

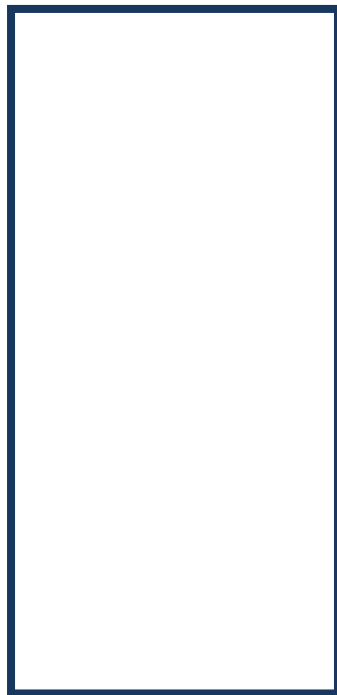
St. John Lutheran Church
203 E. Church Street
P.O. Box 36
Royal, Illinois 61871

Return Service Requested

June

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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PERMIT NO. 2

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



ROYAL CHURCH NEWS

St. John's Newsletter

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

JUNE 2025

**The just man
walketh in his
integrity:**

**his children
are blessed
after him.**

**Proverbs 20:7
KJV**



St. John Lutheran Church

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

(217) 583-3295 or (217) 583-3805

Emil Blobaum, Visitation Pastor

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

FROM WHITNEY HIGHFILL –

Walking in God's Light

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." – Psalm 119:105

Since I was a young child, this verse has always been one of my favorites. As we walk into the month of June, the longer days and brighter sunlight remind us of the power of light to guide our way. In the same way, God's Word is the light that directs our spiritual path, showing us the way forward when life feels uncertain or difficult.

There are definitely times when we may struggle to see what lies ahead. Doubts, worries, and distractions can cloud our vision. But in turning to Scripture, we find clarity, wisdom, and reassurance. God does not leave us to wander in the dark. He has provided His Word as a lamp to illuminate our steps.

This month, commit to spending time in the Bible each day. Let its truth guide your decisions, strengthen your faith, and remind you that God walks with you in every season. No matter what challenges you are facing or what opportunities June brings, trust in His direction and walk confidently in His light.

Lord, thank You for being the light in my life. Help me to trust in Your Word and seek Your guidance in all I do. May Your truth lead me, and may I walk each day in faith and confidence. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Whitney



ONGOING PRAYER LIST

Norma Sherfey	Holly Hoffschneider
Belva Osterbur	Allen Davis (<i>friend of Stan Duitsman</i>)
Nathan Buhr	Abby Lundquist (<i>friend of Ray Manselle</i>)
Sandie Osterbur	Mike Potter (<i>nephew of Linda Post</i>)
Stan Duitsman	Peyton McDonnaugh (<i>friend of Marsha Osterbur</i>)
Ray Manselle	Hannah Nirider (<i>friend of Parker Poole</i>)
Kendra Manselle	Amy Dufelmeier (<i>sister of Hilary Whitt</i>)
Ella Frerichs	Barbara Carter (<i>daughter of Betty Huls</i>)
Betty Huls	Aleyah Carley (<i>daughter of Teresa Thornton Carley</i>)
Chris Huls	Darrel Jacobs (<i>friend of Tracy Wahlfeldt</i>)
Mandi Ramm	Samantha Hutchinson (<i>cousin of Hilary Whitt</i>)
Nick Christians	Rhonda Miller, Jane Cress (<i>friends of Hilary Whitt</i>)
Anna Wentzloff	Janey Huls (<i>sister of Susie Schlueter</i>)
Camille Wissmann	Larry and Susan Craig (<i>parents of Doug Wesley</i>)
Harold Miles, Landon Potter	(<i>brother and great-great nephew of Linda Post</i>)
Lois Henderson, Mary Crider, Carol Doman	(<i>friends of Ray and Kendra Manselle</i>)
Stoney Wireman, Frank and Mary Kay Kimell, Kerry Blankenbegher	(<i>friends of Gloria Grant</i>)

Family of: Stephen Frerichs, Gerry Osterbur, Phil Duncan (*father of Tammy Olson*), Mike Behrens

Nursing Home, Assisted Living Residents:

Janis Loschen Mary Lou Ackerman, Berniece Aden, Sharon Ault, Floyd Bohlen, Regina Gronewald, Elizabeth Hafermann, Harold and Darlene Hovel, Robert and Dorene Pflugmacher, Myron Sage

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 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 Thompson



★ A FATHER'S ★ INSTRUCTION

★ Although babies don't come with instructions, ★
God tells parents how to raise their children.

Directions: Fill in the blanks with letters, using the number grid to find the correct coordinates. The first number goes across, and the second one goes down.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	a	L	d	i	j	g	r
2	m	b	o	k	h	u	s
3	e	n	c	x	t	p	f

"...
 2,2 7,1 4,1 2,3 6,1 5,3 5,2 1,3 1,2
 6,2 6,3 4,1 2,3 5,3 5,2 1,3
 5,3 7,1 1,1 4,1 2,3 4,1 2,3 6,1 1,1 2,3 3,1
 4,1 2,3 7,2 5,3 7,1 6,2 3,3 5,3 4,1 3,2 2,3
 3,2 7,3 5,3 5,2 1,3 2,1 3,2 7,1 3,1"

EPHESIANS 6:4, NIV

Answers: "... bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."

COUNCIL MEETING NOTES



1. The Council met on Monday, May 16, at 7:00. Mike Heidle led the council in devotion over, Jesus, our Good Shepherd. The council listened to a song, "Bellwether", by group, Newsong. The song references Jesus as being the "bellwether" sheep to us "the sheep", and God as the Shepherd. The "bellwether" sheep is the one sheep in the herd that stands out as different, the protector sheep of the others, the one that brings the lost sheep to the shepherd. Jesus has done that for us. He was the sacrificial lamb, that laid down His life for ours and brought us to Father God, the Shepherd. There was a discussion and then Mike led the council in prayer.
2. Council members present were Josh Frerichs, Debbie Ackerman, Gene Osterbur, Bryce Frerichs, Melinda Huls, Chelsey Phillips, Whitney Highfill, and Mike Heidle. Absent were Marsha Osterbur, Kris Francisco, and Allie Maul/Emily Johnson. Guest were Keith Cunningham, Valerie Birge, and Tammy Olson.
3. Parish Life/Evangelism plans to recognize fathers on Father's Day.
4. Bible school will be held in July.
5. Chelsey Phillips, Kris Francisco, and Debbie Ackerman will be council for the month of June.
6. Next council meeting is Monday, June 16, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

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
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) 202-6344
Mike Heidle, Council member (217) 516-0085
Emily Johnson, Council member (217) 840-3474



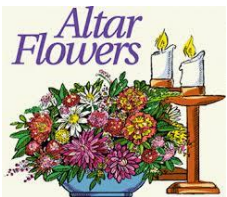
SOME OF "THIS AND THAT"



...Flock Group Shepherd for July is Darlene Osterbur. *Thank you to all that volunteer!*



The Flock Group Shepherd for **August** is **Kathy Frerichs** and **September** is **Kris Francisco**.



...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.

...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 June 12th, and June Osterbur will host.



...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.



DESIGNATED BENEVOLENCE

During the month of **June**, the designated benevolence is for **LWR Projects** to help those in need. Please use the center portion of the offering envelopes for your gifts.



A special thank you to all those that contribute

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

June 1st – Pastor Emil Blobaum
June 8th – Pastor Greg Smith
June 15th – Pastor Vic Baderschneider
June 22nd – Pastor Richard Lewis
June 29th – Brian Carpenter



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



...Newsletter Deadline for July is Friday, June 13th!



CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!



God's blessings as you continue
your journey in life and faith.

Graduating from eighth grade—

at Prairieview-Ogden:
James Ketchum and Jacob Wells

at St. Joseph Grade School:
Madison Huls

at Unity Grade School
Ella Bromley



Graduating from high school—

at St. Joseph-Ogden:

*Lyla Frerichs, Logan Lackey, Grace Osterbur, Ava Seggebruch, and
Thea Smith*

at Unity High School
Michael Bromley

Graduating from college—

at Parkland College

Kendall Ayers – an AAS in Network Administration and Support

at Danville Area Community College:

Angela Sauder - LPN

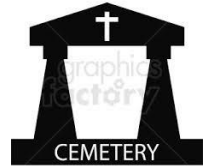


Graduates – and all Christians –
can trust in the promise of **Joshua 1:9** (NIV):

***Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous.
Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged,
for the LORD your God will be with you
wherever you go.***

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.



...**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.

...**St. Joseph Methodist Church** Food Pantry's will **not** have any dates for the month of **June**. Questions contact Marsha Osterbur. The **NEXT** dates are **July 3rd & 31st**.



...**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.



...**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.

SUMMER OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICES

Plans are being made for Outdoor worship services during the summer months. The **tentative schedule** will follow in June – September with the 2nd Sundays as outdoor worship services. **ONLY** if there is a cancellation of the 2nd Sunday service then will the 4th Sunday be used for Outdoor Service. The first service will be held **June 8th**.
*These dates are all weather permitting.



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!



Father's Day is Sunday, **June 15th**. Special honor and recognition will be given to our fathers. Our thanks and God's blessings to all fathers.

Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.

Proverbs 22:6



We are invited to celebrate 50 years at Camp Griesheim! Sunday, June 1, 2025, there will be an Open House from 2-4p.m., with a program at 3p.m. More information can be found at their website: www.CampGriesheim.com

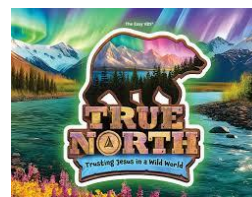
Welcome to our newest members at St. John! Tracy Britt, Joel Highfill, Sophie Miller, and Jason Sargeant completed the new membership classes with Mike Heidle and were welcomed into the church on Sunday, May 18th.



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!

parish ed / youth news con't...

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – SAVE THE DATE!



Come join us for an ultimate Alaskan adventure where the northern lights shine over majestic mountains, racing rivers, and sparkling glaciers.



You will trek the tundra and explore how easy it is to lose sight of what's true in our wild world today. You will discover that Jesus is our faithful friend, that we can always trust. You will foster a deeper connection with our faithful friend, Jesus, while discovering the great Alaskan frontier. As you trek through the tundra of Alaska and experience what it means to trust in Jesus, prepare yourself for amazing faith connections to unfold! JESUS is our True North!

VBS Plans are underway! TRUE NORTH VBS will be held at the church **Sunday, July 6th-Thursday, July 10th**. A meal will be served from 5:15-5:55 p.m. and activities will take place from 6:00-8:00 p.m.



A closing program will be held on Sunday, **July 13th**, during the worship service. The Sunday School Students will act as greeters that day to show off what all they have learned at VBS that week!



Check the church website (stjohnroyal.org), for information on how to register your child online.

If you can volunteer during the week of VBS, please reach out to Chelsey Phillips, Sarah Wolken, or Jodi Bohlen.

Any help is appreciated! Sign-up sheets are also posted on the bulletin board outside the Sunday school office.



The VBS Committee is also looking for people to help with decorations. They plan to start working on this project in June. Please reach out to Chelsey Phillips for specific dates and times if this is something you can help with!

PARISH ED / YOUTH NEWS



SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

This summer things are going to look a little different in the Youth Sunday School. The 5th grade through 8th grade is only going to have class on the second Sunday



of June, July, August and then resume regular class on Sept 14th, for Rally Day. Summer classes will begin on Sunday, June 1st. Preschool through the 4th grade will keep the schedule of every Sunday 8:30-9:30, except if a holiday falls on a weekend, like July 6th. Please contact Allie Maul or Emily Johnson with any questions.

We are looking for Sunday school teachers for the summer months. Contact Allie Maul if you have any questions or are interested.

We are looking for kids/families to help with being greeters on Sundays before church. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board by the Sunday School office. If you are not able to sign up in person, but want to help text either Allie at (217) 373-4421 or send your request to the Sunday School email at st.johnlutheransunschool@gmail.com



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 NALC currently has 67 congregations actively seeking to call a pastor. There are 39 openings for full-time ministry and 28 congregations in need of a part-time pastor.

The period without a pastor can be one of the most challenging seasons in the life of any church. Additionally, we are not the same congregation we were last year, or ten years ago. Times have changed, things have changed, we have changed since last calling a pastor. What do those changes mean for the calling of a new one? What is different now? Changing demographics, aging populations, members leaving and new members joining, all these factors play a big role in our mission, ministry, service, and witness for the community of faith we have here at St. John.

It's crucial to remember that change is an inevitable and enriching part of every congregation's life, and that stagnation can weaken the message and harden hearts. Are we evolving with the changing times or are we stagnant?

As we continue our path to call our next pastor, let's take some time to reflect on the challenges we face as a changing congregation and refresh ourselves in these words from scripture about our life in the Spirit: Romans 8:26-28. We are so called according to God's purpose. The times may be changing, but we are standing on the solid promise of God's word.

Romans 8:26-28 NIV

26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. 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.

Your brother in Christ,
Josh

OFFICIAL ACTS



Four of our eighth-grade youth:
***Ella Bromley, Madison Huls,
 James Ketchum, and Jacob Wells***
 made public affirmation of their baptismal
 covenant in the Rite of Confirmation on May
 4th.

*May God's Word always be their source for direction and comfort
 through life's journey.*



Sympathy is extended to the family of
Geraldine Ann Osterbur
 Geraldine passed to her eternal home on
 Saturday, April 24, 2025, at
 Country Health, Gifford, Illinois. Funeral worship was
 held here at St. John on Tuesday, April 29, 2025.



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



Titus Dean Wright
 was baptized into the family of Christ
 here at St. John on Sunday, April 27, 2025.

Titus is the son of Tyler and Miranda
 (Edenburn) Wright.

His sponsors are Lyle and Cayla Waters.



Allie Claire Frick
 was baptized into the family of Christ here at St.
 John on, Saturday, May 10, 2025.

She is the daughter of Andrew and Courtney (Osterbur) Frick.

Her sponsors are Benjamin Frick and Ashley Frick.

EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Confirmation
 "Make a Change" community service project. We collected
 \$436.29 for Champaign County Humane Society and \$480.80 for
 St. Jude Children's Hospital!! We are super excited to
 deliver the donations knowing how much it will help
 those organizations.



Thank you from 2025 Confirmation Class

*"And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and
 with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your
 strength. The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as
 yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." -
 Mark 12:30-31*



OUR CONFIRMATION REUNION CLASSES for 2025 are:

Class of 2000 celebrating 25 years: Justin Behrens,
 Jacob Bohlen, Meghan Fisher, Jennifer (Franzen)
 Acton, Todd Franzen, Brooke (Freeman) Wisley,
 Megan Frerichs, Breanna (Meier) Nunez, Jessica
 (Sieberns) Wyre, Acasia (Vermillion) Hedrick.

Adults confirmed: **Class of 1975 celebrating 50 years:**
 John Britt, Barry Franzen, Timothy Frerichs, Ronald Gronewald,
 Michael Hoveltn, Lorynne Huls, Tim Huls, Peggy (Loschen) Talbott,
 Scott Meier, Donna (Rademacher) Townsley, Sandra (Russell) Wienke.
 Adults confirmed: Charles Vilven, Robert Vilven, Charles Koonce.

Class of 1950 celebrating 75 years: Marvin Duitsman, Duane Franzen,
 Emilie L. (Osterbur) Steffey, Kay M. (Hunter) Fruhling Fiscus. Adult
 confirmed: Billie Joyce (Saltler) Busboom, Bonnie (Perkins) Frerichs,
 Deane C. Phares. Those celebrating over 75 years: **Class of 1949** -
 Berniece Aden, Marilyn Bluhm, Vernon Buhr, Helen (Osterbur) Jeffords,
 Herbert Thompson. **Class of 1948** - Ellen (Hoveltn) Miller. **Class of**
1947 - Darlene (Albers) Hoveltn, Ann (Benting) Freeman, Lois (Hunter)
 Frerichs, **Class of 1947** - Adult Confirmation - Evelyn June (Bradley)
 Osterbur, Bernice (Putnam) Poyner. **Class of 1946** - Lorraine (Meier)
 Chambliss.

Class of 1945 - Helen (Bluhm) Connick, Mary Lou (Habben) Ackerman.

Class of 1943 - Ernest Benting.

Class of 1941 - Grace Helen (Sieberns) Hoveltn.



Father's Day is Sunday, **June 16th**. Special honor and recognition will be given to our fathers during worship and at the coffee fellowship that day.

Our thanks and God's blessings
to all fathers!

A FATHER'S LOVE

*In all that you do,
a Dad's love plays a part.
There's always a place for him
deep in your heart.
And each year that passes,
you're even more glad,
More grateful and proud
just to call him your Dad!*

"I guide you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths.
When you walk, your steps will
not be hampered; when you run, you will not stumble."
--Proverbs 4:11-12

Sympathy is extended to the family of **Lynn Osterbur**.
Lynn passed to his eternal home at Carle Foundation Hospital
on Tuesday, May 2, 2023.
Funeral worship was held here at St. John
on Monday, May 8.



Sympathy is also extended to the family of
Bill Carlisle.
Bill passed to his eternal home
on Saturday, May 6, 2023.

Funeral worship was held at St. John Cemetery
on Saturday, May 13.

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

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

It's time again to think about collecting items for Lutheran World Relief
projects supported by our congregation each year.

School Kits –

Items needed for each kit:

- (1) 30-centimeter or 12-inch ruler;
 - (1) pencil sharpener;
 - (1) pair blunt scissors;
 - (1) 2-inch eraser;
 - (5) ball point pens;
 - (5) unsharpened #2 pencils
with erasers;
 - (1) box 16-24 crayons.
 - (4) 70-count spiral notebooks
- Please bring these items to the
church as soon as possible.

Personal Care Kits –

Items needed for each kit:

- (1) light to medium-weight
bath-size towel (dark color);
- (2) bath-size bars of soap
(in original wrapping);
- (1) adult-size tooth brush
(in original wrapping);
- (1) sturdy comb
(removed from packaging);
- (1) metal nail clippers

Baby Care Kits –

Items needed for each kit:

- (2) lightweight cotton T-shirts;
- (2) long-sleeved
or short-sleeved gowns
or sleepers (without feet);
- (1) jacket, sweater
or sweatshirt with hood
(or include a baby cap);
- (2) receiving blankets
(cotton, flannel, crocheted,
or knitted 52" square);
- (1) dark hand towel;
- (2) bath-size bars of soap
(in original wrapping);
- (4) flat-fold diapers;
- (2) diaper pins;
- (2) pair socks.

Sewing Kits –

Items needed for each kit:

- (2) pieces of cotton
or cotton blend fabrics
(either 2 1/4 yards of 60-inch wide
or 3 yards of 44-45-inch wide