



So then, just as you received
Christ Jesus as **LORD**,
CONTINUE
to live your lives in him,
ROOTED and **BUILT UP**
in him,
STRENGTHENED
in the faith
as you were taught,
and overflowing with
THANKFULNESS.

Colossians 2:6-7, NIV

Sunday, September 13th 2026
Rally Sunday &
Anniversary of first Worship Service with Immanuel
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 creates us, calls us by name, and walks with us through every season of life.

Amen.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS AT THE FONT

As summer begins to give way to autumn, as classrooms fill again, as backpacks are packed, calendars become full, and familiar routines begin anew, we remember that there is one thing we never leave behind: We are children of God. In the waters of baptism, God calls us by name, claims us as beloved, and joins us to Christ and to one another. One year ago, we gathered around these waters as we joined together St. John & Immanuel in our first Worship together. Today we return again to the font, not simply to remember where we have been, but to remember who we are and whose we are.

Gracious God, when we forget who we are, call us again by name. When fear keeps us from loving boldly, wash us again in your grace. When we fail to see Christ in our neighbors, open our eyes and our hearts. When we become discouraged by the troubles of this world, remind us that we belong to you. In your living water we pray. Amen.

Siblings in Christ hear the good news: In Christ ☩ we are forgiven. In baptism, we are claimed. By the Spirit, we are made new. And together, we are called to live as God's beloved people for the sake of the world.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
 strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 claim the faith of Je - sus;
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 end to fear and dan - ger,
 claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of living water,

You call us by name and claim us as your own. As we begin a new season of learning, growing, serving, and gathering, root us deeply in your grace. Give us courage for the classrooms, workplaces, homes, and communities to which you send us. Teach us to live our faith with joy and to shine with the hope of Christ, so that our lives may bear witness to the new life you have given us. **Amen**

READING: Isaiah 43:1–3a

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³ For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.”

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

Psalms 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Serve the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him; bless his name.

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever and his faithfulness to all generations.

Word of God. Word of Life.

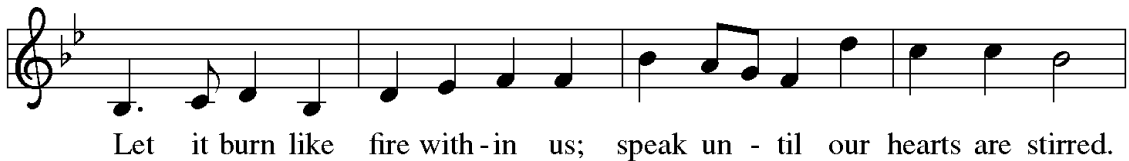
Thanks be to God

READING: Colossians 2:6-7

⁶So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God



GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-2, 14–16

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

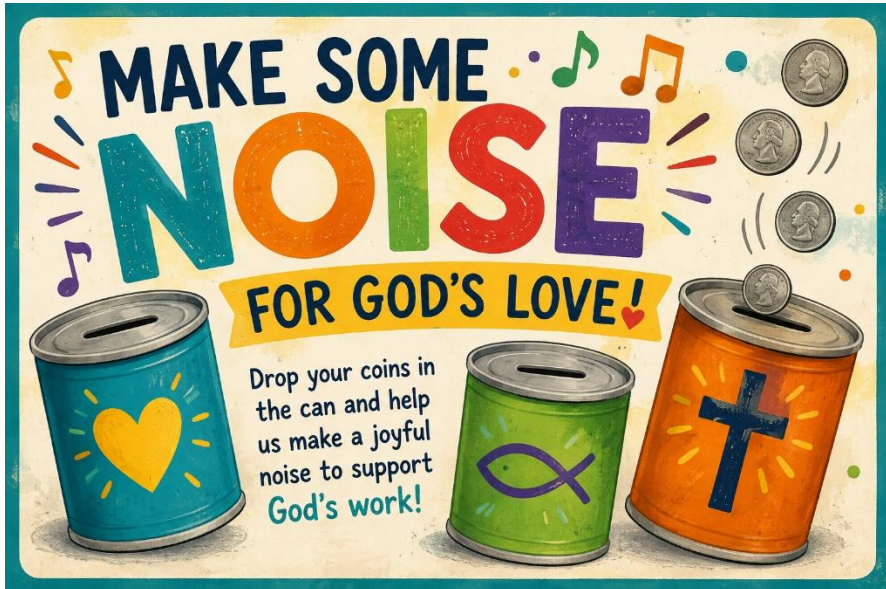
“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

The Gospel of The Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**



Blessing of the Backpacks

Noisy Offering



SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Let us give as God has so abundantly given to us.

<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 God,

Everything we have is a gift from you. Receive these offerings and use them to bring your compassion 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; 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:

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

One Bread, One Body

Refrain



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



bless-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,



Refrain

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

Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939
Music: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, John Foley, SJ
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Jesus Loves Me!



1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;



lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

Refrain



Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,



yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt.

Music: JESUS LOVES ME, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God,

We give you thanks for this meal and for the gift of Christ, who meets us with love and compassion. Strengthened by this bread and wine, send us into the world to carry that love with us. When the way is difficult, remind us that Christ goes before us. And when we encounter suffering, help us to be people who bring your presence, hope, and love to those around us. Through Christ we pray. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

As you go into a new season, remember the promise of your baptism:

You are a beloved child of God.

When the days are bright, may you rejoice in the God who delights in you.

When the days are difficult, may you remember that you do not walk alone.

When you encounter someone who is hurting, may Christ's compassion take shape in you.

When you wonder whether your life makes a difference, may the Spirit remind you: you are salt for the earth and light for the world.

And may the blessing of Almighty God, Father ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms



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



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



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

Refrain



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



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

Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839–1929

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live your baptism. Shine with the light of Christ.

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

We want to give a huge THANK YOU!!! To Delores Kessel for filling in as organist today (Sunday September 13th).

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!

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.***

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

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!

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 Church. 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.

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

June 28th – July 2 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 flyers and order forms in the Narthex for details!

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: 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.*

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

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 13th – September 20th

Today – Sunday, September 13th

- 9:00 a.m. Rally Sunday Worship
- 10:15 a.m. Fellowship Potluck & Revenge of the Water Balloons

Monday, September 14th

- 6:30 p.m. Book Club – “Sandwich” & “Beneath A Scarlet Sky”

Tuesday, September 15th

- 9:00 a.m. All Conference Pastor’s Meeting

Wednesday, September 16th

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

Thursday, September 17th

- 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir

Sunday, September 20th

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

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