

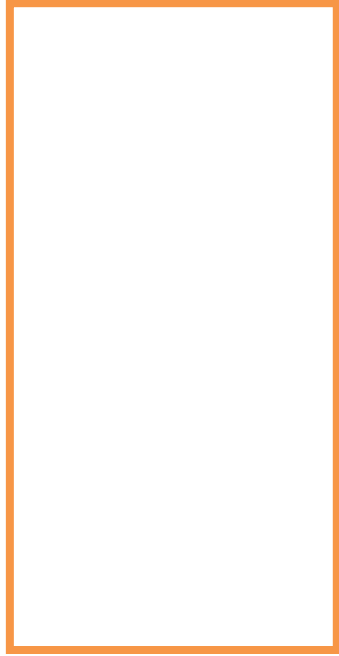
St. John Lutheran Church  
203 E. Church Street  
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Royal, Illinois 61871

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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

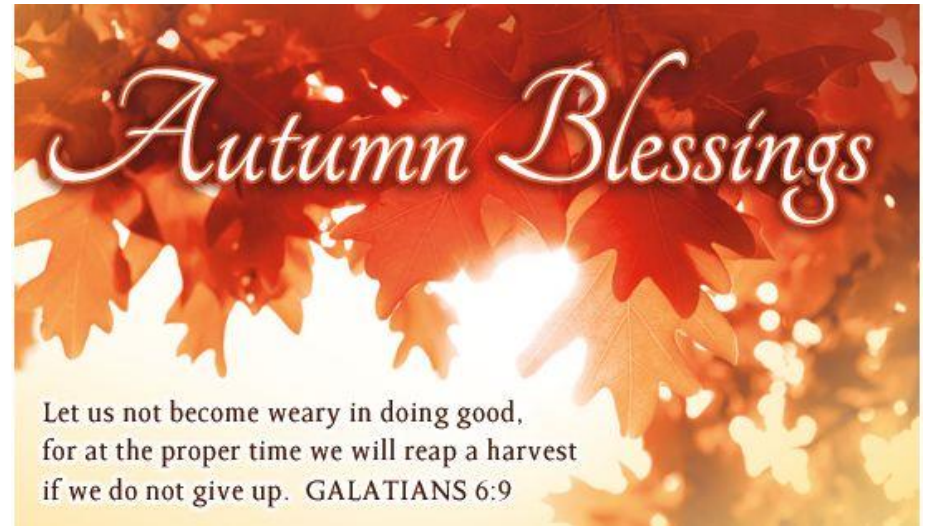
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## St. John's Newsletter

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

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# SEPTEMBER 2025



Let us not become weary in doing good,  
for at the proper time we will reap a harvest  
if we do not give up. GALATIANS 6:9

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St. John Lutheran Church  
203 E. Church Street  
P.O. Box 36  
Royal, Illinois 61871  
**(217) 583-3295 or (217) 583-3805**

email: [churchoffice@stjohnroyal.org](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnroyal.org)  
church website: [stjohnroyal.org](http://stjohnroyal.org)

## From Josh Frerichs ...

Dear Church Family,

I wanted to take a moment to share a message of encouragement from *Romans 8:28*: “*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.*”

The meaning of this verse from the Book of Romans seems simple at first glance. But when we break it down, we begin to see the complexity of it.

Let's be clear about something... Some things simply are not good. In fact, they're bad. Things like war, famine, the unexpected death of a loved one, and many other hardships and tragedies. There's just nothing redeeming about them. Right?

Well, actually there is something redeeming in all of these things... the Lord Jesus Christ! He's the Redeemer and because of Him, God promises those of us who believe in Jesus that all things, even bad ones, work together for our good.

This verse offers us a powerful assurance: God is always at work, weaving together every detail of our lives for good. This doesn't mean every moment will feel good or that we'll be spared from hardship. But it does mean that nothing is wasted in God's hands. He takes our struggles, disappointments, and even our mistakes, and works them into His greater plan for our lives.

When we face trials, it can be hard to see how God could possibly bring good from them. Yet, when we look back, many of us can point to times when a painful season led to unexpected blessings, growth, or a deeper faith. God specializes in redemption turning what the enemy meant for harm into something purposeful and beautiful. “*For I know the plans I have for you,*” declares the Lord, “*plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*” – *Jeremiah 29:11*

Can you recall a time when God brought something good out of a difficult situation in your life? How might God be at work in your current circumstances, even if you can't see it yet? What would it look like to surrender your challenges fully to Him today?

There will always be highs and lows in life. But through each hill and valley, we have an opportunity to grow our faith and to see how God works all things together for our good. Even when we don't

## ONGOING PRAYER LIST

Harold Hovelin	Ryan Gernentz ( <i>son of Jim Gernentz brother to Casey Gernentz</i> )
Kendra Manselle	Hannah Worley ( <i>daughter of Doug &amp; Miki Wesley</i> )
Stan Duitsman	Brixley Pickering ( <i>friend of Gloria Grant</i> )
Belva Osterbur	Kim Brooks Allen ( <i>friend of Miki Wesley</i> )
Nathan Buhr	Abby Lundquist ( <i>friend of Ray Manselle</i> )
Ella Frerichs	Peyton McDonnaugh ( <i>friend of Marsha Osterbur</i> )
Betty Huls	Hannah Nirider ( <i>friend of Parker Poole</i> )
Chris Huls	Amy Dufelmeier ( <i>sister of Hilary Whitt</i> )
Nick Christians	Barbara Carter ( <i>daughter of Betty Huls</i> )
Anna Wentzloff	Aleyah Carley ( <i>daughter of Teresa Thornton Carley</i> )
	Darrel Jacobs ( <i>friend of Tracy Wahlfeldt</i> )
	Samantha Hutchinson ( <i>cousin of Hilary Whitt</i> )
	Rhonda Miller, Jane Cress ( <i>friend of Hilary Whitt</i> )
	Janey Huls ( <i>sister of Susie Schlueter</i> )
Lois Henderson, Mary Crider, Carol Doman ( <i>friends of Ray and Kendra Manselle</i> )	
Stoney Wireman, Frank and Mary Kay Kimell, Kerry Blankenbeger ( <i>friends of Gloria Grant</i> )	
<b>Family of:</b> Floyd Bohlen and Vernon Buhr	
<b>Nursing Home, Assisted Living Residents:</b>	
Mary Lou Ackerman, Berniece Aden, Sharon Ault, Regina Gronewald, Betty Huls, Elizabeth Hafermann, Harold and Darlene Hovelin, Janis Loschen, Robert and Dorene Pflugmacher, Myron Sage, Norma Sherfey	
<b>Homebound:</b> Dorothy Buhr, Marvin and Alice Duitsman, Florence Frerichs, Lois Frerichs, Marilyn Frerichs, Herb and Bev Thompson	
<b>Our Members (80+):</b> Ray and Loretta Aden, Brenda Alsip, Erna Amerman, Carl Beard, Dale 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, John and Donna Thompson	



## EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS



*St. John's Lutheran Church,*

*Thank you so much for the monetary gift. I greatly appreciate all the love and support I've received from my church family as I enter this new phase of my life. All the prayers and support mean so much to me.*

*Thea Smith*

*St. John Lutheran Church Family,*

*Thank you so much for all the cards, texts, and calls that you blessed me with on my birthday. They are all greatly appreciated!*

*Norma Sherfey*

*Dear Friends at St. John Lutheran Church,*

*Greeting of grace and peace to you in Christ Jesus!*

*Thank you for your July gift to the World Mission Prayer General Support Fund! Your prayers and financial support help us continue to share the good news of Jesus among people who've not yet heard it, in various places around the world. We invite you to pray this month for Josephat and Mary in Kenya, working to train leaders in the development of audio Bible listening groups among those in oral cultures. May God equip and sustain them, providing translators to put God's word into the heart languages of these varied people groups.*

*Thank you for your partnership!*

*In Christ,*

*Kristin McWeeny*

## WAYS TO SERVE IN THE CHURCH

The Nominating Committee has begun the task of filling positions for Council and Committees for 2026. Please prayerfully consider where you can help. For committee descriptions, please see the church website [www.stjohnroyal.org](http://www.stjohnroyal.org). Feel free to contact a member of the Nominating committee Derick Sieberns, Shannon Christians, Teresa Aden, Gloria Grant, and Daniele Frerichs, with any questions.

**It's Nominating  
Season Again!**



*from Josh con't ...*

understand what's happening, we can trust that He is turning every moment, both joyful and difficult, into His perfect plan!

Would you pray with me...

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the assurance that You work all things together for our good. Help us to trust in Your divine plan, even when we cannot fully comprehend it.

Strengthen our faith and fill us with peace, knowing that You are in control. Grant us the wisdom to see Your hand at work in every situation and the courage to surrender our will to Yours. May Your purpose prevail in our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Blessings,

Josh

## MUSIC REHEARSALS RESUME



**...Handbells and Adult Choir** will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, with Handbells at 6:30 and Choir at 7:00. Members are needed. Contact Tonya Ayers with any questions, at (217) 202-7730 or email her at [tayers152@yahoo.com](mailto:tayers152@yahoo.com).



**Come and join in!**

*My heart is steadfast, O God;  
I will sing and make music with all my soul.*

**Psalms 108:1 (NIV)**



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

September 7<sup>th</sup> – Pastor Blobaum

September 14<sup>th</sup> – Pastor Greg Smith

September 21<sup>st</sup> – Pastor Baderschneider

September 28<sup>th</sup> – Pastor Richard Lewis



## WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday School will be held at **8:30 a.m.** Worship is at **9:45 a.m.** Holy Communion is celebrated on the first and third Sundays of the month.



## DESIGNATED BENEVOLENCE



During the month of September, the designated benevolence is for the Global Missionaries through World Mission Prayer League, Lutheran World Relief for St. John Women project supplies. Please use the center portion of the offering envelopes for your special contributions.

## YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Children will continue to have their own bulletins to use during service. This will be a way to help them be more engaged during the service and sermon. Make sure you are getting one before service begins!



The Sunday School Youth will continue to be greeters each Sunday and help out as ushers on the second Sunday of each month.



There will **NOT** be any youth Sunday School on Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup> or Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>.

Back to normal schedule starting Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, with Rally Day!

## RALLY DAY

On Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, our new Sunday School Year will kick off with Rally Day! Sunday school begins at 8:30 a.m. Our new nursery class students will be welcomed, and current students will move to their new classes. During worship, Bibles will be given to the nursery class.



Worship will be held outside that day at 9:45 a.m., so please bring your lawn chairs! Marvin Lee will lead us in music.

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 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.

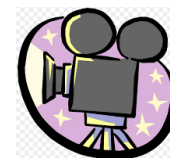


...**Memorials and gifts** to St. John Lutheran Cemetery may be given by cash, or checks made out to St. John Lutheran Cemetery, and given to Ron Duitsman, John R. Thompsen, or Chuck Carl.

...**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](mailto:StJohnRoyal61871@gmail.com)



**ST. JOSEPH METHODIST CHURCH** Food Pantry for September **will not** have any dates. The next dates are October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.



## SOME OF "THIS AND THAT"

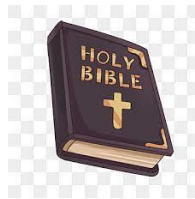


...**Flock Group Shepherd for October** is **Daniele Frerichs**. She will be contacting her flock group for volunteers. *Thank you to all that volunteer!*



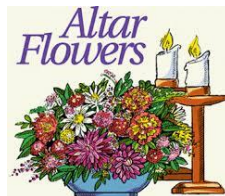
...**The Flock Group Shepherd for November** is **Deanna Loschen**. **December** will be **Miki Wesley**.

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 **August 14<sup>th</sup>**. Joellyn Pedro will host.



**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.



A congregational picnic will follow the service with the following menu: Bar-b-que pulled pork and hot dogs, potato salad, chips, fruit, ice cream cups, water, and lemonade.

There will be a bounce house. So, plan now to come for this special day to worship our Lord and Savior, share in good fellowship, food and fun!



## 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  
Marsha Osterbur, Council Treasurer (217) 840-3290  
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

## COUNCIL NOTES



1. Council met on Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00. Chelsey led the council in the devotion.
2. Council members present were Josh Frerichs, Bryce Frerichs, Chelsey Phillips, Gene Osterbur, Kris Francisco, Whitney Highfill, Melinda Huls, Debbie Ackerman, Mike Heidle. Absent were Marsha Osterbur, Emily Vilven/Allie Maul. Guest were Brian Zeifang, Valerie Birge, and Keith Cunningham.
3. Brian Zeifang gave an update on Jesus Is the Way Ministries.
4. Committees are busy preparing for Rally Day and Mission Festival.
5. Pastor/Music/Organist/Sunday School Teachers Appreciation Month will be Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>.
6. Thanksgiving Service will be on Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>. Christmas Eve Services will be at 5:00 and 10 pm, Christmas Day at 9:45 am. New Year's Eve service is still being decided.
7. Vice-President Bryce Frerichs gave the closing prayer.
8. Next council meeting is September 15<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS



### 2025-2026 CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation classes will be held on Sunday mornings during Sunday School and again on Sunday at a time to be determined. The first class begins the morning of Sunday, September 14th (Rally Day) with a parent and student orientation and meets most weeks through late April or early May. Confirmation will be like last year with us combining with Pastor Andy and Prince of Peace on Sundays rotating between St. Joseph and Royal locations. Laura Ketchum will again help coordinate confirmation activities and can be contacted with questions.

### MISSION FESTIVAL



Mission Festival is set for Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, at our 9:45 a.m. worship. Celebrating Mission Festival a fellowship potluck meal will be provided and served by the Parish Life—Evangelism Committee, Property Committee, Worship Committee, Hunger-Stewardship, and Parish Ed. following service in the church basement. Fried chicken will be served. The Property and Worship Committees will furnish desserts. Hunger-Stewardship and Parish Ed will furnish sides. Parish Life-Evangelism will serve and clean up. Our speaker will be Pastor Richard Lewis.



## CHURCH OFFICE NEWS



...Church Office Hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 - 3:00, lunch break typically between 12:00 - 1:00.

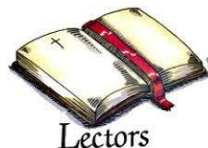


...The church office second landline number 217-583-3805 has been changed to a **cell phone** and is able to receive/send texts, so please feel free to use this number if it is easier for you to send a message to the office.



...The deadline for October's newsletter is Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup>! Please, have any information in by that date that you want in the October

newsletter. If it comes after that date, it may not make it into the newsletter. Thank you.



**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.



...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!

Classes have begun and are being held on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm in the basement, but it is still not too late to join in!



## MISSION TRIP 2025

During the week of July 20–26, four St. John members—Allison Ochs, Theo Smith, James Ketchum, and Laura Ketchum—joined members of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and others from the community on a mission trip to Pewaukee, WI for a week of service, fellowship, and worship.

Upon arrival on Sunday, we settled into the Asa Clark Middle School, which became our home for the week. There we shared meals, slept in classrooms, and gathered daily for spirit-filled, high-energy worship each morning and evening.

Each participant was placed into a six-person crew and assigned a service project to assist community members in need. These projects varied but often included painting, building steps, ramps, or decks, and completing general home repairs. Every afternoon, crews also paused for a devotional time together, grounding our work in scripture and prayer.

The theme for the week was **EQUIP**, focusing on the story of Saul and how God prepares us to serve Him. Each participant received a devotional handbook to guide our study. Our theme verse was 2 *Corinthians* 9:8:

*"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."*

The EQUIP theme invited us to reflect on five steps of faith:

- **E = Evaluate** – Gain clarity about our situation.
- **Q = Question** – Be brave enough to ask for help when we don't have all the answers.
- **U = Understand** – Absorb what we can, and trust Jesus with what we cannot.
- **I = Improve** – Strengthen our spiritual "toolbox" with prayer, scripture, and faith practices.
- **P = Proclaim** – Give thanks to God and share what He has done.

We are deeply grateful to all members of St. John for your financial support and, most importantly, for your prayers. Because of your generosity, we were able to participate in this meaningful week of service and spiritual growth. Please, be sure to ask the travelers about their experience.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS ROSTER 2025-2026

**S.S Superintendents** – Allie Maul & Emily Vilven  
**Music:** Allie Maul, Susi Huls, Tracey Mathis

Nursery Teachers:  
Chelsey Phillips  
Merissa Wright

### Nursery

Ford Wright  
Kaylee Mohr  
Wesley Aden  
Annistyn Anderson  
Emma Moews  
Finley Crozier  
Madelyn Sieberns  
Garrett Duitsman  
Emily Frizzo

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teachers  
Sarah Wolken, Jennifer Olson,  
Addi Seggbruch

### First Grade

Arnold Loschen  
Ronald Loschen  
Lucas Sieberns  
Brooks Whitt

### Second Grade

Kate Frerichs  
Finley Hendrick  
Macy Huls

Pre-K Teachers:

Shelley Breymeyer,  
Jodi Bohlen, & Auston Maul

### Pre-K

Collins Whitt  
Caden Ehmen  
Ellie Whitlow  
Allie Frick

### Kindergarten

Wyatt Johnson  
Carson Greene  
Emarie Mohr  
Sawyer Wolken  
Jace Crozier  
Eddie Patzwith

3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers:  
Daniele Frerichs & April Grant

### Third Grade

Annaston Bohlen  
Brecken Highfill  
Myles Wolken  
Tucker Wolken

### Fourth Grade

Emilia Bohlen  
Carter Ehmen  
Ainsley Hendrick  
Camden Highfill  
Ellie Loschen  
Harrison Patzwith



5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Teachers:  
Tracey Mathis & Stacy Smith

**Fifth Grade**

Claire Flessner  
Levi Mathis  
Emerson Meier  
Wesley Whitlow

**Sixth Grade**

Olson Bohlen  
Lauren Frerichs  
Amya Osterbur  
Carson Sjoken  
Jackson Sjoken  
Makenzie Huls

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher:

Laura Ketchum

**Seventh Grade**

Campbell Flessner  
Aubree Johnson

**Eight Grade**

Jeremiah Bohlen  
Johnathan Gossett  
Blake Lackey  
Benjamin Loschen  
Devin Loschen  
Blair Mathis  
Lincoln Meier  
Brady Ramm  
Lyli Vilven  
Emma Whitlow

**High School**

**Freshman**

Ella Bromley  
Madison Huls  
James Ketchum  
Jacob Wells

**Junior**

Alex Bromley  
Morgan Huls  
Garrett Loschen  
Cameron Wagner  
Gage Ramm

**Adult S**

Teacher: Deanna Osterbur

**Sophomore**

Isabella Frerichs  
Lillian Hedrick  
Royce Loschen  
Alyssa Osterbur  
Leah Pruitt  
Emma Wells

**Senior**

Caroline Aden  
Cade Crozier  
Jeffery Gossett  
Mackenzie Loschen  
Allison Ochs  
Gracyn Sjoken

**Sunday School is Cool**



This month, we don't have any new updates to share, but please know that your prayers and support are deeply appreciated as we continue this important work.

Unlike a typical job search or HR hiring process, a call process in the church is not just about filling a position—it's a prayerful, Spirit-led journey of discernment. Yes, there are familiar elements such as interviews and evaluations, but this is, at its heart, a faith practice. Together with the Holy Spirit, we listen, we pray, and we trust that God is working through every conversation, consideration, and connection to lead us to the right person for this important role in ministry.

We continue to trust God's timing and wisdom in this process and look forward to keeping you updated as we move forward. Thank you for your patience and prayers!

Your brother in Christ,  
Josh

**OFFICIAL ACTS**

Sympathy is extended to the family of  
***Floyd Bohlen.***

Floyd passed to his eternal home on Saturday, August 2, 2025, at Accolade Healthcare of Paxton, Paxton, Illinois. Funeral worship was held here at St. John on Thursday, August 7, 2025.

Sympathy is also extended to the family of  
***Vernon Buhr.***

Vernon passed to his eternal home on Wednesday, August 6, 2025, at home. Funeral worship was held here at St. John on Monday, August 11, 2025.

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

