

St. John's Journal

Volume 46, Issue 5

JOYFUL AND THANKFUL IN TRIBULATION

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In His beloved Beatitudes, our Lord Jesus pronounced the blessedness, that is, the unique Christian happiness and calm and joy and contentment, of those who follow Him – people who are meek, weak-looking, and suffering in this present age. (Matt. 5:3-12) Shaped by these words of Jesus, and by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, our Lord's apostles wrote down similar messages for our comfort, encouragement, and strength. Carefully consider:

“We glory in the hope of the glory of God; and not only that, but we glory also in tribulations.” (Rom. 5:2-3)

“I am overflowing with joy in all our tribulation.” (2 Cor. 7:4)

“Count it all joy, my brothers, whenever you encounter various trials.” (James 1:2)

“Rejoice insofar as you share in the sufferings of Christ, that you may rejoice and be glad also in the revelation of His glory.” (1 Pet. 4:13)

“Give thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Eph. 5:20)

“In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1 Thes. 5:18)

These passages call us to be joyful in tribulation, and to give thanks in *everything*, which includes tribulation.

The current COVID-19 pandemic has certainly been a source of tribulation. Thousands of people throughout the world are grieving the loss of loved ones who have died from this virus. Many thousands more have fallen ill to this virus – many so seriously they have required hospitalization. Many are bearing the burden of caring for these ill people, or the burden of anxiety over dear ones who are ill. Many have lost their business or their job, or have had their income greatly reduced because of closures.

Virtually all of us have had our lives disrupted to some extent, with so many events canceled, churches closed, travel and visits curtailed, shopping greatly limited, some products unavailable, and the inconvenience of face masks and social distancing. Though the tribulation has been far greater for some than for others, nearly everyone has experienced suffering to some degree.

And yet God calls us to be thankful in *everything*, and joyful even in times of tribulation. Here are a few reasons why:

As serious as the pandemic has been, God has greatly limited the extent and severity of the illness, and also the number of deaths. So far only a fairly small percentage of the population has become infected, and most infected people experience fairly mild symptoms, and sometimes none at all. And so far not nearly as many people have died as were previously expected. Compared to the Spanish flu pandemic of 1918-1919, this disease has been far, far less deadly. So God has thus far spared us from what could have been much worse.

(cont. on page 5)

Christian Education

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Sunday School

Perfect Attendance – March 2020

(for the three Sundays before we suspended church due to shelter-in-place)

PreSchool/Kindergarten

Elyse Hopping

2nd GRADE

Zander Hopping

8th GRADE

Zachary Webb

MAY BIRTHDAYS



May 01

Lyle Smith

May 02

Jayson Memken

May 03

Jaylynn Fahnestock

Lainey Jensen

Cory Pfanz

Julie Wagner

May 07

Jordan Snoble

Avery Miller

May 08

Janelle Hopping

Tracy Glass

May 09

Shana Friedinger

May 10

Elizabeth Ward

Emily Ward

Lori Fricke Schiavone

May 11

Shirley Wendland

May 12

Jeremy Winstead

May 13

Keith Gleason

Diane Lee

Nancy Swearingen

Adeline Weyhrich

May 14

Jacob Gould

Dawn Hoerr

Trevor Rodriguez

Ann Wilson

Pamela Woolsey

May 15

Lennon Blome

May 16

Sheryll Hillman

May 17

LeeAnn Walsh

May 18

Del Beideck

Renee Hayden

Micaylan McDonald

May 19

Lance Anderson

Paula Jensen

May 20

Matthew Buster

May 21

Paul Widby

May 22

Marcia Hubbs

May 23

Wendy McDonald

May 24

Deborah Lakamp

Debra Pitchford

May 25

Alexis Daniels

May 26

Cailin Wilson

May 27

Melissa Flatley

Colleen Gardiner

Jordan Jensen

Amanda Webb

May 28

Barbara Rosa

May 29

Dale Schott, Jr.

Ruthanne Scott

Kelley Ward

May 30

Joel Bonnette

Noah Dingerson

Sharon Ives

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

May 04

Trent & Jamie Hoover

May 06

Robert & Donna Hurst

May 12

Verlyn & Cheryl Williams

May 23

Steve & Jane Heberer

May 26

Philip & Michelle Long

Mark & Claudia Reeder

May 30

Rodney & Penny Bollinger

PARISH NOTES



Church Attendance

Mar 2020 - **506** - **9** services
Mar 2019 - **1,039** - **19** services
Mar 2018 - **1,094** - **18** services

Sunday School Attendance

Through Mar 2020: 393
Through Mar 2019: 620
Through Mar 2018: 595

The figures above are for the first three Sundays in March as the shelter-in-place began March 21.

Videographers – May

Rod Bollinger

Worship Committee – May

John Neumann

Elders Communion Assistance

May 3

8:00 a.m. Dave Drockelman
10:30 a.m. Aaron Miller

May 17

8:00 a.m. Tom Ivey
10:30 a.m. Del Beideck

May 31

8:00 a.m. Joe Szadkowski
10:30 a.m. Brian Umbach



THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

The Festival falls on Thursday,
May 21, this year.

Ushers – May

8:00

Jerry Bohannan
Randy Couch
Noah Kesselmayer
Steven Kesselmayer
Terry Norman

10:30

Jacob Gould
Ross Gould
Howie Proehl

Acolytes – May

May 3

8:00 a.m.
10:30 a.m. Ava Friedinger

May 10

8:00 a.m. Alexis Daniels
10:30 a.m. Lilly Daniels

May 17

8:00 a.m. Bradley Hoover
10:30 a.m. Ella Friedinger

May 24

8:00 a.m. Zachary Webb
10:30 a.m. Erin Wilson

May 31

8:00 a.m.
10:30 a.m. Ava Friedinger

All services, classes, meetings,
and other activities are can-
celed until further notice.

Transferred To The Church Triumphant

Kenneth H. Beck
July 3, 1927
April 23, 2020

Emailed on April 27, 2020

Dear members of St. John's:

We thank and praise God for His goodness and mercy - supplying all our needs, granting His protective and healing care, sustaining our faith in Christ through His word, and leading us safely toward His heavenly kingdom. All glory and honor to Him!

We plan to resume recording services again this week, to be uploaded on our website by May 3. So be sure to listen to the service podcast on our website, or watch it on our Facebook page. We intend to continue this each week until we can come together again for regular services in the church.

Since we have not been able to meet together for divine services for several weeks, we have sadly had to go without the Lord's Supper. If any individual, couple, or family would like to receive the Lord's Supper here at church in a small service similar to what we normally do for a home Communion service, you may contact me to make an appointment. We would be sure to do this in a very safe way (maintaining or exceeding prescribed social distancing standards at all times and with no contact, having Communion ware sanitized, with Pastor masked and gloved, etc.) God can and will preserve our faith through His spoken and read word, even apart from His Supper, but I know there are Christians hungering and thirsting for this sacred meal. And we can receive it in a responsible, sanitary manner. So if you would like to receive the Lord's Supper before we are able to have regular services in church again, just let me know.

The Lord loves you and cares for each one of you. He will see us through this difficult time, and undoubtedly bring blessing from it. May He strengthen you in Christian faith, hope, and love, and fill you with the peace He alone can give.

Pastor Bishop

We are emailing messages from Pastor Bishop to those members that we have email addresses for. If you are not receiving this, please call the office (347-2136) so we can add your email address to the distribution list. If you do not have email, call to let us know and we will mail messages to you. Thank you.

(continued from 1st page)

God is supplying all we need in during this difficult time, providing us with good medical care through His gifts of physicians, nurses, lab technicians, pharmacists, hospitals, medicines, and so forth. He has made sure we all have plenty to eat and drink, as well as all the rest of our daily bread. Because of His abundant goodness, we lack nothing.

God is also bringing about good in the midst of this pandemic, just as He promises – that He will work all things together for good for those who love Him. (Rom. 8:28) And we can be sure He will continue to do so. For example, God is:

drawing us closer to Him in humble trust;
strengthening us in Christ through the testing of our faith;
causing people to consider their own weakness and mortality, and thus also their need for Him, and perhaps also moving them to seek Him;
giving us more time, perhaps, for prayer and Bible reading, and perhaps for more family time;
giving us opportunity to serve people in need, or to receive Christian service from others with thanksgiving;
giving us opportunity to ponder what things are truly important in life, especially for everlasting life, as opposed to the many things we can readily do without;
causing us to appreciate more deeply the many people whose vocations we depend on, whom we might otherwise take for granted.

Most of all, God has redeemed us in body and soul by the death of His Son, and given us a living hope in His resurrection from the dead. He has taken us as His own dear children, and made us secure in His protecting and preserving hands. He has prepared the glory of the world to come for us. And He is keeping us in Christ, so that no disease – no, not even death – can take away from us the gift of everlasting life we have in Him!

All of these are very good reasons for us to be joyful and thankful, even in the present tribulation. So in the attitude of our hearts, in the way we talk and the way we treat others, let's live in joy and thanksgiving, always praying, "Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, and His mercy endures forever!"

- Pastor Bishop

**ST. JOHNS'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
EMERGENCY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
April 8, 2020**

President Ron Reising called the meeting to order and called on Daryl Dagit to explain the motion. Daryl explained how the program works.

A motion was made by Daryl that we ask that the Trustees be allowed to apply for a loan through the PPP program. Motion was seconded by Debby Dant. Motion carried unanimously.

When the paperwork is ready, Ross will have the Trustees sign and provide any needed information. Ron will bring this topic up at the next Assembly meeting for the congregation to officially vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wagner
Secretary

**ST. JOHNS'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
VOTERS ASSEMBLY MINUTES
April 13, 2020**

President Ron Reising called the meeting to order. The meeting was conducted via Zoom over the members' computers and telephones. A quorum was present. Ron thanked everyone who has been praying for those who have been ill. Ron also thanked Sandy for the extra time that she has put in recently. Pastor Bishop opened with a prayer.

Since a quorum was not present at the March meeting, Ron asked for a blanket approval of the motions from the March meeting. Motion carried.

Ron asked if any committee had any updates. As no committees have been meeting, there were no updates to provide.

Ron then asked Daryl Dagit to explain the PPP (Payroll Protection Program) motion since he has been doing the investigative legwork for the loan/grant. Daryl explained that we have applied for and been accepted for the loan/grant. Under the loan/grant, if we keep paying all of the employees, the loan would change to a grant that would not have to be repaid. The amount of the loan/grant would be \$24,977.05. Discussion took place with Tom Ivey asking if there were any strings attached or if there was anything in the fine print that would be of concern. Daryl explained that if we don't pay the employees then we would have to repay the loan at 1% interest. Gary Pool also raised concerns and asked Pastor to weigh in with his thoughts. Pastor indicated that he had no particular apprehension about the loan/grant. Clarification was also given

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

St. John's LWML will meet in July in place of June due to the shelter-in-place. Our meeting will be Saturday July 11, at 10:00 a.m. in the church basement. All ladies of the congregation are welcome.

During the month of May and June, we are collecting items for the Personal Care Kits (see below). Items may be placed in baskets in the Narthex or Annex Addition. We are also collecting Mites (coins/dollar bills that goes for Missions that are supported by LWML). Mites can be put in the Mite boxes located in the Narthex or Annex Addition.

**PERSONAL CARE KIT
SOME IMPORTANT GUIDELINES TO REMEMBER**

- Be sure to shop for light- or medium-weight towels, which are easier for kit recipients to hand wash and air dry, take up less storage space and are considerably less expensive than the fluffier towels we may prefer to use.
- 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.
- All items should be new and in good condition.
- Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH PERSONAL CARE KIT

ONE light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended

TWO or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping

ONE adult-size toothbrush in it's original packaging*

ONE sturdy comb, remove packaging

ONE metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

* Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap.

regarding whether this motion would have to be laid over for 30 days as per our constitution. Ross explained that it is not an expenditure so that would not be the case. Ron called for the motion to be approved. There was one dissenting vote from Gary Pool. The motion carried.

Ron also asked if people would be willing to do the video call for next month's meeting on May 11th. The consensus was that this was a good idea. Daryl will once again set up the Zoom meeting.

A motion was made by Randy Couch, seconded by Linda Norman, to adjourn the meeting which closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wagner
Secretary

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Received thank you notes from the following:

THANK YOU St. John's for your long time giving. When this day of sickness, and fear ends, I hope to come and greet you and thank you! Until then, may the Lord God bless you and keep you in His grace, mercy and peace!

Rev. Paul Hopkins
Concordia Theological Seminary
Fort Wayne, IN



THANK YOU for your mission help. R. Rahn, Founder of Lutheran Heritage Foundation

Also, received thank you letters from Lutherans for Life and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Deanna Oltman sent a short note. We continue to pray for our St. John's family and miss each and every one of you. The hardest thing about our move was leaving our church home, led by our faithful Pastor. God Bless You!

THANK YOU - A sincere thank you to the many who remembered us with prayers, phone calls, cards, e-mails, and other deeds of kindness while I was ill and our whole family was in isolation. Your Christian love is deeply appreciated. - Pastor Bishop, Deanna, and Samuel

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

Mark Reeder

Bob Watson

Bernice Mack

Stacie Kendall

Tim Johnston

Pat Proehl

Donna Corso

Flo McClure

Sam Kendall

Rick Jarvis

Ellen Morrison

Vince "Buzz" Oltman

Wilmadean Habberfield

Joyce Wertz

Peggy Patten

Mary Ashbaker

Ray Barnes

Robert Gregory

Marian McDaniels Allen

Barb Thompson

Terry Swearingen

Curt & Pam Woolsey

Pastor Kesselmayer

Lois Becker

Cheryl Williams

Robert Scott

Bob Funk

Donna Bollinger

Billie Jackson

Lynda Adkins

Joe Goodin

Sandy Morgan

Rita Lakamp

Herb Groenwald

Shirley Williamson

Debee Pitchford

Christian Bouche

Carolyn Urish

Dee Rees

Larry Turner

Lucille Benker

Marcille Frevert

Joyce Long

Dave Drockelman

Tracy Glass

And all those with the virus and their families.

Diaper Shower

Sponsored by Peoria Area Lutherans for Life

Father's Day

Sunday, June 21

Please bring disposable diapers of any size to church (infant or adult).

Diapers collected will be donated to groups such as:

Women's Pregnancy Center

Esther House

Lutheran Hillside Village

(If shelter-in-place is lifted)

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 May are: Lois Becker, Pekin Estates, 1540 El Camino Dr., Apt. 108, Pekin; Lucille Benker, 2741 Village Ct., Pekin; Carl Cox, Autumn Accolade, 13516 Townline Rd., Green Valley 61534 and Dale Ehmke, Farmington Country Manor, 701 S. Main St., Farmington 61531.

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

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The pictures for the Pictorial Directory has been rescheduled to September 16 thru the 19.



Looking Back

1610s — Robert Barker published the first version of the King James Bible.

1710s — Farmers in New England begin planting a new crop: the white potato.

1810s — In 1810, citizens in Munich, Germany, celebrate a royal wedding by enjoying the first Oktoberfest.

1910s — The four Warner brothers opened their first film studio on the West Coast.

1990s — The countries France and the United Kingdom built a train tunnel underneath the English Channel.

In 1946 a first-class stamp cost 3 cents.

In 1954 the average monthly rent for an apartment was \$85 and a movie ticket cost 70 cents.

In 1982 China's population reaches one billion people.

In 1998 J.K. Rowling publishes *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*.

St. John's Lutheran Church
711 Court St.
Pekin, IL 61554

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Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 242

Matt 6:5-18

The Lord's Prayer

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

AGAINST	BREAD
BABBLING	DAILY
CORNERS	DEBTS
DELIVER	DONE
DISFIGURE	DOOR
FATHER	EARTH
FORGIVE	FACES
HALLOWED	HEAD
HEAVEN	HEARD
KINGDOM	LEAD
KNOWS	LOVE
OBVIOUS	NAME
PAGANS	PRAY
RECEIVED	ROOM
REWARD	SEES
SECRET	SHOW
SOMBER	SINS
STANDING	TELL
STREET	TRUTH
UNSEEN	WASH

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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