

From Pastor Dan

I keep pestering you from the pulpit to be enthusiastically engaged in your faith and in your life. However, as a caveat, I must caution that honest engagement (being true to who you are) is essential in the process. With that in mind, I am reminded of a story from Jim Valvano who spoke to an audience at the ESPY awards 22 years ago as he was dying of cancer. During that speech, he shared a story of his attempt to be enthusiastically engaged in his new vocation as a very young basketball coach at Rutgers; his first coaching job. Valvano was an avid fan of Coach Vince Lombardi and had read how Coach Lombardi addressed the Green Bay Packers before the first game as their coach. "Three minutes before they could take the field Lombardi comes in, bangs the door open...and he said, "All eyes on me." ... "Gentlemen, we will be successful this year, if you can focus on three things, and three things only: Your family, your religion, and the Green Bay Packers." And they knocked the walls down and the rest was history. I said, that's beautiful. I'm going to do that. "Your family, your religion, and Rutgers basketball."

So, at the first game as the new coach of the Rutgers basketball team, Valvano decided to emulate his coaching idol Vince Lombardi. He waited until three minutes before game time, burst into the locker room and enthusiastically shouted, "Gentlemen, all eyes on me." "Gentlemen, we'll be successful this year if you can focus on three things, and three things only: Your family, your religion, and the Green Bay Packers."

Jim Valvano was engaged and enthusiastic, but he was trying to be someone else; not himself. Of course over the years of a very successful coaching career, he connected with what enthusiastically engaged him in his own work in specific and his life in general. And he was able to articulate that in the same appearance at the ESPY awards when he said, "Now, I'm fighting cancer, everybody knows that... And when people say to me how do you get through life or each day, it's the same thing. To me, there are three things we all should do every day. We should do this every day of our lives. Number one is laugh. You should laugh every day. Number two is think. You should spend some time in thought. And number three is, you should have your emotions moved to tears, could be happiness or joy. But think about it. If you laugh, you think, and you cry, that's a full day. That's a heck of a day. You do that seven days a week, you're going to have something special."

So go out there and enthusiastically engage in your life and your faith and strive for something special.

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!

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

Financial Report for June, 2015

Income Received	Expenses Paid	Difference	Budget
9,898	5,216	4,682	11,684

Year-to-Date

Income Received	Expenses Paid	Difference	Budget
62,663	61,176	1,487	70,104

Attendance Report

	2015	2014
Average Weekly/June	96	88
Average Weekly/Year-to-Date	135	129

News from South Africa. Francinah called today. She had received my letter and photos and was happy to hear from Wisconsin.

Last Sunday the Rietpan Lutheran Church held a fund-raiser and raised 9000 Rand. (The South African Rand is worth 8 cents to one U.S. dollar.) So they raised \$720 for their church ceiling project. This is how their fund-raiser worked. They invited other churches as well as community people. They offered raffles and that is how they raise money.

Selo is in Germany for 2 weeks. He is representing Rietpan Church at the conference with the German Lutheran Church.

Next Sunday Pastor Dithale will "test" the 16 people in Rietpan church who are preparing for confirmation. They are asked many questions about the material they have studied for the past 10 months. They study the Bible, and the Lutheran Catechism including the Ten Commandments, the Apostles Creed and the Lord's Prayer.

They have received the invitation from St. John Church for the 2016 visit but have not decided who will represent Rietpan Lutheran Church.

Vacation Bible School. Wow, what a great time at Hero Headquarters VBS! It sure was a fun week at VBS where each day the children were introduced to unnamed Bible heroes who were not super or powerful, yet their small acts were used by God to do wonderful things. The youth at St. John were challenged throughout the week to join forces with God and do the unexpected, take action, step out on faith, save the day and stand for truth! We learned that God is the greatest Hero of them all!

Our memory Bible verse for the week was 1 Timothy 4:12 - Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young. But set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity.

Our Bible verse this week taught us that no matter how young you are, you can be a hero for God, by how we speak to others, by our actions, by our compassion or love for others, by knowing that God loves us and spreading the news of God. We also learned that each of us have been given talents from God and when we let God work through us and use us, we then become Heroes of God!

I think we have a great group of HEROES right here at St. John - our congregation! Thank you for the support of Vacation Bible School with the donation of food for the dinners and time volunteering in many areas of VBS, teaching, prep, leaders, etc. We had a great VBS this year with 19 kids from 5th grade and under attending, 12 Junior High and High School youths helping and being leaders, and our awesome young adults -Trent Trulen,

Hannah Trevino, Brenna Ohrmundt, and Brendan Ohrmundt for being hero teachers and actors. I am truly impressed at what fantastic role models all of these teens are being for the younger children!

Again, a very grateful thank you to EVERYONE!

Blessing to all and happy summer!

Lane Bahr

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 August 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.