

From Pastor Dan

In a sermon a few weeks ago, I shared one significant impact God has made in my life. In my relationship with God, revealed in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit I have become less afraid; less timid about engaging in life. Being less afraid of living does not mean I am not still anxious at times or even that I am not occasionally scared, I am. But overall, I am less afraid.

However, being afraid, especially being afraid of the “other” remains a threatening dilemma in this country. The “others” of course are those who don’t look like us or talk like us or think like us. Being afraid of the “other” is not a benign malady but can be a vicious disease manifesting itself in cruel acts of bigotry, hatred, and violence such as we recently witnessed in the murders at a church Bible study in South Carolina. By the way, our ELCA Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton, has published a statement regarding this situation and copies are available on the table in the narthex.

But being afraid of the “other” also manifests itself in less insidious and more subtle ways. Like when we see the picture of the orange jumpsuit clad prisoner on the front page of the Wausau Daily Herald and say to ourselves, “Well of course, another black man.” Or when we sneer under our breath as we wonder why so many Hmong people have to buy their drinking water at the grocery store. Or when we cringe when that strange looking guy shows up at church.

We all experience these and similar fears of the “other” because it seems, unfortunately, to be a natural tendency for us. For example, at confirmation camp last week we played a game which involved our group of ten young people. Nine of them held hands forming an inward facing circle with one person standing on the outside of the circle. I gave only one instruction and that was, “The goal of the person outside the circle is to get inside the circle.” Now, the easiest way for this to happen would be for the hand-holding, inward-facing folks to simply release their hands and invite the person into the circle. But of course that didn’t happen. Every one of the four times we played the game, the circle folks struggled as mightily as they could to keep the “other” on the outside. That exclusionary behavior seems to be our natural tendency; a tendency I believe is born out of fear.

We talk about faith as a journey and a process. I am still on that journey. But I have reached the point where I have noticed changes in who I am. And one of those changes is that I am less afraid. I still worry and I am still occasionally downright frightened, but I don’t feel afraid anymore. That change did not happen because I willed it to be so and it did not happen because I took a class on it. No the fear of engaging with life, the fear of the “other” subsided because of the unconditional love of God revealed in Jesus Christ. I pray the same may one day be true for us 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

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”

Can We Expand the Scope of Fellowship?

So . . . I knew there was a Job Description for the Fellowship person, but recently realized it is actually a part of the Constitution (as of 2007), where it states our mission is “the strengthening of the fellowship between all members spiritually and socially, welcoming new members into the Congregation and building mutual cooperation, trust and enjoyment among all members”. It also calls for a “Director of Fellowship”, who “shall chair the Board of Fellowship”, and report as a member of the Council (they previously reported to Evangelism). Furthermore it calls for us to:

- welcome new members into the Congregation through special services and dinners
- coordinate the chili supper, Lenten suppers, etc. (which we’re pretty good at)
- coordinate the Advent Tea (I didn’t even realize we did that here), and
- coordinate activities remembering the shut-ins of the Church.

While we do the special suppers, etc. very well, and typically have coffee and treats every Sunday for the relatively small fraction of people who choose to stay after services, I think there is opportunity to do more.

First of all, Fellowship doesn't always have to equate to food. I think Christian Fellowship manifests itself in our being a true "community in Christ" beyond the hour per week we spend together in formal worship – watching out for each other, supporting each other, sharing each other's joys and sorrows, sharing our faith, and even a little gentle prodding occasionally ("say, haven't seen you in Church lately – everything alright?").

So how do we do this? First, as "Director", I'd like to establish an actual "Board" (we can just call it a committee!). Several people indicated at the Annual Meeting that they would help with Fellowship – I don't know if that only meant providing some treats occasionally, but would any of you (or anyone else) be willing to get together and brainstorm some ideas!? In particular I need help identifying areas where we might expand our scope, and how to do that (I can make coffee, but an event planner I'm not). Two areas, listed in the Constitution, stand out immediately: (a) we don't have a very formal new member program, but we need to be sure those people feel they are truly "a part of us". Also, (b) I know people close to shut-ins visit them on occasion, but can we as a larger community do more so these people don't feel left out?

Please see me, leave me a note, call or email me if you can help. Thanks in advance.

- Mike Kluetz

Sunday, July 12. Our Sunday July 12th service will sizzle with the hot sounds of the Dixieland Band that includes St John's very own Duane Askew. After the service cool off summer's heat with a cool treat, Briq's ice cream and your favorite toppings. Invite your family, friends and neighbors to join us for this special praise service.

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

Communing with God

After Apollo 11 landed on the moon on July 20, 1969, pilot Buzz Aldrin requested via radio that people pause to give thanks for the achievement in their own way. When his broadcast ended, Aldrin read a verse from the Gospel of John and took communion, which his church had sent to space with him.

"It was interesting for me to think: the very first liquid ever poured on the moon, and the very first food eaten there, were the communion elements," the astronaut said. "At the time, I could think of no better way to acknowledge the enormity of the Apollo 11 experience than by giving thanks to God."

Financial Report for May, 2015

Income Received	Expenses Paid	Difference	Budget
7,553	11,316	-3,763	11,684

Year-to-Date

Income Received	Expenses Paid	Difference	Budget
52,765	55,529	-2,764	58,420

Attendance Report

	2015	2014
Average Weekly/May	95	104
Average Weekly/Year-to-Date	143	137

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 July 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. 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

Now available - register on the website (stjohnwausau.org)! (Click on "Education," click on "VBS is coming soon," and voila, there is the form.)