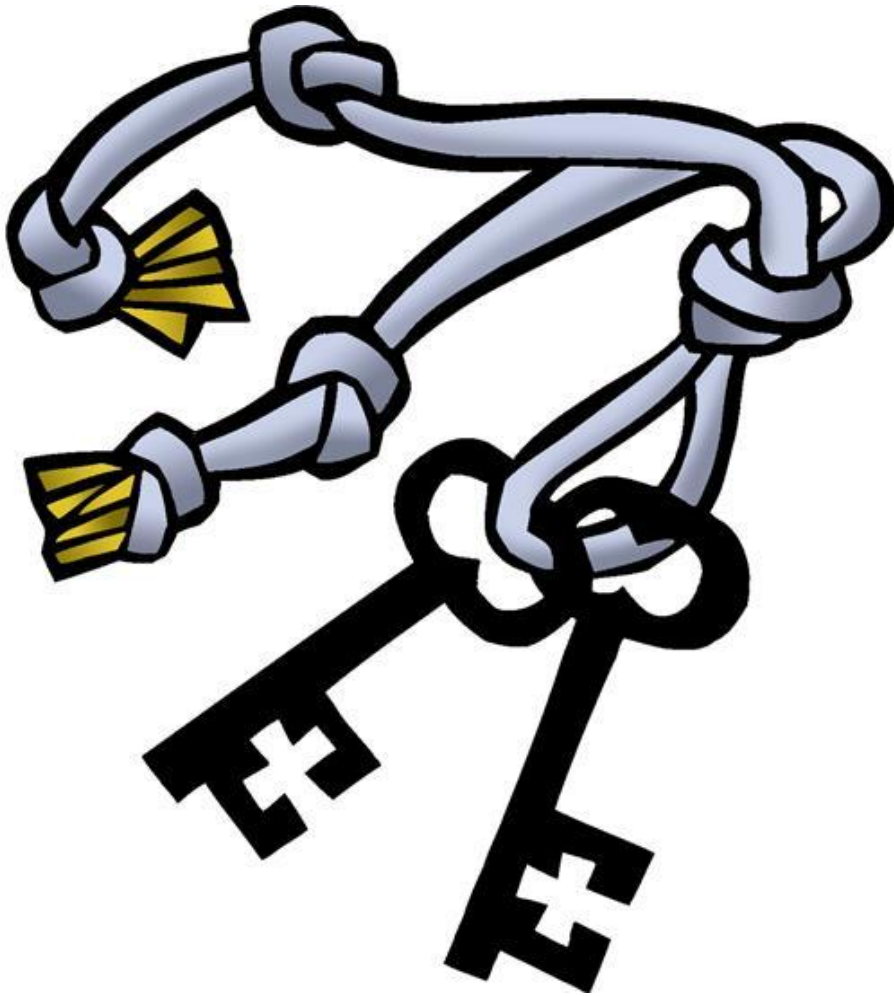




Sunday, August 23rd 2026
13th Sunday After Pentecost
9:00 a.m.

St. John Immanuel Lutheran Church

Reverend Maggie Westaby

5304 N 44th Ave

Wausau, Wisconsin 54401

Web Address: stjohnwausau.org

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

Email: stjohnwausau@gmail.com



ELCA

Office: (715) 675-6950

Office Hours:

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

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

or by appointment

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, whose compassion endures forever.
Amen.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

As summer begins to wind down, we pause to give thanks for days of rest, moments of joy, and signs of God's abundant care. Yet we also come with honest hearts, knowing that we have not always trusted the One who provides, calls, and saves us. Let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Gracious God, you have filled our lives with daily bread, yet we worry there will not be enough. You call us to step out in faith, yet we cling to fear and doubt. You welcome those whom others overlook, yet we have drawn lines instead of extending your compassion. Forgive us for the ways we have wasted opportunities to love, to serve, and to trust you. Renew our faith, strengthen our hope, and guide our steps, that we may follow Jesus with courage and joy. Amen.

Jesus Christ has compassion for the hungry, reaches out to those who are afraid, welcomes all who seek his mercy, and calls each of us by name. Through Jesus ✠ your sins are forgiven. You are fed with grace, upheld through every storm, and sent into the world to bear witness to God's love.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



1 My hope is built on nothing less than
 2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus -
 4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh,



Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; no mer - it of my
 rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and
 tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are
 may I then in him be found, clothed in his righ - teous -



own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
 washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.
 ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.
 Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, our rock and our redeemer,

From generation to generation you call us to be your people. You build your church upon the faith that Jesus is your Son, the living God. Renew our minds and transform our hearts, that we may feel Christ's love radiating through our every breath. And may the promise that lives in Christ give us hope for tomorrow.

Through Jesus Christ we pray.

Amen.

READING: Isaiah 51:1-6

Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah, who bore you, for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation, for a teaching will go out from me and my justice for a light to the peoples. I will bring near my deliverance swiftly; my salvation has gone out, and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. Lift up your eyes to the heavens and look at the earth beneath, for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats, but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

Psalm 138

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing your praise.

I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.

When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.

All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O Lord, when they have heard the words of your mouth.

They will sing of the ways of the Lord, that great is the glory of the Lord.

The Lord is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

You will make good your purpose for me; O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

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

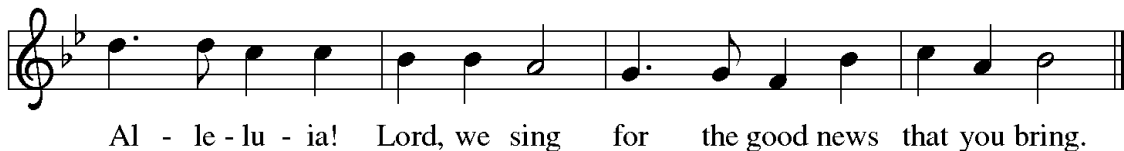
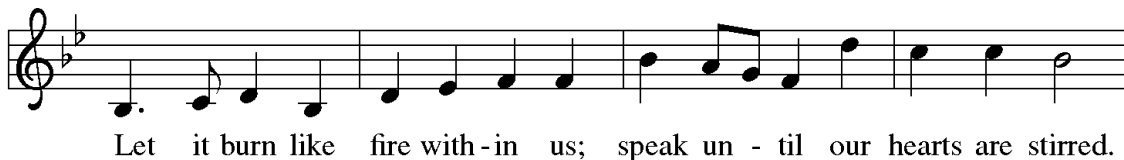
Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God



GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Gospel of The Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Oh, Worship the King



1 Oh, wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove,
 2 The earth with its store of won - ders un - told,
 3 Your boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?
 4 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,
 5 O mea - sure - less might, in - ef - fa - ble love,



Oh, grate - ful - ly sing God's pow - er and love;
 Al - might - y, your pow'r has found - ed of old;
 It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,
 in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
 while an - gels de - light to hymn you a - bove,



our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
 es - tab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,
 it streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,
 your mer - cies, how ten - der, how firm to the end,
 the hum - bler cre - a - tion, though fee - ble their lays,



pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gird - ed with praise.
 and round it has cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
 and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.
 our mak - er, de - fend - er, re - deem - er, and friend.
 with true ad - o - ra - tion shall sing to your praise.

Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, alt.

Music: HANOVER, William Croft, 1678–1727

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

Generous and loving God,

You are the One who takes what seems small and makes it enough. You remind us that nothing offered in love is ever too little in your hands. Receive these gifts we bring today. Shape us into disciples who confess Christ not only with our words, but through lives of generosity and service. May all that we give and all that we are become a witness to your abundant love.

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.

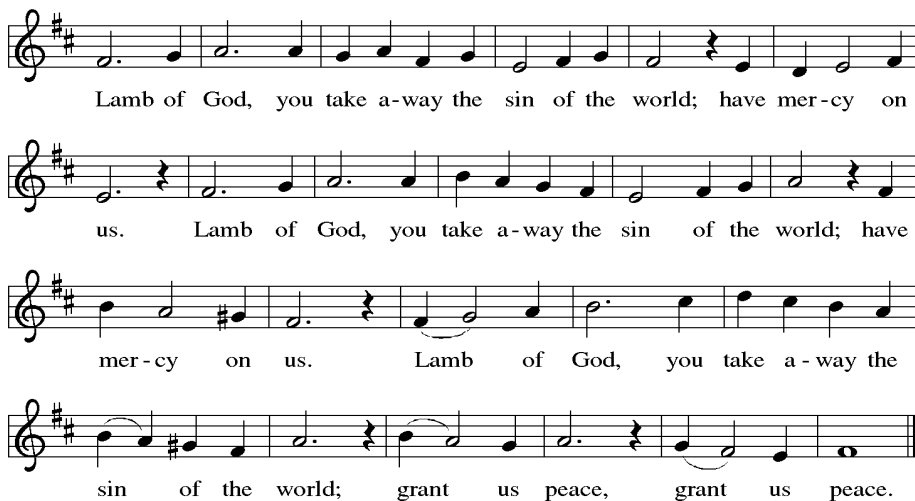
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

Today we come to God's table, where Christ meets us with compassion and grace. Here the hungry are fed with more than bread; here God's abundance is poured out for all. Jesus reaches across every boundary, gathers us from every place, and invites us to know him not only with our words, but with our lives. At this table, Christ strengthens us to step out in faith, to trust him through every storm, and to follow wherever he leads. Come and receive God's grace that carries you forward. Come with your questions and your hopes, your joys and your burdens. Come, for all are welcome at Christ's table.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Bread of Life from Heaven

Refrain



Bread of life from heav-en, your blood and bod - y giv - en, we



eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.



1	Break	now	the	bread	of	Christ's	sac - ri - fice;	giv - ing
2	Seek	not	the	food	that	will	pass a - way;	set your
3	Love	as	the	one	who,	in	love for you,	gave him -
4	Dwell	in	the	one	who	now	dwells in you;	make your
5	Drink	of	this	cup	and	de - clare	his death;	eat this



thanks,	hun - gry	ones,	gath - er	round.	Eat,	all	of	you,	and	be
hearts	on	the	food	that	en - dures.	Come,	learn	the	true	and
self	for	the	life	of	the	world.	Come	to	the	one
home	in	the	life -	giv - ing	Word.	Know	on - ly	Christ,	Ho - ly	
bread	and	be - lieve	Eas - ter	morn;	trust	his	re - turn	and,	with	



sat - is - fied;	in	Christ's	pres - ence	the	loaves	will	a - bound.
liv - ing way,	that	the	full - ness	of	life	may	be yours.
food for you,	that	your	hun - ger	and	thirst	be	no more.
One of God,	and	be - lieve	in	the	truth	you	have heard.
ev - ry breath,	praise	the	one	in	whom	you	are re - born.

Refrain

Text: Susan R. Briel, b. 1952

Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, BREAK NOW THE BREAD; Argentine traditional, refrain; Marty Haugen, b. 1950, stanzas

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Give Me Jesus



1 In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise,
 2 Dark . . . mid-night was my cry, dark . . . mid-night was my cry,
 3 Just a - bout the break of day, just a - bout the break of day,
 4 Oh, . . . when I come to die, oh, . . . when I come to die,
 5 And . . . when I want to sing, and . . . when I want to sing,



in the morn-ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.
 dark . . . mid - night was my cry, give me Je - sus.
 just a - bout the break of day, give me Je - sus.
 oh, . . . when I come to die, give me Je - sus.
 and . . . when I want to sing, give me Je - sus.

Refrain



Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus.



You may have all the rest, give me Je - sus.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: GIVE ME JESUS, African American spiritual

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful God,

We give you thanks for meeting us at this table with abundance, mercy, and love. You have fed us with the bread of life and strengthened us with the presence of Christ. As you multiplied the loaves, calmed the storm, welcomed the outsider, and called your disciples to follow, continue to shape us by your grace. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Go forth as the body of Christ, rooted in the faith that has been handed down through generations.

May God strengthen you with courage to offer your gifts, compassion to serve your neighbors, and wisdom to discern where Christ is calling you.

May the One who is our sure foundation guide your words and actions, that through your lives the love and mercy of God may be made known.

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Holy God, We Praise Your Name



1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we
 2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a -
 3 Lo, the ap - os - tol - ic train join your sa - cred
 4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it,



bow be - fore you. All on earth your scep - ter claim,
 above are rais - ing; cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,
 name to hal - low; proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,
 three we name you, though in es - sence on - ly one;



all in heav'n a - bove a - dore you. In - fi - nite your
 in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, fill the heav'ns with
 and the white-robed mar - tyrs fol - low; and from morn to
 un - di - vid - ed God we claim you and, a - dor - ing,



vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.
 sweet ac - cord: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"
 set of sun through the church the song goes on.
 bend the knee while we own the mys - ter - y.

Text: source unknown; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820–1900

Music: GROSSER GOTT, *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, Vienna, 1774

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news! **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

Monday, August 24th at 6:00 p.m. Endowment Meeting

Friday, August 28th Marty Bus - Community Outreach Task Force Meal:

St. John Immanuel will make and serve a meal downtown from 11am-2pm to community members in need. We need meal ingredients donated by **Thursday, August 27th at 5pm**, volunteers to make mashed potatoes on Friday morning, and volunteers to serve the meal. Sign-up is in the Narthex!

Monday, August 31st Adult Book Study at 6:30 p.m. Will discuss Acts Ch. 4 & 5.

Confirmation Registration now open!! Please go to our website under Education to register for the 2026 – 2027 School year. The QR Code will take you right to the page. <https://stjohnwausau.org/education/confirmation-classes/>



Wednesday, September 2nd at 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Orientation! All first and second year students are required to attend this informative meeting with one parent.

Sunday School Registration is now open! See our website for details! <https://stjohnwausau.org/education/sunday-school/> The QR code will take you right to the page.



Sunday, September 13th Rally Sunday, Blessing of the Backpacks, Revenge of the Water Balloons & Potluck! Join us this year on Rally Sunday for a fun filled Worship Service & Fellowship. Bring a favorite dish to pass! Sign-up in the Narthex!

Sunday, September 13th 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**

Monday, September 14th Book Club at 6:30 p.m. Will discuss “*Sandwich*” by Catherine Newman & “*Beneath A Scarlet Sky*” by Mark Sullivan.

Sunday, September 27th WORSHIP IS @ 10 AM! Chili Dinner & Raffle to follow. Sign-up in the Narthex for chili donations needed. We are also in need of raffle donations. Please bring your donations early to help boost ticket sales. Make sure to check out the beautiful quilt hanging in the Narthex. Will you be the lucky winner at the raffle? ***Please bring all donations to St. John's on or before Sunday, September 6th*** ***Ticket sales will start Sunday, September 13 (Rally Sunday). Any questions, please call or text Linda Graveen 715-573-7739.***

Endowment Fund Is there an item for St. John Immanuel that would be useful to many? Is there a wonderful St. John Immanuel group/committee that could benefit from additional funds to continue their ministry? Endowment Fund Grant Request Forms for 2026 are available in the narthex . Please submit to the church office between August 1, 2026 and September 30, 2026. The total amount available this year is \$7,442.00. All requests will be reviewed and approved disbursements will be made after October 1, 2026. Please contact Patti Busche if you have any questions.

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.

Honor Flight Butch Oravez is going on the Never Forgotten Honor Flight September 21st 2026. If you would like to write him a note, please do so by August 30th. You can either mail them to Robert "Butch" Oravez Never Forgotten Honor Flight, PO Box 161, Marathon, WI 54448 or you can give them to Pastor Maggie by Sunday August 30th. **Shhhhhh - Please keep this a surprise! Don't worry Butch cannot read the bulletin. :)**

Waypost is Closing See flyers for details, located in the Narthex.

Jan Petterson had a total hip replacement surgery and will be going to rehab after the hospital release. If anyone would like to send a card her address is:
Jan Petterson, 409 E Grant St #10, Marshfield, WI 54449.

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 August 23rd – August 30th

Today – Sunday, August 23rd

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship
- 10:15 a.m. **Coffee Hour
- 11:00 a.m. Education Committee Meeting

Monday, August 24th

- 6:00 p.m. Endowment Meeting

Friday, August 28th

- 11:00 a.m. Marty Bus – Community Outreach Task Force Meal

Sunday, August 30th

- 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.**