

St. John's Journal

Volume 52, Issue 9

GOD'S LABOR DAY

By the time you receive this newsletter you may have already made some plans for Labor Day weekend. Many or most of us do not have to labor on Labor Day. It's a national holiday – a day for some time off to enjoy various leisure activities with family and friends. We may become so involved in our Labor Day activities that we don't even give much thought to its significance as a day to honor those who labor.

We really should spend some time thinking about the many people whose labors make our lives much more pleasant and convenient and give thanks to God for them. All these people are gifts from God, and without the work they do, we would all be living much more difficult and primitive lives.

We should give thanks to God most of all, however, for all the labor *He* does. For God is the One whose work makes our lives possible! God never takes a day off. He is always laboring on our behalf, as He declares in Psalm 121:4. "Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep."

We often acknowledge God's work in terms of what He has done for us in the past. We think about how He created us, how He lived a holy life for us, how He suffered and died for the forgiveness of our sins, and rose from the dead to give us everlasting life. And so we should! We would not even exist had God not worked to create us. And we would be condemned to everlasting punishment in hell had God not worked for our salvation.

Yet we should also be mindful of the work God is doing for us even now – how He continues to labor for us every day. When Jesus was being criticized for healing a crippled man on a Sabbath day. He replied, "My Father is always working to this very day, and I, too, am working." *John 5:17* Our Lord could speak these words with equal truthfulness today or any day, because He and His Father, together with the Holy Spirit, are always working for us. Let's remember a few of the many ways.

God still takes care of what He has created. He is not an imaginary god such as Thomas Jefferson dreamed of – a god who created the universe, but then simply withdrew from it, much as one might wind up a watch and then just let it run. He is rather the true God, who is personally involved in sustaining His creation, providing all we need to support this body and life, because He care for us. We are right when we pray, "The eyes of all look to You, O Lord, and You give them their food in due season. You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing" *Psalm 145:15-16*

Moreover, God is ruling the world for the good of His children. Now that Jesus has ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father, He is controlling the affairs of the whole world in such a way that all things ultimately work out for our good. It's just as Paul writes in Ephesians 1:22, "God placed all things under (Christ's) feet and appointed Him to be Head over all things for the good of the church."

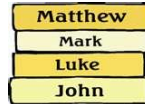
God is also working as He daily applies His forgiveness to us through the gospel, which is His power for the salvation of everyone who believes. (Romans 1:16) God's gospel pardon is not simply a past deed, a bygone fact to be viewed through the rear-view mirror. It is rather an ongoing, life-giving reality. God repeatedly answers our prayer, "forgive us our trespasses," as through His ministers He pronounces absolution, preaches reconciliation in Christ, distributes the Lord's Supper for the remission of sins, and as He proclaims His grace and forgiveness from the pages of His holy Scriptures.

If we wished to recount all the ways in which God is still laboring for us, that would be a full-time labor in itself, and one that we could never complete! Let us simply acknowledge each day as "God's Labor Day," and give Him our humble and sincere thanks for all the work He keeps on doing for our present and everlasting blessing!

-Pastor Bishop

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
SUNDAY SCHOOL
PERFECT ATTENDANCE**

June, 2025
Roman Harley
Keturah Harley



July, 2025
None

**SEPTEMBER
BIRTHDAYS**



Sept 3
Jodi Schmick

Sept 4
Ellen Hill
Thomas Theleritis

Sept 5
Leslie Weyhrich

Sept 6
Katie Gaitros
Roberta Hudson
Michael Mauer
Ashley Schmidgall
Maesyn Theleritis
Robert Williamson III

Sept 7
Mitchell Hansen
Hazel Nichols (*Happy 105th Birthday*)

Sept 8
Mary Ashbaker
Christa Wilson

Sept 9
Lori Svendsen
Ian Terrell

Sept 10
Joseph Bonnette
JoAnne Ferree
Samantha Reese
Jenna Tassart
Keisha Williamson

Sept 11
Scott Hall
Keturah Harley
Tanya Rahn

Sept 12
Brock Benson
Bradley Hoover
Joseph Schiavone

Sept 13
Kevin McCammon
Leslie Norman

Sept 14
Cody Wilson
Peggy Patten
Robert Watson

Sept 17
Malakai Anderson
Jaylah Dalton
Erin Theleritis
Kethry Whitlatch

Sept 18
Ben Lines
Zachary Webb

Sept 19
Althea Geiser
Wallace Hammond
Brian Lundeen

Sept 21
Quinn Theleritis
Tyson Winstead

Sept 22
Kathryn Emery

Sept 23
Debra Dant
Ashley Jones
Olivia Oliverius
Kyleigh Veach

Sept 24
David Kesselmayer

Sept 25
Gabrielle Dagit

Sept 27
Tonya Burris
Chad Swibold

Sept 29
Adam Bollinger
Ella Friedinger
Shelby Reese

Sept 30
Luke Morgan
Brenda Sayles

**SEPTEMBER
ANNIVERSARIES**



Sept 4
Patrick & Melissa Flatley

Sept 5
Rick & Kay Aulenbach
John & Christine Neumann

Sept 6
James & Tracy Glass

Sept 7
Eric & Michelle Dupent

Sept 9
Daniel & Kathryn Heisel
Michael & Shannon Lines
David & Shelby Reese

Sept 11
William & Mary Ashbaker

Sept 15
Douglas & Melanie Tiona

Sept 25
Daniel & Laura Dobbelaire

Parish Notes



Church Attendance

June 2026 435 12 services
June 2025 536 15 services
June 2024 500 15 services

July 2026 392 12 services
July 2025 438 12 services
July 2024 431 12 services

Y-T-D Sunday School Attendance

June 2026 768
June 2025 715
June 2024 754

July 2026 882
July 2025 837
July 2024 884

Videographers

Rod Bollinger

Worship Chairman

Dodie Sheckler/Tori Hill

Ushers

8:00

Dave Kesselmayer
Jennifer Kesselmayer
Dan Dobbelaire

10:30

Andrew Knussman
Brian Lundeen

ACOLYTES SCHEDULE

9/6 10:30 Mackenzie Abatie
9/13 10:30 Aiden Harms
9/20 10:30 Larkin Hinkley
9/27 10:30 Mackenzie Abatie

ELDERS COMMUNION ASSISTANCE

9/6 8:00 Vince Tennell
10:30 Ross Gould

9/20 8:00 Dan Dobbelaire
10:30 Jon Bolt

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 September are: Tom & Rhonda Lappie, 13634 Glenmar Dr., Pekin; Dan McClure, 13970 Glenmar Dr., Pekin and Adam Miller, 2007 Willow, Pekin

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

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

Velma Widby
August 11, 1925
June 28, 2026

Gary Slabaugh
April 2, 1954
August 11, 2026

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

The St. John's Ladies Guild has donated books in memory of members who have passed away..

A book entitled "Still Here" by Mary & Steven Chapman. Forty years of messy, crazy, good-then-bad-then better experiences, and they are Still Here to share it. This book was donated in the memory of Velma Widby.

A book entitled "Sister, Soldier, Surgeon" by Leisa Carzon. Meet a Modern Day Joan of Arc. This book was donated in the memory of Viola Deppert.

A book entitled "Today Someone I Love Passed Away" by Dianne Ahern.. The great mystery of death and what happens when we die. This book was donated in memory of Barb Theleritis.

A book entitled "I Love You To The Stars" by Crystal Bowman and Douglas Groothuis. When Grandma comes to live with them, her grandson is happy. They do a lot of things together. But grandma hasn't been the same. She does funny things. This book was donated in memory of Ruthanne Scott.

Please come in and check out these new books. Sign and date the card and place in in the basket on the desk. These books are located on the table.

Thanks so much to the Guild for these books.



TREASURER'S REPORT

June 2026



	<u>June</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>
<u>INCOME</u>	18,821.59	163,623.00
<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>35,593.02</u>	<u>229,634.79</u>
<u>INCOME—</u>	<u>(16,771.43)</u>	<u>(66,011.79)</u>
<u>EXPENSE</u>		

General Fund Accounts

General Fund	3,415.06
Gen'l Fund CD #1192280	-
General Fund Schwab	<u>201,132.89</u>
General Fund Total	204,547.95

Educational Fund Accounts

Educ. Grant Fund Checking	3,784.49
Ed Grant CD LCMS 715	51,863.96
Ed Grant CD LCMS 717	-
Ed Grant CD Busey 1192280	40,000.00
Ed Grant Fund #2 Vanguard	<u>64,605.58</u>
Educational Fund Total	170,254.03

East Bluff Property

East Bluff Property Vanguard	39,335.91
East Bluff CD LCMS 716	-
East Bluff CD LCMS 714	-
East Bluff Property Checking	100,671.75
Cat Stock at FMV	<u>392,948.10</u>
East Bluff Property Fund	532,955.76

Memorial

Memorial Fund Checking	23,579.62
Memorial Vanguard	96,687.54
Memorial Busey CD 1192299	<u>20,000.00</u>
Memorial Fund Total	140,267.16

Building Fund Checking	34,613.33
Sunday School Fund Checking	9,166.76

TOTAL ASSETS **\$1,091,804.99**

Checking Acct Balance	<u>185,231.01</u>
	185,231.01

LIABILITIES

Payroll Liabilities	3,108.17
Misc. LCMS Orgs Fund	<u>478.50</u>
Total Liabilities	3,586.67

Fund Balance

Net Income (Loss)	116,552.20
Capital Accounts	<u>971,666.12</u>
Total Fund Balance	1,088,218.32

TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE **\$1,091,804.99**

TREASURER'S REPORT

July 2026

	<u>July</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>
<u>INCOME</u>	21,209.89	184,832.89
<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>23,130.27</u>	<u>252,765.06</u>
<u>INCOME—</u>	<u>(1,920.38)</u>	<u>(67,932.17)</u>
<u>EXPENSE</u>		

General Fund Accounts

General Fund	1,894.40
Gen'l Fund CD #1192280	-
General Fund Schwab	<u>201,750.65</u>
General Fund Total	203,645.05

Educational Fund Accounts

Educ. Grant Fund Checking	13,784.49
Ed Grant CD LCMS 715	51,863.96
Ed Grant CD LCMS 717	-
Ed Grant CD Busey 1192280	40,000.00
Ed Grant Fund #2 Vanguard	<u>63,945.70</u>
Educational Fund Total	169,594.15

East Bluff Property

East Bluff Property Vanguard	38,930.77
East Bluff CD LCMS 716	-
East Bluff CD LCMS 714	-
East Bluff Property Checking	100,671.75
Cat Stock at FMV	<u>300,664.89</u>
East Bluff Property Fund	440,267.41

Memorial

Memorial Fund Checking	25,199.11
Memorial Vanguard	95,696.96
Memorial Busey CD 1192299	<u>20,000.00</u>
Memorial Fund Total	140,896.07

Building Fund Checking	35,483.33
Sunday School Fund Checking	9,237.76

TOTAL ASSETS **\$999,123.77**

Checking Acct Balance	<u>186,270.84</u>
	186,270.84

LIABILITIES

Payroll Liabilities	3,112.93
Misc. LCMS Orgs Fund	<u>560.50</u>
Total Liabilities	3,673.43

Fund Balance

Net Income (Loss)	23,784.22
Capital Accounts	<u>971,666.12</u>
Total Fund Balance	995,450.34

TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE **\$999,123.77**

SPECIAL BIBLE STUDY – “Serving in God’s Mission” is a workshop from the LC-MS for congregational leaders recommended for our use following the congregational self-assessment we did last fall. In preparation for this workshop Pastor Bishop will lead a special Bible study on Sunday, Sept. 20 during the regular Bible Class hour. All adults are welcome and encouraged to attend.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION PROJECT – September

This month our Sunday School offerings will help provide Bible Storybooks for children in Latin America as part of the Juan 3:16 Mission project of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation.

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PEKIN ST. JOHN’S ACTIVITIES – come join in the fun and bring a friend...

Tuesdays 6:00 p.m.	Pickleball
Sunday, Sept. 20 4:00 p.m.	Youth Group volleyball & pizza
Monday, Sept. 21 6:00 p.m.	Adult Game night – Bring your favorite cards or board games

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GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Sept 4	Early Dismissal (Pre-K @ 12 — K-8 @ 12:30)
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Sept 7	No School – Labor Day
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Meet our new GSLS Principal

Hello, church families! My name is Judi Hicks. We are members of St. John’s Lutheran Church in Green Valley where Herschel and I were married and both Paige and Dylan were baptized and confirmed.

I grew up in Elmhurst, Illinois. My parents are both retired and very active members at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Elmhurst. I have a younger brother who is a pastor in Ann Arbor, Michigan with his wife and my two nephews. I also have a twin sister who lives near Charleston, South Carolina with her husband and my niece. My sister and I went to Concordia University (River Forest, IL) together, and we received our first call as Lutheran school teachers to Good Shepherd back in 1999. She was called to be the fourth grade teacher, and I was called to be the second grade teacher. We also both helped with choir and the musical programs.

I have been teaching second grade now at Good Shepherd for the last 27 years, and I am excited about moving into the new role of principal this year. I have a great love for this school, its mission, and for all of you (the students and families). I pray that God continues to bless my ministry here and our school as we grow in His word and in His love.



Received thank you letters from David Probst, Development Director at Lutherans for Life for our donations toward their Gospel motivated, life-affirming ministry.

Received thank you letters from Vicki Biggs, Sr. VP Seminary Advancement for our generous support of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Received thank you letters from Rev. Dr. Chad Kendall for our gifts to Concordia University, Chicago Foundation.

Rev. Bishop and People of St. John’s, Pentecost still happens because of your gifts. Thank you and God bless you all! Rev. R. Rahn, Founder and Rev. De. Matthew Heise, Executive Director of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation.

THANK YOU to Pastor Bishop, Allison and for all the prayers and donations shared with our family in the passing of Sandra Vice. Curt & Pam Woolsey

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	

Camp Cilca

September 18	Whippoorwill Golf Outing
September 26	Act Like Men Shooting Retreat (under 18 must be accompanied by an adult)

YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP (for ages 20-35) will meet @ Trinity Lutheran Church, 135 NE Randolph Ave., Peoria on Saturday, Sept. 19, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Fellowship includes: food, games, movies, etc.

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Trinity Lutheran Church, Peoria is pleased to invite you to **Ramsey Financial Peace University** class on Wednesday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. from September 3 through October 29. Scott Rauch and Jacob Mol are the coordinators. There is no cost for attending the class, but there is a cost for accessing the Ramsey Solutions materials. Free child care as needed. For more information regarding this, See the bulletin board in the gym.

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Peoria Chapter Lutherans for Life will not be meeting in Sept.

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Presentation in Observation of 25th Anniversary of 9/11 will be held on Sept. 17 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Paul's, Havana, IL. Pastor Bill Wrede is a pastor of the LC-MS who was serving on Long Island during the terrorist attacks and ministered at Ground Zero the entire day and continued to do so for the next nine months. Pastor Wrede will recount his experience and what it looks like to serve as a pastor in the midst of a tragedy.

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Lutheran Laymen League (LLL) Annual Fall Retreat topic is "Life Issues". Discussion will be around preborn issues, as well as end of life issues. The retreat will be held Saturday, Sept. 12 at Camp Cilca with doors opening at 8:30. Retreat will from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.. Registration is \$25 which includes lunch. Deadline is Sept. 7. Contact Deloris Blessman at delorisblessman@yahoo.com or 309-361-1461.

LCMS Foundation
TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER

September 2026 Newsletter Article

Jerry said to his friend Paul, "I just came from the doctor. I don't like conversations at the doctor's office. I get so tongue tied. I forget about what I wanted to ask the doctor. I'm trying to think about what certain words mean and before I know it, I'm being ushered out of the office without talking about everything I needed to discuss."

Paul replied, "I know what you are talking about. It's the same reason that I have not been getting my estate plan updated. When I get around legal people, I hear words like codicils, per stirpes and in vivo. I get so stressed about keeping it all straight that I put it all off for another year."

Legal terms and carefully crafted documents all have very important purposes in our estate plans. Sometimes, the difference between a contested estate and non-contested estate may come down to the proper use of these words. In truth, that may be stressful for you. That's why it is important to start talking about your goals, thinking and praying, before facing that stress head on. That is where working collaboratively with an LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help. Your counselor is a fellow believer who wants to stand alongside you, to assist and encourage you in expressing your wishes clearly. Once that is achieved, the counselor will assist in sharing that with your attorney so you can be confident that all your desires are known. In the process, you can gain a new friend, sharing life in Jesus. To get started, contact Scott Radden @ 618-977-4049 or scott.radden@lfnd.org.

FOSTER HOMES NEEDED, Open your home. Save a life.

A call to aid abandoned pets and provide care for all vulnerable animals. Shelters are overcrowded; fostering is a compassionate way to offer a loving home until they find their forever families. We cover all expenses (food, vet, etc)! You just need to provide a loving temporary home.



APPLY TODAY



www.fosterpetoutreach.org



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Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 276

Matt. 19:15-30

R	L	G	R	A	E	C	B	T	I	R	E	H	N	I
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The Rich Man & The Kingdom

CAMEL	BROTHERS
ENTER	CHILDREN
GIVE	ETERNAL
HANDS	FATHER
HARD	FOLLOW
HONOR	GLORIOUS
INHERIT	HEAVEN
ISRAEL	JUDGING
JESUS	MOTHER
KEPT	NEEDLE
LEFT	PERFECT
LIFE	POSSIBLE
PETER	RECEIVE
RICH	RENEWAL
SAKE	SISTERS
SAVED	TEACHER
SELL	THRONE
TIMES	TREASURE
TRUTH	WEALTH

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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