

From Pastor Dan

Much to the dismay of my pastor colleagues, I occasionally ask them why people aren't buying what we are selling as enthusiastically as they once did. My reference to Christianity as a saleable commodity disturbs them. Yeah okay, but the reality remains that if we want folks to participate in what we are up to, then it is imperative that we clearly state who we are as a congregation, what it is that we are up to, and how someone might benefit by being a part of it all; we have to sell who we are. Therefore, with the permission of your council, I put together a very preliminary first draft of such a statement.

My purpose was to attempt to clearly state why we as St. John exist; a vision statement if you will. Again, this is very preliminary; therefore, I sincerely request your input:

1. Do we even need such a statement?
2. If so, what changes, additions, and/or corrections would you make to this statement to make it clearer and more accurate?

Having said all that, here is my first draft version of what a vision statement for St. John might look like.

Vision for St John

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Village of Maine, Wausau, WI is a country church with an average Sunday worship attendance of about 100 folks. We are affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Yet, more than numbers or affiliations, we are a congregation which welcomes all who seek meaning and hope in their lives through all the possibilities of a connection to the love of God in Jesus Christ.

We Gather

- St. John is a place to grow in relationship with each other.
- We think it is important as a community of faith to regularly be in the presence of one another.
- We are a non-judgmental mix of folks from different economic, political, and social backgrounds; it seems to be working.
- We sincerely welcome all seekers of Jesus' promise of abundant life, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." (John 10:10 NRSV)

We Worship

- St. John is a place to grow in relationship with God.
- We think it is important as a community of faith to regularly be in the intentional presence of God.
- We are traditional in our worship which includes praying, singing, hearing the word through Bible reading and the pastor's message.
- Our focus in worship is on an honest attempt to intentionally connect with God in Jesus Christ; not necessarily to be entertained.

We Learn

- St. John is a place which provides opportunities to learn about ourselves, our world, and our God through Christian education classes and programs as well as Bible studies for young and old.
- We know that we don't have this whole God business figured out and therefore we earnestly continue to seek answers amidst the reality of doubts and questions.
- We understand that God is timeless, yet our understanding of God can never be.

We Go Out

- St. John is a place from which we can meaningfully participate in the welfare of our community.
- We support a variety of community funds and activities as well as sincerely working toward being a positive influence in our neighborhood.
- We understand that God's unconditional love for us is just the beginning of the cycle of grace, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." (John 13:34 NRSV)

Join us as we strive to be a place of hope born out of a continuing relationship with God in Jesus Christ, "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6,7 NRSV)

Amen

Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. Sunday Mornings

Please join us as we worship our Lord!

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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 Trulen – 715-675-4091; rtrulen@gmail.com

Vice President: Jan Mueller – 715-675-9558; dmjm5455.wau@gmail.com

Treasurer: Curt Cooley – 715-675-8566; 715-571-4057; usfcool@gmail.com

Secretary: Tammi Smith – 715-581-3892; tammism79@gmail.com;
tammism@aspirus.org

Trustees: Lee Sillars – 715-218-5041; rdfx1234@gmail.com

Scott Oestreich – 715-675-4360; scottsmachinellc@gmail.com

Evangelism: Lane Bahr – 715-297-0017; lucylane35@hotmail.com

Fellowship: Mike Preisig – 715-675-4981

Education: Connie Nowak – 715-675-1577; 715-432-3837; bcdenowak@gmail.com

Worship: Heidi Teske – 715-551-4485; heidi.teske2007@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.

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.

Ann Kieckhafer
1347 Crystal Avenue
Room 236-1
Naperville, IL 60563

Ellen Kruit
1821 N. 4th Avenue
Room 215
Wausau, WI 54401

Harriet Wanner
1240 Merrill Ave.
Apt. 2
Wausau, WI 54401

Joan Schreiber

Leona Wilde
6550 County Road F
Merrill, WI 54452

Harley Goetsch
Rennes

Carol Fitzke
4901 N. 120th Ave
Wausau, WI 54401

Thrivent Choice Program. St. John receives funds through Thrivent Financial's Thrivent Choice program. By directing "Choice Dollars," eligible Thrivent members can designate which nonprofit organizations should receive their "Choice Dollars." If you are an eligible member, please consider designating St. John when directing your Choice Dollars. Call 800-847-4836 or visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

Sisterhood Fireside Trip. St. John's Sisterhood is planning a bus trip to the Fireside Theater on Saturday, May 18th. We are going to see "Menopause: The Musical." The cost of the entire event is \$105, which includes the Lamers bus, meal, show and all gratuities. We will also provide a snack and water for the trip to Fireside and a sandwich lunch for the trip home. Everyone is welcome. More information is available in the narthex. Please contact Sue Harris at 715-551-6282 or Jeanne Klinger at 715-302-4331 with questions.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Please join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 14th, 2019, at 10:15am. Children of all ages are welcome! Not only will we hunt for special treats but we will also read the Easter story, do crafts, and eat snacks while learning about Jesus' sacrifice and love for us!



The Easter Egg is hollow,
Just like they found the tomb;
For it is meant to represent,
Christ has risen for YOU!

St. John Brotherhood Changes. After several attempts to re-ignite interest and participation in the St. John Brotherhood by changing meeting times and trying to introduce new meeting topics, we have reluctantly concluded that this means of fellowship has run its course after 73 years. Therefore, there will no longer be monthly meetings of this group. *However*, we were not yet ready to abandon *all* attempts. Our suggestion is to organize meetings on a roughly quarterly basis with special topics or activities, perhaps food, guest speakers, field trips, or other ideas as provided by St. John members of any age or gender. We have tentatively penciled in May 21st for the first such meeting, and September 21st for a second. We are seeking input from anyone regarding possible topics or activities to consider. The men will continue to be the driving force in organizing the details. So please provide any input you may have to Mike Kluetz, John Marquardt, or Pastor Dan.

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 will be donated to Maine School. Your donations are appreciated. If you are able to help out with delivering these items to the school, 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.

April Birthdays

4-1 Reece Berens
4-1 Tom Marquardt
4-1 Karen Ohrmundt
4-3 Perry Kufahl
4-3 Cullin Oelke
4-8 Lindsey Steinagel
4-9 Stephanie Borelli
4-10 Harley Goetsch
4-11 Guy Frostman
4-12 Emma Nowak
4-15 Dylan Buchberger
4-15 Beth Eno
4-15 Bobbi Hansen
4-15 Josh Hein
4-15 Andrew Webb
4-15 Brandon Webb
4-16 Katie Fitzke
4-16 Melissa Haroldson
4-16 Jedidiah Schoepke
4-16 Betty Ann Tabaka
4-17 Sophie Hoffman
4-17 Ellie Steinagel
4-18 Jack Harris
4-20 Jeremy Tesch
4-20 Taylor Treu
4-23 Shirley Kopplin
4-26 Keith Kolbe
4-27 Ty Teske
4-29 Brayden Gehrke
4-29 Addison Heil
4-29 Rhett Schindler
4-30 Duane Askew
4-30 Al Tesch

April Anniversaries

4-6 Shane & Nichole Saari
4-8 Lane & Carrie Hoeft
4-12 Henry Welch & Laurie Prochnow
4-23 Paul & Mary Anderson
4-24 Adam & Connie Hoffman
4-27 Mike & Cindy Preisig