

From Pastor Dan

May 31 will be my last day as your called pastor at St. John. Even though I will still be living right across the parking lot (continuing to rent the parsonage for the time being), I will not be your pastor. I will not preside over your funerals or weddings and will not otherwise be involved in the life of your congregation. However, I have let your council know that beginning in July, I am available as a supply pastor for the first two Sundays of each month for one year. So even though I will no longer be your pastor, you may still see me on some Sunday mornings. I admit that this arrangement flies in the face of typical ELCA church polity; retiring pastors are supposed to just “fade away.” However, these times for the church are definitely not typical. Thus, provisions for continuing the ministries of the church may have to be atypical as well.

Nevertheless, I am retiring. In preparation of my departure, I have been working with both Mary Anderson and with your council to help ensure that coverage is provided for critical areas of pastoral ministry at St. John. Also, I have begun to work on mundane tasks such as updating the *Big Red Book* and cleaning out the pastor’s study. The latter chore seems to mostly involve packing up books. As I was doing so the other day, one book caught my attention, *Why Worship Matters*. In this small book, the author contends that worship is at the heart of who we are as a church. Worship matters, claims the author, because God matters; an important point for us to ponder during this time of transition.

Times of transition by their very nature disrupt the normal ebb and flow of life; including the natural ebb and flow of life in this congregation. Yet, constants remain; an essential constant for any church, including St. John, is worship. Worship must continue despite the disrupting influence of transition. Now it is realistic to expect that some may fall away from worship during this time. The reasons are varied; some good and some not

so good. But I won't judge; you know that whole thing about "Judge not lest you be judged." Yet, those who continue their allegiance to St. John will inevitably encounter challenges. You see, this time of transition will demand your ongoing faithfulness: your financial faithfulness as well as faithfulness in offering your time and talents. And this is important, this time of transition will demand that you remain faithful in relationship to your church community and to your God through regular participation in worship.

The author of *Why Worship Matters* speaks directly to this point, "Christianity is either the most devastating disclosure of the deepest reality in the world, or it's a sham, a nonsense, a bit of deceitful play-acting. Most of us, unable to cope with saying either of these things, condemn ourselves to live in the shallow world in between. We may not be content there, but we don't know how to escape...(The) way through is by sheer unadulterated worship of the living and true God."

I genuinely thank you for the opportunity to serve as your pastor for the last 14 years. My retirement marks a time of transition for St. John; a time which allows you to focus on what matters to you as individual Christians and what matters to you as a congregation. And as you work through the process of determining what those might be, I hope you conclude that one essential upon which you remain focused is worship. Because, you see, worship matters and this church matters because God matters.

Amen and God bless you all.

Pastor Dan

“Council Corner”

Since the annual meeting we have had a new bid on the steeple roof. It seems that the price of building materials is increasing dramatically and if we are going to act on this we have to do it quickly. That coincides with a new bid we got of \$2,900 for the entire cost of the roof on the steeple-including materials, installation, and clean-up. It is from the Nisley Construction Company in Edgar. They said they can begin in mid-summer so I am presuming that means sometime in July. A member from the congregation has successfully used them in the past and at this price we will not have to take out a loan. Based on these factors the council has decided to go ahead with this offer. We are still looking at the cost of the louvers and will keep you updated as we get estimates. On another subject from the annual meeting, masks. I have received a report on the number of local congregations requiring masks and only 5 out of 17 do not require masks. Starting in May we will NOT require masks, but we will recommend them. We are not done with this virus yet. Sue Cooley, President

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: Barb Paulsen – 715-845-9884; ericbarbp@aol.com

Treasurer: Mike Kluetz – 715-218-1357; kluetz787@gmail.com

Secretary: Shelley Kufahl – 715-675-1383; pnskufahl@outlook.com

Trustees: Curt Cooley – 715-571-4057; usfcool@gmail.com

Scott Oestreich – 715-675-4360; scottsmachinellc@gmail.com

Evangelism: Lane Bahr – 715-297-0017; lucylane35@hotmail.com

Fellowship: Madeline Grueneberg – 715-574-9095; MadelineSchwede@aol.com

Education: Jan Mueller – 715-675-9558; dmjm5455.wau@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.

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.

The Sisterhood of St. John. We have five graduating seniors from St. John church this year. On Tuesday, April 13th, nine women from St. John met in the parish hall to cut and tie fleece blankets to be given to the seniors. A big thank you to the following who helped: Sue Cooley, Marilyn Grunenwald, Debbie Klug, Jan Mueller, Anne Ohrmundt, Rose Rosenau, Marlene Stubbe, Nancy Voelker and Jan Ziebell.

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)

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 mskr.stubbe@gmail.com

Keep Moving!

As they proudly processed across the stage to receive their diplomas, each graduate heard two messages from the principal: “Congratulations!” (in a loud voice) and “Keep moving” (in a whisper). Although the administrator was merely trying to facilitate the flow, she was actually offering sound advice to the young adults: Don’t stop or stagnate! Proceed from here and continue learning. This is the beginning, not the end, of a journey. Keep moving!

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. 120th Ave.
Wausau, WI 54401

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

Florian Kolbe
540 E. Thomas St.
Apt. 108
Wausau, WI 54403

Financial Report for March, 2021

Income Received	February \$14,084	Year-to-Date \$33,309
Expenses Paid	\$15,703	\$40,441
Difference	(\$1,619)	(\$7,132)

Attendance Report

	2021	2020
Average Weekly/March	106	131
Average Weekly/Year-to-Date	108	118

It's full steam ahead with
ROCKY RAILWAY VBS 2021
JESUS' POWER WILL PULL US THROUGH!!

Kids track through field-tested rotations that reinforce relevant Bible points and immerse kids in new adventures.

Kids will climb aboard and join together as we chug into a week full of fun and adventures!!!

Our train will make stops at Sing and Play Express, Bible Adventures, Imagination Station, Loco Motion Games, Chew Chew Snacks, KidVid Cinema, and Rocky Wrap-Up!

JUNE 20TH – 24TH

6P – 8P

3 easy ways to register!

Email: lucylane35@hotmail.com

Online: stjohnwausau.org or, Registration forms available at church
(return to Lane Bahr's mailbox)

If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please call Lane @
715.297.0017

May Birthdays

5-1 Brenna Ohrmundt
5-8 Brandon Schindler
5-9 Gavin Bahr
5-9 Michael Haroldson
5-9 Cody Knapp
5-9 Don Prochnow
5-13 Tim Ohrmundt
5-13 Renner Stubbe
5-13 Ethan Tesch
5-14 Kelly Hirn
5-14 Steve Zahn
5-15 Shane Saari
5-16 Jarred Bahr
5-16 Ben Bolz
5-17 Larry Berens
5-20 Ariel Graveen
5-20 John Ohrmundt
5-21 Bria Landwehr
5-23 Chavalin Chadwick
5-23 Todd Mueller
5-24 Brandon Steinagel
5-26 Ray Gallenberg
5-26 Mitch Landrath
5-27 Matthew Haroldson
5-29 Levi Hirn
5-30 Shane Beilke
5-30 Tanner Walter
5-31 Bev Landrath

May Anniversaries

5-3 Kurt & Jayne Rowe
5-9 Al & Lynn Tesch
5-12 Perry & Shelley Kufahl
5-15 Randy & Debbie Knapp
5-16 Peter & Sarah Severson
5-22 Ryan & Kim Landwehr
5-24 Lee & Katie Van Der Geest