



THE PULSE BEAT



Volume 51, Number 6

June 2026

A Word from the Pastor

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble, therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.” (Psalm 46:1-5)

These words from Psalm 46 show us the two sides of our life of faith. On the one hand, sometimes it feels like there are shockwaves going through our lives.

From the feelings of helplessness as we watch prices of everything rise, to our own personal worries, conflicts with friends, with family, with neighbors. Concerns about our health, or the way disease stalks those we love and care for.

Then the psalm changes, and we see and feel the difference between our world and God’s world.

That city with a river flowing through it seems so desirable, how do we get to it?

As I write this, I am also preparing to preach on Pentecost, that Sunday where we celebrate the Holy Spirit come among us.

The Holy Spirit is active in creation from the very beginning (when God breathes over the waters in creation, God’s breath is God’s spirit being breathed), all the way to today as we pray for this tumultuous world.

The Holy Spirit in our lives transports us from our tumultuous world to the calm and refreshing world where God lives and reigns, where God helps those who rely on him.

Blessings in this Pentecost Season,
Pastor Sara Gillespie

THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

I'm pretty sure that everyone at St. John knows that we are a military family. Dale spent 31 years in service to the Air Force and the Army. Our son, James, is a medically retired Air Force veteran; our son-in-law, Kenn, is a retired Navy veteran; our son-in-law, Kyle, is a Marine veteran and is currently serving with the Air Force. We cover a lot of bases as far as the military is concerned.

Our country will celebrate a very meaningful date on the military calendar in May – hopefully on everyone's calendar – Memorial Day.

Memorial Day is often viewed as the beginning of summer — a weekend filled with family gatherings, cookouts, parades and time outdoors. But beneath the celebration is an important purpose: remembering and honoring the men and women who gave their lives in service to our country.

This year, Memorial Day feels especially meaningful as we continue to watch ongoing conflict and rising tensions in places like Iran and throughout the Middle East. News reports continue to remind us that many military families once again live with uncertainty, fear, and prayerful concern for loved ones serving overseas.

As Christians, Memorial Day calls us to reflect not only on sacrifice, but also on our responsibility to pray for peace. In one of my favorite bible verses, Jesus said in John 15:13: *“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.”* These words remind us of the courage and selflessness shown by those who serve others, often at great personal cost. Memorial Day gives us the chance to honor those who gave their lives protecting freedoms many of us experience every day without thinking twice.

At the same time, current world events remind us that war always carries a heavy human burden. Families grieve, communities are disrupted, and entire nations live under fear and uncertainty. As followers of Christ, we are called not to glorify conflict, but to seek peace, compassion, and justice wherever possible. Scripture reminds us in Matthew 5:9: *“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”*

Memorial Day gives us the opportunity to hold both gratitude and prayer together — gratitude for those who sacrificed for others, and prayer that future generations may live in a world with less violence and division. We also remember that God remains near to those who mourn. Psalm 34:18 tells us: *“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”*

I hope you take time to honor the fallen on Memorial Day. May we also pray for active military members, veterans, world leaders, and families affected by conflict around the globe. May God guide humanity toward wisdom, reconciliation, and peace.

Memorial Day is not only about remembering the past — it is also about considering the future we hope to build. As Christians, may we honor sacrifice by living lives marked by kindness, service, unity, and a commitment to peace in a world that deeply needs it.

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

Newsletter deadline:

Articles due by the 3rd Sunday of each month.

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, 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



**HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
JUNE 21**

Redeemer Lutheran Church presents



Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School
3399 Division Rd., Jackson
Thursday, June 18 - 11:00 am
Friday & Saturday, June 19 & 20 - 6:30 pm
Sunday, June 21 - 1:00 pm
\$10 tickets at the door.

Registration for “Who Is My Neighbor?” Vacation Bible school is now open. VBS is August 3-7, 9:00 AM to Noon at Faith Lutheran Church, Cedarburg. All kids age 3 through 5th grade are welcome. Call Lisa Wegner at 262 377-2710 to register.



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

I have a tee shirt from Thrivent that reads “LIVE GENEROUSLY”, and I have been thinking about that lately because in a devotion in the book “HOPE-FULL LIVING” for Saturday, May 16, there was a story about a beggar. who saw the king’s carriage coming and was hopeful that the King would give him a gold sovereign so that he could be rich. The carriage stopped and the beggar reached out his hand, but to his surprise, the king asked, “What do you have for me?” The beggar reached into his bag for the smallest grain of rice and gave it to the king, who thanked him and drove on. The beggar was disappointed, but later when he reached into his bag for a scant meal, among the grains he found a small, rice shaped diamond and thought “What if I had given him the largest grain of rice?” The original moral is: Be generous.

However, I wondered if that would be giving for the right reason: To get more!

Today, in church, we sang “Lord, You Give the Great Commission” and Verse 4 reads in part: “Lord, you show us love’s true measure: ‘Father what they do, forgive.’ Yet we hoard as private treasure all that you so freely give.” So how do we live generously? I’m sure it involves more than money. Perhaps attitude? Treatment of and concern for others? Fill in your own thoughts.

The devotion story ends with the following thoughts: What God gives us daily is infinitely more valuable than anything we might give him. Why does God want anything from me; He has everything already?

But He does ask. We are called to share our gifts, knowing that God gives more generously than we ever could, even giving Jesus to die for us.

So ponder on this: What does it mean for ME to live generously?

Hopeful Living,
April - June
Julaine Kammrath
Aurora, IL

OUTREACH TEAM



“Be a piece of the peace puzzle.”

- ◆ Our first Harvest Host guests of the season arrived on May 21st and stayed for 3 days.
- ◆ The Community Garden beds are ready for gardeners! 2 of the beds have been rented, but there are still 8 left if you know anyone looking for a place to home grow veggies. Call the office for rental information.
- ◆ Denise Loveridge, representative from Interfaith Caregivers, will be present at worship on June 28th to share information about this Community Mission Partner of St. John.
- ◆ Bob Burmeister of Mr. Bob’s Under the Bridge ministry, will be with us on July 12th to share information about his ministry.
- ◆ **SAVE THE DATE!** Carol & the Keynotes will be the entertainment at a community gathering on Sunday, August 23rd. Keep watch for further details in July PulseBeat.
- ◆ Thanks to all who made donations to the Diaper Drive for Ozaukee Non-profit Center. As of today (May 19) we have received 11 packages of diapers and 3 packages of wipes. Still 1 week left to make a donation!

 **FamilyPromise**
of Ozaukee County

- ◆ Thank you to Peter & Kathie Viesselmann and Jeanine Burhop for preparing and sharing the dinner meal with the guests at the Portlight Shelter on May 19th.
- ◆ Joan Salger has agreed to take over sending greeting cards to homebound members and those in need of encouragement.



6/1 Suellen Nelsen
 6/2 Eric Turowski
 6/2 Ryan Liebergen
 6/6 Beverly Green
 6/17 Jeff Boelkow
 6/19 Alex Dowe
 6/27 Liz Gonzalez

6/6/1992 Steve & Kristin Schauer
 6/21/1997 Erich & JoAnn Dowe
 6/22/2003 Jeff & Tara Kapke
 6/30/1984 John & Jane Turowski

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



Congratulations to Addison Heusdens who will graduate from Port Washington High School on May 31st. She will be attending MATC in the fall, pursuing a degree in nursing.

ALSO

Congratulations to Lucas Fatla who will be promoted to 9th grade at Grafton High School on June 9th.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister:

June 7 - Gary Haas
 14 - Bob Butt
 21 - Robin Fatla
 28 - Dennis Jaeger

Lector:

June 7 - Gary Haas
 14 - Borgne McClelland
 21 - Robert McClelland
 28 - Judy McMullin

Usher:

June 7 - Bob Butt
 14 - Peter Viesselmann
 21 - Dennis Jaeger
 28 - Roger Wendorf

Altar bouquets:

June 7 - Sharlene Sandquist
 14 - OPEN
 21 - Jeanine Burhop
 28 - Sharlene Sandquist

Communion Gifts:

June 7 - OPEN
 14 - OPEN
 21 - OPEN
 28 - OPEN

Fellowship hour:

June 7 - OPEN
 14 - OPEN
 21 - OPEN
 28 - OPEN

Counting Team:

June 7 - Jim Litvinoff Team
 14 - Peter Viesselmann Team
 21 - Borgne McClelland Team
 28 - Dennis Jaeger Team



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> 10:00 am - Prime Horizon Cooking Club	<i>3</i> Pastor Sara in the office: 10:30 - noon 2:00 - 5:00	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i> 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> 10:00 am - Prime Horizon Cooking Club Pastor Sara in the office: 10:30 - noon 2:00 - 5:00	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> 5:00 pm - Holden Evening service at Trinity
<i>14 Flag Day</i>  9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> 10:00 am - Prime Horizon Cooking Club	<i>17</i> Pastor Sara in the office: 10:30 - noon 2:00 - 5:00	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i>  9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> 10:00 am - Prime Horizon Cooking Club Pastor Sara in the office: 10:30 - noon 2:00 - 5:00	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour 11:00 am - Church Council	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>		Wednesday, June 10 11:00 am - 1:00 pm <i>Spring Salad Luncheon</i> St. Paul Lutheran Church 701 Washington St., Grafton Salad buffet plate, drink, and dessert \$12.00 Tickets can be purchased at the door.		

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

	April 2026			Year To Date 2026		
	<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	\$ 8,905	\$ 11,000	\$ (2,095)	\$ 36,635	\$ 44,100	\$ (7,465)
Expense Summary:						
Education	\$ -	\$ 50	\$ (50)	\$ 230	\$ 100	\$ 130
Outreach	\$ -	\$ 25	\$ (25)	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ (100)
Worship	\$ 742	\$ 1,403	\$ (661)	\$ 2,273	\$ 3,658	\$ (1,385)
Youth	\$ -	\$ 130	\$ (130)	\$ -	\$ 520	\$ (520)
Stewardship	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 192	\$ 200	\$ (8)
Public Relations	\$ 20	\$ 200	\$ (181)	\$ 51	\$ 200	\$ (149)
Property	\$ 2,630	\$ 1,964	\$ 666	\$ 10,436	\$ 10,377	\$ 60
Finance (incl.Mission Support)	\$ 6,766	\$ 6,733	\$ 33	\$ 39,072	\$ 38,061	\$ 1,011
Total Expenses	\$ 10,158	\$ 10,506	\$ (348)	\$ 52,254	\$ 53,216	\$ (962)
Net Income (Deficit)	\$ (1,253)	\$ 494	\$ (1,747)	\$ (15,619)	\$ (9,116)	\$ (6,503)

<u>Comparative 2025 Figures:</u>	<u>@ 4/30/2025</u>
Unified Income	\$ 32,887
Total Expenses	\$ (42,390)
Net Income (Deficit)	\$ (9,503)

Major Differences 2026 vs. 2025: Income for the year 2026 is \$3,700 more than last year.
Expenses for the year 2026 are \$9,900 more than last year.

Major year-to-date expense item differences:
 -- Gas Utility expense \$1,500 more than last year.
 -- Guest Preachers \$1,700 less than last year.
 -- Wages and benefits net expense \$8,300 more than last year.

Thrivent Choice Gifts Rec. 2026: \$1,595
Memorial Gifts Received 2026: \$2,034 Memorials received for: Richard Viesselmann, Rosemary Schmit, Marian Witte & Barbara Eichmann
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>@ 4/30/2026</u>	Comparative <u>@ 4/30/2025</u>
Assets At End Of Month	\$ 176,409	\$ 173,504
Assets Are Needed to Support The Following Funds:		
Audio Fund (formerly Cassette)	\$ -	\$ -
Contingency Fund	\$ 37,879	\$ 24,449
Family Promise Fund	\$ 267	\$ 484
Fully Funded	\$ 214	\$ 226
Library Fund	\$ 505	\$ 505
Memorial Fund	\$ 140,974 <(incl. \$5,956 restricted)	\$ 144,846 <(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	\$ 1,922	\$ 1,787
Total Fund Requirements	\$ 192,028	\$ 183,008
= Asset Excess (Shortage)	\$ (15,619)	\$ (9,503)
(Excess = budget surplus; Shortage = budget deficit)		

June 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.
- Fellowship hour - 10:30 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"

Puzzle!

A FATHER'S INSTRUCTION

Although babies don't come with instructions, God tells parents how to raise their children.

Directions: Fill in the blanks with letters, using the number grid to find the correct coordinates. The first number goes across, the second one goes down.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	a	L	d	i	j	g	r
2	m	b	o	k	h	u	s
3	e	n	c	x	t	p	f

"... _____ 2,2 7,1 4,1 2,3 6,1 _____ 5,3 5,2 1,3 1,2
 _____ 6,2 6,3 _____ 4,1 2,3 _____ 5,3 5,2 1,3
 _____ 5,3 7,1 1,1 4,1 2,3 4,1 2,3 6,1 _____ 1,1 2,3 3,1
 _____ 4,1 2,3 7,2 5,3 7,1 6,2 3,3 5,3 4,1 3,2 2,3
 _____ 3,2 7,3 _____ 5,3 5,2 1,3 _____ 2,1 3,2 7,1 3,1"

Ephesians 6:4, NIV