

# St. John's Journal

Volume 52, Issue 3

## GOODBYE, HALLELUJAH.

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Well, for a little while longer, anyway. Many of us are accustomed to the Christian liturgical practice of omitting the “Hallelujah”s in the divine services during Lent. This is by no means a requirement of any “ceremonial law.” We are certainly free to say or sing “Hallelujah,” which is Hebrew for “praise ye the Lord,” any time we wish. Every season and every day is the right time to praise the Lord!

Yet the churches that follow the Western liturgical tradition customarily forego the Triple Hallelujah preceding the Gospel reading in the Order of Holy Communion, and the Hallelujah at the end of the Gloria Patri in the Orders of Matins and Vespers. Additionally, churches of the Western liturgical tradition customarily do not sing the Gloria in Excelsis in the divine services during Lent.

There is, of course, a reason for these omissions. Lent is a solemn season, focusing primarily on Christ's holy passion, and secondarily on the Christian's life of repentance in response to the mercy God has shown us in the suffering and death of His Son for our salvation. Setting aside the joyous “Hallelujah” and the exuberant “Glory be to God on high” helps us to note the unique character of this season of the Church Year. It also serves to establish a more solemn setting in which to ponder our Lord's suffering.

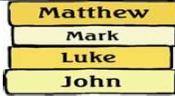
These seasonal omissions do not mean we stop praising the Lord during Lent. Not at all! Neither do they suggest that we fail to understand the infinite blessings that come to us on account of Jesus' holy passion.

Quite to the contrary, we proclaim and believe that our Lord's holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death have brought us forgiveness of sins, comfort, peace, hope, and everlasting life! Most assuredly we are thankful for these gifts, and we do praise our Savior for them! Indeed, the solemn proclamation of our Lord's saving passion is in itself high praise to God!

Nevertheless, we humbly acknowledge the solemn realities that our sin caused the Lord's suffering, for which we are truly sorrowful. We also understand that Jesus' suffering was immense, and that His death was entirely real. Such weighty truths deserve and demand serious contemplation.

So as we continue to contemplate our Lord's suffering this Lenten season as we hear the passion narrative, listen to the preaching of His suffering and death, and sing the richly meaningful hymns of Lent, we will continue to observe this longstanding custom, setting aside our Hallelujahs for a few more weeks. We pray this solemnity will assist us in our Lenten devotion, and that the Lord will fill our minds and hearts with the comfort of His saving sacrifice, renew us in repentance, and give us His peace.

- Pastor Bishop



**Christian Education**

**Sunday School**

***Perfect Attendance***

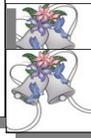
**January 2026**

**1st to 3rd Grade**

Keturah Harley

Roman Harley

**MARCH ANNIVERSARIES**



**March 01**

Robert & Marilee Gregory

**March 04**

Tom & Megan Etter

**March 05**

Gary & Lisa Pool

**March 09**

Robert & Debra Dant

**March 20**

Keith & Terry Gleason

**Mar 29**

Mike & Deana Thompson

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**



**March 1**

Jerry Bohannon

**March 02**

Penny Bollinger

Terry Gleason

Elizabeth Kammeyer

Emilie Kesselmayr

**March 03**

Amy Ashbaker

Darla Schorr

James Widby

**March 04**

Benjamin Donovan

Jeffrey Hillman

Gary Pool

**March 05**

Matthew Gudzinskas

Matthew Ruder

Cooper Theleritis

**March 06**

Heath Norman

**March 07**

Donna Hansen

Karen Nafziger

Dorothy Sheckler

**March 08**

Melinda DeHoog

Melissa Turney

**March 09**

Gerald Norman

Jacob Norman

**March 11**

Douglas Tiona

**March 12**

Andrew Knussman

Juanita Knussman

**March 13**

Adam Becker

Justin Emery

Kaitlyn Owsley

**March 14**

Nicholas Kesselmayr

Samantha Whitlatch

**March 15**

Marilyn Liescheidt

**March 17**

Merle Wiseman

**March 18**

Jennifer Kesselmayr

**March 19**

Blair Ivey

**March 21**

Henry Lappie

**March 22**

Jocelyn Lines

**March 23**

James Heidbreder

Stephanie Whitlatch

**March 24**

Ruth Negley

Shirley Schott

**March 25**

Roy Dagit

Laura Dobbelaire

Patty Gardner

Diane Gould

**March 27**

Kennedy Britton

Isabella Watson

**March 29**

Macey Dalton

Ryan Lappie

**March 30**

Tyler Ruder

Julie Widby

**March 31**

Kevin Wieland

#####

Remember to change your  
clocks on Saturday,

March 7th.

*Spring ahead one hour*



## PARISH NOTES

### Church Attendance

	Attend.	# of Services
Jan 2026	445	12
Jan 2025	393	12
Jan 2024	377	12

### January Sunday School Attendance

2026:	124
2025:	107
2024:	124

### March Videographer

Jim Lonergan

### March Worship Committee

Sandy Tennell

### March Acolytes

<u>Mar 01</u>	10:30	Aiden Harms
<u>Mar 04</u>	7:00	Silas Gould
<u>Mar 08</u>	10:30	Kenna Donovan
<u>Mar 11</u>	7:00	Aiden Harms
<u>Mar 15</u>	10:30	Silas Gould
<u>Mar 18</u>	7:00	Kenna Donovan
<u>Mar 22</u>	10:30	Aiden Harms
<u>Mar 25</u>	7:00	Silas Gould
<u>Mar 29</u>	10:30	Kenna Donovan

### March Communion Assistance

<u>Mar 01</u>	8:00 a.m.	Vince Tennell
	10:30 a.m.	Brian Ford
<u>Mar 16</u>	8:00 a.m.	Dave Drockelman
	10:30 a.m.	Jon Bolt
<u>Mar 29</u>	8:00 a.m.	Vince Tennell
	10:30 a.m.	Jon Bolt

### March Ushers

8:00  
Dan Dobbelaire  
David Kesselmayr  
Jennifer Kesselmayr

10:30  
Andrew Knussman  
Brian Lundeen

### LENT AND HOLY WEEK

Preaching Series:  
"Symbols of Jesus' Suffering"

Mar 4:  
Sermon: "They Divide My Garments Among Them" Psalm 22:18

Mar 11:  
Sermon: "They Gave Me Vinegar to Drink" Psalm 69:21b

Mar 18:  
Sermon: "Jesus' Side Was Pierced" John 19:34-34, 36a, 37b

Mar 25:  
Sermon: "Buried for Us to Give Us Hope" Matthew 27:57-60

Apr 2: Maundy Thursday  
Sermon: "The Cup Jesus Drank; The Cup Jesus Gave" Matthew 26:27-28, 39

Apr 3: Good Friday  
Sermon: "This Is Jesus, the King of the Jews" Matthew 27:37

Scriptures associated with the seven carved wooden symbols on our altar reredos, which is the decorative wooden panel right behind the altar – all of which are symbols of our Lord's Passion; and then also the single symbol of our Lord Jesus carved into the front of the altar itself. These symbols all remind us of Jesus and His suffering and death for our salvation.

Because the symbols are fairly small, and they blend in with the rest of the woodwork, they are not easy to see unless one views them up close, from within the chancel. So we have included renderings of these carvings on the front of the service folder. *We thank Shayla Kesselmayr for this artwork.*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

January 2026

	January	Y-T-D
<u>INCOME</u>	24,746.37	24,746.37
<u>EXPENSES</u>	37,602.79	37,602.79
<u>INCOME—</u>	(12,856.42)	(12,856.42)
<u>EXPENSE</u>		

### General Fund Accounts

General Fund	(1,422.09)
General Fund CD #11922280	40,000.00
General Fund Schwab	218,792.57
<b>General Fund Total</b>	<b>257,370.48</b>

### Educational Fund Accounts

Educ. Grant Fund Checking	1,948.56
Ed Grant CD LCMS 03/26	51,863.96
Ed Grant CD LCMS 03/26	51,835.93
Ed Grant Fund #2 Vanguard	65,214.11
<b>Educational Fund Total</b>	<b>170,862.56</b>

### East Bluff Property

East Bluff Property Vanguard	39,705.98
East Bluff CD LCMS 03/26	53,741.35
East Bluff CD LCMS 03/26	53,770.40
Cat Stock at FMV	211,389.03
	<b>358,606.76</b>

### Memorial

Memorial Fund Checking	22,079.62
Memorial Vanguard	97,598.38
Memorial Busey CD #1192299	20,000.00
<b>Memorial Fund Total</b>	<b>139,678.00</b>

Building Fund Checking	29,013.33
Sunday School Fund Checking	8,643.68

**TOTAL ASSETS**                    \$ **964,174.81**

Checking Acct Balance	60,263.10
	<b>60,263.10</b>

### LIABILITIES

Payroll Liabilities	3,009.28
Misc. LCMS Orgs Fund	503.49
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>3,512.77</b>

### Fund Balance

Net Income (Loss)	(11,004.08)
Capital Accounts	971,666.12
<b>Total Fund Balance</b>	<b>960,662.04</b>

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE**                    \$ **964,174.81**

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY



**HI-LITES OF ST. JOHN'S VOTERS ASSEMBLY  
February 9, 2025**

Dave Drockelman called the meeting to order. A quorum was present. Pastor Bishop opened with devotions.

The January Parish Report was reviewed. A motion was made by Julie Wagner, seconded by Gary Pool, to approve the January Parish Report. Motion carried.

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

Treasurer's Report – Rod Bollinger reviewed the January Treasurer's Report. For the month of January, expenses exceeded income by \$12,856.12. The general fund is showing a negative balance. Rod indicated that we could move some money from the Schwab money market to add a buffer to this account. The expense shown on the check register to Cordts Heating was for furnace work done at the Ewe's Home Furnishings building. Nancy Drockelman motioned, seconded by Brian Ford, to approve the January Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Board of Trustees – Dave Kesselmayr reported that the men's bathroom in the new addition is done. The locks on the doors at the entrance by the ramp were repaired. In addition, the company is looking at the locks on the front doors of the Sanctuary. Currently, if the doors are locked, a key is needed to open them even from the inside. Dave indicated that this could be a hazard. We are looking to see if the locks can be changed to a latch style, so a key is not needed to get out. Dave met with T.C.I. regarding the sewer line. They ran a camera through the line and are going to send us the video and provide a quote for cleaning out the line and putting in a liner. Dave is meeting with Hoerr Construction tomorrow for them to do the same process so they can provide a quote.

Board of Elders – Dave Drockelman reported that the Elders had their meeting a couple weeks ago and elected officers. The Elders will provide the March 18<sup>th</sup> Lenten dinner. The Elders are still calling members who have not attended in a while. The Elders are reviewing information from the survey conducted last fall.

Board of Finance – No report.

Board of Christian Education – Laura Dobbelaire reported the board has not met but that the youth group is going to have an activity on Sunday. Lutheran

School week has started. Tickets for the auction are available in the office. You can either drop the money off at the school or give the money to Laura and she will deliver it to the school.

John Neumann reported for Good Shepherd School. The spaghetti dinner and talent show takes place on February 20<sup>th</sup>. May 17<sup>th</sup> will be the joint church service at the school. John did not have details on the time yet. During that service, the new principal will be blessed.

Board of Worship – No report.

Board of Evangelism – Tracy Glass reported that the board met on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Brian Ford has agreed to join the committee. Tracy also thanked Jennifer Kesselmayr for sharing her creative ideas and for her initiative. During their meeting the committee discussed how they can help to attract new visitors to our church through reaching out more to the community around us. They hope to provide more news about this at a future Voters meeting. The committee feels that it's important to make new visitors feel welcome and encourages members to sign up as greeters. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex.

Board of Stewardship – No report.

Long Range Planning Committee – No report.

Educational Grant Fund Committee – No report.

East Bluff Property Committee – No report.

Constitution By-laws Committee – No report.

Unfinished business – Dave Drockelman noted that there are still open positions that need to be filled. Recording Secretary is one of those positions. Dave Kesselmayr motioned, seconded by Jennifer Kesselmayr, to approve Brian Ford as a member of the Board of Evangelism. Motion carried. Bob Oliverius inquired about where we stand on investing some of the money received from one of the bequests last year. Rod indicated that the Board of Finance has not met yet, but he will continue to investigate this.

New business – No new business.

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

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wagner



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

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



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

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

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

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**Camp CILCA Outdoor  
Ministries**

**Women's Retreat: March 6-7**

**Guest Speaker: Mrs. Katie Schuermann**

Our retreat theme is **Pew Sisters**: gather and celebrate our true sisterhood—our pew sisterhood! Two choices for our retreat... You can join us overnight for \$100 and stay in the Christian Growth Center. Want to stay at home, but still want to come to the conference? There is a commuter option for \$75. Registration is open.

<https://www.cilca.org/womens-retreat.htm>;

**Spring Work Day & Pancake Dinner, March 14**

Help get the campground ready for spring and summer fun! 8 am to 11 am

Free pancakes for all from 11 am until 1 pm!

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

Address for Camp CILCA is  
4124 Camp CILCA Rd.  
Cantrall, IL 62625  
217-487-7497

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**CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE  
& BAKE SALE**

**St. John's Rummage Sale**

Will be April 10 and 11 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. "Members Only" shopping day will be Thursday, April 9 from 9 to 5:30. We are still taking donations.

Please have them to the church by Tuesday, March 31. Other opportunities to support the Rummage Sale — by raffle tickets or shop the bake sale. If you have any questions, please call Kathy Heisel @ (309) 241-5660 or Dave Kesselmayer @ (309) 280-0069.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Bake Sale:** We will have a bake sale during the Rummage Sale to help raise funds for the next project. If you would like to donate bake goods, please contact Nancy Swearingen, 309-966-2131. Thank you.

\*\*\*\*\*

***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          | 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  |
| Melvyn Gentry         | Bob Hurst       |
| Michelle Watson       | Pam Woolsey     |
| Shirley Gentry        | Tom Lappie      |
| Cameron Conway        | Honor Deiss     |
| Marcille Frevert      | Tina Williams   |
| Vicki McKinley        | Sandy Tennell   |
| Donna Hansen          | Bryan McGrath   |
| Marlana Montgomery    | Bob Oliverius   |
| Janet Lawson          | Don Dobbelaire  |
| David Justi           | Bob Patten      |

**MARCH LIBRARY CORNER**

*By Eileen Tiona*



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

I haven't any new books to report on this month, but would like to invite everyone to come into the library and check out all the wonderful books that are available.

**YOUTH GROUP**



In May the Youth Group will help senior members of the congregation with spring cleanup and other helpful chores. So watch for the date and contact us if you would like help with yard work, etc.

#####

**SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION PROJECT:** Reminder that the Sunday School will be collecting funds to help buy song books for the children in Africa. Their goal is to reach \$500 by the end of summer or before. Every \$5 we give provides a song book for children or Lutheran teachers in countries like Kenya & Tanzania!

#####

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

#####

What's a bumblebee's favorite kind of candy?  
*Bumblegum!*

What do you call a lazy kangaroo?  
*A pouch potato!*

**GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN SCHOOL**

- Mar 3      Preschool—Kindergarten Roundup, 6:00—7:30 pm
- Mar 21     Starry Night with Ewe - GSLS 20th Annual Auction
- Mar 26     Spring Musical (10 am & 6 pm)
- Mar 27     School Improvement Day, Early Dismissal (Pre K 12/K-8 12:30 pm)
- Mar 30 to April 6  
            No School, Easter Break

#####

**GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN SCHOOL**  
**Annual Auction**

**Starry Night with Ewe** — Good Shepherd Lutheran School 20th Annual Auction

Visit their event site for tickets and information at [onecau.se/gsls20thauction](http://onecau.se/gsls20thauction)

Date is March 21, 2026 at Embassy Suites, 100 Conference Center D., East Peoria.

Doors open for silent auction at 4:00 p.m.

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**SHUT-INS for the MONTH:** Even though some of our members cannot attend church, we want to keep them in our thoughts and prayers and let them know they are not forgotten. Please send a card or pay a visit to these shut-ins this month.

Shut-ins for March are: David Justi, Hallmark Healthcare Of Pekin, 2501 Allentown Rd., Pekin; Tom & Rhonda Lappie, 13634 Glenmar Dr., Pekin and Adam Miller, 2007 Willow St., Pekin.

Thank you from your St. John's Ladies Guild

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**SHARE PROGRAM** needs Peanut Butter, Jelly, canned chicken, tuna, individual applesauce, Spaghetti O's, Tomato Soup, Chicken Noodle Soup, Individual mashed potatoes, dish detergent and laundry soap. Thank you.

#####

(Address Service Requested)

# Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 281

Matt.21:31-46

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

## Parables

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

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

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MORE PUZZLES AT:  
<http://biblewordgames.com>

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