



St. John's Journal

Volume 52, Issue 10

“REPENT YE”

In Mark's Gospel the first recorded saying of Jesus includes these words: “Repent ye and believe the gospel.” *Mark 1:15* The call to repentance is a prominent theme of the Bible, and one of the key messages of God. Our Lord Jesus taught, “Unless you repent you will all likewise perish.” *Luke 13:3* And the apostle Paul preached, “(God) now commands all men everywhere to repent.” *Acts 17:30*

Repentance involves a spiritual turn around – a change of heart and mind. Sometimes the Bible uses the word *repentance* in a narrow sense, as a turning away from sin in godly sorrow. When the context of the passage distinguishes repentance from faith in the Lord's mercy and forgiveness, this is a narrow use of the word. For example, when Jesus said, “Repent ye and believe the gospel,” He was using *repent* in a narrow sense, distinct from believing the gospel. In its narrow sense, repentance means contrition, that is, sorrow over sin because it is an offense against God.

Then again, the Bible sometimes speaks of repentance in a broader sense, as a turning away from sin *and* a turning to the Lord for forgiveness. Passages that speak of repentance leading to salvation use the word in this broader sense. For example, Jesus said, “Repentance unto the forgiveness of sins must be preached in His name to all the nations.” *Luke 24:47* Here He had in mind not only godly sorrow over sin, but also trust in Him for forgiveness. For we receive the forgiveness of sins only through faith. So in its broader sense, repentance means contrition and faith in Jesus Christ.

Though, as Christians who follow the traditional Church Year, we stress repentance especially during Lent, and to a lesser extent in Advent, we need to live in repentance throughout the year, every year. The call of Jesus, “Repent ye,” indicates an ongoing, continuous, habitual practice of repentance. Every day of our life is the right day to turn away from our sinfulness and to turn to the Lord for His gift of forgiveness. Luther nicely captured this truth in the very first of his 95 Theses. “When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, ‘Repent ye,’ He willed the whole life of the faithful to be one of repentance.”

Our repentance needs to be ongoing and daily, because we daily sin much. We Christians are simultaneously saints and sinners, and as sinners we always need to repent. “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” *1 John 1:9* This is why we Lutherans confess in the Smalcald Articles, “In the case of a Christian such repentance continues until death, for all through life it contends with the sins that remain in the flesh.” *SA III, III:40*

Our Lord wills our repentance to be ongoing and daily also because He wishes to bestow upon us the blessings of His pardon daily. As often as we turn to Him in repentance, He has mercy and grants His forgiveness. “If ever we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” *1 John 1:9* “Godly sorrow produces repentance that leads to salvation without regret.” *2 Corinthians 7:10* Our gracious Savior wants us to have the godly sorrow that trusts Him, to hear His words of absolution frequently, to remember and trust His sacrificial death for our forgiveness every day, and to recall daily our Baptism, by which He applied that forgiveness to us personally. In this way He makes us sure of our salvation, and gives us the desire and the strength to struggle against our old sinful nature.

So I urge you to heed our Lord's call today and every day. “Repent ye.” For authentic Christian repentance – contrition and faith in Jesus Christ – is His work in us for our salvation!

- Pastor Bishop

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



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 Stoeher

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 Wagler

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 Stoeher

Oct 21

James Bohannon

Michele Deiss

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

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES



Oct 01

Ross & Diane Gould

Oct 03

Eric & Amanda Ferguson

Oct 05

Troy & Susan Keefer

Mickey & Debee Pitchford

Oct 07

Brian & Molly Hicks

Oct 10

Brian & Tracy Lundeen

Oct. 13

Del & Laura Beideck

Oct 15

Mark & Tomi Pfan

Oct 17

Mike & Stefanie Wilson

Oct 18

Matthew & Monica Lappie

Oct 20

Joseph & Lori Schiavone

Oct 21

David & Nancy Drockelman

Oct. 23

Philip & Janelle Hopping

Oct 25

Terry & Nancy Swearingen

Oct 29

Daniel & Michelle Watson

Parish Notes



Church Attendance

August 2026 **530** 12 services
August 2025 **557** 15 services
August 2024 **431** 12 services

Y-T-D Sunday School Attendance

August 2026 **1056**
August 2025 **984**
August 2024 **1006**

October Videographer

Rod Bollinger

October Worship Chairman

Dodie Sheckler/Tori Hill

October Ushers

8:00

Jim Lonergan
Scott Stalter
Merle Wiseman

10:30

Trent Hoover
Brian Umbach
Brian Ford

October Acolytes

10/4 10:30 Aiden Harms
10/11 10:30 Larkin Hinkley
10/18 10:30 Makenzie Abatie
10/25 10:30 Aiden Harms

OCTOBER ELDERS COMMUNION ASSISTANCE

10/4 8:00 Vince Tennell
10:30 Jon Bolt

10/18 8:00 Vince Tennell
10:30 Ross Gould

SHUT-INS of 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 October are: Loretta Newman, Sunset Rehab & Health Care 129 S. 1st Ave., Canton, 61520; Hazel Nichols, 741 N. 7th St., DeKalb, 60115 and Sharon Parry, 1721 Valle Vista, Pekin

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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUNDAY SCHOOL PERFECT ATTENDANCE

August 2026

Aiden Harms

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Received thank you letter from Vicki Biggs, Sr. VP Seminary Advancement for our thoughtful donation which is a special blessing to Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.



LIBRARY CORNER

By Eileen Tiona



"The gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."

Matthew 24:14

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.

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	Bob Hurst
Peggy Farlin	Debbie Miller
Addie Burling	Julie Rilea
Keith Gleason	Gabriella Kesselmayer
Kellen Norman	Joyce Barnes
Lee Morgan	Roy Dagit
John Durdle	Bobby Gregory
Megan Gould	Marlana Montgomery
Rosetta Turner	Pam Woolsey
Don Dobbelaire	Bryan McGrath
Jeff Sayles	Melvyn Gentry
Tom Lappie	Donna Hansen
Cameron Conway	Marcille Frevert
Tina Williams	Sandy Tennell
Susan Oliverius	Melody Aristy
Julia Taylor	

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.

Transferred To The Church Triumphant

Mary Beck
January 2, 1935
August 30, 2026

**ST. JOHN'S
VOTERS ASSEMBLY MINUTES
September 14, 2026**

Ross Gould called the meeting to order. A quorum was present. Dave Drockelman opened with devotions.

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

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

Treasurer's Report – Rod Bollinger reviewed the June, July and August Treasurer's Reports. Giving is still running significantly behind budget. A motion was made by Nancy Drockelman, seconded by Dan Dobbelaire, to approve the June, July and August Treasurer's Reports. Motion carried.

Board of Trustees – Dave Kesselmeyer reported that GP Systems did biannual maintenance on HVAC systems. Work on Stage is done. ILAW Co. finished the replacement of water service line. Sandy continues to cross train Val and they will be sharing: Val will cover M-W and Sandy will cover Th.- F. Still waiting on Midwest Pipe on sewer line work.

Board of Elders – Dave Drockelman reported that the Elders helped two families from the Elders Fund. 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 – Laura Dobbelaire reported that Monday, Sept 21 there will be a game night for all. Bring cards of games to play. GSLS helped with concessions at the PCHS football game. We had a nice float in Marigold Parade. John Neuman reported that GSLS has started the school year well.

Board of Worship – No report.

Board of Evangelism – Tracy Glass noted that CID CEF has provided partial funding for our direct mail outreach effort. It was moved by Dave Drockelman and seconded by Dave Kesselmeyer to take \$934 from our Memorial fund to cover the remaining cost of the mailing. Motion carried.

Board of Stewardship – It was discussed that a letter be sent to focus on giving shortfall.

Long Range Planning Committee – No report.

Educational Grant Fund Committee – No report.

East Bluff Property Committee – Dave Kesselmeyer noted that we having some issues with the mowers at the cemetery.

Constitution By-laws Committee – No report.

Unfinished business – No unfinished business.

New business – Gary Pool noted that the cemetery workshop was well attended and about 15 markers were repaired at the cemetery.

Discussion on Pastor Bishop's upcoming retirement of 10-1-27. We discussed options and how to move forward. A letter will be sent to CID letting them know our thoughts and timing. We will publish a note in bulletins and Newsletter encouraging all to attend October Voters meeting as we will be deciding our direction and timing for the Elders and the Call Committee.

Noted that budget worksheets and Committee replacements will happen in October.

It was noted that the 175th anniversary of the church will take place on November 28, 2027. We are looking for thoughts on how to commemorate the event. Also, the 100th anniversary of the Sanctuary building is February of 2027. Also looking for thoughts on how to commemorate this.

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

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.
Respectfully submitted,
Ross Gould

TREASURER'S REPORT
August 2026



	<u>August</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>
<u>INCOME</u>	39,438.98	224,271.87
<u>EXPENSES</u>	46,009.31	298,774.37
<u>INCOME—</u>	<u>(6,570.33)</u>	<u>(74,502.50)</u>
<u>EXPENSE</u>		

General Fund Accounts

General Fund	(3,653.82)
General Fund Schwab	<u>202,297.62</u>
General Fund Total	198,643.80

Educational Fund Accounts

Educ. Grant Fund Checking	13,784.49
Ed Grant CD LCMS 02/27	51,863.96
Ed Grant CD Busey	40,000.00
Ed Grant Fund #2 Vanguard	<u>63,888.12</u>
Educational Fund Total	169,536.57

East Bluff Property

East Bluff Property – Checking	671.75
East Bluff Property - Vanguard	138,966.27
Cat Stock at FMV	<u>294,266.43</u>
East Bluff Property Fund	433,904.45

Memorial

Memorial Fund Checking	25,299.11
Memorial Vanguard	95,609.96
Memorial Busey CD	<u>20,000.00</u>
Memorial Fund Total	140,909.07

Building Fund Checking	36,483.33
Sunday School Fund Checking	9,632.62

TOTAL ASSETS **\$989,109.84**

Checking Acct Balance	<u>82,217.48</u>
	82,217.48

LIABILITIES

Payroll Liabilities	3,421.99
Misc. LCMS Orgs Fund	<u>490.50</u>
Total Liabilities	3,912.49

Fund Balance

Net Income (Loss)	13,531.23
Capital Accounts	<u>971,666.12</u>
Total Fund Balance	985,197.35

TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE **\$989,109.84**

You are cordially invited...

RE:VITALITY
SERVING IN GOD'S MISSION
Strategic Planning for Congregations

“Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.” (Proverbs 16:3)

Serving in God's Mission (SGM) is a comprehensive, consensus-based approach for guiding our congregation through a strategic planning process tailored to meet the unique needs of Lutheran congregations. It is offered through the LCMS Office of National Mission at no cost and is the recommended resource to utilize based on the results of the Congregational Assessment of Development and Decline (CADDs) survey we took last year.

SGM approaches strategic planning as an activity in which the congregation-at-large is engaged from the beginning. Consensus-building is begun very early and continues throughout the process. The resulting Strategic Ministry Plan (SMP) is not “sold” at a voter's meeting but owned by the whole congregation which has participated in developing it. Participants do not require knowledge of strategic planning but do need to be willing to engage in planning activities.

SGM began with a Bible Study which was led by Pastor Bishop, on Sept. 20 & 27 and will now be followed by workshops where we will take an inventory of what the Lord has invested in our congregation and how He has shaped it as the Body of Christ in a place, at a time, for a people of His choosing. SGM will assist us with developing a SMP that addresses how to faithfully carry out our part in God's Mission in the unique context of our congregation.

Please mark your calendars to join us and participate at all of the following dates and times...

Workshop 1	Saturday, Oct. 10	9:00-11:00 a.m.
Workshop 2	Saturday, Oct. 17	9:00-11:00 a.m.

If you have any questions, please contact Dave Drockelman (840-1575) or Valerie Ferguson (251-0265). We look forward to serving with you!

In Christ's service,

Your SGM Workshop Coordinators (Dave and Valerie)

Women in Faith – LWML will meet Saturday, November 7 at 9:00 am in the church basement. With the holidays approaching, they are collecting items for St. John's Share Program. Items needed:

Tomato Soup	Wheat Chex	Dish Detergent
Canned Pasta	Cereal	32 oz. Laundry Detergent
Mac & Cheese	Apple Sauce	Toilet Paper
Canned Tuna	Pudding Cups	Paper Towels
Canned Chicken	Jello Cups	
Hamburger Helper	Spaghetti Sauce	
Canned Vegetables		

\$25 Aldi Gift Cards
\$25 Kroger Gift Cards

There will be boxes on the bench inside the new addition as well as on the stage.

We appreciate the congregation's support.

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Ladies Guild News – Please join us on Thursday, October 22 at 6:00 pm for our yearly Ladies Guild potluck dinner! Fried chicken, drinks and tableware will be provided. All ladies of St. John's are invited. Hope to see you then!

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The Flower Chart for 2027 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.

DISCUSSION & DECISION MAKING regarding the direction to call a new pastor when Pastor Bishop retires next fall will take place at our next Voter's Assembly Meeting on Monday, Oct. 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the church basement. All members are encouraged to attend and provide input.



Did You Know?

“One of the penalties of refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors” - Plato

Mid-term elections are coming in November this year, but did you know that Christian pollster George Barna's research indicates that approximately half of Christians are not even registered to vote? His research also shows that of those Christians who are registered, only about half of them actually cast a ballot! In practical terms this means only about 25% of Christians vote. Fellow believers, we need to do better than this because whether in Springfield, Illinois or Washington D.C. the laws that affect every aspect of our lives are all determined by our votes. Who we elect to represent our interests at all levels of government and what those elected officials believe determines what sort of society we will live in. Yes, our faithful and loving God is ultimately in control of all, but He uses human agents (Noah, Joshua, Gideon, King David, Esther, and so many others) to accomplish His purposes, and He has given us in this blessed nation the privilege and responsibility of choosing our leaders. Peoria Area Lutherans for Life will again be providing voter guides to help you vote for candidates who have a Christian worldview. These guides, prepared by the Christian non-profit Illinois Family Institute will be available to you in your church in October, and you can find them on-line right now at illinoisfamily.org/voterguide, with additional candidate info available at ivoterguide.com. Election day is officially November 3rd, but early voting and mail-in voting will be available before then. If you have moved recently or your name has changed, be sure you are registered correctly. Consider Proverbs 29:2. Study, pray, vote, and trust Jesus in all things. Thank you, and may God bless you.

Bob Wegner
Peoria Area Lutherans for Life

St. John's Lutheran Church
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Pekin, IL 61554

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MATT. 12:1-12

Jesus the Healer 6

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

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