

### **From Pastor Dan**

I got a bit behind this month in producing my April newsletter article so I took a peek at last year's edition to see if I could possibly reuse it. Well, last year I pulled an April Fool's on you. Therefore, I decided it wouldn't be prudent to try to recycle that one. However, given that Easter is on April 1 this year, I may have used up my best opportunity.

I may have missed out, but many others have not. As a matter of fact, my YouTube addiction has uncovered a plethora of videos featuring folks taking full advantage of the coincidental date of Easter this year. In their often- virulent diatribes, many chortle and cheer that the April 1<sup>st</sup> timing conveniently exposes Christianity in general and Easter in specific for the cruel hoaxes they claim them to be. These naysayers don't seem to have a viable alternative other than some glorified secular humanism which, if you watch the news at all, does not seem to be working particularly well in maintaining a human community of order and compassion. Nonetheless, they pound away.

Okay then, just what is it that we Christians can offer in response to these criticisms; what can we offer that folks are not getting elsewhere. In a word, I believe it is hope. As Christians, we claim a hope which comes out of a 2000-year-old tradition which has transformed the lives of millions of people for the better. We claim a hope that is born out of an emphasis on being loved and loving rather than seeking ways to alienate each other through a steadfast unwillingness to even consider what anyone else thinks or says. We claim a hope which comes from being forgiven and forgiving rather than nursing grudges against others and wallowing in self-blame. We claim a hope which grows out of a pursuit of peace and justice. Yes, the world has bad people in it and yes, we are not all the same; nevertheless, we can persistently and passionately seek the relief of peace for both ourselves and others. And we can accept the reality that we are valuable creations and others are as well.

It is true, this year Easter Sunday and April Fool's Day occupy the same space on the calendar. The coincidence has provided some with the opportunity to mock Christian theology in general and Easter resurrection in specific. Okay, have at it. But it is easy to criticize. Nowadays, with the help of the internet, millions can anonymously (and often very cowardly) blast away at will. But that is too easy; instead, show me what you have. I desperately want to see their answers to the tough questions and their solutions to the difficult problems. Now, I don't pretend to possess all the answers and all the solutions; as a matter of fact, I have very few. But I do have a solid starting point. As Christians we

all have a solid starting point. We have an attitude, a lifestyle, and a mindset of hope that has sustained millions of people over thousands of years. In my opinion, that is not a bad place to start and not such a bad way to live your life.

Happy Easter!!

Pastor Dan

### **Council Corner – Tammi Smith**

#### **To Let Go**

(From Inspirational Stories and Poems)

To let go does not mean to stop caring, it means I can't do it for someone else.

To let go is not to cut myself off, it's the realization that I can't control another.

To let go is not to enable, but to allow learning from natural consequences.

To let go is to admit powerlessness, which means the outcome is not in my hands.

To let go is not to try to change or blame another, it's to make the most of myself.

To let go is not to care for, but to care about.

To let go is not to fix, but to be supportive.

To let go is not to judge, but to allow another to be a human being.

To let go is not to be in the middle arranging all the outcomes, but to allow others to affect their own destinies.

To let go is not to be protective, it's to permit another to face reality.

To let go is not to criticize, or regulate anyone, but to try to become what I dream I can do.

To let go is to fear less, and to love more.

**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 Trulen – 715-675-4091; rtrulen@gmail.com  
Vice President: Sue Cooley – 715-675-8566; 715-571-4057l cooley1512@outlook.com  
Treasurer: Curt Cooley – 715675-8566; 715-571-4057; usfcool@gmail.com  
Secretary: Tammi Smith – 715-581-3892; tammism79@gmail.com;  
tammism@aspirus.org  
Trustees: Lee Sillars – 715-218-5041; lsillars@aol.com  
Scott Oestreich – 715-675-4360; scottsmachinellc@gmail.com  
Evangelism: Erin Randall – 715-212-3720; emrandal@mtu.edu  
Fellowship: John Marquardt – 715-675-3300; johnnym54401@gmail.com  
Education: Connie Nowak – 715-675-1577; 715-432-3837; bcdenowak@gmail.com  
Worship: Heidi Teske – 715-551-4485; heidi.teske2007@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**  
*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	Ellen Kruit	Harriet Wanner
1347 Crystal Avenue	1821 N. 4 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	1240 Merrill Ave.
Room 236-1	Room 215	Apt. 2
Naperville, IL 60563	Wausau, WI 54401	Wausau, WI 54401

**The Sisterhood of St. John.** Please be sure to sign up for the day trip to see the lighthearted play “A Second Helping” at the Fireside Theatre in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin. It sounds like a fun trip into the world of Lutheran women serving the church in their own way through the making of food. We will be leaving on Saturday, June 2 from the church parking lot at 7:00 a.m. arriving in Fort Atkinson at 10:30 a.m. with dinner (included) at 11:15 a.m. We will be traveling by bus and arriving back around 7:00 p.m. Cost of the trip is \$95.95 which includes: show, meal, gratuity and bus ticket. Please see the flyer in the narthex for the menu and additional information. Sounds like a great good time.

#### **AED - Next to Coat Rack**

We have purchased and mounted an **AED (Automated External Device)** next to the coat rack in the fellowship hall.

Immediate cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and early defibrillation, with an automated external defibrillator (AED) , can more that double a victim’s chance of survival. In fact, early defibrillation, along with CPR, is the only way to restore the victim’s heart rhythm to normal in a lot of cases of cardiac arrest.

**For every minute that passes without CPR and defibrillation, however the chances of survival decreases by 7-10%.**

It is very simple to use.

Have someone call 911 while you take the AED in the red bag to the person.

Open bag,

Turn on: Big green button.

Listen for directions as it will start talking in a loud clear voice.

Put Two pads on the person’s skin in specific places.

It will tell you when to push the Orange shock button.

Then it will instruct how and when to start CPR.

On YouTube there are many good demonstration videos.

Please watch: **Phillips HeartStart Onsite AED DEFIB Demonstration Video**

Contact Curt Cooley for more info.

**Financial Report for February, 2018**

<b>Income Received</b>	<b>Expenses Paid</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>Budget</b>
<b>\$10,461.58</b>	<b>\$10,416.32</b>	<b>\$45.26</b>	<b>\$13,600</b>

**Year-to-Date**

<b>Income Received</b>	<b>Expenses Paid</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>Budget</b>
<b>\$21,207.10</b>	<b>\$24,357.06</b>	<b>(\$3,149.96)</b>	<b>\$27,200</b>

*Attendance Report*

*2018*      *2017*

*Average Weekly/February*

*142*

*100*

*Average Weekly/Year-to-Date*

*127*

*98*

**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 will be donated to Maine School. Your donations are appreciated. If you are able to help out with delivering these items to the school, 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.

**April Birthdays**

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

**April Anniversaries**

4-06 Shane & Nichole Saari  
4-08 Lane & Carrie Hoeft  
4-12 Henry Welch & Laurie Prochnow  
4-23 Paul & Mary Anderson  
4-24 Adam & Connie Hoffman  
4-27 Mike & Cindy Preisig