



March 8th 2026

Third 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.**

If you need good news,

settle into this space. We have good news to share.

If you need a word of hope,

then trust us when we say, there is hope enough to go around.

If you need a glimmer of joy,

then you're in luck! We have resilient joy abounding.

If you need to feel God's presence in your midst,

then know that this is God's house.

This is the good news of the gospel.

God is here. Love is real. Joy is on the move. Let us worship our with-us God!

CONFESSION

Friends, we are like the disciples. The day that Jesus fed 5,000, his disciples could not imagine a solution to the crowd's hunger. They told Jesus to send the crowds away. We often do the same. Like the disciples, we try to follow Jesus around, but when we run into issues, we often cannot imagine how we could play a part. That is why we need the Prayer of Confession. For in this prayer, we remember that we can make a difference. So friends, join me in this moment of truth telling. Join me in prayer:

Holy God, with you the impossible is possible. 5,000 can be fed. The blind can see. The hopeless can find hope. With you the impossible is possible, but we are quick to forget that. We look at our hurting world and tell ourselves that nothing can be done. We forget that you empowered the disciples to feed the crowd. We forget that you are always with us. Forgive our small-minded ways. Forgive us for doubting that change could ever come. But even more so, forgive us when we refuse to be a part of it. With hope for a better tomorrow we pray. Amen.

FORGIVENESS

Family of faith, no matter how many mistakes the disciples made, Jesus still washed their feet. Jesus still fed them. Jesus still called them beloved. The same is true for you and me, so hear and believe this good news: today is a new day, and once again, we belong to God. We are forgiven. We are called. We are not alone. What good, good news.

Amen!

GATHERING HYMN

Restore in Us, O God



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -
2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from
3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -
4 Three - per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.
fruit - less fear un - furl our lives like spring - time bud and flow'r.
tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.
we, when all our search - ing ends, may see you face to face.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: BAYLOR, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

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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

Holy God, we could press our ear to the page, hoping to hear you more clearly. We could silence all the alarms and notifications, hoping to catch a murmur of your voice. We could still our beating hearts, and still we might miss your voice. So today we pray, open up space in our hearts, in our spirits, in our minds, to feel your presence among us. With you, anything is possible. We believe. Help our unbelief.

Amen

READING: Ephesians 3:20-21

²⁰ Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 145

I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; God's greatness is unsearchable.

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 is faithful in all words and gracious in all deeds, satisfying the desire of every living thing.

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

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.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Spirit, Open My Heart". It consists of three staves of music in a single system, all written on a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). 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 features a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some notes beamed together.

GOSPEL: Mark 6:32-44

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³² And Jesus and his disciples went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. ³³ Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. ³⁴ As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things. ³⁵ When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; ³⁶ send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat." ³⁷ But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?" ³⁸ And he said to them, "How many loaves have you? Go and see." When they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." ³⁹ Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰ So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. ⁴¹ Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to his disciples to set before the people, and he divided the two fish among them all. ⁴² And all ate and

were filled, ⁴³ and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. ⁴⁴ Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

The Gospel of The Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE & NOISY OFFERING

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Day by Day



1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort
2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and
3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens



to my anx - ious soul. Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you send me
wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me
grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me



draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal. Love di - vine, be - yond all
o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day. I will fear no e - vil
when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no mat - ter



mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest; Sav - ior,
of the mor - row, I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace. Sav - ior,
what be - tide me, you will hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav - ior,



lead me to the home I trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
help me bear life's pain and sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.
with your pres - ence here to guide me, I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Robert Leaf, 1936-2005

Music: BLOTT EN DAG, Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813-1882

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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-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, of ashes and honest prayers, we come hungry for good news. So hear this: The good news of Jesus Christ meets us where we are. It sounds like laughter breaking through fear and feels like mercy meeting us on every path we take. Here, at God's table, the good news takes on flesh. Here, at God's table, there is a seat for the weary, for the aching, for those who long for peace, for hope, for joy. Here, at God's table, there is always something good. So come and taste the good news, for it really is 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

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness



1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, leave the gloom - y
2 Has - ten as a bride to meet him, ea - ger - ly and
3 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der o - ver this sur -
4 Je - sus, source of last - ing plea - sure, tru - est friend, and



haunts of sad - ness, come in - to the day - light's splen - dor,
glad - ly greet him. There he stands al - read - y knock - ing;
pass - ing won - der that the bread of life is bound - less
dear - est trea - sure, peace be - yond all un - der - stand - ing,



there with joy your prais - es ren - der. Bless the one whose grace un -
quick - ly, now, your gate un - lock - ing, o - pen wide the fast - closed
though the souls it feeds are count - less; with the choic - est wine of
joy in - to all life ex - pand - ing: hum - bly now, I bow be -



bound - ed this a - maz - ing ban - quet found - ed; Christ, though heav'n - ly,
por - tal, say - ing to the Lord im - mor - tal: "Come, and leave your
heav - en Christ's own blood to us is giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious
fore you, love in - car - nate, I a - dore you; wor - thi - ly let



high, and ho - ly, deigns to dwell with you most low - ly,
loved one nev - er; dwell with - in my heart for - ev - er."
con - so - la - tion, pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion.
me re - ceive you, and, so fa - vored, nev - er leave you.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677; in *Lutheran Book of Worship*

Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

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Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love,
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

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, in this Lenten wilderness, when resources seem scarce and hope feels as small as two loaves and five fish, may you remember this good news:

With God, the impossible is possibility waiting to unfold.

May God take the fragments of your fear, the limits of your strength, the questions that echo in your heart—and turn them into grace upon grace.

When you cannot see a way forward, may you trust the hands of Christ, knowing in these hands love multiplies, mercy overflows, five thousand are fed, and there are baskets left over.

Go into these Lenten days trusting that the God who makes a feast in the wilderness is making a way in you.

In the name of the Creator, † Son, and Holy Spirit. One God.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Foliott S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.

Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

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*

Monday, March 9th 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.

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

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 Marilyn 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!

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!

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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 8th - March 15th

Today - Sunday, March 8th

9:00 a.m. Worship – Noisy Offering – Bring your coins 😊

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

Monday, March 9th

6:30 p.m. Book Club – “The Correspondent” By Virginia Evans

Tuesday, March 10th

9:00 a.m. All Conference Pastor’s Meeting

Wednesday, March 11th

8:30 a.m. Quilters Meet

5:00 p.m. Lenten Dinner

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

Thursday, March 12th

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

6:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting

Sunday, March 15th

9:00 a.m. Worship

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