

### From Pastor Dan

In his book, “The Stars Beneath Us – Finding God in the Evolving Cosmos,” author Paul Wallace introduces the concept of the “Fifth Dentist.” Some of you older folks may be familiar with television advertisements for Trident sugarless chewing gum which were popular for decades in the 70’s, and 80’s. The essential sales pitch of these ads was, “Four out of five dentists recommend sugarless gum for their patients who chew gum.” On the surface, the logic behind this claim makes perfect sense; I mean what dentist wouldn’t recommend sugarless gum. Well, apparently there is this one dentist who does not recommend sugarless gum to their patients who chew gum. What’s up with that? Paul Wallace then asks the reader to make a choice. Let’s say you had the opportunity to talk with just one of those five dentists, which of the five would you want to talk with? Wallace suggests, and I think he is absolutely correct, we would most likely want to speak with the fifth dentist to find out what is going on with his contrarian recommendation. It seems that we might gain the most insight into dentistry in specific and the world in general by sitting down and chatting with the fifth dentist.

Wallace applies this concept to reading the Bible. He asks, for example, from which books of the Bible might you receive the most insight into God. Would you gain the broadest and possibly most enlightening perspective from the laws of Moses as written in *Deuteronomy*, from the wisdom teachings of *Proverbs*, or from the rather odd and almost bizarre tale of *Job* who is the object of a wager between God and Satan. Wallace claims that even though *Deuteronomy* and *Proverbs* provide useful information for helping you to live a better life, *Job* is the one that might actually point you in the direction of transforming your life.

So, just what is your point here, Pastor Dan? My point is that regarding life in general and our faith journey in specific, revelation often arrives in the form of nuanced questions rather than tried and true answers. Yes, there is a God (at least that’s my bet) and yes God is revealed in Jesus Christ (at least for Christians.) Okay, that is all well and good; but, how does Jesus reveal God? And more importantly, how does that make a positive difference in my life and in the lives of my family? Darn good question! In order to go about answering that question I think you ought to absorb the logic and wisdom of

the four dentists. Your life will be better if you do. But to take your faith to the next level, you should probably have a chat with that fifth dentist.

God's peace be with you all,

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 – 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

---

**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 (9/13 - 11/1)

*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	Ellen Kruit	Harriet Wanner
1347 Crystal Avenue	1821 N. 4 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	1240 Merrill Ave.
Room 236-1	Room 215	Apt. 2
Naperville, IL 60563	Wausau, WI 54401	Wausau, WI 54401

**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.

“Wherever we see the Word of God purely preached and heard, there a church of God exists, even if it swarms with many faults.”

### *October Birthdays*

10-1 Kurt Guralski  
10-2 Kari Heil  
10-2 Jeanne Klinger  
10-2 Keegan Tesch  
10-3 Joshua Howe  
10-5 Logan Hoeft  
10-8 Kim Landwehr  
10-9 Jake Boehm  
10-9 Sophie Seubert  
10-10 Terry Kopplin  
10-10 Rod Treu  
10-10 Mike Woodmansee  
10-11 Dawn Detert  
10-13 Pat Poeske  
10-13 Cindy Preisig  
10-13 Melissa Thurs  
10-17 Draxton Howe  
10-18 Curt Cooley  
10-21 Megan Eno  
10-22 Brooke Howe  
10-23 Paul Gauger  
10-23 David Howe  
10-23 Rylee Suliin  
10-24 Kylee Pasholk  
10-25 Lucas Linzmeyer  
10-27 Keith Koenig  
10-29 Julie Schuster

### *October Anniversaries*

10-2 Steve & Pam Zahn  
10-3 Nathan & Karrissa Fitzke  
10-4 David & Rebecca Voelker  
10-5 Vern & Marlene Bahr  
10-7 Guy & Nancy Frostman  
10-8 Randy & Linda Graveen  
10-8 Pete & Kelly Hirn  
10-9 Jim & Loretta Nolan  
10-19 Aaron & Laura Kudronowicz  
10-20 Doug & Christine Doede  
10-20 DJ & Autumn Tesch  
10-23 Mike & Sara Stubbe  
10-27 Ron & Julie Schuster