

## **From Pastor Dan**

For years, almost 13 to be exact, I have been admonishing you folks to be faithful in your worship attendance. And now we are cautioning you to stay away. This guy ought to make up his mind!

Of course, we are all aware of the circumstances behind the decision to be a virtual church for the time being. In her article, your president, Sue Cooley, clearly speaks to what the council is currently doing in light of those circumstances and what we are thinking for the future. As she said, we plan to adhere to ELCA guidelines.

However, we also continue to consider local opportunities. For one, we are tentatively planning a drive-up communion distribution on Sunday, June 7, from 10:00 – 11:30 AM. Individual communion meals which include a wafer and a small cup of grape juice in a single sealed unit will be provided. On that Sunday morning, you are invited to drive up under the carport next to a high table set with communion. You then select the appropriate number of sealed meals for you and your passengers while you remain in your car, unseal, and then eat and drink as I share the words of communion while maintaining a social distance appropriate for a vulnerable old man. If others are in the vicinity when you arrive or depart, you are invited to honk and wave.

The whole process may seem to some a bit forced and contrived. After all, it doesn't come close to what we had before. Yet, let's be honest, the world wasn't exactly beating down the doors to get what we had before anyway. Who knows, in the wake of the pandemic, many of those doors may remain closed. Yet, no matter how the situation ultimately unfolds for the world in general and our church in specific, life will be different. However, we won't complain, we won't whine (no whining please, I'm too old to abide whining), we adapt and get on with the business of being the church; being people who know they are loved and who want to share that love. I came across this quote from William Arthur Ward which articulates my perspective on things, "The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails."

God's peace and hope be with you all as we continue to sail forward.

Pastor Dan

## ***Worship Schedule***

**All worship services are cancelled until further notice.**

### **“Council Corner”**

Sue Cooley, President

The council has truly been wrestling with what to do during this Pandemic. We proceed knowing that God’s hands are leading us. We have prayed and read all we can to keep our church the center for love that we all are missing now. We long to get back together with all of you. We also want to cause no harm, which would be devastating. We are hearing from the federal guidelines, state guidelines and synod guidelines. With Wisconsin having decided to reopen we are now left to guidance from the synod on how to proceed. We know that if we are to reopen we should follow the synod guidelines, which state: gradual return to worship, encourage high risk people to shelter in place, physically distance, refrain from singing, protect the congregation from liability, use our best thinking, be gentle and kind, no coffee hour, no communion. These restrictions would not last forever but until this crisis has slowed. Please know that we are looking at all options for getting back to regular service, including outdoor meetings that are being considered. Please continue praying for us all. Keep in mind the following words from Bishop Jerry Mansholt, “ I wish we were done with the coronavirus, and I wish we could go back to being church and doing church like we were doing just two months ago. I really do! I miss corporate worship, hymn singing, coffee hours and hanging out with people who love Jesus and want to serve and witness in response to the Easter Gospel. “

**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

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## **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)

**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. 120<sup>th</sup> 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

### **“Eye on Local Art”**

Pat Plunkett

Again, like the rest of the world, the art world is at a near standstill regarding future planning/action. However, some elements are taking cautious action. The Q Gallery in Stevens Point is working hard regarding how to open up and when. The “Q” is also working on having an on-line gallery, via website, including offering sales of selected work. The CVA, in Wausau, is moving forward to change art over for the up-coming juried show “Creating A New Whole” and is also offering a variety of activities via their website – well worth checking out. The Wisconsin Rural Arts Program (WRAP) is slated for a major show later this summer or fall here in Wausau but, again, plans are indefinite and, depending on the pandemic status at that time, may well be a show available via the internet only. So, again, like most everything else right now, there are more questions than answers. Please, again, stay tuned, be careful, be safe, and God Bless.

**Financial Report for April, 2020**

<b>Income Received</b>	<b>April</b> <b>\$11,859</b>	<b>Year-to-Date</b> <b>\$54,536</b>
<b>Expenses Paid</b>	<b>\$7,051</b>	<b>\$48,038</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$4,808</b>	<b>\$6,498</b>

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**Attendance Report**

	2020	2019
Average Weekly/April	172	219
Average Weekly/Year-to-Date	132	140

**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](http://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

**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.

**June Birthdays**

6-2 Dylan Landrath  
6-2 Elijah Linzmeyer  
6-2 Brendan Ohrmundt  
6-2 Lee Sillars  
6-3 Nicole Kudronowicz  
6-3 Brayden Melander  
6-3 Rita Radant  
6-4 Cody Haroldson  
6-5 Chuck Eno  
6-5 Billie Jo Grueneberg  
6-5 Jason Tabaka  
6-6 Karen Matushak  
6-6 Shonda Woodmansee  
6-7 Brandon Clausen  
6-7 Connie Hoffman  
6-7 Zayla Howe  
6-7 Joshua Tesch  
6-8 Rachel Ohrmundt  
6-8 Violet Teske  
6-10 Jason Mueller  
6-11 Delbert Tesch  
6-13 Leslie Ugoretz  
6-17 Randy Kopp  
6-17 Sarah Severson  
6-20 Mike Kluetz  
6-20 Randy Knudsen  
6-21 Judy Floistad  
6-21 Clarissa Knapp  
6-22 Brian Marquardt  
6-22 Kohin Pasholk  
6-22 Kurt Rowe  
6-23 Duane Mueller  
6-24 Barb Paulsen  
6-25 Spencer Hoeft  
6-27 Kylee Sala  
6-29 Joan Schreiber

**June Anniversaries**

6-1 Tom & Pam Leduc  
6-3 Ken & Karen Matushak  
6-4 Dan & Robin Hein  
6-6 Laverne & Marilyn Grunenwald  
6-9 Charles & Joanne Zahn  
6-11 Paul & Stacey Linzmeyer  
6-12 Del & Brenda Tesch  
6-14 Todd & Deb Maley  
6-17 Chuck & Beth Eno  
6-19 Scott & Lynn Buchberger  
6-21 Brian & Nicole Anderson  
6-21 Stuart & Jody Gehrke  
6-23 Pete & Phyllis Seubert  
6-24 Scott & Cherish Oestreich  
6-29 John & Louise Harter  
6-29 Brian & Amy Marquardt