

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. 120 th 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
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Florian Kolbe Renaissance Assisted Lvng. 4602 Barbican Avenue Weston, WI 54476	Don & Carol Prochnow 1408 Lili Lane-Apt. 4 Schofield, WI 54476	Vern & Marlene Bahr 238456 N. 84 th Avenue Wausau, WI 54401
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