

# St. John's Journal

Volume 51, Issue 5

## LUTHERAN DISTINCTIVES

### VI. The Lutheran Church is a historical church. Part 1

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We Lutherans recognize that both in doctrine and in essence, we are in continuity with the church catholic, united to the believers in Christ of all times, extending back to the faithful people of the Old Testament. We do not understand ourselves to be a “new” church, but one in teaching and one in who we are as God's chosen people, together with all the Christians who have gone before us.

God tells us in Hebrews 12:22-23, “You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, *to the church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven*, and to God, the Judge of all, *and to the spirits of the righteous ones who have been made complete.*” This passage tells us that when we become part of the church, we become one with all the people whom God has chosen for everlasting salvation, including those whose spirits have already been “made complete,” that is, brought to the goal of heaven.

God also tells us Christians, “You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.” *Ephesians 2:19-21* Again, we are told that we are one in Christ with all God's holy people, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. This means we are part of the same family and “structure,” so to speak, as were the prophets of Israel and the apostles Jesus sent.

Again, we hear in Galatians 3:29, “If you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, heirs according to the promise.” This means we believers in Jesus Christ are the spiritual offspring of Abraham, who received the promise that his Seed would bless all the nations of the earth. (Genesis 22:18) We are one with the faithful of ancient Israel, who trusted in the promised Savior.

Therefore we Lutherans are not some group that is new or different from the ancient people of God. We strive not to engage in frivolous novelty, as though we just sprung up as some little sect that “does its own thing.” Rather, we seek to teach and practice in conformity with the apostolic church through the ages, for we are part of this one church.

Luther put it like this: “We fabricate nothing new, but retain and hold to the old Word of God as the ancient Church confessed it; hence we are, with it, the true ancient Church, believing and teaching one and the same Word of God.”

We Lutherans also declare in our Augsburg Confession: “we have introduced nothing, either in doctrine or in ceremonies, that is contrary to Holy Scripture or the universal Christian church. For it is manifest and evident (to speak without boasting) that we have diligently and with God's help prevented any new and godless teaching from creeping into our churches and gaining the upper hand in them.” *Conclusion:5*

Religious novelty and innovation inevitably lead to error. So instead of trying to be something “new and different and exciting,” we Lutherans consciously hold onto that ancient Christian teaching, because that is to hold onto Christ! And in Christ, who is the same yesterday and today and forever, we have salvation!

- Pastor Bishop

**Christian Education**

- Matthew
- Mark
- Luke
- John

**Sunday School**  
***Perfect Attendance***  
**March 2025**

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**

Lori Fricke Schiavone  
Elizabeth Ward  
Emily Ward

**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  
Grayson Summer  
Amanda Webb

**May 28**

Barbara Rosa

**May 29**

Dale Schott, Jr.  
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

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**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Opening day for Vacation bible School is Sunday, June 8 at 5:45 p.m. and will run through Thursday, June 12. Hours are 6 to 8 p.m.

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**PARISH NOTES**



**Church Attendance**

Mar 2025 - **685** - 19 services  
 Mar 2024 - **897** - 20 services  
 Mar 2023 - **634** - 17 services

**Sunday School Attendance**

Through Mar 2025: 375  
 Through Mar 2024: 382  
 Through Mar 2023: 421

**Videographers — May**

Jim Lonergan

**Worship Committee— May**

Sandy Tennell

**Elders  
 Communion Assistance**

**May 4**

8:00 a.m. Vince Tennell  
 10:30 a.m. Jon Bolt

**May 18**

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

**May 29**

7:00 p.m. Dave Drockelman



**THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD**

The Festival falls on Thursday, May 29, this year.

**Ushers – May**

**8:00**

Jerry Bohannon  
 Randy Couch  
 Steven Kesselmayr

**10:30**

Jacob Gould  
 Ross Gould

**Acolytes—May**

**May 4**

10:30 a.m. Silas Gould

**May 11**

10:30 a.m. Kenna Donovan

**May 18**

10:30 a.m. Silas Gould

**May 25**

10:30 a.m. Kenna Donovan

**May 29**

7:00 p.m. Silas Gould

**FISH FRY/POTLUCK** – We have a fish fry/potluck planned for Sunday, May 18, in the gym following the 10:30 service. Fried fish (chicken strips available for those who don't care for fish), drinks, and tableware will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. This is a good occasion to bring guests with you to church, and then have them stay for the meal.

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

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

March, 2025

	<b>March</b>	<b>Y-T-D</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	32,443.75	79,171.38
<b>EXPENSES</b>	36,232.74	104,855.47
<b>INCOME-EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$(3,788.99)</b>	<b>\$(25,684.09)</b>

General Fund	11,691.07
<b>General Fund Total</b>	<b>11,691.07</b>

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	64,638.66
<b>Educational Fund Total</b>	<b>170,287.11</b>

East Bluff Property-Vanguard	39,354.54
East Bluff CD LCMS 12/21	53,741.35
East Bluff CD LCMS 12/22	53,770.40
Cat Stock at FMV	121,697.30
<b>East Bluff Property Fund</b>	<b>268,563.59</b>

Memorial Fund Checking	42,352.62
Memorial Vanguard	96,738.58
<b>Memorial Fund Total</b>	<b>139,091.20</b>

Building Fund Checking	24,388.33
S S Fund Checking	11,797.89

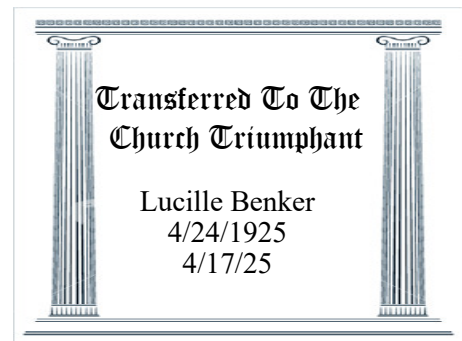
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>625,819.19</b>
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Checking Account Balance	92,178.47
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>92,178.47</b>

<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Payroll Liabilities	3,019.97
Misc LCMS Orgs Fund	157.41
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>3,177.38</b>

<b>FUND BALANCE</b>	
Net Income (Loss)	(22,755.30)
Capital Accounts	645,417.11
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>622,661.81</b>

<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$625,819.19</b>
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**ST. JOHNS'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
VOTERS ASSEMBLY MINUTES  
April 14, 2025**

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

The March Parish Report was reviewed. A motion was made by Dodie Sheckler, seconded by Diane Gould, to approve the March Parish Report. Motion carried.

The March meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Dave Kesselmayr, seconded by Dave Drockelman, to approve the March meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Nancy Drockelman reviewed the March Treasurer's Report. There was a deficit in income for the month of \$3,788.99. For the year, we are seeing a deficit of \$25,684.09. On the check register, there is an expenditure for \$914.50 for altar cloths (funds were from the Memorial Fund). Also, there was an expenditure to help a member with medical bills (these funds came from donations to the Elders Care Fund to be used specifically for this purpose). Dave Drockelman motioned, seconded by Diane Gould, to approve the March Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Board of Trustees – Dave Kesselmayr reported that the new coffee maker has been installed. A new light fixture was installed above the back door. Maquet Plumbing has fixed a toilet in the women's rest room. The Trustees discussed the roof and electrical work the insurance company indicated needs to be done to maintain the insurance. Two bids were received for the roofing. The Trustees recommend going with Energy Resource Roofing with a bid of \$1,000.00. The Trustees will also handle some minor roofing repairs. A motion was made by the Trustees, seconded by Bob Oliverius, to accept the bid from Energy Resources Roofing for \$1,000.00 to repair the roof. Motion carried. Dave indicated that they received 3 electrical bids. One company didn't think we would need to replace all the panels, just the breakers. While the insurance company did agree to this, it was determined that we would not want to possibly have issues down the road if we had to go to another insurance company and the best option is to do all the work now. Bids were received from ANJ Electrical for \$5,100.00, Kaiser Electric for \$6,300.00, and Schwartz Electric for \$8,700.00 for all work needed. The Trustees recommended going with ANJ Electrical. Bob Oliverius motioned, seconded by Brian Ford, to approve the amount of \$5,100.00 to have ANJ Electrical complete the work. Motion carried. Dave also indicated that they have received a couple bids from companies to clean the church. The lowest bid is \$1,400.00 and another bid was \$1,500.00. The Trustees are still awaiting the response from another company and would like to wait until we hear back before deciding. The Trustees would like to donate the proceeds from their soup and sandwich dinner to the Share Program.

Board of Elders – Ross Gould reported that the board met

and continues to discuss following up with members who have not been to church for a while. There will be a fish fry on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May. For those that do not like fish, chicken strips will be provided. The lunch will be potluck. Several committees will be helping with the lunch. Ross explained further that funds were donated specifically with the intent of helping the family that needed assistance with medical bills for an urgent operation.

Board of Finance – No report.

Board of Christian Education – Laura Dobbelaire reported that they had several kids come to the March activity. The committee is still looking for a Sunday School superintendent. Several people have stepped up to help with Vacation Bible School.

John Neumann reported for Good Shepherd Lutheran School. Caterpillar is offering a match program of 10:1 for charitable donations this week. If you know someone who works at Caterpillar, please talk to them about donating to the school. The outstanding mortgage is currently sitting at \$477,900.00. There is enough in the reserves to cover the next 11 ½ months of payments. The school is still getting some donations, so John is feeling more optimistic. John has asked Joel Kilgus to send a letter to the parents of the children at school regarding the match program. John indicated that Joel has not yet reached a decision about whether to take the job in Iowa that has been offered to him. Someone has come forward with an offer to match up to \$30,000.00 for contributions from new donors. Numbers for the auction have not been finalized yet.

Board of Worship – Dodie Sheckler reported that the committee will be handing out carnations to the women of the congregation on Mother's Day. Also, it was noted that we need more ushers. Dodie indicated that there are some women in the congregation that would be interested in helping so Dodie inquired as to people's thoughts on the subject. Discussion took place with the overall opinion that this would be a good option. Dave Drockelman motioned, seconded by Jennifer Kesselmayr, to allow women to help with the usher duties. Motion carried.

Board of Evangelism – Tracy Glass reported that the committee met on April 7<sup>th</sup> and discussed the fish fry. Their committee will be responsible for setting up the day before the event. The committee also discussed updating the church's website and brochure. Val Ferguson took the floor to talk about a handout that was included with this month's information for the assembly meeting. Previously, Val reported that she and several others attended a small church summit at Trinity Lutheran Church. One of the topics was free information that can be provided on the topic of Revitalization, which includes a survey that can be completed by church members to get an idea of where our congregation stands on different topics. The purpose of this assessment is to tell us the factors driving our development. Dave Drockelman indicated that he presented this to the Elders, and they are agreeable to having the congregation complete the survey. This would be conducted in September. Further information will be included in bulletins and journals over the coming months. Dave Drockelman made a motion, seconded by Tracy Glass, to proceed with the survey. Motion carried.

Board of Stewardship – Nancy Swearingen reported that they continue to supply food baskets to 3 families. Occasionally, food baskets are also provided for walk-ins.

Long Range Planning Committee – No report.

Educational Grant Fund Committee – Ross Gould indicated that last year we made about \$6,500.00 in interest on this fund. Ross asked if anyone had any suggestions as to how to use the money. Currently the money is going into the general fund. Discussions will continue next month if anyone has any ideas as to how the money could be used.

East Bluff Property Committee – Mowing has started for the year on the property. At the current time there is no update from Gary Pool on the cemetery.

Constitution By-laws Committee – Dave Drockelman motioned, seconded by Bob Oliverius to change the number of members needed for a quorum from 20 to 15 since the information had been posted the required number of times in the bulletin. Discussion took place as to the pros and cons of proceeding with the motion. After the discussion, Dave Drockelman made a motion to rescind the original motion at this time. Bob Oliverius seconded.

Unfinished business – No unfinished business.

New business – No new business.

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

The meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wagner  
Secretary

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**Thank You for Your Generosity!**

**Peoria Area Lutherans for Life** would like to thank all those who donated to our Pennies for Life collection in January. A total of \$4,982 was collected from ten congregations and will be used during 2025 to provide support for mothers and their babies in various ways, as we seek to be gospel-motivated voices for life. Thank you for faithfully helping us in these efforts!

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**ST JOHN'S WOMEN IN FAITH (LWML)** will be collecting the following items for the You Are Loved project that provides items for residents at Pekin assisted living and nursing homes thru the month of April.

Large print word search, hand cream, lip balm, individual bags of snacks or cookies, small plastic bottles or cans of regular or diet Coke, Pepsi, Root Beer, or Sprite. Please put any donations in the boxes in the elevator addition.

Thank you for your help.

**Mother’s Day Diaper Shower**

**Peoria Area Lutherans for Life** is sponsoring our annual diaper shower on Mother’s Day, **May 11<sup>th</sup>**. The purpose is to collect as many disposable diapers and wipes as possible for infants and toddlers (especially sizes 4, 5, and 6); plus, adult protective underwear for use by seniors. These will be distributed to local pregnancy resource centers and senior living facilities. May the Lord of life bless you as you help us make this event a success again this year.


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**THANK YOU**

to all who donated Easter Lilies for our Easter services.



- Ray & Joyce Barnes
- Don & Valerie Dobbelaire & Family
- Dave & Nancy Drockelman
- John Durdle
- Michelle & Zach Ferguson
- Sandy Ferguson
- Valerie Ferguson
- Brian Fuelberth
- The Glass Family
- Carol Goodin
- Ross & Diane Gould
- Harms/Daniels Family
- (Jeremy, Tisha, Lexi, Lilly and Aiden)
- The Hoover Family
- Cheryl Ivey
- Jim & Joyce Lonergan
- Carol Long
- Jerry & Paula Norman
- Dodie Sheckler
- Garry & Linda Slabaugh
- Barb Theleritis
- Julie Wagner
- Linda Wagner
- Curt & Pam Woolsey



Received thank you notes from the following:

We are exceedingly grateful for your thoughts, prayers, and gift of \$83.34 Lutherans for Life.

Thank you so much for your thoughtful gift of support for Concordia University Chicago.

Thank you for your generous gift of \$166.66 to Concordia Seminary. Vicki Biggs, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

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

**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 Kesselmayr | Pat Proehl          |
| Kellen Norman        | Joyce Barnes        |
| Lee Morgan           | Ray Garber          |
| Roy Dagit            | John Durdle         |
| Scott Ruschmeyer     | Keith Gleason       |
| Bobby Gregory        | Marilee Gregory     |
| Megan Gould          | Paula Jensen        |
| Rosetta Turner       | Kathy Daly-Unfricht |
| Melvyn Gentry        | Bob Hurst           |
| Michelle Watson      | Pam Woolsey         |
| Shirley Gentry       | Tom Lappie          |
| Cameron Conway       | Donna Pool          |
| Honor Deiss          | Marcille Frevert    |
| Tina Williams        | Vicki McKinley      |

**GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN SCHOOL**

- May 9 School Improvement Day (Pre-K early dismissal @ 12 N — K-8 @ 12:30 p.m.
- May 16 GSLS PTL Spring Carnival
- May 20 Pre K Final Day—Pre-K Graduation at 6:30 p.m.
- May 22 8th Grade Graduation Ceremony @ 6:30 p.m.
- May 23 Final Attendance Day (Early dismissal 11:30) **No Lunch Served**

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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 May are: Donna Pool, Creekwood Apartments, 150 Yordy Rd., #306, Morton 61550; Sheryl Riley, UAW Apartments, 444 S. Parkway Dr., Apt. #1212, Pekin & Shirley Schott, 4181 Cole Hollow Rd., Pekin  
Thank you St. John's Ladies Guild.

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**Central Illinois District Scholarship Sunday is May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Each year our Central Illinois District designates the first Sunday in May to encourage financial gifts to assist CID students who are studying for full-time church work vocations. Gifts will be used to support our 17 CID students. This includes 7 seminarians and 10 undergraduates who are attending an LCMS seminary or university to become a pastor, teacher or other called church worker. Last year we were able to send \$144,925 to offset \$478,120 in unmet needs.

Please plan to make a generous gift on or before May 4<sup>th</sup>. Gifts may be designated "CID Scholarship Fund" to be used for the 2025-2026 school year or be designated "CID Scholarship Endowment Fund" and the income from your gift will be used to help CID students for years to come. Checks may be given through your church or sent to:

Central Illinois District -LCMS,  
1850 N. Grand Avenue West  
Springfield, IL 62702-1626.

Also, don't forget to pray for, thank, and encourage those called church workers who are presently serving you, as well as those who are studying to serve the Lord and you in ministry. If you are considering or know someone who would be a good candidate to study for a called vocation in the church, please speak to your pastor about them and send their name and contact information to our District President, Rev. Michael Mohr.

If you are considering a major gift, or would like to include scholarships for CID seminarians or church worker students in your estate planning or through a life insurance policy or IRA, please contact CID Planned Gift Counselor, Rev. Charles Olander, at (217) 416-8842 or [c-olander@msn.com](mailto:c-olander@msn.com) for assistance.

Thank you for your support of the Central Illinois District and all our mission projects.



**YOUTH GROUP**

Spring Clean Up Day—May 18, 2025

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.

St. John's Lutheran Church  
711 Court St.  
Pekin, IL 61554

Non-Profit Organization  
**U.S. Postage Paid**  
Pekin, IL  
Permit No. 146

(Address Service Requested)

# Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 260

Matt. 12:41-50

## Teachings of Jesus

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

ARID	ARRIVES
CLEAN	BROTHER
EARTH	CONDEMN
ENDS	DISCIPLES
FINAL	FATHER
FINDS	GREATER
HOUSE	JUDGMENT
JESUS	MOTHER
JONAH	NINEVEH
LISTEN	OUTSIDE
ORDER	PLACES
QUEEN	POINTING
REST	REPENTED
RISE	REPLIED
SEVEN	RETURN
SISTER	SEEKING
SPEAK	SOLOMON
STOOD	SPIRITS
SWEPT	STANDING
TAKES	WANTING

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

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MORE PUZZLES AT: