

From Pastor Dan

Yeah, summer is almost here! It's about time. Now we can chill out and relax a bit. Summer is a time to have some fun; a time to take life less seriously. So with that thought in mind, I decided to focus the attention of this month's article on the misapprehension of the reality of the transformative power of Jesus Christ. (.....That was supposed to be a joke.)

However, the power of God at work in the world and in your life through Jesus Christ is no laughing matter. And even though the summer season may not be the most appropriate time to launch into such a heady discussion, there is no time like the present. So as you are lying on the beach soaking up the rays (always keeping in mind your sunscreen) or sitting in a boat trolling for trout, maybe you can allow some of your idle brain power to wrap itself around this subject.....just for fun.

To clarify, the bottom line of this thought of my mine is this: Can God really make a difference in your life? The answer is yes, despite an increasing number of voices which clamor to the contrary. We may not be able to claim empirical evidence for the existence of God, but I think you will be hard-pressed to deny the existence of a creative force in the universe who or which exists beyond our complete comprehension. Having said that, however, I think you really need to come to terms with the reality of God; with the reality of, as Dietrich Bonhoeffer put it, "The beyond in the midst of our life..." You really need to believe. Will you have doubts? Yes, we all do and we all should. Will you have questions? Yes, we all do and we all should. Yet, you really must settle this thing in your heart and in your mind and allow yourself to come to terms with the reality of the existence of God.

Okay so you believe....swell. Now, you have to act as if you believe. Yes, "have to" is a strong demand. But if you want God to make a difference in your life you have to act as if God can make a difference in your life. As I repeatedly claim, your relationship with God in Jesus Christ is exactly that, a relationship. As is the case with any relationship, with your spouse, your children, your parents, your friends; the strength of your relationship with God depends upon how much you believe in it, how much you care about it, and how much time you spend in it. A causal relationship with your friend won't make much of a difference in your life; neither will a causal relationship with your God.

It's summer...yeah! So head on out there and have a good time; be safe and relax. However, don't let your mind and your heart totally veg out. Stay active in your thinking, stay active in your feeling, and stay active in your believing. Because it truly can make all the difference; God really does transform lives.

God 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: 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; bcdenowak@gmail.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!

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

Financial Report for April, 2016

Income Received	Expenses Paid	Difference	Budget
\$10,524	\$15,912	(\$5,388)	12,000

Year-to-Date

Income Received	Expenses Paid	Difference	Budget
\$53,597	\$53,732	(\$135)	\$48,000

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!!

The South Africans are coming June 26 (arriving in Wausau at midnight). They will be with us for two weeks. Three people are coming: Sello Ratshikana, William Moredi and Francinah Seleke. You probably remember Sello and Francinah from 2012. William will be the newcomer on this trip. Sixty South Africans are coming from the Madikwe Circuit to be with our Wisconsin River Valley Conference. Seventeen ELCA churches in our area will provide hosts. Two concerts are planned. One is in Tomahawk and one will be in Wausau. More details on this will come later. The South Africans gift to us is their music and you are most welcome to attend. Sello, William and Francinah will be with you for worship on Sunday and during the week as well as other meetings of church groups. The purpose of this visit is not tourism. Rather it is to continue dialog of faith partners. We are to listen and learn from each other about our faith and the work of our church. Remember all hosts should plan to attend the Orientation meeting on Sunday, June 5 at St. Andrew Church (Rib Mountain), starting at 3:30 p.m.

Thank You. Thank you for your cards, visits, well wishes and most of all your prayers during my recent illness. A special thank you to Pastor Dan Sire. John Stubbe

Thank you. The quilters sincerely thank Brenda Tesch for donating her Mother's sewing machine for our use. We will certainly appreciate it when we start quilting in the Fall.

Youth Mission Trip Brat Fry. Our youth will be having a brat fry at Quality Foods in Rib Mt. Friday, June 17th and Saturday, June 18th from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Stop in for lunch.

Youth Mission Trip Stock Sale. We could still use a couple of investors. Gina and Ariel Graveen, Renner and Kylie Stubbe, Megan Eno, Veronica LaVake and Schmidty are going Saturday, June 25th – Saturday July 1st to Red Lake Indian Reservation in Minnesota. They are offering a Youth Stock sale where you can invest in them and their mission trip. It is \$1.00 per share and you can buy as many shares as you would like. You will receive a stock certificate and be invited for a stockholders meeting when they get back. All donations will be credited on your giving statement.

Youth Mission Trip Stockholders' Meeting. A meeting will be Sunday, July 17th right after church for all who invested in our youth's mission trip. They will share about their week at the Red Lake Indian Reservation.

Youth Mission Trip Female Chaperone Needed. We are still looking for a female chaperone for the mission trip Saturday, June 25th – Friday, July 1st. If you are interested or have any questions, please call Connie Nowak at 715-675-1577.

Building Fund Update. Contributions for Sunday, May 29, were \$20.00. Total contributions to date are \$13,382.00. Thank you very much for your support.

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 June 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.