

From Pastor Dan

One year ago, when the COVID-19 situation was beginning to really unfold, a parishioner of St. John said to me, “I’ll see you in a year!” Well now, I thought, that was just plain silly; this thing is not going to hang around for a year. However, I respected them (still do) so I kept my opinion to myself. Secretly, though, I was planning a summer picnic for this person to celebrate the passing of the virus and to take advantage of the opportunity for folks to get back together again. Well.....I have been wrong in my life, but man was I wrong this time!! So, here we are, one year later and I am once again anticipating a return to normalcy. Maybe we can have that summer picnic after all; albeit a year late.

As we look back, this has been a tough year; very possibly one of the most challenging in the 155-year history of St. John. Yet, we have made it through so far. In many ways, we have more than merely made it through. St. John now has a virtual presence which we did not have before. Also, folks demonstrated how they can work together to solve problems by creating ways for our Sunday School and Confirmation programs to continue in person. Of course, we have had our share of disagreements. Some have pointed to what other congregations are doing. And yes, some congregations are operating in a “business as usual” manner while others are still closed to in-person worship. It has been difficult to make one size fit all. Nevertheless, we have tried (not always successfully) to think through the situation and do what is best regardless of what others may or may not be doing. After all, a lot of folks drive down the highway at 80 on a motorcycle without wearing a helmet. (That’s 80 miles per hour not 80 years old; either way, probably not a good idea.) Nevertheless, I am sure your mother told you at least once that just because everybody is doing it doesn’t mean it is a good idea.

Yet, I am just as anxious as you for a return to normalcy. And although we will most likely never all be on the same page, we can still work together for the mutual welfare of the congregation of St. John. After all, our active faith in God through Jesus Christ connects us to each another in a way unlike any other group of people; a way in which corporate faith, hope, and love rises above individual interest. Not everyone can claim that reality; Christians should at least try. So, as the hopefulness of Christ's resurrection awakens us to new possibilities and as the light at the end of the tunnel shines brighter and brighter, we heed the words of Paul in his letter to the church in Rome, "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)

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 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.

Eye on Local Art – Pat Plunkett.

One outstanding show that's truly enjoyable to view is that of the high school student art exhibit currently on display at the Center For Visual Arts. Students for high schools of Assumption, Edgar, Marathon, Stratford, Prentice, Athens, Rib Lake, Phillips, and Abbotsford are represented. It's an eye-opening display of the talent these high school students have and the professional way in which their art is presented. It's certainly something to be admired and encouraged. Meanwhile, the Riverfront Arts Center in Stevens Point currently is hosting it's "Winter Garden Show" as mentioned last month. From March 26 through April 18th, this gallery will feature it's annual "Peeps Show", displaying many clever adaptations of those tasty little marshmallow "Peeps" you see in the candy aisle right now. It may sound boring but don't sell the local artists short, there are some pretty clever adaptations of these yummy little "Easter Season" treats. Please check out the websites for details.

Worship Committee. Are you interested in being on a committee that would be involved in planning worship services? This would include outdoor, special services etc. Please bring new ideas and suggestions as we move forward in 2021. Please contact Sue Harris, worship chair, at 715-551-6282 or email smae53@gmail.com. Thank you

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.

NEW 2021 Time & Talent forms available now!!

St. John is open and we need your help!! Please take a moment to prayerfully consider your interest and abilities as you and your family complete new volunteer forms. Everybody has something to offer, so let us know how you'd like to get involved and help our church! Many opportunities available! Forms available at church or contact [Lane Bahr](#) for details (715.297.0017}. Many hands make for light work!!! Thank you

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)

Warming Shelter Paper Fundraiser

The Warming Shelter is in full operation until the end of April and are in need of paper goods!! Let's help fill the shopping basket at church with items to help those less fortunate in our community!

Toilet Paper

Paper Towels

Napkins

Kleenex

Paper Plates

Plastic Utensils

Donations will be accepted anytime between now and April 6th.

Let's make our shopping basket overflow with donations and love!!

THANK YOU!!!!

Cemetery Plots for Sale!

St. John Cemetery Association is selling plots!

Details: Cost is \$400 for 2 plots. (Sold as a minimum of 2 plots per sale)

Available in 4 or 8 plots also.

Features: Near church, Low cost, Ample space, and Road access

****Price is increasing effective June 1, 2021 to \$600.00 for 2 plots****

Contact Sara Stubbe 715-571-2584 or email mksr.stubbe@gmail.com

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	Harley Goetsch Rennes Health/Rehab Ctr. 4810 Barbican Avenue Weston, WI 54476
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Financial Report for February, 2021

Income Received	February	Year-to-Date
	\$11,813	\$19,225
 Expenses Paid	 \$12,101	 \$24,738
 Difference	 (\$288)	 (\$5,513)

Attendance Report

	2021	2020
Average Weekly/February	75	112
Average Weekly/Year-to-Date	109	112

April Birthdays

4-1 Reece Berens
4-1 Tom Marquardt
4-1 Karen Ohrmundt
4-3 Perry Kufahl
4-3 Cullin Oelke
4-5 Mary Anderson
4-5 Lee Van Der Geest
4-8 Stuart Gehrke
4-8 Lindsey Steinagel
4-9 Stephanie Borelli
4-10 Harley Goetsch
4-10 Kayla Sann
4-11 Guy Frostman
4-12 Emma Nowak
4-13 Elliot Pierschalla
4-15 Dylan Buchberger
4-15 Beth Eno
4-15 Bobbi Hansen
4-15 Josh Hein
4-15 Andrew Webb
4-15 Brandon Webb
4-16 Katie Fitzke
4-16 Melissa Haroldson
4-16 Jedidiah Schoepke
4-16 Betty Ann Tabaka
4-17 Sophie Hoffman
4-17 Ellie Steinagel
4-18 Jack Harris
4-19 Kyan Van Der Geest
4-20 Jeremy Tesch
4-20 Taylor Treu
4-23 Shirley Kopplin
4-26 Keith Kolbe
4-27 Ty Teske
4-29 Brayden Gehrke

April Anniversaries

4-6 Shane & Nichole Saari
4-8 Lane & Carrie Hoeft
4-23 Paul & Mary Anderson
4-24 Adam & Connie Hoffman
4-26 Randy & Barbara Jo Kopp
4-27 Mike & Cindy Preisig

April Birthdays (cont'd)

4-29 Addison Heil
4-29 Rhett Schindler
4-30 Duane Askew
4-30 Al Tesch