

The Soul as Soil

Gardeners who've dealt with inhospitable conditions can relate especially well to Jesus' parable of the sower. Drought, invasive critters and thorny weeds often seem to conspire against growers' efforts. Yet when seeds fall on "good soil," the crop yield is abundant – up to a hundred times what was sown (Matthew 13:8).

That parable emphasizes the need for hearts to be receptive to God's Word. But it's also a reminder to plant Scripture persistently. Just as soil and weather conditions change, so may someone's attitude toward following Jesus. Pastor J. Ellsworth Kalas writes, "Whenever we serve as witness to the faith, we must do so with all earnestness, because one doesn't know the season in which the soul currently abides. That uninterested, distracted or unresponsive person may be nearer the Kingdom than we – or they – realize." Kalas adds, "We dare not give up on anyone at any time – including ourselves."

The Ministry of Quilting and of Mending Hearts

To sew is to pray. ... We mend ... turn things inside out and set things right. We salvage what we can of human garments and piece the rest into blankets. Sometimes our stitches stutter and slow. ... Other times the tension in the stitches might be too tight because of tears, but only we know what emotion went into the making.

---Louise Erdich, *Four Souls*

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: Jennifer Schwede – 715-432-6079; jenniferschwede@aol.com

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

Treasurer: Perry Kufahl – 715-675-1383; pnskufahl@outlook.com

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

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

Jim Borelli – 715-803-8282; jimb.newlife@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.

Financial Report for May, 2022

Income Received	May \$9,639.54	Year-to-Date \$55,322.31
Expenses Paid	\$4,722.12	\$39,193.46
Difference	\$4,917.42	\$16,128.85

Attendance Report

	2022	2021
Average Weekly/May	74	88
Average Weekly/Year-to-Date	87	89

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.

Carol Fitzke
237227 N. 120th Ave.
Wausau, WI 54401

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

Joanne Zahn
3001 Westhill Dr.
Room 208
Wausau, WI 54401

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

Don & Carol Prochnow
1408 Lili Lane-Apt. 4
Schofield, WI 54476

Vern & Marlene Bahr
238456 N. 84th Avenue
Wausau, WI 54401

July Birthdays

7-1 Karrissa Fitzke
7-1 Connie Nowak
7-1 Sarah Preisig
7-2 Jacob Pierschalla
7-3 Dylan Marquardt
7-4 Leopold Schiller
7-6 Nichole Saari
7-8 Chelsi Knoblock
7-8 Sue Rakow
7-9 Tammi Smith
7-10 Bryce Heil
7-11 Vern Bahr
7-11 Aiden Ohrmundt
7-12 Debbie Knapp
7-12 Brec Ohrmundt
7-12 Ashlee Walters
7-14 Henry Marquardt
7-15 Britta Rowe
7-16 Agnes Schelbert
7-17 Mason Hirn
7-18 Debbie Klug
7-19 Aleah Oestreich
7-20 Scott Buchberger
7-20 Pam Mootz
7-20 Kara Rode
7-20 Ava Rode
7-20 Eli Swemke
7-21 Carrie Hoeft
7-21 Mike Kilinski
7-21 Jake Schoepke
7-22 Jim Nolan
7-25 Kate Young
7-26 Coleton LeDuc
7-27 Gene Bahr
7-27 Brandon Landrath

July Anniversaries

7-10 Terry & Jamie Kickbusch
7-10 Randy & Brenda Knudsen
7-12 Jason & Amanda Grueneberg
7-14 James & Stephanie Borelli
7-15 Greg & Nicole Melander
7-18 Fritz & Pat Poeske
7-23 Lucas & Mckenzie Cottrell
7-23 Brandon & Brooke Schindler
7-25 Tim & Sue Sann
7-28 Randy & Diane Trulen
7-29 Gene & Lane Bahr

Birthdays (Cont'd.)

7-27 George Webb
7-27 Joanne Zahn
7-28 Bianca Melander
7-30 Shelley Kufahl