

From Pastor Dan

At the annual Synod Assembly last week, the guest speaker's theme was the Reformation and Luther. As part of that discussion, he spoke of Lutheran spirituality (yes, he contended, there is such a thing as Lutheran spirituality); the core of which is prayer. He went on to talk of his practice of daily prayer which includes both Luther's morning and evening prayers. Those prayers can be found in your Small Catechism (you still have your copy, right?) or on pp. 1166 and 1167 of the red hymnal. For your convenience, I include them here.

Morning Prayer: "I thank you, my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen."

Evening Prayer: "I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen"

These are fine prayers to use on a regular basis (You should try it...couldn't hurt); and I have gone through periods when I consistently used them. However, my prayers, which are also usually in the morning and the evening are typically a bit more casual. I begin by thanking God for all that I have (science affirms that an "attitude of gratitude" contributes to good health). Then I proceed to make my hopeful and prayerful requests in the name of Jesus Christ. Also, if things in my life are going either particularly well or especially lousy, I may lapse into an earnest dialogue with God out of appreciative gratitude or out of a desire to know what the heck is going on!

A complete discussion of what prayer is and isn't and how it works or doesn't work would require a book to fully explore. But regardless of your questions and concerns about prayer, suffice to say that in the very least an intentional connection with the universe through prayer is not a bad idea. This intentional connection can take many forms: Martin Luther's morning and evening prayers or your own method of contact. The important point is to do it. In his letter to the Philippians, Paul leaves us with sound advice, "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with

thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Phil 4:6-7)

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; 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; lsillars@aol.com

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

Evangelism: Duane Askew – 75-675-4111; 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

6:30 p.m. Wed. Evenings from May 31 through August 30

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
1821 N. 4th Avenue
Room 215
Wausau, WI 54401

Harriet Wanner
1240 Merrill Ave.
Apt. 2
Wausau, WI 54401

NEWS FROM SOUTH AFRICA. Francinah Seleke called. You remember Francinah visited us in 2012 and 2016. She said that their drought is over. They received so much rain that it flooded their gardens. At any rate, the pastures are green and the cattle have survived. Rietpan Lutheran Church has a new pastor, Rev. Nkate. He is an excellent preacher. The ceiling in their church is complete except for the final varnish. On May 7, Rietpan congregation hired a bus and traveled to Rev. Kwadi's church for their Harvest Festival. It is now winter in South Africa. Temperatures drop to freezing overnight, but warm up in the day. Nearly every day has sunshine. Her daughter Precious and family visited Rietpan for Easter. Precious' children are 10 and 14 years old. Precious visited St. John in 2012. Francinah and Sello enjoy your phone calls, letters and e-mails.

June Birthdays

6-2 Dylan Landrath
6-2 Elijah Linzmeyer
6-2 Brendan Ohrmundt
6-2 Lee Sillars
6-3 Nicole Kudronowicz
6-3 Brayden Melander
6-3 Rita Radant
6-5 Chuck Eno
6-5 Dale Gauger
6-5 Billie Jo Grueneberg
6-5 Jason Tabaka
6-6 Karen Matushak
6-6 Shonda Woodmansee
6-7 Brandon Clausen
6-7 Connie Hoffman
6-7 Zayla Howe
6-7 Joshua Tesch
6-8 Rachel Ohrmundt
6-8 Violet Teske
6-10 Jason Mueller
6-11 DJ Tesch
6-13 Leslie Ugoretz
6-17 Sarah Severson
6-20 Mike Kluetz
6-20 Randy Knudsen
6-21 Judy Floistad
6-21 Clarissa Knapp
6-22 Brian Marquardt
6-22 Kohin Pasholk
6-22 Kurt Rowe
6-23 Duane Mueller
6-24 Barb Paulsen
6-25 Spencer Hoeft
6-28 Vangie Ohrmundt
6-29 Joan Schreiber

June Anniversaries

6-1 Tom & Pam LeDuc
6-3 Ken & Karen Matushak
6-4 Dan & Robin Hein
6-6 Dale & Sharon Gauger
6-6 Laverne & Marilyn Grunenwald
6-9 Charles & Joanne Zahn
6-11 Paul & Stacey Linzmeyer
6-12 Del & Brenda Tesch
6-14 Todd & Deb Maley
6-17 Chuck & Beth Eno
6-17 Buzz & Rose Rosenau
6-18 Kurt & Jenna Guralski
6-19 Scott & Lynn Buchberger
6-21 Brian & Nicole Anderson
6-21 Stuart & Jody Gehrke
6-23 Pete & Phyllis Seubert
6-24 Scott & Cherish Oestreich
6-29 John & Louise Harter
6-29 Brian & Amy Marquardt

Congratulations Graduates! As a congregation, St. John congratulates our members who are graduating from High School this year: Megan Eno, Stephanie Kohl, Hannah Kudronowicz, Taylor Treu, and Alex Zahn. We extend to them our prayers and best wishes as they engage in new adventures of faith and life.

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.