

From Pastor Maggie

God's Beloved & Members of St. John,

Grace and peace to you all. February is upon us, and with that we look to Ash Wednesday and the start of our Lenten Journey together. St. John's Church Council is hopeful that this Lent will be an opportunity to bring back the Lenten Dinners. If you are able to sign up for one, there is a chart in the Narthex.

Lent is a time for honest embracing—embracing life as it really is—a mosaic of beauty, destruction, hope, fear, joy, anger, longing, and so much more. Lent is a time to acknowledge that life is hard, without judgment. Which is why we start Lent with Ash Wednesday—to be reminded of our finitude—that we are but ash, and to ash we shall we return. A time to be emersed in our own ashes, that manifest in the things we no longer carry, the things we struggle with, and the ashes we cling to in our loved ones who have passed. As humans we carry so many emotions, memories, and experiences with us, it can be hard to grasp sometimes. And so, we have Lent, to discover and rediscover ourselves through the ashes, in the ashes, and with the ashes.

If you are able, I hope you find the strength to journey together this Lent. To embrace the sacredness of this time and to hold the space and grace for yourself to do so. Together with God we will make this journey. Together with God we will embrace God's grace.

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. Or if you would simply like to meet up for coffee, tea, or a walk, I would love to share that time with you.

With Love & Gratitude,

Pastor Maggie Westaby

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.

St. John's Newsletter. February's Newsletter will be the last Newsletter mailed out, starting in March you can pick up a physical copy of the Newsletter in the Narthex or you can look access it digitally online.

Here is news from our companion church in South Africa, Rietpan Lutheran Church – Ginny Kirsch.

In 2012 Francinah and Johannes Seleke visited St. John as part of the accompaniment program. In 2016 Francinah came again. She fondly remembers her wonderful visit with St. John people.

Rietpan Lutheran Church is now in a financial and membership position to become a single-point parish. For years, Rietpan has been a two-point parish. The final decision will be made the second week of February. Please pray for a successful outcome for Rietpan.

Last week, Francinah and Johannes celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. A large crowd gathered to celebrate with them.

Financial Report for December, 2022

	December	Year-to-Date
Income Received	\$20,949.01	\$146,233.78
Expenses Paid	\$14,977.35	\$119,763.01
Difference	\$5,971.66	\$26,470.77

Attendance Report

	2022	2021
Average Weekly/December	175	151
Average Weekly/Year-to-Date	90	81

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
4905 Falcon Dr.
Wausau, WI 54401

Don & Carol Prochnow
3402 Terrace Court
Room 141
Wausau, WI 54401

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.

Lenten Dinners. Ash Wednesday is right around the corner and will be on February 22, 2023. A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex if you are willing and wanting to prepare and serve a Lenten dinner. Our hope is to have enough volunteers for all of the Lent services, however, if nobody signs up, no dinner will be available that night. Thank you, in advance, for all of you willing to volunteer!

Elections at Annual Meeting. Currently up for election are the following: Vice President, Trustee, Secretary, Education and Fellowship. If you are interested please contact Barb Paulsen at 715-845-9884.