

## From Pastor Dan

After the Seattle Seahawks defeated the Green Bay Packers in the NFC title game in January of this year, Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson gave credit to God for the win. In an interview shortly thereafter, Aaron Rodgers was asked about Wilson's God comments and told the interviewer, "I don't think God cares a whole lot about the outcome. He cares about the people involved, but I don't think he's a big football fan."

Well, after the redemptive win of the Packers over the Seahawks on the evening of Sunday, September 20, Rodgers exclaimed in a post-game interview, "I think God was a Packer fan tonight, so he was taking care of us."

Did Rodgers have a change of heart or was he just taking a rather classless cheap shot? I vote for the latter. However, regardless of your thoughts on Rodger's motivation for his remarks, they do pique my curiosity regarding the role of God in the world. Just exactly how is God involved in the events of our life?

Well....we do not know exactly to what extent God is involved in the affairs of our life and we will never know exactly because we are we and God is God. As Paul reminds us in his letter to the Corinthians, "For now we see in a mirror, dimly...Now I know only in part..." (1 Corinthians 13:12) Yet there are some realities we do know through the promises of God revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

For starters, I sincerely hope you live your daily life surrounded by the central reality of God's promise that in no uncertain terms you are unconditionally loved. And the reality of unconditional love is manifested in our life in many ways. For example, we know we are loved as we encounter the justice, acceptance, and forgiveness as exemplified in Jesus' life which serves as a lifelong impetus for decent human behavior. Also we know we are loved as we experience the presence of God during the most wrenching times of hatred, pain, and fear in our life; a presence demonstrated on the cross of crucifixion. And we know we are loved as we go beyond the limits of meager expectations imposed by others and by ourselves and live in the fullness of eternal life as promised in the resurrection.

I agree with Aaron Rodgers' initial comments about the role of God in determining the outcome of football games, "I don't think God cares a whole lot about the outcome. He cares about the people involved, but I don't think he's a big football fan." However, just because God may not be a football fan, and just because we are not exactly certain as to how God is at work in the world and at work in our lives; know this, God as revealed to us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ is at work in the world and in your life. As a certain source for decent

human behavior, God is at work. As a promised presence in our darkest times, God is at work.  
And as an enabler of life beyond our limited expectations, God is at work.

God's peace be with you,

Pastor Dan

(And just in case God is a football fan, "Go, Pack, Go!")

**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 Cooley – 715-675-8566; cooley1512@outlook.com

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**

**6:30 p.m. Thursday Evenings, Sept. 10 through Oct. 29**

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

**“Council Corner”**

**Phyllis Seubert, Treasurer**

Establishing goals and working together to accomplish those goals is not always easy. But goals can unify and motivate. I see this happening at St John's.

Many times accomplishments are completed in steps. Our church renovation project is reaching its goals step by step. The fellowship hall has new doors, trim and has been repainted. Looks fantastic! The new window coverings are being ordered. Outside some needed cement work has been completed as well as replacement of overgrown plants and shrubs. All of this has been accomplished with monies already designated to the renovation fund and dollars from the Memorial fund.

As of writing this article, we have had \$10,271.00 donated to the renovation fund. We have paid for \$5,337.00 worth of expenses already incurred. Some large expenses will be forthcoming with the stone work, etc.

We may end up collecting enough money up front to cover all costs or we may need to borrow some dollars to finish the project. Either way, we, at St. John's, should be proud of our unification and motivation in accomplishing our goals.

Phyllis J Seubert, Treasurer

**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 August, 2015**

Income Received	Expenses Paid	Difference	Budget
\$9,135	\$8,227	\$908	11,684

**Year-to-Date**

Income Received	Expenses Paid	Difference	Budget
\$81,787	\$85,286	(\$3,499)	\$93,472

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**Attendance Report**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
Average Weekly/August	98	80
Average Weekly/Year-to-Date	126	120

**CROP WALK** is Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30 p.m. CROP raises funds to help stop hunger at home and in the world, along with other walkers from Wausau. You can walk 5 or 10 kilometers which starts at the Marathon Park band stand. Or you can sponsor one of our walkers. If you would like to be a part of CROP Walk see Heidi or Schmidty.

**Make a Difference Day is October 24<sup>th</sup>.** We will go out into the community and rake leaves for our elderly with over 1000 other volunteers in Wausau. We will meet at the National Guard at 8:00 a.m., do some raking and return for lunch. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Sign up your family and make a difference.

**The Senior High Youth Gathering** is Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn in Manitowoc. The gathering is for all 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders. The theme is “Walking the red carpet with Jesus” Philippians 3: 12-14. Registration deadline is Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. If interested see Schmidty.

**Baptisms.** On Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated the Baptisms of Mason Charlie Hirn and Levi Ronnie Hirn. Mason was born on July 17, 2013 and Levi was born on May 29, 2015. Mason and Levi’s parents are Pete and Kelly Hirn. Sponsors for Mason and Levi are Carrie VanderSloot and Matt Densow. May God’s blessings be with Mason and Levi throughout their lives!

**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 October 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.