

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

Telephone: (715-675-6950)

# *THE MESSENGER*

*April 2024*

**From Pastor Maggie**

*God's Beloved,*

Blessings for the month of April. A popular slogan for this month has often been *April showers, brings May flowers*. A time of year when we often need rain; to refresh the lands and rivers around us, to give way to hope, and to help birth new creation only found during spring (and maybe to help melt some snow from the most recent snowfall).

As we know, God is always bringing about new beginnings. And God does so even with the element of rain. Rain is necessary for plants to grow, to replenish our fresh water reserves, and is a reminder of God's presence and God's promises.

The promise found in baptism when water and Word are combined to unite us in Christ's death and resurrection. And the promise found only when there has been rain, in the form of a rainbow. As the rainbow harkens back to God's covenant with the earth, with every living creature, and with Noah—that never again will the earth be flooded. In something so fleeting, in something so beautiful, we are reminded of God's love for the world and that with God, new beginnings can come even from the bleakest of times.

And even though rainbows are fleeting, it is the water droplets that allow us to see a rainbow by bending the light that enters it. The conditions may not always be right to produce a rainbow, but that doesn't mean the possibility isn't there.

Which is like God. We might not always feel God's presence, we might not always think about God, but that doesn't mean that God isn't there, providing us possibilities to dive deeper into our relationship with God.

And just like water is constantly with us and sustaining us, we still need to replenish our water daily. Water in this way, is like Christ. For Christ is constantly with us and working in us, yet we need to replenish our relationship with Christ—through worship, prayer, communion, and praise.

And there are many ways to tap into our relationship with God, because God is forever in our midst, just like water is always at work in the world. The water cycle is constantly churning, bringing life to creation, and even forming rocks. Water in this way, is like the Holy Spirit. Who knows where the Spirit will rain down, but we have faith that the Spirit is at work right where it needs to be. Whether it be smoothing and soothing, like water does to rocks, or chopping and churning the deep, to disrupt the calm.

From rocks to rainbows we are reminded of God's love for humanity. The rainbow, from Genesis and the rock from Exodus (when Moses strikes a rock in the wilderness, God brings forth water from a rock, allowing God's people to drink). Rocks and rainbows remind us that God's promises are true, God is at work in the world, and God continues to provide hope.

Even when we can't see hope in the form of a rainbow, it doesn't mean God's covenant is broken. After all, rainbows are dependent upon your position and where you are looking from—all you may need to do, is step into the light. Remembering even in the dark, Jesus is the light of the world.

May this good news find you amidst the April rains. May God replenish your spirit. May the Holy Spirit drench you with love. And may Christ immerse you in grace. Amen.

*With Love & Gratitude,*

*Pastor Maggie Westaby*



## ***“Council Corner”***

Heidi Teske, Education

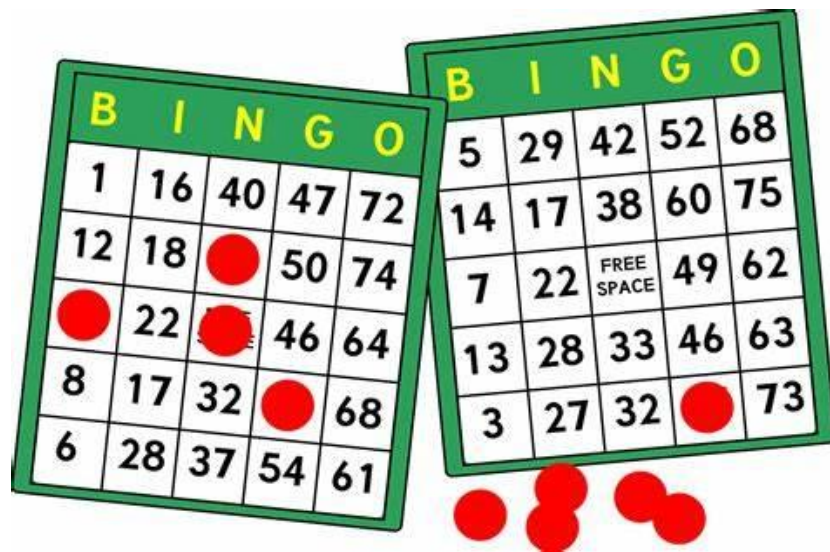
Hello Members of St. John,

As I’m tying this up, I can’t believe that we’re in April already and the school year will be wrapping up soon. The Sunday school and confirmation kids have had a great year. The confirmation kids helped again with the Lenten meals, serving the meal, helping with clean up and visiting with members of the congregation. The Sunday school kids did a fantastic job singing in our Palm Sunday service and had fun afterwards with crafts and the Easter egg hunt. Here’s a reminder for two dates.

Sunday, May 19 – the last day of Sunday school

VBS (Vacation Bible School) starts Sunday, June 23 through Thursday, June 27.

**Sunday, May 19 at 10:15 a.m. join us for BINGO!** The Sunday School students would like to invite the congregation to join them for BINGO on Sunday, May 19th after worship! To make this event a success, we are in need of small prizes for folks of all ages. Make plans to join in on the fun! See Kim Landwehr with questions.



**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: Scott Oestreich – 715-675-4360; [scottsmachinelle@gmail.com](mailto:scottsmachinelle@gmail.com)  
Tim Ohrmundt – 715-297-0152; [anntimohrmundt@gmail.com](mailto:anntimohrmundt@gmail.com)  
Evangelism: Connie Nowak – 715-675-1577; [bcdenowak@gmail.com](mailto:bcdenowak@gmail.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: Randy Knapp – 715-581-5558; [rknappeoj@gmail.com](mailto:rknappeoj@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! 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	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

2024

2023

**Average Weekly/February**

**149**

**94**

**Average Weekly/Year-To-Date**

**110**

**84**

### April Birthdays

4-1 Reece Berens  
4-1 Tom Marquardt  
4-1 Karen Ohrmundt  
4-3 Perry Kufahl  
4-3 Cullin Oelke  
4-5 Boone Hein  
4-5 Lee Van Der Geest  
4-8 Stuart Gehrke  
4-9 Stephanie Borelli  
4-10 Harley Goetsch  
4-10 Kayla Sann  
4-11 Guy Frostman  
4-12 Emma Nowak  
4-13 Elliot Pierschalla  
4-15 Dylan Buchberger  
4-15 Beth Eno  
4-15 Bobbi Hansen  
4-15 Joshua Hein  
4-15 Andrew Webb  
4-15 Brandon Webb  
4-16 Katie Fitzke  
4-16 Melissa Haroldson  
4-16 Jedidah Schoepke  
4-16 Chloe Zernicke  
4-17 Sophie Hoffman  
4-18 Jack Harris  
4-19 Kyan Van Der Geest  
4-20 Jeremy Tesch  
4-20 Taylor Treu

### April Anniversaries

4-6 Shane & Nichole Saari  
4-8 Lane & Carrie Hoeft  
4-23 Paul & Mary Anderson  
4-24 Adam & Connie Hoffman  
4-26 Randy & Barbara Jo Kopp  
4-27 Mike & Cindy Preisig

### April Birthdays (Cont'd)

4-21 Reina Cottrell  
4-23 Shirley Kopplin  
4-26 Keith Kolbe  
4-27 Ty Teske  
4-29 Brayden Gehrke  
4-29 Addison Heil  
4-29 Rhett Schindler  
4-30 Duane Askew

## ***Upcoming Events:***

***Monday, April 1 – Church Office Closed in Observance of Easter***

***Wednesday, April 10 – 6:00 p.m. Council***

***Saturday, April 13 – 9:00 a.m. Men’s Breakfast, LC Restaurant, Marathon***

***Monday, April 22 – Newsletter Articles due to Church Office***

***Saturday, May 4 – 9:00 a.m. Spring Cleaning***

***Monday, May 6 – 6:30 p.m. - Book Club – Covenant of Water***

***Tuesday, May 7 – 6:30 p.m. Council***

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

***Friday, May 17-18 – Synod Assembly – See Pastor Maggie for further details.***

***Sunday, May 19 – 10:15 a.m. join us for BINGO after worship!***

***Monday, May 20 – Newsletter Articles due to Church Office***

***Monday, May 27 – Memorial Day, Church Office Closed***

***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***

***Cell Phone: 1-608-345-9616***

***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)***