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# St. John's Newsletter

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Volume XXII

Issue 4

Monthly

Buckley, Illinois

April 2026

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*So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!"... They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." (Jn. 19:5, 15 ESV)*

How things changed between Palm Sunday and Good Friday. As Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday the crowds had welcomed Him as their king with shouts of "Save us (hosanna) in the highest!". They were thinking in terms of earthly kings; a king who would free them from their Roman oppressors, bringing earthly peace and prosperity to their nation. But Jesus' Kingdom was not of this world. The salvation He would bring was not from the Romans, but from even more deadly enemies and oppressors.

But when the crowds beheld Him on Good Friday as Pilate displayed Him arrayed in His kingly attire—a crown of thorns jammed down upon His head, a royal purple robe slowly being stained an even more royal crimson by the blood pouring from the tattered flesh of what remained of His back, and a lowly reed held in His hands as His royal scepter—the crowds rejected Him. Thus, fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah: *He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. (Isa. 53:3 ESV)* To their eyes Jesus no longer looked like the king they wanted. Better someone like Barabbas the insurrectionist (whose name literally means "son of the father") than this Son of God. Better Caesar who looked more the part with his attire and might. So, they refused to "behold the Man... their King". They wanted Him forever removed from their sight, dead and buried.

It's the same today. People see Jesus as He stands before the crowds on Good Friday as a weak, impotent and helpless man, incapable of being a king, let alone a savior. They prefer those with earthly power, that can solve earthly problems. They too want nothing to do with Jesus and want Him forever dismissed from their sight.

But to those who have been given the eyes of faith through the Word and Spirit, we cannot help but stare in wonder and amazement. That is why we preach Christ and Him crucified every

worship service, and especially during Holy Week, and on the Friday we call "good". Behold the man! Behold your King! For He stands wearing the crown of thorns that removes Adam's curse and the royal blood-soaked robe that removes and covers all our sins. Behold Him as He enters into His Kingdom enthroned upon the cross with nails to do battle with our greatest enemies of sin, death and the devil. Listen to His victorious cry "It is finished!" as He wins that battle once for all.

And then come on Easter as you behold your King risen in victory so that He would make you part of His Kingdom. Come behold the Man! Behold your King! Behold your Savior who saves (hosannas) you in the highest!

A blessed Holy Week to all.

Your Servant in Christ,  
Pastor J. Kevin Wyckoff

## Holy Week Worship

Maundy Thursday Worship  
w/communion 6:30 pm

Good Friday Worship Noon

Good Friday Tenebrae Worship  
6:30 pm

No Saturday Service

Easter SONrise Worship w/communion 6:00 am

**LYF Easter Breakfast in church basement  
Following SONrise**

Easter Worship w/communion  
9:00 am

**LYF will have rolls, donuts, coffee & juice in the  
church basement between services.  
A freewill donation is appreciated.**

## LCMS Stewardship Article

### A Better Way

The most common question about stewardship is not whether a Christian should give to their church. Of course Christians should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Rather, the question asked most is, “How much should I give?” But this question really means, “Should Christians give a tenth of their income to their local congregation?”

Here are some common reasons against tithing. Some say tithing isn’t necessary because it isn’t expressly commanded in the New Testament. There is no “Thus saith the Lord,” or “should” concerning tithing. Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these together with treasures (money) add up to more than a tithe. Still others say that they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church. And then there are those who think Christians shouldn’t tithe because of some fear. They are afraid that if they tithe, their gift will be misused, or that after tithing, there won’t be enough left over to get the things that they use, want or need.

Here are some reasons why Christians should tithe. Even though the New Testament doesn’t specifically command Christians to tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to. And on top of this, St. Paul often describes giving a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of one’s income — terms similar to a tithe (2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7).

But here’s another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? This tithe was intended to support the ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry. What does it say in the New Testament? “The Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther used in the Small Catechism’s Table of Duties to explain what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we’re not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let’s answer this by asking a different question. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? After all, there is no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest verse we have, and it states simply that Christians should not neglect gathering together. And even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? The conversation might go something like this. I’m glad you’re still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God’s promises of forgiveness, life and

salvation, and to receive His gifts in Word and Sacrament. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I’d really like you to try to attain it.

We should approach the topic of tithing with a similar conversation. The tithe is not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, we’re ecstatic that you’re giving, and that you’re giving in all these various ways — time, talents and treasures. But there is a better way. And that will only be a blessing to you, just as the Word of God — Old and New Testament alike — promises. Can you try increasing your gifts over the coming weeks, months and years? Can you put your trust in the God who sent His Son to take away your sin and give you everlasting life? And if He did this for you, if He did not spare His only Son, how will He not give you all things? He will not disappoint.

### St. John's Lutheran Church Statement of Activity General Fund Actual FEB 2026

Income:	
Regular offerings	\$30,545
School-related	\$13,331
Other	<u>\$2,574</u>
Total income	\$46,450
Expenses:	
Salary & benefits	\$50,689
Benefits	\$11,271
Taxes	<u>\$2,063</u>
Total salary and benefits	\$64,024
Utilities	\$2,630
Insurance	\$0
Building Maintenance	\$393
Office expenses	\$1,268
Church expenses	\$72
Other expenses	<u>\$3,121</u>
Total expenses	\$71,508
Excess/(Deficit)	(\$25,058)
Drawn from savings	\$28,500
Beginning balance	\$2,421
Ending balance	\$5,863
Drawn from savings balance	\$28,500

# St. John's School News

217-394-2422

www.stjohnsbuckley.com

*St. John's Lutheran School exists to teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to assist families in following our Lord's commands by providing sound Christian training for children.*

## Philosophy

*We, at St. John's Lutheran School in Buckley, Illinois, believe that each child is a child of GOD: created by the Father, redeemed by the Son, and sanctified by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, empowered by the congregation and supported by the children's parents, we teach using developmentally appropriate methods and practices. Our goal is to fulfill each child's potential by teaching excellence in character, education, and leadership throughout the integrated curriculum using sound Lutheran doctrinal principles based upon scriptural truth.*

Board of Parish Education – Minutes -  
Tuesday, December 9, 2025

Gordon called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. – Carol led devotions

Quorum was established with the following Board members: Gordon Schumacher, Peggy Shockley, Carol Liston, Jodi Tavenner, Matt Schuldt, Brittny Wise, Kennedy Glazik & Cody Kuester

Others present: Sandy Spitz & Chris Dean

- Motion made, seconded and carried to accept the agenda as submitted.
- Motion made, seconded and carried to accept the minutes as submitted.
- Motion to accept the financial reports as submitted, seconded and passed.
- 

## Athletic Report:

Girls' basketball is done – Boys' basketball is underway with 19 players – Volleyball practice starts this week with 20 girls

## Principal's Report – Given by Sandy Spitz:

Enrollment is at 129 / No delinquent accounts / Plea letter collected \$21, 708.00 / Mrs. Dippel has completed teacher observations / Sandy was at an Administrators Conference in Jacksonville, Illinois on November 20 th / Band-Choir Chimes concert was great / Health Inspector was at school yesterday there were no violations / Children's Christmas Program - Dress Rehearsal @ 9 a.m. & Program @ 6:30 p.m. on December 18 th / Children's Christmas Program donations will be collected at the door to offset tuition assistance which is provided by the church to every student at St. John's school

## Committee Reports:

**Marketing** (Kennedy Glazik): None / **Sunday School** (Carol Liston): Students will sing in church on December 21st / **Church Budget Committee:** Two meeting so far / **PTL** (Matt Schuldt): None / **Evangelism-Stewardship- Lutheran Hour** (Peggy Shockley): None / **Church-School Picnic** (Cody Kuester): None **School Building:** Padding in the gym is being replaced

**Policy Manual Review:** Pages 46-61 held over till the January, 2026 board meeting

**PTL Chicken Supper/Auction:** Each school board member will donate two items for an auction basket

## **New Policy on Eligibility for Serving on the Board of Parish Education:**

An updated eligibility policy was handed out to each Board member / A ballot vote was taken to approve the new eligibility policy/ Ballot Results: (YES = 5 / NO = 2) / Adopted the new Board of Parish Education eligibility policy to be taken to the January, 2026 Joint Council meeting - carried by ballot vote results

## **Adding a Scholastic Bowl Team for grades 5 th – 8th:**

A request was submitted to the Board asking that a Scholastic Bowl Team be added as an extra-curricular activity for St. John's Students / Brian Neukomm will help / Motion was made, seconded and carried to start a Scholastic Bowl team at St. John's for grades 5-8 th as an extra-curricular activity.

## **2026-27 Proposed Tuition Increase:**

St. John's students consist of: 70% non-member families & 30% member families / St. John's church is struggling to meet expenses / A motion was made to recommend to Joint Council a 15% increase in tuition for the 2026-27 school year motion seconded and carried.

## **Church Attendance by Member Families:**

A motion was made, seconded and carried to leave the non-compliance fee for St. John's member families' church attendance at \$100.00 per month.

Motion to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. - Submitted by: Jodi Tavenner, Secretary

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 – Devotions Gordon

## **Note from the Principal—Mrs. Sandy Spitz**

At St. John's Lutheran School, April is bursting with joyful noise! As we celebrate the risen Christ this Easter season, our classrooms are filled with songs of praise, shouts of "Alleluia!", and the everyday sounds of students growing in faith and knowledge. From chapel hymns to laughter in the hallways, the joy of the empty tomb echoes through our building. We are so thankful for the blessing of sharing the hope of Easter with our students each day — making a joyful noise to the Lord together! Thank you for your faithful prayers, encouragement, and generous support of Lutheran education at St. John's. Your partnership makes this joyful noise possible.

## Art - Mrs. Kari Stachura

On our "Art Around the World" journey we recently visited Russia. We talked a little bit about the country itself and focused on some art specific to Russia. In class we talked about Russian nesting dolls, Faberge eggs, and Russian folk art.

Kindergarten, first, and fifth and sixth grade artists made Faberge eggs. They painted styrofoam eggs, added gold puff paint, and finished with a few jewels. The kindergarten, second grade, and some of the third and fourth grade artists created their own nesting dolls on paper. The third and fourth grade artists created a bird or horse inspired by Russian folk art patterns. The seventh and eighth grade artists created a series of stacking dolls. They were challenged to create a series of four dolls that followed a theme. Students chose a variety of themes from the four seasons, to types of soda, to different TV characters.

Our next stop will be Sweden!

## Chapel

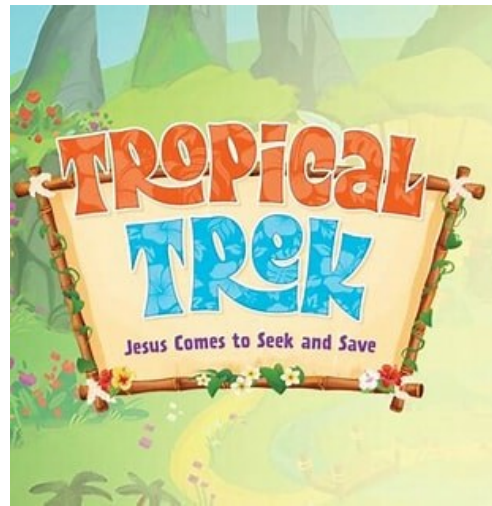
Chapel offerings for the final quarter of the school year have been designated for LC-MS Deaf Mission Society.

The story of LC-MS Deaf missions begins in the period following the American Civil War. Lutheran congregations involved in the efforts to provide homes for children left fatherless by the war established the Lutheran Children's Friend Society. In 1873, efforts of Christians in the Detroit area established an LCFS orphanage. The first director of the orphanage, himself an orphan, had been a teacher for the deaf in Germany. Within one year of the establishment of the orphanage, the board realized they had an unexpected opportunity for ministry. They decided to reorganize the orphanage as the Lutheran Institute for the Deaf. Congregational ministry for deaf people began in 1894. At the 1896 convention of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, the Synod adopted Deaf Missions as an official mission program of the Synod.

In 2008 the synod established the Lutheran Deaf Mission Society to continue the Synod's work of providing resources and support for districts, congregations, and Synod's international mission partners. Lutheran Deaf Mission Society also works to recruit and train church workers for Deaf Ministry.

Today there are 29 Deaf congregations where American Sign Language is the primary means of communication. Lutheran Deaf Schools exist in Brazil (2), Hong Kong (1), India (4), and Macau (1). In addition, Deaf adult missions are active in Ghana, Kenya, Hong Kong, India, Australia, and Norway.

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod has enjoyed a long and fruitful ministry among Deaf people, sharing the Good News of God's love and forgiveness in Jesus Christ with those whose primary mode of communication is Sign Language.



## Tropical Trek VBS 2026

Save the date & spread the word! Vacation Bible School will be held Monday through Friday, June 15-19 from 9:00-11:30 a.m. at St. John's Lutheran School in Buckley. Children will learn Bible stories, memorize Bible verses, play games, do crafts, sing songs, and enjoy delicious snacks. Ages 3 through 5th grade are welcome to attend!

Our world is filled with exciting things to explore and enjoy. But there are also challenges and hardships we face along the way. Our loving and powerful God desires to help us. He seeks us out and leads us to faith. We can trust in Him! At Tropical Trek, kids will learn how Jesus seeks them and all people. He is the Son of Man, who came to seek and to save the lost!

Volunteers are needed to make VBS a success. If you are willing to donate or serve snacks, lead groups, teach, or lead crafts or games, please contact Rebekah Sanders or sign-up via the registration link.

Registration is open! To register a child, or to sign-up to volunteer, please scan QR code or go to [www.myvbs.org/stjohnsbuckley-vbs](http://www.myvbs.org/stjohnsbuckley-vbs)



St. John's Ladies Aid/LWML Meeting

March 6, 2026

President Chris Dippel welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

Vice President and Christian Growth Chairman, Rena Wagner led the devotions.

Our topic was presented by Kimberly Cullen from Safe Families for Children. The organization has families that volunteer to house vulnerable children and build social support systems.

Roll call was taken with 15 members and 2 guests.

The February minutes were read and approved. Correspondence was read.

Treasurer report was presented and filed for audit.

Reports and Business:

\* April flower committee is preparing and planning for Easter Lilies

\* LWR Quilting continues on Wednesday mornings in the church basement.

\* The new program book still has a few blank spaces for volunteers.

\* The Garage Sale committee has presented that the garage sale for the spring will be Thursday and Friday, with Bake Sale on Friday only. We will no longer accept adult clothes or shoes. There will be donation only, no pricing with the exception of 1 table.

\* The Spring gathering will be April 11 and St. John's will be hosting. The planning committee will meet this month. Sign up sheets will be available at April 2 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned with The Lord's Prayer and The Common Table Prayer.

Dates to Remember:

April 2: Ladies Aid/LWML meeting will begin at 12:30

April 11: Spring Gathering

April 23 & 24: Garage Sale/Bake Sale

April 24 & 25: LWML CID convention in Decatur, IL

Sylvia Watson,  
Secretary



St. John's Ladies Aid/LWML will have a Bake/Garage Sale on Thursday and Friday. April 23 and April 24 at the Buckley American Legion.

**CHANGES FOR SPRING 2026 –  
NO SATURDAY SALE –  
No adult clothes or shoes accepted.**

- Donations will be accepted Monday and Tuesday, April 20 & 21 from 8 am til 4 pm and Wednesday, April 22 from 8 am til noon.
- If no one is there, items can be left at the front door and will be moved indoor after 6 pm.
- No items will be accepted after noon on Wednesday.
- No electronics including VHS tapes, hazardous items or adult clothes will be accepted. If large items do not sell, the donor must agree to pick up item Saturday morning.
- Garage Sale will open Thursday 8 am to 5 pm and Friday 8 am to 5 pm.
- Bake Sale Friday 8 am to 5 pm
- Any questions can be directed to the committee:
- Ruth Biggs at 217-822-1161, Brenda Schumacher at 574-249-1789, or Rena Wagner at 217-503-3635.
- Donations of baked goods from the congregations are appreciated.

## This & That

LWR quilting will not quilt Wednesday, April 1 or Wednesday, April 22.

## Happy Birthday

April Dalton	4/1	Tim Luhrsen	4/17
Kari Dudley	4/1	Jim Liston	4/17
Drue Hilligoss	4/1	Alison Jones	4/18
Dayne Behrens	4/2	Barbara Schuldt	4/18
Shawn Woods	4/2	Kason Sledge	4/18
Kevin Bull	4/2	Bonita Chaney	4/19
Eli Coleman	4/2	Myra Grohler	4/19
Taryn Rock	4/3	Kandace Hofer	4/20
Justin Poppett	4/4	Wanda Ilse	4/20
Tinley Posey	4/4	Lily Rohrbach	4/21
Kris Hesford	4/4	David Ecker	4/21
Don Knuth	4/5	Triss Henderson	4/21
John Mason	4/5	Tori Rock	4/21
Kami Winnicki	4/6	Scott Weber	4/21
Keighan Flesner	4/7	Mary Garrelts	4/22
Donnie Knuth	4/7	Jill Steiner	4/22
Diana Lohrbach	4/7	Brett Kuester	4/23
Dennis Short	4/7	Kristine Weber	4/23
Nicole Baillie	4/8	Nicolas Harweger	4/24
Joni Barnes	4/9	Adam Rohrbach	4/24
Beverly Colbert	4/9	Annabelle Krumwiede	4/25
Jennifer Hanford	4/9	Ryley Foellner	4/25
Keaton Krumwiede	4/9	Emma Birge	4/26
Lindsay Houtzel	4/11	Doug Teske	4/26
Eric Perkinson	4/13	Louie Sanders	4/28
Kelbie Polson	4/13	Colton Coy	4/29
Ben Schmidt	4/15	Scott Shockley	4/30
Amber Tofari	4/15	Jason Wesslund	4/30
Wayne Weber	4/15		
Megan Forster	4/16		

## Happy Anniversary!

Don & Sue Burklund	4/2/1975
John & Denise Mason	4/7/1984
Myron & Belinda Rust	4/7/1979
Scott & Peggy Shockley	4/9/1974
Ashley & Joshua Brookhart	4/9/2011
Donnie & MaDe Knuth	4/11/2012
Wayne & Jane Wagner	4/16/1983
Jeff & Jessica Day	4/18/2008
Linda & Steve Marquis	4/20/1974
Michael & Tina Wagner	4/21/1985
Rodney & Becky Grohler	4/23/1988
Jerry & Gail Tobeck	4/23/1983
Paul & Jennifer Tobeck	4/25/1992
Kelsey & Ryan Munsterman	4/30/2016

### Church Attendance Saturday & Sunday Services

	2026	2025
February 22	120	145
March 1	210	141
March 8	142	227
March 15	158	145

Average for the Month: 158 165  
(Average does not include mid-week services.)

# April 2026

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<p><b>St. John's Lutheran Church</b>            P. O. Box 6 Buckley, Illinois 60918-0006            Rev. J. Kevin Wyczkoff            Parsonage Phone: 217-394-2495            Office Phone: 217-394-2444            churchoffice@stjohnsbuckley.com</p>	<p>pastor@stjohnsbuckley.com            Cell Phone: 217-979-3891            Office Hours: 8:00-12:00 M-F            www.stjohnsbuckley.com</p>		<p><b>8:30 Chapel-Kindergarten</b>            NO LWR Quilting            6:00 - Adult Choir            6:30 - Board of Ed</p>	<p>11:30 Early Dismissal            12:30 Ladies Aid  <b>6:30 Maundy Thursday Worship</b>            w/communion</p>	<p>No School  <b>Noon - Good Friday Worship</b>            6:30 - Good Friday Tenebrae</p>	<p><b>NO SERVICE</b></p>
<p><b>6:00 SONrise w/comm</b>  <b>7:00 Breakfast in church basement</b>  <b>9:00 Worship w/comm</b>            Tellers#2</p>	<p><b>NO SCHOOL</b>            Offices Closed</p>	<p>8:30 Bible Study            American Legion</p>	<p><b>8:30 Chapel - Pastor Uphoff</b>            8:30 LWR Quilting            6:00 - Adult Choir</p>	<p>6:00 Elders</p>		<p>8:00 - 2:00 Ladies Aid Spring Rally  <b>6:00 Worship w/communion</b></p>
<p><b>9:00 Worship w/comm</b>            10:00 Fellowship            10:15 Bible Study/SS            Tellers #3</p>	<p>4:15 Track @ Fisher</p>	<p>8:30 Bible Study            American Legion            4:00 Track @ Watska            7:00 Trustees</p>	<p><b>8:30 Chapel - Lisa Dippel</b>            8:30 LWR Quilting            6:00 Adult Choir            6:00 Academic Fair</p>	<p>5:00 Music Committee            7:00 Joint Council</p>	<p>4:00 Track @ Watska</p>	<p><b>6:00 Worship</b></p>
<p><b>9:00 Worship</b>            10:00 Fellowship            10:15 Bible Study/SS            Tellers #4</p>	<p><b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b></p>	<p>8:30 Bible Study            American Legion            6:00 Spelling Bee @ Woodworth</p>	<p><b>8:30 Chapel - Pre K &amp; 5/6</b>            NO LWR Quilting            6:00 Adult Choir</p>	<p>Ladies Aid Garage            Sale 8am-5pm            4:00 Track @ Watska</p>	<p>Ladies Aid Garage &amp;            Bake Sale 8am-5pm</p>	<p><b>6:00 Worship w/Confirmation questioning</b></p>
	<p>Pastor Conference—Need assistance Amy 217-781-2332</p>		<p><b>7:00 Voter's Meeting</b></p>			
<p><b>9:00 Worship w/comm</b>            10:00 Fellowship            10:15 Bible Study/SS            Tellers #5</p>		<p>8:30 Bible Study            American Legion</p>	<p><b>8:30 Chapel—Pastor Fjordbotten</b>            8:30 LWR Quilting            4:00 Track @ Tri-point            6:00 Adult Choir</p>			



**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
**206 East Main Street**  
**P. O. Box 6**  
**Buckley, Illinois 60918-0006**

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