


THE PULSE BEAT



Volume 48, Number 5

May 2023

THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Spiritual Renewal. You've been hearing about that for a little over a year now – in the weekly bulletin, in the PulseBeat, during Sunday service. You've heard about The Spiritual Renewal Task Force, Faithful Innovation, EPIC... things that should hopefully mean a great deal to St. John and its members in the upcoming future, even if we're not very familiar with what they are now. People struggle with change (I know that I do), and what renewal actually looks like for us, because it can be a scary and kind of uncharted territory. But change is not always bad. And the hope is that if we can embrace it, we will ultimately be better off because of it.

Spring itself is a time of renewal. It is a reset moment. The dark days of winter are gone away. As winter fades, in its place comes the warm, gentle gift of spring. As I see the blooms on the trees, the sprouting of the crocuses and daffodils in my flower beds, I can feel rejuvenation in my spirit. But as I look at the new growth, I'm reminded of the work that needs to be done in order for the new growth to reach its greatest potential. There is pruning, raking, fertilizing...and the time I invest creates renewed energy for me! As the flowers start to bloom and the sun stays out a little longer, I'm reminded that spring is the ultimate time of renewal when we can really reset ourselves and spiritually prepare for the journey ahead. Spring is quite a gift ... and to know that it is ours to experience over and over again should make it all the more powerful to us.

Our faith should be a journey of growth. We don't just arrive at the end of growth and stay there. Faith continues to grow, from seed to seedling to blossom to death and to new life. Growth is always a part of the plan.

St. John is on its own pathway of renewal and growth. The Spiritual Renewal Task Force has been participating in Faithful Innovation, attending three workshops over the past months. Faithful Innovation is a process, not a program, in which a group of congregations form an intentional "learning community." Through prayer, skill-building, action and reflection they address the pressing questions about the future of God's church. We need to face facts – churches all over the country are struggling with membership and finances. In this we are not alone. So it is time for us to find our own way to grow in our faith and be the church we need to be. We need to take our message out into the world and find ways to invite the community into St. John. And as the flowers of spring, we need to bloom and grow!

I leave you with some quotes from Faithful Innovation – for inspiration and dreaming...

A question I like folks to wonder about as they engage in this work is "What does love look like in this situation?" It shifts the energy from "How do we save our church?" or "How do we attract more people?" to simply "How do I love my neighbor?" – Bishop Paul Erickson

If you don't love people you can't understand them...and if you don't understand them, you can't reach them. – Howard Fuller

What we practice, we become. – Krista Tippett

We do not think ourselves into a new way of living, but we live ourselves into a new way of thinking. – Richard Rohr

Hugs and blessings,
Sandy

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: stjohnsecretary@hotmail.com

Website: stjohngraffton.org

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

Mary Ellen Levra - 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.

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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, Amy Fisher (Robin Fatla's niece), Henry Frier (Marian Witte's son-in-law), 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), 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, Jennifer Wendorf (daughter-in-law of Roger and Diane), 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*

Jeanne Fay Hass

December 31, 1933 - April 14, 2023



The Church Council welcomes **Mary Ellen Levra** to the position of Public Relations Chairman. Thank you Mary Ellen, for stepping up to serve in this capacity.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION REVISITED

It's May again, and hopefully we won't have any more snow storms. We, at Providence Place, where I live, are thinking about what to put into our raised boxes and our plots in the "ground garden." Every year, we make the decision, do we plant flowers, vegetables, or a combination of both.

The vegetables supplement what we have to buy at the store or a local farmers market and the flowers feed the bees that are so vital to the growing of our food. Whatever the decision, by July, the walkway on the back side of Providence Place will be beautiful with an array of various flowers and many tomato, bean, lettuce, etc. plants. It is a joy to walk there or to sit in the gazebo and enjoy the beauty of God's creation.

We, who live in Wisconsin, are blessed to have an abundance of water, (Lake Michigan) and must be careful not to waste this abundance but use it responsibly by turning running water off while brushing teeth, shaving, hand washing dishes, watering our lawns and gardens.

CREATION CARE AT ST. JOHN

At St. John, we have a beautiful Peace Garden, as well as areas around the building that faithful members, who like to garden and are still able to garden, lovingly tend. It means many hours of weeding, watering, and planting, and all too often we forget to thank those who give of their time and abilities, to make this happen.

We continue to use reusable cups and glasses (for the most part) at social events at St. John, which helps to reduce waste.

CREATION CARE ON A PERSONAL BASIS

Many of us, members of St. John, practice creation stewardship by using reusable dishes, glasses, and cups at home and when entertaining. We also recycle plastic bags, aluminum cans and paper, donate used clothing and household items in good condition to organizations such as Goodwill, Salvation Army, and Family Sharing. We save gift bags, boxes, and bows from birthday parties, Christmas and other occasions to use again. We shop using reusable shopping bags and much more.

AND YET WE ASK

How might I do a better job of caring for God's Creation? How might the faith community at St. John work together to sustain the earth for future generations?

PRAY: God of all creation, in giving humans dominion over all things on earth, you make us co-workers in your creation. Thank you for the fruitful earth which produces all that we need for life. Help us all be good stewards of your creation, wisely using the resources of nature so that no one suffers from our abuse of them. Preserve the earth's bounty for generations yet to come; through Jesus Christ who came down to earth to save all of creation. Amen

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

Sharlene



Rebecca Dowe

Becca is the daughter of Fritz & Sue Dowe and the granddaughter of Donna Dowe. She will graduate from Carthage College on May 28th with a major in physics and minors in German and computer science. After taking a year off, she plans to attend graduate school.



Kenny Matthews

Kenny is the son of Kenn & Kayla Matthews and grandson of Dale & Sandy Allen. He will graduate on June 9th from Rancho Bernardo High School in San Diego, California. He plans to attend Cal State San Marcos looking to major in Applied Physics. He hopes to one day become a pilot.



GENERAL INTEREST NEWS



Our Property and Grounds Chairman, Joe Porth, has scheduled an indoor/ outdoor work day on:
Saturday, May 20
9:00 am

We will be sprucing up the gardens around the outside of the church building and sorting through all the items in the lower level - still in disarray since the clean-up from the flooding in September - and rearranging the rooms.

The church council will be providing brats and hamburgers for lunch and you are invited to bring a dish to pass as well as your beverage of choice.

“Many hands make light work” so we hope many of you will pitch in to get this clean-up done!



May 6
 8:30 am - 12:30 pm
 Trinity Lutheran Church
 N60 W6047 Columbia Rd., Cedarburg
See complete registration information on the flyer included in this newsletter.

BLOOD DRIVE

Hope springs

**DONATE
BLOOD**

eternal

**SATURDAY
MAY**

6

8:30 AM - 12:30PM

**Helpful tip:
Make sure to eat a healthy
meal and drink plenty of
water before donating.**



**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
CEDARBURG BLOOD DRIVE**

**N60 W6047 COLUMBIA ROAD
CEDARBURG, WI 53012**

**Donate and splash away! All attempting donors will
be entered for a chance to win \$1000 in Gift Cards
to a waterpark resort! ***



**Visit bit.ly/trinitymay6 to sign up or call
877-232-4376 to Save the Day!**

Appointments encouraged. Walk-ins welcome.

*NO PURCH. NEC. MI, OH, IL, IN, and WI residents
only; 18+. Ends 5/24/23. One drawing; four (4)
winners. Enter by blood donation or online. See
Official Rules and online entry form at
versiti.org/splash. Sponsor: Versiti, Inc., 638 N. 18th
St., Milwaukee, WI 53233.





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Noon - Pastor's Lunch 5:15 pm - Confirmation class	4	5 Pastor's day off	6 8:30 am - 12:30 pm - Blood drive at Trinity L.C. Cedarburg
7 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour	8 9:00 am - Quilting 1:00 pm - Sarah Circle Bible study	9 10:00 am - Bible study at Village Pointe Commons 6:00 pm - Pastor's prayer group	10 Noon - Pastor's Lunch 5:15 pm - Confirmation class	11	12 Pastor's day off	13
14 HAPPY Mother's Day 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour	15	16	17 Noon - Pastor's Lunch 5:15 pm - Last day of Confirmation party	18	19 Pastor's day off	20 9:00 am 
21 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour 10:45 am - church Council	22 9:00 am - Quilting	23 10:00 am - Bible study at Village Pointe Commons 6:00 pm - Pastor's prayer group	24 Noon - Pastor's Lunch	25	26 Pastor's day off	27
28 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour	29	30	31 Noon - Pastor's Lunch			



- 5/1 *Harold Immekus*
- 5/3 *Heather Fiedler*
- 5/16 *Jackie Rogahn*
- 5/19 *Marion Meyer*
- 5/23 *Joe Christensen*
- 5/24 *Mackenzie O'Reilly-Christensen*



- 5/7/2016 *Mike & Maren Foti*
- 5/28/1988 *Fritz & Sue Dowe*
- 5/31/1969 *Bob & Mari Schmidt*

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



Bible study in May:

Monday, May 8, 1:00 pm at church



QUILTING DATES

Monday
May 8 & 22
9:00 - noon

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister:

- May 7 Bob Butt
- 14 Dennis Jaeger
- 21 Gary Haas
- 28 Robin Fatla

Lector:

- May 7 Robert McClelland
- 14 Judy McMullin
- 21 **OPEN**
- 28 Florence Van Cleave

Usher:

- May 7 Monica Faretra
- 14 Roger Wendorf
- 21 Bob Eichmann
- 28 Dennis Jaeger

Altar bouquets:

- May 7 Bob & Carol Butt/ Doreen Koopmann
- 14 Jeanine Burhop/ Tom & Jackie Rogahn
- 21 Evie Tetzlaff/ **OPEN**
- 28 Florence Van Cleave (2)

Fellowship:

- May 7 **OPEN**
- 14 Jeanine Burhop
- 21 Marian Meyer/ Evie Tetzlaff
- 28 **OPEN**

Counting Team:

- May 7 Borgne McClelland Tam
- 14 Sheila Kapke Team
- 21 Dennis Jaeger Team
- 28 Jim Litvinoff Team

CONGRATULATIONS TO **TEAGAN JAEGER** FOR BEING CROWNED JUNIOR POPPY PRINCESS FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR BY THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY CEDARBURG UNIT 288. TEAGAN IS THE GRANDDAUGHTER OF DENNIS AND MARY JAEGER.



NEW PHONE NUMBER:

MARIAN WITTE
920 412-6373

St John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Financial Summary For March 2023

	March 2023			Year To Date 2023		
	Actual	Budget	Actual Over (under) Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual Over (under) Budget
Unified Income	\$ 10,457	\$ 12,100	\$ (1,643)	\$ 27,897	\$ 36,300	\$ (8,403)
Expense Summary:						
Education	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 72	\$ -	\$ 72
Outreach	\$ -	\$ 42	\$ (42)	\$ (45)	\$ 125	\$ (170)
Worship	\$ 858	\$ 696	\$ 162	\$ 2,273	\$ 2,183	\$ 90
Youth	\$ -	\$ 125	\$ (125)	\$ -	\$ 375	\$ (375)
Stewardship	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 201	\$ 200	\$ 1
Public Relations	\$ 16	\$ 20	\$ (4)	\$ 225	\$ 240	\$ (15)
Property	\$ 2,276	\$ 2,438	\$ (162)	\$ 8,738	\$ 7,575	\$ 1,163
Finance (incl.Mission Support)	\$ 8,551	\$ 8,645	\$ (94)	\$ 39,789	\$ 39,905	\$ (115)
Total Expenses	\$ 11,701	\$ 11,967	\$ (265)	\$ 51,254	\$ 50,603	\$ 651
Net Income (Deficit)	\$ (1,244)	\$ 134	\$ (1,378)	\$ (23,357)	\$ (14,303)	\$ (9,054)

Comparative 2022 Figures:

	@ 3/31/2022
Unified Income	\$ 32,195
Total Expenses	\$ (47,898)
Net Income (Deficit)	\$ (15,703)

Major Differences 2023 vs. 2022: Income year-to-date 2023 is \$4,300 less than last year.
Expenses year-to-date 2023 are \$3,300 more than last year.

Major year-to-date expense item differences:

- Gas heat & electricity combined \$550 higher than last year.
- Overall wages expense \$1,900 higher than last year.
- Mission support payments \$600 higher than last year.

Thrivent Choice Gifts Rec. 2023: \$955
 Memorial Gifts Received 2023: \$25
 Budgeted Mission Support 2023: \$12,920 (All paid in February 2023)
 Added Mission Support 2023: \$0

	@ 3/31/2023	@ 3/31/2022
Assets At End Of Month	\$ 155,939	\$ 192,858

Assets Are Needed to Support The Following Funds:

Audio Fund (formerly Cassette)	\$ -	\$ -
Contingency Fund	\$ 22,808	\$ 31,834
Family Promise Fund	\$ 484	\$ 441
Fully Funded	\$ 451	\$ 521
Library Fund	\$ 505	\$ 505
Memorial Fund	\$ 133,791 <(incl. \$6,761 restricted)	\$ 144,704 <(incl. \$6,761 restricted)
Mercy Fund	\$ 2,760	\$ 2,260
Music Fund	\$ 162	\$ 162
Organ Repair Fund	\$ -	\$ -
Outreach Fund	\$ 442	\$ 2,419
Pastoral Education Fund	\$ 2,098	\$ 2,276
Property Fund	\$ 10,586	\$ 7,221
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	\$ 179,295	\$ 208,562
= Asset Excess (Shortage)	\$ (23,357)	\$ (15,703)

(Excess = budget surplus; Shortage = budget deficit)

May 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"

