

From Pastor Dan

Next year St. John will celebrate 150 years as a congregation. This is a significant achievement. Any organization that continues to successfully function for 150 years has the right to be proud. Therefore, we will be appropriately celebrating this important milestone throughout 2016. Jan Mueller and Marlene Stubbe have volunteered to co-chair the anniversary committee and all interested parties are invited to attend their first meeting on Monday, May 18 at 6:30.

As we celebrate our proud past maybe this is a good time to think about our future. So what do you think the future holds for our congregation? I was curious what you thought so I conducted a very informal and a very unscientific survey asking random parishioners, "Do you think St. John will be around for another 150 years?" Despite the questionable statistical validity of my findings, the results are nonetheless interesting. The answers ranged from an enthusiastic, "Of course we will still be here!" to a frowning, "I'm not sure any church will still be around in 150 years."

Okay then, if we want to remain as a viable entity into the future (and I think most of us want St. John to continue on as a thriving community of faith), what do we need to do? Well, what we have been doing seems to be working: providing meaningful worship, nurturing the faith of our young people through Sunday School and Confirmation, giving adults the opportunity to grow in their faith through Bible studies and Adult Forum, participating in fellowship activities to strengthen our community, and reaching out into the community at large with financial and hands-on support. If we continue to do these things and do them well with your involvement and your stewardship then we ought to continue to be healthy and viable.

But is that enough? Should we be doing more? And if that is not enough, precisely what more should we be doing and how should we be doing it? I don't know, but the answers are out there; out there in your God-given imagination, out there in your trust in God's presence, out there in your participation and support, and out there ultimately in your realization that you are at your very core a beloved child of God revealed in Jesus Christ.

So what do you say....."Do you think St. John will be around for another 150 years?"

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; grammaphyllldogg@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

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., Wednesday Evenings, May 27 through Sept. 2

Please join us as we worship our Lord!

“Council Corner”

I am new to this group and am finding my way slowly, wheee... It has been a truly interesting experience. I have always found the members of this congregation to be very warm and inviting and the council is no different. We have many serious conversations about things ranging from Sunday school to “cement” (the sidewalk and area under the portico). We also share many laughs, like whose turn is it for devotions, oh yes mine, oops. This past month “we” (I mean Rebecca Voelker) found some people to help with the Sunday school for which we are very thankful. “We” (Laverne Grunenwald) solved the problem of the outside light. I appreciate all the work of the council members. We are all excited and ready to begin refreshing the look of the church. Thank you one and all for your input and support. Remember, anyone can come to council meetings or the long range planning committee – we are always looking for help. The “why” questions make us a better, more well-rounded congregation. We need questions and input so we can help do your will. We are looking forward to the 150th anniversary celebration. Jan Mueller and Marlene Stubbe are heading up that committee and, personally, (I used to teach history), am excited to learn more about this great church. I think what little I know of the history makes me appreciate being a member here more and more. When I think of all the things this little church has done I am amazed and humbled. Please continue to be active members in this congregation monetarily, socially and spiritually. We can all participate in small ways or large and continue to make this little church of mine shine. Wow.

Respectfully, Susan Cooley – Council Vice President

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
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Financial Report for March, 2015

Income Received	Expenses Paid	Difference	Budget
11,812	10,815	997	11,684

Year-to-Date

Income Received	Expenses Paid	Difference	Budget
31,155	25,469	5,686	35,052

Attendance Report

	2015	2014
Average Weekly/March	166	171
Average Weekly/Year-to-Date	141	124

Thank You. Thank you from me and my family for all the good wishes, cards and letters while I stayed at Benedictine. The prayers have been answered for me – I have been doing well these past months. I hope to be seeing you more now that I can get around better. Thanks again – Orville Anklam and Family

150th Anniversary. 2016 is a year of celebration for St. John church. Our congregation will e 150 years old. There will be a planning meeting for the celebration on Monday, May 18 at 6:30 p.m. Anyone willing to help in any way, please attend this meeting and bring your suggestions. If you have any questions, contact Jan Mueller at 715-675-9558 or Marlene Stubbe at 715-675-2598.

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.

Education. There will be a short meeting during the last Sunday school day which is on May 17, 2015. I would like to invite current Sunday school teachers as well as any parent, grandparent, high school student or any member of our congregation who would be interested in learning more about teaching, VBS, rally Sunday, superintendent or helping in any other way. There are many ways you can help out our young kids here at St. John church, come learn how! Rebecca Voelker-Education Council Member

Thank You. A special thank you to everyone who remembered me with cards, gifts and prayers during my hospital stay. A very special thanks to Pastor Dan for his prayers and visits. Also a special thanks to my family who stayed by my side. May God bless every one. Joanne Zahn.

First Communion. Congratulations to the following students who received their First Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 2: Dylan Buchberger, Tyler Eno and Mariah Marquardt. Also congratulations to the following students who received their First Communion on Sunday, April 12: Bryce Heil, Abigail Kufahl, Brandon Landrath, Emma Nowak and Zachary Suliin.

Lent & Easter 2015 – Fellowship. THANK YOU to everyone who helped make our Lenten Suppers and the Easter Breakfast successful again this year – those who provided food, cooked and helped set up, serve and clean up. We averaged nearly 70 people per week at the 6 Lenten Suppers, and brought in \$1383 for our building and grounds maintenance fund. On Easter Sunday we served an estimated 115 people and brought in \$394 for The Neighbors' Place.

I'd also like to thank those who have been providing treats for Fellowship on Sunday mornings. As a reminder, if you would be willing to bring treats it is best to indicate that in advance on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the kitchen so that we do not have more than we need one Sunday and nothing the next. The categories of foods listed are only *suggestions*, but allow space for two or three people to chip in and provide part of that week's "menu" without one having to bring enough for everybody.

Thank you again.- Mike Kluetz, Fellowship

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 May 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. 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 12th - 16th
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-5th 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 or
Call Lane Bahr at 715-297-0017