

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

THE MESSENGER

August 2023



From Pastor Maggie

God's Beloved & Members of St. John,

It's hard to believe that August is upon us! A month that is usually very busy: fitting in end of summer vacations, getting ready for school, and getting ready for fall, all the things we add into our already busy lives.

And so, in the midst of all that you have going on, I leave you with the reminder to not be anxious. To take some time for yourself, to breathe deeply, and to acknowledge the presence of God in your midst.

As the writer of Philippians (4:6–7) shares, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

With Love & Gratitude,
Pastor Maggie Westaby

"Council Corner"

Perry Kufahl, Treasurer

Greetings to all, I hope your summer is going well and all are healthy.

I wanted to give everyone an update on our finances at St John and what is being looked at.

As Pastor Maggie continues to get comfortable with us and vice versa. Let's not forget that our congregation is very blessed that we have a young and vibrant pastor who has done everything we as a council asked of her. There are plenty of churches in the Wausau area who have a Pastor vacancy and are struggling to keep their doors open until they get one. (Sadly some will wait a long time.)

One major update I wanted to tell you about is that we took out a \$37,500 CD at Incredible Bank. This is a 13-month term with a guaranteed return rate of 5%. After the CD matures in July of 2024 we will net a gain of around \$2100! We have the option to renew this in July of 2024. We as a council looked at how to continue to grow our revenue without putting our finances in jeopardy. This was one avenue where we are guaranteed a gain without any risk of loss.

We wanted to leave enough in the checking account to cover our bills and any unforeseen expenses. As of June 30 our checking account is now at \$50,035 after we moved \$37,500 into a CD fund.

We also have \$15,720 in our Memorial account.

Before we go and think we are just fine with our finances as they are, we have some major improvements we have to look at.

The #1 project that we will have to look at is the parking lot. The current condition of this lot is not good. We have entertained quotes and they are coming in around \$90,000. This is to completely tear off current asphalt and replace the base as well. We will be holding a congregational meeting sometime in September to hear your comments and suggestions on what to do about this. Keep in mind the quotes we got back are for this year. By the time we have a financial plan in place this quote will only go up in price. Realistically we are hoping to do this next year or the following year at latest. How we finance this will be a major discussion point, hence why we are holding a meeting to address this. I welcome feedback to myself or any council member on this subject.

In summary I hope we can continue to give to St John as generously as possible. I know the people who read this have certainly done their part. I wish all our members will see and read this and act accordingly. One of the biggest challenges is keeping our church looking modern without jeopardizing our finances.

God Bless You All and I pray we will find a solution to this.

“Rally Sunday” and “Blessing of the Backpacks”



Please join our St. John education team as we celebrate the kick-off to our “school” year on Rally Sunday! On Sunday, September 10th, kids of all ages are welcome to bring their backpacks to the worship service for a “Blessing of the Backpacks.” After worship we will celebrate the start of St. John’s educational season with games, crafts, and music! All are welcome!

2024 Youth and 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; 715-409-0524; 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 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/June	80	76
Average Weekly/Year-To-Date	104	85



Homebound Parishioners. The following parishioners are no longer able to consistently attend worship services. Pastor Maggie visits 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 th Ave. Wausau, WI 54401	Joanne Zahn 4905 Falcon Dr. Wausau, WI 54401	Don & Carol Prochnow 3402 Terrace Court-Room 141 Wausau, WI 54401
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Harley Goetsch
Rennes Health/Rehab Ctr.
4810 Barbican Avenue
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