



St. John's Lutheran Church

Reaching Out—November 2024 Newsletter

1804 Highland Avenue, Eau Claire WI, 54701
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00 am—3:00 pm
Friday: 9:00 am—1:00 pm

715-834-9571
Website: www.stjohns-ec.org

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.

**Message
from
Pastor
Christine**

The Life of Abundance

"God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good." ~ Genesis 1:31

No doubt you have heard this generalization before: "There are two kinds of people in the world. Those who see the glass half empty and those who see the glass half full." Catchy; one dimensional, but still relatable! This phrase is usually used to describe oneself, mostly in a funny way. But I wonder if all of us can relate to the analogy instead as a *scarcity mindset versus an abundance mindset*. And maybe we all know that person who is always seeing the bright side of things. Maybe it's you! But, if you are like me, I tend to be a worrier, which means that although I long for and hope for the best, I worry about the worst. All in all, though, I do all I can to rest deeply in the "it will all work out because God has got this" scenario, because the alternative certainly doesn't help.

My experience for my own life is that I tend to go into scarcity mode when I am anxious about something, or if I dare say this out loud, I don't trust God. There, I said it out loud! Trusting God is hard when things are not abundant as we think they should be. And yet, looking at life through the scarcity lens doesn't work. We risk less, trust less, and live out our potential less. But it is easier, that's for sure.

This analogy can extend to faith communities as well. As there are both positive sides to things alongside the growing edges, there are also churches that tend towards scarcity or abundance. In a place of scarcity, it is tempting to be anxious about the future, seeing dwindling resources instead of the growth that is there. Yet, in churches that live abundantly, they tend to thrive even when they are small, because they risk, trust, and look for new ways to lean into the future. Living the life of abundance is a more difficult life to live for a people of faith, because it means that the Body of Christ must trust that their future is in the Holy Spirit's keeping, even while knowing that things are not perfect, nor as they once were. It takes pushing down our instincts of scarcity to wonder instead about the rich blessings that are indeed present.

While this analogy is not a one-size-fits-all generalization, scarcity and abundance are all over scripture. The best example is in the first and second chapter of Genesis. In the beginning, when God created the universe, God created everything to be good. Everything God created and continues to create is "good". Yet, at the same time, creation is broken, longing for the same restoration we long for. So, we are good *and* broken, saint *and* sinner; sometimes tending towards one way and sometimes the other. Which way do we tend to go? I would like to think that we are a church living an abundant life or at least attaining to live that life. I pray and ask you also to pray for that place of abundance, of thinking that the glass is half full with me. I pray that we all may be able to lean into the abundance that is there.

November is the month when we look at all our abundant blessings specifically the abundant gifts God always gives us. While the Thanksgiving holiday is really a secular holiday, I believe followers of Jesus often consider it a sacred time. It is a time to give God thanks for the "goodness" of creation, for the neighbor, and for the world that God loves. It is a time to concentrate upon abundance, even when it may be difficult, even when things are not abundant, and even when our future doesn't always look as rosy as we'd like.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

In dwelling upon this life of abundance, let me tell you right now what I am thankful for. I am thankful for you, for your trust and goodwill, for your faith and hope. I am thankful for your presence and for your strength. Specifically, I am thankful for your ministry to the Gospel, which I see in so many ways here at St. John's. This Thanksgiving may God grant us hearts of abundance together.

Pastor Christine

Children, Youth, and Family

First Wednesday

Families with a youth in K-4th Grade are invited to join the Faith+Family Ministry team for our third *First Wednesday* of the school year on November 6th from 5:15-6:15. There will be pizza in the Small Assembly Room, and an awesome fall craft for EVERYONE. Come join us!

2025 Raking Trip Fundraiser

The 2025 St. Johns Youth Trip Group will be fundraising by raking yards on Saturday, November 9th. Our first sign-up was at worship on Sunday, October 27th. There will be a second sign-up period at church on Sunday, November 3rd. We are asking for a minimum \$150 donation, and will be doing five yards. Consider having us help you out, and in return, your contribution helps the youth raise money to travel to Buena Vista, CO next June!



2025 Trip Fundraiser- Cookie Walk

Come support the 2025 High School Trip on Sunday, December 15th at 10:30 AM in the Small Assembly! Stop in and pick up a batch of cookies or treats, all made by the 2025 High School youth! You can either pick up a pre-made platter, or customize your own!



Advent Events-Save the Date

Advent Activity Night- Join the Faith+Family Ministry Team as we celebrate the beginning of Advent on Wednesday, December 4th, at 5:30 PM in the Large Assembly.

There will be treats and crafts all about the start of this incredible season, and the coming of baby Jesus.

Advent Program- All are invited to this year's Sunday School Advent Program, *Out of Time*, on Sunday, December 15th, at 10:30 AM. Our Sunday School youth will be performing a story about Jesus' birth on stage in the Large Assembly Room, and we'd love to have the congregation present to support them!



Save the Date – Christmas Tree Pick-Up Fundraiser

Consider supporting the 2025 High School Trip youth this winter with our Christmas Tree Pick-Up! On **January 4th**, our group will come to your house, pick up your natural Christmas trees, and recycle them for you. Sign-ups will begin in December.

st. john's christian PRESCHOOL

October Preschool Activities

October preschool days were filled with fall activities!

- ◆ Hunted for colorful leaves
- ◆ Visited Bushel and a Peck Apple Orchard
- ◆ Cooked Applesauce
- ◆ Played with Pumpkins and Gourds - Special thanks to Larry Krause who shared enough pumpkins and gourds for our classrooms and all the preschool families!
- ◆ Paraded in Costume - Thank you to the Grandfriends at SJ Apartments and SJ Staff for sharing in the fun!

November Planned Activities

Our activities this month help us to be grateful and to give thanks to God. We continue to learn and grow together at SJCP!

- ◆ Collecting funds and food to support Feed My People Weekend Kids' meals.
- ◆ Picture Day with Sharp Photo
- ◆ Turkey Handprints
- ◆ Thanksgiving Feast Days with our Preschool Classes



Openings

We currently have openings at SJCP. We would love to welcome children to join the fun with our preschool. Please share this information with families that may be interested. We suggest getting a feel for our program by visiting the classrooms and meeting our staff. We learn a lot, have some fun, and share God's love!

For more information about St John's Christian Preschool, contact Nancy Hanson at 715.834.9571. *Thank you!*

Capital Campaign Update – Cemetery Trees

St John's cemetery on Omaha Street has existed since 1884 and has many mature trees and shrubs. Over the past several years, three large ash trees died because of the ash bore infestation. In 2023, a capital campaign was undertaken to raise funds to remove these trees. By the end of 2023, \$4,100 was raised from donations and a grant from the Fountain of Life fund. The trees and stumps were removed in 2024 by CVS Tree Care at a cost of \$3,600. In August 2024, a wind-storm broke a branch from a large basswood tree which fell on a nearby arbor vitae, damaging that tree as well. CVS Tree Service removed both trees in September at a cost of \$1150. Funds remaining from the original capital campaign (\$500) and addition member donations covered that cost.

Thank you to all who donated to this project. We are blessed to have such caring and generous individuals in our congregation.



Dear St. John's, Thank you for all your help!

Our 150th Celebration took over one year to plan, which means many thanks are due to many people:

Dauneen Amundson, Bonnie Badman, Colleen Badman, Diane Benish, Jenna Boeckmann, Jim Boulter, Rusty Brand, Lisa Brandt, Greg Brandt, Bonnie Branham, Paulette Carlson, Travis Christopherson, CREW, Natasha Dahlstrom, Joel Desprez, Donna Meier, Penny Erickson, Dick Freitag, Kathy Freitag, Brandi Fuchs, Barb Graham, Candie Gross, Luke Gross, Ben Hanson, Emory Hanson, Mary Hanson, Nancy Hanson, Owen Hanson, Judy Haugen, Lu Ann Hintz, Diana Hogenson, Don Huebscher, Sandy Huebscher, Brett Isaacson, Jean Jirovec, Greg Johnson, Jean Johnson, JuBellation, Norah Kelly, Stacy Kelly, Gary Kersten, Julie Kersten, Margaret Kinderman, Ruth Ann Kjelstad, Cora Klawiter, Gary Klawiter, Sandee Kosmo, Virginia Kosmo, Jan Kosower, Larry Krause, LaVonne Krause, Ruth Kruschke, Erv LaFave, Linda LaFave, Frank Larrabee, Tim Lincoln, Randy Lundblad, Ruth Lundblad, Lois Mai, Ron Mastin, Cheryl Mattison, Arlene McAdam, Dave Meier, Donna Meier, Phyllis Meier, John Moseng, Charlotte Nelson, Kris Nelson, Eric Nielsen, Scott Olsen, Bev Orth, Marlo Orth, Amelia Peuse, Dramus Peuse, Jessica Peuse, Samuel Peuse, John Price, Sharon Price, Jeff Putnam, Nance Putnam, Nancy Rosentrater, Joan Schanen, Jamie Schoett, Mark Schultz, Ramona Sedlander, Rolland Segura, Ruth Sendelbach, Emily Severson, Mark Sontag, Patti Sontag, Pam Sorebo, Joan Sorenson, Richard Spryer, St. John's Choir, St. John's Council, Judy Staszczuk, Weston Tesky, Sandy Thon, Janet Toland, Mike Torud, Rachel Torud, Jane Van Helden, Carole Veness, Dustin Wagner, Jody Wagner, Amanda Wolfe, Vicki Wolter, Jean Yolitz, and Lynn Yolitz.

Also, a huge thank you to the St. John's Staff contributed so much to make this Anniversary Celebration happen. A special thanks to Tye Segura and Dave LaRose for all their work; this festival day wouldn't have happened without you. Thanks also to Pastor Christine, Mark Lundin, Linda Ranney, Matt Svestka, Genny Gorton, Nancy Hanson, and Marlee Agner; the extra work you've been doing these past few months was greatly appreciated.

Additional thanks to the following entities who provided historical information, maps, and photos for the enlargements and slide shows: Jodi Kiffmeyer and Carrie Ronnander from The Chippewa Valley Museum, The Eau Claire Weekly Free Press, The Daily Telegraph, The Leader Archives website, Wi Historical Society Online Maps, Wisconsin First Nations Website, Zion Lutheran-Muscatine IA, Tina Ecker from the You Know You Are From Eau Claire When... FB page, The Old Eau Claire WI FB page, The Daily Telegram, The L.E. Phillips Library Archives, The Leader Telegram, The Zachau Archives at SJ's, The Bluedorn Archives at SJ's, and The St. John's Archives.

Finally, thanks to these local businesses who were a pleasure to work with: Allegra/Image 360°, The French Press, Quality Quick Prints, WEAU News, and Sharp Photo.

Small tasks and large tasks alike made the 150th Anniversary of St. John's possible. Thank you all for your help,

The 150th Committee

St. John's Lutheran Church

1804 Highland Ave
Eau Claire, WI 54701



**FOUNTAIN OF LIFE.
RIVER OF COMPASSION.**

*⁵...so we, who are many,
are one body in Christ, and
individually we are members
one of another. ROMANS 12:5*

Memorials/Honorariums

TV Ministry: IMO my Husband, Roger & Son, Alan. IHO my Great Grandsons, Wyatt, Lucas & Hunter Hedlund by Janet Dahl

150th Anniversary: IMO Beverly Odegaard by her Husband, Henry Odegaard

Good Samaritan: IMO my Grandparents Olaf & Ethel Moen for their Christian hearts by Deb Hempel

Bell Tower Repair: IMO my Uncle, Rev. Paul Moen for his home rebuilding skills by Deb Hempel

General Operations: IMO our dear friend Dewey Hafermann by Ed & Emily Severson

Bell Tower Repair: IMO Karen Jorgensen by Jerry Jorgensen

General Operations: IMO Dick Sparks by Eric Nielsen

General Operations: IMO Dorothy Ganong by her Daughter, Barb Johnson

TV Ministry: IMO Bill Watson by Cheryl Watson

Thrivent

Thrivent Choice Dollars allows eligible Thrivent Financial members to direct Thrivent Financial's 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, 2024 to August 31, 2025, 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 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 October was Christine Emerson and Mike McCarty. St. John's thanks you for doing this.

St. John's Information

Church Council

Jean Jirovec President
 Dramus Peuse..... Vice President
 Penny Erickson..... Secretary
 Mike Kitzman Treasurer
 Mary Spryer Caring
 Louise Alt..... Community & Word
 Stacy Kelly..... Education
 OPEN Faith Family
 Ruth Lundblad..... Seniors & Home Visitation
 Richard Spryer Worship & Music
 Emily Ernster Youth
 Teresa Burrows..... At-Large
 Greg Johnson At-Large

Your Church Staff

MinistersAll the Congregation
 PastorPr. Christine Emerson
 Music Director.....Mark Lundin
 CYF Director.....Matt Svestka
 Nursery Attendant.....Tyeanna Segura
 Communication/Ministry Coordinator ...OPEN
 OrganistLinda Ranney
 Administrative AssistantGenevieve Gorton
 Bookkeeper.....Marlee Agner
 Facility & Grounds Manager.....David LaRose
 CustodianTyeanna Segura
 St. John's Websitewww.stjohns-ec.org
 St. John's General Emailstjohns@stjohns-ec.org
 St. John's Christian Preschool :

Nancy Hanson, Sarah Wergeland, Amanda Schroeder, Amanda Downing
 Preschool Website:..... www.stjohns-ec.org/grow/preschool

Upcoming Opportunities



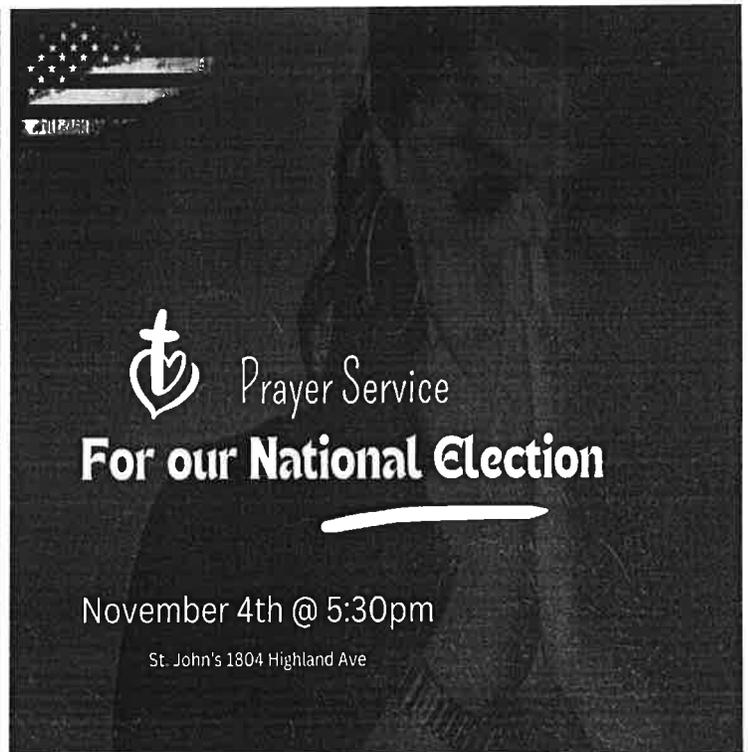
**THIRD ANNUAL
FALL
Arts Celebration**

SUNDAY
November 3rd

12-3:30 pm Art Viewing
2-3 pm Choir Concert

**Concert is a free will
donation**

Hosted at Grace Lutheran Church
202 West Grand Avenue, Eau Claire
A collaborative event sponsored by
Eau Claire ELCA churches

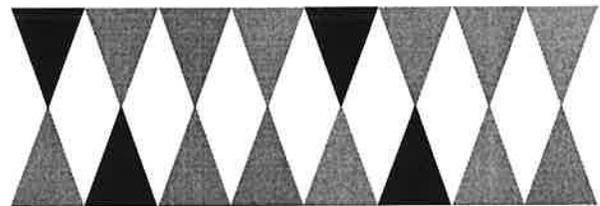


 Prayer Service

For our National Election

November 4th @ 5:30pm

St. John's 1804 Highland Ave



November

Date
Tuesday, November 19

Reservation
5:30 pm

Restaurant
Shanghai Bistro

RSVP

TO: Louise Alt at 715-834-1693
or email altlk@charter.net by
Monday November 18th
at 2:00pm.



**Thanksgiving
Warship Service**

"Enter God's Gates with Thanksgiving! Psalm 100:4"

NOVEMBER 27TH, 7 PM

Pie fellowship after the service!

Upcoming Opportunities

**COMING IN
NOVEMBER**

**ADULT
CONFIRMATION**
(AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM)

BEGINNING SUNDAYS
NOVEMBER 10TH - DECEMBER 8TH
AT 10:15AM
(WITH A PAUSE UNTIL FEBRUARY)

PLEASE LET PASTOR CHRISTINE
KNOW IF YOU WILL JOIN THE CLASS!

Order a Poinsettia to Adorn our Sanctuary!!
Order Forms Found In our Gathering Area or Church Office

Due By November 13th

Christmas Giving

Caring Ministry will again provide Christmas gifts for children/families in need within our church community this year. We will also work with Locust Lane to provide clothing and miscellaneous items for their school-wide "closet." 

If you would like to help by donating a gift, please visit the tree in the Gathering Area between Sunday, November 17—December 1. On the tree, there will be tags for children with their age and their wants OR items needed for Locust Lane's "closet." Please keep your gift to no more than \$40. Gifts need to be wrapped and returned with tag to the church by Tuesday, December 3 OR items for Locust Lane need to be in a bag (not gift bag or wrapped) with the tag attached or in bag.

If you prefer to donate money towards this Christmas Giving Project (for gift or grocery/gas cards), please drop off/send money to church office with a notation for Caring Ministry Christmas Giving.

If you would like more information, please feel free to contact Kathy Englebert (715-563-7470) or Shari Englebert (715-577-7969).

Thank you for helping make Christmas a little brighter for those in need!

FINANCIAL SUMMARY			
	Income	Expense	Surplus
September			
2024	37,130	47,199	(10,069)
2023	32,891	37,310	(4,419)
Year-To-Date			
2024	361,116	375,613	(14,497)
2023	321,270	304,071	17,199
2021-23 Average	327,046	353,875	(26,829)

Poinsettia Order Form* — \$12.00/Each

In Memorial Of: _____

In Honor Of: _____

From: _____

How many purchased: _____ Envelope#: _____

***Order due to Genny (in office) by Wednesday, November 13.**

November 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>3 All Saints Sunday 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am TV Broadcast- WQOW 12:30pm Fall Arts Celebration @ Grace Lutheran</p>	<p>4 5:30pm Prayer Service for Election 6:30 pm Jubilation</p>	<p>5 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Step Group</p>	<p>6 9:00am Quilting 3:00 pm Master Builders 5:15 pm Pizza Meal 5:45pm Choir rehearsal 7:00 pm 5th Grade Confirmation w/CREW</p>	<p>7 9:00am All Conference Gath- ering @ Bethany Lutheran 1:30pm SJ Apt Service</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 9:00am Youth Raking</p>
<p>10 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15am Adult Faith Formation 10:15-3pm (Family Gathering) 11:30 am Caretakers of Crea- tion</p>	<p>11 5:15 pm Education 6:30 pm Faith Family 6:30 pm Jubilation 7:00 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>12 9:30 am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Worship & Music 7:00pm Preschool Board 7:00 pm Step Group</p>	<p>13 Poinsetta Orders Due 3:00 pm Master Builders 5:45 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm CREW</p>	<p>14 6:30pm New Member Orienta- tion 6:30pm Youth Ministry 7:00pm Property</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 8:30-4:30 Eternal Angels</p>
<p>17 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15am Adult Faith Formation 10:30 am TV Broadcast- WQOW</p>	<p>18 4:00 pm Finance 6:30 pm Jubilation</p>	<p>19 9:30 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Diners Club@ Shang- hai Bisto 7:00 pm Step Group</p>	<p>20 9:30 am Women's Circle Bible study 3:00 pm Master Builders 5:45 pm Choir Rehearsal 6:15 pm 8th Grade Mentor Night 7:00 pm CREW</p>	<p>21 9:00 am Vol. @ Community Table 6:00 pm Council</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15am Adult Faith Formation</p>	<p>25 *No Preschool 6:30 pm Jubilation</p>	<p>26 *No Preschool 9:30 am Staff meeting 7:00 pm Step Group</p>	<p>27 *No Preschool 9:00 am Quilting 3:00 pm Master Builders 7:00 pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship</p>	<p>28 *Office Closed *No Preschool</p>	<p>29* Office Closed *No Preschool</p>	<p>30</p>