

From Pastor Dan

The other day as I waited for tire work to be completed on my car (apparently tires are essential), I took the time to stroll through downtown Wausau. It was pretty darn quiet. Unlike other parts of our fair city, the downtown area is comprised primarily of small business; most of which were closed. As I walked, I wondered how many of those businesses would be able to successfully reopen after the dust of the pandemic settled. It is difficult to know.

In an attempt to plan for the future, uncertain as it still is, the governor of Wisconsin has proposed the Badger Bounce Back Plan which includes three phases of reopening the economy. Some think this is a good plan. Others gathered to protest the plan. Who is right? Again, at this point it is difficult to know. And, by the way, where is the church in all this? All over the place, just like everyone else. The question is once again asked: Who is right?

Our newly adopted vision statement for St. John includes the following, “We are a mix of folks from different economic, political, and social backgrounds who earnestly try not to be judgmental; it seems to be working.” I wrote that sentence and I sincerely hope I wasn’t lying when I did. Whatever is proposed to deal with the continuing threats of the corona virus, some of you will agree with it, some will disagree, and some won’t know for sure. This reaction is natural and expected. However, I do not want those differences to get in the way of who we are as a faithful community in Christ.

And, not only will there be differing opinions about the overall plans, but folks will also have different ideas about how to implement those plans at a local level. For example, how do we logistically go about limiting worship attendance to 50; a strong eventuality for a time. Right now, I can’t say, but I know we will figure it out.

My ultimate goal as your pastor is to reach out, at least on a weekly basis, and share the gospel good news with you all. I think we are managing that right now in the middle of the quarantine. Additionally, Kim Landwehr is doing a great job of trying to keep the young people involved. Is the situation ideal; certainly not. Would it be better for us as the body of Christ to be physically gathering, singing, praying, and sharing the sacrament of Holy Communion; of course it would. Nevertheless, we do what we think is right for all members of this congregation, for this community, and for the common good.

So, as plans for reopening the economy begin to take shape; which includes potential plans for reopening St. John, I implore you to be open-minded and open-hearted. Yes, I know you are right but please have some patience with the rest of us. Remember that, “We are a mix of folks from different economic, political, and social backgrounds who earnestly try not to be judgmental...” And remember to talk with your God; consider amping up your prayer activity. The apostle Paul’s admonition to the Philippians is sound advice for us all, “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.” (Philippians 4:6-7 NRSV)

Amen and God bless you all,

Pastor Dan

Worship Schedule

All worship services are cancelled until further notice.

Council Corner – Sue Harris, Worship

During this unprecedented season of quarantine, our normal routines have drastically changed. We do, however, have choices to make as to how to deal with all “this.” We can either fill our days with mindless activities and watch the news over and over OR, we can read scriptures that find comforting truths to guide us through these uncertain times.

One passage that comes to mind is Deuteronomy 31:8.

The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.

We do not know what lies ahead, but what we do know is that our Lord and Savior loves us and is here for us always.

We are faced with many more challenges and struggles than in the past. Parents must be teachers, caregivers, activity directors, etc., while trying to deal with daily family tensions of being cooped up together. For others there is job loss and immense financial stress. There is loneliness and the feeling of isolation for many of us, especially older folks.

We miss St. John and each other! We miss seeing each other’s smiles and worshipping together. Please reach out to one another. We can and must stay connected through phone calls, emails, texts and sending cards the old fashioned “snail mail way” (we all love getting mail). Pastor Dan’s virtual services are wonderful and keep us connected. Thank you, Pastor Dan! Let us pray for one another and be mindful of the power of that prayer as we continue this journey together.

Remember St. John loves and misses all of you! We long to be together again soon, but until then, stay in touch and reach out to each other. God bless you!

Faithful Stewardship During the Coronavirus Shutdown of St. John

Since we cannot meet in person for worship, it is vitally important that you attempt to continue your giving, which can be done in a couple ways:

- Mail in envelope offerings (weekly, biweekly, monthly), or;
- Give electronically using VANCO.

For VANCO, simply go to our website home page (stjohnwausau.org) and look for the Online Giving button at the top.) (If doing this from a cell phone you will first have to scroll to the bottom of our home page and click on View Full Site to find the Online

Giving button.) This will link you to a contribution form and another link to create a profile and account. You can have the money withdrawn from either a checking or savings account, or from a credit/debit card. We realize that many people are struggling personally due to business shutdowns, but please prayerfully consider what you can do until our worship life can return to normal.

- Mike Kluetz, Treasurer

VISION FOR ST JOHN

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Village of Maine, Wausau, WI is a country church with an average Sunday worship attendance of about 100 folks. We are affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Yet, more than numbers 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

- “He (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

- “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” (John 10:10 NRSV)

We Value and Nurture Relationships with our Community

- “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

- “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 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: Sue Cooley – 715-675-8566; cooley1512@outlook.com

Vice President: Jan Mueller – 715-675-9558; dmjm5455.wau@gmail.com

Treasurer: Mike Kluetz – 715-218-1357; kluetz787@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; cindy.preisig@yahoo.com

Education: Connie Nowak – 715-675-1577; 715-432-3837; bcdenowak@gmail.com

Worship: Sue Harris – 715-551-6282; smae53@gmail.com

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.

Harriet Wanner
1240 Merrill Ave.
Apt. 2
Wausau, WI 54401

Carol Fitzke
237227 N. 120th Ave.
Wausau, WI 54401

David Howe
3312 Terrace Court
Room 102
Wausau, WI 54401

Joan Schreiber
1957 Kowalski Road
Kronenwetter, WI 54455

Harley Goetsch
Rennes Health/Rehab Center
4810 Barbican Avenue
Weston, WI 54476

Financial Report for March, 2020

Income Received	Expenses Paid	Variance (year-to-date)
\$17,294	\$11,798	\$1,690

Attendance Report

	2020	2019
Average Weekly/March	131	157
Average Weekly/Year-to-Date	118	113

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.

May Birthday

5-1 Brenna Ohrmundt
5-8 Brandon Schindler
5-9 Gavin Bahr
5-9 Michael Haroldson
5-9 Cody Knapp
5-9 Don Prochnow
5-13 Tim Ohrmundt
5-13 Renner Stubbe
5-14 Kelly Hirn
5-14 Steve Zahn
5-15 Shane Saari
5-16 Jarred Bahr
5-16 Ben Bolz
5-17 Larry Berens
5-20 Ariel Graveen
5-20 John Ohrmundt
5-21 Bria Landwehr
5-23 Chavalin Chadwick
5-23 Todd Mueller
5-24 Brandon Steinagel
5-26 Ray Gallenberg
5-26 Mitch Landrath
5-27 Matthew Haroldson
5-29 Levi Hirn
5-30 Shane Beilke
5-30 Tanner Walter
5-31 Bev Landrath

May Anniversaries

5-3 Kurt & Jayne Rowe
5-9 Al & Lynn Tesch
5-12 Perry & Shelley Kufahl
5-15 Randy & Debbie Knapp
5-16 Pete & Sarah Severson
5-22 Ryan & Kim Landwehr