

St. John's Journal

"GOD WAS MANIFESTED IN THE FLESH"

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"A great and mighty wonder... the Word becomes incarnate." Those words from the old Christmas hymn succinctly state the great miracle we celebrate at Christmas: The Word, the eternal Son of God, became flesh! True God became true man! "God was manifested in the flesh!"

God teaches us this amazing truth with amazing clarity in the Bible. "Great is the mystery of our religion: God was manifested in the flesh." *1 Timothy 3:16* "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." *John 1:1,14* (*Word* is a title of the eternal Son of God, indicating how He is God's supreme message to us.) "Every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God." *1 John 4:3* These passages emphasize the mind-boggling truth that Jesus Christ, our God and Creator, is a real man with real flesh – fully human in every respect.

Because of the self-compulsion of His divine compassion for us sinners, God became flesh so that He could redeem our flesh. "He has reconciled you in the body of His flesh through death." *Colossians 1:21-22* "Since the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is the devil." *Hebrews 2:14* "Christ suffered for us in the flesh." *1 Peter 4:1* Because God took on human flesh, a real man died in the place of real men. Christ is our genuine Substitute!

God became flesh also so that He could rise from the dead for all flesh. Jesus truly died in the flesh for our sins, yet His flesh did not see decay. (See Acts 2:31.) Rather, Jesus rose from the dead with glorified flesh!

He is still fully man! After His resurrection Jesus said to His disciples, "A spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have." *Luke 24:39* The resurrection of Jesus guarantees that we who believe in Him will likewise rise from the dead with glorified flesh. With Job, we can confidently declare our hope in the resurrection: "Yet in my flesh shall I see God." *Job 19:26*

What a great and mighty wonder! What a magnificent demonstration of God's boundless grace and infinite power! God the Creator came in flesh to save us flesh-creatures! And what is our response? What can it be but reverent and awe-filled adoration? "Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary!"

- Pastor Bishop

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Christian Education Sunday School

Perfect Attendance October 2021

None

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Dec 02

Tomi Pfanz

Dec 04

Michelle Ferguson
Eric Harley

Dec 05

Richard Lohnes
Stephen Sheckler
Joyce Wertz

Dec 06

Ronda Adkins
Joe Canterbury

Dec 07

Trevor Frankel
Tyler Frankel

Dec 09

Sofia Hicks
David McCammon

Dec 10

Owen Sumner
Diane Webber

Dec 11

Leslie Hauk
Kathy Miller



Dec 12

Louise Brickner
Tom Etter
Michael Gillespie
Bradley Wilson

Dec 13

Gage Dingerson

Dec 14

Audrey Driskell
Valerie Ferguson
Alexander Jones
Bryan Segó
Michelle Watson
Cora Wiker

Dec 15

John Neumann

Dec 16

Ace Dupent
Lilly Hicks
Lila Lisenbee

Dec 17

Tracy Dansby
Christopher Dingerson
Rebecca Worlow

Dec 18

Derrick Schumm
Sydney Webb

Dec 19

Kim Gudzikas
Jeffrey Morrison

Dec 20

Daniel Nafziger
Cindy Smith

Dec 21

Kyle Barth
Peyton Edmiston
Kevin Rockhold

Dec 22

Timothy Althiser

Dec 23

Jamie Driskell
Nicholas Fornoff
Amanda Memken

Dec 24

Jeffrey Gauger
Ryan Stoehr

Dec 26

Zachary Allen
Penny Hoover

Dec 28

Marshall Edmiston
Raymond Hall
Noah Justi
Donna Pool

Dec 29

Jeffrey Turney
Jeremy Turney

Dec 31

Mackenzie Abatie
Ricki Belcher
Julie Hammond

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Dec 07

Daryl & Laura Dagit

Dec 10

Roy & Debra Dagit

Dec 12

Denny & Carol Jones
Richard & Kelley Ward

Dec 17

David & Lori Segó

Dec 18

Gregory & Carol Becker

Dec 26

Richard & Lois Jarvis

Dec 27

Daniel & Karen Nafziger
William & Dorothy Sidell

Dec 30

Harold & Susan Wertz

Dec 31

Ray & Joyce Barnes

Church Attendance

Oct 2021 **587** - 15 services
Oct 2020 **438** - 12 services
Oct 2019 **533** - 12 services

Sunday School Attendance

Oct 2021: **1,248**
Oct 2020: **678**
Oct 2019: **1,774**

PARISH NOTES



Worship Chairman

Brian Fuelberth

Videographers

Jim Lonergan

Acolytes

Dec 1

7:00 Briella Hoover

Dec 5

8:00 Cole Miller
10:30 Madison Sego

Dec 8

7:00 Abby Hall

Dec 12

8:00 Carter Miller
10:30 Briella Hoover

Dec 15

7:00 Cole Miller

Dec 19

8:00 Abby Hall
10:30 Cole Miller

Dec 24

7:00 Madison Sego

Dec 25

8:00 Carter Miller

Dec 26

8:00 Madison Sego
10:30 Carter Miller

Dec 31

7:00 Briella Hoover

Elders Communion Assistance

Dec 5

8:00 a.m. Del Biedeck
10:30 a.m. Jon Bolt

Dec 19

8:00 a.m. Tom Ivey
10:30 a.m. Jon Bolt

Dec 24

7:00 p.m. Tom Ivey

Dec 25

10:00 a.m. Del Beideck

Jan 2

8:00 a.m. Tom Ivey
10:30 a.m. Brian Umbach

Ushers

8:00

Ray Barnes
Daryl Dagit
Dave Kesselmayer
Garret Kesselmayer
Dan Rees

10:30

Brian Lundeen
Mike Nauth
Dan Watson
Mike Wilson



Special Services for Advent and Christmas

Advent Vespers Services @ 7:00 p.m.:

Sermon Series:

“Preparing for Jesus’ Coming.”

Wednesday, Dec. 1 -
“Preparing through Faithful Service”
Luke 12:35-37

Wednesday, Dec. 8 -
“Preparing through Watchfulness and
Prayer” Luke 21:36

Wednesday, Dec. 15 -
“Preparing through Holy Conduct and
Godliness” 2 Peter 3:11-13

A light supper will be served before the
service on Dec. 1, beginning at 5:30, with
health precautions in place.

We have Dec 8 and 15 available for other
groups to serve a supper, if they wish.
Please call the office or sign-up sheets are
posted. Thank you.

**THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS
SERVICE** will be December 19th at
10:30 am. Practices will be during Sun-
day School, 9:15-10:15, Dec. 5, 12, and
19. Any child is welcome to participate.
Show up during practice or contact
Deanna Bishop at 309-201-9297.

Christmas Services

Friday, Dec. 24 - 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve
Service with Holy Communion

Saturday, Dec. 25 - 10:00 a.m. Christmas
Day Festival Communion:

Friday, Dec. 31 - 7:00 p.m. New Year's
Eve Vespers

TREASURER'S REPORT **OCTOBER 2021**



	<u>October</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>
INCOME	43,984.06	555,434.65
EXPENSES	27,611.79	468,816.58
INCOME-EXPENSES	<u>\$16,372.72</u>	<u>\$ 86,618.07</u>

General Fund Accounts

General Fund	1,812.88
General Fund Total	<u>1,812.88</u>

Educational Fund Accounts

Educational Grant Fund Checking	4,727.56
Ed Grant CD LCMS 12/21	51,928.87
Ed Grant CD LCMS 12/22	51,928.86
Educational Grant Fund #2-Vanguard	<u>70,251.40</u>
Educational Fund Total	<u>178,836.69</u>

East Bluff Property

East Bluff Property—Vanguard	42,792.54
East Bluff CD LCMS 12/21	53,837.70
East Bluff CD LCMS 12/22	53,837.70
Cat Stock at FMV	<u>75,690.28</u>
East Bluff Property	<u>226,158.22</u>

Building Fund Checking	34,574.19
Sunday School Fund Checking	11,208.78
Memorial Fund Checking	<u>143,745.42</u>

TOTAL ASSETS

\$596,336.18

Checking Account Balance

Checking Account Balance	196,068.83
TOTAL	<u>196,068.83</u>

LIABILITIES

Payroll Liabilities	2,191.36
Misc. LCMS Orgs Fund	<u>35.00</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>2,226.36</u>

Fund Balance

Net Income (Loss)	86,618.07
Capital Accounts	<u>507,491.75</u>
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	<u>594,109.82</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE

\$596,336.18

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

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

The October Parish report was reviewed. A motion was made by Dave Drockelman, seconded by Tom Ivey, to accept the report. Motion carried.

Mike thanked Cheryl Ivey for filling in as secretary at the October meeting. A motion was made by Julie Wagner, seconded by Randy Couch, to approve the October meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Nancy Drockelman presented the treasurer's report for October. A question was asked as to whether there was any activity out of the norm as income seemed higher than normal in October. Pastor Bishop indicated that there were 5 Sundays in October. Nancy also indicated that there was a large donation to the Building Fund that added to income.

A motion was made by Randy Couch, seconded by Cheryl Ivey, to approve the October Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Board of Trustees – Gary Pool reported that Pro-Edge Painting has completed the painting around the exterior of the sanctuary and have submitted their bill for \$22,860.00. Gary indicated that funds from the Building Fund would be used for payment.

Dave Burling Excavating has been contracted to provide snow plowing services for this winter.

The City of Pekin Zoning Department conducted an inspection on the building at 403 S. 8th Street on October 19th. The city noted a few items that need to be corrected before they can grant an occupancy permit. The building should be ready for a follow-up inspection this week. Bob Oliverius asked if any of the issues were major and Gary indicated that they were not.

The Trustees plan to begin working on the ceiling in the basement classroom on Wednesday evening, November 10th. Volunteers are welcome to help. Gary also indicated that they appreciate your patience as this remodel takes place.

The nativity scene is scheduled to be set up on Saturday, November 27th at 8:00. Once again, anyone willing to volunteer is welcome.

Board of Elders – Tom Ivey reported that the Elders are still working on contacting inactive members.

<p><u>Board of Christian Education</u> – Quest Dobbelaire reported that they have found someone to fill the pre-school and kindergarten Sunday school teacher positions. He also noted that they had not found teachers for the 1st and 2nd grades so they are going to combine them with an older grade. The youth did not participate in the clean-up at Camp Cilca as planned. The youth are going to have a yard work day coming up, after which they will have pizza.</p>	<p>receives state funding, they need to comply with the mandate. Gary Pool suggested that Joel come once a quarter to provide school updates. Joel indicated that he was willing to do that and if something came up in the interim, he could come to other meetings.</p>
<p>Courtney Miller is leaving so her position on the board will need to be filled. At the current time they have no candidate to take her place.</p>	<p><u>Unfinished business</u> –</p>
<p><u>Board of Worship</u> – Valerie Ferguson reported that the committee did meet earlier this month. The committee is looking for volunteers to help decorate the church on Saturday, November 27th at 8:00. The committee is also going to host an Advent dinner on December 1st. Chili, hot dogs and desserts will be served. The committee is also having discussions about moving the Sunday evening service to Saturday night.</p>	<p><u>New business</u> – Nancy Drockelman passed out the proposed budget for next year for review. Randy Couch asked about the budget item for utilities, indicating that there was no increase over the 2021 amount. Since there has been news coverage about the increase in these costs for this coming winter, Randy inquired as to whether that amount needed to be increased. Dave Drockelman indicated that the budget is just an estimation as to what we thought we would spend and is not binding. If funds are not available, adjustments will need to be made. A question was asked about an item under the Worship Committee regarding substitute organist/special music. Val Ferguson explained that this was to accommodate special music like the brass quartet that has played several times as well as an accompanist for the choir. The budget will be voted on at the December assembly meeting.</p>
<p><u>Board of Evangelism</u> – Pastor Bishop reported for the committee. Friendship Sunday is scheduled to take place this coming Sunday, November 14th. Pastor also extended thanks to all who helped with the booth at the Marigold Festival.</p>	<p>Mike Nauth discussed the nominations for officer positions that need to be filled for next year. It was noted that there are still several committees for which volunteers are needed. Nominations will be voted on at the December assembly meeting.</p>
<p><u>Board of Stewardship</u> – No report.</p>	<p>Sandy Ferguson indicated that she likes the new signs in the parking lot. Val Ferguson also noted that she really likes the new sign out front. Mike Nauth also indicated that the patriotic banner out front looks very nice and thanked John Neumann for his help in refurbishing the display for the banner.</p>
<p><u>Long Range Planning Committee</u> – No report.</p>	<p>A motion was made by Tom Ivey, seconded by Bob Oliverius, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.</p>
<p><u>Educational Grant Fund Committee</u> – No report</p>	<p>The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.</p>
<p><u>East Bluff Property Committee</u> – No report.</p>	<p>Respectfully submitted,</p>
<p><u>Constitution By-laws Committee</u> – No report.</p>	<p>Linda Wagner Secretary</p>
<p>Joel Kilgus, the new principal at Good Shepherd Lutheran School, attended tonight's meeting to give an update about the school. Joel indicated that he would be willing to attend future meetings on whatever schedule the congregation would like. Joel also indicated that they are doing everything they can to get back to normal. The school is moving forward with Grandparent's Day (with Covid mitigations in place). If all goes well with this event, the school will bring back other programs, such as the Christmas program. Students from the school will be singing at the 8:00 service on November 21st. The school is trying to implement a new learning opportunity for the children by conducting classes outside. The school asked for donations of picnic tables and received 11 tables. Hopefully this spring internet access will be extended so the students can take their tablets outside for use during class. Work is taking place on implementing a new reading curriculum. The program will be expensive but will ensure the school is at the top of line in what they offer. A question was asked as to whether the students are still wearing masks. Joel indicated that they are as the state has the masking mandate. Since the school</p>	



DECEMBER LIBRARY CORNER

By Eileen Tiona

*This is the name by which He will be called:
The Lord Our Righteousness." Jeremiah 23.6*

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.

Wishing everyone a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

ORGANIZATIONS

Youth Group

The Youth Group will be serving cookies and drinks between services on Sunday, December 12.

LWML

Women in Faith—St. John's LWML will meet on Saturday, December 4 at 10:00 a.m. in the church basement.

We will pack up items collected for the Pekin Outreach Center for their snack pack program. Thank you to all who donated items for this worthy cause.

WOMEN'S GUILD *By Leslie Hauk*

There is no December meeting for the Ladies Guild, but please join us for our next meeting will be Thursday, January 27 at 6:30 pm in the church basement .

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS:

If you are interested in providing poinsettias for our Christmas service, please call the church 347-2136 or Deanna Bishop at 382-1106. Orders will need to be placed by Dec 12. Cost is \$10.00.



If you would like to bring your own poinsettias, please let Deanna know and have poinsettias at the church by Wednesday, December 23. Thank you.

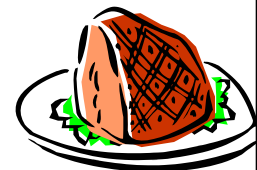
SHUT-INS of the MONTH: Even though some of our members cannot attend church, we want to keep them in our thoughts and prayers and let them know they are not forgotten. Please send a card or pay a visit to these shut-ins this month.

Shut ins for December are: Shut-ins for December are: Joyce Long, 2204 State St., Pekin; Bernice Mack, Washington Senior Living, 1201 Newcastle Rd., Washington 61571; Dan & Flo McClure, 13970 Glenmar Dr., Pekin and Adam Miller, 2007 Willow, Pekin.

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

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Pekin Township is still planning on serving a Christmas Dinner on December 22 - curb side from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. You will need to call Pekin Township by December 17 and let them know you are coming.



For more information call the Pekin Township at 346-3194.



2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for 2022 are being prepared. If you do not have envelopes and would like a box, phone the church office: **347-2136**.

Envelopes will be available in the gym beginning **December 15th**.

Contributions for 2021 must be received by **Dec. 31st** in order to be credited to your 2021 offering record.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Santa's Secret Worship will be begins Dec. 2 to Dec. 9

Early dismissal at 12:30 p.m. on Dec. 10

Preschool Christmas Program: Join GSLS preschoolers for their Christmas Program on Tuesday, December 14th at 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. All are welcome.

Christmas Experience: The students in K-8th grades will have their Christmas program on Thursday, December 16th at 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Join us for this Christmas experience.

December 17: We will enjoy a day of caroling and parties and end of 2nd Quarter.

Christmas break will be from December 17 to January 2. School resumes on Monday, January 3, 2022.

Board Meeting will be Tuesday, December 21st, at 6:30 p.m.

Odd Facts

Phobias and Fears

- Anatidaephobia is the persistent fear that one is being watched by a duck.
- Xanthophobia is the fear of the color yellow and, in some cases, fear of the word "yellow" itself.
- Coulrophobia is the word used to describe the fear of clowns.

The U.S.A.

- Three towns in the U.S. have the name "Santa Claus."
- McDonald's restaurants employ one out of every eight Americans.
- Even though most of its people speak English, the U.S. has not official language.

Modern Culture

- The King James Bible has inspired more pop song lyrics than any other book.
- Actor Samuel L. Jackson used to be a cheerleader.
- Nolan Bushnell, founder of Atari, also founded the restaurant chain Chuck E. Cheese.

Montana

- Elk, deer, and antelope populations outnumber the human populations in Montana.
- It is illegal in Montana to use your lawn sprinklers to annoy people passing by.

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

Adam Jackson - member of Armed Services (grand-nephew of Lila Lisenbee)	
Adam Jackson—member of Armed Services (grand-nephew of Lila Lisenbee)	
Pastor Niemann	Pastor Kesselmayer
Robert Scott	Stacie Kendall
Sandy Morgan	Billie Jackson
Flo McClure	Joe Goodin
Rick Jarvis	Peggy Patten
Larry Turner	Rosetta Turner
Robert Gregory	Joyce Long
Michelle Watson	Brittany Allen
Jerry Guengerich	Mary Mantovoni
Robert Rilea	Keith Gleason
Leia Stewart	Stanley Ehmke
Rhonda Lappie	Jill Jennings
Peggy Farlin	Caralee Bohannan
Marlana Montgomery	Pat Flatley
Anna Knussman	Mary Beck
Donna Corso	Mae Houge
Jeff Ferree	Debee Pitchford
Paula Jensen	Butch Williams

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We would like to include in December's baskets, cookie mix and other Christmas items. Thank you to all for your generosity.



Received a thank you letter from Lutherans for Life for our recent donation to them.

Received a thank you letter from Concordia Seminary,
St. Louis, for our donation to them.

RECYCLING GUIDE

Appliances - Allied Iron & Steel; Appliance Recycling; Ameren Illinois

Batteries - Check local auto parts stores; Batteries + Bulbs; Interstate All Battery Center

Cell Phones - Check local cell phone providers; Police Depts.; ATR; Behr; Best Buy; Target

Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs) - Ace Hardware (8903 Knoxville Ave., Peoria); Bartonville Hardware; Batteries + Bulbs; Nena's Hardware (1415 W. Forrest Hill, Peoria)

Electronics - *(Televisions, computers and computer components, audio-visual components such as VCR/DVD/DVR equipment are banned from Illinois landfills. Please properly dispose of your items at an Illinois registered electronics recycler.)*

Advanced Technology Recycling (ATR) - computers & components; accepts TVs

Behr Peoria—computers and components, microwaves; no TV's.

Best Buy - computers and components; accepts TSs up to 32"

Goodwill Donation Centers - computers and components; no TVs

Kuusakoski - computers & components; A/V equipment; microwaves; accepts TVs.

M&M Recycling - computers and components; no TVs

Waste Management Transfer Station - computers & Components; TVs

Furniture & Mattresses - can be disposed of at Peoria City/County Landfill in Edwards

Medications/Prescriptions - Police Stations in Bartonville, Chillicothe, Peoria, & Peoria Heights; Peoria County Jail; Peoria County Courthouse (check with Pekin Police)

Metals - A. Miller Co; Alter Recycling; Behr Peoria; Midland Davis

Tires - Check local tire service centers

The Legend of the Christmas Candy Cane

To celebrate Christmas, a candy maker decided to make a candy that would include several symbols of the life of Jesus Christ, so he made a Christmas Candy Cane.

He began with a stick of pure white, solid candy; white to symbolize the Virgin birth and solid to symbolize the firm love Jesus has for all of us.

The candy maker made the candy is the shape of a "J" to represent the precious name of Jesus.

Thinking that the candy was somewhat plain, the candy maker added red stripes. He used three small stripes to represent the nails that held Jesus on the cross and a large stripe to show the blood shed by Jesus, giving us the promise of eternal life. Then he added the wonderful flavor of peppermint which is a royal gift of spice.

So perhaps the next time you look at this familiar Christmas decoration you will remember the candy make and the real meaning behind the Christmas Candy Cane: The Wondrous Birth of Jesus and His Great Love for all of us.

#####

The Christmas Nail. It is to be hung on a sturdy branch, a branch near the trunk, a branch that will hold such a spike without being noticed by well-wishers dropping by to admire one's tinsel tree. The nail is known only to the home that hangs it, understood only by the heart that knows its significance. It is hung with the thought: The Christmas tree but foreshadows the Christ tree which only He could decorate for us by offering us salvation through His crucifixion.



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

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Bible Wordsearch



Wordsearch 231

Matt. 1:16 - 2:5

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

Birth of Jesus

AFRAID	APPEARED
ANGEL	CONCEIVED
BIRTH	CHRIST
CHILD	DIVORCE
DAVID	FATHER
DREAM	FULFILL
EXILE	HEROD
HOLY	HUSBAND
JESUS	IMMANUEL
JEWS	JOSEPH
JUDEA	MATTHEW
KING	MOTHER
LORD	PEOPLE
MAGI	PLEDGED
MARY	PRIESTS
STAR	PROPHET
UNION	WORSHIP
VIRGIN	PUBLIC
WIFE	SPIRIT
WOKE	WRITTEN

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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