

St. John's Journal

Volume 43, Issue 3

SUCCESS or SUFFERING?

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There is a message within Christianity promoted by certain leaders, television preachers, and pop Christian books, that could be summarized like this:

Christianity is intended to lead people to success. That, they say, is the real attraction of the Christian faith. If a religion is to be of any value, it ought to make me a better person, improve my health, reduce my stress, diminish my troubles, enhance my financial condition, boost my popularity, and generally satisfy my felt needs. So this is the way they present Christianity. And, understandably, this is what their listeners have come to seek. After all, success is popular and attractive!

The trouble is, the Lord Jesus does not teach this message. He holds out no promise of such earthly "success" in His kingdom. Instead, our Lord assures His followers that *we will find plenty of suffering in Christianity.* Jesus repeatedly taught that His disciples will have crosses to bear. "In this world you have tribulation," He said. (John 16:33)

The truth is, suffering is as common and prominent in the lives of Christ's followers as it was in Christ Himself! Our Lord Jesus suffered immensely throughout His earthly ministry, especially in His holy passion, culminating in His bitter anguish on the cross. We who are united to Christ by means of Holy Baptism are therefore united to His suffering. We are "co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him." (Romans 8:17)

As heavy and painful as Christ's sufferings were, however, God brought about great good from them! The suffering and death of Jesus earned our forgiveness and salvation! This is why the theme of our Lenten midweek services this year is "*Jesus, King of Suffering, King of Salvation.*" Jesus is the King who was in full control of His sufferings, and consciously working for our salvation.

Moreover, the sufferings of Christ led to His glorification. Because Jesus humbled Himself to death on a cross, His Father exalted Him to the highest place, giving this Man authority over the whole universe! Christ the Crucified, the Suffering Savior, is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, with full dominion over all things.

As people who are baptized into Christ, our lives are in certain respects parallel to His. We too bear our share of sufferings – certainly not as burdensome as what our Savior endured – yet plenty difficult and painful at times, nonetheless. And as God did with Jesus' sufferings, so He does with ours. He brings about good from them! God uses our sufferings as occasions to bless us, drawing us closer to Christ for the strengthening of our faith, and giving us opportunity to bear witness to the Lord's mercy and faithfulness.

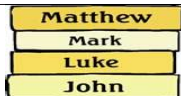
As followers of Jesus, therefore, we do not seek to avoid suffering at all cost in a vain search for worldly success. As we sing in the beloved hymn, we "shun not suffering, shame, or loss," but "learn of Him to bear the cross." For God assures us His grace is sufficient to see us through our suffering, and that He will do His good and gracious work in the very midst of our suffering. (See 2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

And finally, we know that all of us who share in Christ's sufferings will eventually share in His glory. We too will have an exaltation in heaven! "We suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together with Him." (Romans 8:17) And no earthly "success" can come close to matching that!

Let this be our prayer, then, in times of suffering:

Almighty and most merciful God, You have appointed us to endure sufferings and death with our Lord Jesus Christ before we enter with Him into eternal glory. Grant us grace at all times to subject ourselves to Your holy will, and to continue steadfast in the true faith unto the end of our lives, and at all times to find peace and joy in the blessed hope of the resurrection of the dead and the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

- Pastor Bishop



Christian Education

Sunday School

Perfect Attendance

January 2017

Fourth Grade

Bradley Hoover

Sixth Grade

Brayden Hoover

High School

Quest Dobbelaire

Ethan Szadkowski

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES



March 02

William & Theresa Isenberg

March 03

Danny & Patricia Sego

March 05

Gary & Lisa Pool

March 09

Robert & Debra Dant

Monroe & Dorothy Sheckler

March 20

Keith & Terry Gleason

Mar 29

Bruce & Gayle Gettman

Mike & Deana Thompson

*Happy Birthday to
Mary Jane Draves
who will be 103 on her
birthday March 28th.*

MARCH BIRTHDAYS



March 1

Gerold Bohannan

Mary Depew

Nathan Ronna

March 02

Penny Bollinger

Terry Gleason

Elizabeth Kammeyer

Emilie Kesselmayer

March 03

Amy Ashbaker

Darla Schorr

James Widby

March 04

Benjamin Donovan

Jeffrey Hillman

Gary Pool

March 05

Matthew Gudzinskas

Matthew Ruder

Cooper Theleritis

March 06

Heath Norman

William Sidell

March 07

Donna Hansen

Karen Nafziger

Dorothy Sheckler

March 09

Gerald Norman

Jacob Norman

Robert Scott

March 11

Douglas Tiona

March 13

Adam Becker

Justin Emery

Kaitlyn Gudzinskas

March 14

Nicholas Kesselmayer

Samantha Whitlatch

March 15

Marilyn Liescheidt

March 16

Rick Alexander

Delaine Gardner

March 17

Merle Wiseman

March 18

Jennifer Kesselmayer

March 19

Waltraud Hupke

Blair Ivey

March 20

Rev. Darwood Kesselmayer

March 21

Henry Lappie

March 23

James Heidbreder

Stephanie Whitlatch

March 24

Ruth Negley

Shirley Schott

March 25

Roy Dagit

Laura Dobbelaire

Diane Gould

Nicole Ronna

March 27

Katie Smith

March Birthdays (Cont'd)March 28

Mary Jane Draves

March 29

Macey Dalton

Ryan Lappie

Donald Schoedel

March 30

Tyler Ruder

Julie Widby

March 31

Kevin Wieland

PARISH NOTESChurch Attendance

	Attend.	# of Serv
Jan 2017	765	14
Jan 2016	926	15
Jan 2015	844	13

January Sunday SchoolAttendance

2017:	287
2016:	288
2015:	238

March Videographer

Jon Bolt

March Worship Committee

Melissa Hoyle

March AcolytesMar 01 7:00 Zane DobbelaireMar 05 8:00 Zane Dobbelaire
10:30 Cailin WilsonMar 08 7:00 Audrey DriskellMar 12 8:00 Sydney Webb
10:30 Audrey DriskellMarch Acolytes cont.Mar 15 7:00 Lainey JensenMar 19 8:00 Kethry Whitlatch
10:30 Cooper TheleritisMar 22 7:00 Daden RuderMar 26 7:00 Lainey Jensen
10:30 Daden RuderMar 29 7:00 Cooper TheleritisMarch Communion AssistanceMar 058:00 a.m. Randy Couch
10:30 a.m. Dan ReesMar 198:00 a.m. Rod Bollinger
10:30 a.m. Joe SzadkowskiMarch GreetersMar 05 8:00 Dan & Laura Dobbelaire
10:30 Mike & Jackie NauthMar 13 8:00 Linda Norman
10:30 Trent & Jamie HooverMar 20 8:00 Dee Rees
10:30 Gary & Lisa PoolMar 29 7:00 Darrell & Donna Hansen
10:30 Joe & Trina SzadkowskiMarch Ushers8:00

Ray Barnes

Daryl Dagit

John Gillespie

David Kesselmayer

Garret Kesselmayer

Daniel Rees

10:30

Bruce Gettman

Brian Lundeen

Dan Watson

Mike Wilson

TREASURER'S REPORT

January 2017

	<u>January</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>
INCOME	32,156.23	32,156.23
EXPENSES	31,384.51	31,384.51
INCOME-EXPENSES	<u>771.72</u>	<u>771.72</u>

LIABILITIES

Note Payable	137,944.72
Payroll Liabilities	1,914.49
Misc LCMS Orgs Fund	9.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	139,868.21

General Fund	-37,117.11
Schwab Cash Account	0.02
Cat Stock at FMV	76,432.34
Pekin Life Ins. Stock	10,736.00
General Fund Total	50,051.25

Ed Grant Fund Checking	4,726.56
Ed Grant Fund CD #1	102,752.96
Ed Grant Fund #2-Vanguard	67,392.48
Educational Fund Total	174,872.00

East Bluff Property-Vanguard	92,091.77
East Bluff Property Fund CD	106,530.01
East Bluff Property Fund	198,621.78

Building Fund Checking	38,706.30
S.S. Fund Checking	9,171.15
Memorial Fund Checking	32,291.83

TOTAL ASSETS **\$503,714.31**

Checking Account Balance	47,778.73
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FUND BALANCE

Building Improvements	-299,680.34
Net Income (Loss)	3,023.23
Capital Accounts	660,503.21
TOTAL FUND BALANCE,	363,846.10

TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE **\$503,714.31****USHERS ARE NEEDED:** Please contact Mike Nauth at 369-3031 if you can help out.**FINANCIAL SECRETARIES ARE NEEDED**

to help count money received during the services. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the church office at 347-2136.

THANK YOU

HI-LITES OF ST. JOHN'S VOTERS ASSEMBLY February 13, 2017

President Tom Ivey called the meeting to order. A quorum was present. Pastor Bishop opened with devotions.

The January 2017 Parish Report was approved as written. The January 9, 2017 minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report – Nancy Drockelman presented the January 2017 Treasurer's Report. Bob Oliverius moved, seconded by Dan Rees, to approve the January 2017 Treasurer's Report – motion carried.

Board of Trustees – Dave Kesselmayr reported that Officers have been elected: Dave Kesselmayr, Chairman; Ross Gould, Vice-Chairman; and Garret Kesselmayr, Secretary. A contract has been signed with Buzzard Organ Company to have the organ tuned twice a year. On Saturday, February 18, at 8:00 a.m., a workday has been scheduled to clean out storage areas and discard items no longer being used.

Board of Elders – Dave Drockelman reported that there will be a communion service on Maundy Thursday, two services on Good Friday at noon and 7:00 p.m., and two services on Easter Sunday. The Sunday evening service will be canceled for Easter.

Board of Finance – No report.

Board of Christian Education – Pastor gave an update that youth activities are going quite well. Increased funding will be available for those attending the Higher Things Conference. Sunday School attendance has been good.

Board of Worship – Jennifer Kesselmayr reported that ushers are needed for the 10:30 services. Please contact Mike Nauth if you can assist.

Board of Evangelism – No report.

Board of Stewardship – Brian Ford, the newly elected Chairman, reported that food will be delivered this Sunday. Currently there is extra food for those in need. This Board is planning to distribute care packages and McDonald's gift cards to college students from the church.

Long Range Planning Committee – No report.

Constitutional Review Committee – A short meeting will be held after the Voter's Meeting.

Educational Grant Fund Committee – No report.

East Bluff Property Committee – No report.

Constitutional Review Committee – A short meeting will be held after the Voter's Meeting.

Unfinished Business – There is a need for additional Financial Secretaries to assist with the counting of the weekly contributions. Also, there is a need for a Chairman of the Financial Secretaries.

New Business – Rod Bollinger gave an update of the activities of Good Shepherd Lutheran School, which was requested at an earlier Voter's Meeting. Highlights include the following: 1) School Board members were installed in January; 2) Regular board meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.; 3) Last day of school and graduation was changed to May 24th at 7:00 p.m.; 4) National Lutheran Schools week was celebrated Jan 22 to 27; 5) Preschool and Kindergarten roundup was held Jan. 23 with 35 families attending and one half enrolled already; 6) Update of the Robotics Team; 7) Drive and Dine scheduled for Feb. 28th; and 8) 11th Annual GSLS Benefit Auction is scheduled for March 18 with tickets on sale now.

A motion was made by Brian Ford, seconded by Dave Drockelman to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Ivey
Secretary

EASTER LILLIES

If you would like to provide an Easter Lily for our Easter services, please call Deanna Bishop at 382-1106 or Jackie Nauth at 642-5336 by April 5. Watch for future information in the bulletins regarding price of Lilies.



IN OUR PRAYERS

If you know of anyone who needs to be added, please let the church office know.

All our shut-ins

Adam Jackson—member of Armed Services (grand-nephew of Lila Lisenbee)

Pastor Niemann

Tom Street

Mike Ferguson

Jack Hall

Tomi Pfanz

Aron Tucker

Jarrold Massman

Dale Schott

Maxine Olivierius

Sonny Mack

Joe Nizza

Rhonda Zimmerman

Ed Knussman

Kay King

MARCH LIBRARY CORNER

By Eileen Tiona



"Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands." 2 Corinthians 5:1

Cheryl Williams has donated the following books to the library.

"Self Talk, Soul Talk" by Jennifer Rothschild. What to say when you talk to yourself. 232-R

"If You Want To Walk On Water You've Got To Get Out Of The Boat" by John Ortbert. Deep within you lies the same faith and longing that sent Peter walking across the wind-swept Sea of Galilee toward Jesus. 250-O

"Zealous Love" by Mike and Danae Yankoski. A practical Guide to Social Justice. "I want to help, but the world's problems seem so big, what can one person do. 250-Y

"SOS" Help For Emotions" by Lynn Clark, Ph.D. Managing Anxiety, Anger, & Depressions. 250-C

"Life's Healing Choices" by Rick Warren. Freedom from your hurts, hang-ups, and habits. 250-B

"Lord, I Want to Be Whole" by Stormie Omatian. When the heat is on and the battle is raging, know that as long as you are standing strong in the Lord, you won't be shot down or burned up by your circumstances. 232-O

"The Anger Workbook " by Les Carter, Ph.D and Frank Minirth, M.D. A 13-step interactive plan to help you find healthy ways to express and control you anger. 150-C.

Reminder of GSLS Annual Auction "A Bella Notte for Ewe!"

will be held on Saturday, March 18
at the Par-A-Dice Hotel Ballroom

See GSLS website page at
<http://www.goodshepherpekin.com/auction.html>
for a complete list with photos of the many
wonderful items they will have for auction.

ORGANIZATIONS

FELLOWSHIP CLUB

By Veva Martin

Again this month we will go traveling on that "Free Ticket" from last month when Cheryl Ivey will present photos of her experiences in Costa Rica on an eco-adventure-visiting Tortuguero National Park, seeing Arenal Volcano, and walking through the treetops at Monteverde Cloud Forest. There was an abundance of birds, monkeys, and crocodiles as well as beautiful waterways and mountains. Come and join us for this exciting trip on March 11, 2017, at 6:30 pm.

LADIES' GUILD

By Jackie Nauth



All Ladies of the congregation are welcome to attend the Ladies' Guild Annual White Elephant Auction at our meeting on Thursday, March 23 at 6:30pm.

Our servers for the evening are Jackie Nauth (chairperson) and Debee Pitchford.

We will be gathering canned food or paper products for our Share Food Program here at church.

Feel free to bring items for the auction or just join us to have fun bidding on interesting items. This is always a fun meeting. We hope to see you there!

YOUTH GROUP

Our Youth Group will meet on Sunday, March 19, at 4:00 p.m. to enjoy a film, discussion and popcorn.

In April we will help with the Easter Breakfast on April 16.

In May the Youth Group will help senior members of the congregation with spring cleanup and other helpful chores. So watch for the date and contact us if you would like help with yard work, etc.



Remember to change your clocks on Saturday,
March 11th.

Spring ahead one hour



**OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY, MARCH 19**
for
Pastor Kesselmayr's
90th Birthday

1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
at
St. John's Lutheran Church

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Check the table in the Annex for the brochure from Camp CILCA regarding their summer activities.

Early Bird Discount: Registrations that are paid in full by March 31st will receive a \$25 discount for full weeks and a \$10 discount for partial weeks.

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THE 45TH ANNUAL
ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT
SAUSAGE, PANCAKE &
POTATO PANCAKE SUPPER
will be held on Saturday, March 25 from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m.
at Christ Lutheran School 1311 S. Faraday Ave. / Peoria

Adults \$7.00 & Students K-8 \$4.00

Proceeds will go toward: 125 Anniversary Fund
Restroom Renovation

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Direct Choice Dollars

During this special time of year, we pause to reflect on all that we have to be thankful for. Family, friends, faith...

One way eligible Thrivent Financial members can show their thanks is by directing Choice Dollars to St. John's Lutheran Church. If you're a Thrivent member who has Choice Dollars, take this opportunity to recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable outreach funds by directing them to St. John's Lutheran Church.

Thank you.

Day by day, dear Lord,
of Thee three things I pray:
to see Thee more clearly,
to love Thee more dearly,
and to follow Thee more truly day by day.

CORRECTIONS Please notify Sandy Ferguson, our church secretary, of any corrections that need to be made in addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, birthday or wedding anniversary lists, etc. If a date or something else is wrong, or if anybody has been omitted from something, we want to get it right. Also, if you are not in the rotation of Greeters, but would like to be, please let us know that, too. We want to have all our information fully accurate and as up to date as possible. Thank you for your help. You may phone the church office with your information at 347-2136, send a note in the mail, or e-mail Sandy at: stjohnsec@grics.net.

**CID Lutheran Layman's League Convention
March 18, 2017 at
St. Lukes Lutheran Church, rural San Jose**

Speaker will be Ken Ohlemeyer-Director, Marketing & Creative Services at Lutheran Hour Ministries who will share with us how the Lord's work is being carried on at LHM. Ken has been with LHM since March 2016. He has had a career in marketing and sales with businesses and agriculture. Registration will be at 9:00 followed by the Board of Governors meeting at 9:30. Convention will start with lunch at 11:30 followed by Ken Ohlemeyer's presentation. Registration fee is \$10.00 which includes lunch. Please place your reservations at delorisblessman@yahoo.com or call Deloris Blessman at 309-361-1461. You may pay your registration fee at the door.

Dear SHARE "recipient,"

The Stewardship Board is pleased to help members out when notified and wanted to let you know that the next two months shall be a little out of the usual. In March we shall be contacting all recipients before the 3rd Sunday, to see if you would like to receive a spiral ham, with less salt than the canned ham. April's delivery shall be the Sunday after Easter. Our Chairman is Brian Ford and we thank Allison Gillespie for her six years on the Board. **Darla Schorr**



Received a thank you letter from the Lutheran Heritage Foundation for our contribution to them.

Lutherans for Life sent a thank you letter for our donation to them.

Received a thank you letter from LC-MS Mission Advancement for the \$512.00 (collected from door offerings) we sent to help missionary Dr. Martin & Marie Dicke.

LENTEN VESPERS AND HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Lenten Vespers Services, Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Sermon Series:

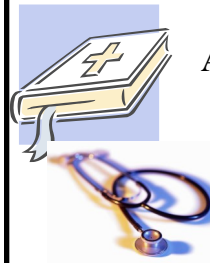
“Jesus, King of Suffering, King of Salvation”

- March 1 “The King Proclaims His Mission”
 John 18:36-37
- March 8 “The King Protects His Subjects”
 John 18:4-9
- March 15 “The King Receives His Royal
 Apparel” John 19:2-3
- March 22 “The King Pronounces Judgment”
 John 19:10-11
- March 29 “The King Makes His Royal
 Procession” John 19:17
- April 5 “The King Takes His Throne”
 John 19:18-19

Holy Week Services

- April 13—7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday
 Communion Service
- April 14—12:00 N Good Friday Service
 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service
- April 16— **7:00 a.m.** Easter Sunrise Communion
 Service
 10:30 a.m. Easter Communion Service

*Note: The **Easter Sunrise Service** will be at **7:00 a.m.**
with Easter Breakfast at 8:15. There will be no Sunday
School or Adult Bible Class on Easter, and no 7:00
p.m. service.*

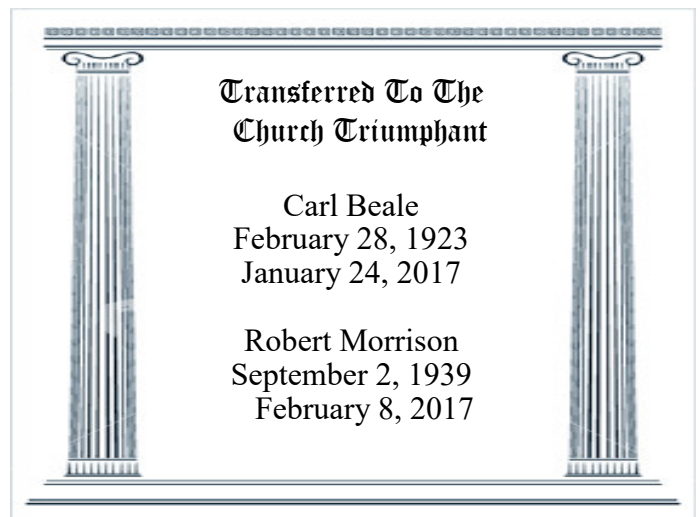


HOSPITALIZATIONS AND HOME COMMUNION VISITS

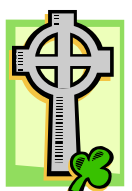
If you or someone from your family is hospitalized or scheduled to go into the hospital, please contact the church office, so that Pastor Bishop knows about it and can visit you in the hospital. The hospitals do not contact us. Sandy calls the Peoria hospitals on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays to find out if there are any St. John's members there. If you tell them when you are admitted that you are a St. John's member, you will likely be on their list, and we can usually find out. Pekin Hospital does not give us this information. So please help us stay informed so Pastor can serve you.

If you or someone else you know in the congregation has difficulty getting to church and needs to be on the Home Communion list, even if just for a while, please contact the church office, so that Pastor Bishop can visit you. This is an important part of his pastoral work, and he wants to do his best to serve everyone in need.

Thank you for your help with this.



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY



St. John's Lutheran Church
711 Court St.
Pekin, IL 61554

Non-Profit Organization
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Permit No. 146

(Address Service Requested)

Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 254

Matt. 10:34-11:3

S	E	N	O	Y	N	A	F	U	F	P	R	T	E	S
L	S	U	P	P	O	S	E	I	R	O	C	Y	D	W
G	A	L	I	L	E	E	H	E	N	E	L	L	I	O
I	H	E	A	R	D	L	A	R	P	I	U	L	S	R
V	E	C	A	E	P	C	P	X	E	O	S	Y	O	D
E	T	E	A	C	H	S	E	I	H	T	L	H	A	W
S	E	N	O	E	M	O	S	S	C	N	A	U	E	W
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N	P	M	O	T	H	E	R	N	I	P	S	E	E	E
T	S	I	R	H	C	N	B	E	S	A	R	R	R	S

Jesus the Teacher

ANYONE	AGAINST
CHRIST	BECAUSE
CROSS	CERTAINLY
EARTH	DAUGHTER
EXPECT	DISCIPLE
FATHER	ENEMIES
FOLLOW	FINISHED
GIVES	GALILEE
HEARD	MEMBERS
JESUS	MOTHER
PEACE	PREACH
PRISON	PROPHET
SWORD	RECEIVES
TRUTH	REWARD
TEACH	SHOULD
TOWNS	SOMEONE
TWELVE	SUPPOSE
WATER	WORTHY

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a
Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right



MORE PUZZLES AT:
<http://biblewordgames.com>

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