



Sunday, April 26th 2026
Forth 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

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Good Shepherd, we are your people—the sheep of your pasture, the flock you have gathered from many places. Lead us beside still waters when we are anxious and worn; restore our souls when we are weary with grief or regret; and guide us in paths of righteousness when we are uncertain which way to turn. When we wander, call us back by name. When we are afraid, stand close beside us as. Teach us to hear your voice above all others, that we may follow where you lead with trust and courage. Through Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd, we pray.

Amen.

READING: Acts 2:42-47

⁴² [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

1 Peter 2:19-25

¹⁹ It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. ²² “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

²³ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.”

⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.

⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

The Gospel of The Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

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:

Refrain



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

Text: Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917, alt.
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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.

<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

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.**

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

Come, Let Us Eat

Leader or All



1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,
3 In Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest,
4 Rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word,

All



come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
in Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest.
rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word.

Leader or All



Our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er,
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er,
In the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er,
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom,

All



our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er.
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er.
in the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er.
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom.

Text: Billema Kwillia, b. 1925, sts. 1–3; Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930, st. 4, alt.; tr. Margaret D. Miller, b. 1927, sts. 1–3, alt.

Music: A VA DE, Billema Kwillia, adapt.

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Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us



- 1 Sav-ior like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.
2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;
3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;
4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your fold pre-pare.
keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.
you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779–1847
Music: BRADBURY, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

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

May the God who calls you by name lead you beside still waters, where your spirit is quieted and your soul may rest.

May Christ, the Good Shepherd, with rod and staff, comfort you and keep you safe, that you may lie down in green pastures and trust the goodness of his care.

May the breath of the Holy Spirit renew you within, restoring your soul with peace that the world cannot give.

And may goodness and mercy accompany you all your days, following you not as shadow, but as promise—and holding you always within the safety of Christ's own fold. In the name of the Creator, † Shepherd, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms



1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -
 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -



last - ing arms; what a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine,
 last - ing arms; oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
 last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near,



lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Refrain



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839–1929

Music: SHOWALTER, Anthony J. Showalter, 1858–1924

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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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

Sunday, May 3rd Blessing of Duluth Mission Trip during Worship. Followed by fellowship with an Italy Presentation by Schmidty.

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]. **This is a free event.**

Freewill offering will be available. Please register to attend! Please use the QR code to Register.



Or go to our website and click on the link.

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.

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 April 26th – May 3rd

Today – Sunday, April 26th

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

10:15 a.m. **Coffee Hour/Sunday School – The Holy Spirit

Monday, April 27th

4:00 p.m. Youth Group Fundraiser – @ Cousin Subs, See Announcement for Details

6:30 p.m. Adult Study – Luke 19:27-24

Wednesday, April 29th

8:30 a.m. Quilting

Thursday, April 30th

5:30 p.m. Bells Practice

Sunday, May 3rd

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

10:15 a.m. **Coffee Hour/Sunday School – Philip & The Ethiopian

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

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