

# THE PULSE BEAT



Volume 47, Number 8

September 2022

# A Word from the Pastor

September is a combination of 2 seasons of the land, late summer, followed by early Autumn. As we get older, I don't have to remind you of the speed at which life seems to move! Autumn already!

We still have warm weather, and much light yet in the sky. However, the sun begins to set that much earlier, when September arrives. Such changes in time, warmth, and light, are as we know, inevitable!

In the life of the church, as we gather for worship, those of us who still do so in person, we are winding down the season of Pentecost, where the colors are yet green, reflecting summer colors for a bit longer period of time.

As the history of the church goes, fall is the time when certain practices began again: education hour, including Sunday school, perhaps a change in worship times, and other special events.

Yet, we, at St. John, like many other congregations, find ourselves, as the "Body of Christ," here in the Lakefield/Grafton area, needing to rethink the ways in which we practice our faith, given the smaller worshiping congregation, particularly since the Covid-19 pandemic of 2020. And there is the smaller pool of resources to draw from, among the people, for the work of leadership, and for children's and youth planning.

Times have changed. Not only for us, but also for the coalition congregations we work with in our Cedarburg, Grafton, Thiensville, Mequon locations. This is one reason why we join forces with other congregations, for youth ministry & confirmation. For some worship projects & other ministries.

We find ourselves in a time where it is important for pastors and leaders in our fellow congregations to work together. And actually, since the early days of the church, I believe this has been God's purpose for us; working in community, under the direction of God's Holy Spirit! Working with like-minded persons of all kinds, to carry out God's will!

Our St. John Congregation is also exploring the path of spiritual renewal as we look towards the future. We have a recent task force with that very name incorporating "Spiritual Renewal," as you have seen noted in the bulletin and newsletter.

I am confident, by faith, that this is the direction and guidance God has in mind for us, led by the power of the Holy Spirit, as we move ever deeper into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

We learn, as we gather for worship in these days, and hear the Word of God in the Scriptures and the message, receive the sacrament of Christ's real presence in Holy Communion, pray the prayers, and sing the songs of faith, that God is indeed leading us somewhere! Our God does not abandon us to ourselves with no help, but instead, leads us where God believes we need to go, and shows us the way, to real and eternal life, via the path of faith!

May God grant you God's own peace, and blessings in these September days!

## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

## Pastor James O'Reilly-Christensen

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

E-mail: <a href="mailto:stjohnpastorl@hotmail.com">stjohnpastorl@hotmail.com</a>
<a href="mailto:Office Manager: Robin Fatla">Office Manager: Robin Fatla</a>

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

E-mail: <u>stjohnsecretary@hotmail.com</u> Website: stjohngrafton.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
Dale

Glory Ringers Director Dale Allen
Flutist 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:

James Allen, Delaney Allen, Karen Baerbock (cousin of Bob Butt), 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), Trov Burmesch (Dale & Sandy Allen's nephew), Emily Carney (friend of Kylene Wright), Marian Carraway, Nancy Chenery (family of Tom & Jackie Rogahn), Wylie Cino, 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), Madalyn Gaulke, Maria Nehls, Paige Pierson (classmates of Jesse Schauer), Wanda Gindt (friend of Bob & Carol Butt), Rick Gonzalez, Sue Haas, Jeanne Hass, Michael Horton (brother of Tara & Jeff Kapke), Mary Jaeger, Marvin Klemp (brother of Evie Tetzlaff), Joanne Levenick, Scott Maronde (nephew of Gary & Sue Haas), Ken Matthews (Kayla Matthews' father-in-law), Tim McCloskey, Chuck & Cary Mueller (friends of Glenn Sievers), Alice Murphy (family of MerryLou Green), 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), Harvey Salger, Mitchell Schmit (friend of Dale Allen), Wendy Tomter, Wendy Werner (Sandy Allen's sister-in-law), Marian Witte Military personnel: Kyle Christenson, Andy David

"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
Nancy P. Shock
May 23, 1955 - July 27, 2022



"...I am the resurrection and the life.

He who believes in Me,
though he may die,
he shall live."

John 11:25

# GOD IN MY LIFE MOMENTS



The <u>Spiritual Renewal Task Force</u> here at St. John knows that God is active and touching lives every day. To encourage you in your daily walk with Jesus, some of our members would like to share how God has touched their life. If you have a "God In My Life" moment that you would like to share with your faith family, please contact Judy McMullin at 262 483-5556. If you wish, these moments can be shared anonymously.

When I got married in 1977, my husband Randy was a District Manager for the Milwaukee Journal – Milwaukee Sentinel in Hartford. Many of you may remember that the Sentinel was the early morning paper and the Journal the evening edition back in the day.

As a manager, Randy was responsible to make sure all the delivery routes had a delivery person. If not, then HE needed to make sure those deliveries were made. I had a daytime job, but I would help out many times – delivering the morning Sentinel in the rural areas in my car. By Saturday morning I was pretty tired from working the 2 jobs so Randy would often have one of his younger brothers or sisters ride with me and help deliver on the weekends.

One winter morning Randy's brother Gary was enlisted to ride with me. I remember saying to him, half jokingly, "you're here to help me deliver AND to help keep me awake, so don't you fall asleep." Well, in the winter weather, with the heater in the car on high – since we had to have the windows open to deliver and being tired from working my day job, we both dozed off.

We were sharply awakened when the car went off the road and over the snow covered furrows in the farmers field left by the plow in the fall. When the car came to a stop and we got out, we were shocked to see that we had missed hitting a telephone pole by less than 12 inches.

I cried and thanked God for saving us from injury and possible death and I vowed that I would thank him every day for the rest of my life. Well I did for many weeks and then the incident slowly faded from my memory and so did my vow of daily gratitude.

I don't know why God saved me that morning. Was it to give birth to my children and they, my grandchildren, because He had a greater plan for one of them or me, or both? Only He knows. While I was writing this testimony, Jeremiah 29:11 came to mind, "For surely I know the plans I have for you says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

I may not have followed through with my vow to give thanks every day for the save that winter night, but God has blessed me with a servant heart that allows me to give thanks by helping whomever I can, whenever, wherever, and with whatever I can and I give Him thanks for the ability and the opportunities... just don't ask me to help you with your computer or cell phone!

-Robin Fatla

We all have our stories about how we came to St. John. Whether you belong to a founding family of the congregation, or if you grew up here; if you were invited by a friend or a neighbor, or if you just stumbled upon us — you have your story. I was brought here by a good friend...and by my flute. But I'll get back to that in a minute. Let me give you a little bit of back story.



I was baptized in a Catholic church – Our Lady of Good Counsel in Milwaukee, when I was about 2 weeks old. My parents moved to Grafton when I was about 3, and we attended St. Joseph's parish in Grafton, and I made my first communion there. But that's about the time my Christian education took a huge detour. My parents were divorced in 1970, and if you know the Catholic church's stance on divorce back at that time, they weren't very understanding. My mom wasn't allowed to take part in communion, and the church wasn't very supportive, so she pretty much stopped attending. I would sometimes attend mass with one of the neighbors, but that was

sporadic and there was no Sunday school or catechism in my life.

Fast forward to high school. I had two very good friends that I played flute with, and every year for the District Solo and Ensemble contest we would play a flute trio. We were pretty good, and usually went on to the State competition and played there as well. My friend, Jane Horner, was a member here, and she asked me and Linda, who was the other member of our trio, if we'd like to play it at her church. And we did...for probably 3 years in a row. The people here at St. John were very nice...they remembered us from year to year as we came back and played. They made quite an impression on a teenager with very little church experience.

After I was on my own I started thinking about a church of my own, and memories of the people at St. John and my experiences here drew me back. I was the first generation of my family to attend here and become a member, and I brought my little sister on Sundays and she went on to become a member. Dale and I were married here and raised our family here. Kristin was also married here and raised her four kids here. My dad was not a member of St. John, but his funeral was held here, and shortly after that my mom became a member of the congregation. My friend Jane – she's Kayla's godmother.

Like I said, this congregation made quite an impression on a teenager looking for something, and I have a hard time believing that God did not have a hand in bringing me here. And I'm happy to still be playing my flute – actually the same one that I played back then – especially here at St. John. -Sandy Allen

#### St John Evangelical Lutheran Church Financial Summary For July 2022

		July 2022 Actual Over (under) Actual Budget Budget		Year To Date 2  Actual Budget			Actual Over (under) Budget					
Unified Income	\$	12,066	\$	14,633	\$	(2,567)	\$	75,968	\$	90,724	\$	(14,756)
Expense Summary: Education Outreach Worship Youth Stewardship Public Relations Property Finance (incl.Mission Support) Total Expenses	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	26 475 - 20 1,632 8,028	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	375 753 - 50 1,267 8,165	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	(349) (278) - (31) 365 (137) (430)	\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$	162 4,004 - 194 608 13,922 72,269 91,159	\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$	495 4,098 - 210 580 13,975 72,714 92,072	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	(333) (94) - (16) 28 (54) (445) (913)
Net Income (Deficit)	\$	1,887	\$	4,024	\$	(2,137)	\$			(1,348)	-	(13,843)
Comparative 2021 Figures: Unified Income Total Expenses Net Income (Deficit)					70-2		\$	<b>7/31/202</b> 1 73,136 102,803) (29,667)	L			

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

Major Differences 2022 vs. 2021: Income year-to-date 2022 is \$2,800 more than last year.

Expenses year-to-date 2022 \$11,600 less than last year.

Major expense item differences:

- - Worship expense \$1,000 higher than last year. (due to in-person)

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

- - Equip. maint. \$1,200 less than last year.(A/C tuneup paying August)

- - ELCA health insurance cost \$13,600 less than last year.

Thrivent Choice Gifts Rec. 2022:

\$1,744

Memorial Gifts Received 2022:

Mel Trapp (\$20); Marianna Ziemer (\$10); Kathy Reindl (\$225)

Anita Misun (\$625); Joanne Levenick 90th b'day honorarium (\$120);

Don Burhop (\$3.495)

Assets At End Of Month			<u>@</u> 7	7/31/2022 184,666		<u>@ 7/31/2021</u> \$204,929
Assets Are Needed to Support Th	e F	ollowing	Fun	ıds:		
Audio Fund (formerly Cassette)	\$	-			\$ -	
Contingency Fund	\$	32,726			\$ 53,419	
Family Promise Fund	\$	441			\$ 236	
Fully Funded	\$	322			\$ 448	
Library Fund	\$	505			\$ 505	
Memorial Fund	\$	138,354	<( i	ncl. \$6,761 restricted)	\$ 144,449	<( incl. \$6,761 restricted
Mercy Fund	\$	2,260			\$ 2,260	•
Music Fund	\$	162			\$ 162	
Organ Repair Fund	\$	-			\$ -	
Outreach Fund	\$	2,337			\$ 2,287	
Pastoral Education Fund	\$	2,313			\$ 2,397	
Property Fund	\$	7,271			\$ 8,749	
Scholarship Fund	\$	2,189			\$ 5,689	
Sign Fund (started 2017)	\$	7,643			\$ 7,643	
outh Fund	\$	3,335			\$ 6,351	
Paycheck Protection (PPP)Loan	\$	-			\$ -	
<b>Total Fund Requirements</b>			\$	199,857		\$234,596
= Asset Excess (Shortage)			\$	(15,191)		\$ (29,667)
(Excess = budget surplus; Short	tag	e = budg	et de			

8/6/2022

## SEPTEMBER



9/3 Andy Porth

9/8 Joshua Pritzlaff

9/8 JoAnn Dowe

9/10 Edyn Allen

9/11 Jeff Kapke

9/14 Fritz Dowe

9/16 Hadley Granrath

9/19 Joe Schauer

9/23 Mirabelle Christenson

9/3/1966 Bob & Barb Eichmann 9/6/2014 Kyle & Laura Christenson

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



September 11

available.



Final Comedy Club night of the year - September 11 6:30 pm Enjoy the comedy of Jeanne Robertson on DVD. Refreshments will be

## **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

## **Assisting Minister:**

September 4 - Bob Butt

11 - Gary Haas

18 - Dennis Jaeger

25 - Robin Fatla

#### Lector:

September 4 - Florence Van Cleave

11 - Sandy Allen

18 - Bob Butt

25 - Carol Butt

## Usher:

September 4 - Bob Eichmann

11 - Dennis Jaeger

18 - Roger Wendorf

25 - Peter Viesselmann

## **Altar Bouquets:**

September 4 - Robin Fatla/ Jeanine Burhop

11 - Sheila Kapke (2)

18 - Marion Meyer/ OPEN

25 - OPEN/ OPEN

## **Counting Team:**

September 4 - Borgne McClelland Team

11 - Sheila Kapke Team

18 - Dennis Jaeger Team

25 - Jim Litvinoff Team

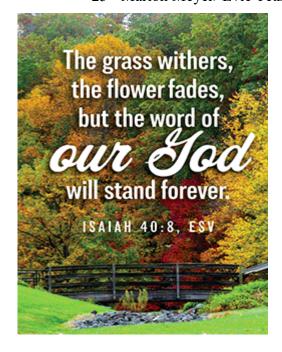
## Fellowship hour:

September 4 - Ice Cream Social

11 - **OPEN** 

18 - **OPEN** 

25 - Marion Meyer/ Evie Tetzlaff





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
				1	2	3		
4 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Ice Cream Social	5 Labor Day - office is closed	6	7 Noon - Pastor's lunch	8	9 Pastor's day off	10		
11 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour 6:30 pm - Comedy Club PATRIOT DAY	9:00 am - Quilting 1:00 pm - Sarah Circle Bible study	13	Noon - Pastor's lunch	15	16 Pastor's day off	17		
		6 - 7 pm - Pastor's prayer group	5:00 pm - Confirmation class					
18 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour 10:45 am - Church Council	19	20	Noon - Pastor's lunch	22	23 Pastor's day off	24		
			5:00 pm - Confirmation class					
25 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour	26 9:00 am - Quilting	27	Noon - Pastor's lunch	29	30 Pastor's day off			
		6 - 7 pm - Pastor's prayer group	5:00 pm - Confirmation class					



## Circle Meetings in September:

Sarah Circle: Monday, September 12, 1:00 PM at church



**QUILTING DATES** Monday September 12 & 26 9:00 - noon



October 8, 2022 Grace Lutheran Church, Thiensville

(Formerly the Annual Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women's Organization Convention)

Join us for worship, workshops, speakers, shopping, catered lunch and **important** discussion and decisions about the future of our organization.

There is NO registration fee.

Robin Fatla has registration forms if you are interested in attending.

The women are collecting socks for men, women, and children during August and September to be donated as In-Kind gifts at their annual synodical gathering in October. Street Angels Ministry, Inc. of Milwaukee, a mobile outreach program that assists our neighbors without homes in Milwaukee County, will be the recipient of the gifts. Please donate only new pairs into the basket in Fellowship Hall.



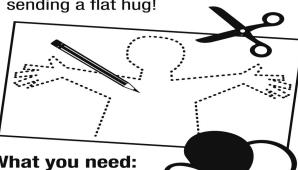






# Envelo

Show long-distance love to grandparents and other relatives by sending a flat hug!



## What you need:

- Craft paper
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Markers
- Envelope

## What you do:

- 1. Roll out some craft paper (long enough to spread your arms across it).
- 2. Lie down on your back on the paper, with arms outstretched. Have someone trace around your arms, hands and head with a pencil.
- 3. Cut out the outline of your hug.
- 4. Draw your face and features on the paper. Use markers to color your hug to look like yourself. Write a note on the back.
- 5. Fold up and mail your two-dimensional hug to a loved one.

## STEWARDS OF GOD'S GRACE

grace (n) the freely given, unmerited favor and love of God

#### dictionary.com

**Key Message:** By God's grace, we are claimed as children of God through baptism. We belong to God and all that we have belongs to God. How does "belonging to God" shape the way that we live our lives? How might we be good stewards of God's grace?

Bible Verses: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Galatians 3:23-29

#### GOD COMES DOWN TO US IN LOVE

Our practice of stewardship starts with 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's love comes down to us through Jesus Christ. To quote John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." God loved us so much that God sent Jesus to die for us to bring us salvation and new life!

God calls us to be stewards through our baptism. In baptism we are claimed as God's children and receive God's grace. Remember these words from the ELW service for Affirmation of Baptism?

Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,

to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,

to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,

to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,

and to strive for justice and peace in all the world?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

As stewards, we live out our callings as children of God by sharing God's grace with the world.

We receive God's love and grace every time we come to the Lord's Table for Holy Communion. Through wine and bread, and the words "given for you" and "shed for you for the forgiveness of sin", God gives us life and salvation.

We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

For us as Lutherans, 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.

## STEWARDS OF GOD'S GRACE AT ST. JOHN

This faith community actively shares God's grace with each other, with neighbors in the surrounding community, and with the world.

- Thank you to everyone who attends worship here, your welcoming presence helps proclaim the good news to others.
- Thank you to all the individuals who work behind the scenes to prepare the sanctuary and plan services, to all the worship leaders, and to all the musicians who lead us in song. Your efforts make worship more meaningful for us.
- Thank you to each person who volunteers time in leadership roles at St. John or in other organizations, and to all those who serve neighbors in need. You are following in Christ's footsteps.
- Thank you for your donations of goods and money; through these, you support countless ministries reaching out to share God's love and grace.

#### Ask:

- In what ways has God come down to me in love?
- How does the fact that I belong to God change the way that I see myself and all that God has placed in my care?
- Where have I seen God's grace in my life?
- How am I stewarding the grace that God has entrusted to me?
   My household?
- How might I share God's grace in my every day life?

#### Prav:

Gracious God, thank you for your goodness to me, for all that you have made, and for all the blessings of life. Thank you for your incredible love in sending Jesus to save the world and for your amazing grace. Thank you for making me your child through baptism. I offer you my whole self and all that I have to serve you. Help me to be a sign of your grace and love to everyone I meet. Amen.

#### Sharlene Sandquist

(Portions of this article were taken from the ELCA publication, *Stewards of God's Love: A year-round guide to stewardship in your congregation.)* 





THERE IS A
COLLECTION BASKET
IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

# ITEMS NEEDED

(as of 5/20/22)

Below is a list of items that we are accepting for donations. Please only donate items from the following list, as that will make our sorting process much easier and ensure our friends are getting the items they need. We are streamlining items to be more gender-neutral. The following comments are for more clarity to our list. As a reminder, these items go straight to our homeless friends, so clean items are appreciated. These items should be freshly washed.

## We will turn away items that are not listed below.

We continue to update this list, so check back often.

#### Winter Hats / Gloves / Hand warmers

- · Men's / Women's / Children's
- All Sizes

#### Kid's Clothes

- · Boy's / Girl's / Unisex
- All Sizes

#### Women's Pants

- All Sizes
- Jean
- •Business Casual

#### Men's Pants

- •All Sizes; especially 32, 34, 42, 44 inch waist
- Jeans
- · Hiking Wear

## Sweatpants

- Unisex
- All Sizes

#### T-Shirts

- Unisex
- All Sizes
- · Long Sleeve
- Short Sleeve

#### Hoodies / Sweatshirts

- Unisex
- · All Sizes; especially L and XL

### **Under Garments**

- · Men's / Women's / Children's
- All Sizes
- New
- New or Used Bras (All Sizes; especially 36 & 38)

#### Socks

- New and Used
- All Sizes
- · Men's / Women's / Children's

#### Shoes

- New and Used
- All Sizes
- · Men's / Women's / Children's
- · Boots Seasonally

#### Winter Jackets

- New and Used
- All Sizes
- Men's / Women's / Children's
- September March Only

#### Summer Jackets

- New and Used
- All Sizes
- · Men's / Women's / Children's
- · April August Only

## **Bedding / Sleeping Bags**

- Pillows
- Blankets
- Sheets
- Comforters
- All Sizes

#### Hygiene Products

- Travel-sized: Bar Soap, Shampoo, Conditioner, Lotion, Toothpaste
- Regular-sized Toothbrushes
- New Washcloths
- Towels

### Luggage / Backpacks / Purses

New or Used

Our new facility is located at: 2360 Dakota Drive, Grafton, WI 53204 We accept donations at our facility on Monday evenings from 4-6pm and Thursday evening from 5-7pm. 414-207-6615 mrboboutreach@gmail.com

## September 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.
- Fellowship 10:30 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"

