



October 27, 2024

9:00 a.m.

Reformation & Confirmation Sunday, Year B

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA

Reverend Maggie Westaby

5304 N 44th Ave

Wausau, Wisconsin 54401

Web Address: stjohnwausau.org

E-mail: pastor.maggie.westaby@gmail.com

Email: stjohnwausau@msn.com

Office: (715) 675-6950

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, † Jesus who bears the cross, and the Spirit who makes our joy complete. **Amen**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Today we gather, in search of reformation. To cultivate reform in ourselves, our church, our community, and our world. To prepare ourselves for this change, we boldly stand together now in confession. Renewing God,

We confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have ignored voices that call for your justice. We have neglected actions that witness to your righteousness. We have spoken and acted in ways that disrupt your beloved community. We truly repent of things we have done and left undone. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Restore our troubled spirits, so that we may live in newness, follow the way of the Spirit, and build up the body of Christ. Amen.

In the name of Jesus Christ † the one who pours out goodness and mercy, your sins are forgiven. May you be strengthened to live into God's promises today and all days.

Amen.

Beautiful Savior

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in the flow'rs of spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er,
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown,
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal God,

Your Spirit swept over the deep in the beginning, and all of creation was birthed through your Word. Stir up that Spirit in us now. Inspire us to hear your call to reformation, big or small, that we may embrace where the Spirit is calling. Embolden our bodies for the journey that we may live faithfully into your Word. In Christ we pray.

Amen.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

The holy gospel according to John

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
saturated with God's grace and forgiveness, let us give thanks.

Creator God, fountain of living water,
your love flows through water, sustaining life in all communities,
nourishing and delighting all creatures of the earth.

We give thanks for your gift of water.
Water that has been around since life began,
when the Spirit hovered over the face of the deep.
Water that Christ was baptized into,
reconciling all of creation into you—Holy God Triune.

For water and Word at our baptisms, and for water and Word at
Kylor's, Elijah's, Brayden's, Mason's, Kohin's and Luke's baptisms.

We give thanks for water that floats in the sky,
where clouds embrace wind, sunlight, and the pull of gravity.
We give thanks for water that saturates all the earth,
down to intricate places like the midnight zone of the ocean,
where bioluminescent life thrives in the darkness.

For your promises show up in the most intricate of places,
in water that forms rainbows and carves rocks.
For you, O Creator are in the midst of all things.

As we confirm and affirm faith bound to our baptismal water and Word,
we ask that you continue to guide us,
and nourish us with your life-giving water that gushes up to eternal life.

Shower us with your Holy Spirit, drench us in your love,
and immerse us with your grace.

Amen.

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for Kylor, Elijah, Brayden, Mason, Kohin, and Luke, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of their baptism.

Let us pray. Merciful God,

We thank you for these siblings in Christ, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your children in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

KYLOR'S FAITH STATEMENT

Bible Verse Philippians 4:13

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

This better helps me understand God is any goal a person sets his/her mind to can be accomplished because God will give them an amazing ability to do so. Also how this verse helps me in life is when I'm facing something difficult, knowing God is there who strengthens me I can get through it.

ELIJAH'S FAITH STATEMENT

Bible Verse Psalm 51:10

"Create in me a clean heart, O God and put a new and right spirit within me."

I think this verse means that not all of us are perfect, so that is why we need God. This verse helps me better understand God because God gives us grace to help us make ourselves new. If we decide to follow God's path, it will lead us to where we need to be in life. All of us need grace sometimes, even if we believe in God or not. This verse helps me better understand myself because throughout my life, I've had to ask God for grace a few times. When God gives us grace, it should make us feel better because God understands all of us as one. Now, this doesn't mean we can go out and do whatever we want and then ask God for grace, it means we need to try our best to be who God wants us to be. That way God will help guide us along that journey.

BRAYDEN'S FAITH STATEMENT

Bible Verse Ephesians 2:8

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God."

This verse helps me understand God because no matter what you do you will always be forgiven by God. This verse also helps me understand myself because no matter if I mess up, I'll never look bad in God's eyes. It also helps me understand myself because no one is perfect but we still can go to heaven.

MASON'S FAITH STATEMENT

Bible Verse Isaiah 40:31

"But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles. They shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

When I think of this, I think of God giving you a second chance. I feel if I am having a bad day, he will help me through it. He can help me through anything. Trust in the Lord and he will get you through it. Don't run from your problems, trust the Lord

KOHIN'S FAITH STATEMENT

Bible Verse Romans 8:38-30

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life neither angles nor demons neither the present nor the future nor any powers neither height nor depth nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our lord."

This verse helps me better understand God because no matter what God is there. God is always by your side no matter what you are doing or where you are. This verse helps me better understand myself because when I'm doing sports or any other activity, I know God is right there with me. That he's helping me with any challenges I might have.

LUKE'S FAITH STATEMENT

Bible Verse John 7:49

"Again Jesus spoke to them saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

This verse helps me because whenever times are tough thinking of God can bring you out of the darkness or (the tough times in life) and into the light or (the happy times in life) and knowing that God is like a best friend, he is always there for you, he is someone to look up to, and he will always lead you in the right direction. This verse also helps me in life, it tells me not to do bad things and to do what is right. Such as hanging out with good people, making smart decisions, and to always be a good kid.

All confirmands to the front of the church...

I present Kylor, Elijah, Brayden, Mason, Kohin, and Luke, who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism. I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Confirmands: I renounce them.

People of God, do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Kylor, Elijah, Brayden, Mason, Kohin, and Luke, you have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Confirmands: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support these siblings in Christ and pray for them in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Confirmands are seated... One at a time each confirmand will be invited up with their family, sponsors, and friends.

After each prayer with confirmand...

Let us rejoice with our siblings in Christ.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Responding to "God of grace," with "hear our prayer."

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

With thanksgiving for the bounty of this earth, the work we have been given to do, the joy of sharing so that others may also live, we gather our gifts, loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Offering Song

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

OFFERING PRAYER

Abundant God, receive these gifts, and bless them with your presence. May they be a part of our mission, a part of your vision, and a blessing to the world. Through Jesus Christ who taught us to give. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

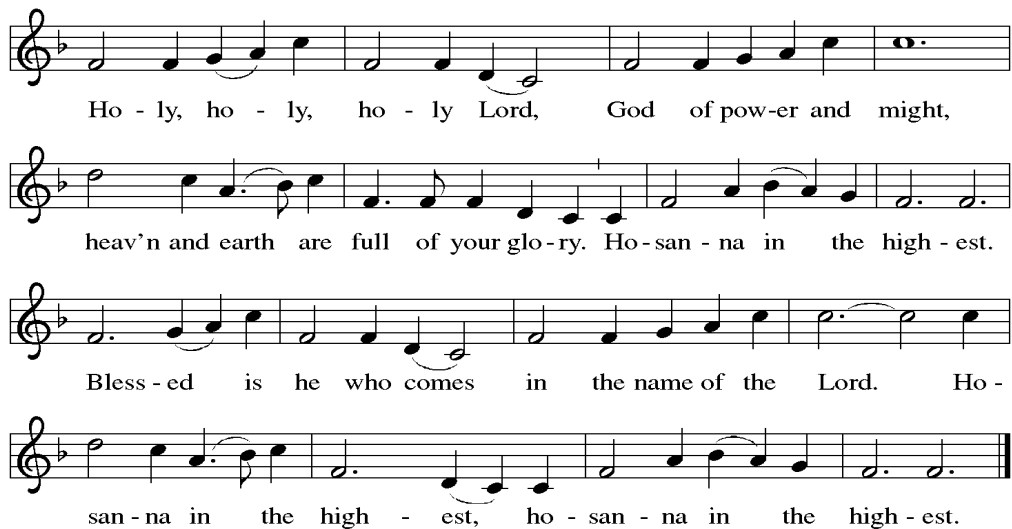
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

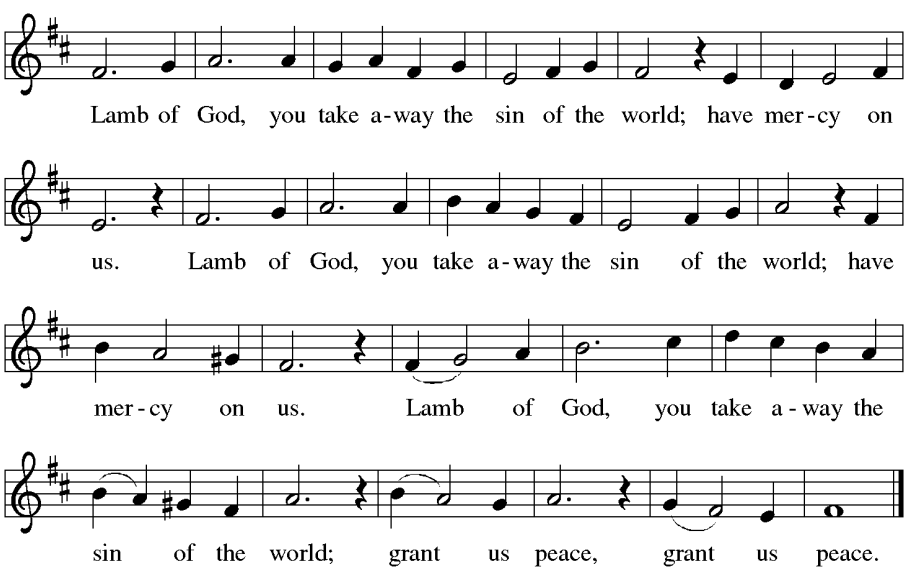
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

We are here because Jesus has called us – strangers and friends, locals and visitors, believers and doubters, the certain and the curious. All are invited to Christ's table where, in bread and wine, he meets us, and through him we, who are different, are joined to each other. So come now to Christ's banquet.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
 us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear

fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant
 love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
 Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my

I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
 com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
 thine unction grace bestoweth;
 and, oh, what transport of delight
 from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,
 thy goodness faileth never.
 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
 within thy house forever.

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad-ly; ho-ly man-na is our bread.
 2 All who hun-ger, nev-er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
 3 All who hun-ger, sing to- geth-er, Je- sus Christ is liv- ing bread.



Come from wil-der-ness and wan-d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
 Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.
 Come from lone-li-ness and long-ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.
 We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.
 Blest are those who from this ta-ble live their days in grat-i-tude.



Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.
 Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.
 Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993
 Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbia Harmony*, 1825; arr. hymnal version
 Text © 1996 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com 800-442-3358.
 All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 Arr. © 2003 Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourishing God, we thank you for this meal and for the rejuvenation it provides in every molecule of our being. Let it burn like a glorious sunrise within us, bringing rays of hope, delight, and joy to all whom we meet.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May God bless you, and lay loving hands upon you.

May Christ be your truth, and be the rock upon which you stand.

May the Spirit burn bright in you, and bring joy to your heart.

And may the Holy Trinity ✠ renew your freedom, bringing forth growth, inspiration, and curiosity in all that you are.

Amen.

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; by good coun-sels guide, up - hold you,
 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; ho - ly wings se - cure - ly hide you,
 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils thick con - found you,

with a shep - herd's care en - fold you;
 dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 put un - fail - ing arms a - round you;

Refrain
 Till we meet, till we meet, till we
 till we meet, till we meet a - gain,
 meet at Je - sus' feet; till we meet, till we
 till we meet, till we meet, till we
 meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 meet a - gain.

Text: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828-1904
 Music: GOD BE WITH YOU, William G. Tomer, 1833-1896

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you. **Thanks be to God.**

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word* © Worship Companion. Copyright 2014.

Welcome to all! Please remember to silence pagers and cell phones during services.

To those who are visiting: Welcome to St. John and thank you for joining us! You are welcome to sign our registry in the narthex.

Reminder! If you are in need of Pastoral care, please contact St. John (715) 675-6950

Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday. All are welcome to Christ's Table.

Food Basket. Each week you are invited to bring non-perishable grocery items to be given to a local food pantry. Place your gift in the *Shopping Cart* next to the main entrance. **Reminder, food pantries cannot accept expired donations.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday, October 28 at 6:30 p.m. the Adult Study will discuss Chapters 8 – 10 of the Gospel of Matthew.

Monday, November 4 at 6:30 p.m. the Book Club will discuss *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell* by Robert Dugoni.

Tuesday, December 10 at 5:00 p.m. St. John's Sisterhood Ladies Christmas Gathering. Please consider joining the Sisterhood crew for our annual Christmas gathering at 2510 Restaurant. "Happy Hour" starts at 5:00 p.m. with dinner to follow at 5:45 p.m. As per tradition, we will be collecting non-perishable items for the Women's Community (toiletries, toothpaste, shampoo/conditioner, etc.) and holding our annual white elephant gift exchange... so start looking in those storage rooms and basements (this exchange will be held after dinner – don't forget to wrap your 'gift'!).

Kwik Trip Gift Cards Sign-up in the Fellowship Hall. Help support St. John when buying groceries, gas, or getting your car washed at Kwik Trip!

Live Streaming and Photography Notice. When you enter a St. John Lutheran Church service or event, you will be entering an area where photography, video and audio recording or live streaming may occur. If you prefer not to be recognized on camera, the back row inside the church is not within viewing distance of a camera and communion will typically be only on a wide shot where it may be difficult to recognize congregants. Parents, please note our children's sermons are being recorded and live streamed. If you do not want your child to be recognized on camera, please refrain from having them participate.

Coming This Week @ St. John October 27 – November 3

Today

9:00 a.m. Worship & Affirmation of Baptism – 9th Graders Confirmed!

October 28

12:00 p.m. Newsletter Articles Due

6:30 p.m. Adult Study

October 29

8:30 a.m. Quilting

9:00 a.m. Pr. Maggie @ Pr. Meeting

October 30

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

November 3

9:00 a.m. Worship – All Saints Sunday & Grueneberg twins baptism!

10:15 a.m. Sunday School