

From Pastor Maggie

God's Beloved & Members of St. John,

Grace and peace to you all. I hope this letter finds you well and that you have been able to enjoy the beautiful autumn. The changing leaves started out with such a spectacular and colorful array of beauty—which have since fallen—opening up space for the rustic red, coffee brown, and deep yellow leaves. Autumn is such a delightful reminder of how beautiful it can be to let things go. To trust in your roots and to prepare for the winter ahead. May this be a time of such beauty and trust in your life.

This season reminds me of the book of Jeremiah, and in particular this passage, “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a future and a hope.” Sometimes these words can be completely comforting to hear, and other times they can be hard to hear. Especially when life gets heavy, overwhelming, or despairing these words can feel empty. But I assure you, they are anything, but empty.

Because even in the longest night, Christ is there in the darkness. For Christ's resurrection took place in a tomb in complete darkness. Showing that in darkness there is always new life, resurrection, and hope. So, as we settle into the end of fall, and as our bodies, minds, and spirits receive the turbulent world around us, know that Christ is with you. And if it is too difficult to hold that trust, know that I am holding each one of you in prayer, and cultivating that trust for you, when you cannot.

As always, if you ever need any one to talk to, I am here for you. Please feel free to call or text me (608)-345-9616 or send me an email pastor.maggie.westaby@gmail.com. Or if you would simply like to meet up for coffee, tea, or a walk, I would love to share that time with you.

Grace, Peace, and God's Blessings to you,

Pastor Maggie Westaby

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: Barb Paulsen – 715-845-9884; ericbarbp@aol.com

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

Secretary: Shelley Kufahl – 715-675-1383; pnskufahl@outlook.com

Trustees: Curt Cooley – 715-571-4057; usfcool@gmail.com

Jim Borelli – 715-803-8282; jimb.newlife@gmail.com

Evangelism: Lane Bahr – 715-297-0017; lucylane35@hotmail.com

Fellowship: Madeline Grueneberg – 715-574-9095; MadelineSchwede@aol.com

Education: Jan Mueller – 715-675-9558; dmjm5455.wau@gmail.com

Worship: Sue Harris – 715-551-6282; smae53@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.

Financial Report for September, 2022		
	September	Year-to-Date
Income Received	\$9,917.94	\$98,041.05
Expenses Paid	\$14,022.55	\$81,645.44
Difference	-\$4,104.61	\$16,395.61
Attendance Report		
	2022	2021
Average Weekly/September	101	54
Average Weekly/Year-to-Date	82	80

Homebound Parishioners. The following parishioners are no longer able to consistently attend worship services. I visit 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	Harley Goetsch Rennes Health/Rehab Ctr. 4810 Barbican Avenue Weston, WI 54476	Joanne Zahn 4905 Falcon Dr. Wausau, WI 54401
Don & Carol Prochnow 3302 Terrace Court Room 141 Wausau, WI 54401	Vern & Marlene Bahr 238456 N. 84 th Avenue Wausau, WI 54401 Wausau, WI 54401	Kathie Reissman Our House 220 Campus Dr. Wausau, WI 54401

Sisterhood Christmas Gathering – Save the Date! Please mark your calendars for our annual Sisterhood Christmas gathering. Join us at 5:30 p.m. for happy hour followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m. at Carmelo’s on Tuesday, December 13. Per tradition, the evening will end with a white elephant exchange. Donations for the Women’s Community will also be collected. Please sign up in the narthex to help us plan accordingly. We look forward to seeing you there! If you have any questions, contact Brooke Schindler or Kelly Rosenau.

Live Streaming and Photography Notice. When you enter a St. John Lutheran 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.

Christmas Program Practice: Children will practice during normal Sunday School hours on 12/4 and 12/11. Our dress-rehearsal will be on Saturday 12/17 9:30am-10:30am. Please have your children attend as many practices as they are able to.

Children's Christmas Program – Sunday, December 18th: Our annual children's Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 18th at 10am. Invite your friends and family to attend and enjoy this St. John tradition! All are welcome for fellowship after! Please have children arrive to church at 9:40am that day to get into costume.

'The Star' Pizza & Pajama Party – Thursday, December 22nd: St. John members of all ages are welcome to attend this fun event! Come and watch the cartoon movie 'The Star' about the night Jesus was born. Enjoy pizza for dinner and make a star ornament! Wear your PJs and bring something comfy to snuggle with! Kids are welcome to bring friends if they'd like! **Pizza at 5:30pm. Movie 6:30pm-8pm.**

Mark Your Calendars – Pie Auction!

Mark your calendars! The annual pie auction will be Sunday November 20th. Bring your favorite pie, from scratch, the grocery or you had to pay your sister to make it! Auction will start promptly after service in the fellowship hallway. Money that is collected from pie auction will be giving to a local charity. Any questions contact Madeline Grueneberg 715-574-9095

I am very grateful for all the help and people signing up to help with fellowship, as a friendly reminder please start coffee before church. If you need help, please contact Madeline Grueneberg

Dan and I want to thank Pastor Maggie and EVERYONE for their thoughts, prayers, texts, cards, and meals throughout my illness. We both felt your love and support and are so grateful for our St John's family. We know that God heard every prayer and has blessed us with an everlasting gift! A special thank you to St. John's Sunday School children for creating and sending their cards for me and my donor Lori.

God bless you always for being so kind and caring!

Sincerely, Robin Hein