

St. John's Journal

Volume 50, Issue 6

LUTHERAN DISTINCTIVES

III. Lutherans believe that we are saved by God's grace alone. Part 3

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It is distinctive of Lutherans to confess clearly the Biblical truth that we are saved by God's grace alone. This includes the happy truth that *even our conversion to faith in Christ is God's doing, purely by His grace*. Faith in Jesus Christ is not an achievement accomplished by man's will or human decision. No one ever became a Christian by making a personal decision to accept Jesus as his Lord and Savior. Rather, saving faith is itself a gift of God, a relationship of trust in Jesus established by the merciful working of the Holy Spirit through the gospel.

Our Lord Jesus said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him." *John 6:44* He also told His disciples, "You did not choose Me, but I chose you." *John 15:16* These words hold true for all believers in Jesus. We come to Him only by God the Father's drawing. We are Jesus' disciples only because He chose us as such. This is why John says at the beginning of his Gospel that the children of God are "begotten not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God." *1:13* It is God's act, not ours, that makes us His children.

God does this work according to the plan He has had for us before He even created the world! He already knew He would send Jesus to save the world, that He would cause the good news of this salvation to come to us, and that He would work in us to believe that good news of Jesus. This is why Luke describes the people in Pisidian Antioch who believed in the Lord Jesus in this manner: "And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of God; and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed." *Acts 13:48* Note that they believed in Jesus because God had already appointed them for this. That is grace alone!

Along those same lines the apostle Paul wrote to the Ephesians: "In love He destined us to be His sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will, to the praise of His glorious grace which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved." *1:5-6* Again we hear how God had already chosen to make people His own dear sons in Jesus Christ, purely by His grace.

Because of what God teaches us in the Bible, we Lutherans confess in our Formula of Concord:

"The Holy Spirit is present with this Word and opens hearts so that, like Lydia in Acts 16:14, they heed it and thus are converted solely through the grace and power of the Holy Spirit, for man's conversion is the Spirit's work alone. Without His grace our 'will and effort,' our planting, sowing, and watering are in vain unless He 'gives the growth.' Christ also states, 'Apart from Me you can do nothing.' In these few words He denies all power to free will and ascribes everything to the grace of God, so that no one might boast in the presence of God."

Epitome II:5-6

As believers in Jesus Christ, we have every reason to praise God for the gift of saving faith in Him. The Holy Spirit brought us to trust in Jesus, made us children of God, and thus gives us certainty of our salvation. Acts of human will and personal decision are acts of sinners and therefore flawed and uncertain. Acts of God are unfailingly reliable! So for the certainty of our salvation, and to the praise of God's name alone, we joyfully confess that by His grace alone, God brought us to saving faith in Jesus Christ!

- Pastor Bishop

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

Christian Education

Sunday School

Perfect Attendance

April 2024

None

JUNE BIRTHDAYS



June 01

Nate Ford

June 02

Terri Grimm
Curt Woolsey

June 03

Jennifer Decker

June 04

Jody Benson
Brian Johnson

June 05

Molly Hicks
Robert Hurst

June 06

Lois Becker
Rachel Glassey

June 07

Horst Hupke
Derrick Norman

June 08

Joli Andrae
Eric Jensen
Shelly Justi
Parker Ruder



June 09

Vera Bozdech

June 10

Aiden Harms
Tisha Harms

June 11

Austin Walls

June 12

Alissa Heisel
Dylan Kesselmayr

June 14

Donna Hurst

June 15

Shane Beeney
Madison Sego
Elizabeth Shaw

June 16

Martin Matthews
Ellen Morrison

June 17

Joshua Hillman
Tracy Lundeen

June 18

Nancy Brown
Gregory Burris

June 19

Nona Buster
Briella Hoover
Stephanie Lundberg

June 20

Roman Harley

June 21

Alexander Jackson
Annelize Johnson

June 22

Nichelle Gauger
Jim McCann
Ashley O'Brien
Mickey Pitchford

June 23

Willa Hinkley

June 24

Jennifer Leach

June 25

Zachary Ferguson
Olivia Theleritis

June 26

Stephanie Edmiston
Janie Spelbring
William Wiker Jr.

June 27

Joy Rusk

June 29

Jennifer Neal

June 30

Marty Bohannan
Paula Norman
Ryann Wilson
Carson Winstead

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

June 03

Greg & Tonya Burris

June 06

Jerry & Caralee
Bohannan

June 12

John & Vera Bozdech

June 13

Daniel & Jennifer Leach

June 16

Jeremy & Lena Otey

June 17

Dave & Jennifer
Kesselmayr

June 18

Wallace & Julie
Hammond

June 19

Cody & Vanessa Watson

June 21

Joseph & Ricki Belcher

June 23

Dean & Linda Cooper

June 24

Ray & Wilma Garber

June 26

Jeremy & Tisha Harms

June 27

Alan & Kim Gudzinskas

June 29

Dylan & Hannah
Kesselmayr
Dave & Kathleen Miller

PARISH NOTES



Church Attendance

April 2024— **457** —12 serv.
 April 2023— **818** —17 serv.
 April 2022— **716** —15 serv.

Sunday School Attendance Year-to-Date

April 2024: **498**
 April 2023: **559**
 April 2022: **508**

Videographer— June

Zane Dobbelaire

Worship Committee— June

Paul Tackmann

Acolytes—June

June 2

10:30 Elizabeth Sayles

June 16

8:00 Elizabeth Sayles

June 30

10:30 Elizabeth Sayles

Ushers—June

8:00

Ray Barnes
 Dave Kesselmayer
 Garret Kesselmayer

10:30

Brian Lundeen
 Mike Nauth

If you know of someone in one of the Carle Health hospitals, please call the church office. At this time they are not able to let us know. Thank you.

Elders Communion Assistance

June 2

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

June 16

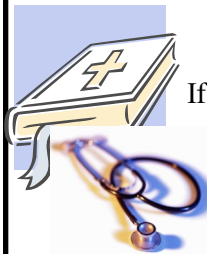
8:00 a.m. Randy Couch
 10:30 a.m. Brian Ford

June 30

8:00 a.m. Tom Ivey
 10:30 a.m. Jon Bolt

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HOSPITALIZATIONS AND HOME COMMUNION VISITS



If you or someone from your family is hospitalized or scheduled to go into the hospital, please contact the church office, so that Pastor Bishop knows

about it and can visit you in the hospital. The hospitals do not contact us. Sandy calls the hospitals on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays to find out if there are any St. John's members there. If you tell them when you are admitted that you are a St. John's member, you will likely be on their list. So please help us stay informed so Pastor can serve you.

If you or someone else you know in the congregation has difficulty getting to church and needs to be on the Home Communion list, even if just for a while, please contact the church office, so that Pastor Bishop can visit you. This is an important part of his pastoral work, and he wants to do his best to serve everyone in need.

Thank you for your help with this.

TREASURER'S REPORT April, 2024



	April	Y-T-D
INCOME	31,279.92	118,950.48
EXPENSES	41,961.67	130,394.17
INCOME-EXPENSES	\$(10,681.75)	\$(11,443.69)

General Fund	21,410.30
General Fund Total	21,410.30

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	62,503.65
Educational Fund Total	168,152.10

East Bluff Property-Vanguard	38,152.81
East Bluff CD LCMS 12/21	53,741.35
East Bluff CD LCMS 12/22	53,770.40
Cat Stock at FMV	123,457.39
East Bluff Property Fund	269,121.95

Memorial

Memorial Fund Checking	31,210.12
Memorial Vanguard	93,805.42
Memorial Fund Total	125,015.54

Building Fund Checking	31,063.33
S.S. Fund Checking	13,020.85

TOTAL ASSETS	\$627,784.07
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Checking Account Balance	98,653.16
TOTAL	98,653.16

LIABILITIES

Payroll Liabilities	2,770.51
Misc LCMS Orgs Fund	138.01
TOTAL LIABILITIES	2,908.52

FUND BALANCE

Net Income (Loss)	11,982.03
Capital Accounts	612,893.52
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	624,875.55

TOTAL LIABILITIES &

FUND BALANCE	\$627,784.07
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Recycling Do's:

- Do recycle all empty bottles (no glass)
- Do keep food and liquid out of recycling.
- Do keep plastic bags and film out of recycling.

**HI-LITES OF ST. JOHN'S
VOTERS ASSEMBLY
May 13, 2024**

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

A motion by Dave Kesselmayr, seconded by Tom Ivey, was made to approve the March and April 2024 Parish Reports – motion carried. A motion by Randy Couch, seconded by Ross Gould, was made to approve the March and April 2024 minutes - motion carried

Treasurer's Report – Rod Bollinger presented the April 2024 Treasurer's Report and noted that two tuition payments for Good Shepherd Lutheran School were made in April as well as the new tables and chairs that were purchased for the gym from the proceeds of the church rummage sale. A motion was made by Nancy Drockelman, seconded by Tom Ivey, to approve the March and April 2024 Treasurer's Report - motion carried.

Board of Trustees – Dave Kesselmayr reported that the final amount received for the church's rummage sale was \$9,639.05. The tables and chairs are all at the church and cost approximately \$8,000. A motion was made by Dave, seconded by Bob Oliverius, to use \$400 of the remaining \$1,639.05 for the purchase of mulch for the church's flower beds. The Trustees will find storage for the tables and chairs.

Steve Kesselmayr met with Stratus last week and Stratus will let the Trustees know when they can install new fiber and the Trustees can do their prep work.

The Trustees would like to have the bell tower repaired this fall if the Board of Finance believes it is possible.

Board of Elders – Ross Gould reported that the Elders assisted with three requests for utilities and rent, will be having a pork chop/potluck after second service on Sunday, May 19, and continue reaching out to inactive members.

Board of Finance – No report.

Board of Christian Education – John Neumann reported that the School Board will meet on May 21 to further discuss a capital campaign. If the Board decides to move forward, the Campaign would start in August and run for approximately 20 weeks. GSLS calendar was extended for ½ day to cover a snow day taken previously.

Laura Dobbelaire reported that the activity in May will be to assist seniors with yard work.

Board of Worship – No report.

Board of Evangelism – The Committee is meeting tomorrow, May 14.

Board of Stewardship – No report.

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 – There is a TLISA Board position needed to be filled. A motion was made by Mike Nauth, seconded by Ross Gould, to nominate Sandy Tennell for this position - motion carried.

New Business – Pastor Bishop expressed his thanks on behalf of the congregation to Mike Nauth for serving as President of the Congregation as well as other duties that he accepted. Ross Gould will chair the June meeting. Mike thanked the congregation for their support.

Bob Oliverius made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Tom Ivey, motion carried and the meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Ivey for Linda Wagner
Secretary

JUNE'S LIBRARY CORNER
by Eileen Tiona

You have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God." 1 Peter 1:23

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.

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LCMSFoundation:

Most of the congregations that the Apostle Paul planted on his missionary journeys did not last for centuries. It may very well be that ministries in the Lord's Church are meant to be changing and nimble to reach the world as it changes.

Nonetheless, we often become attached to ministries that have played a significant role in our life in the Kingdom of God. Maybe those ministries have been connected with our families for multiple generations. We thank God for the spiritual blessings, but can't help but feel a twinge of sadness as what we knew in the past, passes away in the present.

That sense of change in this fast-paced world may make us apprehensive about planning gifts for future ministry. Maybe that apprehension is the Lord's sign to you to consider making some ministry gifts today, instead of waiting until He calls you home. Yet some of your assets might not be available for a gift until that glorious day. What plan makes sense for you? More importantly, what is the eternal plan for which God has placed His gifts in your life to manage?

Talking about these plans and praying about them is the way in which we arrive at confidence about what to do. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can be your friend to walk with you on this journey. For help, contact Scott Radden at (618) 977-4049 or Scott.Radden@lfnd.org for more information or to start your plan.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED for First thru Fifth grades, starting Sept. 1. If interested contact Leslie Hauk @ 309-265-2759.

The Board of Elders needs your help updating our shut-in list. If you know of anyone who should be on the list, please call the church office (347-2136) and provide their name and as much contact information as you can.

Thank you for your help in this endeavor.

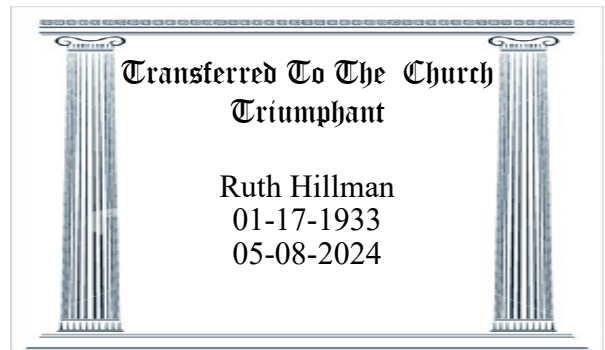


Received a thank you letter for our donation from Lutherans for Life.

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

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis sent a thank you letter for our donation.

DOLLARS FOR MISSIONS - The current DFM project is to continue a project already begun. In 2023, DFM funds were raised to begin ministry in as many as four new prisons in central Illinois during 2024. With the funds gathered, Central Illinois District started to fund one in January, and hopes to start more before the end of this year. The current project is to ensure that funds are available so that such new ministries can be continued in 2025. The current target is \$10,000. See the video at <https://youtu.be/LwYgCqIXzqI>



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 June are: Donna Corso, John Evans Supportive Living, 1320 Executive Ct., Apt. 104, Pekin; Honor Deiss, 804 Illinois, Pekin; Viola Deppert, Charter Senior Living of Pekin, 2700 S. 14th St., #214, Pekin, and Marcille Frevert, 1107 S. 4th, Pekin.

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

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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

will be held at GSLS from June 9 thru June 13, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Here is the link for registration. <https://forms.gle/vLcc2S93Jg4upZ1eA>

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GSLS is looking for a 5/6 Grade 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, jkilgus@goodshepherdpekin.com.

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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

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 | Paula Jensen |
| 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 | Rosetta Turner |
| Kathy Daly-Unfricht | Melvyn Gentry |
| Bob Hurst | Ruthanne Scott |


Daily Survival Kit:

- | | | |
|------------|--------------|--------------|
| *Toothpick | *Rubber Band | *Band Aid |
| *Pencil | *Eraser | *Chewing Gum |
| *Mint | *Candy Kiss | *Tea Bag |

Why?

- 1) Toothpick - to remind you to pick out the good qualities in others—Matt. 7:1
- 2) Rubber Bank - to remind you to be flexible, things might not always go the way you want, but it will work out. Romans 8:28
- 3) Band Aid - to remind you to heal hurt feelings!, yours or someone else's. Co. 3:12-14
- 4) Pencil - to remind you to list your blessings everyday. Eph. 1:3
- 5) Eraser— to remind you that everyone makes mistakes, and it's OK. Gen. 50:15-21
- 6) Chewing Gum - to remind you to stick with it and you can accomplish anything. Phil 4:13
- 7) Mint - to remind you that you **are** worth a mint. John 3:16-17
- 8) Candy Kiss - to remind you that everyone needs a kiss or a hug everyday. 1 John 4:7
- 9) Tea Bag - to remind you to relax daily and go over that list of blessings. 1 Thess 5:18

(Address Service Requested)

Bible Wordsearch 															Jesus the Healer 6				
WORDSEARCH 257										MATT.12:1-12									
K	N	O	W	N	H	U	N	G	R	Y	L	O	G	N	ASKED	ACCUSE			
A	N	S	W	E	R	E	D	H	E	A	L	N	S	A	BREAD	ANSWERED			
P	I	N	O	S	A	E	R	C	C	G	I	H	R	E	DAVID	CONDEMNED			
I	A	O	D	E	K	S	A	C	R	K	R	D	D	M	DESIRE	DESECRATE			
C	R	I	E	C	O	L	U	E	O	I	D	I	P	L	FALLS	DISCIPLES			
K	G	N	S	D	P	S	A	O	V	E	I	S	R	U	GOD	ENTERED			
T	D	A	I	S	E	T	L	E	N	M	V	C	I	F	GRAIN	GREATER			
E	E	P	R	Q	E	S	L	M	S	U	A	I	E	W	HEADS	HUNGRY			
B	R	M	E	R	L	E	E	H	H	D	D	P	S	A	HEAL	INNOCENT			
R	E	O	P	L	D	D	S	C	T	O	A	L	T	L	HOUSE	KNOWN			
E	T	C	A	L	N	R	P	I	R	A	U	E	S	J	JESUS	LAWFUL			
A	N	F	I	O	E	C	O	E	R	A	B	S	H	E	LORD	LOOKING			
D	E	Y	C	R	E	M	K	L	E	A	T	B	E	S	MEAN	PHARISEES			
L	S	A	C	R	I	F	I	C	E	H	H	E	A	U	MERCY	PRIESTS			
G	O	D	T	N	E	C	O	N	N	I	S	P	Y	S	PICK	REASON			
															SHEEP	SABBATH			
															PLACE	SACRIFICE			
															TEMPLE	SHRIVELED			
																COMPANIONS			

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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