St. John's Journal

Volume 51, Issue 10

WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT WAR?

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It seems like there's always a war going on somewhere in the world.

With the current wars in Ukraine and Israel still being fought, and no clear end in sight in either of them, war is very much in the news and on many people's minds. This gives us good occasion to review what God teaches us about war in the Holy Scriptures.

With all its inherent violence and killing, war is certainly not part of God's original plan for mankind. Rather, war is a consequence of, and in some cases, a temporal punishment for, human sin. Since man's fall into sin, however – because of fallen man's hatred and greed and selfishness – war has become necessary and permissible in certain circumstances. The fact that God commanded Old Testament Israel to go to war on various occasions (for example, Josh. 11:16-20) demonstrates that war is not sinful in itself. For God would never command His people to sin.

We understand, of course, that Old Testament Israel was a unique situation. In those ancient times Israel was God's chosen nation. God's word ruled them in both religious and civil affairs. Since Christ has come, though, no nation is ruled by God in this way. The holy Christian church is God's chosen nation. Therefore we cannot expect God expressly to command the United States or any other nation to go to war.

Even so, God has established the governing officials among the nations, and has authorized them to bear the sword. You can read about this in Romans 13:1-7. Bearing the sword includes the power to wage wars. Because God has given this authority to the government to punish evil, Christians may serve in the government with a clear conscience, and even engage in war, so long as the war is just.

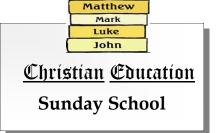
God does not want nations to engage in war for the purpose of conquest. Taking territory or possessions from other nations by force is simply stealing on a large scale – a gross violation of the Seventh Commandment. And killing other soldiers in an unjust cause is murder – a gross violation of the Fifth Commandment. So no nation should ever go to war for mere self aggrandizement.

But God does permit nations to wage war when the cause is just. Christians have traditionally included these points among the criteria for a just war:

- It must be a serious situation that demands correction, for example, defending citizens from foreign aggressors.
- Peaceful solutions must be pursued and exhausted first. War should be a last result, only when diplomacy fails.
- There must be a reasonable expectation of success in the war, so that the nation is not plunged into inevitable ruin.
- The damage expected to be sustained in the war must be less than the damage that is trying to be corrected.

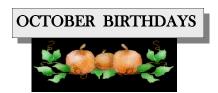
When the cause is truly just, God permits war in order to defend one's neighbor. Yes, enemy soldiers must be killed, but this is done to protect the lives of many others. Luther said it like this: "War is only a little, brief lack of peace that prevents an everlasting and immeasurable lack of peace, a small misfortune that prevents a great misfortune."

(continued on page 7)



Perfect Attendance August 2025

Fifth/Sixth Grades
Aiden Harms



Oct 01

Brayden Hoover

Oct 02

Elizabeth Niemann Beaman Trevor Reese

Oct 04

Norah Abatie John Adkins Melissa Hoyle Vincent Tennell

Oct 05

Hanna Hicks

Oct 06

Pastor Daniel Bishop Addison Decker Silas Gould Madelyn Hicks Maci Hicks

Oct 07

Richard Becker Paul Driskell Sean Kelley

Oct 08

Geirfridar Byers Benjamin Gould Zachary Stoehr Linda Wagner Katherine Wright

Oct 09

Brayden Bounds Griffin Glass Brian Williamson

Oct 10

Robert Oliverius

Oct 11

Lucas Woith

Oct 12

Joyce Long

Oct 13

Douglas King

Oct 14

Tricia Thomason Diane Wagle

Oct 15

Sharon Parry Michael Wiseman

Oct 16

Shelley Gee Becky Hacker Abby Hall

Oct 17

Nicole DeBoer Garret Kesselmayer Laura Nelson

Oct 20

Eric Dupent Kelsy Stoehr

Oct 21

James Bohannon Michele Deiss

Oct 21 cont.

Mackenzie Hoyle

Oct 22

Lidia Bishop Julie Noble

Oct 23

Gregory Becker

Oct 24

Brian Fuelberth Adam Miller

Oct 25

Brian Ford

Oct 26

Delmar Deiss, Jr. Nicholas Nafziger Daniel Sego

Oct 27

Ryan Engelbright

Oct 28

Jamie Bohannon John Durdle

Oct 29

Alecia Blakeslee Shane Decker Beth Ruder

Oct 30

Olivia Driskell

Oct 31

Bonnie Guengerich Robert Whitlatch

REMINDER

With the end of the year approaching, we will be looking for volunteers to help fill vacancies on the various committees. If you are asked, please consider helping.

Thank you.

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Oct 01

Ross & Diane Gould

Oct 03 Eric & Amanda Ferguson

Troy & Susan Keefer Mickey & Debee Pitchford

Brian & Molly Hicks

Oct 10

Garret & Shayla Kesselmayer Brian & Tracy Lundeen

Oct. 13

Del & Laura Beideck

Mark & Tomi Pfanz

Oct 17

Mike & Stefanie Wilson

Oct 18

Matthew & Monica Lappie

Joseph & Lori Schiavone

Oct 21

David & Nancy Drockelman

Oct. 23 Philip & Janelle Hopping

Oct 25 Terry & Nancy Swearingen

Daniel & Michelle Watson

Videographers

Rod Bollinger

Worship

Sandy Tennell



PARISH NOTES



Church Attendance

Aug 2025	557	15
Aug 2024	431	12
Aug 2023	484	12

Sunday School Attendance

Aug 2025	984
Aug 2024	1006
Aug 2023	1079

ACOLYTES

Oct 5

10:30 Aiden Harms

Oct 12

Kenna Donovan 10:30

Oct 19

10:30 Silas Gould

Oct 26

10:30 Aiden Harms

Elders Communion Assistance

8:00 Vince Tennell Oct 05 10:30 Ross Gould

Oct 19 8:00 Randy Couch 10:30 Jon Bolt

Ushers

8:00

10:30

James Lonergan Brian Ford Scott Stalter Trent Hoover Merle Wiseman Brian Umbach

USHERS

Ushers are needed at both services. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Jim Lonergan @309-202-7183.

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 Jeff Ferree Robert Rilea Peggy Farlin Debbie Miller Addie Burling Julie Rilea Eileen Tiona Keith Gleason Paula Jensen Gabriella Kesselmayer Suzanne Reising Kellen Norman Joyce Barnes Lee Morgan Ray Garber Roy Dagit John Durdle Shirley Williamson **Bobby Gregory** Scott Ruschmeyer Marilee Gregory Megan Gould Rosetta Turner Kathy Daly-Unfricht Melvyn Gentry Bob Hurst Michelle Watson Pam Woolsey Shirley Gentry Tom Lappie Cameron Conway Honor Deiss Marcille Frevert Tina Williams Sandy Tennell Vicki McKinley Donna Hansen Donna Corso Bryan McGrath Marlana Montgomery-**Bob Oliverius** Janet Lawson

The Flower Chart for 2026 has been ordered and will be posted in the Narthex soon. Start thinking of the Sunday(s) that you would like to provide flowers for the altar and fill in the chart when it is posted. Please call the office, 309-347-2136, and let us know what you would like in the bulletin.

If you want special flowers for the Altar you need to call Greenhouse Florist -347-592 or they will do seasonal flowers.

Remember you can pick up your flowers

after the 7:00 p.m. service (please leave the green liners) or Mon. to Fri. from 8:00 a.m. to 12 Noon.

Flowers are \$40.00 (unless you order special flowers then there could be an additional charge) with a \$10.00 delivery charge. Checks should be made payable to St. John's. We can contact you when we receive invoice from Greenhouse.





TREASURER'S REPORT AUGUST, 2025

Update		
	<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>
INCOME EXPENSES INCOME-EXPENSES	46,508.48 36,671.74 9,836.74	315,169.66 <u>276,609.48</u> 38,560.18
General Fund Accoun General Fund General Fund CD #119 General Fund Total		40,217.33 40,000.00 80,217.33
Educational Fund Acc Educational Grant Fund Ed Grant CD LCMS 12/ Ed Grant CD LCMS 12/ Educational Grant Fund Educational Fund Total	l Checking /21 /22 I #2-Vanguard	1,948.56 51,863.96 51,835.93 <u>65,261.88</u> 170,910.33
East Bluff Property East Bluff Property—Va East Bluff CD LCMS 12 East Bluff CD LCMS 12 Cat Stock at FMV East Bluff Property	2/21	39,732.09 53,741.35 53,770.40 <u>154,626.86</u> 301,870.70
Memorial Memorial Fund Checkir Memorial Vanguard Memorial—Busey CD # Memorial Fund Total		19,374.62 97,669.42 <u>20,000.00</u> 137,044.04
Building Fund Checking Sunday School Fund C		24,183.33 8,189.41
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>\$722,415.14</u>
Checking Account Ba Checking Account Bala TOTAL		93,913.25 93,913.25
LIABILITIES Payroll Liabilities Misc. LCMS Orgs Fund TOTAL LIABILITIES		2,902.56 103.25 3,005.81
Fund Balance Net Income (Loss) Capital Accounts TOTAL FUND BALANCE	<u>CE</u>	73,992.22 645,417.11 719,409.33
T. Control of the Con		



TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE

HI-LITES OF ST. JOHN'S VOTERS ASSEMBLY September 8, 2025

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

The June, July, and August Parish Reports were reviewed. A motion was made by Nancy Drockelman, seconded by Diane Gould, to approve the June, July, and August Parish Reports. Motion carried.

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

Treasurer's Report – Rod Bollinger reviewed the June, July, and August Treasurer's Reports. Our financial position has not changed much over the last 3 months. There was a slight loss for the month of June. We took some of the money from the General Fund and the Memorial Fund and invested in CD's through Busey Bank. Expenses for the month of June included quarterly maintenance on the HVAC systems and the payment for the roof repairs. The July report shows a loss of around \$8,300.00. The item on the check register for \$30,000.00 to Good Shepherd School was a donation of stock to the school that we ran through our stock account to process the donation. Expenses for the month included service on the elevator and maintenance on the fire extinguishers. August was a good month with income exceeding expenses by \$9,836.74, leaving a year-todate positive balance of \$38,560.18. This excess is due to the bequest that was received earlier in the year. Expenses for August included payments for next year's donation envelopes, real estate taxes on the Ewe's Home Furnishings building and the Veteran's Road property, repair of the air conditioner at Ewe's Home Furnishings, and supplies for Rally Day. A question was asked as to the length of the CD's at Busey Bank with Rod indicating that he believed they were for a 9-month term. Dave Drockelman motioned, seconded by Nancy Drockelman, to approve the June, July, and August Treasurer's Reports. Motion carried.

Board of Trustees – Dave Kesselmayer reported that the Trustees are waiting for an estimate on crack repair, resealing, and restriping the parking lot. Dave noted that it appeared that repairs to the road were not going to be completed this year, so we were going to proceed with fixing the parking lot. The women's restroom in the elevator addition is nearing completion. Updates to the men's restroom will follow. The VHS cabinets will be repurposed for use by committees. These will replace the 3 metal cabinets that were downstairs. A request has been made to the Trustees to use the gym next year for the annual rummage sale. The sale will be held the weekend after Easter. Proceeds from the sale will be used to refresh the stage area.

\$722,415.14

<u>Board of Elders</u> – Ross Gould reported that the Elders assisted with 3 requests over the past 6-8 weeks. Special funds were donated for these requests due to special circumstances.

<u>Board of Finance</u> – The board has not met but Rod Bollinger indicated that he hopes to have the budget worksheets out in a couple weeks so the committee chairs can get them completed.

<u>Board of Christian Education</u> – Laura Dobbelaire reported that the committee is getting ready for the church picnic this coming Sunday. The following Sunday the youth will have an activity. They have invited youth from Trinity and Sand Prairie.

John Neumann reported for Good Shepherd Lutheran School. John indicated that the interim principal did attend a service at St. John's a couple weeks ago. Things at the school seem very positive. All tuition and fees are current as of today. The balance on the capital campaign is below \$247,000. John is hopeful that the balance will be paid off by next May. There are a couple of items that the board will be addressing at their upcoming meeting. John didn't have current enrollment numbers but indicated things are looking up for the school. John gave an update on the solar panels. City zoning approved the panels as did the city council. The company doing the installation has started talks with Ameren. The board is starting the process of looking for a permanent principal for the next school year.

<u>Board of Worship</u> – Julie Wagner reported that the committee met last Thursday but she had no updates to report.

Board of Evangelism – Tracy Glass reported that the updates to the website for visitors has gone live. Tracy thanked Brian Ford for his help. Friendship Sunday is coming up in a couple months. Appointments for pictures for the new photo directory will take place on October 11th and October 18th. Sign-up sheets should be available next Sunday. Ross Gould noted that in the past the committee also made phone calls to help get members signed up. Val Ferguson gave an update on the church member survey. On Saturday, October 4th, Val will hold a meeting to answer questions that members may have about the survey. Information about the survey will also be included in the bulletin and Val will be available on October 11th and 18th during the photo sessions to help members complete the survey if necessary.

Board of Stewardship - No report.

Long Range Planning Committee – No report.

Educational Grant Fund Committee – In the last meeting, an inquiry was made as to whether some of the interest earned from this fund could be used to help purchase a new curriculum for the school. Laura Dobbelaire indicated that that curriculum has already been purchased. Ross Gould asked Laura to see if there was something else that the.

school needed help with.

<u>East Bluff Property Committee</u> – The Trustees are going to have a workday at the cemetery coming up. If you can help, please let a Trustee know.

<u>Constitution By-laws Committee</u> – No report.

Unfinished business – No unfinished business.

New business — Ross Gould indicated that the committee chairs should look for the budget worksheets so they can have those completed for their committees. Also, committee chairs should be thinking about recruiting for positions that will be open for next year. It was asked if descriptions of the committee's responsibilities could be put in the bulletin. An inquiry was made as to whether a person could serve more than 2 terms or 6 years depending on the position. Ross noted that there is nothing in the constitution that needs to be changed. This would simply take a vote by the Voter's Assembly. It was noted that someone can also serve on more than one committee.

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

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wagner Secretary

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

this month.

Shut ins for October are: Adam Miller, 2007 Willow, Pekin; Loretta Newman, Sunset Rehab & Health Care, 129 S. 1st Ave., Canton 61520 and Sharon Parry, 1721 Valle Vista, Pekin.

forgotten. Please send a card or pay a visit to these shut-ins

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

CHURCH WORKER APPRECIATION MONTH

October is a celebratory month for Lutheran churches, thanks in large part to our observance of Reformation Day. Every year, we commemorate the nailing of the 95 Theses to the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany. Every year, we commemorate the bold faithfulness of Martin Luther, the then-Augustinian monk, who took a daring stand to defend Christ's bride, the church, and preach an unbridled Gospel. Oct. 12 is Pastor Appreciation.

More information regarding this is on bulletin board in gym



LIBARARY CORNER By Eileen Tiona

"What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, but forfeit his soul." Mark 8:36

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.

YOUTH GROUP

Next month is our Fall cleanup to help our senior church members.

If you would like help with your yard work, please contact Pastor Bishop.

Camp CILCA - G.R.I.T. RUN is October 4 -

Grueling, Rugged, Intense Trail Run—5K

Open run participants ages 6-18 run for \$10, and participants 19+ run for \$30. Find out more and sign up at www.cilca.org/grit-run or call 217-487=7497 for more information.

"Did You Know?"

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



By week 10 of development, baby *can* feel pain, as his nervous system is highly developed and functional. Also, baby's unique fingerprints have formed. By God's design, our bodies are immensely complex.

DID YOU KNOW?

The first concrete street in America was poured in 1891 in Bellefontaine, Ohio.

(continued from Pastor's page)

Jesus has taught us that wars are a sign to remind us of His second coming. (Matthew 24:6-7) We know we will have wars here on earth until He comes again. At the same time, we should pray for peace among the nations, and by no means seek war. Above all, we should cling to and give thanks for this happy truth: Because Jesus died for the forgiveness of our sins, and then rose from the dead to break the power of death, the day is coming when there will be no more war. All of us who trust in Him and His blood-bought pardon will live in everlasting peace! May that day come soon!

- Pastor Bishop

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHRAN SCHOOL DINING OUT SCHEDULE

October 6 Monical's — Pekin

November 6 Papa Murphys — Pekin

Watch future bulletins for further information on Dining Out.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN SCHOOL

October 2 - No School - CID Teacher Conference

October 3 - No School - CID Teacher Conference

October 13 - No School - Columbus Day

October 17 - Fall Picture Retakes.

October 23 - No School, P/T Conferences, Early Dismissal (Pre K 12 N/K-8 @ 12:30 pm)

October 24 - No School, P/T Conferences

LUTHERAN YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

Will meet on Saturday, October 18, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 135 NE Randolph Ave., Peoria. They meet from 4 to 9 p.m. Fellowship includes: food, games, movies, etc.



PHOTO DIRECTORY ANNOUNCEMENT

Our church is planning a new photo directory, and we look forward to having all members participate!

Lifetouch, the photo-directory company we worked with in the past, is no longer in business. However, we are blessed to know a retired LCMS Lutheran pastor who specializes in portrait photography and church-directory design. His name is Rev. Robert Bruer, Emeritus, he is located in Decatur, and he has agreed to manage our church directory project.

<u>Pastor Bruer's involvement brings special benefits:</u> simple, quick photo sittings (about 10 minutes per sitting), expert photo retouching, affordable photo-print prices, and no pressure to buy anything (i.e., no hard-sell tactics to buy expensive packages or add-ons, which are often heavily promoted and pushed by commercial portrait companies).

WHEN: Portrait sessions will take place on two consecutive Saturdays: October 11 and October 18.

WHERE: Portrait sessions will take place at our church. During each individual session, participants will be guided into a comfortable pose, a photo will be taken, and the photo will appear on a monitor for instant review.

WHAT: Each individual, couple or family that has a portrait taken will receive one FREE photo directory... and will also be able to order and pay for affordable photo prints in various sizes. (Order forms will be provided ahead of time and also on portrait-session days.)

PLEASE SIGN UP ASAP:

Signup sheets are posted in the church gym, so be sure to reserve a time for your portrait session.

OUESTIONS? OR YOU'RE NOT FREE ON SATURDAYS?

Let us know. Please send an email to stjohnsec@grics.net. And put "Photo Directory" in the subject line.

WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU ON PICTURE DAY

Your filled-out order form for the photo prints you want.

(OR you can fill out a form after your portrait session is complete.)

Your checkbook – so you can pay for your photo-print order before you leave.

Please: Do not bring pets or props to your photo session. Thank you.

Do You Believe in The Sanctity of Human Life?

Please join Peoria Area Lutherans for Life and many other tri-county Christians for the national Life Chain event on Sunday, October 5, 2:00-3:00pm.

Life Chain is a *peaceful* and *prayerful* public witness of pro-life individuals quietly standing for one hour praying for our nation and for an end to abortion. It is a visual statement by the Christian community that abortion kills children and that we support the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception. This is an annual observance of the Life Chain which occurs simultaneously in over 1,200 locations across our nation and in Canada (see www.LifeChain.net).

Dear Congregation,

Our congregation is exploring participation in the LCMS Re:Vitality Lutheran revitalization program. "Vital" is the key component of "revitalization." Wherever the Word is proclaimed in its purity and God's Sacraments are rightly administered, there is spiritual vitality. Re:Vitality builds upon spiritual vitality and guides the church in positive action for sustainable, adaptable, focused, and healthy ministry for years to come. The first step in the Re:Vitality process is to submit honest feedback about our congregation from everyone involved. I want to encourage every adult (18 years and older) to fill out this simple online survey.

You can use this link when you are ready to begin: http://lcms.cadds.alchemer.com/s3/&cong=C704347. We can also provide paper copies for those who need them.

We need to hear from everyone, individually. We want to hear from you, whether you've been a member here your whole life or you're new to Christianity, whether you're a member, frequent attendee, or occasional visitor, we want to hear from you.

Your responses are completely anonymous. No one will know your name, and I will not see individual responses. It is important to be honest in your feedback so that we can have an accurate assessment about where we perceive we are as a congregation.

There will be an informational meeting in our church basement Saturday, Oct. 4th at 10am to answer any questions prior to the survey being administered 10/12-11/2.

Thank you for submitting your responses by 11/2/2025.

Blessings,

Pastor

SAVE THE DATE

MUSIC FOR MISSIONS –

will be held Sunday, November 16, at 2 p.m. See November Journal for more information.



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

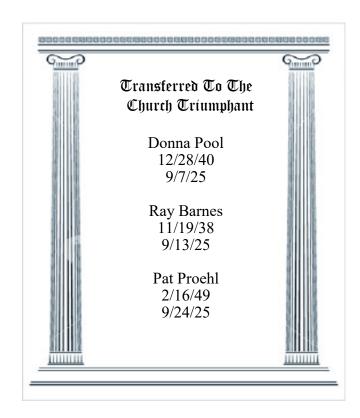
Lutherans for Life sent a thank letter for our recent contribution.

We received a thank you letter from Concordia University Chicago for our contribution.

We also thank all our committee members and volunteers for all their work in and about the church during the year. Bless you all.

TO ALL OUR CHURCH FAMILY – We would like do extend our sincere thanks, for al of your prayers, love and support, in the passing of our Mom. We're extremely blessed to have you all in our lives! From the family of **Donna Pool**

WOMEN IN FAITH – LWML will meet Saturday, November 1, at 10:00 a.m. in the church basement. They will be collecting gift cards (gas, grocery, Walmart, Target, etc.) can goods, paper products, hygiene products, snacks, etc. for the children and families receiving services from the Children's Home in Peoria, Illinois. The programs service Tazewell, Woodford, and Peoria Counties.



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

(Address Service Requested)

Bible Wordsearch

Jesus the Healer 6

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ASKED ACCUSE BREAD ANSWERED CONDEMNED DAVID DESIRE DESECRATE FALLS DISCIPLES ENTERED GOD GREATER GRAIN HEADS HUNGRY HEAL INNOCENT HOUSE KNOWN JESUS LAWFUL LOOKING LORD MEAN PHARISEES PRIESTS MERCY PICK REASON SABBATH SHEEP 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: http://biblewordgames.com

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