

St. John's Journal

Volume 51, Issue 3

LUTHERAN DISTINCTIVES

V. Lutherans believe that God works through the Means of Grace. Part 5

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One of the basic Christian teachings we Lutherans uphold is that the holy ministry, the preaching office, has been instituted by God for the preaching and teaching of His Word and the administration of His Sacraments. We affirm that this office is not an institution established by man for convenience, good order, control, or any other reason, but is a gracious gift from God Himself, established for the blessing of His church.

Lutherans recognize that the office of the holy ministry was instituted in Christ's call of the apostles, and is ultimately traced back to the Father's sending of Christ Himself. Jesus made this connection in John 20:21, when He said to His disciples, "Just as the Father has sent Me, I Myself am also sending you." The Father had sent Jesus into the world to win salvation for the world. Now Jesus was sending His *apostles*, which means *sent ones*, into the world to spread that salvation. And thus began the office of the holy ministry.

Jesus sent His apostles specifically to preach and teach His Word, and to administer His Sacraments. He told them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." *Mark 16:15* He also said, "Go make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you." *Matthew 28:20* The apostle Paul wrote that he and his fellow ministers were to be regarded "as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God." *1 Corinthians 4:1* These "mysteries of God" are the gospel treasures that are made known by God's revelation in Christ, namely, His Word and Sacraments.

In teaching others what Jesus had taught them, the apostles naturally trained more men to go and serve in the office of the ministry. And so, for example, Paul instructed Timothy to "Preach the Word." *1 Timothy 4:1* And he instructed Titus to "appoint elders (one of the New Testament titles for *pastors*) in every city as I commanded you." *Titus 1:5* So we see how the office Jesus Himself instituted was perpetuated in the church.

It is clear that those ministers who had been placed into office in some way other than direct appointment by Jesus Christ were still ministers by *God's* doing. We see this truth reflected in Acts 20:28, where Paul addresses the pastors of the church in Ephesus: "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which *the Holy Spirit has made you overseers*, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."

Based on the Holy Scriptures, our Lutheran Confessions say, "To obtain such (justifying) faith, God has instituted the preaching office, has given the gospel and sacraments..." *Augsburg Confession V:1* "Priests... are called to preach the gospel and administer the sacraments to the people. ...The church has the command to appoint ministers; to this we must subscribe wholeheartedly, for we know that God approves this ministry and is present in it." *Apology (Defense) of the Augsburg Confession XIII:9,12* For additional references on the office of the ministry from the Bible or the Lutheran Confessions, you are welcome to speak to me.

We thank and praise God for instituting the preaching office. In this way, so long as the church follows the word of the Lord, we have trained and qualified men to preach and teach the divine Word, to baptize, and to administer the Lords' Supper. Through this ministry many people receive the saving gospel of Jesus' holy life, death, and resurrection for their everlasting life, which is for the ongoing blessing of Christ's people and the extension of His church.

- Pastor Bishop



Christian Education

Sunday School

Perfect Attendance

January 2025

None

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES



March 01

Robert & Marilee Gregory

March 04

Tom & Megan Etter

March 05

Gary & Lisa Pool

March 09

Robert & Debra Dant

March 20

Keith & Terry Gleason

Mar 29

Mike & Deana Thompson

MARCH BIRTHDAYS



March 1

Jerry Bohannan

March 02

Penny Bollinger
Terry Gleason
Elizabeth Kammeyer
Emilie Kesselmayr

March 03

Amy Ashbaker
Darla Schorr
James Widby

March 04

Benjamin Donovan
Jeffrey Hillman
Gary Pool

March 05

Matthew Gudzinskas
Matthew Ruder
Cooper Theleritis

March 06

Heath Norman

March 07

Donna Hansen
Karen Nafziger
Dorothy Sheckler

March 08

Melinda DeHoog
Melissa Turney

March 09

Gerald Norman
Jacob Norman

March 11

Douglas Tiona

March 12

Andrew Knussman
Juanita Knussman

March 13

Adam Becker
Justin Emery
Kaitlyn Owsley

March 14

Nicholas Kesselmayr
Samantha Whitlatch

March 15

Marilyn Liescheidt

March 17

Merle Wiseman

March 18

Jennifer Kesselmayr

March 19

Blair Ivey

March 21

Henry Lappie

March 23

James Heidbreder
Stephanie Whitlatch

March 24

Ruth Negley
Shirley Schott

March 25

Roy Dagit
Laura Dobbelaire
Patty Gardner
Diane Gould

March 27

Kennedy Britton
Isabella Watson

March 29

Macey Dalton
Ryan Lappie
Donald Schoedel

March 30

Tyler Ruder
Julie Widby

March 31

Kevin Wieland

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Remember to change your clocks on
Saturday,
March 8th.
Spring ahead one hour



PARISH NOTES

Church Attendance

	Attend.	# of Services
Jan 2025	393	12
Jan 2024	377	12
Jan 2023	517	15

January Sunday School

Attendance

2025:	107
2024:	124
2023:	151

March Videographer

Mar Lexi & Lilly Daniels

March Worship Committee

Jim Lonergan

March Acolytes

Mar 02 10:30 Kenna Donovan

Mar 05 7:00 Silas Gould

Mar 09 10:30 Silas Gould

Mar 12 7:00 Kenna Donovan

Mar 16 10:30 Kenna Donovan

Mar 19 7:00 Silas Gould

Mar 23 10:30 Silas Gould

Mar 26 7:00 Kenna Donovan

Mar 30 10:30 Kenna Donovan

March Communion Assistance

Mar 03

8:00 a.m. Randy Couch
10:30 a.m. Ross Gould

Mar 16

8:00 a.m. Vince Tennell
10:30 a.m. Brian Ford

March Ushers

8:00

Ray Barnes
David Kesselmayr

10:30

Andrew Knussman
Brian Lundeen

LENT AND HOLY WEEK

Preaching Series:
"Meditations from St. John's Passion"

Mar 5: Ash Wednesday
Sermon: "Jesus Must Wash Us"
John 13:1-20

Mar 12:
Sermon: "Jesus Went Where, by His
Grace, We Can Follow" John 13:36-38

Mar 19:
Sermon: "Jesus Was Intent on Drinking
the Cup" John 18:10-11

Mar 26:
Sermon: "Jesus is the King of Truth"
John 18:37-38a

Apr 2:
Sermon: "Jesus Was Crucified as the
Innocent Son of God" John 19:6-7

Apr 9:
Sermon: "Jesus Was Crucified in the
Middle" John 19:17-18

Apr 17: Maundy Thursday
Sermon: "Jesus Loved His Own to the
End" John 13:1

Apr 18: Good Friday
Sermon: "Jesus Was Pierced that We
May Believe" John 19:34-36a, 37b

ABOUT THE SERMON SERIES:
The Holy Spirit blessed His church with the gift of four Gospel books. Each is unique, presenting its own emphases on the meaning of the words and works of Jesus Christ. For this reason each Gospel is complementary to the other three. This is true also, and one might assert, *especially* in the Passion narratives. In these short Meditations from St. John's Passion we hear some of the unique accents of the Gospel of John. His Passion account leads us to see Jesus fully in control throughout, deliberately and lovingly taking action for the salvation of the world. God bless us all as we hear and ponder the word of Christ!

TREASURER'S REPORT

January 2025

	January	Y-T-D
INCOME	23,245.90	23,245.90
EXPENSES	36,618.18	36,618.18
INCOME	(13,372.28)	(13,372.28)
EXPENSE		

General Fund Accounts

General Fund	18,038.92
General Fund Total	18,038.92

Educational Fund Accounts

Educ. Grant Fund Checking	1,948.56
Ed Grant CD LCMS 6/24	51,863.96
Ed Grant CD LCMS 6/24	51,835.93
Ed Grant Fund #2 Vanguard	64,065.15
Educational Fund Total	169,713.60

East Bluff Property

East Bluff Property Vanguard	39,000.10
East Bluff CD LCMS 6/24	53,741.35
East Bluff CD LCMS 6/24	53,770.40
Cat Stock at FMV	137,062.44
	283,574.29

Memorial

Memorial Fund Checking	38,967.12
Memorial Vanguard	95,883.67
Memorial Fund Total	134,850.79

Building Fund Checking	22,363.33
Sunday School Fund Checking	11,688.89

TOTAL ASSETS \$ 640,229.82

Checking Acct Balance	93,006.82
	93,006.82

LIABILITIES

Payroll Liabilities	2,962.05
Misc. LCMS Orgs Fund	167.98
Total Liabilities	3,130.03

Fund Balance

Net Income (Loss)	-8,317.32
Capital Accounts	645,417.11
Total Fund Balance	637,099.79

TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE \$ 640,229.82

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY



HI-LITES OF ST. JOHN'S VOTERS ASSEMBLY February 10, 2025

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

The January Parish Report was reviewed. A motion was made by Dave Drockelman, seconded by Cheryl Ivey, to approve the December and January Parish Reports. Motion carried.

The January meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Julie Wagner, seconded by Dave Kesselmayer, to approve the December and January meeting minutes. Motion carried

Treasurer's Report – Rod Bollinger reviewed the January Treasurer's Report. Income for the month was \$23,245.90 with expenses of \$36,618.18 for a net loss of \$13,372.28. Expenses for the month did include a \$4,000.00 repair to the boiler. Most expenses on the check register were ordinary except for the boiler repair, a small repair to the furnace at Ewe's Home Furnishings, and payments for the guest pastors. Diane Gould motioned, seconded by Nancy Drockelman, to approve the December and January Treasurer's Reports. Motion carried.

Board of Trustees – Dave Kesselmayer provided an update on the insurance situation. It was explained that not only was the insurance on Ewe's Home Furnishings being cancelled but also the insurance on the church. The only coverage Church Mutual is retaining is the Worker's Comp coverage. The Trustees are in the process of trying to find other insurance as the coverage terminates on the 28th of February. Steve Kesselmayer is working with Monge Crouch and has reached out to Brotherhood Mutual. The part for the rooftop unit came in and was installed. Ross Gould clarified the question from the January meeting on how the by-laws read pertaining to the limit that the Trustees can spend without having a motion from the Voters. It appears that the \$1,000.00 limit noted pertains to the purchase/sale of real estate. As noted in the January meeting, the coffee machine in the upstairs kitchen needs replaced. Dave Drockelman motioned, seconded by Bob Oliverius, to spend \$1,322.64 to replace the machine. Motion carried.

Board of Elders – No report.

Board of Finance – No report.

Board of Christian Education – Laura Dobbelaire reported that the board did not meet. Good Shepherd School had their spaghetti dinner, and it went well. On Sunday the 15th, the youth will get together for Wacky Gym games and tacos. The auction for Good Shepherd is at the end of March. John Neumann reported for Good Shepherd School. The balance remaining on the loan is around \$500,000. The capital campaign is going to be close. If pledges come through, the loan could be retired.

The new 8th grade teacher appears to be working out well.

Board of Worship – Julie Wagner reported that the committee met on the 6th of February. The committee will host the March 5th dinner prior to the Lenten service. Julie has not heard back from the person she emailed at ICC to see if a student would be interested in accompanying the choir. The committee is still looking for another member.

Board of Evangelism – Jennifer Kesselmayer indicated that the board will meet next week.

Board of Stewardship – No report.

Long Range Planning Committee – No report.

Educational Grant Fund Committee – No report. Ross Gould indicated that no requests for financial aid have been received. Ross did inquire as to how much interest the Educational Fund earned last year. Rod Bollinger will provide this information at the next meeting so a decision can be made as to how to use it.

East Bluff Property Committee – No report. Ross Gould indicated that in reading the church constitution, it appears that the responsibility for this property falls under the Trustees' domain as they are responsible for supervising and maintaining all property of the congregation.

Constitution By-laws Committee – No report.

Unfinished business – Several individuals have volunteered for unfilled positions on committees that require the approval of the Voters Assembly. Bob Oliverius motioned, seconded by John Neumann, to appoint Dorothy Sheckler to the Board of Education, Vince Tennell to the Board of Elders, and Eric Oller to the Good Shepherd school board. Motion carried.

In the January meeting, a question was raised about changing the number of voters needed to make a quorum (currently 20) since we had several meetings last year where a quorum was not present so business could not be conducted. Ross Gould researched the issue, and it appears that to change the number needed, something needs to be published in the bulletin for 2 weeks in a row prior to the next meeting. Discussion took place as to other options. It was decided that we would settle on 15 as the number for a quorum. Pastor Bishop indicated that the Central Illinois District would have to give their approval before we could proceed with the change.

Pastor Bishop also noted that we need a motion to approve Dave Drockelman as our delegate to attend the CID convention this July. A motion was made by Dave Kesselmayer, seconded by Cheryl Ivey, to nominate Dave Drockelman as our delegate to the convention. Motion carried.

New business – No new business.

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

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wagner
Secretary

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**Reminder to Designate
Your Thrivent
Choice Dollars by
March 31st**

Thrivent Financial members have until March 31 to direct their Choice Dollars for charity. **Don't let them expire!** Designate your Choice Dollars and **put God's Word in the hands of someone who does not have the Bible** in their own language.

The Share Program would like to thank all who have donated food and funds to supply items to those individuals who need some help. We could not provide items without your assistance.



Received a thank you letter from Concordia Seminary - St. Louis for the donation we sent them.

Lutheran for life sent a thank you letter for our faithful ministry partnership and steadfast support.

Rev. Bishop and People of St. John's, Your special mission gift is much appreciated. Rev. R. Rahn, Founder of Lutheran Heritage Foundation

Thank you for starting the new year with generosity. Your gift supports the mission of Concordia and inspires us all. Charisse Burns, Concordia University Chicago.

**Camp CILCA Outdoor
Ministries**

Camp CILCA's Pancake Breakfast will be Saturday, March 15 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Dining Hall (4124 Camp CILCA Road, Cantrall).

Women's Retreat: March 28-29

Our retreat theme is **Lean & Learn**: join us as we lean into God's word, digging into what God says to us and learn how we live it out in our daily vocation as women. Two choices for our retreat...You can join us overnight for \$100

and stay in the Christian Growth Center. There is a day-only option for \$75. Registration is open.

Camp CILCA's Annual Banquet will be held on Sunday, March 30 in the Dining Hall. Speaker is Pastor BJ Fouts (Executive Director of Camp Concordia). Cost is \$40 per person. There will be live music with a catered dinner and dessert.

See bulletin board in the gym for more information regarding these three events.

The Lutheran Women of Greater Peoria present the sixth "Easter Parade" Style Show and Tea at 2 pm on Saturday, March 29 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1427 W. Lake Ave. Peoria. Models will show off some of the delightful spring styles available at The Church Mouse while everyone enjoys coffee, flavored teas, and "English Tea Room" type desserts. Pastor Michael Jones, and Don Bauer from St. John Lutheran in Bartonville will provide background piano music and accompany the singers and models. Pastor Lisa Dietrich from St. Paul in Peoria will be our Master of Ceremonies. Door prizes, raffles, items from the Church Mouse for sale and more will round out the afternoon.

Tickets will once again be \$10, and \$5 for children under 12. Call 309-697-5762 or 309- 360-8734, or your LWGP delegate for reservations. You can pay in advance or at the door. Groups can reserve tables together on a first come first serve basis.

Proceeds go to Lutheran Social Services of Illinois Children's Programs. If you'd like to model call 309-697-5762.

In Our Prayers

If you know of anyone who needs to be added, please let the church office know.

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|----------------------|---------------|
| 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 Kesselmayr | Paula Jensen |
| Pat Proehl | Kellen Norman |
| Joyce Barnes | Lee Morgan |
| Ray Garber | John Durdle |
| Rosetta Turner | Melvyn Gentry |
| Kathy Daly-Unfricht | Bob Hurst |
| Michelle Watson | Pam Woolsey |
| Shirley Gentry | Tom Lappie |
| Cameron Conway | Bobby Gregory |
| Donna Pool | Honor Deiss |

MARCH LIBRARY CORNER

By Eileen Tiona



"He calls his friends and neighbors together and says, Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep." Luke 15:5

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.

YOUTH GROUP



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.

CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE & BAKE SALE

ST. JOHN'S RUMMAGE SALE will be held April 25 and 26, 2025. You can start bringing your items and put on the stage. No TVs, computers or appliances. If you have any questions, please call Kathy Heisel @ 309-346-7066.

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Christ Lutheran Church in Peoria will be hosting an "all you can eat" potato pancake and regular pancake supper on March 22 from 4 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. in gym B. The price is 48 for adults and \$4 for K—8th grade. The meal includes pancakes, sausage, applesauce, coffee, water, iced tea, milk, carrots and celery. Take-out will be available. There will also be a bake sale. All proceeds will benefit the youth program and the youth trip for the national youth gathering in New Orleans this coming summer.

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YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP (for ages 20-35) will meet @ Trinity Lutheran Church, 135 NE Randolph Ave., Peoria on Saturday, March 15, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Fellowship includes: food, games, movies, etc.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN SCHOOL

- Mar 4 Preschool—Kindergarten Roundup 6 to 7:30 pm
- Mar 6 Spring Pictures - Pre-School & Sports Pictures
- Mar 7 Spring Pictures - (PreK and K—8, Group Pictures)
- Mar 13 PTL Meeting @ 6:00 pm
- Mar 18 Dining Out Night @ Texas Roadhouse from 3 to 10 p.m. (10% donation to GSLS) Will need to present Flyer. See bulletin board for flyers.
- Mar 29 GSLS Annual Auction @ Embassy Suites, East Peoria

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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 March are: Ray Garber, 1111 S. 18th St., Pekin (if mailing cards, please send to 10357 Ballaire Dr., Manito 61546); Darrell & Donna Hansen, 100 Santa Maria Court, Pekin; Elaine Hapke, Bickford Senior Lviing, 14 Heartland Dr., Bloomington (if mailing cards, please send to 1092 Hershey Rd., Normal 61761) and Tom & Rhonda Lappie, 13634 Glenmar Dr., Pekin.

Thank you from your St. John's Ladies Guild

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Cajun Mission Meal – You are invited to celebrate "Fat Monday" with us on Monday, March 3, 4:30-7:00 at **St. John's Lutheran, Bath**. You are invited to enjoy a wide variety of Cajun food and at the same time support our District's work with Spanish speaking people offering services at St. John's Lutheran Church of Beardstown, Illinois. The menu will include: jambalaya, etouffee, gumbo, muffuletta, red beans and rice, beignets, cold spinach salad, virgin hurricanes, and a wide variety of desserts all for a free will offering. (For those of you using google maps the church's address is: 10844 N Co Rd 1400E, Bath, IL 62617.)

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"Did You Know?"

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



At 4-6 weeks a baby's heart starts pulsing with his/her own blood. By week 10 the baby's heart will have been fully developed. One of the many milestones in the miracle of life.

(Address Service Requested)

Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 281

Matt.21:31-46

Parables

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

BRING	ARREST
CROP	BELIEVE
EVEN	CAPSTONE
EYES	CROWD
FALLS	COLLECT
FRUIT	FATHER
GIVEN	FARMERS
HEARD	HARVEST
HEIR	JOURNEY
LAST	KINGDOM
LORD	PARABLE
OWNER	PROPHET
PIECES	RENTED
REPENT	RESPECT
SEIZED	SERVANTS
SENT	TENANTS
SHARE	TREATED
SHOW	VINEYARD
TRUTH	WINEPRESS

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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