

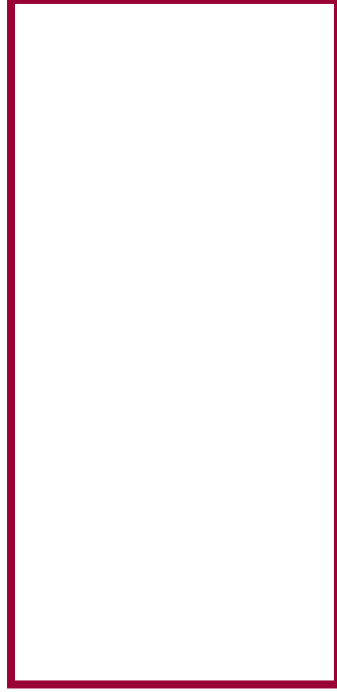
St. John Lutheran Church
203 E. Church Street
P.O. Box 36
Royal, Illinois 61871

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 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

APRIL 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 MELINDA HULS –

What is faith? Faith is believing in something we cannot see or prove, but which we trust to be true. The Christian faith involves a belief both in God and in his son. Our faith is instrumental in our salvation; though our faith itself can not save us, it is the conduit through which God's grace can.

Hebrews 11:1-6 (NIV)

¹ Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. ² This is what the ancients were commended for. ³ By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. ⁴ By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead. ⁵ By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. ⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Sincerely,

Melinda Hul



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 Hul, 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



Prayer Requests

ONGOING PRAYER LIST

Belva Osterbur
Nathan Buhr
Sandie Osterbur
Ray Manselle
Ella Frerichs
Curt Blair
Lois Frerichs
Stan Duitsman
Betty Hul
Chris Hul
Mandi Ramm
Nick Christians
Anna Wentzloff
Camille Wissmann
Harold Miles, Landon Potter (*brother and great-great nephew of Linda Post*)
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*)

Delores Borland
Holly Hoffschneider
Allen Davis (*friend of Stan Duitsman*)
Abby Lundquist (*friend of Ray Manselle*)
Mike Potter (*nephew of Linda Post*)
Peyton McDonnaugh (*friend of Marsha Osterbur*)
Hannah Nirider (*friend of Parker Poole*)
Amy Dufelmeier (*sister of Hilary Whitt*)
Barbara Carter (*daughter of Betty Hul*)
Aleyah Carley (*daughter of Teresa Thornton Carley*)
Darrel Jacobs (*friend of Tracy Wahlfeldt*)
Samantha Hutchinson (*cousin of Hilary Whitt*)
Rhonda Miller, Jane Cress (*friends of Hilary Whitt*)
Janey Hul (*sisters of Susie Schlueter*)

Families of: Alberta Wells (*grandmother of Sean Wells*)

Nursing Home, Assisted Living Residents:

Janis Loschen Mary Lou Ackerman, Berniece Aden, Sharon Ault, Floyd Bohlen, Dorothy Bruns, Regina Gronewald, Elizabeth Hafermann, Harold and Darlene Hovel, Gerry Osterbur, Robert and Dorene Pflugmacher, Myron Sage
Homebound: Dorothy Buhr, 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 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 Thompsen



PUZZLE

SIGNS OF *Rebirth*

Isaiah 35 describes the rebirth of a dry land when Jesus returns, as well as the signs of God's beautiful creation at springtime.

Directions: Solve each math problem. Then write the words in order, from smaller numbers to larger numbers, in the spaces below.

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| bloom $6+1=$ ____ | blossom $2x2=$ ____ | rejoice $4x2=$ ____ |
| burst $3+3=$ ____ | wilderness $2+1=$ ____ | joy $5+5=$ ____ |
| crocus $3+2=$ ____ | desert $1x0=$ ____ | parched $0+1=$ ____ |
| glad $2x1=$ ____ | shout $10-1=$ ____ | |

"The _____ and the _____ land will be _____; the _____ will rejoice and _____. Like the _____, it will _____ into _____; it will _____ greatly and _____ for _____."

Isaiah 35:1-2, NIV

Answers:
"The desert and the parched land will be glad, the wilderness will rejoice and shout for joy. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy."

COUNCIL MEETING NOTES



- Council met on Monday, March 17, at 7:00. Josh Frerichs led the devotion over Colossians 3:12-14 (NIV), which reads, *12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.* The council discussed the scripture and prayed.
- The members present were Josh Frerichs, Bryce Frerichs, Whitney Highfill, Debbie Ackerman, Marcha Osterbur, Gene Osterbur, Mike Heidle, and Chelsey Phillips. Absent members were Kris Francisco, Melinda Huls, Allie Maul/Emily Johnson. The guests were: Laura Ketchum, Keith Cunningham, and Tammy Olson.
- Laura Ketchum gave an update on the confirmation class and the youth. There will be four students confirmed on May 4. They are James Ketchum, Madison Huls, Ella Bromley, and Jacob Wells. The confirmation students will help on March 29th for the church clean-up day. There are three students planning to attend the mission trip with Prince of Peace in July. Laura will also be attending as a sponsor.
- The NALC currently has 65 congregations actively seeking to call a pastor. There are 37 openings for full-time ministry and 28 congregations in need of a part-time pastor. We are still on the list and prayerfully waiting.
- We do have a new district dean. Pastor Ours has left and is now in South Carolina. Our new district dean is Pastor Keith Forni.
- Next council meeting is Monday, April 21, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.





PARISH ED / YOUTH NEWS

Sunday School Kids will be singing and helping with greeting, and ushering during worship on Sunday, April 13th.

Summer Sunday School needs teachers. If you are interested in teaching a great group of students about the love of Jesus this summer, please, see Allie Maul.



Sunday School – Sundays at 8:30 a.m.



The 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 change. 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!”



The 8th Grade Confirmation Students invite the congregation to join them during Lenten season on Wednesdays at 6:30pm in the church library for a brief, 15-minute discussion about their individual scripture verses. Like last year, each student will present their chosen verse and engage the group by asking thought-provoking questions. The goal is to deepen their understanding of the scripture by exploring different perspectives and the part the scripture plays in their journey of faith.

April 2: Jacob Wells

Old Testament Verse- Proverbs 22:6

“Train a child in the way he should go; and when he is old he will not depart from it.”

New Testament Verse- Matthew 6:21

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”



some of "this and that" (continued)



...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 John R. Thompsen, Chuck Carl, or Ron Duitsman.

...There are offering envelopes for 2025 available for pick up from the office. If you cannot find your boxed set and would like to use the envelopes, please contact the church office.

If you do not use the envelopes or no longer wish to use them, also contact the church office or leave your boxed set in the office with a note, “do not use”.



...Offering envelopes from previous years need to be thrown away. Old envelopes are being used and they affect the accounting of offerings that are given. **PLEASE throw away old envelopes!**



...Newsletter Deadline for May is Wednesday, April 18th!



...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 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.



SOME OF "THIS AND THAT"

...**Flock Group Shepherd for May** is Hilary Whitt. *Thank you to all that volunteer!*



FRIENDLY REMINDER

...**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.**



...**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 Bible Study Circles:** Esther—Martha—Sarah meets on the second Thursday afternoon of each month at 1:30 here in the church basement for study and fellowship. This month they will meet on April 10th, and Carolyn Blobaum will host.



St. Joseph Methodist Church Food Pantry's next date is April 3rd. Questions contact Marsha Osterbur.



parish ed / youth news" (*continued*)

April 9: Ella Bromley

Old Testament Verse- Proverbs 3:3

"Let love and faithfulness never leave you: bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart."

New Testament Verse- John 14:6

"Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."



The Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 12th. If you can donate, please, drop off the candy in the Sunday School office by March 30th. It is greatly appreciated!



First Communion will be held on Sunday, April 6th. Please, keep these students and their families in your prayers. Contact Josh Frerichs with any questions.

The Youth will be serving Easter Breakfast following Sunrise service Easter morning. They need egg/breakfast casseroles, donuts, and pastries. Sign-up sheets are in the front hallway and by the elevator.

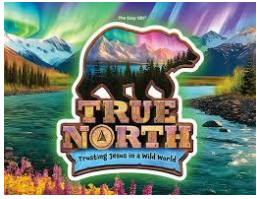


Confirmation Sunday will be May 4, 2025. Please mark your calendars to be there to help support these students who are affirming their Christian belief and becoming full members of St. John Lutheran Church.



...**Confirmation Reunion** will be held on Sunday, June 1st. The Confirmation Classes of 1950, 1975, and 2000 will be honored for celebrating their 75, 50, and 25 years anniversary. If you are in these classes **SAVE THE DATE** and plan to attend church service that Sunday and stay afterwards for cake and refreshments in the church basement. More information to follow.





BIBLE SCHOOL will be Sunday, July 6th through Thursday, July 10th, with the program on Sunday, July 13th. There will be a meal followed by activities. The theme will be True North. More information to come.



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.



DESIGNATED BENEVOLENCE

During the month of **April**, the designated benevolence is for **Local Benevolences** to help those in need. **Lent offerings** are designated for **NALC Seminaries**. **Easter offerings** are designated for Country Health Care and Rehab, Gifford. Please use the center portion of the offering envelopes for your gifts. The highlighted the organizations we are donating to with our monthly benevolences are:

SEEK AND FIND helps people live with dignity and personal responsibility by making it possible for people to affordably care for themselves and others.

JESUS IS THE WAY PRISON MINISTRY’S mission is to go into jails and prisons sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with inmates. Upon their release it is their desire to help them with housing, food, clothing, spiritual guidance and counseling, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, job skills training, and job placement, thus enabling them to become productive and responsible citizens.

DAILY BREAD SOUP KITCHEN is unique in that it runs entirely on volunteer labor. There are NO salaries! There is no administrator, no paid fund-raiser, no paid bookkeeper, and no paid secretary. Volunteers do all those jobs. Because of this volunteer labor, they are able to serve a hot meal and a sack meal. They raise money entirely through local donations and a few local grants. Many of you donate to DBSK, and it’s your donations and the donations of many others that keep DBSK going month after month.

Thank you to everyone that made Dorothy’s 102nd birthday extra special. She received over 50 cards! We read each one to her and talked about who sent it. She had many fond memories. Your greetings meant so much to her. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.



Darlene and Barb

Lent Dinner Menus for April



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

APR 2nd – Midweek Lent

Dinner: Worship – BBQ, hot dogs, chips, desserts, and drinks

APR 9th – Midweek Lent

Dinner: Parish Ed – Nacho/Taco Bar, desserts, and drinks



During Lent the pulpit will be filled by:

April 2nd – Brett Trefren

April 9th – Brett Trefren

Maundy Thursday, April 17th – Mike Heidle

Good Friday, April 18th – Mike Heidle

April Sunday services:

April 6th – Pastor Emil Blobaum

April 13th – Pastor Greg Smith

April 20th – Pastor Vic Baderschneider

April 27th – Pastor Richard Lewis



EASTER FLOWERS



Orders are being taken for Easter Lillies and Hyacinths. There are sign up sheets in the front hallway and by the elevator. The cost for the Lillies is \$15.00 and for the Hyacinths it is \$10.00. The deadline to order is April 13th. The flowers may be taken following the 9:45 am Easter Sunday service, April 20th.



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. Our email is: churchoffice@stjohnroyal.org



EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS

St. John Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for your contribution to Courage Connection! Your gift makes an impact on all of those Courage Connection services as we strive to ensure every member of our community has the education resources and support to live healthy, safe, relationships.



Your gift is at work each day sheltering domestic violence survivors and their children fleeing from a dangerous home, providing safety planning and assistance while completing an Order of Protection, receiving counselling on the road to finding a healthier future, and securing a safe and permanent place to call home. Your generosity also helps us to provide prevention education to students in our community and awareness training to first responders.

We are deeply grateful for your support. To learn more and further engage with Courage Connection, we invited you to find us on Facebook and Instagram.

With thanks,

Beth Popp and Elizabeth McGreal Cook
Board Chair CEO

HOLY WEEK



Palm Sunday is April 13th.
Worship begins at 9:45 a.m.
with Procession of Palms.

Maundy Thursday is April 17th.
Worship begins at 7:00, with Holy Communion
and the altar stripping.



Good Friday is April 18th. Worship begins at 7:00.

Easter Sunday is April 20th.
A Sunrise Worship begins at 6:30 a.m. with
the procession of altar furnishings and Holy
Communion, followed by breakfast.



Sunday School is at 8:30 a.m.

Festival Worship with Holy Communion begins at 9:45 a.m.



2025 COMMITTEE MEMBERS



NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Gloria Grant, Teresa Aden, Daniele Frerichs,
Derek Sieberns, Shannon Christians

AUDITING COMMITTEE:

Martin Ablinger, Scott Sieberns,
Daniele Frerichs, Doug Wesley



OFFERING
COUNTERS

COUNTING COMMITTEE:

Kris Francisco, Joellyn Pedro, Darlene Osterbur,
Scott Sieberns, Kathie Ablinger, Lori Hovel

WORSHIP COMMITTEE:

Debbie Ackerman, Chelsey Phillips,
Miki Wesley, Judy White,
Donna Townsley, Hilary Whitt, Myrna
Craig, Tonya Ayers, Deanna Loschen,
Susi Huls



PARISH ED COMMITTEE:

Mike Heidle, Dana Sjoken, Stacy Smith,
Dawn Huls, Sarah Wolken, Meghan Loschen,
Emily Johnson, Allie Maul

VBS Committee: Chelsey Phillips,
Jodi Bohlen, Sarah Wolken



2025 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PARISH LIFE—EVANGELISM COMMITTEE:

Melinda Huls, Whitney Highfill, Teresa
Aden, Scott and Tracy Wahlfeldt,
Chad and Peggy Barnes, Ed and Jodi Bohlen,
Anita Lieb, Bruce and Shelley Brey Meyer,



HUNGER—STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE:

Marsha Osterbur, Kris Francisco, Gene and
Deanna Osterbur, Allan and Susie Schlueter,
Donita Osterbur, Chuck and Judy Carl, Bryce
Frerichs, Kathie Ablinger



PROPERTY COMMITTEE:

Gene Osterbur, Jared Aden,
Alex Anderson, Neal Ehmen,
Derek Sieberns, Bruce Frerichs, Calvin
Mohr, Austin Maul, Tyler Wright,
Kurt Wolken, Devin Wright



YOUTH COMMITTEE:

Laura Ketchum, Allie Maul,
Ray Manselle, Parker Poole

TRUST FUND TRUSTEES:

Doug Bluhm, Ray Manselle, Aaron
Ketchum, Allan Schlueter, Mike Francisco



MEMORIAL SECRETARY

Kathie Ablinger, Doug Bluhm

