

From Pastor Dan

“Folks are usually as happy as they make up their minds to be.” This adage is attributed to Abraham Lincoln. There is no concrete proof that old Abe is the source of the quote, but it is a good one regardless of its origin. Now, I don’t mean to be too blithe about the reality of happiness. Because I am certainly aware some people face demanding difficult circumstances which can very effectively push happiness to the outer edges of their lives. Oddly enough though, circumstances often do not determine our levels of happiness. This morning I was watching a program which cited a recent scientific study of several hundred people divided into 3 groups. One group was the control group, another was made up of multimillion-dollar lottery winners, and the final group consisted of people with severe physical disabilities. The control group was the happiest bunch. But most surprisingly, the next happiest group were those with physical disabilities. The lottery winners were the unhappiest of the lot. Circumstances, it seems, are not an accurate determiner of how happy you will be. “Well,” I wondered, “has science identified anything that might be a consistent contributor to happiness?” Yes; the program went on to elaborate that gratitude was in fact a key element to a happier life.

“Okay then,” you ask, “what does an attitude of gratitude have to do with Jesus?” Well, I earnestly believe that as you intentionally strive to be in relationship with the creative power of love in the universe through Jesus Christ, you will naturally gravitate toward an “attitude of gratitude” and its by product of increased happiness. I often repeat one of my favorite Bible verses, Philippians 4:4-7 (I am apparently about to do so again.) In it, the Apostle Paul speaks of his desire for us to nurture our relationship with God in Jesus through prayer. And he also reminds us that gratitude is an essential part of our prayers and, thereby, an essential part of our relationships; with

God and otherwise. Paul writes, “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Thank you for all you have done for St. John in 2019 and thank you in advance for all you will do in 2020. I genuinely appreciate your sincere and honest efforts. And in the midst of all your work in 2020, I pray that you are blessed with a good year, an engaging year, a fulfilling year; one brimming over with peace, hope, love, and sincere thanksgiving.

God bless you,

Pastor Dan

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.

The Cemetery Association meeting will follow the annual meeting.

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

David Howe
3312 Terrace Court
Room 102
Wausau, WI 54401

Financial Report for November, 2019

Income Received	Expenses Paid	Difference	Budget
\$11,414.99	\$10,774.45	\$640.54	\$12,950.83

Year-to-Date

Income Received	Expenses Paid	Difference	Budget
\$133,044.84	\$138,585.61	(\$5,540.77)	\$142,459.10

Attendance Report

	2019	2018
Average Weekly/November	103	94

Eye on Local Art. January will see new exhibits at the Center For the Visual Arts right here in downtown Wausau. On the main floor gallery you will find one of the CVA's signature juried shows, "The Midwest Seasons Show" featuring art of various mediums, all focusing on the seasons of the Midwest. Artists from near and far are represented. In the Loft Gallery of the CVA, you will find the annual "Memorial Show" put on by the Wisconsin Valley Art Association, showcasing art of various mediums addressing a number of different themes, all created by local artists. You may find a warming effect for both the body and the soul in these exhibits – it's worth a try.

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.

How To Find Peace

Blessed are the single-hearted, for they shall enjoy much peace. If you refuse to be hurried and pressed, if you stay your soul on God, nothing can keep you from that clearness of spirit which is life and peace. In that stillness you will know what his will is.

-----Amy Carmichael

January Birthdays

1-4 Miranda Clausen
1-4 Heidi Teske
1-6 Florian Kolbe
1-8 Isaac Hoffman
1-8 Justin Zahn
1-9 James Klinger
1-9 Molly Lubecke
1-9 Matthew Nass
1-9 Patrick Plunkett
1-9 Jack Saari
1-10 Randy Knapp
1-12 Emmie Steinagel
1-14 Kelly Dehnel
1-14 Jerome Klug
1-15 Lane Bahr
1-15 Jamie Kickbusch
1-16 John Borth
1-16 Jackson Hein
1-16 Tammy Schoepke
1-17 Thomas Anderson
1-18 Pastor Dan Sire
1-20 Maxwell Nass
1-21 Thomas Leduc
1-22 Patsy Askew
1-23 Elise Gallenberg
1-25 Jason Tesch
1-26 Karen Kolbe
1-26 Kelly Rosenau
1-26 Dorothy Westfall
1-27 Robin Hein
1-28 Michelle Bolz

January Anniversaries

1-6 Clark & Jennifer Bronsteatter
1-19 Curt & Sue Cooley
1-24 David & Alene Howe

1-29 Pat Rogalla

1-31 Amber Eno