

Reaching Out *St. John's Newsletter*

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

1804 Highland Ave.
Eau Claire, WI
54701

A Message From Pastor Christine

Trusting in Abundance

When we can't see the how, we can trust the who?

There are times when we wonder how something will be accomplished. We have little of this, not enough of that, etc. How can such an enormous task get completed with not enough of...fill in the blank here! It can be difficult to trust in the providence of God in times of scarcity. We often live in a Good Friday world while longing for the certainty of the Resurrection.

I wonder how the disciples felt when Jesus used just a few loaves of bread and fish to feed a multitude. Certainly, they could not see how it could be done as Philip says, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have even a little!" They couldn't get past the how of the situation they were in. So, it must have been amazing to see Jesus multiply enough bread and fish for everyone to eat plus beyond that for twelve baskets of leftovers. Relating to Philip, it can be easy to doubt the results of just a few loaves of bread. So, do we trust and give God thanks when things get difficult and when we have little? That's a tough one to swallow, I know.

And yet, that's exactly what Jesus does before he gives out a feast enough for more than 5,000 people. The Gospel of John says that "Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted." Wow. Did you catch that? Jesus had gratitude before he did the miracle. He wasn't grateful afterwards, but before! He was already thankful despite things looking like it wasn't enough. If we ponder on this, this is how it is here at St. John's. This last year, we ended our fiscal year in abundance because of your grateful and generous hearts even though many of us may have wondered about scarcity throughout the year. It can be easy to see just the few loaves and fishes and wonder, "how can we accomplish this!?" And yet we DID.

When looking at our church budget, it can be easy to think about the "how": how do we do this ministry in this place, how do we pay for staff, building, fuel, programs in need and community needing help? How? It can be a real challenge to trust in the providence of Christ when it seems like it's just a few loaves and fishes. But then, the gratitude of our faith kicks in and we see the abundance Christ offers. For all of that and the stuff that cannot yet be seen, I give thanks.

Do you have a "not-enough" situation in your life? I wonder what it would be like to open yourself to gratitude before the miracle, even when it is hard, even when you can't see the "how", you can lean in to trusting the "who". It's Eastertide, after all, and Christ is risen! Let's be thankful for all God has done for us together. Alleluia!

-Pastor Christine



Caretakers of Creation

Caretakers of Creation invites you to read the book *'The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate—Discoveries from a Secret World'*, by Peter Wohlleben. One of the most beloved books of our time, it's an illuminating account of the forest, and the science that shows us how trees communicate, feel, and live in social networks. After reading this book, a walk in the woods will never be the same again. Trees are a gift from God! We will discuss this book at Adult Education on April 19th at 10:30AM. You can try checking it out at the library, order from Dotters Books downtown or find the book online.

Then, the following week, April 26th, join the Caretakers group again to watch the Documentary based upon the book beginning at 10:30am in the Promise Room. Bring a lunch, and settle in for this Earth Month topic. God is good!

Earth Month Events

Highlights of some April's Earth Month events.

Earth Fest 2026

Saturday, April 18, 2026 @ Sonnentag Center, UWEC

The biggest Celebration of Sustainability & Biodiversity Action! Earth Fest combines serious climate & biodiversity solutions with a joyful festival atmosphere - proving that sustainable living can be approachable, fun and community powered. Many displays and hands-on activities.

'The Hidden Life of Trees'

St. John's on Sunday, April 26 @ 10:30 am

We will be featuring a movie on the book *'The Hidden Life of Trees'* by J. Adolph, P. Wohlleben and J. Haft. Bring a sack lunch and we will provide popcorn and drinks.

Beaver Creek Reserve: Native Plant Sale Event

Wednesday, April 29th @ 9:00 am through

Wednesday, May 6th @ 4:00pm

You will have time to order the plants online only. Friday, May 8th and Saturday, May 9th will be the pick plants day. What better way to bring home some native plants ready to plant?

Looking for ideas and information about native plants for your yard?

Try connecting with the Home Grown National Park website. (homegrownnationalpark@com).

These are just a few events going on in Eau Claire for April Earth month. Check out the newspapers, volume one and word of mouth from those around you.

Have fun and enjoy and appreciate God's creation and how we can be better stewards.

- Caretakers of Creation

Join us for our 2026 Wild Spirituality Retreat!

What is Wild Spirituality?

Wild Spirituality is...
a space for reflection
a time to slow down
an opportunity for rest
a place for spiritual growth
a chance to reconnect with nature



Activities

- Wild Weavings
- Mindfulness Nature Photography
- Meditation
- Gentle Morning Yoga
- Personal Reflection Time
- Campfires
- Trail Church
- Rustic Sauna

Location

The Christine Center
W8303 Mann Rd.
Willard, WI - 54493
www.christinecenter.org

2026 Dates

July 22nd - 24th

"This retreat was exactly what I needed for a spiritual recharge." - 2025 Participant

For more information, please reach out to:

St. John's Lutheran Church
Phone: 715-834-9571
Email: lydia@stjohns-ec.org

We are limited to 30 participants, so be sure to reach out soon if you are interested!

Monthly Readings

April 5- Acts 10:34-43, John 20:1-18

April 12 - Psalm 16, 1 Peter 1:3-9

April 19 - Acts 2:14a, 36-41, Luke 24:13-35

April 26 - Psalm 23, 1 Peter 2:19-25

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thrivent Choice Dollars allows eligible 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 March was Steven Droivold, Mary Gerth and Ron & Barb Norby.

St. John’s thanks you for doing this.

Jesus Christ Superstar

Congregations of NW Wisconsin, you are invited to a special production of Jesus Christ Superstar! This musical has impacted audiences around the world for more than 50 years and will be performed in Eau Claire the two weekends leading up to Easter. 36 talented performers will retell the last days of Jesus life leading up to his crucifixion. As we journey through this season of Lent, it is a unique way to engage in this powerful story. Tickets for this production are affordable and 100% of the proceeds will benefit three local non-profits: The Community Table, JONAH, and the Eau Claire Children’s Theater.

Diner’s Club

Diner’s club will meet Tuesday, April 21st at 11:30 at Wild Ridge Golf course. Please RSVP to

Louise Alt by Monday, April 20th
715-834-1693 or altlk@charter.net.

Monthly Giving Envelopes

April: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Easter, Summer Stretch

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!

St. John’s Caring Ministry would like to thank everyone who helped to make our collection for CVTC Food Pantry a success, whether you donated food, personal care items or gave a monetary donation. We also would like to thank Fountain of Life and Thrivent Financial for their monetary donations.

- Sandy Huebscher - Caring Ministry



Pictured:

CVTC Food Pantry

Christine Weber, CVTC with volunteer Don Huebscher



Trivia Corner

Quote the first and last recorded words of our Savior while on earth?

We Welcome Our New Members to St. John's

Jane Poethke

Jane grew up in Rice Lake and attended UW River Falls where she received a Liberal Arts degree in music. After college, Jane lived & worked in Minneapolis and attended Central Lutheran Church in downtown Minneapolis. From there, she studied Music Therapy at UW Eau Claire & was a founding member of the Eau Claire Chamber Orchestra, playing with them for 23 seasons. Jane met her husband, Richard, through the chamber orchestra.

Jane is now retired but worked for Grace Lutheran Communities for 26 years, most of that time as the assistant to their Chaplain.

She enjoys swimming, biking, and spending time with their cat, Oscar. "I am so happy to be a member of St. John's & this wonderful family of faith."



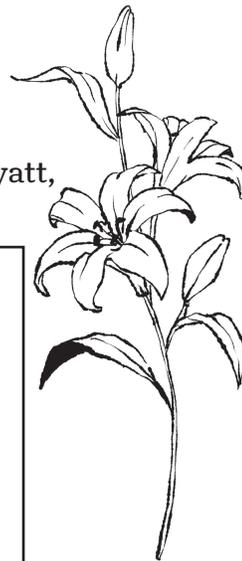
Karol Hommen

Memorials & Honorariums

General Operations

IMO Bruce Parks by Roxanne Fulop

IMO son Alan & husband Roger & IHO Wyatt,
Lucas & Hunter Hedlund by Janet Dahl



We Mourned the Death of...

- Carol Kivi, 82
- LaVerne Price, 75
- Bernice Bestul, 94
- Delma Geurts, 86
- Elaine Krause, 101
- Merrill "Mick" Lovvik, 84
- Harold Mueller, 90



Stand In The Light Memory Choir
Where Words Fail, Music Speaks

2026 Spring Concert
"The Journey We Share"

Kate Larson, Artistic/Musical Director
Anne Kubiawicz, Accompanist

People in the early to mid-stages of memory change, their carepartners and singing volunteers come together to share their love of music.

April 16, 2026
10 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
1120 Cedar Street - Eau Claire

Tickets - General Admission \$15 Adults \$5 Students

To purchase tickets scan QR code or go to www.standinthelightmemorychoir.org

For more information call 715-210-4165 or write standinthelightchoir@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/stitchoir
www.instagram.com/stitchoir/
www.standinthelightmemorychoir.org

MEMBERSHIP
BEST OF THE
Chippewa Valley
2025



HOPE RESTORED FUNDRAISER

An Evening of Hope, Community, and Impact

APRIL 18TH 2026 @5PM

Knights of Columbus - 236 Pumphouse Rd
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

- Live & Reverse Auction
- Silent Auction
- 50/50 Raffle
- Memory Stones
- Gift Card Wheel
- Meal Catered by BIG PAPA BBQ



FOR TICKETS & INFO
WWW.REDDHOUSEOFHOPE.COM



Preschool Days

Play is happening! Did you know that research confirms that self-initiated play nurtures a child’s overall development?

A typical preschool day at St. John’s includes the time, space and opportunity for creative play which fosters the skills of abstract and symbolic thinking, decision making, problem solving and goal setting. It also helps to develop complex language, emotional awareness, identity and self-image, self-control, and stress management. Play builds social skills like patience cooperation and conflict resolution as well as the formation of a moral or ethical code to know right from wrong.

So, we play! (and love and learn too!)



St. John’s Vacation Bible School 2026

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

- Stories -Games
- LOVE
- JOY
- GOODNESS
- Music -Snacks
- PEACE
- PATIENCE
- Crafts -Friends -Fun!
- KINDNESS
- SELF-CONTROL
- GENTLENESS
- FAITHFULNESS
- Dance Parties!

Register now!

Ages: 4 Years - 4th Grade

August 3-6 * 1:00-4:00 pm

st. john’s christian
PRESCHOOL

Parent Activity Day: April 16th and 17th

“Parent Activity Day” is a preschool favorite. We welcome parents and grandparents to plan and lead an activity here at SJCP. Activities may include simple games, crafts, sports demos, music, or sharing a career or hobby.

Preschool Enrollment for 2026-27

We are currently enrolling children for the 2026-27 school year, and we have a few openings. If you know of a family that is interested in registering or learning about preschool, please have them contact Nancy Hanson at 715-834-9571. We also encourage people to explore the preschool page on the St. John’s website stjohns-ec.org/grow/preschool. We appreciate your help as most families come to us upon the referrals of others. Our classes are for 2.5-5-year-olds.

Thanks!

Easter: We have been actively sharing the Easter story in our classes. Our art, play, literature and games help us remember Palm Sunday, Last Supper, Garden Prayer, Good Friday, and of course...The Empty Tomb!!

Scholarship Fund: Thank you for your kind and generous gifts to the scholarship fund. This fund assists families in need with the monthly preschool tuition. Currently six families are on scholarship and our fund is low. If you or a family member can contribute to this fund, you may include a check with your regular offering amount and designate “preschool scholarship”. You may also give online by going to the St. John’s website and click on the Give Online button.

Outdoor Play: Our classes enjoy outdoor play with adventures in beautiful St. John’s Park! Thank God for the fresh air and fun!

Pray & Play in the Park

Sunday
June 14th
July 12th
August 9th

Join us in St. John's Park after worship!



MONDAY, APR. 13TH

A&W YOUTH MISSION TRIP
FUNDRAISER

20% OF SALES GO TO THE GROUP!
4:00 - 8:00



THANK YOU!

We would like to express our sincere thank everyone who supported us through the Wall of Giving. Your gifts will help make it possible for us to grow in our faith and make a difference in the lives of others. We are truly grateful for your kindness, encouragement, and prayers.

With Heart-filled Thanks,
The 2026 Youth Mission Trip Participants



St. John's Youth Mission Trip
Brat Stand

in conjunction with
Easthill Thrift Sales
1804 Highland Ave



Saturday, May 16th
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  



Summer Stretch '26

 Stretching in faith, serving with heart 

Wednesday
June 10th & 17th
July 8th, 15th, 22nd
July 29th - 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 6th - 12th grade in the spring of 2026. We encourage friends to come, too!



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fountain of Life. River of Compassion.



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Passion Sunday - 3/29
9:00 am

Maundy Thursday - 4/2
7:00 pm

Good Friday - 4/3
12:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday - 4/5
9:00 am



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

Trivia Corner

A: "Why were you searching for me? Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"; and, "It is finished" (Luke 2:49; John 19:30).



"Together in God" Broadcast Schedule

WQOW Broadcast @ 10:30 AM

April - 12, 26

May - 10, 24

June - 7, 21

ABC Network

Channel 18

Cable 9

HD 618



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



April Calendar



			1 No Preschool 9:00 Quilting 5:30 Choir	2 No Preschool 1:30 St. John's Apt. Services 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service
5 9:00 Easter Sunday Worship	6 No Preschool Office Closed 7:00 Boy Scouts	7 1:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 STEP Group	8 12:00 CV VIP 3:00 Men's Bible Study 5:15 First Wednesdays 5:30 Choir 6:00 CREW 6:00 9th Gr. Confirmation	9 9:30 Rostered Leaders @Our Savior's Bloomer 4:30 Boy Scout Spaghetti Feed 6:00 Youth 7:00 Property
12 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:15 Endowment 10:30 Caretakers of Creation 10:30 Community & World 2:00 GriefShare	13 10:00 Constitution Meeting 4:00 A&W Youth Fundraiser 5:15 Education 6:30 JuBellation	14 9:30 Staff Meeting 1:00 Worship & Music 6:30 Preschool Board 7:00 STEP Group	15 9:30 Women's Circle 1:00 Cards & Games 3:00 Men's Bible Study 5:30 Choir 6:00 9th Gr. Confirmation	16 9:00 Volunteer @ The Community Table
19 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:15 Faith Family 10:30 Earth Month Event 2:00 American Guild of Organists Concert 2:00 GriefShare	20 3:00 Bible Study @ The Classics 6:00 Boy Scouts 6:30 JuBellation	21 9:30 Staff Meeting 11:30 Diner's Club @ Wild Ridge Golf Course 7:00 STEP Group	22 3:00 Men's Bible Study 5:30 Choir 6:00 9th Gr. Confirmation	23 10:30 Oakwood Health Services
26 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 The Hidden Life of Trees 2:00 Grief Share 5:30 9th Gr Conf. Banquet & Photos	27 No Preschool 4:00 Finance	28 9:30 Staff Meeting 6:30 Church of the Wild - Offsite 7:00 STEP Group	29 9:00 Quilting 3:00 Men's Bible Study 5:30 Choir	30 1:00 Caring Ministry



Weekend Events:

4/3 - No Preschool

Office Closes @ Noon

12:00 & 7:00 Good Friday Service

4/4 - 7:30 Easter Vigil Service

4/11 - 8:00 WELCA Day of Renewal

4/18 - 2:00 Eau Claire Area Ring! Concert

4/25 - 9:00 Synod Assembly Meeting