

St. John's Journal

Volume 47, Issue 4

THE LORD'S SUPPER: PART OF GOD'S "FOOLISHNESS"

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April 1 is Maundy Thursday. April 1 is also known as April Fool's Day. It is not entirely unfitting that the two observances coincide this year. For Maundy Thursday commemorates our Lord's institution of His holy Supper. And to many people of the world, even to some who are part of the visible Christian church, what the Bible teaches concerning the Lord's Supper is just a bunch of foolishness, and those who believe it are a bunch of fools.

It's not difficult to understand why the unbelievers consider the Supper foolishness. Think of the utterly amazing things the Scriptures teach and we believe: Jesus Christ, a real Man who was alive 2,000 years ago, is still alive today! Because this Man is also God, He is capable of being present bodily in many, many different places simultaneously! This Man is able to unite His real body to ordinary bread, and His real blood to ordinary wine, and to give them to His people to eat and drink! This Man has been doing this for nearly 2,000 years, and yet His body and blood never run out! And this Man bestows His gifts of forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation by means of this Supper! It's little wonder the unbelieving world finds this so foolish.

It's very much like the message of the cross. This same Man's crucifixion and death paid for all the sins of all people who have ever lived or ever will live, and everyone who believes in this Man will live forever. What "foolishness"!

Yet this is *God's* foolishness! And, as we heard just recently on the Third Sunday in Lent, "the foolishness of God is stronger than men." *1 Cor. 1:25* Yes, the foolishness of God is His wise way of saving us! "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God." *1 Cor. 1:18* Again, "It pleased God through the foolishness of the preaching to save those who believe." *1 Cor. 1:21*

The Lord's Supper is a central truth of "the preaching," that is, the message of salvation in Jesus Christ. By the Savior's own words He assures us His Supper is "for you" and "for the forgiveness of sins." *Lk. 22:19 and Mt. 26:28* This may be foolishness to the world, but it is God's saving wisdom! The Lord's Supper is God's wise gift to nourish us in Jesus Christ for our everlasting life!

This April 1, then, and as often as we have opportunity, let's be "fools" who are happy to believe the words of our Lord, and thus receive His Supper with joy and thanksgiving!

*We eat this bread and drink this cup, Thy precious Word believing
That Thy true body and Thy blood Our lips are here receiving.
This word remains forever true, And there is naught Thou canst not do;
For Thou, Lord, art almighty.*

*Though reason cannot understand, Yet faith this truth embraces;
Thy body, Lord, is everywhere At once in many places.
How this can be I leave to Thee, Thy word alone sufficeth me,
I trust its truth unailing.*

*Lord, I believe what Thou hast said, Help me when doubts assail me;
Remember that I am but dust And let my faith not fail me.
Thy Supper in this vale of tears Refreshes me and stills my fears
And is my priceless treasure.*

The Lutheran Hymnal 306:4-6

- Pastor Bishop



Christian Education

Sunday School

Perfect Attendance

February 2021

None

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

April 02

Jeff & Leslie Norman

April 05

Joe & Trina Szadkowski

April 10

Greg & Wendy McDonald

April 13

Eric & Paula Jensen

April 17

John & Althea Geiser

April 18

Jacob & Sarah Adkins

April 19

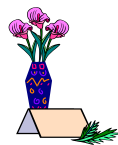
John & Ronda Adkins
Tim & Sandy Gay

April 25

Don & Valerie Dobbelaire

April 30

Dan & Florence McClure



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 01

Randy Couch
Dan Rees



April 02

Brittany Allen
Randi Becker
Edward Gaitros

April 03

Dave Drockelman
Iris Gaitros
Greg Hall

April 04

Lindsey Dixon
Carter Stevenson

April 07

Lilly Daniels
Florence McClure

April 08

Darrell Hansen
Dan Watson

April 09

Edyn Kammeyer
Jackie Nauth
Alicia Turner

April 10

Mary Mantovani

April 11

Wilma Garber
Logan Schoch
Dane Watson

April 13

Jeff Norman

April 15

Bobby Gregory
Mark Scott
Mike Wagner

April 16

Dawn Bohannon
Jon Bolt

April 17

Alex Schmidgall

April 19

Mike Dixon, Sr.
Ron Reising
Doug Vogel

April 20

Cathy Ashbaker



April 21

Dave Becker
Kevin Dupent
Addison Nelson

April 22

Jim Buster
Michelle Gregory

April 23

Dan Dobbelaire
Lois Jarvis
Bethany Meyer
Vanessa Watson

April 24

Lucille Benker
Peg Booe
Ray Garber
Drew Jackson
Shirley McCoige
Maxine Oliverius
Paul Tackmann

April 25

Josh Donovan
Kingston Hamlet
Kathy Heisel

April 26

William Wiker III

April 27

Chris Ashbaker

April 28

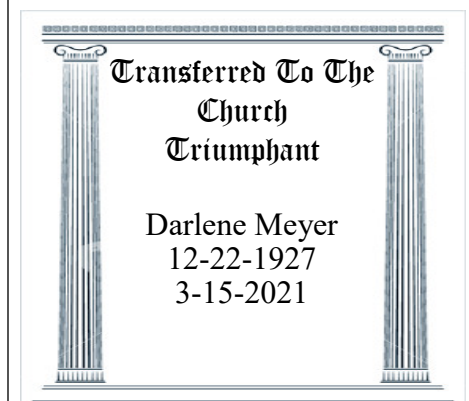
Elaine Hapke
Andrea Yergler

April 29

Chris Bitner
Brinley Meyer
Mikayla Wilson

April 30

Jon Becker
Diane Fornoff
Amy Swibold



PARISH NOTES

Church Attendance

Feb 2021 **426** 14 services
Feb 2020 **652** 13 services
Feb 2019 **612** 12 services

Sunday School Attendance

Feb 2021: **291**
Feb 2020: **322**
Feb 2019: **384**

Videographers - April

Brayden & Bradley Hoover

Worship Committee - April

John Neumann

April Communion Assistance

April 1

7:00 p.m. Jon Bolt

April 4

7:00 a.m. Aaron Miller
10:30 a.m. Jon Bolt

April 18

8:00 a.m. Tom Ivey
10:30 a.m. Del Beideck

Acolytes—April

April 1

7:00 p.m. Lilly Daniels

April 2

7:00 p.m. Ava Friedinger

April 4

7:00 a.m. Carter Miller
10:30 a.m. Ava Friedinger

April 11

8:00 a.m. Ella Friedinger
10:30 a.m. Lilly Daniels

April 18

8:00 a.m. Ava Friedinger
10:30 a.m. Carter Miller

April 25

8:00 a.m. Lilly Daniels
10:30 a.m. Ella Friedinger

Ushers - April

8:00

10:30

Jim Lonergan Brian Ford
Jim Widby Nate Ford
Merle Wiseman Trent Hoover
Brian Unbach

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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 Lois Becker
Pastor Kesselmayr
Bob Watson Cheryl Williams
Bernice Mack Robert Scott
Stacie Kendall Bob Funk
Sandy Morgan Billie Jackson
Donna Corso Flo McClure
Joe Goodin Rick Jarvis
Vince "Buzz" & Deanna Oltman
Wilma Dean Habberfield
Peggy Patten Larry Turner
Robert Gregory Rosetta Turner
Marian McDaniels Allen
Marcille Frevert Joyce Long
Priscilla Aderholtz Michelle Watson
Anna Knussman Brittany Allen
Jerry Guengerich Karen Hall
Mary Mantovoni Robert Rilea
Joe Schiavone Vernice Funk
Pam Nutter Leia Stewart
Stanley Ehmke Ruth Keil
Rhonda Lappie Jill Jennings
Vi Deppert Pam Nutter
Peggy Farlin

PRIVATE COMMUNION SERVICES AVAILABLE

If you have been uncomfortable coming to church during the pandemic, you may still receive the Lord's Supper. Pastor Bishop is happy to come to your home, or to have you come here to church, to conduct a short and simple service of Holy Communion for you.

We are able to do this in a safe and sanitary manner, with masks and proper distancing. So if you have gone without the Lord's Supper for quite a while, please feel free to contact Pastor to make arrangements. You may simply call the church at 347-2136, and mornings are usually the best time to reach him there.

TREASURER'S REPORT

February 2021

	February	Y-T-D
INCOME	39,009.47	70,256.30
EXPENSES	26,335.64	81,954.27
INCOME-EXPENSES	\$12,673.83	(\$11,697.97)

General Fund	1,696.92
General Fund Total	1,696.92

Ed Grant Fund Checking	4,727.56
Ed Grant CD LCMS 12/21	51,928.87
Ed Grant CD LCMS 12/22	51,982.86
Ed Grant Fund #2-Vanguard	70,658.68
Educational Fund Total	179,243.97

East Bluff Property-Vanguard	43,039.94
East Bluff CD LCMS 12/21	53,837.70
East Bluff CD LCMS 12/22	53,837.70
Cat Stock at FMV	79,660.72
East Bluff Property Fund	230,376.06

Building Fund Checking	40,724.19
S S Fund Checking	11,233.78
Memorial Fund Checking	33,985.60

TOTAL ASSETS	497,260.52
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Checking Account Balance	92,369.05
TOTAL	92,368.05

LIABILITIES

Payroll Liabilities	1,481.74
Misc LCMS Orgs Fund	(15.00)
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,466.74

FUND BALANCE

Building Improvements	-299,680.34
Net Income (Loss)	(11,697.97)
Capital Accounts	807,172.09
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	495,793.78

TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	\$497,260.52
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Transferred To The
Church
Triumphant

Darlene Meyer
12-22-1927
3-15-2021

HI-LITES OF ST. JOHN'S VOTERS ASSEMBLY
March 8, 2021

Mike Nauth called the meeting to order. A quorum was present. Pastor Bishop opened with devotions.

The February Parish report was reviewed. A motion was made by Ron Reising, seconded by Randy Couch, to accept the report. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Valerie Ferguson, seconded by Cheryl Ivey, to approve the February meeting minutes. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Daryl Dagit presented the treasurer's report.

A motion was made by Tom Ivey, seconded by Julie Wagner, to accept the February report. Motion passed.

Board of Trustees – Gary Pool reported that the Trustees met this month but there is nothing new to report.

Board of Elders – Del Beideck reported that the Elders met and discussed an inquiry from a member about having a separate service on the day of Epiphany, which in 2022, would fall on Thursday, January 6th. (Epiphany is January 6th every year.) Del indicated that many churches have celebrated Epiphany on the actual day. Del also indicated that we used to have a separate service but it was discontinued a while back. Del indicated that the Elders decided to bring the inquiry to the Voters Assembly. Discussion took place as to whether to hold a separate service. Several people asked Pastor for his thoughts on the topic. Pastor indicated that his preference would be to celebrate on either the Sunday before or after but he is fine with whatever the congregation would decide. A motion was made by Valerie Ferguson, seconded by Bob Oliverius, to keep the Epiphany service as is. Motion passed.

Board of Finance – No report.

Board of Christian Education – Shantel Tackmann reported that the board met yesterday. This past month the youth participated in Wacky Sports and enjoyed tacos and ice cream. The next event on March 21st will be a film and discussion. There will be a kindergarten round-up and there is advertising on TV for Good Shepherd School. Discussion also took place pertaining to the Easter breakfast. It was decided that this year, in order to keep everyone safe, the breakfast will be cancelled. Ross Gould also expounded on the advertising for Good Shepherd. Ross indicated that we are making a concerted effort to target pre-school age children as that enrollment is down

due to COVID. Several people indicated they had seen the commercial and were impressed. Ross also reminded people that the auction for Good Shepherd starts next Monday and runs for a week so check it out.

Board of Worship – Valerie Ferguson noted that the committee met last week. Val reported that we are going to try incorporating the use of the Lutheran Service Book Divine Service Four for the services on the 3rd Sunday of the month. She indicated we will see how it goes and get feedback. Val also gave a reminder that on March 21st there will be a practice session between services for the hymns that will be sung on Easter Sunday. Val also gave a reminder that there will be a brass quartet from Pekin High School that will perform at the 10:30 service on Easter. Palms have been ordered by Sandy for use on Palm Sunday. The committee is also looking into getting the organ tuned, hopefully prior to the Easter service. A question was asked as to whether there would be a need for reservations for the Easter services. Since we already have 2 services, and our average attendance on Sundays is around 100 people, it was felt that we would not need to go that route as we can comfortably social distance around 85 people per service.

Board of Evangelism – No report.

Board of Stewardship – No report.

Long Range Planning Committee – No report.

Educational Grant Fund Committee – Ross Gould inquired about whether, since we rarely use these funds, perhaps we could use some of the money for scholarships to Good Shepherd School. Mike Nauth indicated that Mickey Pitchford oversees this fund and that Ross should get in touch with him to discuss this option. Several others indicated that they thought this was a good use for some of the funds. Mike asked Ross to report back next month.

East Bluff Property Committee – No report.

Constitution By-laws Committee – No report.

Unfinished business –

There was no unfinished business.

New business – No new business was reported.

A motion was made by Tom Ivey, seconded by Randy Couch, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wagner
Secretary

LEFT OVER YARN NEEDED: We have someone who crochets cancer caps and is in need of yarn. If you have some left over yarn and would like to donate, please drop it off in the office. Thank you.

#####

Good Shepherd Lutheran School is seeking to fill the following vacancies: **A full time, Middle School Teacher (grades 5-8) able to teach a variety of content areas including Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. A part time Physical Education teacher (grades K-8).**

Interested and qualified applicants should send a letter of interest and resume to: Good Shepherd Lutheran School, 3201 Court St.. Pekin, IL 61554 Or to: drees@goodshepherdpekin.com. The positions will be filled as soon as suitable applicants are found.

#####

ST. JOHN'S SOFTBALL TEAM: St. John's is looking into the possibility of having a softball team(s). Any male or female interested, 15 years or older can contact Dave Kesselmayer at 309-280-0069.

We will decide by those interested if we have a men's team, woman's team or co-rec team.

Season will start May 10, Sunday (co-rec), Monday (men's) and Wednesday (woman's) nights are possible nights of play. Don't wait. Please call soon. Thank you. Dave.

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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 April are :
Ruth Keil, Hallmark, 2501 Allentown Rd., Pekin; Pastor Kesselmayer, 1116 S. 4th St., Pekin; Kay King, 1426 Lake St., Pekin & Joyce Long, 2204 State St., Pekin. Thank you from your St. John's Ladies Guild.

Help Needed! Camp CILCA is seeking to fill 2 positions year-round:

- Assistant Cook: \$14/hr, part-time
- Maintenance: \$12/hr., part-time
- For more information contact the camp office today!

Call 217-487-7497 or email: camp@cilca.org.



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

Our Sincere thanks! You help the Seminary stay strong in the mission of our Lord Jesus. We are grateful to you. Vicki Biggs, Concordia

Seminary, St. Louis.

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MARCH LIBRARY CORNER

By Eileen Tiona



"Jesus thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in Him." John 2:11.

I am so glad to have some new book to put in the library. It's been a long year and I am glad to have these new books for you to read and enjoy..

The first is a series by Lisa Harris. Book 1 titled Vendetta. Nikki Boyd works for the Tennessee Missing Persons Task Force and is driven by the fact her own sister has been missing for ten years. Vendetta takes you on a fast paced pursuit of Justice that will have you holding your breath until the heart-stopping finish.

Book 2 titled Missing. Nikki Boyd isn't called in on homicides, but when a case with two murdered and two missing pops up on a quiet suburban street, she's ready to start the investigation.

Book 3 titled Pursued. Nikki Boyd's flight into Nashville was routine until the CrashLanding at the airport. Nikki discovers that the woman who had been seated next to her on the plane is missing and no one will admit she was ever there. Nikki starts investigating.

The following 2 books are by Colleen Coble. Book 1 is titled Where Shadows Meet. Hannah is distraught when her parents are murdered while she is meeting her forbidden love, Reese. Unable to face the community, she runs away and marries him.

Book 2 by Colleen Coble is titled Rosemary Cottage. The charming Rosemary Cottage on the beach offers Amy Lange the respite she needs to mourn her brother, Ben..Everyone blames a surfing accident, but Amy has reason to wonder.

Hope you will come in and check out these new books and all the other books available for your reading enjoyment.

ORGANIZATIONS

FELLOWSHIP CLUB

Fellowship Club is not meeting at this time. Watch future Journals for meeting dates.

LADIES' GUILD

By Leslie Hauk

ST. JOHN'S LADIES GUILD will meet on Thursday, April 22, at 6:30 p.m. for our annual "baby show-er" to benefit Living Alternatives Pregnancy Center. Members of the congregation are invited to donate new baby items, i.e. diapers, wipes, baby clothes during the month of April. A box will be available on the stage in the gymnasium.

All ladies of the congregation are welcome to attend our meeting.

YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group will meet Sunday, April 18, at 4:00 p.m. Weather permitting we will go to St. James Field to play mushy softball. If weather does not permit, we will play volleyball in the gym. Please bring a friend to enjoy the fellowship

**Spring
Cleaning**

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.

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Mowing time at GSLS is rapidly approaching and we are looking for volunteers to assist. Please call Ross Gould at 309-267-2413 or email me at rossgould27@gmail.com. We can work around what is convenient for you. Thanks for your consideration.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Holy Week Services

April 1 - 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service with Holy Communion
April 2 - 12:00 N & 7 pm Good Friday Service
April 4 - **7:00 a.m.** Easter Sunrise Service with Holy Communion
10:30 a.m. Easter Service with Holy Communion

The 10:30 Easter service will include special brass music.

*Note: Due to Covid-19 the **Easter Breakfast** will not be served this year.*

There will be no Sunday School or Adult Bible Class on Easter, and no 7:00 p.m. service.



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to all who donated Easter Lilies for our Easter services

Ray Barnes
Randy Couch
The Dobbelaire Family
Dave & Nancy Drockelman
Michelle & Zach Ferguson
Sandy Ferguson
Valerie Ferguson
Jim & Tracy Glass
Ross & Diane Gould
Eric & Allison Harley
The Hoover Family
Tom & Cheryl Ivey
Pastor Kesselmayer
Steve & Faye Kesselmayer
Anna Knussman in memory of
Marvin Ellingworth and Ed Knussman
Susan Waddell
Linda & Julie Wagner

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GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN SCHOOL

April 2-9 No School—Easter Break
April 12 School resumes—full day
April 20 School Board Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
April 23 Early dismissal PreK @ noon/K-8th @ 12:30 p.m.—Midterm 4
April 25 GSLS Students sing @ St. John's, Pekin @ 10:30 a.m.

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

Non-Profit Organization
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Pekin, IL
Permit No. 146

(Address Service Requested)

Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 251

Matt.9:33-10:10

H	B	A	P	O	S	T	L	E	S	S	H	E	E	P
C	I	N	U	T	Y	E	N	R	U	O	J	G	S	E
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S	H	E	A	V	E	N	K	E	I	J	U	D	A	S

Apostles Chosen

AMAZED	ANDREW
FREELY	APOSTLES
HEAL	CLEANSE
HEAVEN	CROWDS
ISRAEL	DISEASE
JAMES	ISCARIOT
JESUS	JOURNEY
JOHN	KINGDOM
JUDAS	PREACH
PETER	MATTHEW
PHILIP	MESSAGE
PRINCE	SANDALS
RAISE	SHEPHERD
SHEEP	TEACHING
SIMON	THOMAS
SPIRITS	ZEBEDEE
SPOKE	TWELVE
TUNIC	ZEALOT
THADDAEUS	

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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