

"Reaching Out"

Newsletter



Worship Schedule:

Sunday 9:00 am
Wednesday 6:00 pm

1804 Highland Ave
Eau Claire, WI 54701
715-834-9571
Website:
www.stjohns-ec.org

Office Hours:

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

SOCK AND UNDERWEAR DRIVE

The Caring Committee will again have their Sock & Underwear Drive in January. This will be for men & women and especially long underwear for men in large and x-large sizes and men's work gloves. We also accept gently used outerwear for men & women. The collection bin will be in the Gathering Area.



ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, February. 18, 2024

In the Sanctuary after 9:00 a.m. worship

There will be no Sunday School or Education Hour on this date. For kids there will be a Veggies Tale video and coloring sheets in the Gathering Area.



New Year, New Beginnings!

"For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his." Romans 6:5

Happy New Year to you, dear friends of St. John's! I pray that this New Year will be another exciting year in ministry for our dear Lord, Jesus Christ. I don't know about you, but I'm ready for a new start! I find it fascinating that human beings naturally desire a new start. January 1st has become that time to look back at the previous year, reflect, and move into something new, something that is hopefully fuller, better, and healthier. Even though our tendency is to fall back into the old patterns by February, we want to try. We desire the new. The Julian calendar set this date of January 1st for a reason. It is the date that the earth has made its full movement around the sun and is also now beginning anew. We will see more sunlight soon. The new is happening!

There is something hopeful in this fundamental impulse to begin anew. The New Year then brings out our desire for our commitments to change whatever the change includes. However, our usual inclination is to a set "resolutions" aimed at working harder or fixing our self-perceived flaws. And, there is certainly nothing wrong with that. However those resolutions often aim so high, that the new possibilities often are not seen nor take root and grow.

But, may I be so bold as to suggest another date for a new "resolution"? Sunday, January 7th, traditionally known as the "Baptism of our Lord", is a great day to celebrate a New Year and a new start. As far as the Christian life is concerned, it is through Holy Baptism that we have a new start. But, it's not a new start once and for all. It's a new start every day. As Luther and also the Apostle Paul remind us, each day we die daily to sin through the waters of baptism and begin a new life. Therefore, each day is a chance to begin something new. Each day is January 1st in the life of a follower of Jesus who walks in the baptismal way. Sure, baptism doesn't tell time or count down the clock until the ball is dropped for all to see, but the renewal we seek is there. It is for you. And, you can *always* begin again each day.

We are loved by the Triune One, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It is through the waters of Baptism that we have been given the purpose and vocation to which we are called. Sometimes, that calling is very clear. Other times, the direction God pushes us toward is unknown, only to be revealed while looking back on the path just like reflecting upon the Old Year to the New Year.

Therefore, I challenge you to try a New Year Resolution that is different from the norm. This year, instead of vowing to do "this" or "that" to make your life better, what if you were instead to prayerfully reflect upon where God is leading you, guiding you, and molding you. Come renew your baptism on January 7th, enter a New Year with hope, and listen to God's resolution for you. Instead of you making promises, it just could be that God is making promises to you!

Peace and Joy to you during this season of Light. *Pastor Christine*

Holy Lament - A Worship Series for Lent

What is Lament? As we gather for Ash Wednesday every year (this year seemingly too early on St. Valentine's Day!), you are invited to come and hear about how the Bible is filled with examples of faithful people of God offering up sorrowful or even angry prayers to God. Even Jesus laments in the Gospels. Often, we are too quick to push aside the uncomfortable feelings and yet, the Bible teaches us that working through difficulty is a part of the faithful journey. This Lent, we will explore this in scripture and relearn the gift of honesty with God about our daily lives and experiences. Lent begins February 14th with Ash Wednesday at noon and 6pm. Please check the February newsletter for further information on the Lent and Holy Week schedule.



Advent 2023

Thank You for an Awesome Advent Season
This December, we had several incredible events to
celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ:

- The Advent Activity Night which featured cookies and crafts galore for over a dozen of our youth.
- Our Advent Program The Big, Big, Story, a Christmas Musical on the stage in the large assembly room which featured over 20 incredible Sunday School youth and a packed house
- The Cookie Walk fundraiser, in which we raised over \$1500 for our group to travel to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans



EDUCATION, FAITH FAMILY & YOUTH

Sunday School & Confirmation Schedule

Sunday School Schedule:

Sunday School returns to its normal time and place on January 7th. Here is January's schedule:

January 7: God is David's Friend (Psalm 25)
January 14: God Knows Jonah Ran Away (Jonah)
January 21: God Gives Gideon Strength (Judges 6-7)
January 28: God Goes Ahead of David's Army (2 Samuel 5:17-25)

Confirmation Update:
6th and 7th grade students have their last night of Confirmation January 10th. There will be a brief break and then 9th graders will be starting confirmation class with their mentors on January 31st.



Mark Your Calendars for VBS!!

Mark Your Calendars for VBS

We are once again partnering with local ELCA churches to put on Vacation Bible School June 10th-13th right here at St. John's! Expect registration to drop in the coming months.

We invite the congregation to participate in a **Christmas Tree Pick Up & Recycling on Saturday, January 6.** It's \$10 for one tree and \$15 for a tree over 7' OR for two trees. All trees need to be at curbside free of decorations day of removal. **Sign up before Wednesday, January 3** by [emailing matt@stjohns-ec.org](mailto:matt@stjohns-ec.org) or calling the church office. Please pre-pay through the church office. Proceeds go towards youth attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA this July

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please make checks payable to : St.. John's Lutheran Church

\$10 for one tree and \$15 for a tree over 7' OR for two trees.



WALKING TOGETHER
"I Love to Tell the Story"

WORSHIP,
WORKSHOPS, &
INSPIRATION



FEBRUARY 17, 2024

9:00 - 4:00

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
RICE LAKE, WI

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
Lutheran Church in America



On October 6, 2024, we at St. John's will celebrate our 150th anniversary. Please mark this date on your calendars for our very special milestone.

A committee is planning events for the celebration. Watch for more information throughout the year!



Please welcome our new custodian, Tye!

My name is Tyeanna and everyone calls me Tye. I grew up in Chipewewa Falls and graduated from Chi-Hi. I am married and have three beautiful boys.



**Church Office Closed:
Monday, January 1**

2024 Offering Envelopes

Stop by the gathering area and pick up your 2024 offering envelopes. They are placed alphabetically for you to locate easily. Thank you for your gifts of service and offerings!

For Electronic Participants: If you elected to have special envelopes, you can pick these up also on the tables in the gathering area.



Attention to all who use the kitchen!

All paper products have been combined and are now housed in the gray cabinet across from the kitchen. All ministries and groups are welcome to use the cabinet items.



"Together In God" Media Ministry 2024

St. John's Lutheran Church

Broadcast Schedule

Sunday: WQOW – Channel 18, Cable 9, HD 618 @ 10:30am

MONTH	WQOW
January	7, 21
February	4, 18



Date	Readings	Gospel
January 7	Genesis 1:1-5	Mark 1:4-11
January 14	1 Samuel 3:1-20	John 1:43-51
January 21	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Mark 1:14-20
January 28	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	Mark 1:21-28

Memorial Gift Acknowledgements

General Operations in memory of Lorraine Miller by Norma Bohman.

TV/Radio Ministry in memory of Betty Grosvold by Gary & Cora Klawiter.

TV/Radio Ministry in memory of Betty Jean Grosvold by Lois Mai.

General Operations in memory of husband, Roger & son, Alan. In honor of great grandsons, Wyatt, Lucas & Hunter by Janet Dahl.

Capital Improvements in memory of my brother, Stanley Gizewski by Raymond & Sharon Gizewski.

Good Sam in memory of Lorraine Miller by Curt & Dauneen Amundson.

Good Sam in memory of Eleanor Mayer by Curt & Duaneen Amundson.

General Operations in memory of Irene Horlacher by Scott Olsen.

General Operations in memory of Ernest Johnson by Vivian Hayden.

General Operations in honor of Pr. Christine & Jim Boulter's 30th Wedding Anniversary by Scott Olsen.

General Operations in memory of Dick Carlson by Gary & Pat Holstein.

TV/Radio Ministry in memory of Irene Horlacher by Ralph & Margaret Kinderman.

Preschool Scholarship in memory of Ramelle Haugen by Krystal Canady.

Christmas Day Fund in memory of our parents, Ernest & Verna Vorlob & Adolph & Dolores Huebscher by Don & Sandy Huebscher.

Thank you for these gifts.

January Special Envelopes

JONAH

JONAH (Joining Our Neighbors, Advancing Hope) is a local, faith-based, grassroots organization that advocates for racial, economic, and social justice for everyone in our community.

St. John's Christian Preschool or SJCP

S.J.C.P. is a ministry of St. John's Lutheran Church. Preschool shares Bible stories, devotions, lessons and activities that encourage everyone to share a Christ-like love with each other and with the whole world!

And

Capital Improvement Projects

Helps to repair and upgrade our facility (such as remodeling, replacing windows, roof repair). Projects that are expensive.

In November 2023

We Celebrated the Baptism of

Aveline Nelson


Julian Lundin

In December 2023

We Mourned the Death of...

Ernie Johnson, 95

Irene Horlacher, 91

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Church Office Closed	2 10:30 am Staff Meeting	3 9:00 am Quilting 3:00 pm Master Builders 5:15 pm FEAST 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm 6th & 7th Grade Conf. 6:30 pm CIA 6:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	4 9:00 am Rostered Leader 1:30 pm St. John's Apt Service 5:30 pm Youth Ministry @ Cancun East	5	6 1:00 pm Christmas Tree Pickup
7 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am Adult Education—The Richness of the Liturgical Calendar	8 5:15 pm Stewardship 5:15 pm Education 6:30 pm JuBellaion	9 9:00 am Website Meeting 9:30 am Staff Meeting 1:00 pm Worship & Music 2:30 pm Sr. & Home Visitation 6:30 pm Faith Family—Cancun East 6:00 pm Preschool Board—Cowboy Jack's	10 9:30 am Naomi/Ruth Circle 10:00-12:00 pm Photo Directory Committee Meeting 1:00 pm 150th Committee Meeting 3:00 pm Master Builders 5:15 pm FEAST 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm 6th & 7th Grade Conf. 6:30 pm CIA 6:45 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Mission Trip Meeting	11 9:30—12:00 pm Rostered Leaders Conf. @ Central Lutheran, Chippewa Falls 7:00 pm Property	12	13
14 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Caretakers of Creation	15 Preschool Closed 6:30 pm JuBellaion	16 9:30 am Staff Meeting 1:00 am Caring Ministry 6:00 pm Diner's Club @	17 9:30 am Lois Circle 3:00 pm Master Builders 5:15 pm FEAST 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm 8th & 9th Grade with Mentor Conf. 6:30 pm CIA 6:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	18 9:00 am Volunteer @ The Community Table 6:00 pm Church Council	19	20 8:30 am—4:00 pm Etenal Angels
21 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School	22 4:00 pm Finance 6:30 pm JuBellaion	23 9:30 am Staff Meeting 10:00-12:00pm Photo Directory Committee Meeting	24 3:00 pm Master Builders 5:15 pm FEAST 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm CIA 6:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	25 10:00 am Oakwood Health Service	26	27
28 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Community & World	29 10:30 am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm JuBellaion	30 8:30—3:00 Pastor Christine @ Theological Event	31 9:00 am Quilting 3:00 pm Master Builders 5:15 pm FEAST 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm 8th & 9th Grade with Mentors Conf. 6:30 pm CIA 6:45 pm Choir Rehearsal		*Calendar subject to change	January 2024



St. John's Lutheran Church is a people formed in the waters of Christian baptism to be a *fountain of life* for all who gather here, overflowing into a *river of compassion* for the world.

Your Church Staff

Ministers: All the congregation

Pastor: Pr. Christine Emerson

Music Director: Mark Lundin

CYF Director: Matt Svestka

Communication & Ministry Coordinator: Adriane DeMoe

Organist: Linda Ranney

Administrative Assistant: Genevieve Gorton

Bookkeeper: Jo Rauckman & Marlee Agner

Facility & Grounds Manager: David LaRose

Custodian: Tyeanna Segura

St. John's Christian Preschool: Nancy Hanson, Phyllis Meier, Jenna Mayer, & Sarah Wergeland, Jess Mattson

Preschool Website: www.stjohns-ec.org/grow/preschool

St. John's Website: www.stjohns-ec.org

St. John's general email: stjohns@stjohns-ec.org

1804 Highland Ave.

Eau Claire, WI 54701

715-834-9571

Website: www.stjohns-ec.org

Office Hours: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm Mon-

Church Council:

Jean Jirovec	President
Norb Kirk	Vice President
Penny Erickson	Secretary
Mike Kitzman	Treasurer
Mary Spryer	Caring
Patti Sontag	Community & World
Amanda Wolfe	Education
Mary Hanson	Faith Family
Ruth Lundblad	Seniors & Home Visitation
Richard Spryer	Worship & Music
Teresa Burrows	Youth
Sandy Huebscher	At-Large
Greg Johnson	At-Large



Dear Friends in Christ,
We are excited to update that we were able to Livestream with YouTube Live! We moved to YouTube due to Facebook unpublishing our Facebook page for an unknown reason. We are waiting for this to be reviewed but there is no way of knowing how long this will take before we are republished. We are still working out some hiccups with livestreaming through YouTube. To find us go to www.YouTube.com and search St. John's Lutheran Church – Eau Claire. A link to the upcoming worship service is also on our website home page www.stjohns-ec.org.