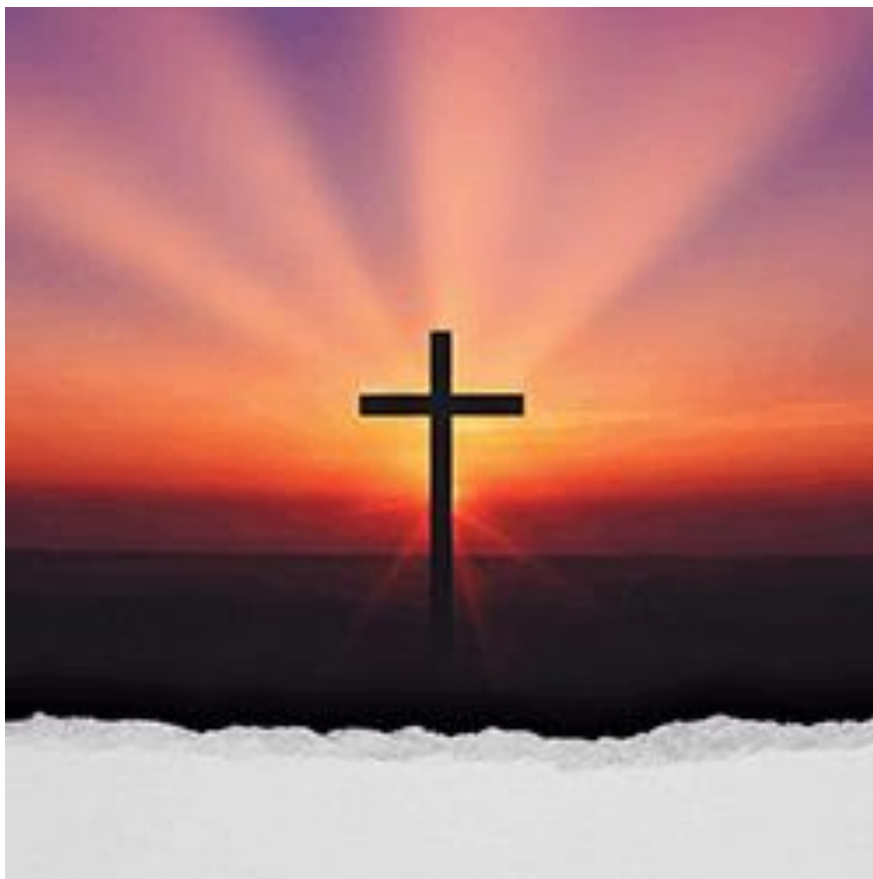


St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA  
5304 North 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Wausau, WI 54401  
Telephone: (715-675-6950)

# ***THE MESSENGER***

*March 2026*



## From Pastor Maggie

Beloved Community,

Grace and peace to you. As March unfolds, we continue our journey through Lent and prepare our hearts and minds for Holy week.

Our Lenten theme this year — Tell Me Something Good — may feel almost out of place in a season that invites reflection, repentance, and honesty about our need for God. And yet, perhaps it is exactly what we need.

Lent does not ignore the wilderness. It walks straight into it. But even in the wilderness, God is at work. Even in the waiting, even in the dry places, even in the questions — there is good news unfolding beneath the surface.

Each week in worship we will be listening for that good news — sometimes small and seed-like, sometimes surprising and abundant. We are practicing the holy art of paying attention. Where is grace showing up? Where is hope breaking through? Where is Christ meeting us in ordinary, everyday life?

As we move toward Holy Week at the end of March, the story deepens. We will walk with Jesus into the upper room, to the garden, to the cross, and finally to the empty tomb. It is a story that holds sorrow and beauty together. It is a story that reminds us that God's "something good" is not shallow optimism, but resurrection life that breaks forth even after death.

You are invited to join us for this sacred journey:

- Palm Sunday, March 29th as we wave branches and shout "Hosanna!"
- Maundy Thursday, April 2nd as we gather at the table and celebrate first communion.
- Good Friday, April 3rd as we stand at the foot of the cross.
- And Easter morning, April 5th when we hear again the astonishing good news that love is stronger than death, that love is alive in our world.

If Lent feels heavy for you this year, know that you are not alone.

If you are in a season of waiting, or wondering, or simply holding on — the good news is that God is already at work.

May this month be a time for us to dig deeper into community. May this month be a time when you hear — perhaps in an unexpected way — something good.

*With Love & Gratitude,  
Pastor Maggie Westaby*



## *“Council Corner”*

Did you know that part of the assets from Immanuel include an Endowment Fund and two Scholarship Funds? The money for all 3 funds is invested through Stifel. Each fund indicates that no more than 5% of the fund balance as of a set date can be paid out.

An Endowment Fund is a permanent invested fund of which earnings are used for religious purposes to enhance congregational life of the church. A portion of the earning on the Fund each year may be distributed for such purposes to organizations, committees and members for the Church at the discretion of the Endowment Committee. The fund cannot be used for meeting the annual budget or for normal operating expenses. Primary indications are that there may be a total of about \$7,600 available to be distributed in 2026.

We are looking for 2 or 3 more volunteers to review the Endowment guidelines and review for approval any Endowment requests. **If you are interested in being part of the Committee to distribute Endowment Funds, please contact me.** More information will be made available on specific dates as soon as the Committee is in place. Forms will be available for an Endowment Fund Grant Request.

There is an Immanuel Lutheran Scholarship that is available to those that have successfully completed one full year of post-high school education at an accredited institution of higher learning. There is also the Orton and Segrid Enstad Scholarship Fund which currently is available to those that are attending a college associated with the ELCA. Kari Solomonson will continue to be Chairperson of the Scholarships Committee. We currently have 5 volunteers to be on this committee. More information will be available as this committee starts meeting.

These funds have not been used for a couple of years. I hope that members start benefiting from them in 2026.

Patti Busche  
Council Secretary



# **Mailbox/Envelope Reminder!!**

*Church mailboxes have moved. The mailboxes are now in order numerically by envelope number, though your name is also listed alongside your number. There are master lists located in multiple red binders which will help you find your number and locate your mailbox.*

*We currently have too many members for our mailboxes – so we have a temporary overflow section located in the side door right off the Narthex. Again, this is only temporary until we have a better solution.*

*We have also changed our envelope system. If you are looking for offering envelopes, please fill out the pink offering envelope form and place it in the office door mailbox.*

*If you do not see your name in our master list, please let us know. We apologize for any errors.*

*Thank you for your grace and patience as we figure this all out.*



**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: Kelly Hirn – 715-216-4352; [hirn.kelly@gmail.com](mailto:hirn.kelly@gmail.com)

Vice President: Karen Ohrmundt – 715-370-0645; [tkohrmundt@frontier.com](mailto:tkohrmundt@frontier.com)

Treasurer: Rick Nevers – 715-574-0288; [rlnevers57@gmail.com](mailto:rlnevers57@gmail.com)

Secretary: Patti Busche – 715-571-0914; [busche1240@msn.com](mailto:busche1240@msn.com)

Trustee: Ryan Landwehr – 715-212-3540; [ryanlandwehr@aol.com](mailto:ryanlandwehr@aol.com)

Trustee: Joe Duginski – 715-650-2361; [duginuthouse@msn.com](mailto:duginuthouse@msn.com)

Evangelism: Connie Nowak – 715-675-1577; [bcdenowak@gmail.com](mailto:bcdenowak@gmail.com)

Fellowship: Jeanne Klinger – 715-675-9939 [Jeanjam9939@gmail.com](mailto:Jeanjam9939@gmail.com)

Education: Greg Grudznske – 715-212-6529; [gregorylinda@gmail.com](mailto:gregorylinda@gmail.com)

Worship: Holly Westaby – 715-218-7184; [hollylocks@msn.com](mailto:hollylocks@msn.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.



## March Birthdays

03/01	Jake Johnson	03/16	Judith Beckman
03/02	Otis Fitzke	03/16	Linda Grudznske
03/02	Riley La Vake	03/17	Austin Walter
03/02	Zachary Suliin	03/18	Donald Dern
03/02	Bob Utech	03/18	Daniel Hein
03/03	Jennifer Bronsteatter	03/18	Will Rode
03/03	Deborah Case	03/19	River Landrath Jepson
03/03	Tyler Eno	03/19	Stacey Linzmeyer
03/03	Logan Heil	03/21	Trey Buchberger
03/04	Lynn Buchberger	03/21	Sara Stubbe
03/04	Ryan Seubert	03/21	Barb West
03/04	Kari Solomonson	03/22	Barbara Jo Kopp
03/05	Ronald Jr Mootz	03/22	Annabelle Kurth
03/05	Emilee Mootz	03/23	Marlene Bahr
03/06	Ashley Bunge	03/23	Daisy Harris
03/07	Mikayla Boehm	03/23	Lily Harris
03/07	Brigette McWhorter	03/23	Brenda Knudsen
03/07	Leiloni Norman	03/23	Blake Switlick
03/07	Nick Oelke	03/23	Nicole Woodmansee
03/08	Mariah Marquardt	03/24	Jason Borrero
03/09	Mason Mielke	03/24	Benjamin Grueneberg
03/10	Mollie Augustine	03/25	Ciera Grueneberg
03/10	Steven Erdmann	03/25	Michael Stubbe
03/10	Judi McGill	03/26	Brady Boehm
03/10	Isaac Oelke	03/27	Sawyer Knight
03/11	Caleigh Bahr	03/27	Michael LaVake
03/12	Travis Dehnel	03/27	Jacob Mathwich
03/12	Heather Gallenberg	03/28	Matthew Munson
03/12	Justin Grueneberg	03/29	Joseph Duginski
03/12	Andrew Kallio	03/29	Betty Hoenisch
03/12	Kate Saari	03/30	Jason Grueneberg
03/13	Donald Voelker	03/30	Abigail Luce
03/13	Dan Zinsmeister	03/31	James Haroldson
03/14	Bailey Busche	03/31	Bruce Radant
03/15	Janis Mueller	03/31	Kylie Stubbe

## Anniversaries

03/06 Paul & Jane Reilly Smith  
03/26 Glen & Betty Hoenisch



# Sunday School / Confirmation Schedules

2025 – 2026



## March 2026

### *Sunday School*

- 3/1 Jonah & The Big Fish
- 3/8 The Wedding Banquet
- 3/15 The Transfiguration
- 3/22 The Great Commission



### *Confirmation Schedule*

- 3/4 Lenten Worship
- 3/11 Lenten Worship
- 3/18 Lenten Worship
- 3/25 Lenten Worship



## Attendance Report - Sundays

	<b>2026</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>Average Weekly/February</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Average Weekly - Sunday/Year-To-Date</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>80</b>

## Attendance Report – Mid Week Lenten Services

<b>Average Weekly Lenten Service/February</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2025</b>
	<b>97</b>	<b>N/A</b>

*\*Lent 2025 March 5th – April 17th*

*\*Lent 2026 February 18th – April 2nd*

**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 <sup>th</sup> Ave. Wausau, WI 54401
Jeff Groethe Riverview Tower 500 Grand Ave. Wausau, WI 54401	Joan Bonstead Gardens Apartments 801 Parcher Street Apt G 202 Wausau, WI 54403	Ann Kurth 2806 Polzer Drive Wausau, WI 54401
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	Bob Henning Gardens Apartments 801 Parcher Street Apt 110 Wausau, WI 54403
Jeannette Petterson 905 E Grant Street, #10 Marshfield, WI 54449	Carolyn Viergutz Fairway Knoll N112 W17500 Mequon Rd. Germantown, WI 53022	



## Announcements

**Noisy offering! The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month! Next Noisy offering: Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> bring your coins (bills also accepted 😊).**

Money will be raised and donated quarterly. This noisy offering will go to: *Community Dinners for those in need*. Did you know St. John hosts three Community Dinners a year and each one costs approximately \$1,300. Your donations help serve a very real need in our community! **If you are a Thrivent member, you may be eligible to apply for a \$250 Thrivent Action Team card** which can go directly towards our community dinners. Please see Connie Nowak if you can help!

**Join us for Lent!** Lenten dinners will be served from 5-6 pm. Worship starts at 6:30.

***\*\*Please note: Any money that is raised from the Lenten Dinners will go towards community outreach support, such as community dinners and the Marty Bus***

**Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:15 a.m.** – Advance Funeral Planning by Helke & Brainard in the Fellowship Hall after worship

**Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Maggie's Book Club** will discuss *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans.

**Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.** - **Church Council Meeting** – The council will be meeting this month at the above time. The meeting is open to all who would like to attend.

**Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 a.m.** - **Annual Easter Egg Hunt** - All children are welcome! Weather permitting, the egg hunt will be outdoors so please dress accordingly.

**Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 8am & 10:30am Easter Worships. 9am Easter Breakfast-**  
We are in need for volunteers to donate food, help with setup, and cleanup. Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

**Saturday, April 4th, 1pm - 2:30pm Easter Escape Room** - Last year's game focused on the crucifixion. This year we're "Finding the Resurrected Christ!" Players will answer Bible study questions and decode mystery messages about John 20 in an effort to discover the secret lock combination that will unlock the vault! But BEWARE! Answering questions incorrectly will force players to complete various team-building detour challenges! For middle and high school students. Sign-up in the Narthex.

**Monday, April 27th at 6:0 p.m.** – Adult Study will discuss Luke 19:27-24

**Mission Trip to Duluth, MN Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup> – Friday July 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**Grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Immanuel History Task Force** – We are seeking individuals who are interested in preserving the history of Immanuel and helping determine what historical information will be shared on our website and at St. John. If you are interested, please let Pastor Maggie or Ann Ohrmundt know.

**Men's Bible Study** – Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month at L.C. Restaurant in Marathon City. If you are interested, please reach out to Eugene Dehnel.  
304 Main St. Marathon City, WI 54448

**Save the Date** - Mark your calendar for Sunday, May 31, to celebrate our church's 160th anniversary. The theme will be "**Celebrating Our Past, Present, and Future**". Watch for more details next month!

**June 4–6: Synod Assembly in Oshkosh.** We have space for one more delegate to attend. If you are interested, please let Pastor Maggie know. Registration is now open!

**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/>





The LORD will guide you continually...  
You shall be like a watered garden, And like  
a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.

Isaiah 58:11, NKJV



Be still  
and know  
that I am  
**GOD**

Psalm 46:10



For by grace you  
have been saved  
through faith, and  
this is not your  
own doing; it is the  
gift of God  
(Ephesians 2:8)



## ***Worship Schedule***

***Sunday Mornings***

***9:00 a.m.***

***Sunday School***

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

***Mission Statement: "We are a fellowship of believers committed to serving God, serving each other, serving the community, and serving the wider church by sharing God's love."***



***Pastor Maggie Westaby***

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***E-mail: [stjohnwausau@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnwausau@gmail.com)***

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