

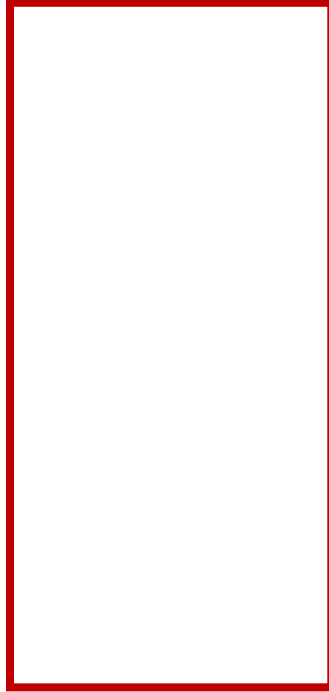
St. John Lutheran Church
203 E. Church Street
P.O. Box 36
Royal, Illinois 61871

Return Service Requested



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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



DECEMBER 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



Isaiah 9:6, 7

6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.



ONGOING PRAYER LIST

Bryce Frerichs
Miike Heidle
Kendra Manselle
Belva Osterbur

Ella Frerichs
Betty Huls
Chris Huls
Nick Christians
Anna Wentzloff

Kathy Waller
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*)
Hannah Nirider (*friend of Parker Poole*)
Amy Dufelmeier (*sister of Hilary Whitt*)
Aleyah Carley (*daughter of Teresa Thornton Carley*)
Darrel Jacobs (*friend of Tracy Wahlfeldt*)
Samantha Hutchinson (*cousin of Hilary Whitt*)
Rhonda Miller, Jane Cress (*friend of Hilary Whitt*)
Janey Huls (*sister of Susie Schlueter*)

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: Stan Duitsman and Robert Pflugmacher

Nursing Home, Assisted Living Residents:

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

Homebound: Dorothy Buhr, Eldred Cornelius, Marvin and Alice Duitsman, Florence Frerichs, Lois Frerichs, Marilyn Frerichs, Herb and Bev Thompsen

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, 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 Thompsen



For the MONTH of DECEMBER

Come and Worship
here at St. John
this holiday season!



Dec 7 9:45 am Sunday *Advent 2* Worship
with *Holy Communion*



Dec 14 9:45 am Sunday *Advent 3* Worship
S.S. Christmas Program



Dec 21 9:45 am Sunday *Advent 4* Worship
with *Holy Communion*



Dec 24 5:00 pm *Christmas Eve* Worship
with *Holy Communion*
10:00pm *Christmas Eve* Worship
with *Holy Communion*

Dec 25 9:45 am *Christmas Day* Worship
with *Holy Communion*

Dec 28 9:45 am Sunday *Christmas 1* Worship



POINSETTIA SIGN UP

We will again be ordering poinsettias for the upcoming holiday season. A signup sheet is now in the north hallway. Please, sign up by Sunday, December 14th. The cost is \$18.00 per Poinsettia. Please, earmark offering envelopes for Poinsettia's.



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 deadline for the January Newsletter is **Friday, December 12th**.

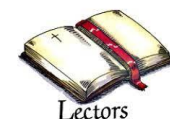
The Church Office will be closing early on **Wednesday, December 24th at 12:00 (noon)** and will be closed on **Thursday, December 25th**, in honor of **Christmas**.



The church office will close at **1:00 pm** on **Wednesday, December 31st** and be closed on **Thursday, January 1st**, in honor of the **New Year**.

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

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.



“church office news” (*continued*)



...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**.

SOME OF "THIS AND THAT"

...Flock Group Shepherd for January 2026 is **Lori Hovlen**. She will be contacting her flock group for volunteers. *Thank you to all that volunteer!*



...The Flock Group Shepherd for February 2026 will be **Patti Bohlen** and March is **Myrna Craig**.



...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 **December 11th**. Debbie Frerichs will host.



...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!*



...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. Thompsen, or Chuck Carl**.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



The Parish Ed Committee is planning this year's **Christmas Program** for Sunday, December 14th, during the 9:45 am worship service. The students are hosting the Coffee Fellowship Hour in the basement following the service.

*Come and give praise and glory to God
for the gift of his Son, our newborn King!*

There will **not** be Sunday School for the youth on Sunday, December 28th.



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, December 7th.

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!



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



December 7th – Pastor Blobaum
December 14th – Pastor Greg Smith
December 21st – Pastor Baderschneider
December 24th – Pastor Richard Lewis



(5:00 and 10:00 services)

December 25th – Pastor Mike Heidle
December 28th – Pastor Richard Lewis
December 31st – Pastor Mike Heidle



Birthday Celebrations in December (members 80+ years):

Pastor Emil Blobaum celebrates his 88th birthday on the 15th.
Aleta Schlueter celebrates her 91st birthday on the 16th.
Gloria Ehmen celebrates her 82nd birthday on the 20th.
Herb Thompsen celebrates his 91st birthday on the 20th.
Kenny Osterbur celebrates his 84th birthday on the 22nd.
Kay Fiscus celebrates her 89th birthday on the 26th.



Anniversaries in December (members 50+ years)

Rudy and Phyllis Schmidt will celebrate 50 years on the 27th.

DESIGNATED BENEVOLENCE

During the month of December, the designated benevolence offerings are for the Good Samaritan Fund. Christmas offerings are designated for Country Health & Rehab Center, Gifford. Please use the center portion of the offering envelopes for your special contributions.

A special thank you to all of you who contributed.



CHRISTMAS PROJECTS

CHRISTMAS PROJECTS – There are a couple of Christmas projects taking place at St. John this year! The Giving Tree will be set up in the map room with tags listing items needed for local families. Please, take a tag from the tree and return it either wrapped or unwrapped with the tag by December 21st. Parker Poole is organizing this project and can be contacted at 217-649-8378, if you have any questions. Please remember those less fortunate this Christmas season as you go out Christmas shopping this year. The next project is to help the Carle Foundation Cancer and Pediatric Units. There is a list of items that the units are asking to be donated. These items will help make a young patient pass the time during their stay in the hospital.



“this and that” (*continued*)



...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.



If you are signing up for flowers, please, make sure you are making your donation towards those flowers.

...Offering envelopes for 2026 will be available for pick up from the lounge in late December. 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”.



... The water and pop in the refrigerator in the kitchen are each \$1.00. Please, make sure that if you are getting one that you are paying. Thank you!



...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.



“this and that” (*continued*)



...**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.



...**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**



...**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.



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



OFFICIAL ACTS



Sympathy is extended to the family of **Stan Duitsman.**

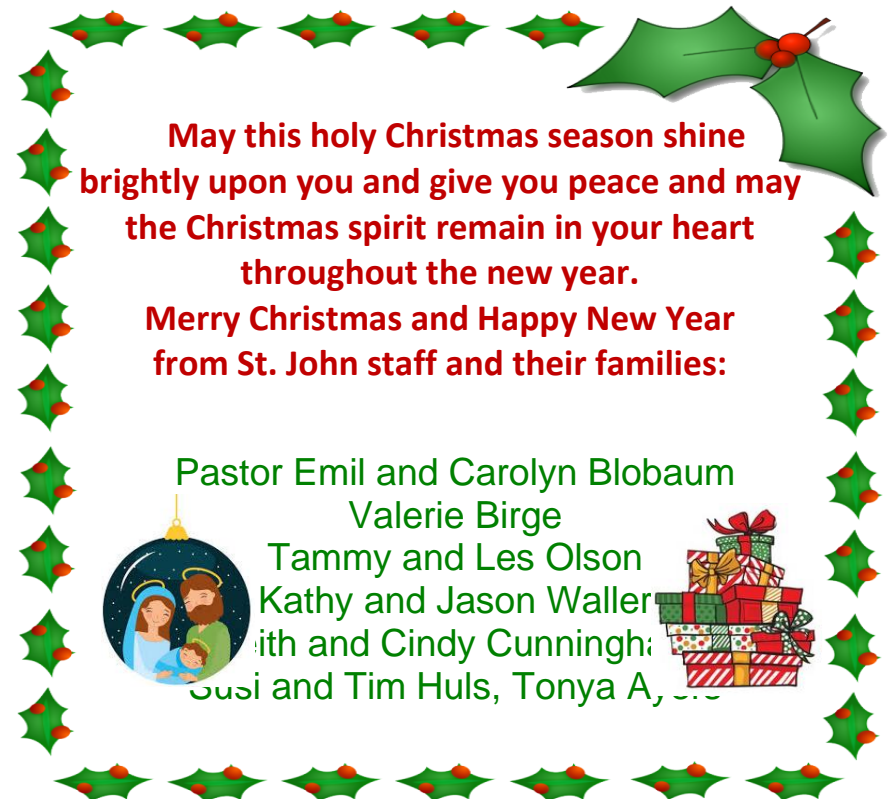
Stan passed to his eternal home on Saturday, November 8, 2025. Funeral worship was held here at St. John on Friday, November 14, 2025.



Sympathy is extended to the family of **Robert Pflugmacher.**

Robert passed to his eternal home on Thursday, November 13, 2025, at Country Health, Gifford, Illinois. Funeral worship was held here at St. John on Monday, November 17, 2025.

May God's love, peace and strength sustain those who sorrow.



May this holy Christmas season shine brightly upon you and give you peace and may the Christmas spirit remain in your heart throughout the new year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from St. John staff and their families:

Pastor Emil and Carolyn Blobaum
Valerie Birge

Tammy and Les Olson

Kathy and Jason Waller

With and Cindy Cunningham

Gusi and Tim Huls, Tonya A, etc.



COUNCIL NOTES



1. The Council meeting was held on Monday, November 17th, at 7:00. Debbie Ackerman led the council in the devotion from I Thessalonians 5:18
"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
2. After discussion on the devotion, Debbie led the council in prayer and began the meeting.
3. Attendance: Josh Frerichs, Bryce Frerichs, Debbie Ackerman, Gene Osterbur, Kris Francisco, Melinda Huls, and Mike Heidle. Absent: Allie Maul/Emily Johnson, Whitney Highfill, and Chelsey Phillips.
Guest: Keith Cunningham and Valerie Birge.
4. On Monday, December 15th there will be **two** council meetings. At 7:00 the council for **2025** will hold their last meeting. Following that meeting the council for **2026** will hold their first meeting.

2025 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



BACK TO SCHOOL PROJECT



During the month of August, one of the designated benevolence offerings went to the Back to School Project. The Back-to-School project is monetary gifts to help with school supplies and other school expenses for this coming year for PVO & SJO students in need. This year the money was used to pay several student's registration fees, school lunches, school milk, field trips, and the SJO High School Stop and Go. Thank you to all who gave! If you have any questions, contact Kris Francisco.

EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS



Dear Friends,

Thank you for rushing aid to our neighbors in Texas affected by the deadly and destructive flood. Your gift will do so much good for families who are feeling overwhelmed and helpless.

Your gift delivers immediate aid and ongoing support to neighbors in crisis, when and where it is needed the most. In Texas, this support includes LWR Quilts and Kits, food, water, tarps, clean up kits and clothing.

I join you in praying for all those affected by the floods and promise to keep you updated on how your love is providing care and comfort.

We are so thankful to have you by our side because you truly go above and beyond when disaster strikes, whether home or abroad. Thank you for always thinking of others and letting your faith guide you.

In faith and gratitude,

*David Speckhard
Lutheran World Relief*



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!

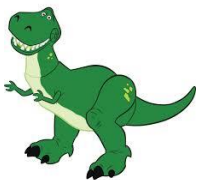
Infant/Toddler

- 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.)

