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# THE PULSE BEAT



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*Volume 51, Number 3*

*March 2026*

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## A Word from the Pastor

There are many ways to pray.

I once heard the story of a 60-year-old man who had trouble praying. It seemed that every time he went to pray, instead of words, he heard music instead. This was very frustrating to him and he felt it got in the way of his relationship with God. Then someone said something that changed his life: maybe the music is your way of praying.

Wow!

All of those years, trying to get to God, and actually pushing away the way God was trying to connect with him.

I wonder how many of us are missing ways to pray, because we dismiss the things that come naturally to us and think there is only one way to pray: with our heads bowed, our hands still, and finding the right words.

There are many ways to pray.

Our EPIC Lenten Series theme is “Spiritual Practices,” with each pastor focusing on something that has been meaningful to us and our own prayer life.

On February 25, we had the Spiritual Practice of “Loving Kindness” from Pastor Vicki at Immanuel. As I write this, this hasn’t happened yet, but I am looking forward to learning more about this.

On March 4, we will have the Spiritual Practice of “Silence” with Pastor Erin at Trinity.

On March 11, I will be focusing on the Spiritual Practice of “Sacred Imagination” here at St. John.

On March 18, Pastor John at Faith will focus on “Care of Creation.”

On March 15, Pastor Alexis at Advent will present the Spiritual Practice of “Celebration.”

*(Bishop Erickson will be in attendance during the supper and worship service. The EPIC pastors agreed this would be a good occasion for him to see how well our churches are working together.)*

While I have heard of some of these, others will be completely new to me, and I am excited to learn new ways to pray.

I hope you are, too, and will join us for Wednesday evenings in March.

God’s Blessings on your journey,

*Pastor Sara Gillespie*

## THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we enter the Lenten season, we step into a sacred journey of reflection, repentance, and renewal. Lent invites us to slow down, examine our hearts, and draw closer to God. It is not simply a tradition on the church calendar — it is a spiritual pathway that prepares us for the power and promise of Easter.

Lent reminds us that faith isn't just about the big celebrations — it's also about the quiet, honest moments with God. It's about trusting Him even when things feel uncertain. Lent calls us to humility, but it also calls us to hope — because we know the story does not end at the cross.

As a church family in the middle of a transition, this message should hit home. We've been learning what it means to wait, to pray, and to trust together, seeking God's guidance not only for ourselves individually but for our congregation as a whole.

Easter Sunday will arrive as a joyful declaration: Christ is risen! The resurrection reminds us that even in seasons of uncertainty, God brings new life. It's about trusting Him even when things feel uncertain.

Easter is about hope winning. It's about new beginnings. It's about remembering that God brings life out of hard seasons.

This year, that message should feel especially meaningful. As we celebrate the risen Christ, we should also be reminded that God is leading our church into something new. Just like the disciples didn't fully understand what was coming next, we may not see the whole picture yet — but we trust the One who does.

As we continue the search for a new pastor, we know this is more than just filling a role. We're praying for the person God is already preparing — someone who will love this church, lead us well, and help us grow.

Our call committee has been working faithfully and prayerfully, and we're so grateful for their dedication. This process takes time, but we believe it's worth doing carefully and with lots of prayer.

In the meantime, we all have a part to play. We can pray. We can encourage one another. We can stay involved and connected. And most importantly, we can trust that God isn't surprised by this season. He's already ahead of us. From Lent to Easter, let's be reminded of something important: waiting isn't wasted. God often does His best work in seasons of preparation.

Let's keep walking forward together – with faith, patience and hope.

The resurrection reminds us of this truth: God is not finished with us yet.

*“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”* Romans 8:28

Hugs and prayers 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](mailto:stjohnsecretary@hotmail.com)

Website: [stjohngraffton.org](http://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

Dale Allen – 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

**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](mailto:stjohnsecretary@hotmail.com)

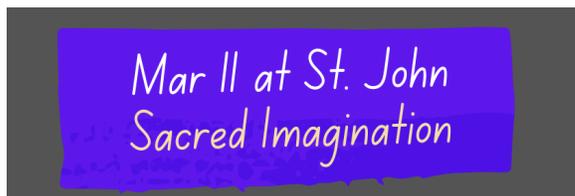
**GENERAL INTEREST NEWS**

**We keep in our prayers:** Christy Abt, Ignacia Arriago, Anna Bullia, Amanda Combs, Henry Frier, Rick Gonzalez, Pat & Sandy Granrath, Merry Lou Green, Dennis Jaeger, Sharon Kaddatz, Anita Lucht, Scott Maronde, Ken Matthews, Chuck & Cary Mueller, Alice Murphy, Erin & Thomas Peterson, Sugeily Pineiro-Garcia, Joe Porth, Karen Rautenberg, Tim Rogahn, Tom & Jackie Rogahn, Bill Sackett, Tom Schauer, Glenn Sievers, Melanie Smith, Kathie Viesselmann, Jeff Watter **Military personnel:** Kyle Christenson **“Home away from home” members:** Jeanine Burhop– Lasata; Tim McClosky – Mequon Assisted Living



**Evie Tetzlaff** will be moving to Florida to live with her daughter Jane, but Jane is in the process of moving, so the new address will be published as soon as it’s known. Phone # is 352 501-0112.

Midweek Lenten potluck supper 6:00 pm  
with worship at 7:00 pm  
Pastor Sara will give her message:



Our members are asked to provide main dishes for the meal along with beverages. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall or call Robin in the office to indicate what you will bring.

**Chili Dinner Preliminary stats:**

198 quarts sold  
Anticipated profit - \$2,200  
25% of the profits will be split between the Ozaukee Food Alliance and Family Promise Portlight Shelter to help them replace items lost in the recent flood of the building. Remainder of the profits will go to the Contingency Fund.



EPIC Midweek  
Lenten Worship  
2026

Spiritual Practices



Feb 25 at Immanuel  
Loving Kindness

Mar 4 at Trinity  
Silence

Mar 18 at Faith  
Care for Creation

Mar 11 at St. John  
Sacred Imagination

Mar 25 at Advent  
Celebration

Potluck Dinner at 6pm each week, followed by  
Holden Evening Prayer Worship at 7pm

## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Last month, I shared with you some stories of how your gifts to World Hunger are used. This month, I want to continue to share how your gifts to ELCA Hunger and World ministries are making a difference in the United States and around the world.

“Through the Fund for Leaders “Your support doesn’t just help students - it helps shape the future of the church. Every gift you give becomes a sermon preached, a baptism celebrated, a meal shared and a hurting heart comforted. Donors like you make it possible for leaders to be formed not just academically but spiritually and emotionally, so we can show up fully for the communities we’re called to serve. Your generosity is part of every moment of grace we witness in ministry.”

—Juan Manuel Arias Perea, 2021 Fund for Leaders Scholar

Your gifts enable the future leaders of our church to answer God’s call to serve and build ministries they are passionate about.

In 2024, about a foot of water flooded into the basement fellowship hall of Canton Lutheran Church in Canton S.D., rendering it unusable.. Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response empowered this small congregation to repair the space and restore it as a busy community hub. One of the members of the church wrote the following response: “We thought we were not ever going to be able to use this fellowship hall again. And now it is renewed, and it’s so beautiful, and we’re hoping now that people will have funeral dinners and wedding receptions here, and we all feel just reenergized now. The donation (from Lutheran Disaster Response) actually brought us to tears when we found out we were going to get it, and you guys got a standing ovation in our church.” —Joann, Canton Lutheran Church member

The above information is taken from the Winter 2026 Boundless published by the ELCA.

*Sharlene Sandquist*



### QUILTING DATES:

**Monday**  
**March 9 & 23**  
**9:00 - noon**

If you know how to tie a knot, the quilters could use your help!  
Come join the ladies in creating beautiful quilts which are shared with neighbors in need of comfort and warmth.

## Youth & Education

### Sunday School

The March Sunday School class topic is “He is Risen!”

We will talk about the meaning of Easter and there will be an egg hunt. Join us for this fun class!

Date: March 22<sup>nd</sup>

Time: 10:30

Contact Sue Dowe ([sadowe1966@gmail.com](mailto:sadowe1966@gmail.com)) with questions.

### Youth and Confirmation News

No classes will be held during Lent. All confirmation youth are asked to participate in the Lenten services at each of the EPIC churches.

Youth will be collecting personal hygiene products during Lent to be donated to Mr. Bob’s Under the Bridge. A collection bin is located at each church with a list of the items. Please help our youth to provide donations to this great organization.

# EPIC YOUTH & CHURCHES

## Lent & Easter

### HYGIENE KITS COLLECTION

# FOR MR. BOB'S UNDER THE BRIDGE

Week 1: Bars of Soap - Feb. 21-27

Week 2: Shampoo & Conditioner - Feb. 28-March 7

Week 3: Toothbrushes & Toothpaste March 8-14

Week 4: Body Lotion & Hand Lotion March 15-21

Week 5: Wash Cloths March 22-28

Holy Week & Easter: Any Above March 29-April 4

\*Items can be shared in collection areas at your home church any week.



# Outreach Team



**Gratitude Baskets** were presented on February 12th to Julie and Anna at Family Sharing, and Kelly from A Place to Be Spirituality Center, Melissa & Nicole from Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Denise from Interfaith Caregivers, Keonna & Aggie from Syrona Recovery, & Jane, building manager.



On Palm Sunday, March 29, we will be collecting dozens of hard boiled eggs and egg dye kits. These items will be donated to the families at PortLight Shelter so the kids can have a little Easter joy through coloring of the eggs. Please remember to **HARD BOIL** the eggs before bringing them. If you have any questions, contact Robin Fatla.

Now is the time to start thinking about garden season!

Our **Community Garden beds** are available to rent for you or anybody you might know that would like to garden, but have no space to do it.

The rent is \$25 for the season.

Spread the word and sign-up for yours before they are all spoken for.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

BINGO				
15	28	37	51	73
6	17	32	45	61
9	15	★	60	70
12	26	44	52	66
7	22	34	48	72

**Immanuel Church**  
Cedarburg  
March 14

Doors open at noon and play begins at 1:00

**Holden Evening Prayer Service**  
Saturday, March 14  
Trinity Church, Cedarburg  
5:00 pm

From Ozaukee Non-Profit Center  
Dear St. John Lutheran church,

We are so grateful for your generous donation of the three large bins of treats. Your kindness and support make a meaningful difference, and we truly appreciate you thinking of us. Thank you for your generosity and community spirit!

with appreciation,

Katie Zynde  
Melissa Parker  
Nicole Rebow  
Patty Di Sing-Habitat for Humanity

Denise Eggert  
Jane  
Kelly APTB

Keonna M. Sand D. Aggie C. Corinne B.



- 3/5 Cindy Porth
- 3/5 Nicholas Christensen
- 3/7 Kristin Schauer
- 3/10 Renee Schauer
- 3/10 Latasha Reindl
- 3/11 Roger Wendorf
- 3/13 Tom Rogahn
- 3/13 Taylor Christensen 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

No anniversaries this month.

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

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

**Assisting Minister:**

- March 1 - Gary Haas
- 8 - Dennis Jaeger
- 15 - Bob Butt
- 22 - Robin Fatla
- 29 - Palm Sunday - Gary Haas

**Lector:**

- March 1 - Sandy Allen
- 8 - Bob Butt
- 15 - Carol Butt
- 22 - Sue Dowe
- 29 - Palm Sunday - Robin Fatla

**Usher:**

- March 1 - Bob Elchmann
- 8 - Roger Wendorf
- 15 - Joe Porth
- 22 - Sue Dowe
- 29 - Palm Sunday - Fritz Dowe

**Altar bouquets:**

- March 1 - Jeanine Burhop
- 8 - **OPEN**
- 15 - **OPEN**
- 22 - **OPEN**
- 29 - **OPEN**

**Communion Gifts:**

- March 1 - **OPEN**
- 8 - **OPEN**
- 15 - Judy McMullin & Monica Faretra
- 22 - **OPEN**
- 29 - Palm Sunday - **OPEN**

**Fellowship hour:**

- March 1 - Tetzlaff Family
- 8 - Sam & Jean Verber
- 15 - **OPEN**
- 22 - **OPEN**
- 29 - Palm Sunday - **OPEN**

**Counting Team:**

- March 1 - Borgne McClelland Team
- 8 - Dennis Jaeger Team
- 15 - Jim Litvinoff Team
- 22 - Peter Viesselmann Team
- 29 - Palm Sunday - Borgne McClelland Team



# March

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<p><i>1</i> 8:45 am - Choir rehearsal</p> <p>9:30 am - Holy Communion</p> <p>10:30 am - Fellowship hour</p>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<p><i>4</i> Pastor Sara in the office: 10:30 - noon 2:00 - 5:00</p> <p>6:00 pm - potluck dinner at Trinity 7:00 pm - worship at Trinity</p>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>
<p><i>8</i> 8:45 am - Choir rehearsal</p> <p>9:30 am - Holy Communion</p> <p>10:30 am - Fellowship hour</p>	<p><i>9</i> 9:00 am - Quilting</p>	<i>10</i>	<p><i>11</i> Pastor Sara in the office: 10:30 - noon 2:00 - 5:00</p> <p>6:00 pm - Potluck dinner at St. John 7:00 pm - worship at St. John</p>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<p><i>14</i> 12:00 pm - Bingo at Immanuel</p> <p>5:00 pm - Holden Evening service at Trinity</p>
<p><i>15</i> 8:45 am - Choir rehearsal</p> <p>9:30 am - Holy Communion</p> <p>10:30 am - Fellowship hour</p> <p>11:00 am - Church Council</p>	<i>16</i>	<p><i>17</i></p> 	<p><i>18</i> Pastor Sara in the office: 10:30 - noon 2:00 - 5:00</p> <p>6:00 pm - Potluck dinner at Faith 7:00 pm - worship at Faith</p>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>
<p><i>22</i> 8:45 am - Choir rehearsal</p> <p>9:30 am - Holy Communion</p> <p>10:30 am - Fellowship hour</p>	<p><i>23</i> 9:00 am - Quilting</p>	<i>24</i>	<p><i>25</i> Pastor Sara in the office: 10:30 - noon 2:00 - 5:00</p> <p>6:00 pm - Potluck dinner at Advent 7:00 pm - worship at Advent</p>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>
<p><b><i>29 Palm Sunday</i></b> 8:45 am - Choir rehearsal</p> <p>9:30 am - Holy Communion</p> <p>10:30 am - Fellowship hour</p>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>				

St John Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Financial Summary For January 2026

	January 2026			Year To Date 2026		
	Actual	Budget	Actual Over (under) Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual Over (under) Budget
Unified Income	\$ 6,991	\$ 11,000	\$ (4,009)	\$ 6,991	\$ 11,000	\$ (4,009)
<b>Expense Summary:</b>						
Education	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Outreach	\$ -	\$ 25	\$ (25)	\$ -	\$ 25	\$ (25)
Worship	\$ 442	\$ 718	\$ (276)	\$ 442	\$ 718	\$ (276)
Youth	\$ -	\$ 130	\$ (130)	\$ -	\$ 130	\$ (130)
Stewardship	\$ 192	\$ 200	\$ (8)	\$ 192	\$ 200	\$ (8)
Public Relations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Property	\$ 2,571	\$ 3,184	\$ (613)	\$ 2,571	\$ 3,184	\$ (613)
Finance (incl.Mission Support)	\$ 6,575	\$ 6,533	\$ 42	\$ 6,575	\$ 6,533	\$ 42
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 9,780</b>	<b>\$ 10,791</b>	<b>\$ (1,011)</b>	<b>\$ 9,780</b>	<b>\$ 10,791</b>	<b>\$ (1,011)</b>
Net Income (Deficit)	\$ (2,789)	\$ 209	\$ (2,998)	\$ (2,789)	\$ 209	\$ (2,998)

Comparative 2025 Figures:	@ 1/31/2025
Unified Income	\$ 7,170
Total Expenses	\$ (5,170)
Net Income (Deficit)	\$ 2,000

**Major Differences 2026 vs. 2025:** Income for the year 2026 is \$200 less than last year.  
Expenses for the year 2026 are \$4,600 more than last year.  
Major year-to-date expense item differences:  
-- Gas Utility expense \$400 more than last year.  
-- Property Maintenance expense \$470 more than last year.  
-- Wages and benefits net expense \$3,900 more than last year.

**Thrivent Choice Gifts Rec. 2026:** \$336  
**Memorial Gifts Received 2026:** \$20 Memorials received for: Richard Viesselmann  
**Budgeted Mission Support 2026:** \$9,130 (To be paid February 2026)  
**Added Mission Support 2026:** \$500 (Family Promise Special Appeal - from donations)

	@ 1/31/2026	Comparative @ 1/31/2025
Assets At End Of Month	\$ 190,569	\$ 168,675
<b>Assets Are Needed to Support The Following Funds:</b>		
Audio Fund (formerly Cassette)	\$ -	\$ -
Contingency Fund	\$ 33,380	\$ 18,534
Family Promise Fund	\$ 267	\$ 484
Fully Funded	\$ 488	\$ 207
Library Fund	\$ 505	\$ 505
Memorial Fund	\$ 146,487 <( incl. \$6,761 restricted)	\$ 134,336 <( incl. \$6,761 restricted)
Mercy Fund	\$ 1,458	\$ (42)
Music Fund	\$ 114	\$ 114
Organ Repair Fund	\$ -	\$ -
Outreach Fund & Garden Beds	\$ 1,154	\$ 941
Pastoral Education Fund	\$ 2,176	\$ 2,176
Property Fund	\$ 4,782	\$ 6,983
Scholarship Fund	\$ 639	\$ 539
Youth Fund	\$ 1,907	\$ 1,898
<b>Total Fund Requirements</b>	<b>\$ 193,358</b>	<b>\$ 166,675</b>
<b>= Asset Excess (Shortage)</b>	<b>\$ (2,789)</b>	<b>\$ 2,000</b>
(Excess = budget surplus; Shortage = budget deficit)		

## March 2026 Pulse Beat



1193 Lakefield Road  
Grafton, WI 53024

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

### Worship Schedule

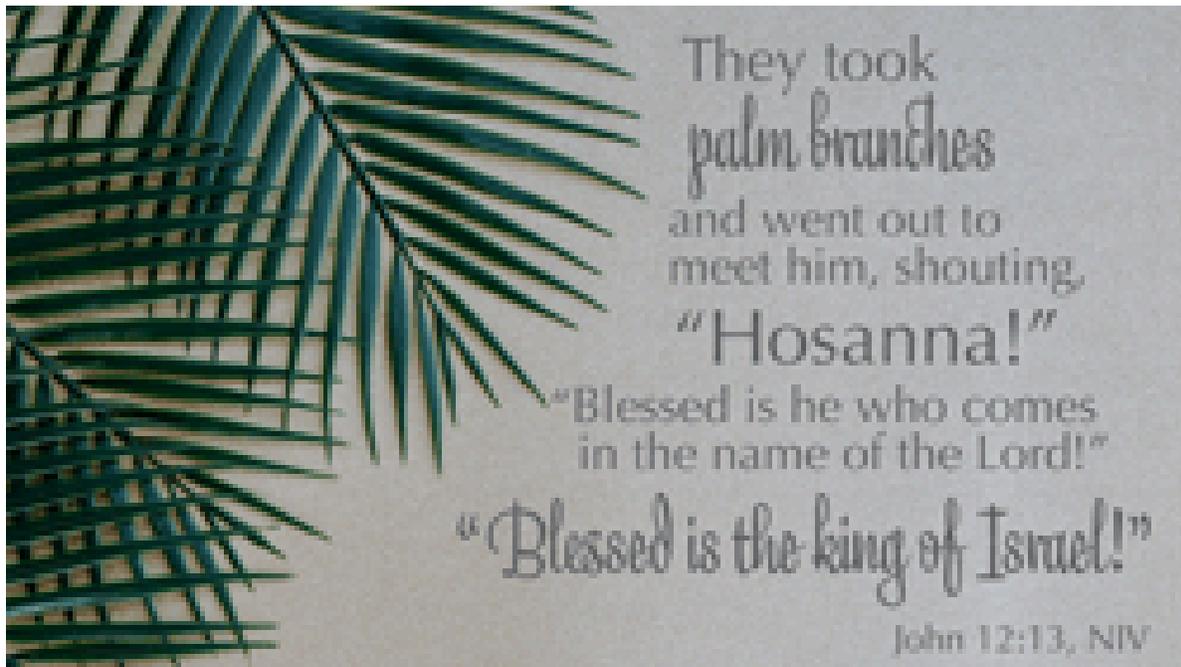
- Sunday Morning - 9:30 a.m.

**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"*



**Palm Sunday/ Procession with Palms  
March 29 - 9:30 am worship**