



THE PULSE BEAT



Volume 51, Number 5

May 2026

A Word from the Pastor

"What do you like about being an interim pastor?" Folks ask me this sometimes.

And one of the reasons is: I love to meet new people. I want to hear everyone's story, because everyone has one.

Everyone has a story. Whatever your life might look like, whatever has gone before has shaped you into who you are today.

In most of the places I have been, I have found people who are very different from me. People born in a different century, or a different country, or who grew up speaking a different language. I've met people who were born and raised on farms in remote parts of North Dakota, and people who were born into teeming immigrant communities of Chicago.

How do I connect with people so different from me?

There are points of connection between us that may not be apparent at first. In hearing the stories, I find connection. Sometimes it is simply compassion for men who were put to work, either on the farm or in the city, at the age of six or seven because their family desperately needed what little income that work provided. Sometimes it is reaching back a couple of generations in my own family and remembering my grandmother crossed the border into the United States as a child, riding in a covered wagon in the depth of winter, so no one would notice they were coming in from Canada.

How do we connect with people who are so different from us? Born into a different place, with different opportunities, born a different color, raised with a familial need for income and not a focus on education and advancement for the child.

We have an event coming in Grafton that will bring an opportunity for connection to everyone: Grace Lutheran in Grafton is hosting: "Building Beloved Community: Learning to Love in a polarized world." This is happening on May 16, from 9-4:30 p.m.

Details on cost (around \$30) and registration will be publicized in the bulletin, bulletin board and during announcements. Pastor Alexis at Advent in Cedarburg is the point person for this, you can also feel free to contact me with any questions.

God's Blessings as we journey together,
Pastor Sara Gillespie

THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

When you hear the word “miracle,” what comes to mind? Probably the big stuff—like Moses parting the sea or Jesus feeding thousands of people with just a few loaves of bread. Those are awesome stories, but they can also feel kind of... distant. Like that was “back then,” not something that really happens now.

I believe I witnessed a miracle just this week. Something that could have had a very different outcome. The son of one of my daughter, Laura’s, friends, is a high school track athlete and throws the discus. If you’ve never held a discus, it’s about 8.5 inches in diameter and weighs 3.5-4 lbs. After he was done with his throw, he went to retrieve his discus from the field and another discus which was thrown from the flight next to him went off course and hit him...in the head.

When we first heard about the accident all we knew was that he was initially treated at a local hospital and then taken to Children’s Hospital in Milwaukee. Of course, your first thought is, will he survive? If he does, will there be brain damage? Thoughts of possible outcomes was scary.

But here comes that miracle. He got hit in the face, doing massive damage to his right orbital socket and his nasal cavity, there was bleeding on his brain, he had a cut that went to the bone and took 50 stitches to repair, and unfortunately, it looks like he will lose sight in his right eye. While this is horrible, there is no brain damage, his attitude is one of strength and positivity, and his parents are probably having a harder time with his injury than he is. I do believe this is a miracle.

I don’t think everyday miracles need to be spectacular or headline grabbing, and they sometimes just show up in ways that look a little different.

In John 2, Jesus’ first miracle was turning water into wine at a wedding. Not exactly a huge crisis, right? But it mattered to the people there. It saved them from embarrassment and kept the celebration going. That shows us something important: God cares about the details of our lives, not just the big emergencies.

So what does that look like for us?

Maybe a “personal miracle” isn’t always something dramatic. Sometimes it’s more like:

- Getting through a tough week when you didn’t think you could
- Finding peace when your mind is all over the place
- A friendship getting repaired
- Someone showing up for you at just the right time
- Or even just feeling like you’re not alone anymore

Those moments might not seem huge, but they matter—and they can point to God working in your life.

Jesus says in Matthew 17:20 that even faith as small as a mustard seed can move mountains. That’s kind of wild. But maybe the “mountains” we face aren’t literal—they’re things like anxiety, pressure, fear, or feeling like you’re not good enough. And when those things start to shift, even a little—that’s a big deal.

Paul talks about this too in 2 Corinthians 12:9, where God says, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” In other words, sometimes the miracle isn’t that everything suddenly gets fixed—it’s that you have the strength to keep going anyway.

So maybe miracles today don’t always look like something out of a movie. Maybe they look like quiet moments of strength, peace, timing, or hope.

Here’s a question to think about: **What’s something in your life that might actually be a miracle—but you just haven’t thought of it that way yet?** Because once you start paying attention, you might realize God’s been showing up more than you thought.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us Ephesians 3:20

Hugs and 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

Dale Allen – Property & Grounds

Bob Butt - Public Relations

Jane Turowski - Financial Secretary

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

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

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, Jeanne Immekus, Dennis Jaeger, Sharon Kaddatz, Anita Lucht, Scott Maronde, Ken Matthews, Borgne McClelland, Chuck & Cary Mueller, Alice Murphy, Sugeily Pineiro-Garcia, Joe Porth, Karen Rautenberg, Tim Rogahn, 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 Assisted Living



“...I am the resurrection and the life.

He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.”

John 11:25

Barbara Ann Eichmann
December 20, 1943 - April 6, 2026

Member on the Move:

Jeanne Immekus now resides at -
Charter Senior Living at Hasmer Lake
N168 W22022 Main St. Room 109
Jackson, WI 53037
262 375-3775



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

On March 26, Robin Fatla and I attended an “**Immigration Rights**” workshop at Faith Lutheran Church, Cedarburg. The woman who led the workshop was a representative of VOCES DE LA FRONTERA located at 733 W. Historic Mitchell St., Milwaukee, WI 53204.

While ICE, to my knowledge has not been active in Grafton, we felt that it was important to know what to do, in the event that they come to St. John.

In discussing **what immigrants should and should not do:**

- ◆ persons should know their immigration status
- ◆ prepare a safety plan
- ◆ know what important documents should be put in a folder marked “Privileged and Confidential” that is kept in a secure place
- ◆ an additional copy be left with a trusted family member or friend
- ◆ how to prepare your children and what preparations to make for them
- ◆ what documents should and should not be carried with you as an immigrant.

She then went on to discuss what **preparations should be made by a church** before an ICE event happens. Places of worship are **not required to enforce immigration laws** and ICE agents may only enter the public spaces of a church without a warrant, but not the private areas unless they present a hard copy of a warrant signed by a federal judge. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that places of worship identify and distinguish (with legal advice) their private spaces from their public ones, if any. This can be done by placing signs identifying private areas.

(A deportation order or arrest order is not the same as a judicial warrant and does not permit an agent to enter.) If a judicial warrant is presented, the staff should consult with legal council before taking any action. You are not required to answer any questions and should seek advice from a lawyer before answering any questions from law enforcement authorities. You are not required to tell them anything about anyone’s immigration status.

Among the materials I brought home were signs that say “ICE/FEDERAL AGENT DO NOT HAVE CONSENT TO ENTER THESE PREMISES WITHOUT A VALID JUDICIAL WARRANT, which may be posted on our doors if the council and congregation so choose.

She then went on to discuss what you as a bystander can do if you see ICE detaining someone. These include:

- ◆ carrying a whistle and blowing it,
- ◆ calling the HOT LINE number 1-800-427-0213,
- ◆ share legal rights with the targeted person,
- ◆ observe and record the actions of the federal agents,
- ◆ offer solidarity as a moral witness,
- ◆ make noise - share with people, contact allies, and you have a right to be doing this.

If you would like more information or have questions, please contact VOCES DE LA FRONTERA at 414-643-1620.

I have shared this information with you because we certainly don’t want a situation like Minneapolis experienced. ICE has been active in Milwaukee and may very well decide to move into the small towns surrounding it. We should think about how we would like to respond, if this happens.

Sharlene Sandquist



5/3 *Heather Fiedler*
 5/8 *Evie Matthews*
 5/14 *Nathan Levra*
 5/16 *Jackie Rogahn*
 5/23 *Joe Christensen*
 5/28 *Emma Levra*

5/7/2016 *Mike & Maren Foti*
 5/28/1988 *Fritz & Sue Dowe*
 5/28/1999 *Steve & Dinah Tetzlaff*

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



QUILTING DATES:

Monday
May 11 & 25
9:00 - noon



Happy Mother's Day to all mothers and mothering figures.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister:

May 3 - Robin Fatla
 10 - Gary Haas
 17 - Bob Butt
 24 - Robin Fatla
 31 - Dennis Jaeger

Lector:

May 3 - Sandy Allen
 10 - Bob Butt
 17 - Carol Butt
 24 - Sue Dowe
 31 - Robin Fatla

Usher:

May 3 - Joe Porth
 10 - Sue Dowe
 17 - Fritz Dowe
 24 - Jim & Carol Litvinoff
 31 - Tom Rogahn

Altar bouquets:

May 3 - Bob & Carol Butt
 10 - OPEN
 17 - OPEN
 24 - OPEN
 31 - OPEN

Communion Gifts:

May 3 - OPEN
 10 - OPEN
 17 - OPEN
 24 - OPEN
 31 - OPEN

Fellowship hour:

May 3 - OPEN
 10 - OPEN
 17 - OPEN
 24 - OPEN
 31 - OPEN

Counting Team:

May 3 - Dennis Jaeger Team
 10 - Jim Litvinoff Team
 17 - Peter Viesselmann Team
 24 - Borgne McClelland Team
 31 - Dennis Jaeger Team



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
3 8:45 am - Choir rehearsal 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour 10:45 am - Sunday School	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	6 Pastor Sara in the office: 10:30 - noon 2:00 - 5:00 5:15 pm - Last Confirmation class at Trinity	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	9 12:00 pm - Bingo at Immanuel 5:00 pm - Holden Evening service at Trinity
10 Mother's Day 8:45 am - Choir rehearsal 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour	<i>11</i> 9:00 am - Quilting	<i>12</i>	13 Pastor Sara in the office: 10:30 - noon 2:00 - 5:00 11:00 am - Worship Committee	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	16 9:00 am - "Building Beloved Community" - Grace Church, Grafton
17 8:45 am - Choir rehearsal 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour 11:00 AM - Church Council	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i> 5:30 pm - Dinner with Family Promise guests	20 Pastor Sara in the office: 10:30 - noon 2:00 - 5:00	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>
24 Pentecost 8:45 am - Choir rehearsal 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour	25 Memorial Day 9:00 am - Quilting 	<i>26</i>	27 Pastor Sara in the office: 10:30 - noon 2:00 - 5:00	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>
31 8:45 am - Choir rehearsal 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour						

YOUTH & EDUCATION



Sunday School – May 3rd 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
 The final class will be held at St. John on May 6th. Lisa Wegner

(lisa@adventchurch.org) can be contacted with any questions.

VBS Save the Date

Planning for VBS has begun. This year’s theme is “Who is my Neighbor?”
 Dates: August 3rd – 7th
 Time: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
 Location: Faith Lutheran Church

EPIC Youth Heyden’s Gardens fundraiser

Purchase gift cards to Heyden’s Gardens in \$25 increments. For each \$25 gift card, the youth get \$5. You get to spend the entire \$25. You can see the youth in the narthex after worship, or order online at <https://adventchurch.360unite.com/giving> Money raised supports youth fun outings, provides scholarships for youth attending the retreat, buys materials for classes, and assists in our outreach efforts. Cards ordered this Sunday will be available for pick up the following Sunday.



CONGRATULATIONS! to **Liz Allen** who will be graduating with honors from MATC on May 16th with a degree as a medical coding specialist.

Be sure to congratulate Liz Allen, CCA (Certified Coding Associate) on her outstanding achievement!

OUTREACH



“Be a piece of the peace puzzle.”

- ◆ Periodically during the rest of the year, we will have **guest speakers** from our Community Mission Partners sharing information about the charities that St. John supports.
 - May 3 - Pastor David Rebey from Breaking the Chains Church will preach and be available for questions and discussion following the service.
 - May 10 - Robin Fatla will give a brief Temple Talk on “Knowing Your Rights” if ICE agents arrive at your place of worship.

During the month of May, we will be sponsoring a **“Diaper Drive”** for the Ozaukee Non-profit Center’s “Community Baby Bank”. A Baby Bank is a community-supported program that collects and distributes free diapers and other essential baby items to families experiencing hardship. While diapers are a basic need, they are not covered by government assistance programs like WIC or SNAP. We will be collecting disposable diapers of all sizes (especially sizes 4-6), as well as baby wipes. Financial donations would also be greatly appreciated. Watch for the big yellow barrel and help us fill it to overflowing.

- ◆ The **Community Garden** beds are ready for rental. Cost is \$25 for the season. Some gardening tools are available for use. Share this with folks you know that would like a small garden space.



- ◆ St. John is scheduled to provide the **dinner meal for the Portlight Shelter** guests on Tuesday, May 19. Contact Robin Fatla if you would like to contribute a portion of the meal or help with prepping and/ or serving.

St John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Financial Summary For March 2026

	March 2026			Year To Date 2026		
	Actual	Budget	Actual Over (under) Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual Over (under) Budget
Unified Income	\$ 10,689	\$ 11,100	\$ (411)	\$ 27,730	\$ 33,100	\$ (5,370)
Expense Summary:						
Education	\$ 35	\$ 50	\$ (15)	\$ 230	\$ 50	\$ 180
Outreach	\$ -	\$ 25	\$ (25)	\$ -	\$ 75	\$ (75)
Worship	\$ 571	\$ 818	\$ (247)	\$ 1,531	\$ 2,255	\$ (724)
Youth	\$ -	\$ 130	\$ (130)	\$ -	\$ 390	\$ (390)
Stewardship	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 192	\$ 200	\$ (8)
Public Relations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 31	\$ -	\$ 31
Property	\$ 2,697	\$ 2,364	\$ 333	\$ 7,807	\$ 8,413	\$ (606)
Finance (incl.Mission Support)	\$ 9,614	\$ 9,331	\$ 282	\$ 32,306	\$ 31,328	\$ 978
Total Expenses	\$ 12,917	\$ 12,719	\$ 198	\$ 42,096	\$ 42,710	\$ (614)
Net Income (Deficit)	\$ (2,228)	\$ (1,619)	\$ (609)	\$ (14,366)	\$ (9,610)	\$ (4,756)

Comparative 2025 Figures:	@ 3/31/2025
Unified Income	\$ 23,547
Total Expenses	\$ (29,096)
Net Income (Deficit)	\$ (5,549)

Major Differences 2026 vs. 2025: Income for the year 2026 is \$4,200 more than last year.
Expenses for the year 2026 are \$13,000 more than last year.

Major year-to-date expense item differences:

- Gas Utility expense \$1,400 more than last year.
- Property, Liability & W/C insurance \$3,000 more than last year.
- Wages and benefits net expense \$9,500 more than last year.

Thrivent Choice Gifts Rec. 2026: \$967
 Memorial Gifts Received 2026: \$1,087 Memorials received for: Richard Viesselmann, Rosemary Schmit, & Marian Witte
 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)

	@ 3/31/2026	Comparative @ 3/31/2025
Assets At End Of Month	\$ 174,785	\$ 166,377
Assets Are Needed to Support The Following Funds:		
Audio Fund (formerly Cassette)	\$ -	\$ -
Contingency Fund	\$ 36,020	\$ 23,731
Family Promise Fund	\$ 267	\$ 484
Fully Funded	\$ 155	\$ 157
Library Fund	\$ 505	\$ 505
Memorial Fund	\$ 140,027 <(incl. \$5,956 restricted)	\$ 134,556 <(incl. \$6,761 restricted)
Mercy Fund	\$ 1,458	\$ (42)
Music Fund	\$ 114	\$ 114
Organ Repair Fund	\$ -	\$ -
Outreach Fund & Garden Beds	\$ 1,098	\$ 941
Pastoral Education Fund	\$ 2,176	\$ 2,176
Property Fund	\$ 4,782	\$ 6,983
Scholarship Fund	\$ 639	\$ 539
Youth Fund	\$ 1,910	\$ 1,782
Total Fund Requirements	\$ 189,152	\$ 171,926
= Asset Excess (Shortage)	\$ (14,366)	\$ (5,549)
(Excess = budget surplus; Shortage = budget deficit)		

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY

Learning to Love in a
Polarized World



REGISTER

Saturday May 16

9am - 4:30pm

Cost: \$30

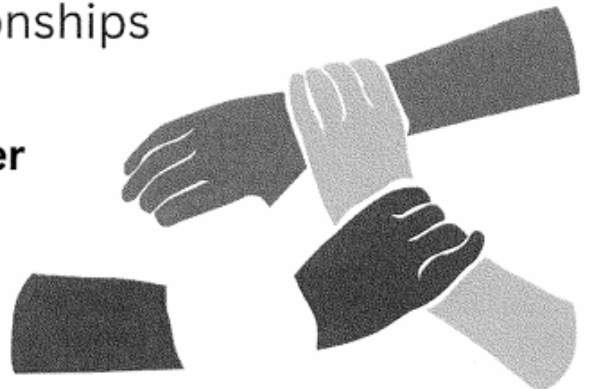
Grace Lutheran Church, Grafton

What to expect at this workshop:

- explore how stories we hear and learn help to shape and form us
- examine the construction and meaning of racism
- identify steps and opportunities to grow in understanding and action
- build and strengthen relationships

**Dr. Joyce Caldwell & Rev. Marilyn Miller
from Leading for Racial Equity will
facilitate our discussion.**

Questions? Contact Pastor Alexis Twito at
pastor@adventchurch.org.



<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/building-beloved-community-learning-to-love-in-a-polarized-world>

May 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"

