

## From Pastor Maggie

God's Beloved & Members of St. John,

Grace and peace to you all. I hope you all had a blessed thanksgiving and that you were able to carve out some time to turn to God in prayer and thanksgiving, however that might look for you. Now we turn our attention to advent, to waiting, and watching for the birth of Christ.

Advent is the start of the Church Year, and the word Advent, comes from Latin, and it means "to come." Advent is a time to wait prayerfully while we remember God's promises for creation, and to the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Advent allows us to slow down and notice how God is at work in the darkness. Because even in the waiting and preparing for this special night, we know that Christ is already here, and that Christ will come again.

And to cultivate that space, for the hope of Christ coming again, I will be holding a Blue Christmas Service. As this is a time to come together even as we mourn, in hope. I have prayerfully cultivated this service for those who have lost loved ones, for those who find the holidays to be a lonely time, and for those who would like to spend more time in prayer. This service will have candle lighting, music, prayers, and a sermon. It will be on Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

May God meet you in the waiting, preparing, and watching on these long and Holy December nights. May God provide you with peace and joy during this season. And may the beauty of God shine through your being, to all whom you meet.

As always, if you ever need any one to talk to, I am here for you. Please feel free to call or text me (608)-345-9616 or send me an email [pastor.maggie.westaby@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.maggie.westaby@gmail.com). Or if you would simply like to meet up for coffee, tea, or a walk, I would love to share that time with you.

Grace, Peace, and God's Blessings to you,

Pastor Maggie Westaby

## Manger Hearts

God came to earth in the Christmas birth  
of a tiny baby boy,  
Whose life and death are redeeming us yet  
with blessings, grace and joy.

Our minds may know this history  
but stand in awe at mystery.  
So faith becomes the way  
to make our hearts like “manger hearts”  
where Christ can dwell and God imparts  
his wondrous love each day.

---Peggy Ferrell

**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](mailto:jenniferschwede@aol.com)

Vice President: Barb Paulsen – 715-845-9884; [ericbarbp@aol.com](mailto:ericbarbp@aol.com)

Treasurer: Perry Kufahl – 715-675-1383; [pnskufahl@outlook.com](mailto:pnskufahl@outlook.com)

Secretary: Shelley Kufahl – 715-675-1383; [pnskufahl@outlook.com](mailto:pnskufahl@outlook.com)

Trustees: Curt Cooley – 715-571-4057; [usfcool@gmail.com](mailto:usfcool@gmail.com)

Jim Borelli – 715-803-8282; [jimb.newlife@gmail.com](mailto:jimb.newlife@gmail.com)

Evangelism: Lane Bahr – 715-297-0017; [lucylane35@hotmail.com](mailto:lucylane35@hotmail.com)

Fellowship: Madeline Grueneberg – 715-574-9095; [MadelineSchwede@aol.com](mailto:MadelineSchwede@aol.com)

Education: Jan Mueller – 715-675-9558; [dmjm5455.wau@gmail.com](mailto:dmjm5455.wau@gmail.com)

Worship: Sue Harris – 715-551-6282; [smae53@gmail.com](mailto:smae53@gmail.com)

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**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 October, 2022**

<b>Income Received</b>	<b>October</b> <b>\$11,134.20</b>	<b>Year-to-Date</b> <b>\$109,175.25</b>
<b>Expenses Paid</b>	<b>\$11,320.37</b>	<b>\$93,267.91</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>-\$186.17</b>	<b>\$15,907.34</b>

**Attendance Report**

	2022	2021
Average Weekly/October	73	50
Average Weekly/Year-to-Date	81	77

**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 <sup>th</sup> Ave. Wausau, WI 54401	Harley Goetsch Rennes Health/Rehab Ctr. 4810 Barbican Avenue Weston, WI 54476	Joanne Zahn 4905 Falcon Dr. Wausau, WI 54401
Don & Carol Prochnow 3402 Terrace Court Room 141 Wausau, WI 54401	Vern & Marlene Bahr 238456 N. 84 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Wausau, WI 54401	Kathie Reissman Our House 220 Campus Dr. Wausau, WI 54401

**Sisterhood Christmas Gathering – Save the Date!** Please mark your calendars for our annual Sisterhood Christmas gathering. Join us at 5:30 p.m. for happy hour followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m. at Carmelo's on Tuesday, December 13. Per tradition, the evening will end with a white elephant exchange. Donations for the Women's Community will also be collected. Please sign up in the narthex to help us plan accordingly. We look forward to seeing you there! If you have any questions, contact Brooke Schindler or Kelly Rosenau.

**Live Streaming and Photography Notice.** When you enter a St. John Lutheran Church service or event, you will be entering an area where photography, video and audio recording or live streaming may occur. If you prefer not to be recognized on camera, the back row inside the church is not within viewing distance of a camera and communion will typically be only on a wide shot where it may be difficult to recognize congregants. Parents, please note our children's sermons are being recorded and live streamed. If you do not want your child to be recognized on camera, please refrain from having them participate.

**Christmas Program Practice:** Children will practice during normal Sunday School hours on 12/4 and 12/11. Our dress-rehearsal will be on Saturday 12/17 9:30am-10:30am. Please have your children attend as many practices as they are able to.

**Children's Christmas Program – Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>:** Our annual children's Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 10am. Invite your friends and family to attend and enjoy this St. John tradition! All are welcome for fellowship after! Please have children arrive to church at 9:40am that day to get into costume.

**'The Star' Pizza & Pajama Party – Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>:** St. John members of all ages are welcome to attend this fun event! Come and watch the cartoon movie 'The Star' about the night Jesus was born. Enjoy pizza for dinner and make a star ornament! Wear your PJs and bring something comfy to snuggle with! Kids are welcome to bring friends if they'd like! **Pizza at 5:30pm. Movie 6:30pm-8pm.**

## **“COUNCIL CORNER”**

### **Sue Harris-Worship**

The Christmas and Advent season is upon us once again! We are filled with happiness and excitement as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ. But wait...does everyone feel this anticipation and joy; is it always a happy time of celebration?

As St. John prepares for this season of wonder and joy, let's be mindful of those who mourn and are lonely. This year Pastor Maggie is adding a worship service called Blue December especially for those who have lost loved ones and find this season to be a lonely time. Worship will include candle lighting, music, prayers and a sermon. Please join us on Monday, December 12th @ 6:30 p.m. to remember, support and pray for all who endure loneliness and other personal hardships during this season.

As I witness St. John's pews filling with faithful parishioners, seeing children gather for Pastor Maggie's message, fellowship gaining momentum; I'm filled with excitement and renewed hope. Hope for normalcy and sharing the good news of great joy during this beautiful season. Christmas is a time when Jesus is on the lips of everyone, whether they know Him or not. What greater gift can we give those who have not yet met the Lord than to share with them the good news of the **real** Christmas. So, invite loved ones or friends to church, volunteer together, remember our homebound by sending cards, caroling, and visiting them, and last but not least, spend time worshiping together. Have a blessed Christmas!

***PEACE ON EARTH-GOOD WILL TO MEN***