

St. John's Journal

Volume 43, Issue 4

FROM DEATH TO LIFE

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As we look forward to Holy Week this month, we are mindful that, among other things, it is a journey from death to life. In our hearing of the Scriptures we follow our Lord Jesus from the Garden, where He is betrayed; to the judgment hall, where He endures an unjust hearing, scourging, mocking, and beating; to Golgotha, where He is crucified and dies; and to the tomb, where He is laid to rest in the cold grip of death.

But death could not hold Him! Its grim grip was not strong enough. Through our ears we journey to that same tomb on the third day and find that our Lord has risen from the dead and exited the tomb! Jesus Christ has journeyed from death to life!

As His disciples, we follow Him. Our daily experience as Christians is a journey from death to life. The apostle Paul speaks of this in the appointed Epistle for Easter Sunday this year, Colossians 3:1-4. He tells us of the *death* part when he writes, "For you have died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God." (3:3) In our Baptism we died with Christ – died to sin. So now, as Christians, we, whose lives are intimately connected to His, no longer desire to live in sin. We desire to walk in newness of life. This is why the apostle continues in verse 5, "Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly (sinful) nature."

Paul tells us of the *life* part when he writes, "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God." (3:1) Since we have received new spiritual life in Christ, we seek to set our thoughts, words, and actions on heavenly, Christ-like things – things that befit the living.

This is what we confess in our Small Catechism, where Luther explains the significance of baptizing with water: "It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever." Our experience as disciples of Jesus is to be a daily journey from death to life through repentance – from the old dead ways of the sinful flesh to the new living ways of God.

In this same text from Colossians the apostle Paul also reminds us of our ultimate journey from death to life. He writes at verse 4, "When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory." This, of course, refers to the day of His second coming, the day of the great resurrection of all the dead.

For the large majority of Christians, Christ will appear on that day after they have already died – after their bodies have experienced physical death. Yet on that day, all who have died in the Lord, trusting in Jesus for their salvation, will be raised bodily from the dead to appear with Him in glorious, everlasting life! What a journey from death to life that will be! And this wondrous journey is guaranteed for all His believers by Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection!

May the Lord strengthen you all in this journey, during Holy Week and throughout your days, that we may join Him in the everlasting life of the glorious world to come!

- Pastor Bishop



Christian Education

Sunday School

Perfect Attendance

February 2017

Fifth Grade

Zach Webb

Eighth Grade

Zane Dobbelaire

Sydney Webb

High School

Quest Dobbelaire

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

April

02
Jeff & Leslie Norman

April 05
Joe & Trina Szadkowski

April 09
Ken & LaDonna Memken

April 10
Greg & Wendy McDonald

April 13
Eric & Paula Jensen

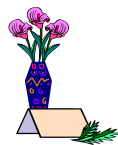
April 17
John & Althea Geiser

April 18
Jacob & Sarah Adkins

April 19
John & Ronda Adkins
Ed & Iris Gaitros
Tim & Sandy Gay

April 21
Robert & Shirley Williamson

April 25
Don & Valerie Dobbelaire



April 30
Dan & Florence McClure

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



April 01
Randall Couch
Daniel Rees

April 02
Brittany Allen
Randi Becker
Edward Gaitros

April 03
David Drockelman
Iris Gaitros
Gregory Hall

April 04
Lindsey Dixon
Carter Stevenson

April 07
Lillian Daniels
Florence McClure

April 08
Darrell Hansen
Daniel Watson

April 09
Edyn Kammeyer
Jackie Nauth
Alicia Turner

April 10
Christal Dagit
Mary Hall
Julie Hauter

April 11
Logan Schoch
Dane Watson

April 12
George Mason

April 13
Jeffery Norman

April 15
Mark Scott
Michael Wagner

April 16
Dawn Bohannon
Jonathan Bolt



April 17
Alex Schmidgall

April 18
Linda Norman

April 19
Kelen McDaniels
Mark Reeder

April 20
Cathryn Ashbaker
Rebecca Miller

April 21
David Becker
Kevin Dupent
Addison Nelson

April 22
James Buster
Michelle Gregory

April 23
Daniel Dobbelaire
Lois Jarvis
Bethany Miller

April 24
Lucille Benker
Peg Booe
Ray Garber
Drew Jackson
Shirley McCoige
Paul Tackmann

April 25
Kingston Hamlet
Kathryn Heisel

April 26
William Wiker III

April 27
Christopher Ashbaker

April 28
Elaine Hapke
Andrea Yergler

April 29
Christopher Bitner
Mikayla Wilson

April 30
Jonathan Becker
Diane Fornoff
Amy Swibold
Eric Thompson

PARISH NOTES

Church Attendance

Feb 2017 **739** 12 services
 Feb 2016 **872** 15 services
 Feb 2015 **861** 13 services

Sunday School Attendance

Feb 2017: **521**
 Feb 2016: **519**
 Feb 2015: **461**

Videographers - April

Ray Barnes

Worship Committee - April

Melissa Hoyle

April Communion Assistance

April 2

8:00 a.m. Dan Rees
 10:30 a.m. Joe Szadkowski

April 13

7:00 p.m. Rod Bollinger

April 16

7:00 a.m. Dave Drockelman
 10:30 a.m. Steve Depew

Acolytes—April

April 2

8:00 a.m. Zane Dobbelaire
 10:30 a.m. Cailin Wilson

April 5

7:00 p.m. Sydney Webb

April 9

8:00 a.m. Sydney Webb
 10:30 a.m. Audrey Driskell

April 13 - Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m. Kethry Whitlatch

April 14 - Good Friday

7:00 p.m. Cailin Wilson

April 16

7:00 a.m. Kethry Whitlatch
 10:30 a.m. Cooper Theleritis

April 23

8:00 a.m. Lainey Jensen
 10:30 a.m. Daden Ruder

April 30

8:00 a.m. Zane Dobbelaire
 10:30 a.m. Cailin Wilson

Changes to Church Directory

New Member.

Daniel Jones, 2705 Persimmon St.,
 Pekin, 347-5717

Change of Address:

Eric & Amanda (Tennell) Ferguson,
 5522 N. Ramblewood Ct., Peoria

Bob & Maxine Oliverius, 600
 McLean St., Pekin

We are working on updating our church directory. Please let the office know of any address changes for yourself or someone in your family. You can reach us at 347-2136 or email: stjohsec@grics.net. Thank you.

Ushers - April

8:00 10:30

Dave Drockelman	Carl Cox
Jim Lonergan	Brian Ford
Jim Widby	Nate Ford
Merle Wiseman	Brian Unbach

USHERS ARE NEEDED: Please contact Mike Nauth at 369-3031 if you would like to help out.

Transferred To The Church Triumphant

Mary Jane Sipka
 May 17, 1926
 March 3, 2017

Nola Jean Berger
 February 15, 1924
 March 17, 2017

TREASURER'S REPORT

February 2017

	<u>February</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>
INCOME	25,137.86	57,294.09
EXPENSES	45,124.90	76,509.41
INCOME-EXPENSES	(19,897.04)	(19,215.32)

LIABILITIES

Note Payable	136,655.57
Payroll Liabilities	1,871.66
Misc LCMS Orgs Fund	99.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	138,626.23

General Fund	(46,293.53)
Schwab Cash Account	0.02
Cat Stock at FMV	77,231.34
Pekin Life Ins. Stock	10,824.00
General Fund Total	41,761.83

Ed Grant Fund Checking	4,726.56
Ed Grant Fund CD #1	102,752.96
Ed Grant Fund #2-Vanguard	67,392.48
Educational Fund Total	174,872.00

East Bluff Property-Vanguard	92,690.63
East Bluff Property Fund CD	106,530.01
East Bluff Property Fund	199,220.64

Building Fund Checking	26,626.30
S.S. Fund Checking	9,251.78
Memorial Fund Checking	32,238.60

TOTAL ASSETS **\$483,971.15**

Checking Account Balance 26,549.71

FUND BALANCE

Building Improvements	(299,680.34)
Net Income (Loss)	(15,477.95)
Capital Accounts	660,503.21
TOTAL FUND BALANCE,	345,344.92

TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE **\$483,971.15**

FINANCIAL SECRETARIES ARE NEEDED to help count money received during the services. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the church office at 347-2136.

THANK YOU

**HI-LITES OF ST. JOHN'S VOTERS ASSEMBLY
March 13, 2017**

President Tom Ivey called the meeting to order. Due to the absence of a quorum, no official business was conducted. Pastor Bishop opened with devotions.

There were no additions or corrections to the February 13, 2017 minutes.

Treasurer's Report – Nancy Drockelman presented the February 2017 Treasurer's Report. She noted that the invoice for \$13,195 for the new air conditioning installed last summer was received and paid in February.

Board of Trustees – Dave Kesselmayer reported that the roof top units for the Educational wing were both repaired, with one unit needing an ignition module and the other unit needing gas pressure.

The clean-up day held on Saturday, February 18, was a success. Thanks to all who helped. Another workday is being scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on April 22.

There are pictures in the New Addition that show the areas that the church would like to landscape as well as some of the plants that are needed. Anyone wishing to donate towards this project, please contact either Kathy Heisel, Dave Kesselmayer, or Cheryl Ivey.

Board of Elders – Dave Drockelman reported that additional information will be coming on plans for a church dinner commemorating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

Board of Finance – No report.

Board of Christian Education – John Gillespie reported that the Youth Group's February activity was wacky games with tacos afterwards. Six youth and 3 adults attended. The March activity on the 19th will be a film and discussion with a popcorn bar. The Youth Group will host the Lenten dinner on March 22.

The Sunday School superintendents recommended revising the curriculum for the summer using materials from Northwest Publishing House. Sunday School attendance is up for the children and adult classes.

The Drive and Dine Tenderloin Tuesday sold out and March and April dining events will be announced.

Board of Worship – Nothing to report.

Board of Evangelism – No report.

Board of Stewardship – This Board met tonight and will distribute food this Sunday. Request for fruits have been met.

Long Range Planning Committee – This Committee will meet after the Voter's Meeting tonight.

Educational Grant Fund Committee – No report.

East Bluff Property Committee – No report.

Constitutional Review Committee – No report.

Unfinished Business – No report.

New Business – No report.

A motion was made by Bob Oliverius, seconded by Gary Pool, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Cheryl Ivey
Secretary

**LENT AND
HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

Wednesday, April 5, 7:00 p.m.
Lenten Vespers

Thursday, April 13, 7:00 p.m.
Maundy Thursday Communion

Friday, April 14, 12:00 noon & 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday services

Sunday, April 16, **7:00** & 10:30 a.m.
Easter Festival Communion services

Easter breakfast will be served between the services in the gym, beginning at 8:30

EASTER LILLIES

If you would like to provide an Easter Lily for our Easter services, please call Deanna Bishop at 382-1106 or Jackie Nauth at 642-5336 by April 2. Cost of the lilies this year is \$10.00. Checks payable to Artistic Flowers.



LIBRARY CORNER

By Eileen Tiona



Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

We have purchased 3 new books for the library.

"Angels Walking" Book 1, by Karen Kingsbury

"Chasing Sunsets" Book 2, by Karen Kingsbury

"Brush of Wings" Book 3, by Karen Kingsbury

I'm sure you will enjoy these books, so please come in and check them out and also the other books that are available. The books are located in FIC K section in the library.

ST. JOHN'S LANDSCAPING

There is a poster board in the new addition with a picture of the areas we would like to landscape. Pictured also are the plants we would like to purchase. If you would like to donate towards this, please contact Kathy Heisel 346-7066, Cheryl Ivey 347-1504 or Dave Kesselmayer 857-5026.

Thank you.

CONCORDIA CHOIR

The internationally renowned **Christus Chorus** of Concordia University, St. Paul, Minnesota, will be performing at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1822 E. Lincoln, Bloomington on Saturday, April 8 at 7:00 p.m.

The choir's concert, "A More Excellent Way," proclaims the richness of God's love through a wide variety of musical styles, from classical to spirituals, gospel to contemporary, hymns to film scores.

This concert is a unique opportunity to enjoy a time of uplifting music. The performance is open to the public. Feel free to invite friends! A freewill offering will be gathered to support the choir's music ministry.

Contact person is Judy Vasel, Adult Choir Director - 309-664-0921 or mjvasel5@gmail.com - if you have questions or would like more information.

ORGANIZATIONS

FELLOWSHIP CLUB

By Veva Martin

St. John's Fellowship Club will be meeting Saturday, April 8, 2017, at 6:30 pm

The Chime Stokers Hand Chime Choir will be returning! This choir is composed of people who have had a stroke. The group was officially formed in January 2011 and have continued to rehearse and perform at various locations in the Peoria area, including OSF Hospital, Senior Olympics, churches, business groups, and nursing homes. We invite members of the congregation to come and enjoy this performance and give support to this great group.

Following the choir's program, we will be having a Birthday Party for "YOU"!!

LADIES' GUILD

By Jackie Nauth

All ladies of the congregation are welcome to attend our next meeting, which will be held on Thursday, April 27, 2017 in the church basement.

Deb Lakamp (chairperson) and Trina Szadkowski will be hosting a baby shower to benefit Living Alternatives Pregnancy Resource Center in Pekin. The center is in particular need of size 2 - 3 diapers, wipes, and baby toiletry items. They would also appreciate bottles, pacifiers, blankets, and new or gently used clothing. We will also gladly accept donations from the congregation.

Please join us for this fun evening as we look through adorable baby items!

YOUTH GROUP

Our Youth Group will assist with the Easter breakfast after the 7:00 a.m. Easter Festival Communion service.

In May the Youth Group will help senior members of the congregation with spring cleanup and other helpful chores. So watch for the date and contact us if you would like help with yard work, etc.

**Spring
Cleaning**

The Church Mouse located at 600 West Main Street, Peoria is looking for volunteers. Do you have a few hours to spare per month? Contact one of the store managers, Rickey Anderson or Shirley Lewis at (309) 673-2363.

Is it time to do some spring cleaning? The Church Mouse would gladly welcome your used clothing, shoes, toys, books, bedding, kitchen supplies, furniture, etc. They cannot accept televisions or children car seats. Items can be brought to the rear entrance Tuesday thru Saturday from 10 am to 3 pm. If the items you have are *larger* than you are able to transport, The Church Mouse does offer pickups to residences. Contact Judy Huff (309) 697-6151.

The proceeds made at The Church Mouse are split between the needs of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois and Lutheran Hillside Village. In 2016, LWGP was able to give close to \$19,000 to LSSI as they provide services to assist Peoria area adults and children. In 2016, LWGP purchased items to be used by the residents and/or the employees of LHV that totaled close to \$21,000.

With your help, we are making a significant difference in the lives of the people of central Illinois. *May the LORD smile upon you today as you consider donating your gently used items or your time.*

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CEF SPECIAL: The Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund (CID CEF) is pleased to announce a short-term special offer. Beginning this month CEF will offer a 24-month Investment Certificate with an annual rate of 1.25% paid semi-annually. This special offer will no longer be available after September 30, 2017. The minimum investment will be \$1,000 and must be a new investment. Early withdrawal penalties will apply. Please contact Dave or Susan for more information at 217-793-1802 or go to www.cidlcms.org link to Church Extension Fund and download the investment form.

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EASTER DINNER

Pekin Township will be serving Easter dinner to anyone who would enjoy a meal. We will also do home delivery **only** to shut-ins and handicapped. If you know of anyone who would like a meal, please tell them about the Easter dinner.

Where: Pekin Township
420 Elizabeth St.
When: Friday, April 14, 2017
11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
For home delivery call: 346-3194.

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The **CAMP CILCA SPRING WORK DAY** is Saturday, April 1, 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. Lunch will be provided. Work includes cleaning cabins, raking leaves, picking up branches, moving picnic tables, landscaping, and light construction. See you there!

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 April are
Mary Jane Draves, 2501 Allentown Rd., Rm 124, Pekin, IL 61554;
Mary Dupent, 1405 Southmoor, Pekin, IL 61554;
Dale Ehmke, 900 Ann Eliza, Pekin, IL 61554 &
Stanley Ehmke, 2220 State St., Rm. C210, Pekin, IL 61554

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

My sincere gratitude to all you fine people who helped me celebrate my 90th birthday by attending my open house or with gifts and kind wishes. God bless each of you.

Pastor K.



To my dear friends and Pastor Bishop at my church home, St. John's. Oh my! how do I begin, the love, prayers, cards, messages and visits I have received have been very much appreciated. I cherish my many cards reminding me of the wonderful peace in knowing my Lord is always there watching over me with boundless love and keeping not only me but all of us in his constant care. May God be before you, behind you and all around you everywhere you go not only today but always. I know I can be assured of your constant support as my family and I endeavor to conquer the next phase of treatment. In Christ, my love,

Maxine Oliverius

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

Received thank you notes from Concordia Seminary in Ft. Wayne and Lutheran World Relief for our donations to them.

Received a thank you letter from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis for our donation.

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

GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

April 6th – K-5th Musical “Not Your Average Joe” at 10 am and 6:30 pm.

April 10th -17th - Easter break

April 18th @ 630 pm School Board Meeting.

April 23rd - K-8 Singing at Trinity’s 10:45 am service.

Please save the date May 5th, GSLS will be having their School Carnival that day. GSLS is looking for a donation of a Grill for the Carnival to raffle off along with other BBQ/grilling items. Raffle would be \$5.00.

TRUSTEES WORKDAY

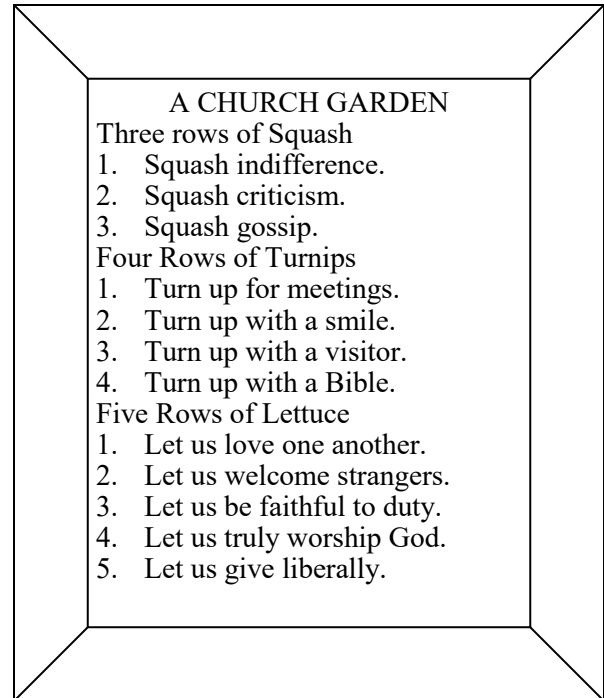
The Trustees are planning another work day on Saturday, April 22, beginning at 8:00 a.m. If anyone would like to come and help, it would be deeply appreciated.

St. Francis of Assisi was hoeing his garden when someone asked what he would do if he were suddenly to learn that he would die before sunset. “I would finish hoeing my garden.” he replied.

Christ is our Peace; the sins of YESTERDAY
By His most precious blood are washed away.

Christ is our Life; the trials of TODAY
He bears for us who walked life’s toilsome way.

Christ is our Hope; the FUTURE all unknown
Is in His care who watches from the throne.



“Engaging the Wandering”
 Saturday, April 22—9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 St. John’s (Sand Prairie) Lutheran Church
 13443 Townline Road
 Green Valley, IL 61534

An often ignored people in desperate need of outreach is the group often referred to as inactives or delinquents who need to hear the Word of God and be brought to the fellowship of the Body of Christ.

The problem many encounter with this group, especially in rural congregations, is that we know them so well. They are our relatives, neighbors and/or friends. But because they are so “close” to us, we aren’t comfortable bringing up the elephant in the room. Some churches either do nothing or make the misguided attempt at restoration through a Law-oriented letter. Neither of these approaches is a good option.

Find out how to support, invite, encourage, and reach out to these people in love and come to “Engaging the Wandering” a workshop led by Rev. Todd Kolbaum, Director of LCMS Rural and Small Town Mission. The cost is \$25 which includes lunch and will be held at St. John’s (Sand Prairie).

See bulletin board in gym for break-down of day . You can register on online at: www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventId=1952622

2017 FLOWER CALENDAR

The flower chart for 2017 still has some spots open for this year. Please check to see if there is a date you would like to reserve. Thank you.

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 | Dale Schott |
| Tom Street | Maxine Olivierius |
| Mike Ferguson | Sonny Mack |
| Joe Nizzia | Rose Turner |
| Rhonda Zimmerman | Rosemary Peacock |
| Aron Tucker | Ed Knussman |
| Lori Burton | |



HOSPITALIZATIONS AND HOME COMMUNION VISITS

If you or someone from your family is hospitalized or scheduled to go into the hospital, please contact the church office, so that Pastor Bishop knows about it and can visit you in the hospital. The hospitals do not contact us. Sandy calls the Peoria hospitals on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays to find out if there are any St. John’s members there. If you tell them when you are admitted that you are a St. John’s member, you will likely be on their list, and we can usually find out. Pekin Hospital does not give us this information. So please help us stay informed so Pastor can serve you.

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

Thank you for your help with this.

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ST. JOHN’S LADIES GUILD

is planning a special meal to honor our senior members age 75 and greater. It will be held after the second service on April 30, 2017. We invite all members age 75 or greater and their spouse or guest to attend.

Please RSVP to Leslie Hauk (309) 265-2759 by April 15.

#####

CHRISTIAN CIVIC OUTREACH

is in the need of formula, cereal, summer clothing and shoes.

CCO is in need of new Board members. They meet 10 times a year from 5:30 - 6:30 (no meetings in July and December and one annual fund raising event at the Mari-gold Festival.

(Address Service Requested)

Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 259

Matt.12:29-40

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

Sign of Jonah

BELLY	ACCOUNT
BRINGS	AGAINST
BROOD	ANSWERED
CARRY	ANYONE
DAYS	ANYTHING
EARTH	CARELESS
EITHER	FORGIVEN
EVERY	GATHER
EXCEPT	JUDGMENT
FRUIT	OVERFLOW
JONAH	PHARISEES
MOUTH	PROPHET
SPEAKS	SPOKEN
SPIRIT	STORED
UNLESS	STRONG
VIPERS	TEACHER
WICKED	SCATTERS

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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