

Learn Live Share

Spring 2019



Our Savior Lutheran Church and School
Quarterly Newsletter

Lent and Easter: Focused on Christ

by Pastor Bill Wangelin



Last year, our school theme was “It’s all about Jesus.” That is always true, but especially in this time of the church year when we focus on Jesus’ suffering, death, and resurrection. The seasons of Lent and Easter are especially poignant times for focusing on Christ and what He did to accomplish our salvation. They are marked with sacred services, special customs (like Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday) and intentional spiritual growth through devotions, prayer, and fasting.

The opportunity we have is to, first of all, grow personally in our faith and devotion to Jesus Christ, and develop a more intimate and personal appreciation for Him as our Savior. Secondly, they provide us a wonderful opportunity for evangelism, inviting friends and family members to special services and events, like the Easter Egg Hunt, and stimulating conversations about what Jesus actually said and did, as recorded in the Bible. His death and resurrection for us is figuratively and literally the crux of the matter, and makes all the difference in the world – for eternity!

I pray that our congregation would deepen our spiritual connection to Christ through the Lent and Easter seasons, and that the Holy Spirit would empower our bold witness. I encourage you to take full advantage of the faith-building services and resources that our church and school provide, and to invite family and friends to hear the Good News. Watch for a Lenten devotion resource written by the members of Our Savior!

In these pages of Learn, Live, Share, you will see multiple events and resources that your church is providing so that more and more people can learn, live, and share Christ. Each and every one of you is an important part of this ministry, and together we are the body of Christ, serving each other in love and praying “that God’s Kingdom would come among us also.” May God bless our worship and witness of our crucified and risen Savior!

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

Martin Luther High School Celebrates New Location!

by Alan Krause

*“Classrooms and labs!
Loud boiling test tubes!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Athlete and band! Loud cheering people!
Sing to the Lord a new song!”*

Songs of joy and praise permeated the halls at the service of blessing for Martin Luther High School on January 27, 2019. The newly renovated building at 2001 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing, opened its doors to welcome students following Christmas break. Students and staff participated in the celebration worship and eagerly invited the crowds of guests to tour the facility. The building features ten large classrooms including a music/fine arts room, a Maker/Space with woodshop, labs and a robotic design studio. The theme, “We are made new in Christ!” (2 Cor. 5:17) permeates the school.

Martin Luther High School is supported by seven area Lutheran churches. Superintendent Traci Bachus is excited to see the miraculous blessings of the Lord as the school expands. Donations and service project help are much appreciated.

For more information about Martin Luther High School, go to martinlutherhighschool.org.



Community Outreach

by Vicar Brandon Wittig



Throughout the course of my six months at Our Savior, *When Helping Hurts* has been a book that has returned to the center of my concentration no less than three times. To quote author of *Joining Jesus on His Mission* Greg Finke: "God's messing with me" when it comes to poverty alleviation and relationship building in Lansing. As a result, I've been doing a lot of thinking about how

we can use *When Helping Hurts* at Our Savior relating to both relationship building and poverty alleviation.

In *When Helping Hurts*, Brian Fikkert makes a point that is shocking at first glance, but remarkably accurate after more thought. Without getting into the book's contents too much, poverty has to do with relationships much more than simply material possessions, not the least of which is our relationship with our God. He asserts that the first step to poverty alleviation is simply "hanging out". Having a network of supportive relationships is vital to moving past the many obstacles that worsen or prevent the escape from poverty. The resources and encouragement that a network of relationships brings can literally change lives, and that is exactly the business that Jesus is in, life change.

As a result, a team of OSL members and I are currently planning an event for the people of Lansing that will be a first-step towards building relationships in the Lansing area, specifically in the area of Lansing that has the most poverty. In a 1-mile wide circle around the Our Savior Food Bank at our previous location, nearly a quarter of households are below the poverty line, and nearly half of the households with children are single-mother homes. Even better, with the Food Bank and historical location of Our Savior right in the middle, we already have a "foot in the door" serving people and growing relationships. What a great area to join with Jesus on His mission to bring all people to Himself!

If this sounds like something you'd be interested in helping with, you can contact me (Vicar Wittig) at bwittig@oursaviorlansing.org about helping out. If not, I want to invite you to pray for the journey that Our Savior is embarking on as we seek to build relationships and join Jesus on His mission in the Lansing area as we live, learn, and share Him with our neighbors.

Poverty alleviation occurs when the power of Christ's resurrection reconciles our key relationships through the transformation of both individual lives and local, national, and international systems.

meetville.com

Brian Fikkert

Birdhouse Blessings

by Rachael Engelbrecht, 1st Grade Teacher

The first grade birdhouse blessing started with an idea and grew into an amazing opportunity to teach the students about economics, service, giving without wanting anything in return, and tithing. The students were able to raise \$1,800 by marketing, selling, making, painting, and distributing these birdhouses. The blessings were spread out between a family in need due to mold in their home and the OSL food bank. The students also learned the importance of giving back to God for all the blessings He has bestowed on them. The first graders were able to give over \$200 back to the church. We would like to thank everyone who helped make this a successful project. God truly blessed us throughout this whole experience.



Winter Blast: A Train Wreck!

by David Wright, Minister of Family Life

The junior high event Winter Blast that was held at Messiah Lutheran in Holt on Saturday night, February 9th, was a train wreck! Yes, a train wreck! At least if you ask OSL 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. Train Wreck is a fun group game in which everyone sits on a chair in a giant circle. There are just enough chairs for everyone except one person who stands in the middle of the circle. That person then announces something that they have experienced or some type of quality that they possess (i.e. I have one sister, I have flown in an airplane in the past 6 months, or I'm wearing Nike shoes). Everyone who shares that same quality or fact about himself or herself then has to get up and find a different chair in the circle. This creates a terrific time of chaos and a fun dash to find an unoccupied chair. Now imagine watching 60 kids play this in a giant circle! This game was one of the highlights of the night.

When I asked several 7th graders about their favorite part of the night, Train Wreck was mentioned often! In addition to some other fun group games and ice breakers, the kids enjoyed a time of fellowship, pizza and snacks, and worship and praise. Pastor Vanderbilt of Messiah Lutheran spoke to everyone about our unity in Christ and the fact that in Christ we are all one. He used the analogy of being on the same team even though we had kids from 8 different Lansing area churches and as well as several different schools. Abigail Goucher, a 7th grade student from Our Savior Lutheran said, "It was a great opportunity to meet new friends."

Indeed it was a great opportunity to find similarities with one another through Train Wreck, worship, and conversation.

Youth group leaders from OSL, St. Luke Lutheran in Haslett, and Messiah Lutheran planned the event in order to provide our junior high kids the opportunity to interact with other kids from the area and reinforce the fact that we are one in Christ.

Chromebook Charging Stations

by Josh Wyatt, Technology Director



What happened to the extra church mailboxes from the lobby? A question with a very cool answer. With the greatly appreciated help of the Wednesday crew the mailboxes were transformed into

Chromebook charging stations. Having 63 Chromebooks in the school, a solution to keeping them charged as well as organized was needed.

The Chromebooks fit so well in the mail slots it was like they were designed for this purpose. With 25 devices to a classroom, the 45 slots in the mail boxes were a little too much. The bottom 15 slots were cut away to make a more compact 30 slot station. A 24 outlet power strip was mounted on top, cables were plugged in and ran through the newly drilled holes to power a full class set.

There are 3 stations in total. One for 8th grade, one for 7th and 6th grade home room and one for the new set of 20 shared devices stored in the server room. Each slot is labeled with a number to its matching device. Next year the server room station will find a new home in 6th grade. Another charging station is already in the works to replace the shared class set station when it moves.



Upcoming Hymn Festival with Dr. Jeffrey Blersch

The Wangelin/Blersch Connection

by John Horak, Minister of Music

In college, Pastor Wangelin and his wife Kristin sang in the Concordia Ann Arbor choir under the direction of Jeffrey Blersch. Harlan and Kelli Schaedig had Dr. Blersch as a professor for music classes and Kelli took organ lessons from him. I asked Pastor to share with us some memories about the choir and also the upcoming May 30 hymn festival.



What are some memories that you have of singing with the Concordia Ann Arbor choir?

Singing in the Concordia Choir was a highlight of my college years, where I made great friends, traveled on tours, and experienced many worshipful moments of sacred music in the chapel of the Holy Trinity and many other churches. Many of our friends in choir are now pastors, teachers, and church workers, and people we keep in touch with.

One of the best memories from the Concordia Choir was the opportunity to sing in the chapel of the Holy Trinity on campus. Our home concerts, daily chapel, the Boar's Head Festival at Christmas time, and special services like Reformation Day and the District Convention gave us ample opportunities to sing tremendous works in an inspiring setting.

My other favorite memory of singing with Dr. Blersch is how fun he was on choir tours. We laughed, worked, ate, and sang our way across the Midwest, in a day before people had their personal entertainment devices or cell phones. We really bonded with the group and with our director on those trips.

How was Dr. Blersch as a director?

We loved singing for Dr. Blersch, who challenged us in his gentle way to musical excellence. When asked how to pronounce his name, he said, "It's the sound a small pebble makes when tossed in a pond. Blersch!" The ripple effects of Dr. Blersch's music conducting, his organ capabilities, and personal devotion to his Savior, Jesus Christ, made a strong impact on us, and we have great respect and admiration for him.

Why should people consider attending the hymn festival?

The Hymn Festival is not just a concert with great music, but a sacred concert that glorifies our Lord Jesus Christ, and makes a joyful noise to the Rock of our Salvation. It gives both musicians and attendees the opportunity to sing familiar songs with impressive arrangements, and to hear new pieces performed by the composer. It gives us a deeper appreciation for sacred music composition when you personally meet the composer and hear how their faith is expressed in the notes and words of the songs. Our congregation and the greater Lansing area is blessed with talented musicians who come together for this event, making it an expression of our unity in Christ and the hope we have in Him.

A Hymn Festival

Thursday, May 30, 2019 | 7:00pm

Theological Conference 2019

Be Constant In Prayer

Our Savior was blessed to host 285 people for this year's Michigan District Theological Conference.



Reflecting Christ

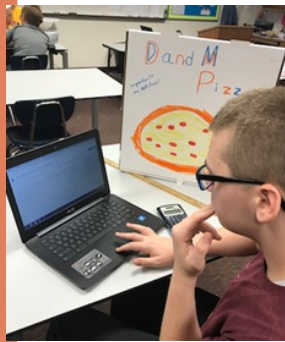
by Principal Matthew Couser

It is amazing to reflect upon this school year at the countless blessings we have received, experienced, and celebrated. Our school year theme, Reflect the Image of Christ, has been apparent and visible as students, families, and staff have collectively committed to our Christian education. Together we gather daily to know Jesus Christ and together we make Jesus Christ known.

Our school community is ever transforming, through the work of the Holy Spirit, as we equip our children with Christ-centered knowledge and learning experiences making an impact in the Kingdom of God. We Learn, Live, and Share...Christ!

Did You Know?

• In 2018 Our Savior had three alumni graduate from three different high schools as their class valedictorian. With our quality curriculum and learning experiences, it is not uncommon to have Our Savior students graduate high school with honors.



• Our Savior's Mrs. Conway, added our first STEAM course for middle school students. STEAM is an educational approach to learning that uses Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math for inquiry and critical thinking resulting in and engages student experience.

• Our Savior is developing it's K-8 student assessment through NWEA online testing. A first assessment was conducted in November. A second assessment will take place in February as teachers monitor student progress in Math, Reading, and Language Arts. Each student takes two or three secured online tests three times a year. Our faculty continues to receive training to best utilize the results throughout the school year for instruction and learning.

"A Lutheran school is a place of joy and grace in a chaotic world..."

— Jeffrey Beavers, Executive Director, Crean Lutheran High School, Irvine, CA



2nd Annual Battle of the Books at Our Savior Lutheran School



In memory of Mrs. Decker, students in 5th-8th grade have been reading assigned literature in preparation for their team book trivia competition on Friday, March 22, 2019. Teams of students, representing each grade, are reading five pre-selected books and will compete in a series of battles to see which team knows the most about the books. Teams first met in November to begin reading and create team names and posters. The list of books includes the *Gospel of Luke*, *Where the Red Fern Grows*, *The Westing Game*, *Fish in a Tree*, and *The One and Only*

Ivan. Staff, parents, and congregation members are reading the books, as well, and writing trivia questions. Mrs. Decker's passion for literature and teamwork lives on!

Ministry God Sighting

OSL Alum, Bornwell Legabu, recently honored his former teacher, Mrs. Michelle Decker, during his Grand Ledge high school team's Coaches vs. Cancer game. Michelle was called home to Jesus in 2017. Our teacher, Mrs. List, accepted Legabu's game-worn jersey on behalf of the Decker family. Thank you Bornwell for sharing her impact. Her passion and legacy for faith, teamwork, and learning lives on at Our Savior through our middle school Battle of the Books competition and our Message Of Hope Scholarship Fund. #GodsGotThis #Philippians3v20

For more information on the Message of Hope Scholarship Fund, please go to: www.oursaviorlansing.org/message-of-hope



Family Resource Corner

by David Wright, Minister of Family Life

Have you had a marriage check up lately? Like many of you, I have my teeth cleaned at the dentist office twice a year, I have an annual physical each year at my doctor's office, and I try to keep up with preventative maintenance by doing the doctor recommended tests and screenings. But what about our marriages? How often do we take the time to check up on how healthy they are? Do you have regular times of conversation with your spouse in which you develop long-range family planning, evaluate strengths and growth areas, and share feelings and dreams? If you do not take the time to work on your marriage and do the preventative maintenance, a lot of things can go wrong. Pastor Rob Rienow explains that there are a lot of things riding on your marriage. One of them is the very foundation of our nation. That seems like a stretch, but Rienow eloquently explains the connection in a short video titled "Marriage and the Great Commission."

<https://vimeo.com/189164482> I encourage you to watch it.



Rienow and his wife Amy are the founders of Visionary Family Ministries. Check out their website: <https://visionaryfam.com>. By the way, there are several videos and podcasts here on topics ranging from parenting to empty nesters. The practical, biblical advice is extremely helpful.

There are, of course, other ways to maintain a healthy marriage. Our Savior Lutheran offered a February marriage class on Sunday mornings in the 8th grade classroom. Topics included communication, conflict resolution, demonstrating love, and forgiveness.

Want to try a practical marriage check up? Take the **Prepare/Enrich Marriage Assessment**. It is a marital survey that helps couples recognize their relationship strengths as well as any potential growth areas. I would be happy to sit down and help facilitate that assessment. It really is a useful tool for couples to use every few years in order to help evaluate their marriage and celebrate successes while evaluating those potential changes that may need to be made. As a Prepare/Enrich facilitator I can objectively view the results and offer suggestions and conversation that will open the necessary dialogue between husbands and wives. The cost is \$35, and that is a small investment to make in such an important part of your life.

If you are interested in helping lead a small group marriage class, taking a Prepare/Enrich assessment, or have suggestions for other ways OSL can assist couples, let's talk!

Early Childhood & Summer Camp

by Windy Carroll, Early Childhood Director

It's enrollment season once again at Our Savior, which we recently kicked off with our annual Early Childhood and Kindergarten Open House. God blessed us with a record number of families present to check out our programs, so we are thankful and pray that we might be a blessing to our new and returning families in the 2019-20 school year! Though the initial enrollment Open House has passed, we always welcome parents and families of prospective Preschool, Pre-Kindergarten, Developmental Kindergarten, and Kindergarten to contact the school office to schedule individual tours. More information is available by calling (517) 882-3550 or on our website at oursaviorlansing.org!

And, though the weather is blustery, we are already thinking about summer! Panther Camp at Our Savior Lutheran School is also enrolling now for new and returning families. Panther Camp is a summer day camp for kids aged 3 to 13 years and offers fun, themed activities five days a week, faith-filled chapel and Bible lessons, and weekly field trips or special events. Camp is open to church families, school families, and community families, and takes place here on the Our Savior campus. This year, camp begins Monday, June 10th and concludes on Thursday, August 15th, and runs from 7am to 6pm daily. For more information on Panther Camp, or to enroll your camper visit panthercamp.weebly.com. We pray the Lord's blessings over the 2019 Panther Camp season!



Spring Events at Our Savior

March

- 2 2019 Auction
- 6 Lenten Family Meal
Ash Wednesday Worship Service
- 10 New Member Sunday
- 20 Service of Healing

April

- 14 Palm Sunday & Palm Sunday Journey
- 20 Easter Egg Hunt
- 21 Easter Sunday

May

- 5 Confirmation Sunday
- 16 Early Childhood & Kindergarten
Open House
- 30 Hymn Festival

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Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

7910 E. St. Joe Hwy, Lansing, MI 48917
www.oursaviorlansing.org

Church & School
517-882-8665

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

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

Easter Sunday Worship

Sunday, April 21
8:00am • 10:45am



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