

# NEWS FROM ST. JOHN'S MAY 2023

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## FROM THE PASTOR

### Technology and The Idolatry of Optimism

To what extent is technology good for us? This is a question that I have pondered for quite a while. For as long as I can remember I have been interested in technology. When I was a child, I would fantasize about a future where everything was assisted by gadgets. A world of robots and digital assistants where automation was part of the fabric of everyday life. I remember the movie Iron Man where the main character Tony Stark created his very own digital assistant who he named Jarvis. In this fictional world, Jarvis could do nearly anything, from turning on the lights in his home to realizing complex digital models of new designs. As a young man I would daydream about how this kind of thing could be used in my own life. I assumed with a youthful optimism bordering on naivete that these things would be intrinsically good.

I was not alone in this optimistic perception. This perception is as old as the hills, and it goes down to the very core of who we are as fallen human beings. Utopianism is a religion where it is believed that technology can solve many if not all problems endemic to the human experience. It is the belief that we can, through innovation and human ingenuity find ways to solve the problems of pain, toil, and even death. It is, at its core, the belief that we can save ourselves. It denies the reality that “we cannot by our own reason or strength” save ourselves (SC, Luther). It denies the cross of Jesus and the crosses our Lord has given us to bear. We live in a fallen world, and no amount of technological development will change that. So again, back to the question, “to what extent is technology good for us?” The answer is, to the extent that it does *not* devolve into idolatry. We must heed the warning of Jesus to be, “**wise as serpents and harmless as doves**” (Matthew 10:16, KJV). As Christians, we should be thinking critically about how technology is being used in our lives. And so, look at your own life. Do you find yourself scrolling endlessly on social media? Do you find yourself watching screens more than engaging in conversation with your family?

Are you thinking about how these things affect your life and faith? If the answer is ‘no’, I believe you should reconsider. We live in a time where we are wealthy beyond imagination with instant and vast information. But, to reference another comic book movie (to the further chagrin of Pr. Gilbert), “with great power comes great responsibility”. If you have a smart phone in your pocket, you have a tool of incredible power at your disposal. Like any powerful tool or weapon, it is capable of both great harm and great good. Let us therefore wield these things responsibly. Let us also remind ourselves that none of these things can bring us the peace that surpasses all human understanding. The peace that our Lord has redeemed us from pain, toil, and death by his own pain, toil, and death. Finally, let us remember and hold fast to the promises that wait for us in the resurrection.

Misericordias Domini, 2023

Rev. Joshua DeYoung, Pastor

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## OFFICIAL ACTS

### **Junior Confirmands:**

Tanner J. Christensen	4/2/2023
Alyssa Nicole Gilliam	4/2/2023
Spencer Matthew Knoell	4/2/2023
EmilyCarolynn Polack	4/2/2023
Cole Ignacio Salinas	4/2/2023
Andrew Robert Schuler	4/2/2023
Daniel John Schweitzer	4/2/2023
Hunter Lee Stauffer	4/2/2023
Wesley van Sliedrecht	4/2/2023
Jillian Anne Widmar	4/2/2023
Cameron Jason Yohn	4/2/2023

### **Adult Confirmands:**

Constance Cochran	4/2/2023
Joshua Jacquet	4/2/2023
James McCluskey	4/2/2023
Thomas Meier	4/2/2023
Kyle Schulz	4/2/2023
Kerry Jacquet	4/23/2023
Alexandria Dickey	4/23/2023

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

We have not been able to hold Vacation Bible School for a few years now, but we would very much like to bring it back this year from June 25-28 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 25. 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 28.

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 (637-7011; [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 28 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 offer what was done last year, which we called 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 or 2)

Decorator (1)

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

Arts and Crafts Coordinator (1 more)

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

Recreation Coordinator (1)

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.

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## **FELLOWSHIP FRIDAYS**

Join us on May 19 from 5:30-7:30pm, as we resume our Fellowship Fridays on the third Friday of each month. This month, tacos will be served as the main course! Please come as individuals or families, and if you do, please bring a side, dessert, or drink to share. We look forward to getting together again! 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. Everyone connected to St. John's is invited to join us each month! If you will be in attendance on May 19, please email Kimberly Chapman ([chapman@stjohnsracine.org](mailto:chapman@stjohnsracine.org)) or Sharon Adel ([adel@stjohnsracine.org](mailto:adel@stjohnsracine.org)).

## **SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY**

Please join the Stewardship Board and your fellow St. John's members to help clean up the grounds surrounding our church, school, and neighborhood on Saturday, May 13 at 9:00 am. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve St. John's and also offer some visibility to those who live in our community. There is no need to register, but the group will be splitting up and going to work the grounds around 9:10 am. If you arrive late, you'll probably see us and can just pick up where we're picking up!

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## **QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING**

The next quarterly voters' meeting will be held on Sunday, May 21 at 9am in the sanctuary. The 2023-2024 budget will be presented along with board elections. Please join us.

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## **2023-2024 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 21. Thank you in advance for your willingness to serve!

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## **MILAEGER MONEY FUNDRAISER**

Spring is almost here! In order to prepare for your planting and garden, order your Milaeger Money and support St. John's PTL at the same time. Milaeger Money is the same as cash. It does not expire. Remember – Milaeger Monday is good on living plants only. Order forms are due on May 5. Checks should be made payable to St. John's Lutheran PTL. The Milaeger Money certificates will be sent home on May 12. Order forms can be picked up in the back of the sanctuary or are attached to the electronic copy of the May newsletter.

## 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE HOMEROOM/5-8 GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS TEACHER

The Board of Christian Day School is pleased to announce that Mr. Jon Grant has accepted our offer to teach 5th-8th grade language arts and serve as the 8th grade homeroom teacher starting with the 2023-2024 school year.

## UPPER GRADE HOMEROOM/5-8 GRADE SCIENCE TEACHER CANDIDATES

The Board of Christian Day School is looking for candidates for an upper grade homeroom/5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher for the start of the 2023-2024 school year. If you know of any individuals that would be interested in this position, please fill out the form found at the back of the church and return it to the church office or send the name to Miss Pesch ([pesch@stjohnsracine.org](mailto:pesch@stjohnsracine.org)) or Mrs. Chapman ([chapman@stjohnsracine.org](mailto:chapman@stjohnsracine.org)).

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE AT ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL

There are several positions that we are looking to fill for the 2023-2024 school year. If you are interested in any of these positions or have any questions, please contact Miss Pesch by May 12.

2023-2024 open positions

- Kindergarten teacher aide
- Preschool teacher aide
- Part-time school secretary (15 hours/week)
- Extended childcare supervisor
  - \*6:30 a.m. to 8:40 a.m.
  - \*11:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.
  - \*3:45 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- Part time gym teacher (a four year degree required)
- Athletic director

## FROM YOUR DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

**End of Year Choral Gathering:** On Thursday, June 1st, 2023 beginning at 6:00 pm, we will gather at Reefpoint Marina for fellowship and will enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres. 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.

**Student Piano Recital:** Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 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!

A painter paints pictures on canvas. But musicians paint their pictures on silence." – Leopold Stokowski

## A NOTE FROM OUR SEMINARIAN

Dear St. John's of Racine,

We are now about halfway through the spring quarter, and all is going well. I am currently taking Catechetics, Church History III, Pauline Epistles, Confessing Christ in Today's World, and Greek readings. It is a busy quarter, but I am excited to be in the final quarter of the first year. Our son, Oliver, is now eight months old and is babbling to us. He also loves to practice walking and trying new foods. I was privileged to give my first sermon to my field work congregation at the end of the winter quarter, which went quite well.

I trust that you all had a wonderful Easter. I enjoyed visiting you all on Sunday of New Year's Day and assisting in the service. I hope to visit again sometime this summer, hopefully before summer Hebrew begins. We thank you for your gracious and continual generosity. Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

In Christ,

Jacob and Abby Stefanec



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

1-May	Joanne Griffin	18-May	Jillian Rosborough
2-May	Michael Terselic	19-May	Amalia Gilbert
3-May	Robert Albrecht	20-May	Carter McCluskey
3-May	Elaine Billings	20-May	Susan Monson
3-May	Leif Lovdahl	21-May	Holly Henslin
3-May	Haley Sollman	23-May	Miley Allesxandro
3-May	Julie Velasquez	23-May	John Bruening
4-May	Tony Chaudoir	23-May	Michael Fox
4-May	Kevin Hasseldahl	23-May	Aaron Henslin
4-May	Peter Tigges	24-May	Jaelle Charpentier
5-May	Carter Sandbach	24-May	Gary Filicetti
6-May	Cole Salinas	24-May	James Hlavka
6-May	Randall Schaeffer	24-May	Philip Kading
6-May	Hunter Stauffer	24-May	Jonathan Rosborough
7-May	Scott Phillips	24-May	Louis Schneider
8-May	Linnae Charpentier	25-May	Sydney Clausen
8-May	Marcella Geyer	26-May	Timothy Naegeli
9-May	Donald Riegelman	26-May	Tim Otto
10-May	Susan Erickson	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	Benson Burman
15-May	Davis Ambrose	29-May	Sharon Schaeffer
15-May	Jonah Mandli	30-May	Daniel Widmar
15-May	Gloria Mielke	31-May	Kristine Borgardt
15-May	Alyssa Stauffer	31-May	Brett Roy
16-May	Debra Moffatt	31-May	Haden Sollman
16-May	Micah van Schyndel	31-May	Tyler Stauffer
17-May	Darleen Cummings	31-May	Brayden Teglia
18-May	Taylor Griner		



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

## LIFE THOUGHTS FOR LUTHERANS –

May 2023

**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.*

**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.*

## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

### May 7 – 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 14 – 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 18 – Ascension

**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 21 – 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 28 – 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.

## 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.



## SENDING YOUR WORDS AS MAY FLOWERS TO OUR SHUT-INS

We should be beyond winter now. We've had "false-spring" starts, but now it's time for flowers! You might not be able to send real flowers to all of our shut-ins, (but maybe you could to one?) so please send some **words** to our shut-ins: words of HOPE, words of LIGHT, words of KINDNESS...and always with some of **the WORD** itself! 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. 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](mailto:louiseborgardt@gmail.com)

### SHUT INS

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
Ann Beckett	6603 Medley Drive, Racine, WI 53402	
Leola Christian	5321 Douglas Avenue, Apt. 101, Racine, WI 53402	262-886-0734
Pat Cole	6551 Mariner Drive, Unit 6, Racine, WI 53406	
Sue Erickson	5101 Wright Ave #215, Racine, WI 53406	262-260-8454
Gary & Shirley Filicetti	4710 N Main St, Racine, WI 53402	262-639-3721
Janet Fisa	<b>Elizabeth Gardens</b> 5111 Wright Avenue, Room 203, Racine, WI 53406	262-234-9859
Marcella Geyer	3139 Conrad Drive, Racine, WI 53404	262-634-8105
Gail Gotch	1916 Wisconsin Avenue, Apt. 359, Racine, WI 53403	262-221-6912
Mimi Hynek	5321 Douglas Avenue, Apt. 1156A, Racine, WI 53402	
Susan Monson	418 Shoreland Drive, Racine, WI 53402	262-639-8490
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	262-553-9470
Marlene Roepke	1201 Kingston Avenue, Racine, WI 53402	
Joanne Ruble	1108 N. Sunnyslope #104, Racine, WI 53406	262-498-3476
John Smith	1636 Raintree Lane, Racine, WI 53406	262-456-0073