

From Pastor Dan

As you read this, you are certainly well established in a consistent routine of Lenten disciplines. Righttttttttt. Well, even if you may not be as disciplined with your disciplines as you had hoped, you can still participate in an intentional Lenten journey through weekly attendance at Wednesday worship and joining us for the Lenten meals. And you can still make Lent a time of thoughtful introspection about your faith. That is kind of where I am. My initial plans for some disciplined activities during the 40 days of Lent faded pretty quickly. However, recent comments from a colleague have pointed me in another and possibly more fruitful direction. I am now going to try to read the gospel of Mark (the appointed gospel for year B of the lectionary calendar) from the perspective of a Jewish rabbi.

You see, Jewish rabbis or “teachers” (and that would include Jesus) approached and continue to approach the study of scripture by seeking questions rather than answers. As a matter of fact, the more questions the better. This way of Biblical study is the complete antithesis of the method of western Christian Biblical scholarship. It sounds challenging, but also like a lot of fun.

So, one might wonder:

Who is God and why does God matter in your life? Maybe we should think about that one because I certainly don’t have the ultimate answer. As a matter of fact, no imperfect human being can ever have the ultimate definition or description of God.

Who is Jesus and why does he matter in your life? I have some definite ideas but maybe we ought to ponder that one a bit further as well.

What exactly does it mean to be divine? Gosh, another great question. I think you are getting the hang of this.

I could go on and that is actually what I plan to do throughout the remainder of Lent. And if I come up with any exciting or startling epiphanies, I’ll let you know.

I wish you luck with your Lenten disciplines; even if your stated intention is to come to church every Wednesday evening for a meal and worship. That actually is a fine choice. And as you come and hear other pastors share their ideas on faith and as you spend time sharing your thoughts with fellow parishioners over a bowl of soup, don’t be afraid

to ponder what it might all mean for you. Don't be afraid of questions. After all, even Jesus might think that a good question was far better than a mediocre answer.

God's peace be with you,

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

Vice President: Sue Cooley – 715-675-8566; 715-571-4057l cooley1512@outlook.com

Treasurer: Curt Cooley – 715675-8566; 715-571-4057; usfcool@gmail.com

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

tammism@aspirus.org

Trustees: Lee Sillars – 715-218-5041; lsillars@aol.com

Scott Oestreich – 715-675-4360

Evangelism: Erin Randall – 715-212-3720; emrandal@mtu.edu

Fellowship: John Marquardt – 715-675-3300; johnnym54401@gmail.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.

Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. Sunday Mornings

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. 4 th Avenue Room 215 Wausau, WI 54401	Harriet Wanner 1240 Merrill Ave. Apt. 2 Wausau, WI 54401
---	---	---

The Sisterhood of St. John. Please be sure to sign up for the day trip to see the lighthearted play “A Second Helping” at the Fireside Theatre in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin. It sounds like a fun trip into the world of Lutheran women serving the church in their own way through the making of food. We will be leaving on Saturday, June 2 from the church parking lot at 7:00 a.m. arriving in Fort Atkinson at 10:30 a.m. with dinner (included) at 11:15 a.m. We will be traveling by bus and arriving back around 7:00 p.m. Cost of the trip is \$95.95 which includes: show, meal, gratuity and bus ticket. Please see the flyer in the narthex for the menu and additional information. Sounds like a great good time.

Financial Report for January, 2018

Income Received	Expenses Paid	Difference	Budget
\$10,745.52	\$13,940.74	(\$3,195.22)	\$13,600

Year-to-Date			
Income Received	Expenses Paid	Difference	Budget
\$10,745.52	\$13,940.74	(\$3,195.22)	\$13,600

Attendance Report

	<i>2018</i>	<i>2017</i>
<i>Average Weekly/January</i>	<i>111</i>	<i>95</i>
<i>Average Weekly/Year-to-Date</i>	<i>111</i>	<i>95</i>

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.

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.

March Birthdays

3-2 Matthew Rowe
3-2 Zachary Suliin
3-3 Jennifer Bronsteatter
3-3 Tyler Eno
3-3 Logan Heil
3-4 Lynn Buchberger
3-4 Ryan Seubert
3-5 Carol Prochnow
3-6 Ashley Bunge
3-8 Mariah Marquardt
3-10 Steven Erdmann
3-10 Henry Welch
3-11 Caleigh Bahr
3-12 Heather Gallenberg
3-12 Kate Saari
3-13 Don Voelker
3-15 Jan Mueller
3-17 Austin Walter
3-18 Dan Hein
3-18 Will Rode
3-19 Stacey Linzmeyer
3-20 Arden Mikich
3-21 Trey Buchberger
3-21 Clifford Knapp
3-21 Sara Stubbe
3-22 Jenna Guralski
3-23 Marlene Bahr
3-23 Brenda Knudsen
3-23 Nicole Woodmansee
3-24 Ben Grueneberg
3-25 Mike Stubbe
3-26 Kay Knapp
3-27 Michael La Vake
3-29 Betty Hoenisch
3-30 Jason Grueneberg
3-31 James Haroldson
3-31 Bruce Radant
3-31 Kylie Stubbe

March Anniversaries

3-26 Skip & Betty Hoenisch

Memorial Committee Update

One of the missions of St. John's Memorial Committee is to keep a list of project ideas for memorial contributions. Our committee wanted to share the current list with you.

Do you have additional ideas? Perhaps you see a need in the church that would be an appropriate project for a memorial. We'd appreciate any church project suggestions you might have! Please contact one of the members of the Memorial Committee to share your ideas:

- Karen Ohrmundt
- Jayne Rowe
- Rose Rosenau
- Jan Ziebell

Memorial Project List

(As of FEBRUARY 2018)

Ideas List

Item	Number	Per Unit Price	Total	Comments
Reupholstering church pews	1	8500	\$ 8,500	
Update Furniture in Narthex	1	2000	\$ 2,000	
Cemetery Landscaping Improvements			Misc \$ until project complete	
Parking Lot			Misc \$ until project complete	
Kitchen Improvements			Misc.	
Bathroom Improvements			Misc.	
LED Bulbs	1	1000	\$ 1,000	

InProgress List

Candelabras & Candlestick Repair	1	900	\$ 900	UNDESIGNATED: (Estimate)
Altar Linen Backing			\$ -	UNDESIGNATED

AED Defibulator	1	1500	\$ 1,500	UNDESIGNATED: (Estimate)
-----------------	---	------	----------	-----------------------------