

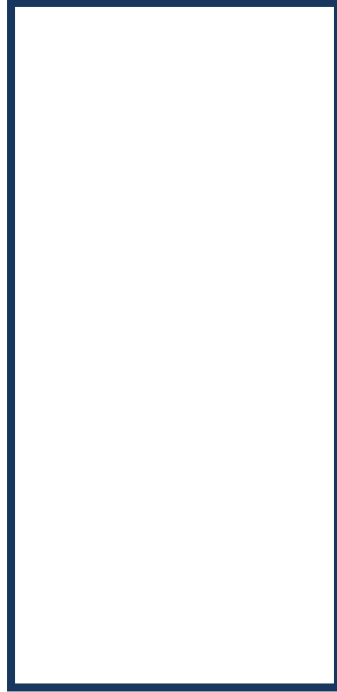
St. John Lutheran Church
203 E. Church Street
P.O. Box 36
Royal, Illinois 61871

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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

JULY 2025



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

Message from Kris Francisco....

Scripture: John 8:36 (NIV)

"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed"

This Independence Day as we celebrate our country's freedom, let us also remember that our truest liberty is found at the foot of the cross and in the waters of our baptism. There, we are made new through our faith in Jesus.

In John 8:36, Jesus speaks of the freedom that only He can give—freedom from the bondage of sin, death, and the devil. As Christians, we confess that this freedom is ours by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. It is not something we earn or deserve, but a gift given through the life, death, and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

This July 4th, give thanks for our nation, pray for its leaders, and above all rejoice in the greater, everlasting freedom found in Jesus Christ.

Kris Francisco



Prayer LIST

ONGOING PRAYER LIST

Kendra Manselle	Brixley Pickering (<i>friend of Gloria Grant</i>)
Norma Sherfey	Kim Brooks Allen (<i>friend of Miki Wesley</i>)
Stan Duitsman	Holly Hoffschneider
Belva Osterbur	Larry and Susan Craig (<i>parents of Doug Wesley</i>)
Nathan Buhr	Abby Lundquist (<i>friend of Ray Manselle</i>)
Ray Manselle	Mike Potter (<i>nephew of Linda Post</i>)
Sandie Osterbur	Peyton McDonnaugh (<i>friend of Marsha Osterbur</i>)
Ella Frerichs	Hannah Nirider (<i>friend of Parker Poole</i>)
Curt Blair	Amy Dufelmeier (<i>sister of Hilary Whitt</i>)
Betty Huls	Barbara Carter (<i>daughter of Betty Huls</i>)
Chris Huls	Aleyah Carley (<i>daughter of Teresa Thornton Carley</i>)
Mandi Ramm	Darrel Jacobs (<i>friend of Tracy Wahlfeldt</i>)
Nick Christians	Samantha Hutchinson (<i>cousin of Hilary Whitt</i>)
Anna Wentzloff	Rhonda Miller, Jane Cress (<i>friends of Hilary Whitt</i>)
Camille Wissmann	Janey Huls (<i>sister of Susie Schlueter</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,

Nursing Home, Assisted Living Residents:

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

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



CHURCH OFFICE NEWS

Please note that the church office will close at **1:00 pm** on **THURSDAY, JULY 3rd** and will be closed on **FRIDAY, JULY 4th**.



...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.



...Newsletter **Deadline** for August is **Friday, July 18th**! Please, have any information in by that date.



EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS

St. John Parish Life and Sunday School,

Thank you so much for my confirmation gifts. It was a special day and one I will always remember. My church family is an important part of my life.

Thank you!

James Ketchum



St. John Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for the generous gift. I plan to attend Parkland College in the Fall to study Agriculture Business, and this gift will go towards that program.

Lyla Frerichs

Dear St. John Lutheran Church,

Thank you very much for your support and prayer throughout the years and as I take this next step in life. Your gift was greatly appreciated and will be helpful as I enter college.

Very Greatful,

Michael Bromley



Dear St. John Lutheran...

Thank you for your prayers and gift of \$2,500.00. Your financial contribution helps as World Mission Prayer League global workers share the gospel with those least able to have heard or benefited from its transforming power. The monthly newsletter, Together in Prayer, is a quality prayer resource available to those who desire to join us in membership, and brings you the latest news and fuel for prayer. Write mobilize@wmpl.org or phone 612-871-6843 to request a free subscription. We'll be happy to send it via postal mail, e-mail, or both. Similarly, to start or stop a recurring gift please email business@wmpl.org, or call 612-871-6843, with the request.

World Mission Prayer League

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 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!

What a calling to hope, peace, eternal life! In these verses, all of us are called children of God. Clearly, this is on account of God's power and wisdom, not our own.

This powerful call is the one that comes to all believers through God's Word in Holy Baptism. That is why Martin Luther was bold to insist that "the ministry of the Word belongs to all." And again, "There is no other Word of God than that which is given all Christians to proclaim." (from Luther's Concerning the Ministry, 1523) Just as all Christians share the promise, so too do we share the task of proclaiming the good news. Most of us take up the task in the ministry of daily life. Others, we ask to do so publicly for the community so faith can be created and sustained in us. So, we see that in the economy of God's grace the ministry of those called and ordained follows from the call which has come to all who believe.

How do we sense God's call most clearly? In which aspect of life do we find God's Word, the promise, the hope, the peace being "proclaimed" in the strongest way? The Bible even speaks of us as "holy partners in a heavenly calling." (Hebrews 3;1) What do you think that might mean for daily living?

Your brother is Christ,

Josh

SUMMER OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICES

The **tentative schedule** for the Outdoor worship services for June – September will be the 2nd Sundays of each month. **ONLY if** there is a cancellation of the 2nd Sunday service then will the 4th Sunday be used for Outdoor Service. **July's Outdoor service will be held on the 27th. This is due to the VBS Program on the 13th.**

*These dates are all weather permitting.

Mission Trip 2025 – We are partnering with Prince of Peace and traveling to Pewaukee, WI on July 20-26. The 2025 theme is "Equipped". Please, keep these students in your prayers as they prepare for and participate in the mission work.



COUNCIL MEETING NOTES



1. The Council met on Monday, June 16, at 7:00 p.m. The devotion was over Psalm 119:105
"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." The council discussed what the scripture meant to them and Bryce led them in prayer before beginning the meeting.
2. Council members present were Josh Frerichs, Bryce Frerichs, Debbie Ackerman, Gene Osterbur, Melinda Huls, Mike Heidle, and Marsha Osterbur.
3. Absent council members were Chelsey Phillips, Kris Francisco, and Allie Maul/Emily Johnson.
4. The guests were Valerie Birge and Keith Cunningham.
5. Meals for VBS are planned and VBS will be July 6-10, with the program on Sunday, July 13, during worship.
6. Next council meeting is Monday, July 21, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.



The NALC currently has 65 congregations actively seeking to call a pastor. There are 36 openings for full-time ministry and 29 congregations in need of a part-time pastor.

Calling a Pastor, We Consider Our Own Calling

Writing to the church in Corinth, the Apostle Paul encouraged believers there to consider their own call. As we continue our work as a congregation in the call process, we may consider the call we all have from God.

Acts 2:39 NIV³⁹ *The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.*

Ephesians 4:4-6 NIV⁴ *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

Colossians 3:15 NIV¹⁵ *Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.*

PARISH ED / YOUTH NEWS SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL



This summer things are looking 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.johnlutheranschool@gmail.com

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – SAVE THE DATE!



Come join us for the 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 **5:30-5:55 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!



VBS Menu for the Week		Committees
Sunday, Jun 6	Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Mac and Cheese	Property
Monday, Jun 7	Little Caesar's Pizza	Worship
Tuesday, Jun 8	Grilled Cheese, Uncrustables	Hunger-Stewardship
Wednesday, Jun 9	Corn Dogs, Mac and Cheese	Parish Life-Evangelism
Thursday, Jun 10	Pizza	Council
Sunday, 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.



OFFICIAL ACTS

Andrew David Frizzo

was baptized into the family of Christ here at St. John on Sunday, June 1, 2025.



Andrew is the son of Tyler and Shelby (Duitsman) Frizzo.

His sponsors are Nick & Meredith Blakey,
Rad & Abby Duitsman
Pastor Emil Blobaum officiated.

May Christ, the Light of the world, continue to shine in his life.



Sophie Miller and Dalton Smith

were united in marriage here at St. John on Saturday, June 7th.
Pastor Greg Smith officiated.

May the love between husband and wife grow stronger through the years in their commitment to each other and to our Lord and Savior, Jesus.

Bruce the Moose helps use remember that Jesus is ALWAYS with us!

"I am with you always,
even to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:20



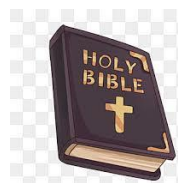
SOME OF "THIS AND THAT"



...**Flock Group Shepherd** for **August** is Kathy Frerichs. *Thank you to all that volunteer!*

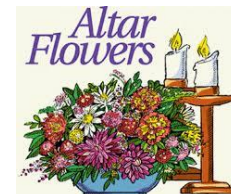


The Flock Group Shepherd for **September** is **Kris Francisco** and **October** is **Daniele Frerichs**.



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 **July 17th**. Erna Amerman will host.

...**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.



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.

...**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.



“this and that” continued...

...**The pulpit** will be filled the month of **July** by:

July 6th – Pastor Emil Blobaum

July 13th – Pastor Greg Smith

July 20th – Pastor Vic Baderschneider

July 27th – Pastor Richard Lewis



...**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



Lectors

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.

...**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 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.

“this and that” continued...

...**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!



...**St. Joseph Methodist Church Food Pantry** dates for the month of July are the 3rd & 31st. Questions contact Marsha Osterbur. August 28th is the date in August.

...**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.



**JESUS IS MY
TRUE NORTH!**

