St. John's Journal

Volume 46, Issue 3

FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS

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"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising its shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." These

shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." These words from Hebrews 12:2 instruct us to fix our eyes on Jesus, that is, to look to Him with trust. For He is, after all, both the Author and Finisher of our faith – the One who is the ground of our faith and gave us our trust in Him, and the One who will bring it to completion in heavenly glory.

One of the things that makes it more difficult for us Christians to fix our eyes on Jesus is our preoccupation with one another. We have a natural but unfortunate tendency to think of the church, especially in the local congregation, as nothing more than a group of people. Too often we lose sight of the truth that we are the body of Christ, who is our Head. Too often we forget that we are people gathered around *the Lord Jesus* to receive His saving gifts in His Word and Sacraments.

Whenever we think about the church primarily in terms of the people, harmful things are bound to happen. We are likely to become sidetracked with things like who we like and who we don't like; who is serving in various offices and doing various jobs, and how well we think they're doing at it; who does or doesn't have much to contribute to the cause; who is or isn't nice and friendly; who does or doesn't agree with our opinions; and so forth.

All such thoughts are not only counterproductive; they're foreign and contrary to the way God wants us to think! Such human-centered thinking is harmful, because it is bound to breed envy, mistrust, disappointment, cynicism, and other hard feelings. Worse yet, such thinking can cause us to divert our attention from what the church is really about: *Jesus!*

Lent is a great time for us Christians to keep things straight and fix our eyes on Jesus, remembering that the church is built on Him. Jesus is the One who, for the sake of the joy that was set before Him, namely, obtaining salvation for the whole world, chose suffering and crucifixion. He truly gave all, enduring the cross, in spite of its shame, in order to save us self-centered sinners. Therefore Jesus has been exalted to the right hand of the throne of God, (which is everywhere!), and is seated with all authority as the Man who is Ruler over all things for the good of His church.

As we fix our eyes on Jesus, we come to understand and accept that our lives in Him are to be like His. Our brief years here on earth are speedy sojourns marked by considerable suffering. Yet, like Jesus, we can endure the various trials of life, including difficulties and disagreements and disappointments with our fellow believers, for the sake of the joy set before us, namely, unending life with our Savior. For we know that, just as Jesus did, we are making our way together toward an exaltation in glory: everlasting life in the perfect peace of the new heavens and new earth!

I urge all of you, then, to make this Lent a time of renewed focus on Jesus. With all eyes fixed on Him, other things will fall into place, and we will receive His gifts together, pray together, sing His praises to together, and work together – all as fellow members of the body of Christ.

Pastor Bishop



Christian Education

Sunday School Perfect Attendance

January 2020

None

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES



Robert & Mariliee Gregory

March 02

William & Theresa Isenberg

March 03

Danny & Patricia Sego

March 04

Tom & Megan Etter

March 05

Gary & Lisa Pool

March 09

Robert & Debra Dant Monroe & Dorothy Sheckler

March 20

Keith & Terry Gleason

Mar 29

Mike & Deana Thompson

MARCH BIRTHDAYS



March 1

Gerold Bohannan Mary Depew

March 02

Penny Bollinger Terry Gleason Elizabeth Kammeyer Emilie Kesselmayer

March 03

Amy Ashbaker Darla Schorr James Widby

March 04

Benjamin Donovan Jeffrey Hillman Gary Pool

March 05

Matthew Gudzinskas Matthew Ruder Cooper Theleritis

March 06

Heath Norman

March 07

Donna Hansen Karen Nafziger Dorothy Sheckler

March₀₈

Melinda DeHoog Melissa Turney

March 09

Gerald Norman Iacob Norman Robert Scott

March 11

Douglas Tiona

March 13

Adam Becker Justin Emery Kaitlyn Gudzinskas

March 14

Nicholas Kesselmaver Samantha Whitlatch

March 15

Marilyn Liescheidt

March 17

Merle Wiseman

March 18

Jennifer Kesselmayer

March 19

Waltraud Hupke Blair Ivev

March 20

Rev. Darwood Kesselmayer

March 21

Henry Lappie

March 23

Robert (Joey) Bishop James Heidbreder Stephanie Whitlatch

March 24

Ruth Negley Shirley Schott

March 25

Roy Dagit Laura Dobbelaire Patty Gardner Diane Gould

March 27

Kennedy Britton Katie Dougherty Isabella Watson

March 29

Macey Dalton Ryan Lappie Donald Schoedel

March 30

Tyler Ruder Julie Widby

March 31

Kevin Wieland

PARISH NOTES

Church Attendance

	Attend.	# of Serv
Jan 2020	524	12
Jan 2019	497	12
Jan 2018	621	12

January Sunday School Attendance

2020:	145
2019:	181
2018:	206

March Videographer

Jennifer Kesselmayer

March Worship Committee

Brian Fuelberth

March Acolytes

	10:30	Erin Wilson
Mar 04	7:00	Bradley Hoover
<u>Mar 08</u>		Ava Friedinger
<u>Mar 11</u>	7:00	Zachary Webb

Mar 01 8:00 Zachary Webb

Mar 15	8:00	Alexis Daniels
	10.30	Lilly Daniels

Mar 18	7:00	Flla	Friedinger

Mar 22 8:00 Bradley Hoover 10:30 Ella Friedinger

Mar 25 7:00 Lilly Daniels

Mar 29 8:00 Zachary Webb 10:30 Erin Wilson

March Communion Assistance

8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Mar 01 Dave Drockelman Del Beideck
8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	<u>Mar 15</u> Joe Szadkowski Brian Umbach
8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	<u>Mar 29</u> Tom Ivey Aaron Miller

March Ushers

8:00 Ray Barnes Daryl Dagit David Kesselmayer Garret Kesselmayer Daniel Rees

<u>10:30</u>
Brian Lundeen
Mike Nauth
Dan Watson
Mike Wilson

GREETERS are needed at both services. If you would like to greet our members and guest as they arrive, please sign up on the sheets on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Thank you.



TREASURER'S REPORT January 2020

	January	<u>Y-T-D</u>					
INCOME	34,433.69	34,433.69					
EXPENSES	<u>31,890.94</u>	<u>31,890.94</u>					
INCOME- EXPENSES	NCOME- EXPENSES						
General Fund General Fund	Total	(42,782.53) (42,782.53)					
Ed Grant Fund Ed Grant Fund Ed Grant Fund	CD #1	4,727.56 103,681.64 70,099.01					
_Educational F		178,508.21					
East Bluff Prop East Bluff Prop Cat Stock at FI East Bluff Pro	erty Fund CD MV	42.697.66 107,492.84 48,469.15 198,659.65					
Last Blair i 10	perty rana	100,000.00					
Building Fund		51,172.04					
S S Fund Chec Memorial Fund		11,470.74 29,325.60					
Wiemenan and	Gricolarig	20,020.00					
TOTAL ASSET	<u> </u>	426,353.71					
Checking Acco	unt Balance	53,913.41 53,913.41					
LIABILITIES							
Note Payable		30,478.15					
Payroll Liabilitie		1,451.42					
Misc LCMS Or	(15.00)						
TOTAL LIABIL	.IIIES	31,914.57					
FUND BALAN	CE						
Building Improv	/ements	-299,680.34					
Net Income (Lo		2,542.75					
Capital Account		691,576.73 394,576.73					
TOTAL LIABIL		* 400.050.54					
FUND BALAN	CE	<u>\$426,353.71</u>					

HI-LITES OF ST. JOHN'S VOTERS ASSEMBLY February 10, 2020

President Ron Reising called the meeting to order. A quorum was present. Pastor Bishop opened with devotions.

A motion was made by Don Schoedel to accept the Parish Report for January 2020. Motion was seconded by Tom Ivey. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Julie Wagner, seconded by Cheryl Ivey, to approve the January 2020 minutes. Motion carried.

<u>Treasurer's Report</u> - Daryl Dagit presented the January 2020 Treasurer's Repot. Nancy Drockelman moved, seconded by Randy Couch, to approve the January 2020 Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

<u>Board of Trustees</u> – Ross Gould reported that the work day to remove the folding partitions in the church basement will be on February 15th starting at 8:00 AM. Recommendations for the new basement finishes and budget will take place over the next few months. Work will likely be done in 2021. The exterior masonry bids are anticipated to be in late this month. The pew cushions have been ordered and should be here in 8 – 10 weeks. On the south property, Comcast has removed the towers but is still using the building. City of Pekin drainage work is mostly completed.

<u>Board of Elders</u> – Dave Drockelman reported that there were not enough elders present at the January 27th meeting to elect a chairman. It was reported that the church has helped another family with some expenses.

<u>Board of Finance</u> – Board has not met yet so no update was available.

Board of Christian Education – Ross Gould reported that Good Shepherd School is looking at the possibility of setting up an endowment fund. This will be presented to the churches once it is more fully developed. Pre-school enrollment numbers are down 20 from the previous school year. Decline in enrollment is due to fewer children available to be enrolled. Regarding the budget for July to December 2019, 97.5% of income budgeted was received. As previously noted, there are fewer pre-school enrollments and this was the reason for the shortfall. A reminder was given that the annual auction will be on the 21st of March at the Paradise. All members are invited to attend board meetings.

<u>Board of Worship</u> – Valerie Ferguson reported that the board met on the 6th of February. The committee will serve at the February 26th Lenten Dinner. Peggy Patton is still recuperating. If she has not returned to the choir by Easter, a special ensemble may be assembled for the Easter Service. The committee is ordering pencils with St. Johns branding. The next meeting will be on March 5th. At that meeting the altar ware will be polished.

Board of Evangelism – No report.

Board of Stewardship – No report.

<u>Long Range Planning Committee</u> – No report, meeting was to follow the Voter's Assembly meeting.

<u>Educational Grant Fund Committee</u> – No report.

<u>East Bluff Property Committee</u> – No report.

<u>Constitution By-laws Committee</u> – No report.

<u>Unfinished business</u> – Sandy Ferguson reported that the pictorial was approved. Pictures will be taken during the week of April 20th. People will be able to sign up for a session.

New business – No new business.

A motion was made by Bob Oliverius, seconded by Dave Kesselmayer, to adjourn the meeting which closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wagner Secretary

EASTER LILLIES

Start thinking about placing an order for your Easter Lily.

Watch future bulletins regarding when order needs to be in and cost.

ADD NEW MEMBERS TO DIRECTORY

Robert, Leanna, Lidia and Joey Bishop, 9915 S. Reed City Rd., Mapleton 61547. They transferred in from Trinity Lutheran, Peoria.



Connecting faith & finances for good.* CONGRATULATIONS!

Since 2010, over \$414 million has been distributed to thousands of churches, schools, and other nonprofits just like yours through Thrivent Choice®. Through this program, eligible members can make an impact by recommending where Thrivent donates its charitable outreach dollars each year.

We are excited to share, St John Lutheran Church received \$2,792 in charitable outreach funding in 2018. We would love to hear how this gift helped further your mission.

All 2019 Choice Dollars® have been made available for members to direct and 2019 Choice Dollars expire on March 31, 2020. Encourage your supporters to direct now, by using the free promotional materials available in the Promote Thrivent Choice section on Thrivent.com.

There's more to Thrivent Choice (and Thrivent too)! Our members have access to a unique suite of member benefits designed to put resources in their hands to help strengthen their communities. By partnering with our members, these programs can be used to help grow your organization and support your mission.

PHOTOS FOR OUR ST. JOHN'S FACEBOOK PAGE — If you have photos from church activities suitable to post on our congregation's Facebook page, please send them to Joyce Lonergan. Her email address is jihaa@hotmail.com

New Pictorial



We are beginning to work with Lifetouch to create a new pictorial. Pictures will be taken sometime during the week of April 21. More information will follow.

Christ Lutheran Church, Peoria will be holding the 48th Annual ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT SAUSAGE, PANCAKE AND POTATO PANCAKE SUPPER on Saturday, March 21, in the School Gym B, 1311 S. Faraday, Peoria, from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. Cost will be: Adults~\$700, Students K~8 \$4.00. Proceeds will go toward the Christ Lutheran School Kitchen Renovation.

IN OUR PRAYERS

If you know of anyone who needs to be added, please let the church office know.

All our shut-ins

Adam Jackson—member of Armed Services (grand-

nephew of Lila Lisenbee)

Pastor Niemann Pastor Kesselmayer Mark Reeder Lois Becker Bob Watson Cheryl Williams Bernice Mack Robert Scott Stacie Kendall Bob Funk Donna Bollinger Tim Johnston Pat Proehl Billie Jackson Donna Corso Lvnda Adkins Flo McClure Joe Goodin Sam Kendall Sandy Morgan Rick Jarvis Rita Lakamp Ken Beck Ellen Morrison Vince "Buzz" Oltman Herb Groenwald Shirley Williamson Wilmadean Habberfield Debee Pitchford Ray Pitchford Christian Bouche Joyce Wertz Peggy Patten Carolyn Urish Dee Rees Mary Ashbaker Ray Barnes Larry Turner

Robert Gregory Lucille Benker Barb Thompson Marian McDaniels Allen Marcille Frevert Joyce Long

CORRECTIONS Please notify Sandy Ferguson, our church secretary, of any corrections that need to be made in addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, birthday or wedding anniversary lists, etc. If a date or something else is wrong, or if anybody has been omitted from something, we want to get it right. Also, if you are not in the rotation of Greeters, but would like to be, please let us know that, too. We want to have all our information fully accurate and as up to date as possible. Thank you for your help. You may phone the church office with your information at 347-2136, send a note in the mail, or e-mail Sandy at: stjohnsec@grics.net.

"Finding Spring Again" is a free educational grief seminar offered by UnityPoint Hospice—Peoria, to persons experiencing the loss of a loved one. The seminar will take place Thursday, March 12, 2020 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Methodist Atrium Conference Room in Peoria. Please RSVP by March 10, 2020 to 309-672-5746. For more information is bulletin board in the gym.

MARCH LIBRARY CORNER

By Eileen Tiona



"Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God." *Ephesians 6-17*

We have a new book in the library which was donated by Butch & Cheryl Williams. The book "Your Battles belong to the Lord" by Joyce Meyer. Get ready to have your mind renewed and your thinking changed as you learn the truth of God's Word concerning the battles in your life. Your fight is not against people or even with circumstances; it is against the devil. Your battles belong to the Lord, and the victory belongs to you.

Thank you Butch and Cheryl for your donation. The book is in the library if you are interested in reading it. Please come in and check out all the other books that are available for you to read.

St. John's Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML)

St. John's LWML will be Saturday March 1, at 10:00 a.m. in the church basement. All ladies of the congregation are welcome.

FABRIC KIT SOME IMPORTANT GUIDELINES TO REMEMBER

- · Fabric should have no stains or holes.
- Pieces do not need to match in size or color/pattern as long as they fit into one of the three size options.
- Each spool of thread should match one of the pieces of fabric included. Neutral thread is also a good option.
- · Please give new items only.
- Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name.
- Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.
- Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed.
- · Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH FABRIC KIT

TWO spools of neutral-colored, general purpose thread, 250 -300 yards each

TWO pieces of cotton or cotton-blend fabric (no knits of 100% polyester). Each piece should match one of the sizes below:

- 2 ¼ yards of 60" wide fabric
- 3 yards of 44" wide fabric
- 4 yards of 36" wide fabric

(Please mark on the fabric the length & width Thank you)

LENTEN VESPERS AND HOLY WEEK SERVICES

<u>Lenten Vespers Services.</u> Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

This year we will be reading through the Passion account of the Gospel of Luke.

The sermon series is "Following Jesus, Our Greatest Giver."

February 26 – "Following Jesus in Generosity"

March 4 – "Following Jesus in the Right Use of Office"

March 11 – "Following Jesus in Humble Service"

March 18 -- "Following Jesus in the Good Confession"

March 25 - "Following Jesus in Care for Family"

April 1 – "Following Jesus in Self-sacrifice"

Holy Week Services

April 9 - 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service with

Holy Communion

April 10 - 12:00 N Good Friday Service

7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service

April 12 - 7:00 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service with Holy

Communion

10:30 a.m. Festival Communion Service

Note: The Easter Sunrise Service will be at 7:00 a.m. with Easter Breakfast at 8:15.

There will be no Sunday School or Adult Bible Class on Easter, and no 7:00 p.m. service.

GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

March 3: Spring Picture (K-8 & Raddatz/PS)

March 4: Spring Pictures (Remaining Preschool & Sports)

March 5: P/T Conferences4:00-7:00 p.m.

March 6: Early Dismissal at 12:30 p.m. P/T Conf. 1-4

March 10: Pre/S-K Roundup from 6-7:30 p.m.

Good Shepherd News cont.

March 13: End of 3rd Qtr.

March 17: School Board Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.

March 20: Awards Assembly at 2:45 p.m.

March 19 - School Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

March 21: GSLS Auction—doors open @ 4:30 p.m.

March 29: GSLS Students sing at St. John's, Sand Prairie at 10:30 a.m.

Have you made your reservation for Good Shepherd Lutheran School's 14th Annual Benefit Auction, "Take Ewe Out to the Ballgame!" on Saturday, March 21, 2020, at the Par-A-Dice Hotel? The deadline is Sunday, March 15—only 4 weeks from today! Please be certain to select your dinner option and indicate how you would like to receive confirmation. You may contact Ann Fuelberth at bazafuel@gmail.com if you have questions. Reservation forms are available at the SCRIP tables at the churches or at the school offices. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Our popular "Purse Game" will return with 100 purses and the \$100 cash prize and a streamlined drawing procedure! Our "Duck Decoy Draw" will return with 11 exciting prizes—4 guns— and 7 more special items! [You will need an FOID card to claim a gun prize.] Sponsorships of \$50—Dinner Table, \$100—Silent Auction, or \$200—Live Auction are excellent ways for businesses or individuals to advertise their services and help the auction to offset costs. The committee is also still accepting donations of Vintage Pekin items, vintage Pekin schools' items, or Cubs or Cardinals items if you would like to help.

Our next two *Class Projects* to highlight are: Mrs. Laura Dobbelaire's 4th Grade Class has decorated a Resin River Table, and Mrs. Nancy Brush's 5th Grade Class has made a T-Shirt Quilt. Our last two class projects will be announced in next week's church bulletins. All projects and many other donations are listed on our school's website, www.goodshepherpekin.com.

HOSPITALIZATIONS AND HOME COMMUNION VISITS

If you or someone from your family is hospitalized or scheduled to go into the hospital, please contact the church office, so that Pastor Bishop knows about it and can visit

you in the hospital. The hospitals do not contact us. Sandy calls the hospitals on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays to find out if there are any St. John's members there. If you tell them when you are admitted that you are a St. John's member, you will likely be on their list. So please help us stay informed so Pastor can serve you.

If you or someone else you know in the congregation has difficulty getting to church and needs to be on the Home Communion list, even if just for a while, please contact the church office, so that Pastor Bishop can visit you. This is an important part of his pastoral work, and he wants to do his best to serve everyone in need.

Thank you for your help with this.

THE SHARE PROGRAM could use the following:

Tuna Canned Ham
Canned Chicken Breast Peanut Butter
Canned Vegetables Laundry Soap
Tissues Paper Towels
Cereals Shampoo
Bath Soaps Bottled Water

Canned Fruits (lite)

Remember to change your clocks on Saturday, March 7th.

Spring ahead one hour



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY



The Easter Breakfast Committee will be serving breakfast after the sunrise service on April 1st. We will be serving scrambled eggs, bacon, ham, sausage links, hash browns, pancakes, fruit cocktail, cereal and

biscuits & gravy. We are requesting anyone interested in donating rolls or pastries to drop them off in the kitchen on Saturday or Sunday morning.

Also

The Easter Breakfast Committee is reaching out for individuals that would like to join us in preparing the best breakfast in town Easter morning. We can also use help Saturday morning before Easter to set up and decorate. Please call Daryl Dagit at 620-1867 or Brian Fuelberth at 267-2134 for additional information.

<u>CHURCH DOORS:</u> If you unlock one of the doors to the church, please check to see if it is locked before you leave. Thank you.

First LERT training for 2020:

The training will be held on: Saturday, April 18, 2020 St. John's Lutheran Church 1450 30th Avenue East Moline, IL 61244 9 am to 2:30 pm Registration opens at 8 am.

The cost is \$35.00, which includes a light continental breakfast, lunch, disaster vest, LERT manual, certification, and I.D. badge.

If you are already a certified LERT member, the event is considered continuing education and there will be no charge.

Registration form: http://

www.cidlcms.org/4.18.2020.EastMoline.LERT.pdf



Received a thank you letter from the Lutheran Heritage Foundation for our contribution to them.

Lutherans for Life sent a thank you letter for our donation to them.

ORGANIZATIONS

FELLOWSHIP CLUB

Bv Veva Martin

Fellowship Club will be going out to eat on Saturday, March 14. Place to be announced. Watch Sunday bulletins for more information on name of restaurant.

LADIES' GUILD

By Leslie Hauk

The Ladies' Guild will meet on Thursday, March 26 at 6:30 pm for our annual "White Elephant" auction.

We ask members to bring their "treasures" for the auction, and we will also be collecting food and paper items for the Share Program. Tracy Glass and Nona Buster will serve.

YOUTH GROUP

Our Youth Group will meet on Sunday, March 15, at 4:00 p.m. to enjoy a film, discussion and an ice cream sundae bar.

In April we will help with the Easter Breakfast on April 12. On April 11, we will help decorate the gym for the Easter Breakfast.

gregation with spring cleanup and other helpful chores. So watch for the date and contact us if you would like help with yard work, etc.

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 March are: Pastor Kesselmayer, 1116 S. 4th St., Pekin; Loretta Newman, St. Francis Woods, 3507 N. Molleck Dr., #309, Peoria 61604; Hazel Nichols, 1106 S. 8th, Pekin & Sharon Parry, 1721 Valle Vista, Pekin.

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

Non-Profit Organization **U.S. Postage Paid** Pekin, IL Permit No. 146

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MORE PUZZLES AT: http://biblewordgames.com

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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