

# St. John's Journal

Volume 48, Issue 1

## WHERE DO THE WISE MEN BELONG?

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

This year we will observe the Epiphany of Our Lord on Sunday, January 2. Epiphany begins a new season in the Church Year, immediately following the Christmas season. The Gospel reading for Epiphany is the account of the wise men coming to visit Jesus. Of course, we commonly associate this visit with the Christmas story. The wise men are pictured on Christmas cards, mentioned in Christmas carols, and appear in virtually every Nativity scene. So it raises an interesting question: with the story of the wise men beginning a distinct season, are they really part of Christmas? Where do the wise men properly belong?

Because the wise men (or literally *magi* – scholars from the east) visited the baby Jesus sometime after His birth, possibly several months later, some people would say they aren't truly part of the Christmas story. For the wise men never did visit the manger, but found the Lord Jesus “in the house,” as Matthew puts it – whatever house Mary and Joseph and Jesus were staying in at the time. Because of this some would say the wise men do not properly belong in the Nativity scene, or if they must be included, they should be put out at the very edge, as though they were still on the way to Bethlehem, but not there yet.

The historical point these folks make is perfectly Scriptural, and so it is well taken. Yet there are some other important considerations they fail to take into account. First, the story of Christmas entails more than just the events of the night of Jesus' birth. After all, doesn't the Christmas story include the visits of the angels to Mary and Joseph? And those happened months ahead of time.

Second, Nativity scenes aren't intended to give a visual depiction of the mere facts. Rather, they are visual portrayals of the whole story of Christmas, as well as symbolic interpreters of the significance of that story. After all, Nativity scenes normally depict Jesus as a big, robust infant with a glorious halo, ra-

ther than as a tiny, wrinkly newborn. And Mary always looks fresh and radiant, rather than like a journey-wearied, labor-anguished new mother. And did the angel really hover overhead, right in from of the stable's roof, carrying a “Gloria” banner in his hand? And we have no idea how many shepherds there were, or how many and what kind of animals may have been around. The point is, our Nativity scenes don't have photographic accuracy, and they are not intended to.

So why *not* the wise men? For they certainly *are* part of the larger Christmas story. Their arrival in Bethlehem to worship the baby Jesus and to offer Him precious gifts – this signals an important part of the meaning of Christmas: Jesus is the God who is to be worshiped, and the King of all people, including Gentile foreigners. He is the Savior of the whole world! It's no wonder the Eastern church actually celebrates Christmas on January 6, which is the traditional date of Epiphany in the Western church. Their observance identifies the visit of the wise men as “the Christmas of the Gentiles.”

So go ahead and leave your Nativity scenes set up at least until Epiphany. And keep on putting those wise men in your Nativity scenes, and not necessarily somewhere out on the fringe either, but right there next to the manger offering Jesus their worship and gifts. That's where they belong. And in those wise men, we see where *we* belong!

- Pastor Bishop



## **Christian Education**

### **Sunday School**

### **Perfect Attendance**

**November 2021**

### **First/Second Grades**

Aiden Harms

## **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  
Lincoln Ferguson  
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 2021— **617—13** services  
 Nov 2020— **527—16** services  
 Nov 2019— **628—13** services

### Sunday School Attendance Year-to-Date

Nov 2021: **1,364**  
 Nov 2020: **842**  
 Nov 2019: **1,145**

### Communion Assistance

Jan 02  
 8:00 Tom Ivey  
 10:30 Jon Bolt

Jan 16  
 8:00 Del Beideck  
 10:30 Jon Bolt

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

**2022 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 02 8:00 Briella Hoover  
 10:30 Madison Sego

Jan 9 8:00 Abby Hall  
 10:30

Jan 16 8:00 Madison Sego  
 10:30 Briella Hoover

Jan 23 8:00  
 10:30 Abby Hall

Jan 30 8:00 Briella Hoover  
 10:30 Madison Sego

### January Ushers

#### 8:00

James Lonergan 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, 2021

	November	Y-T-D
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>	25,601.92	481,036.57
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>	42,653.65	511,678.56
<b><u>INCOME—</u></b>	-17,051.73	69,358.01
<b><u>EXPENSE</u></b>		

### General Fund Accounts

General Fund	10,560.95
<b>General Fund Total</b>	<b>10,560.95</b>

### Educational Fund Accounts

Educ. Grant Fund Checking	4,727.56
Ed Grant CD LCMS 12/21	51,928.87
Ed Grant CD LCMS 12/22	51,928.86
Ed Grant Fund #2 Vanguard	70,296.13
<b>Educational Fund Total</b>	<b>178,881.42</b>

### East Bluff Property

East Bluff Property Vanguard	42,820.32
East Bluff CD LCMS 12/21	53,837.70
East Bluff CD LCMS 12/22	53,887.70
Cat Stock at FMV	71,347.15
	<b>221,842.87</b>

Building Fund Checking	12,759.19
Sunday School Fund Checking	11,270.53
Memorial Fund Checking	143,775.42

### TOTAL ASSETS **579,090.38**

Checking Acct Balance	183,093.65
	<b>183,093.65</b>

### LIABILITIES

Payroll Liabilities	2,208.28
Misc. LCMS Orgs Fund	32.34
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>2,240.62</b>

### Fund Balance

Net Income (Loss)	69,358.01
Capital Accounts	507,491.75
<b>Total Fund Balance</b>	<b>576,849.76</b>

### TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE **579,090.38**

## HI-LITES OF ST. JOHN'S VOTERS ASSEMBLY December 13, 2021

Mike Nauth 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 Julie Wagner, seconded by Gary Pool, to accept the report. Motion carried.

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

Treasurer's Report – Daryl Dagit presented the treasurer's report for November. Daryl noted that there was one last large bill to pay to complete the payment for the painting of the exterior brick around the sanctuary. Daryl also noted that the General Fund is in positive standing and year-to-date income is positive also. One of the CDs in the Educational Fund came due this month and has been renewed for 2 years. The same situation occurred with one of the CDs in the East Bluff Property Fund.

A motion was made by Dave Drockelman, seconded by Ross Gould, to approve the November Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Board of Trustees – Gary Pool reported that work continues on the basement remodel. Gary indicated that the Trustees appreciate people's patience as they continue to work on the ceiling.

Board of Elders – Del Beideck reported that the Elders are still working on contacting inactive members.

Board of Finance – No report.

Board of Christian Education – No report.

Board of Worship – Valerie Ferguson reported that the committee did meet earlier this month. The organ and piano have been tuned. Val indicated that they are still looking for an accompanist for the choir. Also, Val noted that if people still want to be a member of the choir or the bell choir, they would be welcome!

Board of Evangelism – Pastor Bishop reported that the committee will meet on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Board of Stewardship – Brian Ford reported that 4 food boxes were delivered this month. Also, 17 college age members received \$10 gift cards. Janet Lawson has volunteered to write thank you notes for memorial contributions that are received.

Long Range Planning Committee – No report.

Educational Grant Fund Committee – No report.

East Bluff Property Committee – No report.

Constitution By-laws Committee – No report.

Ross Gould did report on Good Shepherd School. The school is going to lose 5 children due to the families relocating but will gain a couple of students for the second semester. Financially the school is doing fine.

Unfinished business – Daryl Dagit did a more in-depth review of the 2022 budget. Dave Drockelman motioned, seconded by Tom Ivey, to approve the 2022 budget as presented. Motion carried.

New business – Mike Nauth reviewed the nominations for officer positions prior to voting. There are still several positions that need candidates including; Vice-President, Financial Secretary and Trustee. Mike, Nancy Drockelman, and Gary Pool are continuing to pursue candidates for those open positions. Additional nominees will be voted on during the January meeting.

Following are the positions and nominees up for election:

For 1-year terms:

President: Mike Nauth

Secretary: Linda Wagner

Treasurer: Daryl Dagit

Financial Secretaries: Barb Theleritis/Janet Lawson, Julie and Linda Wagner, Sandy and Valerie Ferguson, Dave and Nancy Drockelman.

For 3-year terms:

Trustee: Trent Hoover

Finance Committee: Rod Bollinger

Board of Elders: Tom Ivey, Randy Couch, Steve Depew, Ray Barnes (completing the term for a former Elder)

Worship Committee: Vince Tennell, Paul Tackmann

Board of Christian Education: Leslie Hauk, Tisha Daniels

Stewardship Committee: Sandy Ferguson, Barb Theleritis

Evangelism Committee: Joyce Loneragan

TSLA Board (Good Shepherd): Tisha Daniels

Dave Drockelman motioned, seconded by Tom Ivey, that the ballot be closed and those nominated be approved through affirmation. Motion carried.

Mike Nauth thanks those members that helped with the decorating of the church for the Christmas season. Mike also noted that it was good to hear the Sanctuary and Bell Choirs perform once again. Mike also wished everyone a Merry Christmas!

Dave Drockelman also inquired as to whether the carillon was playing properly. Mike Nauth replied that he believed that it was but would make sure that was checked.

A motion was made by Brian Ford, seconded by Randy Couch, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

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.

\*\*\*\*\*



**A SINCERE THANK YOU** to everyone for all the prayers, cards, notes, gifts, and words of appreciation this Advent and Christmas. We deeply appreciate your Christian love and kindness. *Pastor Bishop and Deanna*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Congratulations to Jeff and Joanne Ferree** on the birth of their first grandchild, Roran Joseph Ferree was born on November 23rd to their daughter Jordan and her husband Trenton. May the Lord bless the family.

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Flower Chart for 2022** 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 Greenhouse Florist at 347-5921. There could be an additional cost. The cost for 2 vases is \$40 for 2 vases of flowers and \$10 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

### THE YOUTH GROUP

will meet on Sunday, January 16th at 4:00 p.m.

Watch future bulletins for activity.

### WOMEN'S GUILD *By Leslie Hawk*

The first Ladies' Guild meeting of 2022 will be on Thursday, January 27th at 6:30 pm in the church basement.

All ladies of the congregation are invited to start the new year with us!

\*\*\*\*\*

### Transferred To The Church Triumphant

Rev. Darwood Kesselmayer  
3-20-27  
11-30-21

Leia Stewart  
9-18-62  
12-21-21



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.

We received a letter from Lutheran Heritage Foundation: People of St. John, your gift helps perpetuate the Truths of the Reformation. Rev. R. Rahn, Founder

Lutherans for Life sent a letter thanking us for our donation to them.





## **Thank You**

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



Tim & Denise Adkins  
Ray Barnes  
Randy Couch  
The Dobbelaire Family  
Dave & Nancy Drockelman  
Michelle & Zach Ferguson  
Sandy Ferguson  
Valerie Ferguson  
Jim & Tracy Glass  
Carol Goodin  
Ross & Diane Gould  
The Harley Family  
Leslie Hauk  
The Hoover Family  
Tom & Cheryl Ivey  
The Steve Kesselmayer Family: in memory  
of Pastor Kesselmayer  
Anna Knussman: in memory  
of Edwin Knussman and Marvin Ellingworth  
Jimmy & Joyce Loneran  
Carol Long  
Jerry & Paula Norman & Family  
Peggy Patten  
Pat Proehl  
Sheryl Riley: in memory of Eric Riley  
Scott & Michelle Stalter  
The Terry Swearinger Family  
Barb Theleritis  
Julie & Linda Wagner: in memory  
of Barb Wagner

## **GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN SCHOOL**

Jan. 3 Classes Resume—Full Day  
Jan. 14 Early Dismissal, PreK at 12 N & K-8 @ 12:30 pm  
Jan. 17 No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
Jan. 18 School Board Meeting @ 6:30 pm  
Jan. 21 Report Card Day—Awards Assembly @ 2:45 pm  
Jan. 23 Sing at Trinity, Pekin @ 10:45 am  
Jan. 23-29 National Lutheran School Week  
Jan. 28 PTL Spaghetti Supper & Talent  
Show @ 5:00 pm



## **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)

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

Pastor Niemann  
Stacie Kendall  
Billie Jackson  
Joe Goodin  
Peggy Patten  
Rosetta Turner  
Joyce Long  
Brittany Allen  
Mary Mantovani  
Keith Gleason  
Rhonda Lappie  
Peggy Farlin  
Marlana Montgomery  
Anna Knussman  
Donna Corso  
Jeff Ferree  
Paula Jensen  
Addie Burling

Robert Scott  
Sandy Morgan  
Flo McClure  
Rick Jarvis  
Larry Turner  
Robert Gregory  
Michelle Watson  
Jerry Guengerich  
Robert Rilea  
Stanley Ehmke  
Jill Jennings  
Caralee Bohannon  
Pat Flatley  
Mary Beck  
Mae Houge  
Debee Pitchford  
Butch Williams  
Jeff Sayles

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



## **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

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

(Address Service Requested)

## 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>

COPYRIGHT 2018

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED