

Learn Live Share

Summer 2018



Our Savior Lutheran Church and School Quarterly Newsletter

Work in Progress

by Pastor Bill Wangelin



As the old joke goes, Michigan typically has two seasons - winter and construction. There are always repairs to be made, resurfacing, expansion, or maintenance to be done. Our homes have a long list of projects that is never complete.

There is always an improvement project underway or waiting to get started. We may have hobbies, projects, or goals that are left unfinished as the demands of life distract us from completing them.

Our roads, our homes, our lives are works in progress. We live in a world of change and incompleteness. At times, that can be frustrating or discouraging. But the Bible says that God's activity in our lives is a "work in progress" that is heading toward glory. He is working in ways we often cannot yet see to bring us to completion.



Jesus said, "**on this rock (of Peter's confession) I will build my church.**" Matthew 16:18. "**You yourselves, as living stones, are being built into a spiritual home...**" 1 Peter 2:5. "**For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations (heaven),**

whose architect and builder is God." Hebrews 11:10. We join in the construction project, as Jude says, verse 20, "**But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith.**"

Being a work in progress means that there is always more to be done, but that we are not complete or perfect yet. That will come with heaven's glory. In the mean time, we have patience, trust, and hope as God works on us.

In the pages of this *Learn, Live, Share*, you will see the ways that our church and school are being built up in faith. Children are loved and cared for, students taught, teens encouraged, and families strengthened. God is at work among us.

As you drive by construction zones this summer, work on home improvement projects, or realize that you and the people around you "have a long way to go" - remember that we are works in progress, and that God's gracious hands are forming and shaping us into the image of Christ. May God bless our church and school as we Learn, Live and Share Christ this summer!

In Joyful Service to Jesus,

Pastor Bill Wangelin <><

Aspiring Organist at Our Savior

by John Horak, Minister of Music

If you have walked through the OSL lobby after school and heard the organ, it was probably Sam Shuler playing. Sam is in seventh grade at Our Savior Lutheran School and participates in band and choir. Sam started organ lessons with Mr. Horak last August and is quickly progressing in his playing skills.

Recently, Sam auditioned for a scholarship from the Greater Lansing Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. After the audition, Sam was awarded a \$400 scholarship for organ lessons during the coming school year. We caught up with Sam to find out more about his interest in the organ.

Why did you want to start playing the organ?

I have always thought that it was an amazing instrument and it seemed more fun than the piano.

What did you have to do for the organ scholarship audition?

I had to play a hymn with an introduction and two stanzas and one of the Bach 8 Preludes and Fugues. For my hymn, I chose "Not All the Blood of Beasts."

How much and where do you practice?

I practice at two locations. I have a small organ at home and the organ at Our Savior Lutheran.

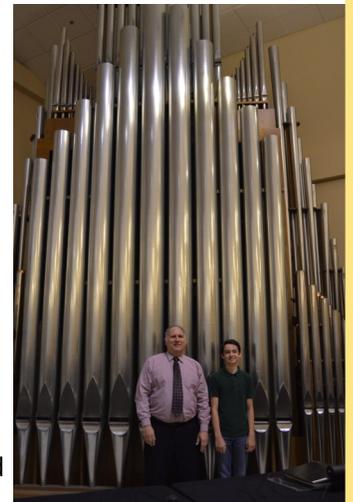
What is the organ experience coming up this summer for you?

This summer I am going up north for three weeks at Interlochen Music Camp to study organ.

What are your career plans?

I plan to become a church organist and music director like Mr. Horak.

If you get a chance, stop by after school and listen to Sam's playing. Encourage and pray for him and all students considering full time ministry. It is a great privilege to work in the Lord's Kingdom.



Sharing Love Through Meals

By Leslie Mohnke

The Meals Ministry at Our Savior Lutheran has been as much of a blessing to me as it has been for the families and individuals that have received a meal. From welcoming new babies to recovering from medical procedures to grieving a loss, the Meals Ministry has provided opportunities for me to share God's love "Our Savior style" through providing a meal during times of need. In 1 Peter 4:10, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in various forms".



It has amazed me the appreciation that is expressed when I have made phone calls to offer to set up a meal calendar for them. Most are not aware of this ministry when I call; they are overwhelmed with gratitude. Many are surprised that they would get this generous offer, from people that they don't even know, and that their Our Savior family would provide such a thoughtful gesture.

Through my participation in this ministry, I have met countless Our Savior members that I may not have ever connected with. The best part is to be welcomed into their homes during the meal drop off and I can let them know that their church family is supporting and praying for them during this journey.

The icing on the cake with my work with the Meals Ministry is the friendships I have developed. Serving with other members of the Our Savior family increases your joy and satisfaction while it provides another connection with fellow believers. As Paul wrote in Galatians 6:10, "So then, as we have the opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."

Early Childhood and Summer Camp

By Windy Carroll, Early Childhood Director

It has been a busy year for our Early Childhood Program teachers and families! We've had many successful and exciting events like our annual Family Fun Night, Teddy Bear Picnic, and Fancy Manners Tea Party and are looking forward to even more upcoming events before the end of the school year, including our Early Childhood field trip to Impression 5 Science Center, the Preschool Showcase Night, and Pre-Kindergarten Portfolio Night. Our Early Childhood teachers and staff have also been working very hard this year on getting rated through the Great Start to Quality Program, which is a program to increase the quality of education through self-assessment followed by assessment from a Quality Improvement Specialist. We've learned so much and are excited to implement the resulting quality improvement plan we've created for the next year.

Panther Camp is also gearing up for a busy and exciting summer again this year! We expect a near-full camp again this summer and are excited to welcome the many new families that have already registered their camper and to welcome back our many returning camp families. Last year over 200 children participated.

Continuing for this summer is our "Counselor In Training" program, in which young teens aged 14-16 can volunteer as a junior staff member, helping camp counselors and learning life/work skills. We're excited to welcome a few new "CITs" this year! This year's camp is ten weeks long, beginning on Monday, June 11th and ending on Friday, August 17th. If you are interested in registering a camper aged 3 years to 13 years, please visit panthercamp.weebly.com and click on the registration button on the home page. All camp related questions can be emailed to Windy Carroll, Panther Camp Director, at wcarroll@oursaviorlansing.org.

We pray God's continued protection and blessings over all our church and school ministries and look forward to many more seasons of sharing His message of love and hope with the children in our programs.



Why We Give

By Gary & Kathy Knippenberg



We moved into the Lansing area 37 years ago. With two daughters in tow and a son coming shortly after this, we resolved early on that we wanted to join a Lutheran Church with a school. Of course, we found that here at Our Savior. However, at that time we had no idea what a blessing this decision would be.

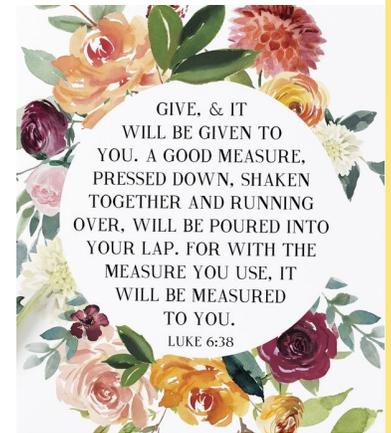
For 15 years we had children being touched daily by faithful, gifted, and committed teachers. We were able to partner with them in the development of our children. We fondly remember the many opportunities for Christian fellowship and service with other school and church families. These fellowship and service opportunities have continued throughout our time at OSL.

But there have been more blessings. Every Pastor we have had at Our Savior has been a genuine gift from God. As a family, we have had opportunities to grow in the love of Jesus Christ so that we can meet life's challenges. Most of all, we have continually been assured that in spite of our flaws and imperfections God loves us because of the sacrifice of His Son Jesus. We live in hope that when our life here on earth comes to an end, we have the assurance of eternal life with Him in heaven.

In addition to providing us with a church home with ample opportunity for service and fellowship, God provides all the material blessings that we need. As such, all of us face the question of how to use these material blessings in a God pleasing way.

From the beginning as a married couple, we knew that we wanted to give back to God as He has blessed us and to do so cheerfully. We have always believed that first of all, it is important to give of our first fruits on a regular and consistent basis, just as God's grace to us is regular, consistent, and unailing. (Incidentally, we think that "Online Giving" through the OSL web site is an effective tool to help follow this principle.)

We have seen God's hand in this simple process. We are so truly blessed and believe that God uses our gifts to further His kingdom on earth. In addition, He continues to pour His blessings, "into our laps," as promised in Luke 6:38. *"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."*



Sixty-6: A Bible Reading Plan for Kids of all Ages

www.cherigamble.com



Family Bible Reading Plan

by Dave Wright, Minister of Family Life

Keep your family devotion time going strong this summer with a Bible reading plan from Cherigamble.com for kids of all ages. The plan is called "Sixty-6: A Bible Reading Plan for Kids of All Ages." This 11 week plan covers every book of the Bible, and it begins with a scripture passage, then discussion questions and a follow up activity for each day. There is a larger section of scripture for older kids and a smaller section in parenthesis for younger kids. **Check it out at oursaviorlansing.org/faith-resources and click on the Family Summer Bible Reading Plan link.** We hope your family is blessed by this easy to follow Bible reading plan during this summer of 2018. For more information or questions, please contact Dave Wright, Minister of Family Life at dwright@oursaviorlansing.org or 517-882-8665.

My Confirmation Journey

by Taylor Rowland

Growing up I had little to no involvement in church. I didn't start attending church until 4 years ago and wasn't baptized until 3 years ago. I was encouraged to attend confirmation classes by my parents, sponsors and Pastor Wangelin. At first I was nervous to do confirmation classes. I didn't know anyone and I was afraid I would stand out because I didn't know anything about the Bible or the life of Jesus.



When I got to my first class we did some fun get-to-know-me games and I instantly made friends. Vicar Hatesohl educated us on the beginning of creation and basically went through the whole Bible, but in a fun way. This year Vicar Weeks focused on the Catechism, the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles Creed, and the 10 Commandments. Pastor taught us about The Lord's Supper and the true meaning of Communion. Also Mr. Wright taught us proper prayer for 2 weeks.

One of the most memorable and fun parts of confirmation are the trips to Camp Arcadia. Camp Arcadia is a weekend trip that occurs each fall and includes activities like games, free time, vespers at night (which is where you sing Christian songs for an hour), church-like gatherings, etc. Arcadia helped me also to meet Confirmation kids that went to Our Savior Lutheran for school and didn't attend PSI classes. Another fun activity for confirmation students was the lock-in at Concordia, Ann Arbor. We played lots of cool games like Capture the Flag and Sardines. I was able to meet more teens that were believers just like me and was able to get to know them as well as strengthening the bond with previous friends.



Confirmation has shaped my life in so many ways. It strengthened my faith and made me more comfortable with professing it. I used to be afraid to pray out loud at dinner and now that I have

knowledge, I can pray confidently. I have friends that I stay connected to who are fellow believers in Christ. I am excited to be more involved in the Church now that I have been confirmed. Also I'm super excited to join the Teen Ministry where I can continue my path in faith and create more friendships along the way.

CityServe 2018 Event

By Vicar Kyle Weeks

CityServe is back for 2018! Last year Vicar Hatesohl led volunteers from Our Savior Lutheran and Trinity Lutheran Church in assisting with service projects around Lansing. The event was a big success, and so this year we'll be going out again to serve those in need and shine the light and love of Christ into our community. All throughout Scripture, God has desired that His people would care for those in need – especially



those in the community He had placed His people in. CityServe not only allows us to help with the genuine physical needs of our neighbors, but also to build relationships and share the good news of the Gospel. Join us as we seek to embody the

love Christ has for us in acts of humble service and give back to our city!

"Seek the peace and the prosperity of the city to which I have carried you....Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."

Jeremiah 29:7

We caught up with a couple of the volunteers from last year to hear what they thought of helping out at CityServe.



"I feel like it's really important to serve in our community and it's one of the things I wanted to impart to our children, so it's really neat to have our kids go out into the community and help others." said Maria Giggy. Mark Carter explains, *"The Bible tells us we are to be a good neighbor, and CityServe gave me that opportunity."*

CityServe 2.0 will be held Saturday, June 9th in downtown Lansing. For more information or to volunteer, please RSVP on the signup in your church lobby or online at oursaviorlansing.org/cityserve/. If you wish to contribute to the event in a way besides physical labor, such as with food preparation or event sponsorship, contact Vicar Weeks at 517.882.8665. We hope you can join us!

Tech Tips: Web of Trust

By Josh Wyatt, Technology Manager



In the last newsletter Tech Tips article you learned about browser extensions, specifically Ad blockers. This time it's about an extension known as Web of Trust or WOT. This extension is a community driven application that helps inform you if a website or link is safe and trustworthy.

To be more specific, after adding WOT to your browser of choice, a colored circle will appear in the top right of the browser window as well as next to any link on all webpages. The colors range from variations of Green, Yellow and Red. Green indicating that the link is safe to click, Yellow means the link or site has mixed reviews, while Red means seriously do not click on this site. The good news

is if by chance you do click on a bad link, WOT will bring up a warning window first, telling you to turn back with the option to proceed at your own risk. One additional color is grey, which just means no one has left a review on the safety of the site.

The one downside to WOT. Since it is community driven some perfectly safe sites have a bad rap. These sites usually include big companies with some business practices that people don't appreciate. WOT does a good job of keeping everything non-biased and just based on the safety of the website so these issues don't happen often.



Battle of the Books 2018

The 1st Annual Michelle Decker Battle of the Books was a huge success. Students in the 5th-8th grades were assigned to teams in December. Every student read the same 5 books over the course of the last few months. The books were, The Mysterious Benedict Society, The Wild Robot, Wonder, How I Survived the Chicago Fire, and the Gospel of Mark.

Friday, May 11th was the day of the battle. The students gathered in the gym and answered 5 rounds of questions which covered various aspects of all the books. Students from the 4th grade did a fantastic job as "runners" who collected answer sheets. The First Place Team was the Panthers (Kjirsten Heinlein, Sam Schuler, Katie Seifferlein, Hudson Goethals). The 2nd place team was the Radiant Readers (Austin Smelker, Owen Matt, Abby Grocki, and Henry Zander).

THANK YOU to the sponsors of this event: OSL PTL, Mr. Chris Decker, The Fang Family, The Agnew Family, Salvage Yard Antiques, The Mosher Family, The Mulder Family, The Seifferlein Family, and The Zander Family. Donations provided funds for a commemorative plaque, trophies for the winning team members, gift cards for the members of the 1st and 2nd place teams and a small prize for the remaining participants. Additional funds were set aside to kick off next year's battle and a generous amount was given to the Message of Hope scholarship fund in the names of Mrs. Decker and Mrs. Sohn.

Also, another huge thank you to the people who read the books, wrote questions, and helped the day of the battle! We are excited to bring this academic and competitive event to our school and are looking forward to next year's battle. It was an amazing way to honor an outstanding teacher, colleague and friend in this way. We know Mrs. Decker was smiling as her students displayed their love for reading.



BATTLE OF THE BOOKS 2018

Thank you Mrs. Greve

By Principal Matthew Couser

As you may know, Mrs. Greve has been a caring teacher and leader throughout her thirty-one year tenure at Our Savior Lutheran School. Her retirement at the end of this school year is much deserved and we congratulate and thank her for all she has done for Our Savior.

We thank God for the dedicated service of Mrs. Greve. During her career Mrs. Greve's love of the Lord and love of her students has been demonstrated by her commitment and service to the Our Savior community. She is well-loved and appreciated by students of all ages. In addition, Mrs. Greve is a wonderful colleague who expresses warmth, joy, and Christ-centered focus. Her gifts of hosting student discussion and government debates, arranging history research projects, sharing daily scripture and the faith with her students has brought joy to our learning community. Her principal and colleagues valued her instructional expertise with curriculum and accreditation.

Mrs. Greve taught every grade during her 46 years of teaching ministry, from kindergarten to 8th grade. At Our Savior, Mrs. Greve has taught 31 years including grades 5, 6, 7, & 8. She recently reflected on her teaching ministry in Lutheran Schools:

*I have been blessed with the joy of working with many, many children, supportive parents, wonderful faculties, support staff, administration, and of course the congregation. There have been many changes over the past 31 years at Our Savior including families, personnel, teaching practices, technology, and a new campus. I am now teaching with former students and seeing children of former students attending Our Savior. I even have the wonderful blessing of having three of my grandchildren attending school here. So many changes over so many years. **However, the one thing that has remained unchanged is Jesus. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever . Heb. 13:8. He (Jesus) is the unchangeable foundation in my life.***

We thank God for Mrs. Greve's ministry to our students, parents, teachers, staff, and community. May God continue to bless her and her well-deserved retirement. To God be the glory!



**Congratulations to
Our Savior Lutheran School
and it's reaccreditation
through 2023!**

After School Clubs

Learning and fun beyond the classroom, students took part in after school clubs thanks to staff and volunteer instructors.



Summer Events at Our Savior

June

- 6 Last Day of School
- 10 Graduation Sunday
- 17 9:30am Summer Worship Begins
- 18 7pm Monday Summer
Worship Begins
- 18-21 VBS 6:30-8pm
- 22 Message of Hope Golf Outing

July

- 1 Freedom Appreciation Service
- 23-26 Summer Basketball Camp
- 26-28 Pictorial Directory Photos

August

- 1-4 Pictorial Directory Photos
- 21 School Meet & Greet
- 22 First Day of School
- 26 Resume Regular Worship Times

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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 17th)

Sunday: 9:30am & Monday: 7:00pm
Hmong Worship: Sundays at 10:45am

Regular Worship Times

(Begins August 26th)

Sunday: 8:00am & 10:45am
Hmong Worship: Sundays at 10:45am

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

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