St. John's Journal

Volume 45, Issue 3

MARCH MADNESS

711 Court Street, Pekin, Illinois 61554-4735 www.stjohnpekin.com Email: stjohnsec@grics.net (309) 347-2136

Once again the season is upon us for "March Madness." This term has been coined to describe the excitement and fun and suspense that come with the

final part of the basketball season. At the high school level, regionals, sectionals, and super-sectionals culminate in the frenzied state finals. And if the local boys or girls are involved, the "madness" permeates and preoccupies nearly the entire community. At the college level, the NCAA men's basketball tournament is a huge cultural and media event. Millions of viewers watch the games on television, hundreds of thousands attend in person, and many people even wager money on the outcome of the contests. "Madness" is perhaps an apt description.

During March, we Christians engage in our own "madness," if you will. Many people think we're crazy enough for going to church on Sundays, but during March, the month which normally contains the heart of the Lenten season, we go to church on *Wednesdays*, too!

And if you don't think going to church twice a week is quite strange enough to qualify as "madness," consider just what it is that we do when we go to church on those Wednesday evenings in March. We become totally preoccupied with the cruel mocking, the inhumane torture, and the ruthless execution of an innocent Man, all of which happened nearly two thousand years ago! There's no way around it; in the estimation of the unbelievers, at least, our March behavior is quite bizarre. "Madness" is perhaps an apt description.

Why do we Christians engage in such "madness"? It is precisely because of the "madness" of that innocent Man who suffered and died so many years ago, our dear Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus was "crazy" enough voluntarily to suffer unbelievable anguish – even the hellish torments of being forsaken by God – and to give up His life. And He did all this in the place of, and for the good of, the very people who hated Him and were responsible for His sufferings, including you and me.

The apostle Paul wrote that even while we were *God's enemies*, He reconciled us to Himself through the death of His Son. (Rom. 5:10) He also wrote, "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom. 5:8) Our Lord's selfless love for us is very strange indeed – totally beyond our full comprehension. "Madness" is perhaps an apt description.

But there was, of course, a method in Jesus' "madness". He demonstrated His "crazy" love for us by suffering and dying for our forgiveness, so that He could take His church – His pearl of great price, as He described us (Matt. 13:45-46) – so that He could take us and all His believers to live with Him in His heavenly kingdom for everlasting ages to come!

And just as there was method in Jesus' "madness", there is method in our March "madness" too. We go to church on these Wednesday evenings, as well as on Sundays, to listen to the good news of our Savior's sufferings and death, so that Jesus Himself may strengthen our faith in Him, and keep us as His own until the end.

So may Jesus bless our "madness" this March and throughout our lives. For gathering together to receive His life-giving gospel is not really a crazy thing at all! It is entirely good and wise and pleasing to the Lord, and for our everlasting blessing!

- Pastor Bishop



Christian Education

Sunday School **Jerfect Attendance** January 2019

None

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES



March 02

William & Theresa Isenberg

March 03

Danny & Patricia Sego

March 04

Tom & Megan Etter

March 05

Gary & Lisa Pool

March 09

Robert & Debra Dant Monroe & Dorothy Sheckler

March 20

Keith & Terry Gleason

Mar 29

Mike & Deana Thompson

MARCH BIRTHDAYS



March 1

Gerold Bohannan Mary Depew

March 02

Penny Bollinger Terry Gleason

March 02 cont.

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

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 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 Patty Gardner Diane Gould

March 27

Katie Smith

March 28

Mary Jane Draves

March 29

Macey Dalton Ryan Lappie Donald Schoedel

March 30

Tyler Ruder Julie Widby

March 31

Kevin Wieland

Happy Birthday to Mary Jane Draves who will be 105 on her birthday March 28th.

PARISH NOTES

Church Attendance

	Attend.	# of Serv
Jan 2019	497	12
Jan 2018	621	12
Jan 2017	765	14

January Sunday School Attendance

2019:	181
2018:	206
2017:	287

March Videographer

Jennifer Kesselmayer

March Worship Committee

Mike Nauth

March Acolytes									
<u>Mar 03</u>		Zachary Webb Erin Wilson							
<u>Mar 06</u>	7:00	Jaylah Dalton							
<u>Mar 10</u>		Cody Wilson Alexis Daniels							
<u>Mar 13</u>	7:00	Macey Dalton							
<u>Mar 17</u>		Jaylah Dalton Macey Dalton							
<u>Mar 20</u>	7:00	Brayden Hoover							
<u>Mar 24</u>	8:00 10:30	Brayden Hoover Bradley Hoover							

Mar 27 7:00 Bradley Hoover

10:30 Erin Wilson

Mar 31 8:00 Cody Wilson

March Communion Assistance

Maich Col	mmumon Assistan
	Mar 03
8:00 a.m.	Dave Drockelman
10:30 a.m.	Steve Depew
8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Mar 17 Tom Ivey Randy Couch
8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Mar 31 Joe Szadkowski Aaron Miller

March Greeters

I		
<u>Mar 03</u>	8:00	Darrell & Donna Hansen
	10:30	Terry & Nancy Swearingen
Mar 10	8:00	Jerry & Paula Norman
	10:30	Barb Theleritis
<u>Mar 17</u>	8:00	Vince & Sandy Tennell
	10:30	Joyce Lonergan
Mar 24	8:00	Dave & Nancy
	10:30	Drockelman Sandy & Val Ferguson
<u>Mar 31</u>	8:00 10:30	Need someone for both times

March Ushers

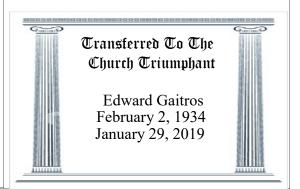
<u>8:00</u>
Ray Barnes
Daryl Dagit
David Kesselmayer
Garret Kesselmayer
Daniel Rees

10:30 Brian Lundeen Mike Nauth Dan Watson Mike Wilson

Voters Assembly Meeting in March will be held on Sunday the 17th at 12:00 Noon

TREASURER'S REPORT January 2019

INCOME EXPENSES INCOME-	<u>January</u> 52,090.59 34,103.22	<u>Y-T-D</u> 52,090.59 34,103.22
EXPENSES	17,987.37	17,987.37
LIABILITIES Note Payable Payroll Liabilit Misc LCMS O TOTAL LIABI	rgs Fund	68,208.04 1,776.13 26,01 70,010.18
General Fund Schwab Cash Cat Stock at F General Fund	MV	-48,460.38 1.00 <u>49,453.38</u> 994.00
Ed Grant Fund Ed Grant Fund Ed Grant Fund Educational I	d CD #1 d #2-Vanguard	4,727.56 103,371.18 <u>67,125.44</u> 175,244.18
East Bluff Pro East Bluff Pro East Bluff Pro	perty-Vanguard perty Fund CD operty Fund	90,982.88 <u>107,170.96</u> 198,153.84
Building Fund S.S. Fund Che Memorial Fun	ecking	49,764.30 10,668.17 <u>26,690.60</u>
TOTAL ASSE	TS	<u>\$461,495.09</u>
Checking Acc	ount Balance	43,390.25
FUND BALAN Building Impro Net Income (L Capital Accou	ovements .oss) nts	-299,680.34 17,987.37 6 <u>73,177.88</u> 391,484.91
TOTAL LIABI		<u>\$461,495.09</u>



HI-LITES OF ST. JOHN'S VOTERS ASSEMBLY February 10, 2019

President Ron Reising called the meeting to order. A quorum was present. Pastor Bishop opened the meeting with prayer. Ron thanked Curt and Pam Woolsey, and Tisha Daniels for providing the luncheon.

A motion by Ray Barnes, seconded by Randy Couch was made to approve the January 2019 Parish Report – motion carried.

A motion was made by Gary Poole, seconded by Ross Gould to approve the January 2019 minutes – motion carried.

<u>Treasurer's Report</u> – Nancy Drockelman presented the January 2019 Treasurer's Report. Dave Drockelman moved, seconded by Dave Kesselmayer, to approve the January 2019 Treasurer's Report – motion carried.

<u>Board of Trustees</u> – Dave Kesselmayer announced the installation of new lights in the gym should take place at the end of February. The gym will be without lights for one week once installation begins.

Recommendations on the parsonage will be presented at the March Voters meeting to allow the Trustees time to review proposals.

Dave Kesselmayer will follow up on the previously approved purchase and installation of a defibulator for the church.

<u>Board of Elders</u> – Randy Couch reported five individuals are scheduled to attend Pastor Bishop's instructional class. A college, young-adult focused group will have an initial meeting on February 23rd to determine if there is interest in having regular group meetings.

Randy Couch made a motion that St. John's endorse four nominees recommended by the Elders for Synodical Office: President – Matthew Harrison, Vice President – Peter Lange, Regional Vice President -- Benjamin Ball, Secretary -- John Sias. The motion was seconded by Ross Gould – motion carried.

Board of Finance – No report

Board of Christian Education – Leslie Hauk reported a "Wacky" game night followed by tacos will be held for the youth on February 17. Order forms for GSLS Tenderloin Tuesday, February 26, will be available at the church. GSLS students will sing at St. John's February 24, at the 10:30 service. Board of Christian Ed will serve

Lenten supper on Ash Wednesday with proceeds designated for the Higher Things Conference in July.

Leslie Hauk made a motion, seconded by Howie Proehl, that Shantel Tackmann be approved as a member of the Board of Christian Education – motion carried.

Board of Worship – Mike Nauth announced Val Ferguson and Don Johnson began their service as new members of the Board of Worship. Ushers are needed for the 10:30 service, as well as for upcoming Lenten services. Anyone interested in serving may contact a board member.

Board of Evangelism – Leslie Hauk presented the report for Debra Dant. The contract with WVEL to broadcast our church service will be renewed. Sponsors are encouraged. Greeters are needed for the 10:30 service. If interested in serving as a greeter, contact any member of the board or the church office.

<u>Stewardship</u> – Darla Schorr announced Portals of Prayer are being sent out with packages from the Share Pantry.

Long Range Planning Committee - No Report

Educational Grant Committee - No Report

East Bluff Property Committee - No Report

Constitution By-laws Committee - No Report

President Ron Reising encouraged all boards and committees to review their charter/job descriptions.

<u>Unfinished Business</u> – No unfinished business

New Business - There was discussion regarding the date for the next Voters meeting. It is difficult to obtain and prepare financial records by the 2nd Sunday of the month, especially during tax season. Gary Poole made a motion, seconded by Steve De-Pew that the March Voters Assembly meeting be held Sunday, March 17 at 12:00 noon -- motion carried.

Pat Proehl recommended a noon potluck be provided for the guest pastor on Sunday, March 10. This would allow members of the congregation to meet and speak with him. The Board of Elders will review this recommendation at their monthly meeting.

A motion was made by Gary Poole, seconded by Jon Bolt to adjourn the meeting. Pastor Bishop closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Hauk, Secretary pro-tem



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We are excited to share, St John Lutheran Church received \$2,792 in charitable outreach funding in 2018. We would love to hear how this gift helped further your mission.

All 2018 Choice Dollars® have been made available for members to direct and 2018 Choice Dollars expire on March 31, 2019. Encourage your supporters to direct now, by using the free promotional materials available in the Promote Thrivent Choice section on Thrivent.com.

There's more to Thrivent Choice (and Thrivent too)! Our members have access to a unique suite of member benefits designed to put resources in their hands to help strengthen their communities. By partnering with our members, these programs can be used to help grow your organization and support your mission.

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 (grandnephew of Lila Lisenbee)

Pastor Niemann Ed Knussman Sonny Mack Pastor Kesselmayer Mark Reeder Lois Becker **Bob Watson** Cheryl Williams Bernice Mack Robert Scott Stacie Kendall Christy Hancock Leia Stewart Karen Hall Bob Funk Bill Hall Sam Kendall Sandy Morgan

Sam Kendall
Tim Johnston
Donna Bollinger
Pat Proehl
Donna Corso
Honor Deiss
Joyce Wertz
Flo McClure
Sendy Morgan
Peggy Farlin
Carol Long
Billie Jackson
Stanley Ehmke
Brian Tucker
Dale Ehmke
Joe Goodin

And to all those individuals and families who struggle with either physical, mental or spiritual needs.

EASTER LILLIES



Start thinking about placing an order for your Easter Lily. Watch future bulletins regarding when order needs to be in and cost.

"Finding Spring Again" is a free educational grief seminar offered by UnityPoint Hospice—Peoria, to persons experiencing the loss of a loved one. The seminar will take place Thursday, March 7, 2019 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Methodist Atrium Conference Room in Peoria. Please RSVP by March 5, 2019 to 309-672-5746. For more information is bulletin board in the gym.

LOVE PACKAGES MINISTRY - We will be collecting resources for those who need to hear the Gospel all over the world. There is a blue tub on the stage in the gym to put your donations in. We need used religious CD's and DVD's, Bibles (new or in good condition), Devotions, religious tracts, and religious books. The Love Packages Ministry in Butler, IL will take these donations and send them to those folks who need to know about Jesus and His love. Thank you.

Christ Lutheran Church, Peoria will be holding the 47th Annual ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT SAUSAGE, PANCAKE AND POTATO PANCAKE SUPPER on Saturday, March 23, in the School Gym B, 1311 S. Faraday, Peoria, from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. Cost will be: Adults~\$700, Students K~8 \$4.00. Proceeds will go toward the Music Program at Christ Lutheran (Adult Choir, Adult Bell Choir & Praise Band).

Mission Sunday— We will observe Sunday, March 10 as a Mission Sunday in our morning services. Our guest speaker will be **the Rev. Hesham Shehab**, who was born in Lebanon and was formerly a Muslim. Rev. Shehab is now an LC-MS minister serving as a missionary at Salam Christian Fellowship, which is a mission to Muslims in the wester suburbs of Chicago, based at Peace Lutheran Church in Lombard. Rev. Shehab will preach at our morning services and present during the Bible Class hour.

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

Good Shepherd Lutheran School's

13th Annual Benefit Auction, "Red, White, Blue, & <u>Ewe!</u>", on Saturday, March 23, 2019, at the Par-A-Dice Hotel. Reservation forms are available at the SCRIP tables at the churches or at the school office. Be certain to select your dinner option and indicate how you would like to receive confirmation of your reservation. Please call Ann Fuelberth with reservation questions: 347-9027.

Sponsorships of \$50—Dinner Table, \$100—Silent Auction, or \$200—Live Auction are always great ways for businesses or individuals to advertise their services and help the auction to offset costs. For this year, Sponsorships may be made in honor of a military veteran or service member.

Our first three Class Projects to highlight are: 1) Miss Bollinger's Preschool Class — "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" themed bookshelf finger-printed by the students, three "Very Hungry Caterpillar" books, and a stuffed caterpillar; 2) Miss Schuette's 3rd Grade Class — two hand-crafted Bird Houses painted and stenciled by the class; and 3) Mr. Rees' 7th/8th Grade Class — "The Lord is my Shepherd" platter made by Peek-in Pottery with student fingerprinted sheep. Many other donations are listed on our school's website Auction page.

For the Ladies: our "Purse Pick" game will return with 100 purses and the \$100 cash prize. For the Men: we will be adding a new "Duck Decoy" game with an opportunity to win one of four prizes—a Beretta A300 Outlander 12-gauge black shotgun donated by Presley's Outdoors, a Winchester SXP 12-gauge 3.5" pump donated by Pekin Gun, two St. Croix rods. You will need a FOID card to purchase the decoys.

LENTEN VESPERS AND HOLY WEEK SERVICES

<u>Lenten Vespers Services</u>, Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Bishop and Pastor Raddatz from Trinity, Pekin will be in a preaching rotation for these services. Our sermon series will be "Zechariah Foretells the Savior's Passion."

March 6 Zech. 9:11-12

"Prisoners Set Free by the Blood of the Covenant"

- Pastor Bishop

March 13 Zech. 3:8-9

"My Servant Branch will remove the Iniquity of the land." - Pastor Raddatz

March 20 Zech. 13:7

"Strike the Shepherd" - Pastor Bishop

March 27 Zech. 11:12-13

"Thirty pieces of silver thrown to the potter"

- Pastor Raddatz

April 3 Zech. 12:10

"Lamentation over the Pierce One" - Pastor Bishop

April 10 Zech. 13:1

"A fountain opened for sin and for uncleanness"

- Pastor Raddatz

Holy Week Services

April 18 - 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service with

Holy Communion

April 19 - 12:00 N Good Friday Service

7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service

April 21 7:00 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service with Holy

Communion

10:30 a.m. Festival 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.

Join in the celebration of the 50tha Anniversary of

The Lutheran Student Center

at Western Illinois University

A ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church
and the congregations of
The Central Illinois District, LCMS
2:00 p.m. Sunday, March 31, 2019
Immanuel Lutheran Student Center (LCMS)
303 N. Clay Street Macomb, IL 61455

GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

March 3 - GSLS Choir sings at Trinity, Manito at 9:00 a.m.

March 5 & 6: Spring Picture Days. 3 yr/2 day on Tuesday and PreK thru 8th on Wednesday.

March 7 will be early dismissal at 12:30 p.m.

March 8 - No School & End of 3rd Qtr

March 15 - Awards Assembly at 2:45 p.m.

March 19 - School Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

March 23 - 13th Annual Auction "<u>Red, White, Blue, & Ewe!</u>", will be held at Par-A-Dice Hotel Ballroom.

The Flower Chart for 2019 still has some openings. Please check to see if you would like one of the following dates:

5/5

6/2

3/31	4/14	4/28
9/1	9/8	9/22
10/27	11/3	11/10
11/17	12/1	12/15
12/29		

If you would like a special arrangement for your date, please call Artistic Flowers at 347-0022. They will bill you directly.

Remember you can pick up your flowers after the 10:30 service (please leave the green liners) or Mon. to Fri. from 8:00 a.m. to 12 Noon.



6/30

8/25

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 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. 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.

THE SHARE PROGRAM could use the following:

Tuna Canned Ham
Canned Chicken Breast Peanut Butter
Canned Vegetables Laundry Soap
Tissues Paper Towels
Cereals Shampoo
Bath Soaps Bottled Water

Canned Fruits (lite)

Remember to change your clocks on Saturday, March 10th.

Spring ahead one hour



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S 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.



The Easter Breakfast Committee will be serving breakfast after the sunrise service on April 1st. We will be serving scrambled eggs, bacon, ham, sausage links, hash browns, pancakes, fruit cocktail, cereal and biscuits & gravy. We are requesting any-

one interested in donating rolls or pastries to drop them off in the kitchen on Saturday or Sunday morning.

Also

The Easter Breakfast Committee is reaching out for individuals that would like to join us in preparing the best breakfast in town Easter morning. We can also use help Saturday morning before Easter to set up and decorate. Please call Daryl Dagit at 620-1867 or Brian Fuelberth at 267-2134 for additional information.

<u>CHURCH DOORS:</u> If you unlock one of the doors to the church, please check to see if it is locked before you leave. Thank you.



to Pastor Bishop for all your visits to Dale and thank you to all for the prayers of support during Dale's illness. Also for all the cards, calls and flowers. *Shirley Schott & Family*

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 thank from Lutheran for Life for the 193.91 we collected for them for Pennies for Life.

ORGANIZATIONS

FELLOWSHIP CLUB

By Veva Martin

Fellowship Club will be going to the The Barn III in Goodfield on Sunday, March 10 to see the play "Death by Golf". The doors open at 12:30 pm. Reservations were made in the name of "St. John's Lutheran Fellowship Club".

LADIES' GUILD

By Leslie Hauk

The Ladies' Guild will meet on Thursday, March 28 at 6:30 pm for our annual "White Elephant" auction.

We ask members to bring their "treasures" for the auction, and we will also be collecting food and paper items for the Share Program. Tracy Glass and Nona Buster will serve.

YOUTH GROUP

Our Youth Group will meet on Sunday, March 17, at 4:00 p.m. to enjoy a film, discussion and popcorn.

In April we will help with the Easter Breakfast on April 21. On April 20, we will help decorate the gym for the Easter Breakfast.

gregation with spring cleanup and other helpful chores. So watch for the date and contact us if you would like help with yard work, etc.

KEYS TO THE CHURCH

The Trustees are still conducting an audit of our church keys. These are the numbers that we do not have names for Nos:

1, 4, 5, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 30, 36, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 48, 49, 50, 52 & 53.

Would you please check to see if you have any of these numbers and let the church office (347-2136) know. Thank you.

Non-Profit Organization **U.S. Postage Paid** Pekin, IL Permit No. 146

(Address Service Requested)

Bible Wordsearch Parables																
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C	Z	P	D	T	N	P	0	R	N	R	L	H	S	0	SEIZED	SERVANTS
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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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