

St. John's Journal

711 Court Street
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Volume 36, Issue 12
December 2010

Anticipation—It's making me wait...

Our heavenly Father is an expert at building suspense and exploding joy onto the scene and into ordinary lives. The evidence is all over the place, but most especially do we see it during Advent and Christmas, both in its history and in its present-time celebration.

Historically, God gave a promise (Gen. 3:15) and then He took His sweet time to prepare a people (and the world) for His gift. Eve wanted and expected the gift to be given immediately, but then it did not come in her lifetime, or for many generations. The people lost sight of God's gift and forgot about it and His promise. But the Lord sent prophets and preachers to turn their eyes back to what they needed.

God's people (and the world) needed to have their eyesight changed. They needed to learn to see beyond themselves, their circumstances, their own condition, and their surroundings. From a wilderness they needed to hope in a land of milk and honey. From this world they had to learn to expect an other worldly hope to enter in a less than spectacular way, and still receive it as God's gift.

From one promise came many more that microscopically focused more and more on the promised One. The suspense builds! Who would it be... who could it be? Each mother looked to her own son with expectation, and was soon disappointed. Every citizen looked to their King, and was soon disappointed. God intended to send His treasure hidden in human flesh, but the expectation of the people was for something more exciting, something extraordinary until "a virgin conceived and bore a son" who was "Immanuel." And as extraordinary as that was, together with the worship of angels and earthly kings, He, God's gift, remained obscure and very ordinary. But for us who are beneficiaries of God's grace through Him, the ordinary packaging is not a stum-

bling block.

We prepare, once again, for the rehearsing of this "greatest story ever told." But, even though we complain about the stores and their early hop on the "Christmas band-wagon," we have an innate desire to move quickly from the Garden to the Manger in our own celebrations. In Church, however, *Advent means preparation and penitence*, not frivolity and feasting. The carols are on hold. The full light doesn't yet shine. But how much more is the joy elevated when it is sudden and special instead of constant and interminable.

The seasonal emotions come from the eternal substance of God's irrevocable Word and Grace, and not from the tinsel and trappings whose glitter and glamour is merely temporary. How special would Christmas be if the decorations were up all year, and gifts were given every day (and thus became expected), and the feasting never ended. It is in the contrasts of darkness to light, death to life, sin and grace that Christmas becomes all that it was meant to be.

Even now we are waiting! Is this the final Christmas before eternity dawns? It could be, but we have been waiting for a long time for the return of our Savior. We live like pilgrims in a strange land, we look forward to heading home someday, sooner rather than later. So we look up as our redemption draws near. Life here is meant to prepare us for life there. Our feeble worship will someday give place to the heavenly sort and then that will be everlasting.

Waiting gives way, finally, to fulfillment. Tears will give place to laughter. One day, we will hear the trumpets and the angelic chorus will sing that our Messiah has come for us and the joy that will fill and stay with believers will have made all the waiting worth it.

— Pastor Mark A. Miller

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

Christian Education
Sunday School

Perfect Attendance

October 2010

Second Grade

Emma Norman

Seventh Grade

Garret Kesselmayr

Eighth Grade

Naomi Niemann

High School

Elizabeth Niemann

College

Jenna Heisel

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Dec 01

John Fuelberth

Dec 02

Randall McDaniels
Tomi Pfanz

Dec 04

Michelle Ferguson
Mary Ann Weindel

Dec 05

Alisa Bowman
Edwin Knussman
Richard Lohnes
Merla McCloud
Stephen Sheckler
Joyce Wertz

Dec 06

Ronda Adkins

Dec 07

Trevor Frankel
Tyler Frankel
Morgan McDaniels
Devin Poole
Elisa Ziegenhorn

Dec 08

Richard Beck
Donald Johnson

Dec 09

Laverda Buckman
David McCammon
Sophia Hicks

Dec 10

Paul Dornberger
Owen Sumner
Diane Webber

Dec 11

Kathy Miller

Dec 12

Louise Brickner
Michael Gillespie
Bradley Wilson

Dec 13

Gage Dingerson

Dec 14

Erica DeBoer
Audrey Driskell
Valerie Ferguson
Bryan Segó
Michelle Watson
Cora Wiker

Dec 16

Ace Dupent
Lilly Hicks

Dec 17

Tracy Dansby
Delmar Deiss, Sr.
Christopher Dingerson
Richard McCloud
Rebecca Worlow

Dec 18

Derrik Schumm
Sydney Webb

Dec 19

Kim Gudzinskas
James McKinney
Jeffrey Morrison

Dec 20

Daniel Nafziger
Cynthia Smith

Dec 21

Kyle Barth
Geraldine Eckstein
James Hanerhoff
Kevin Rockhold

Dec 22

Timothy Althiser
Darlene Meyer

Dec 23

Jamie Driskell
Nicholas Fornoff
Marian Gettman
Amanda Memken

Dec 24

Jeffrey Gauger
Ryan Stoehr
Brandi VanNattan

Dec 26

Zachary Allen
Penny Hoover

Dec 27

Louise Woolsey

Dec 28

Raymond Hall
Noah Justi
Donna Pool

Dec 29

Jeffrey Turney
Jeremy Turney

Dec 30

Delores Rees

Dec 31

Ricki Belcher
Julie Hammond
Susan Ripper

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



Dec 02

Edwin & Anna
Knussman

Dec 04

Daryl & Laura Dagit

Dec 10

Roy & Debra Dagit

Dec 12

Denny & Carol Jones
Richard & Kelley Ward

Dec 16

Terry & Linda Norman

Dec 17

David & Lori Segó

Dec 18

Gregory & Carol Becker

Dec 20

Carl & Patti Johnson
Frank & Mary Ann
Weindel

Dec 22

Gary & Roberta Hudson

Dec 26

Richard & Lois Jarvis

Dec 27

Daniel & Karen Nafziger
William & Dorothy
Sidell

Dec 30

James & Barbara
Thompson
Harold & Susan Wertz

Dec 31

Ray & Joyce Barnes
James & Janie Spelbring

PARISH NOTES

Church Attendance

<u>October Attendance</u>	<u>Number of Services</u>
Oct 2010: 1,115	15
Oct 2009: 912	12
Oct 2008: 975	12

Sunday School Attendance

Oct 2010 to date:	3,411
Oct 2009:	3,660
Oct 2008:	3,990

Worship Chairman

Brian Fuelberth

Videographers

Adam Bollinger
Rod Bollinger

Visitation Elders

<u>Dec. 05</u>	— Mickey Pitchford
<u>Dec. 12</u>	Howard Proehl
<u>Dec. 19</u>	Steve Kesselmayr
<u>Dec. 26</u>	Ross Gould

Communion Assistance

<u>Dec 05</u>	8:00 A.M.	Ron Garber
	10:30 A.M.	Mickey Pitchford
<u>Dec 19</u>	8:00 A.M.	Joe Schiavone
	10:30 A.M.	Howard Proehl
<u>Dec 24</u>	<u>Christmas Eve</u>	
	7:00 P.M.	Steve Kesselmayr
<u>Dec 31</u>	<u>New Year's Eve</u>	
	7:00 P. M.	Joseph Schiavone

December Ushers

<u>8:00</u>	<u>10:30</u>
Ray Barnes	Adam Cooper
Daryl Dagit	Dean Cooper
John Gillespie	Bruce Gettman
Dave Kesselmayr	Ken Memken
Bill Rees	Jayson Memken
Daniel Rees	Dan Watson

December Greeters

<u>Dec 05</u>	8:00 Gus Knieriem
<u>Dec 12</u>	8:00 Darrell & Donna Hansen

Acolytes

<u>Dec 01</u>	<u>Advent I 7:00 P.M.</u>
	Naomi Niemann

Dec 05

8:00 A.M.	Noah Kesselmayr Katie Bollinger
10:30 A.M.	Nathan Ford

Dec 08 Advent II 7:00 P.M.

Joseph Woodruff

Dec 12

8:00 A.M.	Victoria Tilton Naomi Niemann
10:30 A.M.	Joli Andrae

Dec 15 Advent III 7:00 P.M.

Noah Kesselmayr

Dec 19

8:00 A.M.	Tyler Stewart Lauren Bresnahan
10:30 A.M.	Maesyn Theleritis

Dec 24 Christmas Eve 7:00 P.M.

Dylan Kesselmayr

Dec 25 Christmas Day 10:00 A.M.

Naomi Niemann

Dec 26

8:00 A.M.	Bayley Driskell Noah Dingerson
10:30 A.M.	Gavin Glass



TREASURER'S REPORT OCTOBER, 2010

	<u>October</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>
<u>INCOME</u>	34,368.11	366,185.76

<u>EXPENSES</u>	34,205.18	332,257.04
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<u>INCOME-EXPENSES</u>	162.93	3,928.72
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LIABILITIES

Note Payable-	
HVAC/Roof Loan	60,837.96
Payroll Liabilities	961.15
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u>	61,799.11

CURRENT ASSETS Checking & Link Money Market

General Fund	-11,629.41
GSLS	-10,020.08
Educational Grant Fund	4,286.16
Building Fund	7,802.92
Sunday School Fund	5,041.24
ACT Fund	1,700.00
Full Nesters Fund	540.36
Library Fund	180.16
Total Checking & Link Money Market	16,323.17

CDs & Common Stock

Ed. Grant Fund CD #1	91,886.23
Ed. Grant Fund CD #2	74,382.83
East Bluff Property Fund	99,901.64
Cat Stock at FMV	21,772.20
<u>Total CDs & Common Stock</u>	287,942.90

<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	304,266.07
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FUND BALANCE

Funds to Pay Note Payable	-133,285.40
Net Income (Loss)	33,928.72
Capital Accounts	341,823.64
<u>TOTAL FUND BALANCE</u>	242,466.96

<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE</u>	<u>304,266.07</u>
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DECEMBER LIBRARY CORNER *By Eileen Tiona*

Bringing in the harvest,
Sweet gathering of fields,
Bowing heads and saying
grace
For all that Nature yields
Voices lift to praise him,
Our father high above,
Grateful for His blessings,
Joyful for His love.



I have no new books to tell you about this month, but please come in and look over all the books we have available.

Hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving.

ORGANIZATIONS



FELLOWSHIP CLUB *By Veva Martin*

St. John's Fellowship Club will be meeting

December 11th, 2010
at Tom & Cheryl Ivey's home at
4:00 P. M.

Please bring one dozen cookies to be taken to the shut-ins and an additional one dozen if you wish to participate in the cookie exchange. We will then visit our shut-ins for some Christmas caroling.

Upon returning to the Iveys', there will be an optional \$10—\$15 gift exchange. Women purchase a gift for a woman; guys purchase a gift for a guy. In addition, a box will be provided for items for House of Hope. They need: pillows, paper towels, toilet paper, cleaning supplies, garbage bags, AA/AAA and 9 volt batteries, twin-size waterproof mattress covers, baby monitors, and used cell phones.

Those whose last name begins with A-I are asked to bring a dessert; J-Z an appetizer.

Come join us for a fun-filled evening.

WOMEN'S GUILD *By Linda Turney*



The Guild will not have a meeting in December. We hope everyone has a Happy and safe holiday!

Our next meeting for the New Year will be on January 27th, 2011.

Our serving committee will be Barb Theleritis, Nancy Swearingen, and JoAnn Aimone.

We plan on having a **Bake Sale Sunday, December 5th** right after the 8:00 A. M. service.

There will be a lot of goodies for everyone.

We wish everyone a Happy New Year!

BETHLEHEM SOCIETY *By Addie Weyhrich*



Just
a reminder that
there will be no Bethlehem
Society Fun(d) Day or Bethlehem
Society meeting during the month of
December. We hope to see you in January.
We wish everyone a safe and blessed Christmas.



HI-LITES OF ST. JOHN'S VOTERS ASSEMBLY November 08, 2010

President Tom Ivey called the meeting to order. Pastor Miller opened with the devotions. With the addition of Tammy Beneventi by Profession of Faith, the October Parish Report was approved. The minutes for the October 11th, 2010 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Nancy Drockelman stated \$1482.00 was received as a credit from Ameren Illinois and 100 shares of Caterpillar stock were sold to cover the checking account overdraft. The Treasurer's report for October was approved.

Board of Trustees – Dave Kesselmayer stated the Paint Day is Saturday, November 13th starting at 8:00 A. M. The Nativity Scene will be set up on Saturday, November 27th, at 8:00 A. M.

Board of Elders – Howie Proehl stated they met in October and have nothing to report.

Board of Finance – Nancy Drockelman stated they will be meeting next week.

Board of Christian Education – Daryl Dagit submitted an Athletic Organization by-laws and rules for review (copy attached); it will be voted on at the December Voters meeting. A director for the Christmas Program is still needed. Kathy Heisel will be staying in her position. Debbie Dant has been doing most of the duties of superintendent but a permanent Sunday School Superintendent is still needed. The new Board member nominated is Deb Bresnahan. Someone is still needed for the GSLS board.

Board of Worship – Marty Matthews stated the sound system has been fixed. Tom Ivey stated several people could not hear parts of the sermon last Sunday. Pastor Miller stated it could have been the old equipment that was being used at that time; his microphone has been repaired and returned to him.

Board of Evangelism – Ron Reising stated there was no report.

Board of Stewardship – Dave Woodruff stated the offering envelopes have been received; labels will be attached and the envelopes will be distributed in December. The 2012 and 2013 envelopes have been ordered. Six different bulletin inserts were distributed for review. On the reverse side of the insert will be the financial information of the church. These inserts will be enclosed in the bulletin each week for six weeks; motion approved.

Long Range Planning – John Fuelberth stated there would be a meeting after tonight's Voters meeting; the next meeting will be December 13th after the Voters meeting.

Unfinished Business – The Pictorial Directory is in the process of completion.

New Business – Nancy Drockelman presented the proposed 2011 Budget, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. She stated this was a 2% increase over last year. The GSLS tuition is included this year. Approval of the Budget will take place at the December Voters meeting.

President Tom Ivey went over the Slate of Officers (copy attached) for 2011 stating it was not yet finalized. Several positions are still needed; write-ins will be accepted with the exception of the Board of Elders. A motion was made to accept the slate as presented; motion approved. Pastor Miller stated the final vote on these positions will be in December.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN SCHOOL December NEWSLETTER

Celebrating Jesus' Birth

Piano Recital: Mrs. Pinkston's Good Shepherd piano students will have their Christmas recital on Sunday, December 5th, at Our Savior Lutheran Church beginning at 7:00 P. M.

Preschool Program: Our three-and four-year-old preschoolers will share the message of Jesus' birth on Monday, December 13th, at 10:00 and Tuesday, December 14th at 6:30.

A Christmas Celebration: Students in kindergarten through the eighth grade will enliven your Christmas spirits with songs and recitations on Thursday, December 16th, at 10:00 and 6:30.

Christmas Caroling: Our students will be traveling to the various retirement homes in the community to share the joys of the Christmas holidays on Friday, December 17th.

SCRIP: Remember SCRIP for your holiday entertaining and shopping needs. SCRIP may be ordered on November 29th, December 6th, and December 13th. There will be no SCRIP orders on December 20th and 27th.

Christmas Ornaments: Looking for that unusual gift? GSLS is selling ceramic Christmas ornaments for \$12. These may be personalized with your own choice of color decorations, and message. Stop by the SCRIP table for an order form.

GSLS Cards: Looking for that stocking stuffer? GSLS has a gift card for only \$10 that is good at various businesses in the Pekin area. Discounts off the card certainly pay for the card itself as well as helping Good Shepherd.

Campbell Labels: Bic Pen and Post Cereals have joined Campbell's Labels for Education Program. Cut out the UPC codes from these and other sponsoring products. Also continue to save Box Tops for Education, aluminum cans, and ink cartridges.



Dear Church Members:

The entire student body, staff and construction committee wish to thank you for your outpouring of financial support and volunteer labor during this project. I believe that everyone should be very proud of their dedication toward this building site.

It was with your help that we were able to complete the transformation from a former furniture store into the beautiful school providing a Christian education. We also completed the project under the budget! Please feel free to visit us any time.

God be with you and in Christ's love,

Ralph Mickley
G. S. L. S. Principal

Don Herrmann
Committee Chmn.

Good Shepherd Lutheran School

Preschool Christmas Program:

Mon., Dec. 13th, 10:00 a.m.

Tues., Dec. 14th, 6:30 p.m.



K-8th Christmas Experience:

Thurs., Dec. 16th, 10:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

St. John Basketball Schedule:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Dec. 05 vs Blessed Sacrament #1	2:15	Peoria Trinity
Dec. 12 vs Blessed Sacrament #2	2:15	Peoria Trinity
Dec. 19 vs Peoria Trinity	1:00	Peoria Trinity
Jan. 02 vs Morton Bethel #2	2:15	Morton Bethel
Jan. 16 vs Bloomington Trinity #1	3:20	Peoria Christ
Jan. 30 vs Bloomington Trinity #2	1:30	Bloom. Trinity
Feb. 06 vs East Peoria St. Peters	1:00	Peoria Christ
Feb. 13 vs Washington Our Savior	1:00	Morton Bethel
Feb. 20 vs Peoria Christ	2:15	Peoria Christ

Feb. 25-27 State Tournament held at Peoria Christ & Morton Bethel



POINSETTIAS



Anyone wishing to order poinsettias for Christmas may order one by calling Marilyn Liescheidt, 346-0396 by

Sunday, December 12th

The cost is **\$9.00** per plant and is to be paid to Marilyn.

Please do not place payment for poinsettias in the offering plate

If you wish to bring your own poinsettias, please have them at the church by:

Friday, December 17th



Mary Zehak and her family would like to thank all the people who helped make her 90th birthday open house a memorable day.

We would especially like to recognize the wonderful organization and service the Guild provided all afternoon.

We are blessed beyond belief by all of the people who were able to attend, the gifts, many cards and fellowship.

Thank you.

Transferred to the Church Triumphant

Marian Michael

August 15, 1922 –
November 08, 2010

Remember Our Shut-Ins At Christmas



Private Residences

Ansell, Joyce	1510 S. 7th St., Pekin
Bennett, Leo	912 Highland Ave., Pekin
Ehmke, Stanley	900 Ann Eliza, Pekin
Fargher, Leona	1708 Deppert Dr., Pekin
Hoover, Rodger	804 N. 16th St., Pekin
Kesselmayer, Marian	1116 S. Fourth St., Pekin
Scott, Bob	207 Indian Creek Ct, Pekin
Tavernier, Klyce & Eula	1504 Terrace Blvd., Pekin
Zuklic, Naomi	1810 Vienna Court, Pekin

Retirement Homes

Autumn Accolade Inc, 13516 Townline Rd., Pekin
Mildred Becker

Brandon Wood Retirement Comm., 730 W. Jefferson,
Morton, IL 61550
Mildred Klokkenga, Apt. 36

John Evans Living Center, 1320 Executive Ct., Pekin
Marilyn Tisdale, Apt. 107

UAW Sr. Cit. Center - 444 Parkway Drive, Pekin
Mary Jane Draves-Apt. 816

Nursing Homes

Apostolic Christian Restmor—1500 Parkside Ave.,
Morton, IL 61550
Esther Beale

Heritage Manor—1028 W. Hillcrest, Chillicothe, 61523
Mildred Pitchford

Lutheran Hillside Village—6901 Galena Rd., Peoria, 61614
Bill Maxey

Mardell Manor, 1112 Court Street, Pekin
Florence Griffin

Morton Terrace—191 E. Queenwood, Morton, 61550
Sammie Frederick

Pekin Manor, 1520 El Camino, Pekin
Shirley Jackson

Timbercreek—2220 State Street, Pekin
Marilyn Ott

Special Christmastide Services

Advent Midweek I—December 01, 2010
Soup & Sandwich Supper at 5:30 p.m.
Worship 7:00 p.m.

Advent Midweek II—December 08, 2010
Soup & Sandwich Supper at 5:30 p.m.
Worship 7:00 p.m.

Advent Midweek III—December 15, 2010
Soup & Sandwich Supper at 5:30 p.m.
Worship 7:00 p.m.



Christmas Eve—Fri., December 24, 2010
Worship w/Holy Communion
7:00 p. m. & 11:00 p. m.

Christmas Day—Sat., December 25, 2010
Worship w/Holy Communion
10:00 a.m.

New Year's Eve—Fri., December 31, 2010
Service of Remembrance
w/Holy Communion
7:00 p.m.

Offering envelopes for 2011 are
being prepared.

If you do not have envelopes and would like a
box, phone the church office: 347-2136.
Envelopes will be available in the gym beginning

December 6th.

Contributions for 2010 must be received
by **Dec. 31st** in order to be credited to
your 2010 tithing record.

ADDRESS CHANGE

Walter & Carol Long
1030 Audubon Drive
Pekin IL 61554