

St. John's Journal

Volume 48, Issue 2

WHAT LOVE REALLY IS

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

Well, the cards, boxes of candy, decorations, stuffed animals, and other gifts for St. Valentine's Day have been in the stores for a few weeks already. Valentine's Day focuses our attention on love – mostly for our spouse and other family members – but perhaps for other people as well. As we're purchasing those cards or chocolates for our sweethearts, we would do well to reflect a bit on what love really is.

Unfortunately, love is commonly portrayed in our popular culture primarily as a matter of one's *feelings*. If a person feels a strong sense of attraction toward another – if he or she intensely likes the other person and experiences a powerful sensation of happiness or well-being in connection with that person – he or she is said to love that person. If those positive feelings disappear, then the love is gone. They “fell in love,” as the expression goes, but then fell out of love. So goes the thinking of this world.

Thoughts such as those are far removed from what God says about love. We learn from His word that love is *not* so much a matter of how one *feels*, but of what one *does*. In other words, true love does not involve emotion as much as it does behavior. Real love is the action of the hands more than the attraction of the heart.

Such love begins with God. He who *is* love is the Source of true love. For God created us, provides for our needs, protects us – all concrete actions. He loves us by what He does for us. Above all, God the Father sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die for us. And God the Son took on our human flesh, suffered and died on the cross, and then rose from the dead, to obtain the forgiveness of sins and everlasting life for us.

The apostle John wrote: “In this the love of God was made manifest toward us, that God has sent His only-begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” (1 John 4:9-10)

In receiving the love of God in Jesus Christ, we are able to love one another. God's compassionate actions toward us give us both the will and the strength to behave kindly and do those things that show care for one another. Encouraging words, sacrificial service, pleasant patience, forgiving various hurts and offenses – these actions start with God and come to us in Jesus Christ, to be passed on to the people around us.

So may we all seek to grow in both receiving and giving real love. As we take in God's love by all the good He does for us, especially in the gospel of salvation in Jesus, we will abound in kind words and deeds of service for one another as directed by the Ten Commandments. And that's what love really is!

- Pastor Bishop

Christian Education Sunday School

Sunday School
Perfect Attendance
December 2021

None

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



Feb 01

Joseph Hillman
Edward Hodgkins
Vincent Thomason

Feb 02

Nathan Barth
David Justi
Stephen Webb

Feb 04

Joseph Donovan
Ryan Hansen

Feb 06

Richard Jarvis

Feb 07

Jamie Hoover
Danny Jones

Feb 08

Emma Jones

Feb 09

Loretta Newman
R. Michael Thompson

Feb 10

Lorelei Huber
Lia Huber
Sarah Huber
Sandy Morgan
Barb Theleritis

Feb 11

Katherine King

Feb 12

Viola Deppert

Feb 13

Emma Canterbury
Carrie Schmidgall

Feb 14

Steven Depew
Belinda Frankel
Barbara Thompson

Feb 15

Lori Sego

Feb 16

Karen McCammon
Patricia Proehl

Feb 17

George Andrae

Feb 18

Michael Becker
Jeremy Garmon
Emma Hicks
Barry Pool
Gregory Swibold
Shantel Tackmann

Feb 20

Dean Cooper
Marcille Frevert
Shirley Williamson

Feb 21

Kylee Alexander
Stanley Ehmke

Feb 22

Susan Waddell

Feb 23

Alison Burris

Feb 24

Vernice Funk
David Sego

Feb 25

Tyler Widby

Feb 26

Lea Ann Becker

Feb 27

Christina Herold
Christine Neumann

Feb 28

Ava Friedinger
Sandra Gay
Linda McGuire
Carl Whitlatch

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES



Feb 02

Gerald & Paula Norman

Feb 14

Colby & Ashley Jones
Thomas & Cheryl Ivey
James & Julie Widby
Barry & Katherine Wright

Transferred To The Church Triumphant

Lynda Adkins
June 29, 1943
December 28, 2021

Joyce Fornoff
October 2, 1936
January 11, 2022

Gerald "Jerry"
Guengerich
August 29, 1945
January 13, 2022

PARISH NOTES



Church Attenance

Dec 2021— **794—18** services
Dec 2020— **622—19** services
Dec 2019—**1,140—21** services

Sunday School Attendance Year-to-Date

Dec 2021: **1,496**
Dec 2020: **952**
Dec 2019: **2,166**

Videographers

Jim Lonergan

Worship Committee

Diane Gould

February Ushers

8:00

Jerry Bohannon
Randy Couch
Steve Kesselmayr
Noah Kesselmayr

10:30

Ross Gould
Jacob Gould



**A big thank you
to all our Service
Volunteers.**

**We appreciate the time and
dedication you give to our
Church community.**

Acolytes

Feb 06 8:00 Abby Hall
10:30

Feb 13 8:00 Madison Sego
10:30 Briella Hoover

Feb 20 8:00
10:30 Abby Hall

Feb 27 8:00 Briella Hoover
10:30 Madison Sego

USHERS ARE NEEDED : If you would like to volunteer to be an Usher please let Vince Tennell, 309-202-8868, or anyone on the Worship Committee know. Thank you.

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.

We are now using Greenhouse Flower Shop 347-5921. Cost of the flowers are \$40 plus \$10 for delivery, unless you have a special order and that could have an additional 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.



TREASURER'S REPORT DECEMBER, 2021

	<u>December</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>
<u>INCOME</u>	58,451.50	639,488.07
<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>38,825.38</u>	<u>550,503.94</u>
<u>INCOME—</u>	19,626.12	88,984.13
<u>EXPENSE</u>		
<u>General Fund Accounts</u>		
General Fund		<u>16,410.38</u>
General Fund Total		16,410.38
<u>Educational Fund Accounts</u>		
Educ. Grant Fund Checking		2,948.56
Ed Grant CD LCMS 12/21		51,928.87
Ed Grant CD LCMS 12/22		51,928.86
Ed Grant Fund #2 Vanguard		<u>69,737.87</u>
Educational Fund Total		176,544.16
<u>East Bluff Property</u>		
East Bluff Property Vanguard		42,494.28
East Bluff CD LCMS 12/21		53,837.70
East Bluff CD LCMS 12/22		53,887.70
Cat Stock at FMV		<u>76,288.06</u>
		226,457.74
Building Fund Checking		21,349.19
Sunday School Fund Checking		11,282.53
Memorial Fund Checking		<u>146,765.42</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>598,809.42</u>
Checking Acct Balance		<u>198,756.08</u>
		196,756.08
<u>LIABILITIES</u>		
Payroll Liabilities		2,301.20
Misc. LCMS Orgs Fund		<u>32.34</u>
Total Liabilities		2,333.54
<u>Fund Balance</u>		
Net Income (Loss)		88,984.13
Capital Accounts		<u>507,491.75</u>
Total Fund Balance		576,849.76
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE		<u>598,809.42</u>

What kind of music did the Pilgrims like to listen to?

Plymouth Rock!

HI-LITES OF ST. JOHN'S VOTERS ASSEMBLY

January 10, 2022

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

The December Parish report was reviewed. A motion was made by Gary Pool, seconded by Randy Couch, to accept the report. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ross Gould, seconded by Ray Barnes, to approve the December meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Daryl Dagit presented the treasurer's report for December. Daryl indicated that the General Operations Fund was positive this year and overall funds were up almost \$89,000 for the year.

A motion was made by Nancy Drockelman, seconded by Julie Wagner, to approve the December Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Board of Trustees – Gary Pool reported that the church recently received a sharecrop check from Weyhrich Farms for the 2021 season in the amount of \$4,382.00.

The remodel of the basement classroom continues. The electricians are finishing up the installation of the new lighting, wiring and switches. The ceiling grid has been cleaned and re-painted. The painting of the room and the installation of the new ceiling tiles should be completed within a couple of weeks. The half wall around the nursery area will also be removed. Gary also noted that the Trustees would like to complete the basement classroom remodel with new flooring. The current estimate to finish the classroom and one stairwell area with glue down vinyl plank flooring is estimated not to exceed \$16,000.00 (this does not include the kitchen area). Flooring replacement had been in the original plans for the remodel but was moved out due to finances. The Trustees motioned, seconded by Ross Gould, to move forward with the replacement of the flooring using funds from the Memorial Fund. Due to the amount of the expenditure, the motion will be carried to the February Voters Assembly meeting for a final vote. Questions were asked as to whether this flooring is similar to what is in the Sanctuary and whether the flooring is durable enough to accommodate the moving of tables and chairs without damage occurring. Gary indicated that most flooring of this type has a warranty in the 25-year range but he would check on the warranty information.

Recently the church has received some unusually excessive water bills. With the help of Tucker Plumbing, it was determined that there were 4 toilets that were running continually. Those have been repaired. The church then received another large water bill, so after further investigation with the help of Tucker Plumbing, the issue was narrowed down to the men's restroom downstairs (which is currently closed). It was determined that there is a leak in the wall and the water was going down into the ground. To repair the issue, it appears that a remodel of the restroom will need to be completed. The Trustees are putting together numbers that they hope to

present at the February meeting. The Trustees were intending to have some sidewalk work completed this year but it appears that may need to be put on hold and the restroom issues resolved first. Apparently, the city has indicated that there is another high bill still coming (around \$1300.00). The leak has been capped. At the current time, the city cannot determine if the bill after that will be in a more normal range. The city has offered to give the church an adjustment to offset some of the increase if we can show the leak has been resolved. The Trustees hope this will take care of the highest bills that we received. Gary indicated that he is also going to contact Illinois American Water to see if adjustments can be made to the water bill. In addition, it was found that the drains were also leaking under the concrete so this issue will need to be addressed in the remodel. Gary also wanted to thank all the volunteers who have helped, in particular Steve Kesselmayr and Jerry Norman, for their efforts with the basement remodel.

Finally, the Sunday School staff, with the help of volunteers, have been working on some improvements for the Pre-school/Kindergarten room. The improvements include general cleaning, painting of the room and removal of the room divider. The Trustees have received a request from the staff for a decorative rug, new replacement blinds and new base board trim. The cost of these items should not exceed \$900.00. The funds to pay for the items will be taken from the Building Fund.

Board of Elders – Pastor Bishop reported that the Board of Elders will be meeting after church on Sunday the 23rd.

Board of Finance – No report. Daryl Dagit thanked Rod Bollinger for taking over on the board for Nancy Drockelman.

Board of Christian Education – No report.

Board of Worship – Diane Gould reported that the committee did meet last Thursday evening. The committee took down the Christmas decorations and put them away. In addition, the committee determined monthly assignments for worship duties.

Board of Evangelism – No report.

Board of Stewardship – No report.

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 – Mike Nauth indicated that there are still several positions on committees that are open. These include the Vice President position as well as Financial Secretary and Trustee positions. Mike noted that the Vice President is also in charge of the Long-Range Planning Committee. Mike reported that Ross Gould had indicated that if no other candidate was available, he would fill the Vice President roll. Diane Gould motioned, seconded by Nancy Drockelman, that Ross Gould be elected to the Vice President position. Motion carried.

The Educational Grant Fund Committee needed a member of our church to sit on the committee. Cheryl Ivey has been attending the committee meetings. Mike asked Cheryl if she would be willing to serve on the committee. Cheryl agreed and, with a unanimous vote, was appointed to the committee.

New business –

Dave Drockelman wanted to thank whoever was responsible for seeing that the sideways were treated after the ice storm. Gary Pool indicated that that service was included with our contract with Dave Burling Excavating. Additional thanks were given to the Trustees for all they do to keep the grounds safe.

Mike Nauth asked committee chairs to let either him or Sandy know who they are so that he can exchange contact information with them.

A question was asked as to whether there was an update on the Elders efforts to contact inactive members. Tracy Glass indicated that efforts were started during the last part of 2021 to accomplish this. Pastor also added some updates, indicating that the elders are working off of 2 lists, one of long-term inactive members and one of shorter-term inactive members. Pastor indicated that we have had some good results from this effort as we have seen some members return. Valerie Ferguson asked if this was something that the rest of the congregation could assist with. Pastor confirmed that this was definitely something members could do by way of talking to inactive members and encouraging them to attend church.

Ross Gould gave an update on Good Shepherd School. Ross noted that the school has experienced some Covid as well as other illnesses among students and staff but they are working through it and doing well.

A motion was made by Bob Oliverius, seconded by Cheryl Ivey, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wagner
Secretary



Shelf-life of Foods for Storage

Use within six months:

- Powdered milk (*boxed*)
- Dried fruit (*in metal container*)
- Dry, crisp crackers
- Potatoes

Use within one year:

- Canned condensed meat & vegetable soups
- Canned fruits, fruit juices & vegetables
- Ready-to-eat cereals & uncooked instant cereals (*in metal containers*)
- Peanut butter
- Jelly
- Hard candy & canned nuts
- Vitamin C

FEBRUARY LIBRARY CORNER

By Eileen Tiona



"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests."

I haven't any new books to report on this month, but would like to invite everyone to come into the library and check out all the wonderful books that are available.

#####

Changes to the November, 2021 Directory

Jacob & Sara Adkins, 118 High St., Germantown Hills, 61548
Lisa Alexander, 14222 Grandview Dr., Manito 61546
Zachary Allen, 23455 McMullen Rd., Delavan 61734
Larry & Phyliss Anderson, 10682 Dillon Rd., Tremont 61568
Del & Laura Beideck, 1211 Bentley Dr., Roanoke, TX 76262
Tammy Beneventi, 515 N. Morton Ave., Morton 61550
Addie Burling, 693 Decker Lane, Apt. 428, Creve Coeur, MO 63141
Kayla DeBoar, 1503 Hamilton St., Pekin
Lindsey Dixon should be Lindsey Comstock
Mary Hall should be Mary Mantovani
Aaron & Courtney Miller, 9807 Colonial Downs Dr., Mont Belview, TX 77523-2231
Add: Owlsey, Kaitlyn (Daniel) , 7010 Vista Corte, Delavan 61734
William Wiker III, 1 Valleyview Ct., Groveland 61535



We received a thank you letter from Lutherans for Life for our donation/

LENT - Lenten Season will begin March 2. We will again have Lenten midweek services the six Wednesdays in Lent at 7:00 p.m. each week.

We would like to furnish a Soup & Sandwich Supper this year before the service starting at 5:30 p.m. We will be putting sign-up sheets throughout the church sometime in February for any committees and organizations who wishes to help furnish a meal to sign up. Thank you in advance for your help.

ORGANIZATIONS

THE YOUTH GROUP

will meet on Sunday, February 20 at 4:00 p.m.

This month we will have wacky gym games and enjoy tacos.

Watch bulletins for more information and please bring a friend to enjoy the fellowship.

WOMEN'S GUILD *By Leslie Hauk*

Ladies Guild will meet on Thursday, February 24 at 6:30 p.m.

All ladies of the church are invited to attend. We do follow social distancing rules and all wear our masks.

Women in Faith—LWML

will meet March 5 at 10:00 a.m. in the church basement .

We will be collecting items for the Women's Pregnancy Center during the month of February. We will have boxes in the Narthex, Annex area and gym for anyone who would like to help with this project.

Items we will be collecting are receiving blankets, Onesies, sweaters, diapers, baby powder, baby lotion, etc.

GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

Valentine parties are planned for Monday, February 14.

Tuesday, February 15, School Board meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 17, PTL meeting at 6:30 p.m../Fair Projects.

Friday, February 18, Early dismissal, PreK at 12 noon & K-8 at 12:30 p.m. Midterm #3

Monday, February 21, There is no school in honor of Presidents Day!

GSLS Students will sing Sunday, February 27, at St. John's, Sand Prairie at the 10:45 service.

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 Bohannan

Pat Flatley

Mary Beck

Mae Houge

Debee Pitchford

Butch Williams

Jeff Sayles

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

Good Shepherd Lutheran School's 16th Annual Benefit Auction — "Take Ewe Out to the Ball Game!" — Saturday, March 26, 2022!

Reservation forms are available now at our churches and our school. Entree choices are: Parmesan Crusted Chicken with Garlic Cream Sauce **OR** Pork Filet with Dijon Sauce. The sides for either entree are: Seasonal Green Salad, Green Bean Medley, Garlic Whipped Potatoes, Rolls, Apple Pie, Coffee, Tea and Water. A vegetarian dinner option will be available also.

Our popular "Heads/Tails Bead Game", the "Purse Game", and the "Pick 3" Live Auction Game—"Three Strikes—You Win!" will all return! Thanks to Terry Norman's excellent organizing skills, the Duck Decoy Draw will also return with **8 Fantastic Prizes:** a Beretta Custom 12-Gauge Turkey gun, a Howa 30/06 Coyote Rifle, a Special Order 22 Ruger Pistol, a Ruger 22 Revolver, 3 beautiful wildlife-themed framed art pieces, and a One-Day Duck Shoot at Tazewell Gun Club!

We have already received \$14,500.00 in donations for GSLS's Fund-An-Item! The Fountas & Pinnell Classroom literacy instruction system will replace GSLS's almost 20-year-old Reading Curriculum. Thank you so much to the donors who have already contributed to this very needed Fund-An-Item!

We need YOU [and EWE ;-)] to join our Auction Team! Contact any Auction Committee Member if you wish to help GSLS!

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 185

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

Solomon's Temple

ALTAR	CHAMBERS
ARK	CHERUBIM
BASINS	CURTAINS
BOWLS	FIGURES
BRONZE	FLOWERS
CEDAR	FURNITURE
COURT	HOLYPLACE
GOLDEN	INCENSE
GRAVEN	LAMPSTAND
INNER	MERCYSEAT
PALMS	OFFERINGS
PILLARS	PARTITION
PORCH	SACRIFICES
ROOMS	SANCTUARY
VESSELS	SHEWBREAD
TABERNACLE	



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

Prov.27

MORE PUZZLES AT:
<http://biblewordgames.com>

COPYRIGHT 2011

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED