

## ***Ode to the Summer Solstice***

**By Pastor Dan**

The summer evening is beautiful. Maybe a bit cool for this time of year, but beautiful just the same. The rows of rain-refreshed soybeans run strong and straight through the shadow of the setting sun to a row of pine trees highlighted crisply against a fading sky. A band of pink and gray on the horizon reminds us of the dreariness of the day giving way to the promise of fairer weather to come. Yet even in the midst of that fresh, new summer promise the days are getting shorter.

The pandemic continues; no longer as a challenge to face together but rather as an annoyance we are no longer willing to tolerate. Today the radio talk show host called me a “wuss” for not wading mask-less into oblivious hordes. Fear of death has turned to anger over death, “If only those 75,000 extra people hadn’t died, then this would only be a bad flu season.” How dare those 75,000 dead people mess with my routines. How dare they! So, we lurch ahead with no specific direction selfishly unaware that the days are getting shorter.

Black people rage against their pain...again. White people make promises to change...again. But we all know that it will not last. We all know that we each have our place and they will never be completely welcome in ours. Once again, we will retreat to a time and place where cries for equality are dismissed as unpatriotic blasphemy. And the days are getting shorter.

And then there’s my vocation, my call, my Jesus. He could have changed the world you know. But his time is past; his message has been co-opted, twisted, and bent so tortuously that it no longer bears any resemblance to the life-giving transformation he promised. Even if bits of truth find their way through, they go unheard or ignored amidst the cacophony of lies that pose as real life. Sure, pockets of resistance hold on. Yet, they are few and far between. And the days are getting shorter.

The sun is down now. It’s going to be a cold night. Sleep should be good; should be, but I don’t know about my dreams...

And the days are getting shorter.

***Worship Schedule***  
***(Masks Required Inside)***

**July 5, 2020 – 9:00 a.m. (Inside)**

**July 12 – 9:00 a.m. (Inside/or To Be Announced)**

**July 19 – 9:00 a.m. (Inside/or To Be Announced)**

**July 28 – 9:00 a.m. (To Be Announced)**

**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:

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)

### **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

**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
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Joan Schreiber 1957 Kowalski Road Kronenwetter, WI 54455	Harley Goetsch Rennes Health/Rehab Ctr. 4810 Barbican Avenue Weston, WI 54476	Julie LaVake Northwinds Vent Comm. 2400 Marshall St. #1413 Wausau, WI 54403
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**Financial Report for May, 2020**

	<b>May</b>	<b>Year-to-Date</b>
<b>Income Received</b>	<b>\$9,192</b>	<b>\$63,728</b>
<b>Expenses Paid</b>	<b>\$7,882</b>	<b>\$55,920</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$1,310</b>	<b>\$7,808</b>

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**Attendance Report**

	2020	2019
Average Weekly/May	104	90
Average Weekly/Year-to-Date	106	130

### **Eye on Local Art – Pat Plunkett**

Along with the rest of the world, the art world is slowly opening up but – in a very cautious manner, with all scientifically recommended safety precautions being utilized. The Q Gallery in Stevens Point is now open again and their on-line gallery is fully functional. The Riverfront Gallery, also in Stevens Point, will be hosting their signature “Visions Show” opening in July and promises to have a great variety of work. Closer to home, the Center For Visual Arts is again open with new exhibits, along with the 319 Gallery, the Woodson, and the Wausau Museum of Contemporary Art. Sadly, the WRAP State Award Show, originally slated for Wausau this year has been canceled out of safety concerns but will be available on-line. The regional WRAP program is still slated to happen this fall but is open to question yet whether it will be on-line or in-person. You can visit many of these galleries via the safety of the internet if so desired. Please, again, stay tuned, be careful, be safe, and God Bless.

**Thank You.** A big thank you goes out to the following who were involved in tying the fleece blankets and delivering them to the graduating high school seniors of St. John. Jean Treu; Marlene Stubbe; Jan Ziebell; Rita Radant, Hailey Radant, Isabelle Radant, Marilyn Grunenwald; Sue Harris; Jan Mueller  
From: St. John Sisterhood

**Thank You.** We would like to thank Wausau Music for donating the sound system for our outdoor service. They have been incredibly supportive with equipment and guidance. They contributed greatly to the success of the service on June 21. If you get the chance, let them know how appreciated they are.

**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.

**July Birthdays**

7-1 Karrissa Fitzke  
7-1 Connie Nowak  
7-1 Sarah Preisig  
7-2 Jacob Pierschalla  
7-3 Dylan Marquardt  
7-4 Leopold Schiller  
7-6 Nichole Saari  
7-8 Chelsi Knoblock  
7-8 Sue Rakow  
7-9 Tammi Smith  
7-10 Bryce Heil  
7-11 Vernon Bahr  
7-11 Aiden Ohrmundt  
7-12 Debbie Knapp  
7-12 Brec Ohrmundt  
7-12 Ashlee Walters  
7-14 Henry Marquardt  
7-15 Britta Rowe  
7-16 Agnes Schelbert  
7-17 Mason Hirn  
7-18 Debbie Klug  
7-19 Aleah Oestreich  
7-20 Scott Buchberger  
7-20 Pam Mootz  
7-20 Kara Rode  
7-20 Ava Rode  
7-20 Eli Swemke  
7-21 Carrie Hoeft  
7-21 Mike Kilinski  
7-21 Jake Schoepke  
7-22 James Nolan  
7-23 John Marquardt  
7-25 Kate Young  
7-26 Coleton Leduc  
7-26 Earl Schmieden  
7-27 Gene Bahr

**July Anniversaries**

7-10 Terry & Jamie Kickbusch  
7-10 Randy & Brenda Knudsen  
7-12 Jason & Amanda Grueneberg  
7-14 James & Stephanie Borelli  
7-15 Greg & Nicole Melander  
7-18 Fritz & Pat Poeske  
7-23 Brandon & Brooke Schindler  
7-25 Tim & Sue Sann  
7-28 Randy & Diane Trulen  
7-29 Gene & Lane Bahr

**July Birthdays (Cont'd)**

7-27 Brandon Landrath  
7-27 George Webb  
7-27 Joanne Zahn  
7-28 Bianca Melander  
7-30 Shelley Kufahl