

From Pastor Dan

Intrigued by comments from some parishioners, I decided to check out a Netflix series titled "Messiah." I am only half way through the 10 episodes, but this is what I have learned so far.

The story takes place in contemporary times and is about the second coming of Jesus.....or is it? My question arises not from an attempt at sarcasm. Rather, the story line encompasses many elements to thoughtfully consider. First and foremost, of course, is the messiah character Al-Misah; a Palestinian who has captured the world's attention. In Damascus, Syria, he foretold a 40-day sandstorm which thwarted an attack by ISIS invaders; this is good, something a Messiah would do. Next, he led hundreds of believers from Syria to the border of Israel only to abandon them to an uncertain fate; this is bad, something you wouldn't expect your Messiah to do. Then he appears on the steps of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem and raises a young man from the dead who has been killed by an Israeli soldier. This is good, but the soldier was there to quell violence which came out because of the actions of Al-Misah. We'll call it a draw. Then he saved a young woman from a tornado in Dilley, Texas. (This guy does get around.) This is good. So, taking into account the question concerning his Jerusalem actions, I think we are at 2 for 1 now. Not bad; but you would think a messiah could do better. As a result of this last "miracle," hundreds came to camp in the field outside his tent on the Texas plains. Finally, in the last episode I watched, Al-Misah participated in a huge caravan of cars as he and his followers proceeded to Washington D.C. It was here, after a speech in front of the Lincoln Memorial, he turned to face the Reflecting Pool and.....wait for it.....walked on water. I am not certain what that was all about. Therefore, at this point I am not sure who this guy is. (Kind of like us sometimes in our relationship with Jesus.) Unfortunately, the other characters in the story don't help to clarify the situation. We have tons of news coverage surrounding all this activity, yet we wonder about the motives and accuracy of their reporting. Next, we have cops; secret agents from Israel, CIA operatives, and a local immigration officer; a tall good-looking immigration officer (of course.) They are convinced the "Messiah" is a bad guy. Finally, there are the hundreds, soon to be thousands, of people who follow the messiah; for all kinds of reasons. They are sick and want to be healed, they are lost and want to be found, or they

may be seeking something more out of their lives. They may not be sure who Al-Misah is but they are willing to take a chance to find out.

So, there you have it. "Messiah" is an entertaining show which prompts some interesting questions. For example, just exactly who is this "Messiah" guy? And how are my thoughts and attitudes about him shaped by others? Finally, big question, should I follow him or not? And if I choose to follow him, why am I doing so? Hmmmm; good questions.

Stay tuned.....

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.

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 December, 2019

Income Received	Expenses Paid	Difference	Budget
\$20,072.14	\$12,717.20	\$7,354.94	\$12,950.83

Year-to-Date

Income Received	Expenses Paid	Difference	Budget
\$153,116.98	\$151,680.58	1,436.40	\$155,409.93

Attendance Report

	2019	2018
Average Weekly/December	172	220
Average Weekly/Year-to-Date	120	129

Eye on Local Art. Once again, the Riverfront Arts Center in Stevens Point is, thankfully, holding their yearly “Winters Garden Show”. I say “thankfully” because it’s a chance to view an exhibit focusing on floral/botanical inspired works of art. This means one can observe an exhibit that jumps ahead of the mid-winter season we are in and propels us into thoughts of spring – a season that is a ways off but is still a warming thought, something we can all use. As I often say, the setting of this gallery, on the Wisconsin River, is a picture in itself, being located 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.

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.

Looking for Love

Though not a fan of making New Year's resolutions, Jen Kramer decided to add meaning to 2018 by declaring it #theyearoflove. Each day she wrote a "love note" to a different person, expressing gratitude and offering encouragement. Recipients ranged from waiters and custodians to relatives and a terminally ill friend.

The experiment may have stemmed from the sudden, unexpected death of Kramer's father while she was away at college. "Why don't we say those things to people while they're here?" she tells the *Chicago Tribune*. "It's easy to be kind, and it's easy to tell people how you feel."

Kramer's campaign didn't cost a cent, yet it changed her life and touched hundreds of people in the process. Wherever she went, she discovered that "love showed up." It's simple, Kramer says: "You just have to look."

February Birthdays

2-2 Nathan Fitzke
2-4 Dawson Nowak
2-5 Kyle Koenig
2-6 Lorie Anderson
2-6 Louie Reissman
2-8 Brian Anderson
2-8 Matthew Harris
2-9 Dylan Detert
2-9 Terry Kickbusch
2-10 David Ugoretz
2-11 Randy Graveen
2-11 Jessica Grueneberg
2-11 Sue Sann
2-12 Charles Zahn
2-13 Shawn Chadwick
2-13 Luke Harris
2-14 Paul Linzmeyer
2-15 Robert Hoff
2-15 Josie Schoepke
2-17 Ron Schuster
2-18 Donna Treu
2-19 Briella Grueneberg
2-21 Avery Lavake
2-24 Bob Rode
2-25 Paul Anderson
2-27 Tara Pasholk
2-27 Brooke Schindler
2-28 Susan Knight
2-29 Brian Klug
2-29 Lillian Nolan

February Anniversaries

2-2 James & Jeanne Klinger
2-14 Keith & Karen Kolbe
2-22 Dale & Barbara Nass