

From Pastor Dan

Do the seasons of the church year really matter? I mean who, aside from pastors, pays attention or cares? Well, despite my vocational bias, I think the seasons of the church year do matter. I broach this subject on the eve of a new church year in the season of Advent. A few years back I was like most folks and neither knew or cared much about the seasons designated by the church. As a matter of fact, I distinctly remember that during my first year of seminary when asked to help with Advent worship preparations, I had to confess that I didn't really know what Advent was all about. I am still no expert, but I can encapsulate my understanding of Advent in a Bible verse, Psalm 46:10, "Be still, then, and know that I am God."

In an Advent devotional from Lutheran Indian Ministries, I found thoughtful amplification of this concept, "Advent is a season that can function like those old train crossing signs. We are invited to stop, look, and listen." The author continued, "In a world filled with busyness and confusion, we are invited to stop. Advent can be a time to slow down...and focus on what is important. Advent invites us to look. In the midst of Christmas tree lights and crowded shopping malls, God asks us to look and give thanks for his interruption in our world." The author concludes, "Finally we can listen. God is speaking to us in the pages of Holy Scripture...Advent can become a time of increased devotion as we reflect again on the Biblical story of God's love."

According to the church calendar, Christmas begins the evening of December 24. Out there in the "real" world, Christmas begins shortly after Halloween. I know this is a busy time of year for you; it's a busy time of year for me. Nevertheless, I think the church had a good idea in establishing Advent as a time during this crazy busy time of year when we can stop; look, and listen for the promise of God's love revealed in Jesus Christ at work in our lives. So, Happy Advent, Merry Christmas, and a heartfelt holiday wish for us all to, "Be still, then, and know that I am God."

Pastor Dan

Council Corner

Lane Bahr, Evangelism

On Sunday, December 1st, St. John will be hosting the free Sunday Community Supper at First Presbyterian Church. This is an outreach opportunity to provide a hot meal on Sundays in the downtown Wausau area. This will be the second meal that our church hosted for the 2019 year.

Our 1st dinner of the year that we hosted, was on May 5th, with a fitting Cinco de Miyo theme of tacos with all the fixings! Table decorations to add to the fun and our volunteers wearing sombrero hats to serve the meal in style! Not only did we help those in need of nutrition but we hopefully brought a bit of whimsical fun and fellowship to their soul.

We're looking forward to the meal we will be hosting on December 1st and are looking for volunteers to help prepare the meal (3:00-4:00 pm), serve the meal (4:00-5:15), and of course we'll need a cleanup crew (5:15-6:00). You can volunteer for an hour or the entire time! It's a great time, sharing fellowship and cheer with others. If you are available to help, please contact Lane Bahr (715-297-0017).

A line from the Christmas movie Elf was, "The best way to spread Christmas Cheer, is sing it loud for all to hear!"

I have seen God's word, good deeds and cheer being spread throughout 2019 and would like to sincerely thank everyone that has volunteered, in any way, here at St. John and in our community. Keep "singing it loud", keep spreading the God's word, keep sharing the love! Small acts of kindness, leads to big things!

Merry Christmas!!

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: 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.

ANNUAL MEETING! Our annual meeting date has been changed!

The annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2020 following the 9:00 a.m. worship service. All articles that you would like included in the annual report are due to the church office by

Monday, December 30!

The Cemetery Association meeting will follow the annual meeting.

Deadline for 2019 Contributions. All contributions to be included in the 2019 financial records will need to be received by **Sunday, December 29!**

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 October, 2019

Income Received	Expenses Paid	Difference	Budget
\$14,110.69	\$12,223.58	\$1,887.11	\$12,950.83

Year-to-Date

Income Received	Expenses Paid	Difference	Budget
\$121,629.85	\$127,790.16	(\$6,160.31)	\$129,508.30

Attendance Report

	2019	2018
Average Weekly/October	151	151
Average Weekly/Year-to-Date	116	123

Eye on Local Art. With winter comes the annual “Winter Show,” taking place in the “Reaching New Heights Gallery” of Marshfield Clinic – Weston Center, 1st and 2nd floor, from Dec. 4 through the first week in March. Additionally, there is a show in the “Loft Gallery” of the Center for Visual Arts downtown called “Give the Gift of Art.” This show contains 100 plus pieces of art created by 13 local artists and you will find different mediums of art from photography to pure abstract sculptures, referring to a number of different subjects. So, again, you may be able to find what you don’t even know you’re looking for regarding that “I don’t know what to get” person on your list. Above all, please have a most Blessed Holiday Season.

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.

December Birthdays

12-1 Drew Detert
12-1 Brenda Tesch
12-3 Tom Ohrmundt
12-4 Robbie Haroldson
12-5 Ryder Schindler
12-5 Hudson Voigt
12-5 Jan Ziebell
12-6 Dan Detert
12-7 Sarah Sala
12-10 Laverne Grunenwald
12-10 Tari Harter
12-11 Maci Landwehr
12-12 Avery Oestreich
12-14 Levi Ohrmundt
12-14 Luke Saari
12-16 Mark Anderson
12-16 Marilyn Grunenwald
12-17 Lane Hoeft
12-17 John Rakow
12-18 Veronica Lavake
12-18 Pete Seubert
12-18 Serena Ugoretz
12-19 Andrew Harter
12-20 Braxtin Borth
12-22 Rebecca Voelker
12-23 Madison Voelker
12-24 Cherish Oestreich
12-24 Jacob Paulsen
12-25 Barb Nass
12-27 Deb Maley
12-28 James Lavake
12-29 Sue Cooley
12-29 Alex Zahn
12-30 Jesse Hein
12-30 Luciana Nass
12-30 Tammi Walter

December Anniversaries

12-5 Tom & Karen Ohrmundt
12-6 John Czarnota & Erin Randall
12-11 Don & Carol Prochnow
12-12 Brandon & Lindsey Steinagel
12-21 Duane & Patsy Askew
12-26 Bob & Kara Rode
12-29 Chad & Tammi Walter
12-30 Mike Kluetz & Sue Harris