

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

Telephone: (715-675-6950)

THE MESSENGER

JANUARY 2025



**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

Beloved Community,

Grace and peace to you all as we usher in the new year, as we are met with the crispness of January—a time of fresh beginnings, renewed hopes, and the promise of Emmanuel, God’s abiding presence with us. The days may still be short, and the cold chill of winter may linger as broken icicles gleam from trees, and yet this time of year embodies a deep reminder of hope: the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Light that continues to shine on us today – especially in our times of darkness – when we aren’t feeling particularly joyful, when our reality is painful, and when the world feels broken.

Because living a life of faith doesn’t make everything easy, living a life of faith can be hard. And sometimes living a life of faith can feel more like a “cold and broken hallelujah.” Famous words echoed from Leonard Cohen’s song “*Hallelujah*.” A beautiful song that touches on the raw reality of faith and how even in our brokenness, pain, and hurt – somehow, we can still sing hallelujah.

Now it may not always come easy, in fact, it may come out cold and broken. And yet even in our cold and broken state, we are loved. Loved by a God who brings us courage and hope. So we can continue in hope and love, even when it is hard, painful, or messy. Because “Love is not a victory march, it’s a cold and broken hallelujah.”

And thankfully we do not endure this journey alone; we are in this together, we are a community of faith. Which means we hold one another’s hallelujah’s when they are too hard for others to say, when they can only see the glimmer of a hallelujah on the horizon.

Whatever this new year has in store, whatever cold or brokenness you may encounter, whatever joys or challenges this year may bring, remember you are not alone. You have a community of faith, and you have the light of Christ, the light no darkness can overcome.

With Love & Gratitude,

Pastor Maggie Westaby

“Council Corner”

Calling All Volunteers: Time and Talent Sheet for 2025

Dear St. John Community,

As we look forward to the new year, we are reminded of the incredible impact each of you has on our church's success. Your dedication and willingness to serve are what make our community thrive. To continue this tradition of service, we invite you to fill out the Time and Talent Sheet for 2025.

Why Your Participation Matters

The Time and Talent Sheet is more than just a form—it's a way for us to understand the unique gifts and skills each member brings to our church. Whether you have a knack for organizing events, a talent for music, or a passion for teaching, there is a place for you to contribute.

How to Get Involved

Please take a moment to review the areas of interest listed on the enclosed sheet. Check the boxes next to the activities you are interested in and return the completed form in one of the following ways:

- Place it in the offering plate during service.
- Email it to Connie Nowak at bcdenowak@gmail.com.
- Mail it to St. John 5304 N 44th Ave, Wausau WI 54401

Your Contribution Makes a Difference

It takes many hands to make our church as successful as it is. By volunteering, you help create a welcoming and vibrant community. A schedule for the year will be distributed so you will know when you are scheduled to serve.

Thank you for considering how you can share your time and talents with St. John. Together, we can continue to grow and support one another in faith.

Blessings,
Connie Nowak, Evangelism

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

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 8 a.m. at LC Restaurant, in Marathon.

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/November	110	73
Average Weekly/Year-To-Date	97	89

January Birthdays

1-1 Jase Glaze
1-3 Joe Duginski
1-4 Miranda Clausen
1-4 Heidi Teske
1-7 Carol Smith
1-8 Isaac Hoffman
1-8 Justin Zahn
1-9 Molly Lubecke
1-9 Matthew Nass
1-9 Jack Saari
1-10 Randy Knapp
1-10 Charlee Pagel
1-14 Kelly Dehnel
1-14 Jerome Klug
1-14 Brayden Sann
1-15 Lane Bahr
1-15 Jamie Kickbusch
1-16 John Borth
1-16 Jackson Hein
1-16 Tammy Schoepke
1-17 Thomas Anderson
1-19 Rylan Chadwick
1-20 Maxwell Nass
1-21 Colton Haroldson
1-21 Thomas Leduc
1-22 Cody Herning
1-23 Elise Gallenberg
1-24 Shannon Graveen
1-25 Jason Tesch
1-26 Karen Kolbe
1-26 Kelly Rosenau
1-26 Dorothy Westfall
1-27 Robin Hein
1-27 Charlie Knoblock
1-28 Michelle Bolz
1-30 Selena Sann
1-31 Amber Eno

January Anniversaries

1-6 Clark & Jennifer Bronsteatter

Upcoming Events

Sunday, January 5 – 9:00 a.m. Worship

Wednesday, January 8 – 4:30 p.m. Memorial Committee Meeting

Saturday, January 11 – 8:00 a.m. – Men’s Breakfast – LC Restaurant, Marathon

Sunday, January 12 – Annual Reports due to Church Office!!!

Monday, January 13 – Church Office Closed – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Sunday, January 19 – 3:30 p.m. - Community Dinner/First United Methodist Church

Sunday, February 9 – Annual Meeting to follow Worship – Cemetery Association Meeting to follow Annual Meeting

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

E-mail: stjohnwausau@msn.com

Web Address: stjohnwausau.org