

# St. John's Journal

Volume 47, Issue 1

## SORROW AND HOPE AS WE ENTER THE NEW YEAR

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At the beginning of a new year it is natural and customary for us to look back and look forward. As we do so again this year, it would be helpful for us to consider some thoughts from God's Word recorded in Lamentations 3:19-26.

"Remember my affliction and roaming, the wormwood and the gall. My soul still remembers and sinks within me. This I recall to my mind; therefore I have hope. Through the Lord's steadfast love we are not consumed, because His mercies fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul. 'Therefore I hope in Him!' The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him. It is good that one should hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord."

Now, as we look back on 2020, we all know there have been plenty of causes for sorrow, much of which was caused by the COVID pandemic. In fact, many people have already said 2020 is a year they wish they could just forget! We are deeply saddened by the many thousands of deaths this sickness has caused and is still causing. We are full of sorrow because many of our St. John's members became ill with this sickness, some of them very seriously so. We are sorrowful because some of us lost dear family members and close friends to the virus.

It saddens us that we missed out on twelve weeks of worship together in the Lord's house during the COVID shutdown. We're sorry that we missed out on so many regular activities and special events we had planned, such as family gatherings, vacations, sports events, concerts, school activities, community festivals, and even things as simple as dining in a restaurant or going to a movie theater.

Besides all the disruption caused by the COVID we have sorrow over the same sorts of troubles and sad events that befall us in any year. We are sorry over the loss of church members who were taken away from us by death. We are full of sorrow over the many troubles that plague our nation and its communities, such as violent crime, abortion, drug abuse, racial tension, bitter political division, moral decline, and so many other serious problems. And we most certainly lament our own sins – the many ways we have offended God and hurt other people by unloving things we said or did, or by neglecting the good we should have done.

All our causes for sorrow enable us to relate to Jeremiah's

lamentations. He was deeply saddened by the horrors of the fall and destruction of Jerusalem, particularly because he knew it had all come about because of the faithlessness, failures, and sins of his own people. He described his bitter affliction in terms of "the wormwood and the gall." His heart was broken in deep sadness.

Despite the profound causes for lamentation, however, Jeremiah still had *hope*! Even though the people deserved the Lord's punishing wrath, He did not utterly destroy them. In His compassion He preserved a remnant of His people and showered them with His loving kindness – mercies that are new every morning and never fail!

Brothers and sisters of St. John's, this is true for all of us, as well. Despite the various causes we have for sorrow, the Lord has been very compassionate to us! Think of just a few of the evidences of His mercy we have seen this past year within the congregation. So far, as of this writing, the Lord has graciously spared us any deaths in the congregation from COVID. He provided for the pure preaching of His forgiving grace through the saving work of Jesus Christ, even during the weeks we were on shutdown. He was present with us and nourished us with His holy Supper. He strengthened ill and home bound members with His Word and Supper. He called souls to heavenly peace and rest when the time was just right. He guided children and adults into the knowledge of the Truth through our Lutheran day school, Sunday School, Confirmation class, and adult Bible classes. He provided for us very generously with ample financial blessings. And of course we could add plenty more to the list.

Christians, the Lord's loving kindness should always fill us with hope! His mercies never fail! We can most certainly rely on the Lord to be faithful and compassionate in 2021. And that is cause for hope! So let's go forward into this new year with the hope our gracious Lord gives us, trusting in His steadfast love. For Jeremiah's words stand forever true: "*The Lord is good to those who hope in Him, to the one who seeks Him. It is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.*"

- Pastor Bishop



## **Christian Education**

### **Sunday School**

### **Perfect Attendance**

**November 2020**

### **High School**

Zane Dobbelaire

## **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**



### **Jan 01**

Darian Becker

### **Jan 02**

Mary Beck  
Hunter Hall  
Chelsea Hamlet

### **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**

Donald & Mae Houge

### **Jan 27**

James & Nona Buster



## PARISH NOTES



### Church Attendance

Nov 2020— **527—16** services  
 Nov 2019— **628—13** services  
 Nov 2018— **699—13** services

### Sunday School Attendance Year-to-Date

Nov 2020: **842**  
 Nov 2019: **1,145**  
 Nov 2018: **2,115**

### Communion Assistance

Jan 03  
 8:00 Aaron Miller  
 10:30 Del Beideck

Jan 17  
 8:00 Tom Ivey  
 10:30 Brian Umbach

Jan 31  
 8:00 Aaron Miller  
 10:30 Del Beideck

**2021 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, it would be appreciated if you would take theirs and deliver them for us.

Thank you for your help.

### Acolytes

Jan 03 8:00 Lilly Daniels  
 10:30 Ella Friedinger

Jan 10 8:00 Carter Miller  
 10:30 Ava Friedinger

Jan 17 8:00 Ella Friedinger  
 10:30 Lilly Daniels

Jan 24 8:00 Ava Friedinger  
 10:30 Carter Miller

Jan 31 8:00 Lilly Daniels  
 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, 2020

|   | <u>November</u>  | <u>Y-T-D</u>               |
|---|------------------|----------------------------|
| <b><u>INCOME</u></b>                                | 35,160.62        | 360,559.11                 |
| <b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>                              | 26,367.90        | 303,939.17                 |
| <b><u>INCOME-EXPENSES</u></b>                       | 8,792.72         | 56,619.94                  |
| <b><u>General Fund Accounts</u></b>                 |                  |                            |
| General Fund  |                  | -19,543.13                 |
| PPP Checking Account                                |                  | 0.00                       |
| <b>General Fund Total</b>                           |                  | <b>-19,543.13</b>          |
| <b><u>Educational Fund Accounts</u></b>             |                  |                            |
| Educational Grant Fund Chkg                         | 4,727.56         |                            |
| Educational Grant Fund CD #1                        | 103,681.64       |                            |
| Educational Grant Fund #2-Vanguard                  | 71,480.55        |                            |
| <b>Educational Fund Total</b>                       |                  | <b>179,889.75</b>          |
| <b><u>East Bluff Property</u></b>                   |                  |                            |
| East Bluff Property Vanguard                        | 43,541.01        |                            |
| East Bluff Property Fund CD                         | 107,492.84       |                            |
| Cat Stock at FMV                                    | 54,055.71        |                            |
| <b>East Bluff Property Fund</b>                     |                  | <b>215,089.56</b>          |
| Building Fund Checking                              | 55,239.19        |                            |
| Sunday School Fund Checking                         | 11,298.38        |                            |
| Memorial Fund Checking                              | 33,000.60        |                            |
| <b><u>TOTAL ASSETS</u></b>                          |                  | <b><u>\$474,974.35</u></b> |
| Checking Account Balance                            | 84,722.60        |                            |
|   | <b>84,722.60</b> |                            |
| <b><u>LIABILITIES</u></b>                           |                  |                            |
| Note Payable  | 0.00             |                            |
| PPP Loan  | 24,900.00        |                            |
| Payroll Liabilities                                 | 1,573.02         |                            |
| Misc LCMS Orgs Fund                                 | (15.00)          |                            |
| <b><u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u></b>                     |                  | <b><u>26,458.02</u></b>    |
| <b><u>FUND BALANCE</u></b>                          |                  |                            |
| Building Improvements                               | -299,680.34      |                            |
| Net Income (Loss)                                   | 56,619.94        |                            |
| Capital Accounts                                    | 691,576.73       |                            |
| <b>TOTAL FUND BALANCE</b>                           |                  | <b>448,516.33</b>          |
| <b><u>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; FUND BALANCE:</u></b> |                  |                            |
|   |                  | <b><u>\$474,974.35</u></b> |

## HI-LITES OF ST. JOHN'S VOTERS ASSEMBLY December 14, 2020

Ron Keising called the meeting to order. A quorum was present. Pastor Bishop opened with devotions.

The November Parish report was reviewed. A motion was made by Nancy Drockelman, seconded by Bob Oliverius, to accept the report. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Julie Wagner, seconded by Dave Kesselmayer, to approve the November meeting minutes. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Daryl Dagit presented the treasurer's report. Daryl indicated that he has the paperwork from the bank forgiving the PPP loan so we will not have to repay the money received in the spring through the PPP program. Daryl also indicated that we have paid off the remaining balance on the building improvement loan.

A motion was made by Dave Kesselmayer, seconded by Valerie Ferguson, to accept the November report. Motion passed.

Board of Trustees – Ross Gould reported that the masonry work is being done and is progressing well. They will not be able to work on the project on colder days. Ross noted that we probably won't get the bill for the work until next year.

Ross also reported that a neighbor, Mr. Williams, who lives by the parsonage is interested in purchasing the property. Ross informed Mr. Williams that we have been in talks over the past year with Steger's and that we had agreed to wait until spring for further discussions. Ross indicated that Steger's will get back in touch with us by February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Ross reported that the Trustees have gotten bids from other companies for the property insurance on the church. Bids have been received from Church Mutual and Grinnell. Ross will be reviewing the coverage on the current policy with the bids to see if the coverages are comparable. Hopefully he will have a recommendation at the next meeting. It appears our current coverage is substantially lower at 1.5 million than the recommended ISO replacement cost of closer to somewhere around 9 million. Ross noted that there is a lot to work through before making a decision.

Board of Elders – Dave Drockelman noted there were no updates other than the Elders continue to do their normal business. We are still in need of a delegate for the Tazewell Circuit forum. We have until January to make a selection. The date for the Circuit Forum might be pushed back, pending a decision on the dates for the CID convention.

Board of Finance – Nancy Drockelman reported that the committee had met in October and discussed paying off the existing loan and what to do with the CD's that we had at Busey Bank for the Educational Fund and the East Bluff Property Fund that were to come due on December 3rd. Busey Bank was offering a very low interest rate. The decision was made to move to the Church Extension Fund. Half of the money in each fund will be put into a 1-year CD and

of the money in each fund will be put into a 1-year CD and the other half into a 2-year CD, both getting a better interest rate than we were offered by Busey Bank. The budget was also discussed.

Board of Christian Education – Jamie Hoover reported that the youth group did help 4 seniors with their yard work in November. The youth group served cookies between services yesterday. Currently, with the help of Deanna Bishop, practice is taking place for the Christmas program.

Board of Worship – Valerie Ferguson reported that they met last week. Six new banners have been purchased; 2 for Trinity Sunday, 2 for Pentecost, and 2 for winter. The pianos have been tuned in time for Christmas. Gift cards were purchased and given to Adam Miller and Allison Harley in thanks for their help with technical and musical support. The old Christmas trees were donated to Goodwill.

Board of Evangelism – No report

Board of Stewardship – Barb Theleritis reported that gift cards were purchased and sent to the college students.

Long Range Planning Committee – No report.

Educational Grant Fund Committee – No report.

East Bluff Property Committee – Ross indicated that we are waiting for the rent payment from the farmer who leases the property. Generally, we get the check in January or February.

Constitution By-laws Committee – No report.

Unfinished business – Daryl discussed the budget. As indicated previously, there is no way to forecast tithing so Daryl compiled information from the previous years to get an idea of what expenses and income have been in the past. The General Fund is behind. Nancy Drockelman motioned, seconded by Cheryl Ivey, to accept the budget as shown. Motion passed.

Election of officers – Bob Oliverius motioned, seconded by Dave Drockelman, to close the nominations for office. Motion passed. Dave Drockelman motioned, seconded by Tom Ivey, to accept the slate of officers as is. Motion passed.

Officers elected:

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| President:             | Mike Nauth   |
| Vice President:        | Randy Couch  |
| Secretary:             | Linda Wagner   |
| Treasurer:             | Daryl Dagit  |
| Financial Secretaries: | Barb Theleritis & Janet Lawson<br>Julie & Linda Wagner<br>Sandy & Valerie Ferguson<br>Dave & Nancy Drockelman<br>Chris & Cody Watson |
| Trustees:              | Gary Pool & Dave Kesselmayer   |
| Finance Committee:     | Eric Jensen  |
| Board of Elders:       | Aaron Miller & Jon Bolt  |
| Worship Committee:     | Brian Fuelberth & Diane Gould  |
| BD of Christian Ed:    | Quest Dobbelaire & Courtney Miller   |
| Evangelism Comm:       | Ron Reising  |
| TLISA Board:           | Faye Kesselmayer   |

New business – NA

A motion was made by Tom Ivey, seconded by Bob Oliverius, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Ron also thanked everyone for their work over this past year. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wagner  
Secretary

## 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

to everyone for all the prayers, cards, greetings, gifts, and words of appreciation this Advent and Christmas. Your Christian love and kind generosity are sincerely appreciated.  
*Pastor Bishop and Deanna.*



\*\*\*\*\*

**The Flower Chart for 2021** 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. Cost is \$40 for 2 vases of flowers and \$5 for delivery, unless you order something special. Then we will let you know the cost.

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

St. John's Fellowship Club WILL NOT be meeting in January.

### THE YOUTH GROUP

will meet on Sunday, January 17th 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 2021 will be on Thursday, January 28th at 6:30 pm in the church basement.

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 the Trustees and Worship Committee and all volunteers who are helping to disinfect the church between services.



## Thank You

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



Ray Barnes  
 Mary Beck in memory of Kenny  
 Jim & Nona Buster  
 Tisha, Lexi, Lilly Daniels & Aiden Harms  
 Don & Val Dobbelaire  
 Dave & Nancy Drockelman  
 John Durdle  
 Michelle & Zach Ferguson  
 Sandy Ferguson  
 Valerie Ferguson  
 Ross & Diane Gould  
 The Hoover Family  
 Tom & Cheryl Ivey  
 Pastor Kesselmayer  
 Steve & Faye Kesselmayer  
 Jimmy & Joyce Lonergan  
 Carol Long  
 The Normans  
 Howie & Pat Proehl  
 Don Schoedel  
 Barb Theleritis  
 Julie & Linda Wagner  
 Joyce Wertz in memory of my loved ones  
 Butch & Cheryl Williams  
 Curt & Pam Woolsey

## 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 Kesselmayer  
 Mark Reeder  
 Bob Watson  
 Bernice Mack  
 Stacie Kendall  
 Donna Bollinger  
 Flo McClure  
 Darlene Meyer  
 Rick Jarvis  
 Wilmadean Habberfield  
 Bob Gregory  
 Marian McDaniels Allen  
 Priscilla Aderholtz  
 Anna Knussman  
 Brittany Allen  
 Joyce Long  
 Julia Taylor  
 Tracy Lundeen  
 Dan Rees

Vince "Buzz" Oltman  
 Lois Becker  
 Cheryl Williams  
 Robert Scott  
 Donna Corso  
 Billie Jackson  
 Joe Goodin  
 Sandy Morgan  
 Peggy Patten  
 Larry Turner  
 Pam Nutter  
 Marcille Frevert  
 Jerry Guengerich  
 Michelle Watson  
 Rosetta Turner  
 Tract Glass  
 Robert Rilea  
 Curt & Pam Woolsey  
 Ed Casto

And all those who have been affected by COVID-19.



## Thank You

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

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

Received a letter from Concordia University Chicago  
Foundation for our donation.

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

Received a letter from Salam Christian Fellowship thank-  
ing us for the donation the Sunday School Dept. made to  
them.

Doug & Elizabeth wanted to say thank you very much for  
the food baskets that were delivered to us. It was very  
thoughtful for you to think of us at this difficult time.

*Doug Vogel & Elizabeth Kammeyer*



*Life is like a mirror -  
If you frown at it,*



## **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 mem-  
bers 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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