

From Pastor Dan

“They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?” (Genesis 3:8-9)

I like this excerpt from the Garden of Eden story with the image of God taking an evening stroll through the garden to ostensibly enjoy the handiwork of creation, but also, apparently, to locate his wayward human creations. You see, Adam and Eve were hiding from God out of shame after being lured by the snake to eat the apple. So, God calls out, “Where are you?”

Amid the busyness, travel, and vacations, I silently echo those words on summer Sunday mornings as I look upon the 60 or so faithful attendees and wonder, “Where are you?” God asks that question because he misses the company of his creation. I ask that question because I miss your company.

However, the question God asks is a deeper one. Thus, mine should be as well. For you see, God knows full well where Adam and Eve are physically located; just as I know you folks are out and about enjoying summer. What God really wants to know of Adam and Eve and what God really wants to know of us is, “Where are you? I mean; where are you really?” God is sincerely asking where Adam and Eve are in their hearts, and minds, and souls in the midst of their angst over their bad decisions; amidst the turmoil of life.

So, maybe the respite provided by summer time off could be an opportunity for you to spend some time searching in your heart, in your mind, and in your soul as to where you are in relationship to your life: to your work, your family, your friends, and your God. You don't have to interrupt your vacation by diving off the pontoon boat or rushing away from the family picnic to seek some sort of monk-like sanctuary to meditate on the meaning of life. I am not suggesting that. What I am suggesting, however, is to take some quiet time in the midst of summer activities to thoughtfully ponder how you might answer God as he takes an evening stroll through your life and asks, “Where are you?”

God's peace be with you.

Pastor Dan

Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. Sunday Mornings

6:30 p.m. Wednesday Evenings (June 5 - September 4)

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: Jan Mueller – 715-675-9558; dmjm5455.wau@gmail.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; rdfx1234@gmail.com

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

Evangelism: Lane Bahr – 715-297-0017; lucylane35@hotmail.com

Fellowship: Mike Preisig – 715-675-4981; cindypreisig@yahoo.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

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

Carol Fitzke
4901 N. 120th Ave.
Wausau, WI 54401

Joan Schreiber
1957 Kowalski Road
Kronenwetter, WI 54455

Leona Wilde
6550 County Road F
Merrill, WI 54452

Harley Goetsch
Rennes Health/Rehab Center
4810 Barbican Avenue
Weston, WI 54476

God is Everywhere

We are living in a world that is absolutely transparent, and God is shining through it all the time. This is not just a fable or a nice story. It is true. If we abandon ourselves to God and forget ourselves, we see it sometimes, and we see it maybe frequently. God shows himself everywhere, in everything – in people and in things and in nature and in events. It becomes very obvious that God is everywhere and in everything and we cannot be without him. It's impossible. The only thing is that we don't see it.---Thomas Merton

Financial Report for June, 2019

Income Received	Expenses Paid	Difference	Budget
\$6,715.14	\$12,164.96	(\$5,449.82)	\$12,950.83

Year-to-Date

Income Received	Expenses Paid	Difference	Budget
\$70,006.55	\$80,934.45	(\$10,927.90)	\$78,704.98

Attendance Report

	2019	2018
Average Weekly/June	89	93
Average Weekly/Year-to-Date	123	133

Thrivent Choice Program. St. John receives funds through Thrivent Financial’s Thrivent Choice program. By directing “Choice Dollars,” eligible Thrivent members can designate which nonprofit organizations should receive their “Choice Dollars.” If you are an eligible member, please consider designating St. John when directing your Choice Dollars. Call 800-847-4836 or visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

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.

“Rally Sunday” and “Blessing of the Backpacks”



Please join the education team here at St. John’s as we celebrate the kick-off to our “school” year on Rally Sunday! On Sunday, September 8th, kids of all ages are welcome to bring their backpacks to the worship service for a “Blessing of the Backpacks.” After worship, we will celebrate the start of St. John’s educational season with games and treats! **Please bring a “brunch” food item to share with our all of our friends in Christ!** All are welcome!

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.

Eye On Local Art

Local art world action continues this August through mid September with the “Roots” show, a juried exhibit involving artists who are connecting with their roots and interpreting those previous experiences/observations into a piece of fine art in any medium desired. In addition to this, for those who have artistic inclinations, the WRAP Show (Wisconsin Regional Artists Association) will have their annual competition this coming fall at the CVA. No cash prizes in this show but the winners will be eligible for entry and cash prizes at the state level show in 2020 which will be held in Wausau. It’s a great chance for all amateur artists from age 14 and up to compete with their talents in any medium they choose. For details, see the WRAP website.

Contribute to St. John with Tax-free Money

If you are over 70½ years old and have an IRA, you are required to take an annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), as I'm sure you know. But did you know that you can give all or part of this to St. John as your contribution without having to pay tax on it first? You simply ask your fund manager or the custodian of your funds to send a check in partial fulfillment of your RMD directly to the church. As long as the money never comes to you first on its way to the church you do not pay tax on it. Think about using the tax savings to increase your giving to St. John as well, so it's a win-win (except for the IRS, of course). Note that you cannot use an RMD from a 401(k) plan in this manner. Also, unfortunately, you are limited to \$100,000 contributed in this manner each year!☺ Finally, since this will be a large, one-time contribution each year you can decide when the church might need the money the most. I chose to make my contribution in the summer, when lower attendance typically means lower income.

August Birthdays

8-1 Skip Hoenisch
8-2 Kaitlin Bronsteatter
8-3 Mike Poeske
8-3 Kyle Rosenau
8-5 Dawson Hein
8-6 Tammy Landrath
8-7 Devin Bahr
8-7 Carol Fitzke
8-7 Hannah Kudronowicz
8-7 Nick Oelke
8-7 Phyllis Seubert
8-9 Nancy Voelker
8-10 Shawn Bahr
8-10 Nick Maley
8-11 Julie Lavake
8-11 Lynn Tesch
8-12 Christine Doede
8-15 Sheila Gumz
8-16 Pam Zahn
8-17 Abigail Kufahl
8-17 Christopher Ohrmundt
8-17 Scott Treu
8-18 Terry Ugoretz
8-20 Anne Ohrmundt
8-20 Marlene Stubbe
8-21 Bailey Frostman
8-22 Georgia Koenig
8-22 Diane Trulen
8-24 Bryce Eno
8-25 Eugene Dehnel
8-25 Kooper Guralski
8-27 Pamela Leduc
8-29 Kay Berens

August Anniversaries

8-9 Eric & Barb Paulsen
8-14 Larry & Kay Berens
8-15 Mike & Michelle Bolz
8-15 Justin & Madeline Grueneberg
8-15 Craig & Kari Heil
8-18 Nick & Heidi Teske
8-19 Mitch & Tammy Landrath
8-19 Brian & Connie Nowak
8-21 Mike & Heather Gallenberg