

# St. John's Journal

Volume 50, Issue 2

## LUTHERAN DISTINCTIVES

### II. Lutherans carefully distinguish between God's messages of Law and Gospel. Part 2

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We continue in our discussion of Biblical teachings and practices that are distinctive of the Lutheran Church. As we distinguish between Law and Gospel, we Lutherans understand that the Gospel is the most important message from God.

The Gospel, you recall, is God's message of salvation in Jesus Christ. It is the good news of what God has done and is doing to save us in Christ. At the heart of this Gospel message is the teaching of justification by God's grace through faith because of Christ, based on God's will to save sinners. This is the truth that, because of His love for us, and for the sake of Christ's holy life and atoning death, God has declared us sinners righteous, and that we receive this righteousness individually through faith in Christ.

God plainly tells us the justification of sinners is His will. Jesus said, "This is the will of My Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him should have everlasting life." *John 6:40* He also said, "I have come that they may have life." *John 10:10* "God our Savior... desires all men to be saved." *1 Timothy 2:4* Justification results in everlasting life and salvation for all believers in Christ. Because the salvation of sinners is what God desires most highly, we rightly regard the good news of salvation as His most important message.

Indeed, the most important function of God's Law actually serves the Gospel by pointing out our sin, and thus also our need for justification. "Through the law comes knowledge of sin," God tells us. *Romans 3:20* "If it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin." *Romans 7:7* Knowing our sin is like knowing we have a deadly disease. The message is given for the sake of the cure!

Furthermore, the works demanded by the Law can be done in a God-pleasing way only by the power of the Gospel. "Without faith it is impossible to please Him (God)." *Hebrews 11:6* Jesus said, "He who abides in Me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing." *John 15:5* So even when it comes to bearing the fruit of good works, the Gospel is the most important message. While the Law instructs us in these works, the Gospel alone empowers us for these works.

This is why we Lutherans recognize that the teaching of justification is "the main doctrine of Christianity." *Apology of the Augsburg Confession IV:2* (It would also be edifying for you to read Article IV of the Augsburg Confession. If you do not have a Book of Concord, you are welcome to borrow one from the church library. You can also read it online.) We need both Law and Gospel, but in Christ, the message of the Gospel is His final word! Because of Jesus, we stand justified before God, and will live with Him forever – all to the praise of His gracious name!

- Pastor Bishop

## Christian Education

### Sunday School

Sunday School  
*Perfect Attendance*  
December 2023

None

### **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**



#### **Feb 01**

Joseph Hillman  
Edward Hodgkins  
Vincent Thomason

#### **Feb 02**

Nathan Barth  
David Justi  
Stephen Webb

#### **Feb 04**

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 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

**LENT** - The Lenten Season will begin with Ash Wednesday on February 14. 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. Sign-up sheets are up throughout the church for any committees and organizations who wishes to help furnish a meal to sign up.

Thank you in advance for your help.

### **LENT AND HOLY WEEK**

Preaching Series:  
The Lord's Prayer and Passion"

Feb.14 : (Ash Wednesday) Introduction of Lord's Prayer  
Sermon: "Ask the Father in My Name"  
John 16:22-23, 26-27

Feb 21: First Petition of Lord's Prayer  
Sermon: "Father, Glorify Your Name"  
John 12:27-33

Feb 28: Second Petition of Lord's Prayer

Sermon: "I Am Conferring on You a Kingdom"  
Luke 22:29-30

Mar 6: Third Petition of Lord's Prayer  
Sermon: "Jesus' Prayer in Gethemane"  
Matthew 26:39, 42

Mar 13: Fifth Petition of Lord's Prayer  
Sermon: "Father, Forgive"  
Luke 23:33-34a

Mar 20: Sixth Petition of Lord's Prayer  
Sermon: "Watch and Pray, that You May Not Enter into Temptation"  
Matthew 6:4-41

Mar 28: Maundy Thursday  
Fourth Petition of Lord's Prayer  
Sermon: "Give Us Today Our Necessary Bread" Matthew 26:26-28

Mar 29: Good Friday  
Seventh Petition of Lord's Prayer  
Sermon: "Give Us a Blessed End"  
Luke 23:46

## PARISH NOTES



### Church Attenance

Dec 2023— **901**—**19** services  
 Dec 2022— **507**—**14** services  
 Dec 2021— **794**—**18** services

### Sunday School Attendance Year-to-Date

Dec 2023: **1,644**  
 Dec 2022: **1,500**  
 Dec 2021: **1,480**

### Videographers

Jim Lonergan

### Worship Committee

Julie Wagner

### February Ushers

#### 8:00

Jerry Bohannan  
 Randy Couch  
 Steve Kesselmayer  
 Noah Kesselmayer

#### 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 04 8:00 Elizabeth Sayles

Feb 18 10:30 Elizabeth Sayles

Mar 03 8:00 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.

**GREETERS**: It is always nice to have someone greet us as we come into church. So we have put up sign-up sheets for February, March and April are on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please consider being a greeter.

**The Flower Chart for 2024** 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.

**CHURCH DOORS**: If you unlock one of the doors to the church, please check to make sure it is locked before you leave. Thank you.

## TREASURER'S REPORT DECEMBER, 2023

	<u>December</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>	52,463.94	373,617.31
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>	<u>31,730.80</u>	<u>376,941.24</u>
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>	20,733.14	(3,323.93)
<b><u>EXPENSE</u></b>		
<b><u>General Fund Accounts</u></b>		
General Fund		<u>26,000.94</u>
<b>General Fund Total</b>		<b>26,000.94</b>
<b><u>Educational Fund Accounts</u></b>		
Educ. Grant Fund Checking		1,948.56
Ed Grant CD LCMS 12/23	51,928.87	
Ed Grant CD LCMS 12/24	51,900.80	
Ed Grant Fund #2 Vanguard		<u>63,960.35</u>
<b>Educational Fund Total</b>		<b>169,738.59</b>
<b><u>East Bluff Property</u></b>		
East Bluff Property Vanguard	38,945.43	
East Bluff CD LCMS 12/23	53,808.61	
East Bluff CD LCMS 12/24	53,837.70	
Cat Stock at FMV		<u>109,103.28</u>
		<b>255,695.02</b>
<b><u>Memorial</u></b>		
Memorial Fund Checking	29,200.12	
Memorial Vanguard		<u>95,737.61</u>
<b>Memorial Fund Total</b>		<b>124,937.73</b>
Building Fund Checking	26,475.17	
Sunday School Fund Checking	12,839.45	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b><u>615,686.90</u></b>
Checking Acct Balance	<u>96,464.24</u>	
	<b>96,464.24</b>	
<b><u>LIABILITIES</u></b>		
Payroll Liabilities	2,747.38	
Misc. LCMS Orgs Fund		<u>46.00</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>2,793.38</b>
<b><u>Fund Balance</u></b>		
Net Income (Loss)	32,198.26	
Capital Accounts		<u>580,695.26</u>
<b>Total Fund Balance</b>		<b>612,893.52</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; FUND BALANCE</b>		<b><u>615,686.90</u></b>

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

**Plymouth Rock!**

**HI-LITES OF ST. JOHN'S VOTERS ASSEMBLY**  
**January 8, 2024**

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 Ray Barnes, seconded by Gary Pool, to approve the December Parish Report. Motion carried.

The December meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Diane Gould, seconded by Cheryl Ivey, to approve the December meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Rod Bollinger presented the December Treasurer's Report. December was an outstanding month for income. Overall loss for 2023 is around \$3,300.00. Spending for 2023 was less than what was budgeted. For 2024, budgeted expenses are \$418,639.00. We will need to budget our expenses well in 2024 or have an increase in contributions to avoid a deficit. Two unordinary expenses in December were for work on the HVAC system and the organ. Dave Kesselmayer also noted that going forward the monthly cleaning expense will be \$1,200.00 per month. Rod also indicated that as of the first of the year a new law took effect that guarantees all employees some paid leave. Leave would be earned at 1 hour for every 40 hours worked. Rod is investigating what action needs to be taken to put us into compliance with the new law. Rod will be attending a webinar on the topic.

A motion was made by Julie Wagner, seconded by Cheryl Ivey, to accept the December Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Board of Trustees – Dave Kesselmayer reported that the Trustees met last Tuesday. Dave is the chairman, Dane Watson is vice-chairman, and Steve Kesselmayer is the secretary. Dave indicated that the trustees are looking into quotes from other companies for insurance for the church. Previously we had raised deductibles to try to lower the premium. Dave indicated that the insurance company is raising deductibles anyway and the premium is going up around \$4,000.00. The copier contract comes up in April. The Trustees have a meeting with the salesperson this Wednesday.

We received a check from Share Crops for \$4,750.00. Tax papers were filed for the tax-exempt properties. The Trustees have decided to have a garage sale to raise funds for the new tables and chairs for the gym. The sale will be April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Donations can be put on the stage or if you need help transporting the items, please call the church. The new tables and chairs will cost around \$13,000.00 for 25 tables and 200 chairs. That number is close to what we originally had. Dave noted that some people have expressed interest in buying some of the old tables and chairs. The Trustees asked the assembly for permission to sell the old tables/chairs. Dave indicated that we would probably keep some of the darker brown tables as they are in better shape. Dave will make a list of the people interested on a first come, first serve basis. A motion was made by Tom Ivey, seconded by Jennifer Kesselmayer, to allow the Trustees to sell the old tables/chairs after we get the new ones. Motion carried.

Board of Elders – Tom Ivey reported that their next meeting will be Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, after the 10:30 service.

Board of Finance – No report.

Board of Christian Education – Mike Nauth read an update from Leslie Hauk. The committee met on January 7<sup>th</sup> and welcomed their new members.

Mike also reported that Joel Kilgus, principal of Good Shepherd Lutheran School, was going to attend the meeting but could not make it. Mike read an email from Joel stating that 'GSLs has hired Fellowship Development to help us retire this debt. This company will conduct a planning study to determine the overall ability of paying off this debt. The planning study will consist of communicating the importance of a Christian Education, interviews with multiple stakeholders, and building an importance of paying off the debt. Over the next few weeks, you may be contacted by a representative of Fellowship Development to talk about Good Shepherd. We ask that you are receptive to this so we can get the quality data we need to be able to move forward with a new Capital Campaign.'

Board of Worship – Julie Wagner reported that the committee met and elected officers. Julie is the new chair, Paul Tackmann is the treasurer, and Jim Lonergan is secretary. Julie indicated that they have received the new green parament and that it looks nice. The committee is still looking for 1 more person. If you are interested, please let Julie know.

Board of Evangelism – Tracy Glass reported that the committee would appreciate volunteers to welcome members before services. Tracy indicated that they also need an

additional person to fill out the committee.

Board of Stewardship – No report.

Long Range Planning Committee – No report.

Educational Grant Fund Committee – Ross Gould reported that for the last several months he has been working on some changes to the Educational Grant Fund policy. Most of the changes are under the Purpose section. Ross indicated that these are his initial thoughts and that a meeting with the committee would need to take place. The updated wording proposed is as follows (changes are underlined): Purpose – The primary purpose of the Educational Grant Fund is to assist members of St. John in their training in one of the ministries to serve the Lord in His work. The secondary purpose is to support other ministry of GSLS or as voted on by our Voters Assembly meeting. The balance of this document only covers the primary purpose of this fund. Under the Receipts section the first sentence would be updated to read: The fund shall be financed only by contributions, memorial so designated, special projects, and income from investments.

East Bluff Property Committee – No report.  
Secretary

Constitution By-laws Committee – No report.

Unfinished business – No report

New business – Nancy Swearingen has volunteered to be on the Stewardship Committee and Sandy Tennell has volunteered to be on the Worship Committee. A motion was made by Dave Kesselmayer, seconded by Ross Gould, to accept Nancy and Sandy to these committees. Motion carried.

Steve Kesselmayer indicated that we are looking into extending the Wi-fi in the building. He will check with Brian Ford to see what will need to be done.

A motion was made by Gary Pool, seconded by Julie Wagner, to close the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wagner  
Secretary

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

To: St. John’s Lutheran Church,  
Thank you for your generosity and partnering with Children’s Home to help provide Christmas for the kids and families we work with. The families are very grateful. Thank you for supporting our families. Sincerely, The Children’s Home & the families we serve.

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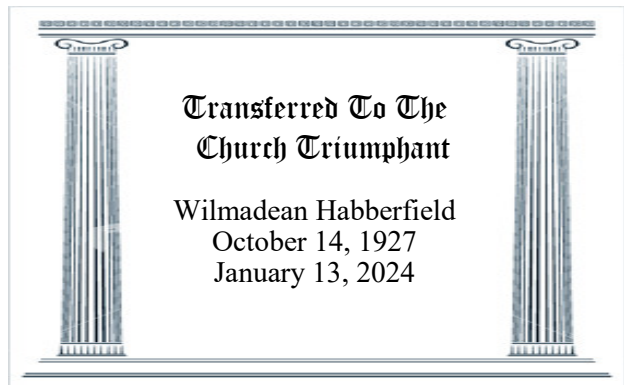
**Shelf-life of Foods for Storage**

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



## Women in Faith—LWML

St. John's Women in Faith LWML will meet on Saturday, February 4, at 10:00 a.m. in the church basement.

All ladies of the congregation are welcome .

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**Ewe's Treasures Resale Shop and Ewe's Home Furnishings** both have had a record year of sales in 2023 and donated \$117,750 to Good Shepherd Lutheran School! Thank you to everyone who donated, volunteered and supported our stores! Without you and your support this would not have been possible!

We are in need of good quality, used furniture and home furnishings. If you would like to donate or volunteer please contact Penny Bollinger at 309.231.7180.

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**AN ALL CHURCH GARAGE SALE** – Cleaning out your house or garage? Donate your used items to St. John's. All proceeds will go towards the purchase of new tables and chairs for the gym.

If you can't transport your items yourself, please call Dave Kesselmayer @ 309-280-0069 or Kathy Heisel @ 309-241-5660. We'll make arrangements to come and pick up. Computers, T.V.'s, large appliances are excluded.

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**SHUT-INS for 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 February are: Lucille Benker, Cedar Hurst of Pekin, 2700 S. 14th St., Apt. 108, Pekin; Viola Deppert, Cedar Hurst of Pekin, 2700 S. 14th St., Apt. 120, Pekin; Macille Frevert, 1107 S. 4th, Pekin and Vernice Funk, Villas of Hollybrook, 2720 S. 14th St., Apt. 44, Pekin.

Thank you from your St. John's Ladies Guild

Our apologies to Florence McClure. She is at Timbercreek not Hallmark. We listed her at Hallmark in January's Journal.

**2023 Contribution Statements:** With the new tax laws most families/individuals are not able to file long forms for their taxes. Due to this ruling, we will not be issuing year end contribution statements, which is also a cost savings for the church. If anyone desires/ requires a statement, please contact Cheryl Ivey at 309-347-1504 or 309-253-8904. Thank you for your understanding. Financial Committee

## 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  
Pat Proehl  
Kellen Norman  
Lee Morgan  
Roy Dagit  
Susan Oliverius  
Suzanne Reising  
Scott Ruschmeyer  
Debbie Miller

Sandy Morgan  
Robert Rilea  
Jeff Ferree  
Addie Burling  
Eileen Tiona  
Virginia Tackmann  
Suzanne Reising  
Joyce Barnes  
Ray Garber  
John Durdle  
Sara Morgan  
Stefanie Wilson  
Keith Gleason  
Anna Knussman

## GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN SCHOOL

- Fri. Feb 9 Spaghetti Supper and Talent Show - 4:30 p.m.
- Fri. Feb 16 School Improvement Day (PK-8 early dismissal (PK @ 12 p.m.—K-8 @ 12:30 p.m.)
- Mon. Feb 19 No School — President's Day
- Sun. Feb 25 GSLS All School Choir to Sing at St. John's, Sand Prairie @ 10:45 a.m.
- Thurs. Feb 29 Parent Teacher Conferences 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The Spaghetti Supper will take the place of dining out for February.

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## Camp CILCA

**February 23-24—Act like Men — Woodcutters Retreat**

St. Paul admonishes the Christians of Corinth to "Act like men." Cutting tress, splitting wood, fellowship with other men, good food, and time tin God's word are all great ways to get started in this endeavor. You do not have to be skilled in using a chainsaw, hammer, or tractor to come to this event. Strong backs and eager hands are just as helpful.



(Address Service Requested)

# Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 185

## Solomon's Temple

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

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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