



# Reaching Out

St. John's Newsletter • May 2026

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<p><b>Office Hours</b> Mon - Thurs 9-3 Friday 9-12 ----- 1804 Highland Ave. Eau Claire, WI 54701</p>
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## A Message From Pastor Christine

### *Three Little Words*

“Christ is risen!” proclaims the worship assistant. “Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!” the assembly responds.

That’s the whole story in three little words – Christ is risen. By proclaiming these words, we acknowledge that by Christ’s resurrection, he vanquished sin, death, and all the powers that destroy. But, also on a cosmic level, when followers of Jesus celebrate Easter, Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury once said, “we are really standing in the middle of a second ‘Big Bang,’ a tumultuous surge of divine energy as fiery and intense as the very beginning of the universe.” I like that image. Resurrection is a ripple effect in all of the vastness of space. We encounter all of creation with what seems like simple words: “Christ is risen!” Or are they simple? Like the vastness of space, it’s a story that’s incomprehensible and unbelievable still for many today. Paul even wrote that it is nonsensical and illogical to consider, for the cross is completely foolish to us (1 Corinthians 1:23).

It’s extraordinary that around the same time as Easter this year, we also witnessed the miraculous and scientific wonder of four astronauts reaching out to the farthest that humans have ever travelled, past the moon and seeing the other side, the dark side. They encountered earthrise along with a total eclipse of the sun. And with the technology that we have today, we were able to follow them in real time as they splashed back down onto earth. The whole world collectively encountered something awe-inspiring together. It was a tiny moment of the resurrection reminder – that God created and loves all things in the universe, but that we are all uniquely together on this special 3rd large rock flying around our sun. We are all loved by God, but we also share something uniquely in common with one another – this planet.

From space, astronaut Victor Glover shared a simple but powerful Easter message: “You are special.” He said, “You have this amazing place, this spaceship. You guys are talking to us because we’re in a spaceship really far from Earth, but you’re on a spaceship called Earth that was created to give us a place to live in the universe, in the cosmos. Maybe the distance we are from you makes you think that what we are doing is special, but we’re the same distance from you; and I’m trying to tell you, just trust me. You are special in all of this emptiness. This is a whole bunch of nothing, this thing we call the universe. You have this oasis, this beautiful place that we get to exist together.”

Isn’t it sometimes amazing to consider the depth of God’s love for us and that because of Christ’s love for the whole cosmos, we will cheat death? In raising Jesus from the dead, the whole creation will be liberated from its bondage to decay (Romans 8:18–22) as Paul says all things and the entire cosmos will be reconciled to God, “whether things on earth or things in heaven” (Colossians 1:20, 1 John 2:2). This is not a story that simply happened two thousand years ago. It’s the main event, the ultimate narrative of God. It transcends all space and time. This cosmic happening of the resurrection occurs each time we say it. Acknowledging the resurrection is the start of furthering that reality. It’s a galactic event!

Three little words to live by. Christ is risen. May you be encouraged by the promise that the whole universe sings that same refrain. Alleluia! Pastor Christine

## Caretakers of Creation

Your very active Caretakers Ministry has been busy. Last month was Earth Month and our ministry led an informational trivial game at the coffee hour about The Hidden Life of Trees and the next Sunday the opportunity to view the movie "The Hidden Life of Trees". Trees are active and valuable communities that we are just beginning to understand. We are also developing a kiosk in the gathering space where articles, books, and green products will be displayed for you to learn about opportunities to reduce your carbon footprint.

In the meantime we have been active saving money and energy for St John's. In cooperation with the skilled hands on work of the Property Ministry, the sanctuary lights were updated to more efficient function.

The next cooperative project that will cut the electrical bills saving \$ 380.00 a month. This involves CONVERTING THE FLUORESCENT TUBES TO LED. This is a huge job!! There are about 188 lights on the main floor and many more on the other floors. This involves removing the ballasts in each light, cleaning the fixture and putting it together again.

Many of you have done this in your own homes. With your cooperation and sweat equity, we can do this and save on labor as well as energy.

If you are interested in helping, we need all levels of skills. Cleaning, electrical and handyman skills. The work will start with a small group working in one room as a testing/learning project. After that project is completed, we will set up many other groups under the direction of our educated persons.

We are looking for interested volunteers to form work crews. Please call the church office to add your name to the list. Notification of work dates will be set towards the end of this month. Thank you for volunteering.

## Diner's Club

Diner's Club will meet in the evening at 5:30 Tuesday, May 19th at 4 Mile on Hwy 37. Please RSVP to Louise Alt by Monday, May 18th at 715-834-1693 or altlk@charter.net.

## The Endowment Fund is Stewardship

The St. John's Endowment Fund is more than just money. More accurately, it is a mission of St. Johns's Lutheran Church that was created in 1997 to encourage Christian stewardship, primarily through estate planning. All funds received into the endowment fund are used to enhance the outreach ministry of our congregation.

In total, our endowment fund has distributed \$162,912 to a multitude of worthwhile programs within our congregation, community, and worldwide.

The constitutional by-laws specify that 5% of the fund balance must be distributed every year for outreach ministry. All proposals to distribute funds are first evaluated by the Endowment Fund committee and then presented to the church Council.

If council approves, the proposals are presented to the congregation for a vote at the annual meeting. It is important to note that only the congregation can approve disbursements from the fund.

If you would like more information about the St. John's Endowment Fund, let the church office know. They will gladly put you in touch with a member of the Endowment committee.

## **Monthly Readings**

**May 3** - Acts 7:55-60, John 14:1-14

**May 10** - Psalm 66:8-20, John 14:15-21

**May 17** - 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11, John 17:1-11

**May 24** - 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13, John 20:19-23

**May 31** - Psalm 8, Matthew 28:16-20

**Monthly Giving Envelopes**

**May:** Cemetery care, Capital Program, Feed My People: A Brighter Childhood

**June:** ELCA World Hunger, Neighbor to Neighbor

**July:** Lutheran World Relief, Capital Program

**August:** ELCA Global Mission

**September:** Preschool, Capital Program

**October:** Tanzania Tuition, TV Ministry

**November:** Caring Ministry, Capital Program, Good Samaritan, Thanksgiving

**December:** Christmas Eve, Holy Christmas

**Thank you!**

*From CVTC Food Pantry*

Thank you, St. John's Lutheran congregation, for the generous \$300 monetary donation and the significant variety of shelf-stable food items contributed to CVTC's student food pantries. We are especially grateful for the considerable number of personal care items, including anti-perspirants, soaps, bodywash, shampoo and dental care products. Students who rely on FoodShare cannot buy these daily essentials, so your contributions fill a critical gap.

Since starting the CVTC Food Pantry in 2015, we have expanded the pantry to include our Eau Claire West Campus. Your donation will benefit both pantries. During 2024 to 2025, the pantries served 1,060 visitors and distributed 9,900 pounds of food and essentials.

Christine Webster  
CVTC Student Life

**A Message from WELCA**

"On May 5, the ELCA joins with other faith traditions, civic communities and concerned individuals across North America in recognizing Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Day and encouraging education and action on behalf of MMIWG/R."

- Gather Magazine (March, April, May ed)

**Mother's Day Cookies!**

Come to the gathering area on Mother's Day (May 10) and decorate a cookie for a mom!



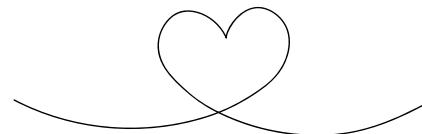
**ALL AGES WELCOME!**

**Thank you, Volunteers!**

*From St. John's*

"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 our wonderful volunteers. From serving at funeral lunches, to ushering, mentoring, and sitting through committee meetings, we thank you all from the bottom of our hearts."

-St. John's Congregation

**Trivia Corner**

**What does Paul say the fulfillment of the law is?**

Hint: Ask a WELCA member about the theme of the "Day of Renewal" that we hosted!

The answer lies there.....

## Memorials & Honorariums

### **General Operations**

IMO Jerry Urdahl by Scott Olsen  
 IMO husband Roger & son Alan Dahl by Janet Dahl  
 IMO Elaine Krause by Eric Nielsen  
 IMO Harold Mueller & Elaine Krause by Barbara Graham  
 IMO Elaine Krause by Gary & Cora Klawiter  
 IMO Beatty Bestul by Gary & Cora Klawiter  
 IMO Mick Lovvik by Gary & Cora Klawiter  
 IMO son Alan & husband Roger and IHO Wyatt, Lucas & Hunter Hedlund by Janet Dahl

### **Caring Ministry**

IMO Mary Hanson by Genny Gorton  
 IMO Elaine Krause by Genny Gorton

### **TV Ministry**

IMO Elaine Krause by Penny Erickson  
 IMO Harold Mueller by John & Sharon Price  
 IMO Elaine Krause & Harold Mueller by Lois Mai  
 IMO Elaine Krause by Scott Olsen  
 IMO Elaine Krause by Sarah Schantz  
 IMO Elaine Krause by Sherry Schantz  
 IMO Elaine Krause by Louise Alt

### **Cemetery Roads**

IMO Mary Hanson by Marlo & Bev Orth  
 IMO Elaine Krause by Marlo & Bev Orth  
 IMO Elaine Krause by Richard & Sue Schultz

### **Quilters**

IMO Elaine Krause by Don & Sandy Huebscher

### **Mission Trip**

IMO Mary Hanson by Scott Olsen  
 IMO Mary Hanson by Becky Cater  
 IMO Mary Hanson by Tom, Jen & Sam Bain  
 IMO Mary Hanson by Bonnie Badman  
 IMO Mary Hanson by Cheryl Mattison  
 IMO Mary Hanson by John & Sharon Price

### **Brickwork**

IMO Elaine Mae Krause by Sandy Thon & Jane Van Helden

### **Preschool Scholarships**

IMO Mary Hanson by Nancy Hanson

### **Youth Activity**

IMO Mary Hanson by Eric Nielsen

### **Summer Stretch**

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

### **We Mourned the Death of...**

Mary Hanson, 50  
 Florence Berseth, 96  
 James Tullar, 95  
 Margaret Wicklund, 92



# st. john's christian PRESCHOOL

## Now Enrolling for 2026-2027

Classes are filling for the 2026-27 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!

nancy@stjohns-ec.org OR 715.834.9571

## Library Fieldtrip

May 13th and May 14th

Library Storytime at LE Phillips followed by a stop at Olson's for ice cream and then onto The Pablo Courtyard for some outdoor play!

## Preschool 2026 Program

Wednesday, May 20th 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 play an integral role in our preschool ministry. We are currently in need of members to serve on our board. We meet along with the director and 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!

**Pray & Play in the Park**

**Sunday**  
June 14th  
July 12th  
August 9th

**St. John's Youth Mission Trip**  
**Brat Stand**

in conjunction with  
**Easthill Thrift Sales**  
**1804 Highland Ave**

**Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**10 am – 1:30 pm**

Funds collected will help the St. John's youth going to Belle, WV to work on building projects for those in need.

CARRYING JESUS'S LIGHT

Belle WV

## Summer Stretch '26

✝ Stretching in faith, serving with heart

Wednesday  
June 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>  
July 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>  
July 29<sup>th</sup> - ValleyFair!



Sign up for all dates or, if you can only make a few, sign up for what you can!

Who is invited?

Any youth completing 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade in the spring of 2026. We encourage friends to come, too!

Register now!




### Congratulations, JuBellation!

Thank you for another wonderful year at ECRing!



JuBellation Handbell Choir Presents  
*A JuBellant Sound!*  
 Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>  
 6:30 pm



Free Admission!  
 All are welcome

St. John's Sanctuary  
 1804 Highland Ave.  
 Eau Claire, WI - 54701

St. John's Vacation Bible School 2026

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT



Register now!

Ages: 4 Years - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
 August 3-6 \* 1:00-4:00 pm



2026 Church of the Wild  
 6:30 pm

May 26 - Jirovec  
 June 23 - Staszczuk  
 August 25 - Staszczuk  
 September 22 - Jirovec



**“Together in God” Broadcast Schedule**

WQOW Broadcast @ 10:30 AM

May - 10, 24

June - 7, 21

July - 5, 19

**ABC Network**

**Channel 18**

**Cable 9**

**HD 618**

**TAKE A BATH!**

SHINRIN-YOKU- translated into English as ‘forest bathing’ - means taking in the forest atmosphere during a leisurely walk. It is a therapy that was developed in Japan during the 1980s, becoming a cornerstone of preventive health care and healing in Japanese medicine. Researchers, primarily in Japan and South Korea, have conducted studies on the health benefits of spending time amongst the trees, demonstrating that forest bathing positively creates calming neuro-psychological effects through changes in the nervous system, reducing the stress hormone cortisol and boosting the immune system. Every study conducted so far has demonstrated reductions in stress, anger, anxiety, depression and sleeplessness amongst the participants. In fact after just 15 minutes of forest bathing blood pressure drops, stress levels are reduced and concentration and mental clarity improve.

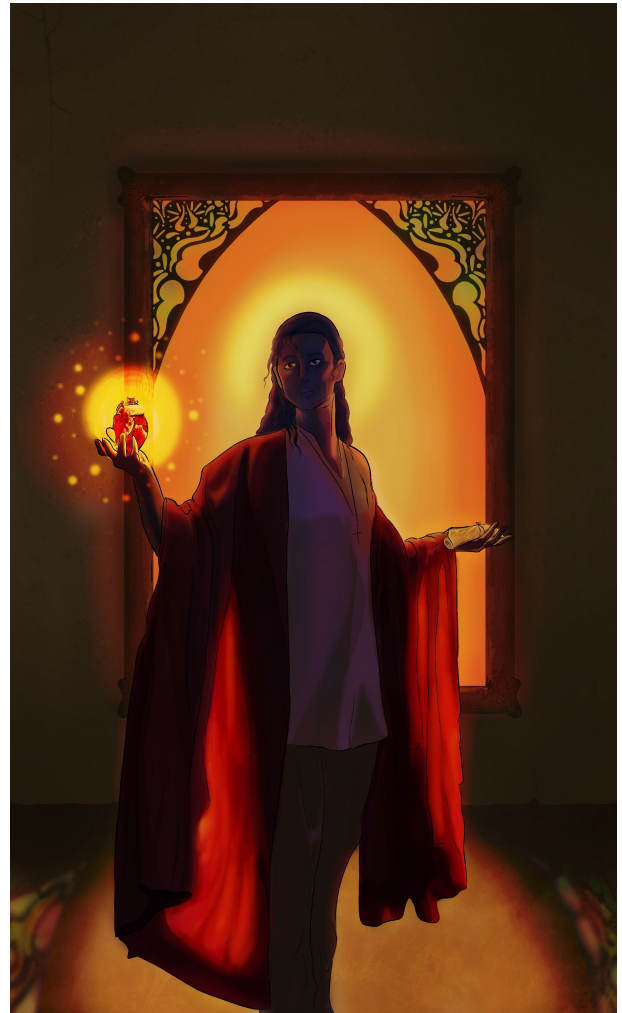
Step 1 - leave behind your phone, camera or any other distractions, so that you can be fully present in the experience.

Step 2 - Leave behind your goals and expectations. Wander aimlessly, allowing your body to take you wherever it wants.

Step 3 - Pause from time to time, to look more closely at a leaf or notice the sensation of the path beneath your feet.

Step 4 - Find a comfy spot to take a seat and listen to the sounds around you. See how the behavior of the birds and other animals changes when they become used to your presence.

Step 5 - If you go with others, make an agreement to resist talking until the end of the walk, when you could gather to share your experiences.



**Trivia Corner**

**A: Love (Romans 13:10)**



**Church Council**

**At-Large:** Jeff Putnam

**At-Large:** Mike Kitzman

**Secretary:** Karla Spies

**Treasurer:** Norb Kirk

**Caring Ministry:** Mary Spryer

**Community & World:** Louise Alt

**Education Ministry:** Stacy Kelly

**Faith Family:** OPEN

**President:** Jean Jirovec

**Seniors & Home Visitation:** Larry Schaefer

**Vice President:** Dramus Peuse

**Worship & Music:** Richard Spryer

**Youth Ministry:** Becky Cater

**Your Church Staff**

**Administrative Assistant:** Genny Gorton

**Bookkeeper:** Marlee Agner

**Communications Coordinator:** Lydia Elko

**Custodian:** Tyeanna Segura

**CYF Director:** Amanda Burkart

**Facility & Grounds Manager:** David LaRose

**Ministers:** All the Congregation

**Music Director:** Mark Lundin

**Organist:** Linda Ranney

**Pastor:** Pr. Christine Emerson

**St. John’s Christian Preschool:**

Nancy Hanson, Amanda Schroeder,

Amanda Downing, Bria Lindstrom

# May Calendar

## Weekend Events:

5/16 - Eastside Hill Thrift Sales

10:00-1:30 Youth Brat Stand

<p><b>3</b> 9:00 Worship Confirmation Sunday 10:15 Sunday School Last Day! 3:30 Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>4</b> 5:00 Stewardship 6:30 JuBellation</p>	<p><b>5</b> 1:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Youth Offsite 7:00 STEP Group</p>	<p><b>6</b> 9:00 Quilting 3:00 Men's Bible Study 5:15 First Wednesdays 5:30 Choir 7:00 Mission Trip Meeting</p>	<p><b>7</b> 1:30 St. John's Apartment Services 6:00 Council</p>
<p><b>10</b> 9:00 Worship 10:15 Mother's Day Activity</p>	<p><b>11</b> 10:00 Constitution Meeting 6:30 JuBellation 6:30 Preschool Board 7:00 Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>12</b> 9:45 Staff Meeting 1:00 Worship &amp; Music 2:00 Senior &amp; Home Visitation 5:00 Benevolence 7:00 STEP Group</p>	<p><b>13</b> <b>Preschool Fieldtrip</b> 12:00 Chippewa Valley VIP 3:00 Men's Bible Study 5:30 Choir</p>	<p><b>14</b> <b>Preschool Fieldtrip</b> 9:30 Rostered Leaders @ Central Lutheran - Chippewa Falls 7:00 Property</p>
<p><b>17</b> 9:00 Worship Graduation Milestone! 10:30 Caretakers of Creation</p>	<p><b>18</b> 3:00 Bible Study @ The Classics 4:00 Finance 6:30 A JuBellant Sound! Concert 7:00 Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>19</b> <b>Last Day of TTH Classes</b> 9:45 Staff Meeting 5:30 Diner's Club @ 4 Mile 7:00 STEP Group</p>	<p><b>20</b> <b>Last Day of MWF Classes</b> 9:30 Women's Circle 1:00 Cards &amp; Games 3:00 Men's Bible Study 5:30 Choir 6:00 SJCP Spring Program &amp; Picnic</p>	<p><b>21</b> 9:00 Volunteer @ The Community Table</p>
<p><b>24</b> 9:00 Worship</p>	<p><b>25</b> <b>Office Closed</b> Memorial Day</p>	<p><b>26</b> 10:30 Staff Meeting 6:30 Church of the Wild 7:00 STEP Group</p>	<p><b>27</b> 9:00 Quilting 3:00 Men's Bible Study 5:30 Endowment</p>	<p><b>28</b> 10:30 Oakwood Health Services</p>
<p><b>31</b> 9:00 Worship Volunteer Appreciation Day!</p>				

"All flesh is like grass  
and all its glory like the flower of grass.

The grass withers,  
and the flower falls,

but the word of the Lord endures forever."

1 Peter 1: 24-25

