

Learn Live Share

Summer 2017



Our Savior Lutheran Church and School Quarterly Newsletter

Joining Jesus this Summer

by Pastor Bill Wangelin



What happens when you take over 1,000 followers of Jesus and unleash them into the greater Lansing area to learn, live and share Christ? This summer, as we spend time in the great outdoors, travel, talk with neighbors, and spend time with family, we have abundant opportunities to join Jesus on His mission. Remember our book study last fall, and our Missional living training by Greg Finke? Summer is a great time to put that into play. I would like to challenge our congregation to prayerfully consider how they might reach out to a neighbor, a coworker, a friend or family member who is living without the grace and truth of Jesus this summer, and to build a deeper connection. With that deeper connection, be ready and watchful for how God might use you to bring His love and care to that person's life. Feel free to let me know how you see God at work this summer!

We gather for worship, we are sent for mission. We come to church and school to be built up in our faith, and we go out into the world to live out our faith. God wants to be at work in you and through you this summer! Let's open our eyes, minds, and hearts to the ways that God is leading us to follow Him.

This is an exciting time for Our Savior Lutheran Church and School as we continue to grow spiritually and by reaching our community with the Good News about Jesus. Thank you for your involvement, your prayers, your contributions, and your participation. May God fill your heart and home with His joy, peace and love.

In Joyful Service to Jesus,

Pastor Bill Wangelin <><

Servant Event at Youth Haven Ranch

Last September, several men from Our Savior went to Youth Haven Ranch (Rives Junction, MI) for a servant event. George Podany, bass player for our worship team, was one of the men who served that day. Here are his thoughts on the event.

Pleasant greetings to all! I would like to share with you the experience I had while volunteering at the Youth Haven ranch. After an announcement was made at Sunday service, asking for volunteers at the Ranch, I hesitantly volunteered for the day, not knowing exactly what I would be facing. I wasn't sure how prepared I needed to be with tools, or what expectations they would have of me. At the conclusion of my day, I am very glad I volunteered. The ranch is a delightful place. Peaceful and serene, it clearly offered a safe place filled with God's love, for children. Our day began with a big, delicious breakfast, and some fellowship. I did not know very many of the people there, but each were gracious and explained how the day would work. The team I joined was commissioned with building a maze. Its purpose was two-fold. First, to give kids something fun to maneuver through. Second, it represents people trying to get through life- a monument that says life is like a maze, but if you trust in God, you'll get through it. Sometimes you will make turns that are dead ends. Pick yourself up, go back, trust in God.

It warmed my heart to see people work together in such harmony. That's God's love at work. At the end of the day, the maze was complete. Knowing what it represents, and the good it will offer to children, was a great feeling. Other teams operated in the same manner that day, assembling a deck, cleaning out flower beds, cutting up tree limbs. We each have a talent of some kind, and sharing that talent in a way that pleases God is very fulfilling. I hope others take an interest in this, even for a day. It is well worth it.

There will be another servant event opportunity at Youth Haven Ranch on September 15 & 16. Please join us in service to the kids who attend this camp. Consider saying "By 'George' I think I'll do it".



Summer Worship



Sundays: 9:30am • Mondays: 7pm
Begins Sunday, June 18



Reformation 500

Join us for this once-in-a-lifetime worship event on Sunday, October 15th! We are celebrating 500 years since Martin Luther called the church back to the foundational Christian truths – that we are saved by GRACE ALONE, through FAITH ALONE, based on the testimony of SCRIPTURE ALONE, and all pointing to CHRIST ALONE.

Tickets are free but necessary for this event. You may secure tickets online at our website (OurSaviorLansing.org/events) or by signing up at the display in the church lobby.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! You can participate in this event through the mass choir or as an usher, greeter, or set up crew. Sign up for Volunteering at our website.

High School Youth Group at Our Savior

By Dave Wright, Minister of Family Life

In our fast-paced society with so many demands on our families - and teens - time, there is still a solid, Christian meeting time and space for high school students of Our Savior Lutheran Church to catch up with friends while slowing down and spending time in God's word. Youth group gatherings take place during the school year (September-May) every Thursday night at church. Our youth group experience offers an important and regular connection for teens and Jesus.

Teens can count on consistency each week in terms of relationship building between themselves and adult mentors. There are also opportunities for group games and activities, and, of course, time in God's word. Families can count on this activity each week to re-center teens and remind them that they are loved by God beyond what they can imagine or comprehend; they are valued; they belong, and finally, they have a purpose in life as God's redeemed people.

If your teen has not had a chance to be a part of a youth group experience, encourage them to give it a try. We also offer servant opportunities, camping trips, pool parties, purity events, great food, and an inclusive environment. Check OSL's weekly news and announcements for schedules and new opportunities in our youth group program.

The next two big youth group events are: **Backyard Mission 2017** in Muskegon June 27 - July 1, and **PURE: By God For God** on Sunday, November 12. Nineteen high school students will be performing community service projects in Muskegon during Backyard Mission, and hundreds of teens and parents will be at OSL in November hearing about God's plan for sexual purity for their lives.

Opening night for the 2017-18 school year is Thursday, September 7, from 7:00pm-9:00pm in our music room.



VBS 2017

A Mighty Fortress: Get the WORD Out!

by Kristin Wangelin

"God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you do. It is God's gift."

Ephesians 2:8 (NIRV)

What an amazing gift God has given us! In this 500th Anniversary year of the Reformation, the VBS theme is "A Mighty Fortress: Get the WORD Out!" It will focus on the good news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection through the lens of Martin Luther's discovery of the gospel and translation of the Bible. Students will learn about how we are saved by **GRACE**, through **FAITH**, that we can rely on **SCRIPTURE** to give us truth, and that our salvation is through **CHRIST** and what He has done.

VBS will still start and end in the sanctuary, but the time in between will be a bit different than past VBS programs. Much like Living Nativity and Easter Egg Hunt stations, the gym will transform into a hands-on learning environment where kids can decode and "translate" the Bible just like Martin Luther did, make special crafts, enjoy daily games and activities, take a break with a snack, and watch filmed skits and testimonies. Kids will have 45 minutes each night to choose which activities they would like to do and in which order they would like to do them, all while being encouraged by small group leaders and activity table helpers.



Students who have finished Kindergarten through 5th grade will also spend time in a small group each night reading God's WORD together, sharing thoughts, and praying for each other. Preschool students will enjoy being "with the big kids" for opening, closing and snack time, but they will also have some time in their own areas.

This format will give volunteers and families the ability to interact in a positive way (think less behavior-monitoring and more encouraging and participating together). Small group buddies can experience the activities with kids, encourage students to get involved in an activity, and be a positive and energetic influence as kids mingle and try different themed stations. Rather than staying with one assigned group the entire time, kids and adults alike are encouraged to mingle and interact with students and helpers around them.

It is the planning team's prayer that all students and volunteers will grow in faith and experience the love of Jesus during their time at VBS this year. We have the Good News! Our God is A Mighty Fortress. Let's get the WORD out!



VBS at Our Savior is Monday, July 31 – Thursday, August 3, 6:30-8PM.

For more information, to register participants, or to sign up as a volunteer, please visit our website at OurSaviorLansing.org/vbs.

Mission Middelburg 2017

by Matthew Couser, School Principal

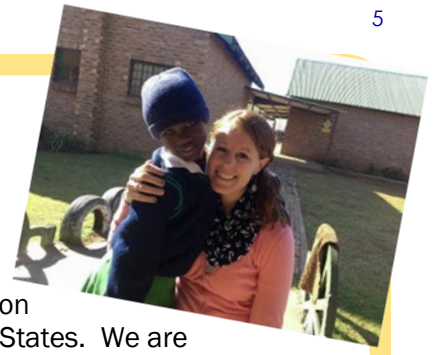
We are joining on Jesus' mission to Learn, Live, and Share Christ. In the past year Our Savior Lutheran Church and School has supported mission trips to St. Peter Confessional Church and Christian College in Middelburg, South Africa. Last November St. Peter teachers Mr. Sam and Mrs. Elizabeth along with students Allison and Lilly visited Our Savior to experience church and school ministry in the United States. We are blessed with a continued relationship of sharing school ministry with our friends at St. Peter- Middelburg.

Our Savior is supporting two teachers on their two-week trip to St. Peter Lutheran in Middelburg, South Africa this July. For the second year in a row we are sending Ms. Kylie Allen (Kindergarten teacher) and joining her this year is Ms. Kate Miller (Third Grade Teacher) on Mission Middelburg. They are thrilled to serve and love in this capacity. Student Council member, Sam Schuiling, directed a short video advertisement to spread the message of Mission Middelburg 2017 (Scan the QR Code).



Recently Student Council held a Money Madness Class Competition to collect coins, cash, and checks for Mission Middelburg 2017. Praise the Lord...a whopping \$3,000 was collected through the generosity of Our Savior school students and families. Student Council and volunteers daily counted the class collections.

We pray for Ms. Allen and Ms. Miller as they prepare to learn, live, and share Christ with our brothers and sisters in Middelburg. Scan the QR Code to see their thank you message. To God be the glory!



Shut-In Ministry at Our Savior

By Vicar Andy Hatesohl



In Romans 12:13, Paul instructs us to "share with God's people who are in need." Our Savior practices this in a very concrete way through ministering through our shut-ins. Shut-ins are congregation members who are unable to attend church due to illness, limited physical mobility, or some other challenges.

Volunteers from the church make monthly visits to these members. Currently, these visits are primarily made by me and two couples: Jim and Sherrill Zehnder and Gary and Kathy Knippenberg. If you see these individuals, please thank them for their ministry! They have done a phenomenal job faithfully visiting and encouraging our members for months now.

During the visits, we bring "church" to them. We spend time talking with them in Christian fellowship, praying with them, sharing God's Word with them, and partaking of the Lord's Supper together. This past winter we also brought cards made on Family Service Sunday by other members of Our Savior.

These visits certainly mean a lot to those who are home-bound and unable to be with us in person. They love to receive God's Word and Christ's body and blood and to hear how the congregation is doing. However, the visits are also a blessing to those of us who do the visiting! Our shut-ins often have many stories to share and much wisdom to impart. We are encouraged when we hear them tell about God's lifelong faithfulness to them.



Please keep our shut-in members in your prayers. Pray that God would reassure them of His forgiveness because of Jesus and His constant presence with them.

*George and Leta Anderson
George and Pat Schraft
Joyce Schellhammer
Paul Schmidt
Dorothy Thoms
Anna Bancroft
Gertrude Franck
Kathy Delong
Bob and Barbara Witte*

If you would like to help with shut-in ministry, please contact the church office!

Getting to Know You: Mrs. Summer Nobis

Our Savior welcomed Mrs. Summer Nobis to our staff this fall as the Special Education Teacher through Lutheran Special Education Ministries. We are blessed to have Summer here!



Where did you grow up?

I grew up in St. Johns, MI and still there today!

What are your favorite hobbies?

I enjoy gardening and working in my yard in the summertime, playing volleyball, painting, and doing arts and crafts with my kids.

What is your favorite bible verse and why?

Philippians 2:3,4 "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." This is one of my favorite readings, as it reminds me of how God wanted us to live our lives. It is a verse that I try to live out each and every day... even when I am tired or don't feel like doing something, reading this verse always helps me to put things into perspective.

What is your favorite food?

Spaghetti

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

I am my happiest when I am helping people, and ever since I can remember, that is all I have ever really wanted to do. I feel blessed to be able to do that and at the same time share the love of Christ with those around me.

What is one fun fact about you?

I love reptiles, though you wouldn't know it from this, but I once ate a raw snake, ewww!!!!

Community Outreach Opportunity

By Claudia Carter



Our Savior had a great opportunity last summer to welcome families participating in the Delta Township Parks and Recreation Youth Baseball

Program. Volunteers from OSL manned the concession stand—providing popcorn, candy, drinks, the occasional ice pack, a lost and found, conversation with bored siblings and encouragement to frazzled parents. We were even able to solve a last minute summer day care issue by suggesting Panther Camp.

This year, Delta has scheduled practices and games on the OSL fields Monday through Thursday, June 5th through mid-July.

The ball players are between 6 and 11 years old. There are four games each evening, two at 6pm and two at 7pm. It was such a pleasure to meet these families last year—a wonderful way to spend a summer evening. It is also a great way to become involved at Our Savior without a huge time commitment, and we could use your help. Volunteers typically work the booth two or three of the 28 evenings of play. Look at your calendar and call the church office or Claudia Carter, 517 575-5798, if this sounds like fun!

Our Savior Clean Up Day a Success!

Thank you to all who helped with the outdoor cleanup! The grounds look awesome and it was wonderful to see so many people working together. A special thank you to Claudia Carter for providing food for the workers, Tina Ferris for serving and Jeremy Smelker for organizing the day.



Fifth Grade Students Pen New Verses to “Jesus Loves Me”

By John Horak, Minister of Music

Back in February, I taught a Christian Studies unit to Grade 5 on worship and music.

We looked at many different hymns which have been composed throughout the centuries. The most important thing was that the words were true to scripture. We also looked at how the text or words were put together. One of the most beloved hymns by all ages is Jesus Loves Me. Their assignment was to write words for a new verse of Jesus Loves Me.

Following were the criteria for writing their verse:

What are you trying to teach in your verse?

What is Jesus doing for you?

What is your response to Him?

Seven syllables in each line.

Two sets of rhyming words at the end of each line (1 and 2 / 3 and 4)

Of course, I had to write an example which I doubt will appear in the next hymnal.

Jesus loves me when I'm bad.

I've done wrong and I feel sad.

Jesus calls me, I come back.

Gives me grace; I'm back on track.

It is wonderful to see the faith of these students in the words that they composed. Some fun and humor can be seen as well which demonstrates the joy that we have as God's people.

Perhaps you would like to try your hand at writing a verse. If you do, please share it with me.

Jesus taught me this I know.
He is with me when I go.
Jesus is with me all day.
This I know so I say yay.

Jesus loves me on this day.
But He still is on His way.
I believe I am okay.
and someday I will say yea.

Jesus tells me to sing praise.
He forgives me and He pays.
Jesus gave His life for me.
Paid for sin and that's the key.

Jesus knows that I love Him.
Jesus loves me when I sin.
Jesus knows me very well.
We know we won't go to hell.

Jesus loves me when I'm bad.
He still loves me when I'm sad.
Jesus will come back for me.
Soon His face I'll surely see.

Jesus gives me super health.
Also gives my parents wealth.
Always gives me lots of hope.
He is always my firm rope.

Jesus loves me when I'm late.
Even when I drop my plate.
God is awesome this I know.
For the Bible tells me so.

Jesus sees me when I'm sad.
He is technically my dad.
Hears my prayers day by day.
I'm so glad I'm not astray.

Jesus died and rose again.
He now takes away my sin.
I am glad and joyful now.
Praise His name, before Him bow.

Jesus is our own to keep.
We are His own special sheep.
He will always be our shield.
Soon we'll be in a new field.

Jesus loves me; He who rose.
Showed the world He loves us so.
Churches over nations praise.
When we fall, we all will raise.

Jesus loves me; makes it snow.
For my pastor tells me so.
God has power; He's real cool.
I will worship out of school.

Jesus taught me when I die.
He will take me up on high.
He protects me, He is strong.
So I know I'll live for long.

Jesus helps me on my way.
He guides me to where I stay.
Jesus leads me through the rain.
Heals me from my ev'ry pain.

Jesus cares for me; it's true.
He will always make me new.
He will save me from my sins.
Soon new life with Him begins.

Jesus loves me when I sin.
Soon He will let me come in.
Jesus gives me love and grace.
And someday I'll see His face.



Summer Events at Our Savior

June

- 9 Last Day of School
- 11 Graduation Sunday
- 18 9:30am Summer Worship Begins
Father's Day Cookout
- 19 7pm Monday Summer
Worship Begins

July

- 2 Freedom Appreciation Service
- 4 Independence Day
- 24-27 Summer Basketball Camp
- 31 VBS

August

- 1-3 VBS
- 21 School Meet & Greet
- 23 First Day of School

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Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

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

Church

517-882-8665

School

517-882-3550

Summer Worship Times (Begins June 18th)

Sunday: 9:30am & Monday: 7:00pm

Hmong Worship

Sundays at 10:45am

Regular Worship Times (Begins September 10th)

Sunday: 8:00am & 10:45am

Hmong Worship

Sunday: 10:45am

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