

# NEWS FROM ST. JOHN'S

## January 2023

---

### FROM THE PASTOR

#### Observation of the Festival of Holy Innocents, Martyrs.

Following Christmas, the Church has long remembered three Christian martyrdoms. On December 26, the Festival of St. Stephen; on December 27, the Festival of St. John the Apostle; and on December 28 the Festival of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs.

Along with these observances it is often noted that St. Stephen was a martyr for Christ in both will and deed. St. John was a martyr in will, but not in deed. The Holy Innocents were martyrs not in will, but in deed.

It may seem rather strange to go immediately from the joyous celebration of Christmas directly into the sobering remembrance of Christian martyrdom. But it is actually quite appropriate. For it purposefully begs the question: "why does God allow such evil to exist"?

After the visit from the Magi, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph telling him to flee Bethlehem to Egypt. Herod, an evil and jealous man, had issued a command for his soldiers to kill every male child in Bethlehem. His orders were carried out and many young children were brutally murdered. Herod thought he had vanquished the one who threatened his power, but he was mistaken, and the blood of the innocents remained on his hands.

This story is recorded the Gospel of Matthew [2:13-18] where he shows us how this all was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "*Out of Egypt I called my son.*" And that the slaughter of the innocents was likewise predicted by the prophet Jeremiah where it is written: "*A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.*"

When answering the question "why does God allow such evil to exist?" one must remember that God is not the author of evil. But it is likewise true that none of these events happened outside his permissive will. The same is true of the many evils that happen in our time. Abortion is one such atrocity that should come to mind as we remember the innocents slaughtered under Herod. Rest assured, God does not take death lightly, nor will he allow murderers to go unpunished. Paul reminds us in his letter to the Romans: "*Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, vengeance is*

*mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.*" Herod, like Cain before him will receive their just condemnation.

Our Lord Jesus was not murdered by Herod as it was not the proper time. Jesus would lay down his life when and how he willed. And he did lay down his life, as he gave himself into the hands of evil murderous men. The slaughter of the Holy Innocents reminds us of the need we have for a savior from death and evil. It reminds us that death was vanquished by the death of the only Son of God. It reminds us that, at the cross, murderers were judged and the faithful vindicated. Death does not win, and murders do not go unpunished. It likewise gives words to the groaning of those who suffer the pain of loss, especially the loss of a dear child. Rachel's lament is familiar to anyone who has suffered such loss. But the one who was called out of Egypt brings us comfort. For he would indeed lay down his life; but he would also gloriously take it up again. Take comfort dear Christian in the promise of the resurrection. Heed the words of Christ our Lord who says to all you who weep: "*I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?*"

+SDG+

Pastor DeYoung

---

### PASTORAL ACTS

#### FUNERALS:

Vickie Oberst	12/3/2022
Betty Borgardt	12/3/2022
Douglas Gotch	12/6/2022

---

### NEW MEMBER CLASS

If you would like to become a member at St. John's, please join us on Sunday, January 8. The class meets for 13 weeks on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am. All materials needed will be provided. Sunday School is also available for students in PK3-8th Grade during this time. If you have questions, please contact the church office at 637-7011 or [chapman@stjohnsracine.org](mailto:chapman@stjohnsracine.org). We would be glad to have you as part of this group!

## CALL ACCEPTANCE LETTER

Dear congregation members, pastors, staff, and members of the Board of Christian Day School for St. John's Lutheran Church,

After prayer and consideration, I am honored to accept the call to be principal at St. John's Lutheran. Though it is bittersweet to leave a teaching position that I have loved for the past 11 years, I am blessed that this new opportunity takes place at what I already know is an incredible school, among colleagues whom I love and respect, and at a congregation that has truly become my home during the time I have served here.

Thank you for the wonderful outpouring of support and prayers during the call process. I am excited to continue serving St. John's in this new capacity, and I know that as we face challenges together in the years ahead, the Lord will be our strength and our guide.

In Christ,  
Emily Heins

---

## FELLOWSHIP FRIDAYS

Fellowship Friday resumes this month on Friday, January 20 from 5:30-7:30pm. Please come as individuals or families, and if you do, please bring a drink or dessert to share. We look forward to getting together again!

If you are coming as a family with younger children, please consider bringing a game of some kind to perhaps play with others. The gym will also be open for part of the evening. Everyone connected to St. John's is invited to join us each month! If you will be in attendance on January 20, please email Kimberly Chapman ([chapman@stjohnsracine.org](mailto:chapman@stjohnsracine.org)) or Sharon Adel ([adel@stjohnsracine.org](mailto:adel@stjohnsracine.org)).

---

## 2023 FLOWER CALENDAR

The flower calendar for 2023 has been posted in the church narthex. To sign up to provide altar flowers, simply write your name and contact information next to any available Sunday.

---

## 2023 GIVING ENVELOPES

Giving envelopes for 2023 are now available! You can pick yours up on the tables outside the cafeteria. If you give online or through another means, envelopes were not issued. If you would still like to receive a box of giving envelopes, please let Kimberly know. Thank you!

## FROM YOUR DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

With the Advent Season behind us, I love looking back and reflecting on the 'preparing' of these past several weeks. As you prepared, I pray that your time spent in worship during Advent, including the wonderful Advent Vespers worship services which included many of our students, uplifted and nourished you.

For those who were able to attend our December 11, 2022 Christmas Concert, I thank you for joining us. God's Word was read foretelling of the Messiah who would be sent by God to earth. Beautiful music was woven around the promise of our King that changed the world not by might, but by the power of His love!

Thank you, Senior Choir, Handbell Choir, Handchime Choir, Children's Choir, Soloists, and all instrumentalists for your unconditional time and talent. Thank you, Jan Ruppel, for playing the piano so beautifully for our special choral anthems. Thank you, Bill Badley for recording our service. We look forward to preparing CDs for anyone interested. Thank you to the Glassen families for preparing and running the kitchen for our time of refreshments after the concert. Thank you, Susan Pierce-Ruhland, for your extra help in making the handbell tables so beautiful with new coverings!

Senior Choir had a wonderful evening Christmas Caroling on Tuesday, December 13th. We had the honor of singing for many residents at The Woods, Sienna and Sienna Memory Care and also The Parkview. We sang for Arthur Preuss at Sienna and Joyce Anderson joined us at The Parkview. We then enjoyed hot chocolate and cookies with Joyce Anderson and the residents. Thank you, Claudia Coticchia, for putting together the yummy treats.

The Advent Hymn-Sing was always a wonderful time for us to come together and choose our favorite Advent hymns, even though each week we have the wonderful opportunity to come together, listen to God's Word, receive the Sacraments *and* sing beautiful hymns. I look forward to the next time we gather for another!

So, welcome, 2023! May God bless and keep you safe as His tender mercies abound.

***Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. James 1:17***

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1-Jan	Diane Gatzke	15-Jan	Roy Karpinsky
2-Jan	Kristin Widmar	15-Jan	Elizabeth Olley
3-Jan	Thomas Paulick	15-Jan	Alec Schaefer
4-Jan	Ana Borgardt	16-Jan	Butch Luther
5-Jan	Robert Billings	16-Jan	Kenzie Patzke
5-Jan	Thomas Dargin	16-Jan	Jennifer Rossman
6-Jan	Walter Peterson	20-Jan	Alex Fiones
7-Jan	Ruth Feldscher	22-Jan	Hunter Jozwiak
8-Jan	Olivia Knoell	22-Jan	Linda Lloyd
10-Jan	Alicia Petkus	22-Jan	Cameron Porcaro
10-Jan	Janet Ruppel	23-Jan	Jennifer Mandli
11-Jan	Carol Busarow	24-Jan	Jim Bowe
11-Jan	Peter Glassen	24-Jan	Dean Hugdahl
11-Jan	Bob Nommensen	26-Jan	Quinn Allesxandro
12-Jan	Mitchell Jaeck	26-Jan	Easton Charpentier
13-Jan	Lucy DeYoung	27-Jan	Kevin Barber
13-Jan	Josephine Kellner	27-Jan	Suzanne Jaeck
13-Jan	Paul Ruppel	28-Jan	Cassidy Clausen
14-Jan	Joanne Behling	28-Jan	Ashlyn Wasik
14-Jan	Emilie Gilbert	29-Jan	Jennah Moe
14-Jan	Rylie Jaeck	29-Jan	Linda Puchter
14-Jan	Daniel Schweitzer	29-Jan	Keith Roberson
14-Jan	Ryder Stauffer		



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

## 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](http://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](mailto:chapman@stjohnsracine.org) or (262) 637-7011.

---

## AMAZON SMILE

**St. John's just received a \$66.32 donation from AmazonSmile.** Please consider supporting St. John's Lutheran Church through the AmazonSmile Foundation. AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support St. John's every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. On your first visit to AmazonSmile [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you need to select St. John's to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) will result in a donation. Search for St Johns Lutheran Church – Racine, WI. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to St John's.

## LIFE THOUGHTS FOR LUTHERANS – JANUARY

2023

**Epiphany I/Baptism of Our Lord** – John’s baptism convicted every human being – “Jerusalem and all Judea” (Matthew 3:5-6). No physical incapacities excused anyone. Jesus’ baptism consecrates every human being. God, in giving His Son, identifies with us at our weakest and embraces us at our worst. Even when we don’t resemble anything our Maker intended, He doesn’t call us “unwanted” or “better off dead.” Instead He declares, “This is my beloved [child], with whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17). In this newness of life, Christians can also welcome the least among us. *Lord, construct Your kingdom of little ones like us. Amen.*

**Epiphany II** – Perhaps we could raise the level of respect and honor for marriage if we focused less on what it isn’t and more upon what it is, and teach, as Paul, that “it refers to Christ and the church” (Ephesians 5:32b). *Lord, help us see marriage as a picture of Your sacrificial and loving relationship to Your Church. Amen.*

### **Epiphany III**

The Gospel (Romans 1:16) brought struggle to St. Paul, but God’s grace also gave him unconditional worth and purpose. He could not help but rejoice to proclaim and perform it. Sometimes declaring the sanctity of human life sets us at odds with popular opinion and even our own loved ones. Yet we need not be ashamed. Indeed, we may be most excited to speak and share it, for Jesus makes us and every neighbor a precious treasure from fertilization to forever. *Heavenly Father, fill us to overflowing with the courage and compassion of Your creating, redeeming, and calling. Amen.*

### **Epiphany IV**

The whole creation groans (Romans 8:22) because of sin’s brokenness. Every life involves suffering, especially as last days draw near and bodies begin to fail. Still such circumstances have significance—our Lord describes them as the labor of childbirth. Jesus redeems our weaknesses to bear witness of a better life by His power that sustains us in our pain (Romans 8:18). Injuries, infections, and impairments only affect us as far as He permits (Matthew 8:26), and elderly and terminal lives matter eternally! *Almighty Maker, comfort us with community in You even as our flesh crumbles. Amen.*

### **Epiphany V**

Abraham and God thought Lot’s household worth having though they resided in Sodom (Genesis 18:23-32). Jesus dealt gently with fields of worthless weeds because He beheld the wheat He had hidden within (Matthew 13:29-30). Like surprise pregnancies and terminal diagnoses, there are inconvenient (and even evil) aspects about us all. If God desires and saves us still, how much more does the One Righteous Man’s sacrifice make every human life a privilege, no matter what age, appearance, or ability! *Gracious Savior, lend us Your eyes to see past nuisance and receive every neighbor as gift. Amen.*

## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

**January 1 – Eve of the Name/Name of Jesus**

**Luke 2:21** – “**And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.**” There it is: the shortest Gospel lesson of the whole Church Year. It is for the festival of the Circumcision and Name of Jesus. What more do you need to know than the name of Jesus — “the Lord saves.” That’s who Jesus is: the Lord who saves us sinners. That simple Gospel message is the foundation of our faith and the strength to live out our faith.

**January 8 – Baptism of Our Lord**

**Matthew 3:15** – “**But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.’**” God sent His Son into the world to fulfill all righteousness for us, to do what we could not do. Here, Jesus plunges Himself into our sins and soaks them up in His Baptism, so that in our Baptism we might be cleansed and renewed. The whole of Jesus’ life, everything He did and said, was one great offering to the Father in our stead to fulfill all righteousness for us. All our offerings back to our Lord are in thanksgiving for this one great, true offering.

**January 15 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

**Ephesians 5:27** – “**...so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.**” Our Lord has cleansed us with His blood — in His sight we are now pure and holy. He has given Himself, laying down His life for us. Now we are His spotless and beautiful bride. By His sacrifice, we are moved to sacrifice. By His cleansing, we find a desire to ourselves be clean and live blamelessly as He is blameless.

**January 22 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

**Matthew 8:8** – “**But the centurion replied, ‘Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed.’**” The Word of the Lord is powerful and effective. What God says, goes. “Let there be light” (Gen. 1:3). And there was light. His Word is still effective and creative for us: “This is my body, which is given for you” (Luke 22:19). “Your sins are forgiven” (Matt. 9:2, Luke 5:20, etc.). This is why it is no burden for us to live according to the Word of God: we know that His Word is always aimed at our blessing.

**January 29 – Transfiguration**

**Matthew 17:8** – “**And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.**” Jesus is enough. Moses and Elijah point to Jesus and are happy to fade into the background. With our eyes focused on Him and Him alone, the rest of our lives come into focus. He is primary, all else secondary. When that order is right in our lives, things truly fall into place.

## SHUT INS

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
Ann Beckett	6603 Medley Drive, Racine, WI 53402	
Leola Christian	5321 Douglas Avenue, Apt. 101, Racine, WI 53402	262-886-0734
Pat Cole	6551 Mariner Drive, Unit 6, Racine, WI 53406	
Sue Erickson	5101 Wright Ave #215, Racine, WI 53406	262-260-8454
Gary & Shirley Filicetti	4710 N Main St, Racine, WI 53402	262-639-3721
Janet Fisa	<b>Elizabeth Gardens</b> 5111 Wright Avenue, Room 203, Racine, WI 53406	262-234-9859
Marcella Geyer	3139 Conrad Drive, Racine, WI 53404	262-634-8105
Gail Gotch	1916 Wisconsin Avenue, Apt. 359, Racine, WI 53403	262-221-6912
Mimi Hynek	5321 Douglas Avenue, Apt. 1156A, Racine, WI 53402	
Susan Monson	418 Shoreland Drive, Racine, WI 53402	262-639-8490
Kathy Patzman	5404 Idlewood Drive, Racine, WI 53402	
Art Preuss	5643 Erie Street, Room 219, Racine, WI 53402	
Linda Puchter	1463 28th Ct, Kenosha, WI 53140	262-553-9470
Marlene Roepke	1201 Kingston Avenue, Racine, WI 53402	
Joanne Ruble	1108 N. Sunnyslope #104, Racine, WI 53406	262-498-3476
John Smith	1636 Raintree Lane, Racine, WI 53406	262-456-0073