

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

THE MESSENGER

July 2023



From Pastor Maggie

God's Beloved & Members of St. John,

I hope you have found time to enjoy the summer and that you continue to find joy this summer. May your days be filled with gladness, peace, energy, and rest.

And even though these warm and beautiful months are among us, filled with light and life—summer can be difficult—especially when the outside sunshine does not mirror how you feel inside. And in those moments, the good news is, you have another light to turn to, the light of Christ. For Jesus Christ is the light of the world, a light no darkness can overcome.

Light that can seep into your hardest moments, as a constant reminder that you are not alone and that you are loved. So much love in fact, that God intends for it to fill you up completely, spilling over, so that you have no option but to share God's love with others.

I pray your summer is filled with an abundance of love and grace, so that you can share God's love and grace in all that you do—through kindness, generosity, patience, and in the many other ways the Spirit may move you. Embrace the sunshine, embrace God's love, embrace the day, and share the light of Christ.

With Love & Gratitude,

Pastor Maggie Westaby

LIVING RIVER CONCERT
OCTOBER 1, 2023
SAVE THE DATE!!!

St. John has contracted with Living River Quartet to perform on Oct.1, 2023 at 2:00 pm. Living River praises God with their music. They share a blend of contemporary praise and worship, gospel and a cappella styles. The lyrics reflect the light that only Jesus Christ can bring to a hurting world. They cannot perform during worship service because one of their members is in ministry, so they are not available Sunday mornings. The polka band that performed in the past is now retired.

We will be offering a 10:30 Worship service that day with our chili dinner and raffle to follow. The concert will be at 2:00 pm. in the sanctuary.

Please consider having your raffle item donations at church by Rally Sunday, September 10. Ticket sales will begin that day.

We are very excited to be hosting Living River and having our traditional chili dinner and raffle. The Nowaks are making their delicious chili and Linda Graveen is in charge of the raffle again this year.

We've not been able to share this special time together since Covid interrupted our world. Join us on October 1, to once again enjoy worship, food, fellowship, fun and music.

More information to follow. If you have immediate questions contact Barb Paulsen, Sue Harris or Linda Graveen (raffle items).

2024 YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT GATHERING IN NEW ORLEANS

July 16-20, 2024 – National Youth Gathering! Registration for this event will take place Sept. 15 – Nov. 1, 2023. This is for all youth that will be in 8th to 12th grade at the time of registration (fall 2023). Please let Pastor Maggie know if you are interested so we can start planning and fundraising.

July 16-20, 2024 – National Young Adult Youth Gathering! Due to the cancellation of the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering, this gathering will be open to individuals who will be 18-35 at the time of the event! Registration for this event will take place Sept. 15 – Nov. 1, 2023. Please let Pastor Maggie know if you are interested.

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.

Attendance Report		
	2023	2022
Average Weekly/May	78	74
Average Weekly/Year-to-Date	109	87

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
54401

Harley Goetsch
Rennes Health/Rehab Ctr.
4810 Barbican Avenue
Weston, WI 54476

Joanne Zahn
4905 Falcon Dr.
Wausau, WI

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