

St. John's Journal

COMFORTING CONSTANTS IN CHANGED TIMES

Volume 46, Issue 6

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The weeks since mid-March have been quite different, to say the least! The COVID-19 pandemic has brought many changes to our everyday lives – many of which are inconvenient, some even annoying. Restaurants are closed for dining in. Schools are operating remotely. Stores and businesses deemed non-essential are closed, and certain products are unavailable even at the stores that are open. Stores that are open have shopping aisles marked with one-way arrows. Churches are not permitted to conduct regular services. Citizens have been ordered to stay home most of the time. When we do go out, we are to wear face masks and stay at least six feet apart from other people. No doubt, these have been different times.

In these changed times it is great to know *the most important things have **not** changed!* Our gracious God sets our hearts at rest with His comforting constants. Here are a few constants for us to ponder with grateful hearts:

God Himself remains constant. His essence and character – who He is and what He is like – never change. God Himself declares as much. “I am the LORD; I do not change.” (Malachi 3:6) That means God remains good and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, as He describes Himself. And this constant God is constantly with us, always present to do us good.

In the same way, God's promise to hear and answer our prayers is constant. He who is ever present is ever accessible and ever willing to listen to us and help us. Our Lord Jesus promised, “Truly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.” (John 16:23) God also says, “Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.” (Psalm 50:15) God's gifts of the privilege and promise of prayer will never change.

Neither will the power of His word, which is another constant. God's word is always living and active, with the power to accomplish what it declares. His gospel word, the good news of forgiveness and everlasting life in Jesus Christ, is “the power of God unto salvation for everyone who believes.” (Romans 1:16) God's word has power to deliver salvation to believers, and to strengthen believers in that salvation. God's constant word will sustain our faith in Jesus Christ, even when we Christians must be apart for a time.

God's promises to sustain us and provide for our needs are constant, as well. When certain products are in short supply, when groceries and other items may be less convenient to obtain, we have the constant assurance our God will provide everything we need. Jesus reminds us, when we seek first His kingdom and righteousness, all the other necessities of life will be added to us. The Lord also declares, “My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19)

Here's another constant gift from God: our Christian hope. Because the object of our hope is certain and constant – God's promise of the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come – our hope is certain and constant. God's word uses the imagery of an anchor to describe the constancy of our Christian hope. “We have this hope as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil.” (Hebrews 6:19) Our hope is anchored firmly in the flesh of Jesus Christ, who entered the heavenly Presence on our behalf by all His saving work. So our resurrection from the dead to everlasting glory is certain. That will never change!

Fellow Christians, not only in these different times, but in *all* times, let God's constants fill you with the comfort and peace He alone can give.

- Pastor Bishop

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

Christian Education

Sunday School

Perfect Attendance

April 2020

None

JUNE BIRTHDAYS



June 02

Robert Bishop
Terri Grimm
Curtis Woolsey

June 03

Jennifer Decker

June 04

Jody Benson
Brian Johnson

June 05

Molly Hicks
Robert Hurst
Emma Norman

June 06

Lois Becker
Rachel Glassey

June 07

Horst Hupke
Derrick Norman

June 08

Joli Andrae
Eric Jensen
Shelly Justi
Parker Ruder



June 09

Vera Bozdech

June 10

Tisha Daniels
Aiden Harms

June 11

Austin Walls
Eugene Woolsey

June 12

Alissa Heisel
Dylan Kesselmayr

June 13

Tyrone Gullett

June 14

Donna Hurst

June 15

Shane Beene
Elizabeth Ford

June 16

Opal Henry
Martin Matthews
Ellen Morrison

June 17

Joshua Hillman
Tracy Lundeen

June 18

Nancy Brown
Gregory Burris

June 19

Nona Buster
Briella Hoover
Stephanie Lundberg

June 21

Alexander Jackson
Annelize Johnson

June 22

Nichelle Gauger
Jim McCann
Mickey Pitchford
Ashley Walls

June 23

Willa Hinkley

June 24

Jennifer Leach

June 25

Zachary Ferguson
Olivia Theleritis

June 26

Stephanie Edmiston
Janie Spelbring

June 27

Joy Rusk

June 29

Lynda Adkins
Jennifer Neal

June 30

Marty Bohannan
Paula Norman
Ryann Wilson
Carson Winstead

June 01

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Vincent & Deanna
Oltman

June 03

Greg & Tonya Burris

June 04

Joel & Nancy Bonnette

June 06

Jerry & Caralee Bohannan

June 10

Robert & Leanna Bishop
Jack & Pam Hall

June 12

Tim & Denise Adkins
John & Vera Bozdech

June 13

Daniel & Jennifer Leach

June 16

Jeremy & Lena Otey

June 17

Dave & Jennifer
Kesselmayr

June 18

Wallace & Julie
Hammond

June 19

Cody & Vanessa Watson

June 21

Joseph & Ricki Belcher

June 22

James & Donna Corso

June 23

Dean & Linda Cooper

June 24

Ray & Wilma Garber

June 27

Alan & Kim Gudzinkas

June 29

Dave & Kathleen Miller

PARISH NOTES



Church Attendance

April 2020— **0** —15 serv.
 April 2019— **1005** —16 serv.
 April 2018— **877** —14 serv.

Sunday School Attendance Year-to-Date

April 2020: **393**
 April 2019: **744**
 April 2018: **772**

Videographer—June

Jennifer Kesselmayr

Worship Committee—June

Julie Wagner

Acolytes—June

June 7

8:00 Alexis Daniels
 10:30 Lilly Daniels

June 14

8:00 Bradley Hoover
 10:30 Ella Friedinger

June 21

8:00 Zachary Webb
 10:30 Erin Wilson

June 28

8:00
 10:30 Ava Friedinger

Ushers—June

8:00

Ray Barnes
 Daryl Dagit
 John Gillespie
 Dave Kesselmayr
 Garret Kesselmayr
 Dan Rees

10:30

Brian Lundeen
 Mike Nauth
 Dan Watson
 Mike Wilson

TREASURER'S REPORT

March, 2020

	March	Y-T-D
INCOME	21,173.58	76,963.79
EXPENSES	28,788.06	89,798.32
INCOME-EXPENSES	(7,614.48)	(12,834.53)

General Fund (54,376.77)
General Fund Total (54,376.77)

Ed Grant Fund Checking 4,727.56
 Ed Grant Fund CD #1 103,681.64
 Ed Grant Fund #2-Vanguard 68,300.89
Educational Fund Total 176,710.09

East Bluff Property-Vanguard 41,607.88
 East Bluff Property Fund CD 107,492.84
 Cat Stock at FMV 42,819.76
East Bluff Property Fund 191,920.48

Building Fund Checking 52,872.04
 S S Fund Checking 11,555.25
 Memorial Fund Checking 29,325.60

TOTAL ASSETS 408,006.69

Checking Account Balance 44,103.68
TOTAL 44,103.68

LIABILITIES

Note Payable 27,368.11
 Payroll Liabilities 1,591.72
 Misc LCMS Orgs Fund (15.00)
TOTAL LIABILITIES 28,944.83

FUND BALANCE

Building Improvements -299,680.34
 Net Income (Loss) (12,834.53)
 Capital Accounts 691,576.73
TOTAL FUND BALANCE 379,061.86

TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE \$408,006.69

If you would like to receive private communion, please contact Pastor Bishop at 347-2136.

ATTENTION: All services, classes, meetings, and other activities at church are suspended until health authorities permit us to meet together again.

Our services are being recorded and posted as podcasts on our website and Facebook until we are permitted to conduct regular services in church again. You are also invited and encouraged to view fine, 30-minute LC-MS services for each

Sunday at worshipanew.org.

TREASURER'S REPORT

April, 2020



	April	Y-T-D
INCOME	26,947.02	103,910.81
EXPENSES	26,727.40	116,525.72
INCOME-EXPENSES	219.62	(12,614.91)

General Fund (58,278.96)
 PPP Checking Acct 24,900.00
General Fund Total (33,378.96)

Ed Grant Fund Checking 4,727.56
 Ed Grant Fund CD #1 103,681.64
 Ed Grant Fund #2-Vanguard 69,569.42
Educational Fund Total 177,978.62

East Bluff Property-Vanguard 42,379.76
 East Bluff Property Fund CD 107,492.84
 Cat Stock at FMV 42,945.22
East Bluff Property Fund 192,817.82

Building Fund Checking 53,307.04
 S.S. Fund Checking 11,555.25
 Memorial Fund Checking 29,325.60

TOTAL ASSETS \$431,605.37

Checking Account Balance 65,536.49
65,536.49

LIABILITIES

Note Payable 25,808.52
 PPP Loan 24,900.00
 Payroll Liabilities 1,630.37
 Misc LCMS Orgs Fund (15.00)
TOTAL LIABILITIES 52,323.89

FUND BALANCE

Building Improvements (299,680.34)
 Net Income (Loss) (12,614.91)
 Capital Accounts 691,576.73
TOTAL FUND BALANCE, 379,281.48

TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE \$431,605.37

**HI-LITES OF ST. JOHN'S
VOTERS ASSEMBLY
May 11, 2020**

Randy Couch called the meeting to order until President Ron Reising could join the call. A quorum was present. Pastor Bishop opened with devotions.

A motion was made by Debby Dant, seconded by Randy Couch, to approve the April 2020 minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report - Daryl Dagit presented the March 2020 Treasurer's Report. The April report is not yet available. It was indicated that the funds from the PPP loan/grant were not included in the March report. Gary Pool moved, seconded by Nancy Drockelman, to approve the March 2020 Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Board of Trustees – Gary Pool provided an update. The board has not met yet. Discussions on the estimates for the masonry repair have been postponed until church resumes so they can be discussed.

Board of Elders – Dave Drockelman reported that the Board of Elders have not met yet, but thought there is a meeting scheduled for this coming Saturday, May 16th. (Per Pastor Bishop, in actuality the Elders have agreed to hold a meeting in May, but have not yet established a firm date and time.)

Board of Finance – No report. Nancy Drockelman indicated that there were no updates at this time.

Board of Christian Education – Leslie Hauk indicated that the committee has not met recently.

Board of Worship – Valerie Ferguson reported that the board met on the 7th of May while practicing social distancing. The committee started discussions on communion procedures for when we can reconvene. One option would be a walk-through communion. Initially complete services would be printed in the bulletin so people would not have to touch the hymnals. The committee also started talks about what has been done well in the past and what can be improved in the future. This topic will be the agenda for the next meeting. Ron indicated that he has also had discussions with Pastor about seating in the church in the future.

Board of Evangelism – Debby Dant reported that they have not held meetings. There are 2 events coming up in the future that are on hold until further guidance is given as to whether the events can be held. These would be the booth at the Marigold Festival and Friendship Sunday.

Board of Stewardship – Brian Ford indicated that they are putting together a letter to send to the congregation on stewardship. This will let people know that even though

we are unable to hold regular services at the current time, there are still expenses being incurred each month. The letter will indicate that donations can still be sent in even though we are not currently physically attending the services.

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 – No unfinished business reported.

New business – Randy Couch indicated that we need to find out when we can start meeting again. He has contacted the district asking them to see what can be done. He has not gotten a response back yet. Also, the idea has been discussed about possibly having 10 people seated in the sanctuary, 10 people in the chapel, 10 people in the gym, etc., in order to achieve social distancing. Randy indicated that Pastor also indicated that maybe he could do several abbreviated services but all this would need to be discussed before any further action could be taken.

Debby Dant brought up the issue that over the past several months there seems to be a lack of reaching out to the elderly in our congregation to see how they are doing. There have been no calls, cards, or inquiries as to whether there is something that they might need. She was wondering how many of the elderly members have not been contacted by someone from the congregation. This is disappointing and Ron indicated that he will bring this up on Saturday at the Elders meetings. Ron noted that he knows that other churches do this. Valerie Ferguson indicated that this is something that is doable and if we know who needs to be contacted, those names could be split among people to take care of this. (Pastor Bishop has continued his regular monthly visits to our shut-in members and to other elderly members by telephone devotions, and in cases where telephone contact is not possible, by printed devotions, throughout the time of the COVID-19 shut down, and will continue to do so.)

Tracy Glass presented a question as to whether the church has been, or will be, cleaned and sanitized. Gary Pool indicated that the trustees have discussed about having professional cleaners, in addition to the regular cleaning service, or whether we would try to clean it ourselves. Further discussion is needed but Daryl indicated that Ross and the trustees have already gotten some bids, which are quite expensive, and have talked with the CDC. Gary indicated that the trustees are aware that the practice of cleaning the church will change permanently in the future.

Ron brought up that it would be nice for the boards to have meetings in person if they can do so with social distancing.

Ron indicated that the June meeting will also be a Zoom meeting to be held on the second Monday of the month. Daryl will set up the meeting.

A motion was made by Randy Couch, seconded by Daryl Dagit, to adjourn the meeting which closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wagner
Secretary

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JUNE'S LIBRARY CORNER
by Eileen Tiona

You have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God.
1 Peter 1:23

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 other wonderful books that are available for your enjoyment.

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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 | Pastor Kesselmayer |
| Mark Reeder | Lois Becker |
| Bob Watson | Cheryl Williams |
| Bernice Mack | Robert Scott |
| Stacie Kendall | Bob Funk |
| Tim Johnston | Donna Bollinger |
| Pat Proehl | Billie Jackson |
| Donna Corso | Lynda Adkins |
| Flo McClure | Joe Goodin |
| Sam Kendall | Sandy Morgan |
| Rick Jarvis | Rita Lakamp |
| Ellen Morrison | Herb Groenwald |
| Vince "Buzz" Oltman | Shirley Williamson |
| Wilmadean Habberfield | Joyce Wertz |
| Peggy Patten | Carolyn Urish |
| Mary Ashbaker | Dee Rees |
| Ray Barnes | Larry Turner |
| Robert Gregory | Marian McDaniels Allen |
| Lucille Benker | Marcille Frevert |
| Joyce Long | Curt Woolsey |

**St. John's
Lutheran Women's Missionary League
(LWML)
Women in Faith**

At this time St. John's LWML plan to meet in July in place of June due to the shelter-in-place. Our meeting will be Saturday July 11, at 10:00 a.m. in the church basement. All ladies of the congregation are welcome.

During the month of May and June, we are collecting items for the Personal Care Kits (see below). Items may be placed in baskets in the Narthex or Annex Addition. We are also collecting Mites (coins/dollar bills that goes for Missions that are supported by LWML). Mites can be put in the Mite boxes located in the Narthex or Annex Addition.

**PERSONAL CARE KIT
SOME IMPORTANT GUIDELINES TO REMEMBER**

- Be sure to shop for light- or medium-weight towels, which are easier for kit recipients to hand wash and air dry, take up less storage space and are considerably less expensive than the fluffier towels we may prefer to use.
- Please give new items only.
- Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name.
- Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.
- Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed.
- All items should be new and in good condition.
- Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH PERSONAL CARE KIT

- ONE** light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
- TWO** or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping
- ONE** adult-size toothbrush in it's original packaging*
- ONE** sturdy comb, remove packaging
- ONE** metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

* Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap.

SHUT-INS of the MONTH: Even though some of our members cannot attend church, we want to keep them in our thoughts and prayers and let them know they are not forgotten. Please send a card or pay a visit to these shut-ins this month.

Shut-ins for June are: Stanley Ehmke, Timbercreek, 2220 State St., Room C210, Pekin; Joyce Fornoff, Villas of Hollybrook, 2720 S. 14th St., Apt. 23, Pekin; Wilmadean Haberfield, Pekin Estates, 1540 El Camino Dr., Apt. 216, Pekin and Elaine Hapke, 1517 Highwood, Pekin.

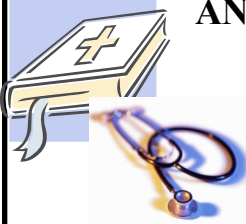
Thank you from your St. John's Ladies Guild.

The Board of Elders needs your help updating our shut-in list. If you know of anyone who should be on the list, please call the church office (347-2136) and provide their name and as much contact information as you can. Thank you for your help in this endeavor.



**CONGRATULATION TO ALL OUR
2020 GRADUATES**

**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.

Thank You *Michale* **Kiitos** *Toda* **Gracias** *Gracie* **Amerci**
(Excerpt from Lutherans For Life letter)

We especially appreciate your entrusting us as an extension of your all-important ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We take seriously the sacrifice and investment your gift to us represents. Your generosity is inspiring us to commit ourselves all the more intently to reaching hundreds of thousands with the message that God has created, redeemed, and called every human life as His own precious treasure from fertilization to forever. And as we again place ourselves and our resources at your service, we covet your prayers and welcome your observations.

Pastor Michael Salemink, Executive Director of Mission & Ministry, Lutherans for Life.

Thank you! God's peace to you!
Rev. Dr. Matthew Heise, Executive Director,
Lutheran Heritage Foundation

Thank you to Pastor Bishop, Deanna and our church members for your calls, emails, texts, cards and porch drop off gifts while we were sick and Curt was in the hospital. Thank you for being such a caring church family to us.
In Christ,
Curt and Pam Woolsey

Thank you to our family at St. John's for the cards, prayers, food, and encouragements during Terry's illness. All were deeply appreciated and we ask that you please keep him in your prayers as he continues to recover.
Terry & Nancy Swearingen

Thank you to Pastor Bishop and all for remembering Dave during his illness with cards, thoughts, prayers and emails. He is recuperating at home and getting stronger every day.
Dave & Nancy Drockelman

Diaper Shower

Sponsored by Peoria Area Lutherans for Life

Father's Day
Sunday, June 21

Please bring disposable diapers of any size to church (infant or adult).

Diapers collected will be donated to groups such as:

Women's Pregnancy Center
Esther House
Lutheran Hillside Village

(If shelter-in-place is lifted)

(Address Service Requested)

<h1>Bible Wordsearch </h1>	<h2>Clean & Unclean</h2>																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																					
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<p>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</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																						
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