**From Pastor Dan**

I probably don’t need to say so (apparently I am going to say it anyway), but we live in challenging times. Not only are we dealing with all that it takes to be alive in the 21st century, we are also burdened with the specter of COVID 19. Now I know we deal with the challenges of 21st century living differently; we are different human beings with different perspectives. And it makes sense that we deal with the challenges of COVID 19 differently. Nevertheless, the unvarnished truth is that we all have to deal with the reality of both in some way or another. I contend (and of course I may be biased) that the attributes of faith and persistence are requisite attributes which we must embody in order to have any chance of successfully navigating these turbulent waters. With that brief introduction, I defer to those more articulate than I.

**Perseverance by Anne Stortz**

When all the world is looming dark

And things seem not so clear,

When shadows seem to hover' round

Lord, may I persevere.

When it seems everything's been tried

And there's no way to go,

Just let me keep remembering

Sometimes the journey's slow.

I may just need to stop and rest

Along the path I trod,

A time to try to understand

And have my talk with God.

As I gain new strength to carry on

Without a doubt or fear,

Somehow I know things will be right,

And so, I persevere.

**Romans 5:1-5**

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Amen and God bless us all,

Pastor Dan

**“Council Corner”**

**Sue Cooley, Council President**

Hello to one and all, I am hoping this finds you all doing well during these difficult times.  This will be a brief message, as what I have to say is covered in more detail in other places(web site, newsletter and worship).  We have thoughtfully considered many options regarding Sunday School, Confirmation, and Communion. Hopefully we have come to wise decisions about the future of education at St. John.  We continue to discuss reopening of church, but it seems we move in one direction only to be pushed back by new conditions.  As such, we will be continuing with outdoor worship as long as we can (you have to admit the scenery is gorgeous).  We can not have a polka service as the band has stopped playing.  We cannot make the raffle work, but we will be selling chili in jars at the October 4 service with the money raised going to charity. Stay Safe

***Worship Schedule***

“All worship services will be outdoors on Sunday morning at 9:00 until further notice. Please bring your own chair. Wearing masks is always a good idea in public but are optional at our outdoor services because we have plenty of room to spread out. However, before you come to Sunday worship, please check the website, Facebook, or the magic talking machine for possible cancellations due to weather or pastor vacation. See you there.”

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

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

Treasurer: Mike Kluetz – 715-218-1357; kluetz787@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:

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

Worship: Sue Harris – 715-551-6282; smae53@gmail.com

**Thank You Pat and Nancy!**

During worship on Sunday, September 20th we will be recognizing Pat and Nancy for their many years of faithful service to St. John as our organists/pianists. We appreciate their dedication and commitment to providing beautiful music to lead our “singing congregation.”

**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. At our core, we value and nurture relationships.

**We Value and Nurture Relationships With our God**

* “He (Jesus) said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’” (Matthew 22:37 NRSV)

**We Value and Nurture Relationships with Each Other**

* “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” (John 10:10 NRSV)

**We Value and Nurture Relationships with our Community**

* “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)

**We Value and Nurture Relationships with Ourselves**

* “For this reason…we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God’s will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding…” (Colossians 1:9 NRSV)

**Pastoral Visits.** If circumstances conspire to put you in the hospital or if you are directed to a temporary nursing home stay, please let Pastor Dan know by calling the church (715-675-6950), or Pastor Dan’s cell phone (715-212-7359), or sending

Pastor Dan an email at dtsire@msn.com. However, because of current COVID-19 restrictions, only family members are allowed to visit. Yet, Pastor Dan can still maintain contact via phone or email.

**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.

Harriet Wanner Carol Fitzke David Howe

1240 Merrill Ave. 237227 N. 120th Ave. 3312 Terrace Court

Apt. 2 Wausau, WI 54401 Room 102

Wausau, WI 54401 Wausau, WI 54401

Joan Schreiber Harley Goetsch Julie LaVake

1957 Kowalski Road Rennes Health/Rehab Ctr. Northwinds Vent Comm.

Kronenwetter, WI 54455 4810 Barbican Avenue 2400 Marshall St. #1413

 Weston, WI 54476 Wausau, WI 54403

**Financial Report for July, 2020**

 **July Year-to-Date**

**Income Received $12,787 $94,359**

**Expenses Paid $13,401 $77,093**

**Difference ($614) $17,266**

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**Attendance Report**

 2020 2019

Average Weekly/July 75 81

Average Weekly/Year-to-Date 108 90

**Faithful Stewardship During the Coronavirus Pandemic**

Your faithful stewardship during the time when we have been unable to hold traditional indoor worship services has exceeded anyone’s expectations! Keep up the excellent support of our church.

You can still give in one of two ways if you do not attend the outdoor services:

* By mailing in envelope offerings (weekly, biweekly, monthly), or;
* By giving electronically using VANCO.

About a dozen people are using the electronic giving method. As a reminder, for VANCO, simply go to our website home page (stjohnwausau.org) and look for the Online Giving button at the top. This will link you to a contribution form and another link to create a profile and account. You can have the money withdrawn from either a checking or savings account, or from a credit/debit card. You have a choice to make a one-time gift, or a recurring weekly or monthly gift.

 -Mike Kluetz, Treasurer

**Eye on Local Art – Pat Plunkett.**

Yes, the art world remains quiet but still breathing, mostly, but not totally, with virtual shows. As mentioned last time, if there are any artists out there or those yearning to give it a try, you can easily enter the WRAP Show (Wisconsin Regional Artists Association). It will be entirely virtual for everyone’s safety including entry online, simply search for the WRAP website and go from there. A new in-person show is also happening in September titled “Black White, And In Between” including both 2-D and 3-D work at the Riverfront Art Gallery, Stevens Point. Considering the constraints regarding limited use of color, this should prove very interesting. This particular gallery, like most, is very safety conscious so the visitation can be made without worry. In closing, I simply have to repeat, “please be careful, be safe, stay tuned, and God Bless.”

**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.

**September Birthdays** **September Anniversaries**

9-2 Nancy Frostman 9-5 John & Sue Rakow

9-2 Sue Harris 9-8 Eugene & Kelly Dehnel

9-2 Sam Young 9-8 Mike & Sharon Kilinski

9-3 Tyler Bunge 9-8 Keith & Georgia Koenig

9-4 Croy Sala 9-14 Tim & Ann Ohrmundt

9-6 Easton Voigt 9-18 Jerome & Debbie Klug

9-7 Greg Grunenwald 9-18 Louie & Kathie Reissman

9-10 Harriet Wanner 9-19 Josh & Brooke Howe

9-12 Brian Nowak 9-19 Mike & Julie Lavake

9-12 Tre Swemke 9-20 Mike & Tara Pasholk

9-15 Greg Melander 9-21 Jacob & Jessica Pierschalla

9-16 Chad Walter 9-23 Jason & Jodie Wilhelm

9-18 Mike Preisig 9-24 Dale & Kay Knapp

9-20 Eleanor Grueneberg 9-28 Roger & Susan Knight

9-20 Pete Hirn 9-29 Brec & Rachel Ohrmundt

9-20 Jayne Rowe

9-22 Sue Anklam

9-22 Karla Schuett

9-23 Roger Knight

9-23 Mitch Lubecke

9-23 Fritz Poeske

9-23 Kelsi Seubert

9-24 Doug Doede

9-27 Hunter Landrath

9-27 Kathie Reissman

9-29 Dale Nass

9-29 Zachary Voelker

9-30 Sharon Kilinski

9-30 Tyler Tabaka