

From Pastor Dan

It has been suggested that I may be flirting with blasphemy because I am a native Montanan who neither hunts nor fishes. Now, please understand, I have no particular objection to either avocation. It is simply that my father was not a hunter so it was not something which he was inclined to introduce to his boys. I did try it a couple of times with some high school friends. However, traipsing for miles over the sagebrush hills of eastern Montana in search of very elusive deer or antelope with a group of testosterone fueled teenaged boys carrying high powered rifles did not strike me as the safest or sanest way to spend a Saturday.

When I was younger, I also tried fishing. I actually kind of enjoyed standing on the edge of Rock Creek trying to cast into the quiet pools that eddied behind the large boulders at the edge of the cold clear water roaring, rushing, and roiling over the rocks. I was told these pools were where the fish would be found as they sought respite from the tumult. Unfortunately for the future of my fishing career, I never had much luck.

However, that fishing scene stuck with me; not just as a pleasant experience from my youth but also as a metaphor for life. You see our everyday journeys as we walk out the front door seem to place us squarely in the midst of those cold, roaring, roiling streams. Very often, like those rainbow trout I was after, we seek refuge from the constant barrage of life in the quiet pools of sheltered water. And as I became more aware of the presence of God in the world and in my life, I gave God credit for the peaceful pools of sanctuary in the roaring streams that are our lives.

Yet, as my theology matures and my faith journey becomes more focused, the metaphor of God as a source of quiet shelter in the midst of the noise and chaos of 21st century life was not enough anymore. It seemed too tame.... too confining. God had to be more. God was not just the quiet places in the stream but the whole stream. And God was not just the stream but the melting snow that was the source of the stream, the canyon that dictated how the stream flowed, and God was the lake and the river and the ocean where the stream waters eventually flowed. For me, God had to be more than just a nice peaceful refuge in a crazy world (not that there is anything wrong with a nice peaceful refuge in a crazy world).

In contrast, my God these days is evolving into the totality of creation, the rationale and moving force behind it all; not simply some pleasant spot to spend some away time. God as revealed in Jesus Christ is not an escape from the world but rather a call to engage fully in the world.

So what does that all mean? Shoot, I don't know; at least I don't know for sure. But what I do know is that I want my God to be one who transforms lives; not just someone to check in on every now and then to make sure my reservation for heaven is still on the books.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and I'll see you around some time.

God bless 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

Summer Mid-Week Worship Service. Summer mid-week worship (6:30 p.m.) began on Wednesday, May 25 and concludes on Wednesday, September 7.

Dixieland Jazz Band – August 14. Join us for our August 14 worship service as we welcome back the Dixieland Jazz Band for some spirit-lifting southern style music. After our worship service we invite you to the fellowship hall for a summer cool down with Briq's ice cream and your favorite toppings.

Sisterhood Picnic. All ladies are invited to this year's Sisterhood picnic. Sue Harris is hosting at her home on Thursday, August 18 at 5:30 p.m. A taco bar will be set up for all to enjoy. Please bring an appetizer, salad or dessert to share – beverages will be provide. We will be collecting non-perishable food items to be donated to the Women's Community. Please consider joining us for an evening of food, fun, conversation and relaxation. Feel free to bring your swimsuit and towel for a dip in the pool. RSVP by contacting Sue at 715-551-6282 or Karen Ohrmundt at 715-370-0645.

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 August 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.

A Month of Sundays

“August is like the Sunday of summer,” an online memo proclaims. But that means different things to different people.

If you see Sunday as the end of a week – a chance to sleep in, do “nothing,” relax and play – then August might be your downtime at the end of a busy summer. If Sunday feels heavy because the onslaught of the workweek is approaching, then August may carry the dread of falling leaves and falling temperatures.

But if you view Sunday as a fresh start to the week, then August, with a new school year and new church programming around the corner, can be exciting. And if you honor Sunday as the Sabbath, indeed “August is like the Sunday of summer.” God invites us to enjoy these holy days and give thanks to him, the Creator of all seasons.

-----Heidi Mann