


THE PULSE BEAT



Volume 45, Number 6

August 2020

A Word from the Pastor

Welcome to the month of August! It feels like much more time has gone by, since the year 2020 began than only 8 months, where we have reached the 2nd half of this year's summer!

But here we are! We find ourselves in the midst of an election year, which includes a new reality we must live with called Corona virus, or Covid - 19. This pandemic has dominated our plans and actions as a nation, as well as causing plenty of human devastation with severe illness and unfortunately, a mounting death toll.

It is also a year where all kinds of people you probably would not expect to, are rising up as allies against entrenched racial injustice, in our nation, and throughout the world!

This new reality of course, is not what we expected when the new year dawned! Yet as Christians, followers of Christ, we are also people who do not give in to despair or darkness, since we happen to be people of faith.

And the good thing about faith in the midst of these times, is its sustaining quality. Faith has a lasting endurance, because it is not based on human ingenuity. Faith does not depend on how good we are at being faithful --- never did! Faith does not depend on us, but on the God we worship!

Faith, belief, or better yet - TRUST, is not based on amounts that can be measured, like recipe ingredients, according to Jesus.

With this summer focusing on several parables of Jesus, in the gospel readings, we are reminded that Jesus told us, the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, which begins as a very tiny seed. So it is very easy to underestimate the power of what this seed (God's kingdom) God's reign or rule, that is --- God's activity in the world ---can do! God is still shaping the world according to God's purposes, and before you know it, the tiny mustard seed of God's activity, grows into a great bush, of God-like happenings in our world!

In this way we would do well to recall, in spite of our fears, that the book of Revelation has a message for us, saying: ***"The kingdom of the world, has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign forever and ever."*** (Rev. 11:15) God is still working in the world, to bring about "new creation," and resurrection --- yes, even now!

And getting back to the connection with the mustard seed parable, where God's presence, God's Spirit in the world, begins as a very small seed. But that seed of God's work, can grow into the greatest bush! And the mustard bush of God's kingdom can catch people by surprise, with the *love, mercy, peace, generosity, justice, renewal, forgiveness, & eternal life, which comes only from God!*

Jesus' disciples, in a time when they are fearful, ask him to: "Increase our faith!" They say. He answers: **"If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, jump into the sea, & it would obey you."**

Or in the wonderful Eugene Peterson translation "The Message," Jesus replies: ***"You don't need more faith. There is no 'more' or 'less' in faith. If you have a bare kernel of faith, say the size of a poppy seed, you could say to this sycamore tree, 'Go jump in the lake,' and it would do it."*** (Luke 17:5-6)

Jesus is not ridiculing the faith, or the character of the disciples, or of us, as inadequate. He's saying any faith at all matters! Any faith trusting God is real and active, and believing that God cares about ALL of humanity and the created world; such faith will endure through life's challenges, in the darkness & in the light. Even here, & even now! Therefore, may our God grant us, our nation, & world, & church, the genuine faith in God, through the Holy Spirit, to see us through!

Peace, & Blessings, this 2nd half of the summer! *Pastor Jim*

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Have you watched “Hamilton” yet? “The World Turned Upside Down” - it was the song played by the British at their surrender at the Battle of Yorktown, and what pretty much sums up most of our lives right now.

A lot of people think 2020 just needs a restart – a redo of sorts. It’s hard to miss the news on the COVID virus – it’s on the news daily and spread across social media. The hope was that it would be under control by this time, but new cases are still climbing. While there is good news in some locations – less hospitalizations and fewer deaths – other locations see just the opposite.

The death of George Floyd has also driven a wedge through the middle of our country. Regardless of your feelings on the Black Lives Matter movement, it has become glaringly obvious that our country has drawn lines, and peaceful protesting has become convoluted with rioting and violence.

Add onto that the upcoming election, which in a normal year can be a picture of finger pointing and ugliness, and a wicked storm is brewing.

Now more than ever is the time that we need to get comfortable being uncomfortable in having difficult conversations. We as a church family have an obligation to our community to love and to listen. Because in the middle of this, it seems that our society has forgotten to be a loving community. It seems that there has become an “if you’re not with us, you’re against us” mentality. People refuse to respectfully listen to each other’s viewpoints or opinions, thinking that their view is “right” and anything opposing it is wrong.” And we’ve become a very judgmental society. I recently interjected myself into a Facebook conversation about mask wearing. While everyone who does not wear a mask out in public doesn’t have a medical reason for not wearing one, is it fair for us to judge them when we do not know their situation? Personally I don’t think so, and respectfully voiced that opinion. Unfortunately, the backlash I received for that comment was less than kind. We are taught in Matthew 7:1-2 “Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

I feel that it’s a huge problem when a 15 year old boy who grew up in Port Washington cannot get up and talk to a crowd about what it’s like growing up as a child of color in a very Caucasian city, without bullying from a small amount of people in the crowd. But it’s just as big of a problem when a woman in that crowd is called out as a racist because she’s standing with the police and watching the BLM parade with her children to help them to learn something, but is not participating in it. I’m sad that’s the society we are living in right now. I’ve lived in Ozaukee County for most of my life, and I believe it’s not racism we are seeing, as much as a lack of education. Don’t get me wrong - there are racists everywhere, and they are by no means absent here. But education is a huge struggle that needs addressing. I read a comment that protests are supposed to be “disruptive.” I believe that is only partly true. They need to be instructive, and thought provoking. You cannot educate someone by just being disruptive – there needs to be teaching moments so learning can be involved. Maybe we need to listen to 1 Peter 3:8 – “Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.”

I’ve seen talk about this being the end of days – Armageddon. I don’t think I believe that. Our world will right itself – but we need to be a part of the solution. We need to love and respect one another. We need to be kind to each other. I think we all learned the “golden rule” as children – “Do to others as you would have them do to you.” Luke 6:31. I’m happy to have a conversation with anyone about any of this, and I’m committed to listening with love. Upside down won’t last forever.

Peace to you all,
Sandy

GENERAL INTEREST NEWS

Pastor James O'Reilly-Christensen

Office hours: Monday – Thursday,
9:00 am – 2:00 pm
920 988-9059 (Cell)

E-mail: stjohnpastor1@hotmail.com

Office Manager: Robin Fatla

Church office hours: Monday – Friday,
9:00 am – 1:00 pm
262-377-0410

E-mail: stjohnsecretary@hotmail.com

FaceBook: St. John Lutheran Church-
Grafton, WI

Congregation President – Sandy Allen

Vice President – Robin Fatla

Secretary – Sheila Kapke

Treasurer – Peter Viesselmann

Church Council:

Dennis Jaeger – Worship

Donna Dowe – Education

Audrey Crowell – Stewardship

Robin Fatla – Evangelism

OPEN - Finance

Joe Porth – Property & Grounds

Sharlene Sandquist - Public Relations

Dennis Heusdens - Youth

Harold Immekus - at large

Jane Turowski - Financial Secretary

Organist Paula Juedes

St. John Choir Director Anita Misun

Glory Ringers Director Dale Allen

Flutist Sandy Allen

Newsletter staff:

Robin Fatla & Sheila Kapke

Newspaper Deadline:

Articles due by the 3rd Sunday of each month.

Church Phone Numbers:

Office: 262-377-0410 Fax: 262-377-0410

Pastor: 920 988-9059

E-Mail: (office) stjohnsecretary@hotmail.com
(pastor) stjohnpastor1@hotmail.com

FaceBook: St. John Lutheran Church-
Grafton, WI

Worship Assistants for August:

Lectors:

2 - Borgne McClelland

9 - Robert McClelland

16 - Judy McMullin

23 - Sharlene Sandquist

30 - Suzette Travis

If you do not feel comfortable yet to attend worship in person and fill this position, please contact Robin in the church office.

Altar bouquets:

2 - Evie Tetzlaff

2 - OPEN

9 - Randy & Catherine Tetzlaff (2)

16 - Sue Ellen Nelsen

16 - Judy McMullin

23 - OPEN

23 - OPEN

30 - Carol Butt (2)

We keep in our prayers: Barb Beckner (friend of Judy McMullin), Clarice Buchholz (Mary Jaeger's mother), Anna Bullio (great-granddaughter of Florence Van Cleave), Mark Bullio (Florence Van Cleave grandson-in-law), Chris Capelle (friend of Kay Freyer), Emily Carney (friend of Kylene Wright), Jenny Zarlign Caesar (goddaughter of Marian Witte), Cathy Collins (Florence Van Cleave's daughter), Frank DeGaetano (Borgne McClelland's brother-in-law), Roger Faretra (Doug's brother), Audrey Fischer (sister of Monica Faretra & Donna Dowe), Brian Gadzialinski (Suzette Travis' son), Sue Larson (cousin of Kay Freyer), Jerry Litvinoff (Jim's brother), Rosemary Litvinoff (Jim's mother), Ken Matthews (Kayla Matthews' father-in-law), Joanne McClelland (Robert McClelland's sister-in-law), Ann & Ed (Anita Misun's family members), Sue Ellen Nelsen, Gerri Noack (friend of Florence Van Cleave), Sandy & Tom Nyenhuis (friends of Audrey Crowell), Nellie Padilla (Sugeily Garcia's mother), Sugeily Pineiro-Garcia, Eric & Karen Rautenberg (Sue Dowe's mother and step-father), Kelly Robinson (friend of Don Burhop), Tom Rogahn, Ginny Scarborough (sister of Jackie Rogahn), Harry Seaman (friend of Kay Freyer), Crystal Trinastic (niece of Carole & Jim Litvinoff), Suzette Travis, Ann Wissmueller (Robin Fatla's sister-in-law), Kylene Wright **Military personnel:** Kenn Matthews, Lisa & Jared Nelson, Kyle Christenson, Andy David, Cooper Hunt, Amber Martin **"Home away from home" members:** Jeanine Burhop (sister of the late Marilyn Speranza) – Lasata; Tim McClosky & John Clasen – at home with sister Merry Lou Green

STEWARDSHIP

A Faithful Steward

Recently in our church an Internal Revenue agent stood up to give a testimony. He described how a great change had come into his life. He told about coming across the tax returns of a man who had an income of less than five thousand dollars a year, but who listed a contribution to his church of \$625.

This agent went to the young man's humble cottage and knocked on the door. When the man came to the door, the agent said he had come to talk about his tax return. He said he expected the man to squirm and tremble; but instead, the man welcomed the agent. The agent then questioned the man about his salary of less than five thousand dollars and the contribution of \$625 to his church. There was no flustering or hesitant excuse; he just looked the agent in the eye and said that it was his tithe and a small offering that he gave to the Lord. The agent asked for receipts as proof. The young man was able to produce them from the drawer where he kept his church envelopes.

The agent admitted that everything was correct, apologized, and was about to leave when the man invited him to attend his church. The agent thanked him and said, "I belong to a church already." Then the young man said, "Excuse me, sir, but somehow that possibility had not occurred to me."

As he drove away, he said the last sentence of that young man stayed in his mind: "Excuse me, sir, but somehow that possibility had not occurred to me." What did he mean? He did not understand it until the following Sunday morning when the offering plate passed before him and he dropped in his usual quarter. He couldn't help but think of that young man who worked with his hands as a day laborer and made less than five thousand dollars a year, yet he had dedicated to God a tenth and had added a love offering besides.

It is a part of my adoration, and my worship, and my praise, and my gratitude, and my thanksgiving when I come before God with an offering in my hand. And it shall be worthy. I will not give Him the leftovers, that which doth cost me nothing [2 Samuel 24:24].

Contributed by Audrey Crowell, Stewardship Team leader



St. John opened for in house worship again on July 5th. Attendance has been around 20 persons each week.

Worshippers are spaced out 6-10 feet, masks are required to be worn, and there is social gathering after the service outside the building.

It is wonderful to see old friends again and those not attending in person are missed.

There are several ways for members and non-members, to worship along on Sunday morning until feeling comfortable to return to the building.

The service continues to be shown on Facebook Live at 9:30 am at **St. John Lutheran Church - Grafton, WI.**

Our technical advisor, Sandy Allen, adds a link to the service, which you can find on our website **www.stjohngraffton.org**, or **St. John YouTube channel** shortly following the conclusion of the service.



If you do not have internet access, but would like to be closer to the actual service, you are welcome to sit in your car in the parking lot and listen on radio station 88.5 FM at 9:30 am also.

HOWEVER, the range of the signal is limited to the church parking lot. A hymnal, bulletin and communion elements can be brought out to you.





- 8/1 Debbi O'Reilly-Christensen
- 8/3 Randy Tetzlaff
- 8/8 Steve Tetzlaff
- 8/9 Hannah Levra
- 8/9 Joan Horsefield
- 8/9 James Allen
- 8/11 Jacob Liebergen
- 8/12 Jason Salger
- 8/21 Richard Viesselmann
- 8/25 Jasmine Williams
- 8/27 Josephine Matthews
- 8/28 Bob Butt
- 8/29 Ephraim Tetzlaff
- 8/29 Dana McMullin
- 8/29 Austin Heusdens

Please notify Church Office if we have missed someone. Thank you!



- 8/7/1999 Ivan & Sugeily Pineiro-Garcia
- 8/10/2019 Randy & Catherine Tetzlaff
- 8/18/1984 Jeff & Kelly Boelkow
- 8/20/1966 Dale & Kathy Reindl

Please notify Church Office if we have missed someone. Thank you!



RETIREMENT BLESSINGS

It is with sadness, but MUCH gratitude, that we wish our choir director, Anita Misun and our organist, Paula Juedes, God's blessings on their retirements.

Both ladies have faithfully served the Lord at St. John for many, many years and will truly be missed.

Paula will continue to be available on a very part time basis.

Thank you good and faithful servants!



MISUN, ANITA



JUEDES, PAULA



Each year, the Trust Fund makes a scheduled distribution of funds to the St. John Scholarship Fund. College students of the congregation are invited to apply for these funds each year. This year's recipients of \$500 scholarships and their schools are: **Rebecca**

Dowe - Carthage College, Kenosha, **Ivan Garcia** - UW-Milwaukee, **April Heusdens** - Lakeshore Technical College, Cleveland, WI, **Alex Mentzel** - UW-Whitewater, and **Rebecca Schauer** - St. Norbert College, De Pere, WI

GENERAL INTEREST NEWS



Oasis Healthcare

Convenient.CostEffective.Care.

July 10, 2020

Dear Business Owner:

Oasis Healthcare is a new walk-in clinic in Grafton, WI dedicated to providing convenient access to quality healthcare with fair and transparent pricing. Oasis is owned and operated by Laura McKinnis, Nurse Practitioner, with 20 years emergency medicine and urgent care experience. We are excited to offer care to patients starting August, 2020. We are located at 1505 Wisconsin Ave. Suite 150 next door to Fiddleheads.

We are offering a special plan to small business owners. As a new business owner I understand how daunting it can be to offer healthcare to employees. Oasis offers a plan to provide up to 5 visits at Oasis Healthcare per employee for a cost of \$1500 per employee. These 5 visits could be used by the employee OR their family members. These visits could be used for adult or child sick visits, well exams, vaccinations, school physicals, or acute injuries.

If you or your employees struggle to access care due to cost or lack of insurance, we are here to care for you. Find out more at oasishealthcare.net

Sincerely,

Laura McKinnis, APNP
lmckinnis@oasishealthcare.net
262-731-0964

**History will remember when the world stopped
And the flights stayed on the ground.
And the cars parked in the street.
And the trains didn't run.**

**History will remember when the schools closed
And the children stayed indoors
And the medical staff walked towards the fire
And they didn't run.**

**History will remember when the people sang
On their balconies, in isolation
But so very much together
In courage and song.**

**History will remember when the people fought
For their old and their weak
Protected the vulnerable
By doing nothing at all.**

**History will remember when the virus left
And the houses opened
And the people came out
And hugged and kissed
And started again**

Kinder than before.

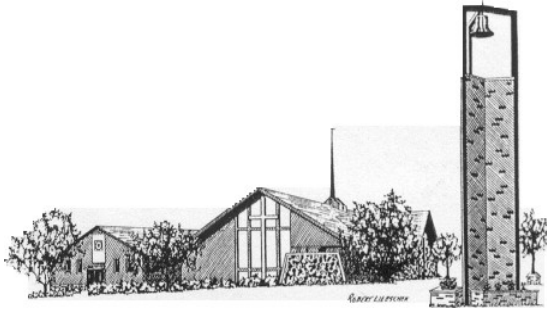
Donna Ashworth

August 2020 Pulse Beat

St. John Lutheran Church

"In God's Word, Serving You and the World"

1193 Lakefield Road
Grafton, WI 53024
Address Service Requested



IT IS OUR MISSION as people called by God into the Congregation of St. John Lutheran Church to:

- Proclaim the Gospel in worship and daily life.
- Study and teach God's Word.
- Fellowship among people of this congregation.
- Serve people in our surrounding community.

This is the **MISSION** and **MINISTRY** that we accept as fellow Christians at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lakefield.

"Faithfully Serving Christ Since 1866"

Worship Schedule

- Sunday Morning - 9:30 a.m.
- Education hour - 11:00 a.m.



We may not be having our annual outdoor worship service in our Peace Garden this summer, but we will still have our ice cream social for a brief re-connection with our friends!

DRIVE - UP ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Sunday, August 16

Following the service - approximately 10:15

Whether you attend the service in the building, the parking lot - on radio station 88.5 FM, or at home via the internet, ice cream will be served until 11:00.

Just drive up and someone will take your order and bring your treats to your car. Gloves and masks will be worn by the servers.