

Learn Live Share

Fall 2017



Our Savior Lutheran Church and School Quarterly Newsletter

It's Still All About Jesus

by Pastor Bill Wangelin



"Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever."
Hebrews 13:8

When we look to the past, we examine what has changed, what has remained constant, and what milestones are worth celebrating. This fall, our church family is celebrating two special

anniversaries that give us the opportunity to reflect on God's blessings, His involvement in history, and His faithfulness. This fall, we celebrate 500 years of the Lutheran Reformation, and 60 years of Our Savior Lutheran School. As we consider the world events that transpired in the wake of Luther's re-discovery of the Gospel, and the local impact Our Savior Lutheran School has had on countless students and families across the decades, we humbly acknowledge the heritage we have been given and the shoulders on which we stand. These blessings are a gift, which we now get to share with the next generation.

In the following pages, you will get a glimpse of how the Lord is at work through Our Savior Lutheran Church and School today. We are a dynamic and growing ministry, serving families with Christ-centered education. We continue to fulfill the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations, and to raise up the next generation of Christian disciples. It is an exciting time to be a part of Our Savior!

The world has changed quite a bit in the past 6 decades, let alone the past 5 centuries. And yet some things have stood the test of time. The Good News of the Gospel is timeless. The Scriptures are the foundation of our faith. The Christian faith as summarized in the Catechisms of Martin Luther has endured. We are the singing church. We continue to place a priority on Christian Education.

You are invited to mark these occasions with our September 17th Celebration Sunday, the Reformation Anniversary Service at the Breslin Center on October 15th, and the countless opportunities to learn, live and share Christ in our church and school ministry.

I hope that these weeks and months of anniversaries and celebrations give you a deeper insight into your church home, your family, and your personal faith as well. When all is said and done, "it's still all about Jesus."

Here we stand. Here we go!

Pastor Bill Wangelin <><

Milestone Ministries at Our Savior

By: Dave Wright



Our lives are filled with many milestones. These milestones include important dates, accomplishments, and steps we take as we journey through life. As Christians, we are blessed to be able to celebrate significant

milestones in our faith development.

Families at Our Savior have the opportunity to walk alongside their church family and be assisted in learning about and implementing various steps of faith development - particularly in the lives of children.

The Milestone Ministry at Our Savior this year will include seven different milestones. Most include a class that is offered to parents and children. Check out the Milestone Ministry brochure in the church lobby. In it, it lists and describes each of the seven milestones, which include baptism, learning to pray, first bible, third grade money management, first communion, confirmation, and a special one for new drivers called "Keys to the Future."

If you have any questions about the Milestone Ministries or would like more information, please contact Dave Wright at dwright@oursaviorlansing.org or 517-882-8665.



Purity Rally Coming in November

PURE By God For God is a terrific reality for those who cling to Jesus as our Savior, Redeemer, and Friend. The title of **PURE By God For God** is also a really cool event for 7th - 12th grade teens AND parents taking place at Our Savior on Sunday, November 12, from 3:00pm until 6:00pm.

Join us as we celebrate together God's plan for purity in the lives of His people. Travis Hartjen, pastor of Tangible Grace Fellowship in Allen, Texas will lead us in a presentation highlighting God's perfect plans for dating, relationships, marriage, and godly behavior.

Christian contemporary praise band **2nd Mile** will be playing before and after the main presentation. Purity resources and information as well as great food, a coffee/hot chocolate bar, prizes, and T-shirts for all pre-registered attendees will be available throughout this event.

For more information or to register, go to oursaviorlansing.org/pure or call the church office.



PURE
BY GOD FOR GOD

Youth Purity Gathering For Teens and Their Parents

with
Travis Hartjen
& 2nd Mile

Sunday, November 12, 2017 ~ Doors Open @ 3pm
\$10 per person OR \$25 per family

Register Today! OurSaviorLansing.org/Pure
Our Savior Lutheran Church & School ~ Lansing, MI

Mission to Middelburg, South Africa

By: Kate Miller, OSL 5th Grade Teacher & Kylie Allen, OSL Kindergarten Teacher

This summer (July 23rd-August 7th), we were blessed with an opportunity to travel to South Africa to learn, live and share Christ with the people at St. Peter Christian College in Middelburg. We joined a team of 11 other teachers, students, and administrators from St. Peter Lutheran Church & School in Arlington Heights, Illinois, for two weeks of serving together.

Kate primarily worked with grades 5-9 in the sciences, and Kylie primarily worked with the early childhood teachers and students on learning through play. We also got the opportunity to work with teachers on how to integrate faith into all subjects and make Jesus an integral piece of each part of their school day.

We are so thankful to God for this opportunity and to so many of you for your fervent prayers and financial support of the work that God is doing in South Africa. We are excited to see how God continues to strengthen the future partnership between Our Savior and the ministries in South Africa.



Welcome Ms. Kristi DeBoer - 3rd Grade Teacher

Where did you grow up?

I was born in Midland, MI but grew up in Ludington, MI

What are your favorite hobbies?

I enjoy traveling, listening to music, and relaxing by the water/beach. I also dabble in sewing & gardening,

What is your favorite Bible verse and why?

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9 This is my confirmation verse given to me by my dad. It has given me much strength to press on when life is hard and that God will always be with me.

What is your favorite food?

I love steak

What led you to seek a career in church/school ministry?

I looked up to my older sister who was a Lutheran school teacher and wanted to be just like her. I love children and LOVE to help them learn about Jesus.

One fun fact about you

I love climbing – trees, hills, sand dunes, etc! I went caving with my nephew in Mexico where it was very dark and tunnels were very narrow.



Welcome MacKenzie Drinan Middle School Teacher

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Saginaw, Michigan at Peace Lutheran Church and School, and I later attended Valley Lutheran High School.

What are your favorite hobbies?

I love to read, play guitar, sing, and laugh.

What is your favorite Bible verse and why?

James 1:5 is a favorite Bible verse of mine. James writes, "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." I crave the wisdom that comes from God, wisdom to speak, wisdom to act, and wisdom to love.

What is your favorite food?

I would never turn down a piece of chocolate cake.

What led you to seek a career in church/school ministry?

How beautiful it is to know that our God is so gracious that all we need to do is ask! And what a joy it is to share the good news of our gracious Savior with children! I have personally experienced the blessings that come from Lutheran education, and I cannot imagine a better way to spend my days then discussing the joy of the gospel with middle school students. I am excited to partner with you in sharing God's love with the Our Savior Family and the Lansing community.

One fun fact about you:

I recently went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. So, if you ever want to hear me gush, ask me about that trip. I would love to talk to you about it!



Welcome Vicar Kyle Weeks

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Shingle Springs, which is a small town located in historic gold rush territory in Northern California, about halfway between Sacramento and Lake Tahoe.

What are your favorite hobbies?

Having lived for most of my life near the mountains, I greatly enjoy the chance to get outdoors to go hiking, fishing, snowboarding, and just about anything else outside. I'm also an avid reader, and like to exercise and play board games.

What is your favorite Bible verse and why?

My favorite verse is Philippians 1:6, "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." This verse has brought me great comfort over the years, as it reminds me that from start to finish, God has been working for my redemption and will ensure that it is finished. Also, the word for completion comes from the same root word Jesus uses on the cross when He says that "It is finished," making this verse doubly powerful!

What is your favorite food?

Would you believe that I spent more time deliberating this question than any other?? So many choices, but if I had to choose... probably chicken enchiladas.

What led you to seek a career in church/school ministry?

I actually didn't convert to Christianity until my adult years, and prior to that struggled a lot with the meaning of life and related questions. Hearing the good news of the Gospel in Jesus Christ was completely life-changing for me, and gave me a sense of hope that had eluded me before. As I grew in my newfound faith, I came to feel that I was being called to share that same hope of the Gospel with others, just as my home pastor had done with me.

One fun fact about you:

As a little kid, I thought that Green Bay was in the Bay Area of California, so I started rooting for the Packers thinking they were the home team. By the time I found out that wasn't the case it was too late, and I've been a Packer's fan ever since. Go Pack Go!





Here We Stand

Mark Your Calendars
Michigan District-wide
Reformation Worship Service

Sunday, October 15, 2017

Breslin Center
at Michigan State University
2 p.m. Concourse Displays Open
4 p.m. Pre-Service Concert
5 p.m. Celebration Worship

michigandistrict.org/500



Michigan District
The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

This event is generously sponsored by a
Michigan District Church Extension Fund grant

Heritage Dinner


Celebrating 60 Years of Christian Education

Sunday, September 17, 2017
12:30pm

Our Savior Lutheran Gymnasium

Please join us as we praise God
and celebrate 60 years
of School Ministry

Information and Registration at
oursaviorlansing.org/heritagedinner



2017-18 School Year - It's All About Jesus!

By Matthew Couser

We begin the 60th year of Our Savior Lutheran School where we love to Learn, Live, and Share Christ with you and your family. We celebrate God's work through faith-based education as we equip children to use their hearts, their heads, and their hands to serve and share Jesus.

Our Savior Lutheran School is blessed with families who commit to quality Christian education and Christ-filled experiences as we grow in faith, love, and learning together. Our Savior is blessed with a congregation that values faith and learning in a school community with daily faith experiences. In the past sixty years and for the time ahead, Our Savior Lutheran School's mission and message remains the same:

It's All About Jesus!

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ~ Hebrews 13:8

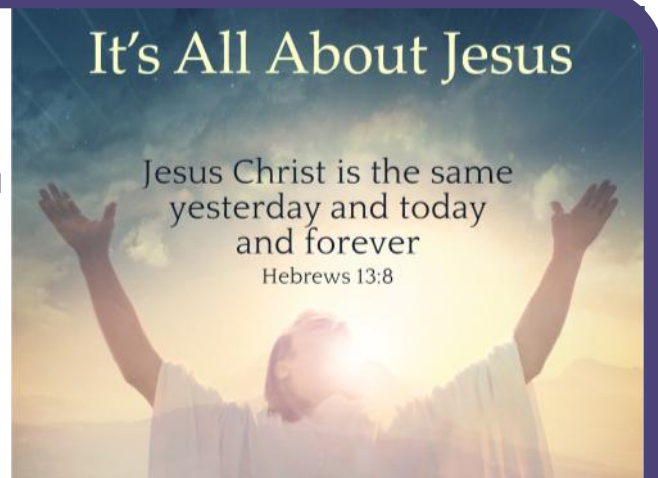
In a world filled with disease, uncertainty, and despair, Lutheran schools reinforce the scriptural truths of peace found in Christ. Our Lutheran teachers seek to develop thinking skills that allow children to become model citizens and servant leaders. Teachers equip students with smooth stones (1 Samuel 17:40), like the Old Testament shepherd David, to face the Goliaths of today and tomorrow. Our teachers place students in situations where they develop empathy for others through opportunities like chapel offerings, service projects, chapel families and learning buddies. Yet our biggest goal, through the work of the Holy Spirit, is to share with your children and family the love of Jesus and the promise of eternal life. Indeed, Heaven is our home (Philippians 3:20).

The 2017-2018 school year began on August 23rd with opening worship led by Pastor Wangelin and Vicar Weeks. Families, students, and staff gathered to worship and pray just as we do in our weekly chapels. We embark on a journey in faith and learning with an increased enrollment of 226 students (Praise the Lord). With 167 K-8th grade students this year, we have the most grade school students enrolled since we relocated to St. Joe Hwy/Broadbent in 2008. The Early Childhood Program continues to reach and orient new families to Christian Education from the community. Every child and family will be prayed for and encouraged. Through daily Bible study and prayer, service and leadership opportunities, our school family will engage in Christian witness in and beyond Our Savior Lutheran School.

We are in awe of God's goodness, grace and love. To God be the glory!

In His Hands,

Matthew Couser
Principal



Seasons of Life

by Vicar Kyle Weeks



What's your favorite season? For many people, the season they look forward to most is fall. With the crisp autumn air, pumpkin patches, and the cascade of changing colors on the trees, the season of fall has a lot to offer.

Since moving to Michigan earlier this summer, my wife Krista and I have heard a lot about how great the fall colors are here. As that time of year approaches, we've grown excited to experience it for ourselves, especially since the trees didn't really change color much in California where we grew up. Most years, things kind of just went from green to brown without much in between. If we did want to see those vibrant red and gold leaves, we had to drive up into the mountains, but even then the fall colors didn't last very long. If we got busy or put it off, before we knew it the window of opportunity was gone.

Krista and I are determined not to miss the fall colors this time around. That said, there are plenty of other things – plenty of other 'seasons of life' – that we don't want to miss this year either. Even if you're not in a new state or phase of life like we are, there are still a variety of gifts and opportunities God has for you during every season of life. And just like the fall colors, they can be easy to let slip by if we're not careful.

Sometimes these seasons come in the form of a person who needs to be pointed to the Gospel during a difficult time, the chance to commit ourselves to making the most of a new school year, or a visitor at church looking to be welcomed.

Sometimes they manifest themselves in opportunities to be spiritually fortified through our devotions, or as a time to slow down and just rest in God and the gifts He delivers to us in worship. Other times these seasons present themselves in fast-growing children who simply need to spend time with a caring parent-figure, a chance to (re)connect with a group of friends with whom you can share life with, or an occasion to share in food and fellowship.

Doubtless, you can think of many other seasons of life that are all too fleeting. So this year, don't let the seasons pass you by! Jesus came that you "may have life and have it abundantly," referring both to the spiritual life He grants us and to our many earthly callings through which we participate in His gracious kingdom. Come discover all the ways you can get plugged in to Our Savior as we learn, live, and share Christ in this season of life together.



Thanksgiving Day Basket Collection Begins October 8th

Through the generosity of our members, OSL has been providing full Thanksgiving Day meal supplies for many local families. Over the last 5 years, we have provided 1,000 baskets to people throughout our community. This is possible through the donations of meal supplies, money, and time. Please prayerfully consider giving to this awesome program. If you have time to assist in the planning or distribution to families as they pick up their baskets, you will see the Lord's work being accomplished through the blessings of our congregation.

Donations for the 200 baskets we will be passing out this year, will be accepted from October 8th through November 15th. Assembly of the baskets will take place during Family Service Sunday at 9:30am on November 19th. Please contact Marianne List (listmd@gmail.com) or Becky Grocki (bgrocki@oursaviorlansing.org) for more details and stay tuned for more announcements.

Donations to be collected

- Boxed Mashed Potatoes
- Boxed Stuffing
- Can of Corn
- Can of Green Beans
- Box of Jello
- Cake Mix
- Frosting
- Reusable Shopping Bags
- Monetary Donations to purchase Turkeys, Gallons of Milk, Bread and Margarine



Fall Events at Our Savior

September

- 10 Regular Worship Times Resume
- 17 Heritage Celebration: Both Services
Christ Connections Begins 9:20
Adult Bible Study Begins 9:30
Heritage Dinner 12:30pm
- 24 Congregation Meeting 9:30am
- 29-Oct1 Confirmation Retreat

October

- 8 Thanksgiving Basket Collection Begins
- 15 500th Anniversary Reformation
Worship Service (Breslin Center)
- 22 Hmong Eggroll Sale
- 29 Reformation Sunday

November

- 5 Daylight Savings Ends
- 12 Pure: By God For God 3pm
- 19 Family Service Day 9:30am
- 22 Thanksgiving Eve Worship 7pm
- 29 Midweek Advent Worship 7pm

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Quarterly Newsletter • Fall 2017



Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

7910 E. St. Joe Hwy, Lansing, MI 48917
OurSaviorLansing.org

Church

517-882-8665

School

517-882-3550

Worship Times

Sunday: 8:00am & 10:45am

Hmong Worship

Sunday: 10:45am

Church & School Office Hours

Monday - Friday: 8am-4pm

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School
7910 E. St. Joe Hwy
Lansing, MI 48917

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