

From Pastor Dan

How many Lutherans does it take to change a lightbulb? Four; one to install the new bulb and three to stand around and talk about how much they miss the old one. That joke implies we are often reluctant to accept change; and often we are. Change can be difficult. However, change is inevitable. Time marches on and carries us all along with it.

On Tuesday, October 13, I announced to your church council that I plan to retire on May 31 next year. They asked me to share that information with you. In the past, synod Bishops would bristle at the notion of a pastor notifying their congregation so far in advance of such a move; 6 weeks prior to the scheduled date seemed to be the outside limit. However, the situation of the church is much different now than it was. COVID notwithstanding, things are definitely not the same with congregations getting smaller and the availability of pastors getting scarcer.

So yes, I am going to leave you in the midst of all this stuff. (However, I hope that by May the COVID situation will have dramatically improved.) I will be 70 in January and as many of you elder citizens are keenly aware, the energy and stamina is not what it used to be. Also, as many of you working folks know, doing your job amid the constraints and demands of COVID is more taxing than it was before the stuff hit the fan. I'm getting "wore" out.

Nevertheless, I also told the council that beginning July 1, I would be willing to work half time (two weeks on and two weeks off) for at least a year after my retirement. Whether or not I work half time at St. John is up to the council, the synod, and circumstances; who knows, you may have a new pastor by then.

For the time being, we accept the reality that whether the situation involves lightbulbs or pastors, change is an inevitable part of life. We can stand around and talk about how much we miss the old one or we can move forward in the knowledge that we have a positive future and that God is with us on the journey.

God bless you all,

Pastor Dan

#####

November Worship

Your council has decided that worship for November will be virtual with a prerecorded service available by Sunday morning. The weather is getting to the point of making successful outdoor worship an iffy proposition. Additionally, the dramatic spike in COVID cases in Marathon County precludes the possibility of safely worshipping inside. The council is deciding about worship on a month to month basis so the status of December is still up in the air.

Nevertheless, Sunday School classes and Confirmation classes will continue as they have been on an in-person basis.

Thank you for your continuing patience and support.

#####

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

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. However, because of current COVID-19 restrictions, pastoral visitations are limited. Yet, Pastor Dan can still maintain contact via phone or email.

"Council Corner"

Lane Bahr, Evangelism

This holiday season, families across the country will set their tables to come together and enjoy a Thanksgiving meal. For many of us, the holidays just wouldn't be complete without a turkey and heaping sides of stuffing and mashed potatoes on the table. But many families struggle with hunger, on a daily basis. Struggle with emptiness on their table. Many in our community rely on the help of food pantries to get them through tough times. Those food pantries rely on the generosity of those who can help! With the upcoming holiday season, what a better way to show our thankfulness for what we have, but to share with those in our community that are in need.

Please help support our 1st Thanksgiving Food Drive. Drop off nonperishable food items into the shopping cart, located in the narthex, anytime between now and our Thanksgiving Eve service. The church will be open every Tuesday, from 8a to 8p. Donations will be taken to the local food pantries.

Giving is not just about making a donation. It is about making a difference.
Please help us make a difference this Thanksgiving, by making a donation.

Wishing you and yours a blessed and healthy Thanksgiving,

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)

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. Thank you to Laverne and Greg Grunenwald for delivering the quilts to their pick-up destination.

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.

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

Joan Schreiber
1957 Kowalski Road
Kronenwetter, WI 54455

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

Financial Report for September, 2020

Income Received	September \$14,577	Year-to-Date \$121,372
Expenses Paid	\$10,128	\$97,564
Difference	\$4,449	\$23,808

Attendance Report

	2020	2019
Average Weekly/September	84	104
Average Weekly/Year-to-Date	102	113

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) 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

“Chili to Go” Fundraiser. A huge thank you to Brian and Connie Nowak and family for making the chili. It was delicious! Also, thanks to the Voelkers, Nowaks, Harris/Kluetz family for their donations of meat and tomato products. We sold 75 quarts of chili and raised the \$442.00 that was donated to “Blessings in a Backpack.” Thank you all for your support! (Please bring your jars back to church!)

Eye on Local Art – Pat Plunkett. No, I can't believe it either, Christmas gift giving season is coming. An interesting fact is that art galleries and exhibits have a good reputation regarding safety in this era of COVID, they operate in strict accordance with science and, as a result, using masking, and distancing, one can feel safe visiting such places as the CVA Gift Gallery (located in the CVA). If you'd like to take a short road trip, destinations such as the Riverfront Gallery (1200 Crosby Avenue, Stevens Point), and the Q Gallery in Stevens Point (1108 Main St) are worthy of your time, you just may find a very different, yet very fitting gift, for that someone “who has everything” and the gift is one of a kind, something hard to find elsewhere. As said in the past, artwork, a peaceful kind of gift in the Season of Peace.

November Birthdays

11-1 Trent Trulen
11-4 Eric Paulsen
11-5 Jody Gehrke
11-7 Erin Randall
11-8 Charles Anderson
11-8 Seth Trulen
11-10 Loretta Nolan
11-10 Henry Seubert
11-10 Zachary Trulen
11-12 Alene Howe
11-13 Tanya Fitzke
11-13 Lyla Klug
11-14 Nicole Melander
11-14 David Spangler
11-14 Randy Trulen
11-15 Amanda Grueneberg
11-15 Kaitlyn Paulsen
11-15 Jean Treu
11-16 Michael Pasholk
11-16 Justice Pratt
11-16 Peter Severson
11-16 Terre Swemke
11-18 Amber Frostman
11-19 Gina Graveen
11-19 Jonathon Schuster
11-21 Josh Grueneberg
11-21 Louise Harter
11-22 Kady Pasholk
11-24 Morgan Bolz
11-24 Linda Graveen
11-24 Elden Kopplin
11-24 Scott Oestreich
11-24 David Voelker
11-25 Kayden Chadwick
11-27 Dale Knapp
11-27 Jesse Radant
11-28 Otto Fitzke
11-28 Rose Rosenau

November Anniversaries

11-2 Duane & Jan Mueller
11-2 Don & Nancy Voelker
11-4 Jacob & Chelsi Knoblock
11-4 Rod & Jean Treu
11-8 Dan & Dawn Detert
11-15 Scott & Donna Treu
11-23 Elden & Shirley Kopplin
11-30 Bruce & Rita Radant