



THE PULSE BEAT



Volume 49, Number 5

May 2024

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

I will have the opportunity to share these “pastor’s pages,” for our newsletter the “Pulse Beat,” only a couple times more before retirement. And then you can look ahead to a new writer with new thoughts & new ways of serving God in the Lakefield community, at St. John Lutheran Church, here in Grafton, Wisconsin.

The month of May finds us in full-on spring, with a change in atmosphere. Not only is the weather becoming more pleasant, but activities left over from winter are coming to their conclusion. Winter sports are ending, and new sports have begun, like baseball.

Schools of all kinds, high schools, & colleges, are preparing for graduation ceremonies for senior classes. And our mindset shifts from indoor activity to an outdoor focus, if possible. We can now turn down the heat, open the windows, & turn on the outside water for our budding gardens & plantings.

It’s as if new life is emerging, just like the butterflies breaking out of their cocoons, and the birds returning from their southern migration sites. Though we must admit, this last winter has been quite mild overall. We begin to enjoy the world of nature in new ways.

In our faith journey, we are moving through the Easter season and into Pentecost, the time of the Holy Spirit, the Green season of growth, renewal and enrichment, as the weather warms! We enter a time of renewal in our faith, along with the seasons of life!

Our liturgical readings in worship follow the Gospel of John, where Jesus reminds his followers (now us!) that we are branches attached to the vine of himself --- Christ!

Even more, our Lord Christ prays for us, **“that they may be ONE,”** as Jesus & the Father are one. A difficult challenge from a human point of view. Yet we must remember, as Jesus said: **“With God all things are possible.”**

In our previous confirmation class, we discussed the fact that there are 40,000 Christian denominations in the world! How can we have oneness, unity with so much human created division among us? And there stands Jesus, praying for our oneness?

But when we do things that strengthen our working together, we are yet helping to fulfill Jesus’ prayer! Such as the fact of the cooperating confirmation class itself! Which has now been working together for 10 years now, since 2014! A very positive and practical step of shared ministry --- therefore ONENESS! During the covid -19 pandemic of 2020 – 2022, we switched to largely zoom classes, not the same of course, but still a way to check in with the youth of our congregations.

Think of it, 5 different churches, each with their own story to tell, yet joining together to guide our growing young teenagers, from Grafton, Cedarburg, Saukville, & surrounding communities, to guide them into a deeper faith, with pastors and youth director, guided by the Holy Spirit, being the teaching partners! I believe Jesus approves of this, whole-heartedly!

Where we are going in the future of course, is unknown, how things will shape up for the life of our St. John congregation. Yet we also know we as church, as “body of Christ,” in this place, are in the hands of a loving God, who works for the best for us. A God who knows what we need better than we do! And by faith we pray, like Jesus, for our unity, our wholeness, and our *Shalom – well-being, and peace*. Let us also pray and have faith, trust, that our God will lead us into the kind of future, God wants for us, even if there are detours along the way, road construction, & other impediments. Let us live life in the confidence that our God will get us, to where the Lord intends us to be!

Peace & blessings this May! *Pastor Jim*

THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

May in Wisconsin brings us many different things! We continue to welcome in spring, with its Wisconsin twist of really warm days mixed in with some really cold days! My flowers are already blooming, and I look forward to tending to my gardens. May also brings us an opportunity to celebrate our moms on Mother's Day. I am sad that my mom is not here physically for me to spend her special day with her, but I can still celebrate her with all of the very special memories that we share.

There are some pretty spectacular moms in the bible, and I'm sure you can all name a bunch of them right off the top of your head.

I'm going to start with Jochebed. You may not know her name as a mom, but you sure know the name of her son, and you know her story. Jochebed was the mother of Moses. I can certainly imagine her overwhelming love for her son and her determination to keep him alive, by putting him in that basket and sending him down the Nile with the hopes he would be found and raised. What I cannot imagine is the pain she felt in having to make such a decision. We can also appreciate the strength of the Pharaoh's daughter, who found Moses in that basket in the river and became his mom, and loved him and raised him as her own.

Then there was Sarah. She and her husband, Abraham, yearned for a child, but she was not able to conceive. I'm sure we all know of people who have weathered this struggle. I have friends going through it right now. But Sarah was a good wife and a loyal helper to her husband. And she was faithful! Can you imagine having to wait that long for a blessing? She is a shining example for every person who has to wait for God to act. And after *much* waiting she was blessed to be the mother of Isaac.

Do you remember the two mothers in 1 Kings? They are unnamed in the bible, but their story is one we all know. Two women who lived in the same household came to King Solomon, both claiming a baby was theirs. The first mother said that the second mother had rolled over in the night and smothered her baby, and then laid the dead child next to her and claimed the other mother's baby as her own. Both mothers claimed the child was theirs. After much arguing in front of the King, Solomon called for someone to bring him a sword. "Cut the baby in half! That way each of you can have a part of him." Out of her love for him, the baby's mother pleaded with Solomon not to kill him, but to give him to the other woman so that he may live. The other woman, who was not his mother, told Solomon to go ahead and cut him in half, so that neither of them could have him.

I can feel the love of that baby's mother, willing to give him up rather than see him hurt.
It's a good thing King Solomon could feel it as well.

And the mom that probably pops into our minds first is Mary, the mother of our Lord Jesus. To start off as a teenager told she was going to give birth to the Savior of the world, to then have to endure the great sacrifice of giving him back to God in such a terrible way. Imagine the strength she had to find to watch Him suffer, be tortured and mocked, and die such a cruel death on a cross. This was a strong woman and a strong mother. And she serves as a shining example of obedience and submission to God's will. Imagine any woman, let alone a teenager, in 2024, who would be willing or able to do everything Mary did.

Happy Mother's Day to all the moms! I hope you are all able to find a way to celebrate your mom – whether they are with us or not! I know I will!

Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all." Proverbs 31:28-29

Hugs and prayers to you all!

Sandy

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Pastor James O'Reilly-Christensen

Office hours: Monday – Thursday,

9:00 am – 2:00 pm

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Church office hours: Monday – Friday,

9:00 am – Noon

262-377-0410

E-mail: stjohnsecretary@hotmail.com

Website: stjohngrafton.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 Ringers Director

Flutist

OPEN

Sharlene Sandquist

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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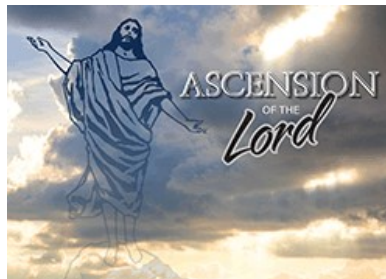
GENERAL INTEREST NEWS

We keep in our prayers: Paul Barnes (Jim & Carole Litvinoff's nephew), Anna Bullio (great-granddaughter of Florence Van Cleave), Troy Burmesch (Dale & Sandy Allen nephew), Cathy Collins (Florence Van Cleave's daughter), Amanda Combs (friend of Laura Christenson), Nan Donner (friend of Diane & Roger Wendorf), Henry Frier (Marian Witte's son-in-law), Pat & Sandy Granrath, Merry Lou Green, Chris Heggenbarth (Robert & Borgne McClelland daughter-in-law), Kathy Hendricks (Jackie Rogahn's sister), Cheryl Isotalo (Robin Fatla's cousin), Pat Leaman, 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, Renee Schauer, 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



Harvey P. Salger

November 11, 1938 - April 17, 2024



"He was taken up to heaven after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen."
Acts 1:2

EDUCATION

Confirmation classes wrap up in May at Trinity:

May 1 - Meet at coffee shop and chat?

May 8 - No topic

May 15 - End of year party at St. John

5:15 - 5:45 Dinner

5:45 Highs and Lows

6:00 - 7:15 Class

Sunday School classes may be paused until fall, but there is plenty of fun coming up with Vacation Bible School!

SAVE THE DATES



Our week for VBS will be July 22-26.

The theme is "What A Friend" and the registration link will go live the week of April 22nd: <https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/8720568>.

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).

Thanks!

CELEBRATING OUR PASTOR

Pastor Jim's "Celebration of Service" message on Sunday, May 19th will be

"What God's Holy Spirit Has Accomplished Through Us."

Please join us at 9:30 am.



Bible study: Monday, May 13, 1:00 pm at church

QUILTING DATES:

Monday

May 13 & 27

9:00 - noon

COMMUNITY NEWS



Trinity L.C., Cedarburg will be hosting a blood drive through Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin on Saturday, May 18 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). Thank you



POST TO POST WALK

Saturday, May 18
www.sweat4vets.com
for
info and registration

**Memorial
Day -
May 31**



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

WHAT IS GENEROSITY?

The word “generosity” is a popular word today, both inside and outside the walls of the institutional church. It often seems a nicer and safer approach to a conversation about money. But the concept and practice of generosity is not a substitute for, nor the same as stewardship.*

The modern English word “generosity” is derived from the Latin word *generosus*, which means “of noble birth.” As God’s stewards and disciples of Jesus, we are called “to be” - to be noble and generous in spirit, generous with our time, talents and resources. Being generous is our response to the character of God, like the fruit in an orchard (Galatians 5:22-23).

Eric Law, in the preface to his book, “Holy Currency Exchange”** offers this explanation: “As a Christian, I believe in a compassionate God who shows me the pattern of God’s will and action in the person of Jesus. At the heart of holy currencies is the consistent choice to exchange our resources according to God’s will, following in Jesus’ footsteps” [Law, p. xi]. Law reminds us that generosity is in both the giving and receiving.

“We all have resources - time, place, leadership, relationship, truth, wellness and money. What makes these resources holy is a dynamic process of exchanging them to empower the cycle of blessings that sustains communities” [Law, p.xii].

To summarize: Being generous is a role and responsibility of being God’s steward we joyfully fulfill. Living generously is the giving of our whole selves as students who want to be like Jesus. Generosity is an exchange of resources, both giving and receiving, that blesses and sustains communities. Generosity is God’s promise. Jesus’ example. Our wholly, holy practice.

Next month the focus will be on God’s Stories of Generosity.

Sharlene, Stewardship Committee member

The material in this article is 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.1 23, 2018. *Living our Baptismal Covenant, ELCA. **Law, Eric H. F., Holy Currency Exchange (Chalice Press. Saint Louis, MO 2015)

*This is the article I intended to send for the April Pulsebeat. I inadvertently sent one from an earlier year. I apologize.

ONLINE GIVING

Supporting the ministry and mission of St John Lutheran Church is only a click away. We offer convenient online giving, so you never have to worry about leaving your cash or checkbook at home. You can make a one-time contribution or set up recurring gifts – a great option for members who will be traveling. Get started by visiting our online Giving page at StJohnGrafton.org.

You can also link to online giving using the QR code below:



If you don’t have online access but would still like to give electronically, just ask for a paper enrollment form.

Thank you for your continued support!



5/3 Holly Haas
 5/3 Heather Fiedler
 5/8 Evelyn Matthews
 5/14 Nathan Leira
 5/16 Jackie Rogahn
 5/19 Marion Meyer
 5/23 Joe Christensen
 5/24 Mackenzie O'Reilly-Christensen
 5/28 Emma Leira

5/7/2016 Mike & Maren Foti
 5/28/1988 Fritz & Sue Dowe
 5/28/1999 Steve & Dinah Tetzlaff
 5/31/1969 Bob & Mari Schmidt

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



May 12

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister:

May 5 - Dennis Jaeger
 12 - Bob Butt
 19 - Robin Fatla
 26 - Gary Haas

Lector:

May 5 - Carol Butt
 12 - Sue Dowe
 19 - Robin Fatla
 26 - Gary Haas

Usher:

May 5 - Fritz Dowe
 12 - Jim & Carol Litvinoff
 19 - Bob Butt
 26 - Monica Faretra

Altar bouquets:

May 5 - Bob & Carol Butt (2)
 12 - Dale & Sandy Allen/ **OPEN**
 19 - Marion Meyer/ **OPEN**
 26 - **OPEN/ OPEN**

Fellowship hour:

May 5 - Jean & Sam Verber
 12 - **OPEN**
 19 - **OPEN**
 26 - **OPEN**

Counting Team:

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

Creator of all things, You have created women to serve important roles in Your creation. Be with all women, that they may faithfully do the work You have set before them as mothers, teachers, pastors, first responders or any other ways in which women interact, influence, and impact children. Guide them to lead lives of prayer and good works so that the children can share in the love and good gifts of Christ. In Jesus' name. Amen.



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1 Noon - Pastor's Lunch 5:15 pm - Confirmation class at Trinity	2	3	4 Pastor's day off 1:00 pm - Visitation for Harvey Salger 2:30 pm - memorial service
5 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour 11:00 am - choir rehearsal	6	7	8 Noon - Pastor's Lunch 5:15 pm - Confirmation class at Trinity	9 Ascension of the Lord	10	11 Pastor's day off 1:00 pm - Bingo at Immanuel L.C.
12 Mother's Day 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour 11:00 am - choir rehearsal	13 9:00 am - Quilting 1:00 pm - Women's Bible Study	14 10:00 am - Bible study at Village Pointe Commons	15 Noon - Pastor's Lunch 1:00 pm - Meet with Prime Horizon 5:15 pm - End of year Confirmation class party at St. John	16	17	18 Pastor's day off 9:00 am - Remove chancel cross Blood drive at Trinity - 8:30 am - 12:30 pm
19 Pentecost 9:30 am - Holy Communion/Celebration Service 10:30 am - Fellowship hour 11:00 am - choir rehearsal 11:00 am - Church Council	20	21	22 Noon - Pastor's Lunch	23	24	25 Pastor's day off
26 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour 11:00 am - choir rehearsal	27 9:00 am - Quilting	28 10:00 am - Bible study at Village Pointe Commons	29 Noon - Pastor's Lunch	30	31 Memorial Day	

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

	March 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	\$ 11,686	\$ 14,000	\$ (2,314)	\$ 29,904	\$ 38,000	\$ (8,096)
<u>Expense Summary:</u>						
Education	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Outreach	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ (100)	\$ 36	\$ 100	\$ (64)
Worship	\$ 1,145	\$ 915	\$ 229	\$ 2,690	\$ 2,618	\$ 71
Youth	\$ -	\$ 125	\$ (125)	\$ -	\$ 375	\$ (375)
Stewardship	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 191	\$ 225	\$ (34)
Public Relations	\$ 16	\$ 83	\$ (67)	\$ 213	\$ 249	\$ (36)
Property	\$ 2,039	\$ 2,665	\$ (626)	\$ 5,496	\$ 7,995	\$ (2,499)
Finance (incl. Mission Support)	\$ 8,565	\$ 9,108	\$ (543)	\$ 37,513	\$ 37,985	\$ (473)
Total Expenses	\$ 11,764	\$ 12,996	\$ (1,232)	\$ 46,139	\$ 49,548	\$ (3,409)
Net Income (Deficit)	\$ (78)	\$ 1,004	\$ (1,082)	\$ (16,235)	\$ (11,548)	\$ (4,687)

Comparative 2023 Figures:

Unified Income	<u>@ 3/31/2023</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 27,897
Net Income (Deficit)	\$ (51,254)
	<u>\$ (23,357)</u>

Major Differences 2024 vs. 2023: Income for year-to-date 2024 is \$2,000 more than last year.
Expenses for year-to-date 2024 are \$5,100 less than last year.
Major year-to-date expense item differences:
-- Gas Utility expense \$1,600 less than last year.
-- Property maintenance expense \$1,600 less than last year.
-- Mission support payments \$2,240 less than last year.

Thrivent Choice Gifts Rec. 2024: \$729
Memorial Gifts Received 2024: \$415 (John Clasen Memorial+Gift in Honor of Anita Lucht's 100th birthday)
Budgeted Mission Support 2024: \$10,680 (All paid in February 2024)
Added Mission Support 2024: \$0

	<u>@ 3/31/2024</u>	Comparative <u>@ 3/31/2023</u>
Assets At End Of Month	\$ 145,832	\$155,939
<u>Assets Are Needed to Support The Following Funds:</u>		
Audio Fund (formerly Cassette)	\$ -	\$ -
Contingency Fund	\$ 6,870	\$ 22,808
Family Promise Fund	\$ 484	\$ 484
Fully Funded	\$ 253	\$ 451
Library Fund	\$ 505	\$ 505
Memorial Fund	\$ 135,301 <(incl. \$6,761 restricted)	\$ 133,791 <(incl. \$6,761 restricted)
Mercy Fund	\$ 2,260	\$ 2,760
Music Fund	\$ 162	\$ 162
Organ Repair Fund	\$ -	\$ -
Outreach Fund	\$ 621	\$ 442
Pastoral Education Fund	\$ 2,190	\$ 2,098
Property Fund	\$ 9,683	\$ 10,586
Scholarship Fund	\$ 1,839	\$ 1,839
Youth Fund	\$ 1,900	\$ 3,371
Total Fund Requirements	\$ 162,066	\$179,295
= Asset Excess (Shortage)	\$ (16,235)	\$ (23,357)
(Excess = budget surplus; Shortage = budget deficit)		

May 2024 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.

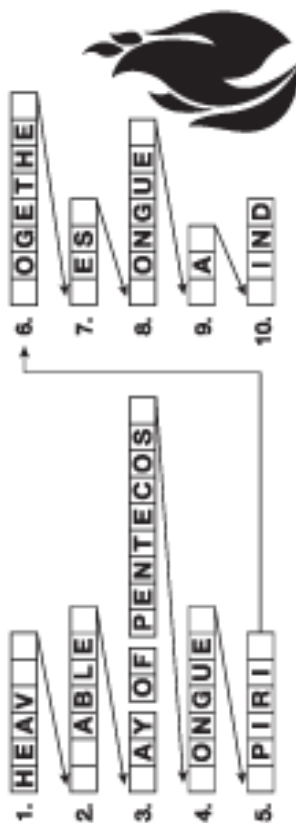
"Faithfully Serving Christ Since 1866"



Wind, fire & spirit

Acts 2 describes the amazing events of Pentecost, when the apostles received the Holy Spirit.

Directions: The last letter(s) of each word is the beginning letter of the next. Fill in the missing words to complete Acts 2:1-4, NIV.



"When the _____⁵ came, they were all _____⁶ in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent _____¹⁰ came from _____¹ and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They _____⁹ what seemed to be _____⁴ of fire that separated and came to _____⁷ on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy _____⁸ and began to speak in other _____⁵ as the Spirit _____² them."

ACTS 2:1-4, NIV

Answer: 1. heaven, 2. enabled, 3. day of Pentecost, 4. tongues, 5. Spirit, 6. together, 7. rest, 8. tongues, 9. saw, 10. wind