


THE PULSE BEAT



Volume 48, Number 10

November 2023

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

The month of November tells us clearly that the seasons have changed. October yet gives us some warm days, that may last into part of the 2nd last month of the year. But by mid-November, we know that we must prepare for the coming cold of winter. Though with climate change in the mix, it gets harder to predict with any certainty what kind of weather season awaits us.

And yet, while the weather can be unpredictable, we can say with certainty that November is a time for Thanksgiving! In a society like ours, it can be a difficult act, to be grateful --- to have an attitude of thanksgiving. Especially since we easily believe, we are self-made people. That is, we have gotten what we say is ours, by ourselves, by our own work, and through our own determination and skill.

But Holy Scripture warns us against the attitude that we are all self-sufficient by ourselves. One of the readings for Thanksgiving worship, Deuteronomy 8:17-18, tells us: ***“Do not say to yourself, ‘my power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.’ But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the power to get wealth, so he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors as he is doing today.”***

The reading is about keeping proper perspective, realizing we indeed, cannot do everything for ourselves, but we need the help of other people, and the help of God, as we have been taught to **“Love God, and love your neighbor as yourself.”**

This fact, in turn helps us live our lives, being thankful to God for unexpected, undeserved and unearned blessings. In short, a reminder that we live by grace, more than we ever know.

May our God grant to us, to live in the mentality, and the spirit of gratitude, not complaint, as we move into these coming colder days of approaching winter!

Peace & blessings on your November! *Pastor Jim*

THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thankful, Thanksgiving, Giving Thanks...that's what comes to my mind as Fall begins and we get ready to welcome November!

The Bible ties a lot of meaning to the concept of being thankful. To most of us, thanksgiving is an expression of gratitude. From little on, we teach our kids that "please" and "thank you" are the magic words to generally get what they want. In the end, "thanks!" becomes a word that we use a lot, but if it comes out of our mouths just out of habit, do we really mean it every time we say it? Or does it just become an automatic response? Something to ponder.

For many of us, the Thanksgiving holiday is a time to gather with our family and friends, share a big meal, maybe watch some football. Thanksgiving can be seen as a holiday of reflection. It can be a day to acknowledge all the many blessings in our lives. But what does the Bible say about thanksgiving? For one, it teaches us the important lesson that every day should be a day of thanksgiving!

The Bible provides many examples of the essential role that thankfulness has in our Christian life, no matter the circumstance. Giving thanks shouldn't be limited to a single day, but it should be a daily practice that centers our minds on God's many blessings. We should be thankful because God is worthy of our thanksgiving. Expressing thankfulness helps us remember that God is in control. It reminds us of the bigger picture – that we belong to God and that we have been blessed with every spiritual blessing.

Paul reminds us in 1 Thessalonians 16-18 that we can be thankful in all circumstances, good or bad. He writes: *"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."* Paul lived through terribly difficult times, and he still said, *"give thanks in all circumstances."* Even during hard times, or if we have unanswered prayers, having a thankful heart can turn our worries and sadness to praise. The more we make room for giving thanks, the less room there is for the bad. This doesn't mean we need to be thankful for the bad situation, but we can learn to be thankful in the midst of it. Thankfulness is a position of the heart, and we can choose this always, no matter what we are going through.

I found this very thoughtful paragraph about the meaning of thanksgiving on glorify-app.com:

"Thanksgiving illuminates what has been right there in front of us all along. It arms us against depression, illness and low self-esteem, and it fills our minds with positive thoughts so there is less room for the bad. Therefore, it's not about pretending bad things aren't happening, but rather, it is making a choice to hold on to what is good. Remember, whatever we have or do not have, we always have a choice to be thankful."

What are you thankful for? Take some time and reflect on the ways God has blessed you today!

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever." Psalm 136:1

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)

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262-377-0410

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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/ 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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GENERAL INTEREST NEWS



James Allen, Paul Barnes (Jim & Carole Litvinoff's nephew), 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), Pastor Dale Erickson (friend of Audrey Crowell), 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



Sunday, November 5

Join us for worship at 9:30 am, as we remember St. John members, as well as, family and friends called home to the Lord during the past year:

Harold Immekus, Jeanne Hass,

Suzette Travis, and Marian Carraway.

Feel free to share photos of your loved ones on a display table set-up in remembrance.

GENERAL INTEREST NEWS



The Worship Committee has designated November 19th as "Thanksgiving Observance" instead of a service on Thanksgiving Eve. Please join us at 9:30 am.



On Sunday, November 19th, Kameron Hughes, a frequent worshipper at St. John, will give a presentation

on his recent, month long trip to South Africa. Please join us at 11:00 am.

1570 Wisconsin Ave., Grafton 262 375-9623

This company did an AMAZING job

cleaning up the lower level of the church after September 2022 flood and recently stripping and re-waxing the floors down there.

If you ever need their services, Property and Grounds Chairman, Joe Porth, HIGHLY recommends them!

Many thanks to the team from P & R.



Fun for Kids & Grandkids



Handicrafts can spark appreciation for simple items. Weave this basket as a gift.



What you need:

- Paper plate
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Yarn (different colors)

What you do:

1. In the center of the plate, trace something round. Draw 9 lines (evenly spaced) from the circle to the plate's edge.
2. Cut along each line, stopping at the center circle. Trim more of the plate off so the cuts make a gradual V shape.
3. Fold the plate's sides upward to form basket sides. Keep these upright as you weave a bowl-shaped basket.
4. Begin weaving a length of yarn at the circle's base. Hold the end of the yarn in place as you spread the length over and under each side of the plate.
5. Switch colors to make a pattern. Keep the yarn tight as you weave up the sides.
6. To finish, bend down any remaining paper. Leave a tail of yarn and tuck it under a woven portion. Share your craft with a friend!

Sunday School & Youth News

St. John Sunday School would be thankful if you would join us for a Thanksgiving themed class on Sunday, November 12th. Class begins at 10:45 with a short lesson, craft and snack. Hope to see you there!

Confirmation classes continue in the month of November. The Jesus unit begins on 11/1. Classes meet at Trinity in Cedarburg. Dinner from 5:15 - 5:45; Highs and Lows at 5:45; Class 6:00-7:15.

11/1: Was Jesus of Nazareth God?
 11/8: Did Jesus know he was God?
 11/15: If Jesus was God why did he have to die?

11/22: No class

11/29: Do I have to believe that Jesus performed miracles in order to be a Christian?

Our St. John Sunday School and Youth representative, Sue Dowe, is part of EPIC Youth Ministry. This group discusses and plans youth education for both Sunday School and Confirmation. The last meeting was held at St. John on September 26th. Meetings will rotate between the 5 churches and will be held 3-4 times per year. The next meeting is at Trinity on November 6th. Feel free to contact Sue with any questions. Save the Date!

Christmas Program Rehearsal and Performance Schedule 2023

We are excited to have a collaborative Christmas program with children from Advent, Trinity, St. John's, and Faith Lutheran Churches participating again this year.. The program we have chosen is called Echoes of the Manger.

Children from preschool through middle school are welcome to be a part of the production. There are speaking and non-speaking roles so there is a place for everybody. Children who play an instrument are welcome to play as part of the prelude or program.

Those participating should plan to be at all rehearsals, especially the dress rehearsal. If your child would like to participate, but cannot make all of the rehearsals, please contact Lisa Wegner (lisa@adventchurch.org; 414-315-3104 call or text).

Rehearsals and Performance

Sun., Nov. 26	10:30-11:15 AM	Music practice
Sun., Dec. 3	10:30-11:15 AM	Parts assigned; speakers will have a read through Music practice
Sun., Dec. 10	10:30-11:15 AM	Read through with all speakers. Walk through staging with all participants. Music practice.
Sat., Dec. 16	10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Full dress rehearsal
Sun., Dec. 17	10:30 AM	All children should be there for costumes and rehearsal.
Sun, Dec. 17	11:15 AM	Performance

Everything will take place at Advent Lutheran Church. Children should enter the lower level doors (from the Prayer Garden.)

Use this link to register:

[Christmas Program 2023 registration](#)

November



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<p>1</p> <p>Noon - Pastor's Lunch</p> <p>5:15 pm - Confirmation class at Trinity</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Pastor's day off</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8:30 am - 12:30 pm - Blood drive at Trinity</p>
<p>5 All Saints Day</p> <p>9:30 am - Holy Communion</p> <p>10:30 am - Fellowship hour</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:00 pm - EPIC Youth ministry meeting at Trinity</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Noon - Pastor's Lunch</p> <p>5:15 pm - Confirmation class at Trinity</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Pastor's day off</p>	<p>11</p>  <p>★ Veterans Day: ★ Thank You for Your Service!</p>
<p>12 Stewardship Sunday</p> <p>9:30 am - Holy Communion</p> <p>10:30 am - Fellowship hour</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:00 am - Quilting</p> <p>1:00 pm - Women's Bible study</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10:00 am - Bible study at Village Pointe Commons</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Noon - Pastor's Lunch</p> <p>5:15 pm - Confirmation class at Trinity</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Pastor's day off</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 Stewardship Sunday</p> <p>9:30 am - Holy Communion</p> <p>10:30 am - Fellowship hour</p> <p>11:00 am - presentation by Kameron Hughes on South African trip</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Noon - Pastor's Lunch</p>	<p>23</p> 	<p>24</p> <p>Pastor's day off</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 Commitment-Thankoffering-Sunday</p> <p>9:30 am - Holy Communion</p> <p>10:30 am - Fellowship hour</p> <p>11:00 am - Church Council</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:00 am - Quilting</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:00 am - Bible study at Village Pointe Commons</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Noon - Pastor's Lunch</p> <p>5:15 pm - Confirmation class at Trinity</p>	<p>30</p>		



- 11/4 Steve Schauer
- 11/5 Marian Witte
- 11/5 Addison Heusdens
- 11/6 Dan Porth
- 11/10 Robert McClelland
- 11/11 Harvey Salger
- 11/12 Sheila Kapke
- 11/14 Savion Christenson
- 11/19 Jim O'Reilly-Christensen
- 11/24 Chuck Schmalz
- 11/24 April Heusdens
- 11/26 Rebecca Schauer
- 11/28 Brynnlee Porth



- 11/30/1963 Robert & Borgne McClelland
- 11/30 2013 Cole & Danielle Granrath

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



Keep In Touch Ministry

Take a look around you while you sit in your pew. Who is missing? Who haven't you seen in a while?

There are friends at home who, for various reasons, are unable to attend worship services. Give them a "how you doing, we miss you" call or drop a card - everyone likes to get mail that isn't a bill or junk.

Jeanne Immekus is adjusting to life without Harold and I know she would enjoy hearing from you.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister:

- November 5 - Dennis Jaeger
- 12 - Gary Haas
- 19 - Bob Butt
- 26 - Dennis Jaeger

Lector:

- November 5 - **OPEN**
- 12 - Florence Van Cleave
- 19 - Sandy Allen
- 26 - Bob Butt

Usher:

- November 5 - Bob Butt
- 12 - Tom Rogahn
- 19 - Jim & Carole Litvinoff
- 26 - Sue Dowe

Altar bouquets:

- November 5 - Levra's/ Jeanine Burhop
- 12 - Florence Van Cleave (2)
- 19 - Kim Galioto/ **OPEN**
- 26 - Jeanine Burhop/ **OPEN**

Counting Team:

- November 5 - Dennis Jaeger Team
- 12 - Jim Litvinoff Team
- 19 - Peter Viesselmann Team
- 26 - Borgne McClelland Team

Fellowship host:

- November 5 - Jeanine Burhop
- 12 - Marion Meyer/ Evie Tetzlaff
- 19 - **OPEN**
- 26 - **OPEN**



November 11

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

November is here, the month in which we exam our giving and decide what it will be for the coming year.

During the past year, I have written about the many facets of stewardship and the fact that being a good steward of God's gifts encompasses more than what we give to the church and charities.

I will be quoting from an article in the June 2015 Gather, written by the Reverend Catherine Malotky, on the subject of tithing and first fruits giving.

Reverend Malotky says that "first fruits giving assumes that we make a decision about how much to give first and then build a financial life around it." This is a new concept for me, even tho I've heard the term 'first fruits' for years. I thought that it meant setting aside my pledge to church, before paying my other expenses. She says that "first fruits is not an amount owed, but a voluntary gift offered. A spiritual discipline such as tithing is a way to demonstrate our love for God." "We cannot tithe our way into a seat at the heavenly banquet, a place has already been set for us. From that place of grace, we can open our eyes to the abundance around us, and, in thanks, share the wealth, whether it's money, wisdom, or compassion."

Many think that attaining a 10 percent tithe is not possible. She believes it is. "Our priorities might have created a financial life that crowds out giving. We have plenty to buy, including things we really need, and that can overwhelm us."

Rev. Malotky goes on to say: "One of the beauties of tithing is that it requires us to ask the question. 'How much do I need?' If I choose to give away 10 percent of my income (or more!), what kind of adjustments must I make to my day-to-day spending plan to make this possible? It goes beyond cutting out the expensive daily coffee. It might mean fewer clothing purchases, living with that old TV a while longer, or not retiring as early. For some, meeting a goal to tithe will mean way of life adjustments.

It is possible to give too much. In our economic system, giving to the point of being dependent on others is not a gift to the creation God calls us to steward. We need to ask the question, 'How much do I need?' and answer it realistically after some soul searching and math. Not all of us bring in paychecks on a regular basis. How do we determine what constitutes our income so that we might calculate our tithe?

This is tricky. Do you choose to tithe by what you make or what you put in the bank after deductions? Do you count gifts to family as part of the tithe or not? Is wealth different than income? How much should go to the congregation or church body? How much to worthy secular causes? We know the church is no longer the only provider of services to those in need.

Struggling to decide? Choose *something*. Lean into the discipline of giving and see what happens to your heart and to your awareness of God at work in the world. You will be changed!"

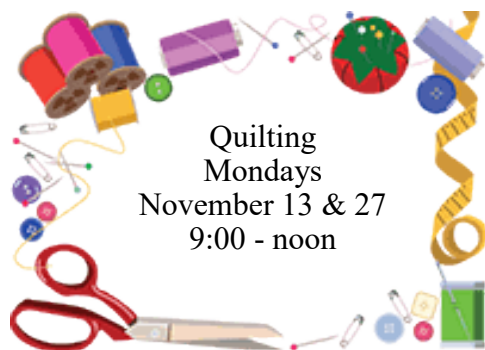
May this be so for each of us as we consider our support for St. John and charities in the coming year.

Sharlene Sandquist
Stewardship Chairperson





Sarah Circle: Monday, November 13,
1:00 PM at church



Quilting
Mondays
November 13 & 27
9:00 - noon

**THANKOFFERING SUNDAY
November 26th**

On Sunday, November 26th, a Thankoffering will be taken of that “little extra” in response to that “little extra” received throughout the year!

The offerings will be given for all the ministries and priorities of the Women of the ELCA.

Your check or envelope can be made out to Women of the ELCA and marked for Thankoffering. You may put it in the offering or send to Borgne McClelland, treasurer:
1754 Second Ave
Port Washington, WI 53074

Lutheran World Relief (LWR)

Again this year, instead of sending blankets, LWR is using the money sent for blankets to pay for the shipping of all the quilts sent to all the needy people of the world.

Please be generous so that all those with such serious needs are able to access a quilt. Your check or envelope can be made out to Women of the ELCA and marked for Blankets. You may put it in the offering plate or send to

Borgne McClelland, treasurer:
1754 Second Ave
Port Washington, WI 53074
by December 31st.

General Interest

BLOOD DRIVE
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
COLUMBIA RD., CEDARBURG
BY DONATING JUST 1 PINT OF BLOOD, YOU HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO SAVE 3 LIVES! TO SIGN-UP FOR YOUR LIFESAVING APPOINTMENT, CONTACT JILL KLITZ AT 262 377-6074 TO RESERVE YOUR TIME SLOT.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
ENDS ON SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 5TH.
REMEMBER TO SET YOUR
CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR

HOLIDAY MARKET

NOVEMBER 4
9 AM - 3 PM
VILLAGE POINTE COMMONS
101 WALNUT ST.
GRAFTON
HAND-CRAFTED GIFTS, HOME
DÉCOR, JEWELRY, SOAPS,
ORNAMENTS
FOOD AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE.

Treasurer's Update As Of September 30, 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	\$ 84,540
Year-To-Date expenses	\$121,540 (including \$12,920 for Mission Support)

The result is that St John currently has a deficit in our Unified Budget of \$37,000. We do have \$25,000 in the contingency fund as shown below to help cover any year-end deficits, but we don't want to deplete that fund. 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 \$24,960

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.

November 2023 Pulse Beat



1193 Lakefield Road
Grafton, WI 53024

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

Worship Schedule

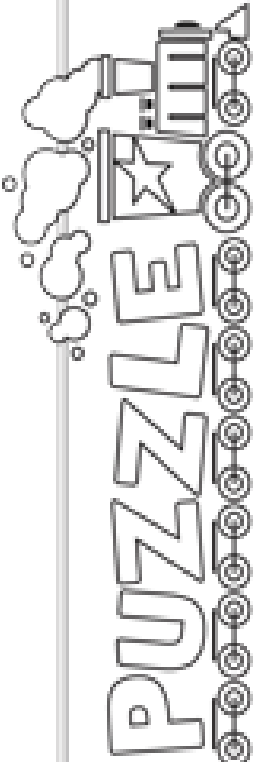
- Sunday Morning - 9:30 a.m.
- Education hour - 11:00 a.m.

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


THANKS-FILLED GIVING


The virtues of gratefulness and generosity are connected. When we're truly thankful for all God provides, we want to sow generous seeds in other people's lives. What will be the harvest?


Directions: Solve the clues associated with each picture. Then write the words in the correct spaces to complete 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV.

 This becomes a plant -----

 Willing to give -----

 The result of planting seeds -----

 The act of gratitude -----

 Food made from wheat -----

Now he who supplies ----- to the sower and ----- for food will also supply and increase your store of ----- and will enlarge the ----- of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be ----- on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in ----- to God. 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV

