

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**

October - 5, 19 November - 2, 16

WQOW Broadcast @ 10:30 AM

ABC Network, Channel 18. Cable 9, HD 618

A Message From Pastor Christine

"Enjoy the little things, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things." – Robert Brault

It takes a lot of little things to make big things. The biggest impacts, I have found, are created from all the little ways people create something together. Just two weeks ago, our community event "Above and Beyond" displayed that as we did many small things to make a big impact:

> -Strolling while eating popcorn -Tie-dying a shirt -Eating a brat and laughing with friends
> -Bidding on an auction item
> -Playing cornhole

These seem like small things to do. In fact, they are. And, on the outside looking in, it might have looked like And, on the outside looking in, it might have looked like just a couple hours of fun to raise money for a good cause. However, the enjoyment and overall impact of the small things are big. Ask a few of the children who had an hour of the best time dunking a friend at the dunk tank. True, it took a lot of work to create this event, but the underlying momentum behind it began small. After all, the faith that Christ gifts us with at Holy Baptism, must start small. Like a mustard seed, it can seem like nothing much at first, while

in secret it begins to grow into the largest of gifts.

It's easy to dismiss the small stuff like a kind word, a hug, or a cup of coffee after worship. They are, after all, small things. But this is where the gifts of ministry start. And these little seeds of faith together make something much larger than we tend to imagine them to be. That's a hard thing sometimes to remember, especially when we tend to look at our mission as something that must be big for it to be good.

So, thank you for all the small, beautiful and tangible

ways you create space for this faith community. It's because of your presence that we even have a mission in the first place. That mission starts with many bright and brilliant seeds of faith, a faith that we share together to make St. John's the biggest of hearts for each other and the world God loves.

Pastor Christine

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- 1. A Message From Pastor Christine
- 2. Bishop Bagonza
- Monthly Readings & Offerings
- 4. Upcoming JONAH events
- 5. Upcoming Events
- 6. Youth & Education News
- 7. October Calendar

The office will be permanently moving to Summer hours starting October 1st.

Monday - Thursday: 9-3 Friday: 9-12

Pastor Christine will be having surgery on October 8th and will be out of the office for about a week for healing. She appreciates your prayers.

For any pastoral care, please contact Genny in the office during that time.



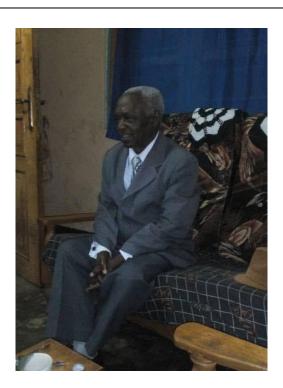
-Matthew 13:31-32

Benjamin Jacob Bagonza 1939-2025

From The Bishop of the KKKT, Diocese of Karagwe, Dr. Benson Bagonza (son of Benjamin Bagonza)

"I regret to announce the death of my beloved Father Elder BENJAMIN JACOB BAGONZA (1939-2025), which occurred this evening 23/9/2025 at Nyakahanga Hospital, Karagwe, Kagera. The elder was admitted on Sunday due to a severe cough. I have just arrived in Tanga for the burial of Bishop Dr. Munga (Retd). I am returning to Karagwe to prepare for my Father's last rites and to console my Mother Ma DOROTHEA KAGEMULO BAGONZA. Let us pray for each other; We have no permanent home on this earth." (Translated)

Benjamin Jacob Bagonza, father of Bishop Bagonza, has passed away. Elder Benjamin was an unstoppable embodiment of God's love and care for the world around him. He is survived by his wife - Ma Dorothea Kagemulo Bagonza and son - Dr. Benson Bagonza.



Sunday Worship: 9 AM

In celebration of the life and impact Benjamin brought into the world, I would like to take the opportunity to speak on Bishop Bagonza's many ongoing accomplishments.

Bishop Bagonza strives to better both his community and his country. He has helped to buid and sustain programs and messaging around education, outreach, social & political reform, religious freedom & tolerance, and so much more. His energy and efforts are a gift to both those who know him, and those who are unknowingly touched by his efforts.

Bishop Bagonza is a core figure in developing the education opportunities within his diocese, spending an immense amount of time and effort as the church leader of the Karagwe Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT/KAD). His efforts, as said by the United Evangelical Mission, have contributed to "three Secondary schools, three Primary schools and one Vocational training centre for Youth." as well as "a diaconal school (that) trains sisters who will later work in kindergartens in the congregations." (UEM).

Outside of education, his diocese is working on maintaining relief for those impacted by AIDS, as well as helping to run a hospital in Nyakahanga in tandem with the government. Additionally, his diocese is working on helping the local community by creating and uplifting a network of health stations.

His words have reached far beyond his community and faith. In 2023, Bishop Bagonza was invited to participate in an interfaith event that included figures such as: "Grand Mufti of Zanzibar, BAKWATA, the Chief Mufti of Mainland Tanzania, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania Bishop Fredrick Shoo and Bishop Benson Bagonza, Catholic Cardinal Protase Rugambwa and Father Charles Kitima, and the Christian Council of Tanzania" (Tanzania 2023 International Religious Freedom Report). This group also included government officials and civil society leaders; all coming together in the name of religious freedom, understanding, and partnership.

This month, one of our special offering envelopes is for Tanzania Tuition. The money given will go to the Imani School in Tanzania. It covers tuition, uniforms, and room & board to those who need financial assistance in attendance of the school. Please prayerfully consider donating to help this worthy cause.

Caretakers of Creation Leave the Leaves!

Leaves are habitats, not trash! One of the most valuable things you can do to support pollinators and other invertebrates is to provide them with the shelter they need to survive through the long winter. Thankfully, that's pretty easy; all you need to do is do less yard work! Leaves, brush piles, fallen logs, plant stems, and flower heads are natural homes for wildlife, and a layer of leaves is vital insulation from the cold for the many animals that hide within (or in the soil beneath).

This can be hard to do after our years of gardening/ yard practices but by making a compromise your yard and garden will reap the rewards of abundant pollinators and food for the visiting birds and wildlife next Spring.

Five Easy Ways to Protect Wildlife this Fall

- 1. Leave the leaves, or move them just a
- 2. Avoid shredding leaves; let the bugs do that for you!
- 3. Turn those fallen branches and logs into a brush pile habitat.
- 4. Leave the soil (and sleeping bees) undisturbed.
- 5. Wait until Spring is underway to trim stems and clean up.

So, Leave the Leaves and Spread the Word!

Excerpts from 'Xerces.org'

ADRC

Lisa Wells, MA, a Dementia Care and Grief Support Specialist at the Eau Claire County Aging and Disability Resource Center, will present- Sacred Connections: How Faith Communities Can Support Dementia.

This presentation explores the vital role faith communities can play in supporting and families impacted by individuals dementia. Together, we will discuss how faith communities can become places of belonging, hope, and compassion—where spiritual care, understanding, and community are offered to those walking the journey of memory loss. Participants will gain practical ideas, faithbased encouragement, and inspiration to strengthen their congregation's response to dementia with Christ-like love.

This program is sponsored by St. John's Senior & Home Visitation and Caring Ministries. Light refreshments provided.

Sacred Connections:

How Faith Communities Can Support Dementia October 30th - 6:15 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran Church 1804 Highland Ave. Eau Claire, WI

Above & Even Further Beyond

Sunday, November 16th

We are continuing our Above & Beyond campaign with a Chili Cook-Off and auction on Sunday, November 16th following worship. Ticket sales for the Chili Lunch will begin October 12th at \$5/person or \$25/family.

As an added bonus, there is an upcoming opportunity to make a certain Seahawks fan wear Packers regalia. Keep your eyes peeled for more information!

10:30-11:30 - Auction

11:00 - Cook-Off Winners Announced

f 11:30 - Chili Luncheon & Ice Cream Sundays

Sunday School will run untill 11:30!

Monthly Readings

October 5

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4 Luke 17:5-10

October 12

Psalm 111 Luke 17:11-19

October 19

Genesis 32:22-31 Luke 18:1-8

October 26

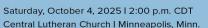
Sirach 35:12-17 Luke 18:9-14

Special Offerings This Month

Tanzania Tuition

Television Ministry

Installation of the **Presiding Bishop**





More information can be foun

More information can be found here: www.elca.org/about/churchwide/officeof-the-presiding-bishop/presiding-bishopinstallation

Blessing of the Animals October 1 - 7:00 p.m.

The Chippewa Valley Cat Club will be collecting donations for their annual Pet Food Drive at the Blessing of the Animals Service! They will accept anything for pets (food is especially needed). The donations will go to the pets of people in need in our community.

Congratulations!

Valerian Ahles would like to announce the birth of his Grandchild, Dominic Schwabe! We ask for your prayers as Dominic is still in the NICU on room air. That said, both Dominic and Pheobe, his mother, are doing well.





Trivia Corner

What was the garden of Eden guarded with to prevent future access to the tree of life?

Answer on Page 10



JONAH |

Upcoming Events



Upcoming JONAH Meetings

Bird Conservation & Outdoor Cats October 1 @ 6:00 PM

> Mental Health Task Force October 2 @ 1:00 PM

Affordable Housing Task Force October 2 @ 5:30 PM

> JONAH Annual Event October 5 @ 3:00 PM

October Book Club October 14 @ 6:15 PM

Chippewa Valley Justice Action Team October 24 @ 10:00 AM

September 15th - October 15th is Hispanic Heritage Month!

Jonah Immigration Taskforce Updates jonahjustice.org/2025/03/immigrationtask-force-update/

Who Do We Choose to Be? jonahjustice.org/2025/08/local-leadershipcommunity-building/

Books

www.penguinrandomhouse.com/the-read-down/hispanic-heritage-month/

Documentaries & Short Films www.pbs.org/articles/celebrate-hispanicheritage-month

MEET OUR SPEAKER



Tom Westcott is both a pastor and a head high school football coach, a unique calling that allows him to shape lives on and off the field. As a pastor, Tom is passionate about preaching the Gospel in ways that connect everyday life with God's promises, walking with people through both joys and challenges. As a coch, he is committed to building young men of character, accountability, and perseverance, teaching that success is measured not only on the scoreboard but in who the players become.

With years of leadership experience in ministry and athletics. Tom brings a perspective that blends faith, teamwork, discipline, and hope. He is driven by a simple mission: to raise the standard, whether in the pulpit, on the community.

TOM WESTCOTT
JONAH'S 2025 ANNUAL
EVENT SPEAKER
when he's

When he's not coaching or preaching, Tom loves investing in his family, enjoying the outdoors, BBO, and cheering on his players long after they leave his program.

October Book Club - October 14 @ 6:15 PM Dotter's Books - 307 S. Barstow St., Eau Claire, WI We Who Believe in Freedom - Alice P. Green

""We Who Believe in Activism and the Struggle for Social Justice" is an inspirational book that exposes readers to weighty topics such as police abuse and accountability, criminal justice and prison reform, and political abuse of power in Albany, New York. In this book - part memoir and part history - Alice P. Green demonstrates these topics through her life experiences as a life-long advocate, highlighting the impact they have had on Albany's black communities since the early days of enslavement, up to the present day where we still have so many racial and criminal justice issues before us. This remarkable literary masterpiece serves as a blueprint for other unwavering activists to emulate in their quest for freedom from the injustices in their cities and throughout the country." -Goodreads



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, 2025 to August 31, 2026, 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 September was Steve Droivold, Lois Mai, John Price and Mike Torud. St. John's thanks you for doing this.

4™ Annual fall Arts Celebration

Sunday, October 19, 2025

ART EXHIBIT NOON – 4 p.m. CONCERT

2:00 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Massed Choir Handbell Choir Special Music Art Exhibit At Hope Lutheran Church 2226 Eddy Ln, EC

Admission is free
Free Will Offering to support the Imani English Speaking
Elementary School in the Karagwe District of Tanzania



No booth fees, but an exhibit reservation is required.

Artists interested in displaying/selling their art in this exhibit OR who need to reserve a space and set up time, please contact Mary Spryer by OCT. 1ST at:

maryspryer@gmail.com

Participating Churches: Good Shepherd, Immanuel, Grace, St. John's, Spirit, Trinity, and Hope Lutheran Churches

Hosted by St. John's Lutheran Church-EC

Join us for our 4th Annual Fall Arts Celebration at Hope Lutheran! On Sunday, October 19th, we will have a joint choir from 7 area churches, live performances from local musicians, an art gallery, food, and more! Admission is free, but any free-will gifts from this event will go to the Imani English Speaking Elementary School in the Karagwe District of Tanzania. We hope to see you there!

The Fall Arts Celebration needs two dozen cookies and/or bars!

Needed by: Friday, Oct. 17th.

On Friday the 17th, Nance P. will be working in the office until noon. You may drop them off in the office from 10:00-Noon. If that day/time doesn't work, then contact Nance, and she'll set up another time with you for pick-up or drop-off. Please put your name on any containers that need to be returned to you. Without a name, I'll assume no return is necessary.

Nance P. 715-829-0457 / nkputnam@gmail.com

Memorials and Honorariums

Lutheran Mideast Development: IMO Dorothy Jansen, Linda Aaseng's mother,

by Jane Van Helden & Sandy Thon

General Operations: IMO Larry Stevens by Ted Goldsmith

Cemetery Maintenance: IMO Judith Hanlin by Rebecca Hanlin

Mission Trip: IMO Lee & Anna Mayer's grandson, Brandon, by Eric Nielsen

General Operations: IMO Ron Mayer by Kathy Mayer

TV Ministry: IMO my mother, Marguerite Branham-Miller by Bonnie Branham

TV Ministry: IHO Lois Mai by Cora & Gary Klawiter

All Saints' Day

November 2024 - November 2025

Robert G. Munden, 93

Darlene A. Swanson, 87

Mary Jane Melland, 89

Marlene A. Glover, 73

James M. Kiser, 75

Gary D. Johnson, 88

DeMaine E. Noskowiak, 88

Charles J. Brantner, 83

Ruth L. Kruschke, 97

Arthur L. Hotvedt, 97

*Douglas L. Arkin, 75

Gerald R. Schlewitz, 80

Beverly M. Rohde, 92

Judith A. Hanlin, 76

John W. Friederichs, 82

*Richard D. Stage, 87

*Richard Van Helden, 74

Ronald C. Mayer, 75

Geraldine K. Wojtysiak, 73

David D. Cramer, 73

Donald M. Dewitz, 81

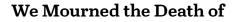
*Lawrence B. Stevens, 61

Anthene M. Dressen, 79

Ashley L. Schultz, 42

Edith E. Potts, 90

*Non Member



Teena Dressen, 79 Ashley Schultz, 42 Edie Potts, 90



st. john's christian PRESCHEEL

Another school year is in full swing at Preschool, it's so wonderful to welcome new and returning families to preschool. We have been getting to know each other and the routines of preschool. You may have heard the laughter of the children and the sound of footsteps as you visit the church office.



The St. John's Preschool Board hosted our first Pop-Up Perks the last week of September. This is a gathering for the grown-ups to get to know each after they drop their preschooler off at school. Preschool provides coffee and breakfast treats.

In the month of October we will be heading to the Apple Orchard on October 2& 3rd. We will have some fall fun that includes learning about apples, picking apples and walking through the beautiful orchard. We also will get to meet some pigs, cows, goats and maybe some turkeys and play on the playground.

Thank you for the supplies and donations donated to the preschool in September, we truly appreciate it.

Youth & Education Ministry

Trunk or Treat

On Saturday, Oct., 25, from 1:00 – 3:00, St. John's and Immaculate Conception are both celebrating our kids with Trunk or Treat!! Start thinking about how you want to dress-up, deck-out your cars, or just come as you are. All are welcome to hand out candy, which the church provides. Please consider joining us on that day right here in St. John's parking lot.

FAITH FAMILY'S OCT. ACTIVITY NIGHT...

Come make paper pumpkins with us!!!



THEN... your picture goes here. SMILE!!!

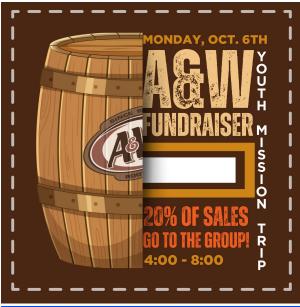
Wed., Oct. 1, 2025

Pizza at 5:00 PM; Activity to follow

In addition to the treats and fun decorations, we will have a pumpkin decorating contest! Carve a pumpkin at home and bring it to the event to submit your creation. There will be three categories: spooky, funny, and cute.

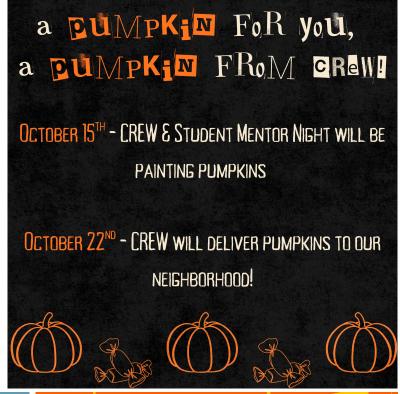
Keep an eye out in the gathering area for a sign-up sheet if you would like to have a car in the lot! If you would like to participate with a decorated car, you will need to be in the lot BEFORE 12:40 on October 25th.

Youth & Education Ministry











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: Becky Cater 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

A cherubim and a flaming sword. I won't be stopping by that tree anytime soon.

Gen 3:24



FINANCIAL SUMMARY						
JULY	2025	2024	2022-24 Average			
Income	\$ 33,922	\$ 35,238	\$ 35,751			
Expense	<u>41,341</u>	44,794	42,188			
Surplus(Deficit)	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>	\$ <u>(6,437)</u>			
YEAR-TO-DATE	2025	2024	2022-24 Average			
Income	283,471	275,427	264,331			
Expense	<u>259,035</u>	290,205	<u>272,468</u>			
Surplus(Deficit)	24,43 6	(14.778)	(8,137)			



October 2025

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.
28 9:00 Worship Blessing of the Quilts 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Adult Education	29 4:00 Finance 6:30 JuBellation	30 9:30 Staff Meeting 6:30 Grief Share 7:00 STEP Group	1 9:00 Quilting 3:00 Master Builders 5:15 First Wednesdays 5:30 Choir 6:00 CREW 6:00 5th Gr. Confirmation 7:00 Worship	2 1:30 St. John's Apartment Services 6:00 Youth Meeting
5	6	7	8	9
9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School	4:00 A&W Mission Trip Fundraiser 6:30 JuBellation	1:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Grief Share 7:00 STEP Group	12:00 Chippewa Valley VIP 3:00 Master Builders 5:30 Choir 6:00 Acolyte Training 6:00 5th Gr. Confirmation 7:00 Mission Trip Meeting	9:30 Rostered Leaders All Conference Gathering - Luther Park 1:30 St. John's Apartment Services 7:00 Property
12	13	14	15	16
9:00 Worship 10:30 Caretakers of Creation 10:15 Sunday School	5:15 Education 6:30 JuBellation	9:30 Staff Meeting 1:00 Worship & Music 6:30 Preschool Board 6:30 Grief Share 7:00 STEP Group	9:30 Women's Circle 12:30 Cards & Games 3:00 Master Builders 5:30 Choir 6:00 8th & 9th Gr. Mentor Night 6:00 Crew	No Preschool 9:00 Retired Rostered Leaders 9:00 Volunteer @ The Community Table 6:00 Council
19	20	21	22	23
9:00 Worship 2:00 Fall Arts Celebration @ Hope Lutheran 10:15 Sunday School	No Preschool 3:00 Bible Study @ The Classics 5:30 Faith Family 6:30 JuBellation	11:30 Diners Club @ 4 Mile	3:00 Master Builders 5:30 Choir 6:00 1st Communion Class 6:00 CREW	10:30 Oakwood Health Services
26	27	28	29	30
9:00 Worship Affirmation of Faith 10:15 Sunday School	4:00 Finance 6:30 JuBellation	9:30 Staff Meeting 6:30 Grief Share 7:00 STEP Group	9:00 Quilting 3:00 Master Builders 5:30 Choir 6:00 1st Communion Class 6:00 CREW	6:15 Dementia Presentation

Special Events
Thursday, October 16th - Monday October 20th - No Preschool Saturday, October 25th - Trunk or Treat 1:00 Friday, October 31st - Halloween