



Sunday, May 3rd 2026
Fifth Sunday of Easter
9:00 a.m.

St. John Immanuel Lutheran Church

Reverend Maggie Westaby

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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.

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy. **Amen.**

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

In this season of Easter, we look for the risen Christ among us. Signs of this good news are sprouting up everywhere—blades of grass turning green and lush, flowers emerging from the earth, days growing longer and brighter. And yet, even surrounded by new life, we forget the promise of hope that is alive in us each day. Let us turn to God for forgiveness, grace, and renewal.

Gracious God, in a world as broken and battered as ours, we confess, how easy it is to miss the new life you are bringing forth. Forgive us when we focus so much on what is wrong, that we overlook what is good. Forgive us when the story of Easter fades into the background of our lives. Forgive us when we cling to despair instead of trusting in you. Open our hearts to your presence and your joy. Open our spirits to your grace and your peace. With gratitude we pray. Amen.

Siblings in Christ, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel: We are seen. We are loved. In the risen Christ † we are forgiven. The promise of Easter is alive—and it lives in you.

Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

GATHERING HYMN

Shall We Gather at the River



- 1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
- 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
- 3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
- 4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;



with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899
Music: HANSON PLACE, Robert Lowry

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Risen Christ, in this Easter season, when death has been undone and life has been opened wide, you meet us with promise and presence. You are the way, the truth, and the life. May we follow you into the world you love, serving neighbors near and far. May we share the good news, that there is a dwelling place in you, for every life. Send us into the world with open hearts, that in all we do, your life may be made known, and your love may be seen, through Jesus Christ, we pray.

Amen.

READING: Acts 7:55-60

⁵⁵ Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, for you are my tower of strength.

Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O Lord, God of truth.

My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and

from those who persecute me.

Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.”

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

1 Peter 2:2-10

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and ⁵ like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture: “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷ This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,” ⁸ and “A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (page 205)

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word. Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred. Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.”

⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” ⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

The Gospel of The Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Here I Am, Lord



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"

Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946

Music: HERE I AM, LORD, Daniel L. Schutte

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MISSION TRIP YOUTH & ADULTS

Joe Duginski, Amanda Grueneberg, Billie Grueneberg, Annie Krueger, Kaylee Krueger, Bianca Melander, Avery Oestreich, Pastor Maggie Westaby, Pickle Westaby, and Savannah Woods.

BLESSING OF MISSION TRIP

God of the Way, the Truth, and the Life,

We give you thanks for the youth and adults who are preparing for the mission trip to Duluth.

Even now, before the journey begins, you are already at work in them—shaping hearts, forming faith, and drawing them deeper into love for you, and for the world you so dearly love.

Bless this time of preparation. Give them ears to listen well—to your word, to one another, and to the communities they will serve.

Give them hands willing to learn, hearts open enough to be surprised by grace, and humble enough to recognize you in every encounter along the way.

As they plan and pray, study and gather, build in them a spirit of unity.

Knit them together as one body, so that when they travel, they do not go as strangers, but as companions in Christ's mission.

Give them patience for one another, courage for the unknown, joy in service, and trust in your abiding presence.

And when the time comes to go, remind them that they do not travel alone—for you are the way before them, the truth within them, and the life surrounding them.

In the name of Jesus Christ † who sends us and goes with us. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Responding to “God of grace,” with **“hear our prayer.”**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Remember the first believers—who shared one heart and soul, held their possessions in common, and distributed them to all in need.

In that same spirit, let us present our offerings to God.

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

Holy God,

We give you thanks and praise for light and life and love. Above all, we give thanks for the presence of the living Christ among us. By your Spirit who breathes within us, strengthen our faith, use our gifts, and work in our lives to bear witness to the resurrection of Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

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

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth & sea & all their creatures, and with angels & archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (page 207)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

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 & ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In this Season of Easter—as the earth awakens around us, as rivers run free, as green shoots push up through the ground—we are reminded that new life is not just a promise, but a reality unfolding all around us. That is the promise of Christ's table: what once seemed ordinary becomes holy, what once seemed finished is made new. The risen Christ meets us here, in bread and wine, grain and grape, and fills them with grace, mercy, and life. Here, at this table, all are welcome. Not because you have it all together, but because Christ is here. Not because you are certain, but because Christ meets you in the journey. All are welcome to come, to taste, and to see the new life that is blooming.

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

Let Us Break Bread Together



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Refrain



Just a clos-er walk with thee, grant it, Je-sus, is my plea;



dai - ly walk-ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.



- 1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
- 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal-ter, Lord, who cares?
- 3 When my fee-ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;

Refrain



I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.
Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.
guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.

Text: North American traditional

Music: CLOSER WALK, North American traditional

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Living God,

As the sun warms the earth and the breeze stirs the trees, so your love stirs our hearts, filling us with light and hope anew. We give you thanks for this holy meal, and for the taste of grace that strengthens us for the days ahead. As we step into this week, may we carry your peace into our communities, your love in our hearts, and your grace in our spirits. We give thanks that you go with us, into every sunrise, every sunset, and everywhere in between. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & BLESSING

Go now in peace, trusting the one who is the way, the truth, and the life.

Christ goes before you leading the way, guiding your steps with steady love.

Christ remains the truth, grounding you in grace that does not fail.

Christ is your life, renewing you with hope that rises again and again.

So that as you go, the brilliance of God may shine through your eyes, the love of Christ may radiate through your hands, and the energy of the Holy Spirit may flow through you always.

In the name of the Creator, † Christ, and the 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. Rejoice and be glad. **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*.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friday, May 8th at 7:00 p.m. & Saturday, May 9th at 3:00 p.m – “The Peace of Wild Things” presented by the Wausau Pro Musica will be at **First Presbyterian Church**.

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 10th 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 donated quarterly.

Sunday, May 10th - Graduating Seniors will receive blankets and blessing. Fellowship meeting to follow Worship for anyone who wishes to help. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for food donations. If you are interested in helping please text Phyllis Seubert @715-573-9890

Monday, May 11th at 6:30 p.m. – Adult Study discussing chapters 1 through 3 of Acts.

Wednesday, May 13th at 11:00 a.m. - Community Outreach Task Force Meal - 'The Marty Bus' - This non-profit group serves a free lunch in downtown Wausau every Wednesday and Friday to those in need. St. John Immanuel will provide another meal on Wednesday, May 13th 11:00 am. A sign-up is in the Narthex for 1) meal ingredient donations, 2) dessert donations, and 3) volunteers to serve the meal. All food items are needed at church by **Tuesday, May 12th**.

Sunday, May 17th New Member Welcome Service!

BINGO Donations Needed: Our annual 'Last Day of Sunday School' BINGO will be on **Sunday, May 17th** and we're in need of prize donations for both children and adults! Please place donations in the basket in the Fellowship Hall. **THANK YOU!**

Sunday, May 31st at 10:00 a.m. Save the Date! Preparations are underway for the St. John Immanuel celebration. The event will feature special music and speakers representing the history of both St. John and Immanuel, followed by an enhanced fellowship gathering after the service. If you are interested in helping or have any suggestions, please reach out to the following individuals: *Fellowship Hall Decorations: Jennifer Krueger *Fellowship: Phyllis Seubert *Music: Tammy Landrath, Joanne Diestelhorst, and Pastor Maggie *Sanctuary Beautification: Karen Ohrmundt. Ginny Kirsch and Al Solomonson will be speaking on the history of both churches. Please plan on attending this joyous celebration.
NOTE: THE SERVICE IS AT 10:00.

VBS Week June 21st – 25th Save the Date! Please register on our website for the upcoming VBS week and prepare for an adventure through the Rainforest!!!
<https://stjohnwausau.org/education/vbs/>

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. (Annie Krueger, Kaylee Krueger, Billie Grueneberg, Bianca Melander, Avery Oestreich, Pickle Westaby, Savannah Woods) 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!

****All proceeds from coffee hour will also go towards the Mission Trip to Duluth****

Do you like Texas Roadhouse? Enjoy a meal on a Sunday and earn money back to St. John Immanuel! Bring our church bulletin, turn it into your server, and St. John Immanuel will receive 10% back from your food sales!

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!

Live Streaming and Photography Notice. When you enter St. John Immanuel Lutheran Church, 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 May 3rd – May 10th

Today – Sunday, May 3rd

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship – Blessing of adults & youths traveling to Duluth

10:15 a.m. **Coffee Hour/Sunday School – Philip & The Ethiopian/
Presentation of Italy by Schmidty

3:30 p.m. Community Dinner @ First United Methodist Church

Wednesday, May 6th

8:30 a.m. Quilting

5:30 p.m. Scholarship Meeting

Thursday, May 7th

5:30 p.m. Bells Practice

Saturday, May 9th

8:00 a.m. Bring your Tractor to Church/Spring Clean-up

Sunday, May 10th

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

10:15 a.m. **Coffee Hour/No Sunday School

***** Note All proceeds from coffee hour will go towards the youth Mission trip to Duluth.***