
St. John's Newsletter

Volume XXVIII

Issue 5

Monthly

Buckley, Illinois

May 2026

And when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place... (Acts 2:1 NAS)

Out of all the things that happened that Pentecost as recorded in Acts chapter 2, what was the biggest? Was it the sound of a mighty rushing wind? No. Was it the tongues of fire that rested on the disciples? You're getting warmer, but only if you understand where those tongues rested as Luther notes: in the disciples' mouths and not on top of their heads. Was it that the disciples *began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance so that people from all around the Roman Empire each heard them speaking in their own native languages? You're really close to the right answer with this one. But still, no.*

The biggest thing that happened on Pentecost in Acts 2 was the crowd each heard *the mighty deeds of God spoken to them in their own tongues. That is what brought 3,000 souls in that crowd to faith and led them to receive Holy Baptism that day. The mighty wind couldn't bring them to that faith. It could only draw them to where the disciples were. Those miraculous tongues of fire speaking in all those dialects didn't in and of itself bring them to faith. It only could amaze and confuse them. No, it was the content of what was spoken to them, God's Law and Gospel. The Law that cut them to the heart convicting them of the sins and the Gospel that promised God's forgiveness and salvation in the One they had crucified.*

Luther states this plainly in his explanation of the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed: *I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; BUT THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS CALLED ME BY THE GOSPEL, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.*

You see God's work that began that Pentecost hasn't stopped. Yes, there's no longer the sound of a mighty wind, and disciples no longer MIRACULOUSLY get to speak in foreign languages. But missionaries have continued that work in less spectacular ways around the globe by going to different lands, spending time learning

those languages and then translating God's word for people to read and hear; all so the Holy Spirit can do the same thing He did nearly 2,000 years ago to bring people to faith. That's the real miracle of Pentecost.

And it's a miracle that can happen when you share God's word about Jesus with someone. For in the sharing of that word the Holy Spirit is still being poured out upon hearts, minds and souls of people bringing them to faith. Dear disciple, who can you share that word with today? For the miracle of Pentecost still happens.

Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor J. Kevin Wyckoff



2026 Confirmation Class

*Landrey William Bina
Noah Joseph Dahlman
James Wayne Dean
Vance Zachary Griet*

2026 Graduation Class

*Landrey William Bina
Noah Joseph Dahlman
James Wayne Dean
Vance Zachary Griest
Malaya Hope Heisner
Charity Lynne Kidwell
Parker John Massey*

LCMS Stewardship Article May 2026

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you” (John 13:15). We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God, that job is already done! But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow His example of generous giving. And Jesus’ generosity is not merely an example. Our Lord also commands us to act according to our gifts: “The one who contributes, [let him give] in generosity” (Rom. 12:8).

So, when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. We should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought — He gave according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world. So, when it comes to our own offerings, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3), we should honor the Lord by giving a generous portion of the income that God provides us.

We should also give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. We do not give grudgingly, but willingly and cheerfully, each “as he has decided in his heart,” as the Lord says (2 Cor. 9:7). There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us!

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of our love for Him and for our neighbor. Jesus shows us that genuine love is always love “in deed” (1 John 3:18). It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we support His Gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle, for that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly, so abundantly that they had to be told to stop giving! (Ex. 36:5–6). In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord’s work. We support our congregations in the preaching of His Word, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, which bestow His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation, and we take care of those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.

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

Income:

Regular offerings	\$40,533
School-related	\$21,554
Other	\$3,053
Total income	\$65,140

Expenses:

Salary & benefits	\$50,322
Benefits	\$11,591
Taxes	\$2,072
Total salary and benefits	\$63,985
Utilities	\$6,149
Insurance	\$0
Building Maintenance	\$521
Office expenses	\$1,113
Church expenses	\$2,048
Other expenses	\$4,033
Total expenses	\$77,848

Excess/(Deficit) (\$12,708)

Drawn from savings \$14,000

Beginning balance \$5,863

Ending balance \$7,154

Drawn from savings balance \$42,500

New Church Office Hours

Beginning June 1 the church office will be open Wednesday’s from 8-2. You will be able to contact Amy via email, text or phone the rest of the week. Bulletin deadlines will be Noon on Wednesdays. 217-781-2332 or churchoffice@stjohnsbuckley.com

School Summer Office Hours

School Office hours will be Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 8:00am—Noon. You can call and leave a message or email to info@stjohnsbuckley.com or principal@stjohnsbuckley.com and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

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

Meeting Minutes – March 10, 2026

*Training with Trip Rodgers, CID Education Executive
Congregational Life, from 6:30 – 8:04 p.m.*

Jason Wesslund called the meeting to order at 8:07 p.m. He also led devotions.

Quorum was established with the following Board members: Jodi Tavenner, Matt Schuldt, Kennedy Glazik, Jason Wesslund, Corey Quinn, Kira Ebert and Corey Grohler

Others Present: Pastor Wyckoff, Bryan Breymeyer and Sandy Spitz

- Motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes from December 9, 2025.
- Motion was made, seconded & passed approving minutes & executive session minutes for February 22, 2026.
- Motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the December, 2025 financial reports.
- Motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the February, 2026 financial reports.

Athletic Report – Given by Sandy Spitz

Volleyball season is done – 7th grade girls achieved 2nd place @ regionals – Track: Looking for coaches

Principal Report – Given by Sandy Spitz

128 students currently enrolled – A few delinquent accounts – February 20th canceled school due staff and children being out sick – Coincidentally the boiler was out on February 20th also – 3rd thru 8th grades went on a field trip today to STEM in Bloomington

Committee Assignments:

Budget: Corey Grohler & Kennedy Glazik Marketing/

PR: Kennedy Glazik & Kira Ebert

PTL: Matt Schuldt Sunday School: Jodi Tavenner

Evangelism/Stewardship/Lutheran Hour: Corey Quinn

Picnic: Cody Kuester

Budget Committee – Budget is low – Staffing is changing so time will tell

PTL – Given by Matt Schuldt

Up to \$26,000 has been approved by the PTL for new windows in the gym, locker rooms & boiler room.

A quote has been received for \$25,573.60.

Sunday School – Given by Jodi Tavenner

Students receive a prize every time they reach 5 days of attendance - Substitute teachers & snack donations are appreciated – Rebekah Sanders is the Sunday School Superintendent and VBS Coordinator

Marketing/PR – Given by Kennedy Glazik

Looking into grants & future fundraisers – Fundraisers

need to be approved by the Board of Parish Education
School Building: Given by Sandy Spitz

School's boiler is a concern – Problems persist – Will look to the Trustees for direction in this matter

Old Business: None

New Business:

Abby Balk is interested in the school secretary position – Cook & custodian for 2026-27 school year is still needed – Adam Tofari does snow removal for the school – Craig Teske & Ross Cluver mow the school/church lawns – Mrs. Aberle will remain the Pre-K teacher – Pre-K assistant teacher is needed – Call Committee members will be: Jason Wesslund, Corey Grohler & Corey Quinn - Athletic Policy: Needs to be reviewed – Faith's Law & Asbestos wording need to be added to the school's website
Next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 1st at 6:30 p.m.

- Motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn at 9:07 p.m. Closed with the Lord's Prayer
Submitted by Jodi Tavenner, Secretary

Art Mrs. Kari Stachura

Art Article - May Last month we traveled to Russia for inspiration for our art projects. Our next, and last, destination for art class this year is Sweden. We took a minor detour in-between Russia and Sweden to create a "silly sandwich". All classes had the opportunity to use their imaginations and dream up their ideal sandwich. Students were challenged to create a sandwich with all of their favorite things - and it didn't need to be realistic. Sandwiches included everything from real foods to cartoon characters to words. The last country we are visiting is Sweden. We will focus on the unique style of Swedish folk art to guide us in creating our projects. May means the school year is ending soon. Students will be bringing home all of their artwork in a portfolio. Getting back all of their artwork is a highlight for the students. It is fun to see all of the projects they've made through the year and to see how much their abilities have changed. The 2025-2026 school year will be my last year teaching at St. John's. I have thoroughly enjoyed these past seven years and having the opportunity to teach the kindergarten through eighth grade students. I am grateful to have been a part of the St. John's staff and to have had the opportunity to help "students as they discover their God-given gifts."

St. John's Ladies Aid/LWML Minutes

April 2, 2026

President Chris Dippel welcomed members and guests and called the meeting to order.

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

The St. John's PTL provided us a delicious meal.

Our topic was led by Mr. John Britton, "Adventures in Teaching"

Roll call was taken with 18 members and 2 guests present.

Minutes from March were read and approved. Correspondence was read.

The treasurer report was available.

Reports and Business:

- * LWR Quilting continues on Wednesday mornings but will not gather on April 22, which is the day before the Garage/Bake Sale
- * The flower committee has picked up the Easter Lilies and they are ready for Easter.
- * Spring gathering is Sat. April 11 and the sign up sheet was available to help with a few tasks.
- * Garage/Bake sale will be Thursday and Friday, April 23 and 24 with the bake sale on Friday only. Sign up sheets were available to work/help set up/help take down.
- * Chris Dippel spoke about the Zone President's Update.
- * CID District Convention is April 24 and 25 and is held in Decatur. The theme is "For the Lord Shall be Thy Everlasting Light." Registration must be received by April 10.

Having a birthday in April is Myra Grohler.

Meeting was adjourned and closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Dates to Remember:

- April 11: Spring Gathering at St. John's
- April 19: Mother-Daughter Salad Supper at Peace Lutheran in Thomasboro at 4 p.m.
- April 23, 24: Garage Sale Thursday and Friday
Bake sale is only on Friday.
- April 24, 25: The 81st CID Convention in Decatur
- May 7: Ladies Aid/LWML meeting
- Sept 8: Fall Rally, Location TBD
- Oct 3: Fall Retreat at Camp Cilca

Sylvia Watson, Secretary



Tropical Trek VBS 2026

St. John's Lutheran Church's 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. We need volunteers to serve snacks, lead groups, teach, or lead crafts or games. We are also in need of donations for craft and snack supplies. Please contact Rebekah Sanders for a list of specific items. You can also sign up to help via the registration link. If you are interested in making a monetary donation to offset the cost of supplies, please contact the church office. Thank you for supporting VBS 2026!

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



Happy Birthday



Rodney Park	5/1	Erin Scheurich	5/14
Molly Wepler	5/1	Deborah Lenington	5/15
Timothy Wyckoff	5/1	Reed Griest	5/17
Eric Dippel	5/2	Dana Kuester	5/18
Kaia Krumwiede	5/2	Corey Weisenbarn	5/20
Travis Wagner	5/2	Alec Hilligoss	5/21
Charlotte Swanson	5/3	Collin Kottke	5/22
Jessica Bender	5/4	Nathan Kottke	5/22
Mike DeBella	5/4	Dennis Sturm	5/22
Marty Vance	5/4	June Bane	5/23
Bob Wille	5/7	Chelsea Kaeb	5/23
Rachel DeBella	5/8	Cindy Vance	5/24
Tina Babbs	5/9	Denise Forster	5/26
Lee Niemann	5/9	Kelly Schuetz	5/26
Dylan Vance	5/9	Jack Wesslund	5/27
Jessica Niemann	5/10	Jaxon Cobb	5/29
Mary Riggle	5/10	Ella Teske	5/29
James Dean	5/11	Caden Burgrabe	5/30
Lisa Dippel	5/12	Alison Hasselbring	5/30
Craig Coy	5/12	Millie Sanders	5/30
Deb Jarboe	5/12	Thomas Rubarts	5/30
Ashley Quinlan	5/12	Robert Fruhling	5/31
Cameron Tavenner	5/12	Anna Wesslund	5/31
Jennifer Tobeck	5/12		

Stuart & Laura Janssen	5/2/1987
Mike & Rachel DeBella	5/6/1994
David & Erika Ecker	5/10/2008
Jodi & Thomas Tavenner	5/10/1986
Brooke & Tyler Downing	5/11/2011
Dennis & Cindy Vance	5/16/1971
Sandra & Jimmy Hector	5/28/1999
Charles & Stacy Rothermel	5/29/1999
Scott & Michelle Mitchell	5/29/1999

This and That

Library Volunteers for 2026-27 School Year

St. John's has been blessed with many faithful volunteers in our library over the years. We will be needing additional volunteers next year as some of our current volunteers will be retiring at the end of this year. If you are interested in volunteering one Tuesday each month in our library, please contact the school office.

Community Bible Study will **NOT** be meeting through the summer. Our last session will be Tuesday, 19 May, which is the Tuesday before Memorial Day weekend.

Sunday School and Bible Study will break for summer. The last day will be May 17th.

LWR quilting will take a break over the summer. Our last day will be May 20th.

Church Attendance Saturday & Sunday Services

	2026	2025
March 22	140	144
March 29	170	143
Easter SONrise	116	135
April 5	116	143
April 12	150	165
April 19	239	178
Average	155	151
Maundy Thursday	86	87
Good Friday Noon	56	57
Good Friday 6:30	56	65

Electronic Giving & Payments

St. John's Lutheran Church & School now offers a simple way to give and make payments electronically.

All electronic gifts and payments are securely processed through Vanco, our trusted giving platform, which can also be found on our website:

[St. John's Buckley](#)

Two Easy Ways to Give

Scan the QR Code with your phone's camera.



Use the Vanco Mobile App
Search for "Vanco Mobile" in the App Store or
Google Play, then select
"St. John's Lutheran Church"



Use the QR code below to securely submit:

Offerings & Donations
School Tuition Payments
School After Care Fees
School Lunch Fees
School Registration Fees

Members, alumni, parents/grand parents can use this to support the mission of St. John's through a one-time gift or convenient monthly donation direct from your bank account (not credit cards).

Your generosity helps sustain Christ-centered education and ministry for future generations.

Thank you for supporting our church and school ministry!

Annual Voter's Meeting Sunday, January 25, 2026

Eugene Forster called the meeting to order.

Pastor Wyckoff opened with devotion and prayer.

Roll Call

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to skip the reading of the secretary's minutes and to approve as written with one correction.

Membership Changes

None

Transferred to Kingdom of Glory – Louie Chandler, Alice Nelson, Tomola Weber, Gloria Roemer

Financial Reports were discussed.

Missions Financial Report:

General Missions Received/Disbursed

Fourth Quarter (10/1/25-12/31/25): \$5,051

1/1/25-12/31/25: \$23,771

CLHS Missions Received/Disbursed

Fourth Quarter (10/1/25-12/31/25): \$4,025

1/1/25- 12/31/25: \$12,515

Total Missions Received/Disbursed

Fourth Quarter (10/1/25-12/31/25): \$9,076

1/1/25-12/31/25: \$36,286

Congregational/Endowment Reports:

	Restricted Account Balance	Endowment Fund Balance
Balance as of 10/1/2025	607,700.44	43,863.11
Receipts	22,373.24	1,852.71
Disbursements	16,893.55	-
Balance as of 12/31/2025	\$ 613,180.13	\$ 45,715.82

	Q2	YTD
Income & Expense Report	10/1/25-12/31/25	7/1/25-12/31/25
Income	\$ 242,240	\$ 474,514
Expenses	\$ (237,427)	\$ (446,219)
Income less Expenses	\$ 4,813	\$ 28,295

Checking Account Balance	
as of 12/31/25	\$ 13,195

A Motion was made seconded and carried to accept the financial reports as submitted.

Motion was made seconded and carried to accept the pastor's report.

Accept Ballot and Vote for Officers

Installation of all who are serving in 2026, will be February 1

Need one Elder, one for Evangelism, two for Lutheran Hour, and one for Stewardship

No volunteers

Motion was made seconded and carried to accept ballot as presented – ballot approved.

Informational – Christmas Greeting went towards the Organ Fund \$2,300.

Joint Council Recommendations

Set tuition budget for 2025-2026 school year

15% increase this year

Discussed policy that requires member attendance in Church twice a month to receive member

Discussion:

School Board came up with 10% increase but Budget Committee recommended 15% increase and is suggesting 15% increase again next year.

Concerns around those students needing tuition assistance and families leaving the school to go to free public school

Gordon requests ballot vote, accepted to complete ballot vote

It costs roughly \$6,000 to educate one student and this increase does not offset this cost.

Our cost is much lower than other private schools, but we need to determine how to bring in more revenue and how to fundraise.

Suggestion of raising 10% and fundraising was brought up

Almost no tuition increase in previous year

A lot of consideration went into the 15% increase

There is still a \$144,000 deficit with the 15% increase

Consider how we can attract more people to increase attendance – investing in these kids' future

It is a difficult job for the treasurer to come with the money that is not there.

Motion to approve the Budget as presented was made – ballots provided and collected/counted by the Elders.

21 Yes; 3 No

Motion passed

Trustee Report

School : repaired outside lights; repaired security light; replaced chains on swings; replace weather strip on all double entry doors; fire alarm inspection

Church: building shelves in the boiler room for better organization; replaced weather strip on double doors; fire alarm inspection

Evangelism/Stewardship

Soup/sandwich during Advent was well attended and appreciated

Lent Services will include soup/sandwich

Good fellowship

Thank you to Rebecca Sanders who agreed to organize/lead Vacation Bible School again in 2026

Thank you to Jim Liston for doing the Birthday and Anniversary mailings

Need to be proud of what we have here and build on it

Need two people who can help find a program to get automatic and online donations set up and implement it

Need to contact school alumni and others who would be willing to donate.

Believe there is real potential there if reach out

St. John's School Report

Current enrollment 129 (PK3-8th grade)

Christmas program morning attendance: 75/ evening attendance: 417 plus kids

No Health Inspection violations

Plea Letter wrapped up at \$21,708

February 15 – Chicken Dinner and Silent Auction

Please consider how you can help

In need of a Track coach, Office Secretary, Custodian, Lunch Program Coordinator, and Art Teacher

Policy on Eligibility for Serving on the Board of Parish Education

Since this is a policy of the School Board it is informational only to the Voters.

Keep as a policy to have the ability to make changes.

Voters provided suggested updates to the wording for better clarification

Voters also provided suggestion that if there is a conflict of interest, then they could require a signed document.

CLHS Report

Current enrollment 2025-2026 school year, 15

Grew 1 student in January from PBL

All students named to Q1 honor roll

All ACT testing conducted in October

Nov 21 welcomed 22 student visitors from St. Johns and St. Pauls

Volleyball concluded as state champions

Girls Basketball continues

Track Practice underway

Scholastic Bowl underway

Fundraising – Feb 1 drive-thru spaghetti dinner



No new voting members

Eugene asked if there was any other business to discuss with none offered.

Motion to Adjourn.

Closed with Lord's Prayer.

May 2026

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
St. John's Lutheran Church P. O. Box 6 Buckley, Illinois 60918-0006 Rev. J. Kevin Wycokoff Pastor@stjohnsbuckley.com Parsonage Phone: 217-394-2495 Office Phone: 217-394-2444 Church Office: 217-394-2444 churchoffice@stjohnsbuckley.com www.stjohnsbuckley.com						
9:00 Confirmation Worship w/communion 10:00 Fellowship 10:15 Bible Study/SS Teller #6		8:30 Community Bible Study—Legion 4:00 Track in Rantoul	8:30 Chapel - Pastor Minton 8:30 LWR Quilting 6:00 Adult Choir 7:00 Board of Ed.	1:00 Ladies Aid 6:00 Elders	6:00 Spring Concert	9:30 Track Meet @ Olympia 6:00 Worship w/communion
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
 10	Track ICAA County Meet—Watseka	Pastor Circuit Meeting 8:30 Community Bible Study—Legion 6:30 Athletic Banq 7:00 Trustees	Last day of PreK 4 8:30 LWR Quilting 6:30 Preschool Promotion @church	9:00 Ascension Chapel Service Last day of PreK 3 6:30 Ascension Worship		9:00 State Meet @ Concordia Univ. 6:00 Worship
9:00 Worship w/comm 10:00 Fellowship 10:15 Bible Study/SS Teller #7						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Sunday School Sing 9:00 Worship 10:15 Fellowship Last day of Sunday School Teller #8		8:30 Community Bible Study-Legion (Last Day) <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE </div>	Last Day of School Early Out Chapel - Mrs. Dippel 8:30 LWR Quilting (Last day) 6:00 Adult Choir	7:00 8th grade Graduation	5:00 Music Comm.	6:00 Worship w/communion
9:00 Worship w/comm Teller #9 24	 25	5:00 Evangelism/ Stewardship Mtg.	26	27	28	29
9:00 Worship w/comm Teller #10 31	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> Offices Closed </div>					6:00 Worship 30



St. John's Lutheran Church
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