

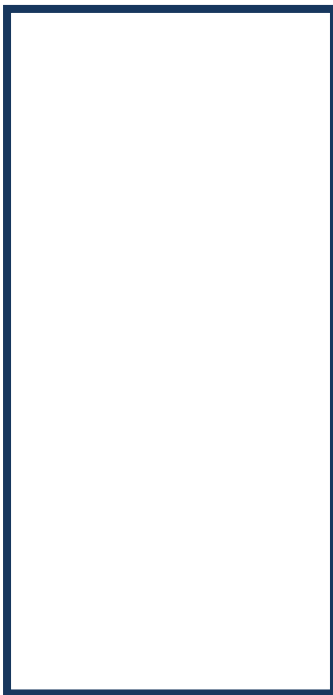
St. John Lutheran Church
203 E. Church Street
P.O. Box 36
Royal, Illinois 61871

Return Service Requested



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
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
Tracey Mathis, Assistant 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

JULY 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
Emil Blobaum, Visitation Pastor

email: churchoffice@stjohnroyal.org
church website: <https://stjohnroyal.org>

A Devotion from Pastor Sage....

Welcome to episode two of eye-opening discoveries from seminary! For some of you this may not be anything new, but for the rest, I hope these topics shed light on the “why” of our Sunday morning worship service. This month we will speak on the Creeds and their explanations. I remember as an early teen, still in the era of memorization and recitation, thinking that when we recited the Creed in church, that we sounded like a brainwashed horde in a movie. Someone gave us a prompt of some kind; we all stood, and with little to no inflection or emotion, droned our way through the words of the given script. Why? What function did this serve?

Well, it wasn't until seminary that I got my answer. In my first theology class, a systematic study of the Holy Spirit, we were asked who or what the Holy Spirit was. The class fell silent. A few brave souls piped up and offered that “it” is an influencing wind, blowing us this way and that, according to God's will. Others offered that “it” is a feeling, or something like our conscience. After the class had been exhausted by wild swings in search of the answer, we were directed to the Apostles' Creed, and its explanation, in the small catechism.

There, the answer appeared. We were all now on our heels. If nearly all of us were cradle Lutherans, spending our entire lives in the pews of a Lutheran church, why hadn't we grasped that the answer to what we believe was recited by all of us every week? That is the beauty and the simplicity of the Creeds. These simple words, often taught at a young age, give us the answer to what and in whom we believe (the Holy Spirit is a who, not an it, but more on that later.)

How often, if we are asked questions about our faith, are we left searching for an answer? Who is God? Who is Jesus? Who or what is the Holy Spirit and what is His function? These can sound like highbrow seminary questions to some, but the child in Sunday School can probably answer, "God is the Father, creator of heaven and earth." "Jesus Christ is His only S



ONGOING PRAYER LIST

Florence Frerichs	Sue Johnson (<i>cousin of Pastor Jay</i>)
Pastor Jay Johnson	Mitch Fruhling (<i>son of Kay Fiscus</i>)
Nathan Buhr	Janey Huls (<i>sister of Susie Schlueter</i>)
Dave Christians	Stoney Wireman (<i>friends of Gloria Grant</i>)
Kay Fiscus	Frank & Mary Kay Kimell (<i>friends of Gloria Grant</i>)
Kendra Manselle	Kerry Blankenbegher (<i>friends of Gloria Grant</i>)
Hannah Worley	Peyton McDonnaugh (<i>friend of Marsha Osterbur</i>)
Anna Wentzloff	Amy Dufelmeier (<i>sister of Hilary Whitt</i>)
Bryce Frerichs	Chloe Birdsell (<i>friend of Hilary Whitt</i>)
Sandie Osterbur	
Dan Frerichs	
Chris Huls	
Prayers for a friend of John & Donna Thompsen who has viral meningitis.	
Family of: Dorene Pflugmacher	
Nursing Home, Assisted Living Residents:	
Mary Lou Ackerman, Berniece Aden, Sharon Ault, Regina Gronewald, Betty Huls, Harold and Darlene Hovel, Janis Loschen, Myron Sage, Norma Sherfey	
Homebound: Eldred Cornelius, Alice Duitsman, Florence Frerichs, Lois Frerichs, Marilyn Frerichs, Herb Thompsen.	
Our Members (80+): Ray and Loretta Aden, Brenda Alsip, Erna Amerman,	
Carl Beard, Dale and Virginia Behrens, Emil and 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, Betty Osterbur, Darlene Osterbur, Ella Osterbur, Gene Osterbur, June Osterbur, Kenny Osterbur, Marvin and Belva Osterbur, Rodney and Sandie Osterbur, Denver Phelps, Linda Post, JoAnn Rademaker, Roxie Sage, Aleta Schlueter, Robert Schmidt, John and Donna Thompsen, Judy White	

Council members:

Josh Frerichs, Council President
Bryce Frerichs, Council Vice-President
Debbie Ackerman, Council Secretary
Tracy Britt, Council Treasurer
Mike Heidle, Council member
Melinda Huls, Council member
Whitney Highfill, Council member
Rick Aden, Council member
Laura Ketchum, Council member
Stacy Smith, Council member



COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

1. The Council met on Monday, June 15, at 7:00 p.m.
2. Council members present were Josh Frerichs, Bryce Frerichs, Debbie Ackerman, Tracy Britt, Melinda Huls, Mike Heidle, Stacey Smith, Laura Ketchum, Whitney Highfill, and Rick Aden.
3. Absent council members were Sarah Wolken.
4. The guests were Tracey Mathis, Valerie Birge and Keith Cunningham.
5. Meals for VBS are planned and VBS will be July 6-10, with the program on Sunday, July 12, during worship. The committee that is serving is responsible for the fruit, veggies, and desserts.
6. Laura Ketchum is heading up the float for Royal Days. Look forward to information coming soon.
7. The church has changed its internet provider. We are now using Starlink. The phone system has also been updated.
8. There will be an Open House for Pastor Andy & Joy Jones, on Sunday, August 9th, at Prince of Peace.
9. Next council meeting is Monday, July 20, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.



Pastor Sage continued...

under Pontius Pilate..." It's all right there. The words for the Spirit may be harder for us to understand at a surface level, but the small catechism beautifully explains them at a level even children can understand. That is why we recite the Creeds, so that in our daily lives, when questioned, we can say what we believe. Thank you God for giving us these words. We pray that we learn and use them, and do not abandon them. God bless you all, let me know if you have trouble finding your catechism, and keep me in your prayers, as I keep you all in mine!

God bless you all,

Pastor Sage



Pastor Sage can be reached by email at
[**rsage217@gmail.com**](mailto:rsage217@gmail.com)

SUMMER OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICES



There **will not** be any Outdoor Worship Services during the summer months. The **ONLY** outdoor service will be for **Rally Day** on **Sunday, September 13th**.





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 any information. Our email is:

[https://churchoffice@stjohnroyal.org](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnroyal.org)

Newsletter Deadline for August is Friday, July 17th!



Have you ever 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>



The **Church Office** will be **closed** on **Friday, July 3rd** in observance of **July 4th**.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026

SAVE THE DATE!

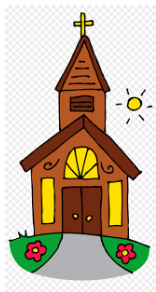
**Monday, July 6th through Friday, July 10th,
the program will be on Sunday, July 12th.**

Vacation Bible School is July 6–10, and we're so excited to explore the nature of God through our *Rainforest Falls* theme! To help make this week a success, we are looking for donations. Any contribution, big or small, is greatly appreciated! Keep an eye out for a list of items needed if you're interested in helping. You can also reach out to Whitney or Jen with any questions or to donate.

Thank you for supporting our VBS program and helping make this a fun and meaningful week for the kids!

VBS Menu for the Week		Committees
Mon, July 6	Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Mac and Cheese	Property
Tue, July 7	Little Caesar's Pizza	Worship
Wed, July 8	Chicken Nuggets & Mac N Cheese	Hunger- Stewardship
Thurs, July 9	Hot Dogs Uncrustables	Parish Life- Evangelism
Fri, July 10	Pizza	Council
Sun, Jun 13	Cake and Ice Cream	Parish Ed/Youth

DESIGNATED BENEVOLENCE



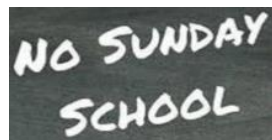
During the month of **July**, the designated benevolence is for the **Danville VA (through the Royal American Legion)** to help those in need. Please use the center portion of the offering envelopes for your gifts.

PARISH ED / YOUTH NEWS

Sarah Wolken, Sunday School Superintendent (217) 304-0231
Tracey Mathis, Assistant Sunday School Sup (217) 519-8447



Youth Sunday School will take a break this summer.
Classes will resume on Rally Day, **Sunday, September 13th.**



Adult Sunday School will continue to meet each Sunday at 8:30 a.m.



Mission Trip 2026 – Mission Trip 2026 – We will once again partner with Prince of Peace and travel to Wausau, WI, July 12–18. In a world filled with pressure from school, social media, and division, this year's theme, ***Illuminate***, invites us to discover Jesus as the unstoppable Light (John 1:1–18). Join us this summer to grow in faith, build real community, and shine Jesus' brilliance in a world that needs it. Participants must be graduating 8th grade or older. Please contact Laura Ketchum for more information.



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 (removed from packaging).

Please donate any of these items and bring them to the church by the end of September

Items can be put in the wooden church by the elevator.

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 of socks.

Sewing Kits –

Items needed for each kit:

- (2) pieces of cotton or cotton blend fabrics (either 2¹/₄ yards of 60-inch wide or 3 yards of 44-45-inch wide or 4 yards of 36-inch wide);
- (2) spools of matching thread (250-300 yards).

Thank you for your contributions!

Devotion from Council Member, Sarah Wolken

Do you have a favorite Vacation Bible School memory? I personally enjoyed the craft station. We would excitedly go to the library each evening, waiting to find out what popsicle stick or construction paper we would glue, add sequins to, or cut into a one-of-a-kind creation. We were incredibly proud of our glue-soaked masterpieces!

This year I'm inviting you to join us, either in person or in spirit, during Vacation Bible School! Below is the Bible story we will be studying each night, so you can learn with us. As you read and study the story each day, could you please pray for our youth and volunteers? What a blessing this week will be!

Monday - July 6 - God creates the world: Read Genesis 1

Tuesday - July 7 - David celebrates all God knows:
Read Psalm 139

Wednesday - July 8 - David hides from Saul:
Read 1 Samuel 23-24

Thursday - July 9 - Jesus dies and comes to life to show God's love: Read Luke 22:39 - 24:12

Friday - July 10 - God gives John a vision of heaven:
Read Revelation 7:17; 21-22

Blessings,

Sarah



"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.

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 Sage, or one of 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.



PLARN SLEEPING MATS



SAVE YOUR PLASTIC ROCERY BAGS

Drop them off in the marked container on the ground floor, next to the elevator. These bags will be used for those who need temporary sleeping arrangements. Want to help make the sleeping mats? We have two groups meeting on Mondays, one at 2:00 and another at 3:00. Two other groups meet on Wednesdays, one at 2:00 and another at 3:00. You are welcome to join any group. No experience necessary. For more information, call or text Kathy Lewis at (217) 264-0751 or Richard Lewis at (217) 264-3331.

OFFICIAL ACTS



Sympathy is extended to the family of **Dorothy Buhr.**

Dorothy passed to her eternal home on Saturday, May 16, 2026.

A private family gravesite funeral service was held.

"this and that" continued...

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 StJohnRoval61871@gmail.com



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.

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 bulletin is approved by the pastor for that Sunday.



Lectors



Please remember to remove flowers from gravesites at St. John Lutheran Cemetery. Any flowers not removed by July 4th will be removed for you.

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 Dan Henderson.



...St. Joseph Methodist Church Food Pantry dates for the month of **July are the 2nd & 30th**. There will not be any dates in August.

2026 COMMITTEE MEMBERS



NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Derek Sieberns, Shannon Christians, Miranda Wright, Diane Frerichs, and Chelsey Phillips

AUDITING COMMITTEE:

Martin Ablinger, Scott Sieberns, Daniele Frerichs, Doug Wesley



COUNTING COMMITTEE:

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

WORSHIP COMMITTEE:

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



PARISH ED COMMITTEE:

Stacy Smith, Laura Ketchum, Dana Sjoken, Dawn Huls, Meghan Loschen, Emily Vilven, Allie Maul

Sunday School Superintendent: Sarah Wolken

Sunday School Superintendent Assistant: Tracey Mathis



VBS Committee: Chelsey Phillips, Jodi Bohlen, Sarah Wolken

2026 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:

Bryce Frerichs, Tracy Britt, Kris Francisco, Gene and Deanna Osterbur, Allan and Susie Schlueter, Donita Osterbur, Chuck and Judy Carl, Kathie Alblinger



PROPERTY COMMITTEE:

Josh Frerichs, Rick Aden, 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 Alblinger, Doug Bluhm



SOME OF "THIS AND THAT"



Flock Group Shepherd for August is Kathie Alblinger. *Thank you to all that volunteer!*



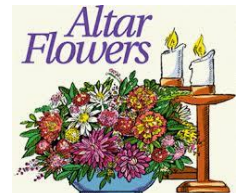
The Flock Group Shepherd for **September** is **Loretta Aden** and **October Deanna Loschen**.



Women's Bible Study

St. John's Women's Bible Study will **NOT** meet in July or in August. The next meeting will be by September 10th and will be hosted by Carolyn Blobaum.

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.**



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!

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!

