

Learn Live Share

Fall 2019



Our Savior Lutheran Church and School Quarterly Newsletter

Together: With Christ, In Hope, for the Next Generation

by Pastor Bill Wangelin



God brings people together. Especially through the Gospel, God reconciles us together with Him, and brings us into His family. We become brothers and sisters in Christ – members of His body – working together to glorify God and join Jesus on His mission.

God brought together the first 100 families who formed Our Savior Lutheran Church and School in 1956, and God has brought students, staff, new members, young and old, people near and far together through this ministry. God continues to bring people together around His Word and Sacraments to celebrate our Savior, Jesus, and His mission to bring life, light, and salvation.

We are embarking on an undertaking that will strengthen our ministry as we work together to learn, live and share Christ with the next generation. In fact, that's the name of the campaign: **TOGETHER**. God has brought us together as a “churchschool” ministry. Church and school, parents and teachers, congregation and community – so many blessings abound when we work together!

In this issue of *Learn, Live, Share*, you will see how God is bringing people together to join Jesus on His mission through the ministries of Our Savior Lutheran Church and School. Each person is important. Everyone matters. And everyone has a role to play in the body of Christ.



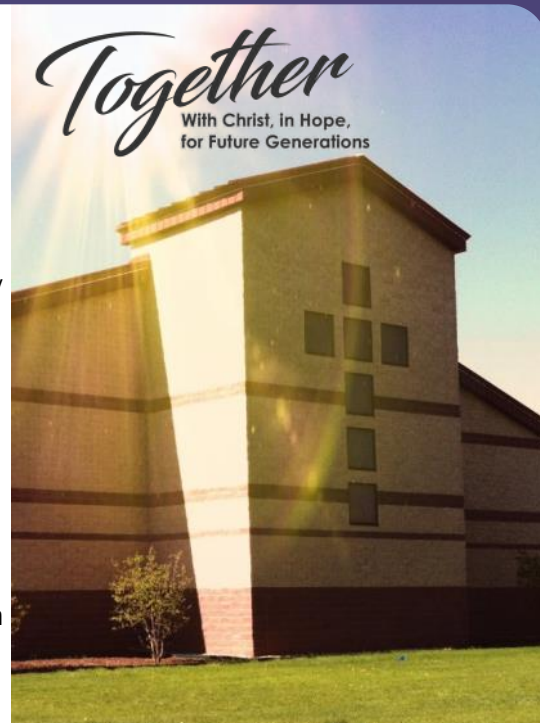
You will also be receiving information about our **Together Capital Campaign** that kicks off October 6. Of special note is the **ONE SERVICE on Sunday, October 27, 9:30 AM** when we will truly get to worship together and rejoice in God's goodness and faithfulness.

I am so thankful that you are here. I'm thankful that I am here! And that the Lord has brought us together to be about His Kingdom work. Thank you for joining Jesus at our Savior, and working together with us to Learn, Live and Share Christ – to the greater Lansing area and beyond!

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive TOGETHER with Christ – by grace you have been saved – and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.” Ephesians 2:4-6.

God's blessings to you and yours as we Learn, Live and Share Christ **TOGETHER** this fall.

Pastor Bill Wangelin <><



Library & Resource Center

Did you know that Our Savior has a library/resource center in the board room? It's a wonderful place to find your next reading adventure or possibly find a book that answers some questions you have been wondering about.

Some featured books this month include:

Joining Jesus on His Mission by Greg Finke.

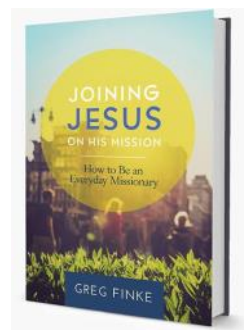
Missional Renaissance by Reggie McNeal

In Christ All Things Hold Together

One Thing you Can't Do In Heaven by Mark Cahill

Already Gone by Ken Ham & Britt Beemer with Todd Hillard

One Race One Blood by Ken Ham & A. Charles Ware



Being a South African Ambassador

By: Melisa McKendry

When I start off a conversation by telling people that my daughter and I went to South Africa (SA) with our church, immediately the response is “for a Mission trip?” Before this experience my thoughts were the same: going into an impoverished village and helping build something.

While we did have one physical work day while in SA, this was not our sole purpose for going. Pastor Wangelin, through the “When Helping Hurts” series and his experiences tried to help us understand what our mission was to be ambassadors and build relationships with people. For those of us in that American mindset of goals, checkboxes, time schedules, being an “ambassador” and not necessarily being assigned a “task” to accomplish was difficult to understand. It did not take long though for God to show us what the meaning of ambassador was and how He would work through us in this role.

After arriving in SA we met with the Pastors from St Peter’s Confessional Lutheran Church in Middelberg. We learned from them that the children in SA were on their 3 weeks of winter break. In SA many parents cannot afford care so the kids are left alone with no supervision. Pastor Mangoba said “We are so happy for you to be here and excited for the VBS program you will be doing with the children at St Peter’s.” I am sure the looks we gave to each other must have looked a bit panicky. We had not planned on a VBS program, but we were here to serve and this was a great way to do just that. It was a blessing that many of the 13 ambassadors had been involved in VBS planning previously and each person was able to show God’s love through their talents. In just two hours we had a program put together. We were ready to guide the groups of kids through song, puppets, bible stories, sports and visual faith activities.

VBS started with singing for 10 minutes. 30 minutes later we were still singing. These kids, parents and teachers could sing for hours. They learned our songs, we learned theirs, songs filled with energy and excitement about Jesus. Through music we were quickly becoming one family. Each activity we had set up, the kids blew away the time schedule. They craved the bible stories through the puppet shows and wanted to learn how to be a puppeteer. Through Visual Faith coloring and drawing the kids had the opportunity to interact with caring adults. Through these conversations, we found that SA children are not much different than our own.

Another activity we had planned was sports. I have never seen a group of kids so excited they could hardly sit still to wait their turn for sports. We learned very quickly why. Kids in SA do not get recess. Can you imagine elementary teachers in America with kids who do not get out for recess at least once per day? Or have classrooms up to 60 kids in them? Soon a 3 hour program turned into 5. They wanted more time with us and us with them. It then hit me “This is what an ambassador is: an advocate for those craving God’s Blessings.”

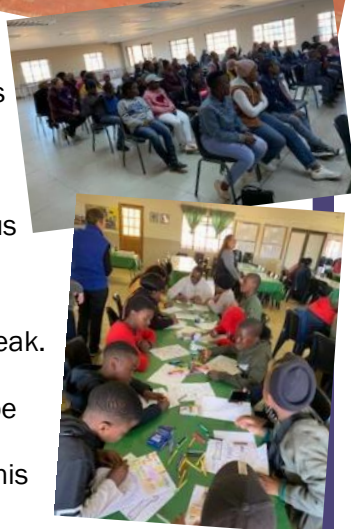
The second day of VBS we were much more prepared. We didn’t however expect the amount of kids attending to triple! More God sightings?? Jesus was on the loose. We introduced a more in depth Bible study with the older kids/youth. To truly understand how family bonds and society affect the daily lives of families- talk to youth and their families. Kids are going through the same things in South Africa as in the US. There are broken homes, bullying, disrespect for elders, but also those craving hugs, love and attention from someone. Parents were wondering how do they have bible study at home? How do they pray? They were looking to us for help. This is why God sent us here - to share and support. There is that Ambassador role again.

We left that day overwhelmed with emotions. It was time that our journey take us to Siyabuswa to work and share God’s word with the youth. That day we learned the impact of the VBS program. One of the pastors received a text from St Peter’s school that a dozen children showed up just hoping we would be back for another day of VBS! How we would have loved to have been there longer also!

Awesome, impactful, life-changing, humbling...there are not enough words to describe the impact of the interactions and the relationships we built on the trip. Having the opportunity to go on this trip and having a foundation in Christ to build on this ambassador journey is truly a blessing.

For more information on St Peter’s Confessional Lutheran Church in Middelberg and how you can be a part of our ministry partnership, go to: oursaviorlansing.org/mission-to-middelburg/.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11



Welcome Vicar Andrew Mussell



Where did you grow up?

I grew up in the small town of Buffalo, Minnesota. It is about an hour west of the Twin Cities and it is located in an area of Minnesota where the lakes start becoming more and more prevalent.

What are your favorite hobbies?

My favorite hobbies are wood working and playing soccer. I've played soccer for most of my life even all the way up through college at Concordia Nebraska. I got into woodworking when I took several classes on it in high school. I have built and created many different types of furniture and decorations from bookshelves to coffee mug trees.

What is your favorite Bible verse and why?

My favorite Bible verse is from Philippians 1:21 *"For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."* In this verse we learn and hear that our lives as Christians are lived as examples of who Christ is and what he has done for each and every person in the world. That is, he has lived the perfect life, suffered for our sins, and died and was raised to life again so that the debt that we owed would be completely paid. And in the end we will meet him and gain our reward that has been stored up in heaven through Christ's work.

What is your favorite food?

My favorite food is barbeque chicken with sweet potato fries and grilled zucchini

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

Ultimately the Holy Spirit called me into this ministry. I always have enjoyed being in church and learning about the Bible as well as other theological teachings. In college I felt the call more abundantly as I surrounded myself with many mentors and teachers that helped guide me in this process.

One fun fact about you

One fun fact about me: I have never traveled out of the United States.



Welcome Mr. Lloyd Conway - Middle School Teacher (History & 6th Grade Homeroom)



Where did you grow up?

I was born in Detroit and raised in Ferndale, MI.

What are your favorite hobbies?

I enjoy reading (Victorian & Russian literature, history, politics, etc.), running, orienteering, Tiger baseball, college football, and board games.

What is your favorite Bible verse and why?

John 11:25. *"I am the resurrection and the life..."* The resurrection of Lazarus is my favorite passage, and this statement Jesus made concerning His greatest miracle sums up the Gospel, and what we are asked to believe, in a single verse.

What is your favorite food?

Fresh strawberries

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

I want to be 'where the action is,' in terms of serving the Kingdom, and I have known that teaching is a calling of mine for many years.

One fun fact about you:

I went to a Detroit Tigers amateur tryout at Macomb Community College in 2005. They didn't sign me. When did they win their last World Series? Just sayin'...



From Summer to Fall

By Windy Carroll, Early Childhood Director

As the Panther Camp 2019 season comes to a close this week, we praise the Lord for a busy, joyful, and safe summer. This year, we were blessed with 283 campers from all over the Lansing area as well as 50 staff members! It has been incredible to see our building so full of life and the love of Jesus all year round. Campers enjoyed worshipping together in chapel and in individual groups, many exciting planned activities, special events on campus, and field trips out in the community. Please join us in thanking God for these many blessings as well as in praying for a safe school year for all our camp children and families!

Even as one ministry ends, another is beginning. The Early Childhood staff are all looking forward to welcoming our new Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten students, and also to welcoming back our returning students! Our teachers and staff have been hard at work preparing their classrooms, conducting home visits, and praying for our incoming families. We are looking forward to the faith formation and learning to come in our classrooms!

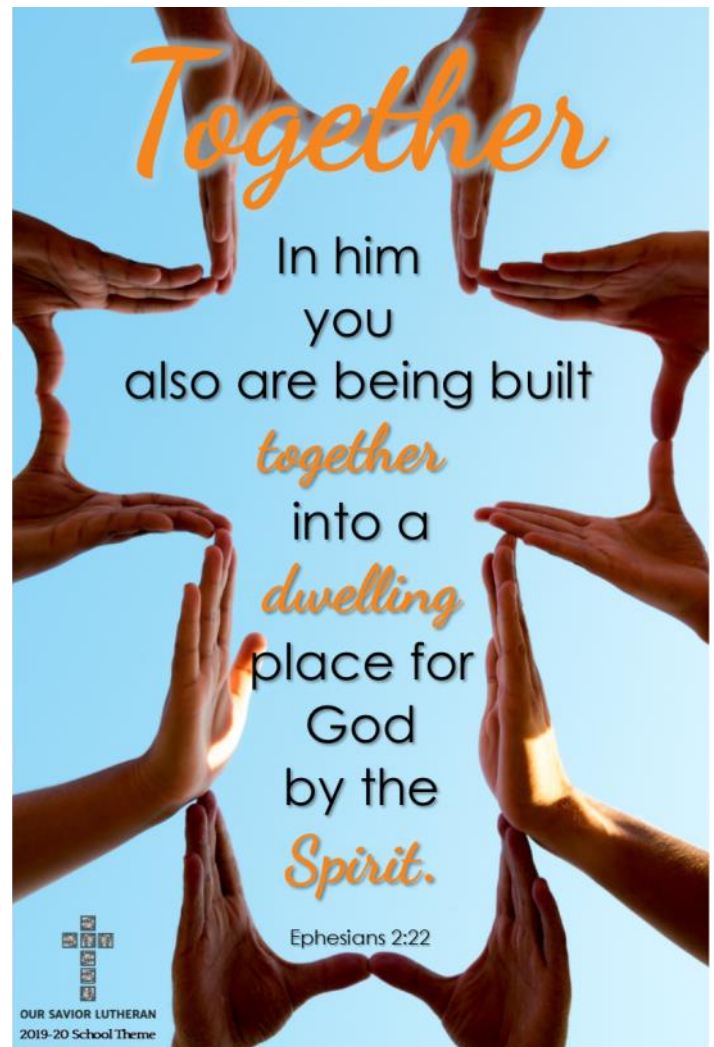


Campus Connect

By: Michigan District Campus Ministry

Back-to-school season is upon us and the Michigan District offers college students the opportunity to continue their growth in faith through campus ministries. Whichever school they attend in Michigan, there is a campus ministry or local congregation ready to welcome them.

To find a list of campus ministries in Michigan, go to michigandistrict.org/ministries/specialized-ministries/campus-ministry. There you will find a student information form to complete. Once the form is submitted the student will be contacted by the campus ministry leader or congregation associated with the college or university they are attending.




OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN
2019-20 School Theme

Our Savior Lutheran School - Welcome!

By Matthew Couser, Principal

Welcome to a new school year that holds our hopes and joys as we do faith and learning **TOGETHER** at Our Savior Lutheran Church and School. We maintain our focus on growing energetic, servant leaders for Jesus Christ through love, respect, and a commitment to excellence.

**Boys come and help us, Girls Come and Help us
Building up the Kingdom of the Lord, ...TOGETHER
Parents come and help us, Church come and help us,
Building up the Kingdom of the Lord, ...TOGETHER**

We recognize that in order to be successful in school and in life, our children need support from the home, school, and church. We know that strong partnerships between parents and the school will make a great difference in each child's education.

Our theme for this school year comes from Ephesians 2:22, **"In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit."** We rejoice in supporting families to help children grow spiritually, academically, emotionally, and physically.

Our staff is looking forward to a year in which we celebrate growth and hope that you join us in doing that. On behalf of our dedicated and caring staff, welcome to our school family. We love engaging and encouraging one another in Christ. Join us on this new beginning of faith and learning together!

Anchored in Christ,
Matthew Couser, Principal



Thanksgiving Day Basket Collection Begins October 6th



Through the generosity of our members, OSL has been providing full Thanksgiving Day meal supplies for many local families. Over the last 7 years, we have provided over 1,400 baskets to people throughout our community. This is possible through the donations of meal supplies, money, and time. Please prayerfully consider giving to this awesome program. If you have time to assist in the planning or distribution to families as they pick up their baskets, you will see the Lord's work being accomplished through the blessings of our congregation. **Donations for the 200 baskets we will be passing out this year will be accepted from October 6th through November 22nd. Assembly of the baskets will take place during Family Service Sunday at 9:30am on November 24th.** Please contact Marianne List (listmd@gmail.com) or Becky Grocki (bgrocki@oursaviorlansing.org) for more details and stay tuned for more announcements.

Donations to be collected

- Boxed Mashed Potatoes
- Boxed Stuffing
- Can of Corn
- Can of Green Beans
- Box of Jello
- Cake Mix
- Frosting
- Monetary Donations to purchase Turkeys, Gallons of Milk, Bread and Margarine



Together

With Christ, in Hope,
for Future Generations



God has blessed Our Savior Lutheran with an amazing opportunity to **Learn, Live and Share Christ** with the greater Lansing area and in the heart of Delta Township. Our growth as a congregation and school ministry has stretched beyond our current ministry resources and staff.

In order to lay a solid foundation for the future, the TOGETHER campaign will address debt reduction and facility care to open up more ministry dollars for meeting the needs of our growing church and school ministries and sharing the blessings through local and global missions.



Campaign Timeline

October 6, 2019: Together Campaign Kick-Off
October 26, 2019: Song Fest & Day of Prayer
October 27, 2019: Commitment Sunday
& Celebration

Tech Corner: Video Games

by Josh Wyatt, Technology Manager

It's no secret that I like video games. With games being in the news a lot recently, it felt like a good time to go over a few aspects of video games for Christian families to consider. Online multiplayer, microtransactions and game ratings are three of the biggest concerns when it comes to letting kids play games.

When playing games online there are a couple ways to do it, private games for just friends or public matchmaking. Private games are the safest and usually the go to for a lot of situations, like a round of Madden Football or building and mining together in Minecraft with a group of friends. Some games don't provide much when it comes to the private games. Fortnite leans heavily into the public matchmaking since the whole appeal is having huge 100 player games but that doesn't mean you are talking to random people all the time. Most game platforms like Xbox and Playstation have a chat system similar to skype or a conference call where its just the friends that were invited to the call. Each friend could be playing a different game during party chat and just talking while playing their individual game.

Microtransactions are huge in games right now, especially in free to play games. It's a way for developers to support development of their game and earn money. People can purchase items in games like characters and boosts for a few bucks each. This is very common in mobile games on phones. These purchases can add up very quickly since it's very easy to make purchases and it doesn't feel like spending real money.

Ratings tends to feel like its the smallest of these concerns when it should really be the biggest. They provide easy to read guidelines for people when looking to purchase a game. Games are rated E (everyone), T (teen) and M (mature). There are variations like E10+ for ages 10 and up. The ratings are stamped on the box in the lower left corner on the front and back, with details of why the game is rated that way on the back right next to the games rating.

This article just scratches the surface on information about video games. My hope is that it provides you with a good jumping off point for conversation with your children about video games and what you decide is appropriate for your family.



Fall Events at Our Savior

September

- 7 International Welcome Party
- 8 Christ Connections & Adult Bible Study Begins 9:30am
- 22 Learn to Pray Milestone Ministry 9:30am
- 29 Congregation Meeting 9:30am

October

- 6 Together Campaign Kick-Off
Thanksgiving Basket Collection Begins
- 11-13 Confirmation Retreat
- 13 Hmong Eggroll Sale
- 20 4th Grade Technology Milestone Ministry 9:30am
- 26 Day of Prayer & Song Fest
- 27 **ONE WORSHIP SERVICE AT 9:30AM**
Reformation Sunday
Commitment Sunday & Celebration

November

- 3 Daylight Savings Ends
- 3 & 10 1st Grade Bible Milestone Ministry 9:30am
- 24 Family Service Day 9:30am
- 27 Special Persons Day 8:15am
Thanksgiving Eve Worship 7pm

Learn Live Share

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Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

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

OurSaviorLansing.org

517-882-8665

Worship Times

Sunday: 8:00am & 10:45am

Hmong Worship

Sunday: 10:45am

Church & School Office Hours

Monday - Friday: 8am-4pm

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School
7910 E. St. Joe Hwy
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