



THE PULSE BEAT



Volume 50, Number 10

November 2025

A Word from the Pastor

Some years ago, I came across this parable of a potter and his creation.

Once upon a time, there was a potter. He needed a pitcher for the milk he poured upon his cereal each morning. He thought about everything it would need to be: it had to hold the right amount of milk, it had to fit into a special place in the refrigerator, it had to be pleasing to look at. So he carefully chose the right kind of clay, and formed it exactly the way he wanted it. He glazed it, and fired it in the kiln so it would be both beautiful and strong.

When he was finished, he took the pitcher home, filled it with milk, set it in its place in the refrigerator, and went to bed. The next morning, the potter poured himself a bowl of cereal, opened the refrigerator, and pulled out the pitcher. As he began to pour, the pitcher started to talk.

It said “Oh, no, you don’t! Keep your hands off! I worked hard to get this milk. I started out as a lousy lump of clay. But I worked hard, and now I am a pitcher, and I am full of milk. No one is going to pour out what I have worked so hard to achieve.

The potter was surprised and disappointed. The potter said, “I don’t think you understand the real story here. I created you, and I made you for the purpose of filling you with milk, so that I could pour out that milk—for a purpose. In this case, to complete my breakfast. You were made to pour out milk, not to store it up!”

The pitcher thought about it, and said “well, seeing as how I’m in a generous mood, I will give you a couple of tablespoons of milk—that should be enough for your purpose.” The potter looked deep into the heart of the pitcher, and said “you’re afraid, that if you allow me to pour out your milk, you will find yourself empty, and I won’t see any value in you anymore. But if you allow me to use what you have, you will be priceless to me! Then I will continue to fill you up, over and over, and we will share many mornings together.”

The pitcher wasn’t ready to give up. It is hard to let go of what we have. And the pitcher said, “what if I don’t believe you and want to just keep the milk I have?”

The potter said “you are free to make that choice. But then I will have to find another pitcher to be my partner. I will have to set you on the back shelf of the refrigerator. You can keep your milk, but in time your odor will chase everyone away, and you will have missed the greatest joy for which all pitchers are created: the joy of being poured out!

So. . . we are all “pitchers” made of the potter’s hands. Whatever God has filled us up with, let’s be ready to pour it out in his service!

God’s Blessings,
Pastor Sara Gillespie

THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name."
Psalm 100:4

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, we pause to reflect on the many ways God has been faithful to St. John as a church family. While the holiday is often associated with harvest and home, it is ultimately rooted in the biblical command to give thanks in all things. In 1 Thessalonians 5:18 Paul says, *"give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."* This year, our gratitude is especially deep as we thank God for the ministry of our interim pastor, Pastor Sara, and look forward with hope as we begin our pastoral call process.

Throughout Scripture, God's people are called to remember His faithfulness and respond with gratitude. Whether in seasons of plenty or seasons of waiting, the Bible reminds us that thankfulness is a mark of trust in God's provision and plan. Even in times of transition or uncertainty, giving thanks is not only possible—it is God's will for His people.

During this time of transition, we have been blessed with a faithful interim pastor who has guided us through our MET process and continues to lead us in worship with wisdom, patience, and spiritual insight. This leadership has been a steady hand in a season of change, preparing our hearts and our church for what comes next.

We give thanks for:

- Preaching that keeps our focus on Christ.
- Leadership rooted in prayer and discernment.
- Pastoral care that brings comfort and encouragement.
- The gift of time and presence shared with our congregation.

As we reflect on Pastor Sara's service, we also trust that the work God began through her leadership will continue to bear fruit as we move forward. This process is not ours alone—it is God's. And we are grateful to walk it together, led by the Spirit, in faith and hope. Even though her work with the MET team is complete, her work with the people of St. John will continue until she's called to be the interim pastor for another congregation in need.

Thanksgiving is more than a holiday—it is a way of life rooted in gratitude for God's presence in every season. As we reflect on this time, we are especially thankful for:

- God's faithful provision through Pastor Sara,
- The unity and strength of our church body,
- And the promise that God is guiding us forward in the call process.

May our hearts overflow with thanks as we continue walking together in faith, hope, and love.

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." Psalm 107:1

Thanksgiving blessings to you all,
Sandy

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Interim Pastor - Sara Gillespie

Office hours: Wednesday 10:30am – noon;
2:00 – 5:00pm

Call any time Wed. through Sun. - 920 214-3132

Office Manager: Robin Fatla

Church office hours: Monday – Friday,
9:00 am – Noon
262-377-0410

E-mail: stjohnsecretary@hotmail.com

Website: stjohngraffton.org

FaceBook: St. John Lutheran Church-
Grafton,WI

Congregation President – Sandy Allen

Vice President – Dale Allen

Secretary – Judy McMullin

Treasurer – Peter Viesselmann

Church Council:

Sharlene Sandquist – Worship

Sue Dowe – Education/ Youth

Sharlene Sandquist – Stewardship

Robin Fatla - Outreach

Roger Wendorf - Finance

Andy Porth – Property & Grounds

Bob Butt - Public Relations

Jane Turowski - Financial Secretary

Organist

Paula Juedes

St. John Choir Director

Sharlene Sandquist

Glory Ringers Director

Dale Allen

Flutist

Sandy Allen

Call Committee - Dale Alen, Jean Verber,
Judy McMullin, Fritz Dowe, Bob Butt, Jim
Litvinoff, Roger Wendorf

Newsletter staff:

Robin Fatla & Borgne McClelland

Newspaper Deadline:

Articles due by the 3rd Sunday of each
month.

Church Phone Numbers:

Office: 262-377-0410

E-Mail: (office) stjohnsecretary@hotmail.com

GENERAL INTEREST NEWS

We keep in our prayers: Christy Abt, Ignacia Arriago, Anna Bullio, Baldwin Clasen, Amanda Combs, Audrey Fischer, Henry Frier, Rick Gonzalez, Pat & Sandy Granrath, Merry Lou Green, Oswald Hegenbarth, Dennis Jaeger, Sharon Kaddatz, Krista Krueger, Anita Lucht, Scott Maronde, Ken Matthews, Borgne McClelland, Chuck & Cary Mueller, Alice Murphy, Erin & Thomas Peterson, Sugeily Pineiro-Garcia, Joe Porth, Patricia Rand, Karen Rautenberg, Becka Rogahn, Tim Rogahn, Tom & Jackie Rogahn, Bill Sackett, Sharlene Sandquist, Glenn Sievers, Melanie Smith, Pat Stifter, Doris Tetzlaff, Richard and Marie Viesselmann, Jeff Watter **Military personnel:** Kyle Christenson **"Home away from home" members:** Jeanine Burhop- Lasata; Tim McClosky – group home



Sunday
November 2nd

Join us as we remember St. John family members
called home to the Lord during the past year:

**Wendy Tomter, Donna Dowe, and
Joanne Levenick**

You will be invited to light candles for any loved
ones you want to remember as well.

There will be a table set up to display pictures of
loved ones if you wish to share.



Daylight Saving Time ends at 2
am on Sunday, November 2nd.
Set your clocks back 1 hour when
you go to bed Saturday night.

GENERAL INTEREST NEWS



QUILTING DATES:

Monday

November 10 & 24

9:00 - noon

THANKOFFERING SUNDAY

November 30th

On Sunday, November 30th, 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.

Envelopes for your offering will be included in the bulletin on November 16th.

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.

OUTREACH



Our outreach efforts the last few months have been focused on donations of various sorts for the Family Promise guests at Portlight Shelter:

- ♦ Monetary donations for the every day needs of the shelter - **which will continue through the end of December.** Our donations currently are \$250. We'd like to collect as much as we can by December 31st, so drop your extra dollar in the jar on Sunday morning!
- ♦ Games, books, puzzles, DVDs for the activity room (this has been concluded)

Thank you to all who have and continue to support our outreach emphasis'.

This year we will be participating in the **Holiday Bear Program** sponsored by Conley Media, Publisher of the News Graphic.

They collect donations for teddy bears to be delivered to patients at Columbia St. Mary's in Mequon, Froedert & Medical College of Wisconsin in West Bend, and ProHealth Waukesha Memorial Hospital.



Each bear with a personalized gift tag and delivery is \$65.

We will be accepting donations to sponsor as many bears as we can, through November 31st.

Your donation DOES NOT need to be the entire \$65!

If you would like to include a message for the gift tags, you are welcome to include that with your donation.

Watch for the display in Fellowship Hall and direct any questions and donations to Robin Fatla.

- ♦ We will continue to collect pantry items for the Ozaukee Food Alliance through November 16th. This is to support the United Nations World Food Day.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Throughout the year, these articles discuss the various aspects of stewardship in our lives. However, in November, we always feature the financial aspect of stewardship. This year is no exception.

I met with Pastor Sara and we planned out the emphasis for 2025. There will be sermons on gratitude, stewardship snippets in the Sunday bulletin and a letter with a pledge card from the church council.

In the September/October/November issue of Gather, the Bible study is titled "Money, stewardship & generosity" and it was written by Christa Von Zychlin. In this article I will be using some of the thoughts that she shared in her Bible Studies.

"More than 2,000 Bible passages refer to money, possessions and tithing and 16 of Jesus' 38 parables deal explicitly with money and the use of material wealth. Jesus refers to money and material possessions more often than he does to heaven or hell!" From this I ascertain that it was important to Jesus that we have the right attitude towards the gifts we have been given. "John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Church, would often ask his church members how their Christianity had affected their pocketbook."

St. Paul takes a different approach to giving. When he writes to the church members in Corinth, he urges them to help the Jerusalem Christians who are suffering from famine and persecution. Paul doesn't mention tithing or percentage giving at all.

In 1 Corinthians 16, he does recommend people to take a systematic approach to giving: "Do it every week! Give whatever you can spare!"

Then in 2 Corinthians 9, Paul reminds the Corinthians of the character of God, urging them to reflect that same spirit of abundance through their cheerful gifts."

Jesus calls us to manage, serve and exercise accountability for all that has been entrusted to us by God. This month, let us again consider God's generosity and how we can reflect that generosity through our giving of our time, talents and money.

"In the Parable of the Rich Fool, Jesus prods us into laughing at and turning away from our hoarder instincts. The time to be generous is now - in this lifetime! As it is often pointed out, you will never see a U-Haul behind a hearse."

Sharlene Sandquist, Stewardship Chair

Stewardship Emphasis in November

Pastor Sara's sermons on stewardship will include:

November 2 - Gratitude for Saints in Our Lives

November 9 - Gratitude for All God Has Given

November 16 - Light of the World

November 23 - What Jesus did for Us

The annual Stewardship Commitment letter and Giving card will be sent to every home the first week of November.

The cards will be collected during the offering on November 23rd - the Sunday we will observe Thanksgiving. Please plan to attend with your commitments.



**St John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Financial Summary For September 2025**

	September 2025			Year To Date 2025		
	<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	\$ 7,135	\$ 9,000	\$ (1,865)	\$ 80,872	\$ 84,000	\$ (3,128)
<u>Expense Summary:</u>						
Education	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11	\$ 175	\$ (164)
Outreach	\$ -	\$ 50	\$ (50)	\$ 71	\$ 300	\$ (229)
Worship	\$ 852	\$ 706	\$ 146	\$ 8,509	\$ 7,809	\$ 700
Youth	\$ -	\$ 125	\$ (125)	\$ -	\$ 1,125	\$ (1,125)
Stewardship	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 191	\$ 230	\$ (39)
Public Relations	\$ 16	\$ 83	\$ (67)	\$ 210	\$ 747	\$ (537)
Property	\$ 2,991	\$ 1,707	\$ 1,284	\$ 18,905	\$ 19,749	\$ (844)
Finance (incl.Mission Support)	\$ 9,322	\$ 8,043	\$ 1,279	\$ 67,343	\$ 69,987	\$ (2,644)
Total Expenses	\$ 13,180	\$ 10,714	\$ 2,466	\$ 95,240	\$ 100,122	\$ (4,882)
Net Income (Deficit)	\$ (6,045)	\$ (1,714)	\$ (4,331)	\$ (14,369)	\$ (16,122)	\$ 1,753

Comparative 2024 Figures:**@ 9/30/2024**

Unified Income	\$ 86,741
Total Expenses	\$ (105,397)
Net Income (Deficit)	\$ (18,655)

Major Differences 2025 vs. 2024:

Income so far for 2025 is \$5,900 less than last year.
Expenses so far for 2025 are \$10,200 less than last year.

Major year-to-date expense item differences:

- Gas Utility expense \$1,800 more than last year.
- Property Maintenance expense \$3,500 less than last year.
- Wages and benefits net expense \$9,600 less than last year.
- Property & Liability insurance \$3,900 more than last year.

Thrivent Choice Gifts Rec. 2025:

\$1,262

Memorial Gifts Received 2025:

\$16,355

Memorials received for Dick Juedes, Peter Becker, Doreen Viesselmann & Donna Dowe and bequest from Sheila Kapke

Budgeted Mission Support 2025:

\$9,490 (All paid in February 2025)

Added Mission Support 2025:

\$155 (Boy Scout Camp -from tithe of 2024 memorials received)
\$490 (Ozaukee Food Alliance - from proceeds of chili drive-thru)
\$230 (ELCA Good Gifts Community Garden - from offerings)
\$225 (Greater Milwaukee Synod Flood Relief - from offerings)

	<u>@ 9/30/2025</u>	Comparative	<u>@ 9/30/2024</u>
Assets At End Of Month	\$ 172,728		\$ 144,148

Assets Are Needed to Support The Following Funds:

Audio Fund (formerly Cassette)	\$ -	\$ -
Contingency Fund	\$ 26,505	\$ 9,401
Family Promise Fund	\$ 674	\$ 484
Fully Funded	\$ 138	\$ 195
Library Fund	\$ 505	\$ 505
Memorial Fund	\$ 143,902 <(incl. \$6,761 restricted)	\$ 136,166 <(incl. \$6,761 restricted)
Mercy Fund	\$ 1,458	\$ (52)
Music Fund	\$ 114	\$ 114
Organ Repair Fund	\$ -	\$ -
Outreach Fund & Garden Beds	\$ 1,086	\$ 852
Pastoral Education Fund	\$ 2,176	\$ 2,176
Property Fund	\$ 8,013	\$ 10,483
Scholarship Fund	\$ 639	\$ 539
Youth Fund	\$ 1,886	\$ 1,942

Total Fund Requirements	\$ 187,097	\$ 162,804
= Asset Excess (Shortage)	\$ (14,369)	\$ (18,655)
(Excess = budget surplus; Shortage = budget deficit)		



11/3 Mary Ellen Levra
 11/4 Steve Schauer
 11/5 Marian Witte
 11/5 Addison Hausdens
 11/10 Tim McCloskey
 11/10 Robert McClelland
 11/14 Savion Christenson
 11/24 April Hausdens
 11/26 Rebecca Schauer

11/4/1972 Pat & Sandy Granrath
 11/30/1963 Robert & Borgne McClelland

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



*"...I am the
 resurrection and the
 life.
 He who believes in
 Me,
 though he may die,
 he shall live."
 John 11:25*

Joanne E. Levenick
3/31/1932 - 10/22/2025

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister:

November 2 - Robin Fatla
 9 - Dennis Jaeger
 16 - Bob Butt
 23 - Gary Haas
 30 - Robin Fatla

Lector:

November 2 - Carol Butt
 9 - Bob Butt
 16 - Robin Fatla
 23 - Gary Haas
 30 - Dennis Jaeger

Usher:

November 2 - Roger Wendorf
 9 - Joe Porth
 16 - Sue Dowe
 23 - Fritz Dowe
 30 - Jim & Carole Litvinoff

Communion Gifts:

November 2 - **OPEN**
 9 - **OPEN**
 16 - Monica Faretra & Judy McMullin
 23 - **OPEN**
 30 - **OPEN**

Altar bouquets:

November 2 - Jeanine Burhop
 9 - **OPEN**
 16 - **OPEN**
 23 - **OPEN**
 30 - McClelland's & Robin Fatla

Fellowship hour:

November 2 - Jeanine Burhop
 9 - **OPEN**
 16 - **OPEN**
 23 - **OPEN**
 30 - **OPEN**

Counting Team:

November 2 - Peter Viesselmann Team
 9 - Borgne McClelland Team
 16 - Dennis Jaeger Team
 23 - Jim Litvinoff Team
 30 - Peter Viesselmann Team



NOVEMBER

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						1 8:30 am - noon Blood drive at Trinity
2 Daylight Saving Time ends 8:45 am - Choir rehearsal 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour	3	4	5 Pastor Sara in the office: 10:30 - noon 2:00 - 5:00 5:15 pm - Confirmation class at Trinity	6 10:00 am - Prime Horizon Cooking Club	7	8 1:00 pm - Bingo at Immanuel 5:00 pm - Holden Evening service at Trinity
9 8:45 am - Choir rehearsal 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour	10 9:00 am - Quilting	11 	12 Pastor Sara in the office: 10:30 - noon 2:00 - 5:00 10:00 am - Prime Horizon Cooking Club 5:15 pm - Confirmation class at Trinity	13	14	15
16 8:45 am - Choir rehearsal 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour 11:00 am - Church Council	17	18	19 Pastor Sara in the office: 10:30 - noon 2:00 - 5:00 5:15 pm - Confirmation class at Trinity	20 10:00 am - Prime Horizon Cooking Club	21	22
23 8:45 am - Choir rehearsal 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour	24 9:00 am - Quilting	25	26 Pastor Sara in the office: 10:30 - noon 2:00 - 5:00	27 	28	29
30 1st Sunday in Advent 8:45 am - Choir rehearsal 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour						

Sunday School & Youth News

November's **Sunday School class** will be November 23rd at 11:00. We will have Christmas trivia with prizes. Let's kick off the Advent season in a fun way to remind ourselves what Christmas is all about. There will be no class in December, but classes will resume in January. Contact Sue Dowe at sadowe1966@gmail.com with questions.

SAVE THE DATE – 2025 **Children's Christmas Program**

This year's program is titled "**A Christmas Alphabet.**" Lots of speaking parts are available for those interested. More details about rehearsal dates to follow.



Location: Trinity Lutheran Church, N60W6047 Columbia Rd, Cedarburg

Date: December 21st

Time: 11:15

Questions: Lisa Wegner
(lisa@adventchurch.org)

* * * * *

This month the **EPIC Confirmation** class will be hearing about and discussing: David - The flawed and beloved king; Elijah - The get-r-done prophet.

The class which normally meets at Trinity Church, will be meeting at St. John on November 19th to participate in a **labyrinth walk**. A portable labyrinth has been made available for the class and St. John has the largest gathering area for the lay-out.

Miscellaneous



The church council is looking to fill 3 open council positions at the annual meeting in January.

Prayerfully consider serving and offer up your name to Sandy Allen, president.

New Technology Team Forming

With the changeover from cell phone to dedicated audio/visual system, it's time to start building our Technology Team. The plan is that this team can cover the running of the new A/V system to stream our service to Facebook Live, and also the playing of the organ, which is also computer driven. Instructions and training will be provided. Please let Sandy Allen know if you are interested or have any questions. We would like to get a schedule put together in the near future.



The St. John annual **Chili Supper** has been scheduled for February 15, 2026. **There has been some discussion about the possibility of bringing back the dine in supper instead of doing it 100% drive thru.** In order to do this, we need the support

of everyone at St. John to make it happen. What's your opinion? Please reach out to Dale Allen with your comments or suggestions. We have about 4 months of planning time, so we could go back to the dine in format if we have enough people willing to volunteer to help.

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Call Committee has been working very hard to come up with questions for a Pastor to call. We have used the MSP that the MET Team put together along with the congregation's input to come up with several interview questions. The information that you have given us is a great tool to help drive our questions to see if the pastor would be a good fit for our congregation. We are almost done setting up our questions and then we will do a mock Interview with a pastor from the synod. This is to make sure we are on the right track. Once that is complete we will then be able to start doing our actual interviews with candidates selected by the synod that match our MSP inputs. Keep us in your prayers and we will keep moving forward to find our next pastor. Thank you and God Bless.
Dale Allen

COMMUNITY NEWS

**HOLIDAY
HOPE**

GIVE THE
GIFT OF
HOPE THIS
SEASON

DONATE BLOOD

Saturday
November
1

8:30am - 12:00pm



**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
BLOOD DRIVE!**

**LOCATION: CEDARBURG
N60 W6047 COLUMBIA ROAD
CEDARBURG, WI 53012**

21 HEROES NEEDED

**APPOINTMENTS PREFERRED
Call 877.232.4376 or visit [versiti.org/WI](https://www.versiti.org/WI)**

**Helpful tip:
Make sure to eat a
healthy meal and drink
plenty of water before
donating.**

 **versiti™**
Blood Center of Wisconsin

November 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.

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"

