



THE PULSE BEAT



Volume 49, Number 3

March 2024

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

The month of March this year, (with our so-far, mostly mild winter) finds us in the heart of the Lenten season, in the life of the church. March includes Holy Week as we finish the month with Easter Sunday on March 31st 2024.

Our Wednesday Lenten services, are a continuing cooperative effort among our EPIC friendly churches (EPIC – ELCA Partners in Christ) with the theme of “The Women of Jesus’ Genealogy,” from the first chapter of the Gospel of Matthew. The biblical women include: Rahab, Tamar, Bathsheba, Ruth, and (Jesus’ mother) Mary.

Our churches involved, like last year’s lent, starts with Immanuel, and ends with St. John, with Advent, Faith, and Trinity, all in between. The pattern will have a dinner at each congregation, with the host church providing the main course, and the participating churches bringing side dishes and desserts. There will also be youth time at each church, led by our youth director Lisa Wegner.

When people work together in efforts like our Lenten worship services, the Church (body of Christ) has an opportunity to expand the work of Christ, and is a better example to the community, of the values & ethics of Jesus, whom we Christians represent to the people around us, whether they belong to a congregation or not!

And certainly in our current time, people are in need of a message of hope, which we can offer to people who are mostly tired of the divisions in our nation, separating us from one another. As Jim Wallis wrote in one of his recent books, we who follow Jesus, need to be “Hope-Bringers,” in a time where hope is surely needed!

That’s not a bad call to mission, as we get close to the end of the first quarter of the 21st Century! One of my pleasures, after being a part of the Grafton-Cedarburg area for about 15 years this spring, has been getting to know, and working with, the pastors & congregations who have wanted to cooperate, to be the church better together, over this time!

So I hope you will join us for worship & faith strengthening, during this month of March, which concludes the season of Lent, meaning “spring,” with Resurrection Sunday on the 31st. Where, importantly enough, we get reminded by our Loving God, that suffering, death and darkness are not the end of our earthly journey, but the end is LIFE from God --- Real life, Resurrection life, & eternal life!

Have a joyful, & blessed, month of March!

Peace! *Pastor Jim*

THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

The first day of spring is just around the corner! March 19, to be exact. It is the astronomical beginning of the spring season here in our part of the world. The snow is melting, temperatures are rising, and soon, brighter colors will be replacing the browns and grays.

For believers, spring is a reminder that God is all about making things new. According to Revelation 21:5, Jesus promised to make *everything* new one day. But in the meantime, He gives us glimpses of the coming attractions through spring.

Some of you may know Dave Ramsey for his long line of information on handling your finances. But he is also an evangelical Christian, and I found the following take on spring on his website: "Spring is a time for growth. In nature, that comes from the right combination of sunlight and water. For our spiritual lives, it comes from the right combination of time with God in His word and time with other Christians in fellowship. The alternative is to be chaff that blows away and comes to nothing."

In the Bible, spring symbolizes a time of renewal and new beginnings. It's a time of warming weather and nature coming back to life. Flowers bloom and animals are born, and we are reminded of the beauty that exists and that there is new life all around us. The Bible Study Tools staff says that, "Spring provides a wonderful reminder to us that we should be living a full life and leaving the old dead parts of life behind. There is always hope during the coldest, darkest winters of life. Spring will come and new life will come forth!" Just as winter doesn't last forever, neither do our trials or our struggles. The length of them may vary, but God always has a plan of redemption for His people. Spring is always bound to come.

The word Lent actually comes from Old English word *Lencten*, which means the season of spring. So it makes sense that spring has been connected to the preparation of each person to celebrate a spiritual and joyful Easter. It makes the season of Lent quite literally a springtime for us in our Christian journey.

I read somewhere that Lent can be thought of as a form of "spring cleaning for the soul." I love this analogy. We can use the Lenten season to help us pause and rethink the fundamental purpose in our lives, and maybe use it as a first step on the path of becoming the people we were always meant to be.

The signs of spring are all around us as we finish this journey through Lent. May the people of St. John lean on each other as a community and see each other as signs of real renewal and hope as we journey on to the season of Easter.

That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers. Psalm 1:3

Hugs and prayers 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: stjohnnpastor1@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/ Youth

OPEN – 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.

Church Phone Numbers:

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FaceBook: St. John Lutheran Church-Grafton, WI

GENERAL INTEREST NEWS

We keep in our prayers: 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), Henry Frier (Marian Witte's son-in-law), Merry Lou Green, Chris Heggenbarth (Robert & Borgne McClelland daughter-in-law), Cheryl Isotalo (Robin Fatla's cousin), Dennis & 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, Karen Rautenberg (Sue Dowe's mother), Tom Rogahn, Kathy (sister of Jackie Rogahn), Rebecca & Renee Schauer, Harvey Salger, Wendy Tomter, Wendy Werner (Sandy Allen's sister-in-law), **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



Bible study -
Monday,
March 11,
1:00 pm at
the church

QUILTING DATES

Monday

March 11 & 25

9:00 - noon



Lilies will be available for purchase following the Easter worship service. Price is yet to be determined. Watch for the sign-up sheet coming soon.



3/5 Cindy Porth
 3/5 Nick Christensen
 3/7 Kristin Schauer
 3/10 Renee Schauer
 3/10 Latasha Reindl
 3/11 Roger Wendorf
 3/13 Tom Rogahn
 3/13 Taylor Borgerding
 3/16 Anita Lucht
 3/21 Liz Allen
 3/22 Lindsey Drescher
 3/24 Monica Faretra
 3/29 Erik Boelkow
 3/30 Florence Van Cleave
 3/30 Hudson Granrath
 3/31 Joanne Levenick
 3/31 Miller Granrath
 3/31 Joseph Crowell

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

*Congratulations to
 Anita Lucht
 celebrating her 100th
 birthday on March 16th!*



Worship Assistants

Assisting Minister:

March 3 - Dennis Jaeger
 10 - Bob Butt
 17 - Robin Fatla
 24 - **Palm Sunday** - Gary Haas
 28 - **Maundy Thursday** - Dennis Jaeger
 31 - **Easter** - Bob Butt

Lector:

March 3 - Florence Van Cleave
 10 - Bob Butt
 17 - Sue Dowe
 20 - **Wednesday** - Robin Fatla
 24 - **Palm Sunday** - Gary Haas
 28 - **Maundy Thursday** - Dennis Jaeger
 29 - **Good Friday** - Borgne McClelland
 31 - **Easter** - Robert McClelland

Usher:

March 3 - Sue Dowe
 10 - Fritz Dowe
 17 - Dennis Jaeger
 20 - **Wednesday** - Dennis Jaeger
 24 - **Palm Sunday** - Jim & Carol Litvinoff
 28 - **Maundy Thursday** - Bob Butt
 29 - **Good Friday** - Monica Faretra
 31 - **Easter** - Peter Viesselmann

Altar bouquets:

March 3 - **OPEN**
 10 - **OPEN**
 17 - Dale & Sandy Allen
 24 - Florence Van Cleave
 31 - Easter lilies

Fellowship:

March 3 - **OPEN**
 10 - **OPEN**
 17 - **OPEN**
 24 - **OPEN**
 31 - Easter breakfast

Counting Team:

March 3 - Borgne McClelland
 10 - Dennis Jaeger
 17 - Jim Litvinoff
 24 - Peter Viesselmann
 31 - Borgne McClelland



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1 Pastor's day off	2
3 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour 11:00 am - choir rehearsal	4	5	6 Noon - Pastor's Lunch at St. John 6:00 pm - Lent meal and 7:00 pm worship at Advent	7	8 Pastor's day off	9
10 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour 11:00 am - choir rehearsal 11:00 am - Family Promise training	11 9:00 am - Quilting 1:00 pm - Women's Bible study	12 10:00 am - Bible study at Village Pointe Commons	13 Noon - Pastor's Lunch at St. John 6:00 pm - Lent meal and 7:00 pm worship at Trinity	14	15 Pastor's day off	16
17 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour 11:00 am - choir rehearsal 11:00 am - Church Council	18 Family Promise Meal - 5:30 pm	19	20 Noon - Pastor's Lunch at St. John 6:00 pm - Lent meal and 7:00 pm worship at St. John	21 11:00 am - ZOOM Worship Committee Meeting	22 Pastor's day off World Water Day 	23
24 Palm Sunday 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour 11:00 am - choir rehearsal	25 9:00 am - Quilting	26 10:00 am - Bible study at Village Pointe Commons	27 Noon - Pastor's Lunch at St. John	28 Maundy Thursday Worship - 6:30 pm	29 Good Friday Worship - 11:00 am & 6:30 pm	30 Prayer Vigil of Easter - 4:00 - 5:30 pm
31 Easter - Day of Resurrection 8:00 am - Breakfast 9:30 am - Holy Communion						

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

As I was preparing to write this article, I went to the ELCA Website and started to read some of the stewardship materials there. The one that caught my attention was The Generosity Project. So, I decided to share some of the Foundations and Fundamentals of it. *

Bible stories of God's grace and overflowing generosity are abundant. How many do you know? Perhaps you remember Genesis and the creation story, or the Gospel stories of the feeding of the 5,000. Do you recall Jesus' answer to the rich man's question about eternal life? Paul's report of the unbelievable selflessness and Macedonians' Spirit-led care for others? What about the story of a community's desire to follow Jesus as reported in Acts and Jesus' first miracle of turning water into wine?

Now count all the hours you and others in your family give to practicing piano, guitar, choir volleyball, baseball, yoga, cooking, keeping one's balance as we age and the list goes on. For all the various reasons and hours we commit to practicing, doesn't it make sense to practice generosity!

This paper offers an approach to stewardship and discipleship based on the practice of generosity that is grounded in commonly held best practices in faith formation, research, Scripture and a Lutheran understanding of baptism.

WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP? WHAT IS DISCIPLESHIP?

"Stewardship" and "discipleship" are not everyday words. Rarely does one hear conversation about stewardship or discipleship outside the walls of a church, although "stewarding the earth" is a popular phrase reflecting growing concerns related to the environment. What then does it mean to be a steward? A disciple?

Stewardship is most often defined as supervising or managing something entrusted to one's care. In Jesus time a steward was the manager of the household. The steward was not the owner but rather a trusted administrator of the owner's property. We are God's stewards of ALL things inherited and entrusted to us. Stewardship is the act of "stewarding" the earth, our wealth, our time, our possessions and our bodies. Being God's steward is a role and a responsibility to which one wholly and enthusiastically commits in response to God's grace and goodness.

Discipleship literally means "one who engages in learning through instruction from another, a pupil. As Christians, the term "disciple" refers to following Jesus and becoming like Jesus in every way. As Lutheran Christians, we enter a life with Christ through our baptism - a life of imitating and following Jesus so others will know Jesus through us. In our Affirmation of Baptism, we commit to continuing in the covenant God made with us. The ELCA "Five Gifts of Discipleship"*** - Live, Hear, Proclaim, Serve, and Strive - help guide us in the practice of our baptism in daily life.

Next month, I will continue with this article and What Is Generosity?

Sharlene, Stewardship Committee Member

The material in this article is taken from * Stats, Linda . "The Generosity Project Foundation and Fundamentals" is based on a paper created by the author for keynote presentation at The Stewardship Summit, Southaven MS Jan. 23, 2018 **Living Our Baptismal Covenant, ELCA



Sunday
March 10

Altar Bouquets

Our worship space is always enhanced by the addition of altar bouquets. You are encouraged to continue to sponsor bouquets even though they are not being provided by Groth's Country Gardens and longer.

Please sign up on the flower chart. You are welcome to provide your own flowers or another member will be happy to purchase them for you. If you have any questions, speak with Sandy Allen or Robin Fatla.



There will be a volunteer training session for those folks wishing to be a part of the meal program at PortLight Shelter On Sunday, March 10th at 11:00 am following Fellowship hour. If you are interested, please contact Robin Fatla.



March 6

Dinner and worship at Advent in Cedarburg
6:00 & 7:00 pm

March 13

Dinner & worship at Trinity in Cedarburg
6:00 & 7:00 pm



WEDNESDAY EVENING

MARCH 20

DINNER - 6:00 PM

WORSHIP - 7:00 PM

ST. JOHN

PALM SUNDAY

MARCH 24

PROCESSION OF PALMS - 9:30 AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY

MARCH 28

WORSHIP - 7:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY

MARCH 29

7:00 PM

VIGIL OF EASTER

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

4:30 - 6:00 PM

DAY OF RESURRECTION/ EASTER

MARCH 31

BREAKFAST - 8:00 AM

WORSHIP - 9:30 AM

OUTREACH TEAM

**WORLD WATER DAY
MARCH 22**



When safe drinking water just isn't available — especially in times following natural disasters or emergencies — **a simple ceramic water filter (as pictured above) is a lifesaver.** Capable of purifying water without electricity or chemicals, a water filter is a powerful, reliable way to provide safe water when it's needed most.

During the month of March, the Outreach Team is offering you an opportunity to help provide clean water to areas in need of safe drinking water.

Our goal is to collect \$300 dollars to purchase 10 of these filters. Watch for the progress chart featuring water drops, each representing \$30 donated.

When you make your donation, make your checks out to St. John with "water filters" on the memo line, and drop in the offering plate or mail to the church.

Your donation **DOES NOT** have to be \$30. Any donation you make will accumulate.

Gratitude Bags

On Valentine's Day, Sandy Allen and Robin Fatla delivered "Gratitude Bags" filled with snacks and other goodies, to the Crossing Guards in Grafton and Cedarburg to thank them for their service of helping students and other pedestrians cross the city's busy intersections.

Pictured are Sandy and Robin with Gerry Radke who was representing the guards of Cedarburg and Sheryl Welsh and Sergeant Sean Fuerstenberg representing the guards of Grafton.



**St John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Financial Summary For January 2024**

	January 2024			Year To Date 2024		
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual Over (under) Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual Over (under) Budget</u>
Unified Income	\$ 10,263	\$ 12,000	\$ (1,737)	\$ 10,263	\$ 12,000	\$ (1,737)
<u>Expense Summary:</u>						
Education	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Outreach	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Worship	\$ 643	\$ 778	\$ (135)	\$ 643	\$ 778	\$ (135)
Youth	\$ -	\$ 125	\$ (125)	\$ -	\$ 125	\$ (125)
Stewardship	\$ 191	\$ 225	\$ (34)	\$ 191	\$ 225	\$ (34)
Public Relations	\$ 182	\$ 83	\$ 99	\$ 182	\$ 83	\$ 99
Property	\$ 1,539	\$ 2,665	\$ (1,126)	\$ 1,539	\$ 2,665	\$ (1,126)
Finance (Incl.Mission Support)	\$ 8,472	\$ 9,099	\$ (627)	\$ 8,472	\$ 9,099	\$ (627)
Total Expenses	\$ 11,026	\$ 12,975	\$ (1,949)	\$ 11,026	\$ 12,975	\$ (1,949)
Net Income (Deficit)	\$ (763)	\$ (975)	\$ 212	\$ (763)	\$ (975)	\$ 212

Comparative 2023 Figures:

	<u>@ 1/31/2023</u>
Unified Income	\$ 9,133
Total Expenses	\$ (12,256)
Net Income (Deficit)	\$ (3,123)

Major Differences 2024 vs. 2023: Income for January 2024 is \$1,130 more than last year.
Expenses for January 2024 are \$1,230 less than last year.
Major year-to-date expense item differences:
- - Gas Utility expense \$800 less than last year.
- - Property maintenance expense \$400 less than last year.

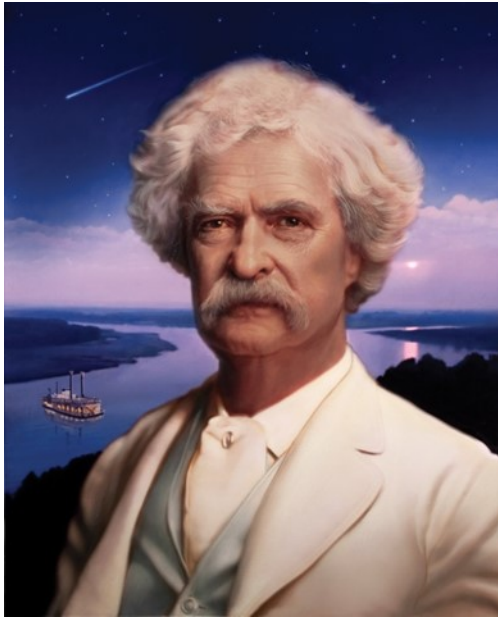
Thrivent Choice Gifts Rec. 2024: \$0
Memorial Gifts Received 2024: \$0
Budgeted Mission Support 2024: \$10,770 (All to be paid in February 2024)
Added Mission Support 2024: \$0

	<u>@ 1/31/2024</u>	Comparative <u>@ 1/31/2023</u>
Assets At End Of Month	\$ 157,788	\$ 180,895

Assets Are Needed to Support The Following Funds:

Audio Fund (formerly Cassette)	\$ -	\$ 2,000
Contingency Fund	\$ 3,757	\$ 19,966
Family Promise Fund	\$ 484	\$ 444
Fully Funded	\$ 283	\$ 509
Library Fund	\$ 505	\$ 505
Memorial Fund	\$ 134,886 <(incl. \$6,761 restricted)	\$ 139,254 <(incl. \$6,761 restricted)
Mercy Fund	\$ 2,760	\$ 2,760
Music Fund	\$ 162	\$ 162
Organ Repair Fund	\$ -	\$ -
Outreach Fund	\$ 117	\$ 434
Pastoral Education Fund	\$ 2,190	\$ 2,189
Property Fund	\$ 9,683	\$ 10,586
Scholarship Fund	\$ 1,839	\$ 1,839
Youth Fund	\$ 1,887	\$ 3,371
Total Fund Requirements	\$ 158,552	\$ 184,018
= Asset Excess (Shortage)	\$ (763)	\$ (3,123)
(Excess = budget surplus; Shortage = budget deficit)		

Adult Fellowship Event



**JOIN US ON FRIDAY, APRIL 5TH
AS WE TRAVEL TO THE SCHAUER ARTS
CENTER IN HARTFORD, WI
FOR THE PRESENTATION OF
“MARK TWAIN REVISITED”**

7:30 PM

TICKETS ARE \$27.00

**YOUR FRIENDS AND COMMUNITY
MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN US.**

**PORTRAYAL WILL BE DONE BY PARKER
DREW, WHO HAS BEEN GIVING THIS
PRESENTATION FOR OVER 40 YEARS.**

**WE WILL BE CARPOOLING FROM
CEDARBURG.**

Education News

In the month of March there will be no Confirmation classes, however youth should plan on attending Lenten services on Wednesday nights. Host churches will have dinner at 6:00 and service at 7:00. Service activities will continue as well. More information is available via the group emails from Lisa Wegner.

St. John Sunday School will have a class on Palm Sunday, March 24th. We are planning an egg hunt to learn about the Easter story. Please join us! Class will begin at 10:45 and will end at 11:30.

SAVE THE DATES

Our week for VBS will be July 22-26.

We will share the theme and registration soon. In the meantime, mark your calendar.

VBS is for children Preschool/3k-5th grade. Middle and high school youth are welcome as helpers.

Please reach out to Sue Dowe with questions (sadowe1966@gmail.com).

March 2024 Pulse Beat



1193 Lakefield Road
Grafton, WI 53024

"In God's Word, Serving You and the World"

IT IS OUR MISSION as people called by God into the Congregation of St. John Lutheran Church to:

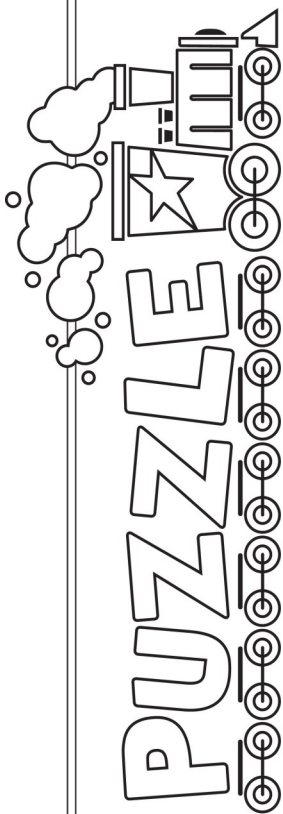
- Proclaim the Gospel in worship and daily life.
- Study and teach God's Word.
- Fellowship among people of this congregation.
- Serve people in our surrounding community.

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"

Worship Schedule

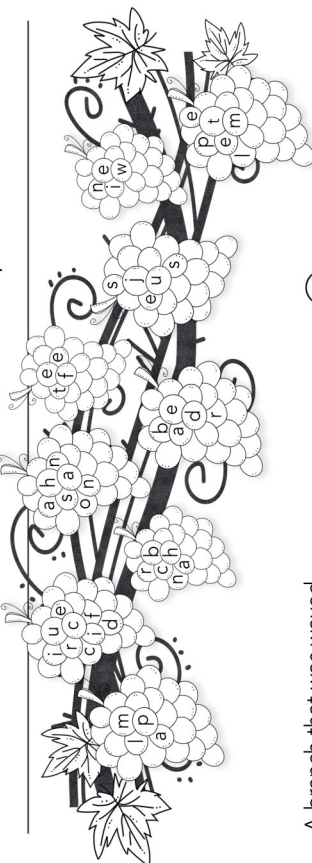
- Sunday Morning - 9:30 a.m.
- Education hour - 11:00 a.m.



A LASTING LESSON

Before dying on the cross, Jesus teaches the disciples an important lesson.

Directions: Use the clues to unscramble the letters in each grape cluster. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete John 15:5, NIV.



- A branch that was waved _____
- How Jesus was put to death _____
- A stick attached to the vine _____
- People shouted this to Jesus _____
- Jesus washed these _____
- This was broken and eaten _____
- The Messiah _____
- A drink from grapes _____
- Jesus drove the money changers from here _____

"I am the vine; you are the branches.

If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear _____ ;
apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5, NIV

Answer: palm, crucified, branch, hosanna, feet, bread, Jesus, wine, temple, much fruit