
THE PULSE BEAT

Volume 45, Number 7

September/October 2020



A Message from the Bishop

Greater Milwaukee Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's Work. Our Hands.

A Pastoral Letter on these Troubling Times

*"Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.
Stir up your might, and come to save us!*

*Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.
O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.
You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.
Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved." (Psalm 80:1-7)*

Dear friends in Christ:

We live in troubling times.

I had been intending to send a pastoral letter on the continuing challenges of the Coronavirus pandemic and how we are struggling to make decisions about how we will worship, connect, study, and serve, especially since it now looks like we will be well into 2021 before we can even begin to imagine returning to our buildings for large, in-person gatherings. Our partners in the Wisconsin Council of Churches have issued updated guidance on returning to worship and the results of a recent survey of Wisconsin faith leaders and the numerous stressors of this time. They report that 25% of the pastors responding have considered resigning or retiring due to the stresses of leading in this pandemic. I beg you, I urge you, to please be gentle with your pastors and with each other as you try to make hard decisions. Lean into the values expressed by Paul in Colossians 3:12-14, *"As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony."* None of us has ever lived through a pandemic of this magnitude, and the only way we will make it is if we do it together.

I have also been involved in a variety of activities concerning the second major pandemic we are confronting, the ongoing pandemic of systemic racism. On Sunday, August 23, I helped lead a Day of Repentance and Solidarity regarding the sin of racism in the white church. The video of this event is available on YouTube (linked here) and various resources are available at www.weraceahead.com. These include the invitations to participate in a sermon series and in small group conversations that will cross denominations and race to take the next steps on the long road of repentance and reconciliation. I also invite you to make use of two documents prepared for this event, one that details some of the history of how the white church

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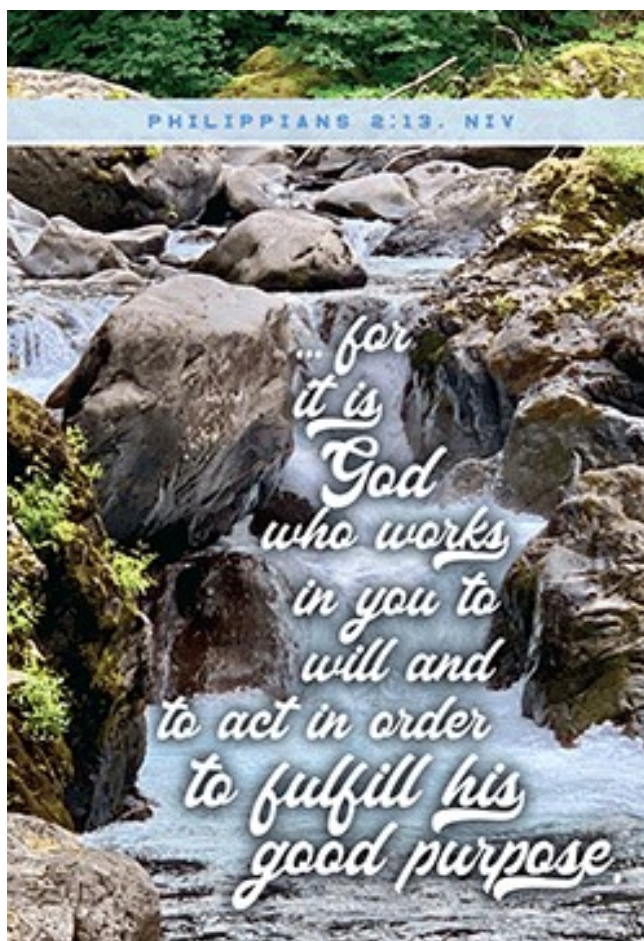
has been complicit in perpetuating the sin of racism (linked here), and the other the actual litany of repentance used on Sunday (linked here). You are free to use them as you see fit.

And now, the events of the last few days in Kenosha, stemming from the shooting of Jacob Blake and the resulting unrest, have broken my heart. How can anything I or we say or do possibly be adequate in response to all that is transpiring? As the pain and anger and fear swirl within and around us, I would invite us all to resist the temptation to try to understand or fix things too quickly. As I said in my sermon that was released for use this past Sunday (transcript linked here), any answer that is quick or easy is rarely trustworthy. We need to allow ourselves to experience the emotions of this time and pray that God's Holy Spirit will break open our hearts that we might weep with those who weep, even as we may not fully understand.

And then, I pray that we will rededicate ourselves to the tasks of these troubling times. We have a long road ahead of us, as a church and as a society, to rebuild the trust that has been broken and to create systems that bring us together in ways that honor the dignity and beauty of each and every person. Regardless of which pandemic or challenge we are confronting, we need to listen to each other, we need to work together, and, more than anything else, we need to call upon the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit to free us from our fears that we might step forward in faith, trusting that God has not brought us this far to abandon us now.

So, pray with me, dear church; weep with me; and then, walk with me, into the future that God is preparing for us now.

In Christ,
Bishop Paul D. Erickson



GENERAL INTEREST NEWS

Pastor James O'Reilly-Christensen
Pastor Emeritus Robert McClelland

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

E-mail: stjohnpastor1@hotmail.com

Office Manager: Robin Fatla

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 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

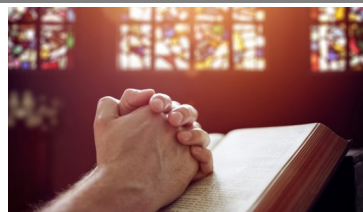
Pastor: 920 988-9059

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FaceBook: St. John Lutheran Church-
 Grafton,WI

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 Zarling 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), Audrey Fischer (sister of Monica Faretra & Donna Dowe), Brian Gadzalinski (Suzette Travis’ son), Karen Johnson (former member), 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 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, Ann Wissmueller (Robin Fatla’s sister-in-law), Kylene Wright **Military personnel:** Kenn Matthews, Lisa & 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



DONATE BLOOD

Saturday, September 26th from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Trinity Church, Cedarburg. The Versiti Blood Center of WI has implemented additional protocol for sanitizing, scheduling and social distancing. To sign up please call 1-877-BE-A-HERO or Jill Klitz at 262/377-6074.

Minister to your ministers

In honor of Clergy Appreciation Month, use these alphabetical reminders of how to treat your pastors:

Accept them as people.
 Build them up. Say “thank you.”
 Communicate with them.
 Defend them when someone tries to run them down.
 Entertain them. They like to have fun, too!
 Family. Allow them to have a family life.
 Genuine. Be honest with them. Be yourself around them.
 Honor them. Don’t put them on a pedestal, but respect them.
 Income. Pay them enough so money isn’t a concern.
 Judge not! Avoid being critical.
 Kind. Treat pastors as you want to be treated.
 Love. See 1 Corinthians 13.
 Maintain. Their families have the same needs as other families.
 Nurture. Help them grow in grace.
 Offer to help. The list of things you can do is endless.
 Pray for them. Lift up their names to God daily.
 Quelch not. Encourage instead!
 Rejoice in and with them.
 Surprise them – in little and big ways.
 Trust them. Believe in them.
 Understand them. Put yourself in their place.
 Vacation. They need time away.
 Welcome them into your home. Don’t wait for an invitation.
 eXpend yourself, not them.
 Yoke. Help them bear their burdens with grace and dignity.



October 11

A lesson in appreciation

During a church anniversary celebration, a pastor overheard a group discussing various congregational leaders over the years. Her ears perked up when an older member said, “Whenever someone asks which of our pastors I liked best, my answer is always, ‘The one we have at any given time is my favorite.’”

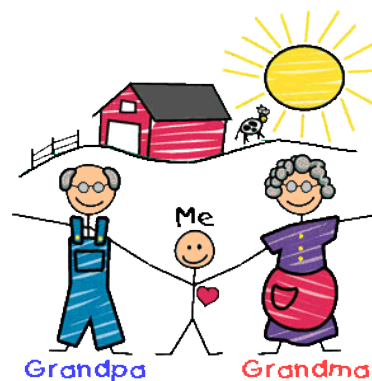
What a relief for the pastor to hear – and what a great lesson for Pastor Appreciation Month. God sends each shepherd to us with a specific set of spiritual gifts and then works through those gifts to bless us.



September 11

Happy
Grandparents Day

September 13



Optimism grounded in hope

“I am fundamentally an optimist,” said anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela. “Part of being optimistic is keeping one’s head pointed toward the sun, one’s feet moving forward. There were many dark moments when my faith in humanity was sorely tested, but I would not and could not give myself up to despair..”

Some say optimism is naïve, “a generic good idea about the future” (Walter Brueggemann, *Reverberations of Faith*), and distinguish it from hope. But Mandela’s 27 years in prison and other sufferings would indicate that, in his case, optimism is anchored in deep hope.

Our hope is grounded in God’s power to bring life from death, primarily in Jesus’ resurrection, and in other acts of deliverance. God brings joy from sorrow, healing from brokenness, love from hate. We can’t fathom what goodness awaits us down the road (Could Mandela, in prison, imagine becoming South Africa’s first black president?!), so we keep looking up and moving forward. Such optimism is rooted in profound hope – and is a gift of God.



YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

Many of you support the congregation with your time, talent and financial contributions throughout the year. But since many of our members are not able to attend services at this time, it can be hard to keep up with weekly gifts.

That’s why we encourage you to set up regular, recurring donations.

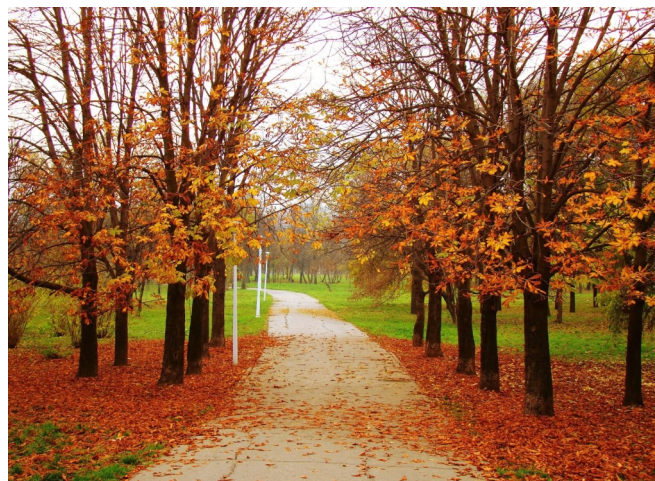
We offer convenient electronic giving with three easy options:

You can fill out a paper authorization form for Simply Giving. The form is included in this Pulse Beat, or you can request a copy from Robin, Peter Viesselmann, or Jane Turowski. Return the form to any of us and your donation will then be set up for you.

To give through our mobile app, download the free GivePlus app from the App Store or Google Play and search for our church by name or ZIP code. Contributions can be set up for one-time or recurring donations through checking accounts, credit or debit cards.

Soon, there will be a link on the StJohnGrafton.org website where you can click to an online form to set up one-time or recurring donations through checking accounts, credit or debit cards.

Thank you for your continued support of our mission!



GENERAL INTEREST NEWS



We continue to welcome our family back to in-house worship each Sunday morning at 9:30.

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.stjohngrafton.org, or **St. John YouTube channel** shortly following the conclusion of the service.

There are times when Sandy is unable to email the link until later in the day on Sundays. If you but want to watch the service, you can access it through the St. John website. Here are the instructions:

Go to <http://www.stjohngrafton.org>

At the top of every page, in the upper right corner, there is a small case "f" which is a link to Facebook - click that.

When you arrive at the St. John Facebook page, you will be asked to log in or create an account. You do NOT need to do that to view the service. If a login box pops up, click Not Now.

You will need to scroll down until you find a heading called Posts (it will be beneath the heading called Videos). Look for a post that says "St. John Lutheran Church - Grafton was live." It should also have a time attached to it, so you can see that it is the most current worship service.

The video will start automatically when you get to it, but will probably have no sound. Click on the video, and it will open up to full screen and the sound should be enabled.

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.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lector:

September 6 - Florence Van Cleave
13 - Sandy Allen
20 - Bob Butt
27 - Carol Butt

October 4 - Sue Dowe
11 - Robin Fatla
18 - Gary Haas
25 - Dennis Jaeger

Altar bouquets:

September 6 - Jeanine Burhop
Bob & Barb Eichmann
13 - Audrey Crowell Family
OPEN
20 - **OPEN**
OPEN
27 - Don Burhop (2)

October 4 - Marion Meyer
OPEN
11 - Randy & Catherine Tetzlaff
OPEN
18 - Dale & Sandy Allen
Harvey & Joan Salger
25 - Peter & Kathie Viesselmann
Evie Tetzlaff

Please call the church office if you would like to sponsor an altar bouquet on one of the **OPEN** dates.



As this Covid-19 pandemic continues, our guest families remain housed at the Chalet Motel in Mequon. Meals are provided by Crossroads Presbyterian Church of Mequon and host churches, the Monday of their regularly scheduled host week. St. John's next host week comes October 25 - November 1. Watch for future updates on how we will be called upon to serve our neighbors in need.



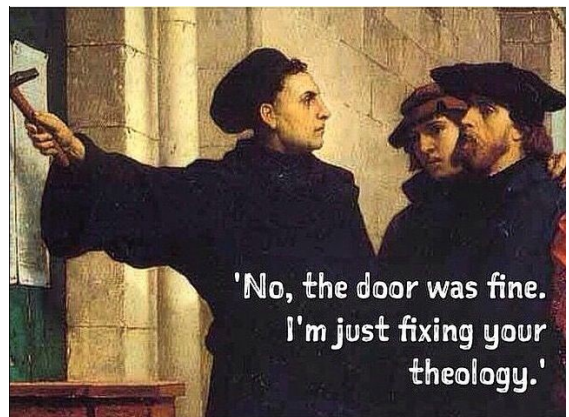
- 9/2 Bea Warren
- 9/3 Andy Porth
- 9/7 Adam Fatla
- 9/8 Joshua Pritzlaff
- 9/8 JoAnn Dowe
- 9/10 Edyn Allen
- 9/11 Jeff Kapke
- 9/13 Dan David
- 9/14 Dinah Tetzlaff
- 9/14 Fritz Dowe
- 9/16 Hadley Granrath
- 9/19 Joe Schauer
- 10/1 Jeanine Burhop
- 10/4 Ivan Garcia
- 10/6 Dale Allen
- 10/8 Sue Dowe
- 10/12 Dale Reindl
- 10/15 Suzette Travis
- 10/15 Eric Liebergen
- 10/15 Matt DeFendi
- 10/20 Penelope Porth
- 10/21 Sam Christensen
- 10/22 Jeri Liebergen
- 10/27 Sandy Allen
- 10/29 Glenn Sievers

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



- 9/3/1966 Bob & Barb Eichmann
- 9/6/2014 Kyle & Laura Christensen
- 9/18/1999 Mark & Mary Ellen Levra
- 10/6/2012 James & Liz Allen
- 10/7/1961 Roger & Diane Wendorf
- 10/7/2011 Adam & Tiffany Fatla
- 10/9/1993 Eric & Jeri Liebergen
- 10/12/1985 Bob & Carol Butt
- 10/14/1967 Jim & Carole Litvinoff
- 10/15/1977 Dennis & Mary Jaeger
- 10/20/1963 Harvey & Joan Salger
- 10/20/1984 Dale & Sandy Allen
- 10/20/2012 Andy & BreAnna Porth
- 10/27/2007 Dan & Rosanne Tetzlaff
- 10/31/1981 Peter & Kathie Viesselmann

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



Reformation Sunday
October 25

Treasurer's Update As Of July 31, 2020

First and foremost, 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	\$ 73,997
Year-To-Date expenses	\$109,479

The result is that St John currently has a deficit in our Unified Budget of \$35,482. 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 \$12,390 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.

Current amount in the fund	\$33,936
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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
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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	\$145,094
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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.

Prayers for a New Kind of School Year

- 1) God, grant wisdom and understanding to the **public officials, school boards, superintendents, administrators** and more who are juggling so many concerns and challenges for this coming school year. Shower them with **creativity and clarity** in all of the work they must do.
- 2) Lord, please have mercy on the **parents and other caregivers** of students who face perplexing situations and schedules. Help those who must juggle the task of providing for their families and their children's need for education. Bring order out of confusion and **hope from despair**.
- 3) Heavenly Father, help **students of all ages** in the coming days, weeks and months. Encourage those who suffer from a lack of social interaction. Empower those who need help with online learning. Encourage those with special needs. And please keep them all safe and healthy while they learn.
- 4) Lord, you know the situations faced by **teachers and tutors** at this time, some of whom must **enter the front lines**, others who must learn new ways of teaching, and still others who must cope with idleness and uncertainty. Please come to them and **strengthen them**, granting fresh ideas and miraculous effectiveness in their workplaces and work challenges.
- 5) God, hear our prayers for school system personnel facing even more challenges than usual in their lives and livelihoods: **custodial staff, cafeteria staff, bus drivers, and others**. **Provide for the unemployed** and under-employed. Help those who are struggling. Grant relief to those who are overworked and encouragement to those who are overwhelmed.
- 6) For all of the above, Lord, please protect and preserve them physically, emotionally and mentally. Keep them safe and healthy; **increase their strength** and stamina now and in the future, in Jesus' name, amen.

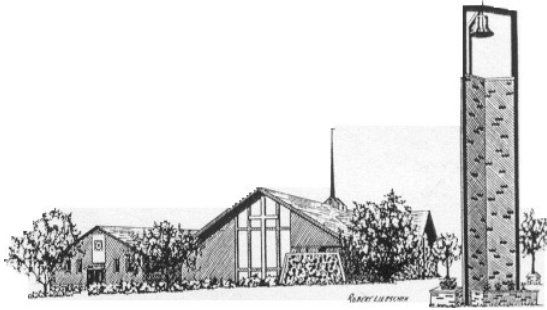


September /October 2020 Pulse Beat

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.

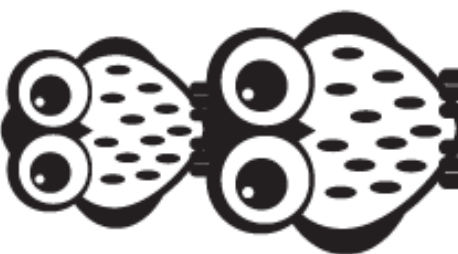


WISDOM FROM THE WORD

God makes a special promise to people who study Scripture.

Directions: Arrange the word list in alphabetical order. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete Joshua 1:8, NKV.

school	_ _
paper	_ _
wisdom	_ _
read	_ _
play	_ _
learn	_ _
grow	_ _
pencils	_ _
pray	_ _
art	_ _
student	_ _
kids	_ _
apple	_ _



“... meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be _____ and successful.”

JOSHUA 1:8, NIV

Answer: apple, art, grow, kids, learn, paper, pencils, play, pray, read, school, student, wisdom, prosperus