

From Pastor Dan

Just the other day, your church council met to draft a budget for 2020. The council will vote on the final form of the budget at the November council meeting which will then be presented to the entire congregation at our annual meeting in February. Although we all understand the need to financially support St. John, sometimes we get a little nervous and jerky talking about money. We shouldn't. Rather, we ought to consider the value of St. John to ourselves and to the community. In other words, rather than financially supporting St. John just to pay the light bill, for example; we should support St. John for the difference we make in helping folks live more abundant lives. In order to clarify what that difference looks like and also to provide consistent direction for what we do and who we are, we are developing a vision statement. I have submitted previous iterations to you for your consideration. The latest version is below. Our plan is to continue to seek your input throughout the rest of the year and then finalize the vision statement for a vote at our annual meeting. Therefore, please let me or one of your council members know what you think as we move positively forward as a growing and vibrant congregation.

Vision for St John

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Village of Maine, Wausau, WI is a mid-size country church affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Yet, more than size or affiliations, we are a congregation which welcomes all who seek meaning and hope in their lives through all the possibilities of a connection to the love of God in Jesus Christ. At our core, we value and nurture relationships.

We Value and Nurture Relationships With our God

- We think it is important to regularly be in the intentional presence of God in worship.
- We are traditional in our worship which includes praying, singing, hearing the word through Bible reading and the pastor's message.
- Our focus in worship is on an honest attempt to connect with God in Jesus Christ, "Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'" (Matthew 22:37 NRSV)

We Value and Nurture Relationships with Each Other

- We think it is important to regularly be in the intentional presence of one another.
- We are a mix of folks from different economic, political, and social backgrounds who earnestly try to get along.
- We sincerely welcome all seekers of Jesus' promise of abundant life, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." (John 10:10 NRSV)

We Value and Nurture Relationships with our Community

- We strive to meaningfully participate in the welfare of our community.
- We support a variety of community funds and activities as well as sincerely working toward being a positive influence in our neighborhood.
- We understand that God's unconditional love for us is just the beginning of the cycle of grace, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." (John 13:34 NRSV)

We Value and Nurture Relationships with Ourselves

- We seek a deeper understanding of God's presence in our lives
- We provide opportunities to expand our understanding through Christian education classes and programs as well as Bible studies for young and old.
- We realize we don't have this whole God business figured out and, therefore, we earnestly continue to seek answers amidst the reality of doubts and questions. We understand that God is timeless, yet our understanding of God can never be.
- "For this reason...we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding..." (Colossians 1:9 NRSV)

Council Corner

Lee Sillars, Scott Oestreich, Trustees, Fall 2019

Fellow parishioners, here are a few things the trustees have fixed or adjusted.

Parishioners have helped at various times. Thanks for everyone concerned in helping fix and spruce up parsonage by painting and repairing. Curt Cooley and Pastor Dan have also been a tremendous help.

Here is a list of things that got attention:

1. Filters changed in furnace.
2. Emergency light battery replaced in church and missing electrical box plate replaced in basement.
3. Burnt out lights in sanctuary replaced.
4. Trees and bushes in front of parsonage trimmed.
5. Facia on parsonage garage repaired.
6. Air conditioners removed from offices.
7. Church well chlorinated.
8. Septic tank pumped at parsonage.
9. Bad electrical breaker replaced for well water pump by Curt Cooley in wee hours in morning resulting in more comfortable pastors meeting at church.
10. Laverne Grunenwald and Duane Mueller are installing backup sump pump and trickle charging system in church basement.
11. Items that should be addressed in future: Put aside funds for installing metal shingles on church belfry; have licensed electrician check out breaker box in parsonage for update or replacement of outdated breakers.

Any items of concern, please contact your trustees committee.

Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. Sunday Mornings

Please join us as we worship our Lord!

.....

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.

Jesus Was a Carpenter. How about you? We are looking for folks with carpentry skills to add another tier to our Confirmation graduates photo display in the parish hall. After adding the photo for this year’s class, we will have only one space available. We intend on having a bunch more confirmation graduating classes than that. If you can help with this project, please contact your council president, Randy Trulen.

Eye on Local Art – Pat Plunkett. Once again, Christmas gift giving season is upon us and, again, the local art galleries are gearing up for the season. They include, right here in Wausau, the CVA Gift Gallery (in Washington Square), the Loft Gallery in the CVA (427 N 4th St.), and the 319 Gallery

(319 Fourth St.). Just a short distance away is the Riverfront Gallery (1200 Crosby Avenue, Stevens Point), the Q Gallery (1108 Main St, Stevens Point), and the AVA Gallery (located in the Langlade County Historical Museum, 404 Superior St. Antigo). They're a great place to find the one-of-a-kind gift for someone on your "I don't know what to get" list. If you have no idea what you are looking for, these fine art galleries are a great place to get inspirations and find unique solutions.

Chili Luncheon and Raffle Report – October 13, 2019. Visitors, friends and family joined members of St. John for our polka worship service on October 13th. Gene Lettau and the II Edition again provided the special music. After the service, we enjoyed delicious chili prepared by the Nowak family. 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 \$1,163.00. This will be donated to a local charity through a local business that will double our contribution. Stay tuned.

Money raised from the large raffle was \$726.00 and the small raffle was \$842.00 for a total of \$1,568.00. This money is designated for a video recording system for the sanctuary.

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.

Sisterhood Christmas Social. It's that time of year again to mark your calendar for our Christmas party at Carmelo's Restaurant. Please join us on Monday, December 2nd at 6:00 p.m. for beverages with dinner to follow at 6:30 p.m.

As in the past, we encourage you to bring an item(s) that will be donated to The Women's Community Shelter to help our sisters in need. Our generosity is greatly appreciated by the shelter.

We end our evening with a white elephant gift exchange which tends to be very interesting as well as quite entertaining. If you want to participate, please bring a gently used gift and be creative (at our age we've all had enough Santa's and snowmen).

Everyone is welcome! If you'd like to bring your daughter, friend, sister etc. please do. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

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.

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 Jessica Schuster
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 Andrew Radant
11-14 Randy Trulen
11-15 Amanda Grueneberg
11-15 Kaitlyn Paulsen
11-15 Jean Treu
11-16 Jevin Guralski
11-16 Michael 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 Josh Grueneberg
11-21 Louise Harter
11-22 Kady 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
11-28 Rose Rosenau

November Anniversaries

11-2 Duane & Janis 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

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
237227 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

Financial Report for September, 2019

Income Received	Expenses Paid	Difference	Budget
\$9,101.09	\$11,293.99	(\$2,192.90)	\$12,950.83

Year-to-Date

Income Received	Expenses Paid	Difference	Budget
\$107,519.16	\$115,566.58	(\$8,047.42)	\$116,557.47

Attendance Report

	2019	2018
Average Weekly/September	104	108
Average Weekly/Year-to-Date	113	120