

# *Learn Live Share*

Winter 2018-19



Our Savior Lutheran  
Church and School  
Quarterly Newsletter



## Hope for the Holidays

by Pastor Bill Wangelin



Jesus offers real hope. And boy, do we need it these days! Our world has so many challenges, and we personally experience heartache, disappointment, and loss. The warm glow of Christmas lights, the smell of baked goods, and the perfect present cannot still the troubled soul for long. But Jesus offers us a hope that is so certain, so solid, and so sure that we can cling to it in any trouble. As Hebrews 6:19 says, **"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure."**

Hope is God's gift to us. Our hope is in the promises of God, in His amazing love, His grace and mercy, and His power and presence in our lives. We have the hope of eternal life! And that means we can live each day as God's people of hope.

There are a lot of exciting things happening at Our Savior Lutheran Church and School this time of year. We get together for faith and fun-filled events, uplifting worship, and we share the Gospel with our community in word and deed. Through it all, we rely on and share with others the message of hope we have in our Savior, Jesus, born for us in Bethlehem.

Our Sunday worship in Advent will focus on this theme of *Hope for the Holidays*. In addition, there are many other great ways to **learn, live and share Christ** this time of year. I invite you to seek out opportunities to grow in faith and to express your faith through Advent and Christmas customs that give witness to Christ. Be mindful of opportunities to give a witness when you are with family, neighbors, and coworkers. Let them know what it means to truly have real and lasting hope.

I pray God's richest blessings to you and yours as you gather, celebrate, remember, and lean on Jesus for real and lasting hope.

**"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

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



## Family Service Sunday *Blessing others by serving together*



## Be Constant in PRAYER

Romans 12:12



Michigan District, LCMS presents

### 2019 Theological Conference

February 2, 2019 | Our Savior, Lansing, Mich.

[michigandistrict.org/theological19](http://michigandistrict.org/theological19)

A conference for laity and church workers together on prayer.

# Blessings Within Worship

by Dave Wright

**What a wonderful resource for our families – worship!** That's right. It happens here each week at 8:00am and 10:45am. One of the best things in life for me is the time I spend worshipping on Sunday mornings. It is a time of refreshment in which God gives me so many wonderful gifts. There is no doubt that regular worship brings such a wonderful time of peace, comfort, and assurance to me personally each week.

When I am not in God's house on a Sunday morning or a Monday night (summer) or a Wednesday night (Advent, Lent), I miss it. I've lost something from my week. The same thing can be said about everyone who calls themselves a member of Our Savior Lutheran. So many benefits and blessings of membership are lost if regular worship is not a part of your family's routine. For example, if you are blessed in worship, and your worship is but once a month, think about how much greater the benefits and blessings for your life could be if weekly worship was the norm for you and your family.

Certainly there are circumstances in the lives of some that make regular worship in God's house impossible. Aside from those exceptions, I encourage everyone to evaluate whether or not your family is committed to faithful and regular worship. It is our privilege and duty as members of the body of Christ.

Former president of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod A.L. Barry shared many benefits when he wrote the following on the topic of worship:

*"We Lutherans have a unique perspective on worship. We know that God's Word and His holy Sacraments are His precious gifts to us. They are the tools the Holy Spirit uses to give us forgiveness, life and salvation. The main purpose of Lutheran worship is to receive these gifts from God. Our Lutheran Confessions explain this truth as follows: 'The service and worship of the Gospel is to receive good things from God' (Apology to the Augsburg Confession, Article IV.310).*

*I am not sure whether we have adequately emphasized this important truth. **God gives His gifts. We receive them. That is the main***

***purpose of Lutheran worship.** He does this as His Gospel is proclaimed, as His Word is read, as His forgiveness is announced and sinners are absolved, and as we receive our Lord's body and blood in Holy Communion. In these wonderful ways, God is present with us, His people, drawing us to Himself and giving us what we need so much-His mercy, forgiveness, love, joy, peace, power and comfort! **The purpose of worship, therefore, is to be gathered by God around His gifts.***

*If the main purpose of Lutheran worship is to receive God's gifts, then it follows that **Lutheran worship is Christ-centered...** Everything said and done is filled with His Word. Why? Because our focus is on Christ and His work, that's why. **The focus of Lutheran worship is on Christ, not man.** Therefore, Lutheran worship is always Christocentric (Christ-centered) and never anthropocentric (man-centered).*

*We are worshipping the One who is actually present under the bread and wine of Holy Communion. He promised, "I will be with you always." In our worship service He fulfills that wonderful promise. He is living and active among us, right here, right now, where He has promised to be-in His Word and Sacraments. Therefore, it is important to say that while our focus is on Christ, His focus is always on us! Thanks be to God that this is true!"*

Regular worship - perhaps the most basic and accessible resource for the families of Our Savior Lutheran Church. We must not deprive ourselves of these many blessings within worship!

See you in church!

Dave Wright

Minister of Family Life





## Favorite Teacher

by Brandon Carter, 8th Grade Student



My favorite Our Savior Lutheran teacher is Miss Drinan. Miss Drinan teaches, for eighth grade, English Language Arts and Literature. Not only is she a great teacher, but also a great person. Sometimes she even brings in her guitar and cajón and we sing Gospel songs in the

morning. She is even willing to let students to try out the cajón. Miss Drinan is both a great teacher and a great person.

With teaching, she makes sure we understand the subjects. She wants us to learn it and understand it, not just memorize it. She prays with us before tests and quizzes and helps us to study before them. We play a review game that we call koosh-can. We either identify a verb or adverb or whatnot, and whether we get it wrong or right, we get to shoot the koosh-ball into the trash can to score points, but if we do get the answer right, we get double points if we make the shot. She makes learning fun. During our play unit in Literature, she even splits us up into two groups and we each act a Shakespeare play. When we are only reading the plays, she lets us pick people to read as. She truly wants the best for her students and is an amazing teacher.

Besides being a teacher, she is a kind and cheerful person. She always greets us when we come into class in the morning, and not just during the first week of school, but every day. She tells you if she likes your new shoes, or asks you what you did over the weekend. She does it casually and normally. See does not seem to do it just because she should. I think she does it out of genuine care. She loves to get more books into her class library too, sharing them with us to read as well.

In all, Miss Drinan is a great teacher and great person. Miss Drinan is always caring and kind because of genuine kindheartedness, her teaching, and bringing God's great Word into the everyday classroom. Miss Drinan is my favorite teacher.

## Athletics Spotlight - Cross Country

The 2018 cross country season has officially come to a close. Our Savior had a total of 20 runners this year, our highest yet, with 13 of them being brand new to cross country! Our athletes practiced hard three times per week after school. We competed at four local meets, including the Spartan Invitational, Bath Invitational, Cougar Clash, and Grand Ledge Invitational. The 4th and 5th graders either ran 1.3 miles or 2 miles depending on the invite, and the 6th through 8th graders all ran 2 miles at each race. The Lutheran State Cross Country

Championships was held at Oakland University in early October, and our very own Lauren Hamilton, an eighth grader at OSL, came in first with a 2 mile time of

13:21! Congratulations, Lauren! This year, our girls accumulated enough points to qualify as a team and compete in the National Lutheran Cross Country Championships at Concordia University in Mequon, Wisconsin. Amidst unusual heavy winds and cold temperatures of mid-October, the girls all finished strong! Lauren Hamilton came in eighth overall and was honored with a place on Second-Team All-American. Coach Cummins, Engelbrecht and Allen are very proud of all of our runners and how hard they all worked this season to exceed their goals. We are already looking forward to next fall when we can start all over again!



## God's Christmas Work

by Vicar Brandon Wittig



The Apostles' Creed is a common part of our worship in the Lutheran Church, but it's more than just a simple confession of faith. The Apostles' Creed is actually a great outline of the actions of the Trinity. God the Father is the Creator, God the Son is the Redeemer, and God the Holy Spirit is the Gatherer. Well, what does THAT mean, and how do we apply that during the coming Christmas season?

God the Father, the Creator, made and gives all things that we have. He created the sun, moon, earth, plants, and animals. Luther's explanation in the Small Catechism says "He gives us clothing and shoes, house and home, land, animals, and all that we have. He richly and daily provides me with everything that I need to support this body and life." During Christmas, we celebrate the gift He gave in sending Jesus to save humanity from our sins. One of the ways we celebrate that is by also giving gifts to one another. We also take this opportunity to give gifts to those in need, who wouldn't otherwise be able to provide gifts for themselves or their family. What a cool way to follow the Creator's example!

God the Son, Jesus, is the Redeemer. He came to earth in order to save all people from their sin, a condition that all people live in from birth. In the words of Luther's Large Catechism, through his death on the cross and resurrection "He has become our Lord...redeemed and released [us] from sin." During the Christmas season, we gather around with family and friends, which sometimes brings up old hurts or anger. We have the opportunity in those times to forgive those who have harmed us and ask for forgiveness from those whom we have harmed, reflecting the Savior who was born on Christmas to die for us.

God, the Holy Spirit "calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps it." These words from Luther's explanation to the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed highlight the Spirit's work - to bring people into the church and call them together in worship. We also gather during the Christmas season with our families, or our loved ones. Unfortunately, some people don't have anyone to gather with, and we can reflect God's love by inviting them to a meal that they otherwise wouldn't have!

Join us December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am in the Music Room for Sunday Bible Study as we dive further into the Bible and Apostles' Creed to see the Triune God's actions and how we can reflect them this Christmas Season!



### Our Savior Lutheran School is Celebrating... National Lutheran Schools Week January 27 - February 1, 2019

Pray with us for Lutheran Schools: *Jesus, our Savior and Redeemer, thank you for our Lutheran schools and educators. Strengthen, equip, and encourage all who teach and the students who learn, so that your name is praised and honored as knowledge, skill and attitudes are imparted and acquired. Amen.*

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

**REAL.  
PRESENT.  
GOD.** | PSALM 46

**NATIONAL  
LUTHERAN  
SCHOOLS  
WEEK**



## Daily Prayers For Our Children: A Prayer and Scripture Guide

### Monday

Ask God to place a protective, solid hedge around your children so that Satan cannot reach in and lead them into temptation and so they will be safe from harm.

(2 Thessalonians 3:3, Psalm 33:20)

### Tuesday

Pray that your children would use godly wisdom in selecting friends and peers that will make a positive difference in their lives. Ask God to give each child a discernment of people as well as knowing the difference between right and wrong.

(Proverbs 1:10; 18:24; Deuteronomy 13:6, 8)

### Wednesday

Pray that your children would stay pure in their thoughts and deeds. (Psalm 24:4-5; Job 17:9)

### Thursday

Pray for joy and peace. No amount of money or success will bring your child happiness unless they learn to be content in a variety of circumstances. Real joy is found in our perspective, rather than our situations.

(Philippians 4:11).

### Friday

Pray they will be alert and thinking clearly as they attend school and extracurricular activities and as they take exams. Ask God to help them be motivated to do the best they are capable of doing.

(Colossians 3:17; 1 Corinthians 10:31)

### Saturday

Pray for the spouse each child will marry someday. Ask that they will come from godly homes and have an appetite to live the spiritual truth they've learned. Pray also that their goals and purpose will be the same as your own children and their future homes would be godly. (Deuteronomy 5:29)

### Sunday

Ask God to help them live their lives for Him and that He will use them as a testimony and witness for His glory. Pray that they'll be grown to full spiritual maturity (Psalms 78:1-8, 103:17-18; Isaiah 54:13; Ephesians 3:20-21).

*Do not leave your children unprotected-that is, vulnerable to Satan's attack. The greatest shield of protection we as parents can provide for our children is prayer. It's never too late to start.*

(1 Samuel 12:23; James 5:16; Colossians 4:2).

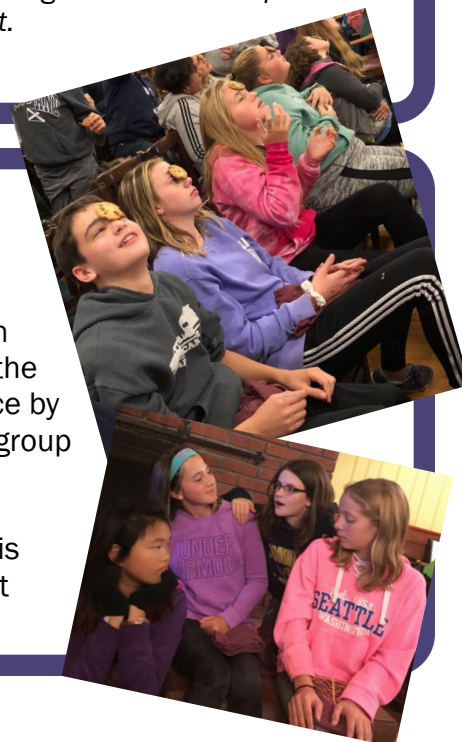


## Winter Blast Junior High Event

*Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 4pm-7pm*

*Messiah Lutheran Church, 5740 Holt Rd, Holt.*

Our Savior Lutheran, along with St. Luke Lutheran and Messiah Lutheran are planning a great afternoon event for junior high students from all of the LCMS churches in the Lansing and Jackson area. We want to melt the ice by having kids get to know each other through praise and worship, games, group activities, food, conversation, and laughter. All 6-8 grade students are welcome! Bring a friend! We want to encourage and inspire junior high students in their walk with Jesus. The cost to attend this event is \$5. It is payable at the door. For questions, or to volunteer for this event, contact Dave Wright at 517-882-8665 ex 105

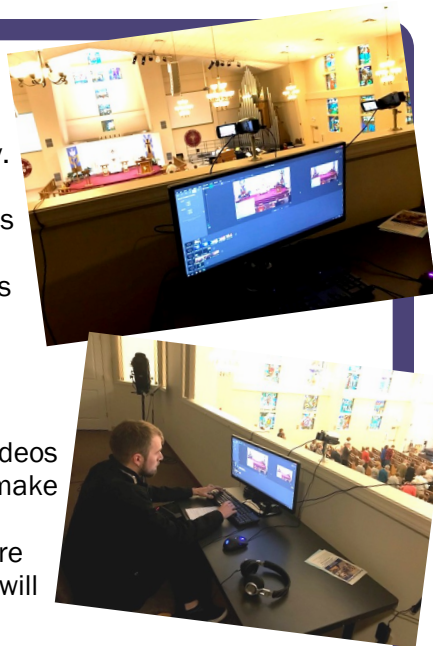


## Livestreaming at Our Savior

by Josh Wyatt, Technology Manager

Live streaming here at OSL has been an idea for a few years and now it's a reality. Both services are being live streamed every Sunday on OSL's official YouTube channel, Our Savior Lutheran - Lansing. The stream uses 3 cameras to capture as much of the service as possible to make it as close to being there as it can be. Along with the visual of the congregation, band, pastor and everything that comes with worship, the screens are displayed in real time to make it easy to sing along and participate. The streams aren't just available when they go live, YouTube automatically archives them to make it easy to watch them after the service concludes. YouTube is not only the home of our live streams but all future OSL produced videos, Christmas programs, special chapel services, event highlight videos and all other future video content will be uploaded to the channel. YouTube will make it easier to share this content and interact with the OSL community. Be sure to subscribe to the channel to have easy access to all future and past videos that are going to be uploaded, once the channel reaches 100 subscribers more features will be available such as the ability to set a custom URL address.

To view a service live or any previous services or other videos, go to [www.oursaviorlansing.org/media](http://www.oursaviorlansing.org/media)



## Dedication of Martin Luther High School

Martin Luther High School will be hosting a building and staff dedication on **Sunday, January 27th, 2019 at 3pm** at its new location 2001 E. Grand River, Lansing MI 48912. All are invited to gather and worship the blessing of a Lutheran High School. Please join us in dedicating our new building for 2019. Renovations will be done by this time and school will be in session. Refreshments & Tours immediately following the dedication.



## Advent Services & Events

**Early Childhood Christmas Program**  
Preschool through 1st Grade:  
*Let's Dress Up for Christmas*  
Sunday, December 2 • 4 pm

**Advent Midweek Worship**  
2nd & 3rd Grade: *A Shepherd's Story*  
Wednesday, December 5 • 7 pm

**Advent by Candlelight**  
Sunday, December 9 • 2 pm

**Advent Midweek Worship**  
4th & 5th Grade  
*Glorious Song, Marvelous Light*  
Wednesday, December 12 • 7 pm

**Advent by Bonfire**  
Saturday, December 15 • 6:30 pm

**Advent Midweek Worship**  
6th-8th Grade: *The Carols of Christmas*  
Wednesday, December 19 • 7 pm

**The Living Nativity**  
Saturday, December 22 • 5 pm – 7 pm

**Christmas Eve Worship**  
Monday, December 24  
4 pm - worship band  
7 pm - choir, handbells, instruments  
10 pm - brass



# ***Winter Events at Our Savior***

## **December**

- 9 Advent by Candlelight 2pm
- 15 Advent by Bonfire 6:30pm
- 22 Living Nativity 5pm
- 24 Christmas Eve Worship 4, 7, 10pm
- 30 Sunday Worship, 9:30am

## **January**

- 9 Discover Our Savior and Financial  
Peace University begins
- 27 National Lutheran Schools Week
- 27 Congregation Meeting

## **February**

- 2 Be Constant in Prayer Conference
- 4 Re-enrollment Begins

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### **Our Savior Lutheran Church and School**

7910 E. St. Joe Hwy, Lansing, MI 48917  
[www.oursaviorlansing.org](http://www.oursaviorlansing.org)

**Church & School**  
517-882-8665

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

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



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