

# NEWS FROM ST. JOHN'S

## MARCH 2024

### FROM THE PASTOR

"The Liturgy of the Lutheran Church"

Many of us are familiar with the hymns and services of our Church. They are ingrained in our memory and as such they have become part of us. But there is still much to learn, and for that reason I want to help! Consider taking one additional hour out of your Sunday morning schedule to enjoy fellowship, refreshments, and learn a bit more about how and why we worship the way that we do. It is my prayer that by learning the history and tradition of our church you will gain a better understanding and appreciation of the gifts that have been handed down to us from our forebearers.

I will conclude by commending to you some words from our Lutheran Confessions which remind us that we as Lutherans retain the liturgical forms:

"We do not abolish the Mass but religiously keep and defend it. In our churches Mass is celebrated every Sunday and on other festivals, when the sacrament is offered to those who wish for it after they have been examined and absolved. We keep traditional liturgical forms, such as the order of the lessons, prayers, vestments, etc." (Apology to the Augsburg Confession XXIV, 1)

Pastor DeYoung

### OFFICIAL ACTS

#### **Baptism:**

Amelia May Riegelman 1-28-2024

#### **Funeral:**

Gloria Mielke 2-13-2024

### FELLOWSHIP FRIDAY

*Just a note that we will not hold a Fellowship Friday event in March due to our weekly Wednesday Lenten dinners/soup suppers.*

### LENTEN DINNERS 2024

Date	Group Serving	Menu	Group Singing
3/6/24	----	Soup Supper	Cherub Choir
3/13/24	Senior Choir	Sloppy Joe's	Vocal Solo
3/20/24	----	Soup Supper	Children's Choir

### SOUP SUPPERS

This year on the weeks where no group is hosting a Lenten meal we will be having "Soup Suppers". This Lenten tradition is common in many Lutheran parishes. Kimberly will have a sign-up online to bring a soup (you may also call the church office). This meal will be self-serve; disposable bowls, plates, cups, utensils, and decaf coffee will be provided. We ask that you take the vessel in which you brought your soup when you leave, along with whatever contents remain. Feel free to bring your own beverages if you want to drink something other than water or coffee. If you have any questions, please contact Kimberly Chapman in the church office. The links for the remaining two soup suppers are listed below if you would like to sign up to bring a soup.

#### **Wednesday, March 6:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040B4ACA62EA3FB6-47270335-lenten#/>

#### **Wednesday, March 20:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040B4ACA62EA3FB6-47788781-lenten#/>

### ST. JOHN'S ESTATE SALE

The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual St. John's Estate Sale is Saturday, April 6 from 8:00am – 2:00pm. There will be household items, furniture, and various other items. Please drop your donated items off at the school April 1-3 between 8:30am and 12:00pm. If you would like to volunteer to help set up, please contact Curt Adel at 262-681-1114. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 262-637-7011.

## **FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN TRIP**

Please join the Stewardship Board on Saturday, April 13th for a spring field trip to Feed My Starving Children, a Christian organization in Libertyville, Illinois that utilizes volunteers to pack meals for kids in need around the world.

Last September, we packed 104 boxes of food, which will feed 61 children for an entire year. That is 22,464 meals...and we are hoping to see those numbers grow this spring!

**Our packing time is from 2:00 - 3:45pm.** We will meet at the Park and Ride on Highway 20 and leave at **12:45pm** to caravan down to Libertyville. \*Please note the times as they are different than our last few packing sessions\*. This is a wonderful opportunity to give back - we hope that you and your family will be able to join us. *Please Note: For safety reasons, Feed My Starving Children does require that anyone participating is at least 5 years old.*

Please sign up at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0E49ACAA28A7F58-47903303-feed>

---

## **SPRING CLEAN UP DAY**

Come join us for our annual Spring Cleanup Day on Saturday, May 11th 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*

Please sign up at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0E49ACAA28A7F58-47903781-spring>

---

## **USHERS NEEDED**

The Board of Elders is in need of individuals interested in ushering during worship services. Please prayerfully consider helping out in this way. If you would be interested in ushering or have questions, please contact Kimberly in the church office at [chapman@stjohnsracine.org](mailto:chapman@stjohnsracine.org); (262) 637-7011. Thank you!

## **NEWS FROM OUR SEMINARIAN, JACOB STEFANEC**

Dear St. John's,

Greetings in Christ! All is going well at the seminary. We are nearing the end of the winter quarter. I am currently taking Homiletics 2, Ministry in a Pluralistic Context, the Book of Revelation, Baptism, and Pastoral Counseling. I have especially enjoyed Revelation and its depictions of Christ as one with the Father in the heavenly throne. This Ash Wednesday I had the privilege of preaching at my fieldwork congregation, and it was well received.

The family is doing well. Oliver still enjoys reading books, taking walks, and learning to make the sign of the cross. We find out where we are going for vicarage on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, and vicarage will begin sometime during the summer. It is hard to believe we will soon be halfway done with seminary!

I hope to come and visit again sometime in the spring. It is always a blessing to see you all. Thank you for your continued support throughout our time here; it means more than you know. As always, keep us in your prayers as we prepare for next year.

In Christ,  
Jacob Stefanec



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

<b>1-Mar</b>	Julia Kellner	<b>17-Mar</b>	Nancy Blaesing
<b>1-Mar</b>	Sutton Schaefer	<b>17-Mar</b>	Stephanie Peterson
<b>2-Mar</b>	Morgan Burman	<b>17-Mar</b>	Pat Piehler
<b>2-Mar</b>	Lisa Hlavacek	<b>17-Mar</b>	Robert Pirk
<b>3-Mar</b>	Scott Schweitzer	<b>18-Mar</b>	Terrel Tigges
<b>3-Mar</b>	Grayson Witek	<b>18-Mar</b>	Jan Vuvunas
<b>4-Mar</b>	Scott Albright	<b>19-Mar</b>	Janice Albright
<b>5-Mar</b>	McKenna Bowe	<b>19-Mar</b>	Christopher Nelson
<b>5-Mar</b>	Amanda Knoell	<b>20-Mar</b>	Michael Bennett
<b>5-Mar</b>	Nathan Knoell	<b>20-Mar</b>	Karalynn Franke
<b>6-Mar</b>	Jean Adel	<b>20-Mar</b>	Daniel Palenik
<b>6-Mar</b>	Evan Kotowski	<b>20-Mar</b>	Penny Paulson
<b>6-Mar</b>	Erhard Reimann	<b>21-Mar</b>	Caleb Jozwiak
<b>7-Mar</b>	Timothy Boeselager	<b>22-Mar</b>	Ethan Schaefer
<b>7-Mar</b>	Rodney Darge	<b>23-Mar</b>	Annistyn Anzalone
<b>7-Mar</b>	Lisa Eickhorst	<b>23-Mar</b>	Alice Duchac
<b>8-Mar</b>	Marianne Gilbert	<b>23-Mar</b>	Richard Pierce-Ruhland
<b>8-Mar</b>	Theodore Patzke	<b>23-Mar</b>	Kristen Polack
<b>9-Mar</b>	Kathleen Gunderson	<b>24-Mar</b>	Tim Beier
<b>10-Mar</b>	Lydia Balke	<b>24-Mar</b>	Liliana Kading
<b>10-Mar</b>	Emily Grant	<b>24-Mar</b>	Adam Schneider
<b>11-Mar</b>	Amber Davis	<b>25-Mar</b>	Tim Busarow
<b>12-Mar</b>	Amanda Ambrose	<b>25-Mar</b>	Scott Miller
<b>13-Mar</b>	Olivia Terselic	<b>26-Mar</b>	Hayley Gonzalez
<b>14-Mar</b>	Grace Block	<b>26-Mar</b>	Matthew Nelson
<b>14-Mar</b>	Patricia Cole	<b>27-Mar</b>	Brooklynn Christensen
<b>14-Mar</b>	Owen Kotowski	<b>27-Mar</b>	Gavin Moser
<b>15-Mar</b>	Mara Douglas	<b>27-Mar</b>	Whitney Riegelman
<b>15-Mar</b>	Vanessa Luther	<b>29-Mar</b>	Jessica Schuler
<b>15-Mar</b>	Dennis Polak	<b>30-Mar</b>	Timothy Beuschel
<b>15-Mar</b>	Nancy Rooney	<b>30-Mar</b>	Cherie Mayrand
<b>15-Mar</b>	Mark Schaefer	<b>31-Mar</b>	David Krause
<b>16-Mar</b>	Ethan Gonzalez		



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

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Even though February is the shortest month of the year, it is always an active one around St. John's. We started off the month with our biggest Father-Daughter Dance ever- over 180 attendees that danced the night away! Jump Rope for Heart was also a huge success, with our students raising the 2nd highest donation amount in St. John's history! Thank you to all who helped make those events successful. Even more big news- our 'A' girls' basketball team made it to the Lutheran State Tournament! We look forward to cheering them on at Concordia University on March 1st at 5:15. Our students have been loving the warmer weather this February, and we look forward to the promise of spring and Easter as we head into March.

## SCHOOL BOARD POLICY REVIEW

St. John's Lutheran Church Families,

The Board of Christian Day School reviewed several policies at their February meeting. If you would like to have a copy of these policies that were reviewed, please see Mrs. Chapman in the school office. If you have any questions or concerns with any of these policies, please contact Ms. Heins.

Miss Pesch

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

## STEWARDSHIP CORNER – MARCH 2024

March 3 – Lent 3

**Ephesians 5:1–2** – “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us.” Our sanctification flows from the justification which we have received in Christ. His love for us transforms us into His image. This is why the Bible talks so much about giving — we are to imitate God in His generosity. If you want to walk in the footsteps of your Heavenly Father, seek mercy, kindness and open-handed generosity.

March 10 – Lent 4

**John 6:8–9** – “One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, ‘There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?’” The disciples focus on the numbers — so little for so much! But the Lord’s grace will not be limited by the narrow vision of His disciples. The Lord has a plan to use even the little for His work of greatness. So let us be faithful even in the little and watch the Lord use it for His great works!

March 17 – Lent 5

**Genesis 22:2** – “He said, ‘Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.’” It’s hard for us to even fathom a faith as strong as Abraham’s — he follows the Lord’s Word even when it seems impossibly hard. But he does so because he knows that the Lord only means to bless. What happened here to Abraham should be an encouragement for us: trust the Lord and keep His Word.

March 24 – Palm Sunday

**Zechariah 9:9** – “Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” No king ever rode to war like this. But no king had ever come to wage battle by dying. In His Passion, our Lord Jesus gives everything He has and is; He does this to bring us from death to life, to make us His own people, and show us an example of self-giving love that we should follow.

March 31 – Easter

**John 20:1** – “Now on the first day of the week ...” All is made new by the resurrection of Jesus! Even the day of worship has transitioned from the Old Testament’s Sabbath (Saturday) to the Lord’s Day of the New Testament (Sunday). For the Lord has made all things new: In rising from the dead as the new Adam, He has begun a new week for a new creation. We are also made new in Him — a new heart, a new life, new desires, a new outlook toward God. All this comes from our risen Lord’s grace. Especially after the sort of year we’ve had since last Easter, it sure is good news to hear that the Lord makes all things start afresh!

## LIFE THOUGHTS FOR LUTHERANS – MARCH 2024

**Lent III (Oculi)** – Children of light (Ephesians 5:8) need not hold back a word (Jeremiah 26:2), even when it becomes politically dangerous or elicits cultural hostility (Jeremiah 26:8). Indeed, we find great blessing (Luke 11:28) in lovingly shining the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ into the haunts of darkness and death. *Light of the World, let us walk and speak Your image as beloved children. Amen.*

**Lent IV (Laetere)** – Christ in the flesh assures us that God knows how to care for what He creates (John 6:11-12). His Gospel gives sustenance, company, and community along with forgiveness and salvation (Acts 2:42-45). Having such a Father and family nearby can stave off sin and death. *Good Shepherd, let us bring care by being it. Amen.*

**Lent V (Judica)** – God’s gifts do not always make immediate human sense (John 8:48, 53, 57). What remains certain regardless is that God is good and God gives. The Father who eternally gives Himself to the Son (John 8:42) and the Son who offers Himself to the Father in appreciative obedience (John 8:55) are the Holy Trinity who imparts this life-giving Spirit even where only death appears possible (Genesis 22:10). Trusting His Word and work releases from death’s threatening grip (John 8:51, Genesis 22:13). *Father, Son, and Spirit, guide us to trust Your Gospel that we may share in Your abundant life. Amen.*

**Annunciation of Our Lord** – Whose life matters most? Every human being matters down to the teeniest and feeblest, since God made sure to incarnate Himself as embryo in Mary’s womb and then became completely helpless in crucified execution. How much do they matter? So much that Jesus redeemed them each and all, with His lifeblood as the price. *Lord Jesus Christ, bring forth Your name from our lips so that it draws all people to You. Amen.*

**Palm Sunday** – In the midst of the darkness and forsakenness of that Friday we now call Good, we see God “hiding” in it all, demonstrating His love in a way we cannot comprehend but only apprehend by faith. The passion of Christ assures us that God works in our darkness demonstrating His love, bringing good, and promising never to forsake. *Lord Jesus, redeem all our fallenness by Your humility, compassion, forgiveness, and company. Amen.*

**Easter Sunday** – The resurrected Jesus first appeared to a very sinful, formerly demon-possessed woman, Mary Magdalene. The hope of the resurrection is for those hopelessly lost in their sins. In one sense, we could say that this hope is especially for those who are—like the rest of us—hopelessly lost! Thanks be to God! *Heavenly Father, draw me into rejoicing in Jesus’ resurrection and the value it gives to all humankind. Amen.*

## **LENTEN THOUGHTS and THOUGHTS OF OUR SHUT-INS**

Lent is a time of reflection and repentance and shows us our separation from God. Our shut-ins, whether in the season of Lent, or any other season, often feel a separation from their church!...from us! As we reflect on Christ's sacrifices during the Lenten season, please sacrifice a moment to pray for the shut-ins of our congregation. Consider the sacrifice of your time for them as well, with: a visit, a phone call, a card and your continuing prayers. A suggestion: Send them your favorite Lenten Hymn! Let them know why it's so important to you, and then, let them know how important THEY ARE to you and all of us at St. John's!

**AND...with an Early Easter at the end of March, please remember to share the JOYS of Christ's resurrection with them as well!**

God bless your efforts.

God bless our shut-ins.

### **SHUT INS**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
Ann Beckett	6603 Medley Drive, Racine, WI 53402	
Dean Bornofska	Woods of Caledonia, 5737 Erie Street, Room 201A, Racine, WI 53402	
Pat Cole	6551 Mariner Drive, Unit 6, Racine, WI 53406	
Sue Erickson	5101 Wright Ave #121, Racine, WI 53406	
Gary & Shirley Filicetti	4710 N Main St, Racine, WI 53402	
Janet Fisa		
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	
Art Preuss	5643 Erie Street, Room 219, Racine, WI 53402	
Linda Puchter	1463 28th Ct, Kenosha, WI 53140	
Marlene Roepke	1201 Kingston Avenue, 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	