

May, 2024

A Monthly Newsletter of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

St. John's Journal

Volume 50, Issue 5

LUTHERAN DISTINCTIVES

III. Lutherans believe that we are saved by God's grace alone.
Part 2

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It is distinctive of Lutherans to understand that God saves us sinners by His grace alone. By “grace” we mean His character of love and favor toward us, which we do not deserve.

Our Lord Jesus taught this plainly in His parable of the unmerciful servant. A servant owed his king a huge debt, “and out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.” *Matthew 18:27* The king's pity points us to God's grace; He forgives us purely out of His compassion for us debtors.

Peter said of the Gentiles, “But we believe that we shall be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they were.” *Acts 15:11* Paul wrote these famous words to the Ephesians: “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.” 2:8 He also wrote, “They are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus. *Romans 3:24*

Martin Luther stated it like this: “Grace consists in this, that God is merciful to us, shows Himself gracious for the sake of the Lord Christ, forgives all sins, and will not impute them unto us for eternal death. This is grace: the forgiveness of sins for the sake of the Lord Christ, the covering up of all sins.”

Because of these and many other clear passages of Scripture, we Lutherans declare in our Confessions: “It is taught among us that we... receive forgiveness of sin and become righteous before God by grace, for Christ's sake, through faith, when we believe that Christ suffered for us and that for His sake our sin is forgiven and righteousness and eternal life are given to us.” *Augsburg Confession IV:1-2*

We also confess in the Smalcald Articles: “The whole man, in respect both of his person and of his works, shall be accounted and shall be righteous and holy through the pure grace and mercy which have been poured out upon us so abundantly in Christ.” *XIII:2*

You understand, then why *sola gratia* – grace alone – is one of the hallmarks of Reformation doctrine. God clearly teaches us in the Bible that He has saved us by His pure mercy and compassion in Christ – by His grace alone! His wonderful doctrine assures us our salvation is secure, and gives all the glory to our gracious Savior God!

- Pastor Bishop

Christian Education

- Matthew
- Mark
- Luke
- John

Sunday School
Perfect Attendance
March 2024

None

MAY BIRTHDAYS



May 01

Lyle Smith

May 02

Elijah Kesselmayr
Jayson Memken

May 03

Jaylynn Fahnestock
Lainey Jensen
Cory Pfanz
Julie Wagner

May 07

Jordan Snoble

May 08

Janelle Hopping
Tracy Glass

May 09

Shana Friedinger

May 10

Elizabeth Ward
Emily Ward
Lori Fricke Schiavone

May 11

Shirley Wendland

May 12

Jeremy Winstead

May 13

Keith Gleason
Diane Lee
Nancy Swearingen

May 14

Jacob Gould
Trevor Rodriguez
Ann Wilson
Pamela Woolsey

May 15

Lennon Blome

May 16

Sheryll Hillman

May 17

LeeAnn Walsh

May 18

Del Beideck
Renee Hayden
Micaylan McDonald

May 19

Lance Anderson
Paula Jensen

May 20

Matthew Buster

May 21

Paul Widby

May 22

Marcia Hubbs

May 23

Wendy McDonald

May 24

Debra Pitchford

May 25

Alexis Daniels

May 26

Cailin Wilson

May 27

Melissa Flatley
Jordan Jensen
Amanda Webb

May 28

Barbara Rosa

May 29

Dale Schott, Jr.
Ruthanne Scott
Kelley Ward

May 30

Joel Bonnette
Noah Dingerson
Sharon Ives

**MAY
ANNIVERSARIES**

May 06

Robert & Donna Hurst
Jeff & Susan Jackson

May 14

Paul & Shantel Tackmann

May 23

Steve & Jane Heberer

May 26

Jim & Sheri McCann

May 30

Rodney & Penny Bollinger

PARISH NOTES



Church Attendance

Mar 2024 - **897** - **20** services
 Mar 2023 - **634**- **17** services
 Mar 2022 - **708** - **17** services

Sunday School Attendance

Through Mar 2024: 382
 Through Mar 2023: 421
 Through Mar 2022: 377

Videographers — May

Jim Lonergan

Worship Committee— May

Sandy Tennell

Elders

Communion Assistance

May 5

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

May 9

7:00 p.m. Jon Bolt

May 10

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



THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

The Festival falls on Thursday, May 9, this year.

Ushers – May

8:00

Jerry Bohannan
 Randy Couch
 Noah Kesselmayr
 Steven Kesselmayr

10:30

Jacob Gould
 Ross Gould

Acolytes—May

May 5

10:30 a.m. Elizabeth Sayles

May 19

8:00 a.m. Elizabeth Sayles

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 May are:

Sheryl Riley, UAW Apartments, 444 S. Parkway Dr., Pekin Butch Williams, 2702 Willow, Pekin, Mary Beck, Cedarhurst of Pekin, 2700 S. 14th St., #214, Pekin, and Lucille Benker, Cedarhurst of Pekin, 2700 S. 14th St., #108, Pekin

Thank you St. John's Ladies Guild.

TREASURER'S REPORT

March, 2024

	<u>March</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>
<u>INCOME</u>	35,727.50	87,670.56
<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>24,065.57</u>	<u>88,432.50</u>
<u>INCOME-EXPENSES</u>	<u>(11,661.93)</u>	<u>\$ (761.94)</u>
General Fund		31,660.03
General Fund Total		31,660.03
Ed Grant Fund Checking	1,948.56	
Ed Grant CD LCMS 12/21	51,863.96	
Ed Grant CD LCMS 12/22	51,835.93	
Ed Grant Fund #2-Vanguard	<u>63,583.61</u>	
Educational Fund Total		169,232.06
East Bluff Property-Vanguard	38,711.33	
East Bluff CD LCMS 12/21	53,741.35	
East Bluff CD LCMS 12/22	53,770.40	
Cat Stock at FMV	<u>135,213.73</u>	
East Bluff Property Fund		281,436.81
Memorial Fund Checking	32,160.12	
Memorial Vanguard	<u>95,169.77</u>	
Memorial Fund Total		127,329.89
Building Fund Checking	28,817.08	
S S Fund Checking	<u>12,982.70</u>	
TOTAL ASSETS		651,458.57
Checking Account Balance	107,568.49	
TOTAL		107,568.49
LIABILITIES		
Payroll Liabilities	2,903.29	
Misc LCMS Orgs Fund	<u>119.01</u>	
TOTAL LIABILITIES		3,022.30
FUND BALANCE		
Net Income (Loss)	35,542.75	
Capital Accounts	<u>612,893.52</u>	
TOTAL FUND BALANCE		648,436.27
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE		\$651,458.57

**ST. JOHNS'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
VOTERS ASSEMBLY MINUTES
April 8, 2024**

Mike Nauth called the meeting to order. A quorum was not present so all motions will be held over until next month's meeting. Pastor Bishop opened with devotions.

The March Parish Report was reviewed.

The March meeting minutes were reviewed.

Treasurer's Report – Rod Bollinger presented the March Treasurer's Report. March was a strong month for contributions. Income for the month was \$35,727.50 with expenses of \$24,065.57. While the report shows that our deficit has been reduced to less than \$1,000, it was noted that the payment to Good Shepherd Lutheran School did not appear on the check register so that will alter the financial numbers shown on the report to a deficit of approximately \$9,000.00. The Cat stock in the East Bluff Property Fund has jumped significantly during the first quarter of the year. Of the items on the check register the only non-ordinary payment was for plumbing work at Ewe's Home Furnishings.

Board of Trustees – Dave Kesselmayr reported that in the early 2000's the church received a bequeath from the Fornoff family. The family has found out that there are additional assets and have asked the church to sign release papers for the bequeath. Dave is unsure whether this will further benefit the church. The Trustees have signed a contract with Stratus for \$325.00 a month for a 3-year contract covering 3 phone lines and internet service with a bandwidth increase to 500MB. The Trustees will have a work day on April 20th. One item being handled is anchoring down the pews in the chapel. The water lines have been fixed at Ewe's Home Furnishings. The walls in the restrooms have been repaired and painted. New flooring will be installed. The plumbers will then reset the fixtures. An outside faucet has also been added. The rummage sale was a huge success! \$9,246.05 has been raised to cover the purchase of the tables and chairs. This is enough to purchase the tables and chairs. The Trustees would also like to use \$400.00 of the proceeds for new mulch for the church. The remainder will be going into the building fund for future remodeling. There are issues with the timer that controls the lights on the flag and display case. The Trustees are going to have an electrician install an electric eye instead. It was inquired if the old tables and chairs will be sold. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the gym if you are interested in either. The Trustees will decide what they will do with the old tables. Mike Nauth also thanked everyone involved with donating, setting up and working at the sale.

Board of Elders – Ross Gould reported that the Elders helped a family with an utility payment.

The church is looking at having a pot luck dinner on May 19th. Ross indicated that in the future there will be a survey included in the bulletin regarding the capital campaign proposed for Good Shepherd Lutheran School. This will help reach people that the school does not have regular contact with. The Elders are still reaching out to people to encourage them to come back to church. The Elders are still in need of an additional member for the board.

Board of Finance – Rod reported that Nancy Drockelman has been named chair of the committee. Last month it was reported that the CD's in the Educational Fund and the East Bluff Property fund were coming due this year. Last year these CD's were converted early and will not come due until March of 2025.

Board of Christian Education – No report.

Board of Worship – Julie Wagner reported that the committee met last Thursday. The committee is still looking for another member. An accompanist is still needed for the choir. Julie has not received any response back from inquiries made to Bradley University. It was brought up that there are no altar cloths in the chapel. Jim Lonergan has investigated the cost with the company where we bought the altar cloth for the sanctuary. The committee is also looking into the cost of buying the fabric and appliques that we can apply ourselves. The committee will be handing out carnations on Mother's Day.

Board of Evangelism – Tracy Glass reported that we are planning to host another potluck on Sunday, May 19th. More details will be provided later in the May newsletter and on the St. John's Facebook page. The committee is encouraging individuals to sign up to be greeters at our Sunday morning services. The committee is exploring the feasibility of creating a new church directory with updated photos. There is still a position open on the board that they are looking to fill. If anyone is interested, please let the board know.

Board of Stewardship – The meeting has been postponed until a later date.

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 – Mike Nauth reported that there is a position open on the Good Shepherd school board. Someone has expressed interest in serving and there may be another possible candidate. This topic will be carried over to the May meeting as there was no quorum tonight.

New business – No new business.

continued on page 6

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wagner
Secretary

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Received thank you notes from the following:

Please receive our gratitude for your gift of \$83.34 Your fellowship and encouragement affirm that life issues involve real people, precious treasures, and not simply political controversy or personal choice. Lutherans for Life.



THANK YOU: On behalf of the family of Robert G. Pool, we'd like to express our heart felt thanks to Pastor Bishop and the congregation of St. John's, for all the prayers, cards and expressions of love during our loss. May God bless you all!! From Michelle Stalter & Gary Pool & families.

LIBRARY CORNER

By Eileen Tiona



" God saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit" Titus 3:5

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.

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YOUTH GROUP

Spring Clean Up Day—May 19, 2024

The Youth Group will do yard work, window washing, or other chores for seniors or other members of the congregation who could use our help.

Contact Pastor Bishop if you would like the Youth Group to help out around your home.

After we're done, we will come back to the church for pizza.

Mother's Day Diaper Shower: Peoria Area Lutherans for Life is sponsoring our annual diaper shower on Mother's Day, **May 12th**. The purpose is to collect as many disposable diapers and wipes as possible for infants and toddlers, as well as adult protective underwear for both men and women in any size for use by seniors. These will be distributed to local, charitable, life-affirming organizations. In past years, with your generosity, we have helped Aperion Care, Destiny for Women, Empower Life Center, Esther House, Living Alternatives Pregnancy Resource Center, Lutheran Hillside Village, Washington Christian Village, and Women's Care Center. May the Lord of life bless you as you help us make this event a success again this year.

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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 |
| Megan Gould | Paula Jensen |
| Rosetta Turner | Kathy Daly-Unfricht |
| Melvyn Gentry | Bob Hurst |

Thank Yous cont.

Received a thank you letter for our donation to Lutheran Heritage Foundation. Rev. Bishop & People of St. John's, Your special gift helps publish the story of Easter. Thank you. Rev. R. Rahn, Founder

Received a thank you letter from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis for our donation of \$166.66.

Camp CILCA

May 26 Hog Roast

- Adults \$10, Children \$8
- 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Pulled Port, sides, drinks & desserts!

May 24-26—Great CID Campout!

- **Outdoor recreation:** hiking, fishing, boating, swimming, disc golf, squishy ball, campfire devotions, Sunday worship for campers (10:30 a.m.) and Christian fellowship.
- **Beach:** open daily from 1 to 4 p.m.
- Campsites, cabins and hotel-style rooms in the Christian Growth Center are available. *Contact the camp office (217-487-7497 / camp@cilca.org) for reservations.*

Anytime: Resister for Summer Camp!

- **Preschool—4th grade:** Generations
- **1st 0 4th Grades:** Pathfinders
- **4th—6th Grades:** Bold Spirits, Aqua Week
- **6th—8th Grades:** Art, Drama & Athletics; Night Owl: Dauntless Souls
- **High School:** Intrepid Hearts, Junior Counselor, Joyful Hearts Volunteer

Find out more at www.cilca.org

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GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN SCHOOL

- May 10 School Improvement Day (PreK early dismissal @ 12 N — K-8 @ 12:30 p.m.
- May 28 Last day for Preschool,
- May 30 8th Grade Graduation Ceremony @ 6:30 p.m.
- May 31 Final Attendance Day (Early dismissal PreK @ 12 & K-8 @ 12:30 p.m.

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to all our grade school, high school and college graduates.

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LCMSFoundation

“My congregation won’t know what to do with a gift if I leave something from my estate.” That is where the conversation turned between two friends having coffee one afternoon. The other responded, “I thought our Church had an endowment fund. Have you considered giving to that?” “I hate to admit it, but I really don’t know what it is about. I’ve heard financial reports at congregational meetings, but it just seemed like numbers. It’s my fault, but I have never investigated what that fund does.”

This experience is quite common for many of us. Our world is so full of information that we have to decide about what we will consider and when we will consider it. It may be true that we haven’t spent much time thinking about charitable gifting from our estates and so we have not paid much attention to something like our congregation’s endowment fund, or future ministry fund.

So where do we start? Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor is trained to assist you in creating a gift plan that blesses the family you love and the ministries you care about. Part of that work for gifting to ministry might be some research, identifying the proper recipient of a gift from your estate. Maybe your questions are similar to what others have already asked. Or maybe the Gift Planning Counselor knows exactly who to ask. For assistance, contact Scott Radden at (618) 977-4049 or Scott.Radden@lfn.org for more information or to start your plan.

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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Opening day for Vacation bible School is Sunday, June 9 at 5:45 p.m. and will run through Thursday, June 13. Hours are 6 to 8 p.m.

A team is need to prepare, serve and clean up after snack. Please contact Sandy Tennell at 309-202-9302 if you can help.

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711 Court St.
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Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 259

Matt.12:29-40

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Sign of Jonah

BELLY	ACCOUNT
BRINGS	AGAINST
BROOD	ANSWERED
CARRY	ANYONE
DAYS	ANYTHING
EARTH	CARELESS
EITHER	FORGIVEN
EVERY	GATHER
EXCEPT	JUDGMENT
FRUIT	OVERFLOW
JONAH	PHARISEES
MOUTH	PROPHET
SPEAKS	SPOKEN
SPIRIT	STORED
UNLESS	STRONG
VIPERS	TEACHER
WICKED	SCATTERS

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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