

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

Telephone: (715-675-6950)

THE MESSENGER

October 2023

From Pastor Maggie

God's Beloved & Members of St. John,

Blessings for this month of October. I look forward to kicking off the month with our Fall Chili Raffle & Living River Concert on Sunday, October 1!

October is an important month for our church and other Lutheran churches, as many will celebrate Reformation by commemorating Martin Luther's posting of the Ninety-five Theses. We will commemorate Reformation on Sunday, October 29 (actual day of Reformation is October 31). In addition to Martin Luther, October is also a month to commemorate St. Francis of Assisi (his day of commemoration is October 4).

St. Francis is known for his love for creation. He is especially known for his love of animals and blessing of the animals. He also spent much of his life caring for people in poverty and extended this work by forming the Order of Friars Minor (called Franciscans).

There is a beautiful prayer that is attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, and I leave you with his words. Let us pray, Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

With Love & Gratitude,

Pastor Maggie Westaby

“Council Corner”
Jen Schwede - President

I remember sitting down and typing this letter last year at this time, what a beautiful, wonderful setting the Lord gives us every fall. Ushering out the old season and in with the new, we are truly blessed by living in Wisconsin to have the beauty of the changing seasons.

As the seasons change, so are things at St. John’s. If you were unable to make it to the September 10th meeting after church for the parking lot meeting I will fill you in as to what was discussed. The cost for replacing the parking lot (does not include the part to the West as that was done recently) is roughly \$95,000.00. If we break this down, it looks something like this:

$\$95,000.00 / 3 \text{ years} = \$31,666.00 \text{ per year}$

$\$31,666.00 / 12 \text{ months} = \$2638.00 \text{ per month}$

$\$2638.00 / 167 \text{ (this is the number of mailboxes in the Narthex)} = \15.80

Per family

$\$15.80 / 4 \text{ weeks per month} = \3.95 per week

Doesn’t sound as bad when it’s broken down, but this is an enormous amount of money and honestly is something that we can’t afford today. We are looking realistically at 2-3 years down the road. The big question is how are we going to pay for this??? If we were relying on only the congregation to finance this project, the above numbers don’t sound so bad, but, I cannot ask all of you to contribute more than you already do, families have financial constraints due to rising costs of everything, so we have to find another solution. Work smarter, not harder. Council is in the process of putting together a Fundraising Committee to work on events, projects and such to raise funds for our parking lot. The first fundraiser will take place this fall, in the form of a calendar raffle. I’m working on the details, but calendars should be ready to distribute sometime in late October early November, the month for drawing will be January 2024. For those of you who do not know how these work, calendars are sold for a certain price, purchasers

names are entered in for drawings everyday in January. If your ticket is drawn, you win the amount of money for that day and your name is put back in for the potential of being drawn again. So if you have a really lucky horseshoe, your name could be drawn 31 times. Probably not going to happen, but it sounds good! The expectation is that all church members will participate in selling calendars. I understand this seems unorthodox to some, but events like this allow us to raise a larger amount of money with minimal effort, in a short amount of time. Some people will sell more, some less, the important thing is the effort is put forth. Lane has created a thermometer to keep us on track, letting us know when a deposit is made and how much progress we're making. There are envelopes next to the thermometer specifically for the parking lot if you want to make donations as well. The mountain seems steep, but we can do it, I know we can!

If you read Perry's letter from last month, he discussed the finances and obviously this is something we all keep close eyes on. We have made cost saving measures such as how and where we buy supplies, we no longer mail out newsletters unless requested due to the cost of postage, shortening up the Sunday church bulletin when able. All of these measures may seem small, but they add up to savings bettering our finances.

We are very fortunate to have such wonderful church members who donate time and money for our various programs and events throughout the year. I'm grateful for everyone at St John's as you truly are magnificent people and strive to make it a beautiful, welcoming environment for all. I say this all the time, but I truly mean it, if you have questions, thoughts or ideas, please reach out to me, I want St. John's to continue to grow and prosper for all of our futures.

Blessings to you all

Jennifer Schwede

715.432.6079

Jenniferschwede@aol.com

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 – October 14 at 9:00 a.m. – LC Restaurant, Marathon (formerly The Village Inn). Men's breakfast will be starting up again on the second Saturday (October 14) 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.

St. John Quilting Wishlist. Left over fabric or never used fabric, light weight denim, cotton or flannel sheets, pillow cases, cotton curtains (unlined), cotton shower curtains. If you are interested, come join us! We meet on Tuesday mornings from 8:30 a.m. until noon. You can also sew a quilt top from home. Size needed is 60 x 80. They do not need to be fancy. Thank you!

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/August	60	73
Average Weekly/Year-To-Date	92	79

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

October Birthdays

10-1 Koy VanDerGeest
10-2 Kari Heil
10-2 Jeanne Klinger
10-3 Joshua Howe
10-4 Camryn Schave
10-5 Logan Hoeft
10-6 Ethan Pergolski
10-8 Kim Landwehr
10-8 Robert Oravez
10-9 Jake Boehm
10-9 Sophie Seubert
10-10 Terry Kopplin
10-10 Mike Woodmansee
10-11 Dawn Detert
10-13 Cindy Preisig
10-13 Melissa Thurs
10-17 Draxton Howe
10-19 Barbara Leffin
10-21 Megan Eno
10-22 Brooke Howe
10-23 Paul Gauger
10-23 Rylee Suliin
10-24 Kylee Pasholk
10-25 Lucas Linzmeyer
10-27 Joe Graveen
10-29 Julie Schuster

October Anniversaries

10-1 Ronnie & Emilee Mootz
10-3 Nathan & Karrissa Fitzke
10-4 Gregory & Linda Grudznske
10-4 David & Rebecca Voelker
10-5 Shawn & Chavalin Chadwick
10-7 Guy & Nancy Frostman
10-8 Randy & Linda Graveen
10-8 Pete & Kelly Hirn
10-9 Jim & Loretta Nolan
10-15 Keenan Cadeau & Pastor Maggie
10-15 Nick & Nikki Oelke
10-18 Robert & Margaret Oravez
10-20 Doug & Christine Doede
10-23 Mike & Sara Stubbe
10-27 Ron & Julie Schuster

Upcoming Events:

October 1 –

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. Chili, Raffle

2:00 p.m. Living River Concert

October 2 – 6:30 p.m.

The first session of the Adult Study on: What Is the Bible? How an Ancient Library of Poems, Letters, and Stories Can Transform the Way You Think and Feel About Everything by Rob Bell will meet. We will discuss part 1.

October 23 – 6:30 p.m.

Pastor Maggie's Book Club – "Heaven Is For Real" by Todd Burpo

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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