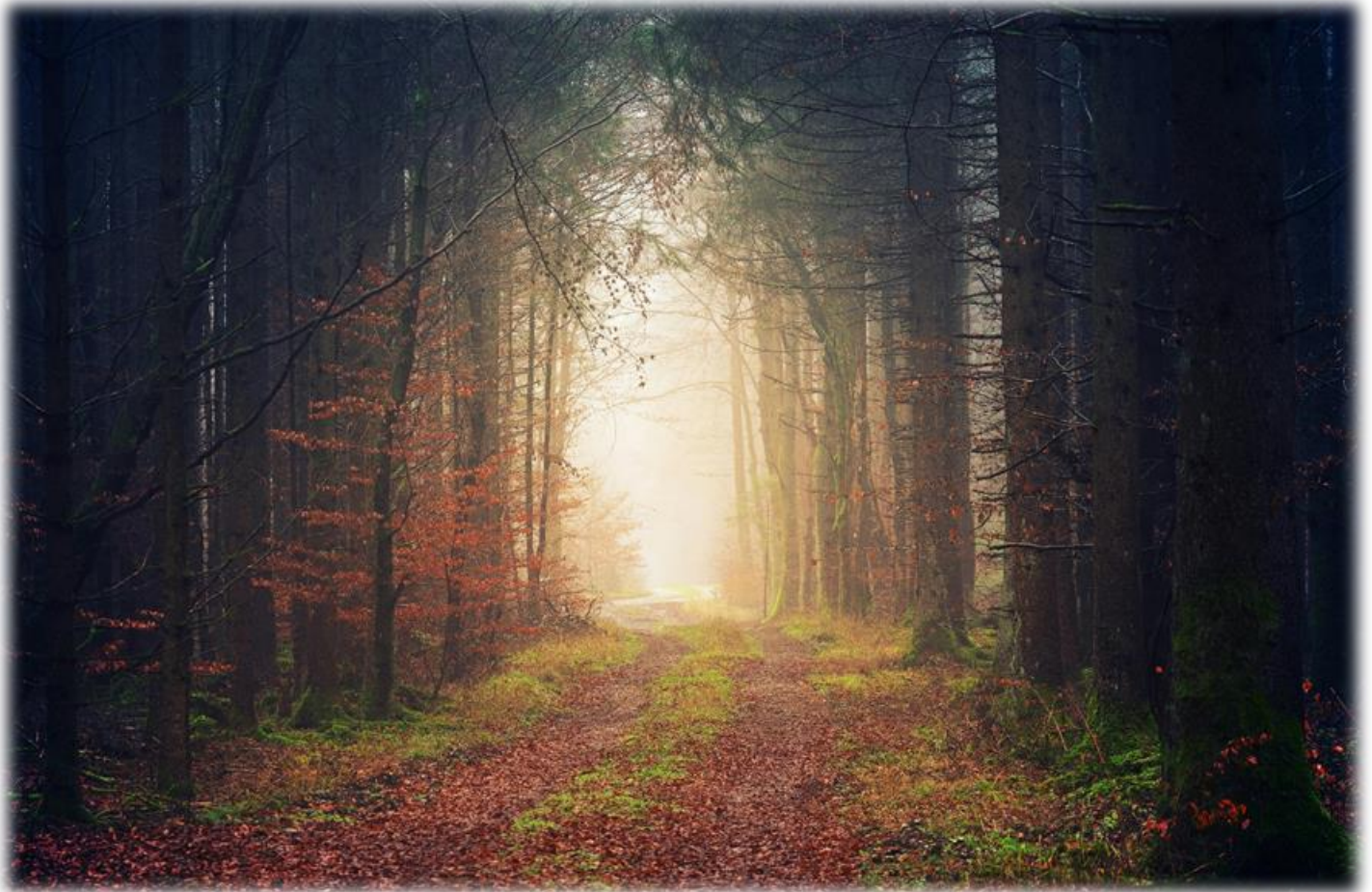


St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA
5304 North 44th Avenue
Wausau, WI 54401
Telephone: (715-675-6950)

THE MESSENGER

November 2024



**Annual Report Articles are Due to the Church Office by
Sunday, January 12, 2025!**

**Mark your calendars! Annual Meeting Date is
Sunday, February 9, 2025**

From Pastor Maggie

God's Beloved,

Blessings for the month of November – a time when the days start to grow shorter and darker – a time for creation to start preparing for the long winter ahead. And a time for us in the church to conclude our church year, before beginning the next, with the start of Advent on December 1.

The last month of this church year begins on November 3, with All Saints Sunday. This is a special and sacred service where we remember and acknowledge the Saints who have gone before us, as well as the Saints we welcomed this past year in baptism.

This is a beautiful service to come together as a community, to hold vigil for one another in our sorrow, and to embrace one another in our joy. This service embodies the circle of life, acknowledging all our ups and downs, and how all of our circles are held in Christ Jesus. As it is because of Christ, that our circle never ends.

This good news found in Christ brings us hope. Hope that our weary world desperately needs, especially as the days grow shorter, and we are surrounded by darkness. Christ reminds us that God's darkness is holy, as it is in darkness that life began – from the creation story where God created light in the darkness, to the darkness of a mother's womb, to the darkness beneath the earth where seeds and fall bulbs are planted and germinate.

The circle of life is extended to the rhythm of each day – because how we spend our days, is how we live our lives. As Christians we live trusting that God is with us when the predawn glow starts to shimmer on the horizon, through the full light of midday, into the fading light of twilight, and as we descend into holy darkness.

As we close out this church year, and prepare for the next, let us gather together in Christ. Let us look forward in hope, and let us live knowing God is with us.

With Love & Gratitude,

Pastor Maggie Westaby

“Council Corner”

Tim Ohrmundt, Trustee

Fall. The season of change. Sometimes change is good. Sometimes change isn't so good. One way or another change is inevitable. This church is no different. We are constantly changing as a congregation. We welcome the new, we mourn the lost and we move on. We hold on to the memories and use them to accept the change. We remember what was and take comfort in what will be. The memories and traditions that this congregation is built on run deep. It's what holds us together and keeps us moving forward. Even if it's something as simple as finding the right Low German version of "Silent Night" in a hundred-year-old book. Nothing can change that.

Chili Supper/Raffle.

Sunday, October 13 was the annual chili supper and raffle. Thanks to everyone who contributed items the raffle and to Linda Graveen for making the raffle so successful. The money made from the raffle will go toward helping our community dinners. The money raised from the chili dinner will go to support our church. Thank you to everyone who contributed ingredients and to Connie and Brian Nowak who made the chili.

Save the date!

Remember **November 24** for our annual pie auction. For those who like to bake and for those of us who love dessert. Please join us after church!!!!

Tuesday, December 10 at 5:00 p.m., St. John's Sisterhood Ladies Christmas Gathering. Please consider joining the Sisterhood crew for our annual Christmas gathering at 2510 Restaurant. "Happy Hour" starts at 5:00 p.m. with dinner to follow at 5:45 p.m. As per tradition, we will be collecting non-perishable items for the Women's Community (toiletries, toothpaste, shampoo/conditioner, etc.) and holding our annual white elephant gift exchange...so start looking in those storage rooms and basements (this exchange will be held after dinner – don't forget to wrap your 'gift!').

Candlelit Shepherds Meal – Sunday, December 15th at 5:00 p.m. Gentlemen and ladies of St. John are invited to participate in a simple Shepherds meal of soup, bread, dried fruit, nuts and cheeses by candlelight on Sunday, December 15th at 5 pm. Wine and sparkling grape juice will also be served. After our meal, we will move into the sanctuary where we will watch "Journey to Bethlehem," a 2023 "live-action Christmas musical adventure...that weaves classic Christmas melodies with humor, faith and new pop songs in a retelling of the greatest story ever told." \$10 /participant paid that evening – money remaining after cost will be donated to the Salvation Army. Sign-up in the narthex. This is intended for adults and older/mature children.

Blue Christmas Service, Monday, December 16 at 6:30 p.m. A prayerfully cultivated service for those who have lost loved ones, for those who find the holidays to be a lonely time and for those who would like to spend more time in prayer. This service will have candle lighting, music, prayers and a sermon. All are welcome.

“The Star” Pizza & Pajama Party – Monday, December 23rd at 5:30 p.m. Kids of all ages are welcome to put on their PJs, grab their stuffies and blankies and enjoy pizza and popcorn while watching the animated film “The Star.” A pizza dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. Movie will start at 6 pm. Sign-up in the narthex.

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

Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Worship at 4:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

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.

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 8 a.m. at LC Restaurant, in Marathon (Formerly the Village Inn).

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; tkohrmundt@frontier.com

Treasurer: Perry Kufahl – 715-675-1383; 715-409-0524; pnskufahl@outlook.com

Secretary: Shelley Kufahl – 715-675-1383; 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

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.

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/September	82	94
Average Weekly/Year-To-Date	93	92

November Birthdays

11-1 Trent Trulen
11-4 Eric Paulsen
11-5 Jody Gehrke
11-8 Charles Anderson
11-8 Josie Hein
11-8 Seth Trulen
11-10 Lucas Cottrell
11-10 Bob Hartfiel
11-10 Nikole Knight
11-10 Loretta Nolan
11-10 Henry Seubert
11-10 Zachary Trulen
11-12 Alene Howe
11-13 Tanya Fitzke
11-13 Lyla Klug
11-14 Nicole Melander
11-14 Randy Trulen
11-15 Amanda Grueneberg
11-15 Kaitlyn Paulsen
11-15 Jean Treu
11-16 Mike Pasholk
11-16 Justice Pratt
11-16 Peter Severson
11-16 Terre Swemke
11-18 Amber Frostman
11-19 Gina Graveen
11-19 Jon Schuster
11-21 Josh Grueneberg
11-21 Louise Harter
11-22 Kady Pasholk
11-24 Morgan Bolz
11-24 Linda Graveen
11-24 Elden Kopplin
11-24 Scott Oestreich
11-24 David Voelker
11-25 Kayden Chadwick
11-27 Jesse Radant
11-28 Otto Fitzke
11-28 Rose Rosenau

November Anniversaries

11-02 Duane & Janis Mueller
11-2 Don & Nancy Voelker
11-4 Jacob & Chelsi Knoblock
11-8 Dan & Dawn Detert
11-15 Scott & Donna Treu
11-23 Elden & Shirley Kopplin
11-30 Bruce & Rita Radant

Upcoming Events

Monday, November 4 – 6:30 p.m. Book Club

Thursday, November 7 – Choir – First Meeting

Saturday, November 9 – 8:00 a.m. – Men’s Breakfast – LC Restaurant, Marathon

Sunday, November 10 – 10:15 a.m. Choir Practice

Monday, November 18 – 6:30 p.m. Adult Study

Sunday, November 24 – 9:00 a.m. Worship – Pie Social/Auction to follow

Monday, November 25 – Noon - Newsletter Articles due to Church Office

Tuesday, November 26 – 6:30 p.m. – Thanksgiving Service

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

Sunday, December 8 – 9:00 a.m. Worship – 10:15 a.m. Christmas Program Practice

Tuesday, December 10 – 5:00 p.m. Sisterhood Christmas Gathering – 2510 Restaurant

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

Sunday, December 15 – 9:00 a.m. Worship – 10:15 a.m. Christmas Program Practice

Sunday, December 15 – 5:00 p.m. Candlelit Shepherds Meal

Monday, December 16 – 6:30 p.m. – Blue Christmas Service

Saturday, December 21 – 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal

Sunday, December 22 – 10:00 a.m. Worship - Christmas Program

Monday, December 23 – 5:30 p.m. ‘The Star’ Pizza & Pajama Party

Tuesday, December 24 – 4:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Candlelight Worship Service

2024 CHILI DINNER RAFFLE WINNERS

Thank you to all who donated prizes. Here are the winners:	
Lit'l BouncerZ donated by the Schindlers	Ben Grueneberg
	Kyan Van Der Geest
	Dan Zernicke
	Finley Gilles
Autumn Coziness donated by Joe and Lori Duginski	Rick and Kim Nevers
Happiness is Ice Cream donated by Joe and Lori Duginski	Jake Johnson
Halloween Fun donated by Rita Radant	Lainie Johnson
Pumpkin and carving kit donated by Pete and Phyllis Seubert	Kayden Pasholk
	Kohin Pasholk
Shark heated comb donated by Bruce and Rita Radant	Connie Nowak
Comfort food donated by Barbara Nass	Butch Oravez
\$25 Hobby Lobby gift card and Faith sign donated by Holly Westaby	Meredith Westaby
Charcuterie board donated by Tim and Ann Ohrmundt	Lee Sillars
Cutting boards donated by Tim and Ann Ohrmundt	Jessica Switlick
	Lee Sillars
For the Birds donated by Lorie Anderson and Jim Borelli	Florence W.
Everything Cheese donated by Pete and Phyllis Seubert	Karen Voigt
Table runner donated by Jody Gehrke	Rose Rosenau
Glass art donated by Randy and Debbie Knapp	Crystal Zernicke
1905 nickel donated by Pete and Phyllis Seubert	Hunter Zernicke
1848 large cent donated by Pete and Phyllis Seubert	Rose Rosenau
1868 Shield nickel donated by Pete and Phyllis Seubert	Chloe Zernicke
Munson Bridge wine and glasses donated by Brooke and Brandon Schindler	Rose Rosenau
Cribbage board donated by Tim and Ann Ohrmundt	Brandon Schindler
Nascar#88 donated by Louie Reissman	Mason Hirn
	Mary Kay Van Der Geest
Gas pump donated by Louie Reissman	
Halloween Bucket donated by Bruce and Rita Radant	Meredith Westaby
Quart of honey donated by Lee Sillars	Phyllis Seubert
Nascar #29 donated by Louie Reissman	Wyatt Hirn
Slimy Goop donated by Perry and Shelley Kufahl	Lisa Parsch
Thankful sign donated by Holly Westaby	Lorie Anderson
Skittles basket donated by Joe and Lori Duginski	Jessica Switlick
Table runner donated by Tim and Ann Ohrmundt	Marlene Stubbe
	Avery Oestreich
\$15 Buffalo Wild Wings gift card donated by Perry and Shelley Kufahl	Connie Nowak
	Barbara Nass
\$25 Festival Foods gift card donated by Jeanne Klinger	Jim Borelli
\$25 County Market gift card donated by Jeanne Klinger	Annie Krueger
\$20 Walgreens gift card donated by Rose Rosenau	Cherish Oestreich

\$25 County Market gift card donated by County Market	Nate Schmidt
\$25 Palms gift card donated by Sara and Mike Stubbe	Connie Nowak
	Brooke Schindler
\$25 Target gift card and You're Doing Great mug donated by Holly Westaby	Briah Landwehr
Coffee and mugs donated by Bruce and Rita Radant	Lee Sillars
Fresh cut Christmas tree donated by Louie Reissman	Lisa Parsch
	Randy Graveen
Maple syrup and pancake mixes donated by Lorie Anderson and Jim Borelli	Debbie Klug
Raspberry jam donated by Linda and Randy Graveen	Sue Harris
	Phyllis Seubert (3)
	Connie Nowak (2)
	Katie Van Der Geest (2)
	Lorie Anderson
	Mary McDonell
	Ron Suliin
	Barbara Nass
Scentzy warmer and wax melts donated by Pat and Doug Luce	Marla Harris
Quilted table topper	Gene and Lane Bahr
Trick or treat bag donated by Karen Ohrmundt	Annie Krueger
3 bowl cozies donated by Karen Ohrmundt	Sue Harris
Alexa donated by Pete and Phyllis Seubert	Wyatt Hirn
Inspirational notepad donated by Pete and Phyllis Seubert	Randy Graveen
Cups of candy donated by Brooke and Brandon Schindler	Koy Van Der Geest
Brock Switlick	Violet Teske
Draxton Howe	Chloe Zernicke
Annabelle Harris	Jake Johnson
Finley Gillis	Tyler Mielke
Eleanor Grueneberg	Ben Grueneberg
Levi Hirn	Aleah Oestreich
Luke Gillis	Maci Landwehr
Eddie LaVake	Mason Hirn
Wyatt Hirn	Emelia Grueneberg
Briella Grueneberg	Kyan Van Der Geest
Lainie Johnson	Hunter Zernicke
Quilt donated by Karen Ohrmundt	Connie Nowak
\$100 donated by Sue Harris	Rose Rosenau
Buy 1 get 1 fishing trip sponsored by Anderson Manitou Falls Camp	Rick and Kim Nevers

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
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