

**"Together In God"  
Broadcast Schedule**

WQOW Broadcast @ 10:30 AM  
ABC Network

Channel 18 January - 5th, 19th  
Cable 9 February - 2nd, 6th  
HD 618

# Reaching Out

St. John's Newsletter

Office Hours  
Mon-Thurs 9-3  
Friday 9-1  
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1804 Highland Ave.  
Eau Claire, WI  
54701

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"Hope is the thing with feathers  
That perches in the soul,  
And sings the tune without the words,  
And never stops at all,  
And sweetest in the gale is heard;  
And sore must be the storm  
That could abash the little bird  
That kept so many warm.  
I've heard it in the chilliest land,  
And on the strangest sea;  
Yet, never, in extremity, It ever asked a crumb  
of me."  
  
From Part One: Life  
Complete Poems of Emily Dickenson

## A Message From Pastor Christine

### Hope in a Season from Darkness to Light

**B**y the time we reach January, I have been immersed in the amazing and beautiful imagery of the Incarnation from scripture. The light of the world, Jesus Christ, has come! It's no wonder we have come to celebrate Christmas during the darkest time of the year. The season of darkness is often a difficult time for many in these winter days. I'm always amazed at how fast we lose our daylight during the winter months and then, bam! Suddenly, it seems like the light quickly returns, seconds every day, rushing back towards us. The sunset at 4:30pm is no longer!

I recently shared Emily Dickenson's Poem "Hope is the thing with feathers" in a homily. Emily Dickenson suffered from a disorder we know today as agoraphobia. She had a fear of leaving her home and restricted herself to being around family members. In her day, people called her eccentric for it, as her disorder was not understood. But I love her poetry because, although she dealt with some acute darkness in her life, her poetry is full of hope, life, and faith.

"Hope is the thing with feathers," wrote Dickenson. The problem with a lot of darkness in winter though, is that often you can't see the trees let alone the things that are perched there. But aren't we similar? We may not hope for things with feathers, but we still hope for better futures. Hope is like a Christmas list. We hope for the things we desire and want in life.

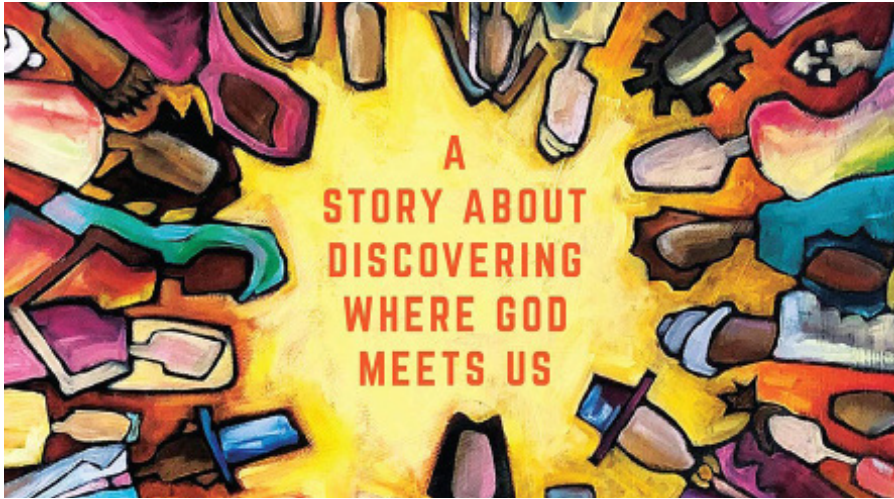
And, even in the darkness, we need to keep on hoping for something. Sometimes, we don't know what to hope for.

I see this over and over when a loved one is dying. Last year, I witnessed how more than one family had to make hard decisions that would affect the outcome of a loved one. They would say, "I don't even know what to hope for. Do I hope she goes quickly now, or do I hope she recovers? And, if she recovers, will she even have a life that is full? What do I hope for in this?"

In times such as those, and in times of my life where difficulty loomed like the short days we experience in winter, I could observe and feel within myself that some deep, abiding hope held them and held me. For as Christians, our hope in something is a hope in 'someone', Jesus Christ. We hope in someone as the people of God were reminded in Colossians, "Christ in you, the hope of glory."

It turns out that there is a season of light awaiting us, and the stable lamp is lighting our way. In hope, let us go from Bethlehem bringing that hope to others. The world awaits us. Peace, Pastor Christine ...

**"Christ in you, the hope of glory." -Colossians 1:27**



## Adult Education Book Study in January!

For those who are participating in the Adult Faith Formation classes this year, a book has been assigned while Pastor Christine is on Sabbatical. Ten copies have been ordered for those who registered for the program; however, if you would like to participate in the reading, and you have not registered officially for the class, you can order the book on Amazon, Augsburg Fortress online, or order through Books-A Million or Dotter's downtown Eau Claire. The book is titled, "The Deepest Belonging: A Story About Discovering Where God Meets Us", by Kara K. Root. We will have a conversation on this book February 16th at 10:30AM.



Have you seen our new online giving program, Realm?

We're excited about the new things happening at St. John's through our online community. You can securely give from our church website and via text message. You can even create an account to set up recurring donations and use our free Realm app!

If you have not received your personal invite link, please contact the church office. We'll then email you so you can get started today.



## Sabbatical Announcement



As Christmas wraps up, Pastor Christine will begin the second part of her 6 week sabbatical. As per sabbatical policies for ordained ministers, every seven years a pastor may take a three month sabbatical. Pastor Christine split her time into two, so as to avoid a three month absence as the congregation grows used to a solo pastorate.

She will take her remaining vacation right after Christmas and then her sabbatical begins December 30th and ends on February 10th. Here are just some basics about pastoral care coverage while she is away.

Guest preachers have been lined up for the Sundays of Pastor Christine's absence. For funerals and committals, a list of recommended ordained ministers is available through the church office. If a death should occur, Genny in the office can assist you and the funeral director of your choice.

Other St. John's members have been commissioned to do various hospital and hospice visitation when requested. These three already do visitation since they are all on the Senior and Homebound Visitation Ministry: Dauneen Amundson, Lynn Yolitz, and Ruth Lundblad.

Furthermore, we have our Executive Committee as well, who provide any support on the work of the business side or operating side of the church. Rely upon them when needed. They are wonderful assets to our ministry. Thank you, Jean Jirovec, Penny Erickson, Mike Kitzmann, and Dramus Peuse. What an amazing leadership team we have here at St. John's!

Pastor Christine thanks you for your support and for your discipleship. What a Fountain of Life you all are!



## Monthly Readings

### January 1st

Jeremiah 31:7-14  
John 1:[1-9] 10-18

### January 8th

Isaiah 43:1-7  
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

### January 19th

Isaiah 62:1-5  
John 2:1-11

### January 26th

Nehemiah 6:1-3, 5-6. 8-10  
Luke 4:14-21

## Caring Committee



The Caring Committee will again have their adult sock and underwear drive during January. Sizes large and extra large are always needed.

Also useful are gently used outerwear for men and women. These items will be distributed at the Sojourner House and The Community Table.

## Living Lutheran Returns!

Subscriptions for the 2025 run of Living Lutheran are now available! This quarterly magazine will cost \$17.

Please bring your payment to Genny in the office by January 31st.



## 2025 Offering Envelopes are Available in the Gathering Area!

### Special Offerings This Month

Initial Offering - January  
\* Printing Costs

St. John's Preschool - January  
\* Preschool Teachers and Classes

JONAH - January 19th

Capital Improvement Projects - January  
\* Facility Upkeep and Repairs



## Trivia Corner

What is the first city mentioned by name in the Bible?

Answer on Page 7





### Caretakers of Creation: Plastic-Free Eau Claire

Ruth Lundblad here from our CARETAKERS OF CREATION ministry at St John's. Caretakers mission is to help educate ourselves and congregation about ways we each can take better care of our physical world .

This month we want to introduce the PLASTIC-FREE EAU CLAIRE PROGRAM. Plastic is in everything these days. It does not break down or recycle like food and gardening produces. This community program is asking each of us to use less plastics and to be aware of how much plastic you use daily.

### PROGRESS OVER PERFECTION

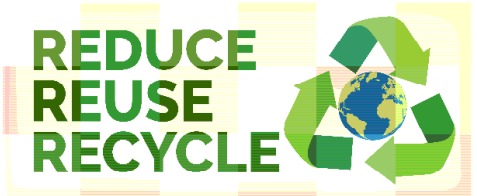
### Memorials and Honorariums

- Tanzania Tuition: IMO Robert Munden by Greg & Lisa Brandt
- General Operations: IHO Pastor Christine's anniversary of ordination by Scott Olsen
- Capital Improvements: IMO Robert Munden by Patrick & Susan O'Donnell
- General Operations: IMO Jill Kirk by Eric Nielsen
- General Operations: IMO Bob Munden by Penny Erickson
- General Operations: IMO Jill Kirk by Penny Erickson
- General Operations: IMO my husband, Roger & son, Alan. IHO my 3 great-grandsons Wyatt, Lucas & Hunter Hedlund by Janet Dahl
- General Operations: IMO Robert Munden by Jean Jirovec & Jim Christenson
- General Operations: IMO Jill Kirk by Jean Jirovec & Jim Christenson
- General Operations: IHO Lois Mai by Gary & Cora Klawiter
- General Operations: IMO Bob Munden by Ralph + Margaret Kinderman
- Christmas: IMO our parents, Ernie & Verna Vorlob and Adolph & Dolores Huebscher by Don & Sandy Huebscher

Take a small step by pledging to do three (or more) of the following

### I Pledge To:

- Refuse plastic straws
- Refuse plastic bags.
- Refuse plastic cups
- Refuse plastic utensils
- Refuse plastic water bottles
- Take plastic film to a recycling drop off site
- Take batteries and electronic waste to drop off site
- Compost food and lawn waste
- Recycle chemicals during "Clean Sweep" events



## Special Messages

### From: Berniece Kawell

Thank you for all the cards, flowers and treats, and especially the communion from one of the nicest people I know.

Sincerely,  
Berniece Kawell

### From: Pastor Christine

Thank you for all the cards, gifts, prayers, and Christmas wishes! Jim and I are deeply grateful for being a part of this faith community. Happy New Year!

Pastor Christine



### We Celebrated the Baptism of:

Tyeanna Segura  
Nolahn Segura  
Rolland Segura  
Zayne Segura

### We Mourned the Death of:

Mary Jane Melland, 89

## We Welcome Our New Members to St. John's!



### Tye, Rolland, Zayne & Nolahn Segura

I work at St. John's and I am learning to sew and knit. My husband, Josh, works at GFL and is in a pool league. Our two oldest sons, Nolan and Rolland, attend school in Chippewa Falls. As a family we love to play video games and board games together.



### Kristine Porter

Hello, my name is Kristine and I am excited to become a member at St. John's. Here is a little about me: I recently got married this past August to my husband, Ryan. I am currently attending CVTC to obtain my nursing degree and I will graduate in May. I currently work at Mayo in the Luther Hospital as a nurse tech, and on the side (when I have time), I enjoy spending time with family and friends.



### Timothy Lincoln

My wife and I moved to Eau Claire in April, having had enough Texas heat. During the 30 years that I was in Texas, I was the library director at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. I am now retired. I look forward to not commuting, enjoying classical music, and seeing what plants survive my green thumb in our shady backyard.



# st. john's christian PRESCHOOL

## From The Classroom.....

We are ready to start the new year and the new semester at SJCP. Teachers and children are excited for some winter activities in the classrooms and in the snow!

We also look forward to sharing Epiphany and reading about the magi's gifts. It is fun to imagine what we might also share with Jesus. This preschool Christmas favorite comes to you from SJCP. We use actions, and rhymes to share the story. You can try it too. Have fun!



## Preschool Openings!

We currently have 4 openings for new students. Please invite families who might be interested to call or email us at St John's for more information. We would love to welcome some new friends!

Three great kings on a cold winters' night

Found the little Jesus, guided by the light.

The first king said "We've come so far."

The second king said, "We followed the star."

The third king said, "Great gifts we bring."

And together they said, "Great praises we sing!"

Then they knelt and they prayed

and they bowed their heads

As they worshipped little Jesus born in a manger bed!



## Registration for the 2025-26 School Year

We are also making plans for the 2025-26 school year and will be enrolling children soon.

With registration beginning next month, we invite you to visit our classrooms, meet our teachers, and request information to learn about the preschool experience.

Classes are limited to ten students and are filled on a first-come first-serve basis. We encourage families to register early. We learn a lot, have some fun, and share God's love!

February 3th - 9:00AM: Priority Registration  
St. John's Members and Previously  
Enrolled Families

February 10th - 9:00AM:  
Open Registration

Director: Nancy Hanson  
<https://stjohns-ec.org/grow/preschool>  
(715)-834-9571.

# Youth Ministry

“*Hope to see you at Sunday School!*”

January 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th

## Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

The 2025 Faith Adventure Youth Group that is going to Buena Vista, CO in July, would like to express their deep gratitude for our members! We appreciate your spiritual and financial support at all the fundraisers that we have had so far in 2024! There are more fundraisers to come in 2025, so keep your eyes open for our posters!

Again, Thank you so much and Happy New Year!



## 2025 Youth Value Card Drive

SUPPORT THE 2025 YOUTH COLORADO ADVENTURE TRIP!

SUNDAY DEC. 15TH

SUNDAY DEC 22ND

SUNDAY DEC 29TH



CARDS ARE \$10 AND WILL BE SOLD IN

THE GATHERING SPACE

CARDS VALID JAN 1 - DEC 31 2025

### CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING FUNDRAISER

100% of proceeds will help fund the Colorado Youth Adventure Trip in July!

Register and Pay in church office by **January 2, 2025**  
Your tree will be picked up on **January 4, 2025**

\$10 / tree under 7'  
\$15 / tree over 7'  
\$15 / 2 trees

## CREW News

CREW will be joining the 8th graders and their mentors on January 22nd at 6:15pm for a community service activity!

Hope to see you there!

## 6th & 7th Grade Confirmation

6th & 7th grade confirmation begins on Wed. January 15th, 22nd, 29th, with more dates in February and March!

Remember to bring your Bibles!

## Trivia Corner

Answer: Enoch (Genesis 4:17)



## Reminders:

Acolyte training is on January 8th at 6:15 PM

Christmas Tree Pickup is on January 4th at 9:30 AM



**CARDS & GAMES**

**BRING YOUR FAVORITE GAME AND A WINNING ATTITUDE!**

**NO RESERVATION NEEDED**

**JANUARY 29TH @ 1PM**

**RESERVE YOUR SPOT!**

**DINER'S CLUB**

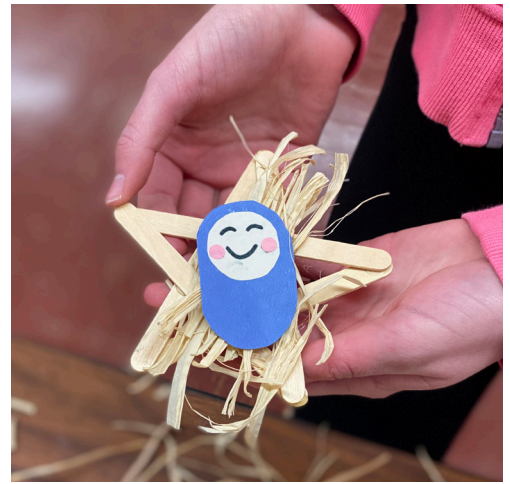
Tuesday, Jan. 21..... 11:45 AM

Red Lobster..... Shopko Plaza

RSVP..... by Jan 20th

Contact - Louise Alt

**BON APPÉTIT!**

 **Your Church Staff**

**Ministers:** All the Congregation  
**Pastor:** Pr. Christine Emerson  
**Music Director:** Mark Lundin  
**CYF Director:** OPEN  
**Nursery Attendant:** Tyeanna Segura  
**Communications Coordinator:** Lydia Elko  
**Organist:** Linda Ranney  
**Administrative Assistant:** Genny Gorton  
**Bookkeeper:** Marlee Agner  
**Facility & Grounds Manager:** David LaRose  
**Custodian:** Tyeanna Segura  
**St. John's Christian Preschool:**  
 Nancy Hanson, Sarah Wergeland, Amanda Schroeder, Amanda Downing, Bria Lindstrom

 **Church Council**

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



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29	30	31	Jan 1	2	3	4
			Office Closed	9am Women Rostered Coffee 1:30pm SJ Apt Service		9:30am Christmas Tree Pickup
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9am Worship 10:15am Community World 10:15am Sunday School 3:30pm Boy Scouts	6:30pm Jubellation 7pm Boy Scouts	1pm Staff Meeting 7pm STEP	1pm Caring Ministry 3pm Master Builders 5:45pm Choir 6:15pm Acolyte Training	9:30am Rostered Leaders -Trinity 6:30pm Youth Ministry 7pm Property		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:30am Caretakers of Creation 6:30pm Mission Trip Meeting	5:15pm Education Ministry 6:30pm Jubellation 7pm Boy Scouts	9:30am Staff Meeting 1pm Worship and Music 6:30pm Faith Family Ministry 7pm Preschool Board 7pm STEP	9:30am Women's Circle 3pm Master Builders 5:45pm Choir 6:15pm 6th & 7th Confirmation	9am Volunteer -Community Table 6pm Council Meeting		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9am Worship 10:15am Sunday School	No Preschool 4pm Finance 6:30pm Jubellation	9:30am Staff Meeting 6pm Diner's Club @ Red Lobster 7pm STEP	3pm Master Builders 5:45pm Choir 6:15pm 6th & 7th Confirmation 6:15pm 8th Grade w/ Mentors			
26	27	28	29	30	31	Feb 1
9am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 10:30am Community and World	6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Jubellation	9am Quilting 9:30am Staff Meeting 3pm Master Builders 7pm STEP	1pm Games & Cards 5:45pm Choir 6:15pm 6th & 7th Confirmation			