

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

Telephone: (715-675-6950)

THE MESSENGER

September 2023

From Pastor Maggie

God's Beloved & Members of St. John,

I hope you all had a wonderful summer! I hope you also found many moments to connect with yourself, with others, and with God. I am excited for fall, and for the different ministries taking place at St. John. A reminder, our official fall kick off will be on Sunday, September 10 with Rally Sunday/Blessing of the Backpacks/Potluck/Parking Lot Meeting. I look forward to our time together as we continue to discern the ways of the Spirit here at St. John.

I value all of your dedication and commitment as members. And I am grateful for all of you, as you make our place of worship warm and welcoming. St. John would not be the same without each one of you.

I know life can be busy, demanding, and consuming. But with God, and one another, we can find support, joy, and peace. Together we can share God's love with one another and the world. Because every day is precious, and every day you are loved by the Creator of the universe. You are loved so deeply and intimately, that Christ lived for you. Living in a way, so we know how to live, how to love, and how to be.

Together we can be the love, hope, and joy the world so desperately needs. And so, I leave you with these joyful words from Psalm 104, "I will sing to the Creator as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being."

With Love & Gratitude,

Pastor Maggie Westaby

“Council Corner”

Lane Bahr, Evangelism/Heidi Teske, Education

In June we blasted off for five days of fun at Stellar Vacation Bible School, learning to always Shine Jesus' Light! We had a total of 37 youth join us for this world journey this year!! We started our "daily mission" at the Galactic Diner for dinner. Then off to Sing and Play Blastoff, Imagination Station, Stellar Bible Adventures, All Star Games, Kid Vid Cinema, and Cosmic Closing. Each day we learned how we can always Shine Jesus Light, no matter what is happening in our lives. Happy, sad, scared....we're never alone and when we shine Jesus' light, others shine with us!

I was so very happy to have seen so many youths at VBS this year!! Including so many current and past confirmation students helping each night! It's not just the "students" we reach with God's messages at VBS, but each individual that helps, in any way, to make this program possible! Thank you to all the amazing volunteers and individuals that donated to our program this year and for the support given to help grow the faith of our youth of St. John Church.

Now....for 2024.... Mark your calendars for June 23rd - 27th, and get ready for Kingdom Rock....Where Kids Stand Strong For God!!

In Christ, Lane Bahr

Sunday School is right around the corner and we can't wait to see all the kids back together. All kids must be registered in order to attend Sunday School. Please register online at: <https://stjohnwausau.org/education/sunday-school/>. If you'd like to join the wonderful team of teacher, please let Kim Landwehr know.

Rally Sunday and Blessings of the Backpacks will be on Sunday, September 10th. Students of all ages should bring their backpacks to worship for a special blessing from Pastor Maggie. After worship, the kids will review how we can “Shine Jesus’ Light” while they sing songs, craft and reconnect.

Sunday School will start the following Sunday, September 17th. Sunday School is from 10:15am – 11:15am.

If anyone would like a Sunday School Schedule, please ask Kim Landwehr or Heidi Teske.

Heidi Teske

“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!

Maine Elementary School - Snacks, Pants, and Pencils Drive: As we kick off our education season at St. John on Rally Sunday, we would like to also support our neighborhood school, Maine Elementary School! Time is set aside for a snack every day, but not every student has the resources to bring a snack each day. Teachers tend to provide snacks to these students, paying for them on their own. We'd like to help with that! Also, the younger students may have accidents during the day, and the health office is running low on clothes for them to change into. Finally, they're requesting Ticonderoga pencils. This specific name brand is the 'hardest' of pencils, so students can worry about learning and not about constantly sharpening their pencils.

Items due: Rally Sunday, September 10th

- Individually packaged snacks (NO nuts/peanuts/peanut butter) (ex: granola bars, crackers, fruit snacks)
- Black leggings: size 5, 6/6x, 7-8
- Gender neutral grey or black sweatpants: size 5, 6/6x, 7-8
- Ticonderoga pencils (only this brand please)

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 Nowak's 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).

Men's Breakfast – September 9 at 9:00 a.m. – LC Restaurant, Marathon (formerly The Village Inn). Men's breakfast will be starting up again on the second Saturday (September 9) at LC Restaurant in Marathon at 9:00 a.m. If you are interested in attending, please contact Pastor Maggie so the restaurant will know how many to plan for.

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.

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.

Attendance Report

	2023	2022
Average Weekly/July	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. 120th Ave.
Wausau, WI 54401

Joanne Zahn
4905 Falcon Dr.
Wausau, WI 54401

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

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

Jim & Barbara Leffin
214 N. 12th Avenue
Wausau, WI 54401

September Birthdays

9-2 Nancy Frostman
9-2 Sue Harris
9-2 Sam Young
9-3 Tyler Bunge
9-3 Tim Mielke
9-4 Croy Sala
9-6 Easton Voigt
9-7 Greg Grunenwald
9-12 Brian Nowak
9-12 Tre Swemke
9-15 Greg Melander
9-16 Jackson Mueller
9-16 Chad Walter
9-18 Mike Preisig
9-20 Eleanor Grueneberg
9-20 Pete Hirn
9-20 Jayne Rowe
9-22 Karla Schuett
9-23 Roger Knight
9-23 Mitch Lubecke
9-23 Fritz Poeske
9-23 Kelsi Seubert
9-24 Doug Doede
9-27 Hunter Landrath
9-29 Dale Nass
9-29 Zachary Voelker
9-30 Sharon Kilinski

September Anniversaries

9-5 John & Sue Rakow
9-8 Eugene & Kelly Dehnel
9-8 Mike & Sharon Kilinski
9-14 Tim & Ann Ohrmundt
9-18 Nick & Kaitlin Goslin
9-18 Jerome & Debbie Klug
9-19 Josh & Brooke Howe
9-20 Mike & Tara Pasholk
9-21 Jacob & Jessica Pierschalla
9-23 Jason & Jodie Wilhelm
9-26 Bill & Jennifer Schwede
9-28 Roger & Susan Knight
9-29 Brec & Rachel Ohrmundt

Upcoming Events:

*September 4 – Labor Day –
Church Office Closed*

*September 10 – Rally Sunday
Blessing of the Backpacks
Potluck
Maine Elementary School
Drive
Parking Lot Meeting*

*October 1 –
10:30 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Chili, Raffle
2:00 p.m. Living River Concert*

Worship Schedule

Sunday Mornings

9:00 a.m.

Sunday School

10:15 a.m.-11:15 a.m.

***Mission Statement: “We are called to serve God; serve each other;
serve the community; serve the wider church.”***

Pastor Maggie Westaby

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