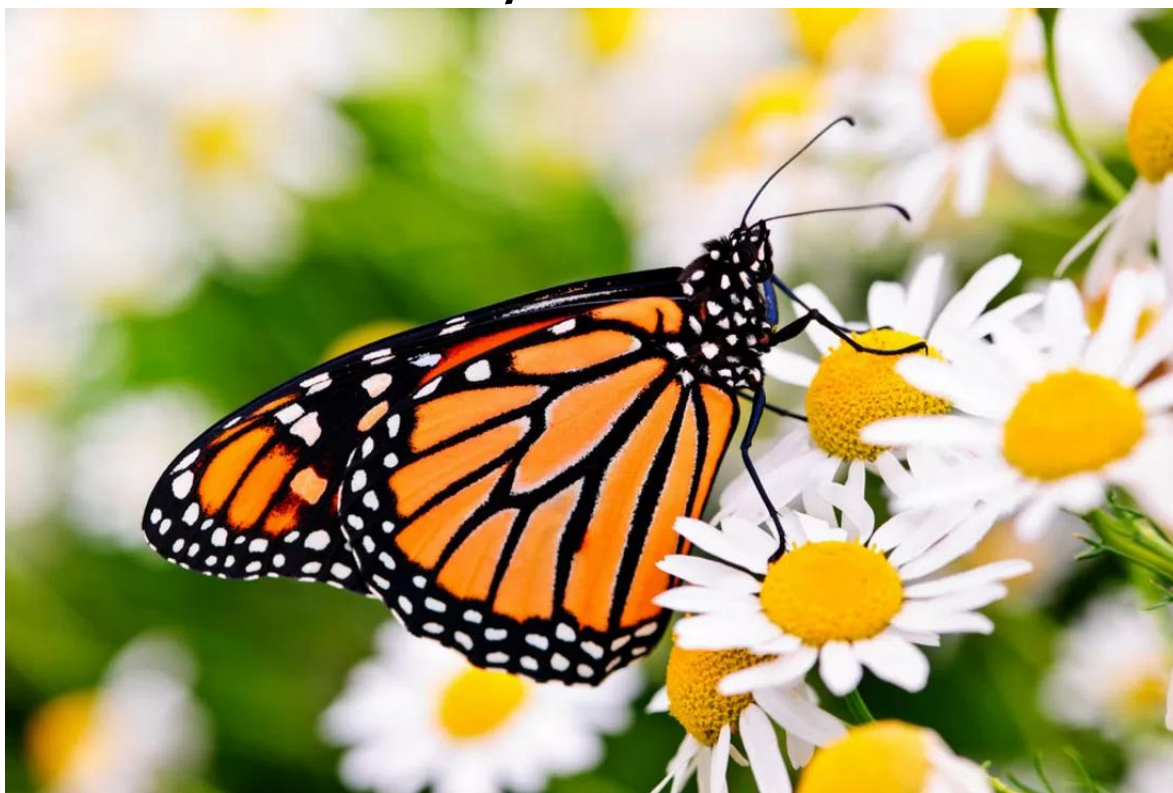


St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA
5304 North 44th Avenue
Wausau, WI 54401
Telephone: (715-675-6950)

THE MESSENGER

April 2026



From Pastor Maggie

Beloved Community,

Grace and peace to you in this season of renewal and hope!

This year, we step into April with hearts already leaning toward the joy of Easter, which we will celebrate on April 5. The promise of resurrection meets us right where we are—reminding us that new life is always possible, even when the world feels heavy or uncertain. Easter is not just a day; it is a way of seeing, a way of trusting that God is always at work bringing life out of what seems lifeless.

This Lent we have been listening for something good. And we have found it in our time together. I am deeply grateful for the way our youth show up, the way you show up, and the way we all come together to form the body of Christ. This work cannot be done alone, and this work is never one and done. This is a way of living – inviting intentionality, dedication, and trust, to deepen our relationships – with God and one another.

As we move into this Easter season, I invite you to carry that same spirit forward. Keep listening for the good. Keep showing up for one another. Keep trusting that even small acts of love and faithfulness are part of God's ongoing resurrection work in our community.

Thank you for your courage, thank you for your time, thank you for the gifts you share, and for being the beautiful person God has created you to be.

May the hope of the risen Christ fill your homes, your hearts, and our life together.

*With Love & Gratitude,
Pastor Maggie Westaby*



“Council Corner”

Many hands make quick work of projects and that is what we hope to accomplish again this year with the bring your tractor to church day. Last year was my first year on council as a Trustee for this project day and I was pleasantly surprised at the number of people who showed up to help and those who offered to bring equipment to use even though they would not be available that day. Saturday, May 9th is the day that was picked for this year.

We will be starting at 8am and going until projects are done. All St. John Immanuel members are welcome. If you are able to make it for the whole time or for a few hours, all help is appreciated. I do not have a final list of projects for that day yet, but will be working on getting everything ready soon. Let's pray for beautiful weather for that day.

Ryan Landwehr
Council Trustee



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

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

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

Secretary: Patti Busche – 715-571-0914; busche1240@msn.com

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

Trustee: Joe Duginski – 715-650-2361; duginuthouse@msn.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; gregorynlinda@gmail.com

Worship: Holly Westaby – 715-218-7184; 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.



“Meet Your Council Member”

Hi, my name is Ryan Landwehr one of St. John Immanuel's trustees. I was introduced to St. John around 2008 while dating my now wife Kim. I immediately liked the smaller personal feel of St. John. Kim and I were married at St. John in May of 2010.

We have been blessed with two amazing girls, Briah and Maci. Both have started their lives by playing baby Jesus in the St. John Christmas program and have moved on to doing amazing things in both school and sports. Kim and I are very proud of them.

In my spare time, I enjoy time outdoors hunting, hiking and fishing. Hunting out west is something I look forward to every few years. As a family we have done some amazing family vacations that have left us with great memories.

I consider myself lucky to be part of the St. John Immanuel family.



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April Birthdays

04/01	Reece Berens	04/16	Melissa Haroldson
04/01	Thomas Marquardt	04/16	Linda Knott
04/01	Karen Ohrmundt	04/16	Clayton Mueller
04/03	Perry Kufahl	04/16	Jedidiah Schoepke
04/03	Cullin Oelke	04/16	Chloe Zernicke
04/05	Boone Hein	04/17	Sophie Hoffman
04/05	Lee Van Der Geest	04/18	Jack Harris
04/08	Stuart Gehrke	04/19	Kyan Van Der Geest
04/09	Stephanie Borelli	04/20	Jeremy Tesch
04/10	Thelma Bursik	04/20	Taylor Treu
04/10	Harley Goetsch	04/20	Stephen Weir
04/10	Kayla Sann	04/21	Reina Cottrell
04/10	Maria Wierzba	04/23	Nicki Busche
04/11	Guy Frostman	04/23	Shirley Kopplin
04/12	Madison Hein	04/25	Patti Busche
04/12	Emma Nowak	04/25	Margaret Mayer
04/13	Elliot Pierschalla	04/26	Keith Kolbe
04/14	Donny Busche	04/26	Everett Schmidt
04/15	Dylan Buchberger	04/27	Lainie Beth Johnson
04/15	Beth Eno	04/27	Ty Teske
04/15	Bobbi Hansen	04/29	Brayden Gehrke
04/15	Joshua Hein	04/29	Addison Heil
04/15	Andrew Webb	04/29	Rhett Schindler
04/15	Brandon Webb	04/29	Michael Schwede
04/16	Katie Fitzke-Pagel	04/30	Ruth Struck

Anniversaries

04/06	Shane & Nichole Saari
04/08	Lane & Carrie Hoeft
04/15	Neil & Mary Munson
04/23	Paul & Mary Anderson
04/24	Adam & Connie Hoffman
04/26	Randy & Barbara Jo Kopp
04/27	Michael & Cindy Preisig
04/29	Michael & Heather Gilles



Sunday School Schedule

2025 – 2026



April 2026

Sunday School

- 4/5 No Sunday School – Happy Easter
- 4/12 Doubting Thomas
- 4/19 The Ascension
- 4/26 The Holy Spirit



Attendance Report - Sundays

	2026	2025
Average Weekly/March	115	84
Average Weekly - Sunday/Year-To-Date	109	81

Attendance Report – Mid Week Lenten Services

Average Weekly Lenten Service/March	2026	2025
	77	N/A

**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 th 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

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

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

Saturday, April 4th 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. 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.

Easter Sunday, April 5th 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Services.
9:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast.

Thursday, April 9th at 6:30 p.m. – Church Council Meeting

Sunday, April 12th Noisy offering! Bring your coins (bills also accepted 😊). This noisy offering will go to: Northcentral Technical College Food Pantry. Noisy offering will be the 2nd Sunday of the month. Money will be raised and donated quarterly.

Monday, April 13th at 6:30 p.m. – Book Club will meet for a discussion on the book “The Measure” by Nikki Erlick.

Sunday, April 19th 3rd graders will receive their Bibles during Worship.

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

Monday, April 27th at 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. - St. John Immanuel Youth Group

Fundraiser – Ready for a mouthwatering meal that supports a great cause? Join us at Cousins Subs (225 S 18th Ave) on Monday, April 27th between 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM and make a difference! With every order you place, 15% will be donated to St. John Immanuel Youth Group. Please mention you are eating at Cousins to support St. John's Youth! Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to dine for a purpose!

Thursday, May 7th at 7 a.m. – National Day of Prayer at Immanuel Baptist Church, Doors open at 6:30 a.m. and program starts at 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. Glorify God among the nations, Seeking him in all generations [Chronicles 16:24]. All are welcome.

Saturday, May 9th starting at 8:00 a.m. – Bring Your Tractor to Church / Spring Clean-Up! We'll be doing outdoor work around the church grounds, and we'll also need volunteers to help clean and organize inside the church.

Sunday, May 17th New Member Welcome Service!

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

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

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!

Wednesday, July 15th - 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.

Kwik Trip Gift Cards Sign-up in the Fellowship Hall or on our website! Help support St. John Immanuel with Kwik Trip gift cards!





♥ A BIG ♥
Thanks!

Thank you for Fellowship this Lent!

For all who prepared a meal, who brought food, who helped set up, helped clean up, and for all who enjoyed food and fellowship!

We would also like to acknowledge our confirmation students!

I AM
THANKFUL
FOR...

From serving beverages, bussing tables, washing dishes, to bell ringing, ushering, and greeting. The students did a great job learning new areas of our church and the help was greatly appreciated!

1st year students: Cullin O, Jacob M, Mason H, Rylan C, & Tyler M.

2nd year students: Bianca M, Billie G, Blake S, Brian L, Elise G, Ethan P, & Isaac O



Thank you each for your help and a great confirmation class year!

Pastor Maggie, Lane, Gavin & Schmidty

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

St. John Office: (715) 675-6950

Office Hours:

Monday 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Thursday 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Cell Phone: 1(608) 345-9616

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

E-mail: stjohnwausau@gmail.com

Web Address: stjohnwausau.org