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# THE PULSE BEAT



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*Volume 48, Number 1*

*January 2023*

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## *A Word from the Pastor*

Winter is a strange time to begin a new calendar year! In the cold of January, for a time at least we think of it as a time to start over. The slate is clean, the past is erased, (temporarily) and the new calendar notebook pages are blank!

One thing we know about God, is that our God brings newness into our world, first through the Christ-child at Christmas. The church celebrates Epiphany, with the story of the wise men's arrival, at the "house" of Jesus, bringing gifts.

The church year moves through the life of Jesus, in the Lenten journey, followed by Easter & Pentecost. First in Epiphany comes a time of teaching the stories of Jesus; from the beatitudes in the "sermon on the mount," in Matthew, through the Gospel stories of St. John as winter winds down in Lent.

No matter what is going on in life, our Lord Jesus, through the sacraments, worship, and the stories of Holy Scripture, are there to help us get to know our God better, for the guidance we need through life!

We don't know what may happen this coming year, good or bad. But we know we are not alone, "God is with us," as Emmanuel, and Savior (from the name Jesus – "he saves").

May this God of newness, stir us up, in our hearts & lives; in our families, friendships, and in our church, through the Holy Spirit, so that we may face and move into the future with faith! Happy January 2023!

Peace & Blessings!

*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](mailto:stjohnpastor1@hotmail.com)

**Office Manager: Robin Fatla**

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

E-mail: [stjohnsecretary@hotmail.com](mailto:stjohnsecretary@hotmail.com)

Website: [stjohngraffton.org](http://stjohngraffton.org)

**Congregation President – OPEN**

**Vice President –** Dennis Jaeger

**Secretary –** Sheila Kapke

**Treasurer –** Peter Viesselmann

**Church Council:**

Dennis Jaeger – Worship

Sue Dowe – Education

Sharlene Sandquist – Stewardship

**OPEN –** Outreach

**OPEN -** 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](mailto:stjohnsecretary@hotmail.com)

(pastor) [stjohnpastor1@hotmail.com](mailto:stjohnpastor1@hotmail.com)

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

**GENERAL INTEREST NEWS**



James Allen, 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), Pastor Dale Erickson (friend of Audrey Crowell), 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, Joanne Levenick, Rosemary Litvinoff (Jim's mother), 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), Sugeily Pineiro-Garcia, Karen Rautenberg (Sue Dowe's mother), Dale Reindl, 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



The new church directory will be coming out with the annual Report in January.

PLEASE review all of your contact information in the old directory and let Robin in the church office know of any changes by January 9th.

Although she has recently transferred her membership to Grace L.C. in Thiensville - closer to her home - **Audrey Anderson** would like to share her new address and phone number - for those who wish to keep in touch:

**205 Green Bay Rd. Apt. 102  
Thiensville, WI 53092  
262 573- 0746**

## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

I started writing these articles in April of '22 and quoted Clarence Stoughton, who said, "Stewardship is everything we do after we say 'I believe.'" Since then, we have explored the various aspects of Stewardship and how it relates to our lives. I hope they have been helpful.

We have just completed our "pledge drive" which gave us the opportunity to let leadership of St. John know what we intend to pledge to the church in terms of our time, talents and money, in 2023. Once again, you stepped up and pledged generously to enable this congregation to continue to be a witness in this community and support the wider ministry of the church. Thank you.

On January 6, we begin the season of Epiphany. This year, it is quite long, lasting through February 12. The term epiphany means "to show" or "to make known" or "to reveal." During this season, Christians remember the coming of the wise men bringing gifts to the Christ child, thus "revealing" Jesus to the world as Lord and King. We also look ahead to the church's mission to the world in light of the nativity.

In his article for CRI/Voice, **The Season of Epiphany**, author Dennis Bratcher writes "The Magi who brought gifts to the child Jesus were the first Gentiles to acknowledge Jesus as 'King' and so were the first to 'show' or 'reveal' Jesus to a wider world as the incarnate Christ. This act of worship by the Magi which corresponded to Simeon's blessing that this child Jesus would be 'a light for revelation to the Gentiles' (Luke 2:32), was one of the first indications that Jesus came for all people, of all nations, of all races, and that the work of God in the world would not be limited to only a few.

[Epiphany] is now observed as a time of focusing on the mission of the church in reaching others by 'showing' Jesus as the Savior of all people. It is also a time of focusing on Christian community and fellowship, especially in healing the divisions of prejudice and bigotry that we all too often create between God's children."

As the wise men brought gifts to the Christ child, let us continue to offer our gifts of time, talents and money to the Lord, who came that we too might have eternal life with God, as we begin this new year - 2023.

Prayer: Gracious God, we ask that you be with us as we reach out to others by showing Jesus as the Savior of all people. Bless the ministry of the people of St. John in this community and the wider church. Help us to be mindful that all we have and are, are gifts from you for us to use wisely in your service, for the good of others. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

*Portions of this article were taken from the ELCA publication Prepare the Way of the Lord!*

*Sharlene*



**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS  
& ANNIVERSARIES**

- 1/5 Lincoln Porth**
- 1/5 Shamir Garcia**
- 1/5 Asher Christenson**
- 1/15 Pat Lampe**
- 1/19 Kathie Viesselmann**
- 1/19 Cara McMullin**
- 1/20 Bob Schmidt**
- 1/20 Sarah Mentzel**
- 1/22 Maren Foti**
- 1/22 Carol Butt**
- 1/23 Stacy Leedy**
- 1/28 Kylene Wright**
- 1/29 Cole Granrath**
  
- 1/20/2001 Steven & Latasha  
Reindl**
- 1/26/1972 Tom & Jackie  
Rogahn**

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

# Worship Assistants

**Assisting Minister :**

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

**Lector:**

- January 1 - Judy McMullin
- 8 - Suzette Travis
- 15 - Florence Van Cleave
- 22 - Sandy Allen
- 29 - Bob Butt

**Usher:**

- January 1 - Tom Rogahn
- 8 - Dennis Jaeger
- 15 - Bob Eichmann
- 22 - Roger Wendorf
- 29 - Peter Viesselmann

**Altar Bouquets:**

- January 1 - OPEN/ OPEN
- 8 - OPEN/ OPEN
- 15 - OPEN/ OPEN
- 22 - Robin Fatla/ OPEN
- 29 - Tom & Jackie Rogahn (2)

**Counting Team:**

- January 1 - Peter/Kathie Viesselmann
- 8 - Borgne McClelland Team
- 15 - Sheila Kapke Team
- 22 - Dennis Jaeger Team
- 29 - Jim Litvinoff Team

**Fellowship hour:**

- January 1 - Mark & MaryEllen Levra
- 8 - OPEN
- 15 - OPEN
- 22 - OPEN
- 29 - OPEN



# January

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<p><b>1</b> 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour</p> <p><b>New Year's Day</b></p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b> Noon - Pastor's lunch</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b> Pastor's day off</p> <p><b>Epiphany</b></p>	<p><b>7</b> 9:00 am - Take down the Christmas decorations</p>
<p><b>8</b> 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour</p>	<p><b>9</b> 9:00 am - Quilting 1:00 pm - Sarah Circle Bible study</p>	<p><b>10</b> 9:00 am - Coalition leaders meeting at St. John</p>	<p><b>11</b> Noon - Pastor's lunch 5:15 pm - Confirmation class</p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b> Pastor's day off</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>
<p><b>15</b> 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour 10:45 am - Church Council</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b> 6:00 pm - Pastor's prayer group</p>	<p><b>18</b> Noon - Pastor's lunch 1:00 pm - Spiritual Renewal Task Force 5:15 pm - Confirmation class</p>	<p><b>19</b> 11:00 am - Worship Committee via Zoom</p>	<p><b>20</b> Pastor's day off</p>	<p><b>21</b> Spiritual Renewal Task Force attending Faithful Innovations training</p>
<p><b>22</b> 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour <b>10:45 am - Annual Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>23</b> 9:00 am - Quilting</p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b> Noon - Pastor's lunch 5:15 pm - Confirmation class</p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b> Pastor's day off</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>
<p><b>29</b> 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b> 6:00 pm - Pastor's prayer group</p>				

**St John Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Financial Summary For November 2022**

	November 2022			Year To Date 2022		
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual Over (under) Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual Over (under) Budget</u>
Unified Income	\$ 8,555	\$ 11,707	\$ (3,152)	\$ 110,337	\$ 140,478	\$ (30,142)
<b><u>Expense Summary:</u></b>						
Education	\$ 138	\$ -	\$ 138	\$ 138	\$ -	\$ 138
Outreach	\$ 627	\$ 671	\$ (45)	\$ 797	\$ 1,229	\$ (432)
Worship	\$ 808	\$ 1,303	\$ (494)	\$ 7,159	\$ 8,298	\$ (1,138)
Youth	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Stewardship	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 194	\$ 210	\$ (16)
Public Relations	\$ 16	\$ 150	\$ (134)	\$ 667	\$ 850	\$ (183)
Property	\$ 1,757	\$ 1,663	\$ 94	\$ 21,888	\$ 20,577	\$ 1,311
Finance (incl.Mission Support)	\$ 8,222	\$ 8,214	\$ 8	\$ 106,048	\$ 106,591	\$ (543)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 11,567</b>	<b>\$ 12,001</b>	<b>\$ (433)</b>	<b>\$ 136,891</b>	<b>\$ 137,755</b>	<b>\$ (864)</b>
<b>Net Income (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ (3,012)</b>	<b>\$ (294)</b>	<b>\$ (2,719)</b>	<b>\$ (26,554)</b>	<b>\$ 2,723</b>	<b>\$ (29,278)</b>

**Comparative 2021 Figures:**

Unified Income	<u>@ 11/30/2021</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 118,950
Net Income (Deficit)	<u>\$ (152,062)</u>
	<u>\$ (33,112)</u>

**Major Differences 2022 vs. 2021:** Income year-to-date 2022 is \$8,600 less than last year.  
Expenses year-to-date 2022 are \$15,200 less than last year.  
Major expense item differences:

- - Worship expense \$600 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:	\$5,755
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)

	<u>@ 11/30/2022</u>	<u>@ 11/30/2021</u>
Assets At End Of Month	\$ 175,549	\$ 198,845

**Assets Are Needed to Support The Following Funds:**

Audio Fund (formerly Cassette)	\$ 2,000	\$ -
Contingency Fund	\$ 32,270	\$ 53,709
Family Promise Fund	\$ 444	\$ 236
Fully Funded	\$ 707	\$ 487
Library Fund	\$ 505	\$ 505
Memorial Fund	\$ 139,229 <( 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	\$ 1,899	\$ 2,827
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	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Fund Requirements</b>	<u>\$ 202,103</u>	<u>\$ 231,957</u>
<b>= Asset Excess (Shortage)</b>	<u>\$ (26,554)</u>	<u>\$ (33,112)</u>
<b>(Excess = budget surplus; Shortage = budget deficit)</b>		



**Circle Meeting in January:**

**Sarah Circle:** Monday, January 9, 1:00 PM at church



**QUILTING DATES**

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

**Winter slow-down, winter self-care**

I am a mammal. So are you. Our temples, our bodies, and the internal systems that keep us going naturally want to slow down, replenish and conserve energy during the dark, cold winter months. God made us this way. Still, we fight it. We do not welcome rest as we should.

We continue to measure our worth and value by how much we are doing and not by who we are continuing to become. The rest of God’s good creation pauses in the winter, goes dormant, cuts back on activity, honors God’s boundaries. Only human creatures struggle with silence and darkness. We are the only ones who must constantly turn on the light.

From time to time, you might build a snowperson, but only if you want to. Cuddle. Ponder. Turn off the lights. Dream deeply. Cultivate your temple. Care for it. Listen to it. Honor the God who paid the price, so that you may experience abundant restoration this season. Celebrate the God of boundaries!

*This message is excerpted from “Winter boundaries, winter wonder” by Venice R. Williams in the December 2019, Gather magazine.*

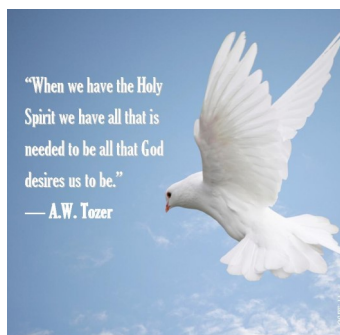
**GENERAL INTEREST**



SUNDAY, JANUARY 22,  
2023  
10:45 AM  
FELLOWSHIP HALL

2022 ANNUAL REPORTS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON JANUARY 15TH.

THERE ARE SEVERAL COUNCIL POSITIONS OPEN. PLEASE PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER SERVING ON THE COUNCIL AND OFFER YOUR NAME FOR NOMINATION.



The Spiritual Renewal Task Force will be meeting on Wednesday, January 18th at 1:00 pm to continue it’s mission of discerning the direction of St. John’s journey into the future.

**NEW SOUND SYSTEM**

Thank you to Joe Porth for all of his hard work on St. John's new sound system. The system is installed and working and we're already hearing a difference in the sound quality in the church.

We are looking for your feedback - whether you are in the sanctuary for services or listening at home. Please let us know how everything sounds to YOUR ears - volume, clarity, etc.

Please remember, too, that the new sound system includes wifi based amplification for those who feel they still just can't hear loudly or clearly enough in the sanctuary. It's very simple - all you need is a smart phone or an iPad or tablet. And if you do NOT have one, we have one for you at the church that you will be able to use. It's a quick process to get it set up - please talk to Sandy Allen and she will show you what you need to do.



# January 2023 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.

**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"*

**ALL ABOUT GOD'S LOVE**

Draw a picture of what God's love means to you...

What's your favorite Bible verse about God's love...

**JESUS LOVES ME**

God's love is...