

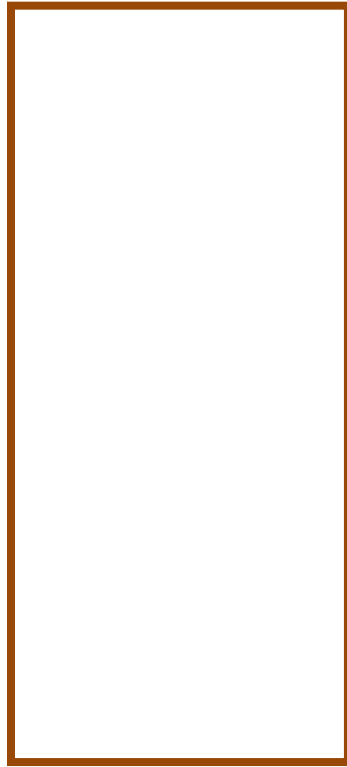
St. John Lutheran Church
203 E. Church Street
P.O. Box 36
Royal, Illinois 61871

Return Service Requested

November

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

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



ROYAL CHURCH NEWS

St. John's Newsletter

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

NOVEMBER 2025



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

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

FROM Debbie Ackerman...

Scripture reading, I Thessalonians 5:18

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Has there ever been a time that you felt overwhelmed whether it was at work, home or around family and friends? I admit that I have. I read somewhere that if you do this trivial exercise and write down three things that you are thankful for every day, your perspective might shift to positive feelings instead of becoming so overwhelmed. I did try this exercise, and it did help my outlook on life change for the better. I started to see God's hand at work in everyday situations. Even the little things became better, and my heart grew lighter as I focused on the blessings in my life. And I will say I have a lot of blessings to be thankful for.

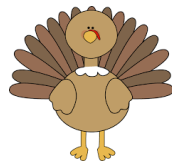
Gratitude can work powerfully to transform our outlook on life. It helps us shift from focusing on what we don't have to what we do have, opening our eyes to the countless blessings God has given us. The Bible prompts us to "give thanks in all circumstances," recognizing that gratitude aligns our hearts with God's will.

With gratitude, we acknowledge God's sovereignty and goodness, even in difficult times. It helps us to trust in his plans and remain hopeful. Gratitude also develops contentment, reducing feelings of envy and dissatisfaction. It creates a positive atmosphere, improving our relationships and overall well-being.

Today let's cultivate a heart full of gratitude, recognizing that every good gift comes from God. And as we practice gratitude, may we inspire others to see the goodness of God in their lives as well. Wishing everyone a blessed November with gratitude and thankfulness in your hearts.

Blessings,

Debbie



ONGOING PRAYER LIST

Mike Heidle
Stan Duitsman
Kendra Manselle
Belva Osterbur
Ella Frerichs
Betty Huls
Chris Huls
Nick Christians
Anna Wentzloff

Sophie Helodebrandt (*friend of Gloria Grant*)
Steve Mock (*cousin of Gloria Grant*)
Ryan Gernentz (*son of Jim Gernentz, brother to Casey Ganentz*)
Hannah Worley (*daughter of Doug & Miki Wesley*)
Brixley Pickering (*friend of Gloria Grant*)
Kim Brooks Allen (*friend of Miki Wesley*)
Abby Lundquist (*friend of Ray Manselle*)
Peyton McDonnaugh (*friend of Marsha Osterbur*)
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*)

Families of: Sandy Kaufmann (*grandmother of Austin & Allie Maul*)
Harper Grace Duitsman (*infant daughter of Rad and Abby Duitsman*)

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, Norma Sherfey, John and Donna Thompson

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**



...**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**.

...The deadline for the November Newsletter is Friday, November 14th.



... The **Church Office** will be closing early on **Wednesday, November 26th** at 1:00 pm and will be closed on **Thursday, November 27th**, in honor of Thanksgiving.



...**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.

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



November 2nd – Pastor Blobaum

November 9th – Pastor Greg Smith

November 16th – Pastor Baderschneider

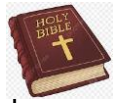
November 23rd – Pastor Richard Lewis

November 26th – Pastor Brett Trefren

Thanksgiving Eve

November 30th – Ryan Sage

Hanging of the Greens



Mike Heidle will lead the Christmas Morning and New Year's Eve services. Please, make plans to attend!



SOME OF "THIS AND THAT"



...**Flock Group Shepherd for December** is **Miki Wesley**. She will be contacting her flock group for volunteers. *Thank you to all that volunteer!*

...**The Flock Group Shepherd for January 2026** will be **Lori Hoveln**.



...**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 out!*

...**If you are planning on having any activity at the church or on church property**, please, let the office know of your plans.

(“this and that” cont.)



...**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.

...**Don't forget** to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday night, November 1st. Daylight Savings Time ends the first weekend of November.



...**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.



...**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**.



Welcome to our newest members at St. John! Andy Frick, Courtney Frick and Jeff Mathis completed the new membership classes

with Mike Heidle and will be welcomed into the church on Sunday, November 2nd.

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!



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Sunday, November 2nd, is All Saints Sunday, when those who have joined the Church Triumphant since last All Saints Day, and those who have joined Christ's Family here at St. John through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism are remembered and recognized. Save the Date!

This year there will again be an evergreen tree in the sanctuary with dove and angel ornaments hung on it and the names of those remembered and recognized printed on them. Family may take these ornaments home following worship.

We recognize:

Bristol Jean Brymeyer
Annaliese Kay Moews
Titus Dean Wright
Andrew David Frizzo
Allie Clair Frick

We remember:

Dorothy Bruns
Michael Behrens
Geraldine Osterbur
Steven Frerichs
Floyd Bohlen
Vernon Buhr



COUNCIL NOTES



1. The council met on Monday, October 20th.
2. Present: Josh Frerichs, Melinda Huls, Kris Francisco, Gene Osterbur, Chelsey Phillips, and Mike Heidle.
Absent: Emily Vilvan, Debbie Ackerman, Bryce Frerichs, and Whitney Highfill. Guests: Valerie Birge and Keith Cunningham.
3. Josh led the council in prayer.
4. The budget was discussed at length.
5. The next council meeting is Monday, November 17th, at 7:00.



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

DESIGNATED BENEVOLENCE

During the month of November, the designated benevolence offerings are for World Hunger through Lutheran World Relief.

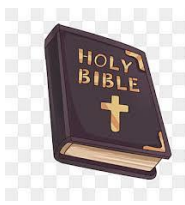
Please use the center portion of the offering envelopes for your special contributions.

A special thank you to all of you who contributed.



("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.



...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 **November 13th**. Debbie Suits will host.

...Death over Dinner- Sunday, November 2nd, 12:00 pm. 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.



...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**



(“this and that” cont.)

St. Joseph Methodist Church Food Pantry date for this month is **November 20th**. For the month of **December, the date is the 18th**. The line starts at 4:30 on the west side of the church.



...**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.



ANNUAL MEETING

of St. John Lutheran Church, Royal,
will follow worship on **Sunday, November 9th**.

All confirmed members are encouraged to attend!

Annual report booklets are being prepared and will be mailed out. Extra copies will be available in the church office. The business items for consideration include: the church and committee reports, adoption of 2025 council and committee positions and budgets.



All confirmed members are encouraged to attend.

FROM OUR CONSTITUTION: C8.02.c.

Voting members are confirmed members not less than age 18.

Such confirmed members shall have communed and/or contributed of record during the current or preceding year.



THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

Come and give thanks and praise to our Heavenly Father in worship here at St. John on **Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, November 27, at 7:00**. Holy Communion will be celebrated. Pastor Brett Trefen will deliver the message.

POINSETTIA SIGN UP

We will again be ordering poinsettias for the upcoming holiday season. Information is forthcoming, please watch the bulletins and online for more information regarding ordering.



ADVENT

Hanging of the Greens

Advent and the beginning of the church year calendar begin on Sunday, November 30th.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



The Parish Ed Committee is planning this year's **Christmas Program** for **Sunday, December 14th, during the 9:45 a.m. service.**

EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS



Dear Friends at St. John's!

*Please forgive me for not writing sooner.
Thank you very much for the financial gift to the
ministry work of Seek and Find.*

*May the Lord continue to bless you as you have blessed us.
His Peace be with you!*

Mike Roberts

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent gift, in memory of Vernon R. Buhr, that will benefit OSF HealthCare. As a community supporter, your gift helps advance and provide health care to those in our community who need it most.

We are grateful for you and everything you continue to do to support OSF HealthCare and our patients every day. Your donation truly is life changing for both our patients and caregivers throughout the Ministry.

We can't thank you enough for your support in our community and our ability to serve with faith and compassion.

With gratitude,
The Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis



St. John's,

*Thank you for your support during this
challenging time. Your support means the world
to us.*

The Gernentz Family.



**Birthday Celebrations in
November (members 80+
years):**

Florence Frerichs celebrates her 91st birthday on the 11th.
Loretta Aden celebrates her 83rd birthday on the 17th.
Dale Behrens celebrates his 84th birthday on the 17th.
Rita Frerichs celebrates her 82nd birthday on the 18th.
Sharon Ault celebrates her 84th birthday on the 19th.
Beverley Thompsen celebrates her 91st birthday on the 23rd.
Judy White celebrates her 80th birthday on the 28th.



**Wedding Anniversaries in
November (members 50+ years):**

Gary and Myrna Craig celebrate 55
years on the 1st.
Ken and JoAnn Lynch celebrate 57
years on the 2nd.

Gene and Wanda Osterbur celebrate 50 years on the 8th.
Marvin and Alice Duitsman celebrate 71 years on the 17th.
Harold and Darlene Hovel celebrate 73 years on the 23rd.
Ed and JoAnn Rademaker celebrate 68 years on the 28th.
Barry and Rosalie Fisher celebrate 56 years on the 30th.

*Remember all of them in your prayers,
and with greetings!*

OFFICIAL ACTS



Kolbi Willford and Ty Poole
were united in marriage here at St.
John
on Saturday, October 4th.
Pastor Jay Johnson officiated.

*May the love between husband and wife grow stronger
through the years in their commitment to each other
and to our Lord and Savior, Jesus.*

Pediatric Donation Wish List Carle Foundation Hospital

Thank you for your kindness in supporting the Carle Foundation Pediatric Unit. Your donation helps support our patients throughout their hospital experience by providing comfort and a sense of normalcy through our Child Life Team. Your generosity does not go unnoticed!

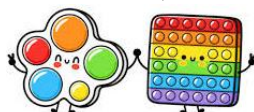
Infant/Toddler

- Baby toys (Rattles, Rings, Soft blocks, Teethers)
- Baby Board Books
- Suction Cup Baby Spinners
- Toddler Cars
- Small Baby Animals/Toys
- Puzzles
- Infant/toddler socks
- Baby Onesies (Gender Neutral Colors/White)
- Sleepers



Preschool/School age

- Barbies (preferably without tiny accessories/pieces)
- Fisher Price Little People/Animals
- Action Figures (Batman, Superman, etc.)
- Toy Cars, Planes, Machines, etc. (Matchbox, Hot Wheels)
- Bubbles/Bubbles wands
- Board Games/Card Games (Waterproof-Uno, Matching, Go-Fish)
- Small Animals/Dinos
- Dolls (Plastic/Wipeable)
- Puzzles
- Stuffed Animals
- Fidget/Sensory Toys (Pop-its, Pop-it balls, Stress Balls, bendy tubes, Sensory Squeeze maze)



Pediatric Donation Wish List Carle Foundation Hospital

Crafts/Activities

- Diamond Dot Art
- Sticker Books
- Kid Friendly/Teen Crafts
- Gallon of glue
- Crayons/Colored Pencils/Markers
- Handprint stone



General/Self Care Items

- Hairbrushes (Big/Full Size)
- Hair ties/Claw Clips
- Kids Pillowcases (Full Size)
- Phone Chargers (Apple, Samsung, etc.)
- Underwear
- Fun Band-Aids
- Clip on Fans/Individual Fans (preferably battery)
- Gift Cards (Small amounts for teens/birthdays)
- Roku
- Birthday/Celebration Décor
- Fun Reusable Water bottles/Kids Cups



Parent Items/Family Lounge Items

- Parent Books (Journals, Notebooks, planners)
- Keurig Cups (Coffee, Tea, etc.)
- Unopened individual shelf stable Snacks (Variety of Chips, Popcorn, Goldfish, Granola/Protein bars, etc.)

