

St. John's Journal

Volume 51, Issue 6

LUTHERAN DISTINCTIVES

VI. The Lutheran Church is a historical church. Part 2

711 Court Street,
Pekin, Illinois 61554-4735
www.stjohnpekin.com
Email: stjohnsec@grics.net
(309) 347-2136

We Lutherans confess the Creeds of the ancient church and affirm the writings of the church fathers that are in agreement with the Scriptures. We do not “make up” our own teaching, but hold to that which authentic Biblical Christians have always believed and confessed. Accordingly, we accept the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds as faithful declarations of God's Word.

God expects His people to hang on to the body of teaching that has been handed down by His faithful people through the generations. Paul instructed Timothy, “Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me.” *2 Timothy 2:13* This “pattern of sound words” or “pattern of doctrine” (*Romans 6:17*) is the summary of the whole body of Christian teaching – very similar to what we have in the Creeds. We read portions of this doctrinal pattern in little creedal statements already found in the Scriptures. Read, for example, Romans 10:9; 1 Timothy 3:16; and 1 John 4:2.

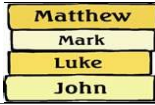
The actual texts of the three Creeds are not found in the Bible, of course. Yet the doctrinal content of the Creeds surely is. We confess the Creeds not merely because they have been passed down to us from ancient times, but because they are entirely in agreement with the Holy Scriptures! Thus we declare in our Lutheran Confessions:

“Since in ancient times the true Christian doctrine as it was correctly and soundly understood was drawn together out of God's Word in brief articles or chapters against the aberrations of heretics, we further pledge allegiance to the three general Creeds, the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian, as the glorious confession of the faith – succinct, Christian, and based upon the Word of God – in which all those heresies which at that time had arisen with the Christian church are clearly and solidly refuted.” *Formula of Concord, Rule and Norm:4*

Our Lutheran Confessions also make many references to the teaching of the church fathers, that is, respected teachers of the ancient church, such as Augustine, Ambrose, Cyprian, and Jerome. These references demonstrate that we Lutherans have not introduced new teaching into the Christian church, but agree with what faithful Christians have always taught. That is simply to say, the Lutheran Church is a historical church.

We thank God for all those who have kept His Word in its truth and purity, and passed down that teaching to us, so that we know Jesus Christ and His salvation by God's grace alone. And we pray that He will keep us an authentically historical church, devoted to the ancient Christian teaching, for that is the very doctrine of Christ, in which we have everlasting life!

- Pastor Bishop



Christian Education

Sunday School

Perfect Attendance

April 2025

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
Rachel Glassey

June 07
Horst Hupke
Derrick Norman

June 08
Joli Andrae
Eric Jensen
Shelly Justi
Parker Ruder

June 09
Vera Bozdeck



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

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
Paula Norman
Ryann Wilson
Carson Winstead

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

June 03
Greg & Tonya Burris

June 06
Jerry & Caralee
Bohannon

June 09
Bill & Linda Rife

June 12
John & Vera Bozdech

June 13
Daniel & Jennifer Leach

June 16
Jeremy & Lena Otey

June 17
Dave & Jennifer
Kesselmayr
J.J. & Jenna Tassart

June 18
Wallace & Julie
Hammond

June 19
Cody & Vanessa Watson

June 21
Joseph & Ricki Belcher
Joe & Heather Donovan

June 23
Dean & Linda Cooper

June 26
Jeremy & Tisha Harms

June 27
Alan & Kim Gudzinskas

June 29
Dylan & Hannah
Kesselmayr
Dave & Kathleen Miller

#####

ADULT INSTRUCTION CLASS

Pastor Bishop has a new Adult Instruction Class scheduled for Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30, beginning June 12. These classes discuss basic Christian teaching as confessed by the Lutheran Church, and can lead to church membership. They are also a helpful and enjoyable review for those who are already members. If you wish to attend, or for more information, contact Pastor Bishop.

PARISH NOTES



Church Attendance

April 2025— **718 —17** serv.
 April 2024— **457 —12** serv.
 April 2023— **818 —17** serv.

Sunday School Attendance Year-to-Date

April 2025: **468**
 April 2024: **498**
 April 2023: **559**

Videographer— June

Zane Dobbelaire

Acolytes—June

June 1

10:30 Silas Gould

June 8

10:30 Kenna Donovan

June 15

10:30 Silas Gould

June 22

10:30 Kenna Donovan

June 29

10:30 Silas Gould

Ushers—June

8:00

Ray Barnes
 Dave Kesselmayer

10:30

Andrew Knussman
 Brian Lundeen

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 1

8:00 a.m. Dave Drockelman
 10:30 a.m. Jon Bolt

June 15

8:00 a.m. Vince Tennell
 10:30 a.m. Ross Gould

June 29

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

#####

Worship Committee—June

Dorothy Sheckler

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, 2025



	<u>April</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>
<u>INCOME</u>	35,641.48	114,812.86
<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>32,644.29</u>	<u>137,499.76</u>
<u>INCOME-EXPENSES</u>	<u>\$ 2,997.19</u>	<u>\$(22,686.90)</u>

General Fund	<u>15,302.90</u>
General Fund Total	<u>15,302.90</u>

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>64,892.93</u>
Educational Fund Total	<u>170,541.38</u>

East Bluff Property-Vanguard	39,507.39
East Bluff CD LCMS 12/21	53,741.35
East Bluff CD LCMS 12/22	53,770.40
Cat Stock at FMV	<u>114,121.73</u>
East Bluff Property Fund	<u>261,140.87</u>

Memorial

Memorial Fund Checking	42,602.62
Memorial Vanguard	<u>97,120.81</u>
Memorial Fund Total	<u>139,723.43</u>

Building Fund Checking	25,253.33
S.S. Fund Checking	11,941.89

TOTAL ASSETS **\$623,903.80**

Checking Account Balance	<u>90,049.30</u>
TOTAL	<u>90,049.30</u>

LIABILITIES

Payroll Liabilities	3,019.62
Misc LCMS Orgs Fund	<u>99.16</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>3,118.78</u>

FUND BALANCE

Net Income (Loss)	(24,632.09)
Capital Accounts	<u>645,417.11</u>
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	<u>620,785.02</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE **\$623,903.80**

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 12, 2025**

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

The April Parish Report was reviewed. A motion was made by Julie Wagner, seconded by Diane Gould, to approve the April Parish Report. Motion carried.

The April meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Bob Oliverius, seconded by Julie Wagner, to approve the April meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Rod Bollinger reviewed the April Treasurer's Report. April was a positive month with income outpacing expenses for a net gain of almost \$3,000. The year-to-date deficit was reduced to \$22,686.90. Items on the check register were pretty much normal expenses except for the payment to Johnson HVACR & Food Service for the purchase and installation of the new coffee maker. The payment to Tammy Sylvester was from the Elders Care Fund. The payment to TK Elevator Corp was for the normal inspection of the elevator. Diane Gould motioned, seconded by Cheryl Ivey, to approve the April Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Board of Trustees – Dave Kesselmayer reported that the electrical work on the breakers and panel has been completed. In addition, the work needed on the roof has been completed. Dave will get the documentation sent to the insurance company. These expenses will be paid out of the Building Fund. The Trustees are recommending that we hire Molly Maids to do the cleaning of the church. It is expected that the first cleaning will be paid for on an hourly basis so it could be more costly than the normal quoted price of \$1,400.00 a month. The Trustees motioned, seconded by Nancy Drockelman, to hire Molly Maids to clean the church. Motion carried.

Board of Elders – Ross Gould reported that they assisted one individual in April through the Elders Care Fund in the amount of \$112.89.

Board of Finance – No report.

Board of Christian Education – Laura Dobbelaire reported that Dodie Sheckler has accepted the position of superintendent for the Sunday School. Cheryl Ivey has volunteered to be the treasurer. The board is donating \$2,000 toward the capital campaign for Good Shepherd Lutheran School. They have also donated to the Lutheran Heritage Foundation. This coming Sunday, the youth will be helping with yard clean-up for seniors.

John Neumann reported for Good Shepherd Lutheran School. The current loan balance is \$466,800.00. They have enough in the bank to cover monthly payments until next February or March. The school was able to get 3 donation matches from the program that Caterpillar was offering. The school needs an interim 7th/8th grade teacher. They have not had any interviews set up yet. On Monday, May 19, interviews for an interim principal will start since Joel Kilgus has accepted a position with another school. John noted that there are 8 students whose families have not paid their dues for a total of approximately \$14,000.00. One student is graduating and going into high school. John asked for guidance on how to handle this. Some schools will not forward transcripts if families have not paid outstanding fees. This is an option. John will be handling the process of trying to collect these outstanding fees.

Board of Worship – Julie Wagner reported that the committee met on May 8th. The paraments for the chapel have been ordered. Dan Dobbelaire is filling in as an usher while Steve Kesselmayer is unavailable. Paul Tackman is temporarily filling in for Sandy Tennell until she can resume duties. The committee discussed alternating the use of the LSB Divine Service 1 and page 5 of The Lutheran Hymnal for the service on the second Sunday of the month. Discussion took place and it was decided that the committee should ask more people for their feedback as to whether they liked the new service. Julie will have Sandy Ferguson put something in the bulletin.

Board of Evangelism – Tracy Glass reported that the committee has been helping with the set-up and preparation in support of the Elders for the potluck on May 18th. The committee will meet in June to continue discussing the survey as noted in last month's minutes.

Board of Stewardship – No report.

Long Range Planning Committee – No report.

Educational Grant Fund Committee – Ross Gould asked if anyone had come up with some ideas as to how to use the interest that was earned last year on this fund. Steve Kesselmayer suggested maybe donating the money to the CID Scholarship Fund (which would help students preparing for church vocations at one of our seminaries or universities) as the fund was originally set up to help seminary students from our congregation. Bob Oliverius suggested asking the teachers at Good Shepherd if there was anything that was needed that we could apply the money toward. It was noted that applying the money to the purchase of the Social Studies curriculum is another option. John Neumann will see how much is still needed to purchase the curriculum so further discussion can take place next month.

East Bluff Property Committee – No report.

Constitution By-laws Committee – Discussion continued regarding the topic of lowering the number needed to satisfy the quorum to conduct business at the Voters Assembly.

meeting. It was noted that committee chairs should encourage their committee members to attend the meetings. The topic of changing the meetings to a quarterly basis instead of monthly was broached. It was noted that no one really likes the idea of lowering the number to meet the quorum, but we need to be able to conduct business. Another option is to increase the amount that the Trustees can spend without having to have a motion. At the current time, it was decided to leave this topic alone unless we start having issues again with meeting the quorum limits.

Unfinished business – Kathy Heisel reported on the results of the rummage sale. The total profit for this year was just a little over \$8,700.00. \$500.00 was given to the Share Program. Two new sofas and a table will be purchased for the lounge area. The existing sofas will be donated to Ewes Home Furnishings. In addition, it was indicated that we need to purchase 6 additional tables like what was purchased from the proceeds last year. Any money left over will be used to help with remodeling the bathrooms in the lounge area. After the sale, some donations were given to Chris from the Blessings Closet which helps the homeless in the area. Bob Oliverius thanked Kathy for spearheading the sale and those that helped with the sale itself. A question was asked as to whether there were final numbers for the auction available. As of right now, it looks like approximately \$70,000.00 was raised but numbers are not final. Gary Pool thanked Dave and Steve Kesselmayer for cleaning the church in the interim before the new cleaning crew starts.

New business – Dave Drockelman motioned, seconded by Julie Wagner, to suspend the July and August Voters Assembly meetings. Motion carried.

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

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

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.

DOLLARS FOR MISSIONS - Portions of brick are crumbling away, water is leaking in between the masonry frames and the windows, and mortar joints are opening in brick walls. The current Dollar for Missions project is \$25,000 for masonry work and repointing at University Lutheran Church in Champaign. These funds will help to correct masonry wear-and-tear on the 70-plus-year-old church and student center. University Lutheran Church has served many thousands of students with the Gospel of Christ over 70+ years. Please help to provide a space for another 70 years of distributing Christ's gifts! Feel free to check out the video at <https://youtu.be/n3BgVeNC0tg> or find more information on our website <https://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-a-dollar-for-missions.html>.



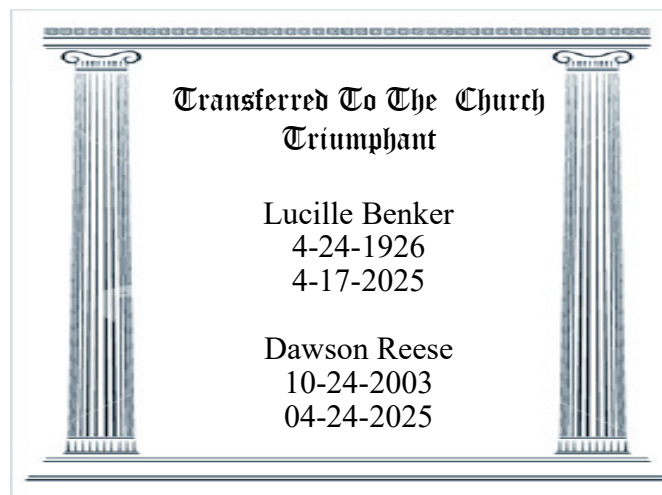
Received a thank you letter for our donation from Lutherans for Life.

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

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

GSLS is looking for a 7/8 Grade Teacher for the 25/26 School year. If you are interested, or know someone who is interested, please contact Cori Spaeth at cori.spaeth@gmail.com

GSLS is looking for an Interim Principal for the 25/26 School year. If you are interested, or know someone who is interested, please contact Cori Spaeth at cspaeth@goodshepherdpekin.com.



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 June are: Mary Beck, Charter Senior Living, 2700 S. 14th St., #214, Pekin; Donna Corso, John Evans Supportive Living, 1320 Executive Ct, #104, Pekin and Honor Deiss, Charter Senior Living, 2700 S. 14th St., #205, Pekin.

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

#####

“Did You Know?”

by Peoria Area Lutherans for Life:



Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel motivated voices for life.

Did you know that a woman's uterus is the only organ *not* designed specifically for *her* benefit. The main function of the uterus is to protect and nourish the developing baby prior to birth. God's creative work is good and orderly.

#####

Camp CILCA Homecoming, **August 2, 2025**

This will be CILCA's only fundraiser for the year (replacing the Hog Roast and Chicken Fry). There will be live music, a vendor fair, great food, swimming, square dancing, face painting, wagon rides and more. Mark your calendar to celebrate CILCA's 75th anniversary in style!

#####

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

Robert Rilea

Peggy Farlin

Addie Burling

Eileen Tiona

Gabriella Kesselmayer

Kellen Norman

Lee Morgan

Roy Dagit

Scott Ruschmeyer

Bobby Gregory

Megan Gould

Rosetta Turner

Melvyn Gentry

Michelle Watson

Shirley Gentry

Cameron Conway

Honor Deiss

Tina Williams

Sandy Tennell

Sandy Morgan

Jeff Ferree

Debbie Miller

Julie Rilea

Keith Gleason

Pat Proehl

Joyce Barnes

Ray Garber

John Durdle

Keith Gleason

Marilee Gregory

Paula Jensen

Kathy Daly-Unfricht

Bob Hurst

Pam Woolsey

Tom Lappie

Donna Pool

Marcille Frevert

Vicki McKinley

Donna Hansen

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

This summer, we're going on an Epic Adventure through Australia, and you're invited! We'll encounter amazing animals, lush landscapes, stunning sea life, and wondrous wilderness. And most importantly, we'll be guided by our Savior, Jesus, who tells us, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" in our theme verse, John 14:6.

Date: Sunday, June 8 - Thursday, June 12

Location: Good Shepherd School

Time: 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the gym

#####

YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP (for ages 20-35) will meet @ Trinity Lutheran Church, 135 NE Randolph Ave., Peoria on Saturday, June 21, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Fellowship includes: food, games, movies, etc.

#####

The Share Program is in need Boost (or equivalent product), Gatorade, Hamburger Helper, Chef Boyardee products, Macaroni & Cheese and paper products.

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 256 Matt. 11:18-30

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

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> COPYRIGHT 2016 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Jesus the Teacher 2

ASHES	BEARABLE
CITIES	BURDEN
DEPTHS	CHILDREN
EARTH	CHOOSES
EXCEPT	GLUTTON
FATHER	HEAVEN
FRIEND	HIDDEN
GENTLE	HUMBLE
HEART	JUDGMENT
JESUS	LEARNED
KNOWS	MIRACLES
LIFTED	NEITHER
LIGHT	PLEASURE
PRAISE	REMAINED
REVEAL	PROVED
SIDON	REPENT
SKIES	SINNERS
SODOM	DRINKING