
THE PULSE BEAT

Volume 48, Number 3

March 2023

A Word from the Pastor



ELCA PARTNERSHIP

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Wednesday, March 1

Immanuel, Cedarburg

- Ruth and Naomi

Wednesday, March 8

Advent, Cedarburg

- Esther

Wednesday, March 15

Trinity, Cedarburg

- Anna

Wednesday, March 22

Faith, Cedarburg

- Lydia

Wednesday, March 29

St. John, Grafton

- Woman in the Temple
(Luké 13)

Potluck Dinner:

6pm

Worship: 7pm

During Lent we will meet for worship and breaking bread together in each of our congregations.

The theme this year is "Women of the Bible." During Women's History Month we will take a closer look at some of the women who demonstrated faith and righteousness.

You are encouraged to try something new! Be brave and see how God is moving among us as we work and worship in partnership.

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

We're sitting in that gray area, like we seem to do every year at this time. Winter hasn't ended and spring feels like it's sooooo far away. The ground hog has seen his shadow, and if you believe in all of that, we're supposedly in for more winter. But this is Wisconsin...and we should expect the weather to deal us all kinds of surprises – sometimes even from day to day!

God loves to surprise people – sometimes in what we perceive are good ways and sometimes in ways we feel are not so good.

There's the athlete, at their prime, who eats right and exercises regularly. They have virtually no body fat and are the picture of health...until an unexpected heart attack hits them. Not such a good surprise.

Then there's the struggling couple, who have been fighting infertility for years, and have not been able to conceive a child. They resign themselves to not being able to have biological children, only to find out that they are pregnant. A blessing and a wonderful surprise!

God is full of surprises...the Bible shows us so many examples of that. The Bible starts out with a great big surprise, as God creates the world! Remember that childless couple? Think of Abraham and Sarah! The Savior of the world came as one of God's surprises...how He was conceived, where He was born, what He went on to become, and how He died to save us all.

I found this paragraph online on a website called tabletalkmagazine.com, and I loved how it kind of summed up God and His surprises:

“The God of the Bible is in the business of surprising His people with His plan, His care, and His future for them. We do not know entirely what the future holds. We often fail even to understand our past or present. But we do know that past, present, and future are in God's control. He is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end [Revelations 22:13](#). We should wonder what God will do next. We should always hope in His promises, even when things seem dark. We can expect that He will surprise us for our good and for His glory. ‘No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him’ [1 Corinthians 2:9](#).”

We shouldn't expect to know how God will work or in what way. We need to accept all of his surprises – the good and the not so good. We know that he is the God of the universe, that He loves us, and believing in Him will save us.

Be on the watch for all of God's surprises as they come to you!

Hugs and prayers to you all,
Sandy

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Pastor James O'Reilly-Christensen

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E-mail: stjohnsecretary@hotmail.com

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Congregation President – Sandy Allen

Vice President – Dennis Jaeger

Secretary – Judy McMullin

Treasurer – Peter Viesselmann

Church Council:

Dennis Jaeger – Worship

Sue Dowe – Education

Sharlene Sandquist – Stewardship

Robin Fatla – Outreach

Roger Wendorf - Finance

Joe Porth – Property & Grounds

Sharlene Sandquist - Public Relations

Sue Dowe - 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.

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(pastor) stjohnpastor1@hotmail.com

FaceBook: St. John Lutheran Church-Grafton, WI



James Allen, Karen Baerbock (cousin of Bob Butt), 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), Don & Nan Donner (friend of Diane & Roger Wendorf), Pastor Dale Erickson, Wanda Gindt (friend of Bob & Carol Butt), Rick Gonzalez, Sue Haas, Jeanne Hass, Michael Horton (brother of Tara & Jeff Kapke), Mike Immekus (Harold’s brother), 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), 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



“...I am the resurrection and the life.
He who believes in Me,
though he may die,
he shall live.”
John 11:25

Suzette Rose Travis

October 15, 1956 - February 11, 2023

On Sunday, February 19,
Edyn Allen and Lucas Fatla
were invited to the Lord’s
table for the first time to partake
in the holy supper.
Congratulations and welcome.



Outreach Team

On behalf of the members of St. John, with many thanks for the compassionate care provided to the community, Gratitude Baskets were presented to the staff members at **Aurora Cancer Care Center** in Grafton, and the **Lawlis Family Hospice Center** in Mequon on Valentine’s Day.



Jill Christensen (left) and Becca Reinholz
Aurora Cancer Care Center



Erin Mueller
Lawlis Family Hospice Center



On Sunday, February 12 - during the NFL Super Bowl, 63 cans of soup and other canned items were collected for the Family Sharing Food Pantry through the “Souper Bowl of Caring”. Thanks to those who donated.



Bible study in March:
Monday, March 13, 1:00 PM at church

All women are welcome!
Please contact Robin if you need a copy of the study.

QUILTING DATES

Monday
March 13 & 27
9:00 - noon



When you read this, the staff and guests are now moved into the new PortLight Shelter at 1505 Sunset Rd. in Port Washington!

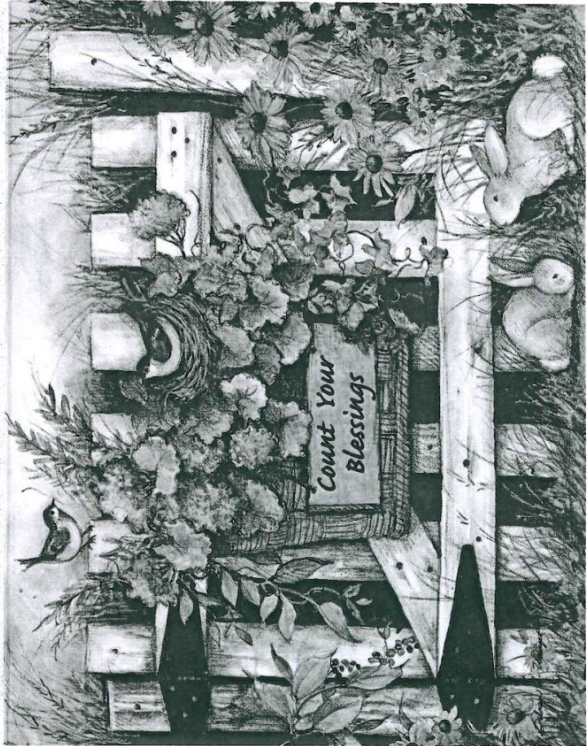
The shelter is beautiful - hotel quality - and the guests will have exceptional opportunities to work with resource staff to find permanent housing as well as jobs, if needed.

St. John will be providing the dinner meals to the guests the week of March 20th. If you would be willing to help that week, please contact Robin Fatla or watch for further information and sign-up.

A thank you for the
Gratitude Basket.

St. John's Church,
All here were touched by your
goodness and lifted by your kindness
with the homemade goodies, bright
and treats! We are beyond blessed
to have such heartwarming people in
our community. We all feel very
fortunate to be able to work here and
care for our patients during their cancer
journey.

Brightest Blessings!
Aurora Drafter Cancer
Care Staff



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design

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artwork by
Susan Winger

GARDEN GATE

STEWARDSHIP CORNER - STEWARDS OF STUFF

We live in a culture that values accumulating and consuming stuff - property, clothes, furniture, cars etc. Similarly our congregation also has physical assets - property, equipment, land, etc. How might we, as individual ELCA members and as a congregation, be good stewards of the stuff we have by using it to love God and our neighbor? How might we challenge ourselves to live more simply for the sake of our neighbor?

GOD PROVIDES FOR US ABUNDANTLY

What role does stuff have in our lives? Even before birth most of us begin accumulating possessions, and the practice continues for most of us until our final days. Through the gifts of family and friends and the fruits of our labor, God abundantly blesses us with all we need and so much more.

Similarly, St. John Lutheran Church enjoys many blessings from God: property on a well-traveled road; a sanctuary with room to hold more in worship; ample room for Christian education classes, ample space to house our current ministries, host meetings for community and charitable organizations, and room to grow.

Are we, as individuals and as a congregation living as good stewards of the stuff God provides?

ARE WE TRAPPED BY CONSUMERISM?

Messages encouraging us to buy and consume more bombard us constantly. We hear radio ads, watch TV commercials, drive by billboards, get tempted by store displays, view pop up ads online, and often feel the need to “keep up with the Jones”. With so many messages encouraging us to have more, more, more, it’s easy to convince ourselves that we **need** more stuff. If we are really honest with ourselves, most of the things we accumulate fall in the **want** category, not the **need** category.

In 2008, the World Bank’s Development Indicators, showed that individuals in the wealthiest 20% of countries accounted for 86% of the world’s private consumption expenditures. In contrast, those living in the poorest 20% of countries spent a mere 1.3%. According to a United Nations Human Development Report Overview, “Those living in extreme poverty and deprivation are among the most vulnerable. More than 2.2 billion people are either near or living in multidimensional poverty... At the same time, nearly 80 percent of the global population lack comprehensive social protection. About 12 percent (842 million) suffer from chronic hunger, and nearly half of all workers - more than 1.5 billion -are in informal or precarious employment. Perhaps these facts should prompt us to ask:

- * What is a necessity and what is a luxury?
- * What are the impacts of our consumption on the environment? on society? On individuals?
- * How do the demands of wealthier nations and people that can afford to consume more impact poorer nations and people?
- * How might we challenge ourselves to live more simply for the sake of our neighbor near and far?

STEWARDSHIP OF ST. JOHN’S PROPERTY

The St. John property supports God’s ministry in Grafton by providing ample place for individuals to worship, learn, and serve together. It serves as a collection point for the many charities that the members support, such as Mr. Bob’s Under the Bridge, and various food pantries. Here the quilters group works on the many quilts that are donated to those in need. It provides space for the programs of Prime Horizon and the Women of the ELCA meet for Bible Study. Many of the programs of the Outreach team are hosted here and St. John is open to providing space for other groups as needed. Here the congregation meets weekly after church, for fellowship.

...continued

Ask: How is God calling St. John to use its property to serve God and neighbor?

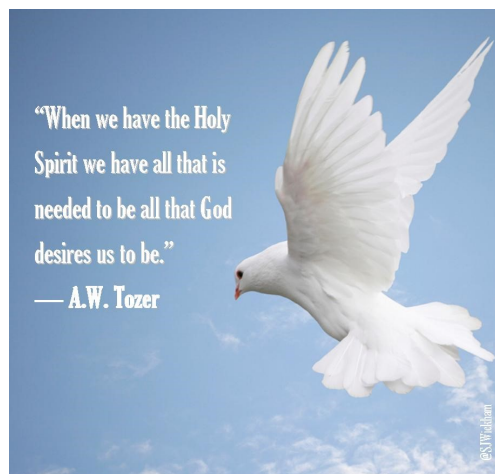
... Are there other ministries that St. John could operate from our property?

Prayer: God of abundance, you pour out a large measure of earthly blessings: our table is richly furnished, our cup overflows, we live in comfort and security, and our church property can easily support your work here. Teach us to set our hearts on you and not these material blessings. Keep us from being captivated by prosperity, and grant us wisdom to use your blessings to your glory and to the service of our neighbor. We ask these things through Jesus Christ, your gift and our Savior. Amen.

Sharlene Sandquist, Stewardship Chairperson

(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 the 2014 Human Development Report, p. 1, © 2014 United Nations Development Program. Economic data was gathered from an article by Anup Shah.)

DID YOU KNOW...



...that the 5 coalition congregations - St. John in Grafton and Trinity, Advent, Immanuel, and Faith in Cedarburg are working to form an AREA MISSION TEAM? The Team's purpose is to unite our congregations in a shared mission for the sake of the broader community. The Mission Team will include a synod-provided coach who will guide the group in the creation and implementation of mission "experiments" to bless the community and learn how to connect with those who don't have a church home and maybe are not even looking for one. The team will consist of 3 members from each of the 5 coalition congregations who will meet monthly.

And DID YOU KNOW...

... that there will be a modified version of Dwelling in The Word within Pr. Jim's sermon on Sunday, February 26th? Well, actually, it may have already happened by the time you are reading this, but I want to talk about it anyway. The general consensus of the Dwelling in The Word exercise during worship on October 23rd was that people were uncomfortable with it. The Task Force along with Pr. Jim have modified it to hopefully feel more comfortable. We understand that doing something new that "we've never done before" can be a bit intimidating. As was mentioned at the Annual Meeting, the Spiritual Renewal Task Force has a 2-pronged purpose - to deepen current members' faith as well as determine what the future holds for St. John. We are working to figure out new ways of being church and hope that you will be open to trying new things. Stay tuned...

Sincerely, *Judy McMullin*- Spiritual Renewal Task Force Chair

MARCH



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			<p><i>1</i></p> <p>Noon - Pastor's Lunch</p> <p>6:00 pm - Supper & 7:00 pm - Service at Immanuel</p>	<p><i>2</i></p>	<p><i>3</i></p> <p>Pastor's day off</p>	<p><i>4</i></p>
<p><i>5</i></p> <p>9:30 am - Holy Communion</p> <p>10:30 am - Fellowship hour</p>	<p><i>6</i></p>	<p><i>7</i></p>	<p><i>8</i></p> <p>Noon - Pastor's Lunch</p> <p>6:00 pm - Supper & 7:00 pm - Service at Advent</p>	<p><i>9</i></p>	<p><i>10</i></p> <p>Pastor's day off</p>	<p><i>11</i></p>
<p><i>12</i></p> <p>9:30 am - Holy Communion</p> <p>10:30 am - Fellowship hour</p> 	<p><i>13</i></p> <p>9:00 am - Quilting</p> <p>1:00 pm - Sarah Circle Bible study</p>	<p><i>14</i></p> <p>10:00 am - Bible study at Village Pointe Commons</p>	<p><i>15</i></p> <p>Noon - Pastor's Lunch</p> <p>6:00 pm - Supper & 7:00 pm - Service at Trinity</p>	<p><i>16</i></p> <p>Pastor Jim on vacation until Tuesday</p>	<p><i>17</i></p> 	<p><i>18</i></p>
<p><i>19</i></p> <p>9:30 am - Holy Communion</p> <p>10:30 am - Fellowship hour</p> <p>10:45 am - Church Council</p>	<p><i>20</i></p>	<p><i>21</i></p> <p>Pastor Jim back from vacation</p>	<p><i>22</i></p> <p>Noon - Pastor's Lunch</p> <p>100 pm - Spiritual Task Force</p> <p>6:00 pm - Supper & 7:00 pm - Service at Faith</p>	<p><i>23</i></p> <p>11:00 am - Worship Committee by Zoom</p>	<p><i>24</i></p> <p>Pastor's day off</p>	<p><i>25</i></p>
<p><i>26</i></p> <p>9:30 am - Holy Communion</p> <p>10:30 am - Fellowship hour</p>	<p><i>27</i></p> <p>9:00 am - Quilting</p>	<p><i>28</i></p> <p>10:00 am - Bible study at Village Pointe Commons</p>	<p><i>29</i></p> <p>Noon - Pastor's Lunch</p> <p>6:00 pm - Supper & 7:00 pm - Service at St. John</p>	<p><i>30</i></p>	<p><i>31</i></p> <p>Pastor's day off</p>	



- 3/5 Cindy Porth
- 3/5 Nick Christensen
- 3/7 Kristin Schauer
- 3/10 Renee Schauer
- 3/11 Roger Wendorf
- 3/13 Tom Rogahn
- 3/13 Taylor (Christensen) Borgerdink
- 3/16 Anita Lucht
- 3/21 Liz Allen
- 3/22 Lindsey Drescher
- 3/24 Monica Faretra
- 3/30 Florence Van Cleave
- 3/30 Hudson Granrath
- 3/31 Joanne Levenick
- 3/31 Miller Granrath
- 3/31 Joe Crowell

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



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister:

- March 5 - Gary Haas
- 12 - Robin Fatla
- 19 - Bob Butt
- 26 - Dennis Jaeger

Lector:

- March 5 - Robert McClelland
- 12 - **OPEN**
- 19 - Sandy Allen
- 26 - Carol Butt
- 29 - **Wednesday - OPEN**

Usher:

- March 5 - Dennis Jaeger
- 12 - Monica Faretra
- 19 - Bob Eichmann
- 26 - Roger Wendorf
- 29 - **Wednesday—OPEN**

Altar bouquets:

- March 5 - Jeanine Burhop/ Robin Fatla
- 12 - Tom Rogahn/ Marion Meyer
- 19 - Marian Witte (2)
- 26 - Florence Van Cleave (2)

Fellowship:

- March 5 - OPEN
- 12 - OPEN
- 19 - OPEN
- 26 - Marion Meyer/ Evie Tetzlaff

Counting Team:

- March 5 - Borgne McClelland Team
- 12 - Sheila Kapke Team
- 19 - Dennis Jaeger Team
- 26 - Jim Litvinoff Team



Sunday, March 12

St John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Financial Summary For January 2023

	January 2023			Year To Date 2023		
	Actual	Budget	Actual Over (under) Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual Over (under) Budget
Unified Income	\$ 9,133	\$ 12,100	\$ (2,967)	\$ 9,133	\$ 12,100	\$ (2,967)
Expense Summary:						
Education	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Outreach	\$ -	\$ 42	\$ (42)	\$ -	\$ 42	\$ (42)
Worship	\$ 520	\$ 693	\$ (173)	\$ 520	\$ 693	\$ (173)
Youth	\$ -	\$ 125	\$ (125)	\$ -	\$ 125	\$ (125)
Stewardship	\$ 201	\$ 200	\$ 1	\$ 201	\$ 200	\$ 1
Public Relations	\$ 194	\$ 200	\$ (6)	\$ 194	\$ 200	\$ (6)
Property	\$ 2,763	\$ 2,568	\$ 194	\$ 2,763	\$ 2,568	\$ 194
Finance (Incl.Mission Support)	\$ 8,578	\$ 8,545	\$ 33	\$ 8,578	\$ 8,545	\$ 33
Total Expenses	\$ 12,256	\$ 12,374	\$ (117)	\$ 12,256	\$ 12,374	\$ (117)
Net Income (Deficit)	\$ (3,123)	\$ (274)	\$ (2,850)	\$ (3,123)	\$ (274)	\$ (2,850)

Comparative 2022 Figures:

	@ 1/31/2022
Unified Income	\$ 8,947
Total Expenses	\$ (11,229)
Net Income (Deficit)	\$ (2,282)

Major Differences 2023 vs. 2022: Income 2023 is \$200 more than last year.
Expenses 2023 are \$1,000 more than last year.
Major expense item differences:
-- Worship expenses \$250 less than last year.
-- Gas heat & electricity combined \$300 higher than last year.
-- Wages \$400 higher than last year.

Thrivent Choice Gifts Rec. 2023: \$312
Memorial Gifts Received 2023: \$0
Budgeted Mission Support 2023: \$13,070 (All to be paid in February 2023)
Added Mission Support 2023: \$0

Assets At End Of Month	@ 1/31/2023	@ 1/31/2022
	\$ 180,895	\$ 205,303

Assets Are Needed to Support The Following Funds:

Audio Fund (formerly Cassette)	\$ 2,000	\$ -
Contingency Fund	\$ 19,966	\$ 29,539
Family Promise Fund	\$ 444	\$ 421
Fully Funded	\$ 509	\$ 563
Library Fund	\$ 505	\$ 505
Memorial Fund	\$ 139,254 <(incl. \$6,761 restricted)	\$ 144,469 <(incl. \$6,761 restricted)
Mercy Fund	\$ 2,760	\$ 2,260
Music Fund	\$ 162	\$ 162
Organ Repair Fund	\$ -	\$ -
Outreach Fund	\$ 434	\$ 2,422
Pastoral Education Fund	\$ 2,189	\$ 2,276
Property Fund	\$ 10,586	\$ 8,749
Scholarship Fund	\$ 1,839	\$ 2,189
Sign Fund (closed Jan. 2023)	\$ -	\$ 7,643
Youth Fund	\$ 3,371	\$ 6,388
Paycheck Protection (PPP)Loan	\$ -	\$ -
Total Fund Requirements	\$ 184,018	\$ 207,585
= Asset Excess (Shortage)	\$ (3,123)	\$ (2,282)

(Excess = budget surplus; Shortage = budget deficit)

March 2023 Pulse Beat



1193 Lakefield Road
Grafton, WI 53024

“In God’s Word, Serving You and the World”

Worship Schedule

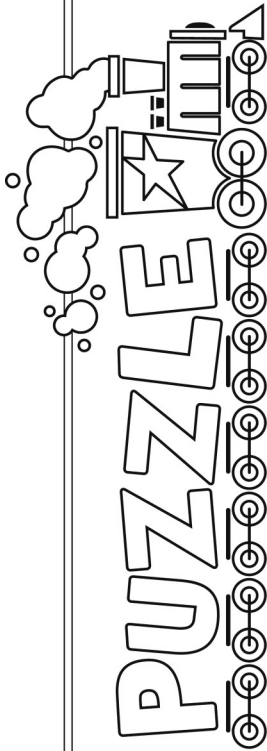
- Sunday Morning - 9:30 a.m.
- Education hour - 11:00 a.m.

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”



A seasonal reminder

Signs of spring remind us of God’s promises.

Directions: Use the picture code and clues to complete Isaiah 61:11, NIV.

<p> plants grow here</p> <p> to coil and jump <i>(also a season of the year)</i></p> <p> to expand and get bigger</p>	<p> seeds are planted in this</p> <p> when watered, these make plants</p> <p> another word for seedling</p>
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For as the _____ makes the _____

_____ come up and a _____ causes

_____ to _____, so the

Sovereign LORD will make righteousness

and praise _____ up before all nations.



ISAIAH 61:11, NIV

Answer: soil, sprout, garden, seeds, grow, spring