

# NEWS FROM ST. JOHN'S

## MAY 2024

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*"Finally, I finished 8<sup>th</sup> Grade at a Lutheran School! Now I'm done learning about God's Word, and I only need to go to church when I feel like it or if it's Easter or something."*

**(Not A Bible Verse 47:1025).**

There are a great many blessings that come with children attending a Lutheran school. A good number of the members here graduated from our school or one like it. I went to one myself, where my dad served as a pastor for 23 years. The Scriptural foundation laid for students, beginning at a very young age, is the first gift they receive in such a setting. Time with their teachers day in and day out, year in and year out, offers them examples of adults who recognize the goodness of God's Word and make it visible with their words and their lives. Learning together with classmates as time goes forward provides a way to see how others can grow in the faith and respond to the world and its many challenges. Weekly chapel services further establish how time together in worship plays a vital role for every Christian.

The long-standing tradition here at St. John's is to take our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students who are members of our congregation through the Rite of Confirmation on Palm Sunday each year. This gives way to them receiving the Lord's Supper for the first time, as a class, on Maundy Thursday—the night Jesus instituted this heavenly gift. As I teach to our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students repeatedly and every year, the primary reason to attend a worship service each week is to receive the forgiveness of sins. The moment we received the Lord's grace and gift of faith when we became a baptized child of God is the most important event in all of our lives, and the next most important event is the next opportunity we have to receive its renewal in the Lord's Supper.

Our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade graduation service is scheduled this year for May 24 at 7:00 pm. Another tradition in our school is to ask the graduating class to select a Bible passage to be used for the sermon text, along with picking a hymn to be sung that night. Many of our students will be graduating from our school and going on to Racine Lutheran High School or another nearby school. If you know any of these students, do your best to show them that growing in the faith does not end with their time in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade. If you don't know any of them, pray for them—that God would use their parents, family members, friends, and fellow believers to keep them connected to the faith that saves them!

In Christ,  
Pastor Gilbert

## OFFICIAL ACTS

### **Funerals:**

Thomas Britson

4/18/2024

Patricia Piehler

4/27/2024

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### **QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING**

The next quarterly voters' meeting will be held on Sunday, May 19 at 9am in the sanctuary. The 2024-2025 budget will be presented along with board elections. Please join us.

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### **2024-2025 BOARD POSITIONS**

At the May voters' meeting, elections will be held for positions on all the boards, as well as Chairman of the Congregation and the Endowment Committee. If you are interested in serving on one of the boards or in one of the other positions, please contact Pastor Gilbert, Rod Adel, or the church office. Elections will take place at our quarterly voters' meeting on May 19. Thank you!

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### **SUMMER SERVICE SCHEDULE**

Our summer worship schedule begins on Sunday, May 26. Beginning on May 26 there will be one service on Sundays at 9am with Bible study to follow at 10am. The Wednesday following will mirror the Sunday service. This schedule will run through Labor Day weekend.

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### **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. Also, it is planned to offer some more musical pieces as we go forward!

## MOTHER'S DAY ROSE SALE

Roses will be available for a \$3 donation on Sunday May 12th after the early and late services in the hallway across from our Family Leaf Tree. The Mother's Day Rose Sale is sponsored by Wisconsin Right to Life, Kenosha Chapter.

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## FELLOWSHIP FRIDAY

We will not hold a Fellowship Friday in May due to a scheduling conflict with the Athletic Banquet. Our next Fellowship Friday will be held in conjunction with the Thank-you Supper on Friday, June 21. There will be more details to come in the June newsletter.

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## 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>

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## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Volunteers needed! We would like to hold VBS from June 23-26 for any students going into PK3-4th Grade! It will be held in the morning with an opening event and first day following the 9:00 am service on Sunday, June 23. The other days will go from 9:00 - 11:30 am. The final day will include an encouragement for all attendees to rejoin us that evening to sing together as a group at the start of the 6:00 pm service on Wednesday, June 26.

As in the past, we will need a fair number of volunteer positions to be filled. Some have been taken already, but please look over these needs and contact Kimberly in the church office at 637-7011 or [chapman@stjohnsracine.org](mailto:chapman@stjohnsracine.org) to let her know how you would like to serve.

We will need to have the following volunteer spots claimed by Sunday, May 26 in order to hold VBS this year, so if this is something you want your children to be a part of, please play a role in making it happen! If we are not able to hold a full VBS program, we will consider offering VBSS (Vacation Bible Sunday School). This will take place for a number of weeks on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am and will be open to all students going into PK3-8th Grade.

~~Director/Co-Directors (1-2)~~ Filled!

Decorator (1)

Assistant Decorators (4-6; ideal for students in grades 5-12)

Arts and Crafts Coordinator (1-2)

Arts and Crafts Assistant (1 or 2; ideal for students in grades 5-12)

Recreation Coordinator (1)

~~Music (1-2)~~ Filled!

Recreation Assistants (2-3; ideal for students in grades 5-12)

Snack Coordinator (1)

Snack Assistant (1 or 2; ideal for students in grades 5-12)

Guides (8-10; ideal for students in grades 5-12)

All information and tasks needed by each position has been compiled, so all we will need is people to make it happen! This is a great opportunity for students going into 5th Grade or higher to help St. John's as volunteers.

## 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!

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## FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN FOLLOWUP

Thank you to the nearly 40 participants from St. John's who participated our spring Feed My Starving Children Trip on Saturday, April 13th! With the help of these volunteers, and 140 others at the Libertyville facility, we were able to pack **30,240** meals to be sent to Honduras in only an hour and a half! We plan to take another trip in September and hope that you can join us.

If you're curious about volunteering at these events and want more information, please feel free to contact any one of the Stewardship Board members! We are happy to answer any questions you may have.

(Kristina Beier, Amy Salinas, Tracy Naegeli, and Diane Schweitzer)

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## FAMILY LIFE CONFERENCE

In an effort to strengthen family bonds and instill lasting values, the South Wisconsin District's upcoming **Family Life Conference** under the theme "Passing on the Faith" aims to provide attendees with invaluable insights and resources. Scheduled to take place on June 8, 2024, at Concordia University Wisconsin, the conference will feature keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Todd Biermann and several break-out sessions geared towards equipping families with the tools needed to navigate life's challenges while staying grounded in their faith.

Whether you're a parent, grandparent, or guardian, this event offers a unique opportunity to connect with fellow believers and reaffirm your commitment to fostering a strong faith-based foundation within your family. Learn more about the conference and register to attend at [www.swd.lcms.org/FLC](http://www.swd.lcms.org/FLC) before May 20. (The conference fee is \$5/person. But church and school groups are invited to take advantage of a group discount, so please be prepared to enter the name and email address of each registrant.)

## FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

**End of Year Choral Gathering:** We are nearing the end of this beautiful Choral season. From the beginning of September through Pentecost Sunday on May 19<sup>th</sup>, Senior Choir, Handbell Choir, Children's Choir, Cherub Choir, Hand Chime Choir, instrumentalists, and soloists, have freely given their time and talents to the work of our Church, and its Music Ministry. We have worked throughout this choral season learning new music and enjoying many of our favorites! This *is* something worth celebrating. On **Thursday, May 30, 2024 beginning at 6:00 pm**, we will gather at Reefpoint Marina for fellowship as we rejoice in a beautiful choral season. There are so many individuals that have been trustworthy servants of God and have made giving of their time and talents a priority towards our Music Ministry. Thank you all and God Bless you during the summer months ahead.

Your Sister in Christ, Sharon Adel

**Student Piano Recital:** Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. The recital will be held in the balcony of the sanctuary so each student can perform on our beautiful new Johannes Seiler Grand Piano. Light refreshments will follow the piano recital. Join us!

**Save the Date:** Thursday, July 25, 2024 at 12:00 pm *Music and More Concert Series* at First Presbyterian Church. Admission is FREE! I am joined by Kristina Beier and Kimberly Chapman. You will hear music by Malotte, Weber, Telemann only to name a few. The *Concert Series* offers noon concerts from June 6<sup>th</sup> through August 8<sup>th</sup>. For a complete concert schedule follow the website <https://firstpresracine.org/music-more/>. I look forward to seeing you at our concert!

*The true beauty of music is that it connects people!*

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

<b>1-May</b>	Joanne Griffin	<b>18-May</b>	Jillian Rosborough
<b>2-May</b>	Michael Terselic	<b>19-May</b>	Amalia Gilbert
<b>3-May</b>	Robert Albrecht	<b>20-May</b>	Carter McCluskey
<b>3-May</b>	Elaine Billings	<b>20-May</b>	Susan Monson
<b>3-May</b>	Leif Lovdahl	<b>21-May</b>	Holly Henslin
<b>3-May</b>	Haley Sollman	<b>23-May</b>	Miley Allesxandro
<b>3-May</b>	Julie Velasquez	<b>23-May</b>	John Bruening
<b>4-May</b>	Tony Chadoir	<b>23-May</b>	Aaron Henslin
<b>4-May</b>	Kevin Hasseldahl	<b>24-May</b>	Gary Filicetti
<b>4-May</b>	Peter Tigges	<b>24-May</b>	James Hlavka
<b>5-May</b>	Carter Sandbach	<b>24-May</b>	Philip Kading
<b>6-May</b>	Cole Salinas	<b>24-May</b>	Jonathan Rosborough
<b>6-May</b>	Randall Schaeffer	<b>24-May</b>	Louis Schneider
<b>6-May</b>	Hunter Stauffer	<b>25-May</b>	Sydney Clausen
<b>7-May</b>	Scott Phillips	<b>26-May</b>	Timothy Naegeli
<b>8-May</b>	Marcella Geyer	<b>26-May</b>	Tim Otto
<b>9-May</b>	Donald Riegelman	<b>27-May</b>	Janet Hanneman
<b>10-May</b>	Susan Erickson	<b>28-May</b>	Curt Adel
<b>11-May</b>	Jayden Davis	<b>28-May</b>	Hannah Clemons
<b>11-May</b>	James Lesnjak	<b>28-May</b>	Cherie Dittmann
<b>14-May</b>	Brynn Paulick	<b>29-May</b>	Benson Burman
<b>14-May</b>	Frankie Zanotti	<b>29-May</b>	Sharon Schaeffer
<b>15-May</b>	Davis Ambrose	<b>30-May</b>	Daniel Widmar
<b>15-May</b>	Jonah Mandli	<b>31-May</b>	Kristine Borgardt
<b>15-May</b>	Alyssa Stauffer	<b>31-May</b>	Tom Meier
<b>16-May</b>	Micah Van Schyndel	<b>31-May</b>	Haden Sollman
<b>17-May</b>	Darleen Cummings	<b>31-May</b>	Tyler Stauffer
<b>18-May</b>	Taylor Griner	<b>31-May</b>	Brayden Teglia



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

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

April showers might bring May flowers- April this year also brought us nicer weather to spend some time outside. You may notice our playground field is being reseeded and is temporarily off limits, in hopes that we will have a nice grassy area for our students to play on next school year. During April, some of our students performed a dinner theater; others journeyed to Madison to see the state capitol. Our track teams ran their first track meet, our 5th-8th graders participated in RLHS's Academic Bowl, and our school was visited by the Lutheran Bible Translators to hear about their mission. As we round the corner into May, we look forward to all of the excitement the end of the year brings.

### SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING

A special voters' meeting will be held on Sunday, May 12 at 9am in the sanctuary for the purpose of calling a 5-8 grade science /6<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom teacher. Bios of the three candidates can be picked up in the back of the sanctuary.

### JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL

#### Part-time Positions:

There are several part-time positions we are looking to fill for the 2024-2025 school year. If you are interested in any of these positions or have any questions, please contact Ms. Heins.

2024-2025 open positions:

- Teacher aides (2 positions available)
- Lunch Room assistants (2 positions available)
- Extended Care afternoon assistant (3:30-5:30)



## STEWARDSHIP CORNER – MAY 2024

### May 5 – Easter 6

**1 Timothy 2:5–6 – “For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all.”** To be ransomed is to be bought back, to be purchased. We belong to God fair and square, not only because He created us, but now doubly so because we are ransomed. We belong to God: that’s the beginning of thankfulness and generosity.

### May 9 – The Ascension of Our Lord

**Acts 1:11 – “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”** Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ is ascended, and Christ will come again. We live our lives in this world in the sure confidence of the world to come. We live as people who know our Lord Jesus and who know that He is coming back. This makes all the difference in how we approach our stewardship and how we care for the things of this world.

### May 12 – Easter 7

**1 Peter 4:10 – “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”**

The grace, the gifts, the blessings — they are all from God. We are to use them as stewards, not as owners. That means we should seek to use them in the way the Owner wants them used. So, we listen to His Word, pray for His wisdom and receive His grace.

### May 19 – Pentecost

**Acts 2:1 – “When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.”** Pentecost was the Old Testament harvest festival: a time of thanksgiving, bounty and the giving of gifts. How appropriate that in the New Testament, Pentecost takes on the meaning of a new harvest, directing us to the ripe fields of the nations and the task of bringing in the elect of every tribe and tongue to sing the Lord’s praise. Every farmer knows that it is God who gives the increase and that the harvest calls for thanksgiving.

### May 26 – Trinity

**John 3:6 – “That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”** In Holy Baptism we receive a new birth: spirit from Spirit. With that rebirth we receive new desires, new lives, new purposes. To the (fleshly) world, Christian generosity makes no sense: the total minus a percentage is less than the original total. But Spirit-reborn Christians know that God’s math works differently (as we might expect from the Trinity!). A blessing received from God becomes more of a blessing when it is used in generosity to bless others.

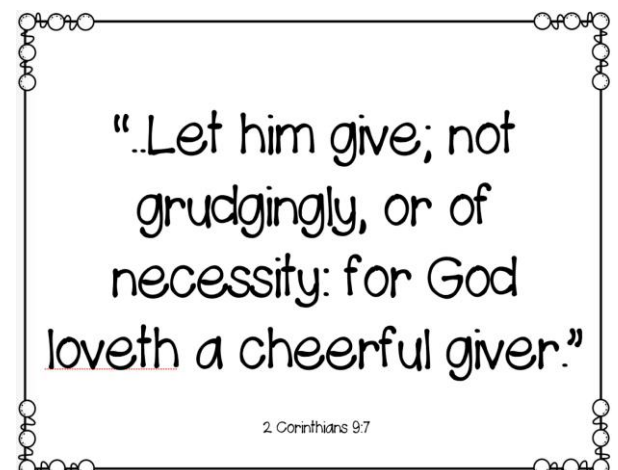
## VANCO MOBILE AND ONLINE GIVING

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.



## VARIOUS FUNDS AND SPECIAL OFFERING INFORMATION

**Endowment Fund:** To perpetuate all parish programs. The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to receive and administer gifts and primarily for the enhancement and furthering the work and ministry of St. John's Congregation, the enhancement and extension of the LCMS, and for the benefit of other worthwhile Christian programs and projects.

**Rev. A.C. Schaefer Scholarship Fund:** For the training of pastors and teachers. The purpose of this fund is to encourage and assist qualified persons to prepare for professional church work in The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

**St. John's School Technology Fund:** Donations to this fund help in the purchasing of technology materials such as chrome books, Smartboards, laptops, printers, internet, etc. for St. John's Lutheran School.

**Renovation for Church and School:** Any monies given to the renovation of the church and school goes into an account specifically designated for renovation costs that occur at both our church and school. At times, there will be specific requests for renovation project donations.

**Altar Guild:** The Altar Guild uses funds to purchase communion elements, floral arrangements as necessary, and various other projects overseen by the Altar Guild and the pastors.

**Families in Need:** The Families in Need fund is designed to help member families that are struggling financially. This may include help with paying bills, buying groceries, or other needs that may arise. The Stewardship Board along with the pastors at St. John's oversee this program.

**Congregation Approved Capital Expense Fund:** These are funds that are set aside in a designated checking account to be used for larger projects or special expenditures as approved by the congregation. As part of the annual budget process, money is already being set aside monthly in this account. Donations to fund these congregational projects are also accepted into this account.

## LIFE THOUGHTS FOR LUTHERANS – MAY 2024

**Easter VI** – Paul encourages Timothy, “Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 2:3). Sharing in the suffering of Christ sometimes comes when we share Christ and apply His Word of Life to spiritual issues that are also controversial. But faithfulness to the truth means to “endure everything for the sake of the elect” (2:10). *Faithful Lord, permit me to share You in the sufferings of my neighbors as You share in all my own. Amen.*

**Easter VII** – The loving Creator's presence and power surmounts every impediment to life and sanctifies all its impairments. He works new life in those as dead as stones (Ezekiel 36:26), abundant life among those as abandoned as exiles (Ezekiel 36:24, 28), and everlasting life for those as bereft as beggars (Ezekiel 36:29-30). Jesus stoops these gifts into – and brings them up out of – every kind of uncleanness (Ezekiel 36:25). *Dear Father, invite and involve us in Your overcoming. Amen.*

**Pentecost Sunday** – The tower of Babel used God-pleasing technology but not in a way that pleased God (Genesis 11:1-9). The technology to cure disease and to enhance and prolong life is a gift from God. The misuse of this technology, therefore, is an affront to God. The Spirit of Christ enables the believer to discern between what one is able to do and what one ought to do based upon the Word of God. *Almighty God, let Your Spirit fill me through Your Word and Sacraments so that all I say and do may bring Your glory to my neighbors in need. Amen.*

**Trinity Sunday** – God the Father sent His Son because He loves life. God the Son paid the price necessary to redeem life. God the Holy Spirit calls people to faith, giving them new life now and eternally (John 3:1-17). The Holy Trinity is For Life! *Holy Father, Son, and Spirit, make my life reflect Your own and extend it especially to those in the shadow of death. Amen.*

## MAY FLOWERS – SPRING WORDS, FOR OUR SHUT-INS

For most of us, the month of May brings delight in: flowers in our gardens, pots to plant and wonderful fresh scents around us. God's handiwork, at this time of year, is beginning to explode in vibrant color! He created it for us! All of us, even our shut-ins! You might not be able to send real flowers to all of our shut-ins, (but maybe you could to one?) so please think of sending cards **with FLOWERS** on them, flowers that you and your children drew and colored, pictures of flowers...or any **WORDS** of encouragement, support and hope that echo the beauty of God's creation. Your kindness will be their flowers! Share your love to those of our Christian family who can no longer worship with us on Sundays. Let them know that they are loved, thought of and prayed for. Anyone interested in being a visitor to one of these special people, please contact me to see how you can **try a new thing in your faith life**. Be ready to bloom!

Louise Borgardt      louiseborgardt@gmail.com

### 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	<b>McMynn Tower</b> 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	Siena Center, 5643 Erie Street, Racine, WI 53402	
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	