

# St. John's Journal

Volume 49, Issue 2

## WHAT SACRIFICE?

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The Presentation of Our Lord is a minor festival of the Church Year that falls on February 2. It commemorates Jesus' presentation in the temple in keeping with Old Testament law. Because our Lord was presented on the same day when Mary's time of purification after childbirth was complete, Luke deals with both these events simultaneously. You can read about them in Luke 2:22-24.

According to Old Testament law, a woman was ceremonially unclean for forty days following the birth of a son. When the time of purification was complete, the woman was to bring to the tabernacle (or later, the temple) a lamb for a burnt offering and a turtledove or young pigeon for a sin offering. If the woman was too poor to afford a lamb, she was permitted to substitute another bird for the lamb. The priest then offered these sacrifices to make atonement for her, and she was clean. You can read about this in Leviticus chapter 12.

Luke says Mary sacrificed a pair of birds, which indicates she and Joseph were poor. But even if Mary was not able to bring an ordinary lamb for the sacrifice, she was able to bring an even better sacrifice! For Mary brought to the temple the true Lamb, her Son, Jesus Christ!

Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of the Old Testament burnt offerings. These were sacrificed to the Lord entirely to make atonement for sin, and to express one's entire devotion and commitment to Him. Jesus gave His entire self on the cross as the sacrifice to atone for every sin of every sinner! His death was also the supreme expression of His devotion to the Lord, His complete commitment to His heavenly Father's will. Because Jesus sacrificed Himself as the final and all-sufficient "burnt offering," our sins are forgiven, God's saving will is done, and we are clean!

This supremely valuable sacrifice of Jesus surely moves us to make a sacrifice for Him – to offer our

entire selves to Him in dedicated commitment and thanksgiving. The apostle Paul says just this in Romans 12:1. *"I beseech you, therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service."*

We sacrifice our entire selves in thankful devotion to the Lord when we commend ourselves wholly to His forgiving mercy for salvation, when we live in Christian godliness in keeping with His will, and when we devote ourselves to serving Him by humble service to one another and generous support of His gospel work.

Thanks be to the Lord, we know what sacrifice He made for us! May the Lord Jesus work in each one of us so that we may pray sincerely:

"From morn to eve my theme shall be Thy mercy's wondrous measure;  
 To sacrifice myself for Thee shall be my aim and pleasure.  
 My stream of life shall ever be a current flowing ceaselessly,  
 Thy constant praise outpouring.  
 I'll treasure in my memory, O Lord, all Thou hast done for me,  
 Thy gracious love adoring! Amen."  
*(The Lutheran Hymnal 142 v. 4)*

- Pastor Bishop

## Christian Education Sunday School

**Sunday School**  
*Perfect Attendance*  
**December 2022**

### Pre-School/Kindergarten

Daniel Long  
Ryan Long  
Matthew Nauth

### First/Fifth Grades

Aiden Harms

## **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 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 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

### 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

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**LENT** - The Lenten Season will begin with Ash Wednesday on February 22. 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 first part of February for any committees and organizations who wishes to help furnish a meal to sign up. Thank you in advance for your help.

## **Transferred To The Church Triumphant**

Joyce Long  
October 12, 1933  
January 18, 2023

## PARISH NOTES



### Church Attenance

Dec 2022— **507**—14 services  
Dec 2021— **794**—18 services  
Dec 2020— **622**—19 services

### Sunday School Attendance Year-to-Date

Dec 2022: **1,500**  
Dec 2021: **1,480**  
Dec 2020: **952**

### 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

<u>Feb 05</u>	8:00	Abby Hall
	10:30	Briella Hoover
<u>Feb 12</u>	8:00	Elizabeth Sayles
	10:30	Madison Sego
<u>Feb 19</u>	8:00	Briella Hoover
	10:30	Abby Hall
<u>Feb 22</u>	7:00	Abby Hall
<u>Feb 26</u>	8:00	Madison Sego
	10:30	Elizabeth Sayles

**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 2023** 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, 2022

	<u>December</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>		63,659.00
380,979.98		
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>		<u>24,453.20</u>
395,129.37		
<b><u>INCOME—</u></b>	<b>39,205.80</b>	
(14,249.39)		
<b><u>EXPENSE</u></b>		
<b><u>General Fund Accounts</u></b>		
General Fund		
15,377.71		
<b><u>General Fund Total</u></b>		<b>15,377.71</b>
<b><u>Educational Fund Accounts</u></b>		
Educ. Grant Fund Checking		
2,948.56		
Ed Grant CD LCMS 12/23		
51,928.87		
Ed Grant CD LCMS 12/24		
51,928.86		
Ed Grant Fund #2 Vanguard		
62,273.46		
<b><u>Educational Fund Total</u></b>	<b>169,079.75</b>	
<b><u>East Bluff Property</u></b>		
East Bluff Property Vanguard		
37,921.33		
East Bluff CD LCMS 12/23		
53,837.70		
East Bluff CD LCMS 12/24		
53,887.70		
Cat Stock at FMV		
88,398.65		
		<b>233,995.38</b>
<b><u>Memorial</u></b>		
Memorial Fund Checking		29,091.92
Memorial Vanguard		
95,361.44		
<b><u>Memorial Fund Total</u></b>		<b>124,453.36</b>
Building Fund Checking		
28,284.81. Sunday School Fund Checking		
12,025.39		
<b><u>TOTAL ASSETS</u></b>		<b><u>583,216.40</u></b>
Checking Acct Balance		
87,728.39		
		<b>87,728.39</b>
<b><u>LIABILITIES</u></b>		
Payroll Liabilities		2,507.42
Misc. LCMS Orgs Fund		
13.72		
<b><u>Total Liabilities</u></b>		

## HI-LITES OF ST. JOHN'S VOTERS ASSEMBLY

### January 9, 2024

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

A motion was made by Randy Couch, seconded by Cheryl Ivey, to approve the December Parish Report. Motion carried.

The December meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Gary Pool, seconded by Julie Wagner, to approve the December meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Daryl Dagit presented the December Treasurer's Report. Daryl indicated that we finished in the black for the month of December but had a deficit of a little over \$14,000 for the year.

A motion was made by Tom Ivey, seconded by Ray Barnes, to accept the December Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Board of Trustees – Gary Pool reported that the Trustees have elected their officers for the year with Dave Kesselmayer serving as chairman, Gary Pool as vice-chairman and Steve Kesselmayer as secretary. Other members of the committee are Trent Hoover, Dane Watson, and Brock Benson. Gary indicated that it was nice to have 6 people on the board and thanked Jack Hall and Garrett Kesselmayer for their work serving on the committee these past few years.

Gary also indicated that the Trustees agreed to allow the American Legion Women's Auxiliary to use the church parking lot for fund raising sales on Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> of this year. The church has received a check from Weyhrich Farms for the 2022 sharecrop in the amount of \$5,077.00. Work on the basement bathroom continues. They are making progress as the plumber has finished as of yesterday. Gary also thanked the Kesselmayer family for assembling and setting up the new nativity scene and manger, which was purchased with funds from the memorial for Pastor Kesselmayer.

Board of Elders – Tom Ivey reported that the Elders met yesterday. They continue to work on contacting inactive members. Tom indicated that they have identified at least 50 people who were deceased or had not been to church in years. In addition, Tom indicated that one family received help with their Ameren bill.

Board of Finance – Board has not met yet.

Board of Christian Education – Pastor Bishop thanked Shantel Tackmann and Laura Dobbelaire for their work on the committee as their terms have expired. Pastor noted that since we don't have a committee member who is a teacher at Good Shepherd now, hopefully, since Tisha Daniels is now on the board and is also on the Good Shepherd Board, she can report on school activities. The youth activity for January will be Bible Baseball. Pastor indicated that they will continue to try to get youth from Sand Prairie and Trinity to participate.

Board of Worship – Julie Wagner reported that the board will not have a meeting this month. Instead, they will remove the Christmas decorations from the church on Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. The committee is also going to purchase new candles to be used for the Christmas Eve service when singing Silent Night. Pastor Bishop added a comment that he heard many nice compliments about the decorations in the church and the nativity scene from people who attended the service for Bernice Mack.

Board of Evangelism – NR.

Board of Stewardship – NR

Long Range Planning Committee – No report.

Educational Grant Fund Committee – The committee is looking for a couple additional members so they can start meeting this year as necessary. If you are interested, please let either Mike Nauth or Mickey Pitchford know.

East Bluff Property Committee – No report.

Constitution By-laws Committee – No report.

Unfinished business –

New business – The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod is looking for nominations for President, Vice-President, and Central Regional Vice-President. Currently serving in these positions are Rev. Dr. Harrison as President, Rev. Lange as Vice-President, and Rev. Ball as Central Region Vice-President. Mike Nauth indicated that he did not see anything indicating that any of these people were not interested in continuing in these positions so he deferred to Pastor Bishop for his opinion on the nominations. Pastor indicated that he knows all the nominees and that they were good candidates to continue in these positions so he felt that we could submit their names as nominees. Dave Drockelman motioned that we nominate these individuals for their current positions. Randy Couch seconded. Motion passed.

Bob Oliverius inquired about the financial information as displayed in the Fruits of Faith section of the bulletin indicating that it can be confusing. Daryl Dagit explained that it is just a way to show where we are with contributions compared to what was budgeted. Daryl indicated that they are open to any suggestions as to how to display information in this area. Pastor Bishop suggested maybe putting something in the bulletin as to

how we did overall for the year.

Pastor Bishop indicated that we need to designate an official pastoral elector and a lay elector to vote for the synodical president for the convention this summer. Randy Couch is already our circuit delegate so he graciously volunteered to be the lay elector. Since Pastor is our only pastor, he would be the pastoral elector. Mike Nauth asked for a motion to nominate Pastor as the pastoral elector and Randy as the lay elector. Tom Ivey motioned, seconded by Ray Barnes, to nominate Pastor Bishop as the pastoral elector and Randy as the lay elector. Motion passed.

Dave Kesselmayer asked a question about the position of Elders Secretary and if there had been a specific time period the position was to last. Pastor Bishop indicated that Tracy Glass does a lot of the leg work in getting contact information for the Elders. He also indicated that it was at minimal time and expense so he believed that it was worthwhile to retain the position. In addition, the position provides some continuity since Elders come and go from the board.

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

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wagner  
Secretary



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#### 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.

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### Lutheran Hillside Village Cookie Walk

It is with much enthusiasm that I share positive news of our annual Cookie Walk. It went above and beyond our expectations! In the 5 hours that we were open, we welcomed 157 customers, including 7 local pastors that stopped by for their free gift. We raised \$3,009.25 for the Benevolent Fund, for those residents that have outlived their resources. It was my goal to exceed \$2,000. We did it!

Many thanks to anyone at St. John that may have donated baked goods. Please consider baking or making a monetary donation towards our next bake sale on May 12, 2023. Submitted by LWGP delegate Lisa Mack from Redeemer (309) 360-2669. *Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks unto Him and praise His name. Psalm 100:4*

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

Dear Saints of St. John's,  
Thankyou for your giving. May the Lord bless you in 2023.  
Rev. Paul Hopkins,  
Concordia Theological Seminary  
Fort Wayne

Also received a thank you for our donation to Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

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### Lutheran Women of Greater Peoria

On Friday, February 10th, we welcome ladies of all ages to 6801 N. Allen Road, Peoria. Redeemer will host the General Membership Meeting for Lutheran Women of Greater Peoria in Miller Hall. We will begin promptly at **9am** with a serenade by a local Barbershop Quartet. A hot breakfast and coffee provided. We will hear from an employee of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois followed by a meeting highlighting our events planned for 2023. We will conclude our morning by 11am. Please RSVP by Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> to Lisa Mack (309) 360-2669 so that we can plan accordingly. *May the grace of our LORD Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 2 Corinthians 13:14*

## ORGANIZATIONS

### THE YOUTH GROUP

will meet on Sunday, February 19 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 in Faith—LWML

St. John's Women in Faith LWML are planning to put together care packages for church members who are mostly confined to their homes/apartments/rooms. They need your help to make this happen. The ladies would like to collect the following items:

Individual Kleenex packs; Pens/pencils; Small bags of snacks: pretzels, cookies, etc.; Journals; Chapstick/lip balm; Small bottles of hand/body lotion (unscented); Warm socks with grippers on bottom; Devotional materials; Large print puzzle books; Lap quilts/lap blankets

Any other items you think these folks would appreciate are welcome. The LWML will be collecting items through the month of February and will be putting packages together at their March 4 meeting. Items may be placed in boxes in narthex and elevator addition. Thank you so much for your Christian love and support.

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### GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

Feb 17 School Improvement Day (PK-8 Early Dismissal—Pre-K 12 pm & K-8 @ 12:30 pm)

Feb 20 No school — Presidents' Day

Feb 26 GSLS Students will sing at Trinity Pekin at 10:45 service.

### February's Dining Out for GSLS

Chipotle Fundraiser for Good Shepherd Lutheran School (33% of event sales get donated to the cause) will be Wednesday, February 15th from 4 to 8 pm at 300 W. Washington St., East Peoria.

Order online for pickup using code H3XRXP or show flyer in restaurant.

### IN OUR PRAYERS

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

#### All our shut-ins

Pastor Niemann  
Sandy Morgan  
Flo McClure  
Louise Brickner  
Rosetta Turner  
Michelle Watson  
Robert Rilea  
Rhonda Lappie  
Marlana Montgomery  
Jeff Ferree  
Butch Williams  
Julie Rilea  
Karen McCammon  
Don Schoedel  
Ellen Morrison  
Lois Becker  
Virginia Tackmann  
Pat Sego  
Debi Thome  
Suzanne Reising  
Kellen Norman  
Mark Reising

Stacie Kendall  
Billie Jackson  
Peggy Patten  
Larry Turner  
Robert Gregory  
Terry Gleason  
Keith Gleason  
Peggy Farlin  
Donna Corso  
Paula Jensen  
Addie Burling  
Joe Schiavone  
Gabriella Kesselmayer  
Eileen Tiona  
Jack Hall  
Shirley Schott  
Jean Jarvis  
Dave Morris  
Pat Proehl  
Anna Knussman  
Ruthanne Scott

### Lutheran Hour Sunday – February 5, 2023

The "Lutheran Hour" is unique because it can be heard in areas where the listeners are driving trucks, in nursing homes or in prison. Besides the "Lutheran Hour" Lutheran Hour Ministries has and I would encourage you to learn about:

- Bible Studies – These can be downloaded for free. If you need a quick Bible Study, you can possibly use one of these.
- Project Connect – These are tracks on hundreds of different topics and interests. There is a Project Connect tree that you can purchase and make these tracks available to everyone.
- Ministry Centers in over 50 countries around the world. LHM finds people that can be trained in a foreign Country. They already know the customs, the language, and the culture of their Country.
- Sat 7 – A ministry that can beam the Christian message into Muslim Countries that won't allow Christians or even Bibles into their Country.
- THRED – A internet connection that reaches teens where they are in the media. A blog where Christians can discuss issues. There is a Lutheran Pastor on that blog. Check out LHM.com to learn more.

What can you do? The most important thing is to pray for "The Lutheran Hour." "The Lutheran Hour" receives no funding except for donations from everyone who wants to make the Word heard - to help the Holy Spirit create faith that they may have eternal life. Please consider a gift to LHM, 660 Mason Center Dr. in St. Louis 63141-8557.



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

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## Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 185



## 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

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Prov.27

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

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