

NEWS FROM ST. JOHN'S

FEBRUARY 2024

FROM THE PASTOR

"Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13).

God's love motivated Him to create us and all things. He spoke His Word into nothing and the result is everything we see and know in this life. His love furthers His creation and He cares for all that He has made. As sin made its way into all that He had made, His love prompted Him to promise a rescue through His Son.

The season of Lent is, by design, a more somber and subdued time of the church year. It is a penitential season, one that draws our attention to our sin and our need for a Savior. The hymns we sing carry a sadder tune and focus on that which was required of our Lord to free us from our sin. It is an important part of the year as well, a reminder of how serious our sin is.

In our world, there is certainly talk of love and there is evidence of it. Unfortunately, the most prominent love that we find in our culture is the love of self. While the world calls it different things, God in His Word calls us away from our natural selfish ways. Many people, including well-intended Christians, falsely believe that life is about being happy or finding happiness. To be sure, there are many blessings God shares with us that elicit happiness in our lives, but He also cautions us to recognize that following Him does not promise a happy way forward.

In the end, as Jesus' words to His disciples in John 15:13 show us, His love is found in the giving up of Himself for the benefit of those He loves. He willingly went to the cross, sacrificing His very life, in order that we would have His love and forgiveness through the faith planted in our hearts through His Word.

God's blessings as we anticipate the season of Lent, beginning with Pre-Lent, or Gesimatide, which make up the three Sundays before Ash Wednesday (2/14). Take the time again this year to examine what ways you can show love not for yourself, but for those around you here at St. John's and in your daily lives.

In Christ,
Pastor Gilbert

OFFICIAL ACTS

Baptism:

Theodore Alex Suszek 1-14-2024

Funeral:

Erik Peterson 1-9-2024

ABOUT THE "GESIMAS"

On January 28, we entered into a season of the church year before Lent called the season of Septuagesima or "Pre-Lent." This is made up of the three Sundays (Septuagesima, Sexagesima, Quinquagesima) which come between the feast of Transfiguration and Ash Wednesday. The names are Latin for the number of days before Easter. Quinquagesima is exactly 50 days before Easter, Sexagesima 57 days, and Septuagesima is 64 days before Easter. This season serves as a transition between the celebratory season of Epiphany and the penitential season of Lent. During this time, we omit the *Gloria in Excelsis* and the *Alleluia* as we prepare ourselves for the penitential season of Lent.

LENTEN DINNERS

We are looking forward to our traditional Lenten dinners again this year. The Board of Elders has offered to hold the first dinner on Ash Wednesday, February 14. We are looking for groups or groups of individuals that would be interested in hosting a dinner on the open dates. The Wednesday dates that are currently open are February 28, March 6, and March 20. If you or your group would be interested in hosting a Lenten dinner, or you have any questions in regards to hosting a Lenten dinner, please contact the church office as soon as possible at (262) 637-7011 or chapman@stjohnsracine.org. Thank you for your prayerful consideration in hosting a dinner.

LENTEN DINNERS 2024

Date	Group Serving	Menu	Group Singing
2/14/24	Board of Elders	Mostaccioli	Senior Choir
2/21/24	Board of Trustees	Pulled Pork Sandwiches/Chips	Senior Choir
2/28/24			Handbell Choir
3/6/24			Cherub Choir
3/13/24	Senior Choir	Sloppy Joe's	Vocal Solo
3/20/24			Children's Choir

FELLOWSHIP FRIDAY

Just a note that we will not hold Fellowship Friday events in February and March due to our weekly Wednesday Lenten dinners.

EASTER FLOWERS

Flowers to decorate the church for Easter are available by signing the sheet posted in the narthex or by calling or emailing the church office. (chapman@stjohnsracine.org, (262) 637-7011) Flowers available this year are hyacinths, daffodils, tulips, and Easter lilies at \$14.00 each. Checks should be made payable to "St. John's Altar Guild." Sunday, February 25 is the last day to sign up for Easter flowers. You may take your flowers home after the 10:15 a.m. Easter service.

MONTHLY CHURCH NEWSLETTER

The February newsletter will be the last monthly church newsletter mailed through USPS bulk mail. Most families prefer to receive the newsletter via email. We no longer have enough families (200) that would like to have the newsletter delivered by mail. For those families that do not have an email address, we will continue to mail the monthly newsletter by regular mail. If you have an email address, but would still like a paper copy, please let me know, and we will continue to send one out to you by regular mail or one can be picked up in the church office. You will still also receive an emailed version. We appreciate any email updates you can provide as we switch over to email as your primary source for the monthly newsletter. *As always, the current monthly newsletter can be found under the church tab on the St. John's Church and School website!*

NEW MEMBER CLASS

Our next New Member Class will begin on Sunday, February 18 at 9:00 am. We will meet in the Fifth Grade Classroom (upstairs in the school building). The class will conclude on May 19. If you or someone you know would like to become a member at St. John's, please enroll in this class through the church office at 637-7011 or by email at chapman@stjohnsracine.org.

The material used for the class will be provided during our first morning together. The class is also open to any current members of St. John's who would like a refresher on what we believe and why!

BLOOD DRIVE

St. John's Lutheran Church and School will be hosting an American Red Cross blood drive on Thursday, February 29 from 10-3 in the school's gymnasium! Blood donations are critically low across the country. We are looking to fill up all of our available donation spots which are all located at the following link (Enter zip code 53402 and scroll to locate St. John's: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time>). There is also a flyer attached to the email version of this newsletter with more details.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

January brought a blast of cold as we started off 2024 at St. John's. We are always excited to spend a week in January celebrating Lutheran Schools Week and acknowledging all of the ways that God blesses our school. At St. John's, we are especially grateful to be able to share our faith daily with our students! As we head into February, we look forward to the Father-Daughter Dance and Jump Rope for Heart events, we continue to gather together in Christian sportsmanship for basketball and cheerleading, and most importantly, we ready ourselves for Lent and a time of reflection as we consider the sacrifice made on our behalf by our Savior Jesus Christ.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1-Feb	Steven Matter	18-Feb	Julie Hagen
4-Feb	Joani Miller	18-Feb	Jordyn Radtke
5-Feb	Stephen Bernhardt	19-Feb	Ann Rosenquist
5-Feb	Kristine Reisdorf	19-Feb	Andrew Schaefer
6-Feb	Joshua Radtke	19-Feb	Cynthia Seils
7-Feb	Kirk Albright	20-Feb	Loralyn Schalinske
7-Feb	Mary Preuss	21-Feb	Dale Ruth Raboldt
7-Feb	Laura Van Schyndel	21-Feb	Tyler Yohn
8-Feb	Shannon Liebenow	22-Feb	Gail Gotch
8-Feb	Al Smith	22-Feb	Tamara Marini
9-Feb	Sharon Bartel	22-Feb	Fred Rose
9-Feb	Taylor Blaesing	23-Feb	Frank Allesxandro
9-Feb	Kelly Glassen	23-Feb	Oscar Garcia
9-Feb	Kara Kading	23-Feb	Aimee Marweg
10-Feb	David Jaeck	24-Feb	Mary Luepkes
11-Feb	Jennifer Jozwiak	24-Feb	Kathleen Patzman
12-Feb	David Gall	26-Feb	Jill Harings
13-Feb	Samuel Duchac	26-Feb	Richard Wltek
13-Feb	Charlotte Fernandez	27-Feb	Dean Bornofska
13-Feb	Roy Hagen	28-Feb	Carrie Messersmith
14-Feb	Edward Maresh	28-Feb	Yvonne Raetzke
15-Feb	Cheryl Holewinski	29-Feb	Lillian Grant
17-Feb	Arlene Hugdahl		



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

FROM YOUR DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

The oldest 'song' recorded in the Old Testament scriptures is none other than Miriam's Song from the Book of Exodus "Sing to the Lord, for He has triumphed gloriously; the horse and rider he has thrown into the sea." Wouldn't you love to know how this song sounded as Miriam took a tambourine in her hand and began to sing praise to God? Other women took their tambourines and joined Miriam and soon everyone was praising God. Miriam's song encouraged God's people to sing of the triumph that God had won for them, how He saved them.

St. John's Lutheran Church is a 'singing' church. We gather each week in Divine Service, hear God's Word, and receive the Holy Sacrament. We carefully choose our hymns so that what we proclaim, we sing, and what we sing is always in harmony with its proclamation. The word "orthodox" is from two Greek words "ortho" (right) and "doxa" (to praise) - let us 'praise rightly' when we gather together each week.

Where there is devotional music
God is *always* at hand with His gracious presence
J.S. Bach

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 – FEBRUARY 2024

February 4 – Sexagesima

Luke 8:5 – “And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot ...” Know any farmers like this? Who just throws their crop seed wherever? That’s crazy! But God’s ways are not our ways — He is generous beyond compare! He delights in giving. As we are more and more conformed to His image, may we also learn the joy of generosity and giving!

February 11 – Quinquagesima

Luke 18:34 – “This saying was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said.” Even our understanding of the Word of God is a gift — the disciples can’t understand Jesus because it is not given to them to understand Him. By nature, they are deaf to the Word. So, everything we have is a gift of God. To realize this is the beginning of thankfulness, generosity and kindness.

February 14 – Ash Wednesday

Matthew 6:21 – “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” There’s the ultimate word on stewardship: your heart goes where you put the treasure which God has given you to manage in this life.

February 18 – Lent 1

Matthew 4:4 – “But he answered, ‘It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” What good are all the things of this world (food, drink, house, home, wealth, etc.) if we lose the things of God? What’s more important? How should our priorities be arranged?

February 25 – Lent 2

Matthew 15:27–28 – “She said, ‘Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.’ Then Jesus answered her, ‘O woman, great is your faith!’” Faith says “Yes” to all that the Lord gives us. The Canaanite woman trusted Jesus, and so she knew there was a blessing for her in everything the Lord says — even when His words seemed difficult or harsh. We all need a faith like that!

LIFE THOUGHTS FOR LUTHERANS – FEBRUARY 2024

Sexagesima – God’s Word does things, guaranteed (Isaiah 55:11)! That’s because God Himself works in and through His Word, accomplishing His will. His work through the Word made flesh changes hearts. That is why Lutherans For Life bases everything upon that Word. When hearts and minds are changed, people change. People changed and motivated by the Word can influence and bring change to our society. *Almighty Father, bring forth fruit from the seeds You plant in and through us. Amen.*

Quinquagesima – “[T]he Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance” (1 Samuel 16:7). Age, shape, and ability do not establish or inhibit human worth. “[T]he Lord looks on the heart” and sees the life and spirit hidden within. Every human pulse beats with the Creator’s own love – patient (1 Corinthians 13:4), enduring (1 Corinthians 13:7), making perfect (1 Corinthians 13:10) what was wrecked (Luke 18:42). *Dear Jesus, give us Your love that looks past appearances. Amen.*

Lent I (Invocabit) – Satan’s temptations of Jesus reveal his main tactic—make that which is bad look good. These days he spends much time making death look good; abortion is good and the way out of a difficult situation; assisted suicide is good and the way to relieve suffering. But death is not good! It is the curse of sin! It is our enemy. But just as Jesus defeated Satan, so He has defeated death. We can trust and live in His victory. *Jesus, may Your Word be ever on our hearts and lips that we might resist the snare of the devil. Amen.*

Lent II (Reminiscere) – We as God’s people regard it our privilege and delight to abstain from sexual immorality (1 Thessalonians 4:3-7). The eternal joys of godly relationships and bodily service to neighbors (1 Thessalonians 4:9) more than make up for whatever momentary gratification we forego. *Heavenly Bridegroom, captivate our hearts by Your self-giving love that we desire in body and soul to receive Your blessings and serve Your kingdom. Amen.*

Share the Love of Christ on VALENTINE's DAY and all February!

Send another of love and care to our Shut-Ins.

"Let us love one another, for love is from God."

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 #215, Racine, WI 53406	
Gary & Shirley Filicetti	4710 N Main St, Racine, WI 53402	
Janet Fisa	6101 – 16 th Street, Room 11, Mount Pleasant, WI 53406	
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	1463 28th Ct, Kenosha, WI 53140	
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	