

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA
5304 North 44th Avenue
Wausau, WI 54401
Telephone: (715) 675-6950

THE MESSENGER

June 2023



From Pastor Maggie

God's Beloved & Members of St. John,

Greetings for the month of June! This will be a joyful month for Saint John. Five of our young people will affirm their baptisms with confirmation this month, on June 6 we will have our late spring cleaning (starting at 5:30), we will have a Wednesday night worship service on June 14 at 6:30 p.m. (this service will not be recorded), Vacation Bible School will be June 25 – 29, and we will officially welcome summer on the Summer Solstice!

The month of June also starts with Holy Trinity Sunday. A Sunday that focuses on relationship, as the very essence of God is to be in relationship. Before there was any inkling of creation, the pre-big bang theory if you will, there was relationship. A relationship not bound by time and space, a relationship within the Triune God. Three in one, or one in three: Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit. A relationship bound by pure love, a love so great and vast, it created the cosmos and everything in it. A relationship of a love so intimate, that God desires to be in relationship with you.

And so, as these summer months begin, may you find time to nurture your relationships; with yourself, with others, and with God. And may you find time to grow in relationship with one another as members of St. John, a community that is centered in the Triune God.

With Love & Gratitude,

Pastor Maggie Westaby

COUNCIL CORNER

Sue Harris, Worship

Does God Take a Vacation in Summer?

It's Summer! Time for vacations, sunshine, trips here and there, family and friend gatherings and the list goes on. Time to let your Bible collect dust and sleep in on a Sunday, right? We all yearn for these few precious months to enjoy all of these activities during this season of warmth and beauty.

Many churches experience "the summer slump" where attendance, giving, and participation might decrease. We've worked hard and deserve a break...even a church break, right?

Pastor Maggie is offering a weeknight service for those of you who may be gone on weekends in the summer. It will be an abbreviated service but a time to gather and worship together. If participation and interest is positive, it'll continue during the remaining summer months. Another idea is perhaps an outdoor worship service with a picnic. Please let me, Pastor Maggie or any council member know if you have an engaging idea for an "out of the ordinary worship service" for summertime or anytime.

As we anticipate and look forward to these coming months, don't forget about Jesus and attending worship service. Jesus Christ is the refreshing center of summer. He is present in all things, including vacations and picnics, long walks and cookouts. He invites us this summer: "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28). Jesus also said, "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." (Matthew 18:20).

This summer don't ignore the God who has never once ignored you. It's summersee you at church!!

PS: Mark your calendars! Your church council has acquired "Living River" to perform on **October 1, 2023**. We are bringing back our traditional Chili Dinner and prize giveaways (raffle). More information to follow in the upcoming months.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE JUNE DATES!

Tuesday, June 6, starting at 5:30 p.m. will be St. John late spring cleaning. You are welcome to join when you can.

Monday, June 12, at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Maggie's Book Club. We will be discussing *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng.

Wednesday, June 14, at 6:30 p.m. Worship Service. If you are craving a Wednesday night worship service, because you will be out of town on Sunday, come to this worship service. Pastor Maggie and the Church Council are seeing if there is an interest for a mid-week, summer evening service. Please note, this service will not be recorded.

Thursday, June 22, at 8:00 a.m. Marathon County Sheriff's Office will be hosting a free event on keeping worship spaces safe. There is a flyer in the narthex for more information, or you can talk to Pastor Maggie if you are interested. It will be at Mount Olive Lutheran Church from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

June 25 – June 29 St. John Vacation Bible School. This year's "STELLAR: Shine Jesus' Light" VBS will be 'Out of this world!' Sunday, June 25th through Thursday, June 29th. 5:30pm - 8pm with dinner served each night from 5:30-6pm. Come join the fun! Register your kids and their friends online <https://stjohnwausau.org/education/vbs/>

VBS food donations needed. If you can help donate food for VBS, please sign up on the board in the Narthex. Thank you to all who are able to donate!

Exciting News! Pictures that were taken for the new church directory are here and can be picked up in the fellowship hall. Pictures are located on the table and in the box. We are also excited to have our new directories soon, stay tuned.

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; pnskufahl@outlook.com

Secretary: Shelley Kufahl – 715-675-1383; 715-409-0524;
pnskufahl@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.

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

Attendance Report

	2023	2022
Average Weekly/April	139	124
Average Weekly/Year-to-Date	116	90