

From Pastor Dan

Once a month, I am scheduled to provide worship at one of several local nursing home facilities. This program is organized by Greater Wausau Christian Services. I just returned from worship at Mount View Care Center down by the city airport and was accompanied by Pat Rogalla who often supports the presiding pastors with piano accompaniment. I confess that I can sometimes be a bit blasé about these services which are often for a less-than-engaged congregation. At any given moment, a third of them may be asleep (not like a Sunday morning at St. John where the sleeping percentage seldom exceeds 25%). Their lack of enthusiasm is, of course, understandable given the situation of many nursing home residents. However, today, despite the usual level of audience participation, I was excited about preaching; preaching about Jesus (go figure...). Now, don't get me wrong; I didn't think my enthusiastic exhortations would be like some sort of bat signal calling hero Jesus to sweep in with a band of angels and a magic healing wand to zap wheelchairs out from underneath everybody. No, I was excited about preaching Jesus today because as I looked out on the gathered faithful, all seemed to be in some level of need. I earnestly believed that hearing the message of Jesus would provide some relief. I earnestly believed that being reminded of the genuine promise of love, peace, forgiveness, and hope would be good for those folks; a reminder which would help them in ways caregivers, families, and medical science maybe have been unable to do.

A practical aspect of that promise came from the gospel text from Luke chapter 9 in which Jesus admonished his followers, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God." In other words, we are called to look, think, and feel forward. Yes, we ought to study history and learn from our pasts, both good and bad. However, Jesus is telling us that we ought not focus on the past, but live in the moment with an eye on the path ahead; on the possibilities over the horizon. To be a faithful, forward-looking Christian while at the same time being a wheelchair bound resident of a nursing facility is not necessarily an easy task to pull off. Yet, Jesus calls us to do exactly that; to look beyond our fears, to look beyond our despair, to look beyond all the chains with which our over-active imaginations try to bind us. And in so doing, we might experience a freedom we otherwise would not have known.

I figured that's worth getting excited about...

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

Checking account balances:

March up \$1200

April down \$725

May down \$888 (\$19526)

Income was \$63291

Expenses were \$68769

Budget through May \$64750

The checking account balance is now down \$5000 since beginning of the year.

Expenses are up \$4000 over budget amount. Of which \$3500 was not budgeted due to Sisterhood taking a trip to Oconomowoc. This trip came about after the budget numbers were set.

Income is short \$1450 from the budget, but remember that \$3500 was raised by the trip to Oconomowoc mentioned above, therefore income is actually short the \$5000 mentioned above in checking account shortfall because the Sisterhood raised all of the money it spent.

Looking at the income numbers for the last couple years, it appears that every three months our income exceeds expenses. It would be nice if every month our income would exceed our expenses.

Thanks for you continued support

Curt Cooley

Financial Report for May, 2019

Income Received	Expenses Paid	Difference	Budget
\$11,117.16	\$12,676.75	(\$1,559.59)	\$12,950.83

Year-to-Date

Income Received	Expenses Paid	Difference	Budget
\$63,291.41	\$68,769.49	(\$5,478.08)	\$64,754.15

Attendance Report

	2019	2018
Average Weekly/June	90	106
Average Weekly/Year-to-Date	129	140

Eye On Local Art.

The Riverfront Arts Center in Stevens Point is again hosting their annual juried exhibit called “Visions”, presenting work by local and regional artists. This is an open themed and open medium exhibit. It is the artist’s interpretation or “vision” of a subject and medium of their own choosing and will run from early July to mid-August. Whatever your interest in visual art is, you may find it here. The setting of this gallery is, in itself, worth the trip, being located along the Wisconsin River just off the “Green Trail” at 1200 Crosby Avenue in Stevens Point. Viewing hours are Tuesday thru Friday from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Saturday and Sunday from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM – admission is free. Their phone number is 715/343/6251 and yes, they are on Facebook.

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.

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.

July Birthdays

7-1 Karrissa Fitzke
7-1 Connie Nowak
7-1 Sarah Preisig
7-2 Jacob Pierschalla
7-3 Dylan Marquardt
7-4 Leopold Schiller
7-6 Nichole Saari
7-8 Chelsi Knoblock
7-8 Sue Rakow
7-9 Tammi Smith
7-10 Bryce Heil
7-11 Vern Bahr
7-11 Aiden Ohrmundt
7-12 Debbie Knapp
7-12 Brec Ohrmundt
7-12 Ashlee Walters
7-14 Henry Marquardt
7-15 Britta Brandt
7-16 Agnes Schelbert
7-17 Mason Hirn
7-18 Debbie Klug
7-19 Aleah Oestreich
7-20 Scott Buchberger
7-20 Pam Mootz
7-20 Kara Rode
7-20 Ava Rode
7-20 Eli Swemke
7-21 Carrie Hoeft
7-21 Mike Kilinski
7-21 Jake Schoepke
7-22 Ann Kieckhafer
7-22 James Nolan
7-23 John Marquardt
7-25 Kate Young
7-26 Coleton LeDuc
7-26 Earl Schmieden
7-27 Gene Bahr
7-27 Brandon Landrath
7-27 George Webb
7-27 Joanne Zahn
7-28 Bianca Melander
7-30 Shelley Kufahl

July Anniversaries

7-10 Terry & Jamie Kickbusch
7-10 Randy & Brenda Knudsen
7-12 Jason & Amanda Grueneberg
7-14 James & Stephanie Borelli
7-15 Greg & Nicole Melander
7-18 Fritz & Pat Poeske
7-23 Brandon & Brooke Schindler
7-28 Randy & Diane Trulen
7-29 Gene & Lane Bahr