


THE PULSE BEAT



Volume 46, Number 4

July/August 2021

A Word from the Pastor

We find ourselves now in the heart of the summer! And we are also in a welcome time of change from one year ago at this time!

Back in the summer of 2020, we were facing the long-term effects of the Covid-19 disease pandemic. There has been nothing quite like it in the experience of most of us who are here today! Not since the last great flu epidemic of 1918! The most comparable time that even comes close is WWII, which engulfed much of the world from 1939-45, and caused 70 million deaths worldwide.

Our own nation has now passed the death toll from WWII, at over 600 thousand! We are still living with Covid-19. Many families have suffered the loss of loved ones, and we, as people of faith, mourn with those who mourn as well.

Still, we can see this summer of 2021 as a time of recovery, and re-grouping. After a figuratively long and stormy time, we are now seeing the sun of renewal. And while Covid-19 is not completely gone, it seems we are free to renew our sense of hope again!

This summer as we re-group, while continuing to take precautions, the church is also returning to some regular practices. In July, as part of our worship, we are inviting people to return again to the altar railing for communion, to receive “the body and blood of Christ” once more, while spacing communicants one person apart. There will also be the option of remaining in your pew, to take communion without coming to the altar railing.

Our plan is to gradually re-instate things we had faithfully done before. We will add a hymn of praise, musically to our worship. And also return to offering the healing liturgy that we have done quarterly, with anointing oil and the laying on of hands.

Unless there is a strong resurgence of Covid-19, most likely our Sunday School, depending on the availability of students, will meet once a month, beginning in September. That along with our lunch Bible studies, and weekly and Sunday meetings as well. We at the faith community of St. John Lutheran of Grafton, are making the adjustments needed to continue being the “body of Christ,” in our new time!

On a personal note, I may likely have surgery to repair a tendon in the right ankle during these days as well. That will mean recovery time off, during the latter part of the summer, as we prepare for autumn.

So may you have a peaceful & renewing time in these rest of summer days. May God also bless us, and be actively present with families who have suffered the loss of loved ones from Covid-19, or other difficult events.

As always, we ask God, to fill us with the power of the Holy Spirit, that spirit of healing & wholeness. God also grant us the strength, faith & courage, to find the needed ways to grow into becoming God’s people in the church, and the community in these days. Blessings on your 2nd half of the summer of 2021!

Peace, Pastor Jim

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy Summer! As we people in Wisconsin know, summer is a breath of a season, and we try to squeeze every minute we can out of it. It's been a long winter, with trials and tribulations aplenty, and having summer back, especially with the world opening back up again, it really feels good. As Jesus said to his disciples in John 16:33, we really needed to dig down deep and be patient, to look ahead and to have faith. *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* When stormy seasons come, the one thing we all long for is connection and peace. We need to know that we are not alone, and we need to find some peace amid our trials to rest in while we wait for the circumstances to blow over. As life returns to a more normal state, I find this to be very true.

I believe we have weathered a great storm, and we have come out stronger because of it. Life got tough, but with Christ living within us, we were made that much tougher. And we were not crushed! Sometimes life asks a lot of us – and it can be more than we think we have to give. But we are a strong bunch of people, oftentimes stronger than we think we are. And with God in our corner, how can we lose?

I've always felt sad for people who don't understand how God walks next to them through the trials of their life. He is there for the wonderful things we experience, but is especially there to hold us up when we are at our lowest. I think back to the poem *"Footprints In the Sand."* How awesome is it to know that when we need him most, God does not let us flounder, but He carries us when we cannot carry ourselves. The poem tries to reinforce to us that we never have to be afraid. We are never alone. And we can give hope to others. Faith has gotten us through these trying times, as God has been right next to us fighting our battles with us.

Paul says in Romans 8:28 *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."* That's not to say that we agree that all of God's works feel "good" – but we as a group of believers are supposed to take something good from it. The important truth here is that God is bigger than all of our tragedies, all of our losses and all of our failures. Evil doesn't win. The last year has reinforced in me the need to appreciate what I have, and that relationships are so much more important than things.

I am so happy to be able to share worship with you all again! Have a wonderful summer!

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)

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Office Manager: Robin Fatla

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262-377-0410

E-mail: stjohnsecretary@hotmail.com

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Congregation President – Sandy Allen

Vice President – Dennis Jaeger

Secretary – Sheila Kapke

Treasurer – Peter Viesselmann

Church Council:

Dennis Jaeger – Worship

Sue Dowe – Education

Audrey Crowell – Stewardship

OPEN – Outreach (formerly Evangelism)

OPEN - Finance

Joe Porth – Property & Grounds

Sharlene Sandquist - Public Relations

Dennis Heusdens - Youth

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:

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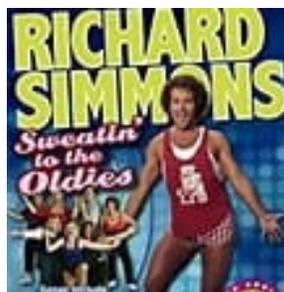
FaceBook: St. John Lutheran Church-Grafton, WI

GENERAL INTEREST NEWS

We keep in our prayers: Mary Barker (friend of Audrey Crowell), Barb Beckner (friend of Judy McMullin), Clarice Buchholz (Mary Jaeger's mother), Anna Bullio (great-granddaughter of Florence Van Cleave), Adrian Buntrock (friend of Robin Fatla), 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), Audrey Crowell, Frank DeGaetano (Borgne McClelland's brother-in-law), Nan Donner (friend of Diane & Roger Wendorf), Pastor Dale Erickson (friend of Audrey Crowell), Roger Faretra (Doug's brother), Shamir Garcia, Jeanne Hass, George Lawver (great-grandson of Anita Misun), Joanne Levenick, Ken Matthews (Kayla Matthews' father-in-law), Marion Meyer, Ed (Anita Misun's family member), Chuck & Cary Mueller (friends of Glenn Sievers), Sue Ellen Nelsen, Sandy Nyenhuis (friend of Audrey Crowell), Nellie Padilla (Sugeily Garcia's mother), Sugeily Pineiro-Garcia, Joe Porth, Eric & Karen Rautenberg (Sue Dowe's mother and step-father), Tom Rogahn, Ginny Scarborough (sister of Jackie Rogahn), Wendy Tomter, Wendy Werner (Sandy Allen's sister-in-law), **Military personnel:** 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



Welcomed into the family of God at St. John on Saturday, June 5th, **Amaia Esmeralda Lauters** -daughter of Mitchell Lauters & Jazmine Garcia, granddaughter of Ivan & Sugeily Garcia.



Mon., Wed., Fri. aerobic dance sessions using the "Sweatin' to the Oldies" videos by Richard Simmons, continue through the summer. Join us from 10 - 11 am in Fellowship Hall. Come to any or all of the sessions. All are welcome!

COMMUNITY NEWS



Donate Blood and Be a Hero!

The community is welcome and encouraged to give blood at a blood drive hosted by Trinity Lutheran in Cedarburg (N60 W6047 Columbia Road) on **Saturday, July 17 from**

8:30am-12:30pm. Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin recently issued an emergency appeal for blood donations as communities across the state face a potential crisis with blood supplies dropping to critically low levels. Compared to a typical year, Versiti is down more than 40 percent in donations – or nearly 20,000 units of blood – while the need for blood has increased nearly 10 percent over historical averages. All blood types are needed, with type O-negative and O-positive blood most in demand.

By donating just one pint of blood, you have the potential to save up to three lives. To sign up for your lifesaving appointment, call 1-877-BE-A-HERO, contact Jill Klitz (377-6074, djklitz@milwpc.com) or reserve a spot online at bit.ly/trinityjuly17. Thank you!

The COPE Line

The COPE Line is an anonymous and confidential 24-hour supportive listening and crisis intervention line. Through the guidance of trained listeners, the COPE Line can provide you with emotional support and local resources to address any of your immediate or ongoing concerns.

SUPPORT PROVIDED FOR:

- ◆ Anxiety and Depression
- ◆ Mental health concerns
- ◆ Addiction & Recovery Challenges
- ◆ Managing life stressors
- ◆ Facing challenges in relationships
- ◆ Thoughts of suicide or self-harm
- ◆ Linking to appropriate resources

Contact the COPE Line Now!
262 377-2673
cope@sironarecovery.org

GENERAL INTEREST NEWS

Stewardship: A disciple's path

How well do you care for and use everything that God has given you - not just possessions and wealth, but relationships, creativity, special talents, intelligence, time, vocation: **everything?** Using all our gifts wisely and for godly purposes is what being a steward is all about. It's the key to being a disciple.

As our church's traditional offering prayers express, stewardship lies at the very center of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

"Stewardship is everything we do after we say, I believe." (Clarence Stoughton)



WORSHIP NEWS

With the Covid-19 cases reaching a manageable level, we are beginning to restart worship components and programs.

On Sunday, July 4th, we will once again be offering Holy Communion at the communion rail. Although only individual cups filled by the Assisting Minister will be offered - NO Common Cup - it is a start back in the right direction.

Communers will distance themselves at the rail and disposable cups will be used.

Pastor Jim has indicated that he will also be looking to schedule a Healing Service in the very near future as well as the possible start up of Bible studies in September.

Treasurer Peter Viesselmann has asked the counting teams to let him know when they feel comfortable enough to return to counting the Sunday offerings.

Worship Committee Chairman Dennis Jaeger is asking for Communion Assistants to return to service when they feel comfortable as well.

We put our faith and trust in God to deliver us from the Covid-19 "trial" and He is bringing us through - in His time. A new day is dawning.

Thanks be to God!



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Altar bouquets:

July 4 - OPEN/OPEN

11 - Gary & Sue Haas (2)

18 - Jeanine Burhop/
Peter & Kathie Viesselmann

25 - Robin Fatla/**OPEN**

August 1 - Marion Meyer /OPEN

8 - **OPEN/OPEN**

15 - Florence Van Cleave (2)

22 - Judy McMullin/**OPEN**

29 - **OPEN/OPEN**

Lectors:

July 4 - Sue Dowe

11 - Robin Fatla

18 - Gary Haas

25 - Dennis Jaeger

August 1 - Borgne McClelland

8 - Robert McClelland

15 - Judy McMullin

22 - Sharlene Sandquist

29 - Suzette Travis

Communion Assistant:

July 4 - Robin Fatla

11 - Monica Faretra

18 - Gary Haas

25 - Bob Butt

August 1 - Robin Fatla

8 - Dennis Jaeger

15 - Monica Faretra

22 - Bob Butt

29 - Gary Haas

Counters:

July 18 - Sheila Kapke's team

August 15 - Sheila Kapke's team

NEW ADDRESS:

Harvey & Joan Salger

101 Walnut Circle #1321

Grafton, WI 53024

Same phone # - 262 377-0893



- 7/4 Kelly Boelkow
- 7/5 Gary Haas
- 7/5 Kim Christensen
- 7/5 Connor Dowe
- 7/12 Borgne McClelland
- 7/12 Adam Kapke
- 7/13 Dane Granrath
- 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 Steven Reindl
- 7/24 Richard Hadler
- 7/25 Carole Litvinoff
- 7/26 Peter Viesselmann
- 7/31 Diane Burkhalter
- 8/1 Debbie 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
- 8/15 Elizabeth Drescher
- 8/21 Richard Viesselmann
- 8/25 Jasmine Williams
- 8/27 Josie 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!



- 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
- 8/7/1999 Ivan & Sugeily Garcia
- 8/10/2019 Randy & Catherine Tetzlaff
- 8/18/1984 Jeff & Kelly Boelkow
- 8/20/1966 Dale & Kathy Reindl
- 8/23/1997 Dan & Kim David

Please notify church office if we have missed someone. Thank you!



Comedy Club Night
at St. John

Sundays - July 18, August 15,
September 19, October 19
7:00 - 9:00 pm

We will enjoy Christian comedians on a DVD series titled "Thou Shalt Laugh".

Refreshments will be served.

Plan to join the fun!
Invite family and friends.



Mr. Bob's is a ministry of Advent Lutheran Church in Cedarburg and serves the homeless community in downtown Milwaukee.

Current needs are:

Summer jackets Shoes Windbreakers Rain jackets

Donations can be dropped off at
2360 Dakota St., Grafton
or at St. John and they will be delivered



A Prayer for Independence Day

Guide us as we work together to build a society in which everyone has the opportunity to live with dignity and hope. Help us to be witnesses of Christ's love by practicing charity and promoting justice and peace throughout the world. Strengthen us with fortitude to choose the values of our faith as we exercise Our responsibility as citizens. Inspire us to build a world of greater respect for human life and dignity. Restore us when our spirit grows weary, and bless us in our journey home to You.



The Miracle of Summer

We will be continuing our participation in the meal program for the Family Promise guests residing at the Chalet Motel in Mequon.

We are being asked to provide meals for an entire week (Mon. - Fri.) for which we will sign up.

The meals will be prepared in your own kitchen, packaged up, and delivered to the guests at the motel.

Robin Fatla, Volunteer Coordinator, will be contacting those who have helped with providing meals in the past, asking for their help again.

A team of Sunday school teachers faced boisterous youngsters on Rally Day, the start of a new education year.

Because kids were reuniting after a break, they were eager to chat about vacations.

To restore order, a teacher asked the children to take turns sharing a favorite Bible verse, story or miracle.

One, who still had summer on the brain, exclaimed,



"I like the time when everybody loafs and fishes!"



Treasurer's Update As Of May 31, 2021

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 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	\$54,900
Year-To-Date expenses	\$77,600 (including \$12,300 for Mission Support)

The result is that St John currently has a deficit in our Unified Budget of \$22,700. (Compared to a deficit of \$24,600 at this point last year.) However, we have received \$26,040 as a forgivable loan through the Small Business Administration as part of the 2nd round of the Paycheck Protection Program. The payroll and utilities expenses incurred since the loan was received have exceeded the amount of the loan proceeds, so an application form for forgiveness of this loan has been submitted. Upon approval, the \$26,040 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 \$12,300 to the budgeted mission agencies for 2021. 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.

Current amount in the fund \$27,300

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

Current amount in the fund \$7,400

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 \$143,640

At the Congregation's 2020 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.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



023883

“Taking the five loaves and the two fish, [Jesus] looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. And all ate and were filled”

(Mark 6:41-42).

Dear friends,

When 5,000 people gathered on the outskirts of Nazareth to hear Jesus teach, his disciples looked in dismay at the massive crowd. At this late hour, in this deserted place, there was no way to feed everyone, so the disciples asked Jesus to send the people away.

Jesus replied, “You give them something to eat” (Mark 6:37).

Five loaves and two fish turned into enough food to feed 5,000 people that day, with 12 baskets left over. This miracle demonstrated God’s overflowing abundance.

As you give generously to the ELCA’s ministries, we continue to see God’s abundance in action, multiplying to impact many lives. Will you make a gift to support God’s work today?



Pastor Matt hosts a group in an outdoor setting.

One such miracle happened at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Greensboro, N.C. When the COVID-19 pandemic struck last year, the congregation found itself in a difficult position – financially strapped and unable to gather in person for such ministries as its urban farm.

“In normal times, we’re trying to do a lot with a little bit, and COVID did disrupt our giving, and so there was some worry in that,” said the Rev. Matt Canniff-Kesecker, the church’s pastor.

Prince of Peace tried applying for a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan. However, like so many other small congregations, it kept hitting roadblocks related to its status in the banking system. Then two things happened.

First, the synod provided its own version of a PPP loan to the congregation – a grant, funded by your gifts to the ELCA COVID-19 Response Fund, that the synod matched from its own fund. Then the ELCA Foundation, which was helping the ELCA Credit Union field loan requests, contacted Pastor Matt. If the congregation opened an account with the credit union, he was told, it could receive a loan in 24 hours.

All of a sudden, Prince of Peace was no longer stuck. “What that allowed us to do was take a breath and not worry in the same way, and just stay focused on how we were going to live out our mission in the new reality,” said Pastor Matt.

(continued)

This joint funding allowed the church's urban farm ministry to adapt, addressing hunger in the neighborhood directly by giving away weekly boxes of produce to about 20 families in need. **Generous gifts to the ELCA COVID-19 Response Fund made this possible!**

"If you want a story of loaves and fishes, it started with feeling stuck at the bank – [now] we have an ELCA grant, a synod grant and a PPP loan," said the Rev. Danielle DeNise, director for evangelical mission at the North Carolina Synod.

"But then also, as Pastor Matt said, we could breathe," Pastor Danielle continued. "As a white church, part of what I want is for my siblings of color to be able to breathe so they can live into their God-given gifts, which can be abundant life through a farm, abundant life as they worship outside, abundant life through a bonfire for young adults. All of those things are made possible when you are not counting nickels."

Your giving can open up a world of abundance. As we face these critical times living in a pandemic together, please give a gift to invest in vital ministries and to support our neighbors near and far who need help the most.

Thank you for your faithful partnership and incredible generosity.

With gratitude,



Kathy Summers
President and CEO, ELCA Foundation
Executive Director, Development

July/August 2021 Pulse Beat



1193 Lakefield Road
Grafton, WI 53024

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

Worship Schedule

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

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"



No kidding

Whatever our age, God calls us to model holy living for others.

Directions: Match the animal young with its parent. Then write the letter answers in order below to complete 1 Timothy 4:12, NIV.

<p>1. ___ bear 9. ___ monkey</p> <p>2. ___ frog 10. ___ platypus</p> <p>3. ___ owl 11. ___ alligator</p> <p>4. ___ horse 12. ___ giraffe</p> <p>5. ___ kangaroo 13. ___ goose</p> <p>6. ___ deer 14. ___ swan</p> <p>7. ___ goat 15. ___ dog</p> <p>8. ___ fish</p>	<p>A. fry I. hatchling</p> <p>B. fawn K. foal</p> <p>C. gosling L. owlet</p> <p>D. cub M. puggle</p> <p>E. kid N. joey</p> <p>F. cygnet O. polliwog</p> <p>G. infant P. puppy</p> <p>H. calf</p>
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" ___ on't let any ___ ne ___ oo ___ down o ___ you ___ ecaus ___
 you ___ re youn ___ , but set an exa ___ ple for the bel ___ evers
 in spec ___ , in ___ onduct, in love, in ___ aith and in ___ urity."

1 TIMOTHY 4:12, NIV

Answers: D, O, L, K, N, B, E, A, G, M, I, H, C, F, P