

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

Telephone: (715-675-6950)

THE MESSENGER

October 2024



God's Beloved,

Blessings for this month of October. I look forward to a joy filled month with all of you. This October the kids will sing in church with their VBS recap on October 6, on October 13 we will have our Fall Chili Dinner & Raffle after Worship, and on October 27 we will commemorate Reformation & witness our most recent class of confirmands Affirm their Baptism through the Rite of Confirmation.

October is an important month for our church and other Lutheran churches, as we come together in celebration of Reformation – commemorating Martin Luther's posting of the Ninety-five Theses. This act by Martin Luther is known as the official start of the Reformation, which would later lead to the Lutheran faith.

The official Day of Reformation took place on October 31, 1517 when Martin Luther nailed his Ninety-five Theses to the door of All Saint's Church in Wittenberg, Germany. Luther was upset about the Catholic church selling indulgences and wanted them to stop. Luther believed in the freedom found in the Word of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Luther wanted all people to know that we are justified not by our works, but by God's grace through faith.

The Reformation lives on through faith today. We come together to hear the Word of God where we are challenged, changed, and created anew – birthed from the love given to us in Christ and through the mysterious workings of the Holy Spirit.

May you feel the presence of the Spirit as we come together and as you embark on each new day. May you know there is always a place for you, where you are held in prayer, surrounded by the saints, and united together in Christ's love.

*With Love & Gratitude,
Pastor Maggie Westaby*

“Council Corner”

Perry Kufahl, Treasurer

On Rally Sunday Sept 8 Randy Knapp and Karen Ohrmundt presented a “Temple Talk” and did a very thorough job on discussing our Financials of the Church.

I want to expand on the financial information they gave.

As we head into the last quarter of the 2024 year, here is some updated info:

We have invested some of St. John's checking into CD's to help make our money work for us. If you are interested in detailed amounts/specifics, please let me know.

We want to grow the revenue as we continue to pay our bills and fund some much needed repairs to the Church and its grounds which have been completed or are on the future budget (redoing the Parking Lot and a new Church Sign in front of driveway will require significant capital to fund).

Our church will always be welcoming to all members current and new regardless what they give to the church. We will not demand dues from our members, rather as always, we rely on the generosity of the members to continue to give in their individual envelopes or thru Vanco (for members who donate electronically).

I will leave you these thoughts:

What is Biblical Stewardship?

Biblical stewardship is deeply rooted in the teachings and principles found throughout Scripture. It encompasses the idea that all resources and possessions are entrusted to us by God, and it is our duty to manage them with wisdom and integrity. This stewardship is not merely about financial management but extends to every aspect of life, reflecting our relationship with God and our responsibilities towards God's creation.

We are very blessed to have a full-time pastor in Pastor Maggie. She has done a phenomenal job of leadership of this congregation and always looks to grow the membership while most importantly preaching “The Word Of God”.

With less than half of all ELCA churches in Wausau area having a full-time pastor we need to continue to support St John whether in financial giving or donating your time to better the church. Most of you remember the pains St John went through to find a new pastor when Pastor Dan retired in 2021, it took us 14 months to find a new one.

Thanks for your time. God Bless.

Perry Kufahl, Treasurer

Save the date!

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

Sunday, October 13th Chili Luncheon & Raffle

Sunday, October 27th Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, November 24th Pie Auction

Sunday, December 1 – Community Supper – First United Methodist Church

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

Sunday, January 12th Annual Reports due to Church Office

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; scottsmachinelle@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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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!

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.

Maine Elementary School, Snacks Drive: As we kick off our education season at St. John, 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!

Attendance Report

	2024	2023
Average Weekly/August	56	60
Average Weekly/Year-To-Date	94	92

October Birthdays

10-1 Koy VanDerGeest
10-2 Kari Heil
10-2 Jeanne Klinger
10-3 Joshua Howe
10-4 Camryn Schave
10-5 Logan Hoeft
10-6 Ethan Pergolski
10-8 Kim Landwehr
10-8 Robert Oravez
10-9 Jake Boehm
10-9 Sophie Seubert
10-10 Terry Kopplin
10-10 Mike Woodmansee
10-11 Dawn Detert
10-13 Cindy Preisig
10-13 Melissa Thurs
10-14 Taylor Arndt
10-17 Draxton Howe
10-19 Barbara Leffin
10-21 Megan Eno
10-22 Brooke Howe
10-23 Paul Gauger
10-23 Rylee Suliin
10-24 Kylee Pasholk
10-25 Lucas Linzmeyer
10-27 Joe Graveen
10-29 Julie Schuster

October Anniversaries

10-1 Ron & Emilee Mootz
10-3 Nathan & Karrissa Fitzke
10-4 Greg & Linda Grudznske
10-4 David & Rebecca Voelker
10-5 Shawn & Chavalin Chadwick
10-7 Guy & Nancy Frostman
10-8 Randy & Linda Graveen
10-8 Pete & Kelly Hirn
10-9 James & Loretta Nolan
10-15 Keenan & Pastor Maggie
10-15 Nick & Nikki Oelke
10-20 Doug & Christine Doede
10-23 Mike & Sara Stubbe
10-27 Ron & Julie Schuster

Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 6 – 9:00 a.m. Worship

10:15 a.m. Sunday School

Tuesday, October 8 – 6:30 p.m. Adult Study discussing chapters 5 – 7 in the Gospel of Matthew.

Saturday, October 12 – 8:00 a.m., Men's Breakfast – LC Restaurant, Marathon

Sunday, October 13 – 9:00 a.m. Worship (Chili Luncheon/Raffle to follow)

October 14-20 – Pastor Maggie on Vacation

Sunday, October 20 – 9:00 a.m. Worship

10:15 a.m. Sunday School

October 21-22 – Pastor Maggie at Fall Conference

Sunday, October 27 – 9:00 a.m. Worship – Confirmation (No Sunday School)

Monday, October 28 – Newsletter Articles due to Church Office

*Monday, November 14 – 6:30 p.m. Book Club will discuss *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell* by Robert Dugoni.*

Worship Schedule

Sunday Mornings

9:00 a.m.

Sunday School

10:15 a.m.

Confirmation Classes Wednesdays

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

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