

St. John's Journal

Volume 45, Issue 1

IN SUPPORT OF HUMAN LIFE

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January 20 is Sanctity of Human Life Sunday this year. The date coincides with the infamous Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade* of January 20, 1973, which legalized abortion. Tragically, over 60 million unborn American children have been killed under the protection of law since that fateful day. So we observe the Sanctity of Human Life Sunday to remember and mourn the many babies whose lives have been lost, and to support the lives of all little children.

Our concern for human lives is not limited to babies before they're born, of course, but for all people in all stages and circumstances of life, including situations of serious illness, pain, and suffering. That brings to mind another serious life issue that faces our nation, namely, the matter of **assisted suicide**.

Some people believe it is morally permissible, even beneficial, for physicians to provide the drugs and the information needed for people to kill themselves in circumstances of illness considered terminal. Seven states and the District of Columbia already have legal provision for such activity. Medical doctors can lawfully prescribe lethal drugs to people for the express purpose of enabling them to take their own lives.

We Christians understand that both killing oneself and assisting someone else in suicide are sins against God in violation of His Fifth Commandment, "You shall not murder." Whether it is supplying someone with a rope already tied into a hangman's noose, handing the person a loaded firearm, or dispensing deadly doses of drugs, helping another person take his or her own life is nothing more or less than acting as an accomplice to self-murder.

God tells us in the Scriptures that human life is His precious gift to us, created in His image and redeemed by His blood. That gives all of us a priceless value and worth, even when we are disabled, seriously ill, suffering pain or depression, or otherwise afflicted. Our Creator and Savior also reminds us: "You are not your own; you were bought with a price." (1 Cor. 6:19-20) Therefore our lives

do not belong to us, such that we are permitted to do whatever we want with them. Rather, our lives are to be ended only when God says so. We are not to destroy

them, but to cherish and protect them.

So instead of helping our neighbor to end his own life, we are to "help and support him in every physical need." (Small Catechism, 5th Commandment) We can provide such help by:

- patiently and reasonably explaining why the practice of assisted suicide is contrary to God's will and incompatible with genuine human dignity, when the subject comes up in conversation;
- supporting legitimate and compassionate medical efforts to alleviate physical pain and suffering for people who are ill, and to help people afflicted by mental health disorders;
- praying for people whose lives are embittered by serious illness or disability, and by providing other helpful care as we have opportunity and ability;
- reassuring people that God's love never fails, that He died for everyone to give the gift of everlasting life, that He rose from the dead to attain a complete restoration for them when He comes again, that He is present to see them through whatever difficulties they face, and that He routinely brings great blessing even out of great suffering.

By creating and redeeming us, God has made every life, from conception to death, doubly sacred. This is true regardless of age, size, health, abilities, or any other consideration. We praise and thank Him for this wondrous gift of life, and pray that He will work in us to be zealous and active in supporting it.

- Pastor Bishop



Christian Education **Sunday School**

Perfect Attendance

November 2019

Pre-School/Kindergarten

Elyse Hopping

First/Second Grades

Zander Hopping

Eighth Grade

Zachary Webb

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Jan 01

Darian Becker

Jan 02

Mary Beck
Hunter Hall
Chelsea Stoehr

Jan 03

Aaron Dingerson

Jan 05

Nicole Hurst
Tiffany Matthews

Jan 06

Erica DeBoer

Jan 08

Brianna Nash

Jan 09

Sarah Adkins
Shantel Becker
Brianna Morrison

Jan 10

Sharon Becker
Nicole Kelley

Jan 11

Noah Dingerson
Carol Long
Donovan Warning
Danielle Watson

Jan 12

Mike Nauth

Jan 13

J. Terry Adkins
Stacey Candler
Megan Gaitros
Danny Sego

Jan 14

Erma Glass
Tammy Gottman
Brock Norman
Erin Wilson

Jan 16

Hayden Jackson
Shannon Higdon

Jan 17

Ruth Hillman
Aminta Liescheidt

Jan 18

Megan Walsh

Jan 19

Jaylah Dalton
Jesse Garmon
Michele Spelbring

Jan 20

Janet Lawson
Nathaniel Nelson

Jan 21

Sara Nafziger

Jan 22

Rhonda Bowman

Jan 23

Deanna Oltman
Michael Sheckler

Jan 25

Donald Houge
Melanie Tiona
Ryan Widby

Jan 26

Jaxon Allen
Samantha Sego
Terry Swearingen

Jan 27

Pastor Glenn Niemann

Jan 28

Daryl Dagit
Kathryn Ford
Jeffery Gottman
Dane Hoover

Jan 29

Jacob Kelley

Jan 30

Wade Peacock

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Jan 03

Michael & Leah Sipka

Jan 07

Aaron & Courtney Miller

Jan 15

Kenneth & Mary Beck
Donald & Mae Houge

Jan 27

James & Nona Buster

PARISH NOTES



Church Attendance

Nov 2019— **628—13** services
 Nov 2018— **699—13** services
 Nov 2017— **715—13** services

Sunday School Attendance Year-to-Date

Nov 2019: **1,145**
 Nov 2018: **2,115**
 Nov 2017: **2,347**

Communion Assistance

Jan 05

8:00 Joe Szadkowski
 10:30 Tom Ivey

Jan 19

8:00 Dave Drockelman
 10:30 Tom Ivey

January Greeters

Sign up sheets for Jan., Feb., & Mar., are on the small bulletin board in the Narthex. Please take a few minutes and sign up on one of the Sundays available to greet our members and guests.
 Thank you.

2020 OFFERING ENVELOPES are in the gym for those who have not picked theirs up yet. If you see a member of your family or a friend who has not picked up their envelopes, please take theirs and deliver them.

Thank you for your help.

Acolytes

Jan 05

8:00 Zachary Webb
 10:30 Erin Wilson

Jan 12

8:00
 10:30 Ava Friedinger

Jan 19

8:00 Alexis Daniels
 10:30 Lilly Daniels

Jan 26

8:00 Bradley Hoover
 10:30 Ella Friedinger

8:00

James Lonergan James Widby
 Merle Wiseman

10:30

Brian Ford Nate Ford
 Trent Hoover Brian Umbach

January Ushers

Videographer

Quest & Zane Dobbelaire

Worship Chairman

Brian Fuelberth

TREASURER'S REPORT NOVEMBER, 2019

	November	Y-T-D
INCOME	37,678.89	320,849.47
EXPENSES	30,476.56	357,688.12
INCOME-EXPENSES	7,202.33	(36,838.65)
LIABILITIES		
Note Payable		71,264.68
Payroll Liabilities		1,961.37
Misc LCMS Orgs Fund		0.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES		73,226.05
General Fund	-66,838.72	
Schwab Cash Account	0.99	
Cat Stock at FMV	50,062.23	
General Fund Total	21,641.24	
Ed Grant Fund Checking	4,727.56	
Ed Grant Fund CD #1	103,061.64	
Ed Grant Fund #2-Vanguard	66,440.36	
Educational Fund Total	174,229.56	
East Bluff Property-Vanguard	90,054.40	
East Bluff Property Fund CD	106,850.04	
East Bluff Property Fund	196,904.44	
Building Fund Checking	47,914.30	
Sunday School Fund Checking	10,546.12	
Memorial Fund Checking	26,510.60	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$439,329.52	
Checking Account Balance	22,859.86	
FUND BALANCE		
Building Improvements	-299,680.34	
Net Income (Loss)	(36,838.65)	
Capital Accounts	702,622.46	
TOTAL FUND BALANCE,	366,103.47	
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE		\$439,329.52

Transferred To The Church Triumphant

Charles Diemar
 February 13, 1928
 December 14, 2019



HI-LITES OF ST. JOHN'S VOTERS ASSEMBLY December 10, 2018

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

A motion by Pam Woolsey, seconded by Don Schoedel, was made to approve the November 2018 Parish Report - motion carried.

A motion was made by Bob Oliverius, seconded by Randy Couch, was made to approve the November 2018 minutes – motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Nancy Drockelman presented the November 2018 Treasurer's Report. Randy Couch moved, seconded by Steve Depew, to approve the November 2018 Treasurer's Report – motion carried.

Board of Trustees – Dave Kesselmayer reported that there was nothing new to discuss, thanked those who assisted with the setup of the Nativity Scene, and thanked both Dan Dobbelaire and Jack Hall for their service on the Board of Trustees.

Board of Elders – Randy Couch reported that the Elders received a bid from Heartsmart for a Philips HeartStart OnSite Defibrillator for the total price of \$1,053. A motion was made by Randy Couch, seconded by Curt Woolsey, to purchase the defibrillator – motion carried. A motion was then made by Dave Drockelman, seconded by Bob Oliverius, to purchase the defibrillator through the Memorial Fund – motion carried. The Elders will not meet in December.

Board of Finance – Nothing to report as the proposed 2019 budget will be discussed and voted on under Unfinished Business.

Board of Christian Education – Their last meeting was held on December 9th. Shana Friedinger reported that 6 youth and 4 adults assisted members with chores in November, served cookies yesterday between church services and raised \$80. In January Bible baseball and sub sandwiches will be served. New committee members are Leslie Hauk and Tisha Daniels.

Board of Worship – Jennifer Kesselmayer thanked all who helped decorate the church for Christmas. Volunteers are needed to assist with videotaping the 8 a.m. services. Jennifer Kesselmayer and Paul Tackmann will be leaving this Board and will be replaced by Don Johnson and Val Ferguson.

Board of Evangelism – Debby Dant reported that the Evangelism Committee is not meeting in December. They currently have sponsors for 18 of the 26 weeks for the current WVEL broadcast contract which expires March 31. Anyone wishing to be a sponsor at \$175 per week can let Debby Dant or the Church office know and payments may be put in the offering earmarked for the broadcasts or left at the Church office.

Board of Stewardship – Darla Schorr reported that six share boxes were distributed in October, seven in November, and plans are to have eight share boxes in December. Thanks to the congregation for donating the proceeds from the Reformation Dinner to purchase meat and other food items needed.

Long Range Planning Committee – No report.

Educational Grant Fund Committee – No report.

East Bluff Property Committee – No report.

Constitution By-laws Committee – No report.

Unfinished Business

Nancy Drockelman noted that last month Daryl Dagit presented the 2019 budget which was laid over for 30 days, and was brought back to the December meeting to discuss and approve. A motion was made by Jack Hall, seconded by Don Schoedel, to approve the 2019 budget – motion carried. Dave Drockelman made a motion, seconded by Jack Hall, to open nominations for the slate of Officers and Committee members. Tom Ivey was added to the Board of Elders and Dan Heisel was added to the Board of Trustees. A motion was then made by Dave Drockelman, seconded by Randy Couch to close the nominations. Ballots were voted and tabulated. All unchallenged nominations were elected and Tom Ivey and Joe Szadkowski were elected to the Board of Elders.

New Business

Pam Woolsey suggested that the Voter's Meeting be held on the second Sunday of the month following the 10:30 service and a potluck luncheon. After some discussion, it was suggested that a note be added to the Bulletin requesting member's thoughts on this recommendation. Comments can be given to either Pam Woolsey or Tom Ivey.

A motion was made by Bob Oliverius, seconded by Mary Depew, to adjourn the meeting which closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Ivey
Secretary



to everyone for the many prayers, cards, greetings, gifts, and words of appreciation this Advent and Christmas. Your Christian love and generosity are much

appreciated.

Pastor Bishop and Deanna

JANUARY LIBRARY CORNER

By Eileen Tiona



"A Star will come out of Jacob, a Scepter will rise out of Israel."
Numbers 24:17

I haven't any new books to report on this month, but you are welcome to come into the Library and check out all the wonderful books that are available for your enjoyment.

Hope you all had a Blessed Christmas and wishing you all a Happy New Year.

Directory Changes

Janie Spelbring's name is misspelled.

Address changes:

Jeff Hillman, 720 Wright St., Santa Rosa, CA 95404-3830

Dorothy Sidell, 913 Royal Ave., Pekin

The Flower Chart for 2019 is posted in the Narthex. Please sign-up for the Sunday(s) that you would like to provide flowers for the altar and **call the church office, 347-2136**, and let us know what you want in the bulletin.

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.



ORGANIZATIONS

FELLOWSHIP CLUB *By Veva Martin*

St. John's Fellowship Club WILL NOT be meeting in January. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting - February 9, 2019, for Movie Night at 6:30 p.m.

THE YOUTH GROUP

will meet on Sunday, January 20th at 4:00 p.m.

There will be Bible baseball and sub sandwiches.

Please bring a friend to enjoy the fellowship.

WOMEN'S GUILD *By Leslie Hawk*

The first Ladies' Guild meeting of 2019 will be on Thursday, January 24th at 6:30 pm in the church basement. Linda Norman (chairperson) and Jackie Nauth will be serving. All ladies of the congregation are invited to start the new year with us!

Study the Bible to be wise; believe it to be safe; practice it to be holy.

Do all the good you can
by all the means you can
in all the ways you can
in all the places you can.



A BIG THANK YOU TO THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHERS WHO HELPED WITH DECORATING THE INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF OUR CHURCH FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON.

Your work is greatly appreciated.



Thank You



to all who gave a poinsettia
in memory of loved ones
or to beautify the sanctuary
during the Christmas services:

Ken & Mary Beck
Jim & Nona Buster
Bob & Debby Dant
Don & Valerie Dobbelaire
Dave and Nancy Drockelman
Michelle & Zach Ferguson
Sandy Ferguson
Valerie Ferguson
Darrell & Donna Hansen
Rodger Hoover Family
Steve & Faye Kesselmayer
Pastor Bruce & Deb Lakamp in
honor of our 13 grandchildren
Carol Long
Mike & Jackie Nauth in
celebration of Matthew's birth
Terry & Linda Norman
Howie & Pat Proehl
Barb Theleritis
Curt and Pam Woolsey

Thank You

Received a letter from Lutheran Heritage Foundation
thanking us for our donation.

Received letter from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis
thanking us for donation we made to them.

Received a call from seminary student Katherine with
Concordia Seminary in Ft. Wayne thanking us for our
donation to them. It is very much appreciated .

Received a letter from Lutherans for Life thanking us for
donation we made.

*Life is like a mirror -
If you frown at it,
it frowns back;
If you smile,
it returns the greeting.*



IN OUR PRAYERS

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

All our shut-ins

Griffin Glass—serving in the Navy

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

Pastor Niemann

Ed Knussman

Mark Reeder

Bob Watson

Bernice Mack

Stacie Kendall

Leia Stewart

Bob Funk

Sam Kendall

Tim Johnston

Donna Bollinger

Pat Proehl

Donna Corso

Honor Deiss

Joyce Wertz

Pastor Kesselmayer

Dale Schott

Sonny Mack

Lois Becker

Cheryl Williams

Robert Scott

Christy Hancock

Karen Hall

Bill Hall

Sandy Morgan

Peggy Farlin

Carol Long

Billie Jackson

Stanley Ehmke

Brian Tucker

Deanna Bishop

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



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 of-
fice, so that Pastor Bishop knows about
it and can visit you in the hospital. The
hospitals do not contact us. Sandy calls the Peoria hospi-
tals 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. 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.

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

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Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 280

Matt.21:16-30

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

The Fig Tree

FAITH	AMAZED
FRUIT	BAPTISM
JOHN	BELIEVE
LATER	BETHANY
MIND	COURTS
NEVER	ELDERS
PEOPLE	EXCEPT
PRAISE	FATHER
ROAD	HEAVEN
SAYING	HUNGRY
SEEING	MORNING
SPENT	ORDAINED
TEMPLE	PRAYER
THINGS	PROPHET
THINK	QUICKLY
TODAY	RECEIVE
TREE	TEACHING
TRUTH	VINEYARD
WORK	WITHER

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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