

## From Pastor Maggie

God's Beloved & Members of St. John,

May you find hope in the month of March. The days are getting longer, daylight savings begins, and we observe the Spring Equinox. Such hopeful glimmers, as we emerge from the long months of winter. March is a time when the earth displays its seasonality loudly and unsettling at times. Especially in Wisconsin when temperatures swing like a heavy pendulum and weather patterns turn on a dime.

The earth embraces this chaos, change, and disruption. Creation groans and adapts. While most humans continue along, detached from the truths unfurling in our midst. Yet, here we are, in the depths of Lent. A time of intentionality, observation, and reflection. A time to embrace the reality around us and within us.

And what a unique opportunity to do so this month of March. Embracing the rawness of creation, knowing that God is in the midst of the chaos. Because chaos cracks things open, allowing God's love to flow in. Love that can smooth over even the roughest edges, providing moments of peace, and shimmers of hope.

Hope that we carry with us through Lent. Hope that is made possible in Christ. It is my prayer that our time together in worship fills you with hope, renewal, and grace. That your faith may be deepened and that your spirit may find moments of joy. May God continually meet you where you are at and provide you with grace to fully embrace each day.

With Love & Gratitude,

Pastor Maggie Westaby

**“Council Corner”**  
**Shelley Kufahl, Council Secretary**

Greetings to all while we await Spring! We have exciting events coming up for Spring.

“Grow in the grace and knowledge of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” 2 Peter 3:18. While we await Spring, the church year goes thru the season of Lent. Lent is a spiritual journey, a time of reflection and renewal in our faith. And, along with our spiritual journey and nourishment, our bodies need some physical nourishment. Ash Wednesday (February 22) starts the season of Lent and St John’s will be hosting Lenten meals prior to the Wednesday Lent Services between February 22 and March 29. Many, many thanks to everyone who has volunteered their time, whether setting up, preparing, or cleaning up, and their resources by providing main dishes, salads, desserts, milk, etc. If you have not yet signed up, there is still room to plug-in.

Although our spiritual journey will not end with Easter, Easter does mark the beginning of a new season in the church year. In celebration of Easter, St John’s will also host the Easter Breakfast to be served between the Easter Services of 8am and 10:30am on Easter Sunday, April 9.

Take St John’s worship service with you. I want to add a friendly reminder to anyone who wants to attend worship services in person but is unable to. St John’s does live-stream worship services thru Facebook, which are then uploaded to the St John YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJtMopYduJuqWoiT9o6GhYQand> and to the St John website <https://stjohnwausau.org>. If you are not able to attend a worship service, you can attend online and at your convenience. You can watch while eating your own supper, in pajamas on your living room couch, or while on Spring Break in Florida (as long as you have a signal).

“I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” John 10:10.

See you there!

**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: Karen Ohrmundt – 715-370-0645– [tkohrmundt@frontier.com](mailto:tkohrmundt@frontier.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: Jim Borelli – 715-803-8282; [jimb.newlife@gmail.com](mailto:jimb.newlife@gmail.com)

Tim Ohrmundt – 715-297-0152 – [Ohrmundt74@gmail.com](mailto:Ohrmundt74@gmail.com)

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

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

Education: Heidi Teske – 715-551-4485 – [Heidi.teske2007@gmail.com](mailto:Heidi.teske2007@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.

**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 Exciting news!!** We have cooks for every one of our Lenten Dinners! Thanks so much to the volunteers who are willing to cook and serve a great meal. We are still in need of people to bring salads, desserts and milk. Also need folks to help with clean up. It's a pretty simple job, since we use paper products. The dinners will be served from 5-6 pm. with worship service at 6:30. Our meals were put on hold during covid and we're so excited to bring them back! Please join us for food and fellowship during this season of Lent. The sign-up chart is in the narthex with the dates of the meals, beginning on Ash Wednesday.

**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

**Pictorial Directory.** Say cheese! We are excited to announce a new church directory will be coming soon and hope to see all your beautiful smiling faces in the directory! There are 3 days you can schedule a session to have pictures taken. The dates are April 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the church parish hall. You are welcome to bring pet/s to be photographed with you. We hope all will schedule a no sales pressure session. Photo examples and a pricing brochure are in the narthex. You can schedule your picture taking session, using the QR code located on the sign in the narthex, or through the link on the home page of our church website [www.stjohnwausau.org](http://www.stjohnwausau.org) For those who do not have electronic means to schedule a session or for anyone who may have questions please contact Jan Mueller at 715-675-9558 or [dmjm5455.wau@gmail.com](mailto:dmjm5455.wau@gmail.com). For those who are unable to have pictures taken at the dates and times listed above, you may submit a photo for the directory. There is a \$15 charge to submit your photo, please contact Jan Mueller for more information. Smile!



**Annual Easter Egg Hunt:** St. John's Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be on Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> following worship! All children are welcome! We will gather for Fellowship, read the Easter story, make a craft,