



Sunday, September 20th 2026
Creation in Christ Sunday
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.

Thursday 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
or by appointment

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Family of faith, creation has a way of reminding us that change is all around us. Fields give up their harvest. The light shifts, the days start to shorten, and creation begins the holy work of letting go. Perhaps that is part of the gift of confession as well. There are times when we close our eyes, bow our heads, and exchange private words with our Creator. But there are other times when we need to pray together—to name aloud what weighs on us, to loosen our grip on what we have carried too long, and to tend our relationships with God, with one another, and with all creation. This is one of those moments. Let us pray.

Gracious God, there are days when the world feels fragile. There are days when change comes faster than we are ready for, when the needs around us seem endless, and when we doubt that the small offering of our lives could possibly be enough. Shake loose our worry and self-doubt. Remind us that we are not called to mend the whole world by ourselves. We are simply called to notice what is ours to tend. With hope in our hearts, courage in our bones, and gratitude for the season before us, we pray. Amen.

Siblings in Christ, hear the good news: In the name of Jesus ☩ we are forgiven. Creation's story will not end until mourning, crying, and pain are no more. When everything else changes, God's love is steadfast and sure.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Morning Has Broken



1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing;
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sun - lit from heav - en,
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing,



black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird.
 like the first dew - fall on the first grass.
 born of the one light E - den saw play!



Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!
 Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,
 Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - 'ry morn - ing,



Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
 sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
 God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune

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PRAYER OF THE DAY *(from our siblings in the Episcopal Church)*

Holy God, you formed us from the dust of the earth and breathed into us the breath of life. Remind us that we are stewards, not owners; earth-born, earth-bound, and held within your good creation. Teach us to honor the soil beneath our feet, the ground from which we have come and to which we shall return. May we remember that every beginning and every ending is a gift of your hands, through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

READING: Genesis 1:1-2:3 Selected Verses

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind.”

And it was so. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night.” God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” And God saw that it was good.

And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind.” And it was so. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness.”

So God created humans in God's image and God blessed them. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

And God rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

Psalm 148

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

Praise the Lord, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.

Praise the Lord, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord, who commanded, and they were created,
who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;

mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;

sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

young men and maidens, old and young together.

Let them praise the name of the Lord, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

READING: Ephesians 2:17-22

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he

needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we, too, are his offspring.’ 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 1:1-5

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

The Gospel of The Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

How Great Thou Art



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der con - sid - er
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, sent him to
4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion, and take me



all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might - y
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees; when I look down from loft - y moun - tain
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur - den glad - ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
gran - deur and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
bear - ing he bled and died to take a - way my sin;
ra - tion and there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee, how great thou



art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899–1989
Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine
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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Responding to “Creator God,” with “**renew all creation in Christ.**”

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. As autumn colors the trees and the earth yields its harvest, we are reminded of God’s abundant grace—gifts gathered and shared, are like baskets filled from the harvest. With grateful hearts, we return a portion of what we have received, trusting God to work through them.

<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

O God, maker of heaven and earth,

Your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Receive these offerings and use them to bring your love into the world. Through Christ our Lord 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, through our Savior Jesus Christ: You speak a word of power, and creation comes forth. Your Spirit hovers over the waters, bringing forth life from chaos, light from darkness, evening and morning. You stretch out the heavens above us and set the sun to rule the day, the moon to brighten the night, and the shining stars in their courses. You gather the seas, lakes, and rivers, raise mountains, spread out plains. You cover the earth with trees and plants bearing seed and fruit. You fill the seas with fish and monsters of the deep, the skies with birds, the land with wild animals, livestock, and every creature that creeps upon the earth. You create humankind in your image, setting us among all creatures upon your good earth. Through Christ all things came into being; in Christ all things hold together. And so, with sun, moon and shining stars, with seas and rivers, mountains and plains, with every creature that swims, flies, walks, and creeps, 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

Beloved in Christ, we are standing at the edge of a new season. The days are growing a little shorter, and there is a coolness beginning to find its way into the morning air. Creation reminds us that we are always becoming, always changing, always being drawn into something new. And in the midst of all that changes, Christ meets us. Christ meets us not as strangers passing through, but as a community gathered together. We come carrying different stories, different joys, different worries, different hopes. And still, Christ gathers us. Because here, there is room for every season of the soul. Here, ordinary gifts of earth—bread from the grain and wine from the vine—become God’s extraordinary grace. Here all are welcome.

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

For the Bread Which You Have Broken



- 1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the wine which you have poured,
- 2 By this prom - ise that you love us, by your gift of peace re - stored,
- 3 With the saints who now a - dore you, seat-ed at the heav'n - ly board,
- 4 In your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward;



for the words which you have spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
by your call to heav'n a - bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.
may the church still wait - ing for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.
in the world to which you send us let your king-dom come, O Lord.

Text: Louis F. Benson, 1855–1930, alt.

Music: OMNI DIE, *Gross Catolisch Gesangbuch*, Nürnberg, 1631

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For the Fruit of All Creation



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: AR HYDY NOS, Welsh traditional

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of life,

We give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May the God who spoke light into darkness, who gathered the seas and raised the mountains, who filled the earth with creatures of every kind, bless you and keep you.

May Jesus Christ, through whom all things were created and in whom all things hold together, root you deeply in the love of God and teach you to see the world with wonder.

May the Holy Spirit, who hovered over the waters and still breathes life into creation, renew you, stir you, and send you forth with hope.

In the name of the Creator ✠ Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



- 1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
- 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
- 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais-ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a-round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flow-'ry mead-ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di-vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Flourish with creation. 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

Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. Quilters meet! (Or whatever time works for you) They will be finishing quilts in preparation for the upcoming deadline (first Saturday in October). You don't need to be able to sew on a sewing machine. Come join us and see what we do!

Sunday, September 27th WORSHIP IS @ 10 AM! Chili Dinner & Raffle to follow. THANK YOU to everyone who donated beautiful and fun prizes!

Sign-up in the Narthex for chili donations needed. Tickets are on sale now for the chili dinner and the raffle! *Any questions, please call or text Linda Graveen 715-573-7739.*

Monday, September 28th at 6:30 p.m. Adult Study Chapters 6 – 7 of the Book of Acts.

Sunday, October 4th at 10:30 a.m. Youth Gathering Meeting Calling all 8th – 12th graders! Anyone interested or curious about going to the Youth Gathering in Minneapolis summer of 2027. This will be an information session! If you can't make the meeting and want to go to the gathering, please let Pastor Maggie know.

Wednesday, October 7th Youth Group High school students are invited to attend our first Youth Group meeting on Wednesday, October 7th 6:30pm-7:30pm. Please sign-up on the bulletin board in the Narthex if you plan on joining us!

Sunday, October 11th Noisy offering! Bring your coins (bills also accepted 😊).

This noisy offering will go to: “**Youth Gathering** – *We're raising money to support our youth programs, events, and activities. Thank you for helping our youth grow in faith and fellowship!*” Noisy offering will be the 2nd Sunday of the month. Money will be donated quarterly.

Tuesday, October 13th Pumpkin Carving for Calvary's Luminary Fest Our middle and high school students are invited to carve at 6:30pm-7:30pm at St. John Immanuel. Please sign-up on the bulletin board in the Narthex if you plan on carving! We will be joined by youth from St. Andrews ELCA in Rib Mountain, and all carved pumpkins will be donated to the Annual Fall Luminary Fest at Calvary Lutheran Church ELCA in Merrill. Calvary's Fall Luminary Fest is Fri, Oct 16th and Sat Oct 17th from 5pm-9pm. Hundreds of carved pumpkins will light up their 3/4 mile trail. Free to the public.

Monday, October 26th at 6:30 p.m. Book Club *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi.

Tuesday, December 8th at 5:45 p.m. Calling all ladies! The Sisterhood Gathering is right around the corner. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex with additional details.

Thursday, December 17th at 5:30 p.m. Candlelit Shepherds Meal. Save the date! More information to come.

Monday, December 21st at 6:30 p.m. Blue Christmas Service A prayerfully cultivated service for those who have lost loved ones, and for those who find the holidays to be a lonely time.

June 28th – July 2nd 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering 8th to 12th graders fall of 2026, we need to know your commitment by November 8th. Please see flyer for more details.

Youth Pizza Fundraiser We're raising money to support our youth programs, events, and activities. Your support makes a huge difference!!! Thank you for helping our youth grow in faith and fellowship! Please see information in the Narthex for details!

Maine School Snack Drive Maine Elementary is looking for our help with donations of snacks to help assist students who are unable to bring their own. Approved snack list: *Fruit pouches, original potato chips, most fruit snacks, fruit leathers, or fruit bars, Skinny pop or Boom Chicka Pop Popcorn, beef sticks or jerky, dried fruits (raisins, mango, etc.), Enjoy Life, Made Good, or Blake's brand snacks, and or Veggie Straws or veggie chips.* Your help will be greatly appreciated! Any questions please reach out to Ann Ohrmundt at stjohnwausau@gmail.com.

Calling all current college students! - Did you know St. John Immanuel now offers scholarships for college? St. John Immanuel is pleased to announce scholarship applications are now open until **Sunday, November 1, 2026** for current college students. Visit <https://stjohnwausau.org/education/scholarships/> or scan on QR code for information and application materials. Not yet a college student? Keep watching for further updates.



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: Please see Flyer in the Narthex for updated information.

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 September 20th – September 27th

Today – Sunday, September 20th

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship
- 10:15 a.m. **Coffee Hour
- 10:15 a.m. Sunday School – Philip and the Ethiopian

Wednesday, September 23rd

- 8:30 a.m. Quilters Meet
- 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class

Thursday, September 24th

- 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir

Sunday, September 27th

- 10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship *** Reminder Worship is at 10 a.m.***
- 11:15 a.m. Chili Dinner & Raffle **Coffee Hour
- No Sunday School

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