

From Pastor Dan

I have been around long enough to be entitled to a rerun every now and then. So, please indulge me as I share my letter to you from last year at this time:

As we begin another new year, I think about my faith in God; where it led me in 2014 and where it will call me in 2015. I encourage you to do the same. And as we do, I think it is helpful to remember that faith in God is all encompassing to include faith in creation, faith in each other, and faith in yourself. I am not suggesting that you constantly view the world through rose-colored glasses; after all I am the skeptic in the bunch. However, I still try to understand that even though the world and the people who live on it are far from perfect, it makes sense to approach the whole business with some faith. Your life will be richer for it.

I close with this quote from poet, educator, activist, and best-selling author, the late Maya Angelou, who provides some sound advice to carry with you into the New Year.

"I've learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow. I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights. I've learned that regardless of your relationship with your parents, you'll miss them when they're gone from your life. I've learned that making a "living" is not the same thing as making a "life." I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance. I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw something back. I've learned that whenever I decide something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision. I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be alone. I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone. People love a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back. I've learned that I still have a lot to learn. I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

— [Maya Angelou](#)

God's peace be with you,

Pastor Dan

Council Members. Here is a list of Council Members. Please contact them with any concerns or issues you may have. Council meets once a month and welcomes input from the congregation.

President: Randy Knapp – 715-581-5558; rknappeoj@gmail.com

Vice President: Jayne Rowe – 715-302-8295; rowejayne1@gmail.com

Treasurer: Phyllis Seubert – 715-573-9890; grammaphylldogg@gmail.com

Secretary: Tammi Smith – 715-581-3892; tammism@aspirus.org

Trustee: Laverne Grunenwald – 715-675-6880; mgrunen@yahoo.com

Evangelism: Heidi Teske – 715-536-6134; Heidi_scheiderer@yahoo.com

Fellowship: Marlene Stubbe – 715-675-2598

Education: Amy Marquardt – 715-571-9633; bamarquardt@hotmail.com

Worship: Jan Mueller – 715-675-9558; dmjm5455.wau@gmail.com

Mission Statement: “We are called to serve God; serve each other; serve the community; serve the wider church.”

Serve God through worship, prayer, and the dedication of our lives to His kingdom. **Serve Each Other** by mutual care and support to encourage everyone to fulfill their God-given potential. **Serve the Community** by making known the good news about Jesus and the love of God by word and deed. **Serve the Wider Church** through prayer and practical support to help spread the good news about Jesus throughout the world.

Worship Schedule
9:00 a.m. Sunday Mornings
Please join us as we worship our Lord!

Financial Report for November, 2014			
Income Received	Expenses Paid	Difference	Budget
10,456	11,507	(1,051)	11,174
Year-to-Date			
Income Received	Expenses Paid	Difference	Budget
117,175	112,696	4,479	122,914

Attendance Report			
	2014	2013	
Average Weekly/November	120	132	
Average Weekly/Year-to-Date	123	124	

Homebound Parishioners. The following parishioners are no longer able to consistently attend worship services. I visit them to remind them that they are loved by God and loved by their community of faith, St. John. Sometimes it is helpful to hear those reminders from someone in addition to me.

Betty Tietz
4602 Barbican Ave., Room 106
Weston, WI 54476
715-393-0215

Ann Kieckhafer
1439 McDowell Rd.
Naperville, IL 60563
630-355-6077

“Council Corner”

I remember my grandparents teaching me a hands game. Fold hands with fingers towards palms – raise your forefingers and then open thumbs. “Here’s the church, here’s the steeple, open the doors – see all the people.” For people the church means different things. For some it is simply a building. For others, it is a particular religion or denomination. For us, it is a congregation of believers who attend worship and share a meal with Jesus. I feel St. John is a caring congregation. We care for others in our church family and the community surrounding us. Let us continue to do so in 2015.

God bless. Marlene Stubbe

Annual Meeting. Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 8, 2015, following the 9:00 a.m. worship service. (All confirmed members are eligible to vote at this meeting.)
All articles to be included in the annual report are due to the church office no later than Monday, January 12.

Cookie Day – January 4. Bring your leftover Christmas cookies to share for Sunday morning fellowship on January 4th. Call Marlene at 715-675-2598 if you have some. (P.S. We will also accept freshly-baked.)

Thanksgiving Pie Social and Auction Report. Our annual pie social and auction was held Sunday, November 23rd after the worship service. We had a great assortment of 30 pies and other desserts. Thank you to all who brought pies and another thank you to those who purchased them. A special thank you to Al Tesch who was the auctioneer and Sue Harris as his assistant. Money raised was \$765.00 from the sale of pies and \$52.00 from a free-will offering. Money will go to the Wausau Community Warming Center. Thank you for your generosity. God Bless. Marlene

The Sisterhood of St. John. On the evening of December 2nd, twenty-six women of St. John met at Carmelo’s Italian Restaurant for dinner, fellowship and a white elephant gift exchange. We collected a very generous amount of items for the Women’s Community from their needs list. Thank you for those gifts and to Linda Graveen who delivered them. God’s Blessings. Marlene

Reminder! If you are in the hospital and would like Pastor Dan to visit, **PLEASE CALL** and let him know. Because of privacy issues, the hospital will not notify him or the church that you are there.

Food Pantry. The food items collected for the food pantry in December will be donated to The Salvation Army. Your donations are appreciated. If you are able to help out with delivering these items to the local organizations, please contact the church office.

Council Meeting Minutes. Copies of the minutes from the most recently held Council meeting are by the mailboxes. Please feel free to pick up a copy. If more are needed, please contact the church office.

Announcements. If you would like to have an announcement included in our weekly bulletin or newsletter, please submit the information in writing and put it in either Pastor Dan's mailbox or the administrative assistant's mailbox located in the narthex. If it is more convenient for you, you can submit your announcements via e-mail to stjohnwausau@msn.com. The deadline for submitting announcements for the Sunday bulletin is the Thursday before by 9:00 a.m. The deadline for the newsletter is indicated on the monthly calendar.