THE PULSE BEAT

Volume 51, Number 10 ***November 2026***

A Word from the Pastor

November–the month of Thanksgiving! As your pastor, I echo the words of the apostle Paul, who often began his letters with thankfulness for his readers: "First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world." (Romans 1:8)

Here at St. John, we might not feel like our faith is being proclaimed "throughout the world." After all, we are a small group of Lutherans, faithful for sure, but numerous? Not really. Influential? We struggle to see how. World renowned? Hardly.

But notice that it is the faith of the Romans that Paul says is proclaimed throughout the world. And that is true for us at St. John as well.

Our faith as Lutheran Christians is rooted in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, Son of God, our Savior. As one theologian puts it, "Salvation is being a part of the movement of God." [Brian Recker]

God is already and always moving, in our little part of the world and around the globe. To use another phrase from Paul, "we see through a glass darkly." (1 Corinthians 13:12) We can't see the entire picture at once. But we know that God does, and we trust that our good God is at work in every place and every time.

Small signs of God's movement among us recently: three visitors and their dog Clover joined us for our Pet Blessing service! The Cooking Club continues to welcome people living with disabilities into our kitchen for fellowship and cooking together! Three St. John youth participate weekly with 17 others in our EPIC confirmation class!

Rest assured, my dear friends, that God *is doing the stuff*! Together, we say thank you–to God and to each other–in this month of thankfulness. And I am thankful for you!

-Pastor Sarah

THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Is it really almost November already? As I look outside and see the spectacular fall colors around us, I am grateful to see another beautiful season come upon us, with Thanksgiving just around the corner.

As I think about gratitude, I'm reminded how easy it is to get caught up in our everyday lives and all the things we need to do. I've felt that just this week as I've been helping my daughter, Laura, clean up after a broken water line in her house. Sometimes we forget to slow down and appreciate the many blessings God has placed in our lives. And often, it's the little things that mean the most—a kind word, a helping hand, time spent with family and friends, or simply knowing that someone cares.

I feel especially grateful for our church family here at St. John. We are blessed to have people who care about one another, who are willing to lend a hand, share their time and talents, and work together to keep our congregation strong. It's easy to take these things for granted sometimes, but when we stop and think about it, these are some pretty wonderful blessings.

We've also been reminded that God is with us through both the easy times and the challenging ones. As we look back on our journey as a congregation, there have been times of waiting, hoping, and trusting in God's plan. We've just come through that with our call process. But through it all, we have continued to support one another and move forward in faith. That is certainly something to be thankful for.

The Bible gives us this reminder in 1 Thessalonians 5:18: "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

I think this verse is a good reminder that gratitude isn't just about being thankful when everything goes the way we hoped. It's also about recognizing God's presence during the uncertain times and trusting that we are never walking alone.

As we move through this fall season, I hope we can all take a little extra time to appreciate the people around us and the blessings we sometimes overlook. Let's remember to say thank you, offer encouragement, and let others know how much they mean to us. We never know how much a small act of kindness can brighten someone's day.

I'm thankful for our church, for each of you, and for the opportunity to be part of a congregation that continues to grow in faith and fellowship. Most of all, I'm thankful for God's love and the many ways we see that love at work in our lives.

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

May we carry that spirit of gratitude with us, not just during this season, but throughout the year.

Hugs and blessings to you all!

Sandy

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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E-mail: pastorsarah2026@gmail.com
414-327-8092
Office hours: Tuesday & Wednesday –Please call before stopping by
Available Monday & Thursday at home for emails, texts, calls
Office Manager: Robin Fatla
Church office hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – Noon
262-377-0410
E-mail: stjohnsecretary@hotmail.com
Website: stjohngrafton.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

"The amount of beautiful things in your life depends on your ability to notice them."

Newsletter staff:
Robin Fatla & Borgne McClelland
Newsletter deadline:
Articles due by the 3rd Sunday of each

GENERAL INTEREST NEWS

We keep in our prayers: Christy Abt, Ignacia Arriago, Anna Bullio, Craig (friend of Wendorf's), Amanda Combs, Lorna Friedlein, Henry Frier, Terri & Joe Gassert, Rick Gonzalez, Pat & Sandy Granrath, Beverly Green, Merry Lou Green, Chris Hegenbarth, Jeanne Immekus, Dennis Jaeger, Edward Jones, Sharon Kaddatz, Krista Krueger, Anita Lucht, Scott Maronde, Ken Matthews, Borgne McClelland, Chuck & Cary Mueller, Kevin Petersen, Sugeily Pineiro-Garcia, Joe Porth, Karen Rautenberg , Allan & Chris Reinke, Logan Reifnstuhl, Tom & Jackie Rogahn, Bill Sackett, Sandra, Glenn Sievers, Melanie Smith, Evie Tetzlaff, Jeff Watter, Wendy Werner **Military personnel**: Kyle Christenson, Ruben Micheel **"Home away from home" members**: Jeanine Burhop– Lasata, Tim McClosky – Mequon group home



Sunday, November 1 9:30 am

Join us as we remember St. John family members and friends called home to the Lord during the past year: **Barb Eichmann, Richard Viesselmann, Marian Witte, Mary 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 1st.
Set your clocks back 1 hour when you go to bed Saturday night.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

I have a tee shirt that I received from Thrivent some years ago and the writing on the back reads "LIVE GENEROUSLY". What does that mean?
I looked up the word generous in my dictionary and this is the definition that it gives: "willing to share with others; unselfish;" and the three synonyms it gave were: "liberal, bountiful, lavish." That is a tall order. Yet that is what our Lord calls us to be and do.

The letters of the New Testament overflow with stories of the early Christian communities. The apostle Paul gives thanks for the generous givers in the Macedonian churches saying, "*In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people." (2 Corinthians 8:2-4) Not only did they give generously, they gave enthusiastically and view their giving and service as a privilege in spite of their own trials and challenges!*

Paul reminds us that willingly and sacrificially giving of ourselves, whether it be through money, time, talents, possessions, treasure, or other resources, is our way of thanking God for the many blessing we enjoy. See 2 Corinthians 9:7-8,11-13.

When asked: "What is the greatest commandment?' Jesus responds, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your hear, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love you neighbors as yourself.'" (Matthew 22:37-39).

Stewardship is the way we use all of our resources - time, talents, possessions and money - to love God and our neighbor. Stewardship transforms God's commandment to "love our neighbors as ourselves" from a religious expression into a way of life. As we make our pledges for 2027, let us
LIVE GENEROUSLY!

Sharlene Sandquist

(Portions of this article were taken from the ELCA publication, Stewards of God's Love: A year-round guide to stewardship in your congregation.)

YOUTH & EDUCATION

Sunday School
November's class date will be the 1st from 10:30-11:15. Join us for a short lesson and a fun craft! Ages 3 – 5th grade are welcome. Contact Sue Dowe (sadowe1966@gmail.com) with questions.

Confirmation
Classes are held at Advent in Cedarburg. Dinner begins at 5:15 and class follows until 7:15. Lisa Wegner (lisa@adventchurch.org) can be contacted with any questions.

2026 Christmas Program
The children's Christmas program is scheduled for Sunday, December 13th at St. John. Rehearsals will be Sundays November 22nd and 29th, and December 6th. Saturday, December 12th is the dress rehearsal. More information to follow in the next few weeks. Hope to see some of our St. John youth participating!

Women of the ELCA

QUILTING DATES:
Monday November 9 & 23
9:00 - noon

THANKOFFERING SUNDAY
Sunday, November 29th

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 15th.
Your check or envelope can be made out to Women of the ELCA and marked for Thankoffering and placed in the offering plate on November 29th.

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Blankets

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 any Sunday through December 27th.



11/3 Mary Ellen Levra
11/4 Steve Schauer
11/5 Addison Heusdens
11/10 Tim McCloskey
11/10 Robert McClelland
11/14 Savion Christenson
11/24 April Heusdens
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!



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister:
November 1 - Gary Haas
8 - Bob Butt
15 - Robin Fatla
22 - Dennis Jaeger
29 - Gary Haas

Lector:
November 1 - Gary Haas
8 - Robin Fatla
15 - Borgne McClelland
22 - Robert McClelland
29 - Judy McMullin

Usher:
November 1 - Dennis Jaeger
8 - Roger Wendorf
15 - Joe Porth
22 - Sue Dowe
29 - Fritz Dowe

Altar bouquets:
November 1 - Family of Marian Witte
8 - **OPEN**
15 - Sharlene Sandquist
22 - **OPEN**
29 - McClelland

Communion Gifts:
November 1 - **OPEN**
8 - **OPEN**
15 - **OPEN**
22- **OPEN**
29 - **OPEN**

Fellowship hour:
November 1 - **OPEN**
8 - **OPEN**
15 - McClelland
22 - **OPEN**
29 - **OPEN**

Counting Team:
November 1 - Peter Viesselmann Team
8 - Borgne McClelland Team
15 - Dennis Jaeger Team
22 - Jim Litvinoff Team
29 - Peter Viesselmann Team



999999999999999	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 **All Saints Day** 8:45 am - choir practice 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour 11:00 am - Bible study	*2*	*3* Pastor Sarah in the office:	*4* Pastor Sarah in the office: 10:30 - noon 2:00 - 5:00 5:15 pm - Confirmation Class at Advent	*5* Prime Horizon	*6*	*7*
8 8:45 am - choir practice 9:30 am - Holy Communion - **Pastor Sarah's Installation** 10:30 am - Fellowship hour	*9* 9:00 am - Quilting Prime Horizon	*10* Pastor Sarah in the office:	*11* **Veteran's Day** Pastor Sarah in the office: 10:30 - noon 2:00 - 5:00 5:15 pm - Confirmation Class at Advent	*12*	*13*	*14* Noon - Bingo at Immanuel 5:00 pm - Holden Evening service at Trinity
15 8:45 am - choir practice 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour 11:00 am - Church Council	*16*	*17* Pastor Sarah in the office: 5:30 pm - Family Promise dinner	*18* Pastor Sarah in the office: 10:30 - noon 2:00 - 5:00 5:15 pm - Confirmation Class at Advent	*19*	*20* Prime Horizon	*21*
22 8:45 am - choir practice 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour 11:00 am - Bible study	*23* 9:00 am - Quilting Prime Horizon	*24* Pastor Sarah in the office:	*25*	*26*	*27*	*28*
29 8:45 am - choir practice 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour 11:00 am - Bible study	*30*					



St John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Financial Summary For September 2026

	September 2026			Year To Date 2026		
	Actual	Budget	Actual Over (under) Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual Over (under) Budget
Unified Income	$ 7,855	$ 11,000	$ (3,145)	$ 79,896	$ 99,100	$ (19,204)
Expense Summary:						
Education	$ -	$ 50	$ (50)	$ 230	$ 200	$ 30
Outreach	$ -	$ 25	$ (25)	$ -	$ 225	$ (225)
Worship	$ 1,107	$ 1,303	$ (196)	$ 6,518	$ 10,275	$ (3,757)
Youth	$ -	$ 130	$ (130)	$ -	$ 1,170	$ (1,170)
Stewardship	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 192	$ 200	$ (8)
Public Relations	$ 16	$ -	$ 16	$ 133	$ 200	$ (67)
Property	$ 1,821	$ 1,804	$ 17	$ 19,408	$ 19,418	$ (9)
Finance (incl.Mission Support)	$ 12,453	$ 9,331	$ 3,122	$ 81,869	$ 76,324	$ 5,545
Total Expenses	$ 15,397	$ 12,644	$ 2,753	$ 108,349	$ 108,011	$ 337
Net Income (Deficit)	$ (7,542)	$ (1,644)	$ (5,898)	$ (28,452)	$ (8,911)	$ (19,541)

Comparative 2025 Figures:	**@ 9/30/2025**
Unified Income	$ 80,872
Total Expenses	$ (95,240)
Net Income (Deficit)	$ (14,369)

Major Differences 2026 vs. 2025: Income for the year 2026 is $1,000 less than last year.
Expenses for the year 2026 are $13,100 more than last year.
Major year-to-date expense item differences:
- - Gas Utility expense $1,200 more than last year.
- - Guest Preachers $1,500 less than last year.
- - Wages and benefits net expense $13,000 more than last year.

Thrivent Choice Gifts Rec. 2026: $2,810

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: $5,300 (Family Promise Special Appeal ($500) + Tithe of 2025 Memorials ($1,710) + Memorials directed to mission per families ($2,040) + chili fundraiser donations ($560) + polka fundraiser donations ($290)+Oz.County Jail Literacy Program ($200)

	@ 9/30/2026		Comparative	@ 9/30/2025	
Assets At End Of Month	$ 169,732			$ 172,728	
Assets Are Needed to Support The Following Funds:					
Audio Fund (formerly Cassette)	$ -		$ -		
Contingency Fund	$ 42,371		$ 26,505		
Family Promise Fund	$ 287		$ 674		
Fully Funded	$ 155		$ 138		
Library Fund	$ 505		$ 505		
Memorial Fund	$ 140,974	<(incl. $5,956 restricted)	$ 143,902	<(incl. $6,761 restricted)	
Mercy Fund	$ 1,958		$ 1,458		
Music Fund	$ 114		$ 114		
Organ Repair Fund	$ -		$ -		
Outreach Fund & Garden Beds	$ 1,754		$ 1,086		
Pastoral Education Fund	$ 2,176		$ 2,176		
Property Fund	$ 4,782		$ 8,013		
Scholarship Fund	$ 1,139		$ 639		
Youth Fund	$ 1,969		$ 1,886		
Total Fund Requirements		$ 198,184			$ 187,097
= Asset Excess (Shortage)		$ (28,452)			$ (14,369)

(Excess = budget surplus; Shortage = budget deficit)

COMMUNITY NEWS

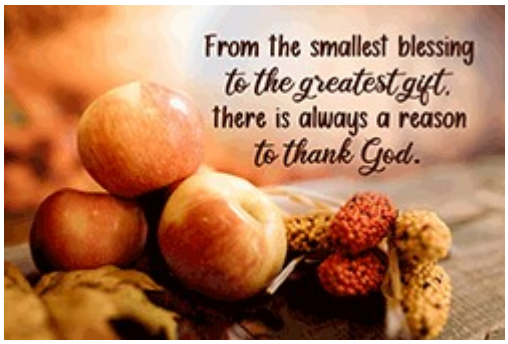


BINGO!
Immanuel Church, Cedarburg
Noon
November 14th

Holden Evening Prayer Service
November 14th
5:00 pm
Trinity Church
Cedarburg



46th Annual
Country Fair
November 14
9 am - 2 pm
St. Paul Lutheran Church
701 Washington St., Grafton



GO BREWERS



OUTREACH

"Be a piece of the peace puzzle."



BREWERS

Our charitable collection for November will benefit **Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge** with a Brewers theme to celebrate their outstanding season and trip to the 2026 World Series!

The Brewers Community Foundation mission is very much in line with Mr. Bob's - to support the lives of friends in the community with benefits for health, education, and other basic needs.

Please consider donating items which begin with the letters

B - Bath towels, bar soap, backpacks, boots (all sizes), baby wipes
R - Razors (packaged)
E - Energy bars
W - Washcloths, water (bottled), wafers (vanilla/chocolate), winter wear (hats, gloves, scarves, jackets - all sizes - new or gently used, hand and foot warmers
E - Electrolyte drinks (Gatorade)
R - Raisins (boxed)
S - Socks, shampoo, sweatshirts (all sizes - especially XL, 2XL, 3XL), snacks, slippers (all sizes)

November 2026 Pulse Beat

St. John
Lutheran Church

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"

