

From Pastor Dan

Before you have an opportunity to read this (another gem from your pastor), you will have voted on improvements to our building. I hope you at least voted for paint; the place needs paint. But whatever the outcome of the vote, some have questioned the wisdom of spending money on our facility when that money could be used to further the ministries of this congregation.

Well, that of course is true. And that line of thinking taken to its logical conclusion would lead to a church with no building at all, but rather one that meets in people's homes. Additionally, those meetings would be presided over by lay leadership rather than a pricey pastor. Some have suggested that this is a good idea and that it is in fact the shape of the church to come in this country. Maybe it is.

However, as I have claimed in this space on a few previous occasions, I believe there is value in meeting together at least once a week as an entire community of faith. And in that intentional gathering together we have an opportunity to encounter God in word and sacrament that we might not otherwise have the chance to do. If you really think or even if you are just thinking about thinking that God is revealed in Jesus Christ who is the way, and the truth, and the life; then the act of worship and a place to worship are necessary accoutrements.

Of course whatever improvements to our worship space you voted to accept, it is going to cost you money. So in the coming year, we will face the burden of a budget that has increased by 4% and the cost of building renovations. In my mind, it is not that much of a burden, you can do it. You have done it in the past and you will most assuredly do it again. And if by some outside chance we begin to slip in meeting our financial obligations, I will repeatedly remind you, with all the passion I can muster, of your stewardship responsibilities; responsibilities that go beyond mechanical pledging to a place where Jesus invites you to be free of one of the most encumbering shackles that bind us, our love of money. (That is just a start. You really don't want to hear me when I build up a head of steam!)

So I hope we are at least going to spruce up our facility with some paint, maybe more. Whatever your decision and whatever the cost I am supremely confident that as a faithful congregation we will pull it off.

God's blessings and God's peace be with you all.

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; rknappeoj@gmail.com

Vice President: Sue Cooley – 715-675-8566

Treasurer: Phyllis Seubert – 715-573-9890; grammaphylldogg@gmail.com

Secretary: Sue Rakow – 715-675-7213; suszir@aol.com

Trustee: Laverne Grunenwald – 715-675-6880; mgrunen@yahoo.com

Bob Hoff – 715-675-2442

Evangelism: Heidi Teske – 715-536-6134; heidi.teske2007@gmail.com

Fellowship: Mike Kluetz – 715-218-1357; mdk@airrun.net

Education: Rebecca Voelker – 715-675-0522; voelkerd1@hotmail.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!

“Council Corner”

From Sue Rakow

My Request

Oh, kind and gentle Jesus,
you who walked in Galilee,
Send now a portion of your heart
breathe your Spirit into me.

Give me a vision of yourself,
true insight from above.
That I may share along the way
the wonder of your love.

Grant me a soul of quiet strength
to tread the path you trod
So when I greet the world today
They'll know I walk with God.

Chris Ahlemann
from the “The Lutheran Journal”

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.

Betty Tietz
4602 Barbican Ave., Room 106
Weston, WI 54476
715-393-0215

Ann Kieckhafer
1347 Crystal Avenue
Room 236-1
Naperville, IL 60563

Orville Anklam
Rennes Health Center
4605 Valdres Springs Ct.
#511
Schofield, WI 54476

Lenten Mid-Week Worship. Ash Wednesday began our mid-week Lenten worship services. Ash Wednesday included both Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes. The other five worship services will not include the communion meal but, of course, all worship services will be preceded by a community meal from 5:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. Also, we will join with other congregations in a round robin of presiding pastors to include Pastors Paulette Creswell of Pilgrim Lutheran, Erik Olson of First English, and Phil Bogen of Trinity and St. Peter. Please plan on participating in these Lenten activities at some level; at least for no other reason than to experience someone other than Pastor Dan for a change.

Lenten Meals. You are invited to share in a meal and fellowship beginning at 5:15 p.m. prior to our Lenten worship service. There will be a free-will offering with proceeds going to our church building and grounds renovation fund. Meal ingredients may be donated or you can be reimbursed – just submit your bill within ten days of purchase to our church Treasurer. If you have any questions, contact Mike Kluetz at 715-218-1357.

South Africa. In July of 2013 a contingent of South African visitors were hosted by various churches in central Wisconsin. St. John was host to five visitors from our companion congregation in Rietpan. Apparently the visit was such a success St. John is again being asked to be host visitors for the summer of 2016. The church council felt we could handle two visitors. If more families in the congregation volunteer to host, we could increase the number accordingly. The visit is usually for two to three weeks and each visitor would be with one family for the first half and a second family for the last half. Hosting a visitor involves serving breakfast, occasionally dinner and providing transportation to and from activities planned for the day. We are currently looking for four hosts. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact John Marquardt at 715-675-3300 or Tammi Smith at 715-581-3892.

Easter Egg Hunt. Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Sunday, March 22, from 10:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Activities will include a variety of crafts, listening to the Easter story and the traditional Easter egg hunt. All youth of St. John's are invited to attend this event. If you have any questions, please contact Tammy Landrath at 715-675-9651.

All-Encompassing Savior

Christ be with me, Christ within me.
Christ behind me, Christ before me.
Christ beside me, Christ to win me.
Christ to comfort and restore me.

Christ beneath me, Christ above me.
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger.
Christ in hearts of all that love me.
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

---Hymn attributed to St. Patrick

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 March 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.