

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

Telephone: (715-675-6950)

THE MESSENGER

October 2025



From Pastor Maggie

Beloved Community,

Blessings for this month of October. I look forward to a joy filled month with all of you. In addition to Worship this October we invite all middle school and high school youth to join us at Day's Bowl-A-Dome on October 5th at 1:30 p.m. On October 19th the kids will sing in church with their VBS recap, and this will also be the first day for our Noisy Offering (all donations will go to *Share Your Holidays*). Then on October 26th we will commemorate reformation & witness our most recent class of confirmands affirm their Baptism through the Rite of Confirmation!

As most of you know, October is an important month for the Lutheran church, because of Martin Luther starting the reformation. The reformation officially started on October 31st 1517, when Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of All Saint's Church in Wittenberg, Germany. Luther felt inspired to do so, as he was upset about many things in the Catholic Church, one of them being the sale of indulgences and wanted them to stop. Luther believed in the freedom found in God's Word and the freedom found in God's grace, sharing we are justified not by our works, but by God's grace through faith.

By the grace of God, reformation is still alive today. Every Sunday we have the opportunity to come together, to hear God's Word, to be challenged, changed, and created new – birthed from the love given to us in Christ, through the mysterious workings of the Holy Spirit.

May this season of fall and this season of reformation stir the Spirit's presence in our midst. May we continue to come together discerning where we are being challenged, where we are being called into reformation, and where we are being called into grace. Grace as we continue to make space for our merger conversations with Immanuel, and as we all come together united as one in Christ's love. Amen.

*With Love & Gratitude,
Pastor Maggie Westaby*

**AUTUMN LEAVES,
BUT GOD'S LOVE
STAYS.**



TheWonderfulGraceOfGod.com

Proceeds from the Chili Dinner and Raffle

Proceeds from the Chili Dinner, *which will go to St. John's youth fund*, was 1038.00! proceeds from the Raffle, *which will go to the community dinners*, was \$1390.00! **Thank you all** for joining us! For the delicious chili, desserts, and the rest of the food that was prepared! Thank you to all who donated your time in making this event happen and for all the generous donations!

“Council Corner”

Happy Fall Everyone,

One of my favorite times of the year, time to pull out the cozy fleece and blankets, enjoy the color of the leaves and all the excitement this season brings. What a beautiful season the Lord bestows upon us.

As the seasons change, St. John is experiencing a major change as well as we excitedly welcome the merger of Immanuel Lutheran with St. John. The merger should be complete yet this fall. Please reach out to new faces you see and say hello and welcome them.

I feel like this is a farewell letter, it's the last one I will write as my second term as your Council President is up in February. If you recall from a past letter, I stated I never in a million years would believe I would become President of a Church Council, yet here I am. When I decided to take on this role, I had a goal of 3 items: Secure a Pastor, bring the congregation out of Covid and ensure the church is fiscally responsible. With the help of the past 2-3 councils, I feel these objectives have been successful.

I have been surrounded by dedicated people who have the same objectives and goals as myself, ensuring that St. John succeeds and continues to carry on its mission for many years to come.

I have tried to bring new ideas and thoughts to the congregation. Some with some success, others not so much, but we'll never know how things turn out unless we try. Do I make mistakes? Yep. The only failure in life is never trying. I thank all of you who have reached out to me with thoughts, concerns and ideas. I've always encouraged this and I truly appreciate it.

The position of President will be open for the next term, other positions will be open as well. If you have questions, please reach out to myself or other council members. You can also look up the Constitution and positions and job descriptions are listed there.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you for the past 4 years. It has been a pleasure.

Jennifer Schwede
Council President

Envelope Update!!

To be better stewards of our resources, we are changing our envelope system at St. John. Due to an increase in offerings through Vanco, envelope needs have significantly decreased.

Please let us know if you would like envelopes for 2026 or if you prefer to give through Vanco.

Everyone who wants envelopes will be given envelopes; we just need to know who those are. Please email stjohnwausau@gmail.com or call St. John 715-675-6950 if you would like envelopes.

All that we have is a gift from God. Rooted in Christ, we give joyfully and generously—not out of obligation, but in gratitude for God’s grace. Your gifts support the ministry we share and help Christ’s love reach our neighbors near and far.

Thank you for your faithful giving!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Time & Talent Sheets – Now available for 2026! *Thank you* for the many ways you serve St. John! Your ministry as the body of Christ unites us together in many different and beautiful ways.

Sunday, October 5th at 1:30 p.m. All Middle School & High School Students! Join us for pizza, bowling, soda, and fun at Days-Bowl-A-Dome!

Saturday, October 18th at 10:00 a.m. Wisconsin River Valley Conference Annual Meeting. If you are interested in going, please let Pastor Maggie know.

Noisy Offering! Bring your coins (bills also accepted 😊) starting **Sunday, October 19th!** This offering will go to Share Your Holidays.

Sunday, October 19th VBS RECAP & CINNAMON ROLL BAKE SALE! Join us for Worship and hear the kiddos sing! Then join us for fellowship with delicious cinnamon rolls. Cinnamon rolls will also be available to go. We will be collecting a free will donation for them. *All proceeds will go to St. John's Youth!*

Monday, October 20th at 6:30 p.m. The Book Club will discuss *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt.

Sunday, October 26th final merger resolutions vote. Both Immanuel and St. John will vote on the final merger resolutions immediately after Worship on Sunday, October 26.

Thursday, October 30th at 6:30 p.m. The Adult Study will discuss the Gospel of Luke Chapters 3-5.

St. John is an Event Partner for 2025 Highland MobilePack!

Thank you to everyone who offered monetary donations for Sponsorship and for the volunteers who signed up! We will be packing meals on **Saturday, November 15th 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

Our Sister Congregation Rietpan, has changed their name to Remmogo Parish. We continue to pray for them the first Sunday of every month.

Kwik Trip Gift Cards Sign-up in the Fellowship Hall or on our website! Help support St. John when buying groceries, gas, or getting your car washed at Kwik Trip! <https://stjohnwausau.org/fundraising/>



God,
thank you that
by your power,
small things like seeds —

and faith —

**CAN GROW BIG
AND STRONG.**

Nurture my growth
in you always.

Amen.

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 Jeanjam9939@gmail.com

Education: Greg Grudznske – 715-212-6529; gregorylinda@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.



Attendance Report

	2025	2024
Average Weekly/September	125	82
Average Weekly/Year-To-Date	88	93

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
Wood Aven
1821 N 4th Ave #311b
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
Primrose
2100 Townline Rd Apt. 217
Wausau, WI 54403

Fritz Poeske
Amethyst Health of Wausau
1010 E. Wausau Ave. #84
Wausau, WI 54403

Mary Anne Klinker
Rennes Health/Rehab Ctr.
4810 Barbican Ave #301
Weston, WI 54476

Alene Howe
Acorn Hill Apartment
430 Orbiting Dr. #19
Mosinee, WI 54455

Dorothy Westfall
4205 Fleet Dr.
Wausau, WI 54401

Marlene Bahr
238456 N 84th Ave.
Wausau, WI 54401



October Birthdays

10/01 Koy Van Der Geest
10/02 Kari Heil
10/02 Jeanne Klinger
10/03 Joshua Howe
10/04 Camryn Schave
10/05 Logan Hoeft
10/06 Ethan Pergolski
10/08 Kimberly Landwehr
10/08 Robert Oravez
10/09 Jake Boehm
10/09 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
10/30 Robert Doede
10/31 Susan Doede

October Anniversaries

10/01 Ronald Jr Mootz
10/01 Emilee Mootz
10/03 Nathan Fitzke
10/03 Karrissa Fitzke
10/04 Gregory Grudznske
10/04 Linda Grudznske
10/04 David Voelker
10/04 Rebecca Voelker
10/05 Shawn Chadwick
10/05 Chavalin Chadwick
10/07 Guy Frostman
10/07 Nancy Frostman
10/08 Randy Graveen
10/08 Linda Graveen
10/08 Pete Hirn
10/08 Kelly Hirn
10/09 Corey Busche
10/09 Tammy Busche
10/09 James Nolan
10/09 Loretta Nolan
10/15 Keenan Cadeau
10/15 Maggie Westaby
10/15 Nick Oelke
10/15 Nikki Oelke
10/19 Laura Kudronowicz
10/19 Arron Kudronowicz
10/20 Douglas Doede
10/20 Christine Doede
10/23 Michael Stubbe
10/23 Sara Stubbe
10/27 Ron Schuster
10/27 Julie Schuster



Sunday School / Confirmation Schedules

2025 – 2026



October 2025

Sunday School

- 10/5 Noah's Ark
- 10/12 Abram's Call
- 10/19 VBS Recap *Kids Sing in Church* Abraham & Sarah's Visitors
- 10/26 (No Sunday School)

Confirmation Schedule

- 10/1 Class
- 10/5 Bowling + Pizza @Days Bowl-a-Dome at 1:30
- 10/8 Class
- 10/15 Class
- 10/22 No Class / dress rehearsal for graduating class at 6:30
- 10/26 Reformation Sunday/Graduating Confirmands Confirmed!
- 10/29 Class



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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