

St. John's Journal

Volume 49, Issue 7/8

ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING

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As I prepare this little article, the decorative hinges on the front doors of the church have been removed for refinishing. The Trustees intend to have them powder coated or otherwise refinished so that they will both look good and be durable.

These attractive and sturdy doors at the main entry of the church building bring to mind the first portion of Psalm 110:4 - "Enter His gates with thanksgiving." And we surely do have great cause for thanksgiving as we enter through these doors, (even lacking their decorative hinges for a little while,) *because of the great blessings of the Lord's house!* So let's recall a few of them.

God's Word. We come to the Lord's house primarily because of the reading and preaching of His Word. God's Word is the means through which He brings people to saving faith in Christ, causes us to grow in Christian knowledge, builds our trust in Him, and increases our love for one another. We cannot live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceeds from the mouth of God. (*Matthew 4:4*) We need His Word for life!

The Lord's Supper. We come to the Lord's house also to receive the Lord's Supper. This is Christ's true body and blood, united to bread and wine, given to us Christians to eat and to drink. The blessings of His Supper are forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. In receiving the Lord's Supper we are also blessed with a strengthened union with Christ and one another, and power for living in Christian love for one another.

Church Arts. Symbols and pictures in paintings and stained glass, church furnishings such as altar and pulpit and Baptismal font, crucifixes, banners, candles, and so forth can all serve as powerful visual reinforcements of God's Word. In the Lord's house, what we see with our eyes helps us to learn and remember what we hear with our ears: the message of God's saving grace in Jesus Christ.

Strong Hymns. Good Christian hymns likewise reinforce the Word of God that we hear read from the lectern and preached from the pulpit. These hymns help proclaim the divine Word, drawing from Biblical teachings and images to declare Christ's message in fine poetry. They also give voice to our heartfelt prayers to the Lord. The rhymes, meter, and tune association of hymns help make the text memorable. The power of the music adds to the impact. As a result, sturdy hymns of solid Scriptural substance help us to sing the Christian faith into our hearts.

Good Liturgy. The Christ-centered, time-tested, Bible-based services of the Lord's house provide a consistent structure for receiving the gifts of God's grace, and for responding to them with prayers and praises. The healthy balance of repetition and variety fosters learning and participation by everyone, including very young children, people with impaired vision, and people with developmental disabilities. This balance also ensures weekly freshness, with differing themes and emphases each Sunday.

Continued on page 2

Holy Absolution. In the Lord's house the Lord's called representatives speak His word of pardon by His authority and command. When we hear the minister say, "I forgive you all your sins in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost," we know this is for real. Our sins are forgiven before God in heaven, just as surely as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.

Prayer. The Lord's house is a house of prayer. Here we Christians pray together, offering our common petitions and intercessions for believers and unbelievers alike. We join together in prayer to our gracious God, trusting that He truly hears us, and always keeps His promise to answer our prayers in the way He knows is best for us.

United Confession of Faith. By God's grace we have all professed the same Christian faith. Those who are confirmed have pledged their lifelong fidelity to this one, true faith in the one, true Lord. In His house, we confess together this united faith, commonly using the very words the Lord's people have been confessing down through the centuries in the ancient Creeds. This united confession not only builds us up in the Christian doctrine, but also provides encouragement to us all, repeatedly reminding us that we do not stand alone, but with many other confessing Christians.

Praise and Thanksgiving. The Lord can get by quite nicely without our praise and thanksgiving. After all, He existed from eternity before He ever made us! Yet the Lord is pleased with our praise and thanksgiving, because He is most assuredly worthy of it. And more than that, He knows it is good for us! We praise the Lord mainly by declaring His great character and His wondrous works. This strengthens our faith in Him. As we thank Him for His manifold gifts, we acknowledge that every good thing we have comes from Him. This builds us up in our trusting dependence on Him. In the Lord's house, we thank and praise Him together – all for the blessing of every single one of us.

All these blessings of the Lord's house give us more than ample cause for perpetual thanksgiving. So as you enter through our durable and beautiful church doors, by all means, *enter with thanksgiving!* For the Lord is very, very good to us in His house!

- Pastor Bishop

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Sharing the Good News in a Bad News World Not Ashamed

Please join us for a one-day conference entitled *Not Ashamed: Sharing the Good News in a Bad News World*, held Saturday, August 26, 2023, 9:00 am—1:30 pm (doors open at 8:30 am) at the Tuscola Community Building. Come hear Pastor Adam Koontz, an engaging speaker and well-known podcaster, speak on the topic of *A Hope and a Home: Proclaiming the Everlasting Gospel to Today's America*.

Event attendance is free but limited. Complimentary lunch is included in the registration. This event is sponsored by Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tuscola, Illinois, and made possible in part by a grant from the **Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund**.



Rev. Dr. Adam Koontz is pastor and evangelist of Trinity Lutheran Church in Denver, Colorado. He has pastored and planted congregations in Pennsylvania, taught New Testament in Indiana, and helped churches throughout the United States proclaim Christ clearly. He and his wife, Jen, have eight children (four boys and four girls) and live in Lakewood, Colorado.

<div> <div>Matthew</div> <div>Mark</div> <div>Luke</div> <div>John</div> </div>				
<div>Christian Education</div>				
<div> <div>Sunday School</div> <div>Perfect Attendance</div> <div>May 2023</div> <div>None</div> </div>				
<div> <div>JULY BIRTH-</div> <div></div> </div>				
<div> <div>July 1</div> <div>Mike Ashbaker</div> </div>	<div> <div>July 12</div> <div>Courtney Dobbelaire</div> <div>Anna Knussman</div> <div>Austin Pool</div> <div>Brycen Warenburg</div> <div>Rachel Wooden</div> </div>	<div> <div>July 25</div> <div>Donna Corso</div> <div>Daniel McClure</div> <div>Christy Watson</div> <div>Verlyn Williams</div> </div>	<div> <div>July 15</div> <div>Jeremy & Amber Winstead</div> </div>	<div> <div>August 04</div> <div>Shelly Bitner</div> <div>Nancy Drockelman</div> <div>Robin Smith</div> </div>
<div> <div>July 2</div> <div>Maxton Montgomery</div> </div>	<div> <div>July 13</div> <div>Jamie Gaitros</div> </div>	<div> <div>July 26</div> <div>Lisa Alexander</div> <div>Rodney Bollinger</div> <div>Lena Otey</div> </div>	<div> <div>July 16</div> <div>Darrell & Donna Hansen</div> </div>	<div> <div>August 06</div> <div>Melvyn Gentry</div> </div>
<div> <div>July 3</div> <div>Jane Heberer</div> <div>Ethan Sego</div> <div>Morgan Sego</div> </div>	<div> <div>July 15</div> <div>Christopher Miller</div> <div>Elizabeth Sayles</div> <div>Eric Smith</div> <div>Susan Wertz</div> </div>	<div> <div>July 27</div> <div>Susan Swibold</div> </div>	<div> <div>July 18</div> <div>Paul & Jamie Driskell</div> </div>	<div> <div>August 07</div> <div>Sharill Andrae</div> <div>Allison Harley</div> </div>
<div> <div>July 5</div> <div>Vincent Ruder</div> <div>Michael Sipka</div> <div>Cody Watson</div> </div>	<div> <div>July 16</div> <div>Gary Allan</div> <div>Nancy Schmick</div> <div>Joe Szadkowski</div> <div>Robert Thompson</div> </div>	<div> <div>July 28</div> <div>Caralee Bohannan</div> <div>Aaron Schmidgall</div> </div>	<div> <div>July 19</div> <div>Jeffrey & Angela Theleritis</div> </div>	<div> <div>August 08</div> <div>Shirley Gentry</div> <div>Avery Theleritis</div> </div>
<div> <div>July 7</div> <div>Matthew Lappie</div> <div>Thomas Lappie</div> <div>Elliot Nelson</div> </div>	<div> <div>July 17</div> <div>Jeffery Jackson</div> <div>Ashleigh Kelley</div> <div>Mason Schoch</div> <div>Michael Wilson</div> </div>	<div> <div>July 29</div> <div>Christina Abatie</div> </div>	<div> <div>July 20</div> <div>George & Tammi Andrae</div> <div>Chris & Shelly Bitner</div> </div>	<div> <div>August 09</div> <div>Susan Vasterling</div> </div>
<div> <div>July 9</div> <div>Judy Nizzia</div> <div>Eileen Tiona</div> </div>	<div> <div>July 18</div> <div>Brendan Hillman</div> </div>	<div> <div>July 31</div> <div>Dennis Ziegenhorn</div> </div>	<div> <div>July 21</div> <div>Martin & Sheila Matthews</div> <div>Ryan & Joy Rusk</div> </div>	<div> <div>August 10</div> <div>Addie Burling</div> <div>Lillie Martin</div> </div>
<div> <div>July 10</div> <div>Kay Aulenbach</div> <div>Gavin Ruder</div> </div>	<div> <div>July 19</div> <div>Sandra Vice</div> </div>	<div> <div>July 4</div> <div>Melvyn & Shirley Gentry</div> </div>	<div> <div>July 26</div> <div>Tim & Ashley Chambliss</div> </div>	<div> <div>August 11</div> <div>Velma Widby</div> </div>
<div> <div>July 11</div> <div>Donald Dobbelaire</div> </div>	<div> <div>July 20</div> <div>Julia McCammon</div> </div>	<div> <div>July 07</div> <div>Cody & Jennifer Neal</div> </div>	<div> <div>July 27</div> <div>Shane & Jami Beeneey</div> </div>	<div> <div>August 12</div> <div>Susan Jackson</div> </div>
	<div> <div>July 22</div> <div>Isabelle Anderson</div> <div>Daden Ruder</div> </div>	<div> <div>July 11</div> <div>Vince & Sandra Tennell</div> </div>	<div> <div>August 01</div> <div>Jane Hawkins</div> </div>	<div> <div>August 13</div> <div>Elyse Hopping</div> <div>Steve Kesselmayer</div> </div>
	<div> <div>July 23</div> <div>Alida Calhoun</div> <div>Valerie Dobbelaire</div> <div>Adryan Edmiston</div> </div>	<div> <div>July 13</div> <div>Aaron & Amy Dingerson</div> </div>	<div> <div>August 02</div> <div>Sarah Calhoun</div> <div>Robert Houge</div> <div>Alexander Vasterling</div> </div>	<div> <div>August 15</div> <div>Benjamin Becker</div> <div>James Lonergan</div> </div>
	<div> <div>July 24</div> <div>Jacob Adkins</div> <div>Daniel Heisel</div> </div>	<div> <div>July 14</div> <div>Stephen & Amanda Webb</div> </div>	<div> <div>August 03</div> <div>Alan Gudzinskas</div> <div>David Miller</div> <div>Amanda Wertz</div> </div>	<div> <div>August 16</div> <div>Deanna Bishop</div> <div>Patrick Flatley</div> <div>Sierra Pool</div> <div>Robert Rosa</div> </div>
			<div> <div>August 04</div> <div>Alan Gudzinskas</div> <div>David Miller</div> <div>Amanda Wertz</div> </div>	<div> <div>August 18</div> <div>Jennifer Rosa Hinkley</div> <div>Ben Rahn, Jr.</div> </div>
				<div> <div>August 19</div> <div>Rhonda Lappie</div> <div>Sandra Tennell</div> </div>

<u>August Birthdays</u> <i>(cont'd)</i>	<u>August 08</u> Richard & Dianne Lohnes	<div>PARISH NOTES</div> <u>Church Attendance</u> Services May 2023 477 13 May 2022 591 16 May 2021 549 16 <u>Sunday School Attendance</u> Through May 2023: 694 Through May 2022: 624 Through May 2021: 657 <u>Acolytes—July</u> <u>July 2</u> 8:00 Elizabeth Sayles 10:30 <u>July 16</u> 8:00 10:30 Elizabeth Sayles <u>July 30</u> 8:00 Elizabeth Sayles 10:30 <u>Acolytes—August</u> <u>Aug 13</u> 8:00 10:30 Elizabeth Sayles <u>Aug 27</u> 8:00 Elizabeth Sayles 10:30 <u>Elders Communion Assistance</u> <u>July</u> <u>July 2</u> 8:00 Randy Couch 10:30 Ross Gould <u>July 15</u> 8:00 Steve Depew 10:30 Jon Bolt <u>July 30</u> 8:00 Ross Gould 10:30 Jon Bolt	<u>Videographers—</u> <u>July</u> Rod Bollinger <u>August</u> Rod Bollinger <u>Worship Chairman—</u> <u>July</u> Paul Tackmann <u>August</u> Jim Lonergan <u>Ushers—July</u> <u>8:00</u> Jim Lonergan Scott Stalter Merle Wiseman
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Special Meetings

GSLS Parents

We will have a meeting with the parents of GSLS students on Sunday, August 20, after the 10:30 service.

Sunday School Teachers Meeting

will be Wednesday, August 23, at 7:00 pm.

CHURCH INFORMATION

Please notify the church secretary of any corrections that need to be made for addresses, birthday, Baptism, or wedding anniversary lists, etc. If a date is wrong or somebody has been omitted from something, we want to get it right. We want to have all our lists and records fully accurate and as up to date as possible. Thank you for your help.

You may phone the church office (348-2136) with your information, send a note in the mail, or email Sandy at the church office: stjohnsec@grics.net.



REMINDER

that September is the month that St. John's collects nonperishables for Christian Civic Outreach.

College Students

Parents, we would like the name of your college student and his or her address and the name of the college or university that your child(ren) will be attending this coming fall. We would like to send them the Journal. Thank you.

RALLY DAY

For Sunday School will be Sunday, August 27.
Students will be promoted to the next grade.

Church Picnic

The Board of Christian Education is planning a church picnic on Sunday, August 27 at Pekin Park. Watch future bulletins for more information about the picnic.

A wise old owl lived in an oak,
The more he saw, the less he spoke;
The less he spoke, the more he heard,
Why can't we be like that old bird?

What do you get when you cross an Owl with a Billy Goat?
A hootenanny.

TREASURER'S REPORT May, 2023



	May	Y-T-D
<u>INCOME</u>	20,699.00	145,489.48
<u>EXPENSES</u>	30,725.86	163,145.82
<u>INCOME</u>	- 10,026.86	- 17,656.34
<u>EXPENSE</u>		

General Fund Accounts

General Fund	99.13
General Fund Total	99.13

Educational Fund Accounts

Educ. Grant Fund Checking	2,948.56
Ed Grant CD LCMS 12/21	51,928.87
Ed Grant CD LCMS 12/22	51,900.80
Ed Grant Fund #2 Vanguard	63,097.38
Educational Fund Total	169,875.61

East Bluff Property

East Bluff Property Vanguard	38,422.62
East Bluff CD LCMS 12/21	53,808.61
East Bluff CD LCMS 12/22	53,837.70
Cat Stock at FMV	75,922.77
221,991.70	

Memorial

Memorial Fund Checking	29,961.92
Memorial Vanguard	97,573.53
Memorial Fund Total	127,535.45

Building Fund Checking	24,389.43
Sunday School Fund Checking	12,457.92

TOTAL ASSETS **556,349.24**

Checking Acct Balance	69,856.96
69,856.96	

LIABILITIES

Payroll Liabilities	2,550.74
Misc. LCMS Orgs Fund	146.72
Total Liabilities	2,697.46

Fund Balance

Net Income (Loss)	(27,043.48)
Capital Accounts	580,695.26
Total Fund Balance	553,651.78

TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE **556,349.24**

**HI-LITES OF ST. JOHN'S VOTERS ASSEMBLY
June 12, 2023**

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

The May Parish Report was reviewed. A motion was made by Randy Couch, seconded by Ray Barnes, to approve the March, April, and May Parish Reports. Motion carried.

The May meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Steve Kesselmayer, seconded by Bob Oliverius, to approve the March, April, and May meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Rod Bollinger presented the May Treasurer's Report. Rod indicated that on average we receive around \$30,000 a month in income but for May it was just under \$21,000. There was nothing unusual in the bills paid this month. Bob Oliverius questioned the difference for expenses as shown in the report and the amount shown as being paid out during the month on the check register. Rod indicated that he would have to talk to Daryl Dagit about this.

A motion was made by Nancy Drockelman, seconded by Dave Kesselmayer, to accept the March and April Treasurer's Reports. Motion carried.

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

Board of Trustees – Dave Kesselmayer thanked those who helped with the Trustee's work day on June 3rd. Dave noted that a couple of painting projects were completed as well as some extra cleaning of the Sanctuary. In addition, some doors and windows were cleaned. Dave indicated that they will try to have another work day in the fall.

Maintenance was done on the air conditioning and it was found that the air conditioning in the Sanctuary was not working. The Trustees are getting estimates on a new rooftop unit for the new addition as it is the original unit from 1993. Dave noted that the Trustees will work with the Board of Finance to see if it is possible to replace the unit this year. The Trustees are also getting estimates on fixing and painting the decorative hinges for the wooden doors.

Board of Elders – Randy Couch reported that the Elders did meet this month but had nothing to pass along.

Board of Finance – No report.

Board of Christian Education – No report. Mike Nauth did report for Good Shepherd Lutheran School. Mike noted that the board is still in need of a treasurer. The school is also looking to hire a teacher. There are several options, as noted in the bulletin, that the school could take with the

hiring of one teacher. If you are aware of anyone who would be interested in one of the open teaching position, please have the individual contact Joel Kilgus.

Board of Worship – Julie Wagner reported that the board met on June 1st. They are still looking for a piano player to accompany the choir so Allison can concentrate on directing. The board has taken over the changing of the parameters.

Board of Evangelism – Pastor Bishop reported that the committee will be meeting on Tuesday, June 13th.

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 – Bob Oliverius inquired as to the total raised from the auction for GSLS. Faye Kesselmayer indicated that they received the last of the bills today so tomorrow they will start figuring out final numbers.

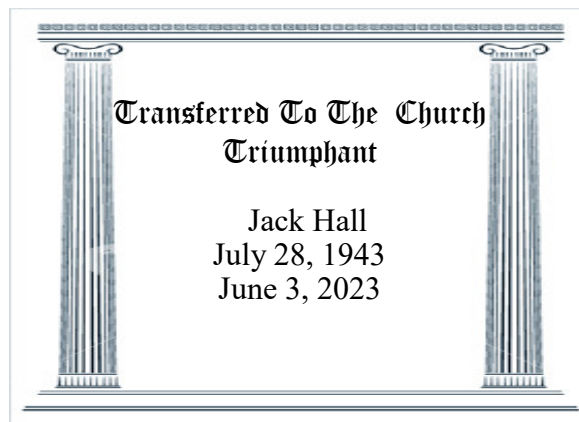
New business –

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

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wagner
Secretary



SHUT-INS for the MONTH: Even though some of our shut-ins this month.

Shut-ins for July are: Macille Frevert, 1107 S. 4th, Pekin; Ray & Wilma Garber, 1111 S. 18th, Pekin, Wilmadean Habberfield, Pekin Manor, 1520 El Camino Dr., Pekin and Eliane Hapke, McLean Co. Nursing Home, 901 N. Main St., Normal, IL 61761.

Shut ins for August are: Ruth Hillman, 204 E. Franklin, Tremont 61568; Billie Jackson, Cedar Hurst of Pekin, 2700 S. 14th St., Apt. 217, Pekin; Florence McClure, Hallmark Healthcare of Pekin, 2501 Allentown Rd., Pekin and Ellen Morrison, Villas of Hollybrook, 2720 S. 14th St., #19, Pekin;

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

LIBRARY CORNER

By Eileen Tiona



"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

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 other wonderful books that are available for your enjoyment.

LCMSFoundation: Bernie and Helen created their first estate plan when they were 25, right after the birth of their first child. In the fifty years since that time, they have had three more children, and now have eight grandchildren. During those fifty years, they moved four times, to four different states. In each place, they engaged with their local church. Combined, there have been six congregations in their lives. Two of them have closed, as they were located in urban areas that changed from the ethnic origins of the congregations. Two of the congregations have Lutheran Schools, bursting at the seams with enrollment. One of the congregations has a vibrant caring ministry for battered women. One has an outreach to immigrants in their community. All four of these congregations and their ministries have had a place in Bernie's and Helen's life. They want to reflect this connection with ministry and update their fifty-year-old wills, creating gifts for their children and grandchildren. They met with their local LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor and began organizing a survey of family, assets, and goals. They indicated that one of their goals is to build flexibility into their plans, as life has taught them that life changes.

They were happy to see some of the flexible tools the LCMS Foundation offers. Now instead of putting off their planning, or dreading it, they are excited about leaning into the future which includes one day living face to face with Jesus.

Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you too. Contact Scott Radden by email at Scott.Radden@LFND.org or by cell phone at 618- 977-4049.

ORGANIZATIONS

YOUTH GROUP

will meet on July 16 at 4:00 p.m. for an afternoon of mini golf at Pekin Park.

August plans are still in the planning stage at this time. Watch future bulletins for more information.

WOMEN IN FAITH - LWML

will meet on Saturday, September 16, at 10:00 a.m.
Watch future bulletins for more information.

We received a thank you letter for our donation to Lutheran Heritage Foundation.

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis sent a thank you letter for funds we sent them.



Also received a thank you letter from Lutherans for Life for our donation.

Dear Saints of St. John, Thank you for your ongoing generosity. I hope to worship with you and say thank you! God bless you all!

Rev. Paul Hopkins, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne

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
Billie Jackson
Robert Rilea
Peggy Farlin
Marlana Montgomery
Addie Burling
Gabriella Kesselmayr
Lois Becker
Debi Thome
Suzanne Reising
Mark Reising
Lee Morgan
Wilmadean Habberfield
Diane Gould
Ray Garber
Anna Leake (Lila Lisenbee's sister)

Sandy Morgan
Flo McClure
Rhonda Lappie
Jeff Ferree
Paula Jensen
Julie Rilea
Eileen Tiona
Virginia Tackmann
Pat Proehl
Kellen Norman
Joyce Barnes
Carol Long
Carl Hauk
Danny Englebright
Roy Dagit

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Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 276

Matt. 19:15-30

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The Rich Man & The Kingdom

CAMEL	BROTHERS
ENTER	CHILDREN
GIVE	ETERNAL
HANDS	FATHER
HARD	FOLLOW
HONOR	GLORIOUS
INHERIT	HEAVEN
ISRAEL	JUDGING
JESUS	MOTHER
KEPT	NEEDLE
LEFT	PERFECT
LIFE	POSSIBLE
PETER	RECEIVE
RICH	RENEWAL
SAKE	SISTERS
SAVED	TEACHER
SELL	THRONE
TIMES	TREASURE
TRUTH	WEALTH

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:
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