

# St. John Lutheran Church ELCA

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Pulpit Supply: A Lay Member Led Service

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May 18, 2025

Easter 5

Graduate Sunday

Secretary Hours: M-F, 9am-1pm

Office Phone: 715-352-2524

## Welcome to St. John ELCA



We're glad you chose to worship with us this morning!

*"A new command I give you: Love one another.*

*As I have loved you, so you must love one another.*

*By this all people will know you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

*John 13: 34-35*

*St. John/St. Stephen Lutheran Parish ELCA, Mission Statement:*

*"Saints united to be the body of Christ in the world, freed by grace to  
live faithfully, witness boldly, and serve joyfully."*

## Graduate Sunday

*A special welcome to our Graduates and their families, friends and other honored guests. Our thoughts and prayers go with you as you celebrate this milestone and make a new beginning. God bless each of you.*

*Our honored Graduates: Tatum Bargender and Carlie Stahel*

### Dear Graduates:

*"I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you...to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29: 9-11 NIV*

We rejoice with you over the accomplishments you have made. We look forward with you in bright hope to your tomorrows, and challenge you to look to God to direct you with his loving guidance.

Our best wishes and prayers go with you as you begin the next part of your life journey. May you be blessed with rich experience, God's peace, and His abundant joy.

*Whatever you do...do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."*

Colossians 3: 17



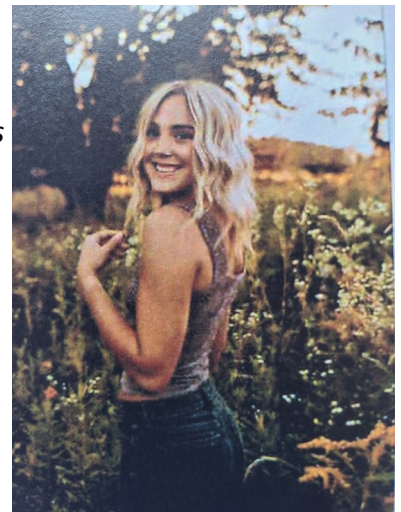
### About Our Honored Graduates

**Tatum Bargender**—Parents: Ryan & Brooke. Tatum graduated the Salutatorian of her class from Abbotsford High School. She notes that being named Salutatorian was not just an academic achievement—it was the result of hard work and learning how to keep going even when it was hard.

Tatum got her CNA certification in 2023, and since that time, she has been working at Colonial Health and Rehab Center. "Becoming a CNA has really opened my eyes in the best way possible. It has encouraged me to continue my journey in the healthcare field. I get to experience the joy of putting a smile on a residents' faces every day and being there for them when they need it the most. It's not even about the medical tasks, it's about showing up everyday with a sense of empathy. Overall, my experience has truly given me a sense of purpose in life, leading me to pursue nursing".

She plans to attend UW-Eau Claire, and major in Nursing. All of the Christmas programs over the years, and having her Grandma as her Sunday School teacher, were her most memorable Sunday School experiences.

Tatum sees God involved in her life today as he guides her in decisions, gives her strength to pursue her future goals, and surrounds her with people who encourage her to grow throughout this next chapter of her life.



## Our Honored Graduates



**Carlie Stahel**—Parents: Jeremy & Pam Stahel,  
Heidi Leffel-Heidmann & Cody Heidmann

Carlie is a graduating Valedictorian of Edgar High School, having achieved the Highest Honors (Honor Roll) all 4 years, which included some college level courses. She also received the National Honor Society Award 2 years during her High School career.

***"After high school, I will be attending the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and Northcentral Technical College to complete the 1+2+1 Nursing Program. The 1+2+1 Nursing Program is a Partnership Program that provides access to more resources and allows me to obtain my Bachelor's Degree in Nursing. I will spend my first year at UWSP completing prerequisites and some nursing courses. Then, I will complete my next two years at NTC.***

*These two years will be equivalent to an Associate's Degree. My final year of school is an online RN to BSN Program and specialization through UWSP. I plan to specialize in pediatric or neonatal nursing and work locally. This is a four-year program; however, with my high school dual credit courses, I may be able to complete it in two and a half to three years.*

***I have a lot of great memories from Sunday School,** but some of my favorites always include working as a group. I vividly remember when St. John's ELCA used to have its own "trunk or treat". Even if attendance was low, it was always fun to run from vehicle to vehicle in the parking lot. I also always loved helping with the Pancake Brunch and Palm Sunday Brunch. I used to help the women of the church do dishes while splashing water literally everywhere".*

***When asked where she sees God involved in her life today, Carlie replied:** "Over the past four years of high school, I have gotten very close to God. Halfway through my freshman year, I joined the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at school. At the time, it was a large group of seniors. In the following years, the huddle was small, and sometimes I was the only person who attended. This year, I helped grow our huddle to about twenty people. I attended the FCA Sports Camp three years in a row, and this camp provided some of my best summer memories and closest friendships.*

*At the end of my sophomore year through my senior year, I was given the opportunity to teach and assist in the Sunday School classrooms. Teaching Sunday School is something I look forward to every week. The children never fail to make me laugh and smile, regardless of my week before class.*

*God is present every day in my life. Since FCA Camp last year, I have read my bible almost every day and strive to make prayer a priority. God reveals himself to me through the many blessings that I have received. Even through hard times, I know he is always there".*

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*Thank you dear graduates for sharing these insights with us. We delight in who you are, and your many excellent accomplishments. We rejoice with you and your families as you celebrate reaching this milestone in your life.*

# St. John Lutheran Church, ELCA Supply Pastors

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*Joint Mission Statement: Saints united to be the body of Christ in the world,  
freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly, and serve joyfully.*

## Keeping in Touch, May 18, 2025

Much appreciation to our Ministry Team this morning! Thanks for serving to honor God and our graduates by making all things come together for our time of Worship and Celebration today!



Join us for a Cake & Coffee Reception in honor of our Graduates, after the service today!

### Prayer Concerns

**Larry Lehman**—(Mark's Brother-in-law) in Rochester awaiting heart surgery.

**Brittany Schilling**—(Sharon Schumacker's granddaughter) Continues to recover from surgery. Pray for wisdom regarding the next best step in her treatment.

**Naomi Sebold**—recovering from a fall and recent surgery.

Friends at St. Stephen

**Josh Sterling**—grandson of Vayle Sterling



May 11, 2025

Attendance: ?

Offering: \$1384.00

**THIS WEEK**—Council will meet after the service today in the classroom across from the Pastor's office.

Wednesday, May 21, from 1-3pm—Senior Community Event at St. Stephen, BINGO!

Friday, May 23—High School Graduation at Edgar. *Congratulations Carlie!*



**Brat Fries COMING SOON! May 30 and June 6th, from 8am—2:30pm at Cenex (Pro Vision) in Stratford. Sign up now to be part of the team!**

**Breakfast in the Park follows SOON after**—at Oak Street Park, June 14th, 7am—11:30am.

Please sign up. ***Time to start creating those RAFFLE BASKETS!***

"Kickoff to June Dairy Month" with the Stratford FFA Alumni Dairy Breakfast, at the Country Aire Ballroom, on Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, from 7:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., "All You Care to Eat". Matching funds from Catholic Financial Life, Str. Chapter #203.

**ALERT: Joint worship June 1 and June 8 at 9:45am**

**Building a Wider Welcome!** Please take note of this upcoming special opportunity. St. John/St. Stephen are hosting two educational sessions that will include a faithful look at inclusivity in the church.

SESSION 1 June 1, 2025 at St. John 9:45am JOINT WORSHIP 11-12:30pm Education

*A light sandwich lunch will be provided. The women of St. John will provide salads.*

SESSION 2 June 8, 2025 at St. Stephen 9:45am JOINT WORSHIP 11-12:30pm Education



Thanks to ALL for the Birthday Cards, Gifts, and Happy Birthday greetings. You really know how to make a person feel special!