

### From Pastor Dan

Tonight, in Confirmation class, I will be working with the eighth graders as they continue to write their faith statements. In thinking through my lesson plan, I have decided to begin the class discussion by seeking input from the group as to the nature of the three primary characters in their faith statements: God, Jesus, and themselves. So, I will begin by asking them, "Who is God?" This is not the first time this question has been asked and when previously posed, the class responded with a variety of "acceptable" answers. For example, "God is the Father." This is certainly an appropriate response especially given that we say the words repeatedly in every worship service. But what does that mean, "God is Father?" And is it helpful? What if your experience with fathers has been less than positive? Okay...

I plan on continuing by asking them, "Who is Jesus?" Again, they have faced this question before. The answer I have repeatedly suggested as at least a starting point in trying to understand Jesus is that he is the revelation of God. However, we can again ask, "What exactly does that mean?" Moreover, why should we care? Okay...

The final question, "Who are you?" may seem a tad too existential for a group of eighth graders. Yet, it is important, especially at their age, to think about self-identity and to think about it in terms of relationships; especially a relationship with God. However, by this time in the class, attention spans and interest will be wearing thin so the answers may mirror that reality. A philosophically elusive pursuit of individual identity may very well remain exactly that...elusive.

So how about you? How would you answer the questions: Who is God? Who is Jesus? Who are you? Maybe I can help get you started. In rereading *Honest to God* by John Robison, I appreciated an understanding of God expressed in the words of Bonhoeffer and Kierkegaard, "He (God) is in Bonhoeffer's words 'the beyond in the midst of life', a depth of reality reached 'not on the borders of life but at its center', not by any flight of the alone to the alone, but, in Kierkegaard's fine phrase, by 'a deeper immersion in existence.'" Those seem like delightfully insightful and very workable places to start, God is "...the beyond in the midst of life..." and "...a deeper immersion in existence."

I am looking forward to Confirmation class this evening to see how we continue to work at answering those questions. I am also looking forward to the possibility that you may even find renewed interest in continuing to pursue the answers to those questions for yourself. Now that I've given you a good start with God, you can continue by working on the answers to you and Jesus. Let me know what you discover; could be a very interesting conversation.

God bless you,

Pastor Dan

#### **Council Corner – Sue Cooley**

**Spring Cleaning!** Spring is in the air-and that may be the only place it is. Nonetheless we are planning our annual spring cleaning. We will meet at church on Saturday May 19 from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Every year we work in groups inside and outside the church to do the deep cleaning and yard work that needs to be done. Please bring cleaning supplies (rags and cleaning solutions) and rakes. We have ladders and garbage bags and places to take the yard waste. Please join in for all the fun!! Hope to see you there.

**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; 715-571-40571 cooley1512@outlook.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; lsillars@aol.com

Scott Oestreich – 715-675-4360; scottsmachinellc@gmail.com

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

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**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.

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***Worship Schedule***

**9:00 a.m. Sunday Mornings**

**6:30 p.m. Wednesday Evenings (5/30 – 8/29)**

***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. 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Room 215  
Wausau, WI 54401

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

**Community Supper.** On Sunday, May 6, St. John will be hosting the free Sunday Community Supper at First Presbyterian Church. We are looking for volunteers to help prepare the meal, serve the meal, and, of course, we’ll need a clean-up crew. If you are available to help, please contact Erin Randall at 715-212-3720. If you are unable to assist in meal prep, the meal is served from 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. and everyone is invited to partake. Please consider participating in this community outreach event.

**Walk the Walk**

Do you rush, push, shout and become generally unpleasant on Sunday mornings? Do you complain about church? Are you irregular in your attendance? Are you over-conscientious about matters that are not really important?

Do you always criticize the pastor, the choir, the length of services and the usher crew? Then don't be surprised if your children grow up to look at Sundays as the worst day of the week.

---Karen Burton Maines, author of *Making Sunday Special*

**Financial Report for March, 2018**

<b>Income Received</b>	<b>Expenses Paid</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>Budget</b>
<b>\$12,750.70</b>	<b>\$16,052.03</b>	<b>(\$3,301.33)</b>	<b>\$13,600</b>

**Year-to-Date**

<b>Income Received</b>	<b>Expenses Paid</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>Budget</b>
<b>\$33,957.80</b>	<b>\$40,409.09</b>	<b>(\$6,451.29)</b>	<b>\$40,800</b>

*Attendance Report*

	<i>2018</i>	<i>2017</i>
<i>Average Weekly/March</i>	<i>183</i>	<i>206</i>
<i>Average Weekly/Year-to-Date</i>	<i>145</i>	<i>134</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](mailto: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.

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**Thanks, Mom!**

At his graduation, a young man tasked with giving a speech began reading from some notes. "I want to talk about my mother and the wonderful influence she had on my life," he said. "She's a shining example of parenthood, and I love her more than words can ever do justice."

The graduate then paused, appeared to struggle a moment and looked up at the audience with a mischievous smile. "It's really hard to read my mom's handwriting," he said.

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**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  
5-26 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 Kim & Ryan Landwehr