

St. John's Journal

Volume 49, Issue 9

GOD'S UNCHANGING PROMISES

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We've experienced some rather variable weather these past few months. May and June were unusually dry, but then gave way to ample rains in early July, and additional substantial rains again in early August. Of course, there's nothing unusual about this, as the weather is always variable. It's just as the saying goes, "If you don't like the weather, just wait a little; it'll change."

The predictable variability of the weather should remind us Christians of one of the promises God made at the time of Noah. He said, "While the earth remains, seed time and harvest, and cold and heat, and winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease." *Genesis 8:22* Until this world comes to an end, there will always be seasons. The weather will always change.

Yet God's promises themselves are unchanging! What a source of confidence and hope this truth is for us believers! We can think of another promise God made to Noah after the flood. "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done." *Genesis 8:21* God's promise never again to destroy the earth by a flood has proven constant. Every rainbow is by God's declaration a sign and reminder of His promise.

Far from destroying the earth through another flood, God promised to save the world through Noah's most important descendant, Jesus Christ. This promise also remained unchanged until its fulfillment. In the fullness of time Jesus came into the world, descended from Noah's son Shem according to His human nature. And in His human flesh, Jesus suffered and died to forgive the evil that is in every man's heart. He made satisfaction for the sins of all the people of the world. In Jesus, God kept His promise to save the earth!

Now we Christians look forward to the fulfillment of another of God's promises – the promise to bring about a new heaven and new earth on the last day. "Nevertheless we, according to His promise, are looking for new heavens and a new earth, the home of righteousness." *2 Peter 3:13* We eagerly anticipate the day when, with resurrected and glorified bodies, we will dwell with God in perfect righteousness, enjoying life in a restored paradise forever!

Because of God's unchanging faithfulness, we are just as certain of that promise as we are that the weather will keep on changing!

- Pastor Bishop

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Christian Education
Sunday School

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL
PERFECT ATTENDANCE

June, 2023

None

July, 2023

None



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sept 3

Jodi Schmick

Sept 4

Ellen Hill
Thomas Theleritis

Sept 5

Leslie Weyhrich

Sept 6

Katie Gaitros
Roberta Hudson
Michael Mauer
Ashley Schmidgall
Maesyn Theleritis
Robert Williamson III

Sept 7

Mitchell Hansen
Hazel Nichols (*Happy 102nd Birthday*)

Sept 8

Mary Ashbaker
Christa Wilson

Sept 9

Lori Svendsen
Ian Terrell

Sept 10

Joseph Bonnette
Quest Dobbelaire
JoAnne Ferree
Jenna Tassart
Keisha Williamson

Sept 11

Scott Hall
Keturah Harley
Tanya Rahn

Sept 12

Bradley Hoover
Joseph Schiavone

Sept 13

Kevin McCammon
Leslie Norman

Sept 14

Cody Wilson

Sept 16

Peggy Patten
Robert Watson

Sept 17

Jaylah Dalton
Erin Theleritis
Kethry Whitlatch

Sept 18

Leia Stewart
Zachary Webb

Sept 19

Althea Geiser
Wallace Hammond
Brian Lundeen

Sept 21

Quinn Theleritis
Tyson Winstead

Sept 22

Kathryn Emery

Sept 23

Debra Dant
Ashley Jones
Olivia Oliverius

Sept 24

David Kesselmayer

Sept 25

Gabrielle Dagit
Laura Dagit

Sept 27

Tonya Burris
Chad Swibold

Sept 29

Adam Bollinger
Ella Friedinger
Shelby Reese

Sept 30

Luke Morgan
Brenda Sayles



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Sept 4

Patrick & Melissa Flatley

Sept 5

Rick & Kay Aulenbach
John & Christine Neumann

Sept 6

James & Tracy Glass

Sept 7

Eric & Michelle Dupent

Sept 9

Daniel & Kathryn Heisel

Sept 11

William & Mary Ashbaker

Sept 15

Douglas & Melanie Tiona

Sept 25

Daniel & Laura Dobbelaire



Parish Notes



Church Attendance

June 2023 **432** 12 services
 June 2022 **458** 12 services
 June 2021 **467** 12 services

July 2023 **562** 15 services
 July 2022 **513** 15 services
 July 2021 **466** 12 services

Y-T-D Sunday School Attendance

June 2023 **804**
 June 2022 **742**
 June 2021 **767**

July 2023 **943**
 July 2022 **889**
 July 2021 **872**

Videographers

Zane Dobbelaire

Worship Chairman

Vince Tennell

Ushers

8:00

Ray Barnes
 Daryl Dagit
 Dave Kesselmayr
 Garret Kesselmayr
 Dan Rees

10:30

Brian Lundeen
 Mike Nauth
 Dan Watson
 Mike Wilson

ACOLYTES SCHEDULE

9/10 10:30 Elizabeth Sayles

9/24 8:00 Elizabeth Sayles

ELDERS COMMUNION ASSISTANCE

9/3 8:00 Tom Ivey
 10:30 Ross Gould

9/17 8:00 Randy Couch
 10:30 Jon Bolt

ON-LINE GIVING

is now available for those of you who would like to make donations to St. John's on-line.

You can go to our web site and click on Giving tab. Once on the page you click Sign In. Follow instructions.

Thank you for your patience in getting this up and running.

Address Directory Changes

Add:
 Shaw, Ellie (Trevor) 6706 N. Greemont Rd., Peoria 61614

Oller: Eric (Lisa) 6811 S. Geres Rd., Mapleton 61547

Ruschmeyer, Scott (Penny) 3301 Edgewater Dr., Pekin

Change to:
 Benney, Share (Jami), 2215 Crestview Dr., Pekin

Benker, Lucille, Cedar Hurst of Pekin, 2700 S. 14th St., Apt. 108, Pekin

Byers, Gefridur, 2739 Vista Grande, Pekin

Friedinger, Shana (Chad), 414 Country Club Dr., Pekin

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

resumes Wednesday, September 6, 7:00 p.m. in the basement classroom. We will continue our reading and discussion of primary Old Testament Narratives. We will pick up with the Book of Jonah. These lessons are a great review for everyone – a little bit like Sunday School, only at an adult level. Everyone is welcome, and bring a friend!

ADULT INSTRUCTION CLASSES

Pastor Bishop plans to start up a new Adult Instruction Class that will meet on Thursday evenings from 7:00 – 8:30, beginning September 7. These classes present the basics of Christianity as confessed by the Lutheran Church, and can prepare people for membership in the congregation. They are also an interesting, helpful, and enjoyable review for those who are already church members. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact Pastor Bishop.

Funk, Vernice (Robert), 2720 S. 14th St., Apt. 44, Pekin

Habberfield, Wilmadean, Pekin Manor, 1520 El Camino Dr., Rm. 403, Pekin

Transferred To The Church Triumphant

Louise Brickner
 December 12, 1929
 July 22, 2023

TREASURER'S REPORT—JUNE, 2023



TREASURER'S REPORT—JULY, 2023

	<u>JUNE</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>
INCOME	22,720.00	168,209.48
EXPENSES	<u>24,454.58</u>	<u>187,600.40</u>
INCOME-EXPENSES	<u>\$ (1,734.58)</u>	<u>\$(19,390.92)</u>
General Fund Accounts		
General Fund		(1,483.32)
General Fund Total		(1,483.32)
Educational Fund Accounts		
Educational Grant Fund Checking		2,948.56
Ed Grant CD LCMS 12/21		51,928.87
Ed Grant CD LCMS 12/22		51,900.80
Educational Grant Fund #2-Vanguard		<u>62,718.18</u>
Educational Fund Total		169,496.41
East Bluff Property		
East Bluff Property—Vanguard		38,191.12
East Bluff CD LCMS 12/21		53,808.61
East Bluff CD LCMS 12/22		53,837.70
Cat Stock at FMV		<u>90,793.48</u>
East Bluff Property		236,630.91
Memorial		
Memorial Fund Checking		30,036.92
Memorial Vanguard		<u>97,230.14</u>
Memorial Fund Total		127,267.06
Building Fund Checking		25,234.43
Sunday School Fund Checking		<u>12,491.73</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>\$569,637.22</u>
Checking Account Balance		
Checking Account Balance		<u>69,228.32</u>
TOTAL		<u>69,228.32</u>
LIABILITIES		
Payroll Liabilities		2,499.38
Misc. LCMS Orgs Fund		<u>77.72</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		2,577.10
Fund Balance		
Net Income (Loss)		(13,635.14)
Capital Accounts		<u>580,695.26</u>
TOTAL FUND BALANCE		567,060.12
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE		<u>\$569,637.22</u>

	<u>JULY</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>
INCOME	39,306.89	207,516.37
EXPENSES	<u>30,698.80</u>	<u>218,499.20</u>
INCOME-EXPENSES	<u>\$ 8,608.09</u>	\$ (10,982.83)
General Fund Accounts		
General Fund		<u>10,712.88</u>
General Fund Total		10,712.88
Educational Fund Accounts		
Educational Grant Fund Checking		2,984.56
Ed Grant CD LCMS 12/21		51,928.87
Ed Grant CD LCMS 12/22		51,900.80
Educational Grant Fund #2-Vanguard		<u>62,817.87</u>
Educational Fund Total		169,596.10
East Bluff Property		
East Bluff Property—Vanguard		38,249.69
East Bluff CD LCMS 12/21		53,808.61
East Bluff CD LCMS 12/22		53,837.70
Cat Stock at FMV		<u>97,848.76</u>
East Bluff Property		243,744.76
Memorial		
Memorial Fund Checking		30,346.92
Memorial Vanguard		<u>97,678.67</u>
Memorial Fund Total		128,025.59
Building Fund Checking		26,104.43
Sunday School Fund Checking		<u>12,542.73</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>\$590,726.49</u>
Checking Account Balance		
Checking Account Balance		<u>82,655.52</u>
TOTAL		<u>82,655.52</u>
LIABILITIES		
Payroll Liabilities		2,597.84
Misc. LCMS Orgs Fund		<u>95.57</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		2,693.41
Fund Balance		
Net Income (Loss)		7,337.82
Capital Accounts		<u>580,695.26</u>
TOTAL FUND BALANCE		588,033.08
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE		<u>\$590,726.49</u>



MUSIC FOR MISSIONS is a Sacred Music Concert and Hymn Sing in support of our LC-MS Central Illinois District Campus Ministry at ISU in Normal, at the Wittenberg Lutheran Center.

The event will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church, 711 Court St., Pekin, Illinois on Sunday, October 1, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

Music for Missions will feature guest organist Peter Wykert, Cantor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Peoria. It will also include music from vocalists, choir, and hand bells, as well as congregational singing.

A free-will offering will be gathered to support our Wittenberg Lutheran Center at ISU. Refreshments will be served following the program.

Greetings Ladies of St. John! You are welcome to attend our fall General Membership meeting as we honor a panel of five local Women in Ministry. Please come to support these ladies, enjoy a continental breakfast and a time of Christian fellowship. Postcard invitations are available at St. John c/o Marilyn Liescheidt, LWGP delegate.

Friday morning, Oct 20, 2023 9-11am St. Paul Lutheran Church
1427 West Lake Avenue, Peoria

RSVP to Lisa Mack by Oct 16th so that we can plan accordingly.
Call or text (309) 360-2669 or email LisaDMack14@gmail.com

Do You Believe in The Sanctity of Human Life?
Please join **Lutherans for Life** during our **Life Chain** event on **Sunday, October 1, 2:00 pm.**

Life Chain is a *peaceful* and *prayerful* public witness of pro-life individuals quietly standing for one hour praying for our nation and for an end to abortion. It is a visual statement by the Christian community that abortion kills children and that we support the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception. This is an annual observance of the Life Chain which occurs simultaneously in over 1,200 locations across our nation and in Canada (see www.LifeChain.net).

We will meet at 2:00 pm at the Planned Parenthood on 2709 N. Knoxville, Peoria, IL. The Life Chain will stretch north and south from there. Signs are provided by Central Illinois Right to Life.

If you have any questions, please contact LFL President, Bob Wegner, at 309-481-4886. God bless.

St. John's Lutheran Church will once again have a booth in the Civic Collage on Saturday, Sept.9, and Sunday, Sept. 10, of the Marigold Festival.

Volunteers are needed to man the booth. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the gym. We have items to give away for adults and children as well as bottles of water. Please sign up for the times you can help. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Bishop or Joyce Lonergan.

Two Dollars For Missions Projects Completed: It is with exceedingly great joy that Central Illinois District President Rev. Michael Mohr announces that not only has our current Dollars for Missions Project (the purchase of a 15- passenger van for University Lutheran Church in Champaign) been fully funded, but July contributions towards Dollars for Missions have been robust enough to fully fund the next project on the list – August pay for Prison Ministry at Lincoln and Logan Correctional Centers. Therefore, our current Dollars for Missions Project is to raise \$20k for stipends to pastors to begin visiting four new prisons or jails in 2024. Additional information regarding the Dollars for Missions Projects can be found on the district website at <https://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-a-dollar-for-missions.html>.

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 |
| Billie Jackson | Flo McClure |
| Robert Rilea | Peggy Farlin |
| Jeff Ferree | Marlana Montgomery |
| Addie Burling | Julie Rilea |
| Gabriella Kesselmayr | Eileen Tiona |
| Lois Becker | Virginia Tackmann |
| Pat Proehl | Suzanne Reising |
| Kellen Norman | Joyce Barnes |
| Lee Morgan | Ray Garber |
| Roy Dagit | John Durdle |
| Susan Oliverius | Sara Morgan |
| Suzanne Reising | Stefanie Wilson |
| Scott Ruschmeyer | |
| Anna Leake (Lila Lisenbee's sister) | |

Why did the teddy bear say no to dessert?
Because he was stuffed.



LIBRARY CORNER

By Eileen Tiona

"The gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come," Matthew 24:14

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.

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 September are: Loretta Newman, Sunset Rehab & Health Care, 129 S. 1st Ave., Canton 61520; Hazel Nichols, 1106 S. 8th St., Pekin; Sharon Parry, 1721 Valle Vista, Pekin and Sheryl Riley, UAW Apartments, 444 Parkway Dr., Apt. 1212, Pekin.

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

Camp CILCA News

G.R.I.T. Run: October 1, 2022 The Grueling, Rugged, Intense Trail Run (G.R.I.T. Run) is for the bravest of souls. The 5-kilometer course includes narrow trails, steep hills, creek bed crossings, scenic views, and stairs. Runners 6-17 run for \$10. Runners 18 and up run for \$30. Register at cilca.org/grit-run.

Parents of College Students

Parents, we would like to receive the names of your college student(s), name of college or university he or she is attending and their mailing address at school. We would like to send them our monthly Journal. You can call the office 347-2136 or send email to stjohnsec@grics.net. Thank you.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Monday, Sept. 4 – No school for Labor Day

Saturday, Sept. 9 - Marigold Parade

Friday, Sept. 16 — School Improvement Day (PK-8 Early Dismissal PreK @ 12 Noon & K-8 @ 12:30 p.m.)

Monday, Sept. 18 — Picture Day—PreK

Tuesday, Sept. 19—Picture Day—Prek and K-8

Sunday, Sept. 24—Sing at Trinity, Pekin @ 8:15 a.m.

GSLS DINING OUT NIGHT

will be Tuesday, Sept. 12 at Texas Roadhouse in East Peoria. (Scrip cards available).

Order you scrip cars ahead of time using the RaiseRight app or with a paper form.



Received a thank you letter fro Lutherans for Life for our donation toward their Gospel motivated, life-affirming

ministry.

Received a thank you letter from Martin Luther College in New Ulm, MN for the funds St. John's sent in memory of Larry Czer (Allison's father).

Rev. Bishop and People of St. John's, The Word has power and your gift helps us put it into print. Rev. R. Rahn, Founder of Lutheran Heritage Foundation.

CHRISTIAN CIVIC OUTREACH

September is St. John's month to provide non-perishable items to Christian Civic Outreach.

Donations will be collected in the designated boxes on the stage in the gym throughout September.

Boxed foods, peanut butter, instant mash potatoes, cookies, crackers, pasta, spaghetti sauce, shortening, etc.

Toiletries: razors, powder, shampoo, etc.

(Address Service Requested)

Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 230

Matt. 1:1-13

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

Genealogy of Jesus

ABIJAH	ABRAHAM
ABIUD	BABYLON
AHAZ	BROTHERS
AMON	CHRIST
ASA	ELIAKIM
AZOR	FATHER
BOAZ	HEZEKIAH
DAVID	HEZRON
EXILE	JECONIAH
ISAAC	JEHORAM
JACOB	JOSIAH
JESSE	JOTHAM
JESUS	MANASSEH
JUDAH	MOTHER
KING	NAHSHON
OBED	RECORD
PEREZ	REHOBOAM
RAHAB	SALMON
RUTH	SOLOMON
ZERAH	UZZIAH

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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