parrish, Matt Patzke, Eric Peterson, Shannon Porcaro, Scott, Diane, Michael, & Daniel Schweitzer, Cindy Seils, Dave Sjostrom, and Dan & Kris Reisdorf, as well as all those who donated food and who helped get the building ready on July 26. **If you find that your name should have been found on this list, please be sure to shame Pastor Gilbert the next time you see him for leaving you out!**

Below are some of the thank you notes from the attendees of the 2026 Bugenhagen Conference:

Thanks for this wonderful undertaking of fellowship, growth, support, and encouragement. That's what this conference has meant to me—I came here for the first time and I left here refreshed and equipped. God be praised for this time, these men of God, and the churches that support this endeavor.

Pastor Joseph Barlau (St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church – Lester Prairie, MN)

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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Thank you for all that you do to support the Bugenhagen Conference. It is my first year attending and I have just begun my vicarage. I have been learning so much that I will be able to use on vicarage in preparation for the Holy Ministry. I appreciate your support so that this conference can take place. I look forward to becoming a regular attendee. Thank you so much.

Vicar William Harr (St. Paul Lutheran Church – Eldora, IA)

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What an astounding event—please receive my heartfelt thanks for your support of this conference and especially of the pastors who will return to many congregations refreshed and energized for good work. It was my first time attending, and in no small part because of your generosity. I certainly plan to return. May the Lord bless your congregation and also cause your generosity to bear much fruit throughout our synod.

Pastor Joseph Muench (Trinity Lutheran Church – Nokomis, IL)

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There is no single week of the year that serves as a greater encouragement and motivation to be a more faithful and strong pastor than Bugenhagen week. I cannot thank you all enough for your generosity and hospitality! Thank you, and God willing, see you next year!

Pastor Peter Preus (St. Paul's Lutheran Church – Bridgeport, NE)

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Dear saints of God—Thank you so much for making the BEST pastors' conference in the Missouri Synod! I look forward to it every year!

President Heath Curtis (Southern Illinois District)

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Thank you for supporting the Bugenhagen Conference. It is an exceptional conference for confessional Lutheran pastors to be encouraged and instructed by other faithful pastors. We are also encouraged by you who made this conference possible. To God be the glory!

Pastor Brad Thomas (Zion Lutheran Church – Chippewa Falls, WI)

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Dear saints of our Lord—Thank you for your work supporting the Bugenhagen Conference. Once again I will return to the congregation I serve with renewed zeal for blessing the people and with new tools and wisdom for doing so. Your work for the Lord is greatly appreciated.

Pastor Timothy Meyer (Calvary Lutheran Church – Wellington, KS)

I have attended this conference for several years and have been continually impressed and inspired with how well this event is put together and the topics considered. I have grown greatly in my abilities as a pastor and appreciate all the support you provide. Thanks be to God for you, and the Lord Jesus Christ continue to bless each of you!

Pastor Matthew Durance (Zion Lutheran Church – Harbor Beach, MI)

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Thank you so much for your generous giving to sponsor this conference! This has been a blessing to our pastors.

Pastor Scott MacDonald (St. John Lutheran Church – Meriden, CT)

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I want to thank you for your support of the Bugenhagen Conference. For me, this conference has become a place of respite and refreshment every single year. Your support makes it possible for many brothers to gather together here to encourage and receive encouragement from brothers. Thank you for caring for pastors and offering your money, time, and physical space to host this much beloved conference.

Pastor Jacob Hercamp (Christ Lutheran Church – Noblesville, IN)

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Sometimes the work of a pastor seems foreign and obscure to the average Christian. Sometimes they talk about their work in weird ways, or keep a weird schedule, or carry a weird soberness about their work. And some pastors feel challenged beyond their resources. This conference remedies all of that, and encourages me for the season ahead, to labor for the Lord with all His power. Your compassionate support is appreciated!

Pastor Patrick Randolph (Grace Lutheran Church – Milwaukee, WI)

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This conference refreshed me for the rest of the year. I am a far better pastor and my churches are better taught and sanctified because of this conference. The Bugenhagen Conference is the ongoing Practical Seminary.

Pastor Marcus Manley (Bethlehem & Zion Lutheran Churches – Altamont, IL)

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Thank you for your time and money used to host the Bugenhagen Conference. The last two years of attending this conference have been greatly beneficial to my formation as a pastor and a Christian man as iron sharpens iron. Your work here is invaluable. Your hospitality and generosity are greatly appreciated.

Seminarian Hunter Kinnison (Concordia Theological Seminary – Fort Wayne, IN)

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I have had a very difficult few months, between parish and pastoral difficulties on the one hand and family difficulties on the other. Indeed, this has been such the case that, had I not already committed to being the ride for another, would likely have backed out this year. I am so very glad I did not, so very glad I could not back out. It was refreshing. Encourage. Restorative. As always. Thank you all for hosting this for us. Thank you for doing it again and again. Thank you for providing such an opportunity for healing and refreshment. You are a blessing to me.

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More information and pictures can be found on Facebook by searching for the Bugenhagen Conference.

FALL IS FOR GETTING BACK TO ROUTINE!

Can our Shut-Ins be a part of yours?

“As was His custom, He (Jesus) went to the synagogue on the Sabbath Day and stood up to read.” Luke 4:1. So Jesus attended the weekly meetings, “... as was His custom.”

One does not ask oneself daily whether you should go to work, and whether you should brush your teeth. They are just good habits! Can you include a new habit into your life as you begin the new routine that we all get back to in the fall?

Can you write some letters the first week of fall?

Can you make a few phone calls the second week of month?

Can you send a bouquet of flowers the third week of month?

Can you stop at someone’s residence to say “hi”, at any time of the month?

Can you include even just one of these things into your month?

Please pray about how you might include the shut-ins of our congregation into your daily, weekly, or monthly routine. Please feel free to email or call me to help you on your way to a “new routine” of serving these precious members of our church family.

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	