


THE PULSE BEAT



Volume 46, Number 7

December 2021

A Word from the Pastor

Already we find ourselves at the end of another year! Many people have gone through a lot. And yet, while the weather definitely turns colder, and there is less light in the sky with shorter daytimes, we are still reminded of hope!

The church year seasonal color for Advent (meaning arrival or coming) is blue. Not for despair as in having the blues, but blue for the color of HOPE. And hope has to do with our ability, as we trust in the Trinitarian God, has to do with, *imagining a new future. Can we?*

At the end of December, the amount of light visible in the sky begins to increase, just a bit, after the darkness of late fall, and after the winter solstice of December 21-22. The light increases by only a minute or two each day, beginning just before the birth of Jesus, who we believe to be, the Son of God and Savior of the world!

And while Jesus may have literally been born earlier in the fall historically, the celebration of the birth of ***“The Word become flesh,”*** at this particular time, is more than coincidence.

There's greater light in the sky, and in our world, to welcome the God of creation sending the incarnate Son, to enter our humanity, in order, not to destroy, but to save!

And there, friends is the good news, in a challenging year of ping-ponging between setbacks and recovery, from the worst pandemic disease of our lifetime, that we have had to adjust to in 2021. The devastating pandemic disease known as Covid-19 remains with us, and probably will continue to do so. So far, it has caused the deaths of a million people worldwide. Although now we are better equipped with vaccines to fight this plague, than we were a year earlier.

It's no accident that believers and Jesus followers are people of HOPE! We have been baptized into it! A blessed Advent & Christmas be to you! And God grant you a joyful & healthy new year!

Peace! *Pastor Jim*

Message from our President

But God will never forget the needy; the hope of the afflicted will never perish. Psalm 9:18

When my kids were younger, one of the things we did at Christmas was to have them adopt children from the angel tree at St. John and to have them help pick out Christmas gifts for them. While we were by no means in the “well off” category, we always had enough, and our kids always had what they needed. Dale and I wanted them to understand that not all kids had the same kind of holiday that they had, and we wanted to help them learn the importance of giving. I’m pleased that they learned empathy from those acts of kindness from their childhood, and that they continue to pay it forward, with angel tree gifts picked out by their own children, providing the gift of meals to people in need, and the sharing of their time.

In all my years at St. John, I have always been impressed that our congregation has continued to be a group of very generous people. Whether it’s quilts or meals or health kits or school supplies or help in a crisis or cash donations – our congregation understands outreach and does it well.

As we get ready for the Christmas holidays, St. John will again be giving its members an opportunity to reach out to people in our area that may not have the resources to have a special holiday. We will be participating in the Gifts from the Heart program through Interfaith Caregivers. They will be collecting and distributing gift cards to clients, which in some cases, will be the only gift they receive. Their goal is to be able to present to each of their 130+ clients a gift card from a local store. I’m excited to be a part of this, and I hope that many of our congregation members will be able to share a gift for Christmas as well.

Even though 2021 may not have been the year everyone had hoped for, especially after all the difficulties of 2020, I still remain especially thankful. It’s easy to have a pity party and lament the things we have not had over these two years. But once we look around and see what *other people* do not have, it can definitely put a different perspective on life. I hold tight to my family, my faith, my health...and look forward to the dawning of 2022 with hopes that we will continue to go forward with steadfast faith.

I look forward to celebrating Christmas with my St. John family and to celebrate my many blessings with you all!

*I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.
Psalm 86:12*

Hugs and peace to you all,
Sandy

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Pastor James O'Reilly-Christensen

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

E-mail: stjohnpastor1@hotmail.com

Office Manager: Robin Fatla

Church office hours: Monday – Friday,
9:00 am – 1:00 pm
262-377-0410

E-mail: stjohnsecretary@hotmail.com

Website: stjohngraffton.org

Congregation President – Sandy Allen

Vice President – 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

Pastor: 920 988-9059

E-Mail: (office) stjohnsecretary@hotmail.com
(pastor) stjohnpastor1@hotmail.com

FaceBook: St. John Lutheran Church-Graffton 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, Michael Horton (brother of Tara & Jeff Kapke), 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, Kathy (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

From Our Treasurer

The last day to have contributions recorded on your statements for the year 2021 will be Friday, December 31st.

If you wish to have your 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.





Advent Devotional meditations, will be shared using Facebook Live, during the Wednesdays of Advent 2021 – Entitled: *“The Mystery of Christmas.”*

December 1, 8, & 15 at 6:30 p.m. These will be about 20 - minute services.

Week 1 – December 1st *“The Prophets”*, includes readings from Old Testament prophets Isaiah & Micah, followed by a reflection.

Week 2 – December 8th *“The Messengers”*, Angels & Shepherds, A reading & reflection on a portion of the Christmas Gospel – Luke 2:8-20.

Week 3 – December 15th *“The God of Christmas”*, includes readings from Genesis 1, and John chapter 1.

Christmas Eve worship at St. John, is on Friday December 24th at 5:00 p.m.

A service of Christmas songs (carols), Scripture readings and the sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated.

The service concludes with Christmas Eve candlelighting, & the singing of “Silent Night.”

There will be **no Christmas day worship** this year on Saturday December 25th.

Regular Sunday worship will commence on December 26th, known as “The First Sunday of Christmas”, at 9:30 a.m. with Holy Communion.



Worship Assistants for December

Assisting Ministers:

- 5 Dennis Jaeger
- 12 Bob Butt
- 19 Robin Fatla
- 24 - **Christmas Eve** - Gary Haas
- 26 Bob Butt

Lectors:

- 5 Sandy Allen
- 12 Carol Butt
- 19 Gary Haas
- 24 - **Christmas Eve** - Dennis Jaeger
- 26 Borgne McClelland

Counting Teams:

- 5 Sheila Kapke Team
- 12 **OPEN**
- 19 **OPEN**
- 26 Borgne McClelland Team

Ushers:

- 5 Dale Allen
- 12 Tom Rogahn
- 19 Bob Butt
- 24 - **Christmas Eve** - Dennis Jaeger
- 26 Monica Faretra

Altar bouquets:

- 5 Peter & Kathie Viesselmann
- 5 Robin Fatla
- 12 Florence Van Cleave (2)
- 19 Jeanine Burhop
- 19 Bob & Barb Eichmann
- 26 Marian Witte
- 26 Jeanine Burhop





- 12/3 Dave Viesselmann
- 12/3 Ivan Garcia
- 12/10 Jan Gonzalez
- 12/11 Evie Tetzlaff
- 12/17 Merry Lou Green
- 12/17 Sugeily Garcia-Pinero
- 12/18 Brian Boelkow
- 12/20 Barb Eichmann
- 12/23 Mark Levra
- 12/25 Kayla Matthews
- 12/27 Rebecca Dowe
- 12/30 Joan Salger
- 12/31 Jeanne Hass

- 12/7/1974 Rick & Nancy Shock
- 12/12/1970 Art & Audrey Crowell

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

HOME VISITATION

Are you interested in a home visit from Pastor Jim? He would be happy to meet with anyone with any needs or concerns, or just to catch up and chat. Please contact Pastor Jim directly or call Robin in the office to set something up. Pastor also has plans to contact all members in the coming new year.

If **YOU** would be interested in visiting some of your St. John family members at home, unable or cautious about returning to Sunday worship service, please contact Robin in the office for names and contact information. This can be done by one person or two once a month.



Circle Meeting in December:

Sarah Circle: Monday, December 13, 1:00 PM at church

* * * * *



QUILTING DATES

Monday
December 13 & 27
9:00 - noon



The Worship Committee will be purchasing 15 poinsettia plants for chancel decoration, from a fundraiser sponsored by the Cedarburg Lions Club.

Each plant can be purchased following the Christmas Eve service for \$15. A sign-up sheet is available if you would like to reserve one of the plants for your home. See Dennis Jaeger with any questions.



Decorating of the church for the Christmas season will be done on Saturday, December 11th at

9:00 am. If you are available to help, the Worship Committee welcomes and thanks you.

St John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Financial Summary For October 2021

	October 2021			Year To Date 2021		
	Actual	Budget	Actual Over (under) Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual Over (under) Budget
Unified Income	\$ 10,265	\$ 16,688	\$ (6,423)	\$ 103,529	\$ 146,858	\$ (43,329)
Expense Summary:						
Education	\$ -	\$ 10	\$ (10)	\$ -	\$ 60	\$ (60)
Outreach	\$ -	\$ 63	\$ (63)	\$ 428	\$ 625	\$ (197)
Worship	\$ 870	\$ 1,123	\$ (253)	\$ 6,046	\$ 6,995	\$ (949)
Youth	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Stewardship	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 195	\$ 230	\$ (35)
Public Relations	\$ 69	\$ 40	\$ 29	\$ 561	\$ 700	\$ (139)
Property	\$ 1,704	\$ 1,720	\$ (16)	\$ 18,083	\$ 18,895	\$ (812)
Finance (incl. Mission Support)	\$ 8,918	\$ 10,037	\$ (1,119)	\$ 114,254	\$ 115,638	\$ (1,384)
Total Expenses	\$ 11,561	\$ 12,992	\$ (1,431)	\$ 139,567	\$ 143,143	\$ (3,576)
Net Income (Deficit)	\$ (1,296)	\$ 3,696	\$ (4,992)	\$ (36,038)	\$ 3,715	\$ (39,753)

Comparative 2020 Figures:

	@ 10/31/2020
Unified Income	\$ 105,420
Total Expenses	\$ (148,949)
Net Income (Deficit)	\$ (43,528)

Major Differences 2021 vs. 2020: Income year-to-date 2021 \$1,900 less than last year.
Expenses year-to-date 2021 \$9,400 less than last year.
Worship salaries \$8,000 less than last year.
(due to choir director retirement & organist less hours)
Property expenses \$1,900 less than last year.
ELCA health insurance \$3,300 more than last year

Memorial Gifts Received 2021: Bea Warren Memorial \$125; Erwin Witte Jr Memorial \$805
Mercy Fund Gifts Received YTD: \$2,500 (includes \$500 from Trust Fund)
Scholarship Fund Gifts Received: \$1,324 from Trust Fund
ELCA Outreach Support Gift: \$324 from Trust Fund
Property Fund Gift Received: \$1,324 from Trust Fund for major capital expenditures

	@ 10/31/2021	@ 10/31/2020
Assets At End Of Month	\$ 195,453	\$ 192,226

Assets Are Needed to Support The Following Funds:

Audio Fund (formerly Cassette)	\$ -	\$ (1,650)
Contingency Fund	\$ 53,702 <(includes \$26,040 PPP)	\$ 35,491
Family Promise Fund	\$ 236	\$ 320
Fully Funded	\$ 443	\$ 225
Library Fund	\$ 505	\$ 505
Memorial Fund	\$ 144,449 <(incl. \$6,761 restricted)	\$ 145,244
Mercy Fund	\$ 2,260	\$ 860
Music Fund	\$ 162	\$ 162
Organ Repair Fund	\$ -	\$ -
Outreach Fund	\$ 2,412	\$ 2,199
Pastoral Education Fund	\$ 2,354	\$ 2,372
Property Fund	\$ 8,749	\$ 12,071
Scholarship Fund	\$ 2,189	\$ 4,365
Sign Fund (started 2017)	\$ 7,643	\$ 7,643
Youth Fund	\$ 6,387	\$ 6,348
Paycheck Protection Loan (PPP)	\$ -	\$ 19,600
Total Fund Requirements	\$ 231,490	\$ 235,754
= Asset Excess (Shortage)	\$ (36,038)	\$ (43,528)

(Excess = budget surplus; Shortage = budget deficit)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5:00 pm - Confirmation class at Advent	2 10:00 am - Bible study at church	3 Pastor's day off	4
5 9:30 am - Holy Communion/ Stewardship focus 10:45 am - Adult class	6	7	8 5:00 pm - Confirmation class at Advent	9 10:00 am - Bible study at church	10 Pastor's day off	11
12 9:30 am - Holy Communion/ Stewardship Consecration Sunday 10:45 am - Adult class	13 9:00 am - Quilting 1:00 pm - Sarah Circle Bible study	14 Noon - Bible study at Flipside Café	15 5:00 pm - Confirmation class Christmas dinner party at Advent	16 10:00 am - Bible study at church	17 Pastor's day off	18
19 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:45 am - Church Council No adult class	20	21	22 No Confirmation class	23	24 5:00 pm -  <i>Christmas Eve</i> WORSHIP	25  Christmas Day No worship service Robin on vacation through 12/31
26 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:45 am - Adult class	27 9:00 am - Quilting	28	29 No Confirmation class	30	31 Pastor's day off	

COMMUNITY NEWS



Family Promise staff members had so much fun setting up our display for Illuminate Ozaukee 2021 at Herman A. Zeunert Park, Cedarburg, WI 53012. Cruise by from November 26th to

December 23rd and keep your pencils ready to vote for plot 6 aka Family Promise of Ozaukee County to be your FAVORITE display.

[#christmascheer](#) [#familypromise](#)



St. John’s “Surprise Santa”, Thrivent Action Team project, raised nearly \$400 to match the \$250 received from Thrivent. The monies will be used to purchase holiday decorations for a family’s motel room and gifts for the whole family. The shopping will take place in early December.



The Food Pantry of Port Washington, would be more than happy to accept your donations of money or food items to be shared with approximately 90 Food Pantry clients during the upcoming holidays.

If you would like to make a donation, please call 262 284-1148.

A Facebook friend recently spent time at a food bank and spoke to the people getting the food. Here are some things she learned from those in need:

COMMUNITY NEWS

- ◆ Mac and Cheese in the box is great, but needs milk and butter which you can rarely get
- ◆ Boxed milk is a treasure, as kids need it for cereal which they also get a lot of
- ◆ Cake mix and frosting help to make it possible to make a child’s birthday cake
- ◆ They can’t always eat the canned veggies and soup unless a can opener is provided or the cans have pop-tops
- ◆ Spices or salt and pepper would be a real Christmas gift
- ◆ Oil is a luxury, but needed to make Rice-a-Roni which they also get lots of
- ◆ Tea bags and coffee make them feel like you care
- ◆ Sugar and flour are treats
- ◆ They rarely get fresh meat (**The Food Pantry in Port will take fresh meat and produce**)



- ◆ Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef
- ◆ They get lots of peanut butter and jelly, but usually not sandwich bread
- ◆ Tuna and crackers make a good lunch
- ◆ Butter or margarine are always nice
- ◆ Eggs are a real commodity
- ◆ Dishwashing detergent is expensive and always appreciated
- ◆ Feminine hygiene products are a luxury and women will cry over them
- ◆ Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing
- ◆ Seeds are cool in spring and summer - growing can be easy for some

In all the years she has donated food, she thought she was buying what they wanted, but never asked. If you donate at ANY time of the year, perhaps this list will be helpful.

December 2021 Pulse Beat



1193 Lakefield Road
Grafton, WI 53024

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

Worship Schedule

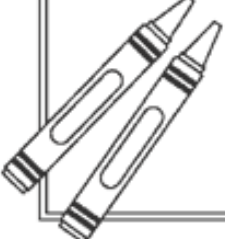
- Sunday Morning - 9:30 a.m.
- Education hour - 11:00 a.m.

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"



Just for KIDS

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

The prophet Isaiah foretold the birth of Jesus Christ. Isaiah knew that Jesus would be called a peacemaker, but that He would also be called by other names.

Use the code to find out what Isaiah said Jesus would be called.

CODE:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Z	Y	X	W	V	U	S	R	Q	P	N	M	L	K	J	I	H	G	F	E	D	C	B	A		

—	Z	M	W	S	V	D	R	O	Y	V					
—	X	Z	O	V	W	D	L	M	W	V	I	U	F	O	
—	X	L	F	M	H	V	O	L	I	N	R	T	S	G	B
—	T	L	W	,	V	E	V	I	O	Z	H	G	R	M	T
—	U	Z	G	S	V	I	,	K	I	R	M	X	V		
—	L	U	K	V	Z	X	V								

Isaiah 9:6, NIV

Answer: And He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.