

St. John's Journal

LUTHERAN DISTINCTIVES

I. Lutherans are Christ-centered, with a Biblical Christology. Part 2

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We continue this month considering some of the Biblical teachings that are distinctive of the Lutheran Church. This time we will remember and rejoice that God has blessed us with an authentically Scriptural Christology. In other words, the Lord has brought us to believe and confess what the Bible actually teaches about Jesus Christ.

Simply put, we Lutherans confess Christ as true God and true Man, with all that this entails. To say this a bit more completely: We believe that Christ has two natures, human and divine, united in one Person. In Him, the attributes or characteristics of both God and man are predicated of the one Person Jesus Christ. To say the same thing another way: Everything that is true of God is true of Christ, and everything that is true of man (in his essential nature, not the fallen condition, of course) is true of Christ. Consequently Christ is, for example, almighty, all-knowing, eternal, and so forth. And at the same time He has a real flesh-and-blood body, a real human soul, and real human emotions.

Moreover, the attributes of Christ's divine nature have been passed on to His human nature. This is an incomprehensible mystery of the Incarnation. Since Christ's conception, His divine characteristics have been given to His humanity. For example, Christ's human body is capable of doing miracles. He walked on the water bodily, for instance, and He ascended into heaven bodily. Another example is that Christ's body and blood are omnipresent. His human body and blood can occupy the same space as bread and wine in the Lord's Supper, for instance, and can be present on the altars of many, many Christian churches throughout the world simultaneously.

Just as Christ is not divided, but is one Christ with two natures in a personal union, so His works are not divided. Christ performs all His saving acts according to both natures, each doing what is proper to itself, yet in communion with the other nature, in one undivided action. For example, Christ did not die as Man alone, and then rise from the dead as God alone. Rather, Christ died and rose as true God and true Man.

We believe all this about Jesus Christ because of what the Scriptures teach about Him. We believe that Christ is true God because He is the Word who is God, who became flesh and dwelt among us. *John 1:1,14* You may also wish to read Romans 9:5, 1 John 5:20, and Acts 20:28 to see other clear passages that tell us Christ is God.

We believe that Christ is true Man because the Scriptures plainly call Him a man. The Man Christ Jesus is the one mediator between God and men. *1 Timothy 2:5* Romans 9:5, Luke 24:39, and Hebrews 2:14,17 are other good verses that clearly teach the true humanity of Christ.

We believe the personal union of the divine and human natures in Christ because numerous passages give plain evidence of it. For example, Christ assured His disciples that He Himself would be with them always. *Matthew 28:20* Christ is the One who "fills all in all." *Ephesians 1:23* Christ has all authority over everything. *Ephesians 1:20-22* Also Christ's humanity saves us. He reconciled us "in His body of *flesh* by His death." *Colossians 1:22* His *blood* cleanses us from all sins. *1 John 1:7*

If you have a Book of Concord available it would be helpful to read Article III of the Augsburg Confession and Article VIII of the Epitome of the Formula of Concord. These give us and the whole world a very fine confession of what we Lutherans believe about Jesus Christ. You might also wish to review what we confess about Christ in the Small Catechism, Second Article of the Apostles' Creed, as well as in the Athanasian Creed, found on page 53 in The Lutheran Hymnal.

We give thanks and praise to our Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true Man, the only One who could save us! We further honor Him for so graciously bringing us to believe in Him and to confess Him as He reveals Himself to us in His Word!

- Pastor Bishop

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Christian Education
Sunday School

Perfect Attendance
October 2023

None

DECEMBER
BIRTHDAYS



Dec 02

Tomi Pfanz

Dec 04

Michelle Ferguson
Eric Harley

Dec 05

Stephen Sheckler

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

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

Rebecca Worlow

Dec 18

Derrick Schumm
Sydney Webb

Dec 19

Kim Gudzinkas
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

Penny Hoover

Dec 28

Marshall Edmiston
Raymond Hall
Noah Justi
Donna Pool

Dec 29

Jeffrey Turney
Jeremy Turney

Dec 31

Mackenzie Abatie
Julie Hammond

DECEMBER
ANNIVERSARIES

Dec 07

Daryl & Laura Dagit

Dec 10

Roy & Debra Dagit

Dec 12

Denny & Carol Jones
Richard & Kelley Ward

Dec 14

Jacob & Julie Ista

Dec 17

David & Lori Segó

Dec 18

Gregory & Carol Becker

Dec 27

Daniel & Karen Nafziger

Dec 30

Harold & Susan Wertz

Dec 31

Ray & Joyce Barnes



PARISH NOTES



Church Attendance

Oct 2023 **561** - 15 services
Oct 2022 **555** - 15 services
Oct 2021 **587** - 15 services

Sunday School Attendance

Oct 2023: **1,353**
Oct 2022: **1,281**
Oct 2021: **1,248**

Worship Chairman

Brian Fuelberth

Videographers

Jim Lonergan

Acolytes

Dec

10:30 Elizabeth Sayles

Dec 17

8:00 Elizabeth Sayles

Dec 31

10:30 Elizabeth Sayles

Jan 14

8:00 Elizabeth Sayles

Ushers

8:00

Ray Barnes
Daryl Dagit
Dave Kesselmayr
Garret Kesselmayr
Dan Rees

10:30

Brian Lundeen
Mike Nauth
Dan Watson
Mike Wilson

Elders Communion Assistance

Dec 3

8:00 a.m. Randy Couch
10:30 a.m. Jon Bolt

Dec 17

8:00 a.m. Tom Ivey
10:30 a.m. Ross Gould

Dec 24

7:00 p.m. Ross Gould

Dec 25

10:00 a.m. Tom Ivey

Dec 31

8:00 a.m. Randy Couch
10:30 a.m. Jon Bolt

Special Services for Advent and Christmas

ADVENT VESPERS SERVICES 2023

Sermon Series:
"Wait for the Lord"

All services are the Order of Vespers,
TLH pg. 41 at 7:00 p.m.

Dec 6

Sermon: "Wait for the Lord for Mercy"
Isaiah 30:18

Dec. 13

Sermon: "Wait for the Lord for Justice"
Zephaniah 3:8

Dec. 20

Sermon: "Wait for the Lord for Salvation"
Lamentations 3:25-26

A light supper will be served before
the services beginning at 5:30.

Special Services for Advent and Christmas cont.

ABOUT THE SERIES: Our Lord invites and exhorts us many times in His Scriptures to wait for Him. Advent is a fitting season to ponder some of these Scriptures. For just as the Lord's faithful people waited many years for His first advent, so we have been waiting many years for His second advent on the last day. Like the Lord's people throughout the ages, we have grown accustomed to waiting for Him for many blessings. The sermons in this little series, "Wait for the Lord," encourage us to do just that. After all, the Lord's blessings are always well worth the wait, for He promises to give mercy, justice, and salvation!

THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE will be December 17th at 10:30 am. Practices will be during Sunday School, 9:15-10:15, Dec. 10 and 17. Any child is welcome to participate. Show up during practice or contact Deanna Bishop at 309-201-9297.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

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

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

Sunday, Dec. 31 - 7:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Service

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for 2024 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 10th.**

Contributions for 2023 must be received by **Dec. 31st** in order to be credited to your 2023 offering record.

**TREASURER'S REPORT
OCTOBER 2023**



**HI-LITES OF ST. JOHN'S VOTERS ASSEMBLY
November 13, 2023**

	<u>October</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>
<u>INCOME</u>	31,411.00	295,180.37
<u>EXPENSES</u>	30,546.74	315,401.37
<u>INCOME-EXPENSES</u>	\$ 864.26	(\$ 20,221.00)

General Fund Accounts

General Fund	6,959.99
General Fund Total	6,049.99

Educational Fund Accounts

Educational Grant Fund Checking	2,948.56
Ed Grant CD LCMS 12/23	51,928.87
Ed Grant CD LCMS 12/22	51,928.86
Educational Grant Fund #2-Vanguard	61,290.52
Educational Fund Total	168,068.75

East Bluff Property

East Bluff Property—Vanguard	37,305.37
East Bluff CD LCMS 12/21	53,808.61
East Bluff CD LCMS 12/22	53,837.70
Cat Stock at FMV	83,413.49
East Bluff Property	228,365.17

Memorial

Memorial Fund Checking	31,786.92
Memorial Vanguard	91,731.67
Memorial Fund Total	123,518.59

Building Fund Checking	25,960.17
Sunday School Fund Checking	12,739.50

TOTAL ASSETS **\$565,612.17**

Checking Account Balance

Checking Account Balance	80,395.14
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>80,395.14</u>

LIABILITIES

Payroll Liabilities	2,692.26
Misc. LCMS Orgs Fund	46.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	2,738.26

Fund Balance

Net Income (Loss)	(17,821.35)
Capital Accounts	589,695.26
<u>TOTAL FUND BALANCE</u>	<u>562,873.91</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE **\$565,612.17**

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

Mike Nauth thanked those individuals who helped with the brat dinner on Friendship Sunday.

The October Parish Report was reviewed. A motion was made by Diane Gould, seconded by Bob Oliverius, to approve October Parish Report. Motion carried.

The October meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Dave Kesselmayer, seconded by Julie Wagner, to approve the October meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Daryl Dagit presented the October Treasurer's Report. Daryl indicated that expenses for the year have been higher due to repairs made to the building.

A motion was made by Nancy Drockelman, seconded by Randy Couch, to accept the October Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Daryl also discussed the preliminary budget for 2024. The increase from 2023 to 2024 is approximately 2%. Approval of the budget is being held over to the December Voters Meeting. Daryl also clarified that the amount shown as housing for Pastor's salary does not mean we are providing housing but is just a way in which Pastor's salary can be divided out for tax purposes. Tom Ivey questioned a line item in the Elders projected budget but Daryl explained that nothing has been budgeted in 2024 for this item. If you have questions, please let Daryl or one of the Finance Committee members know.

Board of Trustees – Dave Kesselmayer reported that maintenance has been performed on the heating systems. The gym rooftop unit on the south was down. After getting estimates, the Trustees thought the price to repair was too high. Dave thanked Steve Kesselmayer for finding the needed part and replacing it, thus saving the church money. The church roof continued to have a leak even after repairs were made. The contractor made further repairs so hopefully the issue has finally been resolved. The Trustees have approved the use of Burling & Sons for snow removal this winter. The cost will be \$90.00 each time plowing is needed. Dave noted the charge has not increased much the past several years. The Trustees approved the lease extension with Comcast for 3 more years. The current lease is for \$10,796.14. The amount of the lease will increase each year. Also, the elevator has been fixed after the power outage. Dave indicated that they interviewed three cleaning companies. Two companies never got back with him with prices. First Care Commercial Cleaning did respond with a quote of \$1200.00 a month. This is just the basic cleaning

of the church. Any additional cleaning for weddings, funerals, etc., would be extra. The Trustees would like to go with this company and will work to get insurance and bonding information so the process of hiring them can get started. Dave indicated the price seems to be reasonable. Bob Oliverius asked if we could check with other churches the company cleans to see if they liked this company. Dave indicated that he could do that. Approval will be held over to the December meeting.

Board of Elders – Tom Ivey also thanked those who helped with the brat dinner. Tom indicated that Ross Gould and Steve Kesselmayer helped deliver the appliances that were purchased for a member family that was in need.

Board of Finance – No report.

Board of Christian Education – Leslie Hauk reported the Sunday School children will start practicing for the Christmas program on November 26th. Mrs. Bishop will oversee the program scheduled for December 19th. The Youth Group will have a work day helping with cleaning up yards for members on Sunday, November 19th. The board has enough members for the upcoming year.

Board of Worship – Diane Gould showed members a picture of the new green altar cloth that they would like to purchase to replace the existing altar cloth that is showing some wear and tear. The company the committee contacted currently has the cloth priced at 30% off making the cost \$2,586.80. Diane indicated that they would like to take the money from the Memorial Fund. The Worship Committee motioned that \$2,586.80 be taken from the Memorial Fund for the purpose of purchasing a new green altar cloth. Motion was seconded by Ross Gould. Motion carried. Diane indicated that they should have the new altar cloth by the beginning of the year.

Board of Evangelism – Pastor Bishop stated that the board did not meet this month.

Board of Stewardship – Pastor Bishop reported that the board did not meet this month. Pastor also indicated that we had quite a few guests this Sunday for Friendship Sunday, especially at the second service.

Long Range Planning Committee – Ross Gould reported that he hopes to get this started soon. If any committees have any plans that involve large expenses or boards have specific plans, please try to get this information to Ross.

Educational Grant Fund Committee – Ross Gould indicated that the last time they met, there was some discussion about whether we could designate some of the money to scholarships for Good Shepherd Lutheran School. He indicated that we should probably not designate the money for that purpose but perhaps for something specific, like building expenses, or when specifically asked for funds. It was clarified that currently any interest made on the fund is put

into the General Fund. Daryl Dagit indicated that for the past 5 years or so we haven't made much in interest but so far this year that would amount to around \$3,000.00. Bob Oliverius asked if any money had been taken out of this fund recently. It was indicated that other than one instance, it has been a while since the fund has been used. It was also indicated that to change the intent of the fund it would require a vote by the Voters Assembly. Pastor Bishop did clarify that the need for home congregations to supply a large amount of money to a seminary student has changed over the years and it might be a good idea to look at how this fund is set up.

East Bluff Property Committee – No report.

Constitution By-laws Committee – No report.

Unfinished business – Nominations for committees are coming up. Mike Nauth did explain that there used to be a nominating committee but that no longer exists and we now rely on board chairmen and committee members to find nominees. If asked by a committee member to serve, please consider joining a committee. Mike indicated that all committees are important to the running of the church. Mike also noted that serving as an usher is important and volunteers are needed, especially for the 10:30 service.

New business – It was noted that the Trustees will be decorating the outside of the church on 11-25 and the Worship committee will be decorating the inside of the church on 12-2. Volunteers are welcome and appreciated. Mike also wished everyone a happy and blessed Thanksgiving.

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

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wagner
Secretary



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.

GIVING TREE: We will be doing the giving tree for Children' Home Christmas Gifts also again this year. Faye Kesselmayer will put the names on the tree Nov. 25th and they will be due to the Church Sunday Dec. 17th. If you have any questions, please contact Faye at 346-0569.

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: Ruth Hillman, 204 E. Franklin, Tremont 61568; Flo McClure, Hallmark Healthcare of Pekin, 2501 Allentown Rd., Pekin; Adam Miller, 2007 Willow, Pekin and Ellen Morrison, Villas of Hollybrook Memory Care #18, 2720 S. 14th St., Pekin.

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

PARENTS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS or FAMILY MEMBERS IN THE MILITARY: Please let the office know the address of your college student(s) or if you have someone serving in our Armed Forces. We would like to send them our monthly newsletter and other information. Thank you.

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS:

If you are interested in providing poinsettias for our Christmas service, please Joyce Lonergan at 309-267-5286 or call the church 309-347-2136. Orders will need to be placed by Dec 10. Cost is \$15.00.



If you would like to bring your own poinsettias, please let Joyce know and have poinsettias at the church by Thursday, December 21. Thank you.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Wednesday, 12/7 - Dining out at Panda Express.

Friday, 12/8 - School Improvement Day - PK-8 early dismissal, PreK @ 12 p.m. and K-8 @ 12:30 p.m.

Thursday, 12/21—Early dismissal- PreK @ 12 p.m. and K-8 @ 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, 12/19 - GSLS Board meets at 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Break is from December 22 to January 3.

We encourage you to use **Good Shepherd's** RaiseRight/Scrip program for all of your gift card needs this Christmas season. Whether for shopping or gifting, we have a wide variety of gift cards available. Each card you purchase at face value provides a benefit to Good Shepherd. The last day to place an order to guarantee delivery before Christmas is Dec. 10th. Orders may be submitted to your Church's SCRIP table or to the School office. Have a merry, and Christ-filled, Christmas Season.

GSLS is once again a drop off location for Toys for Tots from Nov. 1 to Dec. 8th. Please donate new unopened toys. Toys for Tots will not distribute any gifts that look like realistic weapons or anything with food. If you wish to donate cash, please visit their website ww.toysfortots.org for more information

In Our Prayers

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

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
- Flo McClure
- Peggy Farlin
- Marlana Montgomery
- Julie Rilea
- Gabriella Kesselmayer
- Virginia Tackmann
- Suzanne Reising
- Joyce Barnes
- Ray Garber
- John Durdle
- Sara Morgan
- Stefanie Wilson
- Richard Kammeyer

- Sandy Morgan
- Robert Rilea
- Jeff Ferree
- Addie Burling
- Eileen Tiona
- Lois Becker
- Pat Proehl
- Kellen Norman
- Lee Morgan
- Roy Dagit
- Susan Oliverius
- Suzanne Reising
- Scott Ruschmeyer

St. John's Lutheran Church
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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:
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