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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
Tracy Britt, Council Treasurer, Hunger-Stewardship
Mike Heidle, Worship
Whitney Highfill, Parish Life/Evangelism
Rick Aden, Property
Melinda Huls, Parish Life/Evangelism
Stacy Smith, Youth
Laura Ketchum, Youth
Sarah Wolken, S.S. Superintendent, 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

NOVEMBER 2026



St. John Lutheran Church
203 E. Church Street, P.O. Box 36
Royal, Illinois 61871
(217) 583-3295 or (217) 583-3805
Ryan Sage, Student Pastor
email: churchoffice@stjohnroyal.org
church website: https://stjohnroyal.org

Devotion from Pastor Ryan …

All Saints Day: Remembering the Saints, Rejoicing in Christ

As the leaves turn their fall colors and farms are fully engaged in the harvest, the Church approaches a special day in its calendar: All Saints Day. Observed on November 1, All Saints Day gives us an opportunity to remember those who have gone before us in the faith and to give thanks for the promises of God that sustain us today.

For many of us, this time of year brings memories of loved ones who have died. We remember parents, grandparents, spouses, children, siblings, friends, and those in our congregation. We remember their voices, their laughter, and the ways God worked through them in our lives. Their absence can still bring sadness, even years later. Even so, All Saints Day gives us space to acknowledge that grief while also hearing the good news of Jesus Christ.

But what does it mean to be a saint? In everyday conversation, we sometimes use the word "saint" to describe someone who seems unusually good, patient, or generous. We might even say someone is a saint because of how much they put up with! But Scripture gives us a deeper understanding of sainthood.

A saint is not someone who has lived a perfect life or earned a special place in heaven through good deeds. Saints are sinners whom God forgives and makes holy through Jesus Christ. We do not become saints by being good enough for God. God makes us saints by His grace through faith in Christ.

Our hope does not rest on how faithfully we have lived or how well we have served our church and community. It rests on what Jesus has done for us through His death and resurrection. He has borne our sin, defeated death, and promised eternal life to all who belong to Him.

ONGOING PRAYER LIST



Roxie Sage

Kendra Manselle
Anna Wentzloff
Sandie Osterbur
Dan Frerichs
Chris Huls



Euna Francisco *(mother of Mike Francisco)*
Jerrick Olson *(grandson of Norma Sherfey)*
Holly Hoffschneider
Janey Huls *(sister to Susie Schlueter)*
Stoney Wireman *(friend of Gloria Grant)*
Randy Goyne
Evelyn Frost
Frank & Mary Kay Kimell *(friend of Gloria Grant)*
Kerry Blankenbegher *(friend of Gloria Grant)*
Peyton McDonnaugh *(friend of Marsha Osterbur)*
Amy Dufelmeier *(sister of Hilary Whitt)*
Chloe Birdsell *(friend of Hilary Whitt)*

Family of: Betty Osterbur

Nursing Home, Assisted Living Residents:
Mary Lou Ackerman, Berniece Aden, Sharon Ault, Eldred Cornelius, Florence Frerichs, Regina Gronewald, Betty Huls, Harold and Darlene Hoveln, Janis Loschen, Myron Sage, Norma Sherfey

Homebound: Alice Duitsman, Marilyn Frerichs, Herb Thompsen.
Our Members (80+): Ray & Loretta Aden, Brenda Alsip, Erna Amerman, Carl Beard, Dale & Virginia Behrens, Emil & Carolyn Blobaum, Wilma Buhr, Billie Busboom, Chuck & Judy Carl, Jim & Marge Clingan, Ron Duitsman, Gloria Ehmen, Kay Fiscus, Carolyn Frerichs, Dan Frerichs, Rita Frerichs, Barbara Fruhling, Bernice Fruhling-Cash, Janis Loschen, JoAnn Lynch, Darlene Osterbur, Ella Osterbur, Gene Osterbur, June Osterbur, Kenny Osterbur, Marvin & Belva Osterbur, Rodney & Sandie Osterbur, Denver Phelps, Linda Post, JoAnn Rademaker, Roxie Sage, Aleta Schlueter, Robert Schmidt, John & Donna Thompsen, Judy White.

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 office is working on the church directory for 2027. If you have any changes to phone numbers, addresses, and/or emails, please, let the office know as soon as possible.

The deadline for the November Newsletter is Friday, November 13th.





The Church Office will be closing early on Wednesday, November 25th at 1:00 pm and will be closed on Thursday, November 26th and Friday, November 27th, in honor of Thanksgiving.



Have you had a chance to visit our church website? If not, you should! It has some useful information! On the website you will find the monthly newsletter and calendar, ways to contact the church, pictures, and a cool video of our church and the village of Royal! Check it out at: https://stjohnroyal.org

If you have not received your newsletter, you can always look on the church website to read the newsletter and check the calendar.

(Pastor Ryan's Devotion continued)

So why remember the saints who have gone before us? Hebrews 12 speaks of a "great cloud of witnesses" surrounding us. We give thanks for the faith God worked in them and the ways His love was made known through their lives. Their stories remind us of God's faithfulness through generations, in ordinary homes, on family farms, in workplaces, and in congregations like ours.

Yet All Saints Day is not ultimately about celebrating human accomplishments. It is about celebrating God's faithfulness. Those we remember had struggles, failures, and sins. They, too, needed Christ's forgiveness. Their confidence, like ours, rested in His promise of salvation.

And it is because of that promise that we can thank God for their lives without pretending death does not hurt. Even Jesus wept at the tomb of His friend Lazarus. But Jesus also declared, "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25, ESV). Because Christ lives, death does not have the final word over us.

As we observe All Saints Day, let us remember those who have gone before us with gratitude, mourn our losses honestly, and encourage one another with the promises of God. The hands that hold us today are the same hands that were pierced for us on the cross. The Savior who died for us has risen, and He will raise His people to everlasting life.

Thanks be to God for the saints who have gone before us, for the saints gathered among us today, and for the sure and certain hope we share in Jesus Christ.

In Christ, our risen Lord, we have life everlasting. Amen.



Pastor Ryan

Pastor Ryan can be reached by email at rsage217@gmail.com

THE MUTUAL/MENTOR COMMITTEE



A mutual/mentor committee has been formed to give support, encouragement and provide constructive feedback to Pastor Ryan as he works through his internship. If you have any thoughts, comments or feedback that you would like to share with the committee please contact one of the members. Teresa Aden, Tracy Britt, Daniele Frerichs, Ray Manselle, or Stacy Smith.



WORSHIP SERVICES

Worship is at **9:45 a.m**. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first and third Sundays of the month.

UPCOMING SERVICES



Sunday, November 1st, is All Saints Sunday, when those who have joined the Church Triumphant since last All Saints Day, and those who have joined Christ's Family here at St. John through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism are remembered and recognized.

This year there will again be an evergreen tree in the sanctuary with dove and angel ornaments hung on it and the names of those remembered and recognized printed on them. Family may take these ornaments home following worship.

We recognize:
Coy Easton Wilsey
Brielle Michael Crozier
Haley Brooke Rodriguez

We remember:
Stanley Duitsman
Robert Pflugmacher
Dorene Pflugmacher
Holland Elizabeth Aden
Orion Zev Elzey
Sylvia June Wojtyla
Tate Armstrong Rice

Beverly Thompsen
Edwin Rademaker
Stanley Osterbur
Marvin Duitsman
Dorthy Buhr
Lois Frerichs
Helen Comnick
Betty Osterbur



COUNCIL NOTES

1. The council met on Monday, October 19th.
2. Present: Josh Frerichs, Bryce Frercihs, Tracy Britt, Melinda Huls, Laura Ketchum, Mike Heidle, Sarah Wolken, and Pastor Sage. Absent: Debbie Ackerman, Rick Aden, Stacy Smith and Whitney Highfill. Guests: Valerie Birge, Keith Cunningham and Chuck Carl.
3. Melinda Huls led devotion and prayer. The devotion was on Philippians 4:13. *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*
4. The 2027 budget was reviewed.
5. Annual Reports will be mailed out in November. The Annual meeting is Sunday, November 8.
6. Council representatives for November are Rick Aden, Stacy Smith, and Josh Frerichs.
7. The next council meeting is Monday, November 16th, at 7:00.

DESIGNATED BENEVOLENCE



During the month of November, the designated benevolence offerings are for World Hunger through Lutheran World Relief.

Please use the center portion of the offering envelopes for your special contributions.

A special thank you to all of you who contributed.



PLARN PROJECT

Save Your Plastic Grocery Bags!

Plastic grocery bags are used to make sleeping mats for the homeless. They serve as a barrier between them and the ground. Drop off your bags in the marked container NOW LOCATED IN THE EAST ENTRANCE BETWEEN THE GLASS DOORS. If you are interested in helping, we meet on Mondays from 2:00 - 3:00 in the parsonage. Questions? Call Richard or Kathy Lewis at (217) 264-3331 or (217) 264-0751.

("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.

St. Joseph Methodist Church Food Pantry date for this month is **November 20th**. For the month of **December, the date is the 18th**. The line starts at 4:30 on the west side of the church.





SAVE THE DATE Sunday, November 8 at 3:00pm at Immanuel Lutheran Church at Flatville. Organist Mark C. Tucker, and pianist Faye Ballard will present a musical program to include both classical and theater organ music, Ragtime, Blues, Jazz, and congregational singing. Please plan to attend, and invite your friends, family, neighbors, etc.

POINSETTIA SIGN UP



We will again be ordering poinsettias for the upcoming holiday season. Information is forthcoming, please watch the bulletins and online for more information regarding ordering.

Lutheran World Relief Quilts for 2026

This past year 100 quilts were made. Six were given to nursing homes, seven were given to our 2026 high school graduates, eleven were given to the Jesus is the Way Ministry, and 73 were sent to Lutheran World Relief. A special thank you for all the beautiful work you do!

(upcoming services continued)

ANNUAL MEETING



The Annual meeting of St. John Lutheran Church, Royal, will follow worship on **Sunday, November 8th**. All confirmed members are encouraged to attend! Annual report booklets are being prepared and will be mailed out. Extra copies will be available in the church office. The business items for consideration include: the church and committee reports, adoption of 2026 council and committee positions and budgets.

All confirmed members are encouraged to attend.
*<u>FROM OUR CONSTITUTION</u>: C8.**02.c.***
Voting members are confirmed members not less than age 18. Such confirmed members shall have communed and/or contributed of record during the current or preceding year.



THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

Come and give thanks and praise to our Heavenly Father in worship here at St. John on **T**hanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, November 25, at 7:00. Holy Communion will be celebrated.





ADVENT

Hanging of the Greens

Advent and the beginning of the church year calendar begin on Sunday, November 29th.



(upcoming services continued)



Christmas Eve services **Thursday, December 24th**, at 5:00 pm & 10:00 pm.

Christmas Day service **Friday, December 25th** at 10 am.

PARISH ED/YOUTH NEWS



Sarah Wolken, Sunday School Superintendent
Tracey Mathis, Assistant Sunday School Superintendent
Allie Maul, Music

Sunday School is held each Sunday morning at **8:30 a.m.**

St. John youth will be going ice skating on Sunday, November 8th, from 1:30-3:30, at the U of I ice arena. Please let Laura Ketchum know if you are planning to attend so that transportation can be arranged. This activity is open to all youth in grade 1 through high school.



The Parish Ed Committee is planning this year's **Christmas Program** for **Sunday, December 13th, during the 9:45 a.m. service.**

Mission Trip 2027



WE'RE GOING TO MEXICO! Mexico, Missouri that is. We will be partnering with Prince of Peace to travel to Missouri July 11-17th. The 2027 theme is "Unfiltered." The only requirement to attend is that you must be graduating 8th grade or older. Please sign up by contacting Laura Ketchum.

("this and that" continued)



Altar Flowers are provided and delivered each weekend by House of Flowers, in Rantoul. The cost to the church is $40.00 per vase each week. You can sponsor a vase or both by signing up on the chart posted on the north office door for one or both vases and indicate whether it's for a special occasion. **Sponsors are asked to donate $20.00 per vase.** Donations are to be made to the church and earmarked for flowers. **Please, write who is sponsoring the flowers along with the special occasion when signing up to sponsor.**



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, Dan Henderson**.

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. There is a marked container in the refrigerator to place your money. This is not for any profit but for the convenience of having water and pop here at the church. Thank you!



A Pictorial directory committee is being organized. If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact Laura Ketchum. The last pictorial directory was done in 2014!

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 in a folder on the lectern for you to use during the service. 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.



SOME OF "THIS AND THAT"



Flock Group Shepherd for December is **Teresa Aden**. She will be contacting her flock group for volunteers. *Thank you to all that volunteer!*



The Flock Group Shepherd for **January 2027** will be **Kathleen Weckel.**

St. John's Women's Bible Study will meet **November 12th** with Debbie Suits hosting. The December Bible study will be on **December 10th**.





Prayer Requests for the Prayer Chain begin by calling the church office at 217-583-3295, texting 217-583-3805, or emailing the church office. Please call the church office, Pastor Sage, 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.



Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on **Saturday night, October 31st**. Daylight Savings Time ends the first weekend of November.





If you are interested in becoming a member of St. John, please, reach out to Pastor Sage or let the church office know. We would love to have you!

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

EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS



Thank you to those who donated to the Back-to-School fund this year. Your donations paid for school registrations, lunches, and field trips for several students at the grade school, junior high, and high school. The schools are grateful for your continued generosity.

Kris Francisco



Dear Members of St. John Lutheran Church,

We are very grateful for your generous gifts and faithful prayers for our Prayer League workers as they bring the Good News of Jesus to the world. We pray that God will meet your needs!

On October 3rd, we plan to celebrate 50 years of serving the poor in Jesus' name through LAMB Hospital in northwest Bangladesh at Cross and Crown Lutheran Church in Montebello, California. Then also we will have a big celebration onsite at LAMB Hospital October 30th and 31st. May God be glorified and many more people continue to experience Jesus' love and turn to Him for true life as LAMB continues to serve! We value your prayers! We also appreciate your prayers for Nepal, since the devastating floods. God can bring hope!

With gratitude,
Lois Scott
Prayer League



Confirmation students,

I wanted to say thank you to the youth group for the snacks delivered to the field today. I help Scott Wahlfeldt at harvest time. The young lady who delivered seemed very nice and did so with a big smile. I appreciate the effort and this is a simple yet good way to demonstrate a little bit of Jesus to people.

God bless you all!

Todd Sloan



Birthday Celebrations in November (members 80+ years):

Florence Frerichs celebrates her 92nd birthday on the 11th.
Loretta Aden celebrates her 84th birthday on the 17th.
Dale Behrens celebrates his 85th birthday on the 17th.
Rita Frerichs celebrates her 83rd birthday on the 18th.
Sharon Ault celebrates her 85th birthday on the 19th.
Shelia Busboom celebrates her 80th birthday on the 21st.
Judy White celebrates her 81st birthday on the 28th.



Wedding Anniversaries in November (members 50+ years):

Gary and Myrna Craig celebrate 56 years on the 1st.
Ken and JoAnn Lynch celebrate 58 years on the 2nd.
Gene and Wanda Osterbur celebrate 51 years on the 8th.
Harold and Darlene Hoveln celebrate 74 years on the 23rd.
Barry and Rosalie Fisher celebrate 57 years on the 30th.

Remember all of them in your prayers, and with greetings!

OFFICIAL ACTS



Tate Armstrong Rice
was baptized into the family of Christ here at St. John on Sunday, October 4, 2026.



Tate is the son of
Michael and Lauren (Kaiser) Rice.
His sponsor is Lacey Kaiser.

Devotional from Council Member Tracy Britt

November is the month we celebrate Thanksgiving. But how often do we actually give thanks? Psalm 95:2, *Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol Hime with music and song.* Do we only give thanks at mealtime or when things go in a way which is favorable to us? Giving thanks should not be just for having a good day. It should be an act of worship. John 3:16, *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

Should God not be praised and thanked for that first of all! That's how much God loves us!

John 15:13. Greater love has no one than the: to lie down one's life for one's friends. Another day in November that I'd like to recognize is November 11th, Armistice Day. The day marks the end of World War One. Thank the Lord for giving us those who are willing to sacrifice their lives for our freedom, so that we can continue to openly worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

When we take time to thank God our problems will shrink in size and His grace will come into a sharper view. In Luke 17:11-19, Jesus heals ten lepers. All ten were healed but only one, a Samaritan, came back and fell to Jesus' feet thanking Him. Jesus said to him, *"rise and go, your faith has made you well."*

Dear Lord: I pray, help me to remember to always give you praise and thanksgiving above all. For giving me your Son as my Savior that I might have eternal life. As written in the prayer you gave your disciples, thank you for giving me my daily bread and forgiving me for my sins. And thank you all for all your many, many blessings. In Your precious name I pray. **Amen!**



This year our church will be donating to the US Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots Campaign.

We will be collecting toys for all ages. Gift cards are also welcome. Walmart, Meijer, Target in the $10-$20 range. Games, puzzles, clothing, personal hygiene items. The deadline is Sunday, December 13. Look for more information in the bulletins and the December newsletter.