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# THE PULSE BEAT



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Volume 50, Number 2

February 2025

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## THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. 'The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."* Mark 12:30-31. Sounds like it should be pretty simple stuff, right? Unfortunately, no. Loving your neighbor can be hard.

I will be the first one to admit that I like a healthy debate. I try to be relatively well read and well rounded, and I'm not afraid to argue a point if I believe I'm right. And believe me – I do like to be right. But winning an argument is rarely a great example of loving my neighbor as myself. I found a number of bible verses that speak loudly to me about this very thing:

- *A hot-tempered person stirs up conflict, but the one who is patient calms a quarrel. Proverbs 15:18*
- *It is to one's honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel. Proverbs 20:3*
- *So then, let us pursue what makes for peace and for building up one another. Romans 14:19*
- *Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. 2 Timothy 2:23-24*
- *A person with good sense is patient, and it is to his credit that he overlooks an offense. Proverbs 19:11*

I am also the first one to say that politics do not mix well with church. And I am sad that our past election year has caused such a challenge between people. There has been too much anger and not enough love. So how can we try to love our neighbor now, after the election is over?

One of the simplest yet most challenging ways to love your neighbor is by avoiding arguments. It's so important, no matter how much you disagree with someone, that you show them respect and not judgment or condemnation. They believe their opinion is just as important as you believe yours is.

As hard as it is, sometimes we need to learn to "agree to disagree" and not have to win that argument. It's OK to tell a friend or family member or neighbor that you just don't want to have that particular discussion. One of the best things we can do for our own mental health is to pray for those in our lives who disagree with us or who want to argue. When we start praying for them, God can change our hearts towards them and the way we see them, even if they don't change their attitude.

Try to recognize that **everyone** is your neighbor. They may think differently, look different, love different. But in the end, it's more important for us to focus on what we have in common with someone – what unites us rather than what divides us. Sure, there were winners and losers in this election, but none of it can compare to the victory that we have in Jesus Christ. God is the foundation that never changes in our lives. He is the one who is stable, trustworthy and in control.

Hugs and prayers to you all, *Sandy*

**CHURCH LEADERSHIP**

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Church office hours: Monday – Friday,  
9:00 am – Noon

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**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

Andy Porth – 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:**

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Articles due by the 3rd Sunday of each month.

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We will be assembling **Gratitude Boxes** this year for the **Ozaukee Central (Grafton & Saukville combined) and Cedarburg Fire Departments.**

Donations of snacks, baked goods, candy, cards, etc will be accepted through February 12th.

Boxes will be delivered on February 14th.

**GENERAL INTEREST NEWS**

**We keep in our prayers:** Delaney Allen, Anna Bullio (great-granddaughter of Florence Van Cleave), Cathy Collins (Florence Van Cleave’s daughter), Amanda Combs (friend of Laura Christenson), Nan Donner (friend of Diane & Roger Wendorf), Erich Dowe, Audrey Fischer (Monica Faretra and Donna Dowe’s sister), Henry Frier (Marian Witte’s son-in-law), Rick Gonzalez (Jan’s husband), Pat & Sandy Granrath, Merry Lou Green, Erma & Oswald Hegenbarth (Peter McClelland’s in-laws), Dennis Jaeger, Sharon Kaddatz (friend of Bob & Carol Butt), Joanne Levenick, Anita Lucht, Scott Maronde (nephew of Gary & Sue Haas), Ken Matthews (Kayla Matthews’ father-in-law), Borgne McClelland, Chuck & Cary Mueller (friends of Glenn Sievers), Alice Murphy (family of MerryLou Green), Sugeily Pineiro-Garcia, Joe Porth, Karen Rautenberg (Sue Dowe’s mother), Becka Rogahn (Tom & Jackie’s daughter), Tom & Jackie Rogahn, Sharlene Sandquist, Glenn Sievers, Melanie Smith (MerryLou Green’s daughter), Wendy Tomter, Virginia (friend of Fritz & Sue Dowe), Wendy Werner (Sandy Allen’s sister-in-law), **Military personnel:** Kyle Christenson **“Home away from home” members:** Jeanine Burhop (sister of the late Marilyn Speranza) – Lasata; Tim McClosky – at home with sister Merry Lou Green





# **DRIVE-THRU CHILI DAY**

**CARRY-  
OUTS!**

**\$10 per quart includes chili  
and crackers**

**Sunday  
February 16,  
2025**

**11am - 2pm**

**St. John Lutheran Church  
1193 Lakefield Road  
Grafton**

**Call or email Church office for more information:  
262-377-0410 ~ [stjohnsecretary@hotmail.com](mailto:stjohnsecretary@hotmail.com)  
[st.johngrafton.org](http://st.johngrafton.org)**

**Please enter at Port Washington Road to church and  
exit on Lakefield Road.**

**Portion of the proceeds to benefit the Ozaukee Food Alliance**

## Stewardship Corner

We are already into the second month of the new year, our annual meeting is over, a new council elected, budget approved and now we begin anew the work of meeting that budget and working through the process needed before we can call a pastor. In thinking about what to write for this month's message, I came upon a devotional in the current Portals of Prayer, that really caught my attention. Perhaps some of you have already read this devotion. It was the one for January 22 - The Sanctity of Human Life Day.

My initial thought was that we should value human life every day, as stewards of God's love. Our faith calls us to share a common vision to uphold human dignity and to love, walk alongside and serve people, particularly those who live in poverty, or face discrimination every day of their lives. In these divisive times, it is not good enough to talk about justice for these people, but to act justly, we may have to cross boundaries for the sake of the neighbor as Isaiah 1:17 tells us "learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow."

The devotional goes on to say "we remember that valuing life as a gift from God goes beyond just the topics that make headlines. Stewarding life takes into account the impacts of our actions and other peoples actions. Whatever we say or do, we are to do it in a way that builds people up and brings them closer to the will God has for their lives. Our desires and our freedoms should never take priority over our care and love for our neighbors.

Limiting our freedom is okay because we do not seek our own personal advantage but the advantage of all those for whom Christ died and rose again!"

For those of us, who are not direct survivors of oppression through racial and economic disparity, it can be hard to imagine what it might be like to be oppressed or impoverished. After all, we have food, shelter, clothing, a source of income, transportation, educational and job opportunities, health care and freedoms. There are still many inequities in our country.

How do we understand and use our opportunities and privileges to work for justice for others? Do we advocate for the neglected and poor in our spheres of influence? As Carol Watson (Stewardship Chair, Peace Lutheran, Tacoma WA) says, "Managing our opportunities and privileges is a part of being and becoming God's 'good and faithful stewards.' God has entrusted much to us and much is expected."



At the annual congregational meeting on January 26, newly elected council members: **Dale Allen, Bob Butt, Andy Porth, and Sharlene Sandquist**, join current members: Sandy Allen, Sue Dowe, Robin Fatla, Judy McMullin, and Roger Wendorf to serve the family of St. John in 2025.



- 2/1 Sharlene Sandquist
- 2/4 Hunter Pritzlaff
- 2/7 Jim Litvinoff
- 2/7 Jeanine Burhop
- 2/11 Steve Christensen
- 2/12 Donna Dowe
- 2/15 Mari Schmidt
- 2/15 Judy McMullin
- 2/19 Josh Huyck
- 2/21 Bob Eichmann
- 2/27 Jesse Schauer
- 2/28 BreAnna Porth
  
- 2/12/2005 Dennis & Nerissa Heusdens
- 2/20/2010 Kenn & Kayla Matthews

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

**Money Saving Tips from Joe Porth - Property maintenance**

To save money on your electric bill, set the controls on your refrigerator main area to 38 degrees. Set your freezer temperature to 0. See your savings in 1 months time.

&

I'll dispose of any home CPU with 100% security! I disassemble and BURN the hard drive in my fire pit -free!

Just bring your unit to church and mark it Att. Joe, and all your info will go up in smoke safely too.

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

**Assisting Minister:**

- February 2 - Gary Haas
- 9 - Bob Butt
- 16 - Robin Fatla
- 23 - Gary Haas

**Lector:**

- February 2 - Sue Dowe
- 9 - Robin Fatla
- 16 - Gary Haas
- 23 - Dennis Jaeger

**Usher:**

- February 2 - Dennis Jaeger
- 9 - Roger Wendorf
- 16 - Joe Porth
- 23 - Sue Dowe

**Altar bouquets:**

- February 2 - Sharlene Sandquist
- 9 - Dale & Sandy Allen
- 16 - OPEN
- 23 - OPEN

**Fellowship hour:**

- February 2 - Andy & BreAnna Porth
- 9 - OPEN
- 16 - Chili Dinner
- 23 - OPEN

**Counting Team:**

- February 2 - Borgne McClelland Team
- 9 - Dennis Jaeger Team
- 16 - Jim Litvinoff Team
- 23 - Peter Viesselmann Team





# FEBRUARY

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						1
2 9:30 am - Holy Communion  10:30 am - Fellowship hour  11:00 am - Choir rehearsal	3	4	5   5:15 pm - Confirmation class at Trinity	6   10:00 am - Prime Horizon Cooking Club	7	8   1:00 pm - Bingo at Immanuel  5:00 pm - Holden Evening service at Trinity
9 9:30 am - Holy Communion  10:30 am - Fellowship hour  11:00 am - Choir rehearsal	10 9:00 am - Quilting	11 9:30 am - Bible study at Trinity	12 10:00 am - Prime Horizon Cooking Club  5:15 pm - Confirmation class at Trinity	13	14 	15
16 9:30 am - Holy Communion  10:30 am - Fellowship hour  <b>11:00 am - Drive thru Chili Day</b>	17	18	19   5:15 pm - Confirmation class at Trinity	20   10:00 am - Prime Horizon Cooking Club	21	22
23 9:30 am - Holy Communion  10:30 am - Fellowship hour  11:00 am - Choir rehearsal 11:00 am - Church Council	24 9:00 am - Quilting	25	26 10:00 am - Prime Horizon Cooking Club  5:15 pm - Confirmation class at Trinity	27	28	

## Youth Education

February's Sunday School class will be on Sunday, February 16th, which is Chili Supper Sunday. There will be children's activities in the Sunday School room for anyone that wants to participate. Hoping to see some new faces!

Confirmation class topics for February:

Feb. 5	Can I do something bad enough to make God stop loving me?
Feb. 12	Is it ok to be angry at God?
Feb. 19	Did Martin Luther really call the Pope the Anti-Christ?
Feb. 26	How can Lutherans believe in "grace alone" if they also believe in "faith alone" and "Scripture alone"?

Contact Sue Dowe ([sadowe1966@gmail.com](mailto:sadowe1966@gmail.com)) with questions about Sunday School. Lisa Wegner is the contact for confirmation ([lisa@adventchurch.org](mailto:lisa@adventchurch.org))



### Quilting

Mondays, February 10 & 24  
9:00 am - noon

Leader of the quilting group, Monica Faretra, shared that the group recently donated 24 quilts to Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge Ministry. Many thanks to the ladies for continuing to provide warmth to those in need.

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### Bible study

Tuesday, February 11  
9:30 - 11:00 am

Trinity Church, Cedarburg  
Contact Robin Fatla  
if you would like to attend.

## Fun for All

# Puzzle!

Use the clues to fill in the boxes. Then write those letters on the correct numbered lines below to complete 1 John 4:16 (NIV).

A place to live

Opposite of dark

Companion

Hand greeting

Male adult

8 2 16 13 4 6 2 19 5

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17 9 2 5 19 5 12 6 7 19 5 4

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13 15 6 2 19 20 6 7 19 14 4

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13 15 8 2 16 18 15 16

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8 2 16 13 23 10 1 14 21

1 John 4:16, NIV

Answers: house, light, friend, man; God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. 1 John 4:16, NIV

# February 2025 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”*

new = purple	all = red
want = blue	yes = yellow

**Color By Sight Word**  
Use the code to color the cross.

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