

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

Telephone: (715-675-6950)

THE MESSENGER

MAY 2025



From Pastor Maggie

Beloved Community,

Grace and peace to you all. I look forward to this month of May! We have a lot going on in May, and I hope you are able to join us.

- Sunday, May 4 we will have a baptism.
- Sunday, May 11 we will celebrate Mother's Day and our graduating seniors with beautiful blankets made by the ladies of St. John.
- Sunday, May 18 we will welcome all new members who have joined since last May, and we will celebrate the end of the school year with an Ice Cream Social & BINGO party!

I would also like to thank everyone for your dedication, time, and generosity towards St. John. For all who journeyed through Lent, Holy Week, and Easter together – for those who prepared and served our Lenten Dinners & Easter Breakfast. For all who brought dishes and desserts to pass. For all who helped set up and clean up, and for all who enjoyed food and fellowship! And for the homebound and those who were unable to attend, please know you were with us, in our thoughts & prayers, and in Christ.

As it is in Christ that we live and move together throughout this world. In Christ we find the strength, courage, and hope to move ahead each day. Especially in a world where so much is unknown, it is easy to struggle with heartache, fear, exhaustion, and loneliness. And yet, in Christ we are never alone. In Christ there is always hope.

Hope that springs forth from the most unlikely places, like wild flowers in sidewalk cracks, like tiny green buds that burst open on trees after a long cold and dark winter, like the predawn glow where thin pink light dances across the sky until it intensifies into a bright yellow yolk, bursting across the sky, flooding our world with light. Hope that lives in the light of the world, the light of Christ that burns bright in you. May this hope fill you today and all days. Amen.

*With Love & Gratitude,
Pastor Maggie Westaby*

“Council Corner”
Ryan Landwehr

As the daylight hours get longer, nature springs to life with new growth and we all seem to spend more time outdoors taking in the fresh air and soaking up the sunshine. This also typically brings about spring cleaning and the start of projects. Speaking of projects, Saturday May 10th has been given the honor of "bring your tractor to church day". A large part of St. Johns Church continued success, is the volunteers. Once again, we are asking for volunteers for this day to take on projects and help keep the church and parsonage up to date.

Do you need a tractor to volunteer? Absolutely not, but a few would help. Some of the projects that we are looking to do include: removing trees and old sign to make way for the new sign, drain clean out pipes in front of parsonage need to be cut down below grade measured for future reference have dirt filled in and grass seed spread, a complete clean out of the garage, replace garage service door, go through church kitchen and clean, wash windows, clean closet downstairs opposite of sink/bathrooms, pressure wash parsonage porch to prep for new paint, parsonage front door has a panel that needs attention, replace fascia on West end of church, outside lights that shine on steeple at night need to be put back into landscaping, etc. Let's hope for a beautiful day to accomplish as much of this as possible. Many hands make light work.

Looking at some of the updates since I joined as a trustee in February. New dishwasher in kitchen, battery back-up sump pump has a new battery, drain tile fix from last year worked amazing during the spring thaw, soffit pieces that blew away during a high wind day have been replaced, all exterior doors have been looked at and adjusted.

Future items in the works: carpet cleaning and upholstery of pews professionally done, original front glass doors are beginning to show their age and will probably need replacing, asphalt sealing of the newer black top area, outside faucet by fellowship hall entry door needs to be hooked back up(unhooked during dishwasher install).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

****There is an sign up sheet in the Narthex for the Ice cream social.**

Registration is now open for our upcoming Synod Assembly, taking place on **June 7, 2025**, at **Calvary in Green Bay**.

Vacation Bible School Registration is open! VBS will be Sunday, June 22 – Thursday June, 26. Register on our website
<https://stjohnwausau.org/education/vbs/>

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!

Upcoming Events

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

Sunday, May 4 at 3:30 p.m. Community Dinner First United Methodist Church

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!

Sunday, May 11 at 9:00 a.m. Join us for a special Mother's Day Worship, where we will also bless the Graduating Seniors and gift them with blankets made by the ladies of St. John.

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.

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.

Attendance Report

	2025	2024
Average Weekly/March	84	190*
Average Weekly/Year-To-Date	81	137*

***Last year Easter was in March and includes mid-week services.**

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

May Birthdays

5-1 Brenna Ohrmundt
5-3 Cash Herning
5-8 Brandon Schindler
5-9 Gavin Bahr
5-9 Michael Haroldson
5-10 Parker Borrero
5-12 McKenzie Cottrell
5-13 Tim Ohrmundt
5-13 Renner Stubbe
5-14 Kelly Hirn
5-14 Steven Zahn
5-15 Ryan Landwehr
5-15 Shane Saari
5-16 Jarred Bahr
5-16 Benjamin Bolz
5-17 Larry Berens
5-19 Hunter Zernicke
5-20 Ariel Graveen
5-20 John Ohrmundt
5-21 Briah Landwehr
5-21 Maggie Westaby
5-23 Chavalin Chadwick
5-23 Todd Mueller
5-25 Rheta Utech
5-26 Ray Gallenberg
5-26 Mitch Landrath
5-27 Michael Gilles
5-27 Matthew Haroldson
5-28 Brody Arndt
5-29 Levi Hirn
5-30 Dan Arndt
5-30 Tanner Walter
5-31 Bev Landrath

May Anniversaries

5-11 Troy & Nikcole Knight
5-12 Perry & Shelley Kufahl
5-13 Dan & Shannon Graveen
5-15 Randy & Debbie Knapp
5-16 Peter & Sarah Severson
5-19 Bob & Rheta Utech
5-22 Ryan & Kimberly Landwehr
5-24 Lee & Katie Van Der Geest

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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