



**March 1<sup>st</sup> 2026**

**Second Sunday in Lent, Tell Me Something Good**

**9:00 a.m.**

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***St. John Immanuel Lutheran Church***

**Reverend Maggie Westaby**

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**ELCA**

## **CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING DIALOGUE**

Blessed be the Holy Trinity † one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen.**

Tell me something good!

**God loves you more than you could imagine.**

Tell me something good!

**God loves all of creation more than you could imagine.**

Tell me something good!

**God's love meets us in this service of worship. We are not alone.**

This is good news indeed!

**Let us worship our compassionate God.**

## **CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Family of faith, we long to love others as God loves us, but that work is easier said than done. We lose our way. We become distracted. We grow fearful. We need God's grace. Fortunately for us, God's grace is freely and abundantly given. So join me in the Prayer of Confession. Join me in being transformed.

**Merciful God, did we see you hungry and give you something to eat? Did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink? Did we see you alone and offer you compassion? Or did we cross the street? Did we avert our eyes? Did we come up with every excuse in the book? God, we long to be people who love our neighbors with the same overwhelming love that you have for them. But we must admit, we have a long way to go. Forgive us for the times when we let bias, scarcity, or fear get in the way of love. Give us the courage to try again. With hope for a better tomorrow we pray, Amen.**

Faith family, even when we act with judgment, even when we are guided by fear, even when we turn our back on a neighbor in need, God does not turn God's back on us. So join me in this good-news declaration:

**We are seen. We are forgiven. We are invited to try again. Thanks be to God for this unending love!**

# GATHERING HYMN

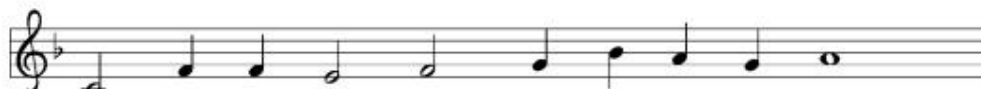
## Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church



1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your church  
2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,  
3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,



walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,  
so dai - ly liv - ing in your way of love,  
you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;



led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,  
we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,  
and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,



moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:  
know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:  
glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flow'r,



far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.  
so we are dead and live with you in God.  
so in - to life and glo - ry shall we wake.

Text: Thomas H. Cain, 1931–2003

Music: OLD 124TH, *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

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## **GREETING**

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also, with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Good news God,

Speak louder than the news updates. Speak louder than our mental distractions. Speak louder than our anger and louder than our fear. Speak loudly to us today, because we long to hear your good news once more. With hope we pray.

**Amen.**

## **RECOGNITION & GRATITUDE FOR 2025 CHURCH COUNCIL**

Those who served on church council in 2025: *Jennifer Schwede, Karen Ohrmundt, Rick Nevers, Perry Kufahl, Ryan Landwehr, Scott Oestreich, Greg Grudznske, Connie Nowak, Randy Knapp, and Jeanne Klinger.*

United with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are joined in God's mission for the life of the world. We are called to that mission in our daily lives and in the ministries, we share as the church of God.

Today it is our privilege to give thanks for the 2025 church council and to acknowledge those who are completing a time of service on St. John's Church Council. Those completing a time of service are: *Jennifer Schwede, Perry Kufahl, Scott Oestreich, and Randy Knapp.*

Let us pray... Almighty God,

Your Holy Spirit equips the church with a rich variety of gifts. We give thanks for the ways these gifts have been shown forth among us through your servants:

*Jennifer Schwede, Perry Kufahl, Scott Oestreich, and Randy Knapp.* We praise you for shared joys and accomplishments, and we commend our work to you.

Grant that we may continue to bear witness to Christ in lives that are built on faith and love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **INSTALLATION OF THE 2026 CHURCH COUNCIL**

I now invite our new council members to join our current council members. Will *Kelly Hirn, Patti Busche, Joe Duginski, and Holly Westaby* please join us up here.

Today it is also our privilege to recognize and support those who are engaged in the work of this congregation, especially those newly elected to the church council.

We give thanks for: *Kelly Hirn, Patti Busche, Joe Duginski, and Holly Westaby's* willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these sisters and brothers will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

**A READING FROM FIRST CORINTHIANS:** There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation. You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world. You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you: Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected? If so, please respond with, I will, and I ask God to help me.

*Council Members: I will, and I ask God to help me.*

People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized? If so please respond with we will, and we ask God to help us.

**Congregation: We will, and we ask God to help us.**

I now declare you installed as council members of this congregation. May God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

Let us pray.... God of grace,

You gather us into one and nourish us with word and sacrament, and we give you thanks in worship and with our lives. Bless St. John's Church Council. May your word may be proclaimed with clarity, may your banquet may be served with joy and reverence, may your house reflect your glory, and may all who are gathered know your welcome; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## Spirit, Open My Heart

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Spirit, Open My Heart". It consists of three staves of music in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the lyrics: "Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of". The second staff contains: "liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing". The third staff contains: "and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart." The music is written in a simple, accessible style with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat.

Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of  
liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing  
and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 25:35-40**

The holy gospel according to Matthew

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said, <sup>35</sup> ‘for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ <sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup> And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ <sup>40</sup> And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’

The Gospel of The Lord.

### **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

## **SERMON**

# HYMN OF THE DAY

## Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu-man need,  
2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;  
3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal-ing light  
4 Called by wor-ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer-cy's per - fect deed:  
still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.  
in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up - on our quick-ened sight,  
to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;



we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;  
As you, Lord, in deep com-pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,  
mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,  
hope and health, good-will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,



con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.  
by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.  
stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share.  
that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

Text © Oxford University Press

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## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

In a world hungry for good news, God invites us to share in something good. Let us offer our gifts, trusting God to make it more than enough.

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZEVO/home>

## ***GIVE THANKS***

**Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son. Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son. And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us. And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Gracious and Generous God,

We are amazed by the good gifts you bestow in abundance. Thank you for food that sustains us on our journey. Thank you for the company of saints to whom we are joined. Thank you for giving us your work to do on earth. We offer back to you a portion of all that we have received, setting down our baskets in celebration of your greatest gift, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

**Amen.**

## **PREFACE & GREAT THANKSGIVING**

With-us God, it is right, and it is good, to give you thanks and praise. In this Lenten season, we come carrying dust and questions, longings and laments. We come having heard so much bad news that our hearts ache for something true, something steady, something good. So tell us again the story of love that refuses to let us go. Tell us again of manna in the wilderness, of water from the rock, of mercy that meets us on the road. Tell us the good news that sounds like welcome and feels like home. For when the world feels harsh and divided, you draw near. When hope feels fragile, you remain faithful. When we wander, you do not abandon us. Instead, you send us Jesus. In him, we see the good news alive in the world—love embodied, mercy made flesh, hope refusing to die. So remind us that you are still on the move, living even here, in the words that Jesus said.

## **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**

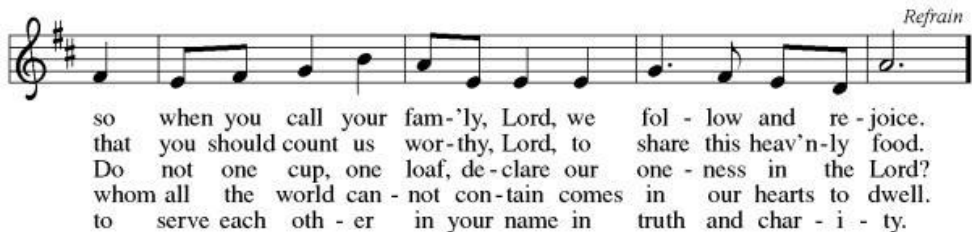
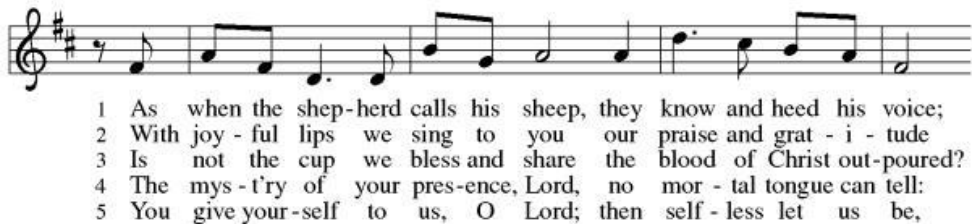
Beloved of God, in this season of Lent, we come hungry for good news. So hear this: Jesus Christ meets us exactly where we are — in our doubts and our courage, in our grief and our gratitude, in all that feels unfinished within us. Christ comes not because we have it all together, but because we are beloved. Here, the good news takes on flesh. Here, grace is given, not earned. So come and taste the good news, alive in this bread, alive in this cup, alive among us still.

## LAMB OF GOD (page 154)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION HYMNS

### You Satisfy the Hungry Heart *Gift of Finest Wheat*



Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997  
Music: BICENTENNIAL, Robert E. Kreutz, 1922–1996  
Text and music © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

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## O God, Our Help in Ages Past



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;  
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,  
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.  
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
bears all our years away;  
they fly forgotten, as a dream  
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
still be our guard while troubles last  
and our eternal home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: ST. ANNE, William Croft, 1678–1727

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## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Embodied God,

At your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love.

**Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BLESSING

Beloved of God, as you go from this place, remember:

Christ is already waiting for you in the world.

You will meet him in hungry bodies and tired eyes.

You will hear him in unfamiliar accents and trembling voices.

You will glimpse him in moments that seem small, ordinary, easily missed.

That is part of the mystery: the holy often looks ordinary.

So go with open hands. Go with steady courage.

Go trusting that God will meet you on the way.

Because the good news is, not only *something* we believe —  
it is *someone* we meet, alive among us still.

In the name of the Father, † son, and Holy Spirit. One God.

**Amen.**

# SENDING HYMN

## The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in  
2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the  
3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter  
4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings  
bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to  
joy like seed and, all our days, to  
to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.  
share a dream and help the blind to see.  
cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.  
pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

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## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you. **Thanks be to God.**

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

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

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

**Reminder!** If you are in need of Pastoral care, or if you or a loved one is in the hospital and would like a visit from Pastor Maggie, please contact St. John Immanuel (715) 675-6950

**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.

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

**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 12th 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 29th 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.

**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.

**Sunday, April 5th, 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.

**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>**

**Every Second Saturday of the month @ 8:00 a.m.** – Men's Bible Study at LC's Restaurant in Marathon WI – 304 Main St. Marathon City, WI 54448 – See Eugene Dehnel for details.

**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.

**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 Immanuel with Kwik Trip gift cards!

**Live Streaming and Photography Notice.** When you enter a St. John Immanuel 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 Immanuel March 1<sup>st</sup> - March 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Today - Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>**

- 9:00 a.m. Worship
- 10:15 a.m. Coffee Hour / Sunday School – Jonah & The Big Fish
- 10:15 a.m. Helke Funeral Home Presentation.

**Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>**

- 8:30 a.m. Quilters Meet
- 5:00 p.m. Lenten Dinner
- 6:30 p.m. Lenten Worship – Confirmation - Mandatory Attendance

**Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>**

- 5:30 p.m. Bells Practice – Come try the bells! No experience needed.

**Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>**

- 9:00 a.m. Worship – Noisy Offering – Bring your coins 😊
- 10:15 a.m. Coffee Hour / Sunday School – The Wedding Banquet