

711 Court St.  
Pekin, Illinois  
61554-4735

309.347.2136

www.stjohnpekin.org

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

February 2011  
Volume 37, Issue 2

# St. John's Journal

## No Greater Love!

We think of love on February 14th. That day is attached to a sketchy legend that is a compendium of the lives of maybe two or three different people. Valentine was a Roman priest who married Christian couples and assisted believers during a time of persecution directed by Emperor Claudius II. Both of these activities had been made against the law of the land and Valentine sought to follow the law of love and God rather than the precepts of men. One other story attached to his memory was that while imprisoned, and awaiting his eventual martyrdom, he was God's instrument used for the conversion of the jailer and some guards and members of their families. He supposedly restored the sight of the jailer's daughter, and on the eve of his death, he penned a farewell note to that same jailer's daughter, signing it, "From your Valentine." At one point the emperor, Claudius, took a liking to this priest until Valentine made a strategic error; he tried to convert the Emperor. That then led to his death sentence. Around 269 A.D. he was beaten with clubs and stoned, and when he still did not die, he was beheaded.

Well, there isn't all that much content to the Valentine legend. Very little can be substantiated of what he did to make such an impression that continues his name among us until the present time. Until 1969 the Roman Catholic church still had him on their calendar but he has since been removed. Now it's only Hallmark that perpetuates his name and memory. What really matters, even more than the life and times of a saint, is still the finest and best love of all.

"No greater love has a man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." Such sacrifices are rare. And even if by a genuine act of love a person steps in and takes the punishment of another, or a soldier saves his buddies by throwing his body on a live grenade, that pertains to this life only. There is but **One Life** given whereby our present life is blessed and eternal life is given as a gift. You've guessed it! Jesus has done just that. He's a good soldier going above and beyond the call and absorbing sin to exchange it with righteousness and dying so that those who are dying can live and sealing it all with a resurrection guarantee.

St. John, in his first epistle, highlights the "true love"

theme with these words: "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!" "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and gave His Son to be the *atonement* payment for our sins." "We love Him because He first loved us."

The Love of God is incarnate in the person of Jesus. The God-Man reveals our heavenly Father's true disposition toward us as He is reconciled to the world through Christ, and on His account and for His sake, God does not count our sins against us. In John's Gospel, of course, "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..." So the Father's love is found in flesh and given into death so that this broken creation and we, broken creatures, can be in fellowship with our holy Creator once again.

Therein is the basis and foundation of our new heart. Back in 1 John, love of God — at the vertical level, from heaven to earth — moves on into love of our brothers and sisters, at the horizontal level, among our neighbors.

John inspires us with these Spirit-empowered words: "God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him." "Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God." All these imperatives from this epistle flow from the words first found on our Savior's lips, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also love one another. By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

True love is marked by commitment. Lust should never be confused for true love. And such love, to which we as Jesus' disciples are called, is becoming harder to come by as people are tending to become more isolated, desire to be more insulated, and relationships have become more a function of technology than face to face and real time. The devil knows what he's doing when he messes with love. Still, love is the foundation of the Christian faith, and, of course, it all starts with God's love for us, borne into our lives by His beloved and only begotten Son. - Pastor Mark A. Miller



**Christian Education**

**Sunday School**  
***Perfect Attendance***  
**December 2010**

**Second Grade**  
Emma Norman

**Fifth Grade**  
Rachel Bresnahan

**Seventh Grade**  
Lauren Bresnahan

**Eighth Grade**  
Noah Kesselmayr

**High School**  
Emilie Kesselmayr

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**



**Feb 1**  
Joseph Hillman  
Edward Hodgkins  
Vincent Thomason

**Feb 02**  
Nathan Barth  
Katie Bollinger  
Edward Gaitros  
David Justi  
Stephen Webb

**Feb 03**  
Lisa Poole

**Feb 04**  
Joseph Donovan  
Gayle Gettman  
Ryan Hansen  
Jacob Pennell

**Feb 06**  
Richard Jarvis

**Feb 07**  
Jamie Hoover

**Feb 08**  
Melinda Turney  
Melissa Turney

**Feb 09**  
Loretta Newman  
R. Michael Thompson

**Feb 10**  
Sandra Morgan  
Sarah Moss  
Candice Swift  
Barbara Theleritis

**Feb 11**  
Katherine King  
Marion Lutz

**Feb 12**  
Viola Deppert

**Feb 13**  
Charles Diemer  
Carrie Schmidgall

**Feb 14**  
Steven Depew  
Belinda Frankel  
Rebecca Stewart  
Barbara Thompson

**Feb 15**  
Nola Berger  
Ruth Keil  
Lori Segó

**Feb 16**  
Jean Matthews  
Karen McCammon  
Patricia Proehl

**Feb 17**  
George Andrae  
Ashley Chambliss

**Feb 18**  
Michael Becker  
Pamella Ehmke  
Jeremy Garmon  
Emma Hicks  
Rosemary Peacock  
Barry Pool  
Gregory Swibold

**Feb 20**  
Dean Cooper  
Marcille Frevert  
Roy Gardner  
Heather Roberts  
Shirley Williamson

**Feb 21**  
Kylee Alexander  
Stanley Ehmke  
Ronald Garber

**Feb 22**  
Dane Riley  
Susan Waddell

**Feb 23**  
Alison Burriss

**Feb 24**  
Vernice Funk  
Sally Morris  
David Segó

**Feb 25**  
Tyler Widby

**Feb 26**  
LeaAnn Becker

**Feb 27**  
John Zuklic

**Feb 28**  
Carl Beale  
Sandra Gay  
Carl Whitlatch  
Sally Widby  
Rose Marie Williamson

**Feb 29**  
Carol Becker

**FEBRUARY  
ANNIVERSARIES**



**Feb 01**

John & Allison Gillespie

**Feb 02**

Gerald & Paula Norman

**Feb 07**

Donald & Marjorie Schoedel

**Feb 14**

Thomas & Cheryl Ivey  
Bruce & Shirley McCoige  
James & Julie Widby  
Barry & Katherine Wright

**Feb 20**

Pastor Glenn & Laura Niemann

**Feb 26**

Carl & Megan Whitlatch

**Feb 27**

Elmer & Sally Widby

**Feb 28**

John & Samantha Nelson

**PARISH NOTES**



**Church Attendance**

	<u>Attend.</u>	<u>No. of Services</u>
<u>Dec 2010</u>	1165	20
<u>Dec 2009</u>	1549	19
<u>Dec 2008</u>	1608	19

**Sunday School Attendance**

<u>2010</u>	4019
<u>2009</u>	4463
<u>2008</u>	4807

**February Videographers**

Steve Depew Jim Lonergan

**February Worship Committee**

Marty Matthews

**February Visitation Elders**

<u>Feb 06</u>	Steve Kesselmayr
<u>Feb 13</u>	Ross Gould
<u>Feb 20</u>	Joe Schiavone
<u>Feb 27</u>	Ron Garber

**February Acolytes**

<u>Feb 06</u>	8:00	Victoria Tilton
	10:30	Tyler Stewart Gavin Glass
<u>Feb 13</u>	8:00	Lauren Bresnahan Bayley Driskell
	10:30	Jacob Kelley
<u>Feb 20</u>	8:00	Joseph Woodruff Noah Dingerson
	10:30	George Andrae
<u>Feb 27</u>	8:00	Dylan Kesselmayr Garret Kesselmayr
	10:30	Nathan Ford



**February Ushers**

**8:00**

Gerold Bohannan  
Zach Ferguson  
Darrell Hansen  
Nicholas  
Kesselmayr  
Steven Kesselmayr  
Terry Norman  
Vincent Tennell

**10:30**

Evan Bryan  
John Fuelberth  
Ross Gould  
Jacob Gould  
Ray Hall  
Wayne Liescheidt  
Cody Watson

**February Greeters**

<u>Feb 06</u>	8:00	Gus Knieriem
	10:30	Daryl & Lori Dagit
<u>Feb 13</u>	8:00	Dave & Nancy Drockelman
	10:30	Jim & Joyce Lonergan
<u>Feb 20</u>	8:00	Don & Valerie Dobbelaire
	10:30	Walt & Carol Long
<u>Feb 27</u>	8:00	Ken & Mary Beck

**TREASURER'S REPORT  
DECEMBER, 2010**

	<u>December</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>	65,322.86	456,569.95
<b><u>EXPENSE</u></b>	<u>34,357.03</u>	<u>397,520.03</u>
<b><u>INCOME- EXPENSE</u></b>	30,964.83	59,049.92
<b><u>LIABILITIES</u></b>		
Note Payable—HVAC/Roof Loan		58,003.98
Payroll Liabilities		<u>1,178.19</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		59,182.17

December 2010 Treasurer's Report Cont'd)

**Current Checking & Link Money Market**

General Fund	17,723.52
Good Shepherd School	-19,427.58
Educational Grant Fund	4,286.16
Building Fund	6,774.94
Sunday School Fund	5,335.24
ACT Fund	1,700.00
Full Nesters Fund	540.36
Memorial Fund	19,931.82
Library Fund	180.16
<b>Total Checking &amp; Link Money Mkt</b>	<b>37,044.62</b>

**CDs & Common Stock**

Educational Grant Fund CD #1	94,690.49
Educational Grant Fund CD #2	74,570.29
East Bluff Property Fund CD	102,950.51
Cat Stock at FMV	17,514.42
<b>Total CDs &amp; Common Stock</b>	<b>289,725.71</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>326,770.33</b>

Checking Account Balance	17,299.53
Link Account—Cash Portion Only	19,745.09
	21,961.89

**FUND BALANCE**

Funds to Pay Note Payable	-133,285.40
Net Income (Loss)	59,049.92
Capital Accounts	341,823.64
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>267,588.16</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>326,770.33</b>

**FEBRUARY  
LIBRARY CORNER**  
*By Eileen Tiona*



"You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich."  
2 Corinthians 8:9

The following books by Deeanne Gist were donated by Steve & Ricky Kingdon in memory of Lillian Illuzzi:

- Deep In The Heart Of Trouble, Courting Trouble, The Measure Of A Lady, Maid To Match, and A Bride In The Bargain. I'm sure the ladies of the congregation will enjoy reading these books. Thank you, Steve & Ricky for your generous donation.
- True Compass, a memoir by Edward M. Kennedy, has been donated by Randy Becker. Thank you, Randy, for your donation.

Pastor Neimann has donated the following books:

- Worship In The Name Of Jesus by Peter Brunner;
- Second Thoughts About Living Together by Concordia Publishing House
- Martin Luther, A Man Who Changed The World by Paul Maier;
- Life At Moscow Bay – One Hundred Years Along The Illinois River by William Louis Fay II;
- Waterfowl Of Illinois by Stephen Havera;
- Bible Atlas & Companion by David Barrett;
- Darwin on Trial by Phillip E. Johnson;
- The Lost City – The Forgotten Virtues Of Community In America by Alan Ehrenhalt;
- Grace Upon Grace – Spirituality For Today by John Kleinig
- The Life And Times Of Jesus The Messiah Complete And Unabridged In One Volume by Alfred Edersheim;
- Luther's Large Catechism With Study Questions by Concordia Publishing House;
- An Explanation Of The History Of The Suffering And Death Of Our Lord Jesus Christ by Johann Gerhard;
- A Comprehensive Explanation Of Holy Baptism And The Lord's Supper (1610) by Johann Gerhard
- Aphorisms On The New Testament Offices And Their Relationship To The Congregation (On The Question Of The Church's Policy) by Wilhelm Lohe, Lutheran Pastor Nurembert 1849, translated by Dr. John R. Stephenson

Thank you, Pastor Niemann, for your donation of the above books. Please come in and check out the large selections of books we have in the library. The cold weather is a good time to read.

**ORGANIZATIONS**

**FELLOWSHIP CLUB By Veva Martin**

St. John's Fellowship Club will be meeting **Saturday, February 12th, at 6:30 P. M.** at the church.

We will be holding a "**White Elephant**" sale, so check your closets, drawers, the garage, wherever, and bring some interesting items to auction off.

It is always a fun evening - come join us.

## **WOMEN'S GUILD By Deb Lakamp**

The St. John's Ladies Guild will meet on  
**Thursday, Feb. 24th at 7:00 P. M.**

Our guest speaker will be Rev. Bruce Lakamp. His topic will be "Getting Ready for Lent". All ladies of the congregation are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Bethlehem Society meeting will be held on

## **BETHLEHEM SOCIETY By Addie Weyhrich**

**Tuesday, February 22nd at 1:30 P. M.**

The hostess will be Mary Beck. The program for February will be Pastor Miller. Also, our Fun(d) Day noon potluck will be held on

**Tuesday, February 15th.**

Our hostess will be Wilmadean Habberfield. All church members are invited to attend our functions.

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President Ray Barnes called the meeting to order. A quorum was present. Pastor Miller opened with the de-

## **HI-LITES OF ST. JOHN'S VOTERS ASSEMBLY January 10, 2011**

votions. The December Parish Report was presented. Upon motion by Ross Gould, seconded by Dave Drockelman, the Parish Report was approved. The minutes for the December 13, 2010 meeting were approved as published.

Treasurer's Report – Ron Reising reported a shortfall in funds last year; however the December income from the plate was doubled in response to the appeal published in the Sunday bulletins. A great big "Thank you" to the Congregation for "stepping-up" the giving. Upon motion by Dave Drockelman, seconded by Mary Depew, the treasurer's report was approved.

Board of Trustees – Dave Kesselmayer stated the Trustees need help from the Boards. Any meetings and/or special needs please let the Board of Trustees know. Every Board needs a key and the Trustees will keep a list of the recipients. Officers were elected – Dave Kesselmayer is Chair, Bob Watson is now Vice-Chair and Gary Pool is Secretary.

Board of Finance – Nancy Drockelman stated the next meeting is in February.

Board of Elders – Pastor Miller stated the Ft. Wayne, Indiana Conference is next week. Both Pastors will attend.

Board of Christian Education – Rod Bollinger stated Mary Garber is the new Sunday School Superintendent.

Board of Stewardship – John Gillespie stated envelopes are in and now in Narthex through January. In February, members of the Stewardship Committee will be delivering any left. John Gillespie made motion to make Steve Depew and Allison Gillespie members of the Stewardship Committee. Seconded by Howard Proehl and approved.

Board of Evangelism – Pastor Miller stated there is a meeting Thursday.

Unfinished Business – Ray Barnes stated the need of a Secretary. Kenny Beck stated the East Bluff Property had a 4-wheeling ramp built on it by some kids. Ramp was removed and taken care of. East Bluff Property Chair stated that the incident was duly noted.

New Business – Pastor Miller stated the two Constitution Amendments for the Synod have a March 15, 2011 signing deadline and will need to be voted on by the Congregation before the deadline. A Secretary is needed before signing can take place.

Ron Reising stated Dr. Lamb is speaking 6:30 pm Monday at Mt. Calvary on Life Issues. Anyone interested please stop by.

There being no further business, the President adjourned the meeting.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

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## **GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN SCHOOL FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER**

**Positions Available:** The Board of Directors is taking applications for a third grade teacher and a part-time computer teacher. Resumés may be sent to the school office, or contact the office (347-2020) for more information.

**Preschool/ Kindergarten Round-Up:** Registration for next year's preschool and kindergarten classes will take place on Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30. Good Shepherd offers preschool classes for three and four year olds as well as all-day kindergarten. Contact the school office for more information.

**Dinner Out:** The next PTL "Dining Out" will be held at Culver's on Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, from 4:00 – 8:00. No coupon is necessary. A profit of 10% will be received for every purchase. Tell all your friends, relatives, and associates at work.

**PTL:** Our 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades will be displaying their medical & health projects at our PTL meeting on Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. Come out to the school and view their exciting and interesting research and displays.

**Basketball Season:** All of our teams are in tournament action various weekends in February. Our 7/8 boys team is hoping to be selected as one of the 24 teams to play in the Illinois Lutheran State Tournament.

**Auction:** Time is running short to purchase your tickets for the 5<sup>th</sup> annual GSLS Benefit Auction to be held on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. The cost is still only \$40/person for a delicious meal and an opportunity to bid on some fabulous items. Check the school's website for many new and familiar items. Proceeds go to the school's building fund. Tickets are available at the SCRIP tables in the churches, in the school office, or by calling Ann Fuelberth at 347-9027. We are also accepting table sponsors: \$50 for dining tables; \$100 for silent auction tables; \$200 for live auction tables.

We wish to express our appreciation to all the many people from our churches and the Good Shepherd families for all of the cards, words of encouragement, food, and especially your prayers while Linda was hospitalized and during this time of recuperation from the freakish automobile accident on  
December 29<sup>th</sup>.  
Linda & Ralph Mickley.

Ewe's Treasures has again been blessed with a successful year. We thank everyone for their donations and especially thank the volunteers who give of their time to make the shop successful.

We are always in need of  
new volunteers!

**PLEASE contact June Berndt,  
347-7441, if interested.**

**REMINDER:  
THE DONATION PORCH IS CLOSED  
DURING THE MONTH OF  
FEBRUARY.**

This enables us to catch up  
and clean up at the shop.



The family of Mel Becker  
thanks all of you—  
our church family—  
for all the expressions of  
sympathy, prayers, love, calls,  
cards and memorials.

Thank you, Pastor Miller,  
for your comforting words.

Lois, Don, Randy and families.

## Transferred To The Church Triumphant

**Russell Dagit**

November 03, 1924—  
December 31, 2010

**Esther Beale**

May 03, 1919—



Dear Friends of St. John's,  
I wish to thank each of you for your prayers, cards, flowers, food and phone calls; and a big thank you to Pastor Miller for his visit and prayer after my surgery. I am doing very well. I know that God is directing my life every day. Praise God!  
And may He bless each and every one of you.

Velma Widby.

## Bible Wordsearch

## Solomon's Temple

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

ALTAR	CHAMBERS
ARK	CHERUBIM
BASINS	CURTAINS
BOWLS	FIGURES
BRONZE	FLOWERS
CEDAR	FURNITURE
COURT	HOLYPLACE
GOLDEN	INCENSE
GRAVEN	LAMPSTAND
INNER	MERCYSEAT
PALMS	OFFERINGS
PILLARS	PARTITION
PORCH	SACRIFICES
ROOMS	SANCTUARY
VESSELS	SHEWBREAD
TABERNACLE	



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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Prov.27