

St. John's Journal

Volume 51, Issue 1

LUTHERAN DISTINCTIVES

V. Lutherans believe that God works through the Means of Grace. Part 3

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When we Lutherans speak of the “Means of Grace,” we mean those Gospel gifts of the Lord whereby He bestows His forgiveness, life, and other saving blessings upon His believing people. These Gospel gifts are God's Word and His Sacraments: Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Lutherans believe what Jesus says about the Lord's Supper, namely, that it is His true body and blood in the bread and wine for our forgiveness. The words of Jesus, by which He instituted His Supper, are plain and straightforward. “Take, eat, this is My body, which is given for you. ...Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” We take these words, drawn from Matthew 26:26-28 and 1 Corinthians 11:24-25, in their clear and ordinary sense.

When Jesus said, “This *is* My body,” He meant exactly what He said. The bread He was giving to His disciples was His real body, miraculously present in the bread. It was the same way with His blood. The cup of wine He was giving to His disciples contained His real blood. This is a great miracle, of course – a divine mystery beyond our comprehension. Yet the words of Jesus, who is God in flesh, must stand.

After all, no metaphorical (figurative) meaning of “body” or “blood” makes reasonable sense in this context. And Jesus is the Master of figurative speech. He, more than anyone else, knows how to use metaphors properly!

Moreover, even if we had any question whatsoever as to the intended meaning of Jesus' words (which no reasonable person should), the apostle Paul settles the question conclusively. He writes with the power of rhetorical questions: “The cup of blessing which we bless – is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break – is it not the communion of the body of Christ?” *1 Corinthians 10:16* He stated these truths so emphatically because every Christian knew what was so fundamental to the faith: The bread of the Lord's Supper *is* in fact the communion (participation together) in the body of Christ, and the wine *is* in fact the communion in the blood of Christ.

For this reason Paul goes on to warn his hearers:

“Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the *body and blood of the Lord.*” *1 Corinthians 11:17.* So it is plain from the words of Jesus and His apostles that the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper are the body and blood of the Lord, miraculously united to bread and wine.

The benefit of the Lord's Supper is equally plain. Jesus said it is “for the forgiveness of sins.” *Matthew 26:28* This is the very reason Jesus gave His body into death and shed His holy blood: to forgive our sins and give us everlasting life and salvation. Those who receive His holy Supper, then, trusting in the promises of His words, receive with His body and blood the gift of forgiveness!

On the basis of the Scriptures we Lutherans confess the familiar words of the Small Catechism: “What is the Sacrament of the Altar? It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.” “What is the benefit of this eating and drinking? These words, 'given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,' show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.”

Our Lutheran Confessions say much more about the Lord's Supper. If you are interested in further reading or study in the Confessions, just stop by or give me a call, and I can point you to some great Christian writing!

We praise the Lord Jesus for the gift of His Holy Supper. We pray that He will preserve it for us, and lead us to hunger and thirst for the Sacrament, and partake of it for our blessing.

- Pastor Bishop



Christian Education
Sunday School

Perfect Attendance
November 2024

None

**JANUARY
BIRTHDAYS**



Jan 01

Darian Becker

Jan 02

Mary Beck
Hunter Hall
Chelsea Hamlet

Jan 05

Nicole Hurst
Tiffany Matthews

Jan 06

Erica DeBoer

Jan 08

Brianna Nash

Jan 09

Sarah Adkins
Shantel Becker
Brianna Morrison

Jan 10

Sharon Becker
Nicole Kelley

Jan 11

Noah Dingerson
Carol Long
Donovan Warning
Danielle Watson

Jan 13

J. Terry Adkins
Megan Gaitros
Danny Segó

Jan 14

Tammy Gottman
Brock Norman
Erin Wilson

Jan 16

Hayden Jackson
Shannon Higdon

Jan 17

Aminta Liescheidt

Jan 18

Megan Walsh

Jan 19

Jaylah Dalton
Jesse Garmon
Michele Spelbring

Jan 20

Janet Lawson
Nathaniel Nelson

Jan 21

Sara Nafziger

Jan 22

Rhonda Bowman

Jan 23

Michael Sheckler

Jan 25

Donald Houge
Melanie Tiona
Ryan Widby

Jan 26

Jaxon Allen
Samantha Segó
Terry Swearingen

Jan 27

Pastor Glenn Niemann

Jan 28

Daryl Dagit
Lincoln Ferguson
Kathryn Ford
Jeffery Gottman
Dane Hoover

Jan 29

Jacob Kelley

Jan 30

Wade Peacock

**JANUARY
ANNIVERSARIES**

Jan 03

Michael & Leah Sipka

Jan 15

Donald & Mae Houge

Jan 27

James & Nona Buster



PARISH NOTES



Church Attendance

Nov 2024— **514—13** services
Nov 2023— **556—13** services
Nov 2022— **606—14** services

Sunday School Attendance Year-to-Date

Nov 2024: **1,364**
Nov 2023: **1,494**
Nov 2022: **1,412**

Communion Assistance

Jan 05
8:00 Randy Couch
10:30 Ross Gould

Jan 19
8:00 Jon Bolt
10:30 Brian Ford

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES are in the gym for those who have not picked theirs up yet. If you see a member of your family or a friend who has not picked up their envelopes, it would be appreciated if you would take theirs and deliver them for us.

Thank you for your help.

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.

Acolytes

Jan 5 10:30 Kenna Donovan
Jan 12 10:30 Silas Gould
Jan 19 10:30 Kenna Donovan
Jan 26 10:30 Silas Gould

January Ushers

8:00

James Lonergan Scott Stalter
Merle Wiseman

10:30

Brian Ford Nate Ford
Trent Hoover Brian Umbach

Videographer

Rod Bollinger

Worship

Jim Lonergan

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

Shut ins for January are: Sheryl Riley, UAW Apartments, 444 S. Parkway Dr., Apt. 1212, Pekin; Butch Williams, Chalet Rehab Healthcare Center, 4851 Tincher Rd., Rm. 35, Indianapolis, IN 46221; Mary Beck, Charter Senior Living, 2700 S. 14th St., Apt. 214, Pekin and Lucille Benker, Charter Senior Living, 2700 S. 14th St., Apt. 108, Pekin.

Thank you from your St. John's Ladies Guild

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 Peoria 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, and we can usually find out. 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.

Transferred To The Church Triumphant

Anna Ellingworth
Knussman
7/12/36
11/28/24

Deanna Oltman
1/23/39
12/9/24

**HI-LITES OF ST. JOHN'S VOTERS ASSEMBLY
December 9, 2024**

Ross Gould called the meeting to order. A quorum was present. Pastor Bishop opened with devotions.

The November Parish Report was reviewed. A motion was made by Diane Gould, seconded by Gary Pool, to approve the November Parish Report. Motion carried.

The November meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Cheryl Ivey, seconded by Julie Wagner, to approve the November meeting minutes. Motion carried

Treasurer's Report – Rod Bollinger indicated that we do not have an official Treasurer's Report for the month of November as we were unable to get the investment statements for the month. We will have an official report at the next meeting. We did add to the deficit for the year during the month. Every expense on the check register was a budgetary item, except for the payment to Otto Baum Company for the repair of the bell tower.

Board of Trustees – Dave Kesselmayer reported that we will have Spring Green Services treat the grass next year. We signed a contract for snow removal with Burling & Sons. Maintenance has been done on the heating systems. Faucets were replaced in 3 of the bathrooms and the drinking fountain was fixed. The pipe organ has been tuned. While tuning the organ, an issue was found and resolved. The Nativity Scene was set up. The video cabinet has been organized. Anyone who would like to borrow a video is free to do so. The trustees met with the individual who wanted to use our gym for the purpose of having PE classes for a group of home school children. After the discussion, the Trustees have indicated that they are not in favor of allowing this since the individual is not a member of our church. Dave indicated that they would allow the voters to decide. A motion was made by Bob Oliverius, seconded by Jennifer Kesselmayer, to accept the recommendation of the Trustees to not allow the use of the gym. Motion carried.

Board of Elders – Ross Gould reported that the Elders met last Sunday and discussed a list of candidates for open positions on the board.

Board of Finance – No report.

Board of Christian Education – No report. John Neumann reported for Good Shepherd School. John noted that there had been a teacher resign and an individual who will be graduating in December has been interviewed for the position. This will be a topic of discussion at the next school board meeting. The mortgage

has been reduced to roughly \$662,000.00. John reported that all 10 of the possible \$7,000.00 matches have been accounted for. The money for 8 of the 10 has already been received. The matching funds should be received in January. There is another possible match coming in the month of January. John indicated that there will be discussions in the future regarding the funding formula as the current formula does not appear to be sustainable.

Board of Worship – Julie Wagner reported that the committee will meet this coming Wednesday. They are still in need of one person for the committee. Julie thanked Dave & Jennifer Kesselmayer for the new set of Christmas banners they bought.

Board of Evangelism – Pastor Bishop indicated that the committee was to meet tomorrow but due to a funeral they will have to reschedule.

Board of Stewardship – Nancy Swearingen reported that 13 \$10 gift cards were given to students. The committee helped 3 families with food, in addition to the families we help every month. Joyce Lonergan will be joining the committee for next year. Contribution envelopes are ready and are in the gym.

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 – Ross Gould talked about officer positions and indicated that numerous churches don't have enough members to meet officer needs. We do not have any requirement that indicates a person can only serve on one board at a time. The only action that would need to occur to allow someone to exceed their term limits is for the congregations to vote on it.

New business – Rod Bollinger gave an overview of the difference between the 2024 and 2025 budgets by committee in the proposed budget for 2025. A motion was made by John Neumann, seconded by Julie Wagner, to accept the budget as it was presented. Motion carried.

Ross Gould presented the slate of officers for 2025. There are still positions that are available. Ross indicated that if additional volunteers are found to serve, they can be approved at a future meeting.

Nominees for 2025 are as follows:

President	Position open
Vice President	Ross Gould
Secretary	Linda Wagner
Treasurer	Rod Bollinger
Financial Secretaries	Barb Theleritis/Janet Lawson Julie & Linda Wagner Sandy & Valerie Ferguson Dave & Nancy Drockelman

Trustees	Brian Fuelberth
Finance Committee	Eric Jensen
Board of Elders	Dave Drockelman, Randy Couch
Worship Committee	Diane Gould, Brian Fuelberth
Bd of Christian Ed	Cheryl Ivey
Stewardship Comm	Joyce Lonergan
Evangelism Comm	Jennifer Kesselmayer

A motion was made by John Neumann, seconded by Diane Gould, to accept the slate of officers as presented. Motion carried.

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

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wagner
Secretary

JANUARY LIBRARY CORNER
By Eileen Tiona



"A Star will come out of Jacob, a Scepter will rise out of Israel."
Numbers 24:17

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.

Hope you all had a Blessed Christmas and wishing you all a Happy New Year.



A SINCERE THANK YOU to everyone for all the prayers, cards, notes, gifts, and words of appreciation this Advent and Christmas. We deeply appreciate your Christian love and kindness. *Pastor Bishop and Deanna*

Lutherans for Life sent a letter thanking us for our donation to them.

Received a thank for our donation to the Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO.

Dear Friends, We smiled when we saw you arrive at the Children's Home because that is the reaction it brings to our children's faces when they realize the community is rooting for them. Thank you for bringing in gifts for us to share with our children and families this holiday season!

Your generous contribution will make a significant impact on our community. The families and children in our care will have an extra special holiday season thanks to your generosity and kindness. We appreciate your willingness and effort to fill the wish lists, we couldn't do it without the support of people just like you!!

Thank you for helping us give the gift of hope to children and families in our community. We hope you and your family have a safe and happy holiday season!

Scurry Miller Paige Dobson
President & CEO Director of Development



A BIG THANK YOU TO THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHERS WHO HELPED WITH DECORATING THE INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF OUR CHURCH FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON.

We received a letter from Lutheran Heritage Foundation: Rev. Bishop and People of St. John, Your special mission gift is gratefully received. Thank you Rev. R. Rahn, Founder

The Flower Chart for 2025 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.



If you would like a special arrangement for your date, please call Greenhouse Florist at 347-5921. There could be an additional cost. The cost for 2 vases is \$40 for 2 vases of flowers and \$10 for delivery, unless you order something special. Then we will let you know the 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.



Thank You

to all who gave a poinsettia
in memory of loved ones
or to beautify the sanctuary
during the Christmas services:



- Ray & Joyce Barnes
- Don & Valerie Dobbelaire
- Dave & Nancy Drockelman
- Michelle & Zach Ferguson
- Sandy Ferguson
- Valerie Ferguson
- Brian Fuelberth
- Carol Goodin
- Jeremy & Tisha Harms & Family
- Hoover Family
- Bob & Donna Hurst
- Cheryl Ivey
- Steve & Faye Kesselmayer
- Jimmy & Joyce Lonergan
- Carol Long
- Jerry & Paula Norman
- Pat Proehl
- Terry & Nancy Swearingen
- Barb Theleritis
- Julie Wagner *in memory of loved ones*
- Linda Wagner *in memory of loved ones*
- Butch & Harold Williams *in memory Cheryl & loved ones*
- Curt & Pam Woolsey

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN SCHOOL

- Jan 16 PTL meeting 6:30 p.m.
- Jan. 17 School Improvement Day Early Dismissal
- Jan. 20 No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan 24 Spaghetti dinner & Talent Show

YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP (for ages 20-35) will meet
@ Trinity Lutheran Church, 135 NE Randolph Ave., Peoria
on Saturday, January 18, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Fellowship
includes: food, games, movies, etc. For more information
regarding this, please see bulletin board in gym.



LUTHERAN FOR LIFE "Did You Know"

by Peoria Area Lutherans for Life: Equipping Lutherans
to be Gospel motivated voices for life.

Elizabeth, who was pregnant with John the Baptist, said
to Mary, who was pregnant with our Lord, Jesus: "As
soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the
baby in my womb leaped for joy." Luck 1:44 NIV

Peoria Area Lutherans for Life is asking our area Lu-
theran church members to thank God for the life He has
given each of us by contributing a penny for each year
of life on **Sunday, January 19th**. These donations will
be used during 2025 to provide pro-life educational ma-
terials in our churches and schools and support for Peo-
ria area pro-life organizations like Women's Pregnancy
Center, Lutheran Senior Ministries, Empower Life
Center, and Living Alternatives. We thank you in
advance.

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 |
| Addie Burling | Julie Rilea |
| Eileen Tiona | Keith Gleason |
| Gabriella Kesselmayer | Paula Jensen |
| Pat Proehl | Suzanne Reising |
| Kellen Norman | Joyce Barnes |
| Lee Morgan | Ray Garber |
| John Durdle | Suzanne Reising |
| Butch Williams | Rosetta Turner |
| Wilma Garber | Kathy Daly-Unfricht |
| Melvyn Gentry | Bob Hurst |
| Michelle Watson | Pam Woolsey |
| Shirley Gentry | Tom Lappie |
| Cameron Conway | |

What did one wall say to the other wall?
I'll meet you at the corner!

Why is the moon always so hungry?
Because it's only full once a month.

(Address Service Requested)

Bible Wordsearch

The Fig Tree

Wordsearch 280

Matt.21:16-30

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

FAITH
FRUIT
JOHN
LATER
MIND
NEVER
PEOPLE
PRAISE
ROAD
SAYING
SEEING
SPENT
TEMPLE
THINGS
THINK
TODAY
TREE
TRUTH
WORK

AMAZED
BAPTISM
BELIEVE
BETHANY
COURTS
ELDERS
EXCEPT
FATHER
HEAVEN
HUNGRY
MORNING
ORDAINED
PRAYER
PROPHET
QUICKLY
RECEIVE
TEACHING
VINEYARD
WITHER

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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