

Learn Live Share

Winter 2017-18



Our Savior Lutheran
Church and School
Quarterly Newsletter

We Have Good News!

by Pastor Bill Wangelin



In a society that is unraveling at the seams, with broken families and mortal bodies, and a news cycle flooded with tragic stories, our world is in need of good news.

The word 'Angel' means 'Messenger.' God sent these heavenly messengers to individuals who would play an important role in God's plan to save the world. Angels announced good news to people like Abraham and Sarah, Zechariah, Mary and Joseph, and of course the Shepherds of Bethlehem. God's Good News ultimately came in the announcement of a Savior born for us in Bethlehem – He is Christ the Lord!

The gift of a Savior is THE Good News that we have to share with the world. Our worship celebrations through Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany are about the announcement God made to the world, that He has come to be our Savior and Redeemer.

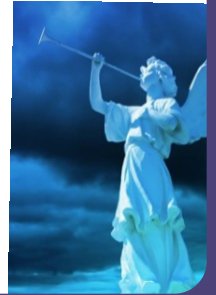
The special events we have this time of year gives us an opportunity to bring a message of Good News, just like the angels did that very first Christmas. In fact, our **Advent sermon series** is based on the message of the angels. We are now God's messengers, who learn, live, and share Christ with the people God has placed in our path. Whom could you invite to hear the Good News in the coming weeks?

In these pages of **Learn, Live, Share**, you will read about the many ministry moments that are taking place each and every day through members of Our Savior Lutheran Church and School. God is at work in remarkable ways through YOU to lead people to His grace and to a life of faith, hope, and love.

I pray that our worship of Jesus this time of year would fill your heart and your home with the **Good News** of Jesus, that we can cling to Christ in faith through any trouble or trial that we face in this fallen world. Let's light up the dark world with hope, peace, joy, and love. Let's bring the Good News of Jesus into every heart and home!

In Joyful Service to Jesus,

Pastor Bill Wangelin <><



PURE: By God For God

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** was also a really cool event for 7th - 12th grade teens AND parents that took place at Our Savior on November 12.

We gathered to celebrate together God's plan for purity in the lives of His people. Travis Hartjen, pastor of Tangible Grace Fellowship in Allen, Texas led us in a presentation highlighting God's perfect plans for dating, relationships, marriage, and godly behavior. Then, Christian praise band **2nd Mile** played after the main presentation.



Family Service Projects

by Dave Wright

Family Service Sunday at Our Savior is a great example and reminder of the need to take time to serve others. Every year, on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, OSL members gather in our gym and school commons to make blankets, sewing projects, Christmas cards, and take a look at potential service projects for individual families to do. Many of you were there on November 19, 2017, as teens, parents, young children, and senior citizens all worked together to provide blessings for the greater Lansing community. We all can still do more!

There are numerous family service project ideas. If you have not considered serving the community in some way as a family, I would recommend a family meeting to talk about needs that you see in the greater Lansing area. There are many potential projects that your family could do together this Advent season (or any time of the year) that would be examples of joining Jesus on His mission to show love to others. Here are a few:

- Adopt a military service member, seminary student, or just someone who needs some love. Gather items for them such as snacks, gift cards, encouraging notes, clothing items (hats, gloves, socks, etc), and any other fun things you can think of and send them this care package.
- Inform a family or perhaps a shut in who has recently had a surgery that you will be bringing them dinner on a specific date. If you "offer" a meal, most of the time people will decline, but if you tell them, they will be more willing to accept this gift.
- Adopt someone in need and take care of some late season yard work for them, clean their eaves troughs, wash their vehicle, wash windows, etc..
- Spend a Saturday morning going through your extra clothing and jackets, clean them up, fold them, and drop them off at a Goodwill store or other organization that distributes clothing to the community.
- Bake some of your very best desserts or cookies and deliver them to the local fire station or police station.
- Collect items to make baby bags for poor mothers (women's shelters) who recently had a baby – may contain diapers, baby bottles, pacifiers, burp rags, formula, baby food, etc.
- Host a neighborhood holiday gathering (Invite your whole block! Get to know some people)
- Host a hot chocolate or cider stand and donate the proceeds to a local charity.

5 Step Family Service Project:

1. Spend a Friday or Saturday family night researching possible project ideas.
2. Come to an agreement on a project.
3. Determine a date by which you will complete this service project, then follow through.
4. Pray about it - before, during, and after.
5. Talk about the project after it is completed. Share your reflections about the experience.



Hmong Ministry – The Last Frontier

by Pastor Lang Yang

Recently a short mission trip was taken back to Alaska - The Last Frontier, for continuing teaching the Deacon Courses to the two Hmong lay leaders Sourivan



Chang and Seng Chang at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Chugiak, Alaska. They have now completed the last two courses of Missiology and Church History for the Licensing Deacon Qualification. The Hmong Ministry has written a letter of acceptance for the two lay leaders and Our Redeemer will be commissioning Seng and Sourivan to be their Deacons to serve the Hmong Ministry and to lead or assist the Anglo worship services at Our Redeemer Lutheran. They will be supervised by Rev. James Baumgartner with the partnership of Alaska Mission for Christ and the Northwest District. Paperwork is in the process to the district office and waiting for an interview from the Cross Cultural Mission Executive and a commission installation should take place before the end of the year.

During this trip, a family of the animism faith “*The way of the Spirit*” came to faith in Jesus Christ. A prayer was prayed at the family home and the husband had disposed all of his idolatry items, altar and spirit papers. An adult confirmation class was taught to five people and we had seven baptisms. The church will receive them into membership within the next few weeks.



Thrive!

by Vicar Kyle Weeks



Throughout the Scriptures, there are numerous verses describing the idea of spiritual growth in the life of the believer. As Peter tells us in 2 Peter 3:18, we are to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” In other words, God doesn’t want our

growth to be stunted so that we stay forever the same. Of course, this does not mean we have to grow or change to earn God’s favor – forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life are *already* given to us freely because of Christ’s saving work. But God *does* want us to grow so that we can more fully experience and appreciate the many gifts He gives us, and in turn share those gifts with others. The more we grow, the more we are able to experience the joy, peace, and confidence that belong to us in Jesus.

The thing about growth however, is that it actually requires more nourishment than staying the same. Just as a plant needs to up its exposure to sunlight and water to grow, so it is with us. If we are to grow as disciples of Christ, we too need to up our exposure to God’s Word. We need to drink deep not just on Sunday mornings, but also in our study of the Word both privately and with other believers.

There are a variety of groups at Our Savior which are committed to growing as Christ’s disciples together, but perhaps one of the lesser known groups is Thrive, the Young Adult Group. This group is following Jesus by gathering regularly for the purpose of studying God’s Word, praying for one another, and supporting each other through life. Over the last month or so I’ve had the opportunity to join this group in a variety of activities including pumpkin carving, a bowling night, and for weekly fellowship and Bible study. It’s been a privilege to see the passion of my peers as they seek to grow and live out their faith together. One is never too young or old to grow! This winter, perhaps consider if God is calling you to grow closer to Him and your fellow believers in one of the various groups at Our Savior – maybe we’ll even see you at Thrive!

For information on Thrive, contact the church office at (517)882-8665.



Our Hearts and Hands Helping

by Kristi DeBoer, Third Grade Teacher

The school year began with 25 energetic children in my classroom with many new adventures awaiting us. As September rolled closer, so did the hurricane season in Florida and Texas. Many of my friends and colleagues live in Florida and my thoughts and prayers were on their well-being. Hurricane Harvey just swamped the city of Houston and Hurricane Irma was right behind. Thankfully, lives were spared in my former state of Florida and damage was at a minimum in the area I used to live. Texas, on the other hand, was not as fortunate.

My caring students would not stop talking about what happened. I posed a question to them during Christian Studies, "What can we do to help those people in Texas?" Expecting to hear the usual, "Pray for them", I had them brainstorm as many ideas as they could of ways that **we** could be of service to them. After sharing all the ideas, the one that stood out was a hot chocolate stand.

Raising money for others is a noble task but it takes many hands with a willing heart to make it work and indeed it has. We have served hot chocolate to grades 1-5 and will do one more before Christmas. The students measure, mix, set up the classroom, serve, clean up, and provide conversation to how the little idea of a cup of hot cocoa (50 cents a cup) has blossomed into raising over \$300. We have connected to a Lutheran school in Houston, Our Savior, where 11 families had major flooding and some are still displaced today. Our prayer is to do another hot cocoa day for the middle school and also provide a Christmas gift for their family.

My students wrote letters to Our Savior Lutheran, Houston, to share their concern and their prayers. "I was shocked when I heard you had a hurricane", said Austin. "I hope your school is okay", said Rylee. "I bet it has been very stressful", said Claire. "We are sorry your homes have been flooded. We want to help", said Gracie. "We are praying for you every day", said Micah.

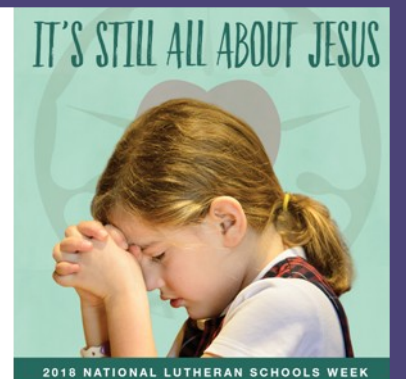
It may seem like just another year in ministry, where God continues to work through His people, but these children have blessed **me** with their willingness to "love as He first loved us" and to have caring and compassionate hearts. Their hearts and hands have worked together and carried that passion to do something when the opportunity arises.



Our Savior Lutheran School is Celebrating...National Lutheran Schools Week January 21-27, 2018

Over 200,000 students and families attend our 1,150 Early Childhood Centers, 793 Elementary Schools, and 86 High Schools raising up the next generation of faithful Christian disciples and providing excellent academic preparation.

More information to come on the fun and exciting ways we will celebrate National Lutheran Schools week here at Our Savior!



Message of Hope Scholarship Fund

Our Mission

Our world is in need of hope. With so many challenges facing families, society, and our young people today, the need for good news is great. **The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the greatest message of hope which is changing hearts and lives around the world.**

For over 60 years, Our Savior Lutheran School has shared that message with students and families who desire to learn, live, and share Christ. We serve by teaching the Christian faith, promoting academic excellence, and developing leadership skills for a lifetime of Christian witness.

The blessing of Christian Education is that the love of God and the grace and truth of Jesus Christ are infused into each school day, creating a community of faith and raising up the next generation of believers.

Our teachers, staff, and school family are committed to sharing with children and families the love of Jesus and the promise of eternal life.



You Can Help

The Message of Hope Scholarship Fund exists to give financial aid to families seeking a Christian Education by overcoming financial barriers. In addition to the generous support given by Our Savior Lutheran Church, the scholarship fund helps to meet specific needs for families on a case by case basis.



Help us to provide a quality Christian Education to many families in the greater Lansing area.

Your donation can help bring Christian education within reach of families that might otherwise not have the opportunity.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

Our Impact

Attending a Christian school has an immediate, positive impact on children and their families, but the benefits of this firm foundation are long lasting.

"The foundation that Our Savior laid really carried on throughout life."
-Pastor Brennan Woell, Our Savior Grad '04

"The experience I've had at OSL has been just incredible. It has prepared me for high school academically and spiritually. Now that I am going to a public high school, I am able to really let my light shine and stand out as a follower of Christ. OSL taught me to put God first and how to not give in to this sinful world. These are valuable lessons I will keep with me throughout high school and the rest of my life."
-Abbey Schaedig, Our Savior Grad '16

"The relationships built at Our Savior with peers, teachers and mentors remain to this day."
-Sara DeYarmond, Our Savior Teacher and Grad '99



Our Message of Hope Scholarship Fund is dedicated in loving memory to two of our school's teachers, Miriam Sohn and Michelle Decker, who taught the Message of Hope and have received the crown of life. Their legacy of faith, hope, and love, continues in our school's mission and purpose, and demonstrates what true hope is all about.

Donations of any size make a difference by bringing Christian Education within reach. For more information or to make a donation go to oursaviorlansing.org/message-of-hope/

2017 Hmong Ministry Conference

On behalf of the LCMS Hmong Ministry, we give thanks and glory to God for a successful Hmong Ministry Conference which was held on August 12-13, 2017, at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Lansing, Michigan. The theme was **"I Will Build Christ's Church"** based on the Gospel of Matthew 16:18 *"And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."* We have a gathering of over seventy five people in attendance from Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Alaska, and guests from other Hmong Christian denominations.



Save Using Scrip

by Jennifer Miller



Buying scrip is a great way to benefit our school and, if you have a student enrolled at OSL, you even save on next year's tuition! How does it work? You purchase gift cards at face value for various stores, restaurants, and online retailers that you already frequent. Each time you buy scrip, the school

automatically receives a rebate and then you earn a matching rebate towards next year's tuition.

We have saved just over \$1000 in tuition since our kids started attending school at OSL in 2013! A bigger blessing is that the same amount also went to OSL to further our children's education as well as their classmates. In addition to our regular purchases of groceries, gas, or even Sunday brunch, we've used scrip for those occasional big purchases. An unexpected home repair, a big vacation and appliances for our new home have yielded significant rebates. You can monitor your rebate amount online and we have already saved \$250 off of tuition for 2018-2019 school year.

Getting started is easy. Every week between services, and in the school office during the week, you can purchase gift cards for a variety of businesses. The cards are immediately available and you can use them right away. So if you are going shopping or visiting a restaurant, think "could I use scrip to pay?" You can also purchase scrip online while receiving the same rebates, or instantly from your smart phone!

In addition to our family purchasing scrip, our parents also support us. They specify on their order form that rebates should go to our family. So when they buy groceries, gas, restaurants and more, they are able to support their grandchildren's education.

Do not be discouraged if you only save a little the first year. If you think that it will take a long time to add up to anything significant, remember the key is consistency. The ways that scrip can be used to help make your tuition more affordable are really only limited by your creativity. We are so grateful that this program exists in order to make a Christian education possible for our children.

If you have any questions about how to get started with scrip, please ask me! I also have more tips and tricks to make using scrip more flexible for those last minute purchases. I am always happy to help!

What is Lutheran School Accreditation?

by Matthew Couser, Principal



The National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) grew out of a strong desire on the part of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to help Lutheran schools accomplish their stated mission and improve. Seven standard areas are evaluated by rubrics

established by indicators of success. This new form of accreditation, implemented in 2016, better aligns with new state requirements related to teaching and learning along with improved integration of technology expectations within the learning environment. In association with the school's church affiliation, the self-study focuses on the following areas: School Purpose, Governance, Relationships, Professional Personnel, Student Services, Teaching and Learning, and Facilities.

In the past year, faculty, staff, and Christian Education Team (CET) have been completing the self-study process and preparing evidence for the upcoming accreditation. The preparation, thus far, has demonstrated the blessings of our Lutheran school while displaying our strengths and accomplishments since our previous accreditation in 2013. In addition, we seek opportunities for growth and improvement as a school entity. On March 20th & 21st, 2018 an accreditation team of educators, identified by the Michigan District, will experience first-hand our school ministry while reviewing and evaluating Our Savior Lutheran School.

We pray for all involved in successes and improvement of Our Savior Lutheran School during this accreditation review. May our efforts and strategies continue to be aligned with our purpose to *Learn, Live, and Share Christ!*



Winter Events at Our Savior

December

- 2 Advent by Candlelight 2pm
- 9 Advent by Bonfire 6:30pm
- 16 Living Nativity 5pm
- 24 Christmas Eve Worship

January

- 11 Discover Our Savior begins
- 21-27 National Lutheran Schools Week
- 27 Family Dance
- 28 Congregation Meeting

February

- 4 3rd Grade Money Management
- 5 Re-enrollment Begins
- 24 Michigan Theological Conference

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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

School
517-882-3550

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

Worship Times
Sunday: 8:00am & 10:45am
Hmong Worship
Sunday: 10:45am



Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday, December 24th

9:30am • 4pm • 7pm • 10pm

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School
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Lansing, MI 48917

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