


THE PULSE BEAT



Volume 47, Number 5

May 2022

A Word from the Pastor

By this time of year, in May, we hope that full blown spring is in the air, & on the ground. That the land is no longer frozen, or too wet & spongy to work on outside. Perhaps the lawn is greening as well, and the caretaking of spring can begin!

The Biblical lessons for the season of Easter & Resurrection are the focus of the liturgical year, where we move away from the Old Testament, except for the psalms. The first lessons are mostly from the book of Acts, sharing the testimony of the early disciples to the resurrection message of Jesus, while the Gospel of John takes center stage during the Sundays of May and Easter, with the risen Jesus, meeting his disciples after his being raised from the dead, never to die again!

The themes in Acts have to do with: The conversion of Saul, into a new person who became St. Paul, the disciple Tabitha (Dorcas) who Peter raises from the dead, Peter's conversion to accepting Gentiles (the rest of us!) into the faith, without becoming Jewish first, a worshiper of God, Lydia, who becomes a disciple, and Paul in prison who converts a jailer into a Jesus follower!

You might call the book of Acts, the "Acts of the Holy Spirit," rather than "The Acts of the Apostles." Yet it is about the actions of the first Apostles, under the direction of God's Holy Spirit! They do a lot of praying, listening, and discerning what God wants them to do through the Spirit's power! The first disciples don't just do whatever they want, they listen for God's voice, then they "Act." They act on what the God who raised Jesus wants them to do!

And interestingly, they also refuse to act to do the things, they believe God *does not want them to do!* Perhaps this is where disciples (Us), can learn to trust God's leading, & God's judgment, better than just our own opinions. We have become such an individualized society, that we think we know best, just on our own, without consulting a higher authority!

What we must realize is that we, as Jesus followers need to trust that higher authority. When Peter is persuaded that the Gentiles are welcomed by God into the faith, as well as Jewish people, he says, humbly, and with a mind open to God's will: **"If then God gave (the Gentiles) the same gift he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?"** Then the story adds: **"Then God has given to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."**

Then at the conversion of Saul to the faith of Jesus, another disciple, listening to God's voice, goes to Saul, because he believes the voice, the Spirit of God, who leads him to go and pray for Saul. Ananias, on meeting Saul, lays hands on him & prays: **"Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."**

Maybe the message of the early church, is that we who want to follow where the risen Christ leads, need to do a lot of listening, to the voice of God, to the direction of the Holy Spirit, before we jump ahead, and make all our decisions on our own judgment, about church, about life, about work, whatever it is! Because our own judgment, when left to ourselves, is most of the time not very good!

Instead, we need to follow the lead of St. Paul, when he says in Romans 12: **"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God--- what is good and acceptable, and perfect."** (Romans 12:2)

God's peace be with you in this month of May. And may our loving God who raises the dead, show us all the right way to go, as we make our way through this world!

A blessed continuing Easter, be yours!

Pastor Jim

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 – Noon
262-377-0410

E-mail: stjohnsecretary@hotmail.com

Website: stjohngraffton.org

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.

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



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), Rick Gonzalez (Jan’s husband), Sue Haas, Jeanne Hass, Michael Horton (brother of Tara & Jeff Kapke), Mary Jaeger, Joanne Levenick, Scott Maronde (nephew of Gary & Sue Haas), Ken Matthews (Kayla Matthews’ father-in-law), Ed (Anita Misun’s family member), 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), Rick Shock (Nancy’s husband), 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

*Happy
Mother's
Day
May 8th*





Sarah Circle Bible study: Monday, May 9,
1:00 PM at church

QUILTING DATES



**Monday
May 9 & 23
9:00 - noon**

Jesus leads us into heaven

On Thursday after the sixth Sunday of Easter — May 26 in 2022 — the church celebrates the Ascension of Our Lord. John Donne (1571 -1631) wrote the poem "Ascension," which contains an important reminder: When Jesus returned to his Father, it was the culmination of all he had done to prepare the path to heaven for us.

... Joy at the uprising of this Sun, and Son ...

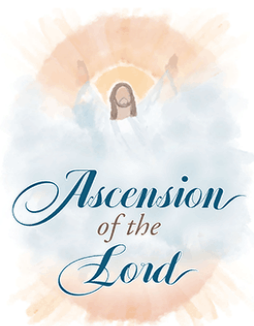
He first enters the way.

O strong Ram, which hast batter'd heaven
for me!

Mild lamb, which with
Thy Blood hast mark'd the
path!

Bright Torch, which
shinest, that I the way may
see! ...

May we follow our strong-
yet-mild, brightly shining Savior into God's
eternal presence.



OUTREACH TEAM



- ◆ THE TEAM WILL BE DISTRIBUTING INFORMATION PACKETS ABOUT ST. JOHN TO THE NEW HOMES BUILT THIS PAST YEAR IN THE NEIGHBORHOODS NORTHWEST OF THE CHURCH
- ◆ 9:00AM SATURDAY “WALK WITH ROBIN “ ON DIFFERENT ROUTES EACH WEEK BEGINNING JUNE 4
- ◆ A 4 WEEK BIBLE STUDY - MONDAYS AT 1:00 PM - “THE MAYBERRY BIBLE STUDY” USING EPISODES OF THE ANDY GRIFFITH SHOW- BEGINNING ON JUNE 6 - ALL WOMEN AND MEN - ARE WELCOME!
- ◆ “CONVERSATIONS AROUND THE CAMPFIRE” ON THE PEACE GARDEN PATIO - THE 2ND WEDNESDAY EVENING OF EACH MONTH BEGINNING JUNE 13
- ◆ COMEDY CLUB - VIDEOS OF CHRISTIAN COMEDIANS - THE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH FOR 4 MONTHS BEGINNING JUNE 12

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE EVENTS, PLEASE CALL ROBIN AT THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION.

262 377-0410

THERE WILL BE MORE INFO COMING IN FUTURE SUNDAY BULLETINS AS WELL.

**A correction to Kay Freyer’s address in the 2022 directory:
Should be 205 Green Bay Rd.
NOT 250**



- 5/1 Harold Immekus
- 5/3 Heather Fiedler
- 5/15 Audrey Crowell
- 5/16 Jackie Rogahn
- 5/19 Marion Meyer
- 5/23 Nancy Shock
- 5/23 Joe Christensen
- 5/24 Mackenzie O'Reilly-Christensen

- 5/7/2016 Mike & Maren Foti
- 5/28/1988 Fritz & Sue Dowe
- 5/31/1969 Bob & Mari Schmidt

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



Addison Heusdens and Jakora Harmon will Affirm their Baptism on Sunday, May 15 at the 9:30 am service.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister:

- May 1 - Dennis Jaeger
- 8 - Bob Butt
- 15 - Gary Haas
- 22 - Robin Fatla
- 29 - Dennis Jaeger

Lector:

- May 1 - Borgne McClelland
- 8 - Robert McClelland
- 15 - Judy McMullin
- 22 - Robin Fatla
- 29 - Suzette Travis

Usher:

- May 1 - Bob Eichmann
- 8 - Roger Wendorf
- 15 - Dennis Jaeger
- 22 - Dennis Jaeger
- 29 - Peter Viesselmann

Altar bouquets:

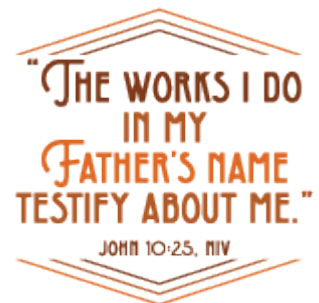
- May 1 - Doreen Koopmann/ **OPEN**
- 8 - Jeanine Burhop/ **OPEN**
- 15 - **OPEN/ OPEN**
- 22 - Florence Van Cleave (2)
- 29 - **OPEN/ OPEN**

Counting Team:

- May 1 - Dennis Jaeger Team
- 8 - Jim Litvinoff Team
- 15 - Borgne McClelland Team
- 22 - Sheila Kapke Team
- 29 - Dennis Jaeger Team

Fellowship Hour:

- May 1 - **OPEN**
- 8 - **OPEN**
- 15 - **OPEN**
- 22 - **OPEN**
- 29 - **OPEN**



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

This month and in the months ahead, I will be using material from an ELCA stewardship manual titled *Stewards of God's Love*. This month's article explores our relationship with God.

"Our practice of stewardship can begin by looking at how God has come down to us in love. Stewardship begins with God and how God has shown love for us. We are first receivers. We belong to God and all that we have belongs to God. Out of this receiving, we are freed in Christ to love, give and serve.

God comes down to us through creation. Stewardship begins at creation when God gave humanity dominion over all that God had made. God entrusted all of creation to our care - living creatures, plants, land, water and all that is. God has called us to care, nurture and preserve creation for future generations. How might we honor and care for God's creation?

God calls us to be stewards through our baptism. In baptism we are claimed as God's children and receive God's grace. As stewards, we live out our callings as children of God by sharing God's grace with the world. How might we share God's grace in our everyday lives? We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. For us as the ELCA, this faith comes through the good news of Jesus Christ and gives us the freedom and the courage to wonder, discover and boldly participate in what God is up to in the world. God comes down to us through the gospel. God so loved the world that God gave us Jesus. The gospel story is alive in us and written on our hearts. We are stewards of God's good news."

Questions to ponder: "How might we share God's story with our neighbors through our actions and words? In what ways has God come down to you in love? How are you stewarding the grace, the story, and the creation that God has entrusted to you? Your household?"

Gracious God, we give you thanks for the many ways that you have come down to us in love. Open our hearts and minds to be aware of them daily and to respond by sharing your love and grace with our neighbors and family. In Jesus name we pray.
Amen.
Sharlene Sandquist

GENERAL INTEREST NEWS



Trinity Lutheran
Church
N60 W6047
Columbia Rd.
Cedarburg
Saturday, May 14

8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Registration is now open. Sign-up at
www.versiti.org or contact Jill Klitz at
djklitz@milwpc.com or 262 377-6074
to get signed up.



Celebrating You
on Your
Special Day

Congratulations to
Jesse Schauer
who will be graduating from
Ozaukee High School on
May 22.

**Mr. Rogers, to grads —
and to us all**

Our world hangs like a magnificent jewel in the vastness of space. Every one of us is a part of that jewel, a facet of that jewel, and in the perspective of infinity, our differences are infinitesimal. We are intimately related. May we never even pretend that we are not. ... Deep down, we know that what matters in this life is more than winning for ourselves. What really matters is helping others win too, even if it means slowing down and changing our course now and then. ...

[Roman philosopher] Boethius wrote this sentence: "Oh happy race of mortals if your hearts are ruled, as is the universe, by love." ... [There is a] deep part of you that allows you to stand for those things without which humankind cannot survive: love that conquers hate, peace that rises triumphant over war, and justice that proves more powerful than greed. So in all that you do, in all of your life, I wish you the strength and the grace to make those choices which will allow you — and your neighbor — to become the best of whoever you are. —*Fred McFeely Rogers, 2002*



MAY 2022

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 9:30 am - Holy Communion	2	3	4 Noon - Pastor's lunch 5:00 pm - Confirmation class at Trinity	5 National Day of Prayer	6 Pastor's day off	7
8 <i>Mother's Day</i> 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour	9 9:00 am - Quilting 1:00 pm - Sarah Circle Bible study	10	11 Noon - Pastor's lunch 5:00 pm - Confirmation class at Trinity	12	13 Pastor's day off	14 10:00 am - Confirmation photo and rehearsal
15 9:30 am - Holy Communion Confirmation Day 10:30 am - Fellowship hour 10:45 am - Church Council	16	17	18 Noon - Pastor's lunch 5:00 pm - final Confirmation class at Trinity	19	20 Pastor's day off	21
22 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour	23 9:00 am - Quilting	24	25 Noon - Pastor's lunch	26  <i>Ascension of the Lord</i>	27 Pastor's day off	28
29 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour	30 THESE DAYS SHOULD BE REMEMBERED AND OBSERVED in every generation by every family, and in every province and in every city. <small>Ezra 9:28, NIV</small> 	31				

St John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Financial Summary For March 2022

	March 2022			Year To Date 2022		
	Actual	Budget	Actual Over (under) Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual Over (under) Budget
Unified Income	\$ 12,036	\$ 11,707	\$ 329	\$ 32,195	\$ 38,044	\$ (5,849)
Expense Summary:						
Education	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Outreach	\$ -	\$ 20	\$ (20)	\$ (8)	\$ 60	\$ (68)
Worship	\$ 485	\$ 653	\$ (167)	\$ 1,683	\$ 1,673	\$ 10
Youth	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Stewardship	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 194	\$ 210	\$ (16)
Public Relations	\$ 16	\$ 120	\$ (104)	\$ 190	\$ 310	\$ (120)
Property	\$ 3,538	\$ 2,063	\$ 1,475	\$ 7,938	\$ 6,819	\$ 1,119
Finance (incl. Mission Support)	\$ 8,055	\$ 8,165	\$ (110)	\$ 37,902	\$ 37,991	\$ (89)
Total Expenses	\$ 12,094	\$ 11,021	\$ 1,073	\$ 47,898	\$ 47,063	\$ 835
Net Income (Deficit)	\$ (58)	\$ 687	\$ (744)	\$ (15,703)	\$ (9,019)	\$ (6,684)

Comparative 2021 Figures:

	@ 3/31/2021
Unified Income	\$ 34,030
Total Expenses	\$ (51,070)
Net Income (Deficit)	\$ (17,040)

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

Major Differences 2022 vs. 2021: Income year-to-date 2022 \$1,800 less than last year.
Expenses year-to-date 2022 \$3,200 less than last year.

Major expense item differences:

- - Gas heat \$1,000 higher than last year.
- - ELCA health insurance cost \$5,800 less than last year.

Thrivent Choice Gifts Rec. 2022: \$1,051

Memorial Gifts Received 2022: Mel Trapp memorial (\$20); Marianna Ziemer memorial (\$10)
Kathy Reindl memorial (\$225)

	@ 3/31/2022	@ 3/31/2021
Assets At End Of Month	\$ 192,858	\$ 216,484

Assets Are Needed to Support The Following Funds:

Audio Fund (formerly Cassette)	\$ -	\$ -
Contingency Fund	\$ 31,834	\$ 27,127
Family Promise Fund	\$ 441	\$ 236
Fully Funded	\$ 521	\$ 237
Library Fund	\$ 505	\$ 505
Memorial Fund	\$ 144,704 <(incl. \$6,761 restricted)	\$ 143,644 <(incl. \$6,761 restricted)
Mercy Fund	\$ 2,260	\$ 460
Music Fund	\$ 162	\$ 162
Organ Repair Fund	\$ -	\$ -
Outreach Fund	\$ 2,419	\$ 2,287
Pastoral Education Fund	\$ 2,276	\$ 2,397
Property Fund	\$ 7,221	\$ 12,071
Scholarship Fund	\$ 2,189	\$ 4,365
Sign Fund (started 2017)	\$ 7,643	\$ 7,643
Youth Fund	\$ 6,388	\$ 6,350
Paycheck Protection (PPP) Loan	\$ -	\$ 26,040
Total Fund Requirements	\$ 208,562	\$ 233,524
= Asset Excess (Shortage)	\$ (15,703)	\$ (17,040)

(Excess = budget surplus; Shortage = budget deficit)

May 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”

COLORING PAGE

Enlarge, print and color this image.



LOVED
Beyond
MEASURE

