



THE PULSE BEAT



Volume 50, Number 1

January 2025

THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome 2025! It's hard to believe that 2024 is already in the rear view mirror, as it seems that we were just welcoming in 2024 not that long ago.

Do you make New Year's resolutions? I looked up the top resolutions online, and the results are probably just what you'd expect. Lose weight, eat healthier, get organized, spend more time with family, save money, quit smoking. Would it surprise you to know that the Bible can also help guide our New Year's resolutions? Of course, having a partner who knows your resolutions can be both a blessing and a curse, unless that partner is God. Talking to Him about your goals may give you the opportunity to ask for wisdom and guidance on how to achieve them. Here are a few to contemplate.

Pray for guidance. *If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. James 1:5* I find this verse particularly important to me, as we continue to go forward with our search for our new pastor.

Forgive those who have hurt you. *Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Colossians 3:13* I know that I sometimes have a hard time with this one, and it is something that I can sure work on. Forgiveness can be empowering and can help us gain a sense of emotional strength. And it can encourage empathy, compassion and understanding.

Take care of yourself. *Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20* This one includes some of those top resolutions, but self-care is so important, and sometimes so overlooked. We need to prioritize our physical, mental and emotional well-being by doing things like eating healthy, getting enough sleep, exercising regularly, managing stress and taking time to relax and recharge when we need it.

Love others. *"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." Mark 12:29-31* Sometimes people are not lovable, and make it very hard for us to do as Jesus taught. But when we love as God has loved us, it will make the difference. People will notice. Because people matter so much to Him, they need to matter to us as well.

Help those in need. *And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Hebrews 13:16* As a congregation, St. John is so very good at this. We can donate, volunteer and offer support to our neighbors. Helping others can enrich our lives and the lives of those around us, and can help create a more compassionate and connected society. Let's keep this close to our hearts as we enter 2025.

Blessings and wishes to all of you for a happy and healthy Christmas season and Happy New Year!

Hugs and prayers to you all! *Sandy*

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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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

OPEN - Public Relations

Jane Turowski - Financial Secretary

Organist

St. John Choir Director

Glory Ringers Director

Flutist

Paula Juedes

Sharlene Sandquist

Dale Allen

Sandy Allen

Newsletter staff:

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Articles due by the 3rd Sunday of each month.

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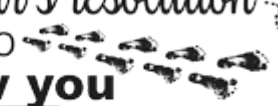
FaceBook: St. John Lutheran Church-Grafton, WI

GENERAL INTEREST NEWS

We keep in our prayers: Delaney Allen, Anna Bullio (great-granddaughter of Florence Van Cleave), Cathy Collins (Florence Van Cleave's daughter), Amanda Combs (friend of Laura Christenson), Nan Donner (friend of Diane & Roger Wendorf), Erich Dowe, Henry Frier (Marian Witte's son-in-law), Rick Gonzalez (Jan's husband), Pat & Sandy Granrath, Merry Lou Green, Erma & Oswald Hegenbarth (Peter McClelland's in-laws), Dennis Jaeger, Sharon Kaddatz (friend of Bob & Carol Butt), Joanne Levenick, Anita Lucht, Scott Maronde (nephew of Gary & Sue Haas), Ken Matthews (Kayla Matthews' father-in-law), Borgne McClelland, 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, Joe Porth, Karen Rautenberg (Sue Dowe's mother), Becka Rogahn (Tom & Jackie's daughter), Tom & Jackie Rogahn, Sharlene Sandquist, Glenn Sievers, Melanie Smith (MerryLou Green's daughter), Wendy Tomter, Virginia (friend of Fritz & Sue Dowe), 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



Gracious God, we come before you seeking renewal in the new year. Renew our minds, our hearts, and our spirits. May we be transformed by the power of your Holy Spirit, leaving behind the old and embracing the new that you have in store for us. Amen

O Lord, let my
New Year's resolution
be to 
follow you
more closely
and to
trust in your
loving guidance.

GENERAL INTEREST NEWS

IMPORTANT CONGREGATIONAL MEETING!!

Sunday, January 12

Immediately following the worship service.

By now you should have received a letter informing you of this meeting to approve the revised Constitution and Bylaws of St. John's and how important it is that you attend.

A quorum of 30 people is required to approve the changes recommended by the church council



Plan to attend the annual meeting on
Sunday, January 26 at 10:45 am.

There will be 4 open council seats to fill.
Please prayerfully consider filling one of these
chairs. **The business of St. John's
congregation should not be left up to the
remaining 4 persons.**

Anniversary Sunday

January 26, 2024

On January 28, 1866, the people of Lakefield formally organized St. John Lutheran Church so that the Gospel could be preached in their community and their children could receive instruction in the Christian faith. They were served by pastors of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Cedarburg, through 1872. St. John was not affiliated with a mother church body until becoming a member of the Iowa Synod in 1921. For 156 years, the people of St. John have continued to preach the Gospel, instruct in faith, and serve the needs of our community and, through the broader church, the world.

ST. JOHN'S ANNIVERSARY



Celebrate Our Heritage

January 28, 1866

The family of St. John's Lutheran Church remembers, with gratitude, those called and ordained persons who have served the congregation in its mission and ministry for 159 years.

The Rev. Friedrich Gebhardt - Founding Pastor
1866-1869 (also serving Immanuel Church in
Cedarburg)

The Rev. Ludwig Habel
1869-1872 (also serving Immanuel Church in
Cedarburg)

The Rev. L. J. Ehmke
1872

The Rev. J.H. Keitel
1873-1877

The Rev. Theo. Finck
1878-1879

The Rev. P. Liedtke
1879-1882

The Rev. Bernhard Marr
1882-1905

The Rev. Otto Spehr
1906-1911

The Rev. Friedrich Eigenmann
1911-1939

The Rev. Leonard R. Westphal
1939-1952

The Rev. Charles Shalkhauser
1952-1956

The Rev. Edward Reiff
1956-1962

The Rev. Elmer E. Aalto
1962-1968

The Rev. Dean Phillips
1968-1976

The Rev. Robert E. McClelland
1976-2001

The Rev. Daryl K. Knox
2002-2007

The Rev. James O'Reilly-Christensen
2009 - June 30, 2024

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Happy New Year to each of you. I hope your holidays were rich in blessings and that you are looking forward to this new year of grace. In talking with Peter, he told me that we finished strong in our giving for 2024 and that is wonderful news. If you have not yet turned in your pledge for 2025, I encourage you to do so as soon as possible. It would be great to have them all in before the Annual Meeting, when we adopt the budget for the year.

Your faithful giving during this time of pastoral vacancy has enabled St. John to continue its work and mission in this community and I pray that it will continue as we look toward our self study and the calling of a new pastor, sometime this year. In the meantime, we have been blessed by the supply pastors who have continued to lead our worship services and preach the Word.

In past articles, I have written about the various facets of Stewardship and you know that it is about much more than the money we contribute. One of the areas of stewardship is that of time and many have given generously of it during the last year and continue to do so.

I think of those who decorated the church for Christmas, Dennis, who has faithfully lined up pulpit supply for all these Sundays, Peter, who has served as Treasurer for the congregation these many years. Those on the altar guild, Jane, who faithfully records our giving and sends out our statements, the quilters, who meet twice a month and also take material home to complete the quilts and lap robes. Incidentally, we could use a few more quilters if any of you are interested in this ministry. Right now, we have four who come on a regular basis.

I would also like to mention the members of our choir, who stay after worship each Sunday to rehearse. Their ministry of music is appreciated, especially by me. They are a great group with which to work. And a special thanks to Kathie Viesselmann, who almost singlehandedly organized the choir music and made up notebooks of what we have, in

alphabetical order, with seasonal notation, etc. so one can look in the book and see what is available for use on a given Sunday. This was a time consuming labor of love. Thank you.

There are so many areas in which people give of their time, that when one starts mentioning them, some will be omitted, not by intention. There are counters, ushers, arrangers of flowers, preparers of our fellowship hour following worship, the members who serve on the church council, those who provide rides to church, I am sure you can think of many more.

There is one person, who needs to be mentioned and that is Robin, who gives of her time far beyond the hours expected of a church secretary. I can't begin to list all the things that she does far above what is in her job description. You are appreciated. Thank you.

You, the member or friend of St. John are appreciated for whatever you are able to contribute to the ministry of this congregation. Please continue to faithfully do so.

Sharlene Sandquist,
Stewardship Committee Member



The crest of St. John:

***“CARITAS CHRISTI
URGET NOS”***

***“The love of Christ
urges us on...”***

2 Corinthians 5:14



1/5	Lincoln Porth
1/5	Shamir Garcia
1/5	Asher Christenson
1/19	Kathie Viesselmann
1/19	Cara McMullin
1/20	Bob Schmidt
1/22	Maren Foti
1/22	Carol Butt
1/23	Roan Christenson
1/29	Cole Granrath
1/20/2001	Steven & Latasha Reindl
1/26/1972	Tom & Jackie Rogahn

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



QUILTING DATES:

Monday
January 13 & 27
9:00 - noon

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister:

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

Lector:

January 5 - Florence Van Cleave
12 - Sandy Allen
19 - Bob Butt
26 - Carol Butt

Usher:

January 5 - Tom Rogahn
12 - Peter Viesselmann
19 - Bob Butt
26 - Bob Eichmann

Altar bouquets:

January 5 - **OPEN**
12 - **OPEN**
19 - Robin Fatla/ **OPEN**
26 - **OPEN**

Fellowship hour:

January 5 - **OPEN**
12 - **OPEN**
19 - **OPEN**
26 - **OPEN**

Counting Team:

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

January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour 11:00 am - Choir rehearsal	6  EPIPHANY	7	8 10:00 am - Prime Horizon Cooking Club 5:15 pm - Confirmation class at Trinity	9	10	11 9:00 am - Removal of Christmas decorations 2:00 pm - Bingo at Immanuel
12 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Special congregational meeting 10:45 am - Fellowship hour 11:00 am - Choir rehearsal	13 9:00 am - Quilting	14	15 5:15 pm - Confirmation class at Trinity	16 10:00 am - Prime Horizon Cooking Club	17	18
19 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour 11:00 am - Choir rehearsal 11:00 am - Church Council	20	21	22 10:00 am - Prime Horizon Cooking Club 5:15 pm - Confirmation class at Trinity	23	24	25
26 Heritage Sunday 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:45 am - Annual meeting	27 9:00 am - Quilting	28	29 5:15 pm - Confirmation class at Trinity	30 10:00 am - Prime Horizon Cooking Club	31	

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

	November 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	\$ 8,390	\$ 13,245	\$ (4,855)	\$ 102,631	\$ 135,245	\$ (32,614)
<u>Expense Summary:</u>						
Education	\$ -	\$ 25	\$ (25)	\$ 53	\$ 200	\$ (147)
Outreach	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 114	\$ 400	\$ (286)
Worship	\$ 1,552	\$ 865	\$ 687	\$ 12,065	\$ 8,990	\$ 3,075
Youth	\$ -	\$ 125	\$ (125)	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,375	\$ 125
Stewardship	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 191	\$ 225	\$ (34)
Public Relations	\$ 16	\$ 83	\$ (67)	\$ 519	\$ 913	\$ (394)
Property	\$ 1,236	\$ 2,166	\$ (930)	\$ 22,956	\$ 23,620	\$ (664)
Finance (incl.Mission Support)	\$ 1,644	\$ 9,104	\$ (7,459)	\$ 77,419	\$ 111,489	\$ (34,070)
Total Expenses	\$ 4,448	\$ 12,368	\$ (7,920)	\$ 114,818	\$ 147,212	\$ (32,394)
Net Income (Deficit)	\$ 3,942	\$ 877	\$ 3,065	\$ (12,187)	\$ (11,967)	\$ (220)

Comparative 2023 Figures:

Unified Income	<u>@ 11/30/2023</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 106,870
Net Income (Deficit)	\$ (144,332)
	<u>\$ (37,461)</u>

Major Differences 2024 vs. 2023: Income for year-to-date 2024 is \$4,200 less than last year.
Expenses for year-to-date 2024 are \$29,500 less than last year.

Major year-to-date expense item differences:

- - Gas Utility expense \$1,400 less than last year.
- - Wages and benefits net expense \$28,200 less than last year.
- - Property maintenance expense \$1,700 more than last year.
- - Mission support payments \$2,240 less than last year.

Thrivent Choice Gifts Rec. 2024: \$1,492

Memorial Gifts Received 2024: \$1,380 (John Clasen, Harvey Salger, Gift in Honor of Anita Lucht's 100th birthday, Pat Beidenbender, Clarice Buchholz, Elayne LaCourt, Marlys Johnson, Pat Lampe)

Budgeted Mission Support 2024: \$10,680 (All paid in February 2024)

Added Mission Support 2024: \$350 (Lutheran Disaster Response, Family Promise Portlight Shelter)

	<u>@ 11/30/2024</u>	Comparative	<u>@ 11/30/2023</u>
Assets At End Of Month	\$ 147,504		\$ 144,068
<u>Assets Are Needed to Support The Following Funds:</u>			
Audio Fund (formerly Cassette)	\$ -	\$ -	
Contingency Fund	\$ 9,475	\$ 26,698	
Family Promise Fund	\$ 484	\$ 484	
Fully Funded	\$ 313	\$ (162)	
Library Fund	\$ 505	\$ 505	
Memorial Fund	\$ 136,266 <(incl. \$6,761 restricted)	\$ 134,886 <(incl. \$6,761 restricted)	
Mercy Fund	\$ (42)	\$ 2,760	
Music Fund	\$ 114	\$ 162	
Organ Repair Fund	\$ -	\$ -	
Outreach Fund	\$ 936	\$ 651	
Pastoral Education Fund	\$ 2,176	\$ 2,150	
Property Fund	\$ 6,983	\$ 9,683	
Scholarship Fund	\$ 539	\$ 1,839	
Youth Fund	\$ 1,942	\$ 1,875	
Total Fund Requirements	\$ 159,691		\$ 181,530
= Asset Excess (Shortage)	\$ (12,187)		\$ (37,461)
(Excess = budget surplus; Shortage = budget deficit)			

January 2025 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"

