

THE PULSE BEAT



Volume 47, Number 10

November 2022

A Word from the Pastor

This time of year, we in the church, consider the days of November as our time of stewardship; that is, understanding we are caretakers of what God gives us, including the care of the church, the "body of Christ."

Let me add that we also think of these days as a time of Thanksgiving, where we reflect in gratitude on all the blessings, meaning the good things God gives; health, life, the use of our minds & bodies, for doing good in the world, according to God's desires for us. Such as praying for the ability to carry out that line in the Lord's Prayer: "Your will be done, on earth (in and through us, by the power of the Holy Spirit) as it is in heaven."

First, in giving thanks, a favorite hymn of mine "Have no fear, Little Flock," (ELW 764) comes to mind, where we sing (vs. 1) "Have no fear, little flock; have no fear little flock, (why?) "For the Father has chosen to give you the kingdom; have no fear, little flock!"

In the 3rd verse, we hear reasons for giving God the praise God deserves: "Praise the Lord high above; praise the Lord high above; for he stoops down to heal you, uplift and restore you; praise the Lord high above."

And in the spirit of Thanksgiving, the 4th & last verse goes like this: "Thankful hearts raise to God; thankful hearts raise to God; for he stays close beside you, in all things works with you; thankful hearts raise to God."

Hymns are good resources for prayer time, like psalms, which actually ARE hymns. Maybe you've noticed that the first 150 songs in our ELW hymn book are the psalms from the bible, with updated language! In whatever version you prefer, psalms are good for reflection. They are good for sharing with persons at the end of life, or in the hospital, or simply for your own prayer & meditation, if you look for a place to start! When we can't think of anything in particular to be thankful for, the psalms are a good place to begin.

The other November focus for us believers, has to do with being good stewards or caretakers of God's gifts, including the work of the church. This year in the first 3 Sundays of November, our attention centers on our Stewardship.

On each of these Sundays one person will share why they believe it is important, even necessary to give to God, by giving to the church.

Here are the themes: November 6 – All Saints Sunday, we will be remembering where we have come from. November 13th, the theme is "Looking Around us – the way we are today. And for Consecration & Commitment Sunday, November 20th (before Thanksgiving) we will consider the theme of "Stepping into the Future – Looking Ahead with Faith."

Please join us, if you are able, for any or all of these Sundays, plus our cooperative Thanksgiving worship service at Grace, Thiensville, on Wednesday November 23rd at 7:00 p.m. to give God the proper thanks & praise, for all the ways God blesses us! Peace, blessings & happy fall! And don't forget to vote on Tuesday November 8th!

St John Evangelical Lutheran Church Financial Summary For September 2022

	September 2022 Actual Over (under)				Year To Date 2				022 Actual Over (under)			
	4	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>		Budget		<u>Actual</u>		<u>Budget</u>		Budget	
Unified Income	\$	8,569	\$	11,707	\$	(3,138)	\$	92,887	\$	114,138	\$	(21,251)
Expense Summary:												
Education	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Outreach	\$	8	\$	21	\$	(13)	\$	170	\$	537	\$	(367)
Worship	\$	500	\$	1,023	\$	(523)	\$	5,574	\$	5,873	\$	(299)
Youth	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Stewardship	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	194	\$	210	\$	(16)
Public Relations	\$	16	\$	40	\$	(24)	\$	632	\$	660	\$	(28)
Property	\$	2,346	\$	2,263	\$	83	\$	18,736	\$	17,501	\$	1,234
Finance (incl.Mission Support)	\$	8,180	\$	8,216	\$	(36)	\$	89,677	\$	90,211	\$	(534)
Total Expenses	\$	11,050	\$	11,563	\$	(512)	\$	114,982	\$	114,992	\$	(10)
Net Income (Deficit)	\$	(2,481)	\$	145	\$	(2,626)	\$	(22,095)	\$	(854)	\$	(21,241)
Comparative 2021 Figures: Unified Income Total Expenses Net Income (Deficit)							\$	9/30/2021 93,264 (128,006) (34,742)	<u>l</u>			

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

Major Differences 2022 vs. 2021: Income year-to-date 2022 is \$400 less than last year.

\$1,744

Expenses year-to-date 2022 \$13,000 less than last year.

Major expense item differences:

- - Worship expense \$400 higher than last year. (due to in-person)
- -- Gas heat \$1,300 higher than last year & electricity \$400 higher.
- - Property maintenance \$700 higher than last year (new sump pumps)
- -- ELCA health insurance cost \$17,500 less than last year.

Thrivent Choice Gifts Rec. 2022:

Memorial Gifts Received 2022: M

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

Anita Misun (\$625); Joanne Levenick 90th birthday honorarium (\$120);

Don Burhop (\$3.445); Nancy Shock (\$1,290)

Assets At End Of Month			@ 9/30/2022 \$ 180,439		@ 9/30/2021 \$196,657
Assets Are Needed to Support Th	e F	ollowing	Funds:		
Audio Fund (formerly Cassette)	\$	2,000		\$ -	
Contingency Fund	\$	32,660		\$ 53,694	
Family Promise Fund	\$	444		\$ 236	
Fully Funded	\$	210		\$ 370	
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	\$	2,387		\$ 2,422	
Pastoral Education Fund	\$	2,264		\$ 2,354	
Property Fund	\$	7,586		\$ 8,749	
Scholarship Fund	\$	1,339		\$ 2,189	
Sign Fund (started 2017)	\$	7,643		\$ 7,643	
Youth Fund	\$	3,365		\$ 6,367	
Paycheck Protection (PPP)Loan	\$			\$ 	
Total Fund Requirements			\$ 202,534		\$231,399
= Asset Excess (Shortage)			\$ (22,095)		\$ (34,742)
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(Excess = budget surplus; Shortage = budget deficit)

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: <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
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



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 (greatgranddaughter 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, 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, Chuck & Cary Mueller (friends of Glenn Sievers), Alice Murphy (family of MerryLou Green), Sugeily Pineiro-Garcia, Eric & Karen Rautenberg (Sue Dowe's mother and step-father), 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

November 6

We will remember the St.
John Family members
who were called home to
the Lord in the past year
with the reading of their
names, tolling a bell, and
lighting of candles: Kathy
Reindl, Anita Misun,
Donald Burhop, and Nancy
Shock, along with other
family and friends.
Feel free to bring photos of
your loved ones to share.



REPORT OF THE SPIRITUAL RENEWAL TASK FORCE



Your St. John Task Force has been meeting bi-monthly since February of this year. We've learned that decreased church attendance along with decreased giving to support the work of the church is not unusual. That's both good news and bad news. The good news is that St. John hasn't done anything *wrong* to cause this situation and we aren't alone in this. The bad news is that it's happening across all denominations and across the country. So, the task at hand is to develop different ways to "be the church". Fortunately, the Greater Milwaukee Synod is offering help to congregations by offering a training program

called Faithful Innovations. With financial support approved by our congregational leadership, members of this Task Force are participating in a 9 month training program. The Task Force has been assigned a "coach", Pr. Brian Hooper, to guide us in the process. Our first training was held October 8th with 3 of our Task Force members as well as Pr. Jim and coach Brian Hooper attending.

St. John has already implemented two of the suggested exercises. Beginning in May during the worship service members have shared with the congregation a moment when God's presence was strongly felt by them. Typed copies of those messages have been posted in the Pulsebeat. On October 23rd we, as a community of believers, practiced an ancient way of experiencing God's Word called Dwelling in The Word. We heard the scripture read, pondered what God might be saying to us and then shared our thoughts within small groups.

The Spiritual Renewal Task Force will continue to meet monthly learning new ways to be the church. We welcome any questions, comments or suggestions you may have. Feel free to contact any of the members. Barb and Bob Eichmann, Diane and Roger Wendorf, Sharlene Sandquist, Sandy Allen, Pr. Jim and Judy McMullin

GENERAL INTEREST NEWS

Council Brief:

- Delivery of the final component for the new sound system is still up in the air. It is hoped the part will come in time to be installed before Christmas.
- The sump pumps in the basement of the education wing have been replaced since their failure in September. The resulting damage is in the process of being taken care of.

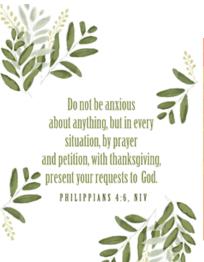
2022 Financial Statements

The last day to have contributions recorded on your giving statements 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 any questions.

Fall Back

November 6th

Set your clocks BACK one hour before bed on Saturday, November 5th.





OUTREACH TEAM



"Be a piece of the peace puzzle."



Join us for an Adult
Fellowship outing on
Sunday, November 27th.
We will leave the church
immediately after the
worship service @10:30 and
travel by motorcoach
(unfortunately NOT handicap

accessible) to Coloma, WI to enjoy a dinner and show at The Clausen Family Music Theater -

"Christmas on the Farm"

We'll return to the church at approximately 6:30 pm.

There are only a few tickets left at \$40 each, so contact Robin in the church office for more information or to reserve your seat.

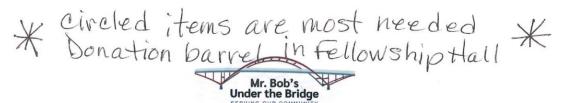
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The aluminum can collection to benefit **Habitat for Humanity**, continues through the end of November. There is a collection barrel in Fellowship Hall.

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Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge ministry to the homeless in downtown Milwaukee, is in desperate need of men's jeans sizes 34, 36, & 38 although all sizes will be accepted. There is a complete list elsewhere in this newsletter of needed items. There is a collection basket in Fellowship Hall or drop them directly at the collection center in Grafton - times and location are printed on the list.

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ITEMS NEEDED

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 nuch
- 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

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

- To 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



a Birthday!

11/4 Steve Schauer

11/5 Marían Witte

11/5 Addison Heusdens

11/6 Dan Porth

11/10 Robert McClelland

11/10 Art Crowell

11/11 Harvey Salger

11/12 Sheila Kapke

11/19 Jim O'Reilly-Christensen

11/24 Chuck Schmalz

11/24 April Hesudens

11/26 Rebecca Schauer

11/28 Brynnlee Porth



11/30/1963 Robert & Borgne McClelland 11/30/2013 Cole & Danielle Granrath

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister:

Nov. 6 - Bob Butt

13 - Dennis Jaeger

20 - Gary Haas

27 - Robin Fatla

Usher:

Nov. 6 - Bob Eichmann

13 - Roger Wendorf

20 - Dennis Jaeger

27 - Peter Viesselmann

30 - (Advent Wed.) - OPEN

Lector:

Nov. 6 - Robert McClelland

13 - Judy McMullin

20 - **OPEN**

27 - Suzette Travis

30 - (Advent Wed.) -Florence Van

Cleave

Altar bouquets:

Nov. 6 - Evie Tetzlaff/ OPEN

13 - Florence Van Cleave (2)

20- Marion Meyer/ OPEN

27 - Jeanine Burhop/ Evie Tetzlaff

Fellowship Host:

Nov. 6 - OPEN

13 - **OPEN**

20 - **OPEN**

27 - **OPEN**

Counting Team:

Nov. 6 - Sheila Kapke Team

13 - Dennis Jaeger Team

20 - Jim Litvinoff Team

27 - Borgne McClelland



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 Pastor's day off	5
			Noon - Pastor's lunch			
			5:00 pm - Confirmation class at Trinity			
6 All Saints Sunday Stewardship Sunday	7	8	9	10	11 Pastor's day off	12
9:30 am - Holy Communion			Noon - Pastor's lunch			
10:30 am - Fellowship hour			5:15 pm - Confirmation class at Trinity			
13 Stewardship Sunday 9:30 am - Holy	9:00 am - Quilting	15	16	17	18 Pastor's day off	19
Communion - Bible presentation to 3rd graders and	1:00 pm - Sarah Circle Bible study		Noon - Pastor's lunch			
up 10:30 am - Fellowship hour		6:00 pm - Pastor's prayer group	5:15 pm - Confirmation class at Trinity			
20 Commitment Sunday 9:30 am -Holy Communion	21	22	23 Noon - Pastor's lunch	24	25 Pastor's day off	26
10:30 am - Fellowship hour						
10:30 am - PiePalooza			7:00 pm - Thanksgiving Eve			
10:45 am - Church Council			Worship at Grace, Thiensville	Thanksgiving		
27 First Sunday of Advent	28	29	30			
9:30 am - Holy Communion	9:00 am - Quilting	1:00 pm - Spiritual	Noon - Pastor's lunch			
10:30 am - Fellowship hour		Renewal Task Force	5:15 pm - Confirmation class			
10:30 am - Adult Fellowship outing		6:00 pm - Pastor's prayer	at Trinity 6:30 pm - Advent			
		group	worship			

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

STEWARDS OF MONEY

money (n.) the coins or bills with their value on them that are used to buy things; the total amount of these that someone has.

Key Message: Money is a powerful force in our lives. Jesus says that what we do with our money has the ability to take our heart with it (Luke 12:34). God cares about what we do with 100 percent of our money, not just the fraction that we give to the church. How do we steward all of our money and make sure that the ways we use money align with our values? **Bible Verses:** Luke 12:22-34, Matthew 19:16-26, 2 Corinthians 9:8.

GOD PROVIDES ALL WE NEED AND MORE!

Have you ever found yourself reviewing your finances and wondering how you'll make it to your next paycheck before running out of Money? While it may be easy to fall into a scarcity mentality, always worrying if we will have enough, the reality is that **most of us have all that we need and more.** Think about this. When was the last time you.....

- * went without a healthy meal for lack of money to buy food?
- * had no clothes to wear?
- * experienced homelessness?
- * had the power turned off for nonpayment of utility bills?

The apostle Paul reminds us that "God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." (2 Corinthians 9:8)

Whether it is through our own earnings in a vocation for which God skills us; or through the helping hands of family, friends and neighbors with whom God surrounds us, or through the kindness of strangers whom God moves to help us; most of us when truthful will say we always have everything we need.

Our generous God goes a step further, though. Not only do we have all that we need; we also have so many more things that we want: money to eat at restaurants, closets full of clothes, several pair of shoes, comfortable and sizable homes, smartphones and electronic devices, buckets filled with toys, and so much more. Do we really need all these things?

CONGREGATIONAL REALITY CHECK

Congregations and their leaders often fall into the same scarcity thinking as individuals, especially around budget time. It is so easy to look at financial data and general economic conditions and believe that sufficient funds may not be contributed to fund all the important ministries and programs. But are these fears supported by reality?

STEWARDSHIP CORNER continued

I have worshipped at St. John for six and a half years and I can't remember a single time when the congregation had insufficient funds to pay the salaries, or the utilities, or any other ongoing obligation. Were there times when funds ran very low? Absolutely! But when the need was made known, the Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of this faith community and the money was there to ensure that programs and ministries continued. Thank you for supporting the ministries and programs at St. John with your financial contributions.

BECOMING GOOD FINANCIAL STEWARDS

The more skillfully we manage the money God entrusts to our care, the more we have available to share with neighbors in need. When we think about the many ways God abundantly blesses us, we cannot help but give some of our money away in thanksgiving for God's generosity to us. We give joyfully, graciously, and sacrificially because we know that our resources are not ours to keep, but God's to share.

Ask:

- * How is God calling us to use all of our money, not just the portion we give to this congregation, to love God and our neighbor?
- * How as a church, are we called to use all of our money, not just benevolence, to share God's love with the world?
- * How are we, as a faith community, using our entire budget to love God and our neighbor?
- * How might a life of frugality and simplicity free us to better serve God and our neighbor?

Pray:

Gracious, generous, giving God, we thank you for your blessings of money and prosperity. Give us the courage to abandon our fears of scarcity and trust that you will abundantly provide all that we need and more. Teach us to live more simply and to be good stewards of the money you entrust to us. Create in us generous hearts so we may share your love with neighbors near and far. All these things we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, or Savior and Lord. 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 and from www.thrivent.com/money matters/.)



Sarah Circle Meeting in November:

Monday, November 14, 1:00 PM at church

The study is published in the Gather Magazine. All women are invited to attend. If you need a copy of the study, please see Robin Fatla.

QUILTING DATES:

Monday November 14 & 28 9:00 - noon



PiePaLooza

Immediately following the worship service on Sunday, November 20th.
\$2.00 / slice or \$14.00 / 8 slices

Plates and utensils for immediate consumption and carry-out containers will be available or bring your own container.

All proceeds go to the work of the women of St. John.



First Sunday of Advent November 27

Midweek worship services: Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21 6:30 pm

COMMUNITY NEWS

BLOOD DRIVE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
COLUMBIA RD., CEDARBURG
CONTACT JILL KLITZ AT
262 377-6074 TO RESERVE YOUR
TIME SLOT.

42ND ANNUAL COUNTRY CRAFT FAJR

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
GRAFTON
VENDORS, CRAFTS, QUILTS, BAKERY
CHRISTMAS COOKJES AND MORE!

\$10 HAM SANDWICH LUNCH
JNCLUDES POTATO SALAD AND
HOME MADE PIE

ACACIA THEATRE PRESENTS
"THE JEWELER'S SHOP"
By Pope John Paul II

An encounter at a jeweler's shop expands into a poetic and generational drama with entrancing atmosphere, meditating on the ways we look for god in one another, Performances are Fri., sat., and sundays from October 28th - November 13th At St. Christopher's Church 7845 North River Road, River hills For tickets and times call 414 744-5995 or visit www.acaciatheatre.com

November 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 congrega-
- 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"

