

From Pastor Dan

Good news, summer is almost here which means vacations, boating, fishing, camping, and of course, Vacation Bible School. (I know VBS may not rank up there with those others for you, but maybe it should.) Through the opportunity it playfully provides to overcome some of the more mundane aspects of living in North Central Wisconsin, summer can indeed bring good news. However, I also have some not so good news. With the passage of each summer, the Christian church in the United States gets smaller and smaller. This does not apply to St. John in specific, but to the Christian church in general. As a result of this news should we be alarmed? No, emphatically “no!” because God is with us despite the statistical trend. However, should we be concerned? Yes, because the church is “worth keeping alive for its radical, enduring and miraculous love.”

This quote comes from the conclusion of a recent article in the Washington Post about the state of Christianity in this country. The article reminds us of what we already know: that survey after survey and poll after poll continue to reveal the consistent and disheartening reality that the Christian church in this country is declining; and rapidly declining among some denominations.

The absence of young people in the pews is claimed as the primary culprit. Tradition and guilt are no longer enough to attract and retain the allegiance of young people. They are often disenchanted, as the article cited, with the fundamentalist churches’ “views on sexuality and science, and its failure to acknowledge ‘the problems of the real world.’” However, the article continues, “Their liberal counterparts don’t fare much better: “Liberal Protestant churches, which have famously lax requirements about praxis, belief, and personal investment, therefore often end up having a lot of half-committed believers in their pews...”

The point made is valid: commitment is important because as the article continued, “People don’t just want to feel good, they want to be good. That’s especially true for younger people; I often hear variations on “Jesus was a nice hippie” from baby boomers, but I hear “Jesus was an anti-capitalist insurrectionist murdered by law enforcement in broad daylight” from my generation, and it’s the latter vision of social activism that appeals to us more.”

And as young people seek a commitment to righteousness, the church has a central place in that commitment. For you see, the gathering of the faithful continues to play a significant role because, “...institutions are also places where people share ideas and where they organize, and heal, and hold each other accountable.”

So commitment is important, the church is still important, and of course Jesus is still most important. Yes Jesus is still important even though we live in a pluralistic society where different beliefs abound. Yet in acknowledging those other beliefs, we don’t have to turn our backs on our own. The article concludes, “Believing Christians need not water down the fact that God (*I would add “Jesus”) is at the root of their commitments and traditions to accommodate nonbelievers. And nonbelievers need not make a point of telling their believing brethren that general goodwill or humanism is a better motivation for good works. As Maguire points out, the biblical metaphor for society is a household, not an institution but a dwelling place for a family. Though families will quarrel over what they don’t have in common, they are meant to come together for what they do: an ancient story of a new family formed in a place most of us will never go and a call to peace in the world that none of us can ever entirely live up to. And that is worth keeping alive for its radical, enduring and miraculous love.”

Good news: summer is almost here! Go enjoy yourselves. But don’t forget your commitment, don’t forget your church, and don’t forget your Jesus because it is all “worth keeping alive for its radical, enduring and miraculous love.”

God bless 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; 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”

As everyone at St. John's starts to prepare for our anniversary in 2016 we thought it would be nice to have an updated Church Directory. In September we have set up dates with our friends at Lifetouch, formerly Olan Mills, who will be taking pictures of everyone at our church. Please keep these dates open on your calendars, Wednesday and Thursday, 9/16/15 and 9/17/15 and Tuesday and Wednesday, 9/29/15 and 9/30/15. If any of those dates don't work for you please let me know. And if you have a picture(s) that was taken throughout the year that you would like included in the directory please forward that on to me. As we get closer to the picture dates I will be letting everyone know any additional information I may have gotten.

Any questions, please ask or feel free to call/email me.

Thank you and let's see everyone smile!
Heidi Teske

Thank You. Nat Schuett wants to thank everyone for their cards, calls and concern as she undergoes chemotherapy treatment through July.

Thank You. Thank you to our St. John family for all the cards, phone calls, visits and prayers. Your kindness and thoughtfulness touched us deeply. We are so grateful to you. Yours in Christ, Kurt and Jayne Rowe.

Mark Your Calendars – Sunday, July 12 – Dixieland Band. Beat the summer heat and cool off with the Dixieland Band at our July 12th service. We'll top off the service with an ice cream social. Please join us!

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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Awash in Sunlight

St. Francis of Assisi – perhaps best remembered for his love of animals and his belief that God cares about the in special ways too – was said to have lived with an exuberant “attitude of gratitude.” He wrote, “Such love does the sky now pour, that whenever I stand in a field, I have to wring the light out when I go home.”

As summertime begins, what natural wonders amaze you and make you grateful: sweet-smelling grass? warm, gentle rain? blooming flowers everywhere? pristine, blue skies? Just for fun, write an exclamation like that of St. Francis, glorifying God for his creation.

Financial Report for April, 2015

Income Received	Expenses Paid	Difference	Budget
14,217	9,262	4955	11,684

Year-to-Date

Income Received	Expenses Paid	Difference	Budget
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45,212

44,562

650

46,736

Attendance Report

2015

2014

Average Weekly/April

199

210

Average Weekly/Year-to-Date

155

145

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 June 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.

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