
 THE PULSE BEAT 

Volume 46, Number 1

January/February 2021

A Word from the Pastor

Welcome to the new year of 2021! Most everyone is hoping for a much needed better year than the one we are just concluding! That is, everybody who has made it through intact. And mere survival, making it through the past 365 days is considered a victory, for those of us who are yet here! And surviving can be a gift of God's grace, no doubt! Certainly our prayers go out to the many who have suffered the loss of the ones they love during these trying days!

Yet, given all that has happened, including the deaths of so many people around the world, and in the U.S., due to the corona-virus, perhaps we are learning a God-given lesson in appreciation of the gift of life itself, the people around us, other human beings, and the world itself!

After all, the year just ending has brought health care, and the struggle against a deadly disease to the front of the priority lists. It has, to a large extent, made us re-think how we worship God, and the way we do "church" from here on in! By trusting in God, and yet, taking needed precautions on how to protect people, by not treating a serious disease like its nothing! And with the reality of a the new corona-virus vaccine, very soon available to all, we will be able to have a "new-normal" for our lives and our faith journey!

There has also been revealed in the heart of our nation, the importance of dealing with our history of racial injustice, and trying to make it right! Our nation is changing greatly demographically, and growing into a nation of many peoples, who want to have a say, and take part in planning for the future of the country.

And this past year we have had an election that has caused serious political differences, to rise to the surface, as they have not, in quite a long time. IN All of these concerns, people of faith have been involved. And so has our God! We simply need to listen for and respond to God's voice!

As we move into the new year, there is probably, a greater need for understanding God's will for us all, than before. We must wisely seek and call upon God to stir up the power of the Holy Spirit within and among us! Like St. Paul writes in Romans: ***"I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God --- what is good and acceptable and perfect."*** (Romans 12:1-2)

May we enter the new year, with "the mind of Christ," as much as possible, with a new sense of awareness, faith, and hope! Peace be with you, throughout 2021!

Pastor Jim

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. James 1:12

Wow! What a crazy year this has been! Happy New Year and Welcome to 2021! Many of us have bid a good riddance to 2020 – a year that provided us with many challenges and hurdles to overcome on many different fronts – as individuals, as family members, as Christians, as members of our church family. From COVID-19 to racial injustice to heated elections, we've been tested on many different fronts. While I'm not sad that 2020 is in my rearview mirror, I cannot say that the year has not been without its good moments.

Dale and I were able to count many blessings in 2020, including his retirement in April, our newest granddaughter, Mirabelle Virginia, born in September, breaking ground on a new addition to our house in October, and a Christmas trip to California in December to spend time with Kayla and her family. While the shutdown of the economy presented challenges of its own, the time at home gave Dale and I time to slow down our lives and regroup. We were able to spend time together that we have not been afforded in a very long time, and we embraced it.

Through this year the people of St. John have also learned more than ever that the church is the body and not the building. During the times our building was technically closed, or when our in person worship was suspended, we "gathered" in our own spaces to worship as the church, commune together, and show our love of God. We continued our outreach in a time when it was needed more than ever. Our quilters kept quilting, we provided meals for Family Promise, mission support and community donations, and neighbors helped their neighbors.

As faithful people we must believe that God will bring healing to his people in 2021. Our hope as a church must be to continue to expand our ministry, grow as a congregation and once again be afforded the opportunity to gather together. While it's been my privilege to provide worship opportunities to you during this time, I look forward to the time when we can all be together again.

Regardless of the challenges thrown at us during 2020, we moved forward, knowing that the trials of this Earth are just that. We need to be steadfast and set our minds not on what is here, but what is to come.

Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. Colossians 3:2

Hello 2021! We have high expectations for you!

Blessings to you all,
Sandy

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

Website: stjohngraffton.org

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 – Outreach (formerly Evangelism)

OPEN - Finance

Joe Porth – Property & Grounds

Sharlene Sandquist - Public Relations

Dennis Heusdens - Youth

Harold Immekus - at large

Jane Turowski - Financial Secretary

Organist

St. John Choir Director

Glory Ringers Director

Flutist

OPEN

OPEN

Dale Allen

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

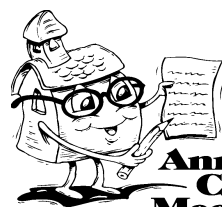
FaceBook: St. John Lutheran Church-Grafton, WI

GENERAL INTEREST NEWS



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), Adrian Buntrock (friend of Robin Fatla), Carol Butt, Chris Capelle (friend of Kay Freyer), Emily Carney (friend of Kylene Wright), Jenny Zarlina Caesar (goddaughter of Marian Witte), Cathy Collins (Florence Van Cleave's daughter), Amanda Combs (friend of Laura Christenson), Frank DeGaetano (Borgne McClelland's brother-in-law), Roger Faretra (Doug's brother), Amy Fischer (Robin Fatla's niece), Audrey Fischer (sister of Monica Faretra & Donna Dowe), Brian Gadzalinski (Suzette Travis' son), Shamir Garcia, Dave Gink (friend of Robin Fatla), Jamie & John Gustafson (friends of Audrey Crowell), Joellyn Hammond (daughter of Kay Freyer), George Lawver (great-grandson of Anita Misun), Joanne Levenick, Ken Matthews (Kayla Matthews' father-in-law), Joanne McClelland (Robert McClelland's sister-in-law), Ann & Ed (Anita Misun's family members), Chuck & Cary Mueller (friends of Glenn Sievers), Sue Ellen Nelsen, Gerri Noack (friend of Florence Van Cleave), Sandy Nyenhuis (friend of Audrey Crowell), Nellie Padilla (Sugeily Garcia's mother), Sugeily Pineiro-Garcia, Joe Porth, Gary Rand (brother of Carole Litvinoff), Eric & Karen Rautenberg (Sue Dowe's mother and step-father), Tom Rogahn, Ginny Scarborough (sister of Jackie Rogahn), Suzette Travis, Wendy Werner (Sandy Allen's sister-in-law), Kylene Wright **Military personnel:** Kenn Matthews, Jared Nelson, Kyle Christenson, Andy David, Cooper Hunt, **"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



Annual Church Meeting

The annual meeting of the congregation will be held on January 31st following the worship service. Current plans are to have an in person meeting with registration if you plan to attend. More details will be shared when they become available.



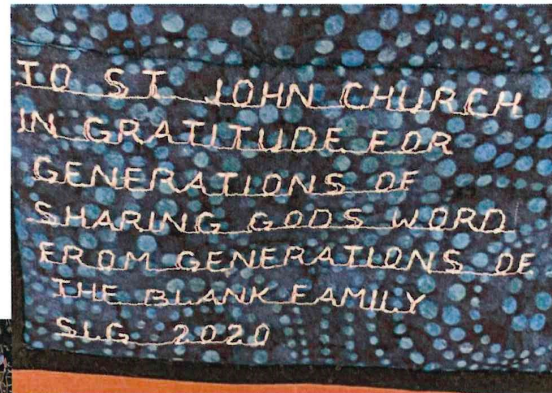
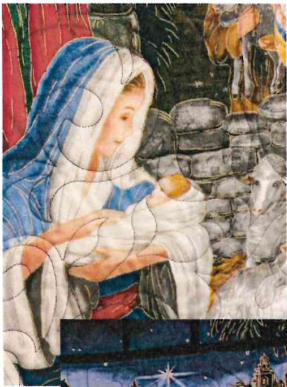
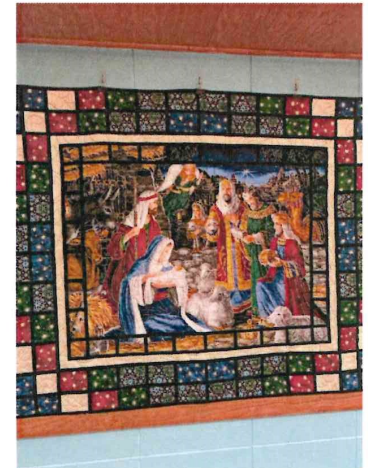
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Our prayers are for a MUCH better one. Right? Hopefully one where we will be able to gather together in safety and good health in the house of our Lord.

We miss seeing you and sure that you miss your church family. We remember you in prayer each Sunday – that you are staying healthy in mind, body, and spirit.

I thought I would share some pictures of our beautiful sanctuary and some of a beautiful Nativity quilt made for and presented to us by Sandy Granrath, Dennis Jaeger's sister and a former member of St. John.

My cell phone pictures do not do either justice, so soon you will be able to view the workmanship and beauty of the quilt at least, in person. It is hanging on the Welcome Wall in the front entry. Unfortunately, Christmas decorations will be long gone, but they are as wonderful as ever!



We hope to see you very soon. In the meantime, may God bless us all with health and happiness in the new year. If you need anything, don't hesitate to call.

Thinking of you, Robin

GENERAL INTEREST NEWS

THERE IS STILL TIME!

During this unfortunate pandemic time, the charitable organizations in Ozaukee County are being overwhelmed with requests for assistance of many different kinds. If donations of hard goods is not possible for you, consider a monetary donation which is always welcome.

Find below the addresses and phone numbers of organizations working to ease difficult situations in peoples lives.
HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Family Sharing - 262 377-0634
 1002 Overland Trail, Grafton, WI 53024

St. Vincent De Paul - 262 284-4637
 2673 Hwy C, Port Washington, WI 53074

Interfaith Caregivers - 262 376-5362
 885 Badger Circle, Grafton, WI 53024

Ozaukee Family Services - 262 376-7774
 885 Badger Circle, Grafton, WI 53024

Advocates of Ozaukee County - 262 284-6902
 P.O. Box 80166, Saukville, WI 53080

Family Promise - 262 268-2723
 136 W. Grand Ave., Port Washington, WI 53074

Saukville Community Food Pantry - 262 689-8591
 P.O. Box 80304 Saukville, WI 53080

COPE Services - 262 377-1477
 885 Badger Circle, Grafton, WI 53024

Habitat for Humanity - 262 531-4321
 885 Badger Circle, Grafton, WI 53024

Ash Wednesday



*Remember that you are dust,
 and to dust you shall return.*

ECCLESIASTES 3:20

February 17



An ongoing goal



Still searching for a New Year's resolution? None is more worthy than becoming Christ-like. In fact, 19th-century evangelist Henry Drummond calls it "the only thing in the whole world worth caring for."

Two modern-day authors offer more insights. Stormie Omartian points out that we're either making progress or backsliding on this goal. **"There is no neutral position in the Lord,"** she writes. **"You are either becoming more like Christ every day or you're becoming less like him."** And followers of Jesus must keep the goal always in focus. Christ-likeness is our "eventual destination," writes Rick Warren, but the "journey will last a lifetime."



Though our participation as a host church in this ministry has ended, we have committed to continue offering help with meals and any other volunteer needs when and if we can.

We will be providing a dinner meal to the families on Monday, January 18th.

Please contact Robin Fatla in the church office if you would be willing to help in some way with this meal.

Epiphany epiphanies

Sometimes brief words of ancient wisdom can spark an “aha!” moment — a revelation of new insight about God or faith. Here are some epiphanies for the season of Epiphany.

“If we approach with faith, we too will see Jesus ... for the Eucharistic table takes the place of the crib. Here, the Body of the Lord is present, wrapped not in swaddling clothes but in the rays of the Holy Spirit.”

—St. John Chrysostom (347-407)

“So that we might also have the means to go, the one we were longing to go to came here from there. And what did he make? A wooden raft for us to cross the sea on. For no one can cross the sea of this world unless carried over it on the cross of Christ.”

—St. Augustine (354-430)

“You wish to see; listen. Hearing is a step toward vision.”

—St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153)



Thank You! *To my St. John family for the prayers, calls, cards and get well wishes after my surgery on December 7th. My recovery is coming along very nicely. I truly appreciated all the prayers and wishes! I wish God’s blessings for a healthy, happy new year to all.*

Carol Butt

NEW YEAR'S NOISE-MAKERS

Ring in the New Year with these fun noisemakers!

What you need:

- Wooden craft sticks
- Metallic paint (gold and silver)
- Paint brushes
- Jingle bells (gold and silver)
- Hot glue gun
- Metallic ribbon
- Scissors
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Paint half the sticks gold and half silver. Let dry.
2. Glue three bells to each stick.
3. Cut a six-inch piece of ribbon for each stick. Tie a bow and glue it to the noisemaker. Celebrate!

Let's scare the Covid-19 away from 2021!

Notes from the church council meeting on December 20, 2020

- ♦ Work on the sound system improvements will be put off until July
- ♦ Observance of Heritage Sunday and the Annual Congregational meeting will be on Sunday, January 31, 2021
- ♦ In - person attendance at the annual meeting will need to be registered ahead. It will also be able to be attended by Zoom or FaceBook
- ♦ Several council positions will be open in January. Please consider serving St. John in this capacity and contact a current council member if you would be willing to serve.



- 1/5 Lincoln Porth
- 1/5 Shamir Garcia
- 1/5 Asher Christenson
- 1/15 Pat Lampe
- 1/19 Kathie Viesselmann
- 1/19 Kathy Reindl
- 1/19 Cara McMullin
- 1/20 Bob Schmidt
- 1/20 Sarah Mentzel
- 1/22 Maren Foti
- 1/22 Carol Butt
- 1/23 Stacy Leedy
- 1/23 Roan Christenson
- 1/28 Kylene Wright
- 1/29 Cole Granrath
- 2/1 Sharlene Sandquist
- 2/4 Hunter Pritzlaff
- 2/7 Jim Litvinoff
- 2/7 Jeanine Burhop
- 2/7 Delaney Allen
- 2/12 Donna Dowe
- 2/15 Mari Schmidt
- 2/15 Judy McMullin
- 2/19 Josh Huyck
- 2/20 Ashley Crowell
- 2/21 Bob Eichmann
- 2/27 Jesse Schauer
- 2/28 BreAnna Porth

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

Heritage Sunday

January 31, 2021

St. John will be celebrating 155 years of bringing God's word to the people of Lakefield/Grafton and surrounding areas.

Actual anniversary is January 28, 1866



- 1/20/2001 Steven & Latasha Reindl
- 1/26/1972 Tom & Jackie Rogahn
- 2/12/2005 Dennis & Nerissa Heusdens
- 2/20/2010 Kenn & Kayla Matthews

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lector:

- January 3 - Robert McClelland
- 10 - Judy McMullin
- 17 - Sharlene Sandquist
- 24 - Suzette Travis
- 31 - Florence Van Cleave

- February 7 - Sandy Allen
- 14 - Bob Butt
- 17 - **Ash Wed.** - Carol Butt
- 21 - Sue Dowe
- 23 - **Wed.** - Robin Fatla
- 28 - Gary Haas

Altar bouquets:

- January 3 - **OPEN**
- OPEN**
- 10 - **OPEN**
- OPEN**
- 17 - Judy McMullin
- OPEN**
- 24 - Robin Fatla
- OPEN**
- 29 - **OPEN**
- OPEN**

- February 7 - Jeanine Burhop
- OPEN**
- 14 - **OPEN**
- OPEN**
- 21 - **OPEN**
- OPEN**
- 28 - **OPEN**
- OPEN**

*Please call the church office if you would like to sponsor 1 or 2 altar bouquets. **WE NEED YOU!***

Cost is \$12.50 per bouquet.

IF YOU ARE HESITANT ABOUT COMING TO PICK UP YOUR SPONSORED BOUQUET, SOMEONE WILL DELIVER IT TO YOU.

From the Treasurer

Treasurer's Update As Of November 30, 2020

The St John Lutheran Church Council would like to thank you for your generosity. Without your financial support the mission and ministry of St John would not be possible. The Council would also like to keep you, the congregation, updated on the financial situation at St John.

The **Unified Budget** supports the work of the church through education, evangelism, worship, youth programs, stewardship, public relations, utilities & property upkeep, mission support, salaries, office expenses, and insurance. These items are all included in our line-item budget.

Year-To-Date income	\$116,800
Year-To-Date expenses	\$161,600

The result is that St John currently has a deficit in our Unified Budget of \$44,800. However, we have received \$19,600 as a forgivable loan through the Small Business Administration as part of the CARES Act due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The application form for forgiveness of this loan has been submitted, and once approved the \$19,600 will be placed into the Contingency Fund and used to help offset any deficit at the end of the year.

Mission Support is an important part of our Unified Budget. St John has distributed \$12,400 to the budgeted mission agencies for 2020. The total budgeted for Mission Support is \$12,650.

The **Contingency Fund** is outside of the Unified Budget, and is used as needed for unforeseen expenses and to offset any year-end differences between income and expenses in the Unified Budget. Any balance remaining at the end of the year will carryover to next year. Income to this fund comes from direct gifts (such as Thrivent member directed gifts), interest on savings accounts or CDs, and fund raising activities such as the chili and spaghetti dinners (which unfortunately have been curtailed this year).

Current amount in the fund \$35,500

The **Property Fund** supports any maintenance of the building and property that is not covered under Unified Budget expenses.

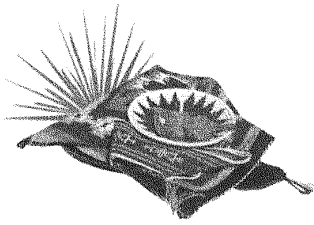
Current amount in the fund \$12,070

The **Memorial Fund** receives gifts for memorials and honoraria. Families of the deceased can make a request to the Council to use the memorials for specific purposes, or the funds can be used for other projects as voted upon by the St John Congregation.

Current amount in the fund \$145,240

At the Congregation's most recent annual meeting, it was recommended to use a significant portion of this fund for the upgrade of the sound system, for a new outdoor sign, and for a vertical lift in the education wing. These projects have been put on hold due to the circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic.

This update does not include all funds at St John. A detailed listing of all budget expense line items and funds is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway, or you can contact the treasurer, Peter Viesselmann or any Council member.



Navajo Lutheran Mission

P.O. Box 354 One Mission Lane
Rock Point, AZ 86545
Tel: (928)659-4201
Sch. Tel: (928)659-4202
Fax: (928)659-4255

October 26, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for the donation of Box Tops. The collection of Box Tops for our school; Navajo Christian Preparatory Academy, assist the school financially and so we wish to continue with the program.

As you already know, Box Tops clips are being phased out of production, you still can send them to our School. Eventually, there will be no more clipping, everything will be processed digitally through Box Tops Mobile Apps. Our School name is 'Navajo Mission Preparatory School' should be listed, therefore you can add Box Tops to our School using the mobile app. If you're having difficulties, you can look online at <https://www.boxtops4education.com> for more information.

Campbell Soup labels were discontinued completely in January 2018. All Remaining labels will not be eligible for collection packaging and or processed.

Box Tops labels (General Mills Products) will need to be sent to the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission address: PO Box 354 One Mission Lane, Rock Point, AZ 86545.

For more information, please visit our website at www.nelm.org or call the office at (928) 659-4201. We appreciate your support to the Navajo Mission Preparatory School and Navajo Lutheran Mission.

Sincerely,

Latanya Nih
NELM Office Manager



Improving lives to help individuals and families succeed

885 Badger Circle • Grafton, WI 53024 • Phone: 262.376.7774 • Fax: 262.377.7370 • OzaukeeFamilyServices.org



Board

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John Gassert
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Robert Haupt
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Margaret Zickuhr-Zoip

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Nan Antoine
Barbara Bode
Barbara Busch
Joanne Davidson
Kathy Dean
Lois Degener
Vickie Delgadillo
Cheri Farnsworth
Tricia Glaister
Mary Goebel
Clare Karr
Linda Maly
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Nancy Phillips
Sue Purcell Strom
Judith Reetz
Susan Runkel
Grace Sheldon
Pam Stark
Linda Stolz
Leann Stone
Shirley Swider
Paula Taebel
Patti Trusky

November 30, 2020

St. John Lutheran Church ELCA
ATTN Pastor Jim O'Reilly-Christensen
1193 Lakefield Road
Grafton, WI 53024

Dear Pastor O'Reilly-Christensen:

“Helping one person might not change the world, but it could change the world for one person.” - Anonymous

2020 has been an adventure for all of us, but at Ozaukee Family Services our commitment to helping those most in need in our community has not changed. We have been challenged to find new, innovative and safe ways to continue to serve our community and are proud of the services we have been able to provide.

Unfortunately, the pandemic has only increased the need for OFS services. Parents have needed even more education and support, seniors have needed even more help with transportation to medical visits and grocery shopping, and there is an even greater demand for the mental health counseling OFS offers to anyone in Ozaukee County, regardless of ability to pay.

While the need for our services has risen, the ability to fund those services through traditional fundraising avenues has left us with holes in our operating budget. Our annual year end campaign is always an important way for us to raise proceeds, but this year it is absolutely critical. Please consider a donation to Ozaukee Family Services and the community we serve.

At Ozaukee Family Services we can't change the world, but thanks to you, we can change the world for the people we help every day.

Yours very truly,

Lisa Holtebeck
Executive Director

Corporate Partners

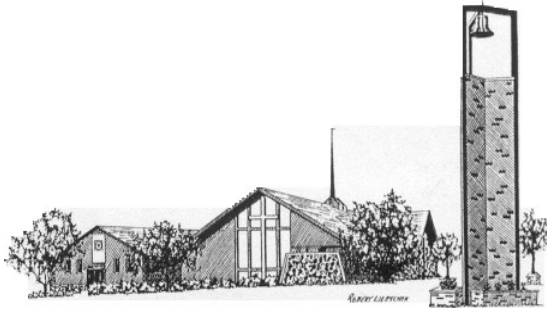


January/February 2021 Pulse Beat

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:

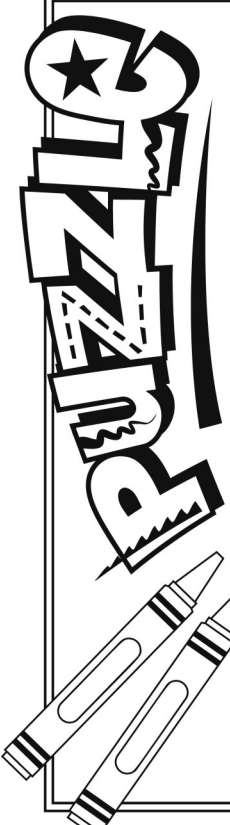
- Proclaim the Gospel in worship and daily life.
- Study and teach God's Word.
- Fellowship among people of this congregation.
- Serve people in our surrounding community.

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.



Glad gatherings

The first Christians met together over a meal. Today church families still gather to break bread and thank God.

Follow the instructions below. Then write the remaining words in order from left to right and top to bottom to complete the verses.

	F	F				
	in	and	bread	break	homes	world
	troub	know	hearthl	beginn	numbr	celebrate
	light	ing	ing	g	sincere	god
	tears	gathering	troub	le	with	5
	leson	ness	troub	with	trank	8
	Christi	ness	troub	trank	with	4
	an	ness	troub	with	trank	3
	an	ness	troub	with	trank	2
	an	ness	troub	with	trank	1

Cross out all words in column E with double letters.
 Cross out all words that are books of the Bible.
 Cross out all words in column B that end in d.
 Cross out all words in column A that have more than 4 letters.
 Cross out all words in row 5 with 3 syllables.
 Cross out all words in the table with 9 letters.
 Cross out all words in column F with 2 or more vowels.

_____ . ACTS 2:46-47, NIV

Answer: They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God. Acts 2:46-47, NIV