

May, 2026

A Monthly Newsletter of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

# St. John's Journal

Volume 52, Issue 5

## JESUS CROWNED WITH GLORY AND HONOR

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“But we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than angels, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.” *Hebrews 2:9*

Not with our eyes just yet, but by faith, we do see Jesus crowned with glory and honor. God the Father crowned His Son this way when He ascended into heaven and sat down at God's right hand. The Bible says, “Jesus Christ has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.” (1 Pet. 3:22) In this exaltation Jesus assumed the full exercise of His dominion over all things.

God crowned His Son with glory and honor “because of the suffering of death,” He says. This is what it means that Jesus “for a little while was made lower than angels.” This is not a reference to Jesus' humiliation generally, for even in His state of humiliation, Jesus was worshiped by angels and served by angels. But when Jesus suffered death, then He really was lower than angels! Angels don't die, but Jesus did! So for three days – a little while – Jesus truly was lower than the angels!

But then He rose from the dead, never to die again! And He ascended into heaven and assumed the place of authority at the right hand of the Father, with all things subject to Him, angels included.

Jesus' suffering and death are worthy of the crown of glory and honor because *He tasted death for everyone!* Our Lord suffered death in the place of all mankind, as the Substitute for each one of us, to take away all the guilt of all our sin. Because Jesus tasted death for everyone, no one who believes in Him will ever have to taste the bitterness of eternal death. He has earned full and free forgiveness for you and me and all mankind!

Could anything be more worthy of the crown of glory and honor? Is there anything greater anyone could do to earn that crown of glory and honor? Because Jesus' redemption is universal, it is altogether fitting and proper that His dominion is universal!

Ponder it carefully. Since the Father in heaven has crowned Jesus with glory and honor, should we not honor and glorify Him with our entire being? Yes, we should praise and worship Him with our whole life! This is true even more so, because by His mercy alone, under His gracious dominion, we too will finally be crowned with glory and honor in the everlasting glory of His heavenly kingdom. For all this we fall before Him in everlasting adoration.

- Pastor Bishop

## Christian Education

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

### Sunday School Perfect Attendance March 2026

**Kindergarten**  
Colette Hill  
Ben Lines

**1st to 3rd Grades**  
Keturah Harley  
Roman Harley  
Daniel Lines  
Ryan Lines  
Jeremiah Vanderwerf

**4th to 6th Grade**  
Aiden Harms

### MAY BIRTHDAYS



#### May 01

Lyle Smith

#### May 02

Elijah Kesselmayr  
Jayson Memken

#### May 03

Jaylynn Fahnestock

#### May 07

Jordan Snoble

#### May 08

Janelle Hopping  
Tracy Glass

#### May 09

Shana Friedinger

#### May 10

Lori Fricke Schiavone  
Elizabeth Ward  
Emily Ward

#### May 12

Jeremy Winstead

#### May 13

Keith Gleason  
Diane Lee  
Nancy Swearingen

#### May 14

Jacob Gould  
Trevor Rodriguez  
Ann Wilson  
Pamela Woolsey

#### May 15

Lennon Blome

#### May 17

LeeAnn Walsh

#### May 18

Del Beideck  
Renee Hayden  
Micaylan McDonald

#### May 19

Lance Anderson  
Paula Jensen

#### May 20

Matthew Buster

#### May 21

Paul Widby

#### May 22

Marcia Hubbs

#### May 23

Wendy McDonald

#### May 24

Debra Pitchford

#### May 25

Alexis Daniels  
Willow Whitlatch

#### May 26

Cailin Wilson

#### May 27

Melissa Flatley  
Jordan Jensen  
Grayson Summer  
Amanda Webb

#### May 28

Barbara Rosa

#### May 29

Dale Schott, Jr.  
Kelley Ward

#### May 30

Joel Bonnette  
Noah Dingerson  
Sharon Ives

### MAY ANNIVERSARIES

#### May 06

Robert & Donna Hurst  
Jeff & Susan Jackson

#### May 14

Paul & Shantel Tackmann

#### May 23

Steve & Jane Heberer

#### May 26

Jim & Sheri McCann

#### May 30

Rodney & Penny Bollinger

## PARISH NOTES



### Church Attendance

Mar 2026 - **816** - 19 services  
 Mar 2025 - **685** - 19 services  
 Mar 2024 - **897** - 20 services

### Sunday School Attendance

Through Mar 2026: 425  
 Through Mar 2025: 375  
 Through Mar 2024: 382

### Videographers — May

Jim Lonergan

### Worship Committee— May

Diane Gould

### Elders

### Communion Assistance

#### May 3

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

#### May 14

7:00 p.m. Dave Drockelman

#### May 17

Service @ GLSL

#### May 24

8:00 a.m. Dan Dobbelaire  
 10:30 a.m. Jon Bolt

#### May 31

8:00 a.m. Dan Dobbelaire  
 10:30 a.m. Jon Bolt



### THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

The Festival falls on Thursday, May 14, this year. Communion service at 7 p.m.

### Ushers — May

#### 8:00

Jerry Bohannan  
 Randy Couch  
 Steven Kesselmayr

#### 10:30

Jacob Gould  
 Ross Gould

### Acolytes—May

#### May 3

10:30 a.m. Aiden Harms

#### May 10

10:30 a.m. Kenna Donovan

#### May 14

7:00 p.m. Aiden Harms

#### May 17

Service @ GSLS

#### May 24

10:30 a.m. Silas Gould

#### May 31

10:30 a.m. Aiden Harms

#####

### JOINT SERVICE AT GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN SCHOOL, MAY 17, 2026

On Sunday, May 17, 10:00 a.m., we will join together with our brothers and sisters from Trinity, Pekin and St. John's, Sand Prairie for a service of thanksgiving to God for the retirement of our school's capital debt. The service will be held at Good Shepherd Lutheran School, and will take the place of our regular morning services. So we will **not** have the 8:00 and 10:30 services or Sunday School and Bible Class here at St. John's that morning. We will conduct the 7:00 p.m. service in our chapel as usual.

The School Board will be serving a lunch after the service. They are asking for RSVPs by May 7.

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## TREASURER'S REPORT

March, 2026

	March	Y-T-D
<b>INCOME</b>	36,004.15	84,822.26
<b>EXPENSES</b>	33,795.91	110,888.40
<b>INCOME-EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 2,208.24</b>	<b>\$(26,066.14)</b>

General Fund Checking	48,948.51	
General Fund CD #1192280	0.00	
General Fund Schwab	199,452.35	
<b>General Fund Total</b>	<b>\$248,400.86</b>	

Ed Grant Fund Checking	13,784.49	
Ed Grant CD LCMS 715	51,863.96	
Ed Grant CD LCMS 717	0.00	
Ed Grant CD Busey 1192280	40,000.00	
Ed Grant Fund #2-Vanguard	64,689.39	
<b>Educational Fund Total</b>	<b>\$170,337.84</b>	

East Bluff Property-Vanguard	39,387.98	
East Bluff CD LCMS 716	0.00	
East Bluff CD LCMS 714	0.00	
East Bluff Property Checking	107,511.75	
Cat Stock at FMV	261,421.74	
<b>East Bluff Property Fund</b>	<b>\$408,321.47</b>	

Memorial Fund Checking	22,079.62	
Memorial Vanguard	96,810.94	
Memorial Busey CD 1192299	20,000.00	
<b>Memorial Fund Total</b>	<b>\$138,890.56</b>	

Building Fund Checking	31,353.33	
S S Fund Checking	9,144.88	

<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,006,448.04</b>
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Checking Account Balance	125,310.83
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>125,310.83</b>

<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Payroll Liabilities	3,215.24
Misc LCMS Orgs Fund	623.50
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$3,838.74</b>

<b>FUND BALANCE</b>	
Net Income (Loss)	30,944.08
Capital Accounts	971,666.12
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$1,002,610.20</b>

<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$1,006,448.94</b>
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### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Opening day for Vacation Bible School is Sunday, June 7 and goes through Thursday, June 11. Hours are 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**ST. JOHNS'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
VOTERS ASSEMBLY MINUTES  
April 14, 2025**

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

The February and March Parish Reports were reviewed. A motion was made by Dodie Sheckler, seconded by Brian Ford, to approve the February and March Parish Reports. Motion carried.

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

Treasurer's Report – Rod Bollinger reviewed the February and March Treasurer's Reports. A motion was made by Nancy Drockelman, seconded by Diane Gould, to approve the February and March Treasurer's Reports. Motion carried.

Board of Trustees – Dave Kesselmayer reported that a bookcase was donated by four members and will be used to display historical pictures and items. The bookcase will be located at the bottom of the stairs outside of the adult bible class and women's restroom area. An update was given on the sewer line issue. The Trustees just received the last proposal, and they will hold discussions at their next meeting as to which company to recommend. Maquet Plumbing will set a schedule for the new sewer line from the kitchen soon. The Trustees will hire Gary Pool to look at and fix the roof leaks. Dave reminded committees and members to make sure the doors are locked behind you when you leave. The side entrances to the Educational Building need work. The Trustees will be getting prices for materials.

Board of Elders – Dave Drockelman reported that the Elders helped a family from the Elders Fund. The proceeds from the Lenten dinner sponsored by the Elders were split between the 'Dollars for Missions Project' and our food share program. There will be 2 youths and 6 adults confirmed this spring. The new member reception will coincide with the spring dinner that the Evangelism Committee is sponsoring. The Elders agreed that the congregation should take the next step that the results from the Revitalization Survey suggested. The Elders are still working with members that have not attended church for some time.

Board of Finance – Rod Bollinger indicated that the committee will be looking at the investments that come due during this year.

Board of Christian Education – No report.

Board of Worship – No report.

Board of Evangelism – Jennifer Kesselmayer reminded everyone that the Spring potluck will take place on April 26<sup>th</sup> after the second service.

Board of Stewardship – No report.

Long Range Planning Committee – No report.

Educational Grant Fund Committee – No report.

East Bluff Property Committee – Dave Kesselmayer indicated that the work at the site is complete.

Constitution By-laws Committee – No report.

Unfinished business – No unfinished business.

New business – Kathy Heisel reported that the St. John's Rummage Sale was held on Friday and Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. We made over \$12,000.00. The bake sale made \$795.00. Thank you to Nancy and Terry Swearingen for organizing that. The raffle ticket sales were over \$800.00. Nancy Drockelman won the Grand Prize. Proceeds from the sale will be used to replace the stage curtain, refurbish the stage, finish replacing the shelving in the Share Program room and donate money for food. The leftover money will be used for landscaping mulch and other projects, if possible.

It was noted that the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church will take place on November 29, 2027. We are looking for thoughts on how to commemorate the event. Also, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sanctuary building is February of 2027. Also looking for thoughts on how to commemorate this.

The resolution to change authorized individuals allowed to complete money transfers on the Vanguard accounts was reviewed. A motion was made by Nancy Drockelman, seconded by Diane Gould, to remove Nancy Drockelman as an authorized person and add Rod Bollinger and Ross Gould as persons authorized to act on behalf of the church with respect to all Vanguard accounts. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dave Drockelman, seconded by Diane Gould, to approve Dodie Sheckler and Tori Hill as

members of the Worship Committee and Matt Gruden as a member of the Board of Christian Education. Motion carried.

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

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**ST JOHN'S WOMEN IN FAITH (LWML)** will be collecting the following items for the Pregnancy Resource Center which is our next project.

They are in need of diapers size 4 and above. Also baby hygiene products like baby wash, shampoo, lotion, diaper cream and baby wipes.

We will be collecting these items at our May meeting.

Thank you for your help.

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### CEMETERY PRESERVATION WORKSHOP

St. John's Lutheran Church will be the host for a cemetery preservation workshop to be held Saturday June 20, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The workshop will be presented in two parts by Dawn Cobb archaeologist with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and John and Geni Heider of Restoration in Progress (R.I.P).

Part one is a power point presentation from 9:00 a.m. to noon in the church's lower level. The presentation will focus on why we preserve cemeteries, preservation laws, and basic methods used to do this. All members are welcome to attend this.

Part two is a hands- on workshop at St. John's Lutheran Church Cemetery located on Veterans Dr. in Pekin. Participants will be learning how to put proper grave marker repair and cleaning into practice. Attendance on site is limited.

If you are interested in attending either of these events please contact Gary Pool at 309-208-0009.

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### Mother's Day Diaper Shower

Peoria Area Lutherans for Life is sponsoring our annual diaper shower on Mother's Day, **May 10<sup>th</sup>**. The purpose is to collect as many disposable diapers and wipes as possible for infants and toddlers (especially sizes 4, 5, and 6); plus, adult protective underwear for use by seniors. These will be distributed to local pregnancy resource centers and senior living facilities. May the Lord of life bless you as you help us make this event a success again this year.


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**THANK YOU** to all who donated Easter Lilies for our Easter services.

- Don & Valerie Dobbelaire & Family
- Dave & Nancy Drockelman
- Michelle & Zach Ferguson
- Sandy Ferguson
- Valerie Ferguson
- Brian Fuelberth
- Dane & Penny Hoover
- Trent Hoover
- Cheryl Ivey
- Steve & Faye Kesselmayr
- Jim & Joyce Lonergan
- Carol Long
- Jerry & Paula Norman
- Gary & Lisa Pool
- Scott & Michelle Stalter
- Julie Wagner
- Linda Wagner
- Curt & Pam Woolsey

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Received thank you notes from the following:

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

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

Rev. Bishop & People of St. John's, Your Easter mission gift is a special blessing. Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Rev. R. Rahn, Founder

**IN OUR PRAYERS**

*If you know of anyone who needs to be added, please let the church office know.*

- |                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| All our shut-ins     |                  |
| Pastor Niemann       | Sandy Morgan     |
| Robert Rilea         | Peggy Farlin     |
| Debbie Miller        | Addie Burling    |
| Julie Rilea          | Eileen Tiona     |
| Keith Gleason        | Paula Jensen     |
| Gabriella Kesselmayr | Suzanne Reising  |
| Kellen Norman        | Joyce Barnes     |
| Lee Morgan           | Ray Garber       |
| Roy Dagit            | John Durdle      |
| Shirley Williamson   | Bobby Gregory    |
| 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        | Sandy Tennell    |
| Donna Hansen         | Bryan McGrath    |
| Marlana Montgomery   | Bob Oliverius    |
| Janet Lawson         | Don Dobbelaire   |
| David Justi          | Lori Burton      |
| Melody Aristy        |                  |

**GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN SCHOOL**

- May 1 School Improvement Day (Pre-K early dismissal @ 12 N — K-8 @ 12:30 p.m.
- May 19 Pre K Final Day—Pre-K Graduation at 6:00 p.m.
- May 21 8th Grade Graduation Ceremony @ 6:00 p.m.
- May 22 Final Attendance Day (Early dismissal 11:30)  
**No Lunch Served**

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

Shut ins for **May** are: Sheryl Riley, UAW Apartments, 444 S. Parkway Dr., Apt. #1212, Pekin, Jeff Sayles, 2604 Brooklawn Ave., Pekin & Shirley Schott, 4181 Cole Hollow Rd., Pekin

Thank you St. John's Ladies Guild.

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**YOUTH GROUP**



Spring Clean Up Day

The Youth Group will do yard work, window washing, or other chores for seniors or other members of the congregation who could use our help.

Contact Pastor Bishop if you would like the Youth Group to help out around your home.

After we're done, we will come back to the church for pizza.

Watch bulletins for date.

#####

**“Did You Know?”**

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



The baby is a distinct and separate human being from the mother. The baby begins communicating with his or her mother right away, sending chemical signals into the mother's body. This way her body will help the baby grow rather than attack the baby as a foreign object. Not by chance, but by design. Created and redeemed by God Himself.

#####



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

**Transferred To The Church Triumphant**

Claudia Reeder	Scott Ruschmeyer
11/27/48	11/4/56
4/5/26	4/9/26

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

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# Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 260

Matt. 12:41-50

## Teachings of Jesus

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

MORE PUZZLES AT: