

NEWS FROM ST. JOHN'S

AUGUST 2024

FROM THE PASTOR

A couple of weeks ago I traveled with my family to Marysville, Kansas for my eldest niece's wedding. I was likewise given the honor of officiating and preaching for the occasion. I want to share the sermon I preached for this young couple and to the congregation who was gathered. I likewise want to encourage anyone who is married to consider using a new marriage devotional book ([Christ and the Church, Andrew Richard](#)) that I believe to be a great resource for anyone to review the true blessings of Christian marriage. And as a bonus, it's only \$6 on Amazon!

This sermon was given July 13, 2024, at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Marysville, Kansas for my dear niece Grace and Joshua Hendrickson.

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

After each of the six days of creation God saw what he had made and called it 'good'. Everything was good, the heavens and the earth, the sun and the moon, the grass of the field, the sea creatures, the beasts of the earth. Then God made man and woman in his own image, he blessed them to be fruitful and multiply, and to have dominion over the earth. And when God saw what he had made he called it all 'very good'.

We learn all of this in the first chapter of Genesis. In the second chapter our Lord inspired Moses to give us a closer insight into the creation of man and woman. And it is here where God says something is 'not good'. He says: **"It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."** Why was it 'not good'? Because God determined that his creation was not yet complete. Thus, he caused man to fall into a deep sleep, and taking from his side God built-up woman and gave her to him. A helper, a wife, his beloved. Bone of his bone, and flesh of his flesh. They were alike, in that they were of the same flesh and bone. And yet were distinct, for she was created after him and for him.

You are made for each other. I mean this in more ways than one. For one, it has been determined that you are compatible with each other. You share similar interests and enjoy deep conversations about these interests. This is, of course, a good thing as marriage is and always has been

about the conversation between man and woman within and about God's good creation. But your compatibility goes beyond these temporal things. You also share a common faith. A faith that was shared with you first by your parents. Who brought each of you to the font to be baptized into Christ. Who taught you from the Word of God. Who prayed with you and for you, that you would grow in your faith into a God-fearing young man and young woman. And that you would God-willing, and by their design, find a spouse who shares a common faith. I believe all these prayers have been answered. Thanks be to God. You are made for each other.

And this certainly includes your compatibility, but now it is about your duty to each other. The marriage of Christ to the church is where we learn how to be husband and wife.

Joshua – You are to be Christ to your bride, Grace. Christ left his Father, coming down from heaven and becoming man. Christ left his mother to his Apostle John and held fast to his bride, the church. He took her sin, her shame, and hid it in his own flesh. He shed his blood for her, he died for her. Your duty as husband is modeled for you by Christ. When Grace fails, you will not go and complain to your friends about her. You will not complain to your mother about her. You will not bring her more shame. You will instead consider her failure your failure. You will continue to be faithful to her and do your duty even when she fails to do hers. You will bear the responsibility and carry whatever shame may come your way. This is what Jesus did for you, and so you are to do it for her. Know also that the devil seeks to divide you and your wife. He hates your marriage. He will try to convince you of lies. He will tempt you to believe that she isn't good enough for you. He will tempt you to look at other women. He will most of all try to convince you to shirk your responsibility and take the easy path. Jesus used the Word of God against the lies of the devil. And you are to do the same. Do not follow the example of Adam. Who sinfully abdicated his duty to lead and protect Eve. And Eve, in his silence, took up the role of headship and was deceived. Lead your wife in the Word of God, in family devotions. Point her to Jesus by bringing her to

church. As her husband first show her how you humbly submit yourself to God. And only then expect submission from her.

Grace – you are to be the church to Joshua. You are to honor his sacrifices by submitting yourself to him. No, he is not Christ, though he is called to model Christ. He is a sinner, like Adam, and like all men. His calling to be Christ for you is a high calling and he will fail. But even when he fails to lead you, do not follow the example of Eve and assume the role of headship. You are not called to headship, he is. He is to be the final say, and you are to take his leadership. When he fails, do not admonish him in public, but encourage him in private. Do not talk down to him or be disrespectful to him – especially in front of your children. Do not complain to your friends about him. His dignity is your dignity, and your dignity is his dignity. Take what he gives to you and make the best of it. Remember these words – **“for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, till death us do part”**. He may make good money and give you a big home and many comforts. And he may not, and you are to be content with that. You are now his home, as he dwells with you and for you. Make the best of whatever life God gives you with Joshua. Whether you have many children or none. Or whether you enjoy many years of health together, or few.

Above all else you are both to model Christ to each other by forgiving one another. Forgiveness is the key to a healthy marriage. Forgiveness is the only way to heal divisions that arise because of sin. A marriage where husband and wife do not forgive each other is a dying marriage. Your marriage not only points to Christ and the church, but it also flows from Christ and the church. You must receive the gifts of God every week in church. You must kneel and confess your sins to God, even as you forgive one another. You must lead each other to the altar rail and receive the forgiveness Christ offers you there. And if God blesses you with children, you must do the same for them as your parents did for you. For indeed, you are made for each other.

- Pastor Joshua DeYoung

OFFICIAL ACTS

Weddings:

Jake Blazei and Josephine Kellner

7-27-2024

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH PICNIC

Join us on Sunday, August 25 from 12-3pm at the Pritchard Park - Weiczorek Shelter for a church picnic! The Stewardship Board will provide the meat and do the grilling for this event. If you plan to attend, please bring a dish to pass and a beverage for your family. Bringing a yard game to play is optional, but would add fun to this event! To get a head count, we are asking that everyone who is planning on coming (or might come) RSVP at this

link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0E49ACAA28A7F58-49024319-stjohns>

A vertical sign for St. John's Lutheran Church Picnic. The sign has a yellow background with a red and white striped border at the top and bottom. In the center, there is a red icon of a knife, spoon, and fork. Below the icon, the text reads: "ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH", "CHURCH PICNIC" (in large red letters), "Sunday, August 25th at 12:00 PM", "Pritchard Park - Weiczorek Pavilion", "Bring a yard game to share, a dish to pass and a beverage for your family!", "SIGN UP TO ATTEND", and a URL: "https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0E49ACAA28A7F58-stjohns".

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHURCH PICNIC

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

NEW! "BIBLE AND BREWS" MEN'S STUDY

All men but especially men with children or grandchildren are invited to our inaugural "Bible and Brew" men's study on Wednesday, August 28th at 8:30 p.m. at Pastor DeYoung's home (1106 Hialeah Dr., Caledonia). Going forward, this will take place on the last Wednesday of every month and will be held at one of the pastor's homes alternating between them each month. You are invited to bring your favorite beverage and enjoy fellowship and conversation relevant to biblical masculinity, headship, and fatherhood. We will begin by working our way through the book "Man Up" which discusses biblical masculinity. If you are interested in joining us, please let us know as soon as possible so we can provide you with a copy of the book. You can RSVP using the link here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040B4AACA62EA3FB6-50406734-bible>, or by contacting Kimberly in the church office at chapman@stjohnsracine.org or (262) 637-7011.

FELLOWSHIP FRIDAY

Fellowship Friday will not be held in the month of August. Please join us at the Church Picnic on Sunday, August 25! More details are about the Church Picnic are included in this newsletter!

COLLEGE/MILITARY ADDRESSES

If you have a child that is in college or the military, and you would like them to receive information and gifts from St. John's, please fill out the form in the back of church, call or email the church office with the address of any military/college member as soon as possible. We are also asking for their semester end dates for our college students. *If your child has graduated, please let us know that as well.* Thank you!

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; (262) 637-7011. Thank you!

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

So Much Music, So Little Time!

Summer is a wonderful time to rest, spend time with our families and friends, and go on fun vacations. For me, summer is just that. I rest, spend time with my wonderful husband, enjoy gatherings with family and friends, and sneak away for a few short vacations! As a church musician, however, I have the fun task of 'summer music buying'. There is so much music for our Children's Choir, Senior Choir, Handbell Choir and even our Chime Choir. I gather piles of *new* music as well as *treasured* music from our own music library, sit at the piano at home, and play through the selections. I sort each piece into three piles: yes, no, and maybe later. So much music and so little time - - but I am reminded of the wisdom of Ecclesiastes: "To everything there is a season . . ."

On **Tuesday, September 3, 2024**, we begin the season with a handbell and choral workshop directed by Director of Music, Stephen P. Johnson - Our Father's Evangelical Lutheran Church. We will begin preparing music for Sunday services as well as for special festivals throughout the church year, including our traditional Christmas Concert. Our Choral Workshop is a wonderful way to try out Handbell Choir, Senior Choir or both! Join us and be prepared to be welcomed and loved by our members!

Save the Date – Christmas Concert Sunday, December 15, 2024.

God Bless you all as you wrap up your summer season and turn to the seasons ahead here at St. John's Lutheran Church! Sharon Adel (262) 822-1338.

Soli Deo Gloria – To God Alone be the Glory!

ENDOWMENT APPLICATIONS

Applications are now being accepted for consideration by the Endowment Committee for funds from the Endowment Fund. If you have a project or funding request for the Endowment Committee, please submit your endowment application to the church office by September 1st. An application is attached to the electronic copy of this newsletter. Applications can also be picked up in the back of the sanctuary or from the church office.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN ENDOWMENT FUND

Are you aware of the St. John's Lutheran Congregation Endowment Fund? To quote from Section II of the fund guidance, "The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to receive and administer, in a God-pleasing manner, gifts and bequests primarily for the enhancement and furthering of the work and ministry of St. John's Congregation, secondarily for the enhancement and extension of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and thirdly, for the benefit of other worthwhile Christian and benevolent programs and projects."

The Endowment Committee has recently changed fiduciaries to The Equitable. We'll be making some slight changes to our investment strategy to further diversify the funds to better match our typical outlays for the year and improve investment performance. This transition was complete late June & early July. The current value of the Fund, as of July 2024, is approximately **\$1,720,000**.

The Endowment Committee meets quarterly. We'd like to remind members that requests for endowment funded projects must be made by September 1st. Each year, at the October endowment meeting, the committee considers all requests submitted on or before that date. Recommended projects are presented to the Church Council for their approval and, finally, to the congregation at the next Voters' assembly for an up or down vote.

This past year, the St. John's Endowment funded a new sound and video system for the church as well as the upcoming rebuild of the Schlicker organ console, which will commence in early August.

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.

The Endowment Committee

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Summer is flying by- hard to believe we are rounding the corner into August, and school will be starting before we know it. Thank you to everyone who helped raise money for our school by coming out for the 4th of July Parade Parking fundraiser- we filled all of our parking spaces and raised over \$500! We look forward to hosting the Bugenhagen this last week in July-- and then shortly after that you will see glimpses of teachers, hard at work in their classrooms. We will be welcoming several new staff members this year, so keep an eye out for their official introductions in the next newsletter. Our "Back to School Night" is Tuesday, August 13th from 4-7 pm, and school begins on August 19th. Keep our students and their families in your prayers as they prepare for a great year ahead!

ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL OPENINGS

St. John's School has a few openings for preschool and kindergarten. We'd love to see these classes filled with students ready to learn about Jesus! If you know any 3, 4, or 5 year olds who need a school for the 24-25 school year, please have them contact Sharon Adel at 262-633-2758, or email her at adel@stjohnsracine.org.

SERMONS ON YOUTUBE

The updated video equipment is working well, and it has brought about an ability to stream live content through YouTube. The easiest way to be able 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." Every time a live video is being broadcast, you will get an update and will 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.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1-Aug	Connie Bernhardt	17-Aug	Wendy Struebing
1-Aug	Ashley Gasau	17-Aug	Wesley van Sliedrecht
2-Aug	Aidan Henslin	18-Aug	Ann Beckett
2-Aug	Amelia Salinas	18-Aug	Spencer Knoell
3-Aug	Brandon Bernal	18-Aug	William Suszek
3-Aug	Benjamin Holewinski	19-Aug	Mary Lee Anderson
3-Aug	Cheri Petkus	19-Aug	Valerie Garcia
4-Aug	Kathleen Enstrom	20-Aug	Eric Reisdorf
4-Aug	Robert Pallamolla	20-Aug	John Smith
4-Aug	Wren Paulson	21-Aug	Silas Gasau
5-Aug	Jennifer Baylon	21-Aug	Jaime Rosso
5-Aug	Kari Rosborough	22-Aug	Emily Heins
5-Aug	Ellie St. Martin	22-Aug	Amalia Morales
6-Aug	Amberlyn Yohn	24-Aug	Kyle Schulz
7-Aug	Charles Fenandez	25-Aug	Jayden Cummings
7-Aug	Melanie Knoell	25-Aug	Lauren Mandli
7-Aug	Lois Rose	25-Aug	Hunter McCluskey
7-Aug	Carol Zanotti	25-Aug	Ricky Polack
8-Aug	Glenn Blaesing	25-Aug	Steven Riegelman
8-Aug	Melissa Mang	26-Aug	William Jorgensen
8-Aug	Kenneth Paulick	26-Aug	Jeffrey van Sliedrecht
9-Aug	Bryson Davis	27-Aug	Aaron Block
10-Aug	Grace Allesxandro	27-Aug	Jennifer Dyess
11-Aug	James Manke	27-Aug	Kathy Riegelman
11-Aug	Susan Prough	27-Aug	Thomas Riegelman
12-Aug	Joel Grant	27-Aug	Ryleigh Wiesner
12-Aug	Roger Lofquist	27-Aug	Cody Winiarski
13-Aug	Jon Grant	28-Aug	Carl Benecke
13-Aug	Mike Mohar	28-Aug	Randolph Cole
13-Aug	Chrystal Waterfield	28-Aug	Jackson Williams-Cannon
14-Aug	Allen Albright	29-Aug	Robert Smith
15-Aug	Brendan Naegeli	31-Aug	Henry Gall
16-Aug	Jelaine Douglas	31-Aug	Theodore Krewal
16-Aug	Paula Winiarski	31-Aug	Mara Widmar



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. 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.



STEWARDSHIP CORNER – AUGUST 2024

August 4 – Trinity 10

Luke 19:45 – “**And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold.**” The house of God is a house of prayer. It’s not a place to sell, but to give. It’s not a place of profit, but of sacrifice. God sets the pattern of giving and sacrifice in the self-giving work of Jesus on the cross. As He is, so we are called to be.

August 11– Trinity 11

Luke 18:11–12 – “**The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men ... I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’**”

The Pharisee has surely missed the point of tithing! We can’t earn brownie points with God, and we certainly can’t put Him in our debt. Our giving to the Lord’s work proceeds from a thankful heart full of God’s own generosity, not our own pride. As Mary replied to the angel Gabriel, “I am the handmaiden of the Lord, may it be to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38). We are the Lord’s servants; therefore, we live by His Word.

August 18 – Trinity 12

Mark 7:37 – “**And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, ‘He has done all things well.’**” When God created the world, it was “very good” (Gen. 1:31). And here Jesus does all things well. God is always blessing, always seeking our good. We know this is so ... but we still struggle to believe it. For if we really believed it, why would we ever do anything contrary to God’s will and Law? We know that everything He tells us to do is for our good ... and yet we struggle in the weakness of the flesh. Lord, we believe, help our unbelief!

August 25 – Trinity 13

Luke 10:25 – “**And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, ‘Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?’**” That’s just not a good question! Doing and inheriting just don’t go together: what can you do to inherit the English throne? Nothing. Inheriting is about birth right; doing is about merit. We receive eternal life by birth right in our Baptism into Christ. All of our doings in the kingdom of God flow from who we are by our new birth. It can never be the other way around. So today we remember St. John the Baptist who, because he believed the Lord, walked in His ways and gained the crown of life in martyrdom.

LIFE THOUGHTS FOR LUTHERANS – AUGUST 2024

Trinity X – With God’s prophets we call the culture around us to turn away from the destruction they are bringing upon themselves (Jeremiah 8:5, 11; Luke 19:43-44). With us they each remain precious to Jesus, who by His visitation in the flesh (Luke 19:44) for forgiveness delivers the Gospel that makes for peace (Luke 19:42) and righteousness (Romans 10:4). *O Lord God, intervene and redeem our people that we may behold and inhabit Your kingdom. Amen.*

Trinity XI – Heaven and earth grieve every life ended by another (Genesis 4:10). Worse yet is believing ourselves any better than murderers (Luke 18:11-14). Lord God regards all as precious as little babies, and His Son’s forgiving Word and works of faith rescue from death’s mouth when tempted (Genesis 4:7) and from hell’s mouth when guilty (Genesis 4:15). *Merciful Father, intervene that we may be saved and safe from death and hell. Amen.*

Trinity XII – The Word of God’s love and Christ’s life brings forth healing and hope, purpose and preciousness, survival and everlasting salvation. This He delights to do even for impaired or undeveloped human bodies (Mark 7:32-35) and no matter how dismal the situation (Isaiah 29:17-19). *Dear Father, give desperate hearts life and confidence knowing that their sufficiency comes from Your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Trinity XIII – The compassionate Samaritan does not euthanize or terminate the already half-dead traveler. He treats this stranger and rival not as less human but as dear neighbor and trades his own convenience, cost, and comfort to help a brother (Luke 10:33-35). Our Savior showers us with just such grace so that we may share it as well. *Dear Savior, grant me fully to appreciate Your grace to me and freely to extend it to all in need. Amen.*

Could Anyone Help With A Shut-In's Request?

It's hard to believe that summer is winding down, and it's hard to believe that I haven't had this request before. There is a shut-in member who is hoping that there would be another member (or two) whom she might contact if she ever needed a ride to a Wednesday night church service, or an appointment during the day (if a friend could not drive her). She is witty, funny and sure to make you laugh. She is one of the most grateful people I have ever met. She will probably tell you that she loves you after your first meeting. She doesn't go out often, but really loves being in church and misses it.

If you, or you and your husband, or you and a friend want to take this on together, PLEASE call me! Maybe we could even build a little "wheels-team" of caring friends for her. I will share her contact info and how to communicate with her when you call. As you pray about and consider this with insurance and liability in mind, let me know if you would like to help!

Please call me: LOUISE BORGARDT 262-498-9581.

SHUT INS

Name	Address	Phone Number
Ann Beckett	6603 Medley Drive, 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	McMynn Tower 110 7th St, Racine, WI 53403 Room #904	
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	8500 Corporate Drive, Mount Pleasant, WI 53406	
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	