



# 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

May - 4th, 18th  
June - 1st, 15th  
ABC Network, Channel 18,  
Cable 9, HD 618

### A Message From Pastor Christine

The warmer months are here (sort of – technically anyway!) That means a lot more time outdoors and a little more downtime compared to the rest of the year. Yet, it's also a wonderful time to gather as church in different ways including a book study, Church of the Wild, a retreat at the Christine Center, and more!

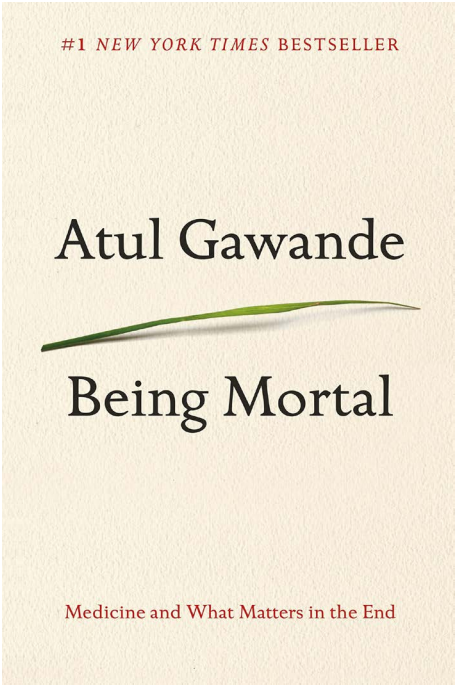
**Book Study:** As many of you know, my mother Joanne is making the slow journey to the Resurrection promises. The dementia has widened, she is no longer weight bearing, eats a lot less, and sleeps a lot more. Everyone goes through this process of being mortal. And, walking this journey with an elderly parent is something that occurs to most of us.

Decision making in medical care along with the choices we have to make as we approach the end of life is indeed a very fragile time. Having worked with those who grieve, it's also fraught with unnecessary insurance challenges and costly end of life realities. Why not talk about this out loud with community members? This summer, I invite you to join me in reading the book by Atul Gawande called "Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End". The sign up is on the Gathering Area bulletin board, or you can call Lydia to get on the list. I'll contact you via email to determine a time that works best for most to gather this summer for discussion. Please either sign up early to get the book ordered by us (you can pay for the book in the office or online) or order the book yourself. You may indicate that on the sign up.

**Church of the Wild:** 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! We will have services at Jean Jirovec's backyard at 2705 E. Deblene Ln., 6:30pm on the following Tuesdays: May 6th, June 10th, and July 15th.

**SUMMER OFFICE HOURS: MEMORIAL DAY-LABOR DAY**

**MON-THURS: 9-3  
FRIDAYS: 9-NOON**



#### WHAT'S INSIDE :

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- 3. Book Studies
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- 8. Wild Spirituality
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**Wild Spirituality:** A Restful Retreat in the Wild Side – Come join Pastor Christine and Mindfulness coach Ann Brand for a two day retreat at the Christine Center in Willard, WI, Wednesday, July 30-August 1, 2025. There are plenty of spaces left to attend this retreat. This retreat will include Church of the Wild, Mindfulness practice, but also will include opportunities to read, journal, to wander, enjoy hiking or sitting on the lovely grounds, along with fellowship at the bonfire. There will be an outside Church of the Wild service with Eucharist. This is an adult retreat for men and women. For more information, or for questions about cost of shared hermitages, single rooms, or campsites, please contact the church office or sign up with Jean Jirovec when you see her at church. The E-news also have information on this wonderful opportunity.

*Blessings in this Easter Season, Pastor Christine*

## Thank You!

### From CVTC Food Pantry

Thank you, St. John's Lutheran congregation, for the generous \$300 monetary donation and the substantial number (WOW!) of shelf-stable food and personal hygiene products donated for the CVTC Food Pantries.

Since starting the CVTC Food Pantry in the 2015/16 academic year, we have expanded the pantry to include our Eau Claire West Campus. Your donation will benefit both pantries.

Christine Webster  
CVTC Student Life



### From the Day of Renewal Organizing Team

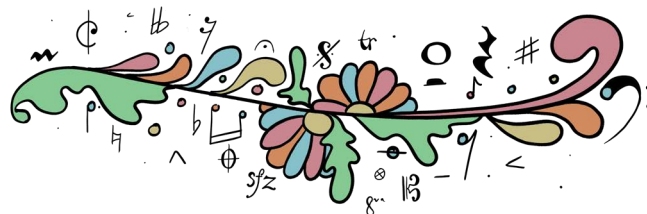
The Day of Renewal on Saturday was a beautiful day of inspiration and fellowship! We had 85 women attend from 18 churches in our Chippewa Valley Conference. Very impressive!

Speakers Kim Peach and Karen Morris presented an eloquent message of faith, friendship and courage to ask for help; Joyce Orth presented informative statistics on the exploitation and cycle of human trafficking. Many positive comments were received on the speaker's presentations.

The young voices of the Sunday School Choir got all the attention they deserved with their fun and captivating singing.

A sincere THANK YOU to our wonderful staff and the kindhearted ladies of our church who lent a hand to make this day a huge success. You are so appreciated!!!

God's blessings,  
Kris Nelson  
Penny Erickson  
Holly Sweeney



## WELCA Retreat at Luther Park

The Women of the ELCA invite St. John's women to a relaxing summer retreat at Luther Park Bible Camp in Chetek on June 4 and June 5. The presenter will be Destiny Jackson, who will share the love and healing from Jesus that she has experienced firsthand. Some of the other retreat activities include chair massage, card making, chair yoga, candy bar bingo, and canoeing. You can attend one day or the full two days. Register before May 10 for an early bird discount registration. More information and the registration forms are available in the church office and on the bulletin board.



## Monthly Readings

May 4	May 11	May 18	May 25
Isaiah 43:16-21 John 12:1-8	Isaiah 50:4-9a Luke 22:14-23:56	Acts 10:34-43 Luke 24:1-12	Acts 5:27-32 John 20:19-31

### Special Offerings This Month

#### Cemetery Care - May

These funds go towards maintenance and upkeep of St. John's Lutheran Church Cemetery located on Omaha Street.

#### Weekend Kids' Meals - May

This is a special envelope for Feed My People. This is in support of Locust Lane School where we help provide support to their school food pantry which is open to all.

#### Capital Improvement - May

Capital Improvement Funds this year are going towards upgrading and repairing the sound and video systems in the sanctuary.

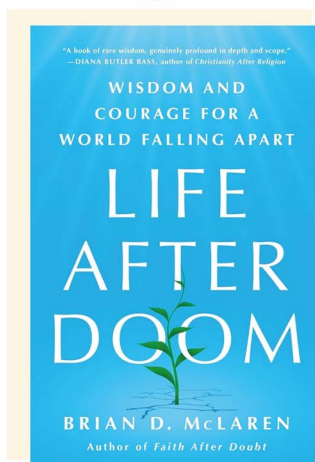
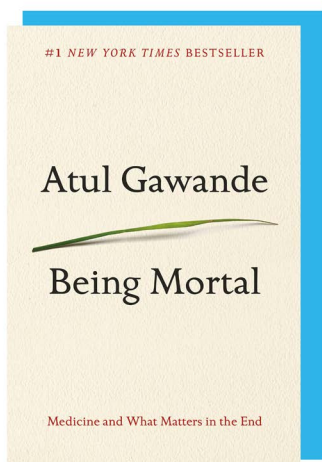
#### 2025 Offering Envelopes

If you have not picked up your 2025 Offering Envelopes yet, please call Genny in the church office by May 31st to make pickup arrangements. Thank you for your gifts of service & offerings!

**Pastor Christine will be out of town from April 29th-May 4th. Please contact Rev. Valerian Ahles for any pastoral emergencies!**



### Book Studies



Summer reading: Being Mortal - Atul Gawande  
Fall reading: Life After Doom - Brian McLaren

**Diner's Club**

Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> @5:30PM



**4 MILE**

Restaurant & Bar LLC

HWY 37 | EAU CLAIRE

Please notify Louise Alt by Monday,  
May 19<sup>th</sup> @Noon to RSVP  
[altlk@charter.net](mailto:altlk@charter.net)

### Trivia Corner

After Jesus blessed the disciples' efforts, how many fish was Simon Peter able to catch?

★ Answer on Page 9





# JONAH | Upcoming Events

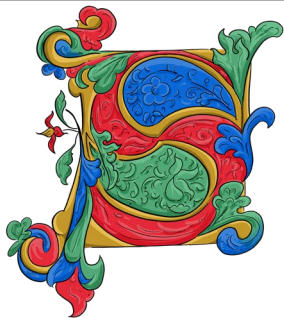


## June Book Club - June 17th

Join us for our third book in our 2025 Book Club - *Becoming Abolitionists* by Derecka Purnell! We will meet at Dotter's Books at 6:15 pm to discuss it. Register at [jonahjustice.org/event/june-book-club/](https://jonahjustice.org/event/june-book-club/)

## Public Meeting and Mini-Training

June 16th is our second Public Meeting! The topic of this discussion will be: How To Do Power Mapping. This will take place both online and in person at the JONAH office from 5:30 - 7:30. More information and registration can be found at [jonahjustice.org/event/public-meeting-2/](https://jonahjustice.org/event/public-meeting-2/)



Come support Schola Cantorum of Eau Claire at their concert: Quam Pulchra Es—Celebrating Palestrina! This wonderful concert features the sacred choral music of Giovanni Pierluigi de Palestrina and his 500th birthday year. Tickets are free, but donations are welcome! The concert will be held at St. Olaf Catholic Church on Saturday, May 17th at 6:30 PM.

**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 April was Mary Gerth, Elaine McCarty, Ron & Barb Norby, Mike & Rachel Torud and Geri Wojtysiak.

St. John's thanks you for doing this.

## Memorials and Honorariums

General Operations: IMO Ruth Kruschke by Shirley Hoffman

Capital Improvements: IMO Mark Johnson by Margaret Johnson

General Operations: IMO Ruth Kruschke by Bruce & Sue Willette

General Operations: IMO Ruth Kruschke by Jan Andresen

Easter: IMO our parents, Ernie & Verna Vorlob and Adolph & Dolores Huebscher by Don & Sandy Huebscher

Good Friday: IMO husband Roger & son Alan. IHO great grandsons Wyatt, Lucas & Hunter Hedlund by Janet Dahl

Quilting: IMO Ruth L. Kruschke by Shirley Hoffman, Tom & Judy LaLiberte, Bonnie Waters, Lois Dohms

## We Mourned the Death of

Arthur Hotvedt, 97  
Jerry R. Schlewitz, 80



## Upcoming Events



**CHURCH OF THE WILD**  
MAY 6, JUNE 10, JULY 15  
6:30 PM

GROUNDING IN SACRED PRESENCE



2705 E. Deblene Ln. Eau Claire, WI 54703  
Services will be held outside around a bonfire!  
Please dress accordingly.

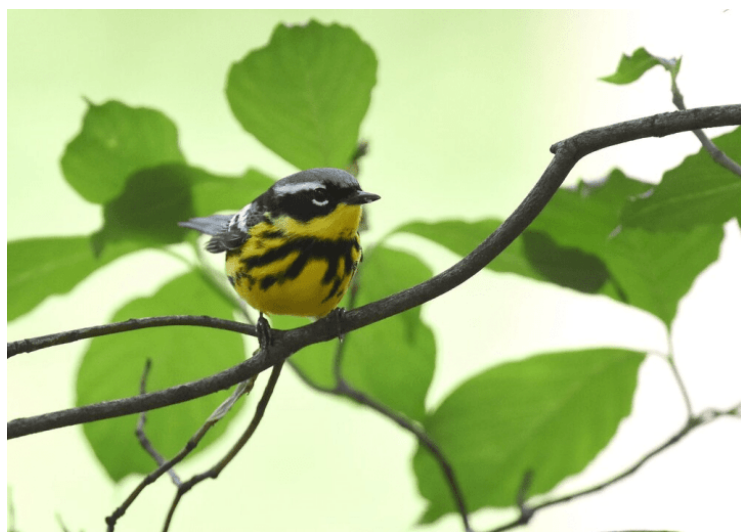
For more information | Email: [stjohns@stjohns-ec.org](mailto:stjohns@stjohns-ec.org)  
please reach out to the | Phone: 715-834-9571  
St. John's Office | [stjohns-ec.org](http://stjohns-ec.org)

Spring  
**STORYTIME**

Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays | April 1-May 1



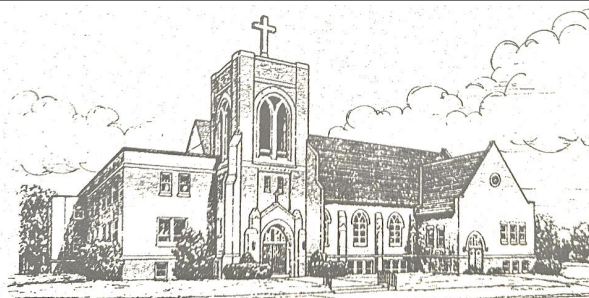
**Menomonie Public Library - Spring Storytime**  
**9:30 - 10:00 Learning Together**  
Children of all ages with a caregiver  
**10:15 - 10:45 On My Own**  
Children ages 3-6



### **Warbler Wednesday-Guided Bird Hikes**

Join volunteer and bird bander, Dave Kragness, and Avian Field tech, Claire Molina, at Beaver Creek Reserve for an educational experience as we welcome back migrating warblers! Registration closes 3 days before each hike. **Every Wednesday from May 7 - May 28 7:00-8:30 AM**

For more information, visit:  
[beavercreekreserve.doubleknot.com](http://beavercreekreserve.doubleknot.com)

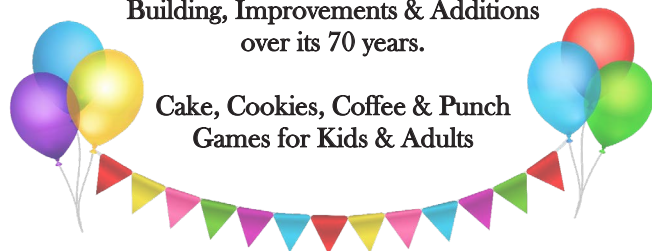


### **You are Invited to a 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party**

Whose: St. John's Highland Church Building  
When: Sunday, May 18, 2025  
Time: Immediately After Church  
Where: In the Church Basement...just like they did in 1955!

New PowerPoint Slide Show of the Highland's  
Building, Improvements & Additions  
over its 70 years.

Cake, Cookies, Coffee & Punch  
Games for Kids & Adults



Chippewa Valley Dementia Coalition Presents:



## Chippewa Valley Dementia Conference

TUESDAY  
MAY 20, 2025  
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

The Florian Gardens  
CONFERENCE CENTER

### FOR PROFESSIONALS AND FAMILY CAREGIVERS



Dr. Cynthia Carlsson  
Wisconsin Alzheimer's  
Institute



Tasha Schuh  
National Speaker

Join us for a day of learning, support, and  
resources at the 1st Annual  
Chippewa Valley Dementia Conference.

- Navigating The Noise: Over the Counter Drugs, Commercials, CBD, Natural Aids, and Brain Helpers
- Understanding and Responding to Behavior
- Balancing Risk in Dementia Care
- Living with Grief Associated with Dementia
- Hi and Low-Tech Assistive Technology
- The Power of PATH: Passion, Attitude, Team, and Hope

Cost: \$25  
\$50 with CEUs (6)

REGISTRATION REQUIRED



### SPONSORS



CAMBRIDGE  
SENIOR LIVING



Deadline to Register  
Monday, May 12, 2025

<https://bit.ly/3QusVvY>

The Aging and Disability Resource Center Presents:

## Confident Dementia Caregiver Monthly Series

Knowledge and skills to help you care for those with dementia



Tuesdays, April - September, 2025

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Bethesda Lutheran Church

123 W. Hamilton Avenue, Eau Claire

Enter Door #8

April 29

Caring for Dementia:

Understanding Behavior as Communication

May 27

Let's Go Upstream:

Preventing and Preparing for Emergencies and Crisis

June 24

Creating a Dementia-Friendly Home

July 29

Not All is Lost:

Focusing on What's Right Instead of What's Wrong

August 26

Meaningful Connections Require Boundaries:

Go from Guilt to Glow

September 23

Caregiving and Crochet: An Escape to Better Self Care

Free public event. Each presentation includes  
handouts and resources.

Let us know you are coming,  
reserve your spot for each  
session at [www.adrc-events.org](http://www.adrc-events.org)  
or call the ADRC at  
715-839-4735 or 888-338-4636.



Presented by:



LISA WELLS, MA

Dementia Care Specialist  
Aging and Disability Resource Center  
of Eau Claire County

## Upcoming Events

### Wild Spirituality

A Restful Retreat in the Wild Side

The Christine Center: Willard, WI

July 30th - August 1st

Join Mindfulness Coach Ann Brand and  
Pastor Christine for a midweek two-  
night retreat this summer!

If you are interested or would like to  
sign up, please contact Jean Jirovec:  
[jirovec.jean@gmail.com](mailto:jirovec.jean@gmail.com)

## Thrift Sale

Spirit Lutheran Church

1310 Main St, Eau Claire

May 15<sup>th</sup> 10AM-3PM

May 16<sup>th</sup> 9AM-3PM

May 17<sup>th</sup> 9AM-12PM



To keep funding Neighbor to Neighbor Scholarships

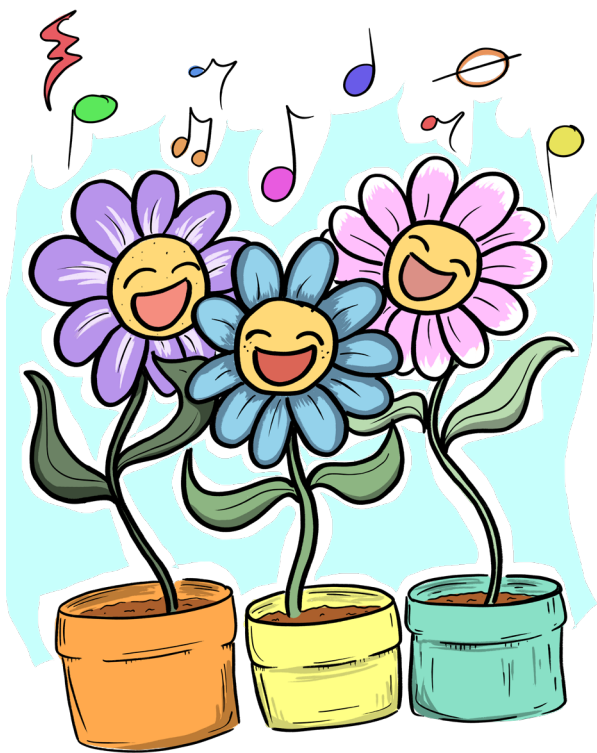


# st. john's christian PRESCHOOL

## Registration for the 2025-26 School Year

Classes are filling for the 2025-26 school year! We are excited 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 soon!

Contact: [Nancy@stjohns-ec.org](mailto:Nancy@stjohns-ec.org)  
715.834.9571



## Preschool 2025 Program Wednesday, May 21st 6:00PM St. John's Sanctuary

It has been a school year to celebrate! You are invited to SJCP's annual spring party/program. Please join us as we share some songs, smiles, and memories of our year together.



## You could be a Preschool Board member!

Our board of directors plays an integral role in our preschool ministry. We are currently in need of members to serve on our board. We meet along with the directors and a pastor on the 2nd Tuesday of most months, assist in planning of fundraisers and community events, review preschool financials and have a little fun too. Please let Nancy know if you are interested.

Thank you!

# Youth & Education Ministry

## Education Ministry

### Looking Ahead

Summer Stretch and Luther Park Summer Camp sign up is here! Summer Stretch sign up forms are available on the Youth Facebook page and our website. Luther Park Summer Camp sign up is available at [lutherpark.org/summer-camps](http://lutherpark.org/summer-camps). More information for both can be found on the bulletin board outside of the CYF office.

### Hope to see you at Sunday School!


May 4th & 11th



### CREW News

CREW will be helping out with the May 7th First Wednesday Activity night! See you there!

## Faith Family Ministry

Come & GROW in the  
LOVE OF GOD 

*"May's Activity"*

Faith Family  
invites EVERYONE to  
St. John's assembly area  
on Wed., May 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:15:  
Hotdogs & Chips!  
Planting Sunflowers!!  
Crafts!!!  
Be there or be !!!!

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1804 HIGHLAND AVE

MAY 17TH!

**HOT DOG & BRAT STAND**

PART OF THE EAST HILL THRIFT SALES

BEVERAGES | PLATES W/CHIPS, COOKIE & PICKLE

SERVING STARTING AT 10:30 AM  
UNTIL THE FOOD IS GONE OR 1:30

**SUMMER STRETCH**

Make a difference while having fun!

Sign up has started for Summer Stretch 2025. More information can be found on the bulletin board by the CYF office or on our website.

**Register by May 19th**

June 18 & 25  
July 16, 23, & 30  
Valleyfair: August 6

**VBS 2025**

**THE LION KING**

**MONDAY JUNE 9 -THURSDAY JUNE 12**

**COST IS \$20 PER PARTICIPANT WITH A \$50 FAMILY CAP! VOLUNTEERS ATTEND FOR FREE!**

**GRADES K-5  
YOUTH HELPERS GRADES 6-12  
ADULT VOLUNTEERS**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MAY 20TH 2025**

**Congratulations Are in Order!!!**

St. John's will be honoring 11 graduating seniors on Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at our 9:00 service. Please join us after service for cupcakes and drinks, and take time to congratulate them personally.

Seniors of St. John's 2025	
Kendyl Asmussen	Nathan Kruschke
Ethan Christopherson	Cory Suckerman
Hailey Cornell	Gavin Tweet
Daniel Cotton	Lars Tweet
Amanda Dahl	Zoey Wolfe
Cooper Kruschke	

Hats off to them!!



# 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:** Nancy Putnam
- Seniors & Home Visitation:** Larry Schaefer
- Worship & Music:** Richard Spryer
- Youth:** OPEN
- At-Large:** Jeff Putnam
- At-Large:** Greg Johnson

# 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

# Trivia Corner

Answer: 153 fish! That's a lot of fish.



# Thank you!

This month we would like to honor and thank all of our wonderful volunteers! As you all know, our volunteers contribute an incredible amount of time, talent, and service to help keep our community thriving. We truly couldn't go on without the dedication of all of our wonderful volunteers. From soup masters to ushers, we thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

-St. John's Congregation



# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	Income	Expense	Surplus(Deficit)
March			
2025	59,357	37,322	22,035
2024	62,186	42,496	19,690
Year-To-Date			
2025	116,397	108,249	8,148
2024	125,957	125,859	98
2022-24 Average	120,980	115,924	5,056

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

MARCH	2025	2024	2022-24 Average
Income	\$ 59,357	\$ 62,186	\$ 45,046
Expense	37,322	42,496	39,145
Surplus(Deficit)	\$ 22,035	\$ 19,690	\$ 5,901
YEAR-TO-DATE	2025	2024	2022-24 Average
Income	116,397	125,957	120,980
Expense	108,249	125,859	115,924
Surplus(Deficit)	8,148	98	5,056



# May Calendar



**Saturday, May 10th**  
1:00 Jim Kiser Memorial  
**Saturday, May 17th**  
10:30 Youth Brat Stand

**Thurs - 1**

1:30 St. J's  
Apartment  
Service  
6:30 Youth

Sun - 4	Mon - 5	Tues - 6	Wed - 7	Thurs - 8
9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School	5:15 Education 6:30 JuBellation	1:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Preschool Board 6:30 Church of the Wild 7:00 STEP Group	9:00 Quilting 3:00 Master Builders 5:15 First Wednesdays 5:30 Choir	1:00 Caring Ministry 1:30 St. J's Apartment Service 7:00 Property
Sun - 11	Mon - 12	Tues - 13	Wed - 14	Thurs - 15
9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Adult Education 11:30 Caretakers of Creation	6:30 JuBellation	9:30 Staff Meeting 1:00 Worship and Music 5:00 Benevolence 7:00 STEP Group	12:00 Chippewa Valley VIP 1:00 Games and Cards 3:00 Master Builders 5:30 Choir	9:00 Volunteer @ The Community Table 9:30 Rostered Leaders @ Immanuel - EC 6:00 Council
Sun - 18	Mon - 19	Tues - 20	Wed - 21	Thurs - 22
9:00 Worship 10:15 70th Anniversary Celebration	3:00 Bible Study @ The Classics 4:00 Finance 6:30 JuBellation	9:30 Staff Meeting 5:30 Diner's Club @ 4 Mile Restaurant & Bar 7:00 STEP	9:30 Women's Circle 3:00 Master Builders 6:00 Spring SJCP Program/Family Picnic	10:00 Oakwood Health Services
Sun - 25	Mon - 26	Tues - 27	Wed - 28	Thurs - 29
9:00 Worship	OFFICE CLOSED	10:30 Staff Meeting 7:00 STEP	9:00 Quilting 3:00 Master Builders	

"May my teaching drop like the rain, my speech condense like the dew; like gentle rain on grass, like showers on new growth. For I will proclaim the name of the Lord; ascribe greatness to our God!

-Deuteronomy 32:2