

From Pastor Dan

I was just thinking that it can be very easy to fall out of the habit of going to church; especially during summertime. Now, I am neither blind nor naïve, I understand the summer months present opportunities for travel, various activities, and family fun that are not available at other times of the year. I get it. But I also get that going to church can be good for you. In church, you have a chance to intentionally connect with God; and don't you think that taking some intentional time to connect with the creative power of love in the universe is a good thing? I mean come on, doesn't that make sense? Also, Christian worship shifts your life focus outward. So, at the very least, you will experience an opportunity to get out of your own head for a while; just might provide some much-needed and welcome relief.

Therefore, I have a challenge for you all: this summer, schedule to be in worship at St. John at least once a month (obviously come more often if you can.) And remember that Wednesday evening worship services are available for you during the summer and fall. If you absolutely can't make it to St. John, try another congregation and send me the worship folder. I like to see what other churches are up to.

One of my responsibilities as your pastor is to help you in your relationship with God in Jesus Christ. In my 66 years of hanging around this planet, I have observed that your life will be better if you live fully in that relationship. And you have a better chance of living fully in that relationship if you come to church. So.....your life will be better if you come to church.

See you there.

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 – 715675-8566; 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

Parking Lot. On May 21, a special congregational meeting was held to reconsider an updated parking lot proposal. The final vote came down to two options:

- A. Repair and reseal only
- B. Repair, reseal, and pave

By a vote of 49 to 19, the congregation voted to repair and reseal the existing lot and to pave the gravel parking area at an estimated cost of \$32,000. We have obtained a line of credit with our bank so we will be able to fund the work which is scheduled for sometime this summer, most likely in July.

Of course, logic and financial common sense dictate we pay off the borrowed money as quickly as possible to avoid excessive interest cost. That is where you come in. Now I know you have a lot of demands on your money, but we are counting on your support so please help out as you are able. You might contribute smaller amounts on a regular basis or you might choose to make a larger one-time contribution like \$470 which is enough to pay for one parking spot (and no, it will not be yours to keep!) As you provide the funds for this parking lot project keep in mind, of course, that the essential financial needs of the church continue. This is a politically correct way of saying we are looking for extra contributions, not just a diversion from current giving.

The people of St. John have repeatedly demonstrated their willingness and faithfulness in supporting the cost of special church projects. Our expectation is that the parking lot project will be no different. Thank you in advance for your help and support.

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Your Ticket is Stamped

On a train trip, a pastor struck up a conversation with a seatmate who thought character and good works led to salvation. The pastor wasn't making progress but had a realization when the conductor collected tickets, quickly checking the date before stamping each one. After the conductor passed by, the pastor told his fellow passenger: "All the conductor looked at was your ticket. He did not inquire about your character. He didn't care who you were – whether you were a good or moral man or a criminal. So it is with salvation. You need only God's 'ticket to heaven' stamped by the blood of Jesus Christ."

Action Teams. In the June issue of "Thrivent Magazine" you will find an article entitled "Spring into Action" which explores the topic of how to help strengthen community giving with a Thrivent Action Team. Actually it is quite simple to get financing for projects of outreach and living generously as well as helping those in our community who are not quite so well off.

At least one member of a team needs to be a Thrivent member. Get together with at least five team members and come up with an idea of how to help the community whether it is buying needed items for a nonprofit organization or establish a food bank or help put clothes on the backs of children. The sky is the limit. All you need is an idea. Whatever you think will have positive impact on the community.

Next log on to [Thrivent.com/action team](http://Thrivent.com/action%20team) or you may also call 800-847-4836. An action team representative will walk you through the application process. Thrivent will award you up \$250 per project and up twice a year per Thrivent member. Recently two action teams received \$500 to help with the expenses of the WELCA Spring Conference.

If you have further questions or need help with the process contact Duane Askew - daskew@airrun.net

Vacation Bible School. Join us at St. John Church, July 9th – 13th, 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., for Cave Quest Vacation Bible School, and gear up for an over-the-top underground adventure! Kids will become grounded in the rock-solid foundation of God's love, a love that takes us through life's dark times. Rock-solid Bible truths are an important part of this adventure.

At Cave Quest VBS, kids will explore the rock-solid foundation of Jesus' love. Cave Quest VBS is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences that kids will see, hear, touch and even taste! Science-Fun Gizmos™, team-building games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. Plus, we'll help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life.

You can register for our Cave Quest Vacation Bible School on-line at stjohnwausau.org or by calling Lane Bahr at 715-297-0017 or by contacting Lane via e-mail at lucylane35@hotmail.com.

We're still looking for helpers in all areas including prep work. Please contact Lane if you can help for even one night!

Come and join the fun at Cave Quest VBS!

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 July 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.

July Birthdays

7-1 Karrissa Fitzke
7-1 Connie Nowak
7-1 Sarah Preisig
7-3 Dylan Marquardt
7-6 Nichole Saari
7-8 Chelsi Bronsteatter
7-8 Sue Rakow
7-9 Tammi Smith
7-10 Bryce Heil
7-11 Vernon Bahr
7-11 Aiden Ohrmundt
7-12 Debbie Knapp
7-12 Brec Ohrmundt
7-12 Ashlee Walters
7-14 Henry Marquardt
7-15 Britta Rowe
7-16 Agnes Schelbert
7-17 Mason Hirn
7-18 Debbie Klug
7-19 Aleah Oestreich
7-20 Scott Buchberger
7-20 Pam Mootz
7-20 Kara Rode
7-20 Ava Rode
7-20 Eli Swemke
7-21 Carrie Hoeft
7-21 Mike Kilinski
7-22 Ann Kieckhafer
7-22 James Nolan
7-23 John Marquardt
7-25 Kate Young
7-26 Coleton LeDuc
7-26 Earl Schmieden
7-27 Gene Bahr
7-27 Brandon Landrath
7-27 George Webb
7-27 Joanne Zahn
7-28 Bianca Melander
7-30 Shelley Kufahl

July Anniversaries

7-10 Terry & Jamie Kickbusch
7-10 Randy & Brenda Knudsen
7-12 Jason & Amanda Grueneberg
7-14 James & Stephanie Borelli
7-15 Greg & Nicole Melander
7-18 Fritz & Pat Poeske
7-23 Brandon & Brooke Schindler
7-28 Randy & Diane Trulen
7-29 Gene & Lane Bahr