



Sunday, July 26th 2026
9th Sunday After Pentecost
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, whose compassion endures forever.
Amen.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Yet we do not always trust God's care, and we carry burdens that leave us weary in body, mind, and spirit. Let us turn to God, whose mercy is new every morning.
Gracious God, we confess that we do not always trust your care. We grow weary with worry, burden ourselves with resentment, and struggle to do the good you call us to do. Forgive us when we turn inward instead of toward you and our neighbors. Refresh us by your mercy, renew us by your Spirit, and lead us in the way of your peace. Amen.

Siblings in Christ, hear the good news: Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Through Jesus Christ ☩ your sins are forgiven. Freed by God's grace and strengthened by the Holy Spirit, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the
Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name,
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God,

You reveal the treasures of your kingdom in ways both hidden and surprising. Grant us discerning hearts that we may seek your wisdom above all else. Open your Word to give us light and understanding, and by your Holy Spirit strengthen us when we are weak, praying for us with sighs too deep for words. Root us so firmly in your unfailing love that nothing may separate us from you. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior we pray.

Amen.

Psalm 119:129-136

Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart.

When your word is opened it gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.

I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments.

Turn to me and be gracious to me, as you always do to those who love your name.

Order my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me.

Rescue me from those who oppress me, and I will keep your commandments.

Let your face shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes.

My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your teaching.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

Romans 8:26-28, 38

²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. 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: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-49

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age.”

The Gospel of The Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

HOLY BAPTISM

*Candidates for baptism, sponsors, and parents gather with the minister at the font.
The assembly is seated.*

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism...

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

People of God, do you promise to support Andi and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

Response: **We do.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The presiding minister addresses sponsors and parents.

The presiding minister addresses sponsors, parents, and assembly.

People of God, do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks & praise...

BAPTISM

PRESENTATION OF CANDLE TO SPONSORS

Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:
join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and
redeeming word to all the world.**

BAPTISM HYMN

Borning Cry



- 1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.
 2 "When you heard the won-der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
 3 "In the mid-dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger young,



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold.
 you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.
 I'll be there to guide you through the night, com-plete what I've be - gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
 If you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
 When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell."
 I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."
 I'll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise."



- 4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold."

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
 Music: WATERLIFE, John C. Ylvisaker
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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

Everything we have is a gift from God. In this season of growth and abundance, we return a portion of those gifts with thanksgiving, knowing that together they become ministry, care, and welcome for others. Let us bring our offerings before 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

Loving God,

We offer at your table the gifts of our hearts and hands. As the earth flourishes in the warmth of summer, help us grow in faith, generosity, and service, sharing your love so that all may know your abundant care; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

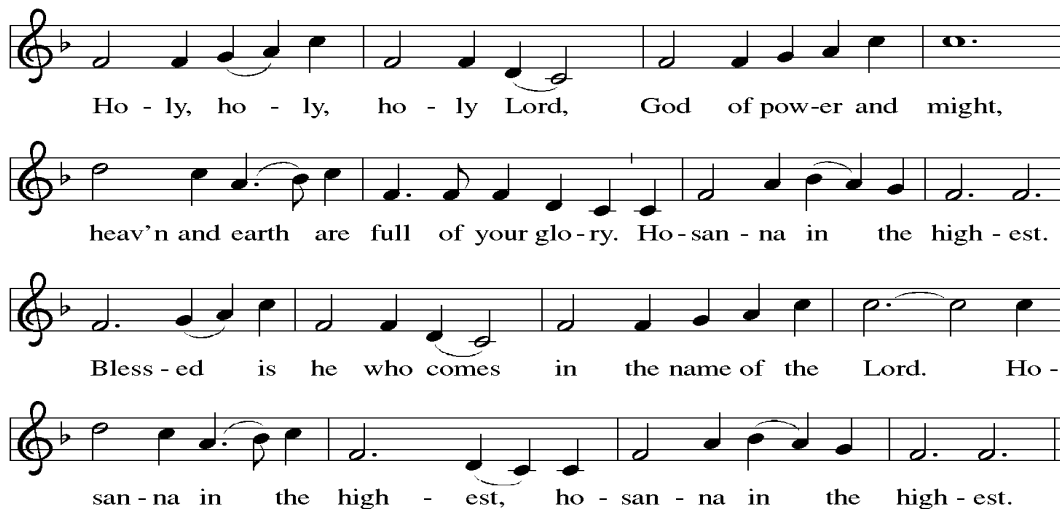
Lift up your hearts.

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, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

Summer is a season of gathering—around family tables, neighborhood cookouts, and celebrations with friends. Today, Christ gathers us around this table, where all are welcomed, all are fed, and all are embraced by God's grace. Come as you are, bringing your joys, your burdens, your hopes, and your questions. Here Christ nourishes us with love and sends us forth to share that love with the world. Come, for the feast is ready.

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

One Bread, One Body

Refrain



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of



bles-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y



through-out the earth, we are one bod-y in this one Lord.



1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,
2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,
3 Grain for the fields, scat-tered and grown,



wom-an or man, no more.
one in the Lord of all.
gath-ered to one for all.

Refrain

Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939

Music: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, John Foley, SJ

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I Love to Tell the Story



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love,
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst-ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long-ings as noth - ing else would do.
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.



I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry



to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911

Music: HANKEY, William E. Fischer, 1849-1936

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God,

You have fed us with the bread of life and refreshed us with the cup of salvation. Strengthened by this meal, send us into the days ahead with grateful hearts and willing hands, ready to share your love, serve our neighbors, and reflect your goodness in all we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May God give you discerning hearts to pursue all that is good, true, and life-giving. May the Word of Christ be a light for your path and fill you with understanding. May the Holy Spirit strengthen you in every weakness and remind you that nothing can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Go in peace to sow the seeds of God's reign, trusting that God will bring forth an abundant harvest. In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing



- 1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,



let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace.
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.
let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.



Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
Ev - er faith - ful, ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.
May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, sts. 1–2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 3, alt.
Music: SICILIAN MARINERS, Sicilian, 18th cent.

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news! **Thanks be to God.**

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Baptism. Today we celebrate the Baptism of **Andi Emmarie Pagel**. She is the daughter of Jesse Pagel and Katie Fitzke-Pagel. Andi Emmarie Pagel was born on March 4th, 2026. Andi's sponsors are Jen Knorr, Nathan Fitzke, & Tanya Fitzke. May God's blessings be with Andi Emmarie Pagel throughout her life.

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

August 4th – 9th Marathon County Fair Volunteers - First English Lutheran Church (Wausau) Fair Stand is seeking Volunteers for the Marathon County Fair August 4-9. Sign up charts are available @ The Church. Shifts are 11-4 or 4 to close. Questions & more information, Contact Bev or Schmidty (715) 573-7692

Sunday, August 9th Noisy offering! Bring your coins (bills also accepted 😊).

This noisy offering will go to: **“Fuel For the Future** – has a mission to raise money to help with weekend food insecurities for over 4,400 kids in Marathon County along with paying off school lunch debt which is projected to reach \$30,000 for the Wausau School District. This fundraiser works closely with Blessings In A Backpack” -

Noisy offering will be the 2nd Sunday of the month. Money will be donated **quarterly**.

Save the Date: A Fond Farewell to Waypost

For generations, Waypost Camp has been a place where faith has grown, friendships have been formed, and lives have been changed. As we prepare to close this chapter of Waypost's ministry, we hope you'll join us for a meaningful weekend of celebration, gratitude, and remembering.

Friday, September 18th: Staff Alumni Gathering

- If you served on staff at Waypost, whether one summer or many, we'd love to gather with you.
- Families are welcome, too. Maybe you've always wanted to show your family the place that shaped so much of your life. Or maybe Waypost has become meaningful to them in their own way. Either way, the more the merrier! Come reconnect with old friends, swap stories, and enjoy an evening together.

Saturday, September 19th: Holy Closure Celebration & Day at Camp

- Join us for a day of camp and remembrance.
- We'll spend time enjoying favorite camp activities, sharing a meal together, and celebrating the generations of ministry that have happened at Waypost. The day will include a Holy Closure worship service as we give thanks for all God has done through this place and entrust its future to God's continued work.
- Following the day's events, Saturday night lodging will be available for anyone who would like to stay, reconnect, or simply make travel a little easier.

Parking Lot Update: Thank you to everyone who participated in our parking lot discussions. The congregation overwhelmingly approved Option 4: rebuilding all existing parking lots and adding the westward expansion. More details can be found in the Summer Newsletter, available in the Narthex, online, and via email. As we move forward, we invite households to consider pledging **\$1 per day** toward this project. We recognize that some can give more and others less, and we trust God to provide through the generosity of this congregation. Thank you for helping create a safe and welcoming space for all. Donations may be made using Parking Lot envelopes (request them by completing the gold form in your mailbox) or through Vanco on our website by selecting the **Parking Lot** fund. **Please Note:** *This is a very large project for the church and as a Council we're doing our due diligence to ensure we serve the congregation, steward our funds, and protect the church as a whole. If you have specific questions or concerns I'm happy to bring them to the Council for you or you are more than welcome to join a Council meeting.*

Endowment Fund Grant Requests - We are pleased to announce that we are ready to accept **Endowment Fund Grant Requests** for 2026. The Endowment Fund is a permanent financial fund held by St. John Immanuel Lutheran Church. Each year, a percentage of the earnings may be used to enhance and enrich the congregational life and ministry of the church. These funds may not be used for the annual budget or routine operating expenses. For 2026, the total amount available is \$7,442.00. Applications forms are in the narthex and should be submitted between **August 1, 2026 and September 30, 2026**. Requests should include a clear description of the purpose of the grant request and how the funds would enhance life at St. John Immanuel. All requests will be reviewed and approved disbursements will be made after October 1, 2026. Please contact Patti Busche if you have any questions.

Mailbox Update: All mailboxes are now located in the Narthex. Any discrepancies or questions, feel free to reach out Ann O.

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!

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 July 26th – August 2nd

Today – Sunday, July 26th

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

10:15 a.m. **Coffee Hour

Sunday, August 2nd

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

10:15 a.m. **Coffee Hour

**Donations from Coffee hour will go towards a new refrigerator in our Fellowship Hall Kitchen.