

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA
5304 North 44th Avenue
Wausau, WI 54401

Telephone: (715-675-6950)

THE MESSENGER

November 2025



From Pastor Maggie

Beloved Community,

Blessings for this month of November. I look forward to a joy filled month with all of you. Some of our November highlights include our **Annual Pie Auction on Sunday, November 23rd** and our **Thanksgiving Evening Worship on Tuesday, November 25th at 6:30 p.m.** This year we will also celebrate First Communion with some of our 5th grade kiddos at our Thanksgiving Worship Service.

This month we will continue to live into our merger and discuss the possibility of a name change. I ask for your grace and patience as we dive into these conversations. This merger has entrusted us all with a great responsibility. We are the ones called to carry forward the gifts, the people, and the legacies of both St. John and Immanuel.

Because of that, the transition team has proposed a beautiful shared name, **St. John Immanuel**. A name that reflects the fullness of who we are and who God is calling us to become, as we weave our stories together. This name would not only honor all who have come before us, but all of us. This new name would mean, St. John God is with us. A core belief of our faith – as we believe God is truly with us. In ways we cannot see, in ways we cannot understand, and in the living body of Christ. We believe that God is alive, living in the memories we cherish, the gifts we share, the lives we live, and the saints we remember.

May the Spirit continue to guide us all, and may we find the strength and courage to live into our new shared identity – both now and into the future. And so I leave you with these words from Isaiah 43:19, *"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."*

*With Love & Gratitude,
Pastor Maggie Westaby*

“Council Corner”

As we move through Fall 2025 and heading towards the Christmas season a lot has happened here at St John. First a big thank you to the VBS kids for sharing with all of us what they had learned this past summer. I also believe that the noisy offering was a big success.

I was privileged to serve on the Transition team for the Merger of St John and Immanuel Lutheran. This week I found a note showing that the first time Bob Henning, Immanuel’s Council President, and I met was 12/5/2024. There was many meeting to discuss if the two Churches were a good fit. Immanuel was looking at three different churches to merge with. One of their criteria for choosing a church that has an active children's program. Which we do, with our Sunday School, VBS and older youth activities. On Sunday 10/26/2025 we finalized with a vote to Merge our two congregations into one. I am sure we can all agree that it has been very hard for the members of Immanuel to let go of their Church. All those memories that they can carry in their hearts. As we move forward, we will make new memories together. We have the opportunity to make new friends and build a larger family here at St John Immanuel.

We are so Very Very Blessed to have this beautiful Church and this wonderful Family in Christ.

Karen Ohrmundt
Vice President St John



Envelope Reminder!!

To be better stewards of our resources, we are changing our envelope system at St. John. Due to an increase in offerings through Vanco, envelope needs have significantly decreased.

Please let us know if you would like envelopes for 2026 or if you prefer to give through Vanco.

Everyone who wants envelopes will be given envelopes; we just need to know who those are. Please email stjohnwausau@gmail.com or call St. John 715-675-6950 if you would like envelopes.

All that we have is a gift from God. Rooted in Christ, we give joyfully and generously—not out of obligation, but in gratitude for God’s grace. Your gifts support the ministry we share and help Christ’s love reach our neighbors near and far.

Thank you for your faithful giving!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Time & Talent Sheets – Now available for 2026! *Thank you* for the many ways you serve St. John! Your ministry as the body of Christ unites us together in many different and beautiful ways.

Confirmation Thanksgiving Food Drive! *From all 2nd year confirmation students* “Hello St. John members, if you are able, please donate food to those in need. There is an urgent need because of the government shutdown and we are collecting non-perishable foods for those most impacted by the shutdown. We will be donating food to First Presbyterian, Bridge Street Mission, and the Neighbors Place. Our Thanksgiving Food Drive will be running now through November 30th we thank you in advance for your donations!”

11/6, 11/13, and 11/20 Bell Choir Practice at 5:30 – All are welcome even those who do not know how to play bells – come try & learn!

11/9 St. John Choir Practice after Worship, future practice dates to be determined. The first choir performance will be our Thanksgiving Evening Worship on Tuesday, November 25th

Poinsettia orders & payment are due by Sunday November 9th Please fill out the form and submit payment or do so online (check out our website under the announcements tab, or check out our Facebook link).

St. John is an Event Partner for 2025 Highland MobilePack!

Thank you to everyone who offered monetary donations for Sponsorship and for the volunteers who signed up! We will be packing meals on **Saturday, November 15th 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

Sunday, November 23rd at 10:15 a.m. St. John Pie Auction! Join us for our annual pie auction. We are in need of pie bakers, pie buyers, and pie eaters! *All donations raised this year will go to Share Your Holidays.*

Tuesday, November 25th at 6:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Worship & First Communion.

Monday, December 1st at 6:30 p.m. The Book Club will discuss *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd.

Monday, December 8th at 6:30 p.m. Blue Christmas. A prayerfully cultivated service for those who have lost loved ones, and for those who find the holidays to be a lonely time.

Tuesday, December 9th 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 will be after dinner – don't forget to wrap your 'gift'!). Sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Thursday, December 18th at 5:30 p.m. Candlelit Shepherds Meal.

Doors open at 5:00, dinner starts at 5:30. Join us in a simple Shepherds Meal of soup, bread, dried fruit, nuts and cheeses by candlelight. You are invited to bring wine to share with your brothers and sisters in Christ. After our meal, we will move into the sanctuary where we will watch "Journey to Bethlehem," a 2023 "live-action Christmas musical adventure... that weaves classic Christmas melodies with humor, faith and new pop songs in a retelling of the greatest story ever told." \$10/participant paid that evening - money remaining after cost will be donated to the Salvation Army. Sign-up in the narthex. *This is intended for adults and older/mature children.*

Sunday, December 21st Worship @ 10:00 a.m. Children's Christmas Program – Christmas Lights! Fellowship Potluck to follow.

Wednesday, December 24th Christmas Eve Worship 2:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. *Please note we are offering an additional service this year at 2:00*

Kwik Trip Gift Cards Sign-up in the Fellowship Hall or on our website! Help support St. John when buying groceries, gas, or getting your car washed at Kwik Trip! <https://stjohnwausau.org/fundraising/>



Council Members. Here is a list of Council members. Please contact them with any concerns or issues you may have. Council meets once a month and welcomes input from the congregation.

President: Jennifer Schwede – 715-432-6079; jenniferschwede@aol.com

Vice President: Karen Ohrmundt – 715-370-0645; tkohrmundt@frontier.com

Treasurer: Perry Kufahl – 715-675-1383; 715-409-0524; pnskufahl@outlook.com

Secretary: Rick Nevers – 715-574-0288; rlnevers57@gmail.com

Trustee: Ryan Landwehr – 715-212-3540; ryanlandwehr@aol.com

Trustee: Scott Oestreich – 715-675-4360; scottsmachinellc@gmail.com

Evangelism: Connie Nowak – 715-675-1577; bcdenowak@gmail.com

Fellowship: Jeanne Klinger – 715-675-9939 Jeanjam9939@gmail.com

Education: Greg Grudznske – 715-212-6529; gregorylinda@gmail.com

Worship: Randy Knapp – 715-581-5558; rknappeoj@gmail.com

Council Meeting Minutes. Copies of the minutes from the most recently held Council meeting are by the mailboxes. Please feel free to pick up a copy. If more are needed, please contact the church office.

Live Streaming and Photography Notice. When you enter a St. John 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.

Attendance Report

	2025	2024
Average Weekly/October	125	118
Average Weekly/Year-To-Date	88	93

Homebound Parishioners. The following parishioners are no longer able to consistently attend worship services. Pastor Maggie visits them to remind them that they are loved by God and loved by their community of faith, St. John. Sometimes it is helpful to hear those reminders from someone.

Carol Fitzke Wood Aven 1821 N 4th Ave #311b Wausau, WI 54401	Marlene Opichka Renaissance Sr. Living 4602 Barbican Ave. #105 Weston, WI 54476	Harley Goetsch Rennes Health/Rehab Ctr. 4810 Barbican Avenue Weston, WI 54476
Jim & Barbara Leffin Primrose 2100 Townline Rd Apt. 217 Wausau, WI 54403	Fritz Poeske Amethyst Health of Wausau 1010 E. Wausau Ave. #84 Wausau, WI 54403	Mary Anne Klinker Rennes Health/Rehab Ctr. 4810 Barbican Ave #301 Weston, WI 54476
Alene Howe Acorn Hill Apartment 430 Orbiting Dr. #19 Mosinee, WI 54455	Dorothy Westfall 4205 Fleet Dr. Wausau, WI 54401	Marlene Bahr 238456 N 84 th Ave. Wausau, WI 54401
Jeff Groethe Riverview Tower 500 Grand Ave. Wausau, WI 54401	Joan Bonstead Forest Park Village 2901 N. 7th Street #W503 Wausau, WI	Carol Hettinga Bell Tower Residence 1500 O'Day St. Rm. 307 Merrill, WI 54452
Judy Blanchfield Mt. View Care Center of Wausau 2400 Marshall Street, Rm #4007 Wausau, WI 54403	Thelma Bursik Primrose Retirement Community 2100 Townline Rd, Apt #101 Wausau, WI 54403	Ann Kurth 2806 Polzer Drive Wausau, WI 54401
Jeannette Petterson 605 Eagle Nest Blvd. Apt. 208 Rothschild, WI 54474	Carolyn Viergutz Fairway Knoll N112 W17500 Mequon Rd. Germantown, WI 53022	



November Birthdays

11/01 Trent Trulen
11/04 Eric Paulsen
11/05 Jody Gehrke
11/08 Charles Anderson
11/08 Josie Hein
11/08 Roger Neiter
11/08 Seth Trulen
11/10 Lucas Cottrell
11/10 Bob Hartfiel
11/10 Nikole Knight
11/10 Loretta Nolan
11/10 Henry Seubert
11/10 Zachary Trulen
11/12 Alene Howe
11/13 Tanya Fitzke
11/13 Lyla Klug
11/13 Hadley Swope
11/14 Nicole Melander
11/14 Randy Trulen
11/15 Amanda Grueneberg
11/15 Kaitlyn Paulsen
11/15 Lori Schwede
11/15 Jean Treu
11/16 Michael Pasholk
11/16 Justice Pratt
11/16 Peter Severson
11/16 Terre Swemke
11/18 Amber Frostman
11/19 Gina Graveen
11/19 Jonathon Schuster
11/21 Josh Grueneberg
11/21 Louise Harter
11/22 Kadyr Pasholk
11/24 Morgan Bolz
11/24 Linda Graveen
11/24 Elden Kopplin
11/24 Scott Oestreich
11/24 David Voelker
11/25 Kayden Chadwick
11/26 Gary Busche
11/27 Jesse Radant
11/28 Otto Fitzke
11/28 Rosemary Rosenau

November Anniversaries

11/02 Duane Mueller
11/02 Janis Mueller
11/02 Thomas Mueller
11/02 Sheri Mueller
11/02 Donald Voelker
11/02 Nancy Voelker
11/04 Rodney Treu
11/04 Jean Treu
11/08 Dan Detert
11/08 Dawn Detert
11/09 Doug Christopherson
11/09 Wendy Christopherson
11/14 Jeremy Switlick
11/14 Jessica Switlick
11/15 Scott Treu
11/15 Donna Treu
11/23 Elden Kopplin
11/23 Shirley Kopplin
11/30 Bruce Radant
11/30 Rita Radant



NOVEMBER

birthdays & anniversaries



Anniversaries
This Month

Sunday School / Confirmation Schedules

2025 – 2026



November 2025

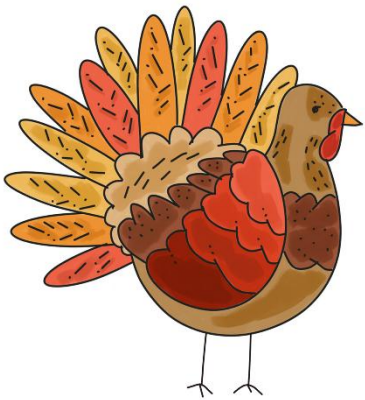
Sunday School

- 11/9 Free From Slavery
- 11/16 The Red Sea
- 11/23 The Ten Commandments (Pie Social)
- 11/30 No Sunday School

Confirmation Schedule

- 11/5 Class
- 11/12 Class
- 11/19 Class
- 11/26 No Class (Thanksgiving)





Worship Schedule

Sunday Mornings

9:00 a.m.

Sunday School

10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Mission Statement: "We are called to serve God; serve each other; serve the community; serve the wider church."



Pastor Maggie Westaby

St. John Office: (715) 675-6950

Cell Phone: 1(608) 345-9616

E-mail:

Pastor.maggie.westaby@gmail.com

E-mail: stjohnwausau@gmail.com

Web Address: stjohnwausau.org