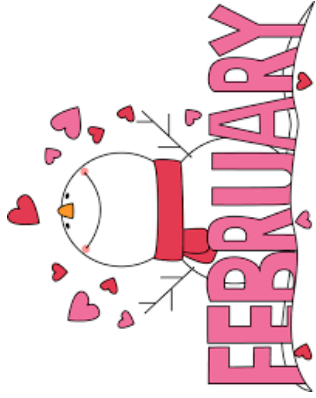


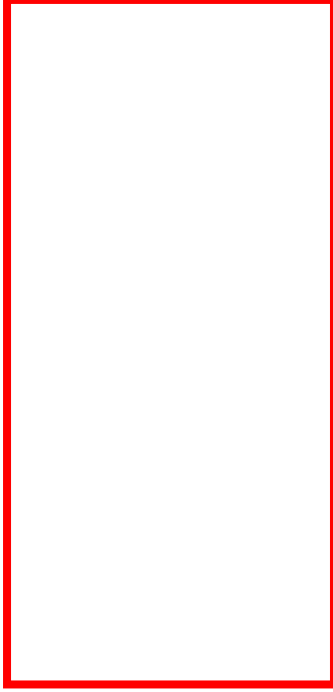
St. John Lutheran Church
203 E. Church Street
P.O. Box 36
Royal, Illinois 61871

Return Service Requested

Josh Frerichs, Council President, Property
Bryce Frerichs, Council Vice-President, Hunger-Stewardship
Debbie Ackerman, Council Secretary, Worship
Marsha Osterbur, Treasurer, Hunger-Stewardship
Whitney Highfill, Parish Life/Evangelism
Kris Francisco, Youth
Gene Osterbur, Property
Melinda Huls, Parish Life/Evangelism
Chelsey Mohr, 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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ROYAL CHURCH NEWS

St. John's Newsletter

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

FEBRUARY 2025



St. John Lutheran Church

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

(217) 583-3295 or 583-3805

Emil Blobaum, Visitation Pastor

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

FROM BRYCE –

Happy February! We've made it through a long, sometimes bitterly cold January. I am certain we are all on track with our New Years Resolutions! Great! Or maybe not so much? Didn't make any, don't need any? Fell off by National Quitters Day (January 10th). Simply haven't started yet? None, some, or all of the above? Regardless of the day of the year, our internal fights and quarrels let us down. We desire the need for self-control.

Human sin causes our failures, as we are more concerned with our self, and we have turned away from God. When we walk away from God we run into consequences. The answer to our internal quarrel and getting back to our rewards is repentance. "Submit yourselves to God." James 4 and 5 show how simple greed and desire can corrode the church and destroy unity.

James 4: 1-10 highlights this need of submitting to God. In verses 2-3, 2) *"You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God.* 3) *When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.*" Many of the Jewish Christians James was writing to soon experienced an abrupt turn of fortune. They lost their wealth and suffered severe persecution.

Lifting us up! James 4:6-10, 6) *"But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.* 7) *Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.* 8) *Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify*

EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS

Dear St. John Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for your contribution to the SJO service project. With your donation we were able to donate around 50 blankets to the Linus Project. The kindness and generosity that the community has shown will help so many local children. Thank you for making this project successful.

Sincerely,

SJO Sociology Class



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
Chelsey Phillips, Council member (217) 369-7830
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
Whitney Highfill, Council member (217)
Mike Heidle, Council member (217) 516-0085
Emily Johnson, Council member (217) 840-3474



Gene Osterbur will celebrate his 80th birthday on the 2nd.



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 March Newsletter is **Friday, February 14th**. Information needs to be in the office by the deadline to be printed in the newsletter.

Sunday Bulletin

How the bulletins are put together each week:

We begin each week with the *Lutheran Book of Worship* as a template for the service, whether it is a communion Sunday or not. The scripture and prayers come from the book, *Sundays and Seasons* or the *Lutheran Book of Worship*. The music has been selected by the worship committee and submitted by Tonya Ayers. After the bulletins are put together, they are sent to the pastor who is delivering the sermon that week. The pastor can make changes to the bulletin. That can be anything from the picture, scriptures, music, or placement of something in the service. If everything is how the pastor wants, then they give their approval, and we are ready to print!

After the pastor gives the approval and we are ready to print we send out the scriptures to the lector for that Sunday, by Friday afternoon. We also print off an extra copy and leave it in the north office, on the desk, for the lector.

from Bryce (*continued*)

your hearts, you double minded. 9) Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10) Humble yourselves before God, and he will lift you up."

The biblical doctrine of repentance is the internal resolve to turn from sin and return to pleasing God. Repentance is the need to change our mind to change our direction. We need to recognize and admit where we failed and come clean with God.

Other passages on repentance; Acts 3:19. "**Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.**" From Isaiah 30:15 "**In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.**"

A friend sent me the following quote a dozen years ago. "It's never too late to be what you might have been." It's attributed to George Elliot (pen name of Mary Anne Evans) and I've have often thought about it since. No matter where we have been, your age and failures, you can still become what you aspire to be.

Whether you have short term, long term, permanent goals, and of course the most important one: Eternal – "**Submit Yourself to God**" and get back on track!

Blessings,

Bryce Frerichs



COUNCIL NOTES



1. Council met on Monday, January 27, at 7:00. Josh led the council in a devotion. Over 1 Peter 5:6-7.
2. Council members present: Josh Frerichs, Melinda Huls, Kris Francisco, Gene Osterbur, Chelsey Phillips, Mike Heidle, Marsha Osterbur, and Whitney Highfill. Guests: Keith Cunningham, Valerie Birge, and Tammy Olson. Council members absent: Debbie Ackerman, Bryce Frerichs, Allie Maul, and Emily Johnson.
3. Parish Life/Evangelism will serve the lent meal on Ash Wednesday.
4. First Communion will be held on Sunday, April 6th. There will be more information to come.
5. A new sound system has been installed by CV Lloyd.
6. Marsha Osterbur was elected to serve as council treasurer.
7. A workday to clean up the property has been scheduled for Saturday, March 29th.
8. The parsonage needs a new roof. Local bids will be sought.
9. Make sure you are notifying the office when using the basement or building.
10. The Transition Committee - the pulpit has been filled for the February services.
February 2 – Pastor Emil Blobaum
February 9 – Pastor Greg Smith
February 16 – Pastor Vic Baderschneider
February 23 – Pastor Richard Lewis
11. Next council meeting is Monday, February 24, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. *note this is not the normal 3rd Monday due to Presidents' Day.



DESIGNATED BENEVOLENCE

During the month of **February**, the designated benevolence is for **local Foodbanks** 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.

PARISH ED / YOUTH NEWS

Sunday School Kids will be singing during worship on Sunday, February 9th.



Mission Trip 2025 – We will again be partnering with Prince of Peace and traveling to Pewaukee, WI on July 20-26. The 2025 theme is “Equipped” The only requirement is that you must be graduating 8th grade or older. Any questions contact Laura Ketchum.

THE YOUTH are planning to go ice skating on February 2nd, at the U of I ice rink. They will meet at the church at 12:30 and begin ice skating at 1:30. If you plan to drive, we will meet there at 1 pm. Any questions contact Parker Poole.



THE CONFIRMATION CLASS is planning a “Soup-er or Bowl!” on February 9th, Super Bowl Sunday. Come join them for soup, salad, and breadsticks! This is a fundraising event to benefit the youth summer mission trip and confirmation activities. Contact Laura Ketchum with any questions.

OUR CONFIRMATION class, as part of fulfilling their community service requirement, is thrilled to support the Champaign County Humane Society and St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital by collecting your spare changes. Together, we can “make a change” and make a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need. You’ll find two “Make a Change” donation bottles in the narthex and the map room. Thank you for helping us make this effort a success!”



2025 LENTEN SEASON

Our Midweek Lenten services will be held **each Wednesday** evening at **7:00** with a supper served in the church basement at **6:00** by our committees and council.

ASH WEDNESDAY

March 5 – Ash Wednesday Worship *with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion*

*The Lent Supper Menus will be available in the March Newsletter.



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 65 congregations actively seeking to call a pastor. There are 37 openings for full-time ministry and 28 openings for part-time ministry. During the call process we must trust that God has a plan and will bring the right pastor to our congregation in His perfect timing, even if it



takes time and feels like a period of waiting or uncertainty; it involves actively praying, remaining positive, and not rushing the process, believing that God's choice will be the best fit for our congregation and community.

Psalm 27:14 - Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

Your brother in Christ,
Josh Frerichs
Call Committee Chair



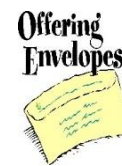
SOME OF "THIS AND THAT"



...**Flock Group Shepherd for March** is Marsha Osterbur. 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. 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. **The cost per vase is \$20.00. Payment is to be made to the church and earmarked for flowers.**



...**Offering envelopes** for 2025 are available. **PLEASE**, pick them up from the **MAP ROOM**. 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". **PLEASE throw away old envelopes!**

...**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 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.

