

# St. John's Journal

Volume 52, Issue 6

## HUMBLE TRUST IN OUR HEAVENLY FATHER

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Psalm 131 says, "Lord, my heart is not haughty, nor my eyes lofty. Neither do I concern myself with great matters, nor with things too profound for me. Surely I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with his mother; like a weaned child is my soul within me. O Israel, hope in the Lord from this time forth and forever."

A weaned child with his mother is calm and quiet. The little toddler doesn't have great understanding of things. He knows nothing of the troubles of the world. He has no idea of all the problems and challenges he will have to face the rest of his life. But it doesn't matter; he has his mama! His needs are all provided. He is well loved. He is safe and secure. He doesn't have a care in the world. He trustingly rests in his mother's arms.

David here gives us a picture of a child of God. His heart is not haughty. He does not concern himself with great matters – things that are too profound for him. He cannot fathom the deep mysteries of God – that He is three distinct Persons, yet only one God; that the Son of God became true Man, yet remained fully God; that His death on the cross gives life to the world; that He brings dead people back to life; that He unites His true body and blood to bread and wine in His Supper, and it actually imparts forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

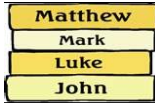
Neither can he comprehend all the workings and purposes of God in his own life – why the Lord permitted this thing or that thing to happen; how long he will live here on earth; what the remainder of his earthly pilgrimage might have in store for him. All that is beyond him.

But it doesn't matter; he has the Lord! *We* have the Lord! All our needs are fully provided. We are well loved. We are safe and secure. We trustingly rest in our heavenly Father's arms.

This is the peaceful contentment to which the Lord calls us here in this Psalm – a humble trust in Him. "O Israel, hope in the Lord from this time forth and forever." All you who believe in Jesus Christ, hope in Him. For the Lord will always take care of us. He loves us so much He lay down His life for us so we can live with Him forever. He is our Rock and Fortress, our strong Defender from every evil. We have every reason to hope in Him!

So as little children of God – for that is who we are – let's calm and quiet our souls as we humbly trust in Him.

- Pastor Bishop



## Christian Education

### Sunday School

Perfect Attendance

April 2026

### Nursery/Pre-School/ Kindergarten

Collette Hill

#### 1st /3rd Grades

Keturah Harley

Roman Harley

Daniel Lines

Ryan Lines

Jeremiah Vanderwert

#### 4th/6th Grades

Aiden Harms

## 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 Burriss

### 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 Burriss

### June 06

Jerry & Caralee

Bohannan

### 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

**A HUGE THANK YOU** to all those who donated items to the sale, who provided baked goods, who supplied basket items for raffles and who helped with the sale. Thank you.

The Lord Blessed us with another successful sale. Proceeds will go towards improving God's house here at St. John's.

Kathy Heisel

# PARISH NOTES



## Church Attendance

April 2026— **612** —14 serv.  
 April 2025— **718** —17 serv.  
 April 2024— **457** —12 serv.

## Sunday School Attendance Year-to-Date

April 2026: **525**  
 April 2025: **468**  
 April 2024: **498**

## Videographer—June

Zane Dobbelaire

## Acolytes—June

**June 7**  
 10:30 Kenna Donovan

**June 14**  
 10:30 Silas Gould

**June 21**  
 10:30 Aiden Harms

**June 28**  
 10:30 Kenna Donovan

## Ushers—June

### 8:00

Dan Dobbelaire  
 Dave Kesselmayer  
 Jennifer 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 7**  
 8:00 a.m. Dave Drockelman  
 10:30 a.m. Jon Bolt

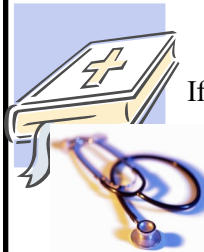
**June 21**  
 8:00 a.m. Vince Tennell  
 10:30 a.m. Brian Ford

## Worship Committee—June

Paul Tackmann

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## 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, 2026



	April	Y-T-D
<b>INCOME</b>	34,343.63	119,165.89
<b>EXPENSES</b>	34,438.20	145,326.60
<b>INCOME-EXPENSES</b>	\$ (94.57)	\$(26,160.71)

### General Fund Accounts

General Fund Checking	48,826.27
Gen Fund CD #1192280	0.00
Gen Fund Schwab	200,008.43
<b>General Fund Total</b>	<b>248,834.70</b>

### Education Fund Accounts

Ed Grant Fund Checking	13,784.49
Ed Grant CD LCMS 715 2/27	51,,863.96
Ed Grant CD LCMS 717 3/26	0.00
Ed Grant CD Busey 1192280	40,000.00
Ed Grant Fund #2-Vanguard	64,714.59
<b>Educational Fund Total</b>	<b>170,363.04</b>

### East Bluff Property

East Bluff Property-Vanguard	39,402.71
East Bluff CD LCMS 716 3/26	0.00
East Bluff CD LCMS 714 3/26	0.00
East Bluff Property Checking	100,671.75
Cat Stock at FMV	261,421.74
<b>East Bluff Property Fund</b>	<b>401,496.20</b>

### Memorial

Memorial Fund Checking	23,159.62
Memorial Vanguard	96,847.35
Memorial Busey 1192299 8/26	20,000.00
<b>Memorial Fund Total</b>	<b>140,006.97</b>

Building Fund Checking	32,313.33
S.S. Fund Checking	8,687.88

### TOTAL ASSETS \$1,001,702.12

Checking Account Balance	227,443.34
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>227,443.34</b>

### LIABILITIES

Payroll Liabilities	3,188.28
Misc LCMS Orgs Fund	527.75
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>3,716.03</b>

### FUND BALANCE

Net Income (Loss)	26,319.97
Capital Accounts	971,666.12
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>997,986.09</b>

### TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE \$1,001,702.12

**HI-LITES OF ST. JOHN'S  
VOTERS ASSEMBLY  
May 11, 2026**

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 Dave Drockelman, to approve the April Parish Report. Motion carried.

The April meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Dave Kesselmayer, seconded by Gary Pool, to approve the April meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Rod Bollinger reviewed the April Treasurer's Reports. April was basically a break-even month with a deficit of only \$94.57. Overall, the deficit for the year is \$26,160.71. The check register had mostly normal expenses except for the payment to Backwoods Construction for work done at the Veterans Road property. The payment to Good Shepherd Lutheran School for \$500.00 was for Vacation Bible School expenses. A motion was made by Dodie Sheckler, seconded by Nancy Drockelman, to approve the April Treasurer's Reports. Motion carried.

Board of Trustees – Dave Kesselmayer reported that Maquet Plumbing installed the new drain line for the kitchen as well as replacing 2 faucets. The Trustees are recommending that we use Midwest Pipe to do the work to the other sewer line at a cost of \$28,805.00. We were going to wait until fall but the Trustees would like to proceed now. If the company cannot fit us into their current schedule, we would like to at least see if we can get the outside backflow valve done. The other estimates were \$32,000.00 from DCI and around \$22,000.00 to \$23,000.00 from Hoerr. Hoerr was not clear on what would and wouldn't be included for that price. A question was asked as to whether this was something that needed to be done now. There are currently no issues, but the lines are old and the longer we wait, we run the risk of the lines rusting and cracking which will cause additional issues. The line that needs work covers approximately 90% of the plumbing in the Educational Building. It was thought that it is better to be proactive than reactive with this issue. The Trustees will be putting something in the bulletin soon asking for candidates for Sandy Ferguson's position.

A motion was made by the Trustees, seconded by Bob Oliverius, to hire Midwest Pipe to work on the sewer line for a cost of \$28,805.00 to come from the Building Fund. Motion carried.

Board of Elders – No report.

Board of Finance – No report.

Board of Christian Education – Laura Dobbelaire reported that they are still looking for someone to teach Sunday School for one week a month. The youth will be helping with yard work clean-up for those members of the congregation that need help. Good Shepherd School is getting ready for the combined church service.

John Neuman reported that approximately 300 people have indicated that they will attend the lunch after the combined church service. An inquiry was made as to whether we know how our monthly contribution to Good Shepherd School will be affected next year. John indicated that our monthly share would increase by about 3.5 – 4%. The board has cut approximately \$70,000.00 out of the budget as compared to last year. It was noted that help with setting up and breaking down of the tables for the luncheon would be appreciated. Carol's last day is June 30<sup>th</sup>, and Judy will take over on July 1<sup>st</sup>. John indicated that this last year was a marked improvement over prior years due to the leadership of the current principal.

Board of Worship – No report.

Board of Evangelism – Tracy Glass reported that they had a great turnout for the spring potluck. If you have not received the supplemental page for the pictorial directory, there are additional copies available. Tracy thanked those people who have volunteered to be greeters.

Board of Stewardship – No report.

Long Range Planning Committee – No report.

Educational Grant Fund Committee – No report.

East Bluff Property Committee – No report. Ross Gould noted that he has driven past the property several times and it looks very nice. Dave Kesselmayer noted that Gary Pool and Brock Benson have done some work on the property.

Constitution By-laws Committee – No report.

Unfinished business – Ross Gould wanted to remind people that the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church is coming up next year as well as the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sanctuary. Ross will have something put in the bulletin as to how to submit your ideas on how to commemorate these occasions.

New business – Pastor Bishop noted that it has been requested that our church host the District Pastors Conference this fall. The conference would run from October 5<sup>th</sup> to October 7<sup>th</sup>. Generally, this just consists of using the facility as meals are generally catered. The expense to the congregation would just be for the use of the facility. A question was asked about parking. It was noted that the municipal lot can be used and people could be asked to car-pool. No objections were raised.

A motion was made by Bob Oliverius, seconded by Julie Wagner, to suspend the July and August Voters Assembly meetings. Motion carried.

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

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wagner

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**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.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Thank You!** - The Peoria Area Lutherans for Life would like to thank you for your generous contributions to our January "Pennies for Life" collection and our May "Mother's Day Diaper Drive." Our mission is to promote the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death. We made contributions to pro-life charities in and around the Peoria area with your support i.e. Women's Care Center, Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Living Alternatives Pregnancy Resource Center, Empower Life Center, Lutheran Hillside Village, Central Illinois Right-to-Life, and Esther House. We truly appreciate all your support and prayers as we serve the Lord of Life together.

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

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**The Share Program** is in need Hamburger Helper, Chef Boyardee products, Macaroni & Cheese, Peanut Butter, cereal, spaghetti sauce and paper products.

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

Lutheran Heritage Foundation sent a thank you letter for our donation. Also sent one to the Sunday School Dept. regarding the \$500 sent to help purchase Lutheran Song Books for African children.

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

Transferred To The Church Triumphant	
Honor Deiss 8-25-48 5-6-26	Dorothy Peacock 1-6-1922 5-15-26
	Sandra Vice 7-19-42 5-16-26

**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: Garry Slabaugh, 701 W. 3rd St., Delavan 61734; Shirley Williamson, 738 Park Ave., Pekin and Mary Beck, Charter Senior Living, 2700 S. 14th St., #214, Pekin.

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

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“Did You Know?”

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



A stunning, microscopic flash of light occurs at the exact moment of conception. There are 8,000 zinc compartments in the egg. Each one contains around 1 million zinc atoms, ready for “fireworks” at the very moment a sperm meets the egg. This

[This Photo](#) happens in order to block other sperm and also to activate the beginning of embryo development. It is a marvel that speaks of God’s amazing and wonderfully intricate care and attention to detail. He is the LIGHT OF LIFE.

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**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.

#####

**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        | 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      |
| Marilee Gregory       | Megan Gould        |
| Rosetta Turner        | Melvyn Gentry      |
| Bob Hurst             | Michelle Watson    |
| Pam Woolsey           | Shirley Gentry     |
| Tom Lappie            | Cameron Conway     |
| Marcille Frevert      | Tina Williams      |
| Sandy Tennell         | Donna Hansen       |
| Bryan McGrath         | Marlana Montgomery |
| Bob Oliverius         | Janet Lawson       |
| Don Dobbelaire        | David Justi        |
| Lori Burton           | Melody Aristy      |

**CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2026**

Kenna Avery Donovan  
Daughter of Joseph & Heather Donovan  
Born: July 18, 2011  
Baptized: September 1, 2024

Silas Thomas Gould  
Son of Benjamin & Megan Gould  
Born: October 6, 2011  
Baptized: July 28, 2012

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**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

at Good Shepherd will take place from June 7th-11th from 6 to 8 p.m.. Those interested should complete the information on the link below.


<https://forms.gle/rJKUDwootV3Ye3hf6>

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

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(Address Service Requested)

<b>Bible Wordsearch</b> 															<b>Jesus the Teacher 2</b>													
Wordsearch 256					Matt. 11:18-30																							
K	N	O	W	S	D	E	L	T	H	G	I	L	S	I	A	S	H	E	S	B	E	A	R	A	B	L	E	
V	B	U	R	D	E	N	D	E	N	I	A	M	E	R	C	I	T	I	E	S	B	U	R	D	E	N	E	N
D	N	E	I	R	F	I	E	N	S	N	R	D	S	E	D	E	P	T	H	S	N	M	S	E	H	S	A	S
R	E	H	T	I	E	N	T	U	E	O	S	E	O	P	E	X	C	E	P	T	G	L	T	T	O	N	G	L
J	U	D	G	M	E	N	T	I	L	D	S	T	O	E	F	A	T	H	E	R	H	E	A	V	E	N	H	E
A	S	D	E	V	O	R	P	C	C	I	D	F	H	N	H	I	D	D	E	N	H	I	D	D	E	N	H	I
N	K	B	T	R	A	E	H	D	A	S	R	I	C	T	G	E	N	T	L	E	A	R	T	J	U	D	G	M
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E	S	N	H	D	R	U	A	I	M	R	K	E	X	U	P	R	A	I	S	E	O	A	I	S	C	M	P	R
H	V	E	R	E	S	A	T	E	O	A	I	S	C	M	R	E	V	E	A	L	S	P	G	I	T	N	J	E
T	U	E	N	A	A	O	B	T	L	E	N	U	E	B	S	I	D	O	N	R	E	P	E	N	T	S	I	N
A	N	N	R	S	E	V	D	L	O	P	G	S	P	L	S	I	D	O	N	R	E	P	E	N	T	S	I	N
F	I	G	E	N	T	L	E	O	E	N	I	N	T	E	S	I	D	O	N	R	E	P	E	N	T	S	I	N
S	S	D	E	P	T	H	S	N	M	S	E	H	S	A	S	I	D	O	N	R	E	P	E	N	T	S	I	N

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:  
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