

From Pastor Dan

I returned last week from a vacation in Tucson, AZ. The change of pace and the change in weather were both appreciated. Yet, what I appreciated most about this trip in specific and what I enjoy most about travel in general is the opportunity for new perspectives. You see, I have a tendency to become rather set in my ways; ways of thinking and ways of acting. However, the experiences of travel very often force me into new ways of doing both. For example, while visiting the Arizona Desert Museum, I experienced the thrill of being buzzed by four Harris's Hawks during a raptor demonstration. At the Pima Air Museum, I stood in front of a B-17 bomber from WWII and was engrossed by a talk from a 94-year-old man (a very spry 94-year-old man) who actually piloted 28 missions in B-17's during WWII. Additionally, it became quickly and abundantly clear that my language was not necessarily the language of choice in the Tucson area. It was also revealing to notice that all the highway signs south of Tucson are in kilometers rather than miles. I was a minority. All these experiences and many more provided me with the opportunity for new perspectives on life; again, one of the reasons I appreciate traveling. However, I earnestly believe we can take advantage of this opportunity without leaving home; all we have to do is come to church.

Yes, I know that sounds like a less than subtle appeal for more regular church attendance. Yet, think about it, a church worship service is also a place which can take us out of the routine and mundane for a while and expose us to something different; something bigger than us, something outside of us, yet something which is the essence of who we are. After all, how many community gatherings do you attend each week which regularly consist of folks who range in age from infants to those who fought in WWII just like that fellow at the museum? And how many times each week do you join with a group of people in singing? How many times each week are you told you are forgiven and that you don't have to carry around a burden of guilt or live your life in the gut grumbling, tooth grinding anger of revenge? How many times each week are you told you are unconditionally loved? How many times each week do you have the opportunity to intentionally spend some time in contemplation of the creative power of the universe? And how many times each week do you have the chance to strengthen that relationship through the simple act of sharing a meal?

I know, I know, I'm biased. But please know that I am biased not just to justify my vocation. I am biased because I have experienced that life can be different, can be better, through an intentional effort to connect with the creative power of hope, peace, and love in the universe; and to share that experience with others who are also on a journey to a better life. Now, we are not all at the same place on that journey; some have been walking for decades and others are wondering if it even makes sense to begin. But no matter where we are on this pathway of faith, I sincerely and enthusiastically think it is a trip worth taking. We head out every Sunday at 9:00; join us if you can. The new perspectives just may be spectacular.

God's peace be with you,

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: Curt Cooley – 715-675-8566; usfcool@gmail.com

Secretary: Tammi Smith – 715-581-3892

Trustees: Lee Sillars – 715-218-5041

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

Evangelism: Duane Askew – 715-675-4111; daskew@airrun.net

Fellowship: John Marquardt – 715-675-3300

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

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.

Ann Kieckhafer
1347 Crystal Avenue
Room 236-1
Naperville, IL 60563

Ellen Kruit
3312 Terrace Court #19
Wausau, WI 54401

WELCA Conference Event Meeting – March 16 at 6:30 p.m. Please plan on attending so we can finalize all plans for the event. We need many hands to make this event reflect positively on St. John. Hope to see you all there.

WELCA Spring Conference Event – Saturday, April 22 at 8:00 a.m. All women of the church are invited to the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (WELCA) Spring Conference Event on Saturday, April 22, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at St. John. We are especially excited to hear Dr. Niveen Sarras from Immanuel Lutheran church in Wausau speak about her journey from Bethlehem to Wausau. This event also includes networking with other women's groups in the synod, a church service, and lunch concluding at approximately 1:00 p.m. Registration is required and the cost is \$13.00. Please see Patsy Askew, Sue Harris, Jayne Rowe, Jan Miller or Sue Cooley for further details. Hope to see you there.

The Sisterhood of St. John. The Sisterhood of St. John will **NOT** meet in March but **WILL** meet Monday, April 3 at 6:30 p.m. Please plan on attending. All women are welcome.

News from South Africa (Ginny Kirsch). Francinah called to tell us that work has begun on the ceiling of Rietpan Lutheran Church. At present the sanctuary is open to the rafters. Birds fly in. Traffic noise interferes with worship. The sanctuary is cold in winter. Rietpan Church has been collecting money for this project for a long time. When the ceiling is complete, the sanctuary will be enclosed. This should keep out the cold and the birds and the noise of the traffic. In November Rietpan church confirmed 20 young people. Finally, Rietpan is getting plenty of rain. Their gardens are wonderful. The cattle have enough to eat. St. John, ELCA of Maine is fortunate to have an enthusiastic partner such as Rietpan. In our global age, it is wonderful that our local church can connect with Christians from the southern hemisphere. We realize the unity found in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Please continue to pray for Rietpan as they pray for us. Sello would love to receive emails – his address is: msratshikana@gmail.com

March Birthdays

3-2 Matthew Rowe
3-2 Zachary Suliin
3-3 Jennifer Bronsteatter
3-3 Tyler Eno
3-3 Logan Heil
3-4 Lynn Buchberger
3-4 Ryan Seubert
3-5 Bailey Opper
3-5 Carol Prochnow
3-6 Ashley Bunge
3-8 Mariah Marquardt
3-9 John Stubbe
3-10 Steven Erdmann
3-10 Henry Welch
3-11 Caleigh Bahr
3-12 Heather Gallenberg
3-13 Don Voelker
3-15 Jim Marquardt
3-15 Jan Mueller
3-17 Austin Walter
3-18 Dan Hein
3-18 Will Rode
3-19 Stacey Linzmeyer
3-20 Arden Mikich
3-21 Trey Buchberger
3-21 Sara Stubbe
3-22 Jenna Guralski
3-23 Marlene Bahr
3-23 Nicole Woodmansee
3-24 Ben Grueneberg
3-25 Mike Stubbe
3-26 Kay Knapp
3-27 Michael LaVake
3-29 Betty Hoenisch
3-30 Jason Grueneberg
3-31 James Haroldson
3-31 Bruce Radant
3-31 Kylie Stubbe

March Anniversaries

3-26 Skip & Betty Hoenisch

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 March 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.