

### **From Pastor Dan**

I have two primary passions in life, aside from my adorable brothers of course; those are flying and Jesus. Unfortunately, both are facing challenging times.

For example, aviation is healthy in the airline segment at least for the time being. They are profitable and job opportunities abound. However, fewer and fewer young people are demonstrating interest in an aviation career which threatens the long-term viability of the airline industry. In addition, the small folks (general aviation) are not growing and are now facing legislation currently before congress that would privatize air traffic control. If it passes, the concern of general aviation operators is that airlines would pretty much be in charge of our nation's airspace because they are the biggest users and wield the most power. It would be similar to large trucking companies being given control over the highway system. It might be a good thing or it might create a less than favorable environment for the personal automobile. Therefore, big question marks loom over the future of both large and small segments of aviation. I don't mean to sound like a paid political announcement, but passion number 1 is on shaky ground.

Unfortunately, passion number 2 (he is actually #1) is not faring that well either. Now don't get me wrong, I am certain that Jesus himself is just fine (can I hear an "Amen!"). However, I am also fairly certain he is disappointed with what he sees going on with his followers. Ambivalence among those who call themselves Christian is what is going on. Polls vary, but most point to a figure of about 70% of Americans who believe in God with only about 30% regularly attending church services. And as is the case with aviation, young people just don't seem interested.

Why is this happening and what is the solution? I don't know. Sure, if aviation changed its ways of thinking and doing and became more affordable and accessible young people might be more interested. By the same token, if organized Christianity took a hard look at how we understand and explain God, young people might be more intrigued. These actions would definitely help. Yet, I think something bigger is afoot. I think the sense of mystery and wonder is slowly seeping out of our world and our lives. People used to look up when an airplane flew over and people used to pause to ponder questions of God; not so much anymore. As an example, my hangar in Merrill is right next to a city street. On summer evenings when I am returning from a flight and taxiing up in front of my hangar, often folks, young and old, will be strolling along the street. In the ten years I

have been using the hangar, not a single person has ever even looked in my direction; at the little airplane not more than 50 feet from them. I understand that not everyone likes airplanes as I do; but you would think in ten years at least one person would have been slightly curious.

So, the problems seem pretty daunting; yet, we can't and we won't give up. Next week I am off to Oshkosh for the big fly-in. I am certain to hear lots of ideas on how to solve the aviation problem while I'm there. And when I get back, I will for sure work on the Jesus thing. Yes indeed I will.

God' peace be with 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; 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 – 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

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**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.

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*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!*

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**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. 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Room 215  
Wausau, WI 54401

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

## CONFIRMATION CLASS

Young people, I am sure you had an exciting and fun-filled summer (hopefully, some of you old people did too.) But soon it will be back to school (yeah) and back to confirmation class (YEAH!) As in the past, we will meet for confirmation classes at 6:30 on Wednesday evenings beginning with a parent/student meeting on Wednesday, September 13. Also, as in the past, our classes will consist of two groups: "Schmidty" will instruct 7<sup>th</sup> graders on the Bible and I will instruct the 8<sup>th</sup> graders on the Small Catechism along with Lutheran theology and Lutheran history. The history portion may be more significant this year given that we are celebrating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

However, I want to make a change this year; I plan on having an adult mentor for each of the nine (9) 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation students. The responsibilities of the mentors would not be burdensome and would include:

- Attending confirmation class approximately once every two months
- Be available to your student for questions and discussion about faith in general and your faith in specific
- Be willing to spend some time during class in January to help your student to begin fashioning a statement of their faith

This type of intergenerational faith activity will go a long way in building stronger relationships within the congregation and stronger relationships with God. If you are a faithful adult who cares about the young people in our congregation, who cares about the future of the church, and who cares about God, then I ask you to please consider this opportunity. (Hopefully I laid out enough of a guilt trip for at least nine folks to respond.)

Confirmation classes play a central role in young adult faith formation. I appreciate the enthusiasm and participation of students, parents, and mentors. I look forward to the new academic year.

Pastor Dan

### **St. John Memorial Committee**

Some of you may not be aware of the work of the St. John Memorial Committee! Here is a quick overview of what we do:

The Memorial Committee at St. John was established to (1) Keep a record of all gifts and memorials received; (2) Formally thank donors for gifts of \$50 or more; (3) Approve expenditures with the approval of the Church Council; and (4) Keep a list of suggested projects to be shared with donors

We encourage you to share project ideas for memorial contributions! Often, those wishing to memorialize their loved ones don't have a specific project in mind. Approved ideas can be shared with families for their consideration.

Here are some examples of projects that were funded over the past year:

- Purchased Blue Advent Paraments for the altar area
- Purchased Parish Hall Tables and Chairs
- Purchased Two DVD Players and Projector
- Framed St. John Mission Statement, German Prayer, Birthday Song
- Purchased Pastor's Office Computer
- Purchased a new desk for the Pastor

Perhaps you see a need in the church that would be an appropriate project for a memorial.

We'd appreciate any church project suggestions you might have! Please contact one of the members of the Memorial Committee to share your ideas:

- Joanne Zahn
- Jayne Rowe
- Rose Rosenau
- Jan Ziebell
- Curt Cooley
- Advisor: Pastor Dan Sire

Thank you!

**Dixieland Jazz Band/Ice Cream Social.** On Sunday, August 20, bring a friend, neighbor or extended family member(s) to join us in worship. The Dixieland Jazz Band will be providing a taste of toe-tapping music during our service. After the service stay for the ice cream social. Ice cream from Briq's along with your favorite toppings will be a surefire bet to help cool you off from Pastor Dan's fiery sermon!

**Upcoming Evangelism Events.** Sunday, August 20 – Sid Kyler Band will be playing during the 9:00 a.m. service. Also, please plan to stay for an ice cream social immediately after the service.

This year's Crop Walk is scheduled for Sunday, October 1 starting at 11:00 a.m. at Marathon Park. More details to follow. Contact Duane Askew or another committee member for more information.

Let's help others to see the light of Jesus in their life. Rather than pick a single Sunday for 'Bring your neighbor/friend to church' we encourage you to invite your friends and neighbors to St John anytime.

Thank You. Evangelism Committee

**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](mailto: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.

**August Birthdays**

8-1 Skip Hoenisch  
8-2 Kaitlin Bronsteatter  
8-3 Mike Poeske  
8-3 Kyle Rosenau  
8-5 Dawson Hein  
8-6 Tammy Landrath  
8-7 Devin Bahr  
8-7 Carol Fitzke  
8-7 Hannah Kudronowicz  
8-7 Phyllis Seubert  
8-9 Nancy Voelker  
8-10 Shawn Bahr  
8-10 Nick Maley  
8-11 Julie LaVake  
8-11 Lynn Tesch  
8-12 Christine Doede  
8-15 Sheila Gumz  
8-16 Pam Zahn  
8-17 Abigail Kufahl  
8-17 Christopher Ohrmundt  
8-17 Scott Treu  
8-18 Terry Ugoretz  
8-20 Anne Ohrmundt  
8-20 Marlene Stubbe  
8-21 Bailey Frostman  
8-22 Georgia Koenig  
8-22 Diane Trulen  
8-24 Bryce Eno  
8-25 Eugene Dehnel  
8-25 Kooper Guralski  
8-27 Pamela LeDuc  
8-29 Kay Berens

**August Anniversaries**

8-9 Eric & Barb Paulsen  
8-14 Larry & Kay Berens  
8-15 Michael & Michelle Bolz  
8-15 Justin & Madeline Grueneberg  
8-15 Craig & Kari Heil  
8-18 Nick & Heidi Teske  
8-19 Mitch & Tammy Landrath  
8-19 Brian & Connie Nowak  
8-21 Mike & Heather Gallenberg