

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA
5304 North 44th Avenue
Wausau, WI 54401
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THE MESSENGER
April 2023



From Pastor Maggie

God's Beloved & Members of St. John,

Spring is among us! A time when we are able to celebrate and embrace life blossoming right in our midst. A time of re-birth, growth, and hope. A timewhen all creation sings in ways our hearts have longed for all winter.

A time that we embrace alongside the joy of Easter. In those sacred hours of the early morning, in the pre-dawn light, when truth was unveiled through anempty tomb. As it was in the darkness of a tomb, that hope was birthed into the world through the resurrection and the life of Jesus Christ.

And so, as our Lenten journey comes to an end, as we travel together through Holy Week, and to the joyous day of Easter, it is my prayer that Godmeets you at every step along your path. And it is also my prayer that you find clarity and truth in the meditations of your heart.

May God provide you with sacred spaces.

May God provide you with growth, vitality, and discovery.

And may God fill you with hope.

Hope that blossoms in your midst.

Hope that shoots up from snow drenched valleys.

Hope that rains down saturating you with life-giving peace and grace.

Hope that is found in darkness and in the pre-dawn hours.

Hope that is unveiled in the sacred mystery of God.

Hope that was birthed from Christ on that early morning so many years ago.

For God so loved the world. Amen.

*With Love & Gratitude,
Pastor Maggie Westaby*

“Council Corner”

Karen Ohrmundt, Vice President

Hello my brothers and sisters in Christ. Since I received my first Council Corner assignment (can you tell!!!) I have been wondering what I would write about. So, bear with me. I am very excited about being on Council again. I can't wait to see what the future holds for us all.

I feel very inspired these days seeing more and more people in church on Sundays. Some familiar, some very familiar (depends on how old you are) and some new faces - the small beautiful faces of our children. But to tell you the truth, one of my favorite moments is in the beginning of the service when Pastor Maggie asks us to take a moment to settle in. I feel myself taking a deep breath and slowly letting it out. In that moment I feel my Savior. I am at peace. As we look forward, I can tell you that the sun is shining today, the wind is cold and tomorrow is Spring. As the seasons change so will we. We will see the temperatures go up, the snow will melt and the days will get longer. Be sure that you take that moment for a deep breath. Spend time with family and friends, fill your heart and soul with love and peace.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you. My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

God Bless!

Adult Study! Are you interested in learning more about Lutheranism and the roots of our faith? Are you wanting to discuss how faith and life intersect in our day to day lives? If so, please let Pastor Maggie know.

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: Karen Ohrmundt – 715-370-0645– tkohrmundt@frontier.com
Treasurer: Perry Kufahl – 715-675-1383; 715-574-1519; pskufahl@outlook.com
Secretary: Shelley Kufahl – 715-675-1383; 715-409-0524; pskufahl@outlook.com Trustees: Jim Borelli – 715-803-8282; jimb.newlife@gmail.com
Tim Ohrmundt – 715-297-0152 – Ohrmundt74@gmail.com Evangelism: Lane Bahr – 715-297-0017; lucylane35@hotmail.com Fellowship: Barb Paulsen – 715-845-9884 – ericbarbp@aol.com
Education: Heidi Teske – 715-536-6134; 715-551-4485 – Heidi.teske2007@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.

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.

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 10th, 11th, and 12th 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. 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. 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!

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