

From Pastor Dan

I am certain I am not alone in my appreciation of Spring as a special season of the year. Although the winter this year was not particularly trying, it is still a relief to look forward to the prospect of going outside unencumbered by big boots and puffy coats. Spring, of course, also provides the portent of positive change. More than any other season, this time of the year dramatically presents change in the images of melting snow and blooming flowers. Therefore, I determined this would be a good time to speak of some changes I envision for St. John.

I try to stay abreast of all the research and thought about how churches can continue to sustain themselves and even grow during this time of challenge in the realm of institutionalized religion. Much of what I read on church health speaks to the necessity of lay involvement in all areas of congregational life including worship. With that particular point in mind, I have decided to turn more of the Sunday worship responsibilities over to lay assisting ministers. This congregation is replete with talented and interested lay leaders who are more than capable of leading you in worship on Sunday mornings. Again, in all I have read on the subject, there are very few roadblocks to successfully implementing a program of lay led worship. As a matter of fact, the primary obstacle seems to be the presence of the pastor. Apparently with the pastor present on Sunday, the lay leaders are not able to fully express their vision of worship and therefore are held back in developing their worship leadership skills. With those realities in mind, I have decided that not only will I allow lay leaders to preside over Sunday worship every other week, but I have also decided that I should not be present at those times.

Now, that does not mean I will not be on the job full time during the week serving as your pastor, I will. However, I will only be here every other Sunday. One obvious objection to this scenario is that the lay worship leaders will not be able to preside over communion. So, the congregation will only receive communion twice a month. However, when one reflects on past practices in this church, communion was certainly not always a weekly occurrence. As a matter of fact, there have been times in our past when communion was served only once a quarter. I think we can all admit that if it was good enough for our ancestors then it is good enough for us.

Spring is a special time of year and it is a time which especially represents change. So, I invite you to revel in all this season of change has to offer. And I also invite you to embrace all that our changes in worship leadership can offer this congregation.

God bless you all,

Pastor Dan

p.s. April Fools

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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; rknapp@eojohnson.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; tammism79@gmail.com;
tammism@aspirus.org

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; johnnym54401@gmail.com

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

**“Council Corner”
Tammi Smith**

Your Spring Garden

First, plant three rows of peas:

Peace of mind
Peace of heart
Peace of soul

Next, plant four rows of squash:

Squash gossip
Squash indifference
Squash grumbling
Squash selfishness

Next, plant four rows of lettuce:

Lettuce be faithful
Lettuce be kind
Lettuce be happy
Lettuce really love one another

No Garden should be without turnips:

Turnip for service when needed
Turnip to help one another
Turnip the music and dance

Water freely with patience
And cultivate with love.

Then there will be much fruit in your Garden
Because you reap what you sow.

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 Sue Harris, Jan Mueller or Sue Cooley for further details. Hope to see you there.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Please join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 9, 2017, from 10:15a.m. until 11:15a.m. Children of all ages are welcome! Not only will we hunt for special treats, we will also read stories, do crafts, and eat snacks while learning about Jesus’ sacrifice and love for us.



The Easter Egg is hollow,
Just like they found the tomb;
For it is meant to represent,
Christ has risen for YOU!

Thank You. On behalf of John Stubbe I would like to thank the Men’s Brotherhood and others who came to sing on John’s birthday. When I asked him how he liked your visit he said it was “just wonderful.” A special thank you to Pat Rogalla who played the piano and arranged everything. Thank you Pastor Dan and others who have visited and sent cards and, most of all, thank you for your prayers. Marlene Stubbe

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 April will be donated to The Women's Community Center. 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.

April Anniversaries

4/8 Lane & Carrie Hoeft
4/12 Henry Welch & Laurie Prochnow
4/21 Rob & Cheryl Hanson
4/23 Paul & Mary Anderson
4/24 Adam & Connie Hoffman
4/27 Michael & Cindy Preisig

April Birthdays

4/1	Reece Berens	4/16	Melissa Haroldson
4-1	Tom Marquardt	4/16	Betty Ann Tabaka
4-1	Karen Ohrmundt	4-17	Sophie Hoffman
4/3	Perry Kufahl	4-18	Jack Harris
4-9	Stephanie Borelli	4-20	Jeremy Tesch
4-10	Harley Goetsch	4-20	Taylor Treu
4/11	Guy Frostman	4-23	Shirley Kopplin
4-12	Emma Nowak	4-26	Keith Kolbe
4-15	Dylan Buchberger	4-27	Ty Teske
4-15	Beth Eno	4-29	Brayden Gehrke
4-15	Bobbi Hanson	4-29	Addison Heil
4-15	Josh Hein	4-29	Rhett Schindler
4-15	Andrew Webb	4-30	Duane Askew
4-15	Brandon Webb	4-30	Al Tesch
4-16	Katie Fitzke		

LAY SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

To my fellow community members and parishioners of St. John church,

The Lay School of Ministry has asked past participants to let all of you know a bit more about the school and why I found it to be of value in my life. They have openings for next year's classes and would like to fill them.

I have always felt a love from God and have had a serious feeling of faith and dedication to him and his plan, however, I have also had many questions about him and had not spent enough time studying the bible, and frankly did not know where to begin.

I had a feeling that my faith in him was strong enough to make a difference in other people's lives, but I really did not know enough to answer other people's questions, how could I really help anyone else?

Through a series of small steps, the holy spirit brought me to a point where I could take action. I was brought together with other believers that I could have honest discussions with. I participated in a bible study on the book of Philippians, that was very enlightening and rewarding! Little by little, the faith that I had kept to myself, became one that I could expose to others. In fact, I gained enough confidence that I could even open a conversation with a topic that had God at the center!

Though I had come a long way, I still felt quite uneducated in matters of our Father. My faith was becoming stronger, but my knowledge was still lacking. I found myself searching for more. I met more believers through making my faith be known to those around me. And through more conversation, I found more perspectives on our creator that began to help me feel like a part of God's plan. I realized that making my faith known to others is an important part of being open and to become a working part of the community. I found that it was helpful to share my faith in God everywhere in my daily life, not only on Sunday mornings.

When I was made aware that there was this "Lay School of Ministry", I was a bit confused. I wasn't planning on being a minister, yet it seemed to be offering everything I was looking for. I prayed. I spoke to my wife. I was surprised that I had my family's support. So, I enrolled, and found it to be one of the best experiences in my life. I found

out that there are many ways of ministering in this world, not only by being an ordained minister. I found that reading and studying the bible, discussing with others like me, and the teachers, the pastors, the professors, was exactly what I needed to answer my questions. I also would know more about God for myself and when talking to others. We learned about things from the Old Testament and the New. We learned about the history of Christianity and other religions. We tried to tackle all of the tough questions that any of us in the class had. We celebrated together for those two years that I was there. We prayed for the people with hardships. We conducted our own services together. We sang. We shared stories of our experiences where God was showing us his presence in our lives. We ate fine meals together, prepared by those whose "Ministry" it was to serve others by means of sharing their culinary skills. (I can't express enough how much I appreciated the special meals these people prepared, and how truly great they were!) We learned about Martin Luther. We learned about the differences and similarities of the many Christian denominations.

I truly cannot put into words the many ways that the lay school has helped me in my life. I can only say that it has helped me be a better Sunday school teacher. It has helped me in my decision making as a Scout leader. It has helped me in my business life. It has helped me in my family life. It has made me feel like I have learned to be a better person and member of our congregation, not to brag in any way, just to feel like I have caught up to being the person I should be.

I encourage everyone to consider taking these classes. I believe you will receive much more than you ever expected. If you have questions about the school, please ask.

Sincerely,
Gene Bahr
715-574-0041