



OUR SAVIOR'S

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



The LORD is my shepherd,
I lack nothing.

Psalm 23:1

WELCOME TO OUR SAVIOR'S

We welcome you to the house of our true and living God for worship this Good Shepherd and Confirmation Sunday. Today's hymns, readings, and hymns emphasize the comforting truth that Jesus lives to be our Good Shepherd. How blessed are we to be able to proclaim, "The Lord is my shepherd!" We truly have all we will ever need! May the Lord bless us as we, his sheep and lambs, give our Good Shepherd our worship and praise! We also pray for our Good Shepherd's abundant blessings upon our confirmands as they pledge their faithfulness today to our Good Shepherd.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I thank you for being my Good Shepherd. I am sorry for the many times I have wandered from you and rebelled against your will for me. Thank you for laying down your life on the cross to redeem me, not with gold or silver, but with your holy, precious blood, and your innocent sufferings and death. Refresh my soul with the still waters of your life-giving Word. Strengthen my trust in you to always shepherd me until I dwell forever in the house of my heavenly Father. Amen.

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

- Minister ~ Pastor Jeff Mahnke
- Organist ~ Marie Kurth
- Ushers ~ Rick & Karen Leopold
(*next week – Dan & Carrie Stelzer*)

Acknowledgments

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Confirmation Sunday

May 7, 2023

HE LIVES to be my Good Shepherd

Welcome

Opening Hymn

CW 551

Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep

- 1 Jesus, shepherd of the sheep, who your Father's flock does keep,
safe we wake and safe we sleep, guarded still by you.
- 2 In your promise firm we stand, none can take us from your hand;
speak—we hear—at your command, we will follow you.
- 3 By your blood our souls were bought,
by your life salvation wrought;
by your light our feet are taught, Lord, to follow you.
- 4 Father, draw us to your Son; we with joy will follow on
till the work of grace is done, there to live with you.
- 5 We, in robes of glory dressed, join th' assembly of the blest,
gathered to eternal rest in the fold with you.

Text: Henry Cook, 1788–1868, alt.
Text: Public domain

Confession

Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord, our Good Shepherd!

Hymn of Praise

CW 611 sts. 1, 4

- 1 Joyously I'll praise my Savior; for my God I'll gladly sing,
as I see his loving favor evident in ev'rything.
In his faithful heart is beating love that's pure and wide and long,
love that makes his servants strong.
All I see on earth is fleeting; God's amazing love for me
lasts for all eternity.

- 4 Since your love is never-ending, far beyond what words can say,
up to you my hands extending, Father, as your child, I pray:
Let your grace to me be given that I may with all my might
cling to you both day and night
till I see your face in heaven where my praise and love will be
yours for all eternity.

Text: tr. Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963; Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, abr.

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Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

The Word

First Reading

Acts 2:42–47

The Good Shepherd grows his flock of believers

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

- 1 My shepherd will supply my need,
Jehovah is his name;
in pastures fresh he makes me feed
beside the living stream.
He brings my wand'ring spirit back
when I forsake his ways
and leads me, for his mercy's sake,
in paths of truth and grace.

- 2 When I walk through the shades of death,
his presence is my stay;
one word of his supporting breath
drives all my fears away.
His hand, in sight of all my foes,
will still my table spread;
my cup with blessings overflows;
his oil anoints my head.

- 3 The sure provisions of my God
attend me all my days;
oh, may his house be my abode
and all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest
while others go and come,
no more a stranger or a guest
but like a child at home.

Text: Isaac Watts, alt.
Text: Public domain

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:19–25

Peter urges us to follow our Shepherd and Overseer

¹⁹For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. ²⁰But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. ²¹To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

²²“He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

²³When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” ²⁵For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

John 10:14



Refrain



Tone



Refrain

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Gospel

John 10:1–10

Jesus is not only our Good Shepherd, he is also the Gate

¹“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

⁷Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ⁸⁰⁴

Be seated

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day

CW 804

I Am Jesus' Little Lamb

- 1 I am Jesus' little lamb; ever glad at heart I am,
for my Shepherd gently guides me,
knows my need and well provides me,
loves me ev'ry day the same, even calls me by my name.
- 2 Day by day, at home, away, Jesus is my staff and stay.
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me, into pleasant pastures leads me;
when I thirst, he bids me go where the quiet waters flow.

- 3 Who so happy as I am, even now the Shepherd's lamb?
And when my short life is ended, by his angel host attended,
he shall fold me to his breast, there within his arms to rest.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Henrietta L. von Hayn, 1724–1782
Text: Public domain

Sermon

Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. ²He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, ³he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. ⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

He Lives to Be My Good Shepherd

1. ***Such grace!***
2. ***Such comfort for the here and now!***
3. ***Such hope for the hereafter!***

Thank Offering & Friendship Register

Members of Our Savior's give generous and free will gifts to honor the Lord and support our ministry of the gospel. Guests are welcome to give but should not feel obligated to do so.

As the offering is gathered, please sign the Friendship Register as it is passed down the pew.

Confirmation

Hymn

CW 813

He Will Hold Me Fast

- 1 When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
when the tempter would prevail, he will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold thro' life's fearful path,
for my love is often cold— he must hold me fast.
He will hold me fast; he will hold me fast;
for my Savior loves me so, he will hold me fast.
- 2 Those he saves are his delight; Christ will hold me fast;
precious in his holy sight, he will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost; his promises shall last;
bought by him at such a cost, he will hold me fast.
He will hold me fast; he will hold me fast;
for my Savior loves me so, he will hold me fast.
- 3 For my life he bled and died; Christ will hold me fast;
justice has been satisfied; he will hold me fast.
Raised with him to endless life, he will hold me fast
till our faith is turned to sight when he comes at last!
He will hold me fast; he will hold me fast;
for my Savior loves me so, he will hold me fast.

Text (sts. 1–2): Matt Merker, b. 1984, alt.; (sts. 1, Ref, 2): Ada Habershon, 1861–1918; (st. 3): Matt Merker, b. 1984

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The pastor speaks to those being confirmed:

My dear young friends, when you were baptized, your gracious Lord forgave all your sins and covered you with the robe of Christ's righteousness. Through water and Word he created faith in your hearts and adopted you into the family of believers. As you matured and heard and studied the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit enlightened your minds and preserved you as children of God.

You have expressed the desire to confess the truths you believe before your Savior, your family and friends, and this congregation. You are ready to say with St. Paul, "I believed; therefore I have spoken." You have learned to examine your thoughts, words, and actions in the light of God's law, and you have experienced the comfort of forgiveness in the Savior's gospel. With this preparation you are eager to receive the Savior's body and blood in the sacrament.

As we worship with you on this day, we are filled with joy as we see how the Lord has grown your faith and love. We are bringing our prayers to the Savior's throne of grace and imploring him to keep you faithful to him and his Word until you join us and all believers in the glories of heaven.

I now ask each of you:

Are you ready and willing to confess your faith before the triune God and those who are worshiping with you today?

I am.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

I do reject him.

Do you believe that all the books of the Bible are the inspired and inerrant Word of God?

I do.

Do you believe that the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as you have learned to know them from Luther's Small Catechism, are faithful and true to the Word of God?

I do.

Is it your sincere prayer and desire to remain faithful to your Lord Jesus and his Word all the days of your life?

Yes, and I ask God to help me.

Is it your sincere prayer and desire to live a life that pleases God, to value his Word and sacraments, and to witness to your Savior wherever you go?

Yes, and I ask God to help me.

I now invite each of you to come forward to receive a blessing from the Lord and a word of encouragement from the Scriptures.

Ella Arlene Brei

1 Peter 5:7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Allison Ann Ruether

Deuteronomy 31:8 The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”

The pastor speaks to the congregation:

Friends in Christ, the Word of God urges us to pray for one another and especially for the youth of the church. On this special day, it is fitting that we bring our prayers before God, firmly believing that he alone is able to strengthen us by the power of the Holy Spirit and keep us faithful to the Savior until we die. Let us pray.

Gracious Father, in Holy Baptism you created faith in the hearts of these young people and gave them a new birth as members of your family. Help them remember their baptisms every day and find comfort in your promise that you will never leave them or forsake them. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Give them strength to put down and drown the sinful nature that lives within them so that each day their faith may triumph in their living and loving and in their words and actions. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Lead them to see and believe that in the word of the gospel they find forgiveness for their sins and relief for their guilt. Use the remembrance of your commandments to drive them to the comfort of the gospel and then to guide them as they live for you and others. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Protect them from Satan when he tempts them to be careless with your Word and sacrament, to make plans for this life and not for the life to come, or to find popular theories more appealing than your truth. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Empower them by the gospel of your Son to live in their world with kindness, humility, and patience that others may see their good works and glorify their Father in heaven. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Help us provide fitting examples of faithfulness to your Word and sacraments. Lead us to encourage and admonish them in wisdom and love even after they have left our homes and made new homes for themselves. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

When the end comes and we all stand before the judgment seat of Christ, have compassion on us despite our sins and accept us as eternal dwellers in your royal rooms, through the merits of Jesus our Savior, who became sin for us so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Special prayers may follow

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

CW 757

Gracious Savior, Gentle Shepherd

- 1 Gracious Savior, gentle Shepherd, children all are dear to you;
may your loving arms enfold them
in your care their whole life through.
By your tending and protecting keep them safe in all they do.
- 2 Tender Shepherd, never leave them, never let them go astray;
by your warning love directed, may they walk the narrow way.
Thus direct them, thus defend them lest they fall an easy prey.
- 3 By your holy Word instruct them, fill their minds with heav'nly light;
by your pow'rful grace convince them always to approve what's right.
Let them feel your yoke is easy, let them find your burden light.
- 4 Taught to love the holy praises which on earth your children sing,
with their lips and hearts, sincerely,
glad thank-off'rings may they bring,
then with all the saints in glory join to praise their Lord and King.

Text: adapt. Jonathan Whittemore, 1802–1860, alt.; Jane E. Leeson, 1809–1881
Text: Public domain

***Thank you for worshipping with us!
May God richly bless your week.***

Serving the Pastoral Vacancy - Pastor Jeff Mahnke from St. Peter Lutheran Church is serving as Our Savior's vacancy pastor. Should you need his pastoral guidance and service, call / text him anytime at 715.297.0132. His email address is pastorm@mysaintpeter.org.



Confirmation Sunday – In today's worship service, Ella Brei and Allison Ruether will confess their faith in the Lord Jesus and be confirmed in the Christian faith. We pray for their continued blessings and faithfulness to the word of Christ.

Pastoral Call Meeting – We will meet this Tuesday, May 9 at 6:30 PM. All members are welcome; voters are especially encouraged to attend. *Note: Pastor Ewald is not available on Wednesday evenings because he leads a Bible class at 6:30 pm.*

Open Forum Recap – We thank all 63 people who attended the open forum held two weeks ago. It was confirmed that Our Savior's will continue to extend Divine Calls into the field for a pastor. Members were also made aware of the challenges that Our Savior's is facing a) declining membership [801 in members in 1985 to 217 in 2023, a 73% decrease], b) an aging congregation [50% of Our Savior's members are age 61 and older], c) leadership struggles [4 men are currently serving actively on the Church Council, we have been unable to find others willing and able to serve], and d) financial concerns [preliminary 23-24 budget is expected to have a \$90,000 shortfall].

Permission was given to the leaders of Our Savior's to discuss and consider other long term options for our ministry which could include reaching out to Mountain of the Lord to form a dual parish and/or reaching out to St Peter to work together to support a multi campus school or even merge into one congregation with multiple sites. It was suggested that we regularly pray for our ministry in our Sunday worship services. Words of thanks are offered to our volunteers, who may not serve in leadership positions, but who faithfully serve our Lord and our ministry in many other ways. Extra copies of the outline of talking points from the open forum are available in the back of church.

Congregational Survey – All members are encouraged to complete the survey included in last week's bulletin and in the May newsletter. We want to hear from you! Please return it to the labelled box in the narthex or mail it to us by May 14.

In Our Prayers – Please continue to keep Rose Schreiber in your prayers. She is hospitalized at Aspirus, Wausau ICU due to breathing problems and she is also on dialysis.

OWLS – For our OWLS chapter, May brings an opportunity for fellowship and service to Christ by thanking the called workers from all of our WELS area congregations and schools. Our project will be making thank you cards for our called workers for their faithful service to God and to us. We will be meeting on Tuesday May 9 at 1:30 pm at Our Saviors in the lower level. Please join us even if you are not a member. Questions call Ruth at 715-573-2142.

School Cleaning – Our annual deep cleaning has been scheduled for:

Tuesday, May 30 – 8:00 am – 8:00 pm

Wednesday, May 31 – 8:00 am – 4 pm

Thursday, June 1 – 8:00 am – 4 pm

Your help is appreciated! Please talk to Mr. Lemke to let him know what day/time you're available to help. You may also sign up online at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094fa9ae22a3fccf8-endofyear#/>

Lawn Maintenance - We're at that time of year when our church and school green areas need to be mowed. If you're willing to help, please add your name on the sign up sheet on the table in the narthex. The more people that help the fewer times it would be your team's turn.

This Week at Our Savior's

Today	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	<i>Confirmation Sunday</i> Worship Sunday School & Bible Class
Monday	6:00 PM	Coordinating Council
Tuesday	1:30 PM 6:30 PM	OWLS Call Meeting
Thursday	1:00 PM	Ladies' Aid
Sunday 5/14	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	<i>Mother's Day</i> Worship with Communion Sunday School & Bible Class <i>Food Pantry Sunday</i>

Growing Together

April 30, 2023

<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Vision</u>	<u>Debt Red</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Plate</u>	<u>Cafeteria Rental</u>
\$3,034.00	\$315.00	\$80.00	\$10.00	\$20.00	\$100.00
<u>Publications</u>	<u>School Fees</u>				
\$5.00	\$781.00				

Anticipated Weekly Offerings \$4,038

Attendance: Sunday, April 30 – 82

NLHS Updates

We are pleased to announce Mrs. Price has declined her call to West Bend and will continue to serve here. Praise God!

Our Hot Lunch program is looking for cooks for next year! The goal is to set up a monthly schedule, with cooks participating once or twice a month. Do you enjoy cooking? Could you make a simple school lunch meal once a month? Groups are welcome! Could your church's ladies' group take this on? Please call (715-359-3400) or email nlhsoffice@nlhs.org. Your costs are reimbursed up to \$3/meal.

Host Families are sought for some of next year's students! We need families willing to take a foreign student, which entails having the student with you full time throughout the school year. The host family receives a stipend for the room and board of the student. We also need families to host students from distances that preclude daily commutes, such as Minocqua. This would mean the student lives with you through the school week but goes home for weekends and holidays. Any remuneration is worked out between the families. Please call Mr. Wiechmann (715-297-4427) if you have questions, or if you are willing to open your home to one of these great kids!

Our students are participating in several community projects. We are looking for Thrivent members who could share grants with us to cover costs. Please let us know if you are able to help out!

The gymnasium bleachers project is going well! 38% of the bleachers are bought! Buy a seat today!



OUR SAVIOR'S

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Growing in Jesus, Sharing His Love

Our Savior's Ev. Lutheran Church

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