

From Pastor Dan

As this year continues to race by, we find ourselves heading into another Thanksgiving season. Despite the inexorable forward march of time, we approach this holiday celebration looking back to the time of the Pilgrims. Yet, even with such a long history, Thanksgiving was not declared an official holiday until 1863 when President Abraham Lincoln named the fourth Thursday of November as an official national day of Thanksgiving.

Since official holidays typically give us an opportunity to gather with family and friends, they often seem to conjure up memories of special times. For me, Thanksgiving is no exception. I recall big meals with Nana and Grandpa, lots of stories and laughter, and the perennial presence of a Detroit Lions football game. However, one of my fondest memories of Thanksgiving did not happen around the table in November but rather in a neighbor's farmyard in October.

When I was young, I remember overhearing my parents talking about a neighboring farmer who was having a very difficult year. Earlier in the year, he lost his wife to illness. In May of that year, his son was seriously injured in a farm accident. Though he recovered fully he was not able to help on the farm for quite a while. Neighbors pitched in to help. Then as if that wasn't enough for one person, the man himself was injured in an auto accident the same day he was to begin his wheat harvest. Again, the neighbors pitched in to get him through. In October of that year after he was back on his feet, the neighbor hosted a huge picnic at his place to thank everyone who had supported he and his family through the difficulties of the year. I vividly remember a big crowd, a country western band, more food than I had ever seen, and an unending supply of my favorite beverage, Shasta strawberry soda. (Can't believe I actually drank that stuff.) I took advantage of being young enough to go pretty much unnoticed while at the same time being old enough to wander around at will and savor the experience. At one point, Shasta soda in hand, I found myself standing next to the host as he enthusiastically chatted with another neighbor. (Remember, even though they were neighbors, they were probably at least five miles apart and thus didn't see each other all that often.) So anyway, the gist of the conversation consisted of this fellow commiserating with our host about all his difficulties and questioning why he wasn't at least a bit angry with God for all the troubles. Without hesitation, our beleaguered neighbor replied that on the

contrary, he was grateful for his good fortune: he was surrounded by fond memories of his wife, both he and his son had recovered from their accidents, and he had a much closer relationship with all his neighbors than he had ever had. Even as a youngster I was kind of a skeptic and thought the neighbor who had encountered all the troubles was at best just trying to be polite or, at worst, was blowing smoke up this guy's skirt. However, somehow, I could tell that he was being sincere as he added, "Yes, it has sure been a tough year. But it is at times like these that a fella realizes how much he really has."

So Happy Thanksgiving to you all. I hope you have a great time with family, friends, food, and football. And I also hope you take the time to realize how much you really have.

God's peace,

Pastor Dan

"Council Corner"

Scott Oestreich and Lee Sillars, Trustees

Greetings fellow parishioners. Your trustees Scott Oestrich and myself have been keeping up with maintenance and repairs to church and rental parsonage.

We have installed a new LED light outside in carport parking lot. Scott has done preventive maintenance on air conditioner and heating units. Coat rack on wall in church downstairs was loose from wall and Scott redid attachment screws and fastened to wall properly.

A decision to have carpets cleaned in fellowship hall was made and will be completed after November 13th. A security light in downstairs had battery replaced and is working now. Light by choir loft was replaced. Scott machined a new door latch for northeast door in church, door latching properly now.

Scott is contacting R&L mowing services on behalf of the church regarding an updated contract. Eight storm windows have to be replaced on renter parsonage and windows have been purchased and will be installed. There are items to be repaired and replaced in parsonage and will be addressed. Reflective poles for snowplowing limits have been installed around parking lot. Batteries in Sunday clocks have been changed.

Important phone number lists were updated and passed out and posted in kitchen area.

Anyone noticing issues that need to be addressed to be repaired or replace, feel free to contact Scott or myself. We both appreciate your confidence in us taking care of church property.

Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. Sunday Mornings

Please join us as we worship our Lord!

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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.

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

Greeting Card Ministry. For many years, Florian Kolbe has been leading a greeting card ministry at St. John. Cards are sent to parishioners at needed times; such as illnesses or special birthdays or anniversaries. Actually, Florian has not been leading this ministry, she is this ministry, and we thank her very much for her service. However, she is now ready for a much-deserved rest.

Therefore, we are looking for someone to take over this ministry for St. John. If you are interested or have questions, please talk with Florian or Pastor Dan.

Pie Social and Auction. On Sunday, November 18, after the worship service, we will hold our annual pie social and auction. Bring a pie to share and some to auction off. Monies raised will benefit the Warming Center on Third Avenue in Wausau.

The Sisterhood Christmas Social. All ladies are invited to Carmelo's Italian Restaurant for our annual Christmas party on Monday, December 3rd. We will meet at 6:00 p.m. for beverages followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. Please join us for an evening of camaraderie, great food and lots of fun. Feel free to invite a friend, sister, daughter etc. As in the past, we ask that you bring a donation for the women's community. Also, don't forget your white elephant gift! Watch for the sign-up sheet in narthex in November.

Questions? Contact Sue Harris 715-551-6282

Chili Luncheon and Raffle Report – September 23, 2018. We welcomed many visitors, friends and family to St. John for our polka worship service on September 23rd. Gene Lettau and the II Edition again provided the special music. After the service, we 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 quarts of chili was \$1078.00. This money will be divided between the Women's Community and Maine School.

Money raised from the large raffle was \$765.00 and the small raffle was \$663.00 for a total of \$1428.00. This money will benefit the St. John parking lot fund.

Mark your calendars. Gene Lettau and the II Edition will be back October 13, 2019!

Men's Brotherhood. Due to the Thanksgiving service scheduled for November 20, the November Brotherhood meeting is cancelled. For the December meeting we will carol with the Sisterhood – date to be determined. The meetings on the third Tuesday of the month will resume on January 15.

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.

Count Your Blessings

Count your blessings instead of your crosses;
Count your gains instead of your losses.

Count your joys instead of your woes;
Count your friends instead of your foes.

Count your smiles instead of your tears;
Count your courage instead of your fears.

Count your full years instead of your lean;
Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.

Count your health instead of your wealth;
Count on God instead of yourself.

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 Kadya 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

November Anniversaries

11-2 Duane & Jan Mueller
11-2 Don & Nancy Voelker
11-4 Jacob & Chelsi Knoblock
11-4 Rod & Jean Treu
11-8 Dan & Dawn Detert
11-15 Scott & Donna Treu
11-23 Elden & Shirley Kopplin
11-30 Bruce & Rita Radant

