

Join us this Easter season for our Wednesday Evening service as we celebrate the Resurrection through songs & prayers from the Taize Community.

Wednesday 6pm at St. John's

Adult Education During

Earth Month

April 7th: Book Discussion "Nature's Best Hope"

April 14th: Book Discussion "Nature's Best Hope"

April 21st: Movie Viewing and Discussion of "Common Ground" (Bring a sack lunch with you)

ST. JOHN'S
"REACHING
OUT"
NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2024

1804 HIGHLAND AVE. EAU CLAIRE, WI 54701 715-834-9571 WEBSITE: WWW.STJOHNS-EC.ORG

New Member Orientation

For those who are new to St.
John's we will hold a New
Member Orientation to
introduce you to the mission
and ministries of St. John's. The
New Member Orientation will be
held on Thursday, April 25th at
6:30 p.m. meeting in the
Library. If you would like more
information, contact the office at
715-834-9571.

Come join the Caretakers of Creation team and Pastor Christine for an adult education on Earth Month in April! We will read the book, "Nature's Best Hope" by Douglas Tallamy and have discussions together about the faithful response just in our own yards. We also will view the movie "Common Ground" together. Bring a sack lunch that day as that is an extended class.

From Pastor Christine On Good Friday, the human race broke faith with God. People just like ourselves, mired in politics, religious corruption, idolatry and ideology, took our God and killed him. Yet, on that first Easter, even when it was still dark, God reached back to us amidst that broken faith, that disunity, and crossed the divide. This is the miracle that is still amazing to me, that God would. Why?

Good Friday I think we tend to understand well. We don't like to face what Good Friday is, of course, likely why fewer people face that day head on compared to Easter. But, deep down, we understand it. It is not at all inconceivable that human beings can behave the way they did in Christ's death and how we today are really no different. We'd like to think we are, but of course we really aren't. After all, we have all witnessed genocide, wars, and the callous disregard of human life. The terrifying acts we see in Gaza and Ukraine are only some of the examples of the atrocities for which human beings are capable. The torture of Jesus, the mocking of him, the disgracing of another human being is all too familiar for as, even as we see it throughout the world and sometimes in our own communities. In fact, it's not so much Good Friday that is unbelievable to us even while we long for the end of atrocities and work towards that end. What shouldn't make sense, however, is the miracle that is Easter.

And when I say miracle, I'm not even referring to the actual Resurrection of Christ. Indeed, God destroying death and raising from the dead is a miracle, but to what I am really referring is the deepest miracle of our faith, the miracle of love that comes from God. After being rejected, destroyed, cast out, and crucified, Jesus Christ returned three days later to the very people who turned on him. Had he returned for vengeance or to prove us wrong, that might have made some sense. But, he didn't come back from the dead for that purpose. It was for some unfathomable reason. It was not because he could, but because he wanted to. This is the Easter miracle: Jesus loved us. He loved us so much that he wanted to.

We can get all caught up in the actual miracle of Resurrection that we forget the underlying purpose for it. God didn't need to show us God had power over death. Even Jesus showed that he had that power when he was living. It isn't that God rose from the dead that's the only significant miracle of Easter. It's that God wanted to for us! For us! This is a God who loves what God created; so much so, that going to death for it was worth it.

This Eastertide, remember that God wanted to. This God wanted to conquer death for you. This is a God who loves you no matter what. Remember this on days of despair, on days you lose your faith, and on days of pain – God wanted to raise from the dead for you. And even now in the places of Good Friday devastation, there is the hope that others will see that miracle, too. May this miracle be the miracle to strengthen you, this Eastertide and beyond.

Pastor Christine

This year St. John's will have an updated photo directory.

Have you signed-up for your photo appointment? If not, you still have time to do this. We Need You To Be A Part Of This!

There are still some openings for Tuesday, April 9, and Friday, April 12. A new date, Tuesday, April 23, has also been added.



To schedule your appointment online, go to www.ucdir.com and click on

"Photography Appointment Scheduling Login." Then, enter wi323 in the "Church Code" field and enter photos in the "Church Password" field. (Note: Church Code and Password are case sensitive.)

Or you can call the church office at 715-834-9571, and Genny will help you schedule your appointment.

Sabbatical year for Pastor Christine

To encourage the congregational health that comes with longer tenured leaders, and for the health and welfare of our called pastors, St. John's grants a sabbatical leave for their called pastoral leaders during every seven years of service, with a minimum length of three months in the seventh year. This year marks Pastor Christine's 14th year at St. John's! Rather than taking the entire three-month sabbatical at once, Pastor Christine has offered to do a split sabbatical: six weeks in May and June and the final six weeks end of December into January 2025. She has offered to split up the sabbatical because this is now a solo pastorate, although she is not required to split up that time. She has chosen to do this to help lessen the complications of being without a called pastor for three months straight. Pastor Christine has provided for coverage during the time that she is away. But while she is gone, please note: she will not be attending to funerals, pastoral care, emails, texts, or any online connection for St. John's during her sabbatical time. In the event of pastoral emergencies, we would ask that you call the church office for assistance during that time. The dates for her first segment of the sabbatical are May 13th through June 23rd. She will return to the office on the 24th of June. Thank you for praying for our pastor and please pray that this pause in ministry will be restful for her.

Jean Jirovec, Church Council President



Church of the Wild – The Revealing of Christ in Nature

Springing from the tradition of Spiritual direction, Church of the Wild is a gathering of people who, by the love of Christ, desire a deeper relationship in connecting with the natural world as a sacred expression. Wild Church gatherings offer opportunities to invite people into intimate relationships with some of the most vulnerable victims of our destructive culture: the land. waters, and creatures with whom we share our homes. It includes holy wandering and wondering in nature, grief and praise, advocacy, and ecological restoration on behalf of all that God created. It is more than worshipping outside. It's recognizing that we worship alongside a full creation claimed as good by the One who created it, a creation that not only has value as God sees it, but as kin alongside us. Join us for our next Church of the Wild service, which is held offsite St. John's in various locations.

O TEADS + POP

St. John's 150 Years of Heritage & History 120 Years Ago-April 1904

Excerpts from: HISTORY OF ST. JOHN'S LADIES' AID, unknown author, circa 1944

Women have a distinctive and indispensable place in the work of the church and many a church of today would be lost without their sacrificial labors. In the first years of this congregation all the women belonged to the Aid and it was through their work that the lots



upon which these buildings (on Dewey) stand were purchased (in 1881) and it was their treasury that helped toward the building of the church and its furnishings. It seems that after the church was finished (1884), this society ceased to exist, for in 1890, when the Rev A. F. Augustine came here, he found no Women's organization and it was not until **April 12**, **1904** that the present St. John's Ladies' Aid was organized. By 1906 the Aid was able to pay for the basement under the church and have a furnace installed. The steel ceiling and new decorations were paid for by the Aid in 1907. In April 1914 the society celebrated its tenth anniversary with a church service.

The present parish (sic) house was built in 1915 and the Aid headed the list of subscriptions with a gift of \$1,500 and later paid substantial sums toward the reduction of the remaining debt. As the congregation was approaching the fiftieth anniversary (in 1924), the society renovated the inside of the church to the amount of \$1,600.

In 1925 \$100 was given to the New Guinea Mission. The construction of Dewey St. amounting to \$380 was paid by the Aid in 1926. During the years 1926, 1927, and 1928 \$2,100 was given to the congregation to liquidate indebtedness. Gifts of \$100 and \$80 were given to the Luther Hospital in 1928 and 1930. The Parish House was altered in 1929, the kitchen enlarged and sliding doors installed to the amount of \$1697.79 and \$800 was given to the Cemetery Fund during 1929 and 1930. In 1933, the parsonage was decorated and cupboards were built amounting to \$300.

In 1935 the ladies served meals to the pastors of the district in convention here for four days. In the period between 1934 and 1944, repair, painting and new church doors were taken care of by this organization amounting to nearly \$600. They helped toward the Pension Fund to the amount of \$1,000. A piano, flags for the church, hymn books, benevolence, Christmas for the Sunday School each year, Fair Share, Red Cross, Lutheran Welfare all were provided for and helped by our women, costing nearly \$5,000

The St. John's Ladies' Aid has raised approximately \$31,000 over the forty-year period (1904 -1944) and it has spent over \$28,000.

Picture taken after July 1915, in front of the new School House on Dewey, of which the women donated \$1,500 toward its construction. Standing top row, left: Pastor Augustine with St. John's "FRAUENVEREIN" (Women's Club).

Happy Earth Month from St. John's Caretakers of Creation!

We're very excited to offer a series of adult education book discussions AND a multigenerational movie screening this month on Sunday mornings in April!

On April 7th and 14th during Adult Ed time, we'll host a pair of book discussions. In last month's newsletter, we shared some resources from Douglas Tallamy's wonderful book, <u>Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in your Yard</u>. We're pleased to have a panel to discuss their own experiences and field your questions about doing conservation right at home. Panelists will include St. John's member and master gardener, Kris Nelson, along with Pastor Christine, and members of the Caretakers committee. You can read EITHER the <u>"young readers" edition</u> (preferred by some adults!) or the New York Times bestseller <u>original edition</u>. These are available at the L.E. Phillips public library or at booksellers everywhere!

On April 21st at 10:30, following worship, we're excited to offer a FREE screening of a star-studded, award-winning, still-in-the-theaters documentary, <u>Common Ground, Saving the Planet, One Acre at a Time.</u> Bring your own sack lunch and we'll provide beverages. (This film was made possible through a partnership between the filmmakers and Interfaith Power & Light. You can check out the trailer here: https://commongroundfilm.org/.)

"Common Ground is a new film about how regenerating the world's soils has the potential to rapidly stabilize Earth's climate, restore lost ecosystems, and create abundant food supplies. This film explains why transitioning to regenerative agriculture could be key in rehabilitating the planet, while simultaneously invigorating a new sense of hope and inspiration in viewers." – Roco Films

"At this moment in our country's history, we are experiencing three overlapping challenges: pandemic-related social programs are ending, causing more families to go hungry, the awareness of racial injustice rising, and the climate crisis worsening. We have an opportunity to address all of these issues with one focus – our food practices. Food is an important part of our faith traditions, and all the major faith traditions call us to care for the earth. So, how we grow our food is integral to caring for the earth and each other as people of faith and conscience." – Interfaith Power & Light

The 87-minute film will be followed by a Q&A discussion and an opportunity to unite our faith and values with our awareness and concern by completing one simple, immediate action. We'll also consider what longer-term actions St. John's – and all of us – can take at church and in our homes.

Finally, we'll have some special gifts to share with participants throughout the month! Hope to see you there!

Chippewa Valley Tech College Food Pantry



St. John's Caring Ministry would like to thank everyone who helped to make our collection for CVTC Food Pantry a success, whether you donated food, personal care items or gave a monetary donation. We also would like to thank Fountain of Life and Thrivent Financial for their monetary donations.

Sandy Huebscher, Caring Ministry

Education, Youth and Faith Family Ministries

Welcome to Sunday School!

Education Ministry offers **Sunday School 10:15 – 11:00 a.m**. on Sundays. Ages 3 + parents & 4-5, grades meet upstairs in the Story Room and 1st through 4th grade meet downstairs in the Promise Room. **The upcoming schedule is:**



April 7th: Jesus is the Vine (John 15:1-17)

April 14th: God Makes People (Genesis 2:4-7, 18-23; Ephesians 2:10)

April 21st: God Washes Us Clean (Psalm 51)

April 28th: God Made and Knows Us (Psalm 139:1-4)





OFFERING REMINDER: Sunday School is collecting offering every week for Weekend Kids Meals.

FUNDRAISER FOR WEEKEND KIDS MEAL PROGRAM AT LOCUST LANE



Brown Bag Kids For Kids

> Sunday, April 21st

Brown Bag Sunday- Sunday School-aged youths are invited to join us this month of April as we prepare for Brown Bag Sunday on April 21st, a fundraiser during worship where the days offering goes to Locust Lane Elementary School, and their Weekend Kids Meals program. The youth will also be singing in worship that day, so we'd love to have as many voices as possible!



Vacation Bible School Registration — VBS Registration is now open! We invite all youth from kindergarten to those who will be *entering* 5th grade to join us June 10th-13th here at St. John's from 9-12 for games, crafts, and faith-building! You can grab a paper sign-up from Matt or register online at *stjohns-ec.org/vbs/*. Costs are \$20 per youth, with a cap at \$50 per family. If you or your youth are interested in being a volunteer: Please reach out to Matt, we would love to have you! (6th grade and up)





Faith Family is recommending children and teens spend time together at SUMMER CAMP! St. John's supports this opportunity for camp registration for grades K-12. You can ask for a scholarship form to be sent to you by calling the main office at church (715-834-9571). To register for camp, go to: http://lutherpark.org/summer-camp



Summer Stretch Sign-up - For youth that will be entering 6th-9th grade next school year, the signups for 2024 Summer Stretch are *live*! You can get a sign-up sheet from Matt's office or visit

<u>stjohns-ec.org/grow/youth/</u> to sign up virtually. Summer Stretch dates are June 19th and 26th, and July 10th, 17th, 24th, & 31st. Cost: \$140 per youth. We are also always looking for high school and adult volunteers to get involved, so please reach out to Matt if you're interested!



SUMMER STRETCH IS COMING!!

June 19th, 26th & July 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st



Preschool Days

We are enjoying a busy year at preschool and cannot believe that it is April already. God's love abounds and the children are learning and growing! A few recent highlights include:

Blocks: We recently designated some space upstairs especially for block play. Each class has had a chance to visit the space arranged by SJCP teacher, Sa-



Besides building amazing struc-



tures, the children are building upon their ability to imagine, problem solve, cooperate, focus, take risks, and explore math and physics concepts!

Outdoor Play: With a not-so-wintery season, it has been especially easy to get outdoors. It has been great to get moving and find fresh air at beautiful St John's Park!

Parent Activity Day: "Parent Activity Day" is a preschool favorite. We welcome parents and grandparents to plan and lead an activity here at SJCP. Activities may include simple games, crafts, sports demos, music, or sharing a career or hobby.

Conferences: Parent/Teachers conferences are scheduled this month. We appreciate the chance to connect with each family, share some discussion about their child's progress and experience here at SJCP.









earn a lot ·have some fun ·share God's love

2024-25 Registration

We are currently enrolling children for the 2024-25 school year. We would love to welcome your family to SJCP! Call Nancy Hanson or Phyllis Meier for more information or to arrange a tour. 715.834.9571.

Mission Trip Fundraisers

Flocking: It's back! One of our high schoolers favorite fundraisers is back for the month. The Trip Group will have a table in the gathering area at worship on April 7th and 14th to take orders for flocking, where we'll be sneaking out and sticking bunches of lawn flamingos in the yard of a St. John's member of your choice. We'll also be providing Anti-flocking insurance for purchase for those who want to stay out of "harm's way."



Confirmation Schedule:

Wednesday

April 10 @ 6:30 pm | 9th Grade Confirmation with

Mentors

April 17 @ 6:30 pm I 9th Grade Confirmation with Mentors



April 28 @ 5:15 pm | Class Picture

@ 6:00 pm | Confirmation Banquet

May 5 @ 9:00 am I Confirmation Sunday with Reception following

Confirmation

Church Information

We Mourned the Death of...

Mark Johnson.

59

Charlie Marquardt, 91



St. John's Lutheran Church

"Together In God" Media Ministry **Broadcast Schedule**

Sundays:

TV - WOOW (ABC Network) @ 10:30a.m. Channel 18

Cable 9

HD 618

MONTH	WQOW
April	7, 21
May	5, 19



Date	First Reading	Gospel
April	Acts	John
7	2:14a,, 22-32	20:19-31
April	Acts	<i>Luke</i>
14	3:12-19	24:36b-48
April	Acts	John
21	4:5-12	10:11-18
April	Acts	John
28	8:26-40	15:1-8

Our online giving will be converting from Vanco giving to Realm giving in the next few weeks. Please stay tuned for a new giving link/URL. This link will also be available on our St. John's website.



Thrivent Choice Dollars allows eligible Thrivent Financial members to direct Thrivent Financials' charitable dollars to St. John's Lutheran Church. To be a benefit member with Thrivent Financial, you must own one of the following Thrivent products: life insurance, health insurance, disability insurance or annuities, and based on your premium and cash value, your Thrivent Choice dollars will be calculated. Letters or emails are sent annually to these members indicating the amount of charitable dollars available to them. If you believe that you qualify and have not received a letter, please contact your Thrivent Financial representative.



For the period September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2024, St. John's is designating the *Thrivent Choice* contributions to our general operations fund to help support our ministries, programs and maintain our day to day operations.

When you are contacted by Thrivent Financial, please prayerfully consider directing these charitable dollars to St. John's.

The Thrivent Financial members who have directed their "Choice Dollars" to St. John's Lutheran Church for March was Rozie Bejin, Kathy Freitag, Mike McCarty, Jean Yolitz.

St. John's thanks you for doing this.

APRIL SPECIAL OFFERINGS

SUMMER STRETCH PROGRAM

This is a program during the summer for middle school age youth that performs local community service work.

VBS PROGRAMS

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is a one week program for grades K-5th grade!.

❖ Memorial Gift Acknowledgements ❖

<u>WELCA</u> in memory of Carol Oja from Mr. & Mrs. Jay Dorenkamp.

General Operations in memory of John Buxton from Don & Sandy Huebscher.

SJCP Scholarship in memory of Donald D. Hanson by Don & Sandy Huebscher.

General Operations in memory of Uncle Walter Tesch by Ed & Emily Severson.

Mission Trip in memory of Ardell Torud by Tom & Jen Bain.

<u>Capital Improvements</u> in memory of husband, Roger & son, Alan. In honor of great grandsons, Wyatt, Lucas & Hunter Hedlund by Janet Dahl.

Easter in memory of our parents, Ernie & Verna Vorlob and Adolph & Dolores Huebscher by Don and Sandy Huebscher.

Thank you for these gifts.

Do you like meeting people or just plain volunteering??

The office is in need of a volunteer for Fridays from 9-1 p.m. Some of the volunteer duties include but are not limited to: answering the phone, greeting visitors, preparing copies, addressing and stuffing envelopes, and various office duties that arise. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Genny at 715-834-9571 or genny@stjohns-ec.org.



Financial Summary as of February 29, 2024

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	Surplus(Deficit)
February			
2024	37,020	42,839	(5,819)
2023	51,993	33,264	18,729
Year-To-Date:			
2024	63,772	84,946	(21,174)
2023	82,695	66,360	16,335
2021-23 Average	81,615	76,517	5,098



The April-June **Christ in Our Home** devotionals are now available in the Gathering Area. Large print also available!

Church & Community Events

Save The Date!

ELCA Women's Chippewa Valley Conference



Day of Renewal

April 20, 2024, 9 am – 1 pm

Location: Hope Lutheran Church

2226 Eddy Lane, Eau Claire, WI 54703

A Musical Journey - "How to Renew Our Minds"



FREE Foot and Nail Care for the Community

Grace Lutheran Church 202 W. Grand Ave Eau Claire, WI 54702

April 22, 2024 - April 26, 2024

We will begin accepting appointments on April 8th at 8:30 am. Please call 715-836-3636 to make your appointment at that time.







April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30 pm JuBellation	2 9:30 am Photo Directory Committee 9:30 am Staff Meeting	3 9:00 am Quilting 1:00 pm 150th Committee 3:00 pm Master Builders	4 9:00am Rostered Leaders Meeting 1:30 pm St. John's Apt Service 4:30-7:00 pm Boy Scout Spaghetti Feed 5:30 pm Youth Ministry	5	· ω
7 Flocking Orders Start 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am Adult Education 10:30 am Community & World 10:30 am TV Ministry WQOW	8 1-:00-8:30 pm Church Directory Photoshoot 5:15 pm Education 6:30 pm JuBellation 6:30 pm JuBellation	9 9:30 am Staff Meeting 1:00 pm Music & worship Ministry 2:00-8:30 pm Photo Directory Photoshoot 7:00 pm Preschool Board Meeting	10 9:30 pm Naomi/Ruth Circle 2:00-8:30 pm Photo Directory Photoshoot 3:00 pm Master Builders 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 9th Grade Confirmation with Mentors 6:30 pm CIA 6:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	11 9:30-12:00 pm Rostered Leaders Conf. 2:00-8:30 pm Church Directory Photoshoot 7:00 pm Property	12 2:00-8:30 pm Church Directory Photoshoot	13 8:00-4:30 pm "Encourage" Middle School Youth Gathering @ Bethany Lutheran, Rice Lake 8:30 am EC Area Ring @ Grace Lutheran 2:00 pm EC Area Ring Concert @ Grace Lutheran 10:00 am 4:00 pm Church Directory Photoshoot
14 Flocking Orders 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Adult Education 11:30 am Caretakers of Creation 2:00-8:30 pm Church Photo directory Photoshoot	15 No Preschool 6:30 pm JuBellation	16 9:30 am Staff Meeting 12:00 Diner's Club @ The District	9:30 am Lois Circle 3:00 pm Master Builders 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 9th Grade Confirmation with Mentors 6:30 pm CIA 6:45 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Mission Trip Meeting	18 9:00 am Volunteer @ The Community Table	19	20 Spring Workday @ Luther Park 9:00-1:00 pm ELCA Women's Chippewa Valley Conference @ Hope Lutheran
21 Brown Bag Kids for Kids 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am Adult Education 10:30 am TV Ministry WQOW	22 6:30 pm JuBellation	23 9:30 am Staff Meeting 2:00-8:30 pm Church Directory Photoshoot 6:30 pm Church of the Wild	24 9:00 am Quilting 3:00 pm Master Builders 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 9th Grade Confirmation with Mentors 6:30 pm CIA 6:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	25 10:00 am Oakwood Health Service 6:30 pm New Member Orienta- tion	26	27
28 Confirmation Banquet 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am Adult Education 5:15 pm Confirmation Class Picture 6:00 pm Confirmation Banquet	29 4:00 pm Finance 5:15 pm Stewardship 6:30 pm JuBellation	30 9:30 am Staff Meeting				



St. John's Lutheran Church is a people formed in the waters of Christian

baptism to be a *fountain of life* for all who gather here, overflowing into a

river of compassion for the world.

Your Church Staff

Ministers: All the congregation

Pastor: Pr. Christine Emerson

Music Director: Mark Lundin

CYF Director: Matt Svestka

Nursery Attendant: Paige Burrows

Communication & Ministry Coordinator: Adriane

DeMoe

Organist: Linda Ranney

Administrative Assistant: Genevieve Gorton

Bookkeeper: Jo Rauckman & Marlee Agner

Facility & Grounds Manager: David LaRose

Custodian: Tyeanna Segura

St. John's Christian Preschool: Nancy Hanson, Phyllis Meier, Jenna Mayer, Sarah Wergeland, Jess

Mattson

Preschool Website: www.stjohns-ec.org/grow/

preschool

St. John's Website: www.stjohns-ec.org

St. John's general email: stjohns@stjohns-

ec.org

1804 Highland Ave.
Eau Claire, WI 54701
715-834-9571

Website: www.stjohns-ec.org

Office Hours: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm Mon-

Thurs.

9:00-1:00 pm Fri.

Church Council:

Jean Jirovec President
Dramus Peuse Vice President
Penny Erickson Secretary
Mike Kitzman Treasurer
Mary Spryer Caring

Louise Alt Community & World

Stacy Kelly Education
Open Faith Family

Ruth Lundblad Seniors & Home Visitation

Richard Spryer Worship & Music

Open Youth
Teresa Burrows At-Large
Greg Johnson At-Large



Need a ride to worship at St. John's? Please contact the church office at 715-834-9571.