

From Pastor Dan

In recent weeks, since the tragedy of a person losing their life during protests in Charlottesville, VA, the news media has been ablaze with shocked and angry commentary. Similarly, my ELCA pastor colleagues have lit up Facebook with requests for prayers, requests to sign petitions, and indignant outrage at the atrocities of bigotry. I guess it is all understandable. But I am perplexed as to the sudden demand for urgent action when hatred and bigotry have been unfortunate realities in the world forever. I am by no means condoning hatred and bigotry; I just thought that adults, specifically Christian adults, would have by this time developed some sort of consistent response to it; a consistent response that likely would produce more positive results than a sudden and most probably fading infatuation with posturing indignation.

What exactly do you mean Pastor Dan? I mean that I try real hard (don't always succeed), but I try real hard not to tolerate hatred and bigotry in my life. For example, I vividly remember being in a casual conversation with a group of Lutheran parishioners in another church one morning after worship many years ago. In the course of the conversation, someone eluded to native Americans as prairie n.....s (the "n" word.) I immediately interrupted the conversation and very clearly told the person who uttered the remarks; a person, by the way, whom I admired and respected, that they were out of line. I told them their comments were bigoted, ignorant, and out of touch with reality. I am no hero or saint, but I didn't need feign indignation or sign a petition; I simply responded to hatred and bigotry as a Christian adult.

Another example: When I was on internship in South Dakota, a church group from Kansas planted themselves outside our church one Sunday morning in protest to the ELCA considering ordaining gay clergy who were in committed relationships. The protest placards read, "GOD HATES FAGS." My supervising pastor went over to talk with them, offered them coffee, and reminded them that we are all beloved children of God. I went over soon after and reminded them that they were ignorant, sorry excuses for human beings who should be ashamed of themselves. In retrospect, my supervisor's response was probably more appropriate. Nevertheless, we signed no petitions that day nor called for action on Facebook. We simply responded to the presence of hatred and bigotry in our lives as Christian adults. (He more so than I.)

Final example: Two days ago, I was chatting with a stranger in a waiting room. He was a talkative fellow who apparently thought it was important for me to know about his struggle to eat nuts; some he could eat and others he couldn't. He elaborated his disappointment over the fact he could no longer eat one of his favorite nuts, N..... ("n"

word) toes. If you didn't know, for many years Brazil Nuts were called by the unfortunate and aforementioned description. It was an accepted term. But when this fellow used the term, probably very innocently out of years living with it, I called him on it. Apparently, no one ever had. Because when I told him the term was ignorant and inappropriate, he acted as if I was from Mars. I am not a saint and I am far from perfect, but when I encountered bigotry and hatred, no matter how innocently contrived, I responded. I did not sign petitions or scream with outrage, I simply responded as a Christian adult.

In the wake of the Charlottesville affair, it is understandable that overt and tragic acts of bigotry and hatred would illicit emotional and demanding responses. And for sure, to be aware of evil in the world and to cry for a call to action is obviously better than denying the existence of evil and doing nothing about it. However, I think a more productive response to the unfortunate reality of bigotry and hatred in our world is to face it as you encounter it; don't shy away, call it what it is, and act as a Christian adult.

God's Peace Be with You All,

Pastor Dan

Council Corner”

Sue Cooley, Vice President

As fall begins to sneak up on us, the council has begun to think of all the exciting activities the church has ahead of us. First of all we are on deck for the parking lot to be paved. Right now it seems we will get this done sometime in September. This should make parking and moving across it safer. We want to remind everyone that envelopes are available to contribute to this project. You can also just write PARKING on your weekly contribution envelope. This debt will accrue interest so we hope to get this paid off quickly. We know that, as usual, this church is very positive when it comes to taking care of the needs of the church and we rarely have debt for very long. Please prayerfully consider this in your weekly envelope. Another thing we need to consider this fall is the school year. We all want to rally around our students as they begin this new school year. Rally Sunday is September 10 where we will have a blessing for school backpacks (please have your student bring theirs to church). We will also be sending out time and talent sheets soon and we look forward to getting everyone's input. We need all of us to be involved as a community of faith; and, as always, we have the chili supper to look forward to.

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; rknapp@eojohnson.com
Vice President: Sue Cooley – 715-675-8566; cooley1512@outlook.com
Treasurer: Curt Cooley – 715-675-8566; usfcool@gmail.com
Secretary: Tammi Smith – 715-581-3892; tammism79@gmail.com;
tammism@aspirus.org
Trustees: Lee Sillars – 715-218-5041; lsillars@aol.com
Don Voelker – 715-675-7062; midmainefarms@hotmail.com
Evangelism: Duane Askew – 715-675-4111; daskew@airrun.net
Fellowship: John Marquardt – 715-675-3300; johnnym54401@gmail.com
Education: Connie Nowak – 715-675-1577; bcdenowak@gmail.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. Thursday Evenings from Sept. 7 through Nov. 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.

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

FRANCINAH CALLED ON AUGUST 9, 2017. Francinah called with much good news from Rietpan, South Africa. There has been enough rain to keep the gardens growing. The cattle have enough to eat. Francinah is teaching 21 students in confirmation class. In November the students have an oral test for confirmation. They will be confirmed the end of November. Francinah involves the parents of the students in instruction as well.

The ceiling of Rietpan Lutheran Church is complete. It looks very nice and will be dedicated soon. This keeps the dust and birds out of the sanctuary. This ceiling keeps the sanctuary quiet and it keeps the building warm in winter.

The next project will be a fence around the church property. Francinah said, “Nothing can stop you if you decide to actually do something. You simply break the project down into small units. Bit by bit, the project is completed.”

In August the women of the church had a fundraiser to raise money for a bus to transport the young people to a Youth Rally. The women had games and a raffle to earn money. The Youth Rally will be in September.

Francinah has been receiving “Christ in Our Home” daily devotions and really appreciates this booklet. She says she has learned a lot from this book. She is grateful to your church for your support and partnership.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Young people, I am sure you had an exciting and fun-filled summer (hopefully, some of you old people did too.) But soon it will be back to school (yeah) and back to confirmation class (YEAH!) As in the past, we will meet for confirmation classes at 6:30 on Wednesday evenings beginning with a parent/student meeting on Wednesday, September 13. Also, as in the past, our classes will consist of two groups: “Schmidty” will instruct 7th graders on the Bible and I will instruct the 8th graders on the Small Catechism along with Lutheran theology and Lutheran history. The history portion may be more significant this year given that we are celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

However, I want to make a change this year; I plan on having an adult mentor for each of the nine (9) 8th grade confirmation students. The responsibilities of the mentors would not be burdensome and would include:

- Attending confirmation class approximately once every two months
- Be available to your student for questions and discussion about faith in general and your faith in specific
- Be willing to spend some time during class in January to help your student to begin fashioning a statement of their faith

This type of intergenerational faith activity will go a long way in building stronger relationships within the congregation and stronger relationships with God. If you are a faithful adult who cares about the young people in our congregation, who cares about the future of the church, and who cares about God, then I ask you to please consider this opportunity. (Hopefully I laid out enough of a guilt trip for at least nine folks to respond.) Confirmation classes play a central role in young adult faith formation. I appreciate the enthusiasm and participation of students, parents, and mentors. I look forward to the new academic year. Pastor Dan

POLKA SERVICE – CHILI DINNER/RAFFLE

October 15, 2017 – 10:00 a.m.

Mark your calendars! The polka worship service with Gene Lettau & the II Edition Band will be on October 15th at 10:00 a.m. (note time change!), followed immediately by our annual Chili Dinner and Raffle. Chili tickets will be \$6 for adults, \$3 for children 4 through 10, with those 3 or younger free. Proceeds from chili sales will go to the Youth Fund.

Sign up in the narthex to donate items for the chili dinner. We need people to help set up, serve and clean up afterward. Sign up or call John Marquardt at 715-675-3300.

We also need donations of large and small raffle items. Raffle sales will begin on October 1st. Please bring items by September 30th to Pastor Dan's office. For questions regarding the raffle, contact Linda Graveen at 715-675-7739. Proceeds from raffle ticket sales will go to the parking lot fund.

The Sisterhood of St. John. The St. John Sisterhood meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 26, at 6:30 p.m. We will discuss what direction we want to take the group. We are open to ALL ideas and welcome everyone. Please come and enjoy the camaraderie and snacks provided by Karen Ohrmundt. Hope to see you there.

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 September will be donated to The Salvation Army. 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.

September Birthdays

9-2 Nancy Frostman
9-2 David Guilliom
9-2 Sue Harris
9-2 Sam Young
9-3 Tyler Bunge
9-6 Easton Voigt
9-7 Greg Grunenwald
9-10 Harriet Wanner
9-12 Brian Nowak
9-12 Tre Swemke
9-15 Greg Melander
9-18 Mike Preisig
9-19 Buzz Rosenau
9-20 Pete Hirn
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
9-26 Patricia Guilliom
9-27 Hunter Landrath
9-27 Kathie Reissman
9-29 Dale Nass
9-29 Zachary Voelker
9-30 Sharon Kilinski
9-30 Tyler Tabaka

September Anniversaries

9-5 John & Sue Rakow
9-8 Eugene & Kelly Dehnel
9-8 Mike & Sharon Kilinski
9-8 Keith & Georgia Koenig
9-18 Jerome & Debbie Klug
9-18 Louie & Kathie Reissman
9-19 Josh & Brooke Howe
9-19 Mike & Julie La Vake
9-20 Mike & Tara Pasholk
9-24 Dale & Kay Knapp
9-28 Roger & Susan Knight
9-29 Brec & Rachel Ohrmundt