

# NEWS FROM ST. JOHN'S

## JANUARY 2024

### FROM THE PASTOR

We as Lutherans have a wonderful inheritance of biblically sound theology and rich hymnody. As such, I am constantly discovering and re-discovering hymns that, although perhaps unfamiliar to many, beautifully give word and tune to the faith we have in Christ Jesus. I commend to you the following Christmas hymn, which I believe deserves to be re-learned and re-sung as part of our yearly Christmas tradition. It is written by the great Lutheran hymn writer Paul Gerhardt and is found both in the old red hymnal (TLH 81) and in the new hymnal (LSB 372). You can also find this hymn beautifully sung by the Concordia Theological Seminary Kantori if you [click here](#).

O Jesus Christ, Thy manger is  
My paradise at which my soul reclineth.  
For there, O Lord, Doth lie the Word  
Made flesh for us; herein Thy grace forthshineth.

He whom the sea And wind obey  
Doth come to serve the sinner in great meekness.  
Thou, God's own Son, With us art one,  
Dost join us and our children in our weakness.

Thy light and grace Our guilt efface,  
Thy heavenly riches all our loss retrieving.  
Immanuel, Thy birth doth quell  
The power of hell and Satan's bold deceiving.

Thou Christian heart, Whoe'er thou art,  
Be of good cheer and let no sorrow move thee!  
For God's own Child, In mercy mild,  
Joins thee to Him;-how greatly God must love thee!

Remember thou What glory now  
The Lord prepared thee for all earthly sadness.  
The angel host Can never boast  
Of greater glory, greater bliss or gladness.

The world may hold Her wealth and gold;  
But thou, my heart, keep Christ as thy true Treasure.  
To Him hold fast Until at last  
A crown be thine and honor in full measure.

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Joshua DeYoung

### OFFICIAL ACTS

#### **Baptisms:**

Hollynn Asher Anzalone	12-10-2023
Melissa Hillery	12-13-2023

#### **Confirmands:**

Melissa Hillery	12-17-2023
Alicia Hlavacek	12-17-2023
Curtis Kratowicz	12-17-2023
Linday Suszek	12-17-2023

### NEW ADDRESS FOR THE DEYOUNG FAMILY

The DeYoung family has moved! Their new address is 1106 Hialeah Drive, Racine, 53402. Please make a note. Thank you!

### FELLOWSHIP FRIDAY

Our next Fellowship Friday will be held on Friday, January 19 from 5:30-7:30 here at St. John's. Everyone connected to St. John's is invited to attend this event.

Please come as individuals or families, and if you do, please bring a side, dessert, or drink to share. 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. If you plan to attend, please email Kimberly ([chapman@stjohnsracine.org](mailto:chapman@stjohnsracine.org)) or Sharon ([adel@stjohnsracine.org](mailto:adel@stjohnsracine.org)).

***Just a note that we will not hold Fellowship Friday events in February and March due to our weekly Wednesday Lenten dinners.***

### 2024 FLOWER CALENDAR

The flower calendar for 2024 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.

## **2024 GIVING ENVELOPES**

Giving envelopes for 2024 are now available! You can pick yours up on the table in back of the sanctuary. 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!

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## **MONTHLY CHURCH NEWSLETTER**

During the spring, we will be moving away from providing our monthly church newsletter through USPS bulk mail. Most families prefer to receive the newsletter via email. At this time, we do not have enough families (200) that would like to have the newsletter delivered by mail. For those families that do not have an email address, we will continue to mail the monthly newsletter by regular mail. If you have an email address, but would still like a paper copy, please let me know, and we will continue to send one out to you by regular mail along with the emailed version. We appreciate any email updates you can provide as we switch over to email as your primary source for the monthly newsletter. *As always, the current monthly newsletter can also be found under the church tab on the St. John's Church and School website!*

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## **NEW MEMBER CLASS**

Our next New Member Class will begin on Sunday, February 18 at 9:00 am. We will meet in the Fifth Grade Classroom (upstairs in the school building). The class will conclude on May 19. 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](mailto: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!



## **FROM YOUR DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

Welcome, 2024! To those families who were able to attend our December 10, 2023 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, Bill Badley for recording our service. We will upload the Concert onto our YouTube channel. Once again, thank you to the Glassen families for preparing and running the kitchen for our time of refreshments after the concert.

Our Senior Choir went Christmas Caroling on Tuesday, December 12th. Along with singing for the residents of The Woods, Sienna, Sienna Memory Care and Parkview, we were so happy to sing for the residents of Lake Oakes this year! We find it a true joy to share the love of God through our music, as we always do each year.

The Advent Hymn-Sing was always a wonderful time for us to come together and choose our favorite Advent or Christmas hymns. Remember, each week we have the wonderful opportunity to come together, listen to God's Word, receive the Sacraments *and* sing beautiful hymns.

May God bless and keep you all. Sharon Adel

*"It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."*

Deuteronomy 31:8

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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



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

## ST. JOHN'S ENDOWMENT FUND

The St. John's Lutheran Church Endowment Fund value remains at approximately **\$1,526,000**.

The Endowment Committee, Church Council and the Voters' Assembly have approved two projects; a console rebuild and "walk-board" upgrade for the church's beautiful Schlicker pipe organ, by Nolte Organ Service, Inc. and the installation of a new/upgraded sanctuary sound, video & streaming, basement audio and chancel sound system by Sound Specialty Co. The total amount approved by the Congregation is \$91,090.

With the approvals, a portion of the motion to approve included an effort by the congregation to replenish the funds taken from the Endowment Fund via giving and fund raising.

If you, or your family, are interested in a vehicle for giving or a place for memorials, please consider the St. John's Lutheran Congregation Endowment Fund as a destination for the "enhancement and furthering" of God's work.

## 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.

## **STEWARDSHIP CORNER – JANUARY 2024**

### **January 6 – Epiphany**

Isaiah 60:6 – “They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.” Faith in God moves the heart toward thanksgiving, which moves us toward making offerings to the Lord in His house. It’s simply what Christians do: Our thanksgiving to our Lord for all His benefits to us simply must overflow into sacrificial giving to the Lord. What Isaiah prophesied, the Wise Men did, and we still do today: We give with a thankful heart.

### **January 7 – Baptism of Our Lord**

Matthew 3:14 – “John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’” John is right — what Jesus is doing makes no sense! But this is the upside-down, outlandish grace of God: the innocent Jesus takes our sinner’s place. This is the greatest act of giving the world has ever known or will know: the Father gives His Son to die in the place of sinners.

### **January 14 – Second Sunday after Epiphany**

John 2:5 – “His mother said to the servants, ‘Do whatever he tells you.’” What must Mary have thought when Jesus replied, “What does this have to do with me?” (John 2:4). But she knew that whatever her Son said to do would be a blessing, so she knew what advice to give to the servants: Do whatever He tells you! That’s still good advice for us in every aspect of our lives, including in our generosity toward the Lord’s work in the church.

### **January 21 – Transfiguration**

Matthew 17:7 – “But Jesus came and touched them, saying, ‘Rise, and have no fear.’” When Jesus is with us, there is no need to fear. He loves us and cares for us and will never abandon us. That assurance is the basis of all generosity, for only those who are set free from worry can learn the joy of giving.

### **January 28 – Septuagesima**

1 Corinthians 9:25 – “Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.” Self-control is a fruit of the Spirit, for the desires of the flesh are at war with the desires of the Spirit. We have received new life in Christ by His grace. Now He calls us to follow Him deliberately, with self-control and with intention.

## **LIFE THOUGHTS FOR LUTHERANS – JANUARY 2024**

**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.*

## SHUT INS

Name	Address	Phone Number
Ann Beckett	6603 Medley Drive, Racine, WI 53402	262-770-3770
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Gary & Shirley Filicetti	4710 N Main St, Racine, WI 53402	262-639-3721
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