

Reaching Out

St. John's Newsletter

Office Hours Mon-Thurs 9-3 Friday 9-12

1804 Highland Ave. Eau Claire, WI 54701

"Together In God" **Broadcast Schedule**

WQOW Broadcast @ 10:30 AM

August - 3, 17, 31 September - 7, 21

ABC Network, Channel 18, Cable 9, HD 618

A Message From Pastor Christine

"And Jesus said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest awhile." -Mark 6:31

Rest. When you think about that word, rest, what comes to your mind?

Quiet repose?

· Inactivity after work?

· Relief from anything that wearies or troubles?

· A period of solitude or tranquility?

WHAT'S INSIDE:

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- 2. Caretakers of Creation
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Rest. If I gave you free permission to renew, stop or slow down and simply be, would you do it? Would you feel guilty? Would you take the time to do that or would the instinct to look at your phone, email, or TV, or whatever, hook you into being busy again? What if I told you that Jesus himself gives you permission to rest? Would you see that invitation as important, easy, or difficult?

I hope you will indulge me just before I leave for my vacation this week as I hurriedly finish this project; that is, before I choose to rest on purpose for a period of time, to focus upon one really simple verse of Jesus: 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest awhile.'

In this day and age, I can't help but wonder if this simple invitation of Jesus isn't packed with so many associations. I have filled my life with activity, work, and obligations; therefore the concept of rest is something that I have to look at as intentional in order to do it. I don't mean sleep when I say this, although restful sleep is also desired for everyone. But I mean rest – the act of resting – of simply being. Do we do that? Or, do we think we do but really don't?

You know what I think (of course I'm going to tell you)? We have forgotten how to rest, even in summertime. And yet, here Jesus invites us – NO – gives us permission to rest. Did you know that we are given permission to do this? For, it's unlikely that neither Jesus, nor his disciples could have ever had the compassion they had for the crowd around them if they had not also rested. The simple act of being enabled them to be better at serving.

I'm sure that all of us are familiar with the commandment to keep the Sabbath Day. It's one of the Ten Commandments after all and is the only commandment that commands that we rest. Rest is not only given to us, but also required according to this commandment given so long ago to the Israelite slaves who languished in Egypt. They probably didn't think of it as something that was arduous or interfered with their time. As slaves, they maybe even think, "You mean we get to rest and we even have to? God be praised!"

But, before we think that we are not like those slaves in Egypt, let's reconsider this: We aren't all that different, except our slavery is self-imposed and therefore, a lot harder to overcome. We have enslaved ourselves to the idea of success, of doing, and that good old Protestant viewpoint of self-determination. We are enslaved to the idea of having, which makes me wonder how it is we can focus at all. We are enslaved to the idea of more: more money, more house, more stuff on the resume. I'm sure like me you are already naming those things in your head that have stopped you from times of just being quiet each day.

Just the invention of the smart phone or the tablet has made it just that much harder. We are never alone with those things around and I speak for myself just as much as for you!

Therefore, in these fleeting days of summer, hear the words that Jesus says again. These words are an invitation to rest: "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest awhile." This isn't just an invitation to take the afternoon off or take a few days of vacation. This is an invitation to remove the shackles of our slavery of doing – always doing. Simply be. I dare you. I double dog dare you to start resting in the way Jesus means. Stop. Take ten minutes. Look around you. Listen. Be. And see what God is doing in your life.

Blessings, Pastor Christine

Caretakers of Creation Season of Creation 2025

Season of Creation is an annual celebration from Sept. 1 to Oct. 4 when Christians come together in prayer and action to protect God's creation. The theme for 2025 is "Peace with Creation". The ecumenical family around the world will unite to advocate for our common home, Earth. Pastor Christine and Caretakers of Creation are planning special speakers on the Sundays of September and the celebration will end on Oct. 4. St. John's will have a Blessing of the Animals on Wednesday, Oct. 1 in honor of St. Francis of Assisi. Caretakers of Creation are asking members of St. John's to participate in this celebration by taking photos showing themselves as caretakers of creation. Include your name and a brief explanation of the photo. It might be a photo of a tree you planted, the litter you picked up, or you and your compost bin. The photos will be shown on the worship screens prior to Sunday worship.

Please send the photos to lydia@stjohns-ec.org.

Join Caretakers of Creation on September 1st during Adult Education to celebrate the International Day of Prayer for Creation! This is a wonderful kickoff to the Season of Creation, and we would love to see you there. All are welcome!



Women's Circle St. John's Women's Circle Begins Again

Women of St. John's are invited to join our monthly Bible study beginning on Wednesday, Sept. 17 at 9:30 in the St. John's library. We will regularly meet on the third Wednesday of each month.

Isaiah 32:14-18

The Bible study this autumn is titled, "Money, Stewardship, and Generosity" by Rev. Christa von Zychlin. The author asks us to think about "What do we treasure?" From Genesis to Revelation, the acquisition of gold and silver have been viewed as examples of God's gifts. Yet the excess love of money has been a source of downfall and destruction. Jesus taught his disciples to dig deep for true treasure. How will we respond to the amazing gifts from our loving God?

Our Bible study comes from the ELCA magazine, Gather, but copies of the Bible study will be available. The discussion is always lively and thought-provoking. Please join us.



Monthly Readings

August 3

Psalm 49:1-12 Luke 12:13-21

August 10

Genesis 15:1-6 Luke 12:32-40

August 17

Isaiah 5:1-7 Luke 12:49-56

August 24

Psalm 103:1-8 Luke 13:10-17

August 31 Sirach 10:12-18

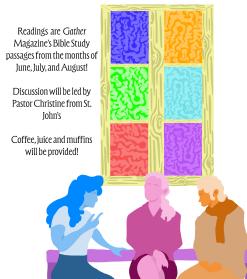
Luke 14:1, 7-14

Office hours will return to the following after Labor Day

Monday - Thursday 9:00 - 3:00 Friday 9:00 - 1:00

Women of

St. John's & Spirit Summer Bible Study



Diner's Club Tuesday, August 19th @ 5:30

AZUL TEQUILA

Please RSVP to Louise Alt by 2:00 on Monday, August 18th 715-834-1693 OR altlk@charter.net

Special Offerings This Month

ELCA Global Mission - August St. John's supports the ELCA Global Missions goal to walk with global companions by sending missionaries and personnel to providing leadership training to strengthen congregations in their global settings

Thank you!

Thank you so much to all who came out to help with our Christmas in July event!

Lynn & Jean Yolitz David LaRose Barb Graham Bonnie Badmann Ruth Anne Kjelstad Patti Sontag Gary Kersten Mary Spryer

Your time, hardwork, and treats were greatly appreciated! St. John's members: if you are interested in some free Christmas Ornaments, go downstairs to the stage. They are free for the taking! Anything left on the stage after a few weeks will be donated.

> Art & Decoration Co-Chairs Julie Kerstin & Cheryl Mattison

Trivia Corner

How big was Goliath in the tale of David & the Goliath?

Hint: Your answer lies with green eggs and ham



JONAH | Upcoming Events

August Book Club - August 12th

Join us for our fourth book in our 2025 Book Club -How We Show Up by Mia Birdsong! We will meet at Dotter's Books at 6:15 pm to discuss it. Register at jonahjustice.org/event/june-book-club/

2025 Chippewa Valley Multicultural Festival

The 2025 Multicultural Festival will be at Phoenix Park Pavilion on August 17th from 11:30-4:30. Entertainment includes: Irie Sol, Los Alegres Bailadores Mexican Folkloric Dance Group, Chippewa Valley Irish Dance, Local Hmong Dancers, Food Trucks, Vendors, Exhibits, Activities, and more! Admission is free, so be sure to stop by for an afternoon of fun!



Upcoming JONAH Meetings

Fundraising August 5 @ 1:00 PM

Mental Health Task Force August 7 @ 1:00 PM

> Affordable Housing August 7 @ 5:30 PM

Public Meeting & Mini Training August 18 @ 5:30 PM

GriefShare (griefshare.org) is a 13-week program that provides weekly support for those grieving the loss of loved ones. The program incorporates elements of faith, a weekly video, and conversations among group members to find support. At St. John's, a GriefShare program will begin on Tuesday, September 16th, ending with the last session on December 9th of this year. The sessions will be held from 6:30 P.M. – 8:30 P.M. in the St. John's conference room. This first session of GriefShare will have a maximum of 8 people in the program. Pre-registration, for members of St. John's will be from August 1st through August 31st. On September 1st, if the class limit of 8 has not been reached, open enrollment to the community will begin. The cost of the GriefShare training was provided by St. John's Helen Brougham Fund and St. John's Caring Ministry is supporting the GriefShare program as part of its Grief Ministry.

If you would like to speak with someone about the program, call: Jean Johnson, St. John's GriefShare Facilitator-715-829-5718 Mary Spryer, St. John's Caring Ministry Chair-925-876-3520

The 150th St. John's Anniversary book, "Clinging to the Spirit's Feathers Through Fire, Flood, and Faith," by Rev. Sandee D. Kosmo is still available through the church office or from Sandee.

We are asking for a donation to the church TV ministry. Suggested donation is \$10. The book just received an international award as a finalist in the 2025 New Generation Indie Book Awards, Christian-Non-fiction category. This is the largest international book award program for independent publishers and authors. The book was printed by our own members, Rob and Phyllis Meier who own Allegra Marketing/printing in Eau Claire.



The book is a memoir in 150 short, short stories and vignettes, most set in Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls. One section takes place in New Mexico. Each story has a quote, a Bible verse, and art/photo by author and family, friends. Ruth Lundblad has several of her art pieces throughout the book also. Many St. John's members are included in the book also.

Thank you! -Sandee Kosmo



LWR Kits & Quilts - 2025

Sharon Price, Ruth Kruschke, Lois Mai *Our love in action!*

Hello St. John's! Thinkin" about school shopping? Target, Dollar General, Walmart, etc. have begun setting items on shelves with some at really good prices. As you shop for your family, please remember, especially, the school kits for Lutheran World Relief that St. John's LWR committee will be sending again this fall. We do need items for personal care kits, too.

Below is a list of needs for school supply kits and personal care kits. Thanks for all you've given in the past and again this year.

*note: LWR will not accept notebooks with any number of sheets other than the 70! Thank you!!



The Aging and Disability Resource Center of EC County will Provide a Presentation on Dementia Thursday, October 30, 2025 at 6:15 P.M. At St. John's Lutheran Church, 1804 Highland Ave., EC The presentation will be given by Lisa Wells, Dementia Care Specialist with ADRC. This Presentation is Sponsored by the St. John's Seniors & Home Visitation and the St. John's Caring Ministries

List of items needed for each School kit:

Four 70-sheet notebooks
One box of 16 or 24 crayons
One 30-centimeter ruler with inches on the other side
One pencil sharpener
One pair of blunt scissors
Five unsharpened No. 2 pencils with erasers
Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
One 2 1/2 in. eraser

List of items needed for each Personal Care kit:

One light-weight bath-size towel between 20"x40" & 52"x27" (dark color recommended)

Two bath-size bars (4-5 oz.) of soap, any brand
One adult-size toothbrush (for multi-pack
toothbrushes we can separate and seal each in a
business envelope)
One sturdy comb
One metal nail clippers

DROP Off all items in labeled boxes in the narthex on Sunday mornings in the appropriate labeled boxes and also on weekdays during church open hours. The last day for drop-off will be September 14.

- Sharon Price

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.

thrivent®



The Thrivent Financial members who have directed their "Choice Dollars" to St. John's Lutheran Church for June were Mary Haukeness-Mack and Mike McCarty.

Yehiel Curry: New Presiding Bishop of the ELCA

PHOENIX — The Rev. Yehiel Curry was elected July 30 to serve a six-year term as presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The election took place during the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly being held July 28–Aug. 2 at the Phoenix (Ariz.) Convention Center.

Curry was elected on the fifth ballot. There were 799 votes cast, with 400 votes needed for an election. Curry received 562 votes, and the Rev. Kevin Strickland, bishop of the ELCA Southeastern Synod, received 237 votes. Curry is the first Black presiding bishop of the ELCA.

Speaking to the assembly after his election, Curry reflected on his membership at Shekinah Chapel in Riverdale, Ill., where he eventually became a lay mission developer while he participated in the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries program, which prepares individuals for ordained ministry in the ELCA, with a focus on emerging ministry contexts like ethnic-specific, multicultural, rural and inner-city settings. He spoke to the assembly about his initial hesitation in accepting that first ministry role.

"Perhaps I'm out there in one of you," Curry said. "I never saw myself as good enough, so for two years, I said no. I finally said yes. When I said yes, your support, this church's support, of that ministry meant everything. So if you want to know what your benevolence dollars look like, it looks like me, and I want to say thank you. Thank you for your investment."

Curry has served as bishop of the ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod since 2019. He previously served as mission developer (2009-2012) and pastor (2012-2019) of Shekinah.

He received a Bachelor of Arts from Lewis University in Romeoville, Ill., in 1995 and a Master of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) in 2013. LSTC is one of seven ELCA seminaries.

The churchwide assembly, the chief legislative authority of the ELCA, is meeting under the theme "For the Life of the World." The assembly will participate in plenary discussions to make decisions about the work of this church. They will also spend time in worship and engage in various ways of theological reflection.

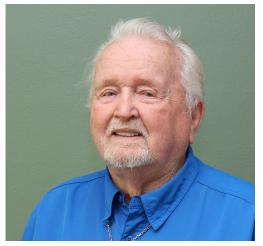
Live video of the plenary sessions will be accessible at www.elca.org/CWA.

Article Courtesty of ELCA: https://www.elca.org/news-and-events/yehiel-curry-elected-presiding-bishop-of-the-elca

We Welcome Our New Members to St. John's



Sharon Birkenmeier Sharon and her husband, Gary, are both retired. In her spare time, Sharon enjoys quilting & sewing, cooking & baking, gardening and travel.



Kenneth Erickson Kenneth has served in the Army Reserves and has since retired. In his spare time, Ken enjoys to golf.

Memorials and Honorariums

General Operations: IMO Beverly Rohde by Scott & Ruth Munden

Television Ministry: IHO our 68th wedding anniversary on June 8 by Ralph & Margaret Kinderman

General Operations: IMO Beverly Rohde by Bill & Ann Rohde

General Operations: IMO Beverly Rohde by Sharon & Lawrence Leinweber

General Operations: IMO Kathy Englebert's brother, Rich Broda by Don & Sandy Huebscher

General Operations: IMO Jean Schumacher by Carrie Schumacher & Earl Conner

General Operations: IMO husband Roger & son Alan.

IHO great grandsons Wyatt, Lucas & Hunter Hedlund by Janet Dahl

General Operations: IMO John Friederichs by Eric Nielsen

General Operations: IMO Richard Stage by Eric Nielsen

General Operations: IMO Beverly Rohde by Melita Davis

Summer Stretch: IMO Aylen Bain's 20th birthday on June 17th by Tom, Jen & Sam Bain

General Operations: IMO Jim Kiser by Jean Jirovec & Jim Christenson

General Operations: IMO John Friederichs by Jean Jirovec & Jim Christenson

General Operations: IMO Cheryl Stage's husband, Richard, by Jean Jirovec & Jim Christenson

JuBellation: IMO Chris Hogenson by Bonnie Branham

Caring Ministry: IMO Dick Stage by Lynn & Jean Yolitz

TV Ministry: IMO Bill Watson by Cheryl Watson

Tanzania Tuition: IMO my cousin, Ruth Kuss, by Gloria Barnes

General Operations: IMO Dick Stage by Cheryl Stage

Capital Improvements: IMO Rick Van Helden and Dick Stage by Penny Erickson

General Operations: IMO Pr. Christine's mother, Joanne, by Don & Sandy Huebscher

General Operations: IMO Pr. Christine's mother, Joanne, by Marlo & Bev Orth

General Operations: IMO husband Roger & son Alan. IHO great grandsons Wyatt, Lucas & Hunter Hedlund

by Janet Dahl

General Operations: IMO Pr. Christine's mother, Joanne, by Genny Gorton

General Operations: IMO Geri Wojtysiak by Genny Gorton

Masonry Repair: In loving memory of Rick Van Helden from his family

General Operation: IMO Rick Van Helden by Nate & Linda Aaseng

Quilters: IMO Gerri Wojtysiak by LaVonne & Larry Krause

General Operations: IMO husband Roger & son Alan. IHO great grandsons Wyatt, Lucas & Hunter Hedlund

by Janet Dahl

Television Ministry: IMO Pr. Christine's mother, Joanne, by Gary & Cora Klawiter

General Operations: IMO Pr. Christine's mother, Joanne, by Bonnie Branham

We Mourned the Death of

Judith Hanlin, 76 John Friederichs, 82 Richard Stage, 87 Richard Van Helden, 74

Richard van Heiden, 79 Ronald Mayer, 75

Gerri Wojtysiak, 73

David Cramer, 73

Donald Dewitz, 81

We Celebrated the Baptism of

Benjamin Batty, son of Harold Batty III & Alyssa Radosevich Batty





st. john's christian PRESCHOOL

Hello St. John's!

It is that time of year. We continue to register children for the school year. Lessons and activities are being planned. Classrooms are being cleaned, and we are looking forward to working and playing together here at SJCP. Our hearts and minds are eager to gather - in love - to learn!



The Teaching Staff This Year Are:



Amanda Schroeder 3-year-olds MWF



Bria LindstromAssistant teacher with the 2.5-year-old class



Amanda Downing 3-year-olds TTh



Nancy Hanson
Director
2.5-year-olds on TTh
4K on MWF

We have openings for the 2025-26 school year! Please tell your friends, families and neighbors about SJCP. Registration forms are available on our website or by calling or emailing Nancy for more information 715.834.9571 Email Nancy@stjohns-ec.org

UPCOMING DATES

Monday, Aug. 25th Monday, September 8th Tuesday, September 9th Wednesday, September 10-11th 7PM Parent Orientation "Come & See" for MWF Classes 9-11 AM "Come & See" for TTh Classes 9-11 AM

First Regular Class days

Youth & Education Ministry

WELCOME BACK TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

We Are Growing in God's Love

AUGUST 17TH:

PRAY & PLAY IN THE PARK AND SUNDAY SCHOOL
REGISTRATION BEGINS

AUGUST 24

6

BLESSING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR AT WORSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION MUSIC JAM WITH MARK!

SEPTEMBER 7TH:

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS

ALL FAMILIES ENCOURAGED TO MEET IN ROOM 313 TO START OFF THE YEAR AND GET YOUR PHOTO TAKEN!!









VOLUNTEERED AT CHIPPEWI VALLEY MUSEUM



VOLUNTEERED AT ST. JOHN'S PRESCHOOL



VOLUNTEERED AT EAU CLAIRE
SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICE



VOLUNTEERED AT ST.FRANCIS

Save the Date! Confirmation Orientation



September 3rd @ 6:30 PM

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: Amanda Burkart

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, Amanda Schroeder, Amanda Downing, Bria Lindstrom

Trivia Corner

Six cubits and a span. That makes him about 9'9"!

1 Sam 17:4



	FINANCIAL SU	MMARY	
JUNE	2025	2024	2022-24 Average
Income	\$ 35,686	\$ 42,296	\$ 33,953
Expense	40,755	36,562	<u>36,747</u>
Surplus(Deficit)	\$ (5,069)	\$ 5,734	\$ (2,794)
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YEAR-TO-DATE	2025	2024	2022-24 Average
Income	249,550	240,190	228,580
Expense	217,682	245,411	230,280
Surplus(Deficit)	31,868	<u>(5,221)</u>	<u>(1,700)</u>

Description	2025	2024	Difference
June Net Income	(5,069)	5,734	Less 10,803
YTD Net Income	31,868	(5,221)	37,089
Current Operations Envelope YTD	210,861	207,294	3,567
Lent/Easter Offering YTD	6,775	10,034	Less 3,259
Estate Receipts YTD	16,283	9,562	6,721
Interest Income YTD	5,242	3.101	2,141
Staff Expense YTD – No CYF last year	108,916	128,795	Less 19,879

FI	NA	NCIAL SU	JN	IMARY		
JUNE		2025		2024		2022-24 Average
Income	\$	35,686	\$	42,296	\$	33,953
Expense		40,755		36,562		36,747
Surplus(Deficit)	\$	(5,069)	\$	5,734	\$	(2,794)
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3 9:00 Worship	4 3:00 Bible Study @ The Classics 5:15 Education	5 9:30 Staff Meeting 7:00 STEP Group	68:30 Summer Stretch 9:00 Quilting 9:15 Women's Bible Study w/ Spirit 3:00 Master Builders	7 1:00 Caring Ministry 1:30 St. John's Apartment Services 6:00 Youth 6:30 Summer Book Club	8
10 9:00 Worship 10:30 Caretakers of Creation	11 5:00 Stewardship	12 9:30 Staff Meeting 1:00 Worship & Music 2:00 Senior Home Visitation 7:00 STEP Group	13 12:00 Chippewa Valley VIP 3:00 Master Builders	14 1:30 St. John's Apartment Services 7:00 Property	15 7:00 Young Adult Meetup @ Pheonix Park
17 9:00 Worship 10:15 Pray & Play in the Park	18	19 9:30 Staff Meeting 5:30 Diner's Club @ Azul Tequila 7:00 STEP Group	20 3:00 Master Builders	21 9:00 Volunteer @ The Community Table 6:00 Council	22
24 9:00 Worship 10:15 Blessing of the New School Year 10:30 Jam Session	25 5:00 Music Ministry Picnic @ Riverview Park 7:00 SJCP Parent Orientation	26 9:30 Staff Meeting 7:00 STEP Group	27 9:00 Quilting 3:00 Master Builders	28 10:30 Oakwood Health Services 5:00 Rostered Leaders Fresh Expressions @ Brewing Projekt	29
31 9:00 Worship	J OFFICE CLOSED	2 OFFICE HOURS CHANGE 1:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 STEP Group	3 9:00 Quilting 3:00 Master Builders 5:15 First Wednesdays 6:15 Confirmation Orientation	4 1:30 St. John's Apartment Services 6:30 Youth	ស