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# THE PULSE BEAT



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*Volume 51, Number 4*

*April 2026*

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## A Word from the Pastor

When I lived in a parsonage in a place I spent five years, I got to know my surroundings well. I was particularly fond of a large tree that bent gently down in front of the window I looked out of every day when I sat down to my computer.

I have always loved catching nature changing from winter into spring, and would take great delight in noting the very day the branch on that tree went from plain brown to having the first note of green.

One year I looked out that window to that tree, and imagine my shock and dismay when I discovered that spring was two weeks along, and I hadn't even noticed.

I knew there was only one way that could have happened: I'd gotten too busy with everything that goes on at that time of year, to notice and delight in that special rite of spring that God always gives freely and generously.

How many other blessings, both great and small, is God giving to us daily that we just miss?

How many people enter my life, and I don't realize or understand the ways they can be a blessing to me, or I to them?

How many experiences are open to me, and I pass them by without a thought, because I am busy, or I have made up my mind that it is not something that interests me, or I have already decided my schedule must look a certain way?

In advice I usually reserve for middle-school students, reach out to new people who join your world (whether it is school, work, a volunteer setting, or someone who moves in down the hall from you). Be a blessing in their world. For those of you entering a new situation, be ready for new things to be a blessing. For those of you who have lived in the same place for decades, don't miss what is right in front of you just because you see it or drive past it so many times.

God is giving us blessings right now. In many ways, through many people, in places we may not have thought to look before.

God has the graciousness and generosity to give us blessings every day. Let's be open to what that might be, and ask God to help us see and receive these blessings.

God's Blessings to you today,  
*Pastor Sara Gillespie*

## THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we move through the Easter season, things start to feel a little different – in a good way. After the quieter, more reflective time of Lent, Easter brings a sense of lightness, hope, and fresh energy. And it's not just one Sunday – it's a whole season of hope, renewal and new beginnings that reminds us new life is always possible, even when we're not quite sure what's coming next.

That feels especially true for us right now. As a congregation, we're in the middle of our own kind of "in-between" time as we continue the process of calling a new pastor. In some ways, it's not so different from what the disciples experienced after Easter – figuring things out as they went, asking questions, and learning to trust that God was still leading them forward. There's a parallel here that's hard to ignore – both journeys involve trust, patience and a willingness to be led by the Holy Spirit into something new.

The good news is, we're not doing this alone. The Easter stories remind us that Jesus showed up for people right where they were – bringing peace, encouragement, and direction. That same presence is with us now as we wait, discern, and take next steps together.

Part of this journey has also led us to start thinking about something new: the possibility of sharing a pastor with another congregation. That might feel a little unfamiliar, and it's okay if it raises some questions. As a congregation, we have started to approach some of those. At the same time, it could be a really meaningful opportunity – an invitation to collaboration, creativity and a broader sense of community. Sharing a pastor can create new partnerships and strengthen the EPIC partnerships already in place. It can open the door to fresh ideas, and help us connect more deeply with the wider church. It can challenge us to think outside our own walls and consider how St. John can faithfully partner with others in living out our mission. Who knows – maybe it's still God's will and He will send us a person just for us. But in the meantime, we will look to all the opportunities available to find the fit that's right for St. John.

Of course, it's something we want to approach thoughtfully. It means having honest conversations about what matters most to us, how we stay rooted in who we are, and how we support each other through change. But if Easter teaches us anything, it's that new life doesn't always look the way we expect – and that can be a really good thing.

One of the best parts of this season is that we're in it together. The waiting, the conversations, the wondering about what's next – it's all shared. And in the middle of that, we're growing stronger as a community. So as we continue through Easter, we hold onto a few simple truths: there's hope, even when things feel uncertain; God is still at work, even in the waiting; and new beginnings are often closer than we think.

We may not have all the answers yet, but we trust that something good is unfolding – and we're part of it.

*"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" — Isaiah 43:19*

Easter 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](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

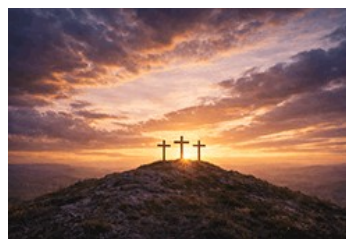
**E-Mail:** (office) [stjohnsecretary@hotmail.com](mailto:stjohnsecretary@hotmail.com)

### 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, Sugeily Pineiro-Garcia, Joe Porth, Karen Rautenberg, Tom & Jackie Rogahn, Bill Sackett, Tom Schauer, Glenn Sievers, Melanie Smith, Jeff Watter **Military personnel:** Kyle Christenson **“Home away from home”** **members:** Jeanine Burhop– Lasata; Tim McClosky – Mequon group home



Maundy Thursday  
April 2  
Holy Communion  
service  
11:00 am



Good Friday  
April 3  
Service of Shadows &  
Stones  
11:00 am



Easter Sunday - The  
Day of Resurrection  
Breakfast - 8:00 am  
Holy Communion  
service  
9:30 am

Easter lilies are being donated and will be available  
- FREE to a good home - following the Easter  
service.



## QUILTING DATES:

**Monday**  
**April 13 & 27**  
**9:00 - noon**

### St. John Quilters need your help!

The quilters of St. John need your help to keep our mission going. For those that enjoy shopping at rummage sales or thrift shops, the quilters can use queen or king size sheets for our quilt backs. We can use cotton or flannel, flat or fitted, solid or printed – basically any sheet other than the soft knit type of fabric. If we don't have sheets for the quilt backs, we then need to purchase 4 yards of fabric for each quilt.

The quilting group is totally funded by donations or grants. We recently received a donation from the St. John Memorial fund to purchase supplies – so our immediate need is covered. But to keep our quilters busy we ask that you consider one of these ways to donate to our cause.

To honor an individual that has passed away, memorials can be given to the Women of St. John Church with the designation of "Quilting" and those funds will be used to purchase fabric or batting for quilts. You can also "purchase" a quilt to donate to one of the local organization our quilters support. For \$35.00 you can fund the cost of a single quilt that will be donated to one of the local organizations we donate quilts to – Family Promise; Advocates of Ozaukee County or Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge. Again, this monetary donation should be made to the Women of St. John Church – Quilters.

For those of you that are crafters and have any extra fabric, we can always use fabric that is cut into squares to create those beautifully quilt tops. If you have any questions as to what fabric we can use, please contact Monica Faretra – we can use just about anything.

The St. John Quilters make approximately 100 quilts per year. We meet twice a month from September through May, on the second and fourth Mondays from 9-noon. If you can tie a knot you are qualified to quilt.

Thanks for your support. St. John Quilters

## ATTENTION ALL THRIVENT MEMBERS

The Thrivent Choice® program is a powerful way to support organizations like ours. Through this program, Thrivent clients with membership can direct how Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable grant funding. To see if you have Choice Dollars® available, log in to your Thrivent account, click "Direct Choice Dollars," and select St John Lutheran Church. Your support helps us grow, reach more people and advance our mission.

Don't forget to direct your 2025 Choice Dollars by the March 31st expiration date.

Make your personal donation go further. You can make a personal donation to our organization through Thrivent's online giving platform. Here's the best part: Thrivent covers all processing fees, so every dollar you give goes directly to support St John It's quick and easy: just visit [thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://thrivent.com/thriventchoice), click "Donate" and choose St John Lutheran Church. Your generosity makes a real difference!

## OUTREACH TEAM



*"Be a piece of the peace puzzle."*

- ◆ The Community Garden is open for plot reservations. \$25 for the season. Reserve one for yourself or spread the word to neighbors and friends who need a place to grow their own vegetables and plants.
- ◆ In an effort to familiarize us with our community mission partners, we have invited a representative from Ozaukee Family Services to share their mission with us on Sunday, April 19th. After a brief Temple Talk, the rep. will be available during fellowship hour for questions and discussion.
- ◆ We will again be welcoming travelers in RVs to use our parking lot as a rest stop beginning May 1st. We do this through the Harvest Host program.

**St John Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Financial Summary For February 2026**

	February 2026			Year To Date 2026		
	Actual	Budget	Actual Over (under) Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual Over (under) Budget
Unified Income	\$ 10,050	\$ 11,000	\$ (950)	\$ 17,041	\$ 22,000	\$ (4,959)
<b>Expense Summary:</b>						
Education	\$ 195	\$ -	\$ 195	\$ 195	\$ -	\$ 195
Outreach	\$ -	\$ 25	\$ (25)	\$ -	\$ 50	\$ (50)
Worship	\$ 518	\$ 718	\$ (201)	\$ 960	\$ 1,437	\$ (477)
Youth	\$ -	\$ 130	\$ (130)	\$ -	\$ 260	\$ (260)
Stewardship	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 192	\$ 200	\$ (8)
Public Relations	\$ 31	\$ -	\$ 31	\$ 31	\$ -	\$ 31
Property	\$ 2,539	\$ 2,864	\$ (325)	\$ 5,110	\$ 6,048	\$ (939)
Finance (incl.Mission Support)	\$ 16,117	\$ 15,463	\$ 654	\$ 22,692	\$ 21,997	\$ 696
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 19,400</b>	<b>\$ 19,201</b>	<b>\$ 199</b>	<b>\$ 29,180</b>	<b>\$ 29,992</b>	<b>\$ (812)</b>
<b>Net Income (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ (9,350)</b>	<b>\$ (8,201)</b>	<b>\$ (1,149)</b>	<b>\$ (12,139)</b>	<b>\$ (7,992)</b>	<b>\$ (4,147)</b>

<u>Comparative 2025 Figures:</u>	<u>@ 2/28/2025</u>
Unified Income	\$ 14,080
Total Expenses	\$ (21,310)
Net Income (Deficit)	\$ (7,230)

**Major Differences 2026 vs. 2025:** Income for the year 2026 is \$3,000 more than last year.  
Expenses for the year 2026 are \$7,900 more than last year.

Major year-to-date expense item differences:

- Gas Utility expense \$700 more than last year.
- Organ maintenance expense \$1,500 less than last year.
- Wages and benefits net expense \$8,300 more than last year.

**Thrivent Choice Gifts Rec. 2026:** \$382

**Memorial Gifts Received 2026:** \$55 Memorials received for: Richard Viesselmann & Rosemary Schmit

**Budgeted Mission Support 2026:** \$9,130 (All paid February 2026)

**Added Mission Support 2026:** \$4,250 (Family Promise Special Appeal (\$500) + Tithe of 2025 Memorials (\$1,710) + Memorials directed to mission per families (\$2,040)

	<u>@ 2/28/2026</u>	Comparative <u>@ 2/28/2025</u>
Assets At End Of Month	\$ 176,465	\$ 161,035
<b>Assets Are Needed to Support The Following Funds:</b>		
Audio Fund (formerly Cassette)	\$ -	\$ -
Contingency Fund	\$ 35,405	\$ 20,081
Family Promise Fund	\$ 267	\$ 484
Fully Funded	\$ 260	\$ 258
Library Fund	\$ 505	\$ 505
Memorial Fund	\$ 139,932 <( incl. \$5,956 restricted)	\$ 134,456 <( 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	\$ 1,910	\$ 1,771
<b>Total Fund Requirements</b>	<b>\$ 188,604</b>	<b>\$ 168,266</b>
<b>= Asset Excess (Shortage)</b>	<b>\$ (12,139)</b>	<b>\$ (7,230)</b>
<b>(Excess = budget surplus; Shortage = budget deficit)</b>		

## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

This month, I would like to revisit our **stewardship of time**. Providence Place provides us with a devotional book called Hope-Ful Living and I would like to share with you a portion of the reading for March 13.

*“I was given a gift today. Precious, though I didn’t initially recognize that. It is the first time I have received this particular gift: the gift of today.*

*My heavenly Father gave me this gift for a specific purpose. Perhaps it is so that I can write this devotion, or maybe its purpose is for me to encourage a loved one. Or a stranger. Could I possibly use it to share Jesus?*

*Today is a day like any other day, and yet it holds unique opportunities. It is up to me to cherish it and use it in His service.”*

-Jill Rodenbeck

For some reason, this paragraph struck a chord with me and made me sit and think about it. When one is young, we tend to think that life will go on forever, and don’t think much about the end of life, but when one gets to be my age, it becomes a reality, that every day may be your last, and how is this day, this gift, being spent? Hopefully on things that are meaningful to you and helpful to others, as well as the necessary household activities such as cleaning, cooking etc.

I know that God doesn’t expect perfection or endless busyness from us! On the contrary, wise stewardship of our time includes finding time for rest, renewal and joy.

God blesses each of us with the same amount of time to spend each day: 24 hours!

How might God be calling us, both as individuals and as a congregation, to use our time in service to God and our neighbors?

*Sharlene Sandquist*

## EDUCATION

Sunday School – April 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:45  
“Seeds of Faith” – we will be planting seeds for everyone to take home and talking about how we can all grow our faith.

### Confirmation

Classes resume in April and are held at Trinity in Cedarburg on Wednesday evening. Dinner begins at 5:15 and class follows until 7:15. Lisa Wegner ([lisa@adventchurch.org](mailto:lisa@adventchurch.org)) can be contacted with any questions.

There will be a class lock-in from Saturday, April 18 from 8 pm to Sunday the 19th at 8 am at St. John.

### VBS Save the Date

Planning for VBS has begun. This year’s theme is “Who is my Neighbor?”

Dates: August 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>

Time: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Location: Faith Lutheran Church

Watch for more information in the coming months!

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### **Donate Blood and Be a Hero!**

The community is welcome and encouraged to give blood at a blood drive hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church in Cedarburg (N60 W6047 Columbia Road) on Saturday, April 25 from 8:30am-12pm.

By donating just one pint of blood, you have the potential to save up to three lives. To sign up for your lifesaving appointment, call 1-877-BE-A-HERO, contact Jill Klitz (262-377-6074, [djklitz@milwpc.com](mailto:djklitz@milwpc.com)) or reserve a spot online at [versiti.org](http://versiti.org) (click on “Donate Blood” and then search by zip code). Thank you!



- 4/1 *Nerissa Heusdens*  
 4/12 *Kassidy Fatla*  
 4/15 *Jeanne Immekus*  
 4/19 *Owen DeFendi*  
 4/23 *Laura Christenson*  
 4/25 *Sue Haas*  
 4/28 *Jane Turowski*  
 4/28 *James Kapke*  
 4/28 *Dennis Heusdens*  
 4/30 *Lucas Fatla*  
 4/30 *Robin Fatla*
- 4/11/1970 *Sam & Jean Verber*  
 4/27/2013 *Dennis & Nerissa Heusdens*  
 4/30/2011 *Adam & Heather Fiedler*

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

**HOPE**  
LIVES  
BECAUSE  
**JESUS**  
LIVES.

*In Loving Memory:*

*Marian E. Witte*  
*November 5, 1928 -*  
*March 17, 2026*

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### Assisting Minister:

- April 2 - Maundy Thursday - Dennis Jaeger  
 3 - Good Friday - Bob Butt  
 5 - Easter - Robin Fatla  
 12 - Gary Haas  
 19 - Bob Butt  
 26 - Dennis Jaeger

### Lector:

- April 2 - Maundy Thursday - Robin Fatla  
 3 - Good Friday - Borgne McClelland  
 5 - Easter - Robert McClelland  
 12 - Gary Haas  
 19 - Judy McMullin  
 26 - Florence Van Cleave

### Usher:

- April 2 - Maundy Thursday - Bob Butt  
 3 - Good Friday - Tom Rogahn  
 5 - Easter - Peter Viesselmann  
 12 - Dennis Jaeger  
 19 - Bob Eichmann  
 26 - Roger Wendorf

### Altar bouquets:

- April 5 - Easter lilies  
 12 - OPEN  
 19 - OPEN  
 26 - Robin Fatla

### Communion Gifts:

- April 2 - Maundy Thursday - OPEN  
 5 - Easter - OPEN  
 12 - OPEN  
 19 - OPEN  
 26 - OPEN

### Fellowship hour:

- April 5 - Easter Breakfast  
 12 - OPEN  
 19 - Sam & Jean Verber  
 26 - Lucas & Robin Fatla

### Counting Team:

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



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1 Pastor Sara in the office: 10:30 - noon 2:00 - 5:00	2 11:00 am - Maundy Thursday worship service	3 11:00 am - Good Friday worship service  12:00 pm - decorate the chancel for the Day of Resurrection	4
5 <b>Easter</b>  8:00 am - Breakfast  8:45 am - Choir rehearsal  9:30 am - Holy Communion	6	7	8  Pastor Sara in the office: 10:30 - noon 2:00 - 5:00  5:15 pm - Confirmation class at Trinity	9	10	11  12:00 pm - Bingo at Immanuel  5:00 pm - Holden Evening service at Trinity
12 8:45 am - Choir rehearsal  9:30 am - Holy Communion  10:30 am - Fellowship hour	13 9:00 am - Quilting	14	15  Pastor Sara in the office: 10:30 - noon 2:00 - 5:00  5:15 pm - Confirmation class at Trinity	16	17	18  8:00 pm - Confirmation class lock-in at St. John
19 8:45 am - Choir rehearsal  9:30 am - Holy Communion  10:30 am - Fellowship hour  11:00 am - Church Council	20	21	22 <b>Earth Day</b>  Pastor Sara in the office: 10:30 - noon 2:00 - 5:00  5:15 pm - Confirmation class at Trinity	23	24	25 8:30 am - noon Blood drive at Trinity Church
26 8:45 am - Choir rehearsal  9:30 am - Holy Communion  10:30 am - Fellowship hour	27 9:00 am - Quilting	28	29  Pastor Sara in the office: 10:30 - noon 2:00 - 5:00  5:15 pm - Confirmation class at Trinity	30		

# April 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.
- 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"*

