



OUR SAVIOR'S

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

I am the



Vine,

you are the branches.

He who
abides in **ME,**
and I in him, bears much

fruit;



*for without Me
you can do nothing.*



[John 15:5]

WELCOME TO OUR SERVICE

Welcome to worship! Our worship focus today is how the living faith which the Lord provides leads us to offer him rich and abundant spiritual fruit. In the Gospel today Jesus tells us he is the vine and we are the branches. Because we have received complete and full forgiveness of our sins through his sacrifice, now we lead holy lives and do good deeds completely out of thanks for all God has done for us.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

God our Father, your Son completely washed away all our sins and granted us eternal life in heaven. Grant us a faith firmly rooted in Christ, water us with your scripture and your sacraments, and encourage us to do good purely out of thanks and to your glory alone. Amen.

SERVING TODAY

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

Next week – Dan & Carrie Stelzer

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024

Theme: RESURRECTION REALITY

The Risen Lord Produces Active Faith

Words of Welcome

Opening Hymn

CW 521 sts. 1–2

Christ the Eternal Lord

- 1 Christ the eternal Lord,
whose promise here we claim,
whose gifts of grace are freely poured
on all who name your name;
with thankfulness and praise
we stand before your throne,
intent to serve you all our days
and make your glory known.
- 2 Christ the unchanging Word
to ev'ry passing age,
whose timeless teachings still are heard
set forth on Scripture's page;
transform our thought and mind,
enlighten all who read,
within your Word by faith to find
the bread of life indeed.

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In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession

CW 154

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, 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.

Hymn Response

CW 521 sts. 3–4

- 3 Christ the redeeming Son
 who shares our human birth,
and by his death salvation won
 for ev'ry child of earth;
inspire our hearts, we pray,
 to tell your love abroad,
that all may honor Christ today
 and follow him as Lord.

- 4 Christ the unfading Light
of everlasting day,
our Morning Star in splendor bright,
the Life, the Truth, the Way;
that light of truth you give
to servants as to friends,
your way to walk, your life to live,
till earth's brief journey ends.

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Prayer of the Day

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; 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

Acts 4:32–37

The living Lord produced the fruits of unity and generosity

³²All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. ³³With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all ³⁴that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

³⁶Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means “son of encouragement”), ³⁷ sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet.

Hear My Words, O Gracious LORD

Psalm 5A

- 1 Hear my words, O gracious LORD;
know the whispered things I say.
Attend to all my cries for help—
God, my King, to you I pray.
- 2 Listen, LORD, at break of day,
as I lift my voice on high.
I bring to you my earnest plea;
then I wait with watchful eye.
- 3 For I know that you, O God,
find in evil no delight;
with you the wicked cannot dwell;
proud ones flee before your sight.
- 4 All who sin, O God, you hate;
you destroy the one who lies.
The LORD abhors with all his might
those who schemes of blood devise.
- 5 Yet, invited by your love,
to your house will I draw near,
and, blest to meet you in this place,
worship you in rev’rent fear.

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Second Reading

1 John 3:18–24

We are encouraged to demonstrate living faith in loving words and actions

¹⁸Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

¹⁹This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: ²⁰If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God ²²and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. ²⁴The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

Gospel Acclamation

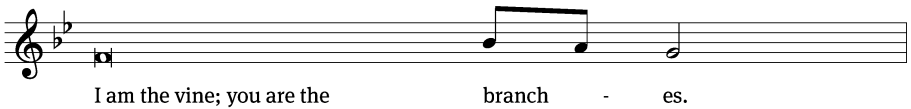
John 15:5



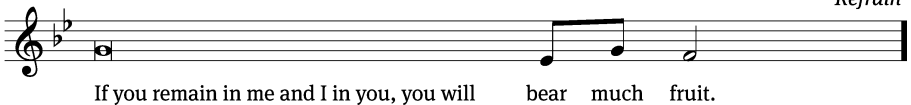
Refrain



Tone



Refrain



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Gospel

John 15:1–8

Jesus gives us the ability to produce fruits of faith

¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day

CW 595

Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing

- 1 Fruitful trees, the Spirit's sowing,
may we ripen and increase,
fruit to life eternal growing,
rich in love and joy and peace.
- 2 Laden branches freely bearing
gifts the Giver loves to bless;
here is fruit that grows by sharing,
patience, kindness, gentleness.

- 3 Rooted deep in Christ our Master,
Christ our pattern and our goal,
teach us, as the years fly faster,
goodness, faith, and self-control.
- 4 Fruitful trees, the Spirit's tending,
may we grow till harvests cease;
till we taste, in life unending,
heaven's love and joy and peace.

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Sermon

John 15:1-8

Thriving Faith Produces Abundant Fruit

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.

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

Lord God, your only Son came in the flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. Protect us from all false teaching that we may always confess Christ to be our only true God and remain faithful to Him. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, you have grafted us onto the vine of your Son. Prune us and cut off from us all sin and dead works, that we may always draw life from your Son and produce the fruits of faith and good works. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Savior of all people, in the water of Baptism you welcome sinners into your kingdom and give them life. Grant that we would always honor and extol this gift, and let nothing prevent people from it. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Special Prayers of Intercession

Holy Father, you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Hear and answer our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, and your saints shall bless you; for you live and reign with the Holy Spirit, ever one God, now and 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 ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

CW 528 sts. 1–3

Christ, the Word of God Incarnate

- 1 Christ, the Word of God incarnate,
Lord and Son of Abraham;
Christ, the radiance of the Father,
perfect God, the great I AM;
Christ, the light, you shine unvanquished,
light and life you bring to all;
light our path with your own presence,
grant us grace to heed your call.

- 2 Christ, the living bread from heaven,
food for body, food for soul;
Christ, the manna, daily given,
nourish, strengthen, make us whole.
Feed us with the food of heaven,
foretaste of the feast to be;
quench our thirst with living water
springing up eternally.

- 3 Christ, the shoot that springs triumphant
from the stump of Jesse's tree;
Christ, true vine, you nurture branches
to bear fruit abundantly.
Graft us into you, O Savior;
prune our hearts so we remain
fruitful branches in your vineyard
till eternal life we gain.

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.

Call Meeting TODAY – Voters, please stay today for a brief Call meeting following our worship service to approve a teacher Divine Call. There is just one candidate, so the meeting will be quick.

No Bible Class Today – Because today is Confirmation Sunday at St Peter, there will be no Bible Class after our worship service. This will enable Vicar Wenzel to return to St Peter's Schofield Campus to participate in the confirmation ceremony. Bible Class will resume next Sunday, May 12th.

Divine Call Update – Pastor and Mrs. Aden have returned our Calls. We have submitted a request for a seminary graduate and await God's will. We are in communication with potential teachers who live in the greater Wausau area. Pray that God grants us workers for both our church and our school.

Door Offering – We will collect a “thank you” door offering gift for Mr. Lemke today and again next Sunday. Cards are also welcome.

Our school families are holding a “thank you” pizza party for Mr. Lemke on Friday, May 17.

Our congregation will host a reception for Mr. Lemke on Sunday, May 19 following our worship service. We'll have refreshments and will present our gift to Mr. Lemke. Please plan to stay for fellowship, offer our thanks, and wish Mr. Lemke God's richest blessings as he prepares to move to Bethlehem Lutheran School in Hortonville.

Memorials – We offer our sincere thanks for gifts given in memory of:

Pauline Froehlich – *Elaine Radtke, Bill & Sue Unruh*

Myrt Woelfle – *Keith & Laura Brandt, Robert & Janice Gresens, Travis & Marie Kurth, Rick & Karen Leopold, Angeline Marquis, Lorraine Melanson, Gail & Tommy Schmidt, Violet Schmidt & Family, Kathy Stubbe, Bill & Sue Unruh*

Blessed be their memories.

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

This Week at Our Savior's

Today	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship Sunday School Call Meeting - <i>No Bible Class</i>
Monday	6:00 PM	School Board & Accreditation Teams
Wednesday	6:00 PM	Council
Thursday	1:00 PM	Ladies' Aid
Saturday		OS Day at Dime & Dollar
Sunday 5/12	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship with Communion Sunday School & Bible Class <i>Food Pantry Sunday</i>

Growing Together

April 28, 2024

<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Vision</u>	<u>Debt Red</u>	<u>Memorial</u>	<u>Bldg Maint</u>	<u>OS School</u>
\$8,100.00	\$635.00	\$410.00	\$165.00	\$150.00	\$50.00
<u>NLHS Op</u>	<u>WELS Scholarship</u>	<u>Boxtops for Ed</u>	<u>School Fees</u>		
\$250.00	\$10.00	\$19.90	\$267.00		

Anticipated Weekly Offerings \$4,077

Attendance: Sunday, April 28 - 73

2024 WELS Night at American Family Field – St. Peter congregation is renting a Lamers motorcoach to travel to Milwaukee to watch the Brewers play the Washington Nationals on Friday, July 12th. The bus will leave the Schofield Campus in the early afternoon so we can tailgate before the game begins at 7:10 pm. Because WELS United in Central Wisconsin is providing a generous grant the price should be \$43-60 person (depending on how many go). Sign up in the Information Center or by calling the St. Peter church office by Sunday, June 9th, to secure your spot (715-359-2829). They are inviting members from area WELS churches to join us as well.

Congregational Update on May 19 – Our leadership will briefly update the congregation about current discussions and challenges in our ministry on Sunday, May 19 following our worship service.



OWLS May Meeting - The May meeting of the OWLS group will be on Tuesday, May 14th at Immanuel Lutheran in Mosinee at 11:30. Pastor Ewald will be giving an interesting presentation on beekeeping and honey. Again, light snacks will be served and guests are encouraged to attend. Any questions please contact Evan or Sandy at 715-693-1337. Note: This will be the last meeting until September. Have a safe and blessed summer.

NLHS Notes

Housing for Commuting & Foreign Students, 24-25 - Would you consider hosting a commuting or a foreign student next school year? We are looking for several families who would open their hearts and homes to students who live a little too far away to travel each day or a student far from home. The bonus is that we are able to share Jesus with these students. You would receive a stipend for the student's room and board, as well as new experiences, warm memories, and often lifetime friendships. Call or email if you are interested in this unique opportunity, 715-359-3400 or nlhsoffice@nlhs.org.

WHAT? WILDCAT OPEN? You bet! Save the date: August 10, 2024. Pencil it on your calendars now, and watch for registration information coming soon.

NLHS Together We Shine Recap – April 21 was a glorious day celebrating Northland Lutheran High School at the Annual Together We Shine Silent Auction & Soup Tasting Event. Over 300 area families were in attendance, bidding on almost 200 fully donated auction items, while tasting delicious soups prepared and served by 12 chefs! Over \$10,000 was raised! Funds raised will be used towards the purchase of an outdoor electronic reader board to inform the community of happenings at the school. The winner of the Empty Soup Bowl was Holly Prah with Blabarsoppa “Blueberry Soup”, 1st Place for Favorite Soup went to Jeff & Nicole Starck with Creamy Baked Potato Soup, 2nd Place went to Deb Schoeneck with Spanish Country Soup, and 3rd Place went to Holly Prah with her Blabarsoppa Soup. Thank you so much to all the donors, chefs, attendees, and volunteers!

Taste of Missions

Register today for Taste of Missions, a hybrid event that will be held on Saturday, June 15, 2024, at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, Wis. Join us in person OR online to get a “taste of missions” no matter where you might be around the world.

The event kicks off with a special worship service where we will commission new home and world missionaries. Sample ethnic cuisine from some of our mission fields while enjoying fellowship and presentations from home and world missionaries alike. View displays, participate in outdoor family-friendly activities, and ask questions about the ups and downs of mission work during a panel discussion.

Registration is \$15 per person, with children 13 and under attending for free. Those attending in person will receive food tickets to sample ethnic food and will have the ability to purchase additional food from the food trucks. Or attend virtually for free and watch all events via livestream, view additional video updates from missionaries, and try your hand at making one of the many ethnic recipes shared on the website.

Learn more and register at tasteofmission.com.



OUR SAVIOR'S

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Growing in Jesus, Sharing His Love

Our Savior's Ev. Lutheran Church

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