

## **From Pastor Dan**

Well, here we are, six months into the COVID 19 pandemic and still trying to find our way. Unfortunately, there seems to be no clear path forward. Some businesses are “business as usual” and some are not; some schools are open and some are not, some churches are worshipping inside and some are not. Nations, states, and communities all seem to have a different take on how to deal with the virus.

Yet, in the midst of these confusing times, St. John has forged ahead providing opportunities for in-person worship in an outside venue throughout the summer. “Yeah,” you say, “that’s all well and good, but it is not the same as worshipping inside.” I agree, it is not. But Jesus said, “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” (“So there!”) Also, as we tried to maintain as much a sense of normalcy as possible over the months, two of those services included the rites of First Communion and Confirmation. Additionally, we have begun in-person Sunday School classes as well as Confirmation classes. We have faithfully done what we thought was best.

So, where do we go from here? At its most recent meeting, your council decided that we will continue outdoor Sunday worship through October. If a service is cancelled because of bad weather, I will provide an abbreviated virtual worship service. In addition, beginning Tuesday, October 6, the sanctuary will be open every Tuesday from 8AM to 8PM for prayer and meditation. As far as what worship beyond October might look like, the council will continue to monitor the situation and will determine the status of worship services on a month to month basis.

Six months in and we are still navigating the murky waters of COVID 19. Your council is concerned and engaged as we try to do what we think is best for St. John. As we continue to journey forward, I encourage us to do it together; not without discussion, not without compromise, and not even without dissent, but together. The gathering hymn from a recent Sunday worship speaks to my earnest desire for what that can look like, “We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travelers on the road; we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.”

God’s peace be with you all,  
Pastor Dan

**“Council Corner”**  
**Mike Kluetz, Treasurer**

Stewardship comes in many forms. As members of St. John we are asked to “support the work of this congregation . . . through contributions of (our) time, abilities and financial support as biblical stewards.” As treasurer I find myself focusing on the financial support part of this commission. But there are many additional ways to contribute, each of us utilizing our unique talents. In last month’s newsletter, as well as this one, you’ll find the Time and Talents Stewardship form, on which you can sign up to contribute via worship assistance, fellowship & evangelism, property maintenance, youth & adult education or technical support, sorely needed in this digital age. In fact, a new opportunity is available as one of a team of audio/video recording technicians, who would operate the new state-of-the-art video system we are installing to record ship services and post them online. So please fill out this form and submit it to the church office. Even though we have not been able to have “normal” services, support in all of these areas is still needed. Finally, a previous church I once joined also asked us to commit to praying for the church as a whole and its members. This too is a part of biblical stewardship we can all practice.

**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)

**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, pastoral visitations are limited. Yet, Pastor Dan can still maintain contact via phone or email.

**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<br>1240 Merrill Ave.<br>Apt. 2<br>Wausau, WI 54401 | Carol Fitzke<br>237227 N. 120 <sup>th</sup> Ave.<br>Wausau, WI 54401 | David Howe<br>3312 Terrace Court<br>Room 112<br>Wausau, WI 54401 |
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| Joan Schreiber<br>1957 Kowalski Road<br>Kronenwetter, WI 54455 | Harley Goetsch<br>Rennes Health/Rehab Ctr.<br>4810 Barbican Avenue<br>Weston, WI 54476 |
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**Financial Report for August, 2020**

|                        | <b>August</b>   | <b>Year-to-Date</b> |
|------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| <b>Income Received</b> | <b>\$12,436</b> | <b>\$106,795</b>    |
| <b>Expenses Paid</b>   | <b>\$9,700</b>  | <b>\$86,792</b>     |
| <b>Difference</b>      | <b>\$2,736</b>  | <b>\$20,003</b>     |

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**Attendance Report**

|                             | 2020 | 2019 |
|-----------------------------|------|------|
| Average Weekly/August       | 73   | 92   |
| Average Weekly/Year-to-Date | 104  | 114  |

### **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! 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.

About a dozen 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 – Pat Plunkett.** In the following weeks you can visit the WRAP (Wisconsin Regional Artists Association) Wausau regional show by going to the Center For Visual Arts website, they will link you to this virtual show exhibiting art by those in the local area and you will find some very good talent on display. The in-person show titled “Black White, And In Between” including both 2-D and 3-D work is at the Riverfront Art Gallery, Stevens Point. Considering the constraints regarding limited use of color, this should prove very interesting. While in Stevens Point, feel free to stop at the Q Gallery on main street, there is a lot of fine quality work there also. These galleries, like most, are very safety conscious. In closing, I simply have to repeat, “please be careful, be safe, stay tuned, and God Bless.”

**Quilting Group.** The quilting group was able to complete 42 quilts to be sent to Lutheran World Relief. Thank you to quilters Patsy Askew, Darlene Bahr, Florian Kolbe, Shirley Kopplin, Pat Poeske, Carol Prochnow, Erin Randall and Marlene Stubbe.

**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.

**The Rite of Confirmation.** We give thanks for the young people and the youth ministry at St. John. On Sunday, September 27, four young adults affirmed their baptism in the Rite of Confirmation. Despite it being a chilly, breezy morning, Gavin Bahr, Katy Glaze, Brayden Sann, and Austin Walter were joined by family and friends as they took a very important step in their journey of faith. We wish God's blessing on them all.

**Faith Statement for Gavin Bahr**

Hello! My bible verse is John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life."

This helps me understand God more because it shows me that God is a forgiving and generous God that accepts us no matter what happens. It also tells me that I am always loved and have someone looking out for me. No matter what happens, I know that God loves me and that I'm never alone.

**Faith Statement for Katy Glaze**

Matthew 11:28-30, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." This verse helps me understand God in seeing that God helps me relieve stress. By building my relationship I have felt "lighter" as a weight lifted off my shoulders. This verse helps me understand myself by knowing what my burdens are. God helps me understand what they are and helps me resolve them.

**Faith Statement for Brayden Sann**

I Thessalonians 5: 16-18, "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." This verse helps me better understand what God wants me to do to live my daily life through him. God wishes for me to be joyful and seek happiness in my life on a daily basis. He also wants me to come to him in prayer so that spiritually I may be guided in all that I do. I also should be thankful for everything I have. For without God I would have nothing, and be nothing. If I do all these things, I will remain strong, my life will be fulfilled, and I will live the life that God has intended for me.

**Faith Statement for Austin Walter**

Isaiah 41:10, "...do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

This verse helps me understand God because it says God will always be there and will give you strength and will always help you. This verse helps me understand myself because it helps me know that I should not be afraid.

**October Birthdays**

10-1 Koy Van Der Geest  
10-2 Kari Heil  
10-2 Jeanne Klinger  
10-2 Keegan Tesch  
10-3 Joshua Howe  
10-5 Logan Hoeft  
10-6 Ethan Pergolski  
10-8 Kim Landwehr  
10-9 Jake Boehm  
10-9 Sophie Seubert  
10-10 Terry Kopplin  
10-10 Rod Treu  
10-10 Mike Woodmansee  
10-11 Dawn Detert  
10-13 Pat Poeske  
10-13 Cindy Preisig  
10-13 Melissa Thurs  
10-17 Draxton Howe  
10-18 Curt Cooley  
10-21 Megan Eno  
10-22 Brooke Howe  
10-23 Paul Gauger  
10-23 David Howe  
10-23 Rylee Suliin  
10-24 Kylee Pasholk  
10-25 Lucas Linzmeyer  
10-27 Keith Koenig  
10-29 Julie Schuster

**October Anniversaries**

10-2 Steve & Pam Zahn  
10-3 Nathan & Karrissa Fitzke  
10-4 David & Rebecca Voelker  
10-5 Vernon & Marlene Bahr  
10-5 Shawn & Chavalin Chadwick  
10-7 Guy & Nancy Frostman  
10-8 Randy & Linda Graveen  
10-8 Pete & Kelly Hirn  
10-9 Jim & Loretta Nolan  
10-20 Doug & Christine Doede  
10-20 DJ & Autumn Tesch  
10-23 Mike & Sara Stubbe  
10-27 Ron & Julie Schuster