

# *Learn Live Share*

Winter 2019-20



Our Savior Lutheran  
Church and School  
Quarterly Newsletter



## Together for the Holidays

by Pastor Bill Wangelin



The Gospel brings people together. It reconciles us to God through Jesus Christ, and puts us in a right relationship with our Creator, Savior, and Sustainer. It also places us as members in the body of Christ, bonded together in faith, hope, and love, to carry out the Lord's work in this world - the "ministry of reconciliation."

As we close out 2019 and usher in the New Year, there are many opportunities for us to be "together" with family, friends, and church family. There are special meals, special services, and seasonal activities that are unique to this time of year. You will see a number of them highlighted in this edition of Learn, Live, Share. How might God be at work in our moments of coming "together"? Can we watch for God in these gatherings and see how Jesus is inviting us to join Him on His mission? May we be drawn closer "together" with the Lord and "together" with our brothers and sisters in Christ as we celebrate our Savior!



It is that spirit of togetherness that drives our **Together Capital Campaign**. Our congregation is off to an amazing start, with over-and-above gifts and pledges laying the foundation for future ministry, even as we strive to meet the current opportunities that God has given us. The OSL Auction and Message of Hope are other wonderful opportunities for generosity that God uses to mobilize ministry. We are blessed to have a church and school like Our Savior, and we want to share that with our community and with the next generation.

As you gather together in the next few weeks and months - at church, school, home, with family and friends - know that God is with you (Immanuel). You are united together with Christ in your baptism. As we think of loved ones no longer with us in these family moments - know that they are with God. We are together in hope. And as we encourage family members, and see the wonder of the holidays on the faces of children and students, - know that God is raising up the next generation of disciples. Thanks be to God for bringing us together at Our Savior Lutheran Church and School to Learn, Live and Share Christ!

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

## OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN 2020 Auction



**SATURDAY, MARCH 7TH**

**4:30PM**

**Our Savior Lutheran  
Church & School Gymnasium  
7910 E. St. Joe Hwy.  
Lansing, MI 48917**

## The Living Nativity

Saturday, December 21  
5pm to 7pm



# All Weather is a Blessing From God

by Windy Carroll

We've all probably heard the old wives' tale that spending time outdoors when the weather turns colder can make us sick – but it turns out that playing outdoors (even in colder weather) can actually make our bodies (and minds) healthier! It's true: research shows that as long as we dress for the weather to prevent frost bite and dangerously low body temperatures, the fresh air and connection with our earth's natural elements may even improve our overall health and immune system function.



In our Early Childhood classes, we revel in and celebrate all types of weather. Children love to play in the rain, splash in mud puddles, build sand castles with sand dampened by the rain, and observe how the grass crunches and puddles glaze over with ice when the



temperatures drop and the rainy season turns into the snowy season. We strive to get outside every day – even if just for five minutes – to learn about this beautiful earth God has given us, and to build upon the children's knowledge of earth science, weather, seasons, and for awesome sensory experiences that

only the outdoor environment can lend.

Children also learn independence skills as we teach them how to dress for the weather and how to put on their own hats, mittens, coats, boots, rain suits, and snow pants. But, most importantly, going outside is the perfect opportunity to incorporate faith development! We talk about all weather as a blessing from God – sun, rain, warmth, cold, wind, snow – it is all part of God's perfect creation and all works together for a purpose. Leaves turn colors and drop to the ground, creating materials for animals to make shelters with for the winter. Flocks of geese and sandhill cranes fly overhead toward places to our south in order to stay warm for the winter. Rain falls to water plants and help vegetables and fruits to grow to the nourishment of our bodies.

Indeed, God gives all of His creation everything we need. What a joy it is to watch our youngest students learn to love the Lord through their play and interactions in nature – and to help raise them up as good stewards and caretakers of the gifts God has granted us all.



# Nursery Rhymes

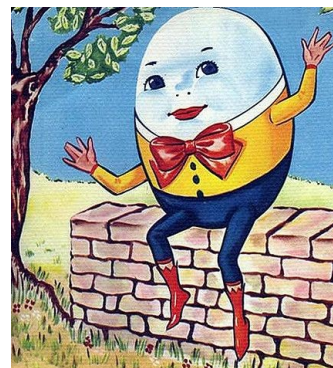
by Vicar Andrew Mussell



When I think of nursery rhymes I often think of the ones my parents would read to me when I was younger. You might think of ones such as Itsy Bitsy Spider, Jack and Jill Went Up the Hill, or Humpty Dumpty. These are short and easy to remember rhymes that I often recite when they come to mind or smile about when I hear kids singing them.

The one I want to look at today is Humpty Dumpty. It is a sadder story but it demonstrates a certain amount of truth when you look at it from a Christian perspective. Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall. Humpty Dumpty had a great fall. All the king's horses and all the king's men couldn't put Humpty Dumpty back together again.

Like I said it is a fairly sad nursery rhyme but when we think of it from a Christian perspective we can see it come to life. As people we often find ourselves sitting on a wall. We are high up and can see all that is before us. We see the opportunities and



achievements we can reach for. When we fall short, when we don't quite reach our goal we often feel broken and not able to be put back together again. Just like Humpty Dumpty we may turn to "all the king's horses and all the king's men" to help put us back together again. In this life we may turn to the things around us to make us feel "put together." We might strive in our jobs to feel meaning or purpose. We might work to have endless amounts of money so that we feel secure. All of these things fall short of the real deal. "All the king's horses and all the king's men" are

not able to put any one of us back together again.



The only one who can truly put us back together is the King. In this nursery rhyme we never hear of Humpty Dumpty turning

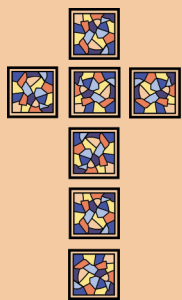
to the King to be put back together. Jesus is the one who puts us together. He is the one who makes us whole—makes us new.

*"He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed."*

1 Peter 2:24

Take comfort in the healing given by the True King.





# Together

With Christ, in Hope,  
for Future Generations

On Reformation Sunday, October 27,  
we worshiped TOGETHER in one service to bring our  
Together Campaign Commitments to the Lord.  
Celebration worship, adult and student choirs, organ & brass,  
praise band and the Lord's Supper made it a stirring and  
memorable moment for our church family. Watch the service in  
our LiveStream archive, and commitment cards can be turned  
into the church office at any time.

Praise God for the ways we get to  
Learn, Live and Share Christ – TOGETHER!

# Together

## We Are Making A Difference

The Together Capital Campaign at Our Savior Lutheran Church and School is about laying a solid foundation for future ministry – addressing our debt, keeping our facility looking great, and sharing our blessings with ministry partners. This is an over-and-above offering to the Lord's work that members and supporters of Our Savior are making over a 3-year campaign. Anyone can make a direct gift to the campaign or turn in a commitment card to the church office at any time.

Total Pledges Received as of 11/11/19: \$791,928

Total Cash Gifts Received as of 11/11/19: \$60,450

Received for Debt Reduction: \$48,958

Received for Facility Maintenance Fund: \$4,925

Received for Missions: \$6,567

Number of Households Participating: 165





# Technology In Our Families

by David Wright

Recently three members of our congregation – Jordan Miller and John and Nicole Conner – led a Sunday morning milestone class for 4th grade students and their parents. The milestone was about technology. Fourth grade is an excellent age to be able to talk about the joys and dangers of technology.

Ryan and Shelly LaFeve, who with their daughter Leah attended the class said, *"It was nice to get together with other parents who are working through technology issues like us. This class should be available congregation wide....we could have filled two hours easily."*

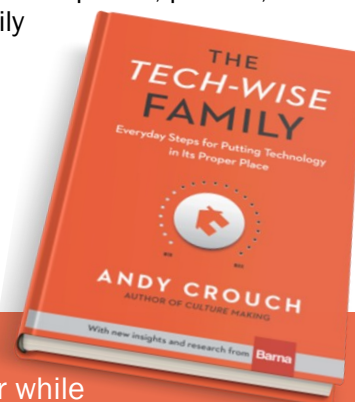


A question for all of us to ponder when it comes to technology is this: What does your family room look like? It may seem like an odd question, but it speaks to the priorities of our time spent together and our rest time as families. I'm actually not going to recommend that you set up your family room in a specific way, but rather use that as an example for how we set up our family time. Is your family time centered around the TV? Does your family time involve being together, but engrossed in your phones, ipads, or computers?

Andy Crouch, the author of *The Tech-Wise Family*, utilizes a strategy involving space and time in order to keep his family producing things like art, writing, and music. His family has living spaces designated for creativity and family time. These spaces have a limited place for technology. All computers, phones, and game systems are stored elsewhere so that the family

can be together and be engaged in some activity with each other.

Crouch also advocates certain times of the day and week in which family members utilize technology. Yes, technology has so many blessings. Yes, many types of technology bring us great joy and assistance, making life easier, but technology can also take us away from those people who are the most important people in our life – our family members. Therefore, it is important to put technology in the proper place and use it at the proper time.



## The Family Technology Challenge

1. Try eliminating the use of technology (no TV, no computers, etc) for one hour while everyone is home.
2. After you have mastered the art of no technology for an hour, try no technology for an entire day. This one might be a little tricky to pull off. Try it on a weekend or during vacation or holiday breaks.
3. Finally, Choose one entire week sometime during the next year when you and your family abstain from the use of technology.

This is not an essay on the evils of technology. Rather, it is simply information designed to make you think about how you spend time together as a family. How do you use time and space within your home? Too often we waste our time together by being immersed in social media, mindless TV-watching, gaming, texting, internet surfing, and other uses of technology. When we do this, we forget how to communicate with each other. We forget how to share the highs and lows of our day with one another. We forget to ask questions of one another. We forget to listen – really listen to understand each other.



Find some things to do together that require interaction. Create something, make meals together. Bake things. Play games together – both indoors and outdoors. Have conversations and devotions with your family. Do things that require conversation and being together. That is family life!

We rejoice in the marvelous gifts within technology that we have been blessed with, but we also want to partner with families like we did during the 4th grade technology milestone class to talk about how to keep technology in its proper place.



## Special Persons Day: Sharing is Caring

By Matthew Couser, School Principal

Each year our hope and mission on Special Persons Day at Our Savior Lutheran School is to bring family and friends together for quality time. We intentionally plan an engaging chapel worship for our special guests to experience. We arrange morning activities for guests and students to be engaged. Sixth graders built marble races in their STEAM class for all students and guests to enjoy. Turkey Races involve creativity and plenty of laughter. Visual Faith coloring gives time for students and guests to visit and pray with one another. Board games and card games happen with unhurried time. What a joy to share our school ministry with hundreds of special people who are shaping and forming the next generation through faith and learning.

As a teacher I recall my second Special Persons Day at Our Savior. I had invited my own Grandma. She participated in my classroom math activity of planning a Thanksgiving meal. It was truly special to share my love for my students and my daily faith experiences with her. My students and their special person looked through advertisements to see what kind of feast they could purchase for \$100. The math assignment and the money were not the main purpose. My primary objective was to have children and their special guests talk with one another, laugh with one another, and work with one another. They had so much fun...even if they planned a feast to include non-traditional Thanksgiving items (pop tarts, hot dogs, ice cream, and blueberry yogurt). What memories of being together for that special day.

May our time together with the special people in our life, whether at Our Savior or in our own homes, be blessed with joy as we think of Jesus, Others, and Yourself. May we experience togetherness and belonging with the friends and loved ones in our path. May we each be blessed to be a blessing.

*Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, or he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things. – Psalm 107:8-9*



NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK

JOY:FULLY  
LUTHERAN  
1 THESS 5:16-24

January 26th - February 1st



# One person's trash is another person's treasure!

by Lloyd Conway, Middle School Teacher

"The Trash To Treasure" after-school club spent three Mondays in October learning about how computer and related technology works. Fourteen students spent their after-school time taking apart broken computers and radios, as well as trying - with some success - to rehabilitate discarded computers for continued use. The children enjoyed the chance to see what makes these common place for our daily lives - desktop and laptop computers, radios, speakers and the like - work. This represented an opportunity to find value in the broken and discarded, even as Our Lord finds value in us, broken by sin as we all are.



Some of the donated computers will be going to new homes. As the Lord's stewards of all of His Earthly creation, we know that we should not waste, and this extends to obsolescent technology, especially in an age of instant gratification where we are itching for whatever is new and exciting. Thanks to the generous donations of elder technology by the OSL community and Stellar Computer Repair (Lansing, MI), we were able to teach about "how stuff works" and to get a couple of laptops working again. Those computers won't be in a landfill just yet, and they'll continue to serve.

*When they were filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments so that nothing will be lost." So they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten. (John 6:12-13)*

We will continue to "gather up the leftover [technological] fragments so that nothing will be lost," as much as we are able to when Trash to Treasure returns to Mr. Conway's 6th Grade Homeroom in

coming years.

A special thanks to Mr. Totten, an IT pro who shared his knowledge, tools and technology patiently and with kindness at all three sessions, and without whom the club would have been much less successful in its mission to connect young minds and hands with old technology.



## October After School Clubs





# *Winter Events at Our Savior*

## December

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

## January

- 16 Financial Peace University begins
- 19 Congregation Meeting
- 26 National Lutheran Schools Week

## February

- 1 Michigan Theological Conference
- 2 Discover Our Savior begins
- 3 Re-enrollment Begins

## *Learn Live Share*

Quarterly Newsletter • Winter 2019-20



### **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

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



**Christmas Eve Worship**  
Tuesday, December 24th  
4pm • 7pm • 10pm

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

NONPROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
MAILED FROM ZIP CODE 48837  
PERMIT NO. 3