

# NEWS FROM ST. JOHN'S

## NOVEMBER 2024

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### FROM THE PASTOR

Trust not in rulers; they are but mortal;  
Earth-born they are and soon decay.  
Vain are their counsels at life's last portal,  
When the dark grave engulfs its prey.  
Since mortals can no help afford,  
Place all your trust in Christ, our Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia! (LSB 797 st. 2)

Every four years, on the second Tuesday of November, our nation makes a very big decision. The lead-up to this day is long and tiresome, and the four years that follow it are shaped by the outcome of the election.

One of the interesting statistics that come out of a Presidential election is the number of people who actually cast a vote. While not everyone in the nation has the right to vote, due to age or other restrictions, the percentage of "voting eligible persons" is an important point to examine. A quick look back at more recent elections shows that a great many people in our country do not prioritize taking part in the voting process. In 2000, the voter turnout figures point to 54.2%. From there, a gradual increase was noted with each new election, with a slight dip in 2012 with 58.6%. The 2020 election drew higher numbers than the previous 120 years, with 66.6% of eligible voters taking part in the election.

Most of us have heard the words, "If you didn't vote, then you can't complain" or something along those lines. If only that were enforceable! Then there's the idea "Don't blame me, I voted for [other candidate]!" This likewise solves nothing other than perhaps eliciting a chuckle or two.

I take interest in politics to the point where Christians are able to recognize the positions or proposed policies of any would-be elected officials and where they stand with the goodness of God's Law and the ways He calls us to love Him and love those around us. No politician will ever line up perfectly with what God shows us is best for us, because each of them and each of us are stained by sin. Selecting the "lesser of two evils" is another phrase that is used frequently in the lead-up to a Presidential election, and that's enough to convince some people to not take the time to cast a vote.

Your vote is your own, of course, and as a pastor at St. John's, I encourage all voting eligible persons to look closely at any candidates being considered, examine where they stand on issues that pertain to God's Word and the Ten Commandments, and ask the Lord to bless this process and our nation in the ways He sees fit. As Christians we are to recognize that those in positions of authority over us are placed there by God, and also to learn from history that there are times that the Christian faith is not valued or protected by earthly authorities.

Regardless of the November 2024 election results, we will continue to have what our nation has always had: an authority figure that cannot bring the salvation we need and who will one day return to the earth (**Psalm 146:3-4**). The Church instead gathers around God's good gifts in worship, and in the United States of America, this is something that is protected legally and we do well to be thankful for it! Our promise is that the Lord will remain the Lord of His Church, for whom He bled, died, and rose again to redeem us and make us His both in this life and the next. That's worth gathering around each week—although "worship attending eligible persons" at St. John's is also a disappointingly low number.

In Christ,  
Pastor Gilbert

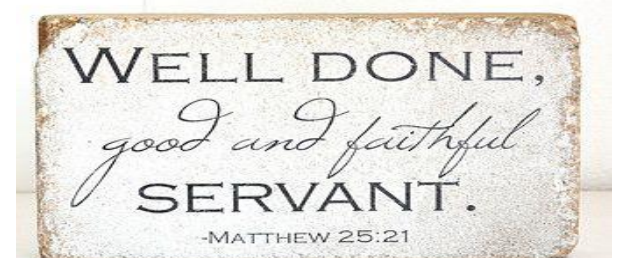
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### OFFICIAL ACTS

#### **Funerals:**

Marilyn Dargin	9-30-2024
Cheryl Helland	10-28-2024

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## **FALL CLEANUP DAY**

Come join us for our annual Fall Cleanup Day on Saturday, November 2nd 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/60B0E49ACAA28A7F58-50517495-fall>

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## **CRAFT SALE SAVE THE DATE**

Our annual Craft Sale will be held on Sunday, November 10. Please join us in between services and after late service. All money raised from this sale will be used to help support the Bugenhagen Conference. Our crafters do not receive any money for their materials or time.

Please come and check out the wonderful selection of cards, floral arrangements, unique handmade gifts, Curt Adel's famous Dill Pickles and so much more!

If you have any questions or would like to donate some craft items to the sale - please contact Diane Schweitzer (262)635-3879. We look forward to seeing you. **CASH OR CHECK ONLY.**

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## **FELLOWSHIP FRIDAY**

Our November Fellowship Friday will be Friday, November 15 from 5:30-7:30pm. A baked potato bar will be provided as the main meal. Everyone connected to St. John's is invited to attend this event. Please come as individuals or families, and if you do, please bring a potato topping, side, dessert, or drink to share. If you are coming as a family with younger children, please consider bringing a game of some kind to perhaps play with others. The gym will also be open for part of the evening. If you plan to attend, email Kimberly ([chapman@stjohnsracine.org](mailto:chapman@stjohnsracine.org)) or Sharon ([adel@stjohnsracine.org](mailto:adel@stjohnsracine.org)).

Just a note that there will not be a Fellowship Friday in December! We look forward to getting together again in January.

## **FALL BLOOD DRIVE**

St. John's will host a Fall Blood Drive on Monday, November 18 from 10-3pm in the gymnasium. Please see the flyer attached to the emailed newsletter for more information. We'd love to fill all available appointments! You can sign-up online at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).

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## **YOUTH GROUP EVENT**

Our next Youth Group event will take place here at St. John's on Sunday, November 24 from 4-6 pm. We will have an open gym night with pizza for dinner. All 5th-12th graders are invited to attend!

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## **"BIBLE AND BREW" MEN'S STUDY**

Please note that the Bible and Brew Men's Study will not be held in November and December due to Thanksgiving and Christmas. We will resume the study in January!

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## **POINSETTIAS TO DECORATE THE CHURCH**

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia or two to decorate our sanctuary this year, they will be available for \$15.00. A sign-up sheet is posted in the narthex. You can also email or call Kimberly in the church office if you are interested in purchasing a poinsettia. ([chapman@stjohnsracine.org](mailto:chapman@stjohnsracine.org) or (262) 637-7011) Please sign-up by Sunday, December 1. Please make your check payable to "St. John's Altar Guild" and place it in an envelope marked "Poinsettia." Poinsettias may be taken home following the Christmas Day service. Thank you!

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## **ADVENT/CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

The season of Advent will soon be here. Please see the list below of the special service times from Thanksgiving through the New Year.

**Wednesday, November 27, 2024**

Thanksgiving Eve Vespers – 6pm

**Wednesday, December 4, 2024**

Advent Vespers – 6pm

**Wednesday, December 11, 2024**

Advent Vespers – 6pm

**Wednesday, December 18, 2024**

Advent Vespers – 6pm

**Tuesday, December 24, 2024**

Christmas Eve Communion Services at 4 and 11pm

**Wednesday, December 25, 2024**

Christmas Day Communion Service – 9am

**Wednesday, January 1, 2025**

Hymn Sing – 6pm

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## **NON-PERISHABLE FOOD DRIVE**

The Stewardship committee is going to be placing food drive baskets in the back of church and in the classrooms for collecting food, gift cards and cash for Families in Need of help. Please donate non-perishable food items and/or gift cards to your favorite grocery store as those are nice as well. We will be collecting food and gift cards from Thanksgiving until December 15. We will be distributing the baskets sometime before Christmas. Thank you!

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## **THE LEAVES ARE FALLING....**

Just in time for fall...300 leaves have been purchased to fill a new section of tree branches that will be installed in the hallway outside of the pastors' offices!

There are three levels of leaves that will be available for purchase: \$300, \$200, and \$100. All proceeds from the purchase of these leaves will be put in our Church Renovation Account and be utilized to help fund the eventual replacement of the church's roof.

Thank you to Kris Reisdorf for this fundraising idea and for coordinating the ordering of the new tree branches and leaves!

Order forms will be available in the church office and in the back of the sanctuary. If you have any questions, please contact Kimberly in the church office.

## **NEWS FROM OUR SEMINARIAN**

Dear Saint John's,

Greetings in Christ! We have had a busy summer packing up our residence in Fort Wayne, moving to Hampton Iowa for vicarage. We moved to Hampton in mid-August, and I am currently serving as the 21st vicar for Trinity Lutheran Church. My responsibilities include preaching every other week, teaching a weekly Bible study, teaching 7th grade catechism, visiting members, and planning high school youth events.

The family is doing well. Oliver—now two—enjoys taking walks, going to the pool at the town recreation center, visiting me in my office, and going to the playground. Abby and I have adjusted to the small town life well. We are also expecting our second child, due February 10! We are having a girl. We look forward to meeting her and seeing Oliver with his own little sister. Please pray we don't have a bad snowstorm when the time comes!

Next summer we will move back to Fort Wayne for my final year of seminary before—God willing—I am ordained. Please keep us in your prayers this year of vicarage. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

In Christ,  
Jacob Stefanec

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## **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.

## FROM YOUR DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

To those of you that joined our Mass Choir for the Sunday afternoon Reformation Festival Service, thank you! It was wonderful to have you join us and sing praises to our beautiful Savior!

**THE 1961 SCHLICHER PIPE ORGAN** On Tuesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Benjamin Nolte of Nolte Organ Builders came to our sanctuary and removed the old console control system which had begun to show signs of wear over the past two years. Nolte has installed a new Peterson Electro console control system, new stop action magnets, thumb pistons, new cabling and power supply. Benjamin Nolte completely hand built new organ stop tabs out of white maple. He rebuilt and stained the front of the organ console to fit the new stop tabs and new thumb pistons. (Nolte added six more thumb pistons to our console). Our existing toe studs were repurposed for better versatility to the organist.

Nolte built and installed a new walk-board in the uppermost organ division to vastly improve safety and serviceability.

We thank and praise our Lord God for His generous provision. Thank you, Endowment Committee and all members of St. John's Lutheran Church, for your generous support in this rebuild. May the organ continue to adorn our worship services for many more years to come. May it provide joy to our congregation and to others who come to worship with us.

**Save the Date:** Our traditional Christmas Concert is set for Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Pre-service concert music will begin at 5:45 pm and the Concert itself will begin at 6:00 pm. Our concert is free and open to the public. Light refreshments are served after the concert. Join us!

*\*\*Music is a beautiful language that connects us to our Divine Services each week. When we are worshipping, music strengthens our relationship with God and enriches our services\*\**



## SCHOOL NEWS CORNER

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL

In November, we take time to give thanks for all of the gifts God has given us- and He has truly blessed St. John's. Our quarter ended on October 18th, and we give thanks for the learning and laughter that fills our halls on a daily basis. As we turn the corner into cooler weather and prepare our hearts for Advent, we have a lot to look forward to in the weeks ahead. Basketball and cheerleading seasons are upon us, our teachers head to their N/S Wisconsin Teacher's Conference on the 4th and 5th, and we are hosting a Blood Drive on November 18th. Throughout the busy days and the cooler season, we are especially thankful for a congregation that loves, supports, and prays for our school.

### DINING OUT AT CULVERS

Join us for our next Dining Out Night at Culvers, 4542 Douglas Avenue, on Tuesday, November 12 from 4-9pm. St. John's will receive 25% of all qualifying purchases. Please show the flyer or mention the fundraiser when ordering for St. John's to get credit for your order. A flyer is attached to the emailed newsletter or can be picked up in the back of the sanctuary. Hope to see you at this tasty fundraiser!

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### RACINE LUTHERAN HARVEST FAIR

The Harvest Fair will be Saturday, Nov. 2nd from 9am-3pm at Racine Lutheran High School, 251 Luedtke Ave., Racine. We are handicapped accessible with free admission. Come browse through the many booths of bakery, fresh fruits and vegetables, gifts, jewelry, household helpers, antiques and collectibles, linens, needle crafts, books, purses, toys, sports items and memorabilia. The snack bar has homemade sandwiches, soups, salads, desserts and coffee. Many outside vendors and independent sales consultants will be selling their products. To reserve a booth, call 262-498-8782. Live music will be provided for your enjoyment. Free parking and strollers are welcome. Presented by the Racine Lutheran High School Ladies Guild with all profits going to the school.

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

<b>1-Nov</b>	Diane Schweitzer	<b>15-Nov</b>	Finley Douglas
<b>2-Nov</b>	Merryn Beier	<b>15-Nov</b>	Alicia Hlavacek
<b>2-Nov</b>	Oscar Garcia	<b>15-Nov</b>	Paul Zanotti
<b>3-Nov</b>	Lori Storm	<b>16-Nov</b>	Roger Helland
<b>4-Nov</b>	Tony Chadoir	<b>16-Nov</b>	Eleanor Zanotti
<b>4-Nov</b>	Jim McCluskey	<b>17-Nov</b>	James Seeger
<b>5-Nov</b>	Shaun Stauffer	<b>18-Nov</b>	Molly Duchac
<b>8-Nov</b>	Michael Christensen	<b>18-Nov</b>	Remy Jacquet
<b>8-Nov</b>	Kyler Cummings	<b>18-Nov</b>	Jasmine Nelson
<b>8-Nov</b>	Molly Schalinske	<b>19-Nov</b>	Matt Borgardt
<b>9-Nov</b>	Scott Hansing	<b>19-Nov</b>	Krista Hansing
<b>9-Nov</b>	Bert Houdek	<b>19-Nov</b>	Jill Hasseldahl
<b>10-Nov</b>	Rolando Morales	<b>20-Nov</b>	Esmæ Allesxandro
<b>10-Nov</b>	Mike Phillips	<b>20-Nov</b>	Sadie Allesxandro
<b>10-Nov</b>	Nick Phillips	<b>21-Nov</b>	Isaac DeYoung
<b>10-Nov</b>	Elizabeth Phillips	<b>21-Nov</b>	Violette Knoell
<b>11-Nov</b>	Peter Baylon	<b>21-Nov</b>	Shamaya van Sliedrecht
<b>11-Nov</b>	Amelia Riegelman	<b>22-Nov</b>	Sarah Block
<b>12-Nov</b>	James Dickey	<b>23-Nov</b>	Clayton Baker
<b>12-Nov</b>	Amelia Hansing	<b>23-Nov</b>	Jillian Craig
<b>12-Nov</b>	Sylvia Krause	<b>26-Nov</b>	Amy Donaldson
<b>13-Nov</b>	Melissa Jaeck	<b>26-Nov</b>	Susan Pierce-Ruhland
<b>13-Nov</b>	Cayden Mickelsen	<b>27-Nov</b>	Clementine Nelson
<b>13-Nov</b>	Colleen Nehmer	<b>28-Nov</b>	Kimberly Chapman
<b>14-Nov</b>	Ben Blint	<b>28-Nov</b>	Amanda Kotowski
<b>15-Nov</b>	Brayden Davis	<b>28-Nov</b>	Kalli McCluskey



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





## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

### NOVEMBER 2024

#### November 3– All Saints' Day

**“With angels, archangels, and with all the company of heaven ...”** When we gather around the altar of the Lord in His house, we pray and praise God “with all the company of heaven.” Those we have lost in the Lord are not truly lost to us — they have simply entered their rest with the Lord. As we gather to worship our Lord, we gather along with them. On the Last Day, everything that God has given into the care of our stewardship will fade away — everything except our brothers and sisters in Christ. Caring for one another in love and grace is our highest calling.

#### November 10 – Trinity 24

**Colossians 1:10 – “[W]alk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”** Living a godly life really is its own reward. Does the life St. Paul describes here sound more enjoyable than a life of worry, self-aggrandizement and self-centeredness? God wants us to walk closely to our Lord and imitate Jesus for a reason: so that we will be blessed and happy.

#### November 17 - Trinity 25

**1 Thessalonians 4:13 – “But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.”** Christians are different from unbelievers. Our trust in Christ changes us. Our hope in Christ means that we don’t grieve in the same way that unbelievers grieve — we know what comes after death. We don’t treat our time or money in the same way as unbelievers either. We start each week with a sacrifice of our time as we come to the Lord’s house to hear His Word and receive His Sacraments. And we also set aside a generous, first-fruits proportion of our income for the support of the Lord’s work in His church. Our faith changes us and our actions ... we don’t do anything as others do who have no hope.

#### November 24 – Last Sunday of the Church Year

**1 Thessalonians 5:8 – “But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.”** Our salvation is secure in Christ: He has done it all to save us. Therefore, our hope is secure and our faith in Him is certain. And what goes with faith and hope? Love. Our good works of love flow forth from the certainty of our faith. Our giving back to the Lord’s work comes from what He has first given us.

#### November 28 – Thanksgiving

**Deuteronomy 8:10 – “And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land He has given you.”** And what a rich, peaceful, prosperous land the Lord has given us! As God blessed His people of old, so He continues to bless us. Let our lives demonstrate our thankfulness for His unceasing generosity!

## LIFE THOUGHTS FOR LUTHERANS –

### NOVEMBER 2024

**Trinity XXIII** – Since God created humankind in His image, their fate belongs in His hands above Caesar’s (Matthew 22:21). Life issues are more than just private or political—they are matters of the heart, to which the Gospel of Jesus Christ speaks most directly and effectively. They must remain part of the Church’s conversation for the sake of people struggling with them. *Prayer: Almighty God, impart unto us ears that rejoice to hear Your whole counsel and tongues that proclaim it with courage and compassion. Amen.*

**Trinity XXIV** – Jesus’ people considered bleeding women and deceased daughters (Matthew 9:18-20) not only disposable but defiling. Yet instead of avoiding or discarding them, the Savior draws near and takes hold (Matthew 9:22, 25). Rather than allowing death He wills length of days for them. Won’t the same arm of the Lord and embrace of His body comfort (Isaiah 51:9, 12) in surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis? *Prayer: Mighty Savior, open our eyes to behold the sanctity of every human life, and open our arms to share and safeguard it. Amen.*

**Trinity XXV** – Abortion and euthanasia idolize (Exodus 32:4) death. They surrender to grief as if we have no hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13). But we delight that Jesus has already swallowed death (1 Thessalonians 4:14) and sanctified human life from fertilization to forever. We may resist using death as a solution to suffering. And we can invite others to rejoice in the blessings of life He brings (Luke 17:21)! *Prayer: Lord Jesus, lead us to receive every life as a gift and every neighbor as a privilege. Amen.*

**Trinity XXVI** – The Lord “is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish” (2 Peter 3:9). Surely this compassion extends also to “the least of these” vulnerable neighbors whom Jesus calls “my brothers” (Matthew 25:40). No one need invoke abortion or summon assisted suicide when the Ancient of Days bids “all peoples, nations, and languages” (Daniel 7:13-14) to “call upon me in the day of trouble [and] I will deliver you” (Psalm 50:15). *Prayer: Almighty God, deliver especially our unborn and elderly neighbors from an evil death. Amen.*

**Last Sunday of the Church Year** – Our Savior considers human bodies so precious that He has already begun making a new earth for them to enjoy eternally (Isaiah 65:17-25). He has not designed humankind’s bodily existence as disposable but as indispensable to our identity and abundant life. How shall this affect our approach to illness, disability, conception, and age? *Prayer: King of creation, increase our respect and protection for the bodies of others with the esteem You bestow upon our own. Amen.*

**WE HAVE BEEN CALLED TO GIVE (and not just money!)**

***What could you give to our Shut-Ins?***

***“Freely you have received; freely give.”***

Matthew 10:8

So, it’s November. We think a lot about giving thanks. But, what about just “GIVING”?

What about “GIVING” your time and consideration to these very special members of our church? Our Creator instructs us to give generously and cheerfully to those in need.

Our Shut-Ins NEED US!

Give them your prayers, as you read the list below.

Give them a call to say hello.

Give them a visit.

Give them a beautiful Thanksgiving card in the mail.

Give them the joy that they are remembered and loved.

***Think of yourself as Christ’s Ambassador. Remember that whatever we do for the least of these, we also do for Him!***

**SHUT INS**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
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	<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	
Joanne Griffin	3920 N. Green Bay Road, Rm. 74, Racine, WI 53402	
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	
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	