

From Pastor Dan

Well...Merry Christmas.....

It is not going to be the same is it? The sanctuary filled with decorations, a gleaming Christmas tree, colorful poinsettias, hundreds of people raising lighted candles to the verses of Silent Night will not be our reality this year. Our world is a different place right now and Christmas is going to be a different holiday. Nevertheless, we will do what we can. We can still have a tree and lights outside, virtual poinsettias, and electric candles raised to the strains of Silent Night. It will not be the same but it will still be a good thing.

Okay, so here's the deal:

1. Sunday worship during December will be virtual. Given the current COVID situation your council really had no choice.
2. We will again provide drive up communion during two Sundays in December; the 6th and the 20th from 9-10 AM.
3. On Christmas Eve, two services will be held:
 - a. At 1:00, we will provide an in-car drive-up worship service. It will be brief, no more than 20-30 minutes, but will include the Christmas story, prayers, and singing.
 - b. At 4:00, we will hold a second service. It will also be brief (20-30 minutes) and will be outside in the carport area with standing room only. Very limited seating will be available for special needs. The children will have a short program in addition to prayers, singing, and glowing candles (electrically enhanced.) Masks are not required but highly recommended. Even though we will be outside, we will be gathered close together. (Unless of course there is a blizzard and nobody shows up.)

Yes, it has been a different year and our holiday season will be different as a result. Yet, we can still cling to our traditions but in a new way. Who knows, this may go so well that you'll want to gather every Christmas Eve out in the cold...or not.

Thank you for your continuing patience and support. Be well, stay safe, and have a very MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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

“Council Corner”

Jan Ziebell, Financial Secretary

Wednesday, December 30, 2020, Deadline! All offerings that you want to have included in the 2020 records **must be received in the office by 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 30, 2020.**

Council. The church council nominating committee is looking for folks interested in serving on the church council. Positions that are up for election at our 2021 annual meeting are vice president, secretary, fellowship, parish education and trustee. We ask you to prayerfully consider serving your congregation on the church council. You are welcome to contact Jan Mueller at 715-675-9558 with questions on any of the council positions or if you would like to serve.

Thank You! Warm greetings St John Family,
Thank you to all for your support to St John during these interesting and often challenging times. Your church council appreciates your continued financial, time and talent contributions as we work towards once again being able to worship together in person. So many contributions by you, big and small have helped us to stay creatively connected as a congregation. It warms our hearts to see the love all of you have for St. John! As we enter the Advent and Christmas season let us prepare to welcome Christ the newborn king into our hearts and homes!
Christmas blessings to you and your families!
Your church council

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

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

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)

Eye on Local Art – Pat Plunkett. Considering the quiet that is encompassing our activities due to the pandemic, there isn’t a lot to add to last month’s writing though January promises to provide an up-tick in art activity. For now, it is a repeat regarding finding the right gift in a gallery. Using masking, and distancing, one can feel safe visiting such places as the CVA Gift Gallery (located in the CVA) and the 319 Gallery at 319 4th street. With 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 something that’s hard to find elsewhere. As said in the past, artwork, a peaceful kind of gift in the Season of Peace.

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 3107 Westhill Drive Wausau, WI 54401	Carol Fitzke 237227 N. 120 th Ave. 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
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Financial Report for October, 2020

	October	Year-to-Date
Income Received	\$14,338	\$135,710
Expenses Paid	\$16,257	\$114,676
Difference	(\$1,869)	\$21,034

Attendance Report

	2020	2019
Average Weekly/October	46	151
Average Weekly/Year-to-Date	96	116

December Birthdays

12-1 Drew Detert
12-1 Brenda Tesch
12-3 Thomas Ohrmundt
12-4 Robbie Haroldson
12-5 Ryder Schindler
12-5 Hudson Voigt
12-5 Jan Ziebell
12-6 Dan Detert
12-7 Sarah Sala
12-10 Laverne Grunenwald
12-10 Tari Harter
12-11 Maci Landwehr
12-12 Avery Oestreich
12-14 Levi Ohrmundt
12-14 Luke Saari
12-16 Mark Anderson
12-16 Marilyn Grunenwald
12-17 Lane Hoeft
12-17 John Rakow
12-18 Veronica Lavake
12-18 Pete Seubert
12-18 Serena Ugoretz
12-19 Andrew Harter
12-20 Braxtin Borth
12-22 Rebecca Voelker
12-23 Madison Voelker
12-24 Cherish Oestreich
12-24 Jacob Paulsen
12-25 Barbara Nass
12-27 Deb Maley
12-28 James Lavake
12-29 Sue Cooley
12-29 Alex Zahn
12-30 Jill Cohrs
12-30 Jesse Hein
12-30 Luciana Nass

December Anniversaries

12-5 Tom & Karen Ohrmundt
12-6 John Czarnota & Erin Randall
12-11 Don & Carol Prochnow
12-12 Brandon & Lindsey Steinagel
12-21 Duane & Patsy Askew
12-26 Bob & Kara Rode
12-29 Chad & Tammi Walter
12-30 Mike Kluetz & Sue Harris

