

## From Pastor Dan

Another Holy Week is upon us; a week that embodies a condensed summary of what Christianity is all about...love. On Maundy Thursday we appreciate the gift of the Lord's Supper which forever binds us together with Christ as sisters and brothers sitting down together to share a meal in the presence of Jesus. On Good Friday we accept the reality of our mortality but we also see in Christ's crucifixion that God is with us in our own pain and suffering. And then on Easter Sunday we acknowledge that death does not have the final word; that life exists beyond the confines of our fears because Jesus is now loose in the world, "But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." (Mark 16:7 NRSV)

Yes Holy Week reminds us once again of the reality of God's love for the world, God's love for you, revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And that reality of love is more than knowing we are loved and then loving in return; although this indeed is a very important realization. But our faith claims more than that; our faith claims that the reality of this love is not just a very important thing but that it is the only thing. John Robinson says it much better than I in his groundbreaking book of 50 years ago *Honest to God* in which he writes, "For the humanist to believe in a 'religion of love' is to affirm the conviction that love *ought to be* the last word about life, and to dedicate oneself to seeing that it everywhere prevails. But the Christian affirmation is not simply that love *ought to be* the last word about life, but that, despite all appearances, it *is*. It is the conviction, again, that 'there is nothing...in the world as it is or the world as it shall be...that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.'"

Happy Easter and God Bless 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; rknappej@gmail.com

Vice President: Sue Coole – 715-675-8566

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

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

Trustees: 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

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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.

***Worship Schedule***

**9:00 a.m. Sunday Mornings**

***Please join us as we worship our Lord!***

**“Council Corner”**

Has reading what God’s word says about the importance of Children called you to action today? God calls us to be doers of His word and not hearers only.

Action is what we are asking for as we end the 2014-2015 Sunday School year, and look to the next Sunday School year 2015-2016. We are in need of teachers for any grade and someone to take over the Superintendent role. As we review the different job duties of Superintendent, an important responsibility is to serve as a liaison reporting to our Education representative of our Church Council. Please consider this important and needed position. Teaching can be a fun and rewarding opportunity to spend quality time with our children. Historically, teachers normally teach once or twice a month along with helping out with the Christmas program, Easter Egg Hunt, Rally Sunday and VBS. Speaking from experience of someone who has been involved for many years in our Sunday school program; it takes many dedicated teachers, parents, and congregation members to be successful. Whether you currently have children in Sunday school, or your kids are grown and you now grandkids, all are welcome to teach. Please contact Rebecca Voelker at 715-675-0522 or [voelkerd1@hotmail.com](mailto:voelkerd1@hotmail.com) if you can help in any way to teach the upcoming class. No help is too small.

Thank you much,  
Rebecca Voelker-Education Council member

**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.

**News from South Africa.** Francinah called me today to thank you for the Christmas card you sent. It arrived in South Africa on March 18. She was thrilled to read all of your names and your messages. She remembers you from her 2012 visit. She will show the card to the Rietpan congregation next Sunday. On Monday she plans to call me to tell of her congregation's reaction. She is always happy to hear from us. When she ends her phone conversation with me, she tells how happy she is to hear my voice. Francinah is the layperson who leads their worship services. She also leads their Lenten service which is on Friday nights. Her daughter, Precious, and family will come to Rietpan for Easter. Please continue to remember Francinah, her family and the Rietpan congregation in your prayers. --  
Ginny Kirsch

<b>Financial Report for February, 2015</b>			
Income Received	Expenses Paid	Difference	Budget
9,818	14,654	(4,836)	11,684
<b>Year-to-Date</b>			
Income Received	Expenses Paid	Difference	Budget
19,343	25,039	(5,696)	23,368
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<b>Attendance Report</b>			
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	
Average Weekly/February	151	100	
Average Weekly/Year-to-Date	128	100	

**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

### **Thrivent Builds**

Thrivent builds with Habitat for Humanity partnership renewed for 2015.

Because Thrivent is committed to who we are – a fraternal benefit society of Christians with a benevolent purpose – we provide funding and volunteers to help construct or repair homes across the globe with Thrivent Builds.

If the winter blues have made the members of St. John stir crazy, the Thrivent Builds program presents a great opportunity for volunteers to get outside, gather in the community and use their hands to help people in need of affordable housing. 2015 marks Thrivent's 10<sup>th</sup> year of partnership with Habitat for Humanity; in that decade, Thrivent and its members have committed financial resources and volunteer labor to help create safe, decent and affordable housing with 4,000 Habitat families in 34 countries around the world.

Whether we organize a Thriven Builds experience or use our resources to connect the dots with other passionate volunteers, getting involved with Thrivent Builds is simple. There are multiple ways to engage:

1. Gather a group of volunteers to help build a house for one of 121 families this year with Thrivent Builds Homes. All building supplies are provided on site and no previous construction experience is needed.
2. To experience new cultures, learn new skills and change lives at a more immersive level, consider promoting, joining a Thrivent Builds Worldwide Trip. With a variety of domestic and international locations available there are multiple opportunities to put generosity into action in a new way.
3. Know of a home in your area that's in need of a little TLC? Volunteers with Thrivent Builds Repairs help out with basic one or two day exterior home repairs.

By engaging with Thrivent Builds, you can be a part of Thrivent's commitment to living generously.

Questions?

Contact: Duane Askew – [daskew@airrun.net](mailto:daskew@airrun.net) – 715-675-4111 – Member Connection Center at 800-847-4836 and say “fraternal.”

**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 April 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](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.

An Epic Adventure Is Rocketing Our Way!  
The Astounding Super Power....GOD'S LOVE!

Vacation Bible School  
July 12<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>  
5:30pm - 8:00pm

Kids will go on a Super Hero Adventure that energizes them with  
God's victorious power of Love, which is stronger than any super hero known!  
Teaching us that we are all "super" to God!  
God's powerful love gives us strength and courage!

Fantastic Food \*\* Great Games  
\*\* Epic Adventures \*\* Incredible Crafts and more!\*\*

It's never too early to sign up for an amazing, super fun time at  
The Astounding Super Power VBS!  
Our VBS is open to all youth Pre-5<sup>th</sup> You do not need to be a member of St. John,  
so invite your friends, neighbors, family to join in the fun!

3 ways to register today!  
Registration form available in the narthex  
Email: [lucylane35@hotmail.com](mailto:lucylane35@hotmail.com) or  
Call Lane Bahr at 715-297-0017