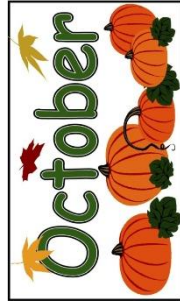


St. John Lutheran Church
203 E. Church Street
P.O. Box 36
Royal, Illinois 61871

Return Service Requested

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



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PERMIT NO. 2



ROYAL CHURCH NEWS

St. John's Newsletter

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

OCTOBER 2025



St. John Lutheran Church
203 E. Church Street
P.O. Box 36
Royal, Illinois 61871
(217) 583-3295 or (217) 583-3805

email: churchoffice@stjohnroyal.org
church website: stjohnroyal.org

FROM BRYCE FRERICHS...

I walked into my place of work on a Saturday morning several months ago, needing to make some quick copies and then lock back up and leave. No one around. There was one single printed piece of paper lying facing down on the printer. I picked it up, read it, and was moved. My company has several core values. One of which is being solution oriented.

Arriving at those solutions for our customers is not always easy, and not always a 9-5 job. We take it home, we take it to the dinner table, and we take it to sleep. Rinse and repeat. This piece of paper was not intended for me (or was it?) but someone scanned this devotion for the purpose of another individual or two who would undoubtedly be first in on Monday.

Although the printed devotion had no mention of source, after some research through the theme of “spiritual quicksand”, I did find it was a daily devotion from Dr. Tony Evans, who I often reach for. Being solution oriented is not only a core value for my or any organization, but for us as individuals as well. There is also a Source for this...

Sometimes life gets so overwhelming that we feel we are caught in quicksand.

The problem with quicksand is that when someone gets stuck in it, they usually resort to what comes naturally to them. They thrash and flail their arms as they try to climb out. Unfortunately, this just makes things worse. Since quicksand is a combination of sand mixed with water, it doesn't have the friction of sand on sand. Without this friction, a person has nothing to push against to extract themselves. They just sink down even deeper.

To get free from quicksand, you must shun the natural response and do what seems unnatural. You must fight your inclinations and simply relax. Relaxing will slow down the sinking and allow you to paddle gently, just like treading water. It will give you time to either have someone pull you out of or to slowly paddle to more solid ground.



ONGOING PRAYER LIST

Stan Duitsman	Steve Mock (cousin of Gloria Grant)
Kendra Manselle	Ryan Gernentz (<i>son of Jim Gernentz brother to Casey Ganentz</i>)
Belva Osterbur	Hannah Worley (<i>daughter of Doug & Miki Wesley</i>)
Nathan Buhr	Brixley Pickering (<i>friend of Gloria Grant</i>)
Ella Frerichs	Kim Brooks Allen (<i>friend of Miki Wesley</i>)
Betty Huls	Abby Lundquist (<i>friend of Ray Manselle</i>)
Chris Huls	Peyton McDonnaugh (<i>friend of Marsha Osterbur</i>)
Nick Christians	Hannah Nirider (<i>friend of Parker Poole</i>)
Anna Wentzloff	Amy Dufelmeier (<i>sister of Hilary Whitt</i>)
	Barbara Carter (<i>daughter of Betty Huls</i>)
	Aleyah Carley (<i>daughter of Teresa Thornton Carley</i>)
	Darrel Jacobs (<i>friend of Tracy Wahlfeldt</i>)
	Samantha Hutchinson (<i>cousin of Hilary Whitt</i>)
	Rhonda Miller, Jane Cress (<i>friend of Hilary Whitt</i>)
	Janey Huls (<i>sister of Susie Schlueter</i>)

Lois Henderson, Mary Crider, Carol Doman (*friends of Ray and Kendra Manselle*)
Stoney Wireman, Frank and Mary Kay Kimell, Kerry Blankenbegher (*friends of Gloria Grant*)

Family of: Floyd Bohlen, and Vernon Buhr

Nursing Home, Assisted Living Residents:

Mary Lou Ackerman, Berniece Aden, Sharon Ault, Regina Gronewald, Betty Huls, Elizabeth Hafermann, Harold and Darlene Hovel, Janis Loschen, Robert and Dorene Pflugmacher, Myron Sage, Norma Sherfey

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

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



YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Children will continue to have their own bulletins to use during service. This will be a way to help them be more engaged during the service and sermon. Make sure you are getting one before service begins!



The Sunday School Youth will continue to be greeters each Sunday and help as ushers on the second Sunday of each month.

Students who received Bibles for attendance were present for at least 27 of 34 Sundays for the 2024-2025 Sunday School year: *Collins Whitt, Emarie Mohr, Sawyer Wolken, Jace Crozier, Brooks Whitt, Arnold Loschen, Ronald Loschen, Myles Wolken, Tucker Wolken, Emilia Bohlen, Ellie Loschen, Lincoln Meier, Jeremiah Bohlen, Blake Lockey, Ben Loschen, Devin Loschen, Brady Ramm, James Ketchum, and Jacob Wells*

2025-2026 CONFIRMATION CLASS



Confirmation classes are being held on Sunday mornings during Sunday School and again on Sunday. Confirmation will be like last year with us combining with Pastor Andy and Prince of Peace

later on Sundays and rotating between St. Joseph and Royal locations. Laura Ketchum will again help coordinate confirmation activities and can be contacted with questions.

Cardboard Campout for all in 7-12 grades will be held on Saturday, October 4th, at 6:00 pm. If you have any questions, please contact Laura Ketchum.



(Bryce cont.)

Life can often feel like quicksand. We get sucked into the drama, pain, and loss that life brings our way. And while our natural inclination is to fight our way out by leveraging all our strength, doing so will usually only cause us to sink further. God's ways are higher than our ways. His thoughts are higher than our thoughts.

In times of struggle, He asks us to let go of our own solutions and trust His solutions. He asks us to abide in Him and in His word.

He asks us to simply believe. In the words of Jesus, "*Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me*" (John 14:1). Dr. Tony Evans

Blessings to You,
Bryce Frerichs

COUNCIL NOTES

1. Council met on Monday, September 15, at 7:00 pm. Josh Frerichs led devotion over Romans 8:28 "*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*" Discussion was followed by prayer.



- Council members present were Josh Frerichs, Bryce Frerichs, Debbie Ackerman, Gene Osterbur, Kris Francisco, Melinda Huls, Whitney Highfill, Mike Heidle, Chelsey Phillips.
- Absent members were Marsha Osterbur & Allie Maul/Emily Johnson.
- Guests present were Keith Cunningham and Valerie Birge.
- Annual Committee Reports are **due** in the Church office no later than **Friday, October 10, 2025**. Annual meeting is tentatively set for November 9, 2025.
- A donation in September was collected for the Texas Flood Disaster Relief Fund and will be sent to them.
- Property-Parsonage roof to be started on September 25th.
- Nominating- all spots are filled for 2026 year.
- Next council meeting is Monday, October 20, at 7:00 pm.



Council members 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
Gene Osterbur, Council member (847) 345-4817
Melinda Huls, Council member (217) 390-1247
Chelsey Phillips, Council member (217) 369-7830
Kris Francisco, Council member (217) 840-2531
Mike Heidle, Council member (217) 516-0085
Whitney Highfill, Council member (217) 202-6344
Emily Vilven, Council member (217) 840-3474



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 deadline for the **November Newsletter** is **Friday, October 17th**. Please, have information to the office by that date.

...**Annual Committee Reports** are **DUE** to the church office by **Friday, October 10th**.



...The office is working on the church directory for **2026**. If you have any changes to phone numbers, addresses, and/or emails, please, let the office know **as soon as possible**.



(“this and that” cont.)



ST. JOSEPH METHODIST CHURCH Food Pantry dates are October 2nd and 30th.



...Death over Dinner- November 2nd, 12:00pm. How we want to die – represents the most important and costly conversation America isn't having. Having conversations about death and funeral planning are very uncomfortable but we have created an uplifting interactive workshop that transforms this seemingly difficult conversation into one of deep engagement. By breaking bread together, we are reminded that even in facing difficult topics, we do so with the presence of Christ, and the support of one another. Please sign up so we can plan accordingly for lunch! Any questions, contact Laura Ketchum.



DESIGNATED BENEVOLENCE



During the month of October, the designated benevolence is for NALC Mission Congregations. Please use the center portion of the offering envelopes for your special contributions.

A special thank you to all of you who contribute!

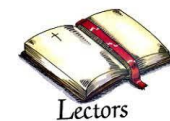


GREAT RIVERS MISSION DISTRICT CONVOCATION

Our annual Great Rivers Mission District Convocation will be held on Saturday, October 11th, at American Lutheran Church, 500 Church Dr, Rantoul. The cost of the meal will be \$10. We will start registration at 9:00 a.m. with registration. The convocation will open at 9:30 with worship. If you would like to attend, please contact either Josh Frerichs or Bryce Frerichs.

(“church office news” cont.)

...LECTORS: For those who volunteer to lector, the office will email you the scriptures **no later than Friday afternoon**. A copy will also be left for you on the desk in the north office. If you do not have an email, a copy may be printed for you to pick up in the church office on Friday. The office will email and print the scriptures once the bulletins are approved by the pastor for that Sunday.



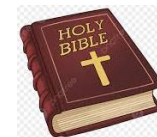
...If you are interested in becoming a member of St. John, please, reach out to Pastor Emil Blobaum or let the church office know. We would love to have you!

Classes have begun and are being held on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm in the basement.

...The pulpit will be filled the month of **October** by:



October 5th – Pastor Blobaum
October 12th – Pastor Greg Smith
October 19th – Pastor Baderschneider
October 26th – Pastor Richard Lewis



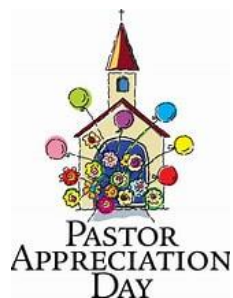
WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday School will be held at **8:30 a.m.**
Worship is at **9:45 a.m.** Holy Communion is celebrated on the first and third Sundays of the month.



...Hanging of the Greens will be on Sunday, November 30th.





PASTOR APPRECIATION

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. A time set aside each year to honor and give thanks for our pastors who give, care, and serve us and our communities in remarkable ways.

We will honor our pastors on Sunday, October 12th.

Remember to show the pastors your appreciation with notes, cards, words of encouragement, etc. this month. Most of all remember that while October is set aside as Pastor Appreciation Month, our pastors and church leaders should be encouraged, celebrated, and graciously thanked all year long. So, shower them with love, understanding, and support every day of the year.



MUSIC APPRECIATION

October is also Music Appreciation Month. A very special thank you to the musicians whose hands and voices God uses to touch our hearts.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER APPRECIATION

We will celebrate Sunday School Teacher Appreciation on Sunday, October 12th this year!

This is a great time to let the Sunday school teachers in your life, and your child's life, know how much they are appreciated!



(*"this and that" cont.*)

...**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.



...**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.

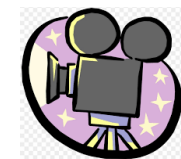
...**The Fair-Trade** cabinet is stocked with coffee, English Breakfast tea, and milk chocolate bars! The price is as marked. All proceeds will go to Pay It Forward.



...**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.**



...**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 StJohnRoyal61871@gmail.com



SOME OF "THIS AND THAT"



...**Flock Group Shepherd for November is Deanna Loschen.** She will be contacting her flock group for volunteers. *Thank you to all that volunteer!*



...**The Flock Group Shepherd for December will be Miki Wesley.**

Monthly **Women of St. John Bible Study** will meet on the third Thursday afternoon of this month at 1:30 here in the church basement for study and fellowship. This month they will meet on **October 16th**. Ella Osterbur will host.



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.



...**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.

EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS

Church Family,

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity in the heat of August.

Emil and Carolyn Blobaum



St. John Church Family,

Thank you so much for your prayers, expressions of support, calls and memorial gifts to honor our father's passing.

A special thank you to Pastor Blobaum, Valerie, Gloria, Loretta, and the women who prepared and served the meal. The day was uplifting, comforting, and the tribute we envisioned.



*The Lord Bless You,
The Floyd Bohlen Family*

To Our Church Family,

We want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the love, prayers, and support you have shown us after the passing of our husband, dad, grandpa. Your kindness, encouragement, and care have lifted us during this difficult time. We are deeply grateful for the meals, flowers, cards, and most of all, your prayers.

A special thank you to the ladies who prepared and served the lunch. Your hard work and loving hands provided such comfort to our family and friends, and we are so appreciative.

Our church family has truly been a source of comfort and strength, and we are so blessed to be surrounded by such love.



With love and gratitude,
The Family of Vernon Buhr

(“expression of thanks” cont.)

Dear Friends:

Thank you so much for your recent donation! Your gift helps to ensure that homeless pets in Champaign County will always have a safe place to land and a second chance for a loving home.

As an independent non-profit organization, we do not receive any government funding and rely entirely on donations to support our animal shelter. Because of the generosity of supporters like you, over 1,500 animals find new, loving homes each year.

In addition to bringing people and animals together for life, we are working hard to address the causes of pet homelessness through our outreach and education programs. These initiatives include low-cost spay/neuter services, dog training classes, and a variety of education programs for children and youth.

Thank you for sharing our commitment to animal welfare and making sure that no pets are ever truly homeless in Champaign County.

Very truly yours,
Mary “Tief” Tiefenbrunn
Executive Director



St. John Youth Group Ministry,

Thank you so much for your fundraising efforts and the beautiful sentiments you expressed in your letter. It is so nice to receive such thoughtful words in appreciation for what we do.

Our organization depends on the kindness and generosity of organizations, like yours. Thank you for setting an example of community service and philanthropy.

All best,

Mary Tiefenbrunn



"But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently." — Romans 8:25

The Call Committee continues to trust in God's perfect timing as we move forward in the process of discerning the next pastor for our congregation. We are reminded that while our human desire is for quick answers, God's plan unfolds according to His greater wisdom and purpose.

In the NALC there are 66 congregations actively seeking to call a pastor, 38 openings for full-time ministry and 28 for part-time ministry.

The committee will be meeting on September 28th to discuss a potential pastoral candidate. We ask for your continued prayers for clarity, unity, and discernment as we seek to follow the Holy Spirit's lead.

Thank you for your support and patience as we prayerfully and faithfully walk this journey together.

In Christ,
Josh

REFORMATION October 31, 1517



It was 508 years ago when Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the church door at Wittenberg making his statement to the world, thus giving birth to the Reformation. The three main ideas that are central to Luther's theology are that salvation comes from God's grace (Sola Gratia) through faith alone (Sola Fide) in Jesus Christ, and that the Bible is the highest source of authority (Sola Scriptura).

Come as we celebrate the Reformation on Sunday, October 26th.

