



# OUR SAVIOR'S

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



A Light to the Nations

## **WELCOME**

Today we celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord. Epiphany comes from a Greek word meaning “reveal.” When the Savior was born, he was first revealed to Israelites: the shepherds, Simeon, Anna. But today, the Lord miraculously guides foreigners across countless miles, so the Savior could be revealed to them as well. How did the magi respond? “They were overjoyed” (Matthew 2:10). Epiphany is sometimes known as “The Gentiles’ Christmas.” We Gentiles (non-Jews) rejoice in the good news that this Jewish baby is not just the Savior of Jews. He is for all people—the Savior of the world.

## **Prayer Before Worship**

Gracious God, you sent your Son, Jesus Christ to be a beacon of light and hope to all peoples of the world. Through his innocent death, our sin has been forgiven and members of every tribe, culture, and nation are invited into your Holy Church on Earth. Lead all people to saving faith in Christ, guiding them with the Holy Spirit as you guided the Magi to the Christ-Child in Bethlehem long ago. And lead us to experience the same joy every time we hear about Jesus as those wise men had finally finding their savior. 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**

- Minister ~ Vicar John Wenzel
  - Organist ~ Marie Kurth
  - Ushers ~ Tim & Ellen Heil
- Next week ~ Phil Brost, Travis Kurth*

## **Acknowledgments**

Setting One from Christian Worship Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House.



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# The Epiphany of Our Lord

January 14, 2024

*Good News of Great Joy for ALL PEOPLE*

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## Opening Hymn

CW 372

- 1 As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold,  
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright,  
so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led by thee.
- 2 As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed,  
there to bend the knee before thee, whom heav'n and earth adore,  
so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat
- 3 As they offered gifts most rare at thy cradle, rude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'nly King.
- 4 Holy Jesus, ev'ry day keep us in the narrow way;  
and, when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last  
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.
- 5 In the heav'nly country bright need they no created light;  
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down.  
There forever may we sing alleluias to our King!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.

Text: Public domain

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

## A Dialogue for Epiphany

(selected verses from Isaiah 60; Ephesians 1, 2 & 5)

Arise! Shine! Your light has come,  
**and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.**

See, darkness covers the earth, and thick darkness is over the peoples,  
**But the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you.**

Nations will come to your light,  
**And kings to the brightness of your dawn.**

In Jesus we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins,  
**In accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.**

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household.  
**For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light!**

## Confession of Sins

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. Redeemed and forgiven, the Lord sends his people into the world to shine with his Word, the Light of Truth, and to be his representatives.

**Savior and Spirit, empower and enlighten us to represent you well, and to your praise!**

## Song of Praise

CW 374 st. 5

5 All glo - ry un - to Je - sus be and praise for  
his e - piph - a - ny, whom with the Fa - ther we a -  
dore and Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

## Prayer of the Day

Lord God, by the leading of a star, you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## The Word

### First Reading

**Numbers 24:15–17a**

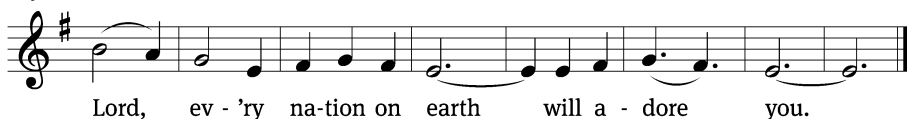
*Out of the nation of Israel One would come that would shine like a star*

<sup>15</sup>Then he spoke his message: “The prophecy of Balaam son of Beor, the prophecy of one whose eye sees clearly, <sup>16</sup>the prophecy of one who hears the words of God, who has knowledge from the Most High, who sees a vision from the Almighty, who falls prostrate, and whose eyes are opened: <sup>17</sup>“I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel.

## Psalm of the Day

Psalm 72A

### Refrain



### Tone



Endow the king with your justice, / O God,  
the royal son with your / righteousness.  
May he endure as long / as the sun,  
as long as the moon, through all gener- / ations.

May he be like rain falling on a / mown field,  
like showers water- / ing the earth.  
In his days may the righteous / flourish  
and prosperity abound till the moon / is no more. *Refrain*

May all kings bow / down to him  
and all nations / serve him.  
Long may he live! May gold from Sheba be / given him.  
May the kings of Sheba and Seba pre- / sent him gifts.

May people ever / pray for him  
and bless him / all day long.  
Then all nations will be / blessed through him,  
and they will / call him blessed.

**Glory 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***

Tune: Stephen Pishner Setting: Stephen Pishner  
Text: © 1969, 1981, 1997 ICEL (refrain). Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716671  
Music: © 2013 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716671

## Second Reading

Romans 11:13–15,28–32

*Paul writes about his passion to share the good news with all people*

<sup>13</sup>I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I take pride in my ministry <sup>14</sup>in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy and save some of them. <sup>15</sup>For if their rejection brought reconciliation to the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?

<sup>28</sup>As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies for your sake; but as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs, <sup>29</sup>for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable. <sup>30</sup>Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, <sup>31</sup>so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you. <sup>32</sup>For God has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.

## Gospel Acclamation

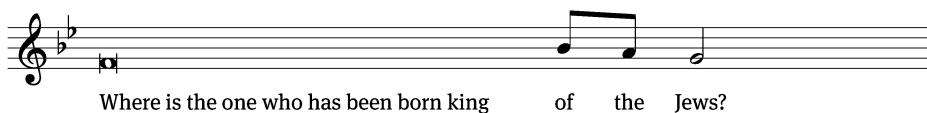
Matthew 2:2



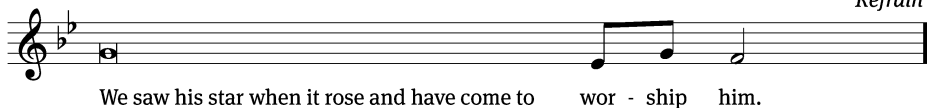
*Refrain*



*Tone*



*Refrain*



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## Gospel

## Matthew 2:1–12

*Magi from the East are miraculously led to their Savior, and they worship Him*

<sup>1</sup>After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup>and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

<sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup>When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

“<sup>6</sup> ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for out of you will come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.’”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

<sup>9</sup>After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup>On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## Children's Message

## Hymn of the Day

CW 376

*Rise Up and Shine*

- 1 Rise up and shine! Your light has come;  
God's glory breaks like dawn.  
For though the earth be cloaked in night  
and gloom shrouds ev'ryone,  
yet over you the Lord will rise,  
with glory gleaming clear,  
till nations turn to seek your light  
and humbled kings draw near.
- 2 Fling wide your gates, both day and night;  
no more keep watch or guard.  
You will be called God's holy hill,  
the city of the Lord.  
No sound of strife will plague your land,  
nor harm besiege your ways;  
"Salvation" will you name your walls,  
and all your portals "Praise."
- 3 No more will you implore the sun  
to shed by day its light,  
nor will you need the changeful moon  
to glisten through the night.  
Your glory then will be your God,  
whose light will never cease.  
Rise up and shine! Your light has come  
to give you joy and peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr., b. 1944

Text: © 1990 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716671

## Sermon

*Matthew 2:1-12*

## The Star Points to the Savior!

## 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 truly 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.**

## 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.*

## Prayer of the Church

Almighty God enthroned forever, you love righteousness and hate wickedness. For our sakes, you sent your only begotten Son to suffer the wages of our sin, that we might be holy in your sight. As you have poured grace and salvation upon us, so anoint us also with the oil of gladness and the hope of everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Holy God, eternal Light, you made Paul a minister according to the gift of your grace. Embolden our pastors to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ. Open our ears to hear and our hearts to believe their message that the King of kings has given his life for us. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, you prepared a place for your Son, Jesus, in the womb of the Virgin Mary and in the home of Mary and Joseph. Bless our homes and all who dwell in them, that your Word would be heard and your mercy be shown therein. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Lord God, you brought the Magi of old to worship your Son, Jesus, and so you have brought us to worship him also. Receive our gifts to your glory and may your generous love for Gentiles inspire generosity in the hearts of your people. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

### *Special prayers of intercession*

Heavenly Father, you have anointed your Son to be our Savior and have established his throne forever and ever. Grant that we who are called by his name would see his reign spread among all nations; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## 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

### 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.**

### O Christ, Lamb of God

CW 169

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace. Amen.

## Distribution

### How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

CW 370

- 1    How lovely shines the Morning Star!  
      The nations see and hail afar the light in Judah shining.  
      O David's son of Jacob's race,  
      my Bridegroom and my King of grace, for you my heart is pining.  
          Lowly, holy, great and glorious, O victorious Prince of graces,  
      filling all the heav'nly places.
- 2    O highest joy by mortals won,  
      true Son of God and Mary's son, the highborn King of ages!  
      In your blest body let me be,  
      e'en as the branch is in the tree, your life my life supplying.  
          Sighing, crying for the savor of your favor, resting never  
      till I rest in you forever.
- 3    O mighty Father, in your Son  
      you loved me ere you had begun this ancient world's foundation.  
      Your Son has made a friend of me,  
      and when in spirit him I see, I joy in tribulation.  
          What bliss is this! He is living, to me giving life forever;  
      nothing me from him can sever.
- 4    Oh, joy to know that you, my friend,  
      are Lord, beginning without end, the first and last, eternal!  
      And you at length—O glorious grace—  
      will take me to that holy place, the home of joys supernal.  
          Amen, amen! Come and meet me, quickly greet me!  
          With deep yearning,  
      Lord, I look for your returning

- 5 Lift up the voice and strike the string,  
let all glad sounds of music ring in God's high praises blended.  
Christ will be with me all the way,  
today, tomorrow, ev'ry day till trav'ling days are ended.  
Sing out, ring out triumph glorious, O victorious chosen nation;  
praise the God of your salvation.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, abr., adapt  
Text: Public domain

## Renew Me, O Eternal Light

CW 689

- 1 Renew me, O eternal Light,  
and let my heart and soul be bright,  
illuminated with the light of grace  
that issues from your holy face.
- 2 Destroy in me the lust of sin,  
from all impureness make me clean.  
O grant me pow'r and strength, my God,  
to strive against my flesh and blood.
- 3 Create in me a new heart, Lord,  
that gladly I obey your Word.  
O let your will be my desire  
and with new life my soul inspire.
- 4 Grant that I only you may love  
and seek those things which are above  
till I behold you face to face,  
O Light eternal, through your grace.

Text: tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.; Johann F. Ruopp, 1672–1708, abr.  
Text: Public domain

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, 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 386 sts. 1, 5

- 1 Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to you we raise,  
manifested by the star to the Magi from afar,  
branch of royal David's stem, in your birth at Bethlehem.  
Anthems be to you addressed, God in man made manifest.
- 5 Grant us grace to see you, Lord, mirrored in your holy Word.  
May our lives and all we do imitate and honor you  
that we all like you may be at your great epiphany  
and may praise you, ever blest, God in man made manifest.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt.

Text: Public domain

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***Thank you for worshipping with us.  
May your week be richly blessed!***

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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).

**Pick up today:**

- 2023 Financial Statements, 2024 Offering Envelopes
- January Newsletter
- *Forward in Christ, Meditations, Portals of Prayer*
- Our Savior's Constitution & By-Laws

**Contact Information Updates** – **Before Jan. 15:** Please update your address, phone number, and email address as needed by writing a note on the Friendship Register, giving a note to the secretary, or by emailing the church office at [OSInfo@oursaviorswausau.org](mailto:OSInfo@oursaviorswausau.org).

Please also let us know if you wish to be added to the email list for bulletins and/or newsletters.

**OWLS Rescheduled!** –We will meet at Our Saviors on Tuesday, January 16th at 11:30. Guests are always welcome to join us. Questions contact Evan or Sandy at 715-693-1337.

**WELS Youth Night** - WELS Youth Night will be held at Marathon City Sports Center, in Marathon City, **February 4th** from 5-8pm. Teens 8th - 12th grade are invited to join us as we'll "take over" the bowling alley where they will find free food, free bowling, and the free Gospel. It will be a good time and we encourage all teens to come and invite friends (WELS or not). We'll bowl for fun, but we'll also "pin" some of our better bowlers against each other in a championship game for big prizes. We will have eight lanes to accommodate around 50 bowlers. No bowling ball, shoes or skill required!

**Gift** – We thank Our Savior's Ladies Aid for their gift to the Vision Fund given for recent hospitalization of their member, Sue Unruh. Thanks be to God for the love which led to this gift.

## This Week at Our Savior's

<b>Today</b>	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship with Communion Sunday School & Bible Class <i>Food Pantry Sunday</i>
<b>Monday</b>		No school
<b>Tuesday</b>	11:30 AM 6:00 PM	OWLS Meeting at Our Savior's Coordinating Council
<b>Thursday</b>	5:00 PM	Home Basketball
<b>Saturday</b>		NLHS Grade School Basketball Tournament
<b>Next Sunday 1/21</b>	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship / WELS Connection Sunday School & Bible Class

## Growing Together

*January 7, 2023*

<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Vision</u>	<u>Debt Red</u>	<u>Advent</u>	<u>Chr Day</u>	<u>Chr Eve</u>	<u>NY Eve</u>
\$2,367.00	\$510.00	\$165.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$60.00
<u>Initial Env</u>	<u>Plate</u>	<u>Bldg Maint</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Publications</u>	<u>OS School</u>	
\$25.00	\$62.00	\$100.00	\$110.00	\$20.00	\$50.00	
<u>NLHS Tuition</u>	<u>School Fees</u>	<u>BoxTops</u>				
\$10.00	\$3.00	\$20.00				

**Anticipated Weekly Offerings: \$4,077**

**Attendance:**      January 7 – 75

**Bible Information Class** – Pastor Mahnke is starting a new Bible Information Class tomorrow, Monday, January 15th, at 6:30 pm in the lower level of the Ministry Center of the St. Peter Schofield Campus. Invite your friends, relatives, associates at work, and neighbors to come. This class is an avenue for membership at Our Savior's.

**Divine Call Received** – Mr. Nathan Lemke has received the Divine Call to teach 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade and direct athletics at Bethlehem Lutheran Church & School in Hortonville, WI. Let's remember Nathan in our prayers and offer him our words of encouragement as he considers this Divine Call as well as his Call to serve here at Our Savior's!

**Open Forum Recap** – We thank all who attended last Sunday's Open Forum immediately after the worship service. Here are some highlights:

- 1) The congregation gave permission to the Church Council to subsidize the budget with monies held in savings. While these monies are not needed now, they would be when a pastor accepts the Call and begins serving at Our Savior's.
- 2) We will be renewing the effort to get the Lutheran Elementary School accredited. Members were asked to look for opportunities to help with this in the very near future.
- 3) A new Bible study on outreach, "Let's Go", will begin on Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, at 10:15 am. All communicant members are strongly encouraged to attend!
- 4) Members of the Church Council will soon be reaching out to members of Our Savior's with requests to help on committees and service groups. As a reminder there still are a few openings for service on the Church Council.
- 5) Finally, all members are encouraged to pray daily for the present and future gospel ministry of Our Savior's.

# LET'S GO

LOVE · LISTEN · LEAD

## LEARN TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS

God's people want to tell others about the peace, joy, and forgiveness they have in Jesus. But many Christians are unsure how to do this. Join us as we learn some simple, practical ways to reach out to the lost souls God has brought into our lives.

### **Join us for this new Bible study!**

Beginning January 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 am. We will meet in the school meeting room.



**OUR SAVIOR'S**  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SCHOOL  
703 Flieth Street, Wausau, Wisconsin, 54401

## **Pre-K & Kindergarten Open House**

**Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM**

**Our Savior's partners with parents in the  
academic, social, physical, and spiritual training  
of their children by providing a high-quality,  
Christ-centered education  
for children ages three through eighth grade.**

**Want to learn more?** We invite you to  
"pop in" for a visit to find out about the  
Christian education opportunities available  
for your family at Our Savior's.

If you are unable to visit during the open  
house but would like to learn more,  
please contact us to set up a time to visit  
and learn more about our school by calling  
(715) 845-3253

or contact us by email at  
[OSInfo@oursaviorswausau.org](mailto:OSInfo@oursaviorswausau.org).





*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)

