

St. John's Journal

St. John's Evangelical
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Blessed is the nation whose God is The LORD; the people whom He hath chosen as His inheritance. ~ Psalm 33:12

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Americans “do not consider ourselves (to be) a Christian nation ...” So said President Obama in a press conference in Turkey last April – coincidentally, during Holy Week. Our President has made similar statements in the past. In June of 2007, he told a CBS interviewer:

“Whatever we once were, we are no longer a Christian nation – at least, not just. We are also a Jewish nation, a Muslim nation, a Buddhist nation, a Hindu nation, and a nation of nonbelievers.”

Note the progression: in 2007, he said that we are no longer “just” a Christian nation. Now, in 2009, he says we “do not consider ourselves a Christian nation” at all.

There is a sense in which Obama is correct; unlike England at the time of our nation’s founding, we do not have an official State Church. Nor do we want one – I wouldn’t want Barack Obama – or any other earthly President – to be the head of The Church.

But that’s not what the U.S. Supreme Court meant when, in *Church of The Holy Trinity vs. United States*, 143 U.S. 437 (1892), they held that “this is a Christian nation.” They meant that this nation was indeed founded on Biblical principles, and that those who brought these Biblical principles to this land and who initially implemented those principles in our system of government were – for the most part – professing Christians. At least 51 of the 55 delegates to the Constitutional Convention were members of Christian congregations, and leading American political figures in the founding era of this nation quoted the Bible far more than any other source.

The ideals on which they framed the Declaration of Independence & the Constitution – that man is subject to the laws of nature and of nature’s God, that God created man equal and endowed him with certain unalienable rights, that human nature is sinful and therefore governmental power itself must be carefully restrained by the Constitution – are all ideals that they derived, directly or indirectly, from The Bible. Granted, some of these ideals may be shared by those of other religious traditions; but – with few exceptions - the Founding Fathers of these United States did not read the Koran, or the Upanishads, or the Bagavigita. They read the Bible, and they heard the Bible preached on Sunday mornings.

Alexander Tyler, a Scottish history professor at the University of Edinburgh, had this to say about republics and democracies: “A democracy is always temporary in nature; it simply cannot exist as a permanent form of gov-

ernment. A democracy will continue to exist up until the time that voters discover they can vote themselves generous gifts from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates who promise the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that every democracy will finally collapse due to loose fiscal policy, which is always followed by a dictatorship.”

“From the beginning of history, the average age of the world’s greatest civilizations has been about 200 years. During those 200 years, these nations always progressed through the following sequence:

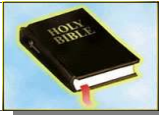
1. From bondage to spiritual faith;
2. From spiritual faith to great courage;
3. From great courage to liberty;
4. From liberty to abundance;
5. From abundance to complacency;
6. From complacency to apathy;
7. From apathy to dependence;
8. From dependence back into bondage.”

At the 233rd Anniversary of our nation’s Declaration of Independence, are we as a nation still maintaining the necessary courage to preserve a Godly liberty, or – by complacency & apathy – will July the 4th soon be replaced by a “Declaration of Dependence” upon the government’s treasury instead? As former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher once warned her own United Kingdom, “... the problem with socialism is that you very soon run out of other people’s money.”

And so it is that your Pastors pray each Lord’s Day for our nation – AND for her leaders - for the need for such prayers continues today as ever! St. Paul’s exhortation to Pastor Timothy still holds true: “*Therefore, I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men – for kings and all in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good & acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, Who desires all men to be saved & brought to the knowledge of the truth.*” [1

TIM 2:1-4] **Yours in His Service, Pastor Glenn Niemann**

THE POWERS ORDAINED BY THEE
WITH HEAVENLY WISDOM BLESS;
MAY THEY **THY** SERVANTS BE
AND RULE IN **RIGHTEOUSNESS!**
O LORD, STRETCH FORTH THY MIGHTY HAND
AND GUARD AND BLESS OUR FATHERLAND. AMEN [TLH 580:4]



**Christian Education
Sunday School**

May

Pre-School

Brayden Hoover
Cailen Wilson

Second Grade

Augie Fuelberth

Sixth Grade

Naomi Niemann
Joseph Woodruff

High School

Elizabeth Niemann

JULY BIRTHDAYS

July 02

Tyler Stewart

July 03

Kenneth Beck
Jane Heberer
Ethan Sego
Morgan Sego

July 05

Phyllis Beer
Matthew Gardiner
Howard Proehl
Michael Sipka
Cody Watson

July 06

Sierra Warning

Elliot Nelson
Frank Weindel

July 09

Eileen Tiona

July 10

Kay Aulenbach
Lois Coon

July 11

Donald Dobbelaire
Mark Wiseman

July 12

Courtney
Dobbelaire
Anna Knussman
Austin Pool
Brycen Waremburg
Rachel Weiman

July 13

Jamie Gaitros
Arlene Krause
Veva Martin

July 14

Mildred Becker
Drew Deal
Gladys Malavolti

July 15

Jason Hammond
Linda John
Christopher Miller
Lisa Slomba
Eric Smith
Susan Wertz

July 16

Gary Allan
Jacob Hamann
Jenny Hasty
Susan Keefer
Nancy Schmick
Robert Thompson

July 17

Jeffery Jackson

Ashleigh Kelley
Warner Negley
Brooke Pfan

July 18

David Courtright
Brendan Hillman

July 19

Nelson Guengerich
Sandra Vice

July 20

Julia McCammon

July 21

Tabitha Reeise

July 22

Isabelle Anderson
David Steinwedel

July 23

Alida Calhoun
Everett Dagit
Valerie Dobbelaire

July 24

Jacob Adkins

July 25

Robert Brown, Jr.
Donna Corso
Ryan Gee
Daniel McClure
Christy Watson
Butch Williams

July 26

Lisa Alexander
Rodney Bollinger
Lee Morgan
Kennedy O'Dell
Lena Pitchford

July 27

Mark Habberfield
Tyson Sutton
Susan Swibold
Marilyn Tisdale

July 28

Caralee Bohannan
Douglas Deal
Aaron Schmidgall
Susan Stout

July 29

Naomi Niemann
Christina Sumner

July 31

Kevin Dobbelaire
Dale Ehmke
John Englebright
Dennis Ziegenhorn

**JULY
ANNIVERSARIES**

July 2

Joshua & Tisha
Daniels

July 04

Melvyn & Shirley
Gentry

July 05

Joseph & JoAnn
Aimone

July 07

Orjan & Stephanie
Lundberg
Cody & Jennifer
Neal
David & Susan
Woodruff

July 13

Aaron & Amy
Dingerson

July 14

Stephen & Amanda
Webb

July 16

Darrell & Donna
Hansen

Ron & Wanda
Severtson

July 18

Paul & Jamie Driskell
Bennett & Carolyn
Urish
Dennis & Elisa
Ziegenhorn

July 19

Gary & Peggy
Grossweiler
Jeffrey & Angela
Thelertis

July 20

George & Tammi
Andrae
Chris & Shelly Bitner
Richard & Victoria
Ronna

July 21

Howard & Marcia
Hubbs

July 23

Tom & Jeanette
Collette

July 27

Shane & Jami Beeny

July 29

Rev. Bruce &
Deborah Lakamp

**AUGUST
BIRTHDAYS**

August 01

Jane Hawkins
Mildred Klokkenga
Jonathan Moss
Emily Stewart
Cheryl Williams



August Birthdays
(Cont'd)

August 02
Sarah Calhoun
Robert Houge
Alexander Vasterling

August 03
Carol Danke
Alan Gudzinskas
David Miller
Rosetta Turner
Amanda Wertz

August 04
Shelly Bitner
Nancy Drockelman
David Erxleben
Zachary Fuelberth
Norma Kaebel
Robin Smith

August 06
Jamie Miller

August 07
Sharill Andrae
Ann Fuelberth
Steven Graves
Dale Schott

August 08
Shirley Gentry
Avery Theleritis

August 09
Dorsey Sisler
Susan Vasterling

August 10
Mackenzie Bonneville
Addie Burling
Shaun Moss

August 11
Gus Knieriem
Velma Widby

August 13
Steve Kesselmayer

August 14
Mary Miller
Samantha Nelson

August 15
Benjamin Becker
Brandon Bredeson
Aeryn Dingerson
Kathy Everett
Rachel Habberfield
James Lonergan
Marian Michael

August 16
Shannon Cooper
Charity Gullett
Sierra Pool
Robert Rosa

August 17
Taylor Bonneville
Cathy Justi

August 18
Richelle Harris
Jennifer Rosa Hinkley
Ben Rahn, Jr.

August 19
Clayton Cummings
Rhonda Lappie
Sandra Tennell
Matthew Urish

August 20
Aron Tucker

August 21
Seth Becker
Noah Kesselmayer
Robert Morgan
Angela Theleritis

August 22
William Ashbaker
Ronald Baldwin

Ashley Meints
Heath Norman

August 24
Marian Allen

August 25
Honor Deiss
Dan Englebright
Robert Miller

August 26
Julianna Johnson
Beverly Wieland

August 27
Faye Kesselmayer
Casey Watson

August 29
Adam Cooper
Heidi Cooper
Gerald Guengerich
Wayne Liescheidt
Terry Norman
Jeffrey Theleritis

August 30
Mary Garber
Gage John

August 31
Jonathan Ronna

**AUGUST
ANNIVERSARIES**

August 01
Thomas & Erin Theleritis

August 03
Timothy & Leigh Althiser
Joshua & Jennifer Norman
John & Rebecca Worlow

August 04
David & Karen
McCammon

August 07
Richard & Dianne Lohnes
Robin & Cynthia Smith

August 09
Richard & Michelle Gregory
David & Cathy Justi
Steven & Faye Kesselmayer
Adam & Rebecca Miller

August 10
Kristopher & Michelle
Hansen
Howard & Patricia Proehl

August 11
Noel & Nida Steinwedel

August 12
Delmar & Honor Deiss
Paul & Laura Nelson
Ray & Mildred Pitchford
Curtis & Pamela Woolsey

August 13
Charles & Charlotte Diemer

August 16
Richard & Merla McCloud

August 17
James & Joyce Lonergan

August 20
Robert & Barbara Rosa

August 21
Trent & Carrie Schmidgall

August 22
Rodger & Penny Hoover

August 23
Jeffrey & Joanne Ferree
Thomas & Rhonda Lappie

August 26
J Scott & Jennifer Rosa
Hinkley

August 27
Arthur & Virginia
Pitsonbarger

August 30
Brian & Annette Ford

PARISH NOTES



Church Attendance

May 2009 **1345** **16** services
 May 2008 **960** **13** services
 May 2007 **960** **13** services

Sunday School Attendance

May 2009 to date: 2,006
 May 2008 to date: 2,057
 May 2007 to date: 1,942

Visitation Elders—July

July 05 Tom Ivey
July 12 Randy Couch
July 19 Mickey Pitchford
July 26 Howie Proehl

Visitation Elders—August

Aug 02 Steve Kesselmayr
Aug 09 Dave Drockelman
Aug 16 Tom Ivey
Aug 23 Randy Couch
Aug 30 Mickey Pitchford

Acolytes—July

July 05 8:00 Tyler Stewart
 Micaylan McDonald
 10:30 Jacob Kelley
July 12 8:00 Zach Fuelberth
 Naomi Niemann
 10:30 Matthew Gudzinskas
July 19 8:00 Gage Dingerson
 Noah Dingerson
 10:30 Sierra Pool
July 26 8:00 Joseph Woodruff
 Katie Bollinger
 10:30 Gavin Glass

Acolytes—August

Aug 02 8:00 Dylan Kesselmayr
 Kylee Alexander
 10:30 Jacob Kelley
Aug 09 8:00 Noah Kesselmayr
 Victoria Tilton
 10:30 Matthew Gudzinskas
Aug 16 8:00 Tyler Stewart
 Zach Fuelberth

Aug 23 8:00 Micaylan McDonald
 Naomi Niemann
 10:30 Gavin Glass
Aug 30 8:00 Katie Bollinger
 Kylee Alexander
 10:30 Jacob Kelley

Elders Communion Assistance—July

July 05 8:00 Tom Ivey
 10:30 Howie Proehl
July 19 8:00 Randy Couch
 10:30 Mickey Pitchford

Elders Communion Assistance—August

Aug 02 8:00 Steve Kesselmayr
 10:30 Ross Gould
Aug 16 8:00 Randy Couch
 10:30 Mickey Pitchford
Aug 30 8:00 Tom Ivey
 10:30 Howie Proehl

Videographers—July

Adam Bollinger/Rod Bollinger

Videographers—August

Ray Barnes/Steve Depew

Worship Chairman—July

Laura Niemann

Worship Chairman—August

Dan Rees

Ushers—July

8:00
 Dave Drockelman
 Mike Gillespie
 James Lonergan
 Merle Wiseman

10:30
 Carl Cox
 Brian Ford
 Walter Long
 Bob Morrison
 Ray Pitchford
 Jeff Theleritis
 Brian Umbach
 Tom Watson

Ushers—August

8:00
 Gerold
 Bohannan
 Darrell Hansen
 Zach Ferguson
 Nicholas
 Kesselmayr
 Steven
 Kesselmayr
 Terry Norman

10:30
 Evan Bryan
 John Fuelberth
 Ray Hall
 Ross Gould
 Jacob Gould
 Wayne
 Liescheidt
 Cody Watson

Greeters—July

July 05 8:00 Bill & Dee Rees
July 12 8:00 Dan Rees
 8:00 Aaron &
 Courtney Miller
July 26 8:00 Terry & Linda
 Norman

Greeters—August

Aug 02 8:00 Katherine
 & Alissa Heisel
Aug 09 8:00 Kevin & Debra
 Bresnahan
Aug 16 8:00 Jerry & Paula
 Norman
Aug 23 8:00 Ron & Mary
 Garber
Aug 30 8:00 Vera Bozdech

TREASURER'S REPORT

May, 2009

May Y-T-D

INCOME 34,422.08 4,090.43
EXPENSES 25,278.18 56,925.50
INCOME— 9,143.90 7,164.93
EXPENSES

LIABILITIES

Note Payable
 (HVAC/Roof Loan) 105,707.94

Payroll Liabilities	925.60
Misc. LCMS	<u>11.12</u>
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u>	106,644.66
<u>CURRENT Checking & Link Money Market</u>	
General Fund	-70,487.44
Good Shepherd School	-11,766.45
Building Repair Fund	388.38
Educational Grant Fund	54,284.99
Building Fund	57,743.96
East Bluff Property Fund	-10,184.96
Sunday School Fund	4,214.77
ACT Fund	1,700.00
Full Nesters Fund	540.36
Memorial Fund	11,440.27
Library Fund	<u>231.96</u>
<u>Total Checking & Link Money Market</u>	38,105.84
<u>CDs & Common Stock</u>	
Educational Grant Fund CD #1	91,352.56
Educational Grant Fund CD #2	72,309.69
East Bluff Property Fund CD	99,321.11
Cat Stock at FMV	<u>17,233.56</u>
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	318,322.76
Checking Account Balance	19,033.84
Link Account—	
Cash portion Only	<u>19,072.00</u>
	38,105.84
<u>FUND BALANCE</u>	
Funds to Pay Note Payable	-133,285.40
Net Income (Loss)	17,164.93
Capital Account	<u>327,798.57</u>
<u>TOTAL FUND BALANCE</u>	211,678.10
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE:</u>	
	<u>318,322.76</u>



LIBRARY CORNER
By Eileen Tiona

"Enjoying fellowship is one of life's sweetest blessings and joys. What would we do without people and the many shadings of companionship and camaraderie?"

We need friends in our lives, friends with whom we not only discuss "deep" issues and confide our secrets, fears or sorrows,

but with whom we can laugh, play and even cry. The best times in life are made a thousand times better when shared with a dear friend."

Luci Swindoll

We have a new study bible, Women of Faith that has been donated to our library by Veva Martin. Thank you, Veva, for the donation.

Please come in and check out all the wonderful books that are available. We have a selection for everyone, young, middle age, and older people.

ORGANIZATIONS

FELLOWSHIP CLUB *By Veva Martin*

St. John's Fellowship Club will be meeting at Don & Val Dobbelaire's home
July 11th, 2009, at 5:30 P. M.



Meat, drink & dessert will be furnished; please bring a covered dish to pass. Come join us for a pleasant, relaxing evening.

There will not be a meeting in August.

BETHLEHEM SOCIETY *By Gayle Gettman*

There will be no business meeting in July. Instead, we have our

9POTLUCK PICNIC
Tuesday, July 28th, at 12:00 P. M.
at the church

We invite all men and women of the congregation to join us. Meat and drink will be furnished.



A big thank you to Pastor Kesselmayr for presenting our program at our May meeting.

Our next meeting of the Bethlehem Society will be on Tuesday, August 25th at 1:30 P. M. Our hostess will be Mary Beck. We invite all women of the congregation to join us.

We also have Fun(d) Day on Tuesday, August 18th with a noon potluck. Our hostess will be Sue Tisdale. All men and women of the congregation are invited to attend an afternoon of Christian Fellowship.

**HI-LITES OF ST. JOHN'S
VOTERS ASSEMBLY
June 08, 2009**

President Ray Barnes called the meeting to order. Pastor Niemann opened with devotions; the Parish Report was approved. The minutes for the May 11, 2009 meeting were approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report - Nancy Drockelman presented the Treasurer's Report for May. The May report was approved.

Board of Trustees - Jeff Theleritis stated that John Namoff from Downer's came to their meeting and gave his word to pay by Thursday; he owed \$2700, paid \$400. Jeff went back Friday and Monday and still did not receive a payment. They have been served a five day notice of eviction. The eviction notice is to appear in court where the judge will decide how many days he has to pay in full. The \$418.50 statement from Val Umholtz we have paid. Downers is responsible for late fees and legal fees according to the new contract. The city will plant a new tree outside and has asked us to take care of the watering. The roofing material for the Downers roof has been picked up and will be installed when the Trustees have a weekend to work on it and the weather permits; volunteers will be appreciated.

Board of Finance - Nancy Drockelman stated the additional loan has been approved for the roofing of the church and Downers. The committee met and discussed the options to make the General Fund and the East Bluff Property Fund "whole". After much discussion, the Finance Committee made a motion to take \$50,000 each from the Building Fund and the Educational Grant Fund and apply these dollars to both the East Bluff Property Fund and the General Fund. We also move that we close the Building Repair Fund and apply these dollars to the General Fund. We move that the line items for the East Bluff Property Fund and the Building Repair Fund be removed from the "Current Checking & Link Money Market". Motion approved.

Board of Elders - Steve Kesselmayr stated that the two Pastors and Mickey Pitchford will be attending the District Convention in July; adult confirmation will also be held in July.

Unfinished Business - John Fuelberth brought up the possibility of a feasibility study and a task force committee be appointed to receive input from the congregation and address some issues i.e. program facility, personnel, finance, and prospective giving during the next 2-5 years. President Barnes stated that this is what the Long Range Planning Committee under the direction of the Vice President

was set up to do and he will talk with Dave Woodruff, the current Vice President.

Old Business - Gary Pool made a motion to repair the bell tower roof, with Kreiling's help, without changing the facade of the tower and using flashing inside the brick wall under the stone cap where it is not as visible; the project is not to exceed \$20,000; motion seconded by Ross Gould. Motion approved.

New Business - A motion by Dave Drockelman was made to dispense with the July 2009 and August 2009 Voter's meetings; seconded by Elmer Widby. Motion approved.

The meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN
SCHOOL NEWSLETTER
July/August 2009**

New Home: On June 17th a "groundbreaking" was held at our new home "Good Shepherd at Court". Demolition of the interior of the building is in progress through July and August. There are three shifts to help with the demolition: 8:00—12:00; 1:00—5:00; 5:00—9:00. Carpeting, flooring, ceiling tile, lighting, and partition walls all have to be removed. Come to all or part of a shift. Your assistance is appreciated in keeping the cost of the renovation project down.

Enrollment: "Opening New Doors" is our theme for this year as we hope that we will be in the new building sometime in the spring of 2010. Enrollment information is available at the school office for all classes preschool through eighth grade. Preschool classes fill up fast so don't wait 'til the last minute.

School Begins: Important dates in August as we begin another school year:

August 11th will be *registration* from 3:00—7:00 in the school gym.

Classroom open house will be on Wednesday, August 19th for twenty minutes in each classroom starting at 6:30.

School begins on Wednesday, August 26th for K-8th.

Preschool begins on Monday, August 31st.

Tab Collection: Our students raised \$100 through saving tabs during the past school year and will start again in August. Save those tabs and also the aluminum cans for us.

Save! Save! Save! Over the summer, continue to save those Campbell Products Labels and Box Tops for Education. These and ink cartridges can be brought to the school during the summer or save them for the fall.