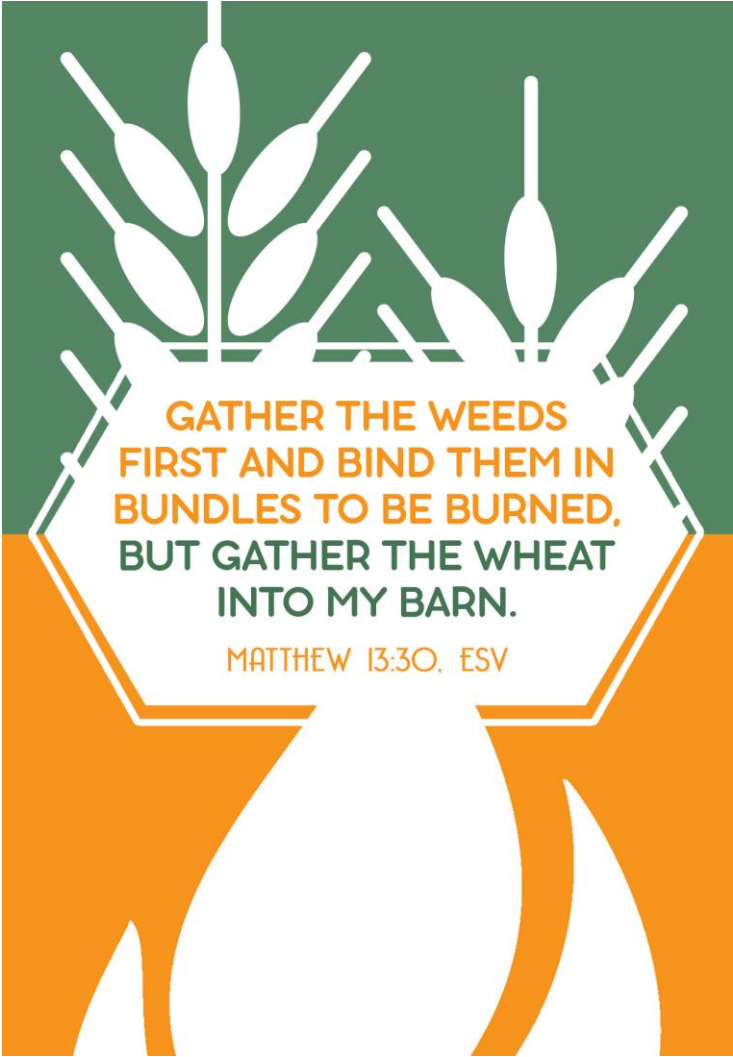




# OUR SAVIOR'S

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



**GATHER THE WEEDS  
FIRST AND BIND THEM IN  
BUNDLES TO BE BURNED,  
BUT GATHER THE WHEAT  
INTO MY BARN.**

MATTHEW 13:30, ESV

## **WELCOME**

We welcome to worship this Eighth Sunday after the Lord's Pentecost. Today we continue a series of services under the theme, "Define Christian". In today's gospel lesson, our Lord tells us that we are like wheat, planted and growing among weeds. Though we may wish for God to pull out the weeds – unbelievers – now, yet he tells us to wait for the final harvest. He wants us to live like weeds among weeds, serving the purpose for which he planted us. That means being faithful, fruitful, and mindful of the coming harvest!

## **PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP**

Heavenly Father, I have come to worship you. Draw near to me in your gracious Word and assure me of your loving kindness. Curb my wandering thoughts, that with undivided attention I may hear your voice and sing your praise. Amen.

## **OUR COMMUNION PRACTICE**

In the Sacrament of Holy Communion, we express unity with our Savior and those who share our faith and stand on the teachings of God's Word. Therefore, we invite to our altar those who are members of Our Savior's or members of the WELS/ELS. Visitors who wish to commune are asked to speak to a pastor before the service begins.

## **SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

- Minister ~ Pastor Jeff Mahnke
- Organist ~ Marie Kurth
- Ushers ~ Tony Sulko, Bill Unruh

*Next week ~ Rick & Karen Leopold*

## **Acknowledgments**

Service of Word & Sacrament from 1993 Christian Worship

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# Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 30, 2023

**Worship Theme: DEFINE CHRISTIAN**

*The Christian lives as wheat among the weeds*

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## Welcome

## Opening Hymn

CW 605

- 1 From all that dwell below the skies let the Creator's praise arise.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Let the Redeemer's name be sung  
through ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 2 Eternal are your mercies, Lord; eternal truth attends your Word.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Your praise shall sound from shore to shore  
till suns shall rise and set no more.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## Stand

The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**And also with you.**

God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**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.**

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.**

The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

## **O Lord, Our Lord**

CW 939

O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.

Almighty God, merciful Father, you crown our life with your love.  
You take away our sin; you comfort our spirit;  
you make us pure and holy in your sight.  
You did not spare your only Son, but gave him up for us all.

O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.

O Son of God, eternal Word of the Father,  
you came to live with us; you made your Father known;  
you washed us from our sins in your own blood.  
You are the King of glory; you are the Lord!

O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.

Text: Christian Worship, 1993

Text: © 1993 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716671

## Prayer of the Day

O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with you in perfect joy hereafter; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



*Be Seated*

## The Word

### First Reading

**Isaiah 44:6–11**

*Like wheat among weeds, God's people are surrounded by evil in the world*

<sup>6</sup>“This is what the LORD says— Israel’s King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God.

<sup>7</sup>Who then is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and lay out before me what has happened since I established my ancient people, and what is yet to come— yes, let them foretell what will come.

<sup>8</sup>Do not tremble, do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago? You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me? No, there is no other Rock; I know not one.”

<sup>9</sup>All who make idols are nothing, and the things they treasure are worthless. Those who would speak up for them are blind; they are ignorant, to their own shame.

<sup>10</sup>Who shapes a god and casts an idol, which can profit nothing?

<sup>11</sup>People who do that will be put to shame; such craftsmen are only human beings. Let them all come together and take their stand; they will be brought down to terror and shame.

# Psalm 19C

## Refrain

Lord, you have the words of  
ev - er - last - ing life.

## Tone

The heavens declare the glo- / ry of God;  
the skies proclaim the work / of his hands.  
Their voice goes out into / all the earth,  
their words to the ends / of the world. *Refrain*

The law of the LORD is / perfect,  
refresh- / ing the soul.  
The commands of the LORD are / radiant,  
giving light / to the eyes.  
They are more pre- / cious than gold;  
they are sweeter than / honey. *Refrain*

May these words of my mouth and this meditation / of my heart  
be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my rock and my Re- / deemer.  
**Glorify be to the Father and / to the Son  
and to the Holy / Spirit,  
as it was in the be- / ginning,  
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

Text: Lectionary for Mass

Tune: Richard T. Proulx

Text: © 1969, 1981, 1997 ICEL (refrain). Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716671

Tune: © 1975 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716671

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## Second Reading

Romans 1:18–25

*God's wrath over evil is real and will be revealed at the harvest*

<sup>18</sup>The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, <sup>19</sup>since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. <sup>20</sup>For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

<sup>21</sup>For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup>Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools <sup>23</sup>and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

<sup>24</sup>Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. <sup>25</sup>They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

## Verse of the Day

Romans 11:33

Alleluia.

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!  
How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

Alleluia.

*Stand*

## Gospel Reading

## Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

*The parable of the weeds among the wheat*

<sup>24</sup>Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. <sup>25</sup>But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. <sup>26</sup>When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

<sup>27</sup>“The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’

<sup>28</sup>“ ‘An enemy did this,’ he replied.

“The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’

<sup>29</sup>“ ‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’ ”

<sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.”

<sup>37</sup>He answered, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

<sup>40</sup>“As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. <sup>42</sup>They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

This is the gospel of the Lord!



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!



## Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Be Seated*

## Children's Message

### Hymn of the Day

**CW 491**

- 1 Come, you thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home.  
All be safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin.  
God, our maker, shall provide for our wants to be supplied.  
Come to God's own temple, come; raise the song of harvest home.
- 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit unto his praise to yield;  
wheat and weeds together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown.  
First the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear.  
Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

- 3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his harvest home,  
from his field shall in that day all offenses purge away,  
give his angels charge at last in the fire the weeds to cast,  
but the fruitful ears to store in his garner evermore.
- 4 Even so, Lord, quickly come to your final harvest home;  
gather all your people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,  
there, forever purified, in your garner to abide.  
Come with all your angels, come; raise the glorious harvest home.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## Sermon

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

### God's Garden Has Weeds, Too!

#### 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.*

Stand

#### Prayer of the Church

Redeemer and Lord of hosts, the future is in your hands. Remove all fear from us, and keep us mindful that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed in us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of heaven and earth, we give you thanks for planting us as wheat in your harvest field. Enable us by the power of your gospel to be fruitful and faithful, and to patiently await the coming of your angels to bring in the harvest. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. Be patient with those who do not repent or believe. Send your Holy Spirit to bring them into saving faith. Awaken us to the opportunities you give us to proclaim your message of love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guide the leaders of all nations, that they would work for peace and justice in the face of conflict and discord. By, or despite, their efforts, protect the weak and defenseless. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Preserve us in hope for what we do not see. Grant that we would receive your Son's precious body and blood with repentant and believing hearts. May we rejoice in his bodily presence for our forgiveness and strength. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, you have called us according to your purpose and you cause all things to work together for our good. Keep us safe until that day when we stand alongside your Son dressed in the robe of his righteousness and to receive from you an everlasting crown of glory.

**Amen!**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

## **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 and ever. Amen.**

# **The Sacrament**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. By the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, he empowered his Church to be witnesses of Christ to the ends of the earth. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

### Holy, Holy, Holy



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

## Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## Distribution & Hymns

### Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray

CW 873

- 1 Rise, my soul, to watch and pray; from your sleep awaken!  
Be not by the evil day unawares o'ertaken;  
for the foe, well we know, is a harvest reaping  
while the saints are sleeping.
- 2 Watch against the devil's snares lest asleep he find you;  
for indeed no pains he spares to deceive and blind you.  
Satan's prey oft are they who secure are sleeping  
and no watch are keeping.
- 3 Watch! Let not the wicked world with its lies defeat you  
lest with bold deceptions hurled it betray and cheat you.  
Watch and see lest there be faithless friends to charm you  
who but seek to harm you.
- 4 Watch against yourself, my soul, lest with grace you trifle;  
let not self your thoughts control nor God's mercy stifle.  
Pride and sin lurk within, all your hopes to shatter;  
heed not when they flatter.

- 5 But while watching also pray to the Lord unceasing.  
God protects you day by day, strength and faith increasing,  
so that still mind and will shall unite to serve him  
and forever love him.

Text: Johann B. Freystein, 1671–1718, abr.; (sts. 1, 3–5): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (st. 2): tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-book, 1907, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## Your Kingdom, O God, Is My Glorious Treasure

CW 859

- 1 Your kingdom, O God, is my glorious treasure,  
my pearl of incomp'able worth.  
Its value exceeds ev'ry standard of measure,  
surpassing the wealth of the earth.  
Lord, give me your grace and the pow'r of the Spirit  
to value this treasure aright  
that, never allured by the world, I inherit  
your kingdom of glory and light.
- 2 Your kingdom, O God, is alive with the power  
your Word and your Spirit bestow.  
Like yeast, they affect the whole measure of flour,  
enabling your kingdom to grow.  
Empower me, Lord, as I live your commission,  
though humble my service may be,  
and bring ev'ry planting to perfect fruition,  
a mustard seed grown to a tree.
- 3 Your kingdom, O God, is a field for the growing  
of seeds that your mercy has sown;  
but still in our midst is the enemy sowing  
the weeds that imperil your own.  
Sustain me, O Lord, till your day of returning  
and harvest me homeward at last,  
to shine in the homeland that quiets all yearning,  
where sorrow and danger are past.

Text: David W. Rogner, b. 1960  
Text: © 2002 David W. Rogner. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716671

## Closing Prayer

Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Blessing

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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 884**

Lord, when your glory I shall see  
and taste your kingdom's pleasure,  
your blood my royal robe shall be,  
my joy beyond all measure!  
When I appear before your throne,  
your righteousness shall be my crown;  
with these I need not hide me.  
And there, in garments richly wrought,  
as your own bride I shall be brought,  
to stand in joy beside you.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676  
Text: Public domain

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

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**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](mailto:pastorm@mysaintpeter.org).

**Annual Meeting Today** – All members are encouraged to attend the annual meeting following today's worship service. In addition to approving the 2023-2024 budget, there will be a report from the leaders regarding recent discussions held with the leaders of St. Peter for potentially merging the ministries of the Lutheran Elementary Schools and/or the churches. At the congregational meeting held a few weeks ago permission was given to our leaders to have these talks.

### **Memorials**

We thank Bill & Sue Unruh for their gift given in memory of Gene Arndt. We thank Bob & Jan Gresens for their gift given in memory of Pastor Dennis Kempf.

*Blessed be their memories.*

*Thanks be to God for the love which led to these gifts.*

**Devotion Materials** – The August issue of Forward in Christ and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Portals of Prayer are available. Please pick up your copy of these publications in the narthex.

**Fair Time!** – Our Savior's School will again work at the Noon Optimist's Elephant Ear stand. **Volunteers!** If you're willing to help us on Friday or Saturday, August 4 or 5, please contact Beth Krohn or Nathan Lemke.

**Our Savior's School Is Enrolling** – If you or someone you know is interested in Christian education for their child, please contact us via phone (715-845-3253), contact one of our teachers, or email us at [OSInfo@oursaviorswausau.org](mailto:OSInfo@oursaviorswausau.org).

- The 2023-24 school year begins on Wednesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Registration is scheduled for August 8 from 4:00-6:00 pm.

**Ladies' Aid "Picnic" at The Palms** - All ladies of the congregation are invited to join our Ladies' Aid members for their annual summer "picnic". They'll meet for food and fellowship at The Palms Supper Club in Weston Thursday, August 10 at 11:30 am. You're welcome to bring a guest. Please RSVP to Sue Unruh by August 8.



## This Week at Our Savior's

<b>Today</b>	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship with Communion Annual Voters' Meeting
<b>Friday - Saturday</b>		OS School Volunteers at Wausau Noon Optimist Elephant Ear Stand
<b>Sunday 8/6</b>	9:00 AM 10:30 AM	Worship Vicar Wenzel Installation at St. Peter

## Growing Together

*July 23, 2023*

<u>Weekly</u> \$4,571.00	<u>Vision</u> \$465.00	<u>Debt Red</u> \$395.00	<u>Missions</u> \$30.00	<u>NLHS Op</u> \$250.00	<u>Plate</u> \$27.00
<u>A Bey Bday</u> \$20.00	<u>Vicar Gift</u> \$283.00	<u>Bldg Maint</u> \$50.00	<u>NLHS Bleachers</u> \$200.00	<u>Publications</u> \$2.00	

**Anticipated Weekly Offerings \$4,038**

**Attendance:** Sunday, July 23 – 88

**Building & Grounds** - With the start of the new school year on August 23, we'd appreciate some help with the following:

- August 9, 4:00-8:00 pm: Power wash both bathrooms, squeegee the partitions and floor, wipe down sinks, mirrors, etc.
- August 16 or 17 in the morning: Power wash outside of school and canopy areas of school and church.
- Outside school doors need to be painted whenever the weather is favorable.
- The inside windowsills on the east side of church could use a coat of varnish. Can be done in any weather since the A/C can be turned on and so far the church roof doesn't leak.

If you are willing and able to help with any of the above, please let Bill Unruh know so that enough food and supplies are available.



# OUR SAVIOR'S

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Growing in Jesus, Sharing His Love*

## **Our Savior's Ev. Lutheran Church**

703 Flieth St, Wausau WI 54401

715-845-3253

Email: [OSInfo@oursaviorswausau.org](mailto:OSInfo@oursaviorswausau.org)

Website: [www.oursaviorswausau.org](http://www.oursaviorswausau.org)

Facebook: Our Savior's Lutheran Church and School

**Pastor Jeff Mahnke, Vacancy Pastor**

715-297-0132

[pastorm@mysaintpeter.org](mailto:pastorm@mysaintpeter.org)

