

## Parish Profile – 2018

**Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist**

**330 McClellan Street**

**Wausau, WI 54403**

**715-845-6947**

**[stjohnswausau.org](http://stjohnswausau.org)**

*For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.*

*Romans 12:4-5*

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### Our Transition Prayer

God our Creator: During this transitional period in our congregation, open our hearts to your Holy Spirit, and help us to discern your call. Guide each of us to realize our importance in the process. Help us to identify and use our individual spiritual gifts to develop the purpose and mission you have entrusted to us in your love and mercy. Sustain us as a vibrant, welcoming, and patient community that is ready to invite a new priest to share our journey. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



## Welcome

Thank you for your interest in the Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist in Wausau, Wisconsin. We are part of the Episcopal Diocese of Fond du Lac. The Rt. Rev. Matthew Gunter is our bishop. Our church building is located in historic downtown Wausau, a city that is centrally located in Wisconsin, with easy access to Madison, Minneapolis/St. Paul, and Green Bay, as well as Milwaukee and Chicago.

We hope that this document will help you become familiar with the warm, dedicated people of St. John the Baptist. Many of our members have had long – even life-long – relationships with this parish; others have more recently claimed St. John the Baptist as their church home, drawn by its members' commitment to discerning where the Holy Spirit is leading us in Wausau and the world.

If you desire to learn more about our parish, please contact the Rev. Meredyth Albright, Transition Ministry Officer for the diocese, whose contact information can be found at the end of this document.

## Our Strengths

The parish of St. John the Baptist (referred to hereafter as "SJB") has many strengths: a small, dedicated staff; financial stability; a consistent choral music program; an active Cursillo group; and a willingness to communicate respectfully about challenging issues.

*"We came at a point of need, not at a time when we could give, but we were welcomed as we were." – Cindy Royer, Mission Team Member*

Members of our parish consistently describe our welcoming, friendly, and hospitable atmosphere as our greatest strength. This welcoming personality manifests in many ways. On Sunday mornings following our second service, parishioners take turns hosting coffee hour. People linger for a considerable time to socialize and connect, enhancing our relationships. In addition, children are invited to participate in all aspects of ministry at SJB. They serve at the altar, set tables for monthly Community Lunches, and assist with watering flowers in the courtyard. Members of the congregation also offer one another support in difficult times.



At SJB, we place significant emphasis on ritual. The Eucharist and Sacraments are central at SJB. Baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and burials are celebrated with appropriate dignity. At the same time, we are happy to try alternative worship practices. In the summer months, we have held the Eucharist in our courtyard instead of in the church. On Palm Sunday, we have gathered at Wausau's 400 Block, a downtown park that hosts numerous events each year ranging from a farmers' market, to concerts on the square, to ice skating, and many festivals. At the 400 Block, we opened the service with another downtown congregation (and a donkey!), and then processed to our respective places of worship. In addition, we have incorporated prayers from *Enriching Our Worship I* in our services.

Our location in downtown Wausau affords us a strong presence in the community. In recent years, there has been an effort to work with other downtown churches (including First United Methodist, First Presbyterian, St. Paul United Church of Christ, St. Stephen ELCA, First Universalist Unitarian, and the Roman Catholic Church of the Resurrection) on issues related to social justice and outreach, and on developing the shared elements of our faith. One such effort is a “Traveling Stations of the Cross” during Holy Week. Our beautiful courtyard also provides us with a “porch” both for SJB members taking their faith into the world, and for others seeking a spiritual refuge. During the warmer weather months, our courtyard offers tables and chairs for visitors to the downtown area to use for rest and solace, and serves as a potential entryway to the church for them.

Finally, our people are a significant strength. That a church of our size, with the array of programs we offer, can thrive during our transition period is a testament to our dedication to SJB and its mission. The laity is a dedicated, organized body. Most members contribute meaningfully to parish life, and many people dedicate dozens of hours per month to Christian formation, altar guild, fellowship, music, service, mission, maintenance, and other ministries.



## Our Challenges

The challenges we face at SJB are not especially unique. Like most Episcopal Churches, our congregation is somewhat homogenous. Although our membership is currently stable, we seek to attract more families, more millennials, and more diverse members.

One barrier to retaining families with children is that our small membership in this demographic makes it difficult to provide meaningful Christian Formation programs, especially for middle-school and high-school aged youth. In addition, a sizable number of people have mentioned that they would like more adult Christian Formation specifically about Episcopal identity.

Our beautiful historic building is a significant strength, and its maintenance is an ongoing challenge. In 2019, we will replace our 100-year-old roof. In 2018, renovation of our organ was completed. Because of our sound financial stewardship and dedicated volunteers, our building and grounds are in excellent condition.

These are probably the largest challenges we face, but we also seek to regain a sense of vitality and excitement for being God’s people; to find ways to make change more comfortable; to make sure those who wish to serve in various liturgical and non-liturgical ways are welcomed to do so and receive sufficient training to do so well; and to discern where the Spirit is leading us outside our walls, while continuing to take care of our church family.

## Looking to the Future

In late December 2017, Fr. David Klutterman announced that he would retire at the end of Epiphany, 2018. His tenure as rector of St. John the Baptist began in 1996. Following our celebrations of his long ministry with us, the vestry began working with the Diocese to find an interim rector. For several months, SJB was well-served by a rotation of supply priests, including several ordained Episcopal and ELCA Lutheran pastors who regularly worship at SJB. When an interim rector was not available, the vestry instead looked to hire a long-term supply priest. The Rev. Canon Ezgi Saribay Perkins – who currently serves as Canon

*“Human contact on the sidewalk; a rector’s visit in our home; a procession with young and old participants; communion being brought to people in the pews: these are seemingly small acts of outreach, but they were significant in terms of painting a picture of this congregation. I saw you as doers of the word.” – Rev. John Roseth, parishioner and supply clergy*

Precentor at St. Paul’s Cathedral, Fond du Lac – began serving SJB in this capacity on September 2, 2018.



In July 2018, the vestry named a search committee. Throughout September, the Search Committee held focus groups and individual interviews with adults, youth, and children during which congregants shared their fondest memories of SJB, as well as ideas about our parish’s strengths, challenges, and visions. The responses from those sessions are the basis for the information provided here.

Every transition takes longer than congregants would like, but members of SJB feel generally satisfied with our process and progress, and hopeful that it will allow us to call a rector who is well-suited to helping us continue to discern where the Holy Spirit is calling us.

## Goals and Priorities

The people of SJB have identified the following as priorities for the future:

- Maintain our current membership while attracting new members so that we can widely share the Gospel in Wausau and the world
- Celebrate the Holy Eucharist in a predominantly traditional style, while remaining flexible and open to incorporating more contemporary practices
- Discern and develop our purpose and mission as a “downtown church”
- Develop and enhance Christian formation for members in every age group, with emphasis on middle- and senior-high youth

## Vision for our next priest

At SJB, we value our relationships with one another, and with our rector. We feel strongly called into community, and to develop our relationships with God, each other, and members of our community. Thus, we seek a rector who listens, a person who embraces face-to-face communication and frequent interaction with the congregation. It is our hope that by listening, our rector will help us further develop our mission as God’s people.

The laity at SJB is dedicated and driven; we seek a rector who will welcome our contributions, help us discern our gifts, and inspire us to lead in various ministries. Our new rector must value and welcome children and adults who are diverse in every way.

We seek an energetic, prayerful, and spiritually-grounded person. We hope that his or her sermons will nourish our minds and hearts, and will help us apply scripture and contemporary theological thinking to living as Christians in the world.



According to the children of SJB, our next priest must “be kind,” even if she or he is strict. It’s important to our children that they are remembered by name and that our new priest will play games – including snowball fights – with them. They believe that the priest’s job is to “feed” and “lead” the church, and they’d prefer it if she or he sometimes sits with the kids during the “snack section” (aka coffee hour). The older youth feel similarly. They like SJB the way it is, and seek a rector who will be “relatable” and isn’t boring.

*“I hope our next rector has a strong vision, but inspires others to own and enact that vision.”  
– Jason Chan, parishioner and Children’s Formation coordinator*

## History

### Early History

The first Episcopal services in Wausau were held in the Assembly Room of the Forest House on March 12, 1854. The congregation took several years to organize. Land was deeded to the Diocese of Wisconsin so that a home for the new parish could be built in 1857, and on September 22, 1858, the vestry officially voted to incorporate and become a parish. The lots were given by Walter McIndoe and St. John the Baptist has occupied them for 160 years. Construction of the church building was halted when the workers were called to serve in the Civil War, and the partially constructed building was destroyed by a windstorm. After the war, the Rev'd Thomas Greene became rector and the church was rebuilt in 1867. In 1873 the church was consecrated by Bishop Armitage and named St. John's in the Wilderness. In 1886 the church was moved to the corner lot where a cellar and stone foundation were built, and improvements were made to the wooden church.

### The 20<sup>th</sup> Century

Like at many churches, the women at St. John did a great deal of fundraising for the church and in 1912 a new pipe organ was purchased for \$1,800 by the St. Martha's Guild. In the summer of 1914, pledges of \$25,000 were collected for a new stone church; its cornerstone was laid on October 19, 1914, and five months later, in March 1915, services took place in the new church. It was consecrated by Bishop Weller on May 12, 1915 and renamed St. John the Baptist since Wausau was no longer considered the wilderness. At the same time, the old wooden church was moved and turned into the Guild Hall. The latter 20th Century saw additional changes to the physical building. The 1914 pipe organ was replaced by a new one in 1971 (at a cost of \$25,000). In 1975, Bishop Brady dedicated the newly remodeled guild hall, kitchen, classrooms, and library. The guild hall was renamed "Memorial Hall" to commemorate those who had previously worked on the project, and to express appreciation to donors, artists, builders, and others. In the 1980s and beyond, St. John the Baptist, other churches, and community agencies sponsored Hmong refugee families and helped them begin to adjust to America and the Wausau area.



### Recent Past

As the 21<sup>st</sup> Century approached, St. John the Baptist began to look beyond its walls and place greater emphasis on its role in the community, specifically the downtown community. SJB organized with many neighboring churches to share in worship, ecumenical studies, and outreach, while still claiming its own unique place in the community. For the past two decades, we have frequently focused on being good stewards in our community. We serve monthly meals to our neighbors, and have opened our courtyard and chapel to the public for relaxation, meditation, and solitude.

## Current Programs and Ministries

### Worship and Music

#### Sunday Morning

On most Sundays, we celebrate two services of Holy Eucharist from *The Book of Common Prayer*. Rite I is used at 8 AM in a quiet service in the chapel. At 10 AM, Rite II is used in the church. About twice per month, the choir sings; on other Sundays, the 10 AM service includes hymns which come primarily from *The Hymnal 1982*. We employ a part-time Choir Director and two additional organists who rotate accompanist duties.



On the first Sunday of each month, SJB celebrates a single service of Holy Eucharist at 9 AM. The idea behind this service is to bring the two fairly distinct groups of worshipers into community with one another. From Memorial Day through the second Sunday in September, we also hold a single 9 AM service; this service has been held in both the church and outside in the Courtyard. The 9 AM service typically uses Rite II and includes music.

*"I value our liturgy and coming together around the table. Our focal point is the Eucharist." – Vickie Richmond Hawkins, Senior Warden*

On first Sundays, we hold a potluck brunch after the 9 AM service which allows us to continue to build relationships with one another. The usual 10 AM service is followed by a popular coffee hour.

#### Morning / Evening Prayer

In our recent past, SJB has held weekly services of Morning and Evening Prayer in the Chapel, several times per week. During the time without a settled rector, and with laity assuming other responsibilities, these services have been suspended. Our plan is to restore a service schedule that includes weekday Morning and Evening Prayer, or Holy Eucharist, when we have called our next rector.



## Service and Outreach

### Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

St. John the Baptist has an active ECW that includes all women members of the parish. We hold two dinner meetings per year, one in the fall and one in the spring, at which we socialize and conduct business. Special meetings are sometimes called by the Executive Board. Our purpose is to provide



fellowship, work, study, prayer and service, and to that end, ECW has four significant functions: hosting receptions for special occasions, bishop visitations, and funerals; maintaining the kitchen and Memorial Hall; providing opportunities for fellowship; and bringing women together in prayer and spirituality. For example, the ECW hosts an annual Lenten Quiet Day at church and several Saturday morning coffee dates each year during which members share thoughts and stories about living a life in the Spirit.



ECW has its own budget and provides financial support to more than 10 missions annually. These include the Women's Community Shelter, the Boys and Girls Club, The Neighbors' Place (a local community center), Wausau Warming Shelter, Salvation Army, and more. The ECW also coordinates the UTO in-gathering at SJB. Many years ago, the UTO provided a grant to the Neighbors' Place which allowed it to purchase a van for its facility.

### Mission Team

In February 2017, SJB commissioned a Mission Team. This ministry grew out of conversations about what it means to be a church. The group was initiated by a parishioner with a background in divinity who worked with a church in the diocese which could no longer afford the upkeep of its building. That parish was grappling with what a church without a church building looks like. This parishioner – who was hired part time at SJB as the Minister of Mission – led the Mission Team in thinking about our mission as a people of God, within the Wausau community. The Mission Team met monthly over the course of the first year for study and reflection. The Minister of Mission wrote a bi-weekly reflection and preached monthly. The Mission Team was responsible for the addition of a lending library and prayer box to the Courtyard, and for enhancing some outreach efforts, especially holding fresh food drives for The Neighbors' Place food pantry. The Mission Team continues to meet, though many of its members also have roles on the vestry, search committee, and others during this transitional period. In addition, the Minister of Mission and his family moved in mid-2018. SJB remains committed to the Mission Team and its efforts to help us discern where the Spirit is calling us.

*“People here don’t really have to be told to engage. It’s engrained.” – Jim LaPointe, parishioner*

## Community Lunch

For the past 20 years, SJB has hosted a lunch on the final Saturday of each month for members of our community. Though the leadership and focus of this luncheon has changed somewhat over the years, at its core, this lunch allows SJB to meet and interact with diverse members of the community. Members of SJB bring various elements of the meal which are then shared with our guests. Over the years, our guests have become friends with one another, and have brought new friends. The number of guests has grown over time, and in recent months, we have hosted about 40 people.



Until September 2018, this monthly lunch was called the “outreach” lunch. Although this meal is certainly a way that SJB serves others, we have become uncomfortable with the term “outreach” and the power disparity that it reflects. As a result, we have renamed this gathering the “community” lunch and hope that in the months to come, we find a balance between serving and engaging in fellowship with our guests.



## Courtyard Ministry

One of SJB’s most important assets is our beautiful Courtyard. During the growing season, this space overflows with abundant flowers which are lovingly maintained by the congregation. People who work and visit downtown can frequently be seen eating lunch or enjoying coffee and conversation at our patio tables. We set out bottles of water for humans, and a water bowl and treats for dogs, as a sign of welcome.



The Courtyard has also hosted concerts by local jazz artists and the South Beach Chamber Ensemble during the “South Beach Up North” tour.

### *Brat Fry*

On Tuesdays in August, we hold a brat fry over the lunch hour. In recent years, parishioners have donated the food (meat, buns, chips, drinks) and free will offerings have been dedicated to the Rector's Discretionary Fund.



### *Prayer Box*

In early 2017, the Mission Team installed a Prayer Box and lending library in the Courtyard. A parishioner designed, built, and donated the structure that holds both books and materials on which people can write prayers that may be submitted to an embedded compartment.



### *Chapel*

In many ways, our Chapel space has been central to our identity as a downtown church. Until recently, we left the chapel unlocked 24/7. We felt called to allow this space to remain open for community members who sought a place to connect with God. Increasingly over the last few years, however, visitors to the chapel had other ideas about its use, and several incidents of serious vandalism over a period of months caused us to limit the number of hours per day it was unlocked. Currently, the chapel is unlocked only during Sunday and weekday worship services.



### **Building Use**

The SJB Choral Director directs three community choirs for students: Bella Voce (auditioned choir for high schoolers), Ballade (auditioned choir for middle schoolers), and Voices (a choir for students with special needs). All choirs are free; students pay only for the cost of music which they keep. The choirs use SJB building space for rehearsals and concerts.

SJB has hosted Boy Scout Troop 416 for many years. In addition, we provide meeting space for SMART Recovery (an addiction support program) and NAOMI: North Central Area Congregations Organized to Make an Impact. NAOMI's mission is "to bring together communities of faith to create community, build leadership, and to identify and act on issues of injustice," and SJB is one of the member congregations.

## Christian Formation

### Adult

On Wednesday mornings, there is a book study group. For many years, this group met without clergy and chose its own book; in recent years, clergy was invited to participate more. Typically participants read assigned pages between each meeting.

On Sunday mornings, there is a study group between the two worship services, and the rector has been an important member of this group. Typically this group discusses the day's lectionary readings.

Occasionally, adults engage in book study and discussion outside of these groups. In Spring 2018, several members from the vestry, mission team, Cursillo group, adult study groups, and others read and discussed Dwight Zscheile's *The Agile Church: Spirit-Led Innovation in an Uncertain Age* in preparation for hearing him speak at the Diocese of Fond du Lac's Spring Conference in April 2018.

### Cursillo

Many SJB members have participated in the diocesan Cursillo Ministry which helps church members to understand their individual callings. After attending a 3-day weekend retreat, Cursillo participants are invited to meet weekly in congregation-based "Reunion Groups." SJB has typically held a weekly reunion prior to the Wednesday book study group.

### Children

Children's Formation for elementary age children is held during the 10 AM service with children returning to the service in time for The Great Thanksgiving. The children's program is lay led. In 2018, we adopted the Deep Blue (Abingdon Press) "One-Room Sunday School" curriculum. Adults sign up to lead the Sunday School on a rotating basis.



### Fellowship

From early 2017 through mid-2018, we held monthly "Growing Together" potluck dinners on Wednesday evening which were followed by Christian Formation activities. For example, we held a picnic at Monk Gardens, a local community garden, after which we read the creation story and held a scavenger hunt that allowed us to explore the bountiful world God created. These dinners were always intended to be intergenerational, and they were to some extent. However, beginning in October 2018, we rebranded these dinners as "Fellowship Dinners" in order to make them more intentionally intergenerational. We also moved them to Sunday evenings,

hoping that this timing would attract more people in all age groups. In October, we decorated pumpkins and in November we held a “Friendsgiving” dinner.

Every Tuesday morning, male members of SJB gather at The Mint Café for breakfast and fellowship. In most years, we have a SJB Night at the Woodchucks (our local baseball team).



## Governance and Financials

SJB has a typical vestry structure with Senior and Junior Wardens, and nine additional members who serve staggered three-year terms. The Treasurer is not a voting member of the Vestry. The Vestry meets monthly to oversee the church’s ministries, operations, and finances. Our Annual Meeting is held on All Saints’ Sunday.

The membership roles at SJB reflect slight increase in members over the past 5 years. Average weekly attendance and pledged income have remained constant, while pledging units have decreased slightly.

### St. John the Baptist Membership

<i>Parish Numbers</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>
Total Members	160	164	161	182	194
Average Sunday Attendance	75	75	76	74	75
Baptisms	4	3	2	2	1
Received by a bishop	0	0	2	0	5

In addition to financial resources, the people of SJB are extraordinarily generous with their time. From leading Sunday School to serving on Altar Guild to planting flowers and maintaining the landscaping to preparing meals for receptions and Community Lunches, the people here contribute resources beyond pledges and dedicate countless hours each month to the life of this parish.

## St. John the Baptist Finances

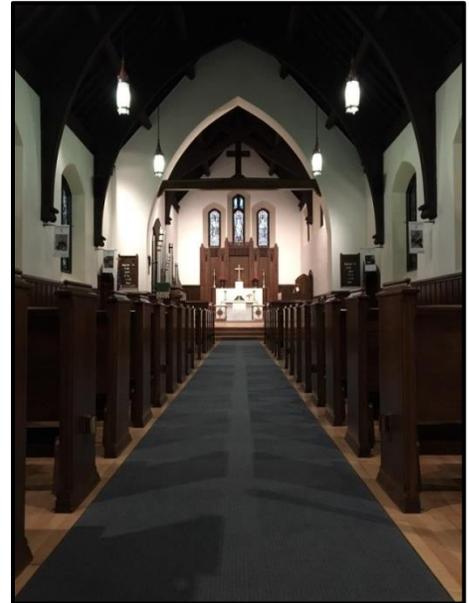
<i>Essential Elements</i>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Pledging Units	43	52*	39	38	40
Pledged Income	\$164,385	\$168,433	\$171,118	\$165,502	\$163,253
Normal Operating Income: (Plate offerings, Pledge payments, and Regular support)	\$194,071	\$187,297	\$199,326	\$177,260	\$233,338
All Revenues	\$349,727	\$281,029	\$452,131	\$312,708	\$424,744
Operating Expenses	\$178,773	\$192,008	\$194,225	\$195,389	\$205,392
Property Improvements	\$18,353	\$114,783	\$45,023	\$64,489	\$52,562
Account Balances	\$91,161	\$71,639	\$84,942	\$74,490	\$83,454
Endowment Fund	\$928,453	\$903,959	\$1,069,972	\$1,120,659	\$1,289,552

*\*In 2014, our parochial report listed that there were 52 pledging units. We believe this is a typo and that there were actually 42 pledging units which would be more in line with the pledging units in adjacent years.*

## Building and Grounds

As previously noted, the historic nature of our building necessitates ongoing upkeep and maintenance. Within the past 10 years, we have made significant improvements ranging from cosmetic to structural. For example, the carpet was removed, the hardwood floors refinished, and a runner installed down the church's middle aisle. In addition, the interior walls were painted, and the finish renewed on the pews and kneelers. These cosmetic improvements have enhanced the beauty and musicality of our worship space.

We have a building-wide system for smoke, fire, temperature, and security. In another measure to provide security for our building, all the exterior church and chapel doors have recently restored hardware, and the windows in the Parish House and Memorial Hall have been replaced.



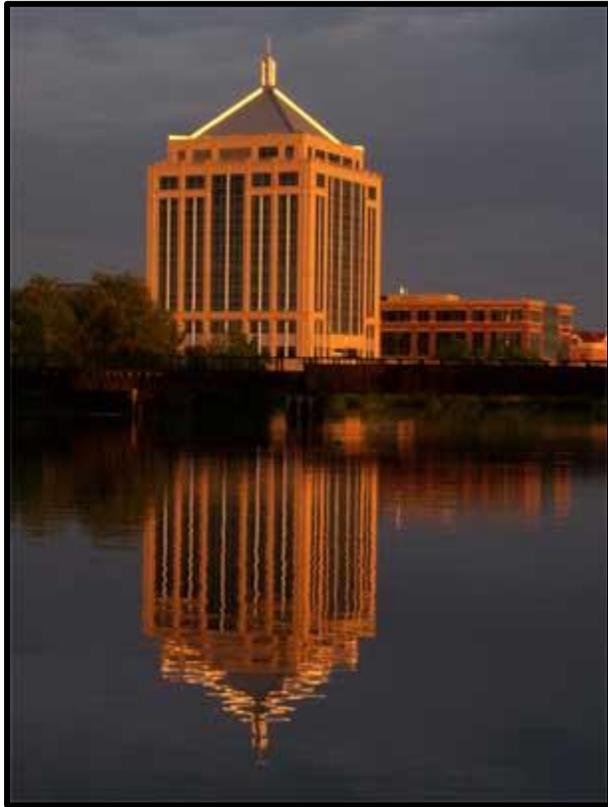
In recent years, we have also installed an ADA compliant elevator system, refurbished the sound system, restored our organ, and made repairs to our roof.

### *Roof*

At a special meeting in October 2018, the Vestry unanimously decided to replace the roof system and awarded a contract to Krause Konstruction of Coon Valley, Wisconsin. The Krause family has been in business since 1972 and is a nationally recognized company specializing in church restorations. Funding for our project will be taken from the Endowment Fund. The project will begin in April 2019 and take five to six weeks.

## Wausau

The City of Wausau is a vibrant, welcoming community that boasts affordable housing, excellent schools, outstanding healthcare facilities, and institutions of higher learning. The Wausau Metro Statistical Area has a population of 134,063, with the city of Wausau accounting for the largest portion, about 40,000. Wausau is a regional hub for recreation, culture and dining, healthcare, commerce, and industry. In Wausau, you will experience four beautiful, distinct seasons.



There are many resources that provide information about Wausau (and links to get you started are below). Here are some of our favorite things to see and do in Wausau, by season.

**Winter** - Ski downhill at Granite Peak or cross country at Nine Mile Recreational area; watch a River Wolves Hockey game; sled at Sylvan Hill; enjoy the Wausau School of Ballet's *Nutcracker* performance; watch the Holiday Parade; enjoy local beer at the Winter Brew fest; shop locally in Wausau's River District.

**Spring** - Go for a Bird Walk at Monk Botanical Gardens; see a production at the Grand Theater; attend a program at the Marathon County Public Library; participate in the Ghidorzi Green and Clean; picnic at the Dells of the Eau Claire River County Park; take a pottery or painting class at the Center for Visual Arts.

**Summer** - Eat lunch at the 400 Block at Market Place Thursdays; select produce and other local goods at the Farmer's Market; enjoy Rib Fest, Balloon Fest, and Chalkfest; kayak on the Wisconsin River; go to a Woodchucks baseball game; watch the fireworks at Marathon Park and eat cheese curds at the Wisconsin Valley fair; swim at one of Wausau's three aquatic centers.

**Fall** - Visit the galleries at Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum during ARTrageous weekend; ride the chair lifts at Granite Peak to see the spectacular fall colors; explore Wausau's Ginseng roots at Ginseng Fest; attend a faculty recital at the Wausau Conservatory of Music; take a hay ride at a local farm.



No matter the season, Wausau offers quality experiences for individuals and families of all ages. In addition, you will find national and local shopping and dining experiences. Wausau's people are friendly and warm. We at SJB are proud to call Wausau home; we love living here. Here are just a few resources that will help you learn about our region.

City of Wausau:	<a href="http://www.ci.wausau.wi.us/Home.aspx">www.ci.wausau.wi.us/Home.aspx</a>
Wausau Events:	<a href="http://www.wausauevents.org/">www.wausauevents.org/</a>
Wausau School District:	<a href="http://wausauschools.org/">wausauschools.org/</a>
Marathon County:	<a href="http://www.co.marathon.wi.us/">www.co.marathon.wi.us/</a>
Marathon County Historical Society:	<a href="http://www.marathoncountyhistory.org/">www.marathoncountyhistory.org/</a>
Marathon County Public Library:	<a href="http://www.mcpl.us/">www.mcpl.us/</a>

## Additional Information



The Diocese of Fond du Lac is a diocese of the Episcopal Church encompassing northeast Wisconsin. The Diocese contains about 5,550 baptized members worshipping in 37 locations. Since 2014, the Right Reverend Matthew Gunter has served as its eighth bishop. The Cathedral Church of St. Paul the Apostle is in Fond du Lac and the Diocesan Office is in Appleton. Bishop Matt has called the diocese to be “a people of God's mercy and delight” through vital congregations, prayer, worship, and mission. The Diocese is in a companion diocesan relationship with the Diocese of Masvingo, Zimbabwe. Learn more about who we are and what we do at [diofdl.org](http://diofdl.org)



To inquire about this position, please contact the Transition Ministry Officer, The Rev. Meredyth Albright at [meredythalbright@gmail.com](mailto:meredythalbright@gmail.com).

***Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. 1 Peter 4:8-10***