

# St. John's Journal

Volume 47, Issue 2

## JESUS' SUFFERING FOR OUR SALVATION WAS PLANNED AND DELIBERATE

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What a great and comforting truth it is to know, that Jesus suffered and died deliberately, as part of God's ancient plan to save fallen mankind from sin, death, and hell! An attentive hearing of the Scriptures makes it very plain to us: Jesus was not a mere victim of circumstance, not a nice man who happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time, not a well-intentioned teacher who unwittingly stumbled into deep trouble through a series of unfortunate events.

Rather, everything that happened in Jesus' suffering and death took place by God's plan, all in keeping with His active and permissive will. Peter preached that Jesus was "delivered by the determined counsel and foreknowledge of God, ...taken by lawless hands, crucified, and put to death." *Acts 2:23* Yes, sinful men took these actions against Jesus, but only because God allowed them to do so in order to turn their evil works into great good according to His long-standing plan.

Jesus frequently spoke in such a way as to reveal His conscious awareness of this. For example, He said He had come to do His Father's will. (John 4:34; 5:30) He was fully aware when the hour had come for Him to die, to depart from this world to the Father. (John 12:23-24; 13:1,3) He knew He had to "drink the cup" His Father had given Him, that is, to suffer divine punishment for the sin of the world. And He was perfectly willing to do so. (John 18:11) So Jesus always knew the Father's plan.

Therefore He acted purposefully and deliberately in His sufferings, with a constant awareness that, in His holy Passion, the Scriptures had to be fulfilled, and were in fact being fulfilled. John wonderfully related this to us when he wrote, "Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, 'I thirst.'" *19:28* Our Savior knew all His words and works were accomplishing all things according to God's plan, and in so doing, they were fulfilling the Scriptures that foretold these things.

We will be giving attention to several specific examples of this in the sermons of our Lenten midweek and Holy Week services. The sermon series, "Jesus' Passion: In Fulfillment of All Things," is based on passages from John's Gospel that demonstrate how Jesus was not only aware of, but also in active control of all the events of His Passion, so as to carry out the divine plan to save the world.

And why do these things matter? It is because they give us sinners all the more assurance of our salvation in Jesus Christ! The certain understanding that all the terrible things that happened to Jesus were already incorporated into the Father's master-plan from ages past gives us added certainty: God truly does love us, was actively thinking about us and preparing for our rescue, and purposefully carrying out His saving design in Jesus Christ, with nothing able to stop Him. Yes, He was saving us "according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began." *2 Timothy 1:9* What God planned, He accomplished in Jesus Christ! It's a done deal! And that makes us all the more certain of our salvation!

- Pastor Bishop

**Christian Education**  
**Sunday School**

**Sunday School**  
**Perfect Attendance**  
**December 2020**

**1st Grade**  
Aiden Harms

**FEBRUARY  
BIRTHDAYS**



**Feb 01**

Joseph Hillman  
Edward Hodgkins  
Vincent Thomason

**Feb 02**

Nathan Barth  
Katie Bollinger  
David Justi  
Stephen Webb

**Feb 04**

Joseph Donovan  
Ryan Hansen

**Feb 06**

Richard Jarvis

**Feb 07**

Jamie Hoover  
Danny Jones

**Feb 08**

Emma Jones

**Feb 09**

Loretta Newman  
R. Michael Thompson

**Feb 10**

Lorelei Huber  
Lia Huber  
Sarah Huber  
Sandy Morgan  
Barb Theleritis

**Feb 11**

Katherine King

**Feb 12**

Viola Deppert

**Feb 13**

Emma Canterbury  
Carrie Schmidgall

**Feb 14**

Steven Depew  
Belinda Frankel  
Barbara Thompson

**Feb 15**

Ruth Keil  
Lori Sego

**Feb 16**

Karen McCammon  
Patricia Proehl

**Feb 17**

George Andrae

**Feb 18**

Michael Becker  
Jeremy Garmon  
Emma Hicks  
Barry Pool  
Gregory Swibold  
Shantel Tackmann

**Feb 20**

Dean Cooper  
Marcille Frevert  
Shirley Williamson

**Feb 21**

Kylee Alexander  
Stanley Ehmke

**Feb 22**

Susan Waddell

**Feb 23**

Alison Burris

**Feb 24**

Vernice Funk  
David Sego

**Feb 25**

Tyler Widby

**Feb 26**

Lea Ann Becker

**Feb 27**

Christina Herold  
Christine Neumann

**Feb 28**

Ava Friedinger  
Sandra Gay  
Linda McGuire  
Carl Whitlatch

**FEBRUARY  
ANNIVERSARIES**



**Feb 02**

Gerald & Paula Norman

**Feb 14**

Colby & Ashley Jones  
Thomas & Cheryl Ivey  
James & Julie Widby  
Barry & Katherine Wright

**PRIVATE COMMUNION  
SERVICES AVAILABLE**

If you have been uncomfortable coming to church during the pandemic, you may still receive the Lord's Supper. Pastor Bishop is happy to come to your home, or to have you come here to church, to conduct a short and simple service of Holy Communion for you.

We are able to do this in a safe and sanitary manner, with masks and proper distancing. So if you have gone without the Lord's Supper for quite a while, please feel free to contact Pastor to make arrangements. You may simply call the church at 347-2136, and mornings are usually the best time to reach him there.

## PARISH NOTES



### Church Attenance

Dec 2020— **622**—19 services  
Dec 2019—**1,140**—21 services  
Dec 2018—**1,315**—21 services

### Sunday School Attendance Year-to-Date

Dec 2020: **952**  
Dec 2019: **2,166**  
Dec 2018: **2,350**

### Videographers

Jim Lonergan

### Worship Committee

Diane Gould

### February Ushers

#### 8:00

Jerry Bohannon  
Randy Couch  
Steve Kesselmayr  
Noah Kesselmayr  
Terry Norman

#### 10:30

Ross Gould  
Jacob Gould  
Howie Proehl

**Thank  
You!**

A big thank you  
to all our Service  
Volunteers.

We appreciate the time and  
dedication you give to our  
Church community.

### Acolytes

Feb 07 8:00 Carter Miller  
10:30 Ava Friedinger

Feb 14 8:00 Ella Friedinger  
10:30 Lilly Daniels

Ash Wednesday  
Feb 17 7:00 Ella Friedinger

Feb 21 8:00 Ava Friedinger  
10:30 Carter Miller

Lenten Vespers Service  
Feb 24 7:00 Lilly Daniels

Feb 28 8:00 Lilly Daniels  
10:30 Ella Friedinger

**USHERS ARE NEEDED :** If you would like to volunteer to be an Usher please let John Neumann, 346-1922, or anyone on the Worship Committee know. Thank you.

**The Flower Chart for 2021** is posted in the Narthex. Please sign-up for the Sunday(s) that you would like to provide flowers for the altar and **call the church office, 347-2136**, and let us know what you want in the bulletin.



If you would like a special arrangement for your date, please call Artistic Flowers at 347-0022. Let them know you are with St. John's, Pekin. Cost of the flowers are \$40 plus \$5 for delivery, unless you have a special order and that could have an additional cost.

Remember you can pick up your flowers after the 10:30 service (please leave the green liners) or Mon. to Fri. from 8:00 a.m. to 12 Noon.

## TREASURER'S REPORT DECEMBER, 2020

|                        | <u>December</u> | <u>Y-T-D</u> |
|------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <b><u>INCOME</u></b>   | 60,906.43       | 421,465.54   |
| <b><u>EXPENSES</u></b> | 26,831.01       | 330,770.18   |

|                                    |                  |                  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b><u>INCOME-<br/>EXPENSES</u></b> | <u>34,075.42</u> | <u>90,695.36</u> |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|

|                           |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| General Fund              | (257.46)        |
| PPP Checking Account      | -               |
| <b>General Fund Total</b> | <b>(257.46)</b> |

|                               |                   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Ed Grant Fund Checking        | 4,727.56          |
| Ed Grant CD LCMS 12/21        | 51,928.87         |
| Ed Grant CD LCMS 12/22        | 51,982.86         |
| Ed Grant Fund #2-Vanguard     | 71,601.01         |
| <b>Educational Fund Total</b> | <b>180,186.30</b> |

|                                 |                   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| East Bluff Property-Vanguard    | 43,614.01         |
| East Bluff CD LCMS 12/21        | 53,837.70         |
| East Bluff CD LCMS 12/22        | 53,837.70         |
| Cat Stock at FMV                | 67,166.38         |
| <b>East Bluff Property Fund</b> | <b>218,455.79</b> |

|                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Building Fund Checking | 66,484.19 |
| S S Fund Checking      | 11,136.78 |
| Memorial Fund Checking | 33,000.60 |

|                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b><u>TOTAL ASSETS</u></b> | <b><u>509,006.20</u></b> |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|

|                          |                   |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Checking Account Balance | 115,091.67        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>             | <b>115,091.67</b> |

### LIABILITIES

|                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Note Payable             | -               |
| PPP Loan                 | -               |
| Payroll Liabilities      | 1,529.45        |
| Misc LCMS Orgs Fund      | (15.00)         |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b> | <b>1,514.45</b> |

### FUND BALANCE

|                           |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Building Improvements     | -299,680.34       |
| Net Income (Loss)         | 115,595.36        |
| Capital Accounts          | 691,576.73        |
| <b>TOTAL FUND BALANCE</b> | <b>507,491.75</b> |

|  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| <b><u>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp;<br/>FUND BALANCE</u></b> | <b><u>\$509,006.20</u></b> |
|--|----------------------------|

Transferred To The  
Church Triumphant

Mark O. Reeder  
April 19, 1951  
January 5, 2021

## HI-LITES OF ST. JOHN'S VOTERS ASSEMBLY January 11, 2021

Mike Nauth called the meeting to order. A quorum was present. Pastor Bishop opened with devotions. Mike thanked everyone for their work over the past year that allowed us to keep the church open and services ongoing.

The December Parish report was reviewed. A motion was made by Don Schoedel, seconded by Bob Oliverius, to accept the report. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dave Drockelman, seconded by Tom Ivey, to approve the December meeting minutes. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Daryl Dagit presented the treasurer's report. Daryl indicated that we do not qualify for the second round of the PPP program.

A motion was made by Julie Wagner, seconded by Nancy Drockelman, to accept the December report. Motion passed.

Board of Trustees – Gary Pool reported that the Trustees met on January 5<sup>th</sup>. Gary thanked Ross Gould and Dan Heisel for their service as Trustees. The 2021 Trustees are Jack Hall, Trent Hoover, Garret Kesselmayer (secretary), Dave Kesselmayer (vice chairman) and Gary Pool (chairman). The board is still looking for a 6<sup>th</sup> person to volunteer to serve on the board.

The masonry repairs are being slowed by weather conditions but currently stands at about 60% complete. A partial payment of \$20,000.00 has been paid to Midwestern Specialty Contractors. The church has received a check in the amount of \$3250.00 from Mark Weyhrich for the 2020 sharecrop. The Trustees are evaluating the possibility of setting up a regular maintenance agreement with GP Systems for the heating and cooling systems. Gary noted that the 5-year lease with Comcast will expire on July 31<sup>st</sup> of this year. Contact has been made with Comcast and the Trustees will try to have more information regarding the future of this agreement at the February meeting. Currently the agreement is set at \$9,880.00 annually.

The Trustees are planning on polishing the pews and some of the woodwork in the church Tuesday evening. The extra cleaning and sanitizing is affecting the finish on the woodwork.

Board of Elders – Tom Ivey reported that Jon Bolt is the new elder that is replacing Dave Drockelman on the board. Their next meeting is scheduled for January 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:00.

Board of Finance – No report.

Board of Christian Education – Shantel Tackmann (chair) reported that the board has elected new officers. An outing on January 17<sup>th</sup> will include Bible Baseball. There is a trip to Six Flags planned for later in the year.

Board of Worship – Valerie Ferguson reported that they met last week. All members of the committee are the same as last year, as are the elected positions. Two new banners have been purchased for Lent. John Neuman built a new banner stand that is located in the entry of the new addition. Valerie noted that the committee is going to put a notice in the bulletin asking if there is interest from anyone in performing special music.

Board of Evangelism – Pastor Bishop indicated that the committee did not meet this month.

Board of Stewardship – Sandy Ferguson reported that Leslie Hauk and Nancy Swearingen are now overseeing the Share Program. Baskets will be delivered the third weekend of each month. Sandy noted that we do have one family that needs Boost and Gatorade each month as he is getting treatments for cancer. McDonald's gift cards were mailed to 12 college students in December. Brian Ford's name was left off of the 2021 ballot last month. A motion was made by the committee, seconded by Ross Gould, to nominate Brian for another 3-year term on the Stewardship Committee. Motion passed.

Long Range Planning Committee – Randy Couch indicated that he is trying to schedule a meeting for March.

Educational Grant Fund Committee – No report.

East Bluff Property Committee – No report.

Constitution By-laws Committee – No report.

Unfinished business –

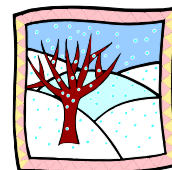
Ross Gould reported that he is continuing to check on the insurance for the church. He has a meeting on January 23<sup>rd</sup> to make sure we have the coverage that we need. He will report back after that meeting.

New business – Pastor Bishop reported that this is the year that the District Conventions are scheduled to take place. The synod president, in consultation with the presidents and the board, have recommended pushing the conventions back a year. This would allow district conventions to be held in 2022 with the National Synod Convention in 2023. Our district Board of Directors agrees that this is the right thing to do and encourages the congregations to agree. The following motion was made by Bob Oliverius, seconded by Dave Drockelman. 'Shall the Synod add a year to the current 2019-2022 triennium, allowing districts to hold their conventions in either 2021 or 2022, and moving the upcoming national Synod Convention from 2022 to 2023?' Motion passed. Thereafter the triennium cycle will continue forward from 2023 in three-year increments as before. Mike Nauth will check with Sandy Ferguson as to how go get our vote into the Synod.

Mike Nauth thanked everyone who has volunteered to be on a committee and those that attended the Voters Assembly meeting. A motion was made by Tom Ivey, seconded by Randy Couch, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wagner  
Secretary



## FEBRUARY LIBRARY CORNER

By Eileen Tiona



"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests."

CHURCH LIBRARY  
News

I haven't any new books to report on this month, but would like to invite everyone to come into the library and check out all the wonderful books that are available.

#####

## ORGANIZATIONS

### FELLOWSHIP CLUB By Veva Martin

Fellowship Club is not meeting at this time. Watch future Journals for meeting dates.

## THE YOUTH GROUP

will meet on Sunday, February 21 at 4:00 p.m.

This month we will have wacky gym games and enjoy tacos.

Watch bulletins for more information and please bring a friend to enjoy the fellowship.

### WOMEN'S GUILD By Leslie Hauk

Ladies Guild will meet on Thursday, February 25 at 6:30 p.m.

All ladies of the church are invited to attend. We do follow social distancing rules and all wear our masks.

### Women in Faith—LWML

will meet March 6 at 10:00 a.m. in the church basement to plan this year's projects.

## 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

Vince "Buzz" Oltman

Bob Watson

Bernice Mack

Stacie Kendall

Donna Bollinger

Flo McClure

Darlene Meyer

Rick Jarvis

Wilmadean Habberfield

Bob Gregory

Marian McDaniels Allen

Priscilla Aderholtz

Anna Knussman

Brittany Allen

Joyce Long

Julia Taylor

Tracy Lundeen

Joe Schiavone

Deanna Oltman

Pastor Kesselmayr

Lois Becker

Cheryl Williams

Robert Scott

Donna Corso

Billie Jackson

Joe Goodin

Sandy Morgan

Peggy Patten

Larry Turner

Pam Nutter

Marcille Frevert

Jerry Guengerich

Michelle Watson

Rosetta Turner

Tracy Glass

Robert Rilea

Karen Hall

Tom Ivey

Mary Hall

And all those who have been affected by COVID –19.

## LUTHERANS FOR LIFE 2021 ILLINOIS ESSAY CONTEST

Sponsored by the Council of Federation Presidents

For students in Grades 6 through 12

### Contest Guidelines

Students will write a life-affirming essay based on the theme:

**God Chose You** with the bible verse: **"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit".** John 15:16)

All sources for references, statistics and quotes should be incorporated within the essay and then included in a bibliography at the end.

Grades 6—8 should submit essays up to 400 words  
Grades 9 –12 should submit essays up to 750 words

More information is on the bulletin board in the gym. Entries should be submitted digitally using Microsoft Word or Google Docs to [cathy.benning.os@gmail.com](mailto:cathy.benning.os@gmail.com) by April 1, 2021.



## **GAME POSTPONED**

As many of you have suspected, we must postpone the LIVE version of “**Take Ewe Out to the Ball Game!**” due to COVID-19 still being with us!

However, we have exciting news about **GSLs’s 15th Benefit Auction!** We are pleased to announce that because we have had more time to plan for an online event, we will be having an “On-Line Auction Week” for GSLs, beginning on March 12th and concluding with an exciting Live Simulcast on March 20th. Listed below are important dates and other information for your immediate consideration; many more details will be mailed in February, printed in February church bulletins, and placed on the GSLs website and Facebook pages.

### **“On-Line Auction Week”**

Silent Auction Items — On-Line — March 12 through March 20 — same process as in 2020; Class Projects will be in the Silent Auction. Live Auction Items — On-Line Live Simulcast — March 20 — immediately following the close of the Silent Auction — will last approximately 1 hour. Fund-An-Item — Forms will be mailed in a later letter; donations may be sent to the school as they were in 2020; donation opportunity will also occur during the On-Line Live Simulcast. This year’s Fund-An-Item will be focused on our Preschool needs. Item Pick-Up — Saturday, March 27, 9am - 12pm — GSLs’s Warehouse

### **Donations Needed**

Because we are hesitant to ask small businesses for donations, we are seeking donations of Gift Cards to area small businesses. If you would like to help, please purchase any denomination of Gift Cards from local businesses (through SCRIP, if possible) and give them to any committee member or bring them to the school marked “Auction Donation”.

### **Duck Decoy Draw**

This popular feature will return this year; more details will appear in the February communications.

### **Sponsorships**

All sponsors who donated for our 2020 auction will have their sponsorships/advertising appear this year on the auction website during the online and simulcast portions of the auction, on the school website, and in church bulletin announcements. Anyone who wishes to make a **new** Sponsorship donation of \$50, \$100, or \$200 for 2021 will have their sponsorship/advertisement appear in the sections designated for these amounts.

\*\*\*\*\*

**CARD SHOWER** — St. John’s members are invited to send cards of encouragement and thanksgiving to Robert Rilea to help him celebrate as his cancer is now in remission after a lengthy and difficult period of treatment. Robert’s address is 1412 Henry St., Pekin.

## **GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS**

Midterms are Friday, February 5.

Spaghetti Dinner/Talent Show will be February 5 at 5:00 p.m.

PTL meeting will be Thursday, February 11 at 6:30 p.m.

Valentine parties are planned for February 12 with early dismissal @ 12:30 p. m.

Monday, February 15, there is no school in honor of Presidents Day!

School Board Meeting will be Tuesday, February 16 at 6:30 p.m.

GSLs Students will sing Sunday, February 28, at St. John’s, Sand Prairie at the 10:45 service.

#####

**LENT** – Lent begins Ash Wednesday, February 17. We will again have Lenten midweek services the six Wednesdays in Lent at 7:00 p.m. each week. We will be reading through the Passion narrative from John’s Gospel this year. The sermon series for the six Wednesdays, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday is “Jesus’ Passion: In Fulfillment of All Things.”

We will not have suppers before the Wednesday services this year on account of the pandemic.

Lenten midweek sermons in February:

Feb. 17 - “In Awareness of His Betrayer”  
John 13:18-19

Feb. 24 - “In Protecting His Disciples”  
John 18:8-9

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We received a thank you note from Rev. Paul Hopkins w/Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Worth. He wrote: Dear Saints of St. John, Thank you for your ongoing giving. I hope one day to join you in worship and say thanks personally. In this present time of sin, sickness, and fear may the Lord God bless you and keep you in His grace, mercy, and peace!

Also received a thank you letter from Lutherans for Life.

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

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## Bible Wordsearch



Wordsearch 185

## 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 | 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

MORE PUZZLES AT:  
<http://biblewordgames.com>

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