

NEWS FROM ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN MAY 2026

FROM THE PASTOR

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

The month of May often brings graduation services or ceremonies in schools, colleges, and universities throughout the country. St. John's and Racine Lutheran High School are no exceptions of course. On May 22, we will say goodbye as students to our 24 eighth graders, many of whom have spent the majority of their lives as students in our school!

It is common in the month of May for a somewhat informal countdown to make its way to the whiteboard in their classroom, numbering the remaining days left in the school year. Some time ago I altered it somewhat from "X days until the end of school" to "X days until the end of the world as 8th Grade knows it" and I continue to do this every year. I want them to think about the fact that their lives will change significantly once they enter high school.

I do my best to impress in the minds of our 8th Grade students each year that the faculty and staff here at St. John's have given them a better education than they might realize, that they have made them better students than many of their peers, and that they have placed them on a foundation of God's Word that will hopefully go with them for the rest of their lives.

High school is different, though many of our graduates move on to Lutheran High, which is designed to build further on what they received here. As you no doubt recall, high school moves fast, and before long the world starts placing much higher expectations on us! Things like entering the work field, going to college, and the joy of paying bills are serious business, and the world doesn't often wait for us in this even if we would like a break. The temptation to wander away from regular worship is a common one as well, and unfortunately, many fall into it. Thank you to all of the parents of students in our school and in high school or college who continue to set the example and the schedule for your children to maintain regular attendance in the Divine Service! After taking them to the font to be baptized, this is the next best gift

you can give your children as it builds on the baptismal promises God made with them in that moment.

Please pray for our 8th Grade graduates in the weeks leading up to the end of their time here. Ask that the Lord will continue to guide them through His Word, and keep them connected to His Church where we all come together to receive and reflect His love to the world around us!

In Christ,
Pastor Gilbert

OFFICIAL ACTS

Baptism:

Benjamin James Schuler 3-28-2026

Junior Confirmations:

Eli Aaron Al-Jehani 3-29-2026

Laine Adam Beier 3-29-2026

John Matthew Borgardt 3-29-2026

Yaretzy Lynette Carmona 3-29-2026

Harrison Francis Duchac 3-29-2026

Liam Charles Fernandez 3-29-2026

Clare Eileen Gamroth 3-29-2026

Lillian Elise Grant 3-29-2026

Violette Elise Knoell 3-29-2026

Kalli Rose McCluskey 3-29-2026

Benjamin James Schuler 3-28-2026

Alyssa Lyla Stauffer 3-29-2026

"THANK YOU" COFFEE HOUR

The Stewardship Board invites everyone to a special *Thank You Coffee Hour* on Sunday, May 3rd between the services! Join us for breakfast treats, cake and coffee as we gather in appreciation of all that you do for St. John's Lutheran Church.

This is a small way for us to say "thank you" for your time, talents, and dedication you share in supporting our church.

All are welcome—please come and enjoy some fellowship!

SPRING CLEANUP DAY

Come be part of our Annual Spring Cleanup Day on Saturday, May 9th from 9:00–10:00 AM! In just one hour, we'll work together to tidy up the neighborhood surrounding our church and school—making a meaningful impact right where we gather each week.

This is a chance to serve our neighbors with joy and reflect Christ's love to the community around us. We'd love to have you 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

MOTHER'S DAY ROSE SALE

Roses will be available for a \$3 donation on Sunday, May 10th after the early and late services in the hallway by the school cafeteria. The Mother's Day Rose Sale is sponsored by Wisconsin Right To Life, Kenosha Chapter.

"NEW" HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Jenny Gilbert and Sofie Kading are organizing some gatherings for our female high school students over the coming months. Pastor Gilbert is doing the same for the male high school students. **We will meet at St. John's from 6:00-7:00 pm.** This is open to all graduating 8th grade students through graduating 12th grade students. Please join us on the following dates:

May 11 (6-7 pm)

June 22 (6-7 pm)

July 20 (6-7 pm)

August 10 (6-7 pm)

There will be other events as well, but this will get us started!

FELLOWSHIP FRIDAY

Join us on Friday, May 15 from 5:30-7:30pm for Fellowship Friday. Pastor DeYoung will be making his St. John's famous tacos! Everyone connected to St. John's is invited to attend. Please come as individuals or families, and if you do, please bring a taco topping, side, dessert, or drink to share. 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, email Kimberly (chapman@stjohnsracine.org) or Sharon (adel@stjohnsracine.org).

QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING

The next quarterly voters' meeting will be held on Sunday, May 17 at 9am in the sanctuary. The 2026-2027 budget will be presented along with board elections. Please join us.

2026-2027 BOARD POSITIONS

At the May voters' meeting, elections will be held for positions on all the boards. If you are interested in serving on one of the boards, please contact Pastor Gilbert, Rod Adel, or the church office. Elections will take place at our quarterly voters' meeting on May 17.

SUMMER SERVICE SCHEDULE

Our summer worship schedule begins on Sunday, May 24. Beginning on May 24, 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER NEEDED

We are still looking for someone willing to teach our 6-8th grade Sunday School or someone who would be willing to trade off teaching every other week. The material used for the class can be provided by St. John's through CPH. If you'd like to learn more, please contact the church office or one of the pastors.

USHERS NEEDED

The Board of Elders is in need of individuals interested in ushering during worship services. Thank you for your prayerful consideration in helping out as an usher. If you would be interested in ushering, contact an elder or Kimberly in the church office; chapman@stjohnsracine.org; (262) 637-7011.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Volunteers needed! We would like to hold VBS from June 28-July 1 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 28. The other days will run 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, July 1.

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 to let her know how you would like to serve.

We will need to have the following volunteer spots claimed by Sunday, May 24 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)

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.

SERMONS ON YOUTUBE

We are now streaming live content through YouTube. The easiest way 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.

CALLING ALL MEN OF ST. JOHN'S

Join Pastor DeYoung and hundreds of men across our Synod in the Memento 70 challenge. This is a call to bodily and spiritual discipline, devotion in the Word of God, and brotherly encouragement. You can find out more about Memento by visiting their website [memento70.com] or by scanning the QR code attached to the church emails, and on flyers posted in the narthex.

TACKLING TOUGH TOPICS

We have an online educational opportunity for you! It is called "Tackling Tough Topics" and will be focused primarily on addressing issues related to the Christian morality, parenting, and marriage from a scriptural perspective. You can find my new page on Substack and on YouTube by searching "Tackling Tough Topics" and following the link or scanning the QR code found on the attached flyer. (A flyer can also be picked up at the back of the sanctuary.) I encourage anyone who is interested to subscribe. If you have any suggestions on topics that you would like to be tackled, please reach out to Pastor DeYoung. This is different way to address relevant topics that I pray will be a blessing to St. John's and the wider church.

THE EASTER SEASON-THE GREAT 50 DAYS

The Easter season is a fifty-day-long season of joy extending from Easter to Pentecost. During this time the Church celebrates the end of Christ's struggles and proclaims His victory over death and the reception of the benefits of His life, death, and resurrection as gracious gifts of love and mercy for all those who believe in Him. This is the Church's great season of joy, received by the forgiveness of sins! Christ is risen!

Submitted by Peter Glassen

MAY BIRTHDAYS

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



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

FROM YOUR DIRECTOR OR MUSIC – MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Some of God's greatest works began in long seasons of silence. For example, Abraham waited decades for the promised son. Isreal waited four hundred years between the Old and New Testaments for Christ to appear. Even Jesus spent thirty 'quiet' years before beginning His public ministry. God's purpose for us unfolds between our prayers and His answer. This is where our faith in God grows.

In those 'in-between' places, God is shaping something in us that we may not yet fully understand. And usually, the work He is doing within us becomes just as important as the answer we are asking for.

Stay calm, stay patient, and continue to let your faith in God grow during any season of silence because God is working for us always!

This school year, I had the wonderful opportunity to have a 5th grade Hand Chime Choir as well as a 7th and 8th grade Hand Chime Choir. The 5th grade choir played throughout the school year for our Wednesday morning Chapel services. The 7th and 8th grade choir also played for a few Wednesday morning Chapel services, but they also had a wonderful opportunity to play *Handbells* for a combined choir anthem during our Christmas Concert! Thank you students! I enjoy this part of my music ministry! God bless you all this summer.

Save the Date: On **Sunday, June 7, 2026**, I will hold a Student Piano Recital beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Save the Date: On **Thursday, July 23, 2026**, 12:00 pm, join me at the Music and More concert series, First Presbyterian Church, 716 College Avenue, for an organ recital featuring Bach, Behnke and Buxtehude. This year, Kimberly Chapman will also join me as a soloist! The concert is free and open to the public.

Save the Date - - I am looking forward to another Hymn Festival Service this upcoming choral season. The date is being determined. However, the Hymn Festival will focus on hymns we sing through the church year beginning with Advent all the way through to All Saints.

SCHOOL NEWS CORNER **FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

They say that April showers bring May flowers- let's hope the season of cool temperatures and stormy weather will give way to consistent warmth soon. As you think about planting this spring, consider purchasing a Milaeger's certificate through our school to help support our PTL- they fund some amazing events for our families during the year, including a Mother-Daughter event, a Field Day for our students, grants for special projects that the teachers can use in their classrooms, and many others. In the month ahead, we look forward to final projects, end-of-year field trips, yearbooks, and graduation celebrations. Thank you for keeping our students and staff in your prayers as they finish out this school year!

DINING OUT NIGHT

Join us on Thursday, May 14 at Jersey Mikes', 2860 S. Green Bay Road for our last Dining Out Night of the school year. You can stop in anytime during the day to support this fundraiser. St. John's Lutheran School will receive 20% of your group's proceeds. Show the flyer or let the cashier know at the time of checkout that you are supporting St. John's. You can also order online at jerseymikes.com using the digital coupon JMDONATES. Please see the attached flyer for more details.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

We have an account with Box Tops for Education. If you would like to help raise funds for our school, please follow the steps below.

- Download the Box Tops for Education app on your phone and create an account.
- You scan your store receipt from the app and submit it. You can also upload a digital receipt. The program will automatically find products that are Box Top eligible.
- You can also link your Walmart account to the Box Tops for Education app, and it will automatically redeem Box Tops points when you shop at Walmart.
- There is a list of eligible products on the app.

Miss Pesch has put an envelope/box by her classroom for store receipts if you are unable to scan your receipts. She'd be happy to scan them for you. If you have any other questions, please let Miss Pesch know.

ONLINE GIVING CARDS

Giving a tithe or offering online has been available here at St. John's for a number of years. If you participate in this and would like to place something in the offering as it is passed during the service, please pick up one of the laminated cards in the back as you walk in. This is a simple way of showing, especially to children who are watching and learning, the importance of giving to the work of the Lord here at St. John's.

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

You can also scan the QR code below to set up electronic giving or make a one-time gift through our church/school website giving page.



STEWARDSHIP CORNER – MAY 2026

May 3 – Fifth Sunday of Easter (Cantate)

James 1:17 – “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.” There are a great many passages in Scripture which echo this theme: everything good we have is from God. He loves to give. He loves to bless. He loves to show us generosity time and again, and He desires that we reflect His love and openhanded kindness.

May 10 – Sixth Sunday of Easter (Rogate)

James 1:22 – “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” The Word of God is not merely to be heard, but to be received and believed. Our faith is implanted and strengthened by the Word of God. As Luther said, “Oh, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. And so it is impossible for it not to do good works incessantly.” James’ epistle encourages us to examine our lives and come to repentance when we are not living out our faith in sincerity.

May 14 – 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 out our lives in this world in the sure confidence of the life to come. We live as people who know our Lord Jesus and who know that He is coming back. This knowledge makes all the difference in how we approach the things of this world.

May 17 – Seventh Sunday of Easter (Exaudi)

1 Peter 4:10 – “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” God’s grace is His undeserved mercy toward us. What do we have that is not a gift flowing from God’s grace? He means for us to use all these gifts in service of our neighbor. The chief way we serve one another is by supporting the church’s work: bringing more of God’s grace to more of God’s people. That’s what it means to be a steward!

May 24 – The Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1 – “When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.” Pentecost is the Old Testament harvest festival, taking place around the time when the wheat and oats are ready to be brought in. Of course, this was an image and foreshadowing of the great harvest of humankind that God means to carry out through the preaching of His Word. God gives the seed, and God brings about the harvest. From first to last, in things temporal and things eternal, we stand only by His grace.

May 31 – The Holy Trinity

Isaiah 6:3 – “And one called to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!’” Behold the threefold Name of God! Here in Isaiah the angels cry, “Holy, holy, holy” to praise and acknowledge the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We are baptized into this Name. We have been made a part of God’s family. Now, we are called to live in harmony with our new family, to be godly and live in God’s image. As God is loving, kind and generous, so are we all called to be.

LIFE THOUGHTS FOR LUTHERANS

May 3 – Fifth Sunday of Easter – The psalmist invites us to “Come and see what the Lord has done!” (Psalm 66:5). The works of the Lord are many, but the greatest of all is the redemption He has provided us through His Son. Because Jesus bore the cross for us, God’s anger “is turned away” (Isaiah 12:1). Whatever stain of sin haunts our past, including the sin of abortion, that stain can be washed clean by Christ’s blood. Thanks be to God for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation He gives us in Jesus Christ, our Savior! With joy we draw water from the well of salvation (Isaiah 12:3). Jesus not only sends us the Helper, the Holy Spirit (John 16:8-11), to nurture us in the faith, but also “every good and every perfect gift from above” (James 1:17), most notably, God’s holy Word and Sacraments.

May 10 – Sixth Sunday of Easter – The Old Testament Israelites learned the hard way not to grumble against the Lord. When the Lord sent fiery serpents among them, many were bitten and died. But the people repented, crying out for mercy: “We have sinned! Take away the serpents from us!” (Numbers 21:7-9). God’s answer? Make a bronze serpent and place it on a pole; then look upon it and live! We all tend to grumble against the Lord, plagued by our doubts and fears. Many seek to find their own way, and sometimes that way includes choosing to have an abortion or embracing physician-assisted suicide, but this is the way of death. Look to Jesus on the cross and live! Cry to the Lord in your trouble, for He alone delivers you from your distress (Psalm 107:5-6). Ask and you shall receive that your joy may be full (John 16:24). Baptized into Christ, we embark on a new path—the path of life. We must be “doers of the Word” (James 1:22) as we seek to bring help and hope to those who need our prayers and support in choosing life.

May 17 –The Seventh Sunday of Easter – The Israelites, through their idolatry, profaned God’s holy name. Yet in Ezekiel 36, God acts, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to bring the sinner back to Himself through repentance and faith. He cleanses them from every uncleanness and gives them a new heart. The sin of abortion profanes God’s holy name. But there is hope and healing in Christ for those who have been haunted by the sin of abortion. Like the psalmist, the sinner cries out, “Have mercy on me, O God ... wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin!” (Psalm 51). And He does. Through the blood of Jesus Christ, sin is covered, forgiveness is given, and life is restored. As those who have received “the Spirit of Truth” (John 15), we endeavor to speak the truth about life issues, to uphold the value and dignity of human life, and to “keep loving one another earnestly,” since “the end of all things is at hand” (1 Peter 4).

May 24 – The Day of Pentecost – When it comes to issues such as abortion, physician-assisted suicide, and euthanasia, man always thinks that he knows best. It is easy to create our own justification, for like the people at the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11), we want to “make a name” for ourselves. Yet our sin and rebellion only bring confusion and division. But God sent us the Holy Spirit on Pentecost (Acts 2) that we would speak with one voice the truth of the Gospel: that Jesus Christ died on the cross to pay for our sins and by His resurrection has set us free, even from the darkness that lurks in our past. The Spirit “teaches us all things” – all that Jesus has done for us — that our “hearts would not be troubled or afraid” (John 14). Thus, we pray as in Psalm 143:10: “Let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground!”

May 31 – The Holy Trinity – Life is precious. It is a gift. We cannot fathom all that God has intended and has in store for His people. “Oh, the depths of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!” (Romans 11). Yet we come before the Lord, like Isaiah, as those with “unclean lips,” and we dwell “in the midst of a people of unclean lips” (Isaiah 6). The willful taking of an innocent human life in abortion is an abomination on our nation. Those who are given a new birth by Jesus in Holy Baptism by water and the Spirit (John 3) must be people who speak the truth of God’s Word: “You shall not murder.” We are “fearfully and wonderfully made.” We dare not sit on the fence when it comes to life and death issues such as abortion or physician-assisted suicide. The same voice of the Lord that “thunders” over the waters of creation and the flood (Psalm 29) now resounds over the waters of Holy Baptism, making us God’s own special people and calling us to be the voice of hope in a world shrouded by sin and death.

SENDING WORDS AS MAY FLOWERS TO OUR SHUT-INS

Hopefully winter is now behind us. Remember the saying "April showers bring May flowers". We certainly have had April showers so now is the time to enjoy May flowers. You may not be able to send flowers, but some caring words to our shut-ins would be just as good... Words of Hope, words of Light, words of Kindness. Share the love and encouragement that our Risen Lord wants us to share with those of our congregation that can no longer join us on Sundays. They are our family and we love them.

God's blessings to all.

Julie

Julie_Hagen@hotmail.com

Cell phone: 262-331-0052

SHUT INS

Name	Address	Phone Number
Pat Cole	6551 Mariner Drive, Unit 6, Racine, WI 53406	
Sue Erickson	2262 Loni Lane, Racine, WI 53406	
Gary & Shirley Filicetti	4710 N Main St, Racine, WI 53402	
Janet Fisa	Marion House 4105 Spring Street, #212, Mt. Pleasant, WI 53405	
Marcella Geyer	3139 Conrad Drive, Racine, WI 53404	
Gail Gotch	1916 Wisconsin Avenue, Apt. 359, Racine, WI 53403	
Susan Monson	418 Shoreland Drive, Racine, WI 53402	
Kathy Patzman	5404 Idlewood Drive, Racine, WI 53402	
Joanne Ruble	1108 N. Sunnyslope #104, Racine, WI 53406	
John Smith	1636 Raintree Lane, Racine, WI 53406	