THE PULSE BEAT

Volume 48, Number 4



A Word from the Pastor

The month of April is only a couple of weeks into spring as it begins. And hopefully after all the snow we've had in March, we will be able to see renewed signs of the spring season of new life!

We have a time of renewal in the life of the church "body of Christ," in these days as well. On the liturgical calendar, we move into holy week and Easter.

In Christian understanding, Holy week is meant to follow along with the steps of Christ, from Palm Sunday through the next week to Easter/Resurrection Sunday. We follow Christ's journey through the major events of the high point of the church calendar.

Palm/Passion Sunday is also called the "triumphal entry" of Jesus into Jerusalem, where he rides into the city on a donkey, a symbol of peace, instead of in a show of power, like the Roman would display, riding a war horse.

Later that Palm Sunday, or, depending on which Gospel you follow, Jesus cleared the temple of money-changers and other officials who had distorted the purpose of the temple, by violating its sacredness, and making it a "den of thieves," cheating the people out of their meager funds by charging them fees to buy animal sacrifices.

This event moved the Jerusalem opposition to Jesus, to seriously organize their plot to get rid of him, who was a challenge to their religious power. According to John's Gospel, the raising of Lazarus from the dead, rather than the temple incident, motivated the religious authorities to act against Jesus.

They simply needed the opportunity to arrest him secretly, without a crowd around, and Judas, the betrayer, provided such early in the week by negotiating with the Sadducees, & Sanhedrin.

Holy Wednesday, according to tradition, is seen as a day of rest for Jesus & the disciples, in preparation for the Passover.

Thursday is when events take a darker turn with the imminent Jewish Passover celebration. Jesus hosts the feast for his disciples, where he changes the meaning of the historic meal to include the institution of the Lord's Supper, which became the sacrament of Holy Communion.

John's Gospel adds the example of servant hood, where Jesus washes the disciple's feet, and gives the command to "Love one another, as I have loved you." This is where we get the Latin word "Maundy," the designated name for Thursday in Holy Week.

Later in the evening, Jesus takes his disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane on the mount of Olives, where he prays to his heavenly Father, concerning his coming suffering. It is in the Garden that Jesus is betrayed by Judas, of the 12 main followers, who gives Jesus a kiss, as a signal he is the one to arrest. The Sanhedrin, with their temple police arrest Jesus, and put him on trial, a mockery, since they already decided they wanted to kill him.

On Good Friday morning the so-called trial concludes, with Jesus being sent to Governor Pontius Pilate, so he can be given the death sentence. In the end Pilate gives in, & orders Jesus to be crucified, with some other criminals. This form of capital punishment however was only meant for bandits, thieves, traitors & revolutionaries.

Within a few hours, Jesus dies late Friday afternoon, and his body is taken down & entombed by Joseph of Arimathea, and Nicodemus, both members of the council, but secretly, followers of Jesus, who did not consent to his death. The next day, is known as "Silent Saturday," where people wait out the sabbath day, in prayer & watching.

On Sunday, the day of Resurrection, several women followers of Jesus, go to the tomb, expecting to finish the preparation of Jesus' body for the long sleep of death, since they knew where Jesus had been placed. However, they do not find death, but a message from angels telling them Jesus is alive and has been raised from the dead, by God. Mary Magdalene is the first to see the risen Jesus in his new state of Resurrection life, where he is risen, but recognizable as the Jesus they all knew. The women at the tomb, are then, the first witnesses of the Resurrection.

From there, the good word, the Gospel of the Risen Christ, goes forth from Jerusalem, "to the ends of the earth." Holy week is therefore, the beginning, the first day of the new creation, opening the doors of the kingdom of God! Now Christ's presence is "with us always," to the end of the age!

April blessings! Peace! Pastor Jim

April 2023

THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Enter to Worship, Depart to Serve. That's what greeted everyone as they entered the front doors at St. John the last Sunday morning in March. This is a project that has been way too long in the making. The MET Team (now Outreach Team) discussed the entry wall and decided that this phrase would be a great way to greet the members and guests of St. John. The committee talked with my daughter, Laura, and asked her if she could provide some options. She came up with a design that was approved, and the initial pencil sketching was done, and that was where it ended. That was two babies ago for Laura – life happened and the greeting on the wall was never finished...until I got a message from Robin. Her thought was to have the wall completed before St. John hosted the last Lenten service, when we invited all of the coalition churches to join us for a meal and worship. While I thought it was a great idea, I was a little leery that we would not have time to get it finished. But I was proven wrong – we actually got it done in a day, and the finished project will be prominently displayed in the Narthex when we welcome everyone for the last Lenten service.

Now the question is – why that phrase? It's not there just as a welcome or as a decoration. It's also there as a challenge to each and every person who walks through our doors, especially us, the congregation of St. John!

I guess the first question is, why do we come and worship God? I know why I do. It's certainly not to escape life and all of its challenges, although that would be amazing, especially on some of my more trying days. But it's to help deal with the life that's out there. I think we all know that life can be hard - the big disappointments, the challenges, the crises of life and the difficulties of the world. I know that I can bring my concerns along on Sunday, lift them up in prayer, and seek God's comfort and guidance. We find in Psalms, "*Hear my prayer, LORD; listen to my cry for mercy. When I am in distress, I call to you, because you answer me.*" - *Psalm* 86:6-7

The concept of "Enter to worship, depart to serve" is that worship and service go hand in hand. As Christians, we are not supposed to have worship without service to follow. I found a very interesting article online talking about worship and service. It said that "True worship will always result in service. We cannot enter the sanctuary to worship without departing into the world to serve." Pretty thought provoking stuff. We hear from the Prophet Isaiah that he heard the voice of God speaking to him about service. "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!' " - Isaiah 6:8 We need to take that to heart. Why are we here? Why did we come to worship? Hopefully, we came, in part, to be challenged to do something out there.

I think what I found on gracefulsermons.com sums it up perfectly. "What are we sent out to do? What is God calling you to do? Who is it in your life that you need to love a little more? Who is it in your community that you need to reach out to a little harder? We come to worship because it makes a difference in our lives. We leave worship and go out to serve, so that we can make a difference in the lives of others."

So what are YOU going to do?

Hugs and blessings, Sandy

Pulse Beat

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CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Pastor James O'Reilly-Christensen

Office hours: Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm 920 988-9059 (Cell) E-mail: <u>stjohnpastor1@hotmail.com</u> **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 – Sandy Allen Vice President – Dennis Jaeger Secretary – Judy McMullin Treasurer – Peter Viesselmann Church Council: Dennis Jaeger – Worship

Sue Dowe – Education/ Youth Sharlene Sandquist – Stewardship Robin Fatla – Outreach Roger Wendorf - Finance Joe Porth – Property & Grounds Sharlene Sandquist - Public Relations 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.Wl

GENERAL INTEREST NEWS



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, 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), Jeanne Hass, Michael Horton (brother of Tara & Jeff Kapke), Mike Immekus (Harold's brother), Mary Jaeger, Joanne Levenick, Rosemarv Litvinoff (Jim's mother), Scott Maronde (nephew of Gary & Sue Haas), Ken Matthews (Kayla Matthews' father-in-law), Chuck & Cary Mueller (friends of Glenn Sievers), Alice Murphy (family of MerryLou Green), Sugeily Pineiro-Garcia, Karen Rautenberg (Sue Dowe's mother), Harriet Reese (Jackie Rogahn'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

The staff at the new Portlight Shelter in Port Washington continue their efforts to equip the

FamilyPromise

shelter. There is an Amazon Wish List of needed items at https://a.co/740Nt19.

If you would like to make a donation to the shelter, you can find something on this list, purchase it and have it sent to the shelter at 1505 Sunset Rd., Port Washington, WI 53074

If you do not have access to the Internet and would like to make a donation, contact Robin in the office and she will be happy to help you.

There is also a continuing need for toilet paper, Kleenex, paper towels, garbage bags, laundry soap and other general household items. These items can be taken to the shelter or brought to the church.

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April 2 9:30 am - Holy Communion



April 6 7:00 pm - Holy Communion



April 7 12:00 noon - Tenebrae 7:00 pm - Tenebrae



April 8 4:00 - 5:30 pm - Prayer vigil



April 9 8:00 am - Breakfast 9:30 am - Holy Communion



Bible Study: Monday, April 10, 1:00 pm at church



QUILTING DATES

Monday April 10 & 24 9:00 - noon

OUTREACH TEAM



Disper Drive

To benefit the Ozaukee Non-Profit Center "Baby Bank" Sizes 3, 4, 5, and preemie are needed. The collection runs through April 30th.

We continue to collect **prayer shawls** as gifts for the families of organ donors of Versiti Blood Center. Shawls are taken to Trinity L.C. in Cedarburg where they are then delivered to Versiti.





"Giving Day" Thursday, April 20th This is a fundraiser for Family Promise National. Every year 2.5 million children experience homelessness in America.

Giving Day is a 24 hour, online fundraiser that unites communities around a local cause. More details will be coming in future bulletins.



God In My Life

God has touched my life and my family's lives in so any ways in our earthly journey.

November 27, 1963; a date I will never forget. I regained consciousness in a hospital room, surrounded by my parents, brothers and sisters. I had survived a "head-on" automobile collision and would begin a long road of recovery. – **God was in my life** -

May of 1990; our 12 year old daughter was diagnosed with a brainstem tumor that required immediate surgery. Although her surgery was successful, complications would require extended treatment...but after a

long period of rehabilitation, her health was restored. - God was in her life -

August of 2004; I lost my job! After almost 38 years of employment, I was told that I didn't have to come to work the next day. Sue and I were devastated. What were we going to do? How were we going to cope? -God was in our life ... guiding us, giving us strength, and providing for us.-We endured -

July of 2015; I received a phone call from my doctor informing me that the results of the biopsies were back...I had cancer. "BAM!" What a traumatic moment. Sue and I really struggled with this one...but we remembered the words from that familiar hymn, "we should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer." In August, I began nine weeks of daily radiation treatment and now...almost 8 years later...through God's grace, I stand before you this morning.

God truly is present and active in our lives. Touching our lives in so many ways. Our prayers are answered, not always immediately, not always the way we want or in the way we asked, because "His will...not ours...will be done. - *Gary Haas*

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In my May, 2022 moment I referenced my volunteering with Columbia St. Mary's Hospital, Ozaukee as a Heart Friend so this is a short follow-up related to that.

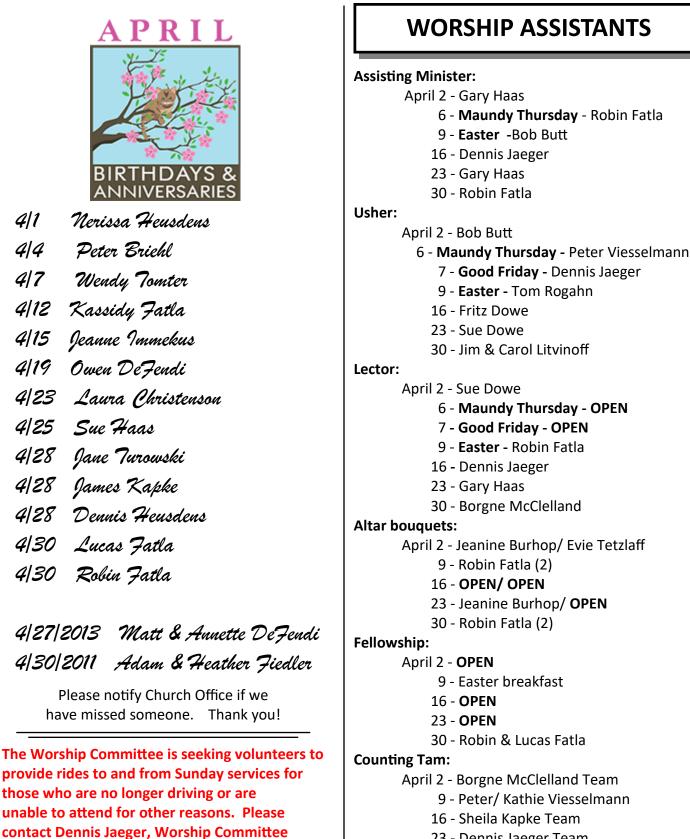
Though I had every intention to volunteer my services at the hospital following my July, 2002 retirement the actual journey there was the result of my January, 2006 by-pass surgery at St. Mary's. During my week long hospital recovery process I received outstanding care from the medical staff however, it was a visit from a short, heavy set, gruff looking angel; my Heart Friend, that was as important to me. His visit was to help Diane and I understand what the longer term recovery process would entail, to provide us with answers to our questions, ease our concerns and discuss the forward going recovery steps. His being an example provided the assurance that all would be well. One important step was participation in a cardio rehab program which I was able to begin some four weeks after hospital discharge and, I found that to be very helpful, to both the medical / physical recovery as well as the mental. It was during this program participation that rehab staff approached me to become a volunteer in their Heart Friend program. Yep! This was my Lord providing the stimulation to volunteerism and through it, allowed me to help others through the same issues I had gone through. I must say that He probably could have done this without me going through the pain of surgery. I was blessed to have been able to do this for fourteen years and was only stopped by the Covid pandemic.

During the many visits with heart patients and their family members it was deeply rewarding to be a resource and guide in their recovery process and I was able to follow in the steps of my Angel. As a reward for this volunteer opportunity I was able to work with loving, caring hospital staff and volunteers and the bonus of caring for notable patients i.e. an aunt of an astronaut, popular Milwaukee radio and television personality and Chief Umpire of Major League Baseball; all personable, pleasant and interesting individuals.

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Chairman, if this outreach is one you could help

with.

- 23 Dennis Jaeger Team
- 30 Jim Litvinoff Team



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Palm Sunday 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour	3	4	5 Noon - Pastor's Lunch	6 Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm - Worship service	7 <i>Good Friday</i> Noon - Tenebrae service - Pastor McClelland 7:00 pm - Tenebrae service - Pastor Jim	8 9:00 am - Decorate the chancel for Easter 4:00 - 5:30 pm - Prayer vigil
9Day of Resurrection8:00 am - Easter Breakfast9:30 am - Holy Communion	10 9:00 am - Quilting 1:00 pm - Sarah Circle Bible study	11 10:00 am - Bible study at Village Pointe Commons 6:00 pm - Pastor's prayer group	12 Noon - Pastor's Lunch 5:15 pm - Confirmation class	13	14 Pastor's day off	15
<i>16</i> 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour 10:45 am - Church Council	17	18	19 Noon - Pastor's Lunch 5:15 pm - Confirmation class	20	21 Pastor's day off	22 Earth Day 9:00 am - Part 3 - Faithful Innovations at Radio Milwaukee
23 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour	24 9:00 am - Quilting	25 10:00 am - Bible study at Village Pointe Commons 6:00 pm - Pastor's prayer group	26 Noon - Pastor's Lunch 5:15 pm - Confirmation class	27	28 Pastor's day off	29
<i>30</i> 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour						He is is is

STEWARDSHIP CORNER STEWARDS OF CONGREGATIONAL COMMUNITY

congregation - an assembly of persons brought together for common religious worship; an organization formed for the purpose of providing for worship of God, for religious education, and for other church activities.

<u>community</u> - a social, religious, occupational, or other group sharing common characteristics or interests and perceived or perceiving itself as distinct in some respect from the larger society within which it exists. **www.dictionary.com**

GOD GIVES US FAITH COMMUNITIES

At the beginning of creation, God decided earth was not a place for Adam to be alone (Genesis 2:18). God created Eve, and the very first faith community was born! Throughout the Bible, we find many examples of the faithful coming together, pooling their resources, sharing their talents, and doing God's work together. In Exodus we read how God, through Moses, commanded the Israelites to make offerings to God.

"Everyone who was willing and whose heart moved them came and brought an offering to the Lord" (35:21) Moses reminded the Israelites that God also blessed them with many skills, so"...every skilled person to whom the Lord has given skill and ability to know how to carry out all the work...are to do the work just as the Lord has commanded" (36:1).

Likewise, the letters of the New Testament overflow with stories of the early Christian communities. The apostle Paul gives thanks for the generous givers in the Macedonian churches saying, "In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people." 2 Corinthians 8:2-4) Not only did they give generously, they gave enthusiastically and view their giving and service as a privilege in spite of their own trials and challenges!

Paul reminds us that willingly and sacrificially giving of ourselves, whether it be through money, time, talents, possessions, treasure, or other resources, is our way of thanking God for the many blessings we enjoy. See 2 Corinthians 9:7-8, 11-13.

THE ST. JOHN FAITH COMMUNITY

Just like the Israelites and the early Christians, individuals at St. John join together in community to carry out God's mission in the world. We look out to see how God is calling us to love our neighbor with all that God has entrusted to our care. We are a church that believes Jesus is God's "Yes" to us. Our lives can be a "Yes" to others. Stewardship of our congregational community is one way that we can be that "Yes" to others.

When asked: "What is the greatest commandment?" Jesus responds, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbors as yourself''' (Matthew 22:37-39).

Stewardship is the way we use all of our resources - time, talents, possessions and money - to love God and our neighbor. Stewardship transforms God's commandment to "love our neighbors as ourselves" from a religious expression into a way of life.

What are some of the ways we see stewardship in action at St. John?

+ Many faithful givers at St. John have contributed money in 2023 to feed the hungry, house the homeless, comfort individuals in need, and share the Good News of God's grace through Jesus Christ with people of all ages. Your financial contributions make a difference. **Thank you!**

- + Many of our households have committed to financially support God's ministries at St. John in 2023. Your generous contributions will help continue and expand ministries, sustain homeless families transitioning to permanent (Family Promise) housing and continue to support meaningful worship services. **Thank you!**
- + Every week, St. John volunteers drive those no longer driving to worship (a program we hope to expand), serve on boards and committees that coordinate ministries at St. John; and share their lives in many other types of service. Each of you makes a big difference in the lives of those you serve. **Thank you!**

Ask:

- + How might St. John use all the resources God has entrusted to us to live out God's mission through this congregation?
- + Where is God calling you to share your time servicing neighbors through this faith community?
- + How is God moving your heart to increase your financial support for the ministries at St. John?

PRAY:

Abundant God, we thank you for your goodness to us and for all the blessings of life. We praise you for your immeasurable love in redeeming us through Jesus Christ, our means of grace. Raise our awareness of your generosity so that with thankful hearts we give ourselves to serve you and our neighbors through the congregational community at St. John. Amen.

Sharlene Sandquist, St. John Stewardship Chair

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

St John Evangelical Lutheran Church Financial Summary For February 2023

			-eDi	ruary 2023	1	Actual Over under)		Yea	ar i	o Date 2	A	ctual)ver nder)
	4	Actual	ļ	Budget		Budget		Actual	E	<u>Budget</u>	Bu	Idget
Unified Income	\$	8,307	\$	12,100	\$	(3,793)	\$	17,440	\$	24,200	\$	(6,760)
Expense Summary:	•	70	•		•	70	•		•		•	
Education Outreach	\$ \$	72 (45)	\$	42	\$\$	72	\$	72	\$	-	\$ \$	72
Worship	\$	895	9 \$	793	э \$	(86) 101	\$	(45) 1,415		83 1,487	э \$	(128)
Youth	\$	- 000	\$	125	\$	(125)	\$	1,415	\$	250	\$	(250)
Stewardship	\$	-	\$	-	\$	(120)	\$	201	\$	200	\$	(200)
Public Relations	\$	16	\$	20	\$	(4)	\$	210	\$	220	\$	(10)
Property	\$	3,699	\$	2,568	\$	1,131	\$	6,462	\$	5,137	\$	1,325
Finance (incl.Mission Support)	\$	22,660	\$	22,714	\$	(54)	\$	31,238	\$	31,259	\$	(21)
Total Expenses	\$	27,296	\$	26,263	\$	1,034	\$	39,553	\$	38,636	\$	917
Net Income (Deficit)	\$	(18,989)	\$	(14,163)	\$	(4,827)	\$	(22,113)	\$	(14,436)	\$	(7,677)
Comparative 2022 Figures:							0	2/28/202	2			
Unified Income							_	20,159				
Total Expenses							\$	(35,805)				
Net Income (Deficit)							\$	(15,646)				
Major Differences 2023 vs. 2022:												
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April 2023 Pulse Beat



1193 Lakefield Road Grafton, WI 53024 "In God's Word, Serving You and the World"

> <u>Worship Schedule</u> - 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"*

