


THE PULSE BEAT



Volume 48, Number 9

October 2023

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

Is it true for you that October is the most gorgeous month of the year? So many colors, in a state like Wisconsin, with all of our beautiful trees, which, as has been said, trees are “the lungs of the earth.” If there were no trees, would there even be people at all? Or other living creatures who make our lives enjoyable! October, as we experience it in nature, can make us simply glad to be alive and breathing!

We are also reminded as we move into autumn, that nature itself makes preparation for the colder weather! Our God has implanted into the natural world, a kind of intuition for adapting to changing conditions. So the birds, squirrels, possums and wild turkeys also have to get ready to live and survive over the winter months, if conditions don't become too unbearable!

One cold Sunday afternoon some years ago, I was driving to attend a choir Christmas concert at the local high school. The day was so cold, I wondered how even the animals could survive in such bleak weather that day? Just as I was thinking these thoughts, on the roadway I saw a large hawk spread its wings and fly majestically over the highway, just above the telephone poles, looking for a perch to sit on, and there was my answer! Yes, God takes care of God's own creatures and the world God has made; giving the beings the ability to make it through prosperous as well as difficult times.

As church, the “body of Christ” in the world we are called and given the tools we need to care for God's world, the people, and the creation itself, as well. The major gift we are given is the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of our God, to read the signs of the times, and to listen and look for where God is revealing to us what needs to be done!

The great Presbyterian Christian writer Frederick Buechner wrote in one of his sermons that, we followers of Christ, “should go with our lives where we most need to go, and where we are most needed.” I believe he was talking about our individual lives, and our callings.

Yet I believe the same thing applies to us as “church” too! Where, with our church, and our churches, as congregations *do we most need to go, and where are we most needed*?

This discernment is a process of discovery certainly, of who God is intending for us to become, and what our Great Creator God intends for us to do.

I believe in these times, as well, that our God means for us to join forces as church, and to work together where we can, for the good, not just of the church, and our own churches, but of the communities we have been place in, Cedarburg, Grafton, Mequon, Thiensville, etc.

Such good and cooperative work is being seen in our EPIC coalition, confirmation program, where we now have 20, count them, yes 20 students in the classes, from 5 congregations, working together, learning the faith!

These are the kinds of signs that bring hope to people, reminding us that none of us, individuals, or congregations, are in this God intended work by and for ourselves. Yes, we each have our “own” churches, with particular and specific needs. However, during these post-covid (for the most part) days, when many people feel more isolated, and lonely, being and growing to become the church God wants to be, we can be HOPE-BRINGERS, who fill a need probably no other entity can, in our towns!

So may our God help us, collectively, as we re-define church for our time, and individually, “go where we most need to go, and where we are most needed”!

Peace to you in these enjoyable October days! *Pastor Jim*

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Pastor James O'Reilly-Christensen

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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 & Youth
- 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 Rings 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

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GENERAL INTEREST NEWS

We keep in our prayers:

James Allen, Paul Barnes (nephew of Jim & Carole Litvinoff), Clarice Buchholz (Mary Jaeger's mother), Anna Bullio (great-granddaughter of Florence Van Cleave), Emily Carney (friend of Kylene Wright), Cathy Collins (Florence Van Cleave's daughter), Amanda Combs (friend of Laura Christenson), Don & Nan Donner (friend of Diane & Roger Wendorf), Henry Frier (Marian Witte's son-in-law), Merry Lou Green, Michael Horton (brother of Tara & Jeff Kapke), 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), Duane O'Reilly (Debbi O'Reilly-Christensen's brother), Sugeily Pineiro-Garcia, Susan Rand (Carole Litvinoff's sister-in-law), Karen Rautenberg (Sue Dowe's mother), Tom Rogahn, Kathy (sister of Jackie Rogahn), Renee Schauer, Harvey Salger, Wendy Tomter, 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, Larry Samarija – assisted living home in New Berlin



Healing Service

Sunday,

October 15

9:30 am

Donate Blood (Or Snacks) And Be A Hero! **Trinity** will be hosting a blood drive through Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin on **Saturday, Nov. 4 from 8:30am-12:30pm**. By donating just one pint of blood, you have the potential to save up to three lives. The entire process takes about an hour, and all blood types are needed. **To sign up for your lifesaving appointment, call 1-877-BE-A HERO, contact Jill Klitz (262-377-6074, djklitz@milwpc.com) or reserve a spot online at versiti.org (click on "Donate Blood" and then search by zip code).** Whether or not you're donating blood, you can also help out by donating snacks! The Blood Center will provide juice and packaged snacks, and we're looking to supplement that with some cookies, brownies or other goodies to nourish those who've just donated blood. Please drop off your snacks at Trinity by end of day Friday, Nov. 3 (and label them so we know they're for the blood drive), or let Jill know if you're bringing them on Nov. 4. Thanks so much for your support!

OCTOBER STEWARDSHIP CORNER

STEWARDS OF GLOBAL COMMUNITIES

Last month, I wrote about our stewardship in regards to **local communities**. This month, will be about stewards of **global communities**. That portion of our budget, and additional gifts that we make in response to natural disasters that occur without warning and are not a part of our budget.

As mentioned last month, that part of our giving that goes to the synod and national church makes a difference in the global community. It enables our church (the ELCA) to respond to disasters that occur, as well as the needs of the global community, in addition to paying the salaries of those who work at the synodical and national level, keeping the lights on and the church functioning.

In addition to the general funds that are sent to the national church, several funds have been set up that we may choose to support. They are: ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster Response, Global Mission, Missionaries, Young Adults in Global Mission, International Women Leaders, and the ELCA Fund for Leaders. The following information is taken from Boundless - Stories of Christ's Abounding Love and Grace 2022 in Review:

Lutheran Disaster Response was at work in 42 countries around the world and 26 states and territories in the U. S. and the Caribbean, responding to hurricanes, tornadoes, conflict and migration, the Russia-Ukraine war and more.

ELCA World Hunger awarded 436 grants to partners in 67 countries and 57 ELCA synods. In total, over 3.3 million people were served through ELCA World Hunger partnerships worldwide.

New ELCA congregations are taking shape throughout the United States and the Caribbean and in nearly every synod, with 322 "new starts" currently in development and 33 begun during 2022. More than 70% of total new starts are in ethnically diverse communities and reflect growing diversity in their LGBTQIA+ leadership as well as their younger leaders and participants.

Fund for Leaders provided nearly \$3.5 million in scholarship assistance to 375 seminary students during the 2022-2023 academic year.

In June 2022 the International Women Leaders program celebrated its fourth full class of five scholars graduating from ELCA colleges and universities.

In 2022 131 long-term missionaries were at work in 45 countries around the world and 24 YAGM volunteers served in four country programs.

"With your gifts, you have invested in the future of our church and our world. You have planted your seeds in good soil, and they will bear fruit for years to come. I am so grateful for your generosity and your faith. Thank you for your partnership in this work." Rachel Wind, Executive for Development, ELCA.

Our gifts to the Church and its special funds DO make a difference. Thank you!!

Sharlene Sandquist, Stewardship Chairperson

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!



Carol And The Keynotes

St. John Lutheran Church

1193 Lakefield Road
Grafton, WI.

Sunday Oct. 29, 2023

2:00-5:00pm

262-377-0410

Free Admission

Public Is Invited!



- 10/1 Jeanine Burhop
- 10/4 Ivan Garcia
- 10/5 Owen Porth
- 10/6 Dale Allen
- 10/8 Sue Dowe
- 10/12 Dale Reindl
- 10/15 Eric Liebergen
- 10/15 Matt DeFendi
- 10/20 Penelope Porth
- 10/21 Sam Christensen
- 10/22 Jeri Liebergen
- 10/27 Sandy Allen
- 10/29 Glenn Sievers



- 10/6/2012 James & Liz Allen
- 10/7/1961 Roger & Diane Wendorf
- 10/9/1993 Eric & Jeri Liebergen
- 10/12/1985 Bob & Carol Butt
- 10/14/1967 Jim & Carole Litvinoff
- 10/15/1977 Dennis & Mary Jaeger
- 10/18/1975 Peter & Lorrie Briel
- 10/20/1963 Harvey & Joan Salger
- 10/20/1984 Dale & Sandy Allen
- 10/20/2012 Andy & BreAnna Porth
- 10/31/1981 Peter & Kathie Viesselmann

Please contact the office if we have missed anyone. Thank you.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister:

- October 1 - Robin Fatla
- 8 - Dennis Jaeger
- 15 - Gary Haas
- 22 - Bob Butt
- 29 - Robin Fatla

Lector:

- October 1 - Gary Haas
- 8 - Dennis Jaeger
- 15 - Borgne McClelland
- 22 - Robert McClelland
- 29 - Judy McMullin

Usher:

- October 1 - Dennis Jaeger
- 8 - Bob Eichmann
- 15 - Roger Wendorf
- 22 - Monica Faretra
- 29 - Peter Viesselmann

Altar bouquets:

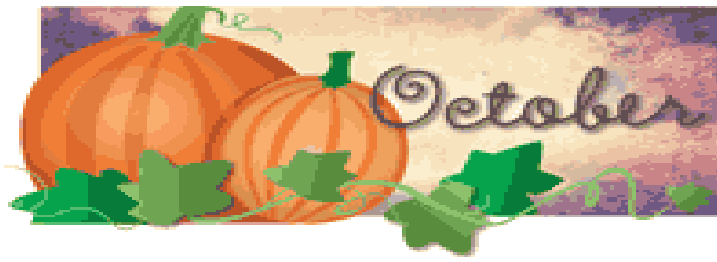
- October 1 - Kim Galioto/ **OPEN**
- 8 - Dennis & Mary Jaeger/ **OPEN**
- 15 - Dale & Sandy Allen/ **OPEN**
- 22 - Doreen Koopmann/ **OPEN**
- 29 - Peter & Kathie Viesselmann/ **OPEN**

Counting Team:

- October 1 - Borgne McClelland Team
- 8 - Dennis Jaeger Team
- 15 - Jim Litvinoff Team
- 22 - Peter Viesselmann Team
- 29 - Borgne McClelland Team

Fellowship hosts:

- October 1 - **OPEN**
- 8 - **OPEN**
- 15 - Marion Meyer & Evie Tetzlaff
- 22 - **OPEN**
- 29 - **OPEN**

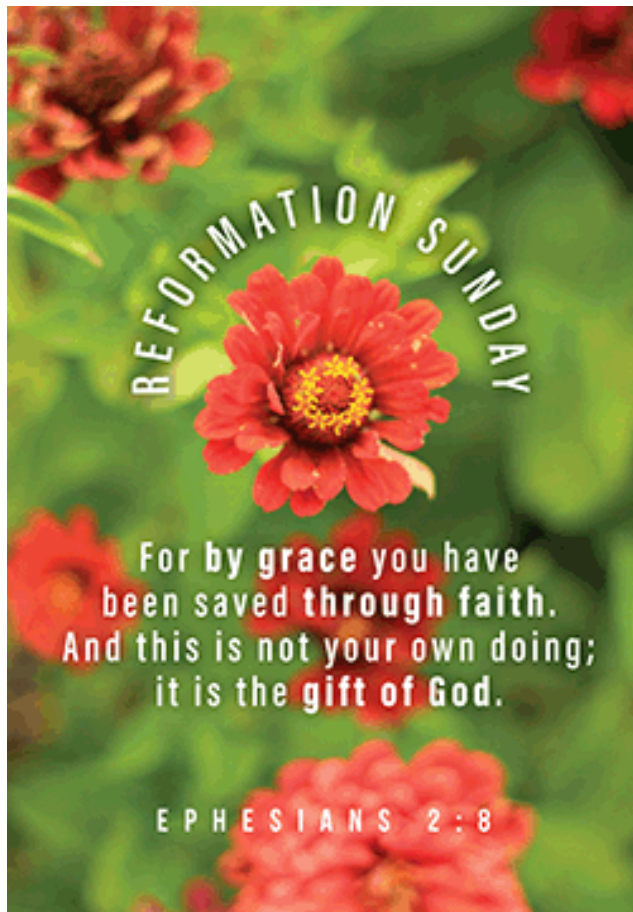


<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour	2	3	4 Noon - Pastor's Lunch 5:15 pm - Confirmation class at Trinity	5	6 Pastor's day off	7
8 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour	9 9:00 am - Quilting 1:00 pm - Women's Bible study	10 10:00 am - Bible study at Village Pointe Commons	11 Noon - Pastor's Lunch 5:15 pm - Confirmation class at Trinity	12	13 Pastor's day off	14
15 9:30 am - Healing service/ Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour 11:00 am - Travel to Japan presentation by Rebecca Dowe	16	17	18 Noon - Pastor's Lunch 5:15 pm - Confirmation class at Trinity	19 11:00 am - Worship Committee via Zoom	20 Pastor's day off	21
22 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour 11:00 am - Church Council	23 9:00 am - Quilting	24 10:00 am - Bible study at Village Pointe Commons	25 Noon - Pastor's Lunch 5:15 pm - Confirmation class at Trinity	26	27 Pastor's day off	28
29 Reformation Sunday 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm Community event with Carol & the Keynotes	30	31 Reformation Day				

GUEST SPEAKER



Recent Carthage College graduate, **Rebecca Dowe**, will be giving a presentation about her 2019 trip to Japan on Sunday, October 15th following the worship service. Becca was able to participate in the trip through the States 4-H International organization, known in Wisconsin as IFYE - International Four-H Youth Exchange.



Sprinkle and split

A sprinkle of pepper and a dab of soap illustrate a big concept from God's Word.



What you need:

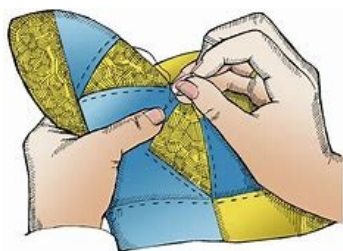
- Shallow dish
- Water
- Black ground pepper
- Toothpick
- Dish soap
- Bible

What you do:

1. With the dish on a table, fill it halfway with water. Don't jiggle the dish.
2. Sprinkle pepper on the water.
3. Dab the toothpick into a drop of soap. Then touch its tip to the center of the water and observe.
4. Read Psalm 103:8-12. How does this experiment illustrate God's forgiveness?
5. Explain the science behind this experiment: The soap disturbs the water's surface tension. The soap molecules don't want to interact with the water. This repels the water molecules from the soap, causing the floating pepper to also move to the sides.



Sarah Circle Bible study: Monday, October 9
1:00 PM at church



QUILTING GROUP

**Monday
October 9 & 23
9:00 - noon**

Join us on October 29th at 10:45 for **Sunday School!** We will have a harvest themed class along with some fun fall crafts.

Confirmation Classes

Classes are from 5:15 - 7:15 with dinner included. All classes are held at Trinity.
5:15 - 5:45 PM - Dinner
5:45 PM - highs and lows
6:00 - 7:15 PM - class



October topics:

- October 4 - Is the Bible true?
- October 11 - Why does the Bible contradict itself at times?
- October 18 - Is the New Testament more important than the Old Testament?
- October 25 - Why are there so many versions of the Bible?

Please contact Sue Dowe with any questions (sadowe1966@gmail.com)

Thank you!



Even though St. John is not formally scheduled to provide meals for Family Promise guests for the remainder of the year, there are **single night meal opportunities available**. Community/Volunteer Single Night Meal week is coming up fast, and October 30th, November 1st, November 2nd, and November 3rd are still available. Please share this link with everyone who may be interested in providing meals during those weeks. The link for the Community/Volunteer Single Night Meal sign-up is:

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

Immediate Shelter Needs

We are in desperate need of the following items at the Portlight Shelter and for families living in the community participating in our programs.

- Toilet paper
- Paper towel
- All-purpose cleaner
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Laundry detergent
- Mr. Clean Magic Erasures

If you prefer to shop on Amazon and have it shipped directly to us, check out our Amazon Wish List. The link to the list is: <https://a.co/74ONt19>

If you have donations, please bring them to the church office and we'll make sure they get to the shelter.

Community Outreach Event
Public invited
Carol & the Keynotes
Sunday, October 29
2:00 - 5:00 pm
St. John Fellowship Hall

Treasurer's Update As Of August 31, 2023

The St John Lutheran Church Council would like to thank you for your generosity. Without your financial support, the mission and ministry of St John would not be possible. The Council would also like to keep you updated on the financial situation at St John.

The **Unified Budget** supports the work of the church through education, evangelism, worship, youth programs, stewardship, public relations, utilities & property upkeep, mission support, salaries, office expenses, and insurance. These items are all included in our line-item budget.

Year-To-Date income	\$ 75,805
Year-To-Date expenses	\$111,540 (including \$12,920 for Mission Support)

The result is that St John currently has a deficit in our Unified Budget of \$35,735. (Compared to a deficit of \$19,600 at this point last year.) Please prayerfully consider your support of the ongoing mission of St John Church as we move forward in the year.

Mission Support is an important part of our Unified Budget. St John has distributed \$12,920 to the budgeted mission agencies for 2023 including the ELCA, Lutheran Social Services, five mission partners, and six local community agencies.

The **Contingency Fund** is outside of the Unified Budget, and is used as needed for unforeseen expenses and to offset any year-end differences between income and expenses in the Unified Budget. Any balance remaining at the end of the year will carryover to next year. Income to this fund comes from direct gifts (such as Thrivent member directed gifts), interest on savings accounts or CDs, building and utility expense sharing from Prime Horizon, and fund raising activities such as the chili dinner.

Current amount in the fund \$24,950

The **Property Fund** supports any extraordinary maintenance of the building and property that is not covered under Unified Budget expenses.

Current amount in the fund \$12,590

The **Memorial Fund** receives gifts for memorials and honoraria. Families of the deceased can make a request to the Council to use the memorials for specific purposes, or the funds can be used for other projects as voted upon by the St John Congregation.

Current amount in the fund \$134,890

This year's receipts to the fund include memorials for Walt Thompson, Sue Travis, Harold Immekus, and Marian Carraway.

The most recent distribution from this fund was for the upgrade to the sound system.

This update does not include all funds at St John. A detailed listing of all budget expense line items and funds is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway, or you can contact the treasurer Peter Viesselmann, or any Council member.

October 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"

Puzzle!

Jesus instructs us to give and serve. What does Proverbs 3:27 (NIV) tell us *not* to do? To find out, cross out all the following letters. Then write the remaining letters in order on the spaces below.

B J K Q X Z

BWJITJHQHBLZDGBBOOK
DKFQROMTBHJOBSEQEZT
OKXWJHOBMIZTIJSDQKU
EWXBHEQNITKISIZNYOU
RPJZOWBEQRTOAXCZTXJ

DO NOT

PROVERBS 3:27, NIV

Answer: Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act. Proverbs 3:27, NIV

