

St. John Lutheran Church  
203 E. Church Street  
P.O. Box 36  
Royal, Illinois 61871

***Return Service Requested***

Josh Frerichs, Council President, Parish  
Life/Evangelism  
Bryce Frerichs, Council Vice-President,  
Hunger-Stewardship  
Debbie Ackerman, Council Secretary, Worship  
Debbie Suits, Council Treasurer  
Kris Francisco, Youth  
Emily Johnson/Allie Maul, S.S.  
Superintendents, Parish Ed  
Gene Osterbur, Property  
Melinda Huls, Parish Life/Evangelism  
Chelsey Mohr, Worship  
Marsha Osterbur, Hunger-Stewardship  
Mike Heidle,  
Church Office Secretaries:  
Valerie Birge, Tammy Olson,  
Custodian: Kathy Waller

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
ROYAL, ILLINOIS 61871  
PERMIT NO. 2



# ROYAL CHURCH NEWS

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## St. John's Newsletter

*That all may know Christ and the power of his resurrection.*  
based on Philippians 3:10

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# JANUARY 2025



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St. John Lutheran Church  
203 E. Church Street  
P.O. Box 36  
Royal, Illinois 61871

**(217) 583-3295**

email: [churchoffice@stjohnroyal.org](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnroyal.org)  
church website: [stjohnroyal.org](http://stjohnroyal.org)

## Message from Debbie Ackerman.....

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we are coming into 2025, I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and God's blessing to you. With the start of this year there are sure to be a lot of changes to get through in our lives that may cause some anxiety to us. Historians would probably call our era "the age of anxiety". Anxiety is the natural result when our hopes are centered in anything short of God and his will for us. When we make anything else our goal, frustration and defeat are inevitable. Though we have it easier than previous generations growing up, we have more worry. Though we have less real cause for anxiety that our forefathers we are inwardly more anxious.

In Philippians 4:4-6, 4) *"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again, Rejoice. 5) Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6) Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation by prayer and petition, with Thanksgiving, present you requests to God"*.

God has never promised to remove our troubles, problems, or difficulties we are having. In fact, sometimes we feel the truly committed Christian is in conflict with the society around us more than any other person. Society is heading in one direction and the Christian is going in the opposite direction. This brings about friction and conflict. God has promised in the midst of trouble and conflict a genuine peace, a sense of assurance that the worldly person never knows. This is my goal to find peace.

Philippians 4:7 states *"And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus"*.

Happy New Year's,

Debbie



### ONGOING PRAYER LIST

Sandie Osterbur	Allen Davis ( <i>friend of Stan Duitsman</i> )
Ray Manselle	Abby Lundquist ( <i>friend of Ray Manselle</i> )
Ella Frerichs	Mike Potter ( <i>nephew of Linda Post</i> )
Curt Blair	Peyton McDonnaugh ( <i>friend of Marsha Osterbur</i> )
Jeff Saathoff	Hannah Nirider ( <i>friend of Parker Poole</i> )
Lois Frerichs	Amy Dufelmeier ( <i>sister of Hilary Whitt</i> )
Stan Duitsman	Barbara Carter ( <i>daughter of Betty Huls</i> )
Stan Osterbur	Aleyah Carley ( <i>daughter of Teresa Thornton Carley</i> )
Betty Huls	Darrel Jacobs ( <i>friend of Tracy Wahlfeldt</i> )
Roger Whitt	Samantha Hutchinson ( <i>cousin of Hilary Whitt</i> )
Chris Huls	Rhonda Miller, Jane Cress ( <i>friends of Hilary Whitt</i> )
Mandi Ramm	Camille Wissmann
Nick Christians	Holly Hoffschneider
Anna Wentzloff	
Sharry Hovel, Janey Huls	( <i>sisters of Susie Schlueter</i> )
Harold Miles, Landon Potter	( <i>brother and great-great nephew of Linda Post</i> )
Lois Henderson, Mary Crider, Carol Doman	( <i>friends of Ray and Kendra Manselle</i> )
Stoney Wireman, Frank and Mary Kay Kimell, Kerry Blankenbegher	( <i>friends of Gloria Grant</i> )

**Families of:** Henry Wayne Breymeyer (*father of Bruce Breymeyer*)

#### **Nursing Home, Assisted Living Residents:**

Mary Lou Ackerman, Berniece Aden, Sharon Ault, Floyd Bohlen, Dorothy Bruns, Regina Gronewald, Elizabeth Hafermann, Janis Loschen, Gerry Osterbur, Robert and Dorene Pflugmacher, Myron Sage

**Homebound:** Dorothy Buhr, Marvin and Alice Duitsman, Florence Frerichs, Lois Frerichs, Marilyn Frerichs, Harold and Darlene Hovel, Herb and Bev Thompson

**Our Members (80+):** Ray and Loretta Aden, Brenda Alsip, Erna Amerman, Carl Beard, Dale Behrens, Emil and Carolyn Blobaum, Vernon and Wilma Buhr, Billie Busboom, Chuck Carl, Eldred Cornelius, Gloria Ehmen, Kay Fiscus, Carolyn Frerichs, Rita Frerichs, Barbara Fruhling, Bernice Fruhling-Cash, Janis Loschen, JoAnn Lynch, Betty Osterbur, Ella Osterbur, June Osterbur, Kenny Osterbur, Marvin and Belva Osterbur, Sandie Osterbur, Denver Phelps, Linda Post, Ed and JoAnn Rademaker, Roxie Sage, Aleta Schlueter, Norma Sherfey, John and Donna Thompson

## PRAYER CHAIN

The members of the Prayer Chain uplift those who need prayers and will continue to do so in the new year. However, a new contact list will need to be completed and will include the current council members.



The members of the Prayer Chain are contacted by email regarding those who need prayers. So, if you would like to be included as a member of the Prayer Chain, or if you are currently a member and are unable to continue, please call the church office by January 12. If you would like to be added as a member of the Prayer Chain, please submit your name, phone number and email address.



...**Prayer Requests for the Prayer Chain** begin by calling the church office at 217-583-3295 or texting 217-583-3805. Please call the church office, Pastor Blobaum, or our council members when one of our members or a loved one is hospitalized and continue to share updates with us here at the church.



### DESIGNATED BENEVOLENCE

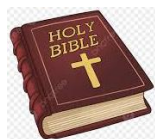
During the month of January, the designated benevolence is for local Emergency Shelters to help those in need. Please use the center portion of the offering envelopes for your gifts.

*A special thank you to all of you who contributed.*

The **pulpit** will be filled the month of **January** by:



January 5 – Pastor Emil Blobaum  
January 12 – Pastor Greg Smith  
January 19 – Pastor Baderschneider  
January 26 – Bret Trefren



We patiently wait for God to provide us with guidance and direction. There hasn't been any change since last month's update. Currently in the NALC vacancy list there are 62 congregations actively seeking to call a pastor. There are 57 openings for full-time ministry and 27 openings for part-time ministry. The Call process is about the Lord shaping our congregation in the transition. Pray for patience, discernment, and clarity in the plans the Lord has established. Thanks be to God who is always with us, and guiding us, through our journey of faith.

Ephesians 4:2-3 *"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."*

Your brother in Christ,  
Josh Frerichs, Call Committee Chair



### PARISH ED/YOUTH NEWS

**Sunday School** is each Sunday morning at 8:30.

**Confirmation** will be held here at St. John on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour, as well as on Wednesdays at Peace of Peace or here at St. John at 6:30 p.m.





People of St. John,

During this season Advent and Christmas, you all will be in my prayers as you prepare to celebrate the coming hope of Christ with the world.

Grace & Peace,

*Rev. Tim Krick*

St. John Lutheran Church,

For many years you have prayed with us for a movement of the Holy Spirit among the Samburu in Kenya. This year it appears that those prayers have been answered as hundreds are asking for baptism and instruction in the faith. Thank you for joining us in prayer!

*Leslie Urie*

Prayer Mobilization, World Mission Prayer League



**Council members for 2025  
and their phone numbers:**

**Josh Frerichs, Council President (217) 722-3538**

**Bryce Frerichs, Council Vice-President (217) 255-2501**

**Debbie Ackerman, Council Secretary (217) 202-7893**

**Debbie Suits Council Treasurer (217)**

**Chelsey Phillips, Council member (217) 369-7830**

**Emily Johnson, Council member (217) 840-3474**

**Mike Heidle, Council member (217) 516-0085**

**Gene Osterbur, Council member (847) 345-4817**

**Melinda Huls, Council member (217) 390-1247**

**Marsha Osterbur, Council member (217) 840-3290**

**Kris Francisco, Council member (217) 840-2531**



**Meeting  
Minutes**

**COUNCIL NOTES**

1. Council met on Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00. Both the 2024 and 2025 Council members were in attendance. A meal was shared by members of both councils.
2. 2024 Council President Derek Sieberns led the council in the devotion on Luke 2:10.
3. Council members present: Derek Sieberns, Debbie Ackerman, Bryce Frerichs, Gene Osterbur, Melinda Huls, Josh Frerichs, Chelsey Phillips, Kris Francisco, Allie Maul, and Mike Heidle. Guests: Valerie Birge, Tammy Olson, and Keith Cunningham. Absent: Marsha Osterbur, Steve Behrens, Debbie Sjuts.
4. Church Pictorial has been placed on hold for now. The committee is looking into other options.
5. Property – The church parsonage will be needing a new roof in the spring.
6. Youth – The Confirmation Class is planning a “Soup or Bowl” on Super Bowl Sunday.
7. Bryce Frerichs has been updating the church website.
8. The church will be assisting with the expense of the youth mission trip next summer.
9. Installation of Council and Committees will be held during worship on **January 5<sup>th</sup>**. The Reorganization Meeting will be held **January 19<sup>th</sup>** following the worship service.
10. The next council meeting is Monday, **January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025**, at 7:00 p.m. \*Please note this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month instead of the 3<sup>rd</sup>.



**ADULT INSTRUCTION CLASS**



In February there will be an adult instruction class for adults who would like to become a member of the church. If you would be interested, let the office, a council member or Pastor Blobaum know.



## 2025 COUNCIL and COMMITTEES

The annual meeting of St. John Lutheran Church, Royal, was held following worship on Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. Installation of the 2025 council and committee members will be held during worship on Sunday, **January 5, 2025**. The following people have been selected to serve on the council and committees for the new year. Please keep them all in your prayers throughout the new year.

**COUNCIL:** *Josh Frerichs* (council president), *Bryce Frerichs* (council vice-president), *Debbie Suits* (treasurer), *Debbie Ackerman* (secretary), *Chelsey Phillips*, *Mike Heidle*, *Allie Maul / Emily Johnson* (S.S. superintendents), *Kris Fransico*, *Gene Osterbur*, *Marsha Osterbur*, and *Melinda Huls*.

**COMMITTEES:** **Nominating** – *Gloria Grant, Teresa Aden, Daniele Frerichs, Derek Sieberns, Shannon Christians*; **Auditing**– *Martin Alblinger, Scott Sieberns, Daniele Frerichs, Doug Wesley*; **Counting** – *Kris Francisco, Joellyn Pedro, Kathie Alblinger, Scott Sieberns, Lori Hovel, Darlene Osterbur*; **Worship** – *Miki Wesley, Judy White, Donna Townsley, Hilary Whitt, Myrna Craig, Deanna Loschen, Susi Huls, Tonya Ayers*; **Parish Ed** – *Dana Sjoken, Stacy Smith, Dawn Huls, Sarah Wolken, Meghan Loschen*; **VBS Committee** - *Chelsey (Mohr) Phillips, Sarah Wolken, Jodi Bohlen*; **Parish Life-Evangelism** – *Teresa Aden, Scott and Tracy Wahlfeldt, Chad and Peggy Barnes, Bruce and Shelley Breymeyer, Ed and Jodi Bohlen, Anita Lieb*; **Hunger-Stewardship** – *Gene and Deanna Osterbur, Donita Osterbur, Allan and Susie Schlueter, Chuck and Judy Carl, Kris Francisco, Kathie Alblinger*; **Property** – *Derek Sieberns, Devin Wright, Jared Aden, Alex Anderson, Neal Ehmen, Bruce Frerichs, Calvin Mohr, Tyler Wright, Austin Maul, Kurt Wolken*; **Youth** – *Laura Ketchum, Allie Maul, Parker Poole, Ray Manselle*; **Trust Fund Trustees**– *Aaron Ketchum, Mike Francisco, Doug Bluhm, Ray Manselle, Allan Schlueter*; **Memorial Secretary**– *Kathie Alblinger, Doug Bluhm*; **Cradle Roll**– *Wilma Buhr*.



## SOME OF “THIS AND THAT”



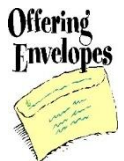
...**Flock Group Shepherd for February** is *Laura Ketchum*. She will be contacting her flock group for volunteers. *Thank you to all that volunteer!*

...**Reminder List**, printed in this newsletter, lists those who are assigned to help with various tasks and responsibilities during the month. If a conflict arises, please **find your own replacement** and **inform the church office of the changes**. *A big thank you for volunteering to help!*

...**Altar Flowers** are provided each weekend by donations from members of the congregation. House of Flowers in Rantoul provides and delivers them. The cost per vase is **\$20.00**. Payment is to be made to the church and earmarked for flowers. You can sign up on the chart posted on the north office door for one or both vases and indicate whether it's for a special occasion.



...**Offering envelopes** for 2025 will be available for pick up from the lounge. If you cannot find your boxed set and would like to use the envelopes, please contact the church office. If your boxed set is there but you **do not use the envelopes**, also **contact the church office**, or leave your boxed set in the office with a note, “do not use”.



...**Education Trust Fund** is set up in the Multiple Funds account. Donations may be given to this fund through your offerings marked “Education Trust” (divided equally between the Gossett and Ramm families or you may give specifically to one family). These funds are used to help with their school fees, supplies and expenses.



“this and that” (continued)



...**There are old cassette tapes and VCR recordings** that need to be disposed of. These recordings are from past years sermons, funeral services, and programs. If you are interested in any of these recordings, please let Josh Frerichs know.



...**Memorials and gifts** to St. John Lutheran Cemetery may be given by cash, or checks made out to **St. John Lutheran Cemetery**, and **given to Ron Duitsman, John R. Thompson, or Chuck Carl.**

...**St. John Cemetery Board** held their annual meeting on Thursday, December 19 at 8:30 am here at St. John.

**Board Meeting**



...**Sound System operators** are needed. The church is searching for someone who would like to help operate the sound system each Sunday and for special services. Beginning next year someone is needed for the months of May and August. If you are interested contact Derek Sieberns or Josh Frerichs.



...**The Call Committee** is asking for photos and videos from congregation members. Do you have photos or videos of St. John activities you are willing to share for St. John media? If so, please send them to [StJohnRoval61871@gmail.com](mailto:StJohnRoval61871@gmail.com)



...**St. Joseph Methodist Church Food Pantry** dates for this month, is **January 2<sup>nd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>**. The line starts at 4:30 on the west side of the church. Questions contact Marsha Osterbur.

To our dear Royal Family!

Thank you so very much for the generous gift given recently towards bringing the Truth of Jesus into the heart of rural Bangladesh. Your prayers of support that accompany these funds are deeply appreciated too. Jackie will be in Bangladesh in February to bring your love and greetings in person.

We'll take this opportunity also to share the next step in the journey the Lord has us on. Within 7 months of moving to Jay's home area, very sadly his brother Arlen passed. We very much appreciated your thoughtful support at that time. Most of us know the legalities involved in such a scenario when land and property are involved. What a blessing to be here as we process this all together as a family. The plan, at the moment, is that we will move into the farmhouse sometime in the spring of '25.

Meanwhile, in terms of ministry, our loving Father has called us to an interesting role in the World Mission Prayer League. The mission you're now already aware of, pray for and support. We've been accepted as Associate (not full-time) Workers to support our fellow workers overseas with 1:1 visits when needed. Working overseas in different cultures has many challenges. Rather than wait until they become critical, and people have to return home, we are available to spend short amounts of time to provide counsel, prayer and support. Our first assignment is to spend January, May and September next year with a family serving in the Middle East. Alongside this, when in the US - which we expect to be most of the time - we will represent WMPL at churches and other events. Jay continues with pulpit supply on request. Jackie continues with her Kingdom Business, Motif.

As this season of Good Will continues to unfold, our hearts are full of gratitude. Thankful to be one with you, we keep the fellowship of St John Lutheran Church in our prayers for the journey of growth you're on as our Father prepares you for your next pastor, and the next pastor for you.

With thanksgiving and deep hope, *Jay & Jackie Johnson*

**Isaiah 41:10** "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

## EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS



Thank you to all who gave memorials and donations to St. John Cemetery this past year. It is greatly appreciated!

*St. John Cemetery Board*

St. John Church Family,

We would like to thank everyone for your memorials, prayers, kind words, visits, cards, food, and expressions of sympathy on the death of our Grandson Corey. It meant so much and helped us and our family get through this tragedy. He is at home now in Jesus arms.



*John and Donna Thompson*



Thank you for all the birthday cards that you sent and the phone calls that you made to us on our birthdays. We greatly appreciate them.

**Herb & Bev**

**Thompson**

Dear People of God at St. John,

I just received your check in the amount of \$500.00. You can be sure it is a huge blessing in our orphans over in Malawi!

We continue to be able to support six feeding days of nearly 900 orphans and they have been in famine season there.

Thank you so very much!

Very sincerely,  
Jan Fisher, Treasure



A big "Thank You" to all who donated items to the Christmas Projects. (Giving Tree, Salt & Light, and Carle.) Your generous gift helped make several less fortunate have a Merrier Christmas.

"this and that" (*continued*)

...**The Fair-Trade** cabinet is stocked with coffee, English Breakfast tea, and milk chocolate bars! The price is as marked. All proceeds will go to Pay It Forward.



## CHURCH OFFICE NEWS

...**Church Office Hours** are Monday through Friday, **8:30 - 3:00**, lunch break typically between **12:00 - 1:00**.



...The **church office** second landline number **217-583-3805** has been changed to a **cell phone** and is able to **receive/send texts**, so please feel free to use this number if it is easier for you to send a message to the office.

... The church email is a really good way to get the office information. It is email: **churchoffice@stjohnroyal.org**

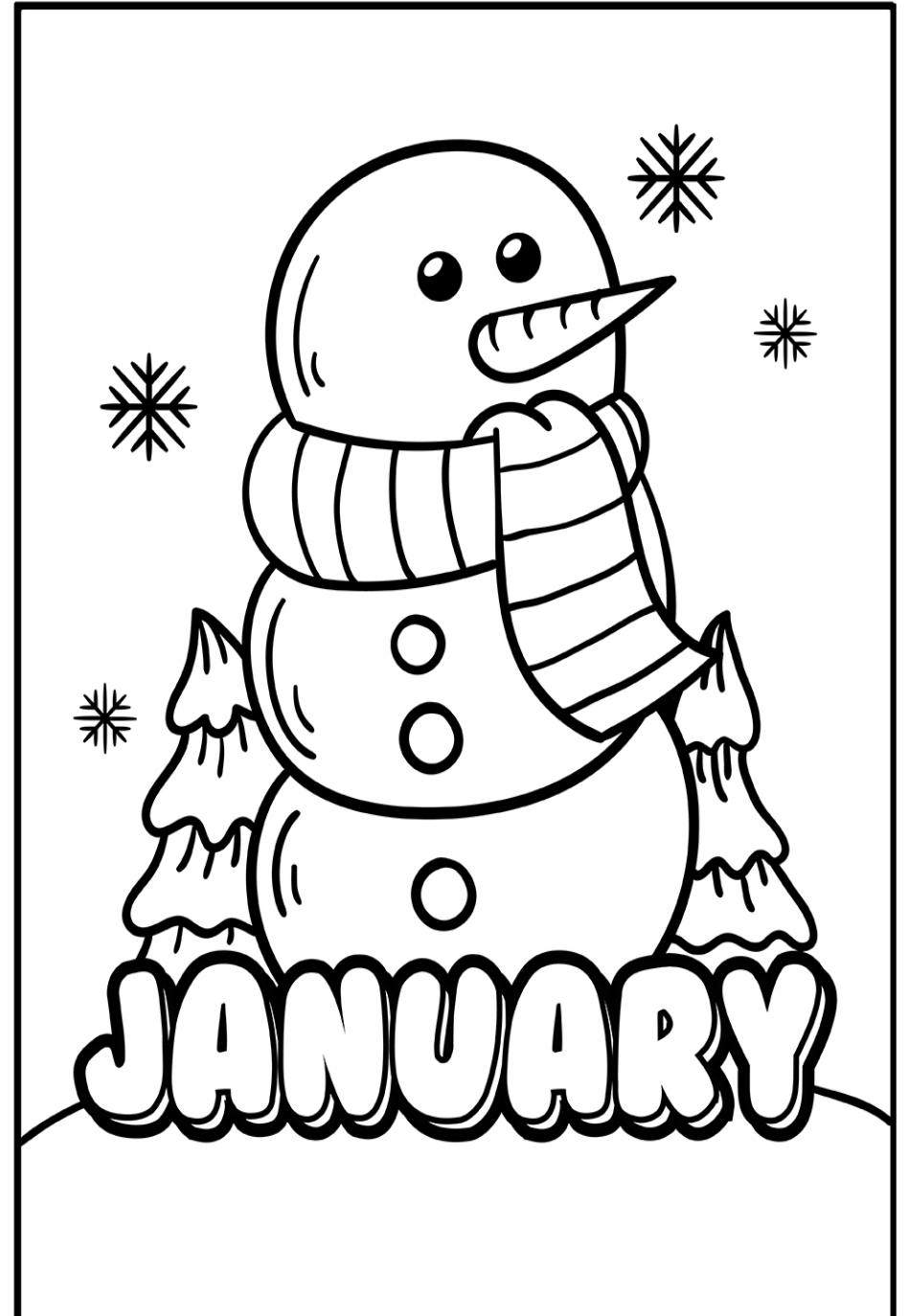


...Be sure to stop in the church office and say "hello" and welcome to **Valerie Birge**, the new full-time church secretary.

...The deadline for the February Newsletter is **Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup>**. Information needs to be in the office by the deadline to be printed in the newsletter.









**A Mission Trip** for our current 8<sup>th</sup> grade and high school students is available through Prince of Peace. They will be traveling to Erie, Pennsylvania from July 6<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup>. These are home repair mission trips that require no skills for the students or chaperones. If you are interested or have any questions, contact Laura Ketchum.



**...Handbells and Adult Choir** are taking a short winter break and will resume rehearsals in February.



**A CONGREGATIONAL PICTORIAL DIRECTORY** is in the works! Shelby Weckel will be taking church member's pictures for the directory.



The dates are as follows:  
 Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup> -10am-3pm  
 Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> -11am-3pm  
 Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup> – 10am-3pm  
 Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> – 11am-3pm  
 Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup> – 10am-3pm  
 Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> – 11am-3pm  
 Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> – 10am-3pm  
 Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup> – 11am-3pm  
 Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> 10am-3pm  
 Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> -11am-3pm



### **YOUTH ICE SKATING**

The youth of St. John are invited to go ice skating on Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, from 1:30-4:00 pm, at the U of I.

Additional opportunities for our Homebound and Nursing Home members will be available, as needed. Be on the lookout for sign-up sheets that will be placed in the entry areas for people to sign-up, in the near future. If you have any questions, please reach out to Marsha Osterbur at (217) 840-3290 or Anita Lieb at (217) .



Layton is the son of  
Cody and Emily (Mulcahey) Scott.  
His sponsors are Sydney Billimack, Rachel  
Gibbens, and Connor Scott.



## OFFICIAL ACTS

*Layton Wayne Scott*  
was baptized into the family of Christ  
here at St. John on Tuesday, December 26, 2023.





**They shall  
bring gold and  
frankincense,  
and shall  
proclaim the  
praise of  
the Lord.**

Isaiah 60.6



## **EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS**

*Our heartfelt thanks for your continued prayers this past year for our mother, Emma Bluhm, upon her fall at home, hospitalization, surgery, and stroke at the end of January and during her stay at Country Health in Gifford. Also, thank you for your prayers, cards, concern, memorials, and the beautiful candle/floral arrangement following her passing on December 7. A special thank you to Pastor and Debbie Greer of Homer for the wonderful service at the cemetery, and to all of you who attended. We appreciated your support and presence. God blessed her journey on this earth for over 95 years. We miss her but celebrate that she is now at peace with Jesus in her heavenly home. God's blessings to all of you!*



*David and Ginny Bluhm,  
Davida Bluhm, Deanna Bluhm,  
Dean Bluhm, Debbie and Rodney Suits,  
and our families*

Miki Wesley is the Shepherd for February. She will be contacting her flock group for volunteers.

...The **church office** second landline number **217-583-3805** has been changed to a **cell phone** and is also able to receive/send texts.