



THE PULSE BEAT



Volume 46, Number 6

November 2021

A Word from the Pastor

In November, we are still in autumn, but clearly, we begin to see a change in the condition of nature as the leaves fall and the chill in the air becomes more regular than before. We know in November that we can't stop winter from coming, though there are yet pleasant days for us to enjoy!

As the year 2021 winds down, and we feel the crispness of the winds of November, perhaps we thought that in this year we would jettison the Covid-19 pandemic forever! But things didn't quite turn out that way, as a new form of corona virus, the delta variant, set recovery hopes back!

But as time moves on, maybe songwriter Bob Dylan is right when he sings "*you can always come back, but you can't come back all the way!*" Maybe its better to say, we don't come back in the same way we expected! We will most likely be living with some form of Covid-19 from now on into the foreseeable future. Getting back to normal, will not be the same normal as before the worldwide pandemic hit!

Our God is a God who leads us through, whatever forms of grief we face, but doesn't leave us to face deadly diseases, political uncertainty, and personal concerns, all by ourselves. God gives us tools to lead us through the time of shadows and beyond! Like the famous 23rd psalm tells us, in one of its variations, "***Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for YOU ARE WITH ME, your rod and your staff, (like those of a shepherd) they comfort me.***"

The God we believe in and follow on "the Way," gives us tools, and help through life! Love and forgiveness, the power of the Holy Spirit, worship, holy communion, the challenge & comfort of the Word, Holy Scripture, & prayer. God gives us, by faith, the gifts of faith, hope, and love.

Plus, God enters our lives, in ways we often miss, because we think its something else. God comes to us, via intuition & insight, and wisdom. In our conscience, in dreams, & in gratitude. Sometimes we are even given visions of God which we hardly notice, since we are not looking for God in this way.

I am always struck that Jesus, in the second half of Luke answers a question of the disciples, as to where to look for the kingdom.

Jesus replies, "**The kingdom of God is among you and within you.**" *Among us in Jesus' presence, and within, through the Holy Spirit, and all the ways God becomes real to us!*

So as we move into the last 2 months of the year, remember to look & listen for the presence & the reality of God in your life, and in the midst of the community of believers, and even in the goodwill of strangers you meet! And don't forget to take action, always in love, for God, and for love of neighbors, just as Jesus commanded!

Please remember to keep on supporting your church as we come to the conclusion of the year, with your presence, and your good stewardship, including with your financial help, if you have the means! May your November be blessed!

Peace, *Pastor Jim.*

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Do you see the glass as half full or half empty? I was teasing my daughter, Laura, this week as her husband, Kyle's, flight home from his deployment was delayed, that she needed to shut off the pessimism! She was so wrapped up worrying about all the things that could go wrong to delay his return even further that she couldn't let herself get excited that he was coming home. I think sometimes we can get all caught up in what has or can go wrong that we forget about all the things that we should really be thankful for. As Paul said to the Thessalonians, *"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."* 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. And how true a statement that is! Kyle made it home – later than his original return home date but on time for this rescheduled one – and our family is so very thankful for his safe return.

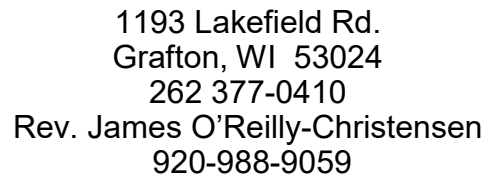
What are you thankful for, as we watch the seasons change and get ready for the holidays? When the daily news continues to bombard us with all of the craziness of the world, sometimes it's hard to see all of the good things that are in our lives. I continue to be thankful for good health, for both me and my family. We felt God's healing hand during various bouts of Covid in our family, and my thankfulness couldn't have been greater. While we hear that inflation is on the rise, and prices are going up, I continue to be very grateful that we have plentiful food, and a warm house to live in. As I get older, and the days seem to fly by faster and faster, I thank God for every day I have been given, as each and every one of them is a gift, and I strive to do everything I can to make the best of them. I am also incredibly thankful for this wonderful church family that I am privileged to be able to worship with every Sunday.

Included in this PulseBeat is a fresh copy of the questions that were mailed to you in October. I urge each of you to either fill out the hard copy and return it to the church office, or to follow the link and fill out the Google form online. The answers to these questions can't come from just me, or the pastor, or the Church Council. We, as a congregation, need to prayerfully consider the questions, and provide our answers. All of your answers are important, and the Council and I are thankful for your help and guidance in how St. John should go forward in the future.

My hope for everyone is that you can find lots to be thankful for, even if the world seems a little off kilter right now. *"This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."* Psalm 118:24

Peace and blessings to you all!

Sandy



These questions have been provided to all members via mail and email. We need your participation to make good decisions on how St. John should go forward in the future. Please either fill this out and return it to the church office or follow the link at the end and fill it out online.

- ◆ If you are an active member, what steps do you think we could take to try to reach inactive members so that they would increase their participation?

- ◆ If you haven't been very active in worship or service, what changes would you like to see? (We realize that health or other issues may be large factors in your situation.)

- ◆ What steps do you think we could take to get youth and young adults more actively involved in worship and service?

- ◆ There will be six openings on the church council in January 2022, including the President's position. Three of the openings are eligible to be re-elected from current council members who may wish a 2nd term. Would you be willing to serve on the council? Can you recommend someone who would be a candidate?

- ◆ Where do you see the life-status of our church in 2 or 5 or 10 years, and why?

Here is the link to the online Google form. Providing your name is optional.

<https://forms.gle/vnsNjX4kznaDqqrc8>

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 – 12:00 pm

262-377-0410

E-mail: stjohnsecretary@hotmail.com

Website: stjohngraffton.org

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:

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

We keep in our prayers: Delaney Allen, James Allen, 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), Troy Burmesch (Dale & Sandy Allen's nephew), Carol Butt, Chris Capelle (friend of Kay Freyer), Emily Carney (friend of Kylene Wright), Marian Carraway, Jenny Zarling Caesar (goddaughter of Marian Witte), Cathy Collins (Florence Van Cleave's daughter), Amanda Combs (friend of Laura Christenson), Joseph Crowell & Mary Baumann, Francis & Kathy Darga (Carole Litvinoff's sister & brother-in-law), Frank DeGaetano (Borgne McClelland's brother-in-law), Don & Nan Donner (friends of Diane & Roger Wendorf), Roger Faretra (Doug's brother), Nancy Freier (Marian Witte's daughter), Shamir Garcia, Jeanne Hass, George Lawver (great-grandson of Anita Misun), Marilyn & Sandy (Florence Van Cleave's sisters), Scott Maronde (nephew of Gary & Sue Haas), Ken Matthews (Kayla Matthews' father-in-law), Ed (Anita Misun's family member), Anita Misun, Chuck & Cary Mueller (friends of Glenn Sievers), Sandy Nyenhuis (friend of Audrey Crowell), Nellie Padilla (Sugeily Garcia's mother), Sugeily Pineiro-Garcia, Eric & Karen Rautenberg (Sue Dowe's mother and step-father), Tom Rogahn (Sue Dowe's sister of Jackie Rogahn), Ginnie Scarborough (sister of Jackie Rogahn), Wendy Tomter, Wendy Werner (Sandy Allen's sister-in-law), **Military personnel:** 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



November 7th

Remembering loved ones at home with the Lord.

St. John family

members called home in the last year:

Bea Warren

Feel free to share photos of loved ones on this Sunday. A table will be set-up to display those photos in the rear of the church.

GENERAL INTEREST NEWS

Great story about our members Bob & Mari Schmidt: **“Wisconsin 4-H inducts Ozaukee County couple into Hall of Fame”**

Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development announced last week the 2021 Hall of Fame Laureates including 12 volunteers, supporters and staff who have impacted Wisconsin 4-H. Plans for an induction ceremony for the 2021 and 2020 laureates are in progress and will be shared with the 4-H community soon.

“This year’s laureates have each accomplished so much. And I feel sincere gratitude for their contributions to 4-H youth and many years of leadership in both volunteer and staff roles,” said Matt Calvert, Wisconsin 4-H program leader and director of the Institute for Positive Youth Development, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension. “They have provided the sparks that ignited new interests, and supported the positive development of countless youth and volunteers. Please join me in celebrating each laureate’s generosity and passion for 4-H and their many contributions to their communities.”

The Wisconsin 4-H Hall of Fame was established to recognize 4-H volunteers, financial supporters, staff and pioneers who made major contributions to the 4-H movement at the local, state, and national levels.

Two Ozaukee County residents, Bob and Mari Schmidt, have been recognized for their work as 4-H volunteers.

“Bob and Mari Schmidt epitomize teamwork and dedication to 4-H,” reads a press release. “Their involvement began as parents. This quickly led to Project Leadership, first in sheep, then poultry and finally the goat project. Bob served as vice president on the 4-H leaders board. In 1990, they became Co-General Leaders and Mari started the club’s newsletter.”

The couple initiated the Adopt-a-Highway Program and partnered with the Pineview Wildlife Rehab Center to educate the 4-H members and support the rehab programs.

They also provide leadership to the 4-H Livestock Association as county sheep leaders and barn superintendents. Mari solicits donations for 4-H Livestock Awards and they both assist with the auction. According to the 4-H organization, the couple was “instrumental” in starting the Small Animal Blue Ribbon Auction for poultry, rabbits and goats and turning it into a Scholarship Program. They received the Ozaukee 4-H Leadership Recognition Award.

Bob is a member of the Ozaukee County Fair Board. Both are active in their church and Optimist Club.

“They strive to know and encourage each project member,” adds the news release. “Together they’ve shared 66 years of leadership with the Ozaukee County 4-H youth!”

From the Treasurer

The last day to have contributions recorded on your statement for the year 2021, will be Friday, December 31st. If you wish to have contributions recorded in 2021, please be sure to have them to the church by then.

If you are mailing contributions, they must be postmarked on or before December 31st.

Contact Peter Viesselmann if you have any questions.

From the Church Council

There are six openings on the St John Church Council next year.

Please prayerfully consider offering your name for nomination for one of these openings.

Council members are elected "at large", and then the Council members themselves designate committee responsibilities and elect officers at their first meeting of the year. This is your opportunity to help guide St John for the future on behalf of the congregation.

If we do not have all positions filled, there are fewer points of view expressed, and there is also extra responsibility for the remaining Council members.

If you have any questions, you can ask Pastor Jim or any of the current Council members."

From Stewardship

Stewardship Today

What is a Steward in the Christian sense?

A Steward is the manager of the affairs of God on earth. God has made each of us a Steward and has given each of us abilities and talents that are all unique. We should use these abilities and talents to serve God in how we respect and care for ourselves, others and the world and in how we receive, share, and reflect the Gospel in our day-to-day lives.

A Christian Steward serves God out of love and gratitude for these gifts.

We share our time talents and property, knowing that it's not how much we have, but what we do with what we have that's important.

1 Peter 4:10: "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."



11/3	Mary Ellen Levra
11/4	Steve Schauer
11/5	Marian Witte
11/5	Addison Heusdens
11/5	John Clasen
11/6	Dan Porth
11/10	Tim McCloskey
11/10	Robert McClelland
11/10	Art Crowell
11/11	Harvey Salger
11/12	Sheila Kapke
11/19	Jim O'Reilly-Christensen
11/24	Chuck Schmalz
11/24	April Heusdens
11/26	Rebecca Schauer
11/28	Brynnlee Porth

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



11/30/1963	Robert & Borgne McClelland
11/30/2013	Cole and Danielle Granrath

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

OUTREACH TEAM

This year's holiday emphasis will be a Thrivent Action Team titled

"Surprise Santa"



During the month of November, donations will be accepted to purchase Christmas gifts and decorations for the families in the Family Promise program.

Since the Covid-19 pandemic began in March of 2020, the families have been in shelter at the Chalet Motel in Mequon.

There is little opportunity for them to decorate or purchase gifts for Christmas and this is your opportunity to help them enjoy the holidays a bit more.

As a Thrivent Action Team program, seed money for Surprise Santa of \$250 has been received and the Outreach Team would like St. John members to match that gift.

Donations towards these gifts will be accepted through November 30th.

Make a check out to St. John with "Thrivent Action Team" in the memo line and leave in the offering plate on Sunday, or mail your donation to the church or hand your donation to Robin Fatla.

We hope you will join the Outreach Team in spreading holiday cheer to those without a home to call their own this holiday season.



November 2021

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1	2 Noon - Bible study at Flipside Cafe	3 5:00 pm - Confirmation class 7:00 pm - North Conference of Greater Milw. Synod at St. John	4 10:00 - Bible study of Luke at church	5 Pastor's day off	6
7 9:30 am - Worship - All Saints Remembrance (Daylight Saving Time ends)	8 9:00 am - Quilting 1:00 pm - Sarah Circle Bible study	9 9:00 am - Coalition council presidents meet at St. John	10 5:00 pm - Confirmation class	11 10:00 - Bible study of Luke at church	12 Pastor's day off	13
14 9:30 am - Worship	15	16 Noon - Bible study at Flipside Cafe	17 5:00 pm - Confirmation class	18 10:00 - Bible study of Luke at church	19 Pastor's day off	20
21 9:30 am - Worship 10:45 am - Church Council	22 9:00 am - Quilting	23	24 TBA - Thanksgiving worship service	25 Thanksgiving	26 Pastor's day off	27
28 9:30 am - Worship - First Sunday of Advent 10:45 am - Book study - "The Rapture Exposed"	29	30 Noon - Bible study at Flipside Cafe				



Circle Meeting in November:

Sarah Circle: Monday, November 8, 1:00 PM
in Fellowship Hall



QUILTING DATES

**Monday
November 8 &
22
9:00 - noon**

THANKOFFERING SUNDAY November 21st

On Sunday, November 21st, a Thankoffering will be taken of that "little extra" in response to that "little extra" received throughout the year!

The offerings will be given for all the ministries and priorities of the Women of the ELCA.

Your check or envelope can be made out to Women of the ELCA and marked for Thankoffering. You may put it in the offering or send to Borgne McClelland, treasurer:
1754 Second Ave
Port Washington, WI 53074

Lutheran World Relief (LWR)

Again this year, instead of sending blankets, LWR is using the money sent for blankets to pay for the shipping of all the quilts sent to all the needy people of the world.

Please be generous so that all those with such serious needs are able to access a quilt. Your check or envelope can be made out to Women of the ELCA and marked for Blankets. You may put it in the offering plate or send to Borgne McClelland, treasurer:

1754 Second Ave
Port Washington, WI 53074
by December 26th.

Worship Assistants for November

Assisting Ministers:

7 Dennis Jaeger
14 Bob Butt
21 Robin Fatla
28 Gary Haas

Lectors:

7 Robert McClelland
14 Judy McMullin
21 Sharlene Sandquist
28 Suzette Travis

Ushers:

7 Roger Wendorf
14 Dennis Jaeger
21 Peter Viesselmann
28 Bob Eichmann

Flowers:

7 Marian Witte (2)
14 Harvey & Joan Salger
14 **OPEN**
21 Robert & Borgne McClelland
21 Doreen Koopmann
28 Jeanine Burhop
28 **OPEN**

Counting Teams:

7 Sheila Kapke Team
14 **OPEN**
21 **OPEN**
28 Borgne McClelland Team



Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service
Wednesday, November 24

7:00 pm

Location yet to be determined
Please watch/ listen for more info

Treasurer's Update As Of September 30, 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	\$ 93,300
Year-To-Date expenses	\$128,000 (including \$12,300 for Mission Support)

The result is that St John currently has a deficit in our Unified Budget of \$34,700. (Compared to a deficit of \$40,700 at this point last year.) 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. This amount has been placed into the Contingency Fund and will be used to partially offset the deficit at the end of the year. However, deficits for the remaining months of the year could cause us to exceed the balance of the Contingency Fund.

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 \$53,700 (including \$26,040 from SBA grant)

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

Current amount in the fund \$8,700

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 \$144,400

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. At this time, quoting is in process for the sound system upgrade, but the remaining projects have been put on hold due to our financial situation.

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.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Drive-thru
Chili Dinner
Tuesday,
November 2

4:00—7:00 pm

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
705 Grand Ave., Random Lake

26 oz. chili, homemade corn-
bread, and homemade brownie
\$8.00

Gluten free chili available while
supplies last.

41st Annual Country Fair

Saturday, November 13

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
701 Washington St., Grafton

Vendors, crafts, quilts,
homemade bakery, Christmas
cookies

\$8 - ham sandwich luncheon
with their famous potato salad

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

*Enabling seniors and adults with disabilities to
remain independent in their homes.*

2021 Holiday Gifts Program

Gifts from the Heart

In some cases, ICO's gift card to clients
was the only gift they received last
season. That's why ICO continues this
holiday tradition.

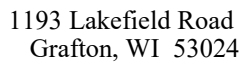
In 2021, the goal is to present to each of
the 130 + clients a gift card from a local
store. Donations of gift cards to the
stores listed below are
being requested.

- ♦ Walmart
- ♦ Meijer
- ♦ Pick 'n Save
- ♦ Walgreen's
- ♦ Piggly Wiggly

Mail or deliver gift cards for \$10 or \$20 ,
to the office by Friday, December 10.

2360 Dakota Dr., Grafton, 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"

Answer: rejoice, always, pray, give, thanks