



# OUR SAVIOR'S

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Strive first  
for the kingdom  
of God and his  
righteousness,  
and all these  
things will be  
given to you  
as well.

Matthew 6:33, NR&V



## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

Welcome to worship this third Sunday in Lent as we focus on Stewardship. This week we will look at how Jesus brings us comfort by pointing to nature. Nature testifies that God is good and gracious and blesses all of creation with what it needs to live and thrive. Furthermore, God loves humans as the crown of His creation. We never need to be anxious about food, drink, or clothing. We prioritize seeking the righteousness that comes only from God and trust he will provide.

## **Prayer Before Worship**

Dear God, in your infinite love, you have entrusted to us the knowledge of your truth and the gifts of your goodness. Help us use them as good stewards, giving generously, praying urgently, and working diligently, that we may share in bringing others to your truth and hastening the coming of your kingdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **Serving in Worship**

- Minister ~ Vicar John Wenzel
- Organist ~ Marie Kurth
- Ushers ~ Rick & Karen Leopold

*Wednesday – Stelzer*

*Next Sunday – Burish, Gresens*

## **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 Third Sunday in Lent

March 3, 2024

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## Welcome

## Opening Hymn

**CW 748**

*Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly*

- 1 Brothers, sisters, let us gladly give to God our all, our best:  
service hearty, thorough, honest, with a living love impressed.  
All our duty, all our striving, all our time to him belong;  
praise him, then, with true devotion,  
    come before him with a song.
- 2 By his mercy, by his bounty, by the gift of Christ, his Son,  
what great goodness he has shown us,  
    what high marvels he has done!  
Let us to him promptly, freely, yield our bodies and our souls,  
thankful that his love protects us, that his wisdom all controls.
- 3 Gracious Lord, accept our service for the sake of Christ, your Son;  
lo, our hope abides now only in the righteousness he won.  
Bless and save us, help and guide us,  
    watch to comfort and restore,  
till in heav'n we rest rejoicing, praising you forevermore.

Text: Henry Bateman, 1802–1872

Text: Public domain

*Stand*

## Invocation & Opening Dialogue

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

God, in love, has given us his very best: his one and only Son, Jesus Christ. But we have failed to appreciate God's goodness and we have countless times not given our best back to him. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**Heavenly Father, I confess my sins to you. In so many ways, I have failed to love you with my whole heart, soul, mind, and strength. At times, I place my own wants in front of your perfect will for my life. I feel the pull of this dark world, and I give in to temptation and sin. I have earned your punishment in this world and deserve to be forever forsaken. In Jesus' name, hear my cry for mercy, and give me the comfort of your forgiveness.**

For all who trust in his Son, God will not withhold his forgiveness. Instead, he richly pours out his grace upon everyone who believes. Having heard your confession, I announce the grace of God to you for the sake of Jesus Christ, our eternal Savior. All your sins are forgiven; your guilt is taken away. Serve the living God in peace, joy, and everlasting thanks for his undeserved kindness to you.  
**Amen.**

## Prayer of the Day

O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature. Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the richness of your grace, may be faithful stewards of all your good gifts; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

*Be seated*

# The Word

## First Reading

*Joshua 24:14–24*

<sup>14</sup>“Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup>But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

<sup>16</sup>Then the people answered, “Far be it from us to forsake the LORD to serve other gods! <sup>17</sup>It was the LORD our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled. <sup>18</sup>And the LORD drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the LORD, because he is our God.”

<sup>19</sup>Joshua said to the people, “You are not able to serve the LORD. He is a holy God; he is a jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins. <sup>20</sup>If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after he has been good to you.”

<sup>21</sup>But the people said to Joshua, “No! We will serve the LORD.”

<sup>22</sup>Then Joshua said, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the LORD.”

“Yes, we are witnesses,” they replied.

<sup>23</sup>“Now then,” said Joshua, “throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel.”

<sup>24</sup>And the people said to Joshua, “We will serve the LORD our God and obey him.”

## Psalm 1

*Spoken responsively*

How blessed is the man who does not walk in the advice of the wicked,  
**Who does not stand on the path with sinners, and who does not sit in a meeting with mockers.**

But his delight is in the teaching of the LORD, and on his teaching he meditates day and night.

**He is like a tree planted beside streams of water, which yields its fruit in season, and its leaves do not wither.**

Everything he does prospers.

**Not so the wicked! No, they are like the chaff which the wind blows away.**

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
**nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.**

Yes, the LORD approves of the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

**Blessed are they who hope in the LORD.**

## Second Reading

*Ephesians 5:15–20*

<sup>15</sup>Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,

<sup>16</sup>making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

<sup>17</sup>Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

<sup>18</sup>Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup>speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup>always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 6:33

<sup>33</sup>But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

*Stand*

## Gospel

Matthew 6:25–34

<sup>25</sup>“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? <sup>26</sup>Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? <sup>27</sup>Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

<sup>28</sup>“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. <sup>29</sup>Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. <sup>30</sup>If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you— you of little faith? <sup>31</sup>So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>32</sup>For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup>But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. <sup>34</sup>Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be seated*

## Children's Message

## Hymn of the Day

**CW 740**

*O God, My Faithful God*

- 1 O God, my faithful God, O Fountain ever flowing,  
who good and perfect gifts in mercy are bestowing,  
give me a healthy frame, and may I have within  
a conscience free from blame, a soul unhurt by sin.
- 2 Grant me the strength to do with ready heart and willing  
whatever you command, my calling here fulfilling,  
that I do what I should while trusting you to bless  
the outcome for my good, for you must give success.
- 3 Keep me from saying things that later need recalling;  
grant that no idle words may from my lips be falling,  
but when within my place I must and ought to speak,  
then fill my words with grace lest I offend the weak.
- 4 Lord, let me win my foes with kindly words and actions,  
and let me find good friends for counsel and correction.  
Help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small  
and by your Spirit's might to live in peace with all.

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Johann Heermann, 1585–1647, abr.  
Text: Public domain

## Sermon

*Matthew 6:25-34*

## Nature's Beauty Calms the Soul

*Stand*



## Apostles' Creed

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

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.

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.

*Be seated*

## 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

Grant us always, O God, to work for the food that endures to eternal life. Bless the ministry of this congregation in our community, that many may embrace Jesus as the Christ and believe that He is the true bread of God who has come from heaven. Grant that we would never hunger or thirst for anything but Christ and His righteousness. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, guide our nation and its leaders in true wisdom to promote honest labor, temporal protection and fitting enjoyment under the sun. Guide Your Christians to serve Christ in their citizenship and callings. Do not let our hearts be occupied with the vanity of riches that perish, but with the true joy of Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You continually feed Your people, Lord God, not with what we want but with what we need. You give us bread and meat to nourish our bodies. You also feed our souls with the very body and blood of our Savior, the true manna from heaven. Give us gratitude for Your gifts, and turn away all grumbling. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

### *Special Prayers*

All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever. **Amen.**

## **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 T give you peace.

**Amen.**

## Closing Hymn

CW 739 sts. 1–2, 5

Forth in Your Name, O Lord, I Go

- 1 Forth in your name, O Lord, I go,  
my daily labor to pursue,  
determined only you to know  
in all I think or speak or do.
- 2 The task your wisdom has assigned,  
O let me cheerfully fulfill;  
in all my works your presence find,  
and prove your good and perfect will.
- 5 For you I joyously employ  
whatever you in grace have giv'n;  
I run my daily course with joy  
and closely walk with you to heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, abr., alt.  
Text: Public domain

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*Thank you for worshiping 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).

**Divine Call News** – Mr. Zimmermann has returned our Call to serve as principal/teacher. Pastor Mahnke has also returned his Call to serve at St. Paul, Mauston and Friendship WI.

Our voters called Pastor Aaron Platzer to be our next pastor. Please keep him in your prayers. You may reach out to him at: 815.997.4162, [pastoratpeaceelp@gmail.com](mailto:pastoratpeaceelp@gmail.com)

**Special Meeting on Monday** – Our school board, council and teachers will meet on Monday evening to discuss the teacher/principal position in light of our financial and staffing challenges. Please pray for our ministry and our leaders during this difficult time.

**Updated Member Directory Available** – An updated member directory is available for pick up today. The annual report will now coincide with our fiscal year, which is July – June.



**Easter Lilies** – If you would like to donate an Easter lily, please sign up in the narthex.



## **Lent 2024**

Our Lent sermon series focuses on when God was literally put on trial in the person of Christ. In these inspired episodes, believers find a model and motivation for how to live as God's people in Jesus.

March 6 – Pastor Buschkopf	Testimony	Matthew 26:57-75
March 13 – Pastor Ewald	Truth	John 18:33-44
March 20 – Pastor Phelps	Restraint	Luke 22:47-53

If you are unable to attend our Wednesday afternoon service at 1:00 PM, please consider worshipping at one of our sister congregations.

- **Our Savior's: Wednesdays at 1:00 pm**
- **St. Peter Schofield campus: Thursdays – 5:00 & 7:00 pm**
- **Mountain of the Lord: Wednesdays at 6:00 pm**

## This Week at Our Savior's

<b>Today</b>	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship Sunday School & Bible Class
<b>Monday</b>	6:00 PM	School Board
<b>Tuesday</b>	4:30-6:30	School Open House
<b>Wednesday</b>	1:00 PM	Lenten Worship
<b>Saturday</b>		<i>Daylight Saving Time begins tomorrow: set your clocks ahead one hour</i>
<b>Next Sunday 3/10</b>	9:00 AM 10:15 AM 3:00 PM	Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School ( <i>No Bible Class today</i> ) NLHS Lent/Easter Concert <b><i>Food Pantry Sunday</i></b>

## Growing Together

**February 25, 2024**

<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Vision</u>	<u>Debt Red</u>	<u>Plate</u>	<u>Ash Wed</u>	<u>Lent</u>	<u>NLHS Op</u>
\$5,704.00	\$495.00	\$390.00	\$107.00	\$60.00	\$642.00	\$250.00
<u>Christian Life Resources</u>	<u>School Fees</u>	<u>Gym Rental</u>				
\$10.00	\$96.00	\$312.00				

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

**In-Person Attendance:** Sunday, Feb. 25 – 73

Midweek Lent – 68

**OWLS March Meeting** - The OWLS group will meet at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mosinee on March 12th at 11:30 with another interesting presentation. Pastor Ben Phelps from St Matthew, Marathon will have visual aids while talking about his time in Alaska serving Grace Lutheran. Various snacks will be served. Again, guests are not just welcome but encouraged to attend. Questions contact Evan or Sandy Dobberfuhl 715-693-1337.



Have you ever thought, “I wish our congregation was more outreach-minded”? If so, you’re not alone. For this reason, Our Savior’s will participate this spring in an exciting program called “Everyone Outreach”. The program helps build a culture of outreach so that every ministry and every member is encouraged and equipped to reach the lost in our community.

Please mark your calendars for **April 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>** when we kick off the program with a 2-day workshop. If you want to learn more about the Everyone Outreach program, visit [everyoneoutreach.com](http://everyoneoutreach.com) or speak to Tim Heil, our outreach elder. Look for more information about “Everyone Outreach” as we get closer to the workshop! In the meantime, help yourself to an insert in the back of church.

### **Northland Lutheran High School Delegate Update**

Delegates from area congregations met to conduct the business of Northland. Some highlights are that they currently have 111 students and are expecting over 120 this fall. Their debt is on a good path of decline and sits at \$1.114 million and they hope to have it under \$1 million by June 30th. They need a fuel-efficient vehicle to be donated and could use another van driver. They are still looking for a couple people to be on their called worker care committee which would be about a 10hr a year commitment, and the “Big News” is that the delegates approved using recent surplus operating funds to make a bid on 20 acres of land to the north of the current 20 acre campus. This would be a great blessing for future growth if a deal were to be made! Keep NLHS in your prayers and thank you for your support of our High School.



## Our Savior's Lutheran School Open House

**March 5th 4:30 - 6:30pm**

Come take a tour of our modern facility,  
meet the teachers, and see what sets us apart!

Call or email for additional information:

**715-845-3253**

email: [osinfo@oursaviorswausau.org](mailto:osinfo@oursaviorswausau.org)

[OurSaviorsWausau.org](http://OurSaviorsWausau.org)

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*Growing in Jesus, Sharing His Love*

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## **Pastor Jeff Mahnke, Vacancy Pastor**

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