

St. John's Journal

Volume 50, Issue 4

LUTHERAN DISTINCTIVES

III. Lutherans believe that we are saved by God's grace alone. Part 1

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We take up another Scriptural truth that is distinctive of our Lutheran confession: We believe that we are saved by God's grace alone. When we speak of how God has earned and bestowed His gift of salvation upon us, all human merit and effort must be excluded. God alone is our Savior.

One important aspect of this truth is that man can neither earn nor apply to himself God's salvation. We recognize that human sinfulness makes it impossible for man to contribute anything to his own salvation.

Our Lord Jesus taught, "Most assuredly I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." *John 3:3* Obviously an infant does nothing to assist in his birth. Both his conception and his birth are the works of someone else. Luther aptly commented, "As little as a child contributes to its being born, so little do we contribute to our being spiritually born."

The apostle Paul likewise wrote, "Even when we were dead in trespasses, God made us alive together with Christ." *Ephesians 2:5* It goes without saying that dead people can do nothing. Paul also wrote, "The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." *1 Corinthians 2:14* God must make the person able to receive His gifts. Man in his natural, sinful condition is incapable of receiving them.

This is why we confess in our Small Catechism under the meaning of the Third Article of the Creed: "I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him." My sinfulness makes this impossible for me.

In the same way we Lutherans state in our Augsburg Confession: "But without the grace, help, and activity of the Holy Spirit, man is not capable of making himself acceptable to God, of fearing God and believing in God with his whole heart, or of expelling inborn evil desire from his heart." *XVIII:2*

We thank God that, though our sinfulness makes us unable to contribute anything to our salvation, we *need not* contribute anything to our salvation! God is our Savior! God has saved us sinners by His grace alone for the sake of Jesus Christ!

- Pastor Bishop



Christian Education

Sunday School

Perfect Attendance

February 2024

None

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

April 02

Jeff & Leslie Norman

April 05

Joe & Trina Szadkowski

April 10

Greg & Wendy McDonald

April 13

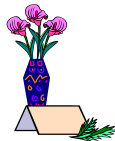
Eric & Paula Jensen

April 17

John & Althea Geiser

April 19

John & Ronda Adkins
Tim & Sandy Gay



April 25

Don & Valerie Dobbelaire

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



April 01

Randy Couch
Dan Rees

April 02

Brittany Allen
Randi Becker
Edward Gaitros

April 03

Dave Drockelman
Iris Gaitros
Greg Hall

April 04

Lindsey Dixon
Carter Stevenson

April 07

Lilly Daniels

April 08

Darrell Hansen
Dan Watson

April 09

Edyn Kammeyer
Jackie Nauth
Alicia Turner

April 11

Wilma Garber
Logan Schoch
Dane Watson

April 13

Jeff Norman

April 14

Shayla Kesselmayer

April 15

Bobby Gregory
Mark Scott
Mike Wagner



April 16

Dawn Bohannon
Jon Bolt

April 17

Alex Schmidgall

April 19

Mike Dixon, Sr.
Ron Reising
Doug Vogel

April 20

Cathy Ashbaker

April 21

Dave Becker
Kevin Dupent
Addison Nelson

April 22

Jim Buster
Michelle Gregory

April 23

Dan Dobbelaire
Lois Jarvis
Vanessa Watson

April 24

Lucille Benker
Ray Garber
Drew Jackson
Shirley McCoige
Maxine Oliverius
Paul Tackmann

April 25

Josh Donovan
Kingston Hamlet
Kathy Heisel

April 26

William Wiker III

April 27

Chris Ashbaker

April 28

Elaine Hapke
Andrea Yergler

April 29

Chris Bitner
Mikayla Wilson

April 30

Jon Becker
Diane Fornoff
Amy Swibold

If you know of someone in one of the Carle Health hospitals, please contact the church office. They are still working on their computer updates and are not able to tell us who is in the hospital unless we have a name to check on. Thank you.

Transferred To The Church Triumphant

Zair Kesselmayer
2/28/24
2/28/24

PARISH NOTES

Church Attendance

Feb 2024 **615** 15 services
 Feb 2023 **561** 13 services
 Feb 2022 **409** 12 services

Sunday School Attendance

Feb 2024: **252**
 Feb 2023: **293**
 Feb 2022: **260**

Videographers - April

Rod Bollinger

Worship Committee - April

Julie Wagner

April Communion Assistance

April 7

8:00 a.m. Ross Gould
 10:30 a.m. Jon Bolt

April 21

8:00 a.m.
 10:30 a.m.

Acolytes—April

April 14

10:30 a.m. Elizabeth Sayles

April 21

8:00 a.m. Elizabeth Sayles

Ushers - April

8:00 **10:30**

Jim Lonergan Brian Ford
 Scott Stalter Nate Ford
 Merle Wiseman Trent Hoover
 Brian Unbach



to all who donated Easter Lilies for our Easter services.

Ray & Joyce Barnes
 Don & Valerie Dobbelaire & Family
 Dave & Nancy Drockelman
 Michelle & Zach Ferguson
 Sandy Ferguson
 Valerie Ferguson
 Brian Fuelberth
 The Hoover Family
 Bob & Donna Hurst
 Tom & Cheryl Ivey
 Steve & Faye Kesselmayr
 Jim & Joyce Lonergan
 Jerry & Paula Norman
 Ruthanne Scott
 Scott & Michelle Stalter
 Terry & Nancy Swearingen
 Barb Theleritis
 Julie Wagner
 Linda Wagner
 Curt & Pam Woolsey



Adult Instruction Class:

Pastor bishop has a new Adult Instruction Class scheduled for Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00, beginning April 22. These classes discuss basic Christian teaching as confessed by the Lutheran Church, and can lead to church membership. They are also a helpful and enjoyable review for those who are already members. If you wish to attend, or for more information, contact Pastor Bishop.

TREASURER'S REPORT

February 2024

	<u>February</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>
INCOME	27,603.03	51,943.06
EXPENSES	34,434.08	64,366.93
INCOME-EXPENSES	(\$ 6,831.05)	(\$12,423.87)
General Fund		15,320.05
General Fund Total		15,320.05
Ed Grant Fund Checking	1,948.56	
Ed Grant CD LCMS 12/21	51,928.87	
Ed Grant CD LCMS 12/22	51,900.80	
Ed Grant Fund #2-Vanguard	63,277.97	
Educational Fund Total	169,056.20	
East Bluff Property-Vanguard	38,525.22	
East Bluff CD LCMS 12/21	53,808.61	
East Bluff CD LCMS 12/22	53,837.70	
Cat Stock at FMV	110,815.44	
East Bluff Property Fund	256,986.97	
Memorial Fund Checking	31,185.12	
Memorial Vanguard	94,711.24	
Memorial Fund Total	125,896.36	
Building Fund Checking	27,582.12	
S S Fund Checking	12,902.70	
TOTAL ASSETS	607,744.36	
Checking Account Balance	88,938.51	
TOTAL	88,938.51	
LIABILITIES		
Payroll Liabilities	2,816.40	
Misc LCMS Orgs Fund	101.00	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	2,917.40	
FUND BALANCE		
Net Income (Loss)	(8,066.56)	
Capital Accounts	612,893.52	
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	604,826.96	
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	\$607,744.36	

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

resumes Wednesday, April 3, at 7:00 in the basement classroom. We will continue our reading and discussion of 1 Peter, picking up at 2:6. Everyone is welcome.

HI-LITES OF ST. JOHN'S VOTERS ASSEMBLY
March 11, 2024

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

The February Parish Report was reviewed. A motion was made by Randy Couch, seconded by Ray Barnes, to approve the February Parish Report. Motion carried.

The February meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Julie Wagner, seconded by Ray Barnes, to approve the February meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Daryl Dagit presented the February Treasurer's Report. The net loss for the month was \$6,831.05. So far, year-to-date, the net loss stands at \$12,423.87. The CD's in the Educational Grant Fund come due in June. The CD's in the East Bluff Property Fund will also come due in June. Daryl indicated that if there are any plans to use any funds from these two funds, please let Rod Bollinger know so they can hold money out. Rod is working with the accountant to come up with a way to simplify the reporting of finances.

A motion was made by Tom Ivey, seconded by Ross Gould, to accept the February Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Board of Trustees – Dave Kesselmayer reported that the Trustees have heard back from the insurance companies. The companies either don't want to insure the church or can't beat the price that we are currently paying so we will continue insurance with Church Mutual. The Trustees are still waiting on other proposals for phone and internet. The group that cleans the church has been doing so for 90 days. They have re-evaluated the workload and have dropped the monthly cost from \$1,200 to \$950. A maintenance agreement was approved with Waldinger Corp for the maintenance of the boilers and air conditioners. The Rummage Sale is in 3 weeks. We have received a lot of donations. The copier for Sandy Ferguson's office is in and is up and running. The Trustees are going to have a work day coming up. The plan is to attach the pews in the chapel as when the flooring was replaced the pews were not re-attached. Mike Nauth thanked Steve and Dave Kesselmayer for painting the classrooms.

Board of Elders – Ross Gould reported that the board is still looking for a sixth member. Ross has contacted a couple of people and hopes they will find a volunteer. Member visitations continue. The Elders have made progress with some people returning to church.

The Elders discussed having a quarterly dinner similar to the bratwurst dinner that is held in the fall.

Board of Finance – Daryl indicated that the board will meet prior to June so the renewal of the CD's can be discussed.

Board of Christian Education – Leslie Hauk reported that the youth group activity for February was well attended. Eleven youth participated, representing St. John's Pekin, St. John's Sand Prairie, Trinity Pekin, and Trinity Manito. This month, on March 24th, we are inviting youth from the other churches again. There will be a devotion and a movie, followed by ice cream. Good Shepherd held a Kindergarten Round-Up on March 4th. The school musical was moved out to April. Spring break begins on Good Friday and goes through April 7th. The annual auction will be held on April 27th. Mike Nauth noted that there are 26 students signed up for kindergarten for the next school year. Therefore, the school is looking to hire another kindergarten teacher. The school also needs a teacher to teach 5th and 6th grades as well as a pre-school teacher and aide in addition to the kindergarten teacher. Mike noted that work continues on the survey to be sent out to see if it is feasible to start another capital campaign.

Board of Worship – Julie Wagner reported that the committee met on March 7th. Julie noted that Sandy Ferguson has already ordered the palms for Palm Sunday. With Mike Nauth moving, a new usher is needed. Vince Tennell has found a replacement. The committee is still looking for an additional member. The committee is still looking for a pianist to accompany the choir. Julie has contacted Bradley University to see if a music student would like to pick up some extra money but has not heard back.

Board of Evangelism – Pastor Bishop reported that the meeting had to be postponed but will take place next week.

Board of Stewardship – No report.

Long Range Planning Committee – No report.

Educational Grant Fund Committee – Ross Gould handed out updates to the Educational Grant Fund wording. The changes take place under the 'Purpose' section. (Alterations 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 Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Pekin or other Educational ministries affiliated with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, as approved on by our Voters Assembly. The balance of this document only covers the primary purpose of this fund. Also, the section under funds was altered as follows: The fund shall be financed only by contributions, memorials so designated, special projects, and income from investments.

A motion was made by Ross Gould, seconded by Tom Ivey, to adopt the changes as proposed in the document. Motion carried.

East Bluff Property Committee – No report.

Constitution By-laws Committee – No report.

Unfinished business – Bob Oliverius asked about the contribution statements and whether, as reported in the last meeting, they will be mailed out. Cheryl Ivey indicated that she had not had a chance to talk with Rod. If you need a statement for tax purposes, please let Cheryl know. Bob also asked about reporting of QCD's on the contribution statements. The Finance Committee will investigate this further. With Mike Nauth moving, his position on the TSLA board will be vacated. John Neumann was the only person nominated to fill the position. A motion was made by Tom Ivey, seconded by Ross Gould, to allow Mike Nauth to vacate the position on the TSLA board and allow John Neumann to fill the vacated position. Motion carried.

New business – Tom Ivey inquired as to whether there was a way to track motions that have been made. Currently, the only way to find out if a motion was made/approved, is to call Sandy and have her search past meeting minutes. Options could include having a spreadsheet to track this information.

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

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wagner
Secretary

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MARCH LIBRARY CORNER
By Eileen Tiona



"Jesus thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in Him." John 2:11.

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.

#####

How do you stop a bull from charging?
Cancel its credit card!

Why did the picture go to jail?
It was framed!



Lutherans for Life sent a thank you letter for our donation to them.

Thank you again for your wonderful gift and also for keeping the Seminar and its future servants of Christ in your prayers. Vicki Biggs, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Received a thank you letter from Lutheran Heritage Foundation for our donation.

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LCMSFoundation

A good gift plan can present solutions to challenging family dynamics.

Years ago, a husband and wife were meeting with their LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor. Both had been married before, as their spouses had been called home to Jesus. Each of them brought children into the relationship. The assets they brought were not equal. Urged by the advice of various people, they began considering a way in which they could isolate their assets from each other, creating multiple trusts. Complicating matters, because they truly loved each other, they wanted to provide for each other when the first of them was called home. They felt uncomfortable about such absolute separation of their assets if they truly were going to share their lives as "one flesh", in keeping with the model of marriage from Genesis 1. They laid out a complicated stream of thoughts before the LCMS Gift Planning Counselor. After a lengthy conversation, the gift planning counselor noticed an interesting phenomenon about their assets relative to family. Coming into this marriage, one spouse had twice as many financial assets as the other. That same spouse with the greater assets also had twice as many children as the other spouse. The ratio made sense. If they combined their assets and equally divided them among all their children, each child would receive the same amount as if they had put in place a complicated legal set of trusts to separate their assets. The Gift Planning Counselor conveyed a message to their attorney, and they emerged from that attorney with a simple plan that made them feel content. The plan they created together also allowed them to make some gifts to support ministry in the future. In addition, this plan did not foster an imposed separation between their children.

Taking the time for extended conversation and prayer allowed this couple to discern the right thing to do, rather than pursuing plans that would be expensive, complicated, and less than satisfying. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor is available to meet with you in the same way. Contact Scott Radden at (618) 977-4049 or Scott.Radden@lfnf.org for more information or to start your plan.



Church Rummage Sale: St. John's members only early bird sale, Thursday, April 4 from 1 to 5:00 p.m.

Rummage Sale will be Friday, April 5th and Saturday, April 6th from 9:00 to 3:00 p.m.

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In May the Youth Group will help senior members of the congregation with spring cleanup and other helpful chores. So watch for the date and contact us if you would like help with yard work, etc.

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St. John's LWML Women in Faith

Will be collecting items to give our church shut ins. If you wish to donate any of the following items, please bring them to the church by May 4th. A box will be available on the pew in the new addition.

Items are: large print word search, pens/pencils, snacks (also diabetic friendly ones), lip balm, tissues, and lotions (scent free or regular).

Thank you.

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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 April are: Ellen Morrison, Villas of Hollybrook Memory Care, 2720 S. 14th St., #18, Pekin; Loretta Newman, Sunset Rehab & Health Care, 129 S. 1st Ave., Canton 61520; Hazel Nichols, 1106 S. 8th, Pekin and Sharon Parry, 1721 Valle Vista, Pekin.

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

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

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 |
| Robert Rilea | Jeff Ferree |
| Peggy Farlin | Debbie Miller |
| Marlana Montgomery | Addie Burling |
| Julie Rilea | Eileen Tiona |
| Gabriella Kesselmayr | Virginia Tackmann |
| Pat Proehl | Suzanne Reising |
| Kellen Norman | Joyce Barnes |
| Lee Morgan | Ray Garber |
| Roy Dagit | John Durdle |
| Suzanne Reising | Stefanie Wilson |
| Scott Ruschmeyer | Keith Gleason |
| Anna Knussman | Butch Williams |
| Hayden Jackson | Megan Gould |
| Bobby Gregory | Marilee Gregory |

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN SCHOOL

April 1 - 7 Spring Break -No School

April 8 Students & Staff return/classes resume

April 19 School Improvement Day (PK-8 Early Dismissal Pre-K 12 p.m. k-8 12:30 pm.)

April 21 GSLS All School Choir to Sing at St. John's, Pekin @ 10:30 a.m.

April 27 GSLS Auction at the Paradise Ballroom

HELP WANTED!!! GSLS is looking for a 5/6 Grade Teacher, a Kindergarten Teacher, a PreK Teacher, and a PreK Aide for the 24/25 school year. If you know of anyone interested, please have them send a letter of interest and resume to Mr. Kilgus. Email is jkilgus@goodshepherdpekin.com

Save the Date...Vacation Bible School will be held at GSLS from June 9 to 13, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. More information to come.

Only a month away until the Good Shepherd Lutheran School 18th annual Benefit Auction "Rewind to the 80's with Ewe!" Please get your reservations in soon. Tickets are \$50 per person; forms are available at the churches and at the office at GSLS. Be certain to select your entree choice of: Chicken OR Pot Roast OR Vegetarian.

(Address Service Requested)

Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 251

Matt.9:33-10:10

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

Apostles Chosen

AMAZED	ANDREW
FREELY	APOSTLES
HEAL	CLEANSE
HEAVEN	CROWDS
ISRAEL	DISEASE
JAMES	ISCARIOT
JESUS	JOURNEY
JOHN	KINGDOM
JUDAS	PREACH
PETER	MATTHEW
PHILIP	MESSAGE
PRINCE	SANDALS
RAISE	SHEPHERD
SHEEP	TEACHING
SIMON	THOMAS
SPIRITS	ZEBEDEE
SPOKE	TWELVE
TUNIC	ZEALOT
THADDAEUS	

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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