

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

Telephone: (715-675-6950)

THE MESSENGER

September 2024



God's Beloved,

I am beyond grateful for my call and to serve as your Pastor at St. John. Getting to know this community and all of you beloved Christ followers, has enriched my time here in ways I cannot express. The conversations, the laughter, and the love shared has truly blessed our ministry together. There is a life-giving energy here, and the Holy Spirit continues to show up each day, as we journey together.

The Church Council and I have been working together to serve God, serve each other, serve the community, and serve the wider church. During this time of discernment, discussions have blossomed and a common theme has come up over and over: **how much we love this church.**

Love that is born out of Christ's love, as it was God who first taught us to love. Love that abides in relationship—with God and with one another. And because of that love we want to share our love; through highlighting some things St. John has to offer, and by exploring new ways that God is calling us. Because there is always good news and hope with God. There is always something good awaiting for us on the horizon, in ways we have yet to discover, on ventures unknown, through the presence of the Holy Spirit.

And so, to continue in this spirit, we would like to share a few "*did you knows*" about St. John. After all, a firm foundation helps us to build, to grow, and to expand our love.

Did you know, we are wanting to put together a new **Cookbook** for St. John? If you have a recipe or two you would like share, please let Heidi Teske know. You can put the recipe(s) in her church mailbox or email her, heidi.teske2007@gmail.com

Did you know, St. John has a spectacular **webpage**? There is a wealth of information on our website: such as the history of St. John, educational opportunities (adult education, confirmation, Sunday School, VBS), book club books/dates, past worship services, worship bulletins, sermon manuscripts, Pastor Maggie's Monthly Message, and much more. Check out our website at <https://stjohnwausau.org>. And, if you prefer to give online, you can donate right from our website.

Did you know, about our **Stewarding St. John Campaign**? This is in the beginning stages and we are looking for volunteers. Currently we have a Kwik Trip gift card program, more information is available in the Fellowship Hall.

Did you know, your **time and talent** are needed? The time and talent sign-up will be coming out this fall, volunteer by serving St. John in a variety of ways. Please note, the time and talent sheet does not roll over year to year and will start fresh in 2025.

Did you know, **God needs you**? You are called as you are—in all the unique ways that make you, you; the world needs who God made you to be. That being said, if you have any new ideas for ministry, please let me know. The possibilities are endless and the Spirit is alive.

With Love & Gratitude,

Pastor Maggie Westaby

“Council Corner”
Jennifer Schwede, President

It seems like just yesterday that I was typing for the last September newsletter, how the time flies. The crisp mornings and warm days certainly indicate fall is in the air, how quickly things change. If you would have told me 20 years ago, I would be the Council President for a church, I would have told you that’s absurd, but here I am. It just goes to show, we never know what our future holds.

Rally Sunday is just around the corner, if you haven’t marked your calendars already, please do so. There will be a couple council members presenting a fiscal update for St. John, other issues that are occurring locally with other ELCA churches will also be presented. If you are able, I strongly encourage you to attend this service. If you’re unable to attend, please watch online as it will be streamed. It can also be viewed on the website after Sunday.

As always, thank you for making St. John a great place to gather and worship.

Blessings

Jennifer Schwede

Join us Rally Sunday, September 8 at 9:00 a.m. We will kick off Worship with the Blessing of the Backpacks, have an informational Temple Talk, and come together for Fellowship and Potluck – bring a dish to pass if you can! This is our kick-off to our “school” year! Kids of all ages are welcome to bring their backpacks to the worship service for a “Blessing of the Backpacks.” After worship we will celebrate the start of St. John’s educational season with games, crafts, and music! All are welcome!



Rally Sunday Maine Elementary School, Snacks Drive: As we kick off our education season at St. John on Rally Sunday, we would like to also support our neighborhood school, Maine Elementary School! Time is set aside for a snack every day, but not every student has the resources to bring a snack each day. Teachers tend to provide snacks to these students, paying for them on their own. We'd like to help with that! The school is in need of individually packaged snacks, no nuts/peanuts, and they prefer cracker/pretzel type snacks (not sugar/cookie type snacks). Thank you for your generosity and support to Maine Elementary!

St. John Cemetery Association Needs Your Help! Our cemetery needs your help. If you have family or friends buried at our cemetery, we could use your support. We have many fallen-down stones that require perpetual care. Please reach out to Sara Stubbe for details. If you know of any non-St. John member with family or friends buried here, please share this request. The Association is also looking for lawn care help (about 4 hours/5 times per summer. If interested, please contact Sara at 715-571-2584 or email me at mskr.stubbe@gmail.com.

STEWARDSHIP 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!



Save the date!

Sunday, October 6th VBS recap, kids sing in church

Sunday, October 13th Chili Luncheon & Raffle

Sunday, November 24th Pie Auction

Sunday, December 22nd Children's Christmas Program Worship is at
10:00 a.m.

Sunday, February 9th Annual Meeting

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
Harley Goetsch Rennes Health/Rehab Ctr. 4810 Barbican Avenue Weston, WI 54476	Jim & Barbara Leffin 214 N. 12 th Avenue Wausau, WI 54401	

Attendance Report

	2024	2023
Average Weekly/July	58	52
Average Weekly/Year-To-Date	99	96

September Birthdays

9-2 Nancy Frostman
9-2 Sue Harris
9-2 Sam Young
9-3 Tyler Bunge
9-3 Tim Mielke
9-4 Mindy Arndt
9-4 Croy Sala
9-6 Easton Voigt
9-7 Greg Grunenwald
9-10 Marla Harris
9-12 Brian Nowak
9-12 Tre Swemke
9-14 Addilynn VanDerGeest
9-15 Greg Melander
9-16 Pat Luce
9-16 Jackson Mueller
9-16 Chad Walter
9-18 Mike Preisig
9-20 Eleanor Grueneberg
9-20 Pete Hirn
9-22 Karla Schuett
9-23 Roger Knight
9-23 Mitch Lubecke
9-23 Fritz Poeske
9-23 Kelsi Seubert
9-24 Doug Doede
9-24 Doug Luce
9-25 Mandy Herning
9-27 Hunter Landrath
9-29 Dale Nass
9-29 Zachary Voelker
9-30 Sharon Kilinski

September Anniversaries

9-5 John & Sue Rakow
9-8 Eugene & Kelly Dehnel
9-8 Mike & Sharon Kilinski
9-14 Tim & Ann Ohrmundt
9-18 Nick & Kaitlin Goslin
9-18 Jerome & Debbie Klug
9-19 Josh & Brooke Howe
9-20 Mike & Tara Pasholk
9-21 Jacob & Jessica Pierschalla
9-23 Dan & Minday Arndt
9-23 Jason & Jodie Wilhelm
9-26 Bill & Jennifer Schwede
9-28 Roger & Susan Knight
9-29 Brec & Rachel Ohrmundt
9-30 Josh & Ciera Grueneberg

Upcoming Events

August 27 – September 4 - Pastor Maggie on vacation

Monday, September 2 – Labor Day – Church Office Closed

Sunday, September 8 – Rally Sunday/Blessing Backpacks

Monday, September 9 – 6:30 p.m. - Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 11 - 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Introductory Meeting

Saturday – September 14 – 8:00 a.m. Men’s Breakfast at LC Restaurant – Marathon

Sunday, September 15 – 9:00 a.m. Worship – 10:15 a.m. Sunday School

Wednesday, September 18 – 6:30 p.m. Confirmation

Sunday, September 22 – 9:00 a.m. Worship; 10:15 a.m. Sunday School

Wednesday, September 25 – 6:30 p.m. Confirmation

Sunday, September 29 – 9:00 a.m. Worship; 10:15 a.m. Sunday School

Monday, September 30 – Noon – Newsletter Articles due to Church Office

Worship Schedule

Sunday Mornings

9:00 a.m.

Sunday School begins Sunday, September 8!

10:15 a.m.

Confirmation Classes begin Wednesday, September 11!

6:30 p.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

E-mail: stjohnwausau@msn.com

Web Address: stjohnwausau.org