

NEWS FROM ST. JOHN'S

APRIL 2024

FROM OUR SEMINARIAN – JACOB STEFANEC

"The following is a guest article written by Seminarian Jacob Stefanec. Jacob is our adopted student and is currently in his second year of study at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He wrote this for St. John's in appreciation of our prayers and support."

The Crucified King

St. Matthew's Gospel begins by calling Jesus "the son of David, the son of Abraham." The first is simple enough; to be the son of David is to be the King of Israel. God promised David—after all—that his throne would be established forever (2 Samuel 7:16). To be the son of David is to be his heir. To be his heir is to inherit his eternal throne. When one imagines a king and a throne, images of glory and splendor enter the mind. Fine clothing and a crown of gold are typical of such earthly kings. A throne placed within a great palace, surrounded by myriads of soldiers and servants at his command would be fitting for such a king.

But that's not the kind of king Jesus came to be. Not at all.

So, he is also called "the son of Abraham." Isaac was the son of Abraham. This is the promised son, who God commanded Abraham to sacrifice at Moriah. God said, "Take your son, *your only son*, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering," (Genesis 22:2). If David's son is the king, then Abraham's son is the sacrifice. The father is told to offer his son as a sacrifice, because the Father would offer his own "Beloved Son" in whom he is pleased as the Sacrifice for the sins of the world.

For Jesus, to be the King *is* to be the Sacrifice. They are not distinct, but the same. This is why he is not like the glorious earthly kings whose thrones and crowns are made of gold. The cross—the altar he is sacrificed upon for your sins—is his throne. Christ himself teaches this, saying, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom," (Matthew 16:28). His kingdom in this verse clearly cannot be referring to his second coming, for many standing there would not "taste death" until they saw it. Jesus comes into his kingdom—where the forgiveness of sins is found—when he ascends the throne and altar of his cross. His crown is not made of gold, but of thorns that pierce his brow. His throne is not one in a palace, but is instead a tree to which he is nailed. There, the slaughtered lamb is the king on his throne, the son of Abraham is the son of David, and the Son of God

is given unto death for all sin. Indeed, there he truly is the "KING OF THE JEWS," (Matthew 27:37).

This Holy Week, remember your king, who was sacrificed for you. Remember his agony and bloody sweat. Recall that your King is not like the kings of the earth. His kingdom is not an earthly one. It is instead the kingdom in which the forgiveness of sins is found, and you are in it—for he reigns in his church. As we approach Easter, we once again prepare to receive his crucified and glorified body and blood at his altar. So, remember that there the kingdom of heaven is yours, for the one sacrificed is yours.

OFFICIAL ACTS

Baptism:

Mateo Antonio Bernal 3-2-2024

Funerals:

Lynn Ernst 3-3-2024

Karl Glassen 3-8-2024

Confirmations:

Patricia Arianna Clemons 3-24-2024

Molly Beth Duchac 3-24-2024

Savannah Lynnette Fernandez 3-24-2024

Adeline Salome Gasau 3-24-2024

Evan Ryan Kotowski 3-24-2024

Christian Anthony Pallamolla 3-24-2024

Daniel Robert Pallamolla 3-24-2024

Lily Meadow Rossman 3-24-2024

Kassidy Lynn Widmar 3-24-2024

SERMONS ARE NOW LIVE!

Our new video recording system was recently installed and is now operational! Sermons are now available live on YouTube on our [St. John's Lutheran Church](#) and School channel. Thank you to everyone who donated to the Endowment Fund which funded this project.

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!

ST. JOHN'S ESTATE SALE

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

FELLOWSHIP FRIDAY

Fellowship Friday returns in April! Our April fellowship will be held on Friday, April 19 from 5:30-7:30 here at St. John's. Everyone connected to St. John's is invited to attend this event.

Chicken and potatoes will be provided as the main meal. Please bring a side, dessert, or drink to share if you plan to attend. Please come as individuals or families! 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, please email Kimberly (chapman@stjohnsracine.org) or Sharon (adel@stjohnsracine.org).

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN TRIP

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

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

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

Please sign up at:

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

SPRING CLEAN UP DAY

Come join us for our annual Spring Cleanup Day on Saturday, May 11th from 9 - 10am. We will spend 1 hour cleaning up in the neighborhood around church and school. This is a wonderful way to give back to the community that directly surrounds your church and school. We hope that you can join us.

*"And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."
Micah 6:8*

Please sign up at:

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

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 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.)*

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1-Apr	Daniel Feldscher	16-Apr	Robert Boehler
1-Apr	Thomas Jaeck	16-Apr	Lisa Bowe
1-Apr	Julie Schaefer	16-Apr	Jenny Gilbert
2-Apr	Luke Pringle	17-Apr	Bill Badley
3-Apr	Grayson Witek	17-Apr	Jerry Konecny
4-Apr	Sarah Rieckhoff	17-Apr	Isabella Petkus
5-Apr	Herman Blaesing	18-Apr	Lauren Sollman
5-Apr	Samuel DeYoung	19-Apr	Evan Dondlinger
5-Apr	Elliott Hansing	19-Apr	Lily Krewal
5-Apr	Beth Mohar	19-Apr	Samuel Riegelman
6-Apr	Josie van Sliedrecht	20-Apr	Lori Jaeck
7-Apr	Paula Bruening	20-Apr	Jacquelyn Kellner
7-Apr	Bonita Liebenow	21-Apr	Calvin Christensen
7-Apr	David Monson	21-Apr	Samantha Nelson
7-Apr	Michael Schweitzer	21-Apr	Shvaughn Paulick
9-Apr	Jayda Burger	22-Apr	Benaiah Hasseldahl
9-Apr	Marla Gorelik	22-Apr	Susan Kish
9-Apr	Owen Jozwiak	24-Apr	Daniel Jaeck
10-Apr	Jeff Nelson	24-Apr	Henry Miller
11-Apr	Trisha Balke	25-Apr	Mike Moe
11-Apr	David Milaeger	25-Apr	April Otto
13-Apr	Patty Roberson	27-Apr	Dorothy Miller
13-Apr	Julie Stauffer	27-Apr	Declan Paulick
14-Apr	Mateo Bernal	30-Apr	Laine Beier



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

FROM YOUR DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

*Christ has Risen – He has Risen indeed,
Alleluia!*

I love butterflies, especially bright yellow ones! Each Spring, our first-grade class learns about and explores the butterfly life cycle. They learn the words that are associated with the metamorphosis of the butterfly...caterpillar, eggs, larva, chrysalis. On a beautiful warm sunny day, the first graders release the butterflies into the world, clapping and cheering as the butterflies try out their new wings. Our Easter season has begun and we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ who took on the burden of our sin and proclaimed victory over death and the devil. Because of what Jesus did for us on the cross, we look forward to eternal life with Him one day!

Thank you Senior Choir, Handbell Choir, Hand Chime Choir, all instrumentalists and vocalists that put forth their musical talents throughout the season of Lent, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter Sunday.

Save the date! Senior Choir, Handbell Choir, Instrumentalists and Vocalists, please join me Thursday, May 30, 2024 for our end of season choral gathering. More information will be forthcoming.

Join me on Sunday, June 9, 2024, for a Student Piano Recital beginning at 1:00 p.m. The recital will be held in the balcony of the sanctuary. Light refreshments will follow the piano recital.

Music is an important part of worship and praise to God! Sharon Adel

*We were buried therefore with Him by
baptism into death, in order that, just as
Christ was raised from the dead by the glory
of the Father, we too might walk in newness
of life. (Romans 6:4)*

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

March may have brought the official arrival of spring, but the wind, rain, and snow have kept our students indoors more often than they like this month. We enjoyed cheering on our girls' basketball team at their state tournament, and now we turn our attention to track and theater. Our 2nd graders performed their annual Tacky the Penguin play for the school on March 15, and our 7th and 8th graders have begun practicing for their dinner theater performance coming at the end of April. Most importantly, our confirmands had their examination and confirmation on Palm Sunday, followed by their first communion on Maundy Thursday. These demonstrations of faith are outward evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit that happens in our school each day. We wish God's blessings upon these confirmands and ask that you keep our students in your prayers as we head into the final months of the school year.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

There are several 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 assistant (11:30-1:30)
 - Afternoon extended care (3:30-5:30)
-

RLHS SPRING THEATER PRODUCTION

RLHS presents its spring theater production, One Spotlight Town. We hope you are able to attend this wonderful event!

Friday, April 19 @ 7pm

Saturday, April 20 @ 7pm

Sunday, April 21 @ 2pm

Ticket information:

- Tickets are available at the door or online at RacineLutheran.org
- Veterans & Active Military Members: FREE
- Seniors (60+) and Alumni: \$7
- Adults (College Age and Older): \$10
- Students (Grades 1-12): \$5
- Lap Infants and Toddlers: Free

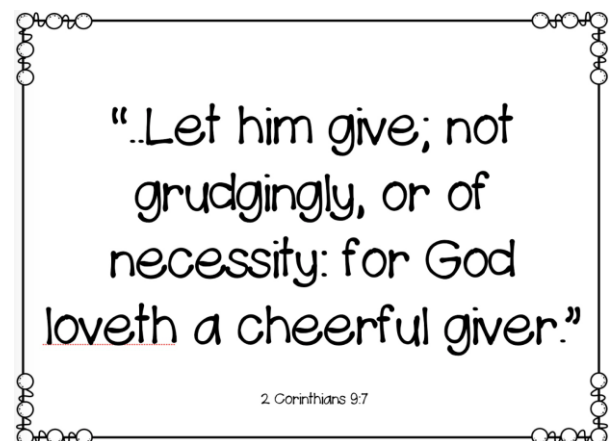
VANCO MOBILE AND ONLINE GIVING

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 – APRIL 2024

April 7 – Easter 2 (*Quasimodo geniti*)

John 20:19 – “Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’” The peace we have in Jesus is what makes a life of good works possible. Since we know that it is Jesus who saved us, and not our works, we are now free to do good works not out of self-interest, but for the right reasons: out of thanksgiving toward God and love for our neighbors.

April 14 – Easter 3 (*Misericordias*)

John 10:14 – “I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me.” What does it mean to know the Lord? It starts with being known by the Lord: He claims us as His own and calls us by name. Then, once we are His, we learn to know Him, and in knowing Him, we learn to imitate Him. That is how the Christian life of good works and generosity grows from the Lord’s grace.

April 21 – Easter 4 (*Jubilate*)

1 John 3:2 – “Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.” This is the essence of our sanctification: becoming like our Lord. As St. John notes, this will only be completed in the Resurrection. But until then, we are called to trust His grace and to grow into His image more and more.

April 28 – Easter 5 (*Cantate*)

James 1:17 – “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights.” God is the source of all goodness. When we do good, therefore, we imitate Him and reflect His light to all the world. Christians give freely because God has first given so freely to us; we are only imitating our Father, growing up into His likeness.

LIFE THOUGHTS FOR LUTHERANS – APRIL 2024

Easter II – Our bodily life matters so much to God that He incarnated human flesh Himself. Even after accomplishing atonement by His body’s brokenness, He did not discard it but inhabits it by resurrection as His eternal instrument (John 20:27). When we are physically suffering sin’s consequences, our Savior’s words of forgiveness breathe healing (John 20:21-23), and His ways of faith bring peace into our very bodies. *Lord Jesus, let me take hold of You by faith until Your wounded and resurrected body redeems my own. Amen.*

Easter III – The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep (John 10:11-16). Herein lies our assurance that our Shepherd does not abandon His sheep. He loves them too much. He paid too much for them to forsake them. We live our lives, not in the absence of suffering, but in the presence of the Good Shepherd. *Good Shepherd, thank You for laying down Your life for me. Amen.*

Easter IV – The joy that comes from the risen Christ cannot be taken away (John 16:22). This is not a feel-good happiness dependent upon circumstances. It is a fruit of Christ’s Spirit, the joy of our salvation in Christ that circumstances cannot change or diminish. Many of the life issues we deal with today are “joy robbers” and present opportunities to share the joy of the resurrection. *Gracious Savior, fill my words with the comfort and hope of resurrection to everlasting life with You. Amen.*

Easter V – Only the grace of God could supply as supreme a blessing as a mother’s company and comfort. In the same way (John 16:7b), the Holy Spirit gives life and saves life even and especially when sorrow fills the heart (John 16:6). Indeed, the Word of forgiveness, joy, and hope He implants redeems both hopeless situations and helpless souls for everlasting celebration (James 1:21). *Ever-present Redeemer, embrace us with Your Spirit until we trust Your truth, follow Your way, and enjoy Your life. Amen.*

SHUT INS

Name	Address	Phone Number
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	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	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	