

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

Telephone: (715-675-6950)

***THE MESSENGER***  
***February 2024***

## From Pastor Maggie

*God's Beloved,*

Grace and peace to you all. February is upon us, and with that we look to Ash Wednesday and Lent. Our mid-week Lenten services this year will be, *Created for Community*. As our ELW states, "We are created for communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation."

As I recently discussed with our confirmation students, Lent is a sacred time. It is a time to reflect, repent, acknowledge, anticipate, and hope. In addition to this, Lent, in the early church, was a time of intense preparation. Preparation specifically for those who would be baptized on Easter, by studying the Creeds, Scripture, and the Lord's Prayer.

Baptism, as we all know, is all about community. It is about welcoming the newly baptized, and being welcomed into the everlasting community of the Triune God. Baptized in the name of the Father † Son, and Holy Spirit, we are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Which is why Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. Here we are marked with the cross of Christ, the same cross we receive at our baptism. And yet the words said on Ash Wednesday are so different... *Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return...* Words that harken back to Genesis when God created Adam from dust, a reminder of our finitude on earth. And yet, even in this ashen mark of death, we know the long journey of Lent will end with Easter. Easter is a promise of new life, where all are welcomed into the community that God created for us.

As we journey together this Lent, may we deepen our community. May we unravel what we are created for on this side of the cross, as we anticipate the hope found on the other side of the cross. I look forward to our Lenten journey, and for discovering how the Holy Spirit is calling us, created for community.

*With Love & Gratitude,  
Pastor Maggie Westaby*

***“Council Corner”***  
**Barb Paulsen, Fellowship**

Fellowship opportunities are plentiful in the following month! Lent begins on Wednesday, February 14. The last time Ash Wednesday and Valentine’s Day overlapped was in 2018. The church council will be providing the dinner starting at 5:00 p.m. The next five Wednesday night suppers will be open for volunteers, a sign-up sheet will be posted. Please consider volunteering and joining in the fellowship of these Lenten suppers. We will also have an Easter breakfast on March 31. It has been a pleasure to see our members returning to fellowship on Sunday mornings. It is nice to see a busy fellowship hall. Gathering together as a church family is important and remember all are welcome.

**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; [anntimohrmundt@gmail.com](mailto:anntimohrmundt@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.

**LENTEN DINNERS** We need volunteers to prepare and serve for our Lenten Dinners. We also need of people to bring salads, desserts and milk, and for help with clean up. It's a pretty simple job, since we use paper products. The dinners will be served from 5-6 pm. with worship service at 6:30. Please join us for food and fellowship during this season of Lent. The sign-up chart is in the narthex with the dates of the meals, beginning on Ash Wednesday.

**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 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 Lane Bahr.

**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! You can also sew a quilt top from home. Size needed is 60 x 80. They do not need to be fancy. Thank you!

**Men's Breakfast.** 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 a.m. At LC Restaurant, in Marathon (Formerly the Village Inn).

**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

**Attendance Report**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Average Weekly/December</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>Average Weekly/Year-To-Date</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>90</b>

-

### **February Birthdays**

2-1 Emelia Grueneberg  
2-2 Nathan Fitzke  
2-2 Troy Knight  
2-4 Dawson Nowak  
2-6 Lorie Anderson  
2-6 Louie Reissman  
2-8 Brian Anderson  
2-8 Matthew Harris  
2-9 Dylan Detert  
2-9 Terry Kickbusch  
2-9 Bill Schwede  
2-10 David Ugoretz  
2-11 Randy Graveen  
2-11 Jessica Pierschalla  
2-11 Sue Sann  
2-13 Shawn Chadwick  
2-13 Luke Harris  
2-13 Jennifer Schwede  
2-14 Madilynn Knoblock  
2-14 Paul Linzmeyer  
2-15 Robert Hoff  
2-15 Josie Schoepke  
2-17 Andie Norman  
2-17 Ron Schuster  
2-18 Louis Norman  
2-18 Donna Treu  
2-19 Briella Grueneberg  
2-19 Katie Van Der Geest  
2-21 Avery LaVake  
2-24 Bob Rode  
2-25 Paul Anderson  
2-27 Tara Pasholk  
2-27 Brooke Schindler  
2-28 Susan Knight  
2-29 Brian Klug  
2-29 Lillian Nolan

### **February Anniversaries**

2-2 James & Jeanne Klinger  
2-14 Keith & Karen Kolbe  
2-22 Dale & Barb Nass

## ***Upcoming Events:***

***Sunday, February 4, 9:00 a.m. – Annual Meeting (All Confirmed members are eligible to vote at this meeting); Cemetery Association Meeting to follow Annual Meeting***

***Tuesday, February 6 at 6:30 p.m. Adult Study on the Gospel of Mark. This second session will focus on Mark 8:27 through Mark 10.***

***Saturday, February 10, at 9:00 a.m. – Men’s Breakfast – LC Restaurant, Marathon***

***Wednesday, February 14, 5:00 p.m. Lent Supper; 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service***

***Monday, February 26 at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Maggie’s Book Club will discuss, He Should have Told the Bees by Amanda Cox.***

***Wednesday, February 21, Wednesday, February 28; Wednesday, March 6; Wednesday, March 13; Wednesday, March 20 – 5:00 p.m. Lent Supper, 6:30 p.m. Lent Service***

***Sunday, March 24 – Palm Sunday***

***Thursday, March 28, 6:30 p.m. – Maundy Thursday Service (First Communion)***

***Friday, March 29, 6:30 p.m. – Good Friday Service***

***Sunday, March 31 – 8:00 a.m. Worship; 9:00 a.m. Breakfast; 10:30 a.m. Worship***

***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  
St. John Office: (715) 675-6950  
E-mail:  
[Pastor.maggie.westaby@gmail.com](mailto:Pastor.maggie.westaby@gmail.com)  
E-mail: [stjohnwausau@msn.com](mailto:stjohnwausau@msn.com)  
Web Address: [stjohnwausau.org](http://stjohnwausau.org)***