



Reaching Out

St. John's Newsletter

Office Hours
Mon-Thurs 9-3
Friday 9-1

1804 Highland Ave.
Eau Claire, WI
54701

"Together In God" Broadcast Schedule

WQOW Broadcast @ 10:30 AM

March - 2nd, 16th, 30th
April - 6th, 20th

ABC Network, Channel 18,
Cable 9, HD 618

WHAT'S INSIDE :

1. Caretakers of Creation
2. Upcoming JONAH Events
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A Message From Pastor Christine



I'm back! What a blessing to have a restful sabbatical time. I was able to enjoy some rest, travel, visiting with family, I took a class, and got some projects done that I could not tackle otherwise. Thank YOU! Thank you for supporting a sabbatical policy for your pastor.

Jim and I are deeply grateful to all of you. And I'm happy to be back! When I left, we were singing "Silent Night". The joy of Christmas was fresh, but as I leaned back into the start of February, the grief, fear, and strife of the world seemed to get louder and more worrisome. I know you are aware of this as we all have great concerns!

Lent is a season of repentance; that is, turning to God and asking for God's goodness to wipe away our sins and show us how to live anew each day. But Lent is also about turning away from the things which bind us toward Easter and the abundant life God offers. And we need a little Lent right now. Not the sacrificing, dismal, fasting kind of Lent (although that is useful, too), but the one that turns towards joy,

faithfulness, compassion and forgiveness. The world is like a dirge right now. It feels like meanness, anger and cruelty are normalized and even in some cases, considered a virtue! We struggle in the world, in our nation, in our communities while just trying to get through each day with our families. You might be thinking that Lent is yet another way for us to feel bad instead of it being an opportunity to connect to the eternal One who created us and redeemed us. Yes, we need to turn to God and cry, "Abba! Hear us"! But we also should remember that life is full of Easter promises and includes the choice of joy, of mercy, of kindness and the intention to love and listen. Maybe Lent just needs a bit of a burst of joy for us this year.

So, for our Lenten journey this year, we will lean in on the abundance of God by focusing on the five divine attributes supported by scripture: faithfulness, mercy, compassion, forgiveness and love. We will hear stories from our own members about their experiences of kindness, joy, and compassion. We will remind ourselves of the blessedness of life even though we have hard, tough problems to work through in our world. Think of this as a reset and a reminder that God is good and calls us to a joyful, blessed work.

We begin our journey Ash Wednesday, March 5th, with the Imposition of Ashes at noon and 7:00pm. The theme continues for five Wednesdays in Lent at 7pm. I hope you will come and join us as we turn back to God's goodness in joy.

Pastor Christine

Caretakers of Creation

Spring is Coming! Spring is Coming!

Time to watch nature awaken and unfold with new life. How can we help God's nature blossom?

- Hold off on raking the yards too soon.
- Give the grass time to establish their young roots.
- Let those leaves remain around the trees and in the gardens for the insects and buds to warm up.
- Clean those birdhouses out for the next families to be born.
- Nourish the yard and gardens with organic food.
- Rejuvenate the compost post bin.



Walk around your yard to observe and take note of what is coming to life. Be on the lookout for areas to increase your nature's backyard with pollinator and native plants, bushes and trees. God's creation is beautiful indeed! Let's continue to hold dear this precious life and help make it continue to flourish!

Spring is coming--be prepared!

Finally, did anyone have success planting those packs of seeds given out last April during Earth Month? If so, our team is looking for photos of your plants to display this April.

Thank you from the Caretakers of Creation

Games & Cards

March 12th
1:00 in the Gathering Area
Bring a game, bring a friend!

BIBLE STUDY

@THE CLASSICS
3/17 - 1:00

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.





Monthly Readings

March 2	March 9	March 16	March 23	March 30
Exodus 34:29-35 Luke 9:28-36	Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Luke 4:1-13	Psalm 27 Luke 13:31-35	Isaiah 55:1-9 Luke 13:1-9	Psalm 32 Luke 15:1-3 11b-32

Special Offerings This Month

Lenten Offerings - March

Starting Ash Wednesday, there will be 8 Lenten offering envelopes including Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

Capital Improvement Projects - March

This year, Capital funds will go towards upgrading the audio and video systems in the sanctuary.

Thank You!

Thanks to all of your generous donations, we were able to donate the following for the 2025 Sock and Underwear Drive:

- Long Underwear top sets - 11
- Jackets & Sweatshirts - 12
- Underwear - 38 pairs
- Socks - 153 pairs
- Leggings - 4
- Gloves - 6 pairs
- Sweatpants - 3
- Shoes - 1 pair
- Scarves - 4

Your continued support is appreciated every year!

The Mastersingers will present their final concert of the 2024-2025 season on Sunday, March 9, at First Congregational Church at 3:00 p.m. Choral Images: Reaching for the Light will feature the world premiere of "She Walks in Beauty" by Zachary Moore, commissioned by the Mastersingers as part of their support of contemporary American composers.

See Eric Nielsen for tickets or any questions about the concert - 715.797.7706. Tickets are \$25; \$10 for students.

Trivia Corner

Who wrote the Book of Acts?
Hint: Pastor Christine told you the answer!

★ Answer on Page 9



Lent 2025
Wednesday Services - 7:00

*Turning Toward
God's Abundance*

faithfulness, mercy, compassion, forgiveness & love

DINER'S CLUB
TUESDAY MARCH 18TH @ 11:45

WILD RIDGE GOLF COURSE

PLEASE RSVP TO LOUISE ALT BY
MONDAY, MARCH 17TH @ NOON

JONAH | Upcoming Events



Building Relationships 1-1

Build relationships through one on one conversations! Join this training opportunity to strengthen your relationships and better your communication skills! March 15, 9:30 AM - First Congregational UCC. (310 Broadway St.)

April Book Club

The second book in the 2025 Book Club is A More Perfect Union by Adam Russel Taylor. The meeting is at Dotter's Books at 6:15 PM. The exact date will be released at a later date. The link to register is at jonahjustice.org.

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 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 February were Lois Mai and Mike McCarty.



St. John's thanks you for doing this.

Memorials and Honorariums

Global Mission: IHO Dauneen Amundson by Gary & Cora Klawiter
Handbells: IMO Bob Childers by Diana Hogenson
Handbells: IMO Robert Childers by JuBellation
TV Ministry: IMO husband Roger & son Alan &
IHO 3 great grandsons Wyatt, Lucas and Hunter Hedlund
by Janet Dahl

We Mourned the Death of
Marlene Glover, 73 (December)
Jim Kiser, 75
Gary Johnson, 88
DeMaine Noskowiak, 88
Charles Brantner, 83



Presiding Bishop Eaton

Pastoral Message on Executive Orders

Dear church,

On Monday, our nation witnessed the peaceful transfer of power central to our democracy, followed by sweeping actions by the incoming Trump administration. Facing such changes, we receive guidance through Martin Luther's words in the Large Catechism.

In the fourth petition of the Lord's Prayer, where we pray "Give us this day our daily bread," Luther writes about the importance of praying for our leaders, asking God to grant them wisdom and strength. He also speaks to the responsibility of leaders to provide stability, sufficiency and equity, saying, "[I]t would be very proper to place in the coat-of-arms of every pious prince a loaf of bread instead of a lion, or a wreath of rue, or to stamp it upon the coin, to remind both them and their subjects that by their office we have protection and peace, and that without them we could not eat and retain our daily bread."¹

This past week has been one of rapid and cascading change, from the inauguration of a new president and vice president to the flurry of activity in government orders and regulations. The policies and decisions reflected in this week's executive orders and regulatory changes have the potential to profoundly impact our lives, the well-being of our neighbors and the future of the planet. Therefore, I am concerned about the ways that many of the executive actions have created uncertainty and fear in our communities among neighbors struggling to survive, neighbors struggling to provide for their children, and neighbors struggling to be seen.

As a church, we are called to speak up when the government distorts or denies the image of God in each person by endangering access to protection, peace and daily bread. Where harm or inequity occur, we are called by God to respond with love and advocacy.

Luther also writes that in asking for daily bread, we are to pray for our leaders. We should pray that they act wisely and justly, protect all people and not cause harm.

Prayer is not passive; it's an act of hope. Prayer reminds us to ground ourselves in God's promise. We pray for strength, to love unconditionally and to serve one another. As we lift up our petitions, we must also act—advocating for policies that affirm the dignity of every person and standing against actions that demean or exclude.

This church is committed to upholding the humanity of everyone, regardless of who we are or where we come from. We are a church called to love our neighbors and accompany all people in their joys and struggles. We must remain steadfast in this calling. As the ELCA, we will continue to proclaim the radical inclusivity of Christ's love. And we will deepen our local and global partnerships with those working to build a just and compassionate society, especially through our ecumenical and interreligious networks.

I commend to you the social message "Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy," which states on page 7: "To evaluate how well agencies of government are doing their proper work of providing for the safety and well-being of those within their borders and/or jurisdiction, Lutherans ask one simple but all-encompassing question: Is the neighbor being served?"

Presiding Bishop Eaton

Pastoral Message on Executive Orders cont.

I encourage our congregations to use the resources of the ELCA Witness in Society Team with advocacy networks on the state and federal level. And get involved with AMMPARO, the ELCA's strategy toward just and humane policies affecting migrants.

As we move forward, let us hold fast to our faith and to one another. Let us be bold in our witness to the gospel, steadfast in our prayers for those in authority and tireless in our efforts to seek justice for all. May God grant us courage, wisdom and peace in these days.

In Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton

Presiding Bishop - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

About the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

The ELCA is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with 2.8 million members in more than 8,500 worshipping communities across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region. Known as the church of "God's work. Our hands," the ELCA emphasizes the saving grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, unity among Christians and service in the world. The ELCA's roots are in the writings of the German church reformer Martin Luther.

For information contact:

Candice Hill Buchbinder

Public Relations Manager

Candice.HillBuchbinder@ELCA.org

¹ *The Book of Concord, Kold and Wengert, eds., page 450*

Turning Toward God's Abundance

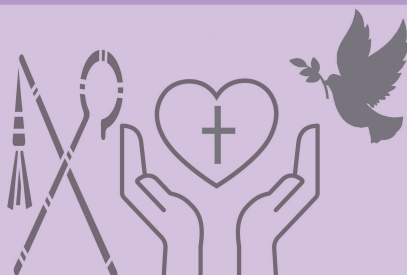
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Worship Schedule

Sunday - 9:00 AM
March 9 - April 6

Wednesday - 7:00 PM
March 12 - April 9



Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, March 5 @ 12:00 & 7:00

Sunday School:

March 9 - April 13

Holy Week

Palm & Passion Sunday

Sunday, April 13 @ 9:00 AM

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 17 @ 7:00 PM

Good Friday

Friday, April 18 @ 12:00 & 7:30 PM

Holy Saturday Vigil

Saturday, April 19 @ 8:00 PM

Meal Schedule

Soup Meals

3/5 - 12:30

3/5 - 5:30

3/12 - 5:30

3/19 - 5:30

3/26 - 5:30

4/2 - 5:30

4/9 - 5:30

Palm Sunday Brunch

4/13 - 10:15

Join us for the Troop 30 B & 30 G Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser!

Thursday April 3rd 4:30 - 7:30

Dinner includes:

Spaghetti, breadsticks, salad, desserts, & drinks!

Support the troops with dinner and a silent auction! They will also be accepting Free Will Donations so the scouts can go on more campouts and adventures.

Thank you!

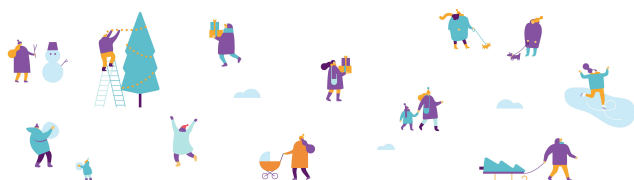
You are invited to.....

the Shrove Tuesday Event!!

WOW! Wintertime!

We have been waiting to play on "Snow Mountain"

Hopefully we will have snow and weather above 20 degrees so we can practice the skills of getting all of our gear on by ourselves and having some fun in the snow!



This is a fundraising tradition that you, your friends and your whole family will enjoy! This pre- Lent event is fun and popular, and has been a great way to raise money for the ongoing ministry of St. John's Christian Preschool. Thank you!!

Registration for the 2025-26 School Year

We are currently registering for the 2025-26 school year. We are excited to prepare for a new year as we welcome new and returning families to SJCP! If you have any questions about our program, curriculum, or openings for the fall please contact Nancy.

Also, did you know that most families know about SJCP because a friend or family member referred them?

Thank you for sharing us with other families!

Registrations are accepted and classes are filled on a first-come-first-serve basis.

For more information or to enroll please contact SJCP Director Nancy Hanson:
(715)-834-9571
nancy@stjohns-ec.org



You and your family and friends are invited to be part of this year's Shrove Tuesday Event!!

Shrove Tuesday is called "Fat Tuesday or "Mardi Gras". It is a traditional time for feasting and fun before Lent begins.

Festivities are from 4:30-6:30PM at St. John's and include...

1. Pancake Supper (serving until 6pm)
2. Carnival Games and Cake Walk
3. Silent Auction (see note below)

If you have questions, please contact any of the preschool teachers or a preschool board member. Thank you!



We need some help with this year's Silent Auction & Cake Walk!

Please call the office if you are able to donate baked goods or auction items. If you can help lead a game at the carnival, give us a ring too! These are some extra fun parts of the the event, and your help is greatly appreciated! Thank you.

Office Number: (715) 834-9571

Youth & Education Ministry

Education Ministry

Confirmation

6th & 7th Grade - 12th
8th Grade - 12th, 26th

Looking Ahead

Summer Stretch is coming up soon!
Sign up forms will be available on the Youth
Facebook page.

Keep your eyes peeled!

Hope to see you at Sunday School!

March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

Youth Ministry

CREW News

5th Graders - March 12, 6:15 PM
5-7th Graders - March 26, 6:15 PM
CREW will be held between
soup supper and worship

Lenten Schedules have been emailed. If you
have any questions, please email Pastor
Christine or Becky Cater

christine@stjohns-ec.org
beckyjocater@gmail.com





THE *Flamingos*
ARE COMING...

watch for more details in April!



A&W Fundraiser

March 10 from 4-8pm. Come in and eat during
this time, and a portion of the sales will go to the
St. John's Youth Colorado trip fund. The youth
will be working delivering food and clearing
tables at the restaurant!



MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER

**MARCH 10
4:00-8:00**

EAT OUT,
BE SERVED BY
THE YOUTH AND 10% OF
YOUR PURCHASE GOES
TO SUPPORT THEIR
JULY TRIP!

2870 WOODMAN DRIVE
ALTOONA, WI 54720

VBS 2025

THE LION KING

MONDAY JUNE 9 - THURSDAY JUNE 12

JOIN US FOR...

**CRAFTS • MUSIC • TREATS
STORYTELLING • AND MORE!**

**HOSTED BY GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH
REGISTRATION OPENING SOON!**



Church Council

- President:** Richard Freitag
- Vice President:** Dramus Peuse
- Secretary:** Karla Spies
- Treasurer:** Norb Kirk
- Caring:** Mary Spryer
- Community & World:** Louise Alt
- Education:** Stacy Kelly
- Faith Family:** Open
- Seniors & Home Visitation:** Larry Schaefer
- Worship & Music:** Richard Spryer
- Youth:** Emily Ernster
- At-Large:** Teresa Burrows
- At-Large:** Greg Johnson



Thank you to all who continue to provide treats for our coffee hour! They are always delicious and appreciated!

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

St. John's Lutheran Church on Highland Building Dedicated—1955



70th Birthday Celebration
Sunday, May 18, 2025
 9 A.M. service and birthday reception immediately afterwards
More details to come

Trivia Corner

Answer: The author of Luke!
 (Good thing you paid attention during Service)



December	Income	Expense	Surplus	Deficit
2024	75,795	63,227	12,568	-
2023	58,131	47,257	10,874	-
Year-to-Date	Income	Expense	Surplus	Deficit
2024	511,987	514,913	-	2,926
2023	507,456	435,252	72,204	-
21-23 Avg	493,279	489,721	3,558	-

March Calendar

"Walking Together" is on Sat, March 22 - 8:00 AM @ Bethany Lutheran - Rice Lake
There are no other events on Fridays or Saturdays in this month.

Sun - 2	Mon - 3	Tues - 4	Wed - 5	Thurs - 6
9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Adult Ed	No Preschool 6:30 JuBellation	1:00 Staff Meeting 4:30 Shrove 7:00 STEP	9:00 Quilting 12:00 Worship 12:30 Soup 3:00 Master Builders 5:30 Soup 5:30 Choir 7:00 Worship	1:30 St. J's Apartment Service 6:30 Youth
Sun - 9	Mon - 10	Tues - 11	Wed - 12	Thurs - 13
9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Adult Ed 11:30 Caretakers 6:30 Mission Trip Meeting	4:00 A&W Fundraiser 5:15 Education 6:30 JuBellation	9:30 Staff Meeting 1:00 Worship & Music 6:30 Preschool Board 7:00 STEP	12:00 VIP 1:00 Games & Cards 3:00 Master Builders 5:30 Soup 5:30 Choir 6:15 6&7 Confirmation 6:15 8th Confirmation 6:15 CREW 6:30 Faith Family 7:00 Worship	9:30 Rostered Leaders @Stout Camp Ministry 7:00 Property
Sun - 16	Mon - 17	Tues - 18	Wed - 19	Thurs - 20
9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Adult Ed	No Preschool 1:00 Bible Study @The Classics 4:00 Finance 6:30 JuBellation	No Preschool 9:30 Staff Meeting 11:45 Diner's Club @Wild Ridge Golf Course 7:00 STEP	No Preschool 9:30 Circle 3:00 Master Builders 5:30 Soup 5:30 Choir 7:00 Worship	No Preschool 9:00 Volunteer @Community Table 6:00 Council
Sun - 23	Mon - 24	Tues - 25	Wed - 26	Thurs - 27
9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Adult Ed	6:30 JuBellation	9:30 Staff Meeting 7:00 STEP	9:00 Quilting 3:00 Master Builders 5:30 Soup 5:30 Choir 6:15 CREW 6:15 8th Confirmation 7:00 Worship	10:00 Oakwood Health Services
Sun - 30	Mon - 31			
Brown Bag Event 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Adult Ed	6:30 JuBellation			