


THE PULSE BEAT



Volume 47, Number 11

December 2022

A Word from the Pastor

As we come into the final month of the year perhaps, we are called to pay attention to the light, rather than the darkness. Yes of course it is the darkest time of the year outside, as winter begins.

And yet it is probably the time of the brightest lights as well. The biggest & brightest decorations are put up on houses & stores. I'm reminded of a quote from the headmaster of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft & Wizardry, Albus Dumbledore, a main character in the Harry Potter stories. Dumbledore said: *"Happiness can be found even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light."* Which could be why we enjoy light so much, at the darkest time of our northern seasonal year!

In the church, you could call the days of Advent/Christmas, a time of renewal. Our Gospels leading up to the 2 weeks of Christmas, are about preparation --- getting ready for whatever comes about. Preparation for whatever God is doing in the world. We are to look for the signs of the presence of God's reality. Look for the light, and hold it up!

We are also offering Wednesday Advent worship services during this time of moving into winter. The 3 services leading up to the week of Christmas, this year will center on the Angel's message to the shepherds. November 30th, we recall the 1st words spoken to the terrified shepherds, guarding their sheep. Seeing how frightened they were, the angel said: ***"Do not be afraid."*** Whenever a heavenly being, or God personally speaks to human beings, most often the first words are these! God wants to calm our fears!

The 2nd week, December 7th, we get into the content of God's message: ***"Look, I am bringing you good news of great joy, which will be for the whole world!"*** And the 3rd week of Advent December 14th we hear the reason for the good news from the angel: ***"For today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you, who is the Lord, the Messiah."***

The preparation time ends on Christmas Eve weekend, with a Saturday night Christmas candlelight, & communion service, at 5:00 p.m., followed by the Christmas day celebration of Christ's birth on Sunday, this year, December 25th, with readings and Christmas carol songs. Join us if you can!

Peace! *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: stjohsecretary@hotmail.com

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

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) stjohsecretary@hotmail.com

(pastor) stjohnpastor1@hotmail.com

FaceBook: St. John Lutheran Church-
Grafton, WI

GENERAL INTEREST NEWS



Karen Baerbock (cousin of Bob
Butt), Barb Beckner (friend of Judy
McMullin), Clarice Buchholz
(Mary Jaeger’s mother), Anna
Bullio (great-granddaughter of
Florence Van Cleave), Emily
Carney (friend of Kylene Wright),
Marian Carraway, John Clausen,
Cathy Collins (Florence Van Cleave’s daughter),
Amanda Combs (friend of Laura Christenson),
Francis & Kathy Darga (Carole Litvinoff’s sister &
brother-in-law), Don & Nan Donner (friend of
Diane & Roger Wendorf), Madelyn Gaulke, Anthony
Gazelinski (Suzette Travis’ grandson), Maria Nehls,
Paige Peirson (friends 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, Rosemary Litvinoff
(Jim’s mother), Scott Maronde (nephew of Gary & Sue
Haas), Ken Matthews (Kayla Matthews’ father-in-law),
Tim McCloskey, Bridget Minster (friend of Laura &
Kyle Christenson), Chuck & Cary Mueller (friends of
Glenn Sievers), Alice Murphy (family of MerryLou
Green), Sugeily Pineiro-Garcia, Karen Rautenberg
(Sue Dowe’s mother), Tom Rogahn, Kathy (sister of
Jackie Rogahn), Harvey Salger, Larry Samarija, 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

Congratulations to
Kyle, Laura, Asher,
Roan, and Mirabelle
Christenson on the
addition to their family
of Savion Evans, born



on November 14th.
Proud grandparents are
Dale & Sandy Allen.



Circle Meeting in December:

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



QUILTING DATES

**Monday
December
12 & 26
9:00 - noon**

From the Church Council:
The new sound and video systems will begin to be installed in early December. Hopes are to have both installed before Christmas.



“Lasata Care Center has become a home for many seniors. Our goal as a member of the Activity team is to keep our residents entertained and stimulated, to keep them laughing and to provide them with spiritual growth. To accomplish this, **we seek volunteers** to assist with our many programs and special events.

Can YOU spare some time to help us with this?

We can work with you on a one-time, weekly, or monthly basis. We would appreciate any help you can provide.

Please contact me, Mary Mastronardo, at 262 512-2804 or mmastronardo@co.ozaukee.wi.us
Thank you for any help you can provide.”

Thank you so much,

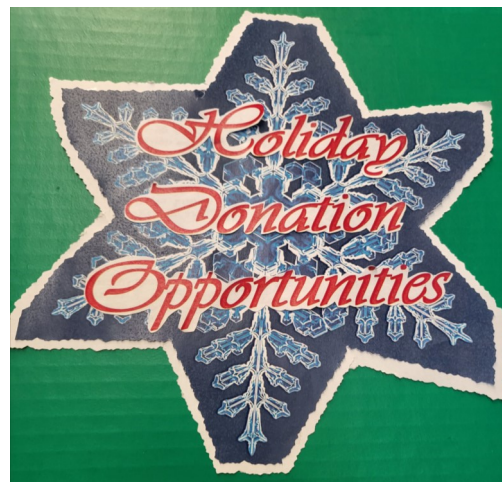
Mary Mastronardo

Program Volunteer Co-ordinator
Lasata Senior Living Campus

OUTREACH TEAM



“Be a piece of the peace puzzle.”



- * Donate a dozen (or more!) of your homemade Christmas cookies to be packaged and donated to Mr. Bob’s Under the Bridge Ministry for distribution to the homeless in downtown Milwaukee
 - * Purchase a \$10 or \$20 gift card to any of the following local stores for gifts to Interfaith Caregiver clients: Meijer, Walmart, Piggly Wiggly, Walgreens, Pick ‘n Save or your choice.
 - * Donate items for inclusion in a “Birthday Cake Box” for families facing hard financial times and birthday cakes are a luxury - 1 box cake mix, 1 can of frosting, 1 can of Sprite (or any other lemon-lime soda), a box of birthday candles, and/ or an aluminum 9x13 pan
- All items can be brought to the church office by December 13th.**



- 12/3 Ivan Garcia
- 12/10 Jan Gonzalez
- 12/11 Evie Tetzlaff
- 12/17 MerryLou Green
- 12/17 Sugeily Pineiro-Garcia
- 12/18 Brian Boelkow
- 12/20 Barb Eichmann
- 12/25 Amaia Lauters
- 12/25 Kayla Matthews
- 12/27 Rebecca Dowe
- 12/30 Joan Salger
- 12/31 Jeanne Hass

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



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12/12/1970 Art & Audrey Crowell



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister:

- Dec. 4 - Bob Butt
- 11- Gary Haas
- 18 - Robin Fatla
- 25 - Gary Haas

Usher:

- Dec. 4 - Dale Allen
- 7 - Sue Dowe **(Wednesday)**
- 11 - Fritz Dowe
- 14 - Tom Rogahn **(Wednesday)**
- 18 - Jim & Carole Litvinoff
- 24 - Bob Butt/ Monica Faretra
- 25 - Monica Faretra

Lector:

- Dec. 4 - Sandy Allen
- 7 - Bob Butt **(Wednesday)**
- 11 - Carol Butt
- 14 - Sue Dowe **(Wednesday)**
- 18 - Gary Haas
- 24 - Borgne McClelland
- 25 - Robert McClelland

Altar bouquets:

- Dec. 4 - Jeanine Burhop/ Robin Fatla
- 11 - Sheila Kapke (2)
- 18 - Marion Meyer/ **OPEN**
- 25 - Evie Tetzlaff/ **OPEN**

Fellowship hour:

- Dec. 4 - **OPEN**
- 11 - Marion Meyer/ Evie Tetzlaff
- 18 - Wendy Tomter/Sharlene Sandquist/Judy McMullin
- 25 - **OPEN**

Counting Team:

- Dec. 4 - Sheila Kapke Team
- 11 - Dennis Jaeger Team
- 18 - Jim Litvinoff Team
- 25 - Borgne McClelland Team



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			November 30 6:30 pm - Advent worship	1 1:00 pm - Spiritual Renewal Task Force	2 Pastor's day off	3
4 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour	5	6 9:00 am - Coalition Leaders at Faith, Cedarburg	7 Noon - Pastor's lunch 5:15 pm - Confirmation Class 6:30 pm - Advent worship	8	9 Pastor's day off	10 9:00 am - Decorating the church
11 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour	12 9:00 am - Quilting 1:00 pm - Sarah Circle Bible study	13	14 Noon - Pastor's lunch 5:15 pm - Confirmation Class 6:30 pm - Advent worship	15 6:30 pm - Worship Committee by Zoom	16 Pastor's day off	17
18 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour 10:45 am - Church Council	19	20	21 Noon - Pastor's lunch	22	23 Pastor's day off	24 5:00 pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship service
25 Christmas Day 9:30 am - Holy Communion Service of Lessons of Carols and Prayers of Christmas	26 9:00 am - Quilting	27	28	29	30 Pastor's day off	31



October 24, 2022

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
1193 Lakefield Rd.
Grafton, WI 53024

Dear St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church,

The staff and Board of Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative (MHVI) would like to thank you for your gift of \$500. Your donation will be used to fund the many programs that help our area veterans and their families.

One of our newest initiatives is the Veteran Resource Center we are creating. This service grew from our expanded Food Pantry. With generous in-kind donations from Kohl's Department Stores, we added a clothing/household "store" with new items. Now, families can come to the Resource Center and access items to meet their basic needs. Instead of us simply giving them items we think they need, they are able to choose the items themselves, all for free. By connecting veterans through the Resource Center, we connect them to other services they need. In the future we will be adding a computer lab and other resources veterans can walk in and access.

The best part is when veterans come to the Resource Center, they also meet with staff who can assist them with other needs they may have. We look forward to being able to expand services like this, due in great part to donors like you.

Please know, your generosity is truly appreciated by all of us.

Thank you for helping us make sure our veterans know they are not alone.

Sincerely,

Debbie Buchanan
Executive Director

Your donation will directly benefit formerly homeless and at-risk veterans. We could not fulfill our mission without your support. We are a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, state of Wisconsin license #12866-800. In compliance with the internal revenue code this acknowledgement serves as your tax receipt for the recent gift. We further note that there were no goods or services received in exchange for this contribution or the value of any goods and services are received are within the definition of "low-cost" articles under the IRS Code Section 513513(h)(2).

P.O. Box 14575, West Allis, WI 53214 * 414.257.4111 * www.mhvivets.org

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Prepare the Way of the Lord!

The Christmas season definitely is here, and it seems to arrive earlier each year. We began with “Christmas in July” sales. In September, retail stores were advertising Christmas layaway programs. Weeks before Halloween, merchants displayed Christmas decorations, some homeowners in neighborhoods showcased their lighted holiday displays prior to Thanksgiving. The long weekend of binge shopping from Black Friday through Cyber Monday has come and gone. Holiday parties are in full swing. With all the holiday hustle and bustle, it’s easy to feel overwhelmed and lose sight of the true reason we celebrate - Jesus’ coming in human form to save us from sin for all eternity.

The church season of Advent, which we observe in the weeks leading up to Christmas, isn’t about consuming things at all. It is about preparing for the coming of Christ. The word “**advent**” comes from the Latin word “*adventus*”, meaning “coming” or “arrival”. We use Advent to focus our minds on three things: the coming of Christ as a baby in Bethlehem, the coming of Christ into our lives today, and the second coming of Christ at the end of time.

Rolf Jacobson, Professor at Luther Seminary in St. Paul MN, writes: “A Roman Catholic priest taught me that, ‘In Advent, the church celebrates Christ’s coming in history, mystery, and majesty.’

- * In history: We celebrate on God’s surprising historical entry into the world in the birth, life and death of Jesus of Nazareth.
- * In mystery: We celebrate on the resurrected Christ’s mysterious presence “wherever two or three gather” in Christ’s name.
- * In majesty: We celebrate the promise that one-day Christ will come in majesty, wiping away every tear and emptying every grave.”

We approach Advent with a spirit of expectation, of anticipation, of preparation, of longing. We acknowledge that Christ has come, that he is present in the world here and now, and that he will come again. Living between the times of Christ’s comings, God calls us to be faithful stewards of the abundance entrusted to our care as God’s people and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Just as God called John the Baptist, God calls us to prepare the way of the Lord so that all people will see and know God’s salvation (Luke 1:76-77; Luke 3:4-6). We join the early Christians in sharing the good news of Jesus and producing a harvest of righteousness for God’s praise and glory (Philippians 1:5 & 11).

Before Christ’s first coming, God’s people anticipated freedom from oppression and injustice, freedom to worship without fear (Luke 1:74). They longed for redemption from the evils of a world controlled by tyrants and evil empires and waited patiently for God’s light to “shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide [their] feet into the way of peace” (Luke 1:79). In a world where headlines scream news of bombings, terrorism, mass shootings, and so many forms of injustice, these same hopes and dreams resonate today.

Into this chaos, Jesus comes to us - here and now, today, in our hearts, in our lives. All we have to do is prepare the way and invite him in.

Questions for Reflection

- * Where do you see Christ’s presence in your daily life?
- * What does it mean to be a faithful steward of God’s abundance?
- * How can we best prepare the way of the Lord..... in our hearts and in the world

This article taken from a series Prepare the Way of the Lord published by the ELCA for use in stewardship programs.

Thank you to all who have turned in their Time and Talent sheets and giving card. If you have not done so, please return them to St. John by December 25, 2022.

Christmas Blessings to each of you. *Sharlene Sandquist*

St John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Financial Summary For October 2022

	October 2022			Year To Date 2022		
	Actual	Budget	Actual Over (under) Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual Over (under) Budget
Unified Income	\$ 8,895	\$ 14,633	\$ (5,739)	\$ 101,782	\$ 128,771	\$ (26,990)
Expense Summary:						
Education	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Outreach	\$ -	\$ 21	\$ (21)	\$ 170	\$ 558	\$ (388)
Worship	\$ 777	\$ 1,123	\$ (345)	\$ 6,351	\$ 6,995	\$ (644)
Youth	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Stewardship	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 194	\$ 210	\$ (16)
Public Relations	\$ 20	\$ 40	\$ (21)	\$ 651	\$ 700	\$ (49)
Property	\$ 1,396	\$ 1,413	\$ (17)	\$ 20,131	\$ 18,914	\$ 1,217
Finance (incl.Mission Support)	\$ 8,149	\$ 8,166	\$ (17)	\$ 97,826	\$ 98,377	\$ (551)
Total Expenses	\$ 10,342	\$ 10,763	\$ (421)	\$ 125,323	\$ 125,754	\$ (431)
Net Income (Deficit)	\$ (1,447)	\$ 3,871	\$ (5,318)	\$ (23,542)	\$ 3,017	\$ (26,559)

Comparative 2021 Figures:

	@ 10/31/2021
Unified Income	\$ 103,529
Total Expenses	\$ (139,567)
Net Income (Deficit)	\$ (36,038)

Major Differences 2022 vs. 2021: Income year-to-date 2022 is \$1,700 less than last year.
Expenses year-to-date 2022 are \$14,200 less than last year.
Major expense item differences:

- Worship expense \$300 higher than last year. (due to in-person)
- Gas heat \$1,500 higher than last year & electricity \$700 higher.
- ELCA health insurance cost \$18,300 less than last year.

Thrivent Choice Gifts Rec. 2022:	\$1,744
Memorial Gifts Received 2022:	\$5,735
Budgeted Mission Support 2022:	\$12,300 (All paid in February 2022)
Added Mission Support 2022:	\$740 (From offerings \$250 + from chili take-out profit \$490)

	@ 10/31/2022	@ 10/31/2021
Assets At End Of Month	\$ 178,739	\$ 195,453

Assets Are Needed to Support The Following Funds:

Audio Fund (formerly Cassette)	\$ 2,000	\$ -
Contingency Fund	\$ 32,263	\$ 53,702
Family Promise Fund	\$ 444	\$ 236
Fully Funded	\$ 262	\$ 443
Library Fund	\$ 505	\$ 505
Memorial Fund	\$ 139,209 <(incl. \$6,761 restricted)	\$ 144,449 <(incl. \$6,761 restricted)
Mercy Fund	\$ 2,760	\$ 2,260
Music Fund	\$ 162	\$ 162
Organ Repair Fund	\$ -	\$ -
Outreach Fund	\$ 2,550	\$ 2,412
Pastoral Education Fund	\$ 2,189	\$ 2,354
Property Fund	\$ 7,586	\$ 8,749
Scholarship Fund	\$ 1,339	\$ 2,189
Sign Fund (started 2017)	\$ 7,643	\$ 7,643
Youth Fund	\$ 3,371	\$ 6,387
Paycheck Protection (PPP)Loan	\$ -	\$ -
Total Fund Requirements	\$ 202,281	\$ 231,490
= Asset Excess (Shortage)	\$ (23,542)	\$ (36,038)
(Excess = budget surplus; Shortage = budget deficit)		

11/4/2022

Financial Summary

The last day to have contributions recorded on your statement for the year 2022 will be Saturday, December 31st. If you wish to have contributions recorded in 2022, 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 questions.

GENERAL INTEREST NEWS



Milwaukee Area Messiah Community Chorus & Orchestra Presents

Free presentation of Handel's Messiah December 2 - 7:30 pm - St. Gabriel Catholic Parish in Hubertus

December 4 - 3:00 pm - Crossroads Presbyterian Church in Mequon Brian Dearing, Conducting



Holiday Cookie Walk Saturday, December 10 10 am - 12 pm or until sold out St. Paul's L.C.

705 Grand Ave., Random Lake We supply the box, you choose your favorites!

Sold by the POUND not the DOZEN so you get more! Suggested donation \$10 per pound.

Advent Prayer

4, 3, 2, 1... Count the weeks til Jesus comes.



Each week we add another light.

Our hope for Jesus growing bright.

We pray, we share, we do our part...

to welcome Jesus to our heart!



SEASONAL NEWS

Poinsettia plants will again be purchased to beautify the



chancel for the Advent/ Christmas seasons.

The plants will be available for purchase for \$7-9. Contact Dennis Jaeger if you would like to reserve a plant.

Your help is needed on Saturday, December 10th to decorate the sanctuary in preparation for the celebration of the birth of the Savior. 9:00 am



Advent Mid-Week Worship Services "Message of the Angels"

November 30 - "Do Not Be Afraid"

December 7 - "Good News of Great Joy"

December 14 - "A Savior is Born to You"

6:30 pm

Will also be broadcast on Facebook Live.

* * * * *

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Saturday, December 24

5:00 pm

* * * * *

Christmas Day Communion Service

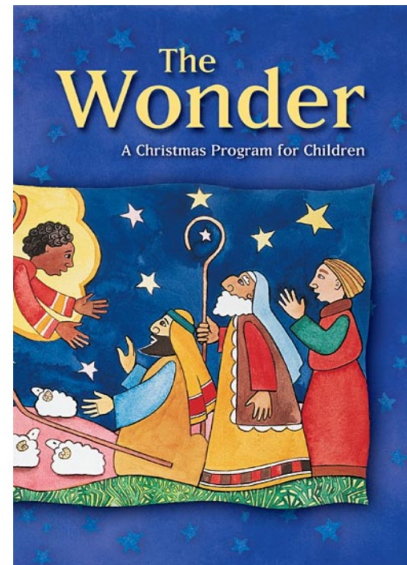
9:30 am

Christmas Program Rehearsal and Performance Schedule

We are excited to have a collaborative Christmas program with children from Advent, Trinity, St. John’s, and Faith Lutheran Churches participating. The program we have chosen is called *The Wonder*.

Children from preschool through middle school are welcome to be a part of the production. There are speaking and non-speaking roles so there is a place for everybody. Children who play an instrument are welcome to play as part of the prelude or program.

Those participating should plan to be at all rehearsals, especially the dress rehearsal.



Rehearsals and Performance

Sun., Nov. 27	10:45-11:30 AM	Music practice
Sun., Dec. 4	10:45-11:45 AM	Parts assigned; speakers will have a read through Music practice
Sun., Dec. 11	10:45-11:45 AM	Read through with all speakers. Walk through staging with all participants. Music practice.
Sat., Dec. 17	10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Full dress rehearsal
Sun., Dec. 18	10:30 AM	All children should be there for costumes and rehearsal.
Sun, Dec. 18	11:00 AM	Performance

Everything will take place at Advent Lutheran Church. Children should enter the lower level doors (from the Prayer Garden.)

December 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"

Bible Quiz

Complete this Bible verse: "The (1)____ (2)____ in the (3)____, and the (3)____ has not overcome it."

- A. (1) Word; (2) speaks; (3) silence
- B. (1) light; (2) shines; (3) darkness
- C. (1) kingdom of God; (2) reigns; (3) world
- D. (1) Spirit of God; (2) shines; (3) world
- E. None of the above



Answer: B (See John 1:5)