

**St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA  
5304 North 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Wausau, WI 54401**

**Telephone: (715-675-6950)**

# ***THE MESSENGER***

***November 2023***

## From Pastor Maggie

God's Beloved & Members of St. John,

Blessings this November. I look forward to a fun filled month at St. John! We will start off the month with our Vacation Bible School Recap on Sunday, November 5. Get ready for a joyful service filled with song, dance, and praise. Here we will learn the many ways to *Shine Jesus' Light!*

November is a beautiful time to be reminded about Jesus' light, especially as the world grows darker around us here in the northern hemisphere with shorter hours of daylight. A time when creation starts to settle in for the long winter ahead.

A time when we come together with family and friends to celebrate Thanksgiving. I am especially looking forward to our Thanksgiving Evening Service this year, as it will be a little different. Some of our youth will have their First Communion at this service; what a joyful way to be thankful as we honor their presence at Christ's table. This service will also have some special music performed by the Immanuel Bell Choir.

And to continue in this spirit of thanksgiving, I would like to share how thankful I am for all of you! For the way you show up in the world living out your call to love one another. You all embody what it truly means to *Shine Jesus' Light!*

With Love & Gratitude,

*Pastor Maggie Westaby*

**“Council Corner”**  
**Lane Bahr - Evangelism**

The leaves have changed and falling from the trees, and time is running out for 2023, but we have a new year coming and opportunities for each of us to participate at St John!

**The new, 2024 Time & Talent sheet** is ready for you to select area(s) that you would like to help share your time and talent with your church! There are so many options, and the wonderful thing is that most have very little time investment for you, but the benefit is great to our church! Please take a moment to look over the Time & Talent sheet, it is divided into different areas of service, with the council chairperson’s contact info listed, for you to reach out to with any questions you may have. Please fill out and return your sheet in the offering plate on any Sunday, leave in Mary’s (secretaries) mailbox, or even call / email me and we’ll get you signed up! Please take time to fill out a Time & Talent sheet, even if you already serve in areas of the church. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

**Mark Your Calendars for the Annual Pie Auction! Sunday November 19<sup>th</sup>, after church!**

Bring home baked pies and desserts, items from your favorite bakery or store, and of course your wallet to buy some yummy treats while supporting a great cause! This year the proceeds from the pie auction will be donated to the Wausau High Schools Food and Hygiene Pantries! Joining in the fun of the auction, taking home some amazing treats, and supporting the youth and families in our community = a great win! Please bring dessert items to be auctioned on Sunday morning. If you have any questions, please contact Barb Paulsen.

Wishing you each a Thanksgiving full of family, friends, fun, and the love of Jesus!

## 2023 CHILI DINNER RAFFLE WINNERS

Thank you to all who donated prizes. Here are the winners:

\$50 County Market gift card donated by Randy and Debbie Knapp		Ryan Landwehr
\$50 Pick N Save gift card donated by Randy and Debbie Knapp		Bev Schmidt
1900 silver dollar donated by Pete and Phyllis Seubert		Debbie Klug
5 buffalo nickels donated by Pete and Phyllis Seubert		Cherish Oestreich
\$25 Walgreens gift card donated by Rose Rosenau		Karen Voigt
Door County coffee and mug donated by Brooke and Brandon Schindler		Lorie Anderson
#88 car donated by Louie Reissman		Bill Schwede
Nedobeck painting donated and Jim and Barb Leffin		Barbara Nass
Autumn harvest basket donated by Linda and Randy Graveen		Shelley Kufahl
Pair of bowl cozies donated by Karen and Tom Ohrmundt		Nancy Voelker (2)
Cutting board donated by Randy and Debbie Knapp		Erin Lauersdorf
Pine needle basket donated by Cliff Knapp		Barb Paulsen
Quilt rack donated by Marlene Stubbe		Rose Rosenau
Wisconsin cutting board donated by Lorie Anderson and Jim Borelli		Emma Nowak
Dupont car #24 donated by Louis Reissman		Bill Schwede
Apron donated by Karen and Tom Ohrmundt		Karen Voigt
		Avery Oestreich
Candles donated by Tim and Ann Ohrmundt		Tammy Smith
Turtle candy dish donated by Tim and Ann Ohrmundt		Heidi Teske
Wine and champagne glasses donated by Lorie Anderson and Jim Borelli		Karen Voigt
Pumpkin everything basket donated by Pete and Phyllis Seubert		Marlene Stubbe
\$30 Grebe's gift card and kitchen basket donated by Sue Harris		Lorie Anderson
Bird string art donated by Jim and Barb Leffin		Holly Westaby
Willow Tree Love of Learning donated by Barb and Eric Paulsen		Eli Swemke
Girl toys, blanket donated by Connie and Brian Nowak		Chloe Zernicke
Boy toys, blanket donated by Connie and Brian Nowak		Kathleen Rogers
Art set donated by Karen and Tom Ohrmundt		Lucy Nass
		Kathleen Rogers
Fall craft kit donated by Karen and Tom Ohrmundt		Karen Voigt
		Amy Marquardt
Cutting boards donated by Tim and Ann Ohrmundt	13x23	Peggy Oravez
	10x11	Carol Smith
	10x16	Courtney Belongia
	12x19	Gina Graveen
	Under the sea	Heidi Teske

Kids action camera		Kim Nevers
Better Not Pout basket donated by Linda and Randy Graveen		Lilly Harris
Quesadilla maker donated by Perry and Shelley Kufahl		Don Voelker
Book sleeves donated by Dave and Terry Ugoretz	Jean Treu	Jack Harris
	Ryan Landwehr	Amanda Grueneberg
	Briella Grueneberg	
Pumpkin basket donated by Barbara Nass		Nancy Voelker
USA wreath donated by Gina Graveen		Jeanne Klinger
Fleece blanket donated by Lorie Anderson and Jim Borelli		Ryan Landwehr
Game night basket donated by Gene and Lane Bahr		Nancy Frostman
Foot warmer donated by Barb and Eric Paulsen		Crystal Zernicke
Just for Me basket donated by Linda and Randy Graveen		Nancy Frostman
Gnome donated by Jim and Barb Leffin		Connie Nowak
Cribbage board donated by Tim and Ann Ohrmundt		Tammy Landrath
		Phyllis Seubert
Raspberry jam	Dan Westaby	Sue Harris
	Phyllis Seubert (2)	Brian Nowak
	Tammy Landrath	Lorie Anderson (2)
	Connie Nowak	Barbara Nass
\$25 cash donated by Mike and Sara Stubbe		Randy Graveen
		Lorie Anderson
Barbie donated by Perry and Shelley Kufahl		Ellie Grueneberg
Mug o' Hersheys donated by Linda and Randy Graveen		Mason Mielke
Fresh cut Christmas tree donated by Louie Reissman		Ellie Grueneberg
		Courtney Belongia
Bead kits donated by Karen and Tom Ohrmundt	Aleah Oestreich	Matt Nass
	Ryan Landwehr (4)	Susie Knight (2)
	Kylie Pasholk	
Cup o' candy donated by Brooke and Brandon Schindler	Caleigh Bahr	Mason Mielke
	Annabelle Harris	Macy Landwehr
	Hazel Oshein	Briella Grueneberg
	Tyler Mielke	Aleah Oestreich
	Colleen Oelke	Daisy Harris
	Ethan Oelke	Violet Teske
	Jack Harris	Billie Grueneberg
	Ben Grueneberg	Lilly Harris
	Briah Landwehr	Mia G
	Hunter Zernicke	Lucy Nass

**St. John Sisterhood Christmas Party.** Please consider joining the Sisterhood crew for our annual Christmas gathering at 2510 Restaurant on December 12, 2023. “Happy Hour” starts at 5:00 p.m. with dinner to follow at 6:00 p.m. As per tradition, we will be collecting non-perishable items for The Women’s Community (toiletries, toothpaste, shampoo/conditioner, etc.) and holding our annual white elephant gift exchange...so start looking in those storage rooms and basements (this exchange will be held after dinner – don’t forget to wrap your ‘gift’!). A sign-up sheet and additional information is located in the narthex.

**Men’s Breakfast – Second Saturday of every month - LC Restaurant, Marathon (formerly The Village Inn).** Pastor Will from Trinity in Stettin and St. Peter’s in Marathon has invited all men from St. John to meet the second Saturday of the month at 9:00 a.m. at LC Restaurant in Marathon, (formerly the Village Inn).

**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](mailto:jenniferschwede@aol.com)

Vice President: Karen Ohrmundt – 715-370-0645; [tkohrmundt@frontier.com](mailto:tkohrmundt@frontier.com)

Treasurer: Perry Kufahl – 715-675-1383; 715-409-0524; [pnskufahl@outlook.com](mailto:pnskufahl@outlook.com)

Secretary: Shelley Kufahl – 715-675-1383; 715-409-0524; [pnskufahl@outlook.com](mailto:pnskufahl@outlook.com)

Trustees: Jim Borelli – 715-803-8282; [jimb.newlife@gmail.com](mailto:jimb.newlife@gmail.com)

Tim Ohrmundt – 715-297-0152; [Ohrmundt74@gmail.com](mailto:Ohrmundt74@gmail.com)

Evangelism: Lane Bahr – 715-297-0017; [lucylane35@hotmail.com](mailto:lucylane35@hotmail.com)

Fellowship: Barb Paulsen – 715-845-9884; [ericbarbp@aol.com](mailto:ericbarbp@aol.com)

Education: Heidi Teske – 715-536-6134; 715-551-4485; [Heidi.teske2007@gmail.com](mailto:Heidi.teske2007@gmail.com)

Worship: Sue Harris – 715-551-6282; [smae53@gmail.com](mailto: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!

**Poinsettia Orders.** Believe it or not, it is that time of year again to think about beautifying St. John’s Sanctuary for Christmas. You will find an insert in the weekly bulletins for your order. Remember to make your check out to St. John with “Poinsettia” in the memo line. Do not combine your church contribution with the poinsettia payment on the same check. If you prefer, you can also pay with cash. Please put your order and payment in the offering plate or give it to Sue Harris. If you have any questions, contact Sue at 715-551-6282. Thanks! Deadline for ordering is Sunday, November 12.

**Chili and Raffle Event.** Here are the totals from our chili and raffle event! Thank you to all who donated time, money and food. We raised \$1,339.00 from the raffle for the parking lot fund and \$1,211.00 from the chili for the youth group.

**Fundraising Committee.** If anyone is interested in helping on the Fundraising Committee for the parking lot fund, please contact Jennifer Schwede at 715-432-6079.

**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 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> 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**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Average Weekly/August</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>Average Weekly/Year-To-Date</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>79</b>

**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 <sup>th</sup> 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. 12 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Wausau, WI 54401	

### **November Birthdays**

11-1 Trent Trulen  
11-4 Eric Paulsen  
11-5 Jody Gehrke  
11-7 Erin Randall  
11-8 Charles Anderson  
11-8 Seth Trulen  
11-10 Lucas Cottrell  
11-10 Nikole Knight  
11-10 Loretta Nolan  
11-10 Henry Seubert  
11-10 Zachary Trulen  
11-12 Alene Howe  
11-13 Tanya Fitzke  
11-13 Lyla Klug  
11-14 Nicole Melander  
11-14 Randy Trulen  
11-15 Amanda Grueneberg  
11-15 Kaitlyn Paulsen  
11-15 Jean Treu  
11-16 Mike Pasholk  
11-16 Justice Pratt  
11-16 Peter Severson  
11-16 Terre Swemke  
11-18 Amber Frostman  
11-19 Gina Graveen  
11-19 Jon Schuster  
11-21 Josh Grueneberg  
11-21 Louise Harter  
11-22 Kady Pasholk  
11-24 Morgan Bolz  
11-24 Linda Graveen  
11-24 Elden Kopplin  
11-24 Scott Oestreich  
11-24 David Voelker  
11-25 Kayden Chadwick  
11-27 Jesse Radant  
11-28 Otto Fitzke  
11-28 Rose Rosenau

### **November Anniversaries**

11-2 Duane & Jan Mueller  
11-2 Don & Nancy Voelker  
11-4 Jacob & Chelsi Knoblock  
11-8 Dan & Dawn Detert  
11-15 Scott & Donna Treu  
11-23 Elden & Shirley Kopplin  
11-30 Bruce & Rita Radant

## ***Upcoming Events:***

***Saturday, November 11 at 9:00 a.m. – Men’s Breakfast – LC Restaurant, Marathon.***

***Sunday, November 12 – Last day to order Poinsettias***

***Saturday, November 18 at 10:00 a.m. – First communion class.***

***Sunday, November 19 at 10:15 a.m. – St John Pie Auction***

***Tuesday, November 21 at 6:30 p.m. - Thanksgiving Eve Service, First Communion, Immanuel Bell Choir playing.***

***Church Office Closed – Happy Thanksgiving!***

***Monday, November 27 at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Maggie’s Book Club will be discussing 90 Minutes in Heaven by Don Piper.***

***Tuesday, November 28 at 6:30 p.m. – Adult Study***

***Sunday, December 3 at 3:30 p.m. – Community Supper at First Presbyterian Church***

***Saturday, December 9 at 9:00 a.m. – Men’s Breakfast – LC Restaurant, Marathon.***

***Tuesday, December 12 at 5:00 p.m. – Sisterhood of St John Christmas Party – 2510 Restaurant***

***Sunday, December 17 at 10:00 a.m. – Children’s Christmas Program***

***Monday, December 18 at 6:30 p.m. – Blue Christmas Service***

***Sunday, December 24 at 4:00 and 6:30 – Christmas Eve (No Sunday morning service)***

*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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