

Sunday, October 25th 2026
Reformation Sunday & Affirmation of Baptism
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, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Today we gather, in search of reformation. To cultivate reform in ourselves, our church, our community, and our world. To prepare ourselves for this change, we boldly stand together now in confession.

Renewing God, we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have ignored voices that call for your justice. We have neglected actions that witness to your righteousness. We have spoken and acted in ways that disrupt your beloved community. We repent of things we have done and left undone. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Restore our troubled spirits, so that we may live in newness, follow the way of the Spirit, and build up the body of Christ. Amen.

Hear the good news: in the name of Jesus Christ ☩ the one who pours out goodness and mercy, your sins are forgiven. May you be strengthened to live into God's promises today and all days.

Thanks be to God.

GATHERING HYMN

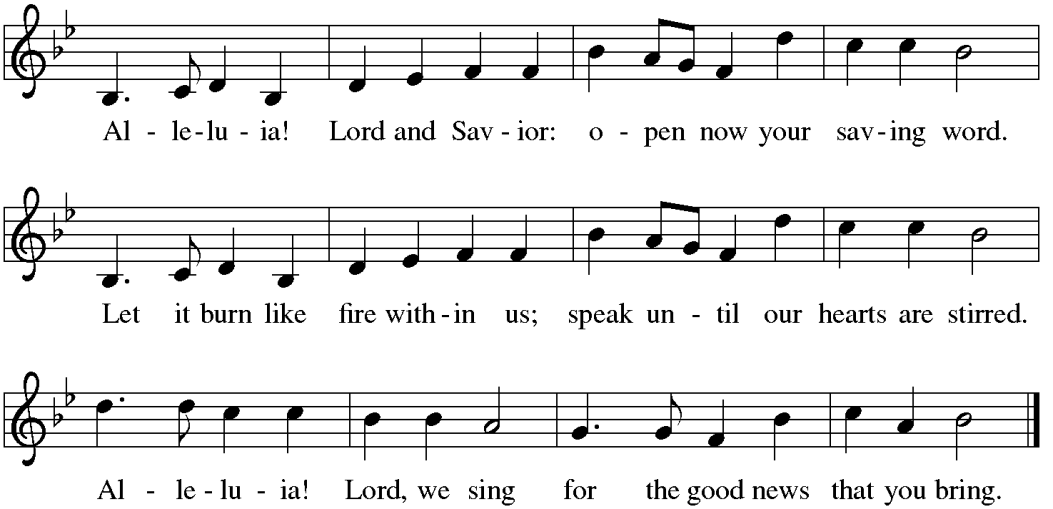
Beautiful Savior



Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904
Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal God,
Your Spirit swept over the deep in the beginning, and all of creation was birthed through your Word. Stir up that Spirit in us now. Inspire us to hear your call to reformation, big or small, that we may embrace where the Spirit is calling. Embolden our bodies for the journey that we may live faithfully into your Word. In Christ we pray.
Amen.



GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

The holy gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[31]Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; [32]and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." [33]They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

[34]Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. [35]The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. [36]So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, saturated with God's grace and forgiveness, let us give thanks. Creator God, fountain of living water, your love flows through water, sustaining life in all communities, nourishing and delighting all creatures of the earth.

We give thanks for your gift of water. Water that has been around since life began, when the Spirit hovered over the face of the deep. Water that Christ was baptized into, reconciling all of creation into you—Holy God Triune.

For water and Word at our baptisms, and for water and Word at *Elise, Billie, Isaac, Briah, Bianca, Ethan, and Blake's* baptisms.

We give thanks for water that floats in the sky, where clouds embrace wind, sunlight, and the pull of gravity. We give thanks for water that saturates all the earth, down to intricate places like the midnight zone of the ocean, where bioluminescent life thrives in the darkness.

For your promises show up in the most intricate of places, in water that forms rainbows and carves rocks. For you, O Creator are in the midst of all things.
As we confirm and affirm faith bound to our baptismal water and Word,
we ask that you continue to guide us, and nourish us with your life-giving water that gushes up to eternal life. Shower us with your Holy Spirit, drench us in your love, and immerse us with your grace.
Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *Elise, Billie, Isaac, Briah, Bianca, Ethan, and Blake's* one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of their baptism. Let us pray…

ELISE GALLENBERG FAITH STATEMENT

Bible Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:7

"For we walk by faith, not by sight."

I do gymnastics, and as a gymnast, it is really hard to keep going when there is even the slightest bump in the road. For some people, that bump could be an injury or lack of confidence or motivation. For me, it's mental blocks. This past year I struggled a lot with mental blocks. I was scared to do skills I've done consistently for 2 years. It was discouraging to give my best effort every practice but still feel like I wasn't making any progress. During those moments, it was hard to stay motivated, but I learned that even when I couldn't see the progress I was making, God was still there to lead me in the right direction. God gave me the strength to keep going and continue practicing, even when it was difficult. When I finally overcame my fear and completed a skill, I saw God through the excitement and encouragement of my coaches and teammates. When I felt like giving up, God gave me the confidence to keep going. I was able to compete those skills in front of my family, and I got 2nd place on beam and 4th place on floor at that meet. I know God is always guiding me in the right direction, even if it doesn't feel like it.

BILLIE JO GRUENEBERG FAITH STATEMENT
Bible Verses: Isaiah 41:10 & Philippians 4:13
"Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am God; I will strengthen you, I will help you." "I can do all things through him who gives me strength."

These bible verses help me better understand God and Jesus through 4-H, as a 4H Member myself and show at the Marathon County Fair, as well as other Beef Shows. I love showing my Beef animal, even though sometimes it can be very hard and challenging. In the book of Isaiah 41:10, it states in the beginning, "Do not fear, for I am with you." This verse resonates with me because it brings me comfort and helps calm my nerves about my Beef animal. In the show ring, anything can happen; for instance, my steer or even other show kids' steers will misbehave and get out of control. Or step on my foot! Trust me, it's happened!!! When this happens, this bible verse helps me get through my anxieties, nerves and fears. As Isaiah 41:10 continues, "I will strengthen you, I will help you." And in the book of Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through him who gives me strength." These verses provide me strength and help me with my show ring abilities, knowing God is there with me, always. Strengthening me, guiding me and loving me unconditionally.

ISAAC HOFFMAN FAITH STATEMENT
Bible Verse: Jeremiah 29:13
"When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek for me with all your heart."

It shows that God is always there for me whenever I need him or wherever I am. I know that will always be there for me in the good or the bad. I believe that anywhere I am or whatever I'm doing, god will be there by my side.

BRIAH LANDWEHR FAITH STATEMENT

Bible Verse: Romans 5:3-5

"And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us."

I enjoy cross-country and long-distance running, which is why I chose this verse about endurance. It helps me understand God better because it shows he is always with you, even through hard times. Throughout the past few years, I have experienced many bumps in the road with my running, including slight injuries in both of my knees and a blood pressure problem. It got to the point where I couldn't finish a run without nearly passing out, or my knees hurting so badly I had to stop and walk. For a while, I wasn't sure if I would even be able to do cross country.

After many months of physical therapy and experimenting with medication doses, I finally found my rhythm again. Over the summer, I trained hard, figured out what worked for me, and built up my strength just in time for the beginning of the cross-country season.

The verse I chose connects deeply to my life because God helped me endure many long months and challenging runs, and in the end, I came back stronger than before. This Bible verse can help guide us through any tough time, regardless of what kind of challenges we are facing. It shows that God doesn't instantly fix our problems but instead guides us through the journey as we work toward a solution. Through that process, we learn and grow into stronger people. Even through the painful parts of life, God is always there to help guide you to your answers.

BIANCA MELANDER FAITH STATEMENT
Bible Verse: Psalm 25:4-6
"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; Your rod and your staff they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anointed my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

This Bible verse helps me understand God by showing that no matter how bad your day is or if you lose someone, God is by your side guiding you through the hardship of life. This helps me connect to myself by knowing that even when I can't stand tall God will help me no matter what I've seen this throughout years I've done dance no matter how hard it got or how much I would complain to my mom about it. That God was still by side helping me one step at a time to move forward.

ETHAN PERGOLSKI FAITH STATEMENT
Bible Verse: Hebrews 13:8
"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

Jesus will never change and will always stay the same. Every day will be different for me but Jesus will never change and never stop loving me.

BLAKE SWITLICK FAITH STATEMENT
Bible Verse: Hebrews 13:8
"*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."*

This verse means to me as every day will be different but if the day is bad Jesus will not give up on me.

All confirmands now gather at the front of the church

I present *Elise, Billie, Isaac, Briah, Bianca, Ethan, and Blake* who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism. I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Confirmands: I renounce them.

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.

Elise, Billie, Isaac, Briah, Bianca, Ethan, and Blake you have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Confirmands: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support these siblings in Christ and pray for them in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Confirmands are seated…
One at a time each confirmand will be invited up with their family, sponsors, and friends.

After each prayer with confirmand:
Let us rejoice with our siblings in Christ.
We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

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.

Scan to Donate to St. John's

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
Abundant God,
Receive these gifts, and bless them with your presence. May they be a part of our mission, a part of your vision, and a blessing to the world. Through Jesus Christ who taught us to give we pray.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

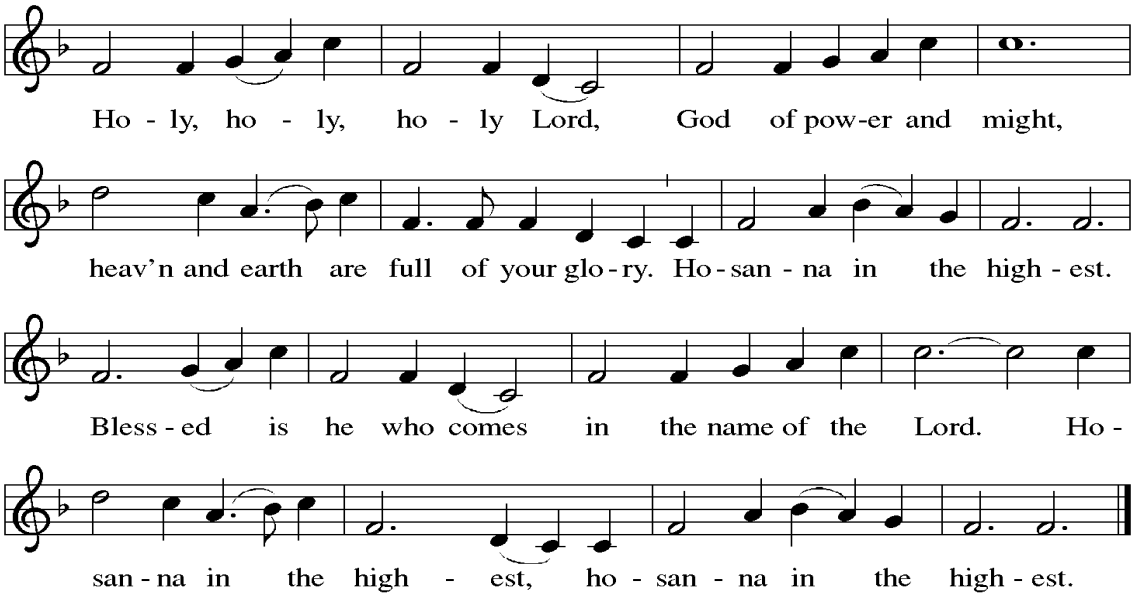
Lift up your hearts.

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:

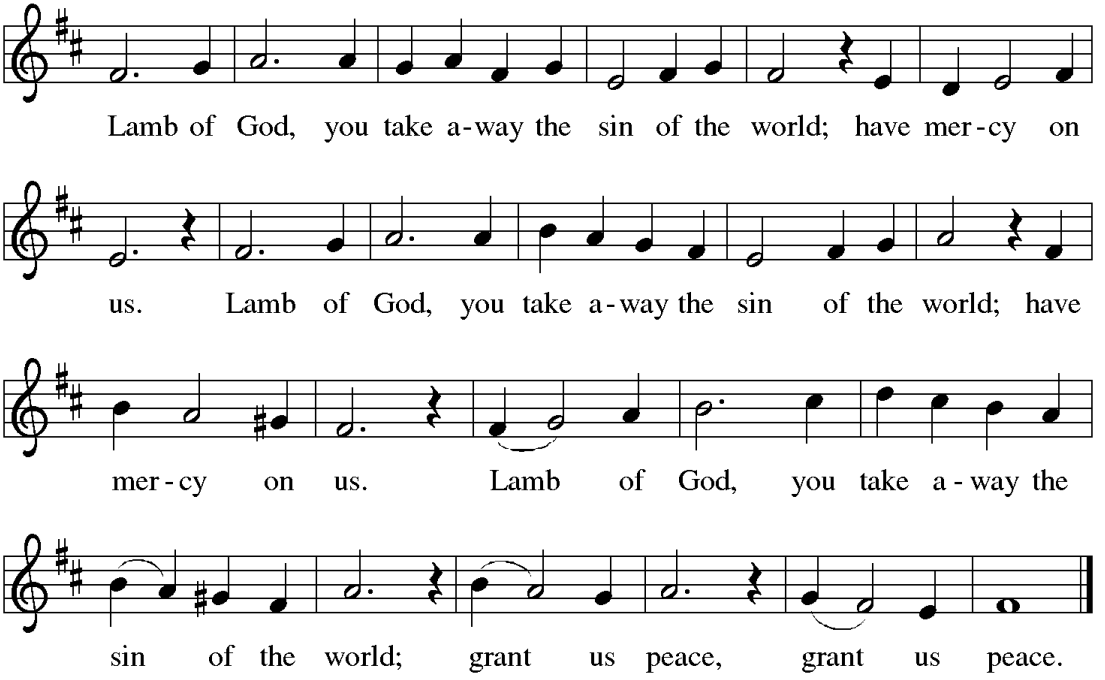


WORDS OF INSTITUTION & LORD'S PRAYER

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

We are here because Jesus has called us – strangers and friends, locals and visitors, believers and doubters, the certain and the curious. All are invited to Christ's table where, in bread and wine, he meets us, and through him we, who are different, are joined to each other. Come now to Christ's banquet.



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
Text © Robert F. Jefferys Jr.

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Day by Day



Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Robert Leaf, 1936–2005
Music: BLOTT EN DAG, Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813–1882
Text © 1992 Augsburg Fortress

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What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms



Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839–1929
Music: SHOWALTER, Anthony J. Showalter, 1858–1924

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourishing God,
We thank you for this meal and for the rejuvenation it provides in every molecule of our being. Let it burn like a glorious sunrise within us, bringing rays of hope, delight, and joy to all whom we meet.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May the God of grace and glory, who kindled the fire of reformation in faithful hearts, rekindle in you the gift of the Spirit poured out in your baptism.
May Christ Jesus, the living Word, continue to shape and reform your life in courage, grace, and truth.
And may the Holy Spirit, ever creating and renewing, keep you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and generous in love—this day and always.
In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Borning Cry



Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
Music: WATERLIFE, John C. Ylvisaker
Text and music © 1985 John Ylvisaker.

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DISMISSAL Go in peace. Do not lose heart. **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 this week on **Wednesday, October 28th** from 3:30 pm – 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please make arrangements if you are unable to pick up your pizza.

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 questions please reach out to Ann Ohrmundt at stjohnwausau@gmail.com.

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.

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.

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 25th – November 1st

Today – Sunday, October 25th

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship
10:15 a.m. **Coffee Hour / No Sunday School

Monday, October 26th

9:00 a.m. Memorial Committee Meeting
6:30 p.m. Book Club – "*Theo of Golden*" by Allen Levi.

Tuesday, October 27th

6:30 p.m. Council Budget Meeting

Wednesday, October 28th

8:30 a.m. Quilters Meet
3:30 – 6:00 Pizza order pick up!

Thursday, October 29th

5:30 p.m. Bell Choir

Sunday, November 1st

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship
10:15 a.m. **Coffee Hour / Sunday School – The First Sin

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