

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

Telephone: (715-675-6950)

THE MESSENGER

APRIL 2025



From Pastor Maggie

Beloved Community,

Grace and peace to you all. I look forward to this month of April, as we bring out Lenten journey to a close and prepare our hearts and minds for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter. We have lots to offer this month – the handbell choir will be practicing and performing, and the choir will be practicing and performing – two beautiful opportunities to make a joyful noise to our Creator God.

There are also some wonderful youth events this month – First Communion Class & Service, the Annual Easter Egg Hunt, and new to this year an Easter Escape Room!

I am deeply grateful for the way our youth show up, the way you show up, and the way we all come together to form the body of Christ. This work cannot be done alone, and this work is never one and done. This is a way of living – inviting intentionality, dedication, and trust, to deepen our relationships – with God and one another. Thank you for your courage, thank you for your time, thank you for the gifts you share, and for being the beautiful person God has created you to be.

This is not easy, but it is a part of our calling as Christ followers. To live out God's love in the world, for the sake of the world. As our mission statement states: "We are called to serve God, serve each other, serve the community, and serve the wider church."

Together and only together, we can keep on keeping on. As we journey through Lent, as we journey through life, and everywhere in between.

With Love & Gratitude,

Pastor Maggie Westaby

"Council Corner"

Connie Nowak

We warmly invite everyone to join us for coffee hour after church service-a wonderful time to connect and enjoy fellowship with one another. To make these gatherings extra special, we encourage you to bring along some treats to share.

Easter Sunday, we will be hosting a delightful Easter breakfast including eggs with ham, pancakes with syrup, fruit, cheese, desserts and coffee cakes between services. For this celebration, we are seeking donations of maple syrup, cheese, fruit, desserts, and coffee cake. A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex. Your contributions will help make this event a memorable and joyous occasion for all. Thank you for your generosity and support!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Assisting in Worship Calendar is finalized through December. Please note, starting in April, reminder cards will no longer be going out in the mail. Everyone who was assigned a position on the Assisting in Worship Calendar has received a printed copy of the schedule in their church mailbox. Please note, this schedule changes frequently. You can find the most up-to-date calendar on our website or posted in the Narthex/Fellowship Hall. If you need a new calendar printed off, please let us know. Please email St. John if you are switching shifts so we can keep the calendar up to date. **Thank you to everyone who assists with worship, together we are the body of Christ.**

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Holy Week Services 2025

Thursday, April 17 at 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday & First Communion Worship Service.

Friday, April 18 at 6:30 p.m. Good Friday Worship Service.

**Easter Sunday, April 20 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Services.
9:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast.**

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, April 2 at 6:00 p.m. Choir Practice.

Thursday, April 3 at 5:45 p.m. Handbell Practice.

Saturday, April 5 at 10:00 a.m. Chair Yoga.

Sunday, April 6 at 10:15 a.m. Choir Practice.

Wednesday, April 9 at 6:00 p.m. Choir Practice.

Thursday, April 10 at 5:45 p.m. Handbell Practice.

Saturday, April 12 at 10:00 a.m. First Communion Class. A reminder that at least one parent/guardian needs to attend class with your child.

Sunday, April 13 at 10:15 a.m. Choir Practice.

Sunday, April 13 Fundraising Coffee Hour Discussion. Come to learn more about fundraising, or to share your ideas! This will be a time to brainstorm how we can raise money for our Parking Lot.



Annual Easter Egg Hunt: St. John's Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be on Sunday April, 13th following worship! All children are welcome! We will gather the kids after Fellowship to read the Easter story, make a craft, and end with a candy-filled Easter Egg Hunt!

Wednesday, April 16 at 5:45 p.m. Handbell Practice.

Saturday, April 19th 10:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m. Easter Escape Room! Players will answer



Bible study questions and decode mystery messages about Mark 15 in an effort to discover the secret lock combination that will unlock the vault! But BEWARE! Answering questions incorrectly will force players to complete various team building detour challenges! Best for ages 12+ and adults are welcome! Sign-up in the Narthex.

Questions: email Kim

Landwehr kamootz@gmail.com

Sunday, April 20 Easter Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. Join us for Easter breakfast this year! We will be serving pancakes, eggs & ham. We are in need of volunteers to bring fruit, desserts, milk, cheese, and to help clean and set up. Your time, talent, and dedication are appreciated to make breakfast a success!

Saturday, April 26 at 10:00 a.m. Chair Yoga.

Sunday, May 4 at 10:15 a.m. New Beginnings for Refugee's Presentation by Claudette Harring.

Monday, May 5 at 6:30 p.m. Adult Study will discuss the Book of James.

Saturday, May 10 starting at 9:00 a.m. Bring your tractor to church day! Spring cleanup both inside and outside. Trees need to come down for our new sign and we need help beautifying our church!

Monday, May 12 at 6:30 p.m. The Book Club will discuss *What in the World?!* By Leanne Morgan.

Sunday, May 18 at 10:15 a.m. BINGO & Ice Cream Social! Join us as we welcome our new members and celebrate the end of the School Year. BINGO prizes for both children and adults are needed. Please consider donating - place prizes in the basket in the Fellowship Hall.

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!

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: Rick Nevers – 715-574-0288; rlnevers57@gmail.com

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

Ryan Landwehr – 715-212-3540; ryanlandwehr@aol.com

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

Fellowship: Jeanne Klinger – 715-675-9939

Education:

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.

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	Marlene Opichka 4602 Barbican Ave. #105 Weston, WI 54476
Harley Goetsch Rennes Health/Rehab Ctr. 4810 Barbican Avenue Weston, WI 54476	Jim & Barbara Leffin Fritz Poeske 214 N. 12 th Avenue Wausau, WI 54401	Waterfall Health of Wausau 1010 E. Wausau Ave. Wausau, WI 54403

	<u>Attendance Report</u>	
	2025	2024
Average Weekly/February	80	149*
Average Weekly/Year-To-Date	80	110*
<i>* Includes Wednesday Worship (last year Lent started February 14)</i>		

April Birthdays

4-1 Reece Berens
4-1 Thomas Marquardt
4-1 Karen Ohrmundt
4-3 Perry Kufahl
4-3 Cullin Oelke
4-5 Boone Hein
4-5 Lee VanDerGeest
4-8 Stuart Gehrke
4-9 Stephanie Borelli
4-10 Harley Goetsch
4-10 Kayla Sann
4-11 Guy Frostman
4-12 Emma Nowak
4-13 Elliot Pierschalla
4-15 Dylan Buchberger
4-15 Beth Eno
4-15 Bobbi Hansen
4-15 Joshua Hein
4-15 Andrew Webb
4-15 Brandon Webb
4-16 Katie Fitzke-Pagel
4-16 Melissa Haroldson
4-16 Jedidiah Schoepke
4-16 Chloe Zernicke
4-17 Sophie Hoffman
4-18 Jack Harris
4-19 Kyan VanDerGeest
4-20 Jeremy Tesch
4-20 Taylor Treu
4-21 Reina Cottrell
4-23 Shirley Kopplin
4-26 Keith Kolbe
4-27 Lainie Beth Johnson
4-27 Ty Teske
4-29 Brayden Gehrke
4-29 Addison Heil
4-29 Rhett Schindler

April Anniversaries

4-6 Shane & Nichole Saari
4-8 Lane & Carrie Hoeft
4-23 Paul & Mary Anderson
4-24 Adam & Connie Hoffman
4-26 Randy & Barbara Jo Kopp
4-27 Mike & Cindy Preisig

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

E-mail:

Pastor.maggie.westaby@gmail.com

E-mail: stjohnwausau@msn.com

Web Address: stjohnwausau.org