

## From Pastor Dan

“Use your head.” My weekly reminder to you in the midst of this COVID -19 business is often intended for me as much as it is for you. I have previously shared with you my father’s persistent admonishment to me as I was growing up, “Dammit Dan, use your head for something other than just a hat rack!” All of which brings to mind the Old Testament reading for this week from 1 Kings 3 in which God bestows upon Solomon the gift of wisdom. Two things stand out for me in this story.

Number one: The reality is that Solomon was not the only one gifted with a brain to use. We all have one and we are all called to use that gift to the very best of our ability. For example, let’s say you are approaching the traffic circle by Fleet Farm from the south with the intention of heading north on 51 and I am entering the traffic circle from the north with the same intention. However, if you blow through the “YIELD” sign without even turning your head to the left (which I have witnessed innumerable times), then you won’t notice that I almost t-boned you because you pulled out directly in front of me...USE YOUR HEAD.

Number two: Use your head not solely for your own gratification but rather for the sake of others. Listen to Solomon’s request to God, “Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people...” Now listen to God’s response, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches... I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.” Solomon has an earnest desire is to use the gifts God has given him in service to others. We ought to mirror that desire in our own lives. Maybe wearing that mask is as much about helping others as it is about helping yourself...just saying.

I hope you are well and safe in the midst of a pandemic which continues to be an albatross hanging around the neck of normalcy. Unfortunately, this appears not likely to end any time soon. Therefore, we must diligently continue to take practical precautions which include necessary sanitization and wearing masks where appropriate. We must continue to keep the faith knowing that God in Jesus Christ is with us in this whole business and will give us the hope, guidance, courage, and strength to get through it. And of course, we must use our heads!

Love ya,

Pastor Dan

### ***Worship Schedule***

“All worship services will be outdoors on Sunday morning at 9:00 until further notice. Please bring your own chair. Wearing masks is always a good idea in public but are optional at our outdoor services because we have plenty of room to spread out. However, before you come to Sunday worship, please check the website, Facebook, or the magic talking machine for possible cancellations due to weather or pastor vacation. See you there.”

Pastor Dan

**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)

**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 Ctr. 4810 Barbican Avenue Weston, WI 54476	Julie LaVake Northwinds Vent Comm. 2400 Marshall St. #1413 Wausau, WI 54403

**Financial Report for June, 2020**

	<b>June</b>	<b>Year-to-Date</b>
<b>Income Received</b>	<b>\$17,845</b>	<b>\$81,573</b>
<b>Expenses Paid</b>	<b>\$ 7,771</b>	<b>\$63,691</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$10,074</b>	<b>\$17,882</b>

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**Attendance Report**

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

### **Faithful Stewardship During the Coronavirus Pandemic**

Your faithful stewardship during the time when we have been unable to hold traditional indoor worship services has exceeded anyone's expectations! As of June 30 – halfway through the year – our income is 48% of what we budgeted to receive. Right on track! Keep up the excellent support of our church.

You can still give in one of two ways if you do not attend the outdoor services:

- By mailing in envelope offerings (weekly, biweekly, monthly), or;
- By giving electronically using VANCO.

Ten to fifteen people are using the electronic giving method. As a reminder, for VANCO, simply go to our website home page ([stjohnwausau.org](http://stjohnwausau.org)) and look for the Online Giving button at the top. 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. You have a choice to make a one-time gift, or a recurring weekly or monthly gift.

-Mike Kluetz, Treasurer

**Eye on Local Art.** With the pandemic being far from over, the art world continues to adjust with safety of artists and patrons of the arts in mind as a strict priority #1. For those who are artistically inclined, the WRAP Show (Wisconsin Regional Artists Association) will have their annual competition this coming fall. The exhibit itself will be on-line and will be easy to enter. This is as opposed to the in-person exhibit being held at the CVA in normal times. For details, please refer to the WRAP website. Other than that, little has changed from last month but, thankfully, members of the art world are working to make sure that the arts remain alive, helping all of us to struggle through these very different and difficult times. Again, please be careful, be safe, stay tuned, and God Bless. Pat Plunkett

**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.

**Pastoral Visits.** If circumstances conspire to put you in the hospital or if you are directed to a temporary nursing home stay, please let Pastor Dan know by calling the church (715-675-6950), or Pastor Dan's cell phone (715-212-7359), or sending Pastor Dan an email at [dtsire@msn.com](mailto:dtsire@msn.com). However, because of current COVID-19 restrictions, only family members are allowed to visit. Yet, Pastor Dan can still maintain contact via phone or email.

Can't hold a good thing down....So we're back Baby!!!

## **VBS FUN NIGHT**

August 10<sup>th</sup> (Rain Date: August 12<sup>th</sup>)

6p - 8p

Bible Adventure, Crafts, Games, & some silly, awesome, crazy fun, while remembering

***When Life gets Scary and Is Changing....***

**God Is Good!!!!**

Please RSVP ASAP to Lane Bahr [lucylane35@hotmail.com](mailto:lucylane35@hotmail.com)

With students name, age, parent contact info

This will be an 100% outdoor event. Rain Date is set.

Dinner ***WILL NOT*** be served, so please eat before attending!

Masks are optional. Sanitation Stations will be set up.

**August Birthdays**

8-1 Skip Hoenisch  
8-2 Kaitlin Bronsteatter  
8-3 Mike Poeske  
8-3 Kyle Rosenau  
8-5 Dawson Hein  
8-6 Tammy Landrath  
8-7 Devin Bahr  
8-7 Carol Fitzke  
8-7 Hannah Kudronowicz  
8-7 Nicki Oelke  
8-7 Phyllis Seubert  
8-9 Nancy Voelker  
8-10 Shawn Bahr  
8-10 Nick Maley  
8-11 Julie Lavake  
8-11 Lynn Tesch  
8-12 Christine Doede  
8-15 Sheila Gumz  
8-16 Tim Sann  
8-16 Pam Zahn  
8-17 Abigail Kufahl  
8-17 Chris Ohrmundt  
8-17 Scott Treu  
8-18 Terry Ugoretz  
8-20 Anne Ohrmundt  
8-20 Marlene Stubbe  
8-21 Bailey Frostman  
8-22 Georgia Koenig  
8-22 Diane Trulen  
8-24 Bryce Eno  
8-25 Eugene Dehnel  
8-26 Bruce Cohrs  
8-27 Pamela Leduc  
8-28 Eli Pergolski  
8-29 Kay Berens

**August Anniversaries**

8-9 Eric & Barb Paulsen  
8-13 Bruce & Jill Cohrs  
8-14 Larry & Kay Berens  
8-15 Mike & Michelle Bolz  
8-15 Justin & Madeline Grueneberg  
8-15 Craig & Kari Heil  
8-18 Nick & Heidi Teske  
8-19 Mitch & Tammy Landrath  
8-19 Brian & Connie Nowak  
8-21 Mike & Heather Gallenberg