

From Pastor Dan

Last month I shared my draft of a possible vision statement for St. John. I asked for your feedback and received some sound suggestions; thank you. I will submit a revised version to your council at the next meeting. Despite some changes in language and style, the four elements remain the same; including the one which demands that as a congregation: “We Go Out - to meaningfully participate in the welfare of our community.”

Over the past several weeks, you have done just that in your support of two programs. The first beneficiary is our local church camps and those who attend them. This Lenten season, volunteers prepared, served, and cleaned up after six Wednesday evening meals. Along with the congregation, I personally thank all who participated with their time, effort, money, and contributions. The freewill offerings from those meals totaled over \$1000 which we sent to ELCA Crossways Camping Ministries of the East Central Synod of Wisconsin. The money is for their capital campaign for infrastructure improvements at all three of their camps. As an aside, one of our parishioners, Morgan Bolz, will be on staff this summer at Imago Dei Camp near Shawano. We pray for a safe and productive summer for Morgan.

The second response to our call to “Go Out” was in the form of a financial gift from our Easter breakfast freewill offering to the local program for children, *Blessings in a Backpack*. Again, I thank all who were involved in providing the energy, time, and money to make the Easter breakfast a success.

Shortly, I will submit to you; with your council’s approval, of course, a final version of a new vision statement for St. John. Despite, any final revisions, one element of that statement will most certainly be a call to continue your efforts as “We Go Out - to meaningfully participate in the welfare of our community.”

God’s peace be with you,

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; cindypreisig@yahoo.com

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

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

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

Joan Schreiber
1957 Kowalski Road
Kronenwetter, WI 54455

Leona Wilde
6550 County Road F
Merrill, WI 54452

Harley Goetsch
Rennes Health/Rehab Center
4810 Barbican Avenue
Weston, WI 54476

Greeting Card Ministry. Just a Note: Thank you to Jody Gehrke for taking over the Greeting Card Ministry for St. John. If there is someone you think a card should be sent to, please contact Jody directly by email at: Creativelooksbyjody@yahoo.com or call 715-539-3025. Please make sure to include the name of who the card is going to, their address, and reason for card (i.e., illness, birthday, sympathy, friendly hello). Thank you.

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.

St. John Brotherhood Changes. After several attempts to re-kindle 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.

Joys of Motherhood

- A hug for no reason.
- Belly laughs.
- The light bulb moment when your child understands something you've been trying to teach them.
- Smiles and giggles.
- Mud pies.
- Arms raised in the air after a big accomplishment.
- Hearing scripture and prayer from your child's lips.
- Quiet moments on the couch.
- Reading aloud together.
- A family meal filled with conversation and laughter.
- Watching your child be kind to another.
- Recognizing a moment you'd like to freeze in time.
- A child's look of surprise and joy.
- A quiet conversation that heals a wounded heart.
- The words "I love you" – and a sticky kiss.

--Unknown

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.

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.

May Birthdays

5-1 Brenna Ohrmundt
5-8 Brandon Schindler
5-9 Gavin Bahr
5-9 Michael Haroldson
5-9 Cody Knapp
5-9 Don Prochnow
5-13 Tim Ohrmundt
5-13 Renner Stubbe
5-14 Kelly Hirn
5-14 Steve Zahn
5-15 Shane Saari
5-16 Jarred Bahr
5-16 Ben Bolz
5-17 Larry Berens
5-20 Ariel Graveen
5-20 John Ohrmundt
5-21 Briah Landwehr
5-23 Todd Mueller
5-24 Brandon Steinagel
5-26 Ray Gallenberg
5-26 Mitch Landrath
5-27 Matthew Haroldson
5-28 Leona Wilde
5-29 Levi Hirn
5-30 Shane Beilke
5-30 Tanner Walter
5-31 Bev Landrath

May Anniversaries

5-3 Kurt & Jayne Rowe
5-9 Al & Lynn Tesch
5-12 Perry & Shelley Kufahl
5-15 Randy & Debbie Knapp
5-16 Pete & Sarah Severson
5-22 Ryan & Kim Landwehr