

St. John Immanuel Lutheran Church  
5304 North 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Wausau, WI 54401  
Telephone: (715-675-6950)

# *THE MESSENGER*

*May 2026*



## From Pastor Maggie

Beloved Community,

Grace and peace to you as we enter the month of May—a season filled with life, celebration, and many meaningful moments at St. John Immanuel.

### **We have several special Sundays ahead:**

- **On May 3<sup>rd</sup>** we will bless our adults and youth who are traveling to Duluth.
- **On May 10<sup>th</sup>** we celebrate Mother's Day and offer a blessing for our graduating high school seniors.
- **On May 17<sup>th</sup>** we will welcome new members, mark the last day of Sunday School, and gather for an ice cream social and BINGO (thank you to all donating prizes!). We will also hold a special congregational meeting before the social begins—*please see pages 9–14 of this newsletter for more details.*
- **On May 31<sup>st</sup> worship will be at 10:00 a.m.** as we celebrate our **160th Anniversary.** *More information can be found on page 3 & page 15.*

In all these gatherings and celebrations, we are reminded that we are not simply a busy community, but the Body of Christ—called, gathered, and sent. In moments of blessing, celebration, learning, and even in the work of meeting together, Christ is present among us, shaping us in love for the sake of the world.

As the Apostle Paul reminds us, though we are many, we are one body, each with gifts to share and a place to belong. This month offers many opportunities to live into that calling—to encourage one another, to celebrate milestones, and to extend Christ's love beyond our walls. May all that we do be rooted in that love, strengthening us to serve with joy, compassion, and hope wherever God leads us.

*With love & gratitude,*

*Pastor Maggie Westaby*

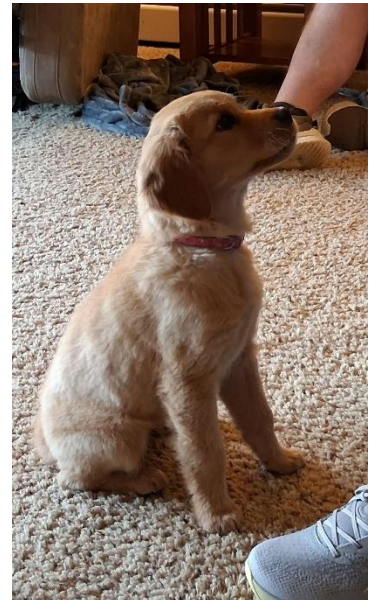
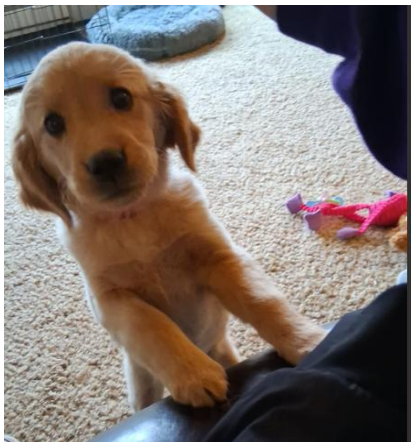


## *“Council Corner” & “Meet your Council Member”*

Hello my name is Karen Ohrmundt. I am your current Vice President of the Church Council. I have been a member of St John Immanuel since Tom and I were married in 1970. That is 56 years (Yes, I am old) ago. We have three children, five grandkids and a brand new four-month-old puppy, Miss Sadie. Before that I was a member of Immanuel Lutheran. The same church that just merged with us. I was baptized, confirmed and was a Sunday School teacher. Because of my history at Immanuel, it made sense for me to be part of the group to investigate if a merger between our two churches was a good idea. You could say I was a little bias. Immanuel was looking for things that were important to them. No debt in the church they were merging with. “Kids”. An active youth, which we are very blessed with. They were also looking for a Church that their members would feel the legacy of Immanuel would be remembered. After a year of meetings, discussions, more meeting and soul searching we voted to move forward with being one. As we move forward there will be changes, there will be growth. We are so lucky to have this Church, these members, and our wonderful Pastor.

As we are moving forward, we are also going to take time to remember our past. On May 31 we are going to celebrate our beginnings. Both of St John and Immanuel. A history review. Please mark your calendar and join us as we mark our **160 years** as a family in Christ. I wish everyone a wonderful summer.

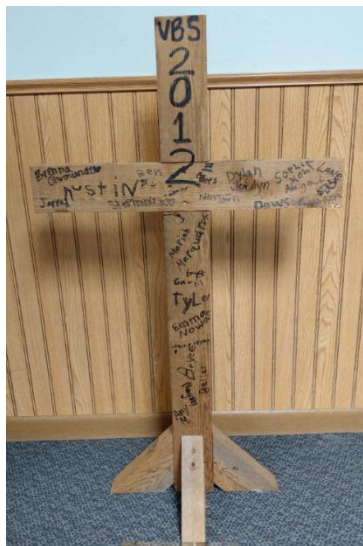
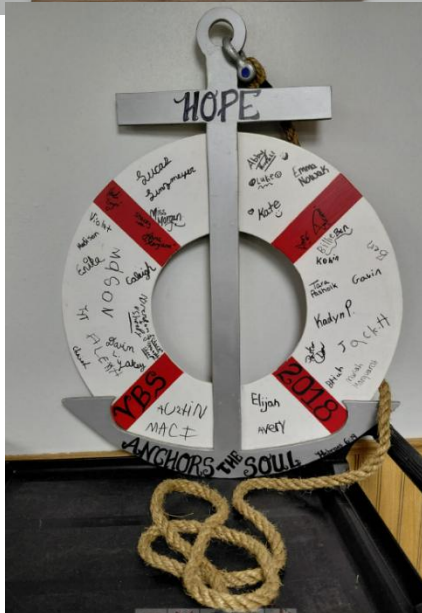
God Bless,  
Vice President  
Karen Ohrmundt



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## “Did you know?” By Tim Ohrmundt

I don't remember what year it was when my mother asked me to help. Just help her for one night with a story for VBS. But little did I know is, that was a loooooong time ago. Here I am in 2026 still Mr. Tim to all the kiddos and still leading the adventures. In 2012, I made my first VBS cross. Just a simple cross and a stand. We had the kids sign their names on it just like a VBS yearbook. As the years came and went, I started to really get into making them. I wanted each cross to tell the story. Connect the kids to the adventures they would embark on for the next 5 days. Looking back at the names on each one, some of those kids are now VBS leaders themselves. This year we're going on another fantastic adventure and I can't wait. The kids will be ready to go and who am I to disappoint. The kids are worth the effort and always will be. For VBS 2026 we are heading into the rainforest. Do I have this years cross figured out? Yes. Yes I do!



# GROW SOMETHING THAT MATTERS

Support our Community. Start from the ground up.

## EVERY YARD CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

We're donating 30% of every eligible purchase to support your organization

Same premium soil.  
Bigger Purpose

scan to support



valid: May 11th-June 1st



Proudly supporting  
*Marathon County*  
through local growing + giving

Looking for landscaping and gardening supplies? Support St. John Immanuel by purchasing products from HSU.

Stop into HSU located at 237502 County Road W, Wausau, WI 54403 **from May 11<sup>th</sup> – June 1<sup>st</sup> When purchasing products you must tell them you are purchasing to support St. John Immanuel.**

**Prefer to order online? Go online from May 11<sup>th</sup> – June 1<sup>st</sup>**  
<https://hsugrowingsupply.com/fundraising/>

**Products from online purchases will be delivered June 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>**

**In store orders can be picked up the same day May 11<sup>th</sup> – June 1<sup>st</sup>**

**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](mailto:hirn.kelly@gmail.com)

Vice President: Karen Ohrmundt – 715-370-0645; [tkohrmundt@frontier.com](mailto:tkohrmundt@frontier.com)

Treasurer: Rick Nevers – 715-574-0288; [rlnevers57@gmail.com](mailto:rlnevers57@gmail.com)

Secretary: Patti Busche – 715-571-0914; [busche1240@msn.com](mailto:busche1240@msn.com)

Trustee: Ryan Landwehr – 715-212-3540; [ryanlandwehr@aol.com](mailto:ryanlandwehr@aol.com)

Trustee: Joe Duginski – 715-650-2361; [duginuthouse@msn.com](mailto:duginuthouse@msn.com)

Evangelism: Connie Nowak – 715-675-1577; [bcdenowak@gmail.com](mailto:bcdenowak@gmail.com)

Fellowship: Jeanne Klinger – 715-675-9939 [Jeanjam9939@gmail.com](mailto:Jeanjam9939@gmail.com)

Education: Greg Grudznske – 715-212-6529; [gregorynlinda@gmail.com](mailto:gregorynlinda@gmail.com)

Worship: Holly Westaby – 715-218-7184; [hollylocks@msn.com](mailto: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.

### May Birthdays

05/01	Vonnie Solomonson	05/20	Ariel Graveen
05/02	Spencer Busche	05/20	Emily Kallio
05/03	Cash Herning	05/20	Grace Kallio
05/06	Cody Augustine	05/20	John Ohrmundt
05/06	Kaylee Sischo	05/21	Arzelle Drown
05/07	Emma Busche	05/21	Briah Landwehr
05/08	Brandon Schindler	05/21	Maggie Westaby
05/09	Gavin Bahr	05/23	Chavalin Chadwick
05/09	Michael Haroldson	05/23	Kim Dellenbach
05/10	Parker Borrero	05/23	Todd Mueller
05/10	Jordan Hein	05/24	Mollie Munson
05/11	Floyd Hallberg	05/25	Rheta Utech
05/12	McKenzie Cottrell	05/26	Kassidie Augustine
05/13	Tim Ohrmundt	05/26	Ray Gallenberg
05/13	Renner Stubbe	05/26	Mitch Landrath
05/14	Kelly Hirn	05/27	Michael Gilles
05/14	Steven Zahn	05/27	Matthew Haroldson
05/15	Ryan Landwehr	05/27	Sheri Mueller
05/15	Shane Saari	05/28	Brody Arndt
05/16	Jarred Bahr	05/29	Levi Hirn
05/16	Benjamin Bolz	05/29	Lyla Lauersdorf
05/17	Larry Berens	05/30	Dan Arndt
05/19	Hunter Zernicke	05/30	Tanner Walter
		05/31	Bev Landrath

### Anniversaries

05/11	Troy & Nikole Knight
05/12	Perry & Shelley Kufahl
05/13	Dan & Shannon Graveen
05/15	Randy & Debbie Knapp
05/16	Peter & Sarah Severson
05/19	Robert & Rheta Utech
05/21	Michael & Jan Rhode
05/22	Ryan & Kim Landwehr
05/23	Dennis & Jeanne Wunsch
05/24	Lee & Katie Van Der Geest
05/31	Everett & Bev Schmidt





**TEXAS ROADHOUSE**

**EARN 10%**


Let Texas Roadhouse help you raise **MONEY** for your church or non-profit every Sunday!

- Have your members/supporters present a bulletin\* on Sundays and **10% of your food sales will be donated** back to your organization.
- This is an **on-going program!** Every Sunday is an opportunity to support your church/organization.
- Contact Sarah [288Marketing@texasroadhouse.com](mailto:288Marketing@texasroadhouse.com) to set up our Dine to Donate Sundays.

**We can't wait to partner with your church or community organization!**

\*Flyer can be made specifically for your organization

**4800 Rib Mountain Dr  
Wausau, WI 715-241-8900**



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!

# Sunday School Schedule

2025 – 2026

**May 2026**

**Sunday School**

- 5/3 Philip & The Ethiopian
- 5/10 No Sunday School
- 5/17 Last Day – BINGO & Ice cream social!!



**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.**

Jim & Barbara Leffin Primrose 2100 Townline Rd Apt. 217 Wausau, WI 54403	Marlene Opichka Renaissance Sr. Living 4602 Barbican Ave. #105 Weston, WI 54476	Harley Goetsch Rennes Health/Rehab Ctr. 4810 Barbican Avenue Weston, WI 54476
Alene Howe Acorn Hill Apartment 430 Orbiting Dr. #19 Mosinee, WI 54455	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
Jeff Groethe Riverview Tower 500 Grand Ave. Wausau, WI 54401	Dorothy Westfall 4205 Fleet Dr. Wausau, WI 54401	Marlene Bahr 238456 N 84 <sup>th</sup> Ave. Wausau, WI 54401
Judy Blanchfield Mt. View Care Center of Wausau 2400 Marshall Street, Rm #4007 Wausau, WI 54403	Joan Bonstead Gardens Apartments 801 Parcher Street Apt G 202 Wausau, WI 54403	Ann Kurth 2806 Polzer Drive Wausau, WI 54401
Jeannette Petterson 905 E Grant Street, #10 Marshfield, WI 54449	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
Carol Fitzke Wood Aven 1821 N 4th Ave #311b Wausau, WI 54401		

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**Attendance Report - Sundays**

	<b>2026</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>Average Weekly/April</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>Average Weekly - Sunday/Year-To-Date</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>144</b>

**Attendance Report – Mid Week Lenten Services**

	<b>2026</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>Average Weekly Lenten Service/April</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>92</b>

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# St. John Immanuel LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Gathered in Faith. Growing in Grace. Sent in Love.*

## PARKING LOT MEETING



### AGENDA

- |          |   |  |                |
|----------|---|--|----------------|
| <b>1</b> | Opening Prayer  |  | Pastor Maggie  |
| <b>2</b> | Call the meeting to order                               |  | Kelly Hirn     |
| <b>3</b> | Election of Scholarship and Endowment committee members |  | Congregation   |
| <b>4</b> | Parking lot presentation                                |  | Church Council |
| <b>5</b> | Discussion  |  | Congregation   |
| <b>6</b> | Vote  |  | Congregation   |
| <b>7</b> | Adjournment   |  | Kelly Hirn     |



## Special Congregational Meeting 05/17/2026

### Scholarship Committee – vote for 7

- Kari Solomonson
- Julie Cole
- Shelley Kufahl
- Rick Nevers
- Jane Reilly Smith
- Everett (Schmidty) Schmidt
- Diane Trulen
- \_\_\_\_\_

### Endowment Committee – Vote for 6

- Patti Busche
- Doug Doede
- Randy Knapp
- Bruce Knox
- Perry Kufahl
- Rick Nevers
- \_\_\_\_\_

## St. John Immanuel Lutheran Church Parking Lot & Stewardship

Beloved Community,

Stewardship is a word we often hear in the life of the church, but it's about far more than budgets, buildings, and parking lots. It's about how we live with what has been entrusted to us. It's more than maintaining what we have—it's tending what is placed in our care so that life may flourish.

In Gospel of John, Jesus says, "I am the good shepherd." The Good Shepherd does not keep the flock in one place, but leads them—guiding them toward what will sustain life and away from what has been exhausted. In the same way, we are called not simply to preserve what we have, but to be shaped and led into what will give life for the future.

This is the spirit in which we approach our parking lot. It is not only a matter of repair or expansion—it is an act of hospitality and care. It is one of the first ways we make space for others, often before a word is spoken or a hymn is sung.

Each person who arrives at St. John Immanuel carries something with them—questions, burdens, joys, hopes—and in those first moments after pulling into our parking lot, they are already wondering: Is there space for me here?

Our call, as people of God, is to answer that question with a clear and faithful yes.

Supporting this project is one way we participate in the work of our Good Shepherd—making room not only for ourselves, but for those who are not here yet. It is an investment in welcome, in community, and in the abundant life to which we are being led.

I look forward to our discussion and discernment on May 17.

*Pastor Maggie Westaby*

# St. John Immanuel Lutheran Church Parking Lot Options

## May 17, 2026

**EXPANSION LOT:** This area would be directly to the West of the existing lot with the area about 150 ft. by 110 ft. An area would be cordoned off for the septic. The land would be cleared and a good base put in. The lot would initially be gravel with 30-40 additional spots. It is good practice to leave the lot gravel to let the ground settle. Future blacktopping is not a part of this project.

### **OPTION #1: Do Nothing:**

Risks: the existing lot on the East side would continue to deteriorate creating sinking spots. This will make walking dangerous and may also result in a loss of parking spots. Additional maintenance to patch and repair.

### **Option #2: Do the gravel expansion lot but leave the existing blacktop alone:**

Risks: there could be damage to the existing lots due to heavy equipment crossing for the expanded lot. Repair would then be needed. Also, same risks as Option #1.

**ESTIMATE: \$30,000**

### **Option #3: Do the gravel expansion lot and redo the old parking area on the East side.**

Risks: there could be damage to the newer blacktop on the West side due to heavy equipment crossing for the expanded lot.

**ESTIMATE: \$100,000 - \$130,000**

### **Option #4: Do the gravel expansion, and redo all the existing blacktopped areas.**

**ESTIMATE: \$150,000 - \$180,000**

There will be an additional cost of about \$5000 for insulated pipe, clean out and a licensed plumber for each option 2-4. Ongoing maintenance will be required based on options as noted above. Lighting is not a part of this project.

### **How will this be paid for?**

- We are financially able to cover the cost.
- We currently have \$32,000 in our Parking Lot Fund.
- Based on our desire to be fiscally responsible, we are taking a loan from ourselves for this project.
- The Council will make a decision on the specific repayment plan once we have a decision from the congregation.

## Visual of option 2 (gravel expansion to the west)



## Visual of option 3 (gravel expansion, resurface old lot)



**Visual of option 4  
(gravel expansion, resurfacing all existing blacktopped areas)**



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup> blessing of adults and youth traveling to Duluth**

**Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> 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. Please register to attend the free event.

**Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m. & Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> 3:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian church** is the spring concert for Wausau Pro Musica: The Peace of Wild Things.

**Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> Noisy offering!** Bring your coins (bills also accepted 😊). This noisy offering will go to: **Northcentral Technical College Food Pantry**. Noisy offering will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month. Money will be donated quarterly.

**Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>** 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 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** Adult Study discussing chapters 1 through 3 of Acts.

**Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. - Community Outreach Task Force Meal - 'The Martyr**

**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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> New Member Welcome Service & Special Congregation Meeting!**

**BINGO Donations Needed:** Our annual 'Last Day of Sunday School' BINGO will be on **Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>** 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>** 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 12<sup>th</sup> – Friday July 17<sup>th</sup> 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\*\***

**Education Committee** - We are looking for volunteers to join our Education Committee. If you are interested in helping lead the many facets of education here at St. John Immanuel and want to share your ideas, this could be a good opportunity for you! We will be looking to have quarterly meetings to start with and activities throughout the year to help with. If interested, please email, call or talk with Greg Grudznske in person at: gregorynlinda@gmail.com or 715-212-6529

## ***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](mailto:Pastor.maggie.westaby@gmail.com)***

***E-mail: [stjohnwausau@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnwausau@gmail.com)***

***Web Address: [stjohnwausau.org](http://stjohnwausau.org)***