

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

Telephone: (715-675-6950)

THE MESSENGER

July 2024



From Pastor Maggie

God's Beloved,

Blessings for the month of July. The summer is in full swing and is a busy time for many. Recent graduates are preparing for what comes next, or you may be enjoying weekend get-aways and vacations, there are family gatherings/reunions, and then there are those unexpected situations that pop up without much warning.

For all the joy and excitement that summer brings, as with all things in life, there are also going to be times of stress, worry, and pain. And in those times, we need to hear the ever-present reminder of God's good promises.

Thankfully for us, there are many such passages in Scripture. Passages that radiate God's good promises, and passages that saturate us in God's goodness, hope, and love. Today I would like to share with you a passage from Isaiah 40:28-31:

"Do you not know? Have you not heard? Our God is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. God will not grow tired or weary, and God's understanding no one can fathom. God gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in God will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

And while it would be lovely if this passage always manifested in our physical bodies—sometimes it cannot—especially when we are sick, injured, or in recovery. However, that doesn't make this passage and this promise untrue, but helps reveal to us a deeper meaning of God's good promise, hope, and love.

As this good news is meant to fill your spirit with the Holy Spirit. This good news is meant to ease the burdens you carry—by reminding you that you do not need to carry them alone. Especially since we have a God that does not grow tired or weary. We have a God who longs to give us strength when times are hard. And we have a God who offers us hope. Hope for today. Hope for tomorrow. And hope for what is next.

Hope is what fills your spirit – so you can soar on wings like eagles – knowing God's love is always present. Because we have an everlasting God who continuously loves. Amen.

With Love & Gratitude,

Pastor Maggie Westaby

STEWARDING ST. JOHN

Here are some opportunities to further stewardship support for St. John.

Kwik Trip Gift Cards Sign-up in the Fellowship Hall. Help support St. John when buying groceries, gas, or getting your car washed at Kwik Trip!

July 12-13 Volunteer at Taste 'N Glow for St. John! Volunteer slots are 4 hours each. Your time will be donated to St. John at the rate of \$qw.50/hour. Sign up on their website:
<https://tastenglowfest.com/>

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; kmohrmundt@gmail.com

Treasurer: Perry Kufahl – 715-574-1519; pnskufahl@outlook.com

Secretary: Shelley Kufahl – 715-409-0524; pnskufahl@outlook.com

Trustees: Scott Oestreich – 715-675-4360; scottsmachinellc@gmail.com

Tim Ohrmundt – 715-297-0152; anntimohrmundt@gmail.com

Evangelism: Connie Nowak – 715-675-1577; bcdenowak@gmail.com

Fellowship: Barb Paulsen – 715-845-9884; ericbarbp@aol.com

Education: Heidi Teske – 715-536-6134; 715-551-4485; Heidi.teske2007@gmail.com

Worship: Randy Knapp – 715-581-5558; 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!

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 th Ave. Wausau, WI 54401	Joanne Zahn 4905 Falcon Dr. Wausau, WI 54401	Glen & Marlene Opichka 2434 Nesting Lane Kronenwetter, WI 54455
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Harley Goetsch Rennes Health/Rehab Ctr. 4810 Barbican Avenue Weston, WI 54476	Jim & Barbara Leffin 214 N. 12 th Avenue Wausau, WI 54401
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Attendance Report

	2024	2023
Average Weekly/May	89	78
Average Weekly/Year-To-Date	115	108

July Birthdays

7-1 Karrissa Fitzke
7-1 Connie Nowak
7-1 Sarah Preisig
7-2 Jacob Pierschalla
7-3 Dylan Marquardt
7-4 Leopold Schiller
7-6 Nichole Saari
7-7 Annabelle LaVake
7-8 Chelsi Knoblock
7-8 Sue Rakow
7-9 Tammi Smith
7-10 Bryce Heil
7-11 Daniel McMullen
7-11 Tyler Mielke
7-11 Aiden Ohrmundt
7-12 Debbie Knapp
7-12 Brec Ohrmundt
7-12 Ashlee VanDerGeest
7-14 Henry Marquardt
7-17 Mason Hirn
7-18 Debbie Klug
7-19 Aleah Oestreich
7-20 Scott Buchberger
7-20 Keenan Cadeau
7-20 Pam Mootz
7-20 Kara Rode
7-20 Ava Rode
7-20 Eli Swemke
7-21 Carrie Hoeft
7-21 Mike Kilinski
7-21 Jake Schoepke
7-22 James Nolan
7-25 Kate Young

July Anniversaries

7-10 Terry & Jamie Kickbusch
7-10 Randy & Brenda Knudsen
7-12 Jason & Amanda Grueneberg
7-14 James & Stephanie Borelli
7-15 Greg & Nicole Melander
7-23 Lucas & McKenzie Cottrell
7-23 Brandon & Brooke Schindler
7-25 Tim & Sue Sann
7-28 Randy & Diane Trulen
7-29 Gene & Lane Bahr

(July Birthdays Cont'd)

7-26 Coleton LeDuc
7-27 Gene Bahr
7-27 Brandon Landrath
7-27 George Webb
7-27 Joanne Zahn
7-28 Bianca Melander
7-29 Amy Mielke
7-30 Shelley Kufahl

Upcoming Events

Monday, July 1 – Tuesday, July 8 – Pastor Maggie on vacation

Thursday, July 4 – Church Office Closed

Monday, July 22 – 6:30 p.m. – Book Club – “Help, Thanks, Wow:...”

Monday, July 29 – Noon – Newsletter Articles due to Church office

Worship Schedule

Sunday Mornings

9:00 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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