


THE PULSE BEAT



Volume 45, Number 5

June/July 2020

A Word from the Pastor

Dear St. John Friends --- Greetings!

This message is to inform you of what St. John will be doing during this ongoing Corona-virus time, as we move into the summer months.

As you know, our state, and most other states, are re-opening at some level of activity, although not in the way of "business as usual." Changes must necessarily be made in how we do things.

For the church, this is also true. Our church council has set a date of Sunday June 14th, to return to in-house worship at St. John. This date, certainly must be flexible, since the virus situation is changing everyday. We may go ahead and say yes, lets do it! Or we might have to decide to wait & back off for now! Yet, as in all things, we are to think, and prepare, during this time of Covid-19 disease, how to best continue to worship God, and at the same time to "Love our neighbors as ourselves."!!! "Loving our neighbors," also includes, doing no harm, and treating them & each other as human beings in need of a relationship with God.

Some elements of our worship will be the same, but others will necessarily be different, in current circumstances. Let me outline what we have in mind! What will stay the same: *Worship at 9:30 a.m. Readings, sermon, prayers, (and Holy Communion).* *Singing is also in question, since all the authorities, believe, singing spreads the Corona virus easily!*

What we will do differently: Social distancing in our pews -family members can sit together; all others - 6 ft. apart. You will be asked to sign up to attend worship; so we can appropriately distance people. Sign up also means call the office, the week before you attend!

Bring your own communion (bread & wine, if possible); but if you cannot, we can have some elements available for you. Please wear a mask. Take a hymnal home --- to care for, and return with, at next worship service; no indoor gatherings, (except outside the building). No coffee hour. We have hand sanitizer (to use before & after HC) , and we cannot share the peace at this time! Restroom access - one person at a time.

Please bring Sunday offering, if possible. Offering plates are placed at the entrance/exit doorway. No formal collection will be taken.

We at the church will get some needed supplies such as: extra hand sanitizers, additional masks, also communion bread & wine.

You can still volunteer to be a lesson reader if you wish.

Why so many guidelines or rules? Our actions as followers of Christ, are always determined by asking, what are the best ways to "love our neighbors, as ourselves" as Jesus commands us?

Just as we wear seatbelts in our cars for our own protection, we wear masks, (proven to prevent the spread of the virus at least 50%) to protect our neighbors from us (if we are carriers of Covid-19). And we do these things to protect ourselves as well!

The church sanctuary will be cleaned after each worship service, to take needed precautions, in lessening the chances for the virus to spread! We are in a new time! And our re-opening, is of course, conditioned on the state of the Corona-virus pandemic at any particular time. A rule of thumb is to hope for the best, yes, but also to prepare for the difficult challenges we may face!

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NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Are you all stir crazy yet? Some of us are, and some of us are not. Personally, I'm ready to start getting back to things a little bit at a time. After almost 2 months of being asked to stay home, we have all found ourselves in a different mindset. Some people have found the shelter in place as a time of reflection, a time to spend with family, maybe a time to work on overdue projects. But for some, it's been a time of loneliness and isolation, and a great strain on their personal well-being. While we are all in the same storm, we are not in the same boat.

As the country and our state starts reopening, there will be lots of decisions to be made. Some people are ready to jump back into the thick of things, and feel they are ready to restart their life just like it was. Some people are a little more cautious, and believe that things need to start to get back to normal, but with safeguards in place. And other people are not at all comfortable to go out and contact the general population yet, and would prefer to keep to their homes until they feel it is safe enough for them to go out. Businesses need to decide if they're ready to reopen – churches included. And that's OK – everyone needs to proceed at their own caution level – same storm, different boat.

St. John is busy making arrangements to facilitate our own reopening of our building and the resuming of in person worship. During our latest Council meeting, some members were ready to open sooner, and others, later. We have settled on a tentative reopening date of June 14, which is subject to change based on if the reopening of the state is impacted by increased cases of the coronavirus. We will implement various safeguards that may be OK for some people and overkill for others. Social distancing will be respected and plenty of hand sanitizer will be available. Regardless of the path we take to reopen, our goal is to do our best to protect *everyone* to the best of our ability. If you don't feel you are ready for in person worship services yet – that's OK too. Again - same storm, different boat. We will continue to provide online services via Facebook Live. The services will remain available on the St. John Facebook site, and are also available on our YouTube Channel and now on our brand new website (www.stjohngrafton.org) which has just been published.

As my daughter, Kayla, pointed out, especially as we go through these tough times, we need to **CHECK OUR PRIVILEGE**. Privilege is not a bad thing – not if we use it correctly and do not abuse it. We need to not let privilege blind us to the needs of others. We need to be able to walk in the shoes of people who are NOT as privileged as we are. Most of us are able to weather this staying at home with little if no adverse effects. We have food in our fridge, a roof over our heads, and enough money to pay our bills. But for others, these times bring a wave of uncertainty as to how they will live, feed and shelter their family, and keep up with bills - without a paycheck. Some people have great difficulty with being kept in the confines of their home, and face mental health issues, domestic abuse and child neglect.

Facebook and social media have been overwhelmed with people on all sides of the virus who seem to feel that this is a black and white issue, where one side is right and the other side is wrong, and this is most certainly not the case. Kindness, understanding and compassion have been abandoned for name calling and finger pointing. *How much better it would be if we all would show our best selves instead of our worst.*

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There may also be people, new to the church &/or community, looking for meaning and worship in these days. We must be prepared to welcome them too! In any case, we will continue to film our Sunday worship services, with Facebook live, or some other video version, as we learn how to do this, since we reach many additional people with this kind of outreach experience!

As always we do our best to be God's people, in the circumstances we find ourselves in, as did the first disciples. We need to be the church in this new situation, guided by the Spirit of God's love! Let us remember that even "normal" will be different, as we adjust to these changes. But when we ask God's help of the Holy Spirit, God will give us the power we need, to live with hope, and faith, and love, even now!

I want to commend our church council, Pres. Sandy Allen, our treasurer Peter Viesselmann, and the entire council, including: VP Robin Fatla, council Secretary Sheila Kapke, Dennis Jaeger, Dennis Heusdens, Audrey Crowell, Donna Dowe, Sharlene Sandquist, and Joe Porth, for guiding us in these days with coolness, wisdom, as well as humor, as we sort out these important issues, and try to be the people of God we are called to be, by the Holy Spirit. And doing the good work they do, to see us through these events where we do not have a map, but we do have a loving God to guide us!

Peace be with you! *Pastor Jim*

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There are still ways for St. John to outreach and help our neighbors as we wait for our economy to level off and for people to get back to work. There are bins located outside of Pastor Jim's office for drop offs for Family Sharing and the local Food Pantries. And monetary donations are being accepted to offset our hosting week for Family Promise. There has been quite a big influx of families into the program, as our local neighbors have found themselves in great need.

Patience is required during times like these, and unfortunately, during these stressful situations, it is not always in ample supply. As St. Paul told the Romans, "**Rejoice in hope**, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer." (Romans 12:12)

I hope you all remain safe and healthy and that we are able to be together soon. I miss you all!

Peace and blessings to 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

GENERAL INTEREST NEWS



**Remember
in Prayer**

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), Jenny Zarlring Ceasar (goddaughter of Marian Witte),

John Clasen, 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), Kevin Freier (Marian Witte's grandson), Brian Gadzalinski (Suzette Travis' son), Sugeily Garcia, Mary Jaeger, 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 (friend of Audrey Crowell), Nellie Padilla (Sugeily Garcia's mother), Joe Porth, Eric & Karen Rautenberg (Sue Dowe's mother & step dad), Kelly Robinson (friend of Don Burhop), Tom Rogahn, Ginny Scarborough (sister of Jackie Rogahn), Harry Seaman (friend of Kay Freyer), Wendy Tomter, Suzette Travis, Tom White (Doug Faretra's nephew), Jim Wick, Marian Witte, 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; Joyce Koss – Serenity Villa, Slinger

Thank You!

I cannot tell you how much my family and I appreciate all the phone calls, cards, prayers, memorials, and other displays of love and concern during my son Larry's battle with cancer and following his death. What a blessing and comfort my friends and family at St. John have been to me.

Florence Van Cleave

WELCOME BACK!

TENTATIVE RETURN TO IN-HOUSE WORSHIP - JUNE 14TH

After monitoring the progress of the virus in Ozaukee County, a final decision will be made by the church council the week prior.



With proper preparations and safeguards, Pastor Jim and the church council have agreed that St. John will open for worship with the following guidelines in place for the health and safety of all worshippers:

- ◆ **If you feel ill, please stay home**
- ◆ The sanctuary will be thoroughly wiped down before and after every service
- ◆ Worshippers are asked to **use the front entrance only**
 - ◆ There will be **no gathering in the building** either before or after the service - so please plan your arrival time close to the beginning of the service
- ◆ Worshippers will be **required to wear a mask**, except at communion time — masks will be available, but a limited supply, so if you have your own, you are asked to wear it
 - ◆ If you plan to attend worship, you are asked to call the office the week prior. We ask this so we can arrange for proper physical distancing in the pews of 6 - 10 feet
- ◆ Holy communion will be celebrated in the pews - please **bring your own elements from home** - bread, crackers, wine, juice - whatever you have is acceptable
- ◆ If there are bulletins, they will be on the pews and you will be asked to take them with you when you leave
- ◆ The hymnal that you use, you will be asked to take home with you and bring with you whenever you attend worship - this will cut down on having to wipe them all down after the service
 - ◆ Only one person in the restroom at a time

We look forward to worshipping with you in community once again.

STAY SAFE!

From the Treasurer

**St John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Financial Summary For April 2020**

	April 2020			Year To Date 2020		
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	Actual	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	Actual
			Over (under) Budget			Over (under) Budget
Unified Income	\$ 13,443	\$ 13,676	\$ (233)	\$ 43,805	\$ 58,125	\$ (14,320)
Expense Summary:						
Education	\$ 108	\$ 92	\$ 16	\$ 310	\$ 367	\$ (56)
Evangelism	\$ 642	\$ 167	\$ 475	\$ 1,299	\$ 668	\$ 631
Worship	\$ 1,365	\$ 1,731	\$ (366)	\$ 5,875	\$ 6,667	\$ (792)
Youth	\$ -	\$ 160	\$ (160)	\$ -	\$ 480	\$ (480)
Stewardship	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 197	\$ 230	\$ (33)
Public Relations	\$ 185	\$ 120	\$ 65	\$ 309	\$ 430	\$ (121)
Property	\$ 1,283	\$ 2,466	\$ (1,183)	\$ 6,656	\$ 9,413	\$ (2,758)
Finance (Incl. Mission Support)	\$ 8,834	\$ 10,507	\$ (1,673)	\$ 49,082	\$ 43,253	\$ 5,829
Total Expenses	\$ 12,416	\$ 15,242	\$ (2,826)	\$ 63,727	\$ 61,508	\$ 2,219
Net Income (Deficit)	\$ 1,027	\$ (1,566)	\$ 2,593	\$ (19,922)	\$ (3,383)	\$ (16,539)

Comparative 2019 Figures:

	@ 4/30/2019
Unified Income	\$ 49,410
Total Expenses	\$ (60,433)
Net Income (Deficit)	\$ (11,023)

Note: April income was higher than expected due to generous Easter offerings, and some envelopes that were mailed at the end of March were received and deposited in early April.

Major Differences 2020 vs. 2019: Income year-to-date 2020 \$5,600 less than last year.
Expenses year-to-date 2020 \$3,300 more than last year.
Utilities expense \$1,100 less than last year.
Property maintenance expense \$800 less than last year.
Mission support \$6,600 more than last year.
(all 2020 support payments made early due to Covid-19)

	<u>@ 4/30/2020</u>	<u>@ 4/30/2019</u>
Assets At End Of Month	\$ 201,443	\$ 119,866
Assets Are Needed to Support The Following Funds:		
Fully Funded	\$ 885	\$ 438
Evangelism Fund	\$ 2,117	\$ 2,398
Sign Fund (started 2017)	\$ 7,643	\$ 6,102
Library Fund	\$ 505	\$ 505
Audio Fund (formerly Cassette)	\$ (1,650)	\$ 460
Family Promise Fund	\$ 20	\$ 261
Memorial Fund	\$ 144,924	\$ 47,508
Music Fund	\$ 162	\$ 162
Property Fund	\$ 15,701	\$ 12,770
Contingency Fund	\$ 33,815	\$ 45,474
Youth Fund	\$ 6,270	\$ 6,352
Pastoral Education Fund	\$ 2,135	\$ 2,457
Organ Repair Fund	\$ 73	\$ 73
Scholarship Fund	\$ 6,365	\$ 4,765
Mercy Fund	\$ 2,400	\$ 1,165
Total Fund Requirements	\$ 221,365	\$ 130,889
= Asset Excess (Shortage)	<u>\$ (19,922)</u>	<u>\$ (11,023)</u>
(Excess = budget surplus; Shortage = budget deficit)		

	2020		2019	
	<u>Month</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Average Sunday Worship Attendance	N/A	50	78	62

Special Gifts Received This Month:

Gift from St John Trust Fund for Mercy Fund	\$ 1,000
Gift from St John Trust Fund for Property Fund	\$ 3,100
Gift from Trust Fund for Scholarship Fund	\$ 3,100

Mission Distributions This Month:

N/A - all 2020 budgeted distributions completed March 2020

GENERAL INTEREST NEWS



Congratulations to our high school and college graduates:

Alex Mentzel - University of Wisconsin - Whitewater

Alex will be continuing his studies at UW-W working towards a Master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling.

Hunter Pritzlaff - Port Washington High School
Hunter has a passion for baseball, which he played all 4 years of high school. He is interested in continuing studies in welding at technical school after working with his dad during the summers.

Rebecca Schauer - Northern Ozaukee High School

After a storied high school basketball career, Rebeca will be attending St. Norbert College in Green Bay where she has committed to play basketball

We will recognize these young people during the worship service on June 14th.



A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE DONATIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE FAMILIES DURING THE PANDEMIC QUARANTINE.

12 FAMILIES ARE CURRENTLY IN THE PROGRAM AND ARE LOCKED DOWN AT THE CHALET MOTEL IN MEQUON.

KIDS COLUMN

God's Creation SCAVENGER HUNT

You can easily spot God's beautiful creation not just in majestic mountains and vast oceans but also in the smallest bits of nature. Try this fun activity at a park, in your backyard or on a hike.

What you need:

- Paper
- Pencils, pens or crayons
- Plastic cups or bowls



What you do:

1. Write out the same list of items for each player. One person can do this ahead of time, or the group can determine what to hunt for. Items must be small enough to fit in the container provided. Suggestions include: flower, grain of sand or dirt, seed, blade of grass, feather, small stick, pebble, insect (preferably alive), leaf, thorn, berry and so on.
2. Give a list and a cup (or bowl) to each player.
3. Designate a place to search for items, as well as a time limit (for example, look in the backyard for 15 minutes).
4. During the scavenger hunt, enjoy seeing the beauty of God's creation in the tiniest things. Players should cross off items when found.
5. When time is up, compare items. Point out similarities and differences. Discuss why these items are so amazing. Share Bible verses or stories about some items (for example, Isaiah 40:8 talks about grass and flowers, 1 Corinthians 10:4 talks about Jesus' being our rock, etc.).



- 6/1 Sue Ellen Nelsen
- 6/2 Eric Turowski
- 6/2 Ryan Liebergen
- 6/2 Dennis Jaeger
- 6/6 Beverly Green
- 6/19 Alex Dowe
- 6/27 Liz Gonzalez
- 7/4 Kelley Boelkow
- 7/5 Gary Haas
- 7/5 Connor Dowe
- 7/5 Kim Christensen
- 7/12 Borgne McClelland
- 7/12 Adam Kapke
- 7/13 Annette DeFendi
- 7/15 Tara Kapke
- 7/16 Diane Wendorf
- 7/17 Joshua Reindl
- 7/19 Mary Jaeger
- 7/20 Erich Dowe
- 7/22 Joe Porth
- 7/23 Steve Reindl
- 7/25 Carole Litvinoff
- 7/26 Peter Viesselmann
- 7/31 Diane Burkhalter



- 6/6/1992 Steve & Kristin Schauer
- 6/20/2017 Dave & Doreen Viesselmann
- 6/21/1997 Erich & JoAnn Dowe
- 6/22/2003 Jeff & Tara Kapke
- 6/28/1980 Richard & Marie Viesselmann
- 6/30/1984 John & Jane Turowski
- 7/13/1968 Gary & Sue Haas
- 7/18/1970 Rick & Jan Gonzalez
- 7/19/1986 Jim & Debbie O'Reilly-Christensen
- 7/20/1968 Harold & Jeanne Immekus
- 7/27/1974 Joe & Cindy Porth

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

Worship Assistants for June & July:

Ushers:

- June 14 - Team #1 - Tetzlaff
- 21 - Team #2 - Butt
- 28 - Team #2 - Butt
- July 5 - Team #3 - Wendorf
- 12 - Team #3 - Wendorf
- 19 - Team #1 - Tetzlaff
- 26 - Team #1 - Tetzlaff

Assisting Ministers / Communion Assistant:

- June 14 - Dennis Jaeger / None
- 21 - Robin Fatla / None
- 28 - Sandy Allen / None
- July 5 - Gary Haas / Judy McMullin
- 12 - Dennis Jaeger / Monica Faretra
- 19 - Robin Fatla / Audrey Crowell
- 26 - Sandy Allen / Bob Butt

Lectors:

- June 14 - Robin Fatla
- 21 - Bob Butt
- 28 - Carol Butt
- July 5 - Sue Dowe
- 12 - Sandy Allen
- 19 - Gary Haas
- 26 - Dennis Jaeger

IF YOU DO NOT FEEL COMFORTABLE SERVING AT THIS TIME, USHERS AND ASSISTING MINISTERS PLEASE CALL DENNIS JAEGER, LECTORS PLEASE CALL ROBIN IN THE OFFICE.



The new St. John website WITH the new St. John logo, is up and running! Be sure to visit it at www.stjohngrafton.org

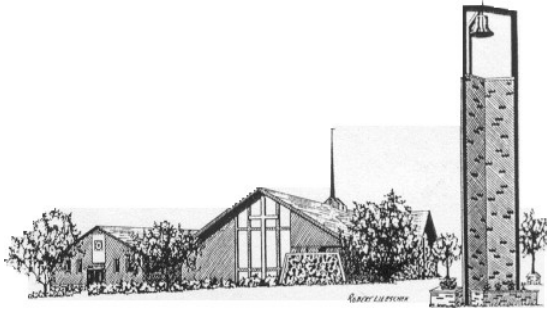
Many thanks to Judy McMullin, Sandy Allen, Cara McMullin, Pastor Jim, Jim Brophy, and Jenna Dehn, a paid web designer from Northwoods Software, for the many hours put in on the construction of this site. It is easy to navigate and loaded with information about our community.

June/July 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.



A father is a person who is forced to endure childbirth without an anesthetic. He growls when he feels good and laughs very loud when he is scared half to death.

A father never feels entirely worthy of the worship in a child's eyes. He is never quite the hero his daughter thinks...never quite the man his son believes him to be. And this worries him sometimes, so he works too hard to try to smooth the rough places in the road of those of his own who follow him.

A father is a person who goes to war sometimes, but he would rather run the other way except that war is part of his only important job in life - making the world better for his child than it was for him.

Fathers grow older faster than other people because they, in other wars, have to stand at the train station and wave goodbye to the uniform that climbs on board.

And while mothers cry where it shows, fathers stand and beam...outside, and die inside.

Fathers are men who give daughters away to other men, who aren't nearly good enough, so that they can have children that are smarter than anybody's.

Taken from- "Touched by an E-mail"

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY