
THE PULSE BEAT

Volume 47, Number 6

June 2022

A Word from the Pastor

The start of summer is upon us! Pentecost season in the life of the church, or more appropriately “the body of Christ,” since the word church is never used for a building in the New Testament.

We enter the long green season, which runs from June 5 – October 23rd, making it the longest of the liturgical seasons on the calendar. Like in nature, in the good year, the color is green, for growth.

The growing in the church comes from the Holy Spirit. And the spirit has a number of names: *Holy Spirit, Spirit of God, in native understanding, the great Spirit, (also used to refer to God).*

Then in John’s Gospel, Jesus says he will send the comforter, the Helper, the Advocate, or the Spirit of Truth. Jesus tells his disciples, in one of our May gospel readings: **“The comforter, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.”** (John 14:26)

The word “Spirit,” Pneuma, in Greek also means, *wind, breath, and spirit*. So, we have a lot going on in the Biblical understanding of Spirit. Which tells us that God is still with us, including after Jesus has ascended into heaven physically. But Jesus says, in the same conversation: **“I will ask my Father, and he will give you another comforter, who will be with you forever; the Spirit of truth.”** This Spirit, the Holy Spirit, is the presence of the Risen Christ, who will be “with us forever.” The Real Presence, but in a new way.

The Spirit of learning, & growing, just like the natural season of summer this time of year, is also the spirit of discernment, helping us learn what God asks of us as we pray weekly, for God’s will, to be done, **“On earth as it is in heaven.”**

As one church consultant put it, “the Holy Spirit is the most neglected member of the Trinity.”

In the New Testament, especially Luke’s Gospel & Acts, (written by the same person “Luke,”) especially Acts, might be called “the Acts or Activity of the Holy Spirit.” Since the first disciples are always being prodded into action, by the Holy Spirit from God!

That’s the way we grow in faith, during the “green” season, with its focus on the word, and listening (discernment) to God through the scriptures, and to God’s voice, within and around us.

One of my favorite sayings of Jesus is; **“The kingdom of God is among you and within you.”** Meaning the presence or Spirit of God, is in our hearts, as scripture clearly predicts it will be for believers. And it is among us in each other’s presence, in worship, in the community (anywhere God’s will is done), and through the worship of the church, in the body of believers, including in the sacraments. And of course, wherever any kind of good & loving action is done, even if we do not know good is being done for God! Still, this remains the work of the Holy Spirit; whether it is done, by people of faith, or by folks who don’t believe in God at all!

God works through us, when we trust God, and God works through people who feel they do not know God at all! Which is the reason why we keep on practicing the faith, doing good for God, even if we think it is making no difference at all. We must not get discouraged by bad news, of people doing evil, & by the suffering we see so often.

For God continues to act in the world, in and among us. God leads us where we need to go, & keeps on showing us the way, revealing God’s self to us. And if we’re paying attention, God through the Spirit, also shows us, like the first disciples, what not to do, and where not to go!

So let us in the summer season of green, to keep on living in faith, trusting that God’s will is going to be done, in the end! And let us make sure that when it counts, we will find ourselves on God’s side, working for the kingdom! Happy & blessed, early summer days be yours! Peace!

Pastor Jim

CHURCH LEADERSHIP**Pastor James O'Reilly-Christensen**

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Congregation President – OPEN

Vice President – Dennis Jaeger

Secretary – Sheila Kapke

Treasurer – Peter Viesselmann

Church Council:

Dennis Jaeger – Worship

Sue Dowe – Education

OPEN – Stewardship

OPEN – Outreach (formerly Evangelism)

Roger Wendorf - Finance

Joe Porth – Property & Grounds

Sharlene Sandquist - Public Relations

OPEN - 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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FaceBook: St. John Lutheran Church-Grafton,WI

GENERAL INTEREST NEWS

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), Nik Buntrock (friend of Robin Fatla),

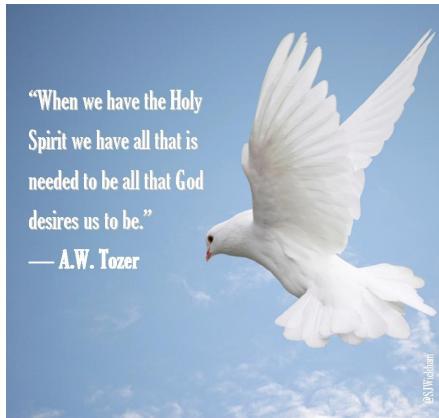
Troy Burmesch (Dale & Sandy Allen's nephew), Emily Carney (friend of Kylene Wright), Marian Carraway, Cathy Collins (Florence Van Cleave's daughter), Amanda Combs (friend of Laura Christenson), Francis & Kathy Darga (Carole Litvinoff's sister & brother-in-law), Nan Donner (friend of Diane & Roger Wendorf), Roger Faretra (Doug's brother), Wanda Gindt (friend of Bob & Carol Butt), Rick Gonzalez (Jan's husband), Sue Haas, Jeanne Hass, Michael Horton (brother of Tara & Jeff Kapke), Harold Immekus, Mary Jaeger, Joanne Levenick, Scott Maronde (nephew of Gary & Sue Haas), Ken Matthews (Kayla Matthews' father-in-law), Chuck & Cary Mueller (friends of Glenn Sievers), Alice Murphy (family of MerryLou Green), Sandy Nyenhuis (friend of Audrey Crowell), Paul Ohm (friend of St. John), Sugeily Pineiro-Garcia, Eric & Karen Rautenberg (Sue Dowe's mother and step-father), Tom Rogahn, Kathy (sister of Jackie Rogahn), Mitchell Schmit (friend of Dale Allen), Nancy Shock, Wendy Tomter, Wendy Werner (Sandy Allen's sister-in-law), Marian Witte

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



*In Loving Memory
Anita Misun
April 11, 1933 -
May 16, 2022*



A Message from the Spiritual Renewal Task Force

The St. John taskforce has been meeting bi-weekly since February to determine where the Spirit is leading St. John Congregation into the future.

Excerpt from Dec. 2017 "Sharing Our Stories", *Café* magazine by Tiffany C. Chaney:

The Bible records countless times crowds gathered around Jesus and times when individuals came to learn and be healed by him. How did they know to show up? They didn't read a post about Jesus that went viral on social media.

Jesus didn't have flyers up in the local coffee shop. They likely showed up because someone they knew shared their story.

Mark 1:21-28 tells the story of Jesus, early in his ministry, teaching on the Sabbath in Capernaum. There he encounters a man with an unclean spirit, which Jesus banishes from the man. Verse 28 says "At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee." Jesus' fame spread because the people who had gathered that day in the synagogue shared the good news of the teacher, of the healer, they had encountered.

As a result, the people around them wanted to encounter Jesus, too.

By simply sharing our stories, we participate in the plan of God.

To whom do you sense God calling you to share your faith story today?

God In My Life Moment - Roger Wendorf

On Christmas Day 2006 I received a present that was not the gift received. But before getting to that, I need to provide a little back ground information. 2006 was a very eventful year for me with God providing the blessings of a successful heart bypass surgery in January followed by a cardio rehab program February / March which then turned into me becoming a Heart Friend in the Columbia St. Mary's volunteer program. So I think you would agree that I experienced many ups and downs that year.

Now back to the present. I'm sure that many of you know that one of my very favorite hymns is Amazing Grace, it is so much a favorite that during my years on the Worship Committee I virtually selected it as a communion hymn whenever hymn selection was my responsibility.

So when on that Christmas Day during our family's present exchange it became my turn to open a present from my sister I had no expectation as to what I would receive. As I proceeded to remove the layers of gift wrap the present was revealed; it was the framed sheet music of my favorite hymn. My reaction was powerful and I could not hold my tears; you see, what I received all wrapped up and nicely presented was God's Gift to me of His Amazing Grace.

Unfortunately I am unable to express to you in words the feelings I received and still receive whenever I hear this hymn. The hymn also brings to mind Paul's message in his letter to the Ephesians 2:8, "*For by grace are you saved through faith and not by your own doing but as a gift of God.*"

And that my friends, is the gift I received on Christmas 2006.

Taskforce members: Sandy Allen, Barb & Bob Eichmann, Shar Sandquist, Judy McMullin, Roger & Diane Wendorf

STEWARSHIP CORNER

This month's stewardship topic, again using the ELCA stewardship manual STEWARDS OF GOD'S LOVE, is Stewards of the Story.

"Stories are powerful! As disciples of Jesus, we experience God alive in God's story, the Bible. God's gospel story is written in our hearts and alive in us. How might we be good stewards of God's story and our own stories of God's work in our lives? How might our congregation together share the gospel? Mark 16:15 reads: "And he said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.'"

One way to proclaim the good news is the GOD IN MY LIFE MOMENT that began Sunday, May 22, during our worship service. We know that God is active in the lives of the members of this congregation, and we, as the Spiritual Renewal Task Force will begin this, by sharing our moments with you every other week. We also encourage you to sign up with Judy McMullen, to share your moments with the rest of the congregation.

We can continue to learn God's story by dwelling in the Word, through private reading of the Bible, participating in the Bible studies that are offered by Pastor Jim, joining the Wednesday scripture study at noon at the Flip Side, participating in the women's Bible study Sept. - May, using the study in Gather, and participating in the Andy of Mayberry series being offered on Mondays at 1:00 p.m. beginning in June, in the Fellowship Hall. Our committees could open each meeting with a short Bible study. It might go like this: A short passage is read and we listen for the places where our imagination is caught. Each shares what they heard in the passage that caught their attention. In addition, two devotional booklets are available to us every quarter of the year. They can be found in the narthex. Both have passages from the Bible and a brief commentary and prayer. The more we study and share with each other, the easier it is to share with others not in the congregation. We are called to be stewards of God's story and love, may God help us to do so.

Gracious God, we thank you that we can study your Word and continue to learn Your story, so that we can share it and your love and activity in our lives, with our neighbors, friends and families. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Sharlene

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister:

June 5 - Bob Butt
12 - Gary Haas
19 - Dennis Jaeger
26 - Robin Fatla

Usher:

June 5 - Jim & Carole Litvinoff
12 - Fritz & Sue Dowe
19 - Tom Rogahn
26 - Bob Butt

Lector:

June 5 - Florence Van Cleave
12 - Sandy Allen
19 - Bob Butt
26 - Carol Butt

God in My Life Moment:

June 5 - Sharlene Sandquist
19 - Judy McMullen

Counting Team:

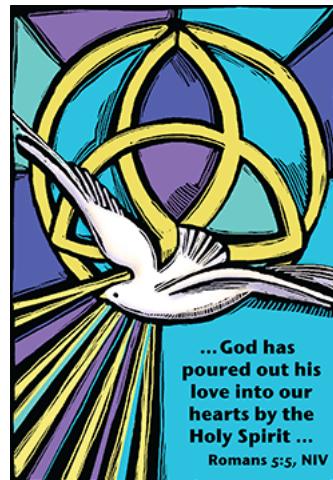
June 5 - Jim Litvinoff Team
12 - Borgne McClelland Team
19 - Sheila Kapke Team
26 - Dennis Jaeger Team

Altar bouquets:

June 5 - OPEN/ OPEN
12 - Jeanine Burhop/ OPEN
19 - Jeanine Burhop/ Florence Van Cleave
26 - Sharlene Sandquist (2)

Fellowship hour:

June 5 - OPEN
12 - OPEN
19 - Father's Day brunch
26 - Marion Meyer & Evie Tetzlaff



**PENTECOST
SUNDAY**

JUNE 5

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 6/1 SUE ELLEN NELSEN
- 6/2 ERIC TUROWSKI
- 6/2 RYAN LIEBERGEN
- 6/2 DENNIS JAEGER
- 6/6 BEVERLY GREEN
- 6/17 JEFF BOELKOW
- 6/19 ALEXANDER DOWE

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

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 6/6/1992 STEVE & KRISTIN SCHAUER
- 6/21/1997 ERICH & JOANN DOWE
- 6/22/2003 JEFF & TARA KAPKE
- 6/30/1984 JOHN & JANE TUROWSKI

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

CONGRATULATIONS!



Ryan Liebergen
UW-Madison -
May 14

Hunter Pritzlaff
Moraine Park Technical College
May 21

Jesse Schauer
Ozaukee High School
May 22

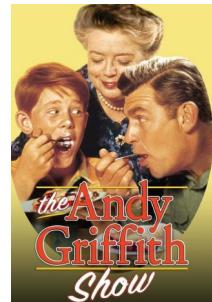
OUTREACH TEAM

Opportunities for you AND the community to join in some fun activities this summer:



Saturday mornings with "Walkin' Robin" - First walk - Saturday, June 4 - starting at the Interurban Bridge in downtown Cedarburg at 9:00 am. Different route every week.

"The Mayberry Bible Study" using film excerpts from the Andy Griffith Show
Each Monday in June at 1:00 pm in the church Fellowship Hall beginning June 6. Contact Robin Fatla for the study guides.



Comedy Club - featuring Christian comedians on DVD 2nd Sunday of each month for 4 months - begins June 12 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm in the church Fellowship Hall.

Conversation Around the Campfire - 2nd Wednesday of each month on the church patio - Begins June 12 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm.



All of this information has been submitted to the local papers inviting the members of the communities to join St. John in the fun!

For more information or questions, contact Robin Fatla at 262 377-0410

GENERAL INTEREST NEWS

Join us on Father's Day, June 19 as we celebrate and honor our fathers and father figures with a delicious brunch following the 9:30 am worship

Salad and Dessert Luncheon

Wednesday, June 8

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

*St. Paul Lutheran Church
701 Washington St., Grafton
\$10 per person*

*For groups of 6 or more, make
reservations by calling Deb
at 262 707-8992*

**LOOK
at THIS!****New address:**

Nancy & Rick Shock
Village Pointe Commons
101 Walnut Circle #1140
Grafton, WI 53024
262 204-2195

GENERAL INTEREST NEWS

On June 14, 1777, the Second Continental Congress took a break from writing the Articles of Confederation and passed a resolution stating that "the flag of the United States be 13 stripes, alternate red and white," and that "the union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

Bernard Cigrand, a small-town Wisconsin teacher, originated the idea for an annual flag day, to be celebrated across the country every June 14, in 1885. That year, he led his school in the first formal observance of the holiday. Cigrand, who later changed careers and practiced dentistry in Illinois, continued to promote his concept and advocate respect for the flag throughout his life.

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson marked the anniversary of that decree by officially establishing June 14 as Flag Day.



Bags of mulch are needed for the gardens surrounding the church.

If you are purchasing some for your home garden, consider picking up a bag or two for the church gardens.

They can be left at any time in the corner outside of the kitchen door.



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1 Noon - Pastor's lunch	2	3 Pastor's day off	4 9:00 am - Walkin' Robin
5 9:30 am - Holy Communion	6 1:00 pm - "Mayberry" Bible study	7 6:00 pm - Pastor's prayer group	8 Noon - Pastor's lunch 1:30 pm - Spiritual Renewal Task Force 6:30 pm - Conversations Around the Campfire on the Patio	9	10 Pastor's day off	11
12 9:30 am - Holy Communion 6:30 pm - Comedy Club at St. John	13 1:00 pm - "Mayberry" Bible study	14 	15 Noon - Pastor's lunch at Grace, Thiensville	16	17 Pastor's day off	18 9:00 am - Walkin' Robin
19 Father's Day 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:45 am - Father's Day brunch 10:45 am - Church Council	20 1:00 pm - "Mayberry" Bible study	21 6:00 pm - Pastor's prayer group	22 Noon - Pastor's lunch at Grace, Thiensville 1:30 pm - Spiritual Renewal Task Force	23	24 Pastor's day off	25
26 9:30 am - Holy Communion	27 1:00 pm - "Mayberry" Bible study	28	29 Noon - Pastor's lunch at Grace, Thiensville	30		

St John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Financial Summary For April 2022

	April 2022			Year To Date 2022			Actual Over (under) Budget
			Actual Over (under) Budget			Actual Over (under) Budget	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
Unified Income	\$ 11,374	\$ 11,707	\$ (333)	\$ 43,569	\$ 49,751	\$ (6,182)	
Expense Summary:							
Education	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Outreach	\$ -	\$ 20	\$ (20)	\$ (8)	\$ 80	\$ (88)	
Worship	\$ 844	\$ 653	\$ 192	\$ 2,527	\$ 2,325	\$ 202	
Youth	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Stewardship	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 194	\$ 210	\$ (16)	
Public Relations	\$ 151	\$ 120	\$ 31	\$ 341	\$ 430	\$ (89)	
Property	\$ 1,512	\$ 2,913	\$ (1,401)	\$ 9,450	\$ 9,732	\$ (283)	
Finance (incl.Mission Support)	\$ 8,280	\$ 8,741	\$ (461)	\$ 46,182	\$ 46,732	\$ (550)	
Total Expenses	\$ 10,787	\$ 12,447	\$ (1,659)	\$ 58,685	\$ 59,509	\$ (824)	
Net Income (Deficit)	\$ 587	\$ (740)	\$ 1,326	\$ (15,116)	\$ (9,758)	\$ (5,358)	

Comparative 2021 Figures:**@ 4/30/2021**

Unified Income

\$ 43,687

Total Expenses

\$ (64,208)

Net Income (Deficit)

\$ (20,521)

NOTE: All 2022 budgeted mission support contributions (\$12,300) were distributed early February.

Major Differences 2022 vs. 2021: Income year-to-date 2022 is about the same as last year.

Expenses year-to-date 2022 \$5,500 less than last year.

Major expense item differences:

-- Gas heat \$1,300 higher than last year.

-- ELCA health insurance cost \$7,800 less than last year.

Thrivent Choice Gifts Rec. 2022:

\$ 1,411

Memorial Gifts Received 2022:

Mel Trapp memorial (\$20); Marianna Ziemer memorial (\$10)

Kathy Reindl memorial (\$225); Joanne Levenick 90th b'day honorarium (\$120)

	@ 4/30/2022	@ 4/30/2021
Assets At End Of Month	\$ 193,989	\$ 208,290

Assets Are Needed to Support The Following Funds:

Audio Fund (formerly Cassette)	\$ -	\$ -
Contingency Fund	\$ 32,371	\$ 27,287
Family Promise Fund	\$ 441	\$ 236
Fully Funded	\$ 447	\$ 358
Library Fund	\$ 505	\$ 505
Memorial Fund	\$ 144,824 <(incl. \$6,761 restricted)	\$ 143,644 <(incl. \$6,761 restricted)
Mercy Fund	\$ 2,260	\$ 110
Music Fund	\$ 162	\$ 162
Organ Repair Fund	\$ -	\$ -
Outreach Fund	\$ 2,379	\$ 2,287
Pastoral Education Fund	\$ 2,276	\$ 2,397
Property Fund	\$ 7,221	\$ 7,425
Scholarship Fund	\$ 2,189	\$ 4,365
Sign Fund (started 2017)	\$ 7,643	\$ 7,643
Youth Fund	\$ 6,389	\$ 6,351
Paycheck Protection (PPP)Loan	\$ -	\$ 26,040
Total Fund Requirements	\$ 209,105	\$ 228,810
= Asset Excess (Shortage)	\$ (15,116)	\$ (20,521)

(Excess = budget surplus; Shortage = budget deficit)

TRUST FUND MEETING

Monday, May 16, 2022 - St. John Lutheran Church, Grafton, Wi. 6:30 PM

Present: Pastor Jim O'Reilly-Christensen, Cindy Porth, Tom Rogahn, Glenn Sievers, Jim Litvinoff and Carole Litvinoff

Pastor leads with a prayer.

Total Fund Income (2021) - \$21,417.64

The committee decided to allocate \$3000.00 to each of the following: Mission, Outreach, Scholarship and Capitol Acquisitions

<u>MISSION:</u>	Navajo Mission of Arizona	\$ 500.00
	Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center	\$ 1000.00
	Greater Milwaukee Synod	\$ 400.00
	World Relief/Ukraine.	\$ 600.00

Balance: \$500.00

Motion made by Pastor Jim; seconded by Glenn Sievers

<u>OUTREACH:</u>	Mercy Fund	\$500.00
	Advocates	\$500.00
	Homeless Vets	\$500.00
	Family Promise.	\$500.00

Balance: \$2000.00

Motion by Jim Litvinoff, seconded by Pastor Jim

SCHOLARSHIP: \$2000.00

Jim Litvinoff made motion to allocate the \$2000.00; seconded by Pastor Jim

Balance: \$1000.00

<u>CAPITOL ACQUISITIONS:</u>	Sound system	\$2000.00
	Windows.	\$1000.00

Motion to accept these expenditures by Glenn Sievers; seconded by Cindy Porth

Tom Rogahn brought up the subject of 2 rotting windows that must be replaced, and also mentioned there are 2 dead trees on the church property. No monies have been allocated for the dead tree removal as Sheila Kapke said she will be contacting a party that removes trees.

Without further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm

Respectfully submitted by Carole Litvinoff, Secy.

June 2022 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"

Answer: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise. Psalm 111:10, NIV

PSALM 111:10, NIV

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

,
H L D R F F R F D Z C G R V N Z U

P Z Q N R V M Y L

Y R V B Q L T L B M V
N Z Z D Y O K L

O P P G Y Z C Z P P Z G
J F N T Q V M O F N R F D
M Z Y R U H L P Z F D V
L M L Q F O P E Q O R V L

Solve this crossword puzzle, using these clues R=I
and M=T, to complete Psalm 111:10, NIV.

Pulse!