

St. John's Journal

Volume 51 Issue 11

OUR CHRISTIAN HOPE

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

As November brings with it the end of the Church Year, our focus moves to the “end things,” the events that will come at the close of this present age. And so we give particular attention to our Christian hope. In fact, the Gospel themes for All Saints' Day and the last three Sundays of the Church Year all point strongly to our Christian hope.

But what is it for which we hope? As Christians, what is it to which we look forward the most? Perhaps many Christians would answer something like this: “I expect to go to heaven when I die.” And that is good. It surely is part of our Christian hope. The peace and rest of the souls in heaven is without doubt much better than continued life in this sad, sin-ruined world. Paul wrote, “My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.” *Philippians 1:23*

Yet the life of the souls with Christ in heaven is by no means our entire hope! To be sure, it is a blissful condition, yet only an intermediate condition. Much more remains to come! For as long as the bodies of Christ's people are still here on earth, returning to dust in their graves, the Lord's work is not finished. Therefore, our Christian hope looks ultimately to what Christ will do when He returns – to the wonderful things that will begin when our Savior appears visibly!

On that day, Christ will raise all the dead, and change the bodies of all people who believe in Him to a glorious condition, very much like His own resurrected and glorious body. “For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.” *1 Corinthians 15:52*

On that same day, Christ will judge all people according to what they have done. For all of us who trust in Him, that will be a day of vindication! For Christ will judge us according to the works we

have done in Him – works that, by His grace, with all sin forgiven, are good and pleasing in His sight. So we and all believers in Christ will be publicly declared the true people of God. He will say, “Come, you who are blessed by My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” *Matthew 25:34* Those will be the words we hear from our Savior.

Then we will begin to live with God, in our sin-free bodies and souls, in the world to come. The Bible calls this “the new heaven and new earth.” It will be a perfectly renewed creation – the world restored to a condition better than ever. And we will live in the immediate, unveiled presence of God, to worship Him and serve Him and even rule with Him for time that never ends! “The Lord God will be their light, and they shall reign for ever and ever.” *Revelation 22:5* That's our Christian hope!

Now, to call this “hope” is not to question its certainty. This is not a mere wish. It's not like saying, “I hope the weather is nice next Saturday,” or anything else like that, which we can't know for sure. Rather, our Christian hope is what we know for certain because God has promised it, but we still have to wait for it. We know it's coming. For our resurrection and final vindication and the life of the world to come have all been guaranteed by the works and words of our Lord Jesus Christ! His death, His resurrection and ascension, together with His promises, all make our hope certain!

So let us live boldly and joyfully in our Christian hope, and not just these final few weeks of the Church Year, but all our days, until our hope finally gives way to experience at the Lord's coming!

- Pastor Bishop

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Christian Education **Sunday School**

Perfect Attendance September 2025

1st Thru 3rd Grades
Roman Harley
Keturah Harley

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Nov 01

Sheri McCann
Gabriel Page

Nov 02

Austin Lonergan

Nov 05

Sandy Ferguson
Zander Hopping
Nathaniel Thomas

Nov 07

Ethan Kesselmayer
Ethan Szadkowski

Nov 08

Daniel Leach

Nov 09

Lisa Pool
Trina Szadkowski

Nov 10

John Adkins II
Annette Ford
Timothy Gay
Lori Maass

Nov 11

Josie Wooden

Nov 12

Carter Britton
Kayla Walsh

Nov 13

Robert Williamson III

Nov 14

Alison Morris
Madison Morris

Nov 15

Hank Nance

Nov 17

Bayley Driskell
Ross Gould
Trent Hoover
Mae Houge

Nov 18

Amanda Ferguson

Nov 19

Shaun Ivey
Trey Ivey
Reva Oliverius

Nov 20

Zane Dobbelaire
Jeffrey Ferree
Christian Tiona

Nov 21

Stefanie Wilson

Nov 22

Cheryl Ivey

Nov 23

Joyce Lonergan
Stephanie Morrison
Roran Snoble

Nov 24

Isabelle Terrell

Nov 25

Marcus Frankel

Nov 26

George Andrae
Ryan Rusk

Nov 27

Claudia Reeder
Doris Smith

Nov 28

Jack Ferguson
Joseph Lappie

Nov 29

Megan Etter
Carol Goodin

Nov 30

Gavin Glass
Leah Sipka

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Nov 04

Jeffrey & Victoria Plack

Nov 11

Lyle & Doris Smith

Nov 12

Gregory & Susan Swibold

Nov 20

John & Beverly Wieland

Nov 21

Ron & Sue Reising

Nov 23

Delmar & Kathleen Deiss
John & Ann Wilson

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

will be
**Thanksgiving Eve at 7:00 p.m.
November 26, 2025**

We urge all members to observe the national Day of Thanksgiving as what it is intended to be, a day of public thanks to God in church. Thanksgiving Eve service is also an excellent opportunity to bring guests to church!

Trustees will be decorating the outside of the church on Saturday, Nov. 29 starting at 8:00 a.m. All volunteers are welcome to come and help.

Worship Committee will be decorating the inside of the church on Saturday, Nov. 29 at 8:00 a.m. Volunteers are more than welcome to come and help decorate.

IN NEED OF USHERS

We are in need of ushers, especially at the 10:30 service.

Ushers hand out bulletins, greet members and visitors, answer questions, collect offerings, direct communicants during communion and give directions to facilities as necessary.

If you are interested please let Jim Lonergan (309-202-7183) know. Thank you.

If it is in the Bible, it is SO!

PARISH NOTES



Church Attendance

Sept 2025 — **445**—12 services
Sept 2024 — **538**—15 services
Sept 2023 — **445**—12 services

Sunday School Attendance

Sept 2025: **1,117**
Sept 2024: **1,164**
Sept 2023: **1,214**

Worship

Julie Wagner

Videographers

Jim Lonergan

Elders Communion Assistance

Nov 02

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

Nov 16

8:00 a.m. Dave Drockelman
10:30 a.m. Ross Gould

Nov 30

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

November Ushers

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Jerry Bohannan
Randy Couch
Steve Kesselmayer

Ross Gould
Jacob Gould

Acolytes

Nov 02 10:30 Kenna Donovan

Nov 9 10:30 Silas Gould

Nov 16 10:30 Aiden Harms

Nov 23 10:30 Kenna Donovan

Thanksgiving Eve

Nov 7 7:00 p Silas Gould

Nov 30 10:30 Aiden Harms

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.

The Flower Chart for 2026 is posted in the Narthex. Please sign-up for the Sunday(s) that you would like to provide flowers for the altar and **call the church office, 347-2136**, and let us know the information you would like in the bulletin.

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

Remember you can pick up your flowers after the 7 pm service (please leave the green liners) or Mon. to Fri. from 8:00 a.m. to 12 Noon.



TREASURER'S REPORT **SEPTEMBER 2025**



HI-LITES OF ST. JOHN'S VOTERS ASSEMBLY **October 13, 2025**

| | <u>September</u> | <u>Y-T-D</u> |
|---|------------------|----------------------------|
| <u>INCOME</u> | \$21,136.88 | \$336,306.54 |
| <u>EXPENSES</u> | \$38,592.84 | \$315,202.32 |
| <u>INCOME</u> | \$ (17,455.96) | \$ 21,104.22 |
| <u>EXPENSES</u> | | |
| <u>General Fund Accounts</u> | | |
| General Fund | | 25,553.14 |
| General Fund CD #1192280 | | 40,000.00 |
| General Fund Total | | 65,553.14 |
| <u>Educational Fund Accounts</u> | | |
| Educational Grant Fund Checking | | 1,948.56 |
| Ed Grant CD LCMS 6/24 | | 51,863.96 |
| Ed Grant CD LCMS 6/24 | | 51,835.93 |
| Educational Grant Fund #2-Vanguard | | 65,357.94 |
| Educational Fund Total | | 171,006.39 |
| <u>East Bluff Property</u> | | |
| East Bluff Property—Vanguard | | 39,792.28 |
| East Bluff CD LCMS 6/24 | | 53,741.35 |
| East Bluff CD LCMS 6/24 | | 53,770.40 |
| Cat Stock at FMV | | 176,069.45 |
| East Bluff Property Fund | | 323,373.48 |
| <u>Memorial</u> | | |
| Memorial Fund Checking | | 19,804.62 |
| Memorial Vanguard | | 97,816.56 |
| Memorial—Busey CD #1192299 | | 20,000.00 |
| Memorial Fund Total | | 137,621.18 |
| Building Fund Checking | | 25,063.33 |
| Sunday School Fund Checking | | 8,240.41 |
| <u>TOTAL ASSETS</u> | | <u>\$730,857.93</u> |
| <u>Checking Account Balance</u> | | |
| Checking Account Balance | | 80,610.06 |
| Total | | 80,610.06 |
| <u>LIABILITIES</u> | | |
| Payroll Liabilities | | 2,867.17 |
| Misc LCMS Orgs Fund | | 93.25 |
| <u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u> | | <u>2,906.42</u> |
| <u>FUND BALANCE</u> | | |
| Net Income (Loss) | | 82,480.40 |
| Capital Accounts | | 645,417.11 |
| TOTAL FUND BALANCE | | 727,897.51 |
| <u>TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE:</u> | | <u>\$730,857.93</u> |

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

The September Parish Report was reviewed. A motion was made by Dave Kesselmayer, seconded by Randy Couch, to approve the September Parish Report. Motion carried.

The September meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Diane Gould, seconded by Dave Kesselmayer, to approve the September meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Rod Bollinger reviewed the September Treasurer's Report. September was a challenging month. Expenses outpaced income by \$17,455.96. Overall, for the year, we are showing a net income of \$21,104.22, due in large part to the bequest that was received earlier in the year. Expenses of note in the check register were the quarterly insurance premium payment, an Elder Care Fund item (that as noted in the Parish Report was offset with a donation of \$1,400.00), and a payment for the work done on the restroom in the new addition. The remainder were normal expenses. Ross Gould noted that we are well below budget on income vs expenses. Typically, donations do pick up during the last quarter of the year with the holidays. Nancy Drockelman motioned, seconded by Julie Wagner, to approve the September Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Board of Trustees – Dave Kesselmayer reported that the Trustees would like to thank Brock Benson for doing some painting work on the exterior of the Ewe's Home Furnishings building. Also, the Trustees received the quote for redoing the parking lots in the amount of \$4,775.00. The Trustees motioned, seconded by Gary Pool, to approve \$4,775.00 to City Coal & Asphalt for the resurfacing of the parking lots. Motion carried.

Board of Elders – Ross Gould reported that the Elders assisted with 2 requests for assistance. Special funds were donated for one of these requests. The Elders continue to make calls to congregation members who have not attended church for a while but have not been very successful with people getting back to them.

Board of Finance – The board has not met but Rod Bollinger indicated that the budget forms have been printed and passed out to the committee chairs. If possible, please have these back by the end of the month so the budget can be presented at the November meeting prior to voter approval at the December meeting.

Board of Christian Education – Laura Dobbelaire reported that the committee has not met but the last youth group activity was attended by 6 youth and went very well. The committee is looking into bowling as a possibility for the next activity. A Trunk or Treat will take place at Good Shepherd School on October 18th. Several teachers attended the LEA conference. This year in lieu of the children coming to the individual churches to sing, the children will be sending cards or letters to the congregations as a thank you.

John Neumann reported for Good Shepherd Lutheran School. John indicated that there will be a Bingo night at the school on November 20th. Also, the school is putting together a cookbook of recipes from congregation members, staff and student families. They would like all recipes submitted by October 31st. This Friday prizes from the Jog-A-Thon will be given out. John indicated that things are going well at the school this year. They had a couple of new students start after the beginning of the school year. All tuition fees are current. The board is actively working on getting a new principal for the next school year. John has talked to all 3 congregations about the status of the capital campaign. John is hopeful that the debt can be retired by next May.

Board of Worship – Julie Wagner reported that the committee met October 2nd. The committee will need 2 new members next year to replace members that are at the end of their terms. If you or anyone you know would like to volunteer, please let Julie know.

Board of Evangelism – Jennifer Kesselmayer reported that the committee wishes to thank all those who participated in the photo sessions for the new church photo directory. The committee is thrilled with the response. The next portrait sessions are on the 18th of October. Anyone planning on submitting their own digital photo must do so by October 27th. Print orders are expected to be delivered by mid-to-late November. The directory will be completed at some point after November. The committee would also like to ramp up our greeter system again for Sunday morning services. Please consider volunteering to be a greeter. You can add your name to one of the sign-up sheets inside the main church entrance. Finally, please complete the new, church-wide survey that Valerie Ferguson is coordinating. Everyone's input is important. The more input we collect through completed surveys, the better we can pinpoint our congregational strengths and weaknesses. If you have questions, please contact Valerie Ferguson. It was noted that the survey is per person, not per family.

Board of Stewardship – Nancy Swearingen reported that they are currently assisting 3 families. The committee will be sending gift cards to college students later this year. Please provide the names and addresses of any student so a card can be sent.

Long Range Planning Committee – No report.

Educational Grant Fund Committee – Laura Dobbelaire reported that she did check with the school as to whether there were any needs that might exist for which we could donate the interest earned from last year on this fund. Laura indicated that there is a need for new Chromebooks for some of the students. Approximately 35 new machines are needed at an average cost of \$375.00 each, for a total of around \$12,950.00. It was noted that some of the existing machines are so old that they cannot be updated. Ross Gould noted that we should also check with the other churches to see if they would contribute also. John Neumann indicated that the board will be discussing this.

East Bluff Property Committee – Dave Kesselmayer indicated that instead of having a clean-up day at the property, the Trustees were looking into having a company come out and do some of the clearing instead of tackling this on our own. Brian Fuelberth is investigating.

Constitution By-laws Committee – No report. Ross Gould noted that if any committees have any updates, the chair should let the By-Laws committee know.

Unfinished business – Ross Gould noted that over the years, Ewe's Treasures and Ewe's Home Furnishings have donated over \$1,700,000 to the school. The school has presented a banner, which can be viewed in the shop, to the organizations in recognition of this feat.

New business – Rod previously mentioned the need for committees to submit their budgets and Ross Gould noted that the committees should start looking for their people for next year. Questions have been raised in the past as to whether a person could serve more than 6 consecutive terms on a committee. It was clarified that the constitution recommends that someone serve no more than 6 consecutive terms but there really is nothing that would stop someone from serving longer in order to fill the open positions on committees.

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

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wagner
Secretary

Friends are a very rare jewel, indeed
They make you smile and encourage you to succeed.
They lend an ear, share a word of praise and
they always open their hearts to us.

NOVEMBER LIBRARY 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.

WOMEN IN FAITH – LWML will meet Saturday, November 1, at 9:00 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.

FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY AT ST. JOHN'S

We have another Friendship Sunday scheduled for Nov. 9. On this day St. John's members are encouraged to bring (or bring back) a friend to church. Pastor will have a sermon well suited for guests, and we will have coffee and donuts in the gym between services, with Christian literature available for adults and children. We are also planning a bratwurst dinner to be served following the 10:30 service. So please think of friends to invite, and make arrangements to bring them with you.

BRATWURST DINNER

In connection with our Friendship Sunday, Nov. 9, we will have a homemade (all pork) bratwurst dinner following the 10:30 service. This will be a potluck, with brats and buns, condiments, drinks, and table service provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

PARENTS OF COLLEGE AGE STUDENTS or FAMILY MEMBERS IN THE MILITARY: Please let the office (347-2136) know the address of your college age members or if you have someone serving in our Armed Forces. We would like to send our college age students a gift card for Christmas plus send them our monthly newsletter and other information to keep them up to date on events at St. John's.

Thank you.

Friends In Harmony has been singing Christmas music since 2005. Once again, we are having our Christmas Concert at Pekin High School on Dec. 12th at 7 p.m. and Dec. 13th at 2 p.m. This is another good way to help you get into the Christmas Spirit. For tickets contact Dave Drockelman at 309-353-7598, stop by Steger's or get them on line at www.pekinfriendsinharmony.com. They are still just \$15.



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 November are: Hazel Nichols, 1106 S. 8th St., Pekin; Sheryl Riley, UAW Apartments, 444 S. Parkway Dr., Apt. 1212, Pekin and Jeff Sayles, 2604 Brooklawn Ave., Pekin.

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

BALLOTS FOR 2026 will be issued at our November Voter's Meeting and we will vote on the ballot at the December Voter's Meeting. Here are the names of those who have terms expiring at the end of the year and the Chairman you can call if you would like to serve.

Trustees: Chairman - Dave Kesselmayer
Brock Bensen (1st) Steve Kesselmayer (1st)
Dane Watson (1st)

Elders: Chairman - Ross Gould
Ross Gould (1st)

Worship: Chairman - Julie Wagner
Jim Lonergan (2nd) Julie Wagner (2nd)

Christian Education: Chairman - Laura Dobbelaire
Paula Norman (1st) Lori Sego (1st)

Evangelism: Chairman - Tracy Glass
Tracy Glass (1st)

Finance: Chairman -
Cheryl Ivey (1st) Daryl Dagit (transferred out—1st term expires 2026)

Good Shepherd Board Member:

John Neumann (who replaced Mike Nauth (1st))

An individual who has only served one term is eligible to serve a second one. If you would like to serve on one of the committees or have a question, again please call the chairman.

We would like to have a slate of officers for the December meeting.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN SCHOOL NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

MUSIC FOR MISSIONS is a sacred music concert and hymn sing in support of Immanuel Lutheran Student Center, Macomb.

The event is scheduled for Sunday, **November 16, 2:00 p.m.** at St. John's Lutheran Church, 711 Court St., Pekin.

Music for Missions will feature guest organist Peter Wykert, vocalists Allison Harley and Jennifer Rosa, the Bells of St. John's, St. John's Sanctuary Choir, and ample congregational singing, under the theme, "Hymns of Our Heavenly Home."

A free will offering will be gathered to support Immanuel Lutheran Student Center, the WIU campus ministry of the Central Illinois District, LC-MS.

Refreshments will be served following the program. Everyone is welcome!

LUTHERAN YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP (for ages 20-35) will meet @ Trinity Lutheran Church, 135 NE Randolph Ave., Peoria on Saturday, November 15, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Fellowship includes: food, games, movies, etc. For more information regarding this, please see bulletin board in gym.

YOUTH GROUP

It's time to help our senior members again. 5th grade – high school youth meet here at church Sunday, November 23, at 1:00 p.m. to help some of our senior members with leaf raking or other chores. Wear clothing suitable for outdoor work, and bring a leaf rake, if you can. Pizza follows.

CAN YOU USE SOME HELP with leaf raking, window washing, or other fall chores? Our youth group will be happy to help you Sunday, November __. Contact Pastor Bishop at the church office if you'd like assistance.

LCMS RE:VITALITY SURVEY— Thank you to all who have taken the survey. If you haven't already taken the survey, please do so prior to 11/2. Your feedback is important and anonymous. Please use the QR code or link below. If you have questions, please contact Valerie Ferguson at (309) 251-0265.

<http://lcms.cadds.alchemer.com/s3/&cong=C704347>



Nov. 6 — Dining Out - Papa Murphy's

Nov 11 — No School, Veterans Day

Nov 25 — Early Dismissal, Grandparents Day

Nov 26-30 — No School, Thanksgiving Break

38th Annual THANKSGIVING DINNER



Pekin Township will be serving a turkey dinner to anyone who would enjoy a meal. They will be serving eat in from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on November 26. Menu consist of Turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, rolls and pumpkin pie. If you know of anyone who may need a meal, please tell them about the Thanksgiving Dinner.

Starting in January, 2026, **Pekin Township** will start serving Senior Meals the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 11 to 1 p.m. Menu is Chef's choice.

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

Paula Jensen

Suzanne Reising

Joyce Barnes

Ray Garber

John Durdle

Bobby Gregory

Marilee Gregory

Rosetta Turner

Melvyn Gentry

Michelle Watson

Shirley Gentry

Cameron Conway

Marcille Frevert

Vicki McKinley

Donna Hansen

Bryan McGrath

Bob Oliverius

Sandy Morgan

Jeff Ferree

Debbie Miller

Julie Rilea

Keith Gleason

Gabriella Kesselmayr

Kellen Norman

Lee Morgan

Roy Dagit

Shirley Williamson

Scott Ruschmeyer

Megan Gould

Kathy Daly-Unfricht

Bob Hurst

Pam Woolsey

Tom Lappie

Honor Deiss

Tina Williams

Sandy Tennell

Donna Corso

Marlana Montgomery

Janet Lawson

St. John's Lutheran Church
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Pekin, IL 61554

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Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 258

Matt.12:13-28

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Kingdom of God

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|----------|---------|
| BRUISED | AWARE |
| CHOSEN | DAVID |
| DELIGHT | DRIVE |
| FELLOW | FULFILL |
| JUSTICE | HEALED |
| KINGDOM | JUDGES |
| NATIONS | HOPE |
| PLOTTED | ISAIAH |
| PROCLAIM | ITSELF |
| PROPHET | JESUS |
| QUARREL | LEADS |
| RESTORED | PEOPLE |
| SERVANT | PRINCE |
| STRETCH | RUINED |
| THOUGHTS | SOUND |
| WARNING | SPIRIT |
| VICTORY | VOICE |

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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