

Learn Live Share

Spring 2018



Our Savior Lutheran Church and School
Quarterly Newsletter

Care Abounds at Our Savior

by Pastor Bill Wangelin



Have you ever thought about how much God cares for you? 1 Peter 5:7 says, "Cast all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you." God cares about you, your life, your future, and He sent Jesus to be our Savior. In Jesus, we see how much God really cares about us and loves us, and it's a lot!

God's care for us overflows to caring for others. Our church family is so blessed to have each other. We encourage each other in our faith as disciples, we pray for each other, and we are there for each other in the ups and downs of life.

My prayer is that each and every member of Our Savior would experience the loving care of our church family as we learn, live and share Christ. Perhaps you are already in a group at church that cares for each other in the ways listed above (encouraging faith, praying, being there for each other). These are the **Care Groups** at Our Savior, and include the home-based small groups, our music groups, Bible Studies, and any group where these three things are happening.

If you are not already in such a group, then you may be missing out on the fullness of God's care that He brings



through a loving church family. I would invite you in the coming weeks to prayerfully consider how you can join an existing group or start a new one.

In these pages of Learn, Live, Share, you will see the ways that God cares for us and for others through this remarkable ministry. We are so blessed to call Our Savior our church family! Thank you for being a part of it, and may God's loving care enfold you and your family now and always.

In Joyful Service to Jesus,
Pastor Bill Wangelin <><

Family Resource Corner

by Dave Wright

Weekend Marriage Retreat



April 27-28, 2018

Join us as we gather with members of St. Luke, Haslett for a marriage retreat in Brighton, MI.

Cost: \$180 per couple for room, meals, and retreat program. If you prefer to commute, the cost is \$80 per couple. This includes a reception and snacks Friday night, breakfast and lunch Saturday.

More Information: Pick up a brochure in the church lobby or contact Brett and Carla Kaschinske at 517-525-8660

Resource for "Empty Nesters"



Now What?

Dennis Rainey wrote an excellent article entitled: "Don't Get Stuck in the Empty Nest." It is an honest and candid account of his and his wife's experience when the last of their 6 children left home. There was a period of

time in which they experienced confusion, sadness, and a loss of some of their identity, but from their experience, they recommend that other couples in an empty nest marriage transition to the next phase of life by doing 3 things:

1. **Work on their own marriage relationship**
2. **Reassess and reevaluate your life**
3. **Ask yourself, "What is my mission for the final years of my life?"**

When demonstrating love toward others and following the Great Commission are two of your top priorities, the empty nest phase of life will be fulfilling and rewarding. Rainey calls the new season of their life "Prime Time."

To check out the complete article, go to www.oursaviorlansing.org/resources.

Sing to the Lord

by John Horak

Have you ever thought about joining the choir? Read what members of the Adult Choir have to say about singing in the choir:

"I just wanted to say how much I enjoy singing in the choir, whether it's on select Sundays, other days, or special events. It has been said "Music soothes the savage breast" and I believe it. I have often been overcome with emotion singing, by myself or with groups. That feeling we have all experienced when we hear "that" song can be felt, time and time again, when you sing with a group. I urge you to try singing with a group - you might very well find out you like it - Mikey likes it!" ~Mike Baldock

"Last year's hymn festival was a wonderful experience that I treasure even to this day. I LOVED singing with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ from some of our neighbor churches during this event - it felt really good having all of us together giving praise to God." ~Russ Berends

"I have enjoyed being in the choir for more than 25 years. I love to sing and am blessed to join in a fellowship every week with people who have enriched my life in many, many ways. Over the years, I've developed life-long friendships. Last year, I met up with a coworker from my banking days and renewed a wonderful friendship. This year another flash from the past joined our choir and we reminisced about our "trouble making days". The caring and sharing we have each week is such an awesome honor and privilege. John is so patient and the best director, friend, and teacher, ever. Come join us... we truly have a great time." ~Cheryl Berg

"If you like to sing and have fun at the same time join the choir. Singing with other Christians for Easter and the hymn festival is exhilarating!" ~Jim Zehnder



Join Us for Easter and the Hymn Festival

Easter Worship - Sunday, April 1, 8 a.m.

Rehearsals - Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. (February 20 27 March 6, 13, 20, 27)

Hymn Festival with Michael Burkhardt - Sunday, May 20, 4 p.m.

Rehearsals - Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. (April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8, 15)

If you have any questions, contact John Horak: jhorak@oursaviorlansing.org or (517)882-8665 ext. 107

Hmong Ministry in Alaska

by Pastor Lang Yang

Pastor Lang Yang had trained two Hmong lay leaders in Alaska since 2013 in the Hmong language for the Northwest District of Licensing Deacon. On January 21st Seng Chang and Sam Chang were installed and commissioned as Deacons after completing the training, interviews, and licensing to serve the Hmong Ministry at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Chugiak, Alaska. We give praise and thanksgiving to God for the two Deacons who will be serving the Hmong people in Alaska - the Last Frontier. Please keep them in your prayers so that they may share the Gospel of Jesus Christ to others.



Hospital Visitation Ministry

by Vicar Kyle Weeks



Did you know that Our Savior has a hospital visitation ministry? Consisting of Pastor Wangelin, Pastoral Care Assistant Sharon Atkinson, Family Life Minister Dave Wright, and myself, individual members of Our Savior's Pastoral Care Team make regular visits to

those in the hospital or in a recovery facility. The goal of the team is to make sure that you or your loved one continue to experience the love and support of your church family, as well as the hope and peace of God's promises and presence. Members of the team provide encouragement, prayers, and devotions during these visits. And while of course we never wish illness upon anyone, it's truly our privilege to be able to walk with you during your time of need. **If you or someone you know would ever like a visit, please don't hesitate to let us know by contacting the church office or speaking to one of us in person.**

That said, the members of the Pastoral Care Team aren't the only ones who participate in this ministry! Staff members and elders also make occasional visits to provide prayer and encouragement, and really anyone who attends Our Savior is encouraged to make similar visits as they feel called. After all, Our Savior is a church family, and that's what family does!

Recently, I saw this in action when a member of Our Savior, Elaine Noffze, was in the hospital. Over the course of Elaine's recovery, every time one of us was there to visit, there were two to four other friends from OSL already there! As Elaine herself said, she could *"truly feel the love and care coming from the congregation....[and] during my hospital stay and home recovery I never felt alone or forgotten by my church family."* Truly, these friends showed what it means to care for one another as the Body of Christ! What a blessing to know we have a God who is by our side whatever our circumstances, and who works through us to show such love and care to one another!



Serving Through the Living Nativity

by Jane Whitacre

Christmas is a fun and festive time of year. Special memories, food, family, parties, church services and gifts. But after all the worldly festivities of the season are over, what's left? We have Jesus!

To Christians, the true nativity story is the center of the Christmas season. It is ETERNAL and a gift from God to EVERYONE. At Our Savior we can Learn Live and Share this truth and joy with our community by providing a realistic reenactment of Christ's birth, through our Living Nativity.

It takes the efforts of close to 100 people to carry out our Living Nativity each year. Yes, it is a big undertaking! Our church family is very generous with their time and talents. And there is a place for everyone.

We serve the Lord through the Living Nativity. It is a joyful undertaking that is personally very meaningful to our volunteer team. *"For me it's about giving. I have been given the most precious gift of all in knowing Jesus. My life is no longer my own and (God is so good!) there is great freedom and unexpected joy in giving one's life to others. This opportunity to visually share the truth of God's gift to us all is life-giving"* said one volunteer. Another comments, *"The Living Nativity is very special, and I feel good knowing that for many people, especially children, it is likely the only exposure some people may have to the real Christmas story."* Our youth participate as well, *"Being in the angel choir is really fun."* And other volunteers enjoy helping in specific ways: *"I love to bake and share my love thru the cookies I make."*

While the Living Nativity is an event meant to bring both members and non-members to our church for the story of Christ's birth, as a participant, the experience of recreating this event brings me to the very root of my Christian faith. It was such a humble start for the man who would call so many to faith, and thus it seems appropriate that I am humbled as I work with so many amazing volunteers. I'm already looking forward to next year.

We are blessed as a congregation to be able to serve the Lord through the Living Nativity.

Invisible Legacies

by Bill Burmeister



David Green, the Founder of Hobby Lobby, had some interesting insights in his new book, "Giving It All Away...and Getting It All Back Again: The Way of Living Generously".

He talks about his upbringing in a pastor's home, moving around from small town to small town, watching how his parents handled life.

His parents gave money together for missions, but his mother wanted to make her own offering for missions. So she made and sold doillies, the crocheted mats some use for decoration on tables. That memory still sticks with him. Green states, "Everything that I have and all that I long to pass on to my descendants has grown from the riches my parents embedded in my life".

A legacy of true value is a legacy made of more than money. It's a legacy conceived in wisdom, nurtured by principle and sustained by character. If we only pass money to the next generation, we lay a crushing load upon them. The inheritance of greater value is the sum of how we live, what we believe and the content of the dreams that carry us to success.

The legacies our generation hopes to pass on to the next are not made of money alone. Money is important, and we should be grateful we have enough to give to our children. Yet the greater parts of our legacies are made of invisible things. They are the family stories we have to recount. They are the values those stories have to teach.

Invisible qualities, not money, make life worth living. Because of these qualities, we can build a legacy worth passing on. That legacy has certainly impacted David Green.

We are all wired differently. We all have different callings in life. The stories resulting from our histories are unique, but each can be significant to pass along to those around us. Those stories and what our children observe can have a lasting impact as they barrel down the path of life.

As we plan to share our earthly riches with our heirs, we can also reinforce the eternal importance of our faith by including a financial Legacy Gift to those ministries that have had the greatest influence on our lives. By including this final "Offering" in our plans, we help insure the Gospel truth will be shared with others long after we are Home. It can be a final example that continues to shape how our children react to the world.

Complete your Plan now and make a difference forever! When you are ready to adjust your existing plan or just getting started writing your first Will, call Church Extension Fund to assist you with suggestions to add a Christian perspective to your Plan.

Bill Burmeister is a member of Our Savior Lutheran Church and Gift Planning Counselor for Church Extension Fund. (www.mi-cef.org)



For more information about the Our Savior Endowment Fund, go to oursaviorlansing.org/givingresources



Saturday, April 21 @ Our Savior

Check out all kinds of trucks at this fun event, sponsored by PTL! Details coming soon!

Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, March 31
9:30am

More information on how you can help is available in the church lobby!

Springtime at Our Savior Lutheran School

by Principal Matthew Couser

It is amazing to reflect upon this school year and the countless blessings we have received, experienced, and celebrated. Our school year theme, *It's All About Jesus*, has been at the forefront as students, families, and staff have collectively committed to our Christian school experience. ***Together we gather daily to know Jesus Christ and together we make Jesus Christ known.***

Our community is ever transforming, through the work of the Holy Spirit, as we equip our children with Christ-centered knowledge and learning activities making an impact in the Kingdom of God. We Learn, Live, and Share Christ!

Our Savior anticipates the upcoming 2018 school experiences...

Music Festival, March 1: Mr. John Horak is preparing the student handbell choir and middle school choir for their annual Lutheran Schools Music Festival on the campus of Concordia University-Ann Arbor. Our middle school band, under the direction of Mr. Noah Dyer, are also in preparation mode for the music festival. The students, staff, and chaperones worship with other Lutheran school music groups. Each music group performs before judges as they share their gifts and talents.

Accreditation Visit Team, March 20-21: Our Savior is in the final planning stages for hosting 6 visiting principals who will conduct an onsite school visit while exploring prepared documentation of the ministry and operations of our school and it's partnership with the church.



6th Annual Academic Showcase, April 18: Our Savior K-8 students will have student work and projects on display for this evening event. Science experiments, artwork, social studies research, and other classroom learning experiences will be on exhibit in the gym from 6-7:30pm. The community is invited.

Grade 4's Science & Nature Week, April 23-27: Studying the scientific process while immersed in God's creation, Mrs. Becker's twenty-two students will venture to Annie's Big Nature Lesson at Lincoln Brick Park in Grand Ledge, MI. This is the 7th consecutive year the fourth grade has participated in the weeklong field trip. Students explore and engage the outdoors with hikes, searches, and investigative activities. An onsite naturalist teams with Mrs. Becker in planning and guiding the student experiences.

Battle of the Books, May 10-11: In memory of our teacher Mrs. Decker who was called to be with Jesus last year, 5th-8th grade students are teaming up for a book trivia contest. The students have already been assigned the following reads as they prepare for the May competition: *The Gospel of Mark*, *I Survived the Great Chicago Fire*, *The Wild Robot*, *Wonder*, & *The Mysterious Benedict Society*. We are grateful for the collaboration of students, teachers, and volunteers for this reading event.


8th Grade Trip to Creation Museum & The Ark, May 21-23: Miss Drinan is coordinating the annual 8th grade faith experience that is packed with devotions, biblical experiences and sightseeing. It promises to be loads of fun as the culminating faith formation trip for our young people. Pastor Wangelin and Mr. Couser are joining parent chaperones for this neat historical venture.

May God bless our coming and going.

The LORD will keep you from all harm, he will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. ~Psalm 121:7-8

1ST ANNUAL
**MICHELLE
DECKER**



 @OSLBOTB

In memory of a wonderful
teacher and friend!

**We Love
Lutheran
Schools
Week!**



Early Childhood & Summer Camp

by Windy Carroll, Early Childhood Director

With enrollment season in full-swing, our Early Childhood programs are busy planning Open Houses, greeting new families, and planning for next year already! Our first Open House was February 8th, during which we were blessed to greet 15 families interested in our programs. As we continue our enrollment period, we pray that God will continue to bless us all here at Our Savior that we might be able to spread the message of God's love through Jesus Christ, our Savior!

Our Early Childhood programs are also working on getting rated through the Great Start to Quality star rating system. This organization exists to help connect families with quality child care and early childhood options as well as to assist programs like ours in reflecting on our curriculum, environment, teaching, procedures, and policies in order to improve our quality and maintain highest quality standards. This process is very much like the accreditation process that the full school is currently undergoing, but is specific to just Early Childhood. Once we are rated, our star rating (on a scale of one to five stars), will be published on the Great Start to Quality website.

Along with enrolling for Early Childhood, we are also looking forward to opening registration for Panther Camp 2018 this month! Planning for dates, themes, field trips, and special events is already in the works and we are excited to be able to offer this program to the school, church, and local community once again this year! If you're interested in keeping up with the newest Panther Camp information, please visit: panthercamp.weebly.com and check back throughout the month for updates.

Tech Tip Corner

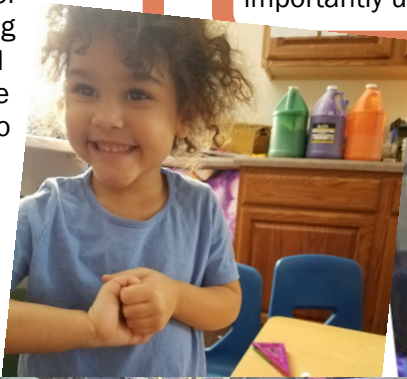
by Josh Wyatt, Technology Manager

Internet ads, they pop up at inconvenient times and clutter our browsers. Sometimes they are a simple picture of a candy bar on the side of a website or a video that can't be skipped before the actual video we want to watch. Thanks to the power of ad blockers we can get rid of all those annoying ads. Ad blockers fall under the category of extensions in our browsers.



The ad blocker of choice is uBlock Origin. It stops all ads from showing, even video ads on Youtube. There is one issue that is a rarity with ad blockers, some websites won't work if they detect an ad blocker. Luckily uBlock has an icon in the URL bar that acts as a power button, this allows you to turn it on and off so you can access those sites.

Installing uBlock and other extensions is easily done in most browsers. Google chrome, Firefox, Safari and Microsoft Edge all have this ability. The extensions tab is usually found in settings or tools. Google Chrome to a lot of people is considered the best web browser and has a built in app store that makes it easy to install extensions and apps, most importantly uBlock Origin.



Spring Events at Our Savior

March

- 3 2018 Auction
- 11 New Member Sunday
- 25 Holy Week Experience
- 31 Easter Egg Hunt

April

- 1 Easter Sunday
- 18 Academic Showcase
- 21 Touch-A-Truck Event
- 29 Friendship Sunday

May

- 6 Confirmation Sunday
- 17 Early Childhood & Kindergarten
Open House
- 20 Hymn Festival

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Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

7910 E. St. Joe Hwy, Lansing, MI 48917
www.oursaviorlansing.org

Church

517-882-8665

Office Hours: Mon - Fri: 8:00am - 4:00pm

School

517-882-3550

Office Hours: Mon - Fri: 8:00am - 4:00pm

Worship Times

Sunday: 8:00am & 10:45am

Hmong Worship

Sunday: 10:45am

Easter Sunday Worship

Sunday, April 1
8:00am • 10:45am



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