



Sunday, October 18th 2026
21st Sunday After Pentecost. Year A
9:00 a.m.

St. John Immanuel Lutheran Church

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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

We belong to the God who calls us by name, who goes before us, and who holds all creation in love. Yet we give our hearts to lesser things, trust in powers that cannot save, and forget whose image we bear. Trusting in the mercy of the living and true God, let us confess our sin.

Living and gracious God, you call us by name and claim us as your own, yet we forget that our lives belong to you. We hold tightly to what we have and give too little of ourselves in love. Forgive us when our words proclaim faith but our lives tell another story. Turn our hearts again toward you. Strengthen us and give us steadfast hope, that our lives may reflect your grace. Amen.

Hear the good news: the God who calls you by name does not let you go. In Jesus † Christ you are forgiven and sent to share the goodness of God.

Thanks be to God.

GATHERING HYMN

God Is Here!



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts,
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each,
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore,
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sovereign God,

You call us by name and claim us as your own. Turn us from all that competes for our trust, and teach us to recognize your image in ourselves and in one another. Strengthen our faith, deepen our love, and make us steadfast in hope, so that our lives may proclaim your goodness and bear witness to your grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

READING: Isaiah 45:1-7

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him - and the gates shall not be closed: I will go before you and level the mountains; I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron; I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. For the sake of my servant Jacob and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name; I give you a title, though you do not know me. I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness; I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

Psalm 96:1-9

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.

Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.

Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the Lord, all the earth.
Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it.

For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead - Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?” They answered, “Caesar’s.”

Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

The Gospel of The Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

For the Beauty of the Earth



- 1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
- 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
- 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
- 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
- 5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Responding to “Hear us, O God,” with **“Your mercy is great.”**

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, entrusted to our care for a time. And so our offering is one way we tend what God has given. Let us give with grateful and generous hearts.

<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; 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:



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

Come to this table, you who are called by name and claimed by God. Come with your faith and your questions, your labors of love and your need for grace. Here Christ meets us with mercy, feeds us with love, and reminds us that our lives belong to God. There is a place for you at this table. Come, for all 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

Let Us Break Bread Together



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Refrain



Just a clos-er walk with thee, grant it, Je-sus, is my plea;



dai - ly walk-ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.



1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?
 3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;

Refrain



I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.
 Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.
 guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.

Text: North American traditional

Music: CLOSER WALK, North American traditional

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

You are called by name. You are beloved by God.

You bear the image of the One who made you.

Go now with faith that takes action, love that gives itself away,
and hope that remains steadfast.

Go in peace. Let your life proclaim the goodness of God.

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

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in
 2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the
 3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter
 4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings
 bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to
 joy like seed and, all our days, to
 to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.
 share a dream and help the blind to see.
 cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.
 pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

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DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. 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

Thank you!!!! – To everyone whose ordered or sold pizzas! A big THANK YOU to Jen Krueger for organizing the pizza fundraiser! We sold 400 pizzas with a \$1894.90 profit, plus \$49 additional monetary donations to our youth! Pick up will be October 28th from 3:30 pm – 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Monday, October 26th at 9:00 a.m. – Memorial Committee Meeting

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

Monday, November 2nd at 6:30 p.m. Adult Study will discuss Acts Ch. 8-9

Wednesday, November 4th Youth Group High school students are invited to attend our Youth Group meeting on Wednesday, November 4th 6:30pm-7:30pm. Please sign-up on the bulletin board in the Narthex if you plan on joining us!

Sunday, November 8th 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!*” Noisy offering will be the 2nd Sunday of the month. Money will be donated quarterly.

Saturday, November 14th Feed My Starving Children MobilePack Packing Team: St. John Immanuel has pledged to send 32 volunteers to Highland Community Church to pack meals of rice, soy, vegetables and vitamins on Saturday, November 14th from 9am-11am. This year, the Wausau MobilePack will pack it's one millionth meal! Please sign up in the Narthex to be a part of this energetic and impactful team and see what just two hours of service can accomplish! Email Kim Landwehr with questions

kamootz@gmail.com

Sunday, November 22nd St. John Immanuel Pie Auction – Calling all pie lovers and bakers!! Do you need that special treat for Thanksgiving Day? Then this is the day for you. The pie auction will be held during Fellowship after worship. Bring a pie, buy a pie, or just plain old donate one for Fellowship!

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.

2nd Year Confirmation Food Drive! The 2nd year confirmation students want to help the people in need by starting a food drive. They are looking for non-perishable items, and no expired food please. Items can be placed into the shopping cart in the Fellowship Hall. Food will be distributed to local food banks.

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 donations, please place outside of the Church office. 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/> for information and application materials. Not yet a college student? Keep watching for further updates.

A Fond Farewell to Waypost Camp- On the weekend of September 18th-20th Crossways Camp Ministries had A Fond Farewell To Waypost Camp. Sharing was had

by all with wonderful heartfelt stories, pictures, meals, traditions, walks, services and so much more! Feel free to search and find memories on **Facebook**: Waypost Camp, Mission Lake, Hatley WI or Website: www.crosswayscamps.org. The Saturday Service with music can be found by searching on their website.

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 October 18th – October 25th

Today – Sunday, October 18th

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship
- 10:15 a.m. **Coffee Hour / Sunday School – Adam & Eve

Monday, October 19th

Fall Theological (Egg Harbor)

Tuesday, October 20th

Fall Theological (Egg Harbor)

Wednesday, October 21st

- 8:30 a.m. Quilters Meet
- 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class
- Fall Theological (Egg Harbor)

Thursday, October 22nd

- 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir
- 6:30 p.m. 2026 Confirmation Students Dress Rehearsal

Sunday, October 25th

- 9:00 a.m. Reformation & Confirmation Sunday
- 10:15 a.m. **Coffee Hour / No Sunday School

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