

From Pastor Dan

If the Thanksgiving holiday season were nothing more than a time to reconnect with family and friends as we gather around a delicious meal, it would still be worth all the time and effort. Because quality time with family and friends together with good food is a tough combination to beat. However, I think the season of Thanksgiving gives us even more.

Science has proven that being thankful, maintaining an “attitude of gratitude,” provides physical and emotional benefits; we are more content, we sleep better, and our relationships are stronger if we make it a practice to be consistently grateful. One of my favorite Bible verses suggests being thankful as essential to our relationship with God, “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:4-7). That’s right, according to Paul, thanksgiving is at the heart of our connection with God in Jesus, “...but in everything by prayer and supplication **with thanksgiving...**”

With that in mind, I have been studying some practical “thanksgiving” advice; and I suggest a threefold approach to expressing daily thanksgiving. (Pardon my triune predilection, but God people seem to have a thing for threes.) Find a quiet, alone place if you can so you can speak your thanksgiving out loud. If such a place is not available, finding a quiet, alone place in your mind can work as well. Next, speak your gratitude for past blessings; one about you, one about family/friends, and one about the world. Really speak to an honest appreciation of these past realities for which you are thankful. You might want to complete this brief exercise in the morning. At another time of the day, express thankfulness for current blessings; again, one which you are receiving, another that family/friends are receiving, and a third which the world is receiving. Finally, the last exercise of the day will follow the same pattern; except this time, you will be prospectively thankful for three things you envision happening: one in your life, one in the lives of family and friends, and one in the world. I do not have specific scientific evidence as to the efficacy of this particular method. However, I have read about folks and have known people using such a process who are indeed enjoying the positive, practical benefits of being thankful.

The Thanksgiving holiday season is a favorite of mine because of the delightful combination of good times with family and friends and good food. However, thankfulness can and should extend beyond the confines of a special day. Why not try to make every day special through an intentional effort to be thankful. After all, science claims that an “attitude of gratitude” can actually make your life better. “...but in everything by prayer and supplication **with thanksgiving** let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

God’s peace be with you,

Pastor Dan

**“Council Corner”
Don Voelker and Lee Sillars, Trustees**

In Spring, St. Johns’ Trustees and helpers cleaned up outside on church grounds. Public Service noted church gas pipes were underground in areas and needed to be exposed and painted which was attended to by Don. Different light fixture bulbs in high ceilings in church were replaced and furnace motors in church were fixed.

Pastor Dan noticed brick grouting was loose and missing in drive up reception area of church brick structure. Don and I cleaned and tuck-pointed bricks that needed attention. A church stained glass window with broken leaded panes is being addressed for repairs, but at present no qualified persons have been located to fix this problem, so it is an on-going project.

Trustees had installed air-conditioners in Pastor and Secretary’s offices in Spring; they have been removed this Fall. Various chairs with structure problems have been attended to also. Doors outside of church and steel supports outside church in need of painting were descaled and brushed and fresh coats of paint were applied.

Your Trustees are keeping up with church preventive maintenance as needed. Any questions or problems viewed in maintenance, please contact Don or Lee.

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
Please join us as we worship our Lord!

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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

Readings for November:

November 5: Micah 3:5-12; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12

November 12: Amos 5:18-24; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

November 19: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

November 26: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

NEWS FROM SOUTH AFRICA. Francinah called. It is spring there as we welcome fall. It is very hot there with not enough rain. The cattle still have enough to eat in their grazing areas. Remember that cattle for the people in Rietpan are like our pensions plans. They invest in their cattle for retirement. When cattle die because of drought or sickness, there goes their pension.

The school children have 2 weeks of school holidays at the beginning of October. Francinah used this time to hold 2 special sessions of 3 hours each for confirmation students. The students prepared for their examination in front of the whole church. Confirmation will be held in November.

It has been a challenge finding volunteers to teach confirmation. People are afraid to teach. Francinah assured the people that she would help them. She says that people need to learn to stand on their own.

Rietpan Lutheran Church lit the candle and prayed for St. John Church on the first Sunday of the month. They are grateful for this partnership. Having a partner in South Africa helps Wisconsin churches understand how the Christian Church is global.
(Ginny Kirsch)

South Africa. Our East Central Synod of Wisconsin is planning another trip to South Africa. For members of St. John, this will include group activities as well as time spent with our companion congregation, Rietpan. The trip is scheduled for July 5-17, 2018. If you are interested, please contact one of our companion congregation representatives, Tammi Smith or John Marquardt.

The Sisterhood of St. John. The Sisterhood will NOT meet in November but the Christmas party will happen. The Christmas party will be at Carmelo's Italian Restaurant on December 4 beginning at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. We truly get in the Christmas spirit with fun and laughter all around. Please bring a donation for the Women's Community (a list of needs is on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall).

Chili Luncheon and Raffle Report – October 15, 2017

We welcomed many visitors, friends and family to St. John for our polka worship services on October 15th. Gene Lettau and the II Edition again provided the special music. After the service, over 170 people enjoyed delicious chili prepared by the Nowak family and Sara Stubbe. A big thank you to them!

This event was a huge success because of much behind-the-scenes work done by many people. Thank you to all who donated food, money, raffle prizes and especially time. Printing tickets and posters, decorating, setting tables, serving, cleaning up, selling tickets and helping with the raffle.

Money raised from chili ticket sales and the sale of quarts of chili was \$1,203.50. This money will be donated to the St. John Youth Fund.

Money raised from the large raffle was \$460.00 and the small raffle was \$831.50 for a total of \$1,291.50. This money will benefit the St. John parking lot fund.

Your polka/chili/raffle committee; John Marquardt, Jeanne Klinger, Linda Graveen

Pie Auction. On Sunday, November 19, after the worship service, you will once again have the opportunity to purchase pies through auction bids; just in time to complement your holiday feast. You should know two things:

1. We need your pies. You can bring them to church from Friday 11/17 - Sunday 11/19. A table will be available in the parish hall.
2. The proceeds from the auction will go to support the young people from our congregation who will be attending the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston, TX in July, 2018.

It has been several years since anyone from St. John attended the ELCA National Youth Gathering. However, up to 10 high school-aged young people may attend this summer. Those who have participated in past events laud their significance in the faith journeys of our youth. Therefore, please do what you can to support this important youth activity by participating in the pie auction. Thank you.

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 November will be donated to The Neighbor's Place. 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.

November Birthdays

11/1 Trent Trulen
11/4 Eric Paulsen
11/5 Jody Gehrke
11/6 Kolton Guralski
11/7 Erin Randall
11/8 Charles Anderson
11/8 Seth Trulen
11/10 Loretta Nolan
11/10 Henry Seubert
11/10 Zachary Trulen
11/12 Alene Howe
11/13 Tanya Fitzke
11/13 Lyla Klug
11/14 Nicole Melander
11/14 Randy Trulen
11/15 Amanda Grueneberg
11/15 Kaitlyn Paulsen
11/15 Jean Treu
11/16 Jevin Guralski
11/16 Mike Pasholk
11/16 Justice Pratt
11/16 Peter Severson
11/16 Terre Swemke
11/18 Amber Frostman
11/19 Gina Graveen
11/19 Jon Schuster
11/21 Louise Harter
11/22 Kady Pasholk
11/24 Morgan Bolz
11/24 Linda Graveen
11/24 Elden Kopplin
11/24 Scott Oestreich
11/24 David Voelker
11/27 Dale Knapp
11/27 Jesse Radant
11/28 Otto Fitzke
11/28 Seth Kohl
11/28 Rose Rosenau

November Anniversaries

11/2 Duane & Jan Mueller
11/2 Don & Nancy Voelker
11/4 Rod & Jean Treu
11/8 Dan & Dawn Detert
11/14 David & Patricia Guilliom
11/15 Scott & Donna Treu
11/23 Elden & Shirley Kopplin
11/30 Bruce & Rita Radant