


THE PULSE BEAT



Volume 48, Number 7

July/August 2023

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

We're moving into the heart of summer, in these warmest months! And as time moves ahead, we will be grateful (hopefully) to savor these days, once the weather turns cold!

Some consider these days down time. Which is one way to approach the summer. Yet from a Christian perspective, it is perhaps more appropriate to see July & August as days of renewal, regeneration, and/or Sabbath. We are often in need of a change from the routine, especially those needing a break from working life.

No matter who we are, we can all use times of refreshment. Even Jesus in his mission of world-saving, "went off by himself," to pray and be with his heavenly Father. He also needed rest, and sleep like the rest of us.

At least once, Jesus fell asleep in the back of the boat of his fishermen disciples, during a storm yet! To their frustration, they had a hard time waking him up ---that's tired! Rest and refreshment is a necessity for saviors, along with the rest of us! One of my favorite Gospel passages speaks of "**the renewal of all things.**" (Matthew 19:28)

The setting is this: *Peter said: "Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, AT THE RENEWAL OF ALL THINGS, . . . You who have followed me, will also sit on 12 thrones, judging the 12 tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses, or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."*

A description of the upside-down world of the Gospel, with God's priorities of last and first being reversed by the values of the kingdom of God! The main thing worth noting here is what Jesus calls: "The renewal of all things." As Jesus tells it, this is the way God deals with the creation --- human beings and the world ---RENEWAL!

Some believe God is all about destruction. Kill the bad guys! But our God is all about saving, and renewing. Just as the angel in John's vision in Revelation declares: "**See, I am making all things new.**" He says this, instead of saying, "I am making all new things."

Various translations use slightly different words: In Eugene Peterson's Message Bible, Jesus says in Matthew 19, Jesus says, "**I the re-creation of the world.**" The Complete Jewish Bible says: "**In the regenerated world, when the Son of Man comes. . . .**"

In the Syriac-English New Testament, Jesus says: "**You who have followed me into the new age (new world)**". Finally in the Contemporary English Bible, (CEB) the translation reads, Jesus tells the disciples, "**When everything is made new.**"

So we learn that our God of the Trinity, including the Son and the Holy Spirit, are all about renewal, re-creation, and making all things new, including us, and the world God has made! May the rest of your summer, be all about these very things!

Blessings and Peace on your July and August! *Pastor Jim*

THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

How do you define success? Do you think it's all about wealth, power, status? Or is it really about more than that? Success can be defined as "the achievement of your goals, dreams and aspirations. It's the realization of your potential and the ability to live a fulfilling and meaningful life." Success is really a journey – not a destination.

St. John is going through our own time of measuring our success. The face of religion itself seems to be changing. There are people who do not seem to feel they need the church, or the spiritual guidance that it provides. Some are so bold to think that they don't need God at all. Children are not provided with Christian religious instruction, instead being left to search for their faith when they're ready. But the question is this – if they are not taught about Jesus when they are small, how will they know what to look for when they're older?

So how does St. John measure its own success? Do we gauge it by how many butts occupy our pews? By how many dollars make their way to our collection plate? Is our success measured by our good reputation, or maybe our beautiful building? I'm pretty sure that we all know that there's way more to it than just that.

St. John has been a faithful congregation since 1866. Jesus is THE reason we come to worship. The Word is spoken every Sunday, and the Pastor expounds on that to provide teaching and insight. Outreach is a huge focus at St. John. From quilting to food drives to catastrophic donations – we are always benevolent with our time and our giving. St. John has a mission, and we take it very seriously. We 1) Proclaim the Gospel in worship and daily life, 2) Study and teach God's Word, 3) Fellowship among people of this congregation, and 4) Serve people in our surrounding community. We definitely have measureable success.

In our expanded collaboration with our fellow EPIC (ELCA Partners in Christ) churches, we are striving to take the time to be successful churches – to listen to not only what the people in our congregations need, but we are reaching out and listening to the community. What are the needs of the community, and how can the EPIC churches provide for those needs?

As the face of religion goes through changes, we, the church, need to be ready to change along with it. It may not always be church as we are used to. It may feel a little different, but change doesn't need to be bad. It can be exciting, scary, humbling, frustrating – lots of emotions and feelings all wrapped up together. But the church has gone through many changes over the years. And as we all know – the church is still here, and it's still doing amazing things.

There's no quick, miracle fix. But let's not measure our success by our numbers. I found this quote online from John Finkelde, and it's very true, "Churches are like T-shirts, we need all sizes." Churches of all sizes have a place and a role to fill in Christ's Kingdom – the big ones and the small ones.

Let's trust God, trust each other, and continue to be the people of St. John. Following our mission, and being relevant and successful in as many ways and for as long as we can.

"Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit." Jeremiah 17:7-8

Hugs and blessings to you all, *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 – 1:00 pm
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.

Church Phone Numbers:

Office: 262-377-0410 Fax: 262-377-0410

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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), Merry Lou Green, Michael Horton (brother of Tara & Jeff Kapke), Harold Immekus, 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, Susan Rand (Carole Litvinoff's sister-in-law), 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 **"Home away from home" members:** Jeanine Burhop (sister of the late Marilyn Speranza) – Lasata; Tim McClosky – at home with sister Merry Lou Green, John Clasen – Nursing home in St. Francis



In these summer days especially, please remember your church's need for financial support. There is always an offering plate placed at the entrance to the sanctuary or feel free to send in your offering to the church office. Thank you for your faithfulness.

As of June 30th, The COPE HOTLINE - available for folks needing emotional support - has ceased operations.

This comes at the inception of the new 988 direct line to emotional support agencies.



St John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Financial Summary For May 2023

	May 2023			Year To Date 2023		
	Actual	Budget	Actual Over (under) Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual Over (under) Budget
Unified Income	\$ 7,976	\$ 12,100	\$ (4,124)	\$ 49,100	\$ 63,600	\$ (14,500)
Expense Summary:						
Education	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 72	\$ -	\$ 72
Outreach	\$ -	\$ 42	\$ (42)	\$ (45)	\$ 208	\$ (253)
Worship	\$ 500	\$ 600	\$ (100)	\$ 3,871	\$ 3,782	\$ 89
Youth	\$ -	\$ 125	\$ (125)	\$ -	\$ 625	\$ (625)
Stewardship	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 201	\$ 200	\$ 1
Public Relations	\$ 119	\$ 20	\$ 99	\$ 499	\$ 560	\$ (61)
Property	\$ 2,232	\$ 2,428	\$ (196)	\$ 12,870	\$ 12,062	\$ 808
Finance (incl.Mission Support)	\$ 10,304	\$ 10,640	\$ (336)	\$ 58,832	\$ 59,090	\$ (258)
Total Expenses	\$ 13,155	\$ 13,855	\$ (700)	\$ 76,299	\$ 76,527	\$ (228)
Net Income (Deficit)	\$ (5,179)	\$ (1,755)	\$ (3,424)	\$ (27,199)	\$ (12,927)	\$ (14,272)

Comparative 2022 Figures:

	<u>@ 5/31/2022</u>
Unified Income	\$ 54,247
Total Expenses	\$ (70,570)
Net Income (Deficit)	\$ (16,323)

Major Differences 2023 vs. 2022: Income year-to-date 2023 is \$5,100 less than last year.
Expenses year-to-date 2023 are \$5,700 more than last year.

Major year-to-date expense item differences:

- Gas heat & electricity combined \$430 higher than last year.
- Overall wages expense \$3,100 higher than last year.
- Mission support payments \$600 higher than last year.

Thrivent Choice Gifts Rec. 2023: \$1,243
 Memorial Gifts Received 2023: \$50
 Budgeted Mission Support 2023: \$12,920 (All paid in February 2023)
 Added Mission Support 2023: \$0

	<u>@ 5/31/2023</u>	<u>@ 5/31/2022</u>
Assets At End Of Month	\$ 153,399	\$ 182,542

Assets Are Needed to Support The Following Funds:

Audio Fund (formerly Cassette)	\$ -	\$ -
Contingency Fund	\$ 24,097	\$ 32,507
Family Promise Fund	\$ 484	\$ 441
Fully Funded	\$ 357	\$ 515
Library Fund	\$ 505	\$ 505
Memorial Fund	\$ 133,816 <(incl. \$6,761 restricted)	\$ 134,254 <(incl. \$6,761 restricted)
Mercy Fund	\$ 2,760	\$ 2,260
Music Fund	\$ 162	\$ 162
Organ Repair Fund	\$ -	\$ -
Outreach Fund	\$ 458	\$ 2,454
Pastoral Education Fund	\$ 2,150	\$ 2,276
Property Fund	\$ 10,586	\$ 7,271
Scholarship Fund	\$ 1,839	\$ 2,189
Sign Fund (closed Jan. 2023)	\$ -	\$ 7,643
Youth Fund	\$ 3,386	\$ 6,389
Paycheck Protection (PPP)Loan	\$ -	\$ -
Total Fund Requirements	\$ 180,599	\$ 198,864
= Asset Excess (Shortage)	\$ (27,199)	\$ (16,323)

(Excess = budget surplus; Shortage = budget deficit)

Stewardship Corner

This month, I would like to revisit the topic of time and how we use it. I received a call this morning from a friend in England. She was calling to say “good-bye” and thank me for our friendship, ever since we met on a cruise to Alaska. My friend is dying of liver cancer and has been told that she has weeks left to live, not months or years.

We are all aware that we won’t live forever, but as our days go by, we tend to forget and live as though we have all the time in the world, when the truth is, we don’t know how much time we have left on this earth. My friend’s call was a “wakeup call” for me.

Since the start of summer, when our normal activities are on hold for a few months, I have tended to fritter away a lot of time, instead of using it productively. I know that God doesn’t expect perfection or endless busyness from us and that wise stewardship of our time includes finding time for rest, renewal and joy, but my use of time has become out of balance. It is time for me to refocus and be more deliberate in planning my days and working my plan. Getting back to a regular schedule that insures adequate sleep at night, so that I can use my days in a way that reflects my values, that allows time for me to love God and my neighbor, that allows for time to call and visit with friends in need of a visit, write that letter that lets a friend know that they are in my thoughts, take time for personal devotions. There is a fine balance that allows for flexibility and yet purposeful living.

My friend is using the weeks she has left to put her affairs in order and to contact friends in her life to thank them for friendship and what they have meant to her. It also gives her friends a chance to tell her what she has meant to them. Often we forget to do this with our friends, while we can. Another friend died while I was on my recent trip to Iceland and Sweden, and I never did get to tell her what her friendship meant to me. It may seem a little thing, but in the future I will try to let my friends know how they enrich my life, before it is too late. This also includes family members, who are perhaps our best friends.

The Stewardship of Time

I wrote to my friend today, to tell her what her friendship has meant to me and to thank her for it. I didn’t get to adequately express this to her on the phone. There are others that I need to write to in the coming days, friends I need to call, and friends I see every day that should be told what their friendship means to me. I pray that God will keep me aware and move me to do this.

Prayer: God of all times and places, help us to use our times of relaxation and refreshment for the renewal of our bodies, minds and spirits. Help us to express our appreciation to friends and family, for how they enrich our lives and what they mean to us. Help us to find balance in our lives that we not neglect to study your word. Increase our love for you and others. May our lives proclaim you. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.



BLOOD DRIVE

Saturday, July 15th
8:30 am - 12:30 pm
Trinity L.C., Cedarburg
Contact Jill Klitz at 262377-6074 to reserve your donation time.

The Church Council is again offering scholarships to students off to college in the fall.

An application is included in this newsletter.

Deadline to apply is August 16th.





1193 Lakefield Rd.
Grafton, WI 53024
262 377-0410
Rev. James O'Reilly-Christensen
920-988-9059

St. John Lutheran Church Scholarship
Fund Application

*This application applies to the 2023 – 2024 school year only.
Applicant may reapply each following year, for available funds.*

Deadline to submit – August 16, 2023

Name

Address

Telephone

Email

Date of birth

School you will be attending

Address of school (if known)

Career/ degree you are pursuing



7/4 Kelly Boelkou
 7/5 Gary Haas
 7/5 Connor Doue
 7/5 Kim Christensen
 7/12 Borgne McClelland
 7/12 Adam Kapke
 7/13 Dane Grawrath
 7/13 Annette DeFendi
 7/15 Tara Kapke
 7/16 Diane Wendorf
 7/19 Mary Jaeger
 7/20 Erich Doue
 7/22 Joe Porth
 7/25 Carole Litvinoff
 7/26 Peter Viesselmann

 8/1 Debby O'Reilly-Christensen
 8/3 Randy Tetzlaff
 8/9 Joan Horsefield
 8/9 James Allen
 8/10 Larry Samarija
 8/11 Jacob Liebergen
 8/12 Jason Salger
 8/15 Elizabeth Drescher
 8/28 Bob Butt
 8/29 Dana McMullin
 8/29 Austin Heusdens

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



ANNIVERSARIES to Celebrate

7/13/1968 Gary & Sue Haas
 7/18/1970 Rick & Jan Gonzalez
 7/19/1986 Jim & Debby O'Reilly-Christensen
 7/20/1968 Harold & Jeanne Immekus
 7/27/1974 Joe & Cindy Porth

 8/7/1999 Ivan & Sugeily Garcia
 8/10/2019 Randy & Catherine Tetzlaff
 8/18/1984 Jeff & Kelly Boelkou

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



Cedarburg City Park Shelter
 Sunday, July 9
 9:30 am

There will be some seating available, but best to bring your lawn chair. We are planning to have fellowship time after the service. If you can bring a treat to share, that's great! Water and lemonade will be provided. Make sure to attend this fun event! It's a great way to be a witness to God's love in our community!

THERE WILL BE NO SERVICE AT ST. JOHN THIS DAY!

FAMILY PROMISE

Family Promise is rehabbing the two-bedroom apartment located on the second floor at the main office - 136 W. Grand Ave., Port Washington. This unit is used as transitional housing for a family leaving our shelter program who may need some additional assistance. We hope you can come and help us make this apartment beautiful for the new family that will be moving in. Lunch and beverages will be provided. Please share the link below with anyone who may be interested in helping out on Saturday, July 22, 2023

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094CA5AD2BA7F49-painting>



Similac Sensitive Formula in the orange can, is needed for a young mother with a young baby. If you would like to donate, please bring donations to church or the Family Promise office.

Dinner Nights!

St. John is scheduled to prepare and share dinner meals with the guests at the Port Light Shelter the week of July 17 - 21.

Meals are prepared at your home and brought to the shelter for a 6:00 pm dinner time. OR - bring your ingredients earlier and prepare at the shelter.

Robin Fatla has a sign-up sheet and looks forward to you sharing one of your favorite meals with the guests.

Worship Assistants

Assisting Minister:

July 2 - Bob Butt
16 - Gary Haas
23 - Robin Fatla
30 - Dennis Jaeger
August 6 - Bob Butt
13 - Gary Haas
20 - Dennis Jaeger
27 - Bob Butt

Lector:

July 2 - Robin Fatla
16 - Dennis Jaeger
23 - Borgne McClelland
30 - Robert McClelland
August 6 - Judy McMullin
13 - **OPEN**
20 - Florence Van Cleave
27 - Sandy Allen

Usher:

July 2 - Fritz Dowe
16 - Bob Eichmann
23 - Monica Faretra
30 - Roger Wendorf
August 6 - Dennis Jaeger
13 - Peter Viesselmann
20 - Bob Butt
27 - Tom Rogahn

Counting Team:

July 2 - Peter Viesselmann Team
16 - Dennis Jaeger Team
23 - Jim Litvinoff Team
30 - Peter Viesselmann Team
August 6 - Borgne McClelland Team
13 - Dennis Jaeger Team
20 - Jim Litvinoff Team
27 - Peter Viesselmann Team

Altar Bouquets:

July 2 - Kim Galioto/ **OPEN**
16 - Gary & Sue Haas (2)
23 - **OPEN/ OPEN**
30 - Doreen Koopmann/ **OPEN**
August 6 - Kim Galioto/ **OPEN**
13 - Doreen Koopmann/ **OPEN**
20 - **OPEN/ OPEN**
27 - Robin Fatla/ **OPEN**

Fellowship hour:

July 2 - Ice Cream Social
16 - Evie Tetzlaff & Marian Meyer
23 - Peter & Kathie Viesselmann
30 - **OPEN**
August 6 - **OPEN**
13 - **OPEN**
20 - Ice Cream Social
27 - **OPEN**



JULY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Pastor Jim on vacation through the 5th
2 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour - Ice cream social	3	4 Independence Day	5 Noon - Pastor's Lunch	6 Pastor Jim back in the office	7	8
9 9:30 am - Joint worship service at Cedarburg City Park Pavilion NO SERVICE AT ST. JOHN	10	11 12:10 pm - Pastor Jim leads worship at Grace, Thiensville 6:00 pm - Pastor's prayer group	12 Noon - Pastor's Lunch	13	14 Pastor's day off	15
16 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour 10:45 am - Church Council	17	18 12:10 pm - Pastor Jim leads worship at Grace, Thiensville	19 Noon - Pastor's Lunch	20	21 Pastor's day off	22
23 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour	24	25 12:10 pm - Pastor Jim leads worship at Grace, Thiensville 6:00 pm - Pastor's prayer group	26 Noon - Pastor's Lunch	27	28 Pastor's day off	29
30 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour	31					



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1	2 Noon - Pastor's Lunch	3	4 Pastor's day off	5
6 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour	7	8 12:10 pm - Pastor Jim leads worship at Grace, Thiensville	9 Noon - Pastor's Lunch	10	11 Pastor's day off	12
13 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour	14	15 12:10 pm - Pastor Jim leads worship at Grace, Thiensville	16 Noon - Pastor's Lunch	17	18 Pastor's day off	19
20 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour - Ice cream social 10:45 am - Church Council	21	22 12:10 pm - Pastor Jim leads worship at Grace, Thiensville	23 Noon - Pastor's Lunch	24	25 Pastor's day off	26 Back to School Fair
27 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour	28	29 12:10 pm - Pastor Jim leads worship at Grace, Thiensville	30 Noon - Pastor's Lunch	31		



FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES!

- Limited Space Available
- Registration Deadline is August 13th
- Drive-Thru Event
- Register online at: familypromiseoz.org

You are invited to the Ozaukee County Back to School Fair!

**The Back to School Fair will be held on:
Saturday, August 26 at Grady Park Pavilion 110 W. Dekora St., Saukville, WI 53080**

Get your kids ready for school with a brand new backpack and school supplies. Register early! Limited number of backpacks and supplies offered. Registration is on a first come, first serve basis.

**Registration opens Thursday, June 1, 2023
Deadline is Sunday, August 13, 2023**

Register early so you don't miss out on this amazing opportunity. We look forward to seeing you there!

How to register for the Ozaukee County Back to School Fair.

1. Go to familypromiseoz.org and click on the Back to School Fair button.
2. Complete the registration form.
3. A confirmation will be emailed to you.

If you have any questions about registration please call Family Promise of Ozaukee County at 262-268-2723.

Scan QR Code to register!



Eligibility Requirements

All Ozaukee County school age children, 4K-12th grade that receive free & reduced lunch.

Your Back to School Fair Committee:



The Outreach Team will have a basket in Fellowship Hall for your donations to the Back to School Fair on August 26th.

The deadline to bring your donations is August 20th.

NEEDED ITEMS: Colored pencils, dry erase markers, Crayola markers, pencil boxes, pens (blue, black & red), kids scissors, highlighters.

NOT NEEDED: Pencils, notebooks or folders

July/August 2023 Pulse Beat



1193 Lakefield Road
Grafton, WI 53024

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

Worship Schedule

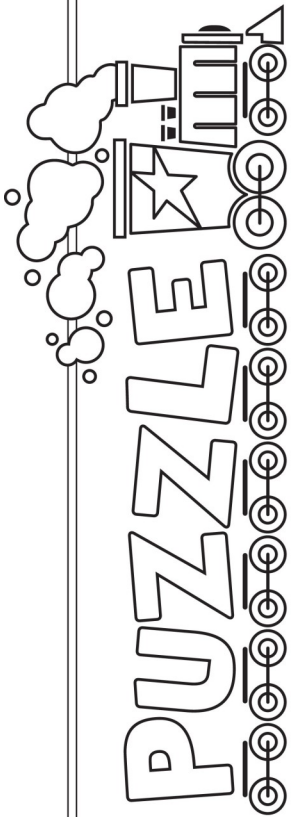
- Sunday Morning - 9:30 a.m.
- Education hour - 11:00 a.m.

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”



JESUS’ FAMILY TREE

Matthew records a timeline of Jesus’ family dating back to Abraham. Do you know who is in Jesus’ family tree?

Directions: Use Matthew 1:1-17 to order the genealogy. Then put the letters in order in the boxes to answer the question below.



- T. Uzziah the father of Jotham
- O. Jacob the father of Judah
- N. Jacob the father of Joseph
- E. Elihud the father of Eleazar
- U. Boaz the father of Obed
- F. Abraham the father of Isaac
- R. Solomon the father of Rehoboam
- E. Josiah the father of Jeconiah

How many generations were there from Abraham to David, from David to the Exile, and from the Exile to Jesus, the Messiah?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		