
 THE PULSE BEAT 

Volume 47, Number 2

February 2022

A Word from the Pastor

We now enter the 2nd month of the new year of 2022. In this time of deep winter, and the season of Epiphany, meaning “Manifestation,” or “Revelation,” the church year calendar starts us off with the vision of the wise men, who follow the star of Bethlehem, to the place where Jesus can be found. It’s only appropriate to look for signs of the presence of God, in these days.

The Gospel readings for this year, and particularly this month before Lent, are from the story of Jesus in Luke. Luke is the gospel for year C of the revised common lectionary, (RCL), the 3rd in the 3- year cycle of readings.

Especially at this time of year, we find ourselves early in the stories of Luke, after the time of Christmas. We hear of Jesus visit to his hometown of Nazareth, for his inaugural sermon, where he is rejected by his own people, who want to throw him off a nearby cliff! A foreshadowing of his rejection in Jerusalem, at the climax of Luke’s story.

This is followed by the tale of the miraculous catch of fish, (Luke 5) where Peter is converted into becoming a disciple, along with his fishing partners, James & John. So the Jesus movement begins, as does the start of Christian faith, with the first to believe in and follow Jesus as the Messiah, & Savior!

For the next couple of weeks, Jesus teaches the people, and we hear Luke’s (shorter) version of the Beatitudes, and early teachings from the “Sermon on the plain.” Here we are admonished to ***“Love those who do not love us back.” Including enemies.*** And the Antioch Bible I’ve been studying lately, adds this note in Luke’s version: ***“But love your enemies, do good to them, lend to them, AND DO NOT CUT OFF ANY PERSON’S HOPE. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he is kind to the wicked and the ungrateful. Therefore, be merciful, as your Father is merciful.”***

Imagine that! As far as I am aware, no other understanding of God, tells us to “Love our enemies,” or teaches us to “Not cut off any person’s hope.” That is, if we want to be children of the Most High God, the creator of the universe! No other religion, or faith I know of, tells us that our God “is kind to the wicked and the ungrateful.”

Thank God this is the case, since we all realize that, at some times at least, its you and me, who are “the wicked and the ungrateful.” So, let us, in these days of strange things, including of course, the continuing presence of the disease threat of Covid -19, and the cloudy present and near future of our politics, let us continue to trust, have faith in, and follow the God of Jesus, who guides and leads us by the Holy Spirit, “into all the truth.” May you be blessed, so that you can bless others, in these February winter, and Epiphany days!

Peace! *Pastor Jim*

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding. Psalm 148:7-8

Yup, it's still winter. And it looks like it plans on sticking around for a while too. I've said it before – I'm not a winter person. I'm more of an 80s and sunny kind of person, and summer is more my speed. But whether it's winter and the snow, or thunderstorms or hurricanes or tornadoes...they're under God's control, and they should remind us that we have a powerful God! An awesome God! And the weather displays only a small part of His glory!

I'm sure you've heard it before – I know that I have. God never sends you more than you can handle. I'd like to have an earnest conversation with Him, because I'm not sure that I always believe that's true. If you are like me, you have had your share of trials and tribulations over the past couple years, and just when I think that *maybe* things are under control, or at least moving in that direction, something new seems to come out of the woodwork, just to prove that we are definitely *not* in control. But when I look around, my wonderful God, He shows me that He's got me. Things may not turn out the way I want them to all the time, but I know that sometimes what I think is best for me is not what He *knows* is best for me.

Is God in charge? You bet He is. But if He is able to tell the snow to fall and the rain to come down, and do so many other things that we can only imagine, then He is definitely able to help us through our struggles, no matter how big or small. We only need to ask...with prayers. He is in ultimate control.

God's voice thunders in marvelous ways; he does great things beyond our understanding. He says to the snow, "Fall on the earth," and to the rain shower, "Be a mighty downpour." Job 37:5-6

It's a little bittersweet, writing this report, as this is the end of my six year Council term, and this will be my last report as President of the Council. It has been my privilege to be in this position and to have been able to help navigate us through the last two plus years. Thank you to all of you – for the support you have shown; for your advice and for your prayers. You are my very special church family – an important and integral extension of my own family, and I hope you all know how important you are in my life. I am so very proud of how this congregation has handled all of the changes that have been implemented and thrown at them to try to keep everyone safe and worshipping together during a very trying time. You have taken each change in stride, making suggestions along the way to guide the leadership in how to reestablish something that felt normal. Thank you for that! Each and every one of you is awesome!

No worries – I'm not going anywhere. You're stuck with me for a little longer. There are still projects I have my fingers in, and things I still want to accomplish to help keep all of us at St. John worshipping together the way we have for over 150 years!

Hugs and prayers to you all,
Sandy

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Pastor James O'Reilly-Christensen

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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.

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(pastor) stjohnpastor1@hotmail.com

FaceBook: St. John Lutheran Church-Grafton, WI

GENERAL INTEREST NEWS



Dale 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), 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), 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), Jeanne Hass, Michael Horton (brother of Tara & Jeff Kapke), Paula Juedes, George Lawver (great-grandson of Anita Misun), Marilyn & Sandy (Florence Van Cleave's sisters), Anna Marchand (niece of Dennis & Mary Jaeger), 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), Alice Murphy (family of MerryLou Green), 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, Suzette Travis, 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



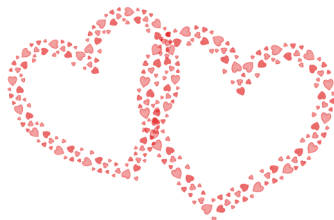
New telephone number for Kay Freyer

262 292-8044



- 2/1 Sharlene Sandquist
- 2/4 Hunter Pritzlaff
- 2/7 Jim Litvinoff
- 2/7 Jeanine Burhop
- 2/7 Delany Allen
- 2/11 Steve Christensen
- 2/12 Donna Dowe
- 2/15 Mari Schmidt
- 2/15 Judy McMullin
- 2/19 Josh Huyck
- 2/20 Ashley Crowell
- 2/21 Bob Eichmann
- 2/27 Jesse Schauer
- 2/28 BreAnna Porth

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



- 2/12/2005 Dennis & Nerissa Heusdens
- 2/20/2010 Kenn & Kayla Matthews

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



OUTREACH TEAM

Gratitude baskets



The recipients of this year's Gratitude Baskets will be the **Public Works Departments of Grafton, Cedarburg, and Ozaukee County.**

We really want them to know how much we appreciate all that they do, year round, keeping our roadways clear and safe, our parks maintained, and any and all other tasks they perform.

Your donations of snacks, sweets, candy, Valentines, thank you cards, etc. will be welcomed until the **February 13th deadline** as they will be delivered on Valentine's Day.

If you would prefer to make a monetary donation for someone else to do the shopping, please make your check out to St. John with "Gratitude" on the memo line.

40 DAYS OF GIVING FOR LENT

We will be having a "**Brown Bag**" collection for the Saukville Food Pantry during the 40 days of Lent beginning the week of Ash Wednesday, March 2nd.

A paper grocery bag will be made available for each family. Each week during Lent, you are asked to put 1 or more items in the bag and on Easter Sunday, return the bag to church so the gifts can be blessed and delivered to the pantry.



Some suggested items for your bags are: *toilet paper, Kleenex, paper towels, shampoo & conditioner, bath soap, deodorant, toothpaste and brushes, ketchup, corned beef hash,, canned beef stew, Mandarin oranges, cake and cookie mixes, canned fruit, Minute Rice,, Rice A Roni, instant potatoes, dry cereal, jelly*

If you have any brown grocery bags, preferably with handles that you could donate, they would be appreciated.



Circle Meeting in February:

Sarah Circle: Monday, February 14, 1:00 PM at church

QUILTING DATES



Monday February 14 & 28 9:00 - noon

Annual Chili Dinner



Sunday, February 20, 2022

DRIVE-THRU ONLY

11:00 am - 2:00 pm

\$8 per quart - includes crackers

Advance orders appreciated by

February 14th

262 377-0410 or

stjohnsecretary@hotmail.com

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister:

- Feb. 6 - Gary Haas
13 - Robin Fatla
20 - Bob Butt
27 - Dennis Jaeger

Lector:

- Feb. 6 - Sandy Allen
13 - Bob Butt
20 - Carol Butt
27 - Sue Dowe

Usher:

- Feb. 6 - Sue & Fritz Dowe
13 - Jim & Carole Litvinoff
20 - Dale Allen
27 - Tom Rogahn

Altar bouquets:

- Feb. 6 - Jeanine Burhop / OPEN
13 - OPEN / OPEN
20 - OPEN / OPEN
27 - OPEN / OPEN

Counting Team:

- Feb. 6 - Dennis Jaeger Team
13 - Jim Litvinoff Substitute Team
20 - Borgne McClelland Team
27 - Sheila Kapke Team

Fellowship Host:

- Feb. 6 - OPEN
13 - OPEN
20 - OPEN
27 - Marion Meyer / Evie Tetzlaff



February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 5:00 pm - ZOOM Confirmation class	3	4 Pastor's day off	5
6 9:30 am - Holy Communion/ Church Council installed	7	8 Noon - Bible study at Flipside Café	9 Noon - Pastor's lunch group at Trinity 5:00 pm - ZOOM Confirmation class	10	11 Pastor's day off	12
13 9:30 am - Holy Communion/	14 9:00 am - Quilting 1:00 pm - Sarah Circle Bible study 	15	16 Noon - Pastor's lunch group at Trinity 5:00 pm - ZOOM Confirmation class	17 6:30 pm - ZOOM Worship Comm. meeting	18 Pastor's day off	19
20 9:30 am - Baptism / Holy Communion 11 AM - 2 PM Chili Dinner 	21	22 Noon - Bible study at Flipside Café	23 Noon - Pastor's lunch group at Trinity 5:00 pm - ZOOM Confirmation class	24	25 Pastor's day off	26
27 9:30 am - Holy Communion/	28 9:00 am - Quilting					

