

From Pastor Dan

“In the spring a young man’s fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love.” At least that is what Alfred Lord Tennyson would have us believe. I take no objection to Tennyson’s assessment even though it holds no particular relevance for me. A more apt poetic pronouncement of my springtime fantasies would be, “In the spring, an old pastor’s fancy turns to thoughts of no more snow shoveling, a lot more flying, and of course, as always, God.” I am probably not alone in the snow shoveling thought; and as curious as it may seem to many folks, I am not so much alone in the God thought either. As a matter of fact, when I pay attention (and even when I don’t), I notice the persistent presence of God in the public conscious as evidenced, for one, by the abundance of God books, movies, and television programs out there. For example, I am currently engaged in watching a series about God on the National Geographic channel. The show explores different facets of different world religions and is hosted by none other than God himself, Morgan Freeman.

So why this abiding interest in God? Simply said, God matters. Otherwise most of the world’s population wouldn’t be involved in a search for some kind of meaning in this life that extends beyond our limited capacity to comprehend or experience. Those searches may head in the direction of God, Yahweh, Allah, Buddha, or whatever path beckons to the seeking traveler. Of course for us as Christians, the search leads us to follow Jesus Christ. That helps; the specificity gives us a solid foundation from which to begin and provides sustaining nourishment for the journey. However, it doesn’t necessarily make it any easier; the journey is not short and the path is seldom straight. So why do we bother? We bother because God is worth the effort; we bother because God matters.

In the spring, the thoughts of people, male and female, young and old, turn to a myriad of things. Maybe it is greening grass, budding flowers, warming days, no more snow (knock on wood), and very possibly love. Yet I hope for us all that in the midst of our springtime preoccupations we can still find time for God; to think about God, to study about God, to pray to God, to worship God. Because...well because as billions of people seem to have concluded...God matters.

Peace,

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: Sue Cooley – 715-675-8566; cooley1512@outlook.com

Treasurer: Arden Mikich – 715-298-3220; armrut3@charter.net

Secretary: Sue Rakow – 715-675-7213; suszir@aol.com

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

Don Voelker – 715-675-7062; midmainefarms@hotmail.com

Evangelism: Duane Askew – 75-675-4111; daskew@airrun.net

Fellowship: Mike Kluetz – 715-218-1357; mdk@airrun.net

Education: Connie Nowak – 715-675-1577; cnowak@rivervalleybank.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

6:30 p.m. Wednesday Mid-Week Worship Service -

(May 25 - September 7)

Please join us as we worship our Lord!

“Council Corner”

The council is very excited about the big event at St. John this summer. There has been a great deal of planning that has gone into our 150th anniversary. We are selling mugs, arranging for food and music and all the many details of an event of this importance. We are pleased with the recent renovations and think they enhance our worship experience. In order to get things in tip top shape we are planning our annual spring cleaning on May 21st at 8:00 AM. Many hands make light work as my Grandmother would say. This was indeed the case last year. In no time at all we had clean windows, raked grass, clean pews, basement and kitchen. Please consider giving an hour or two of your time to help clean up and/or help in any way with the celebration itself. Looking forward to seeing you there.

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
1347 Crystal Avenue
Room 236-1
Naperville, IL 60563

Orville Anklam
Rennes Health Center
4605 Valdres Springs Ct.
#511
Schofield, WI 54476

Ellen Kruit
3312 Terrace Court #19
Wausau, WI 54401

WANTED.....COWGIRLS AND COWBOYS....For a rootin', tootin', good time at Avalanche Ranch VBS!!

Join us July 17th – 21st, 5:30 – 8:00pm, as we take A Wild Ride through the Great Adventure of God's Word at Avalanche Ranch VBS!!!

Saddle up for fun at Wild Bible Adventures, Horseplay Games, Cowpoke Crafts, Chadder's Wild West Theater and MORE!

Don't poke 'round....Giddy Up and get register early for a Stampede of Fun at AVALNACHE RANCH VBS!!

3 easy ways for ya'll to register!

- 1.) Registrations forms available in the narthex by the mailboxes
- 2.) Call / email Lane Bahr at 715.297.0017 or lucylane35@hotmail.com
- 3.) Easy on-line registration is up and running, so come join a wild ride through God's Word in Avalanche Ranch and register your kids!

Wanna become a Ranch Hand and help out?? See Lane Bahr for volunteer opportunities!!

Lent & Easter 2016 – Fellowship. THANK YOU to everyone who helped make our Lenten Suppers and the Easter Breakfast successful again this year – those who provided food, cooked and helped set up, serve and clean up. We averaged nearly 65 people per week at the 6 Lenten Suppers – down from last year's 70 – and brought in \$1413 for the Women's Community. On Easter Sunday we served an estimated 110 people and brought in \$385 for the St. John Youth Group.

I'd also like to thank those who have provided treats for Fellowship on Sunday mornings. As a reminder, if you would be willing to bring treats it is best to indicate that in advance on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the kitchen so that we do not have more than we need one Sunday and nothing the next. The categories of foods listed are only *suggestions*, but allow space for two or three people to chip in and provide part of that week's "menu" without one having to bring enough for everybody. Thank you again, - Mike Kluetz, Fellowship

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 May will be donated to The Neighbor's Place. 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.

Procrastinators

A pastor waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but many cars were ahead of the pastor at the service station. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump.

“Sorry about the delay,” said the young man. “Everyone seems to wait until the last minute to get ready for a long trip.”

The pastor chuckled, “I know what you mean. It's the same in my business.”