



March 15th 2026
Fourth Sunday in Lent, Tell Me Something Good
9:00 a.m.

St. John Immanuel Lutheran Church

Reverend Maggie Westaby
5304 N 44th Ave

Wausau, Wisconsin 54401

Web Address: stjohnwausau.org

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

Email: stjohnwausau@gmail.com

Office: (715) 675-6950



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.**

God loves the field mouse.

God loves the crows that take flight when church bells ring.

God loves the baby, cooing in the back pew.

God loves the child who rocks and claps.

God loves the one with wrinkled hands and soft eyes.

God loves the bumblebees and the tabby cats.

God loves those who walk, crawl, and roll.

God loves the giant oaks and the evergreens, standing strong over all of us.

God loves the young, the impressionable, and the earnest.

There is no bit of creation that God does not love.

So let us worship this good-news God!

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Family of Faith, every week we pray the Prayer of Confession, because every week we need to be reminded of God's abundant grace. Every week we need to be reminded of God's love. Every week we need to be reminded that we too can grow and change. So join me in this moment of honesty as we seek transformation. Let us pray:

Loving God, you know the desires of our heart and nothing is hidden from you. Forgive us when we fail to trust in you, when we fall into temptation, when we are swayed by false words, and when we speak false words of our own. Be patient, as we amend who we are, in the hope of becoming who you created us to be. In Christ, your beloved son, we pray. Amen.

Faithful friends, God knows your heart. When you mean well and lose your way, God knows. When you try to do the right thing and miss the point, God knows. When you long to be close to God, and doubt your worth, God knows. You are seen. You are loved. In Christ † you are forgiven. This is the good news of the gospel! Nothing can separate you from God's love.

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

GATHERING HYMN

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest-ing-place, and he has made me glad.
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav-'ling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889
Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

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

Holy One,

Sometimes the simplest of your commands are the hardest for us to hear. You say, “Love your enemy.” “Turn the other cheek.” “Care for the widow and the orphan.” And we want to know: How? When? Where? Today as we turn to your word, open up space in us to simply hear your truth for what it is. Open up space in our hearts to dream new dreams, to imagine new realities, to draw closer to you and closer to love. With hope for a better tomorrow, we listen, we pray. **Amen.**

READING: Job 38:4-9, 16, 22, 37-41

And God said, “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. ⁵ Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? ⁶ On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone ⁷ when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy? ⁸ “Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb, ⁹ when I made the clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling band. ¹⁶ “Have you entered into the springs of the sea or walked in the recesses of the deep? ²² “Have you entered the storehouses of the snow, or have you seen the storehouses of the hail? ³⁷ Who has the wisdom to number the clouds? Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens ³⁸ when the dust runs into a mass and the clods cling together? ³⁹ “Can you hunt the prey for the lion or satisfy the appetite of the young lions, ⁴⁰ when they crouch in their dens or lie in wait in their covert? ⁴¹ Who provides for the raven its prey, when its young ones cry to God and wander about for lack of food?”

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 145:8–10, 14–18, 21

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

The LORD is good to all, and God’s compassion is over all that God has made.

The LORD upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down.

The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.

You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.

The Lord is just in all ways and kind in all doings.

The Lord is near to all who call on God, to all who call on God in truth.

My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and all flesh will bless God’s holy name forever and ever.

Spirit, Open My Heart

The musical score is written on three staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and uses a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple 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 piece concludes with a double bar line.

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 19:13-15

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Then children were being brought to Jesus in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them, ¹⁴ but Jesus said, “Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.” ¹⁵ And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

The Gospel of The Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
 strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
 laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 claim the faith of Je - sus:
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 end to fear and dan - ger:
 claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen
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APOSTLES' CREED

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs. Responding to "in your mercy," with "**receive our prayer.**"

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-ZEVQ/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

One Bread, One Body



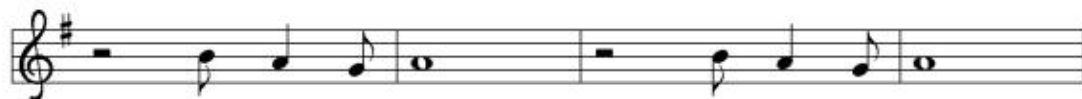
One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of



bles-sing which we bless, and we, though man-y



through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.



- | | | | | |
|---|------------|-------------|--------------|------------|
| 1 | Gen - tile | or Jew, | ser - vant | or free, |
| 2 | Man - y | the gifts, | man - y | the works, |
| 3 | Grain for | the fields, | scat - tered | and grown, |



wom - an	or man,	no	more.
one	in the Lord	of	all.
gath - ered	to one	for	all.

Refrain

Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939

Music: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, John Foley, SJ

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Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me



- 1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
- 2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
- 3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
- 4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–1778

Music: TOPLADY, Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872

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

As you leave this place, may you have the wisdom to lean on one other.

May you have the courage to hold onto hope,

the compassion to do the good that is yours to do,

and the confidence to trust that you are made in the image of God.

May you move through this world with an open heart,

with a curious mind, and with the confidence that you do not go alone.

God is with you today, tomorrow, and everywhere in between.

Believe this good news promised in the Holy † God Triune, and go in peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Go, My Children, with My Blessing



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.
Music: AR HYDY NOS, Welsh traditional
Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

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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 2nd Sunday of the month! Next Noisy offering: **Sunday, April 12th** bring your coins (bills also accepted 😊). Money will be raised and donated quarterly.

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*

Wednesday, March 18 at the Grand Theater at 5:15 p.m. will be a free Social Media safety program for youth and families. Register online at <https://www.grandtheater.org/>

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.

Monday, April 27th at 6:00 p.m.-Adult Study class will discuss Luke 19:27-24

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!

Mission Trip to Duluth, MN Sunday, July 12th – Friday July 17th
Grades 6th – 12th

Wednesday, July 15 - Sunday, July 19th - Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering in Des Moines. Sign up by April 15. Contact Marilynn at 920-362-5746 or marilynn.quirk@gmail.com. More information posted in the Narthex.

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!

Endowment Committee - We are looking for 2 members to join the Endowment Committee. The committee is responsible for monitoring investments and reviewing requests for money from the Endowment Fund. We should only need to meet 2 - 3 times per YEAR. Meetings can easily be held on Sunday morning. Please contact Patti Busche (busche1240@msn.com) if you are interested in joining us.

Youth Mission Trip Sponsorships Needed: Help support our youth as they travel to Duluth for a summer mission trip. Gifts of \$50, \$100, or \$200 are especially helpful, though contributions of any size are appreciated. All donations will help make this important experience of **service and faith** possible. Please mark “**Youth Mission Trip**” on an offering envelope. Thank you!

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Holy Week 2026

Thursday, April 2nd at 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday & First Communion Worship Service.

Friday, April 3rd at 6:30 p.m. Good Friday Worship Service.

**Easter Sunday, April 5th 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Services.
9:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast. Sign up is in the Narthex for Easter Breakfast.**

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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 15th - March 22nd

Today - Sunday, March 15th

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:15 a.m. Coffee Hour / Sunday School – The Transfiguration

Wednesday, March 18th

8:30 a.m. Quilters Meet

5:00 p.m. Lenten Dinner

6:30 p.m. Lenten Worship – Confirmation - Mandatory Attendance

Thursday, March 19th

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

Sunday, March 22nd

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:15 a.m. Coffee Hour / Sunday School – The Great Commission