



Learn Live Share

Spring 2020

Our Savior Lutheran
Church and School
Quarterly Newsletter

Life Under the Cross

by Pastor Bill Wangelin



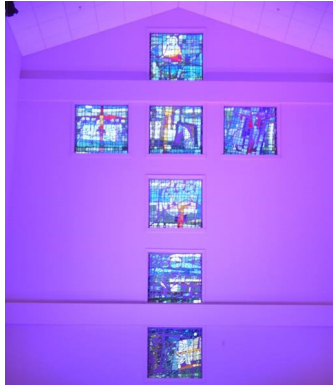
When we come to worship each week, and as we gather for special events like weddings, funerals, and sacred concerts, we gather under the large faceted glass cross above our altar area. That cross has become our church and school's logo, as it is the most recognizable feature of our building. It represents our past (made from windows from our old church on Holmes Road), our present, and our future with Christ.

Worship under the cross puts us all on the same level. We are all sinners in need of grace. We are broken people for whom Christ died. We are all redeemed by the shed blood of our Savior. We are all equal at the foot of the cross.

Life under the cross also teaches us about patience in suffering, and how God is at work even in the darkest days like Good Friday, ultimately for our good. God can turn something as dark and sinister as an execution into a life giving act of love and redemption. In our difficult days, or when we follow Jesus through pain and suffering, we can have an unshakable confidence and even joy knowing that our Savior went to the cross for us, and defeated sin, death, and the devil. His promise to be with us always gives us endurance, patience, and trust as we fix our eyes on Jesus.

During the seasons of Lent and Easter, we get to focus on the cross of Christ, and Jesus' great sacrifice of love and His victory over death. It is an amazing season filled with spiritual renewal, moving worship experiences, and opportunities to learn, live and share Christ. You'll see them listed in the next column. It's a time for us to grow closer to each other as church family, to the Lord as we ponder His sacrifice and victory, and to our community as we join Jesus on His continued mission to seek and save the lost. I pray you will be richly blessed by participating in these Lenten Services & Events.

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



Lenten Services & Events

Sunday Worship Services

Sundays • 8:00 & 10:45am

Christ Connections
& Adult Bible Study • 9:30am

Lenten Midweek Worship

Crosses of Lent

Wednesdays • 7:00pm

March 4 - April 1

Lenten Meals

Wednesdays • 5:30 - 6:45pm
Through April 1 in the commons

Service of Healing

Wednesday, March 25 • 7:00pm

Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 5 • 8:00am & 10:45am

Sader Meal

Sunday, April 5 • 9:30am

Maundy Thursday

April 9 • 7:00pm

Good Friday

April 10 • 12:00 & 7:00pm

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 11 • 9:30am

Easter Sunday

April 12 • 8:00 & 10:45am

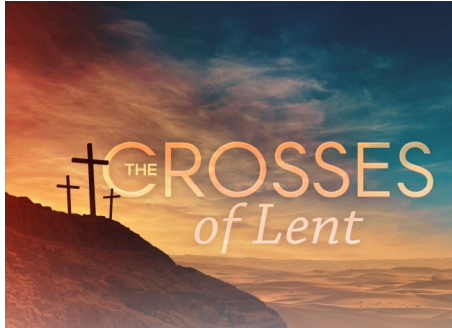
Half Way Already

by Vicar Andrew Mussell



It's hard to imagine that I am already half-way through my vicarage here at Our Savior. It has been a great year so far, and I've cherished every moment of learning, living, and sharing Christ with everyone here. The Lord is working tremendously here at Our Savior and I've had the

joy of joining Him along with the many people I've been working with. There are many exciting things that are coming up. First off is The Crosses of Lent series. Each Wednesday during lent there will be a new and different wooden cross made by members from the congregation. As I have been collecting the finished product from each of these members, I am more and more astounded at the beauty and the craftsmanship that is put into each of these crosses. I hope and pray you continue to fix your eyes on Jesus this Lenten season as you reflect on how He went to the cross to pay the ultimate price for all of our sins.



Another event that I've had the pleasure of continuing this year is City Serve. It will be on May 16th so mark your calendars! This event is really growing and beginning to take hold in the city of Lansing as we are not only working with Our Savior and Trinity but we are



also working on reaching other churches and organizations throughout the city of Lansing to help serve our neighbors. We do that through cleaning, fixing, or repairing what we can at various

worksites throughout Lansing. In this time, it is also a great way for us to get to know those we are serving and bring the light of Jesus as well as meeting them where they are at. We are all equal at the foot of the cross and it is through this event that we have an opportunity to bring that message of Jesus and what he has done to many people from various walks of life.

To sign up or for more information about CityServe, please email amussell@oursaviorlansing.org.

Infant Chest Milestone

by David Wright

But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:14 (ESV)

We want to partner with young families and offer resources and growth opportunities for children from the point of birth through their day of confirmation and beyond. One of the ways that Our Savior Lutheran has provided Christian resources is through milestone ministries.

Milestones are important steps in the faith development of children. Some of the milestone classes we have offered for several years include a 4-year



Old Learning to Pray class, a 1st Grade Bible class, and a 3rd Grade Money Management. This year we are excited to offer a new milestone class – the Infant Faith Chest milestone class.

Parents who are expecting as well as parents of young babies and toddlers are invited to this opportunity to enhance faith development in their young one. They will be able to share meaningful examples of baptism gifts, scriptures, and other gifts that will remind children of their baptism into Christ as they grow.



A faith chest will be given to each family that attends this milestone class. It is a handmade gift, built by skilled craftsmen within our congregation. The purpose of the faith chest is to store keepsakes, and baptismal

reminders such as baptismal candles, crosses, baptism gifts, keepsakes from other milestone classes and other items of significance as the child grows. This faith chest is a symbol of the treasure of faith that parents can help shape in the life of their child.

Two key points of the Infant Faith Chest Milestone class are "show and tell." We want to encourage parents to show their faith in everything so that children can see Christ in the godly example of their parents. We will also encourage parents to tell their children about Jesus, read the Bible and pray aloud with and for their children, and be vocal about what Jesus means to them.

This year's Infant Faith Chest Milestone class takes place on Sunday, March 22, at 9:30am.

Play IS the Work in Early Childhood

by Windy Carroll, Early Childhood Programs Director

On any given day of the school week, one could drop by an Early Childhood classroom or outdoor play space and see exactly what you would expect... children playing. In the Early Childhood field, we often hear the question, "Do they just play all day?" The simple answer is YES! But, there is much more to it than meets the eye. Young children connect play experiences to real world concepts and build upon those over time, leading to lasting learning. Thus, nurturing play through planning and constructing engaging provocations in the classroom is much of the work of an Early Childhood teacher. Through continuous observation and interaction with children, teachers assess what areas of development need bolstering for the children in the classroom. Then, teachers invite children to play in ways that are meaningful to their developmental growth by carefully selecting stimulating materials to offer in classroom centers and in the outdoor space. The cycle is endless as children continue to grow over time, requiring new challenges to maintain their growth. Indeed, a young brain is always at work.



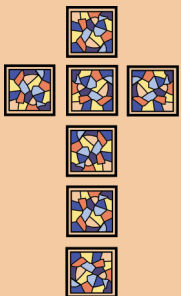
Back in November, the lead teachers of the Early Childhood program were blessed to attend the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. In our time there, we engaged in many training sessions on various topics that will continue to enrich our programs as we discuss and implement new ideas learned there. Networking with other professionals and conversing about all our blessings and challenges with educators from around the world renewed our passion for the work we do every day. But as we



reflected on our trip, each of us also agreed that some of the most significant experiences we had while away was in the time spent together, in fellowship, praying over and sharing a meal, engaging in meaningful conversation and singing in the car, laughing together over shared experiences, and simply enjoying the city together. These were the moments that felt like "play" but were invaluable to us as individuals and as a team. Certainly, "play" is just as beneficial to adults as it is to children. Our brains need breaks – and as adults, we often forget to allow ourselves that luxury.

The American Academy of Pediatrics states, "Play is not frivolous. Play is brain building, a central part of healthy child development, a key to executive function skills,

and a buffer against the negative impacts of stress." So parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles, leave time in your busy schedules to play with the children in your life, but also to allow yourself to "play" sometimes, too – your brain will thank you! Play is powerful. Play is important. Play IS the work!



Together

We Are Making A Difference



Elders serving Our Savior Lutheran Church

by Darryl Warncke

Sixteen Elders serve the congregation of Our Savior Lutheran Church. This group of Elders is known as the Spiritual Life Team, and is elected by the congregation. These Elders serve as an extension of the Pastoral Office, assisting with the spiritual welfare of the congregation and especially our worship life. They are most visible during worship services when they assist Pastor Wangelin and Vicar Mussell with the worship service, especially by reading of the Word of God and in serving the sacrament of Holy Communion. Prior to worship services they make sure everything is in place for worship, coordinate their team of ushers and communion assistants, and ensure a worshipful environment within the sanctuary. They assist in welcoming people and addressing questions or problems if they arise.

Elders support the Pastoral Care Team in caring for the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of the OSL members and staff. In the past, member families were assigned to individual Elders. This has changed. All 16 Elders now serve as Elders at-large caring for individual and family needs within the whole congregation, in coordination with Pastor Wangelin, Vicar Mussell, Sharon Atkinson (Pastoral Care Assistant), Dave Wright (Family Life Minister), and other pastoral care assistants (the Pastoral Care Team). However, you may still request to have an individual elder serve you along with the Pastoral Care Team if you would like.

Become familiar with the Elders of the congregation (see list below). Take note of who the Elders on duty are each Sunday and get acquainted with them. When you have a spiritual or physical need or know of someone who has a question about programs or services at OSL, contact one of the Elders. They are more than willing to pray with you, find answers and help you get involved. Let's all grow Together.

Elders at Our Savior Lutheran Church

Steve Boyce	Brad Ritter
Stan Ferris	Mark Schegel
Dan Giggy	Mark Stahl
Bill Hall	Matt Sternemann
Wayne Joubert	Jim Sundstrom
Brett Kaschinske	Darryl Warncke
Ryan LaFeve	Nate Wagner
Jordan Miller	Jim Whitacre



Our contributions to the **Together** Capital Campaign are already making a difference at Our Savior. **This month we have paid a total of \$120,000 of principle-only payments in the first three months of the campaign.** That is in addition to our regular monthly mortgage payments. We will continue to make those principle-only payments \$10,000 at a time through the Debt Reduction component of the **Together** Campaign.

We are also able to use the **Facility Maintenance Fund** for an unanticipated expense relating to two furnace units. Under our annual maintenance plan, they uncovered a **need to replace parts costing \$4,000.** We praise God the money has already been raised through the **Together** Campaign, and that no special drive for these items is needed.

**Great things happen when we come *Together*
to move ministry forward at Our Savior!**

Joy-Filled Devotions with Congolese Choir

By Matthew Couser, School Principal

It was Friday morning at Our Savior Lutheran School. Students and staff were about to experience a devotion full of beats and rhythm, song and dance, and plenty of praise. Oh, and a conga line.

On the last morning of National Lutheran Schools Week, we gathered in the sanctuary with anticipation...Martin Luther High School and the Congolese Choir were going to perform and share lively and God-pleasing music. The experience was all that it could be and more.

A few months back, the Congolese Choir performed during our school chapel. It was a memorable highlight for our school. Having Martin Luther High School principal, Traci Backus, bring the group of 20 students back to Our Savior was a blessing. Hearing them warm-up and pray for God to be present in our gathering was inspiring. Fridays are fun days when learning at school. Yet the Congolese choir was taking it to a whole next level.

With the National Lutheran School Week devotion experience, Martin Luther invited one of our percussionists to play drums. There in the front of the sanctuary on the altar steps was our seventh grader, Connor. Connor had never participated with the group before. Yet there was Connor receiving encouragement, instruction, and cheering from fellow Congolese Choir drummers (see picture). He played in each of the music group's songs including Hillsong's song, "Who You Say I am." Praises of "I am a child of God, chosen and not forsaken," reverberated through the sanctuary by all voices. God was calling in this devotion experience!

During another music selection while praising and singing, Mr. Horak was inspired and moved. He waved students from the seats to the isle ways. From my vantage point in the sanctuary, rows of students joined in line, hands placed on shoulders of the person in front of them. They swayed and moved to the rhythms of the music. Before we knew it, there was a giant circle of Our Savior and Martin Luther students moving a conga line around the entire sanctuary. Amazing! The choir kept singing, the drummers kept drumming, and the praising extended for minutes on end. What an awesome and amazing God-spirited experience. This is Lutheran Schools. This is Our Savior Lutheran. This is a community of faith celebrating and encouraging, inspiring one another in faith. One of many mountain-top experiences for our school community during National Lutheran Schools Week and the entire school year!



Other Joy-filled experiences celebrating Lutheran Schools



JOY in the hallway as middle school students constructed silhouettes with handwritten Bible verses on each heart about God's grace-filled love for us.



JOY in the 2nd annual OSL 8th Grade vs. Staff Basketball Game that took place during National Lutheran Schools Week. [#NLSW20](#) [#LuthEd](#) We had students serve as scoretimers, officials, and play by play commentators. Students and staff competed in a friendly hoops matchup.



JOY in devotions as Craig, Camp Concordia Dir. shared we are forgiven of our sin, baptized in water...Free by the blood of the lamb

Tech Corner: New Life

by Josh Wyatt

Giving new life to older technology isn't as difficult as one would think. Whether it be a few years old or nearly a decade old, there are a couple ways to give it a bit of a boost.

If your desktop is starting to feel sluggish a great way to give it a speed boost is upgrading the hard drive to a solid state drive or SSD. An SSD on average can range from 5 to 20 times faster than your typical hard drive which would allow your computer to boot up much faster and loading into programs or files feel snappier.

Have a computer that is more than 7 years old and is just frustratingly slow? A new operating system (OS) can make a big difference. This would be more for a device that would just be used for browsing the internet or maybe an older computer that is unused currently but can be turned into a child's computer. Windows and Apple computers get slower over time due to older hardware eventually not being able to handle the new updates. Different operating systems can be loaded onto these devices. They don't need a much more powerful OS to feel quicker.

Two OS options that are great and easy to install are CloudReady and Peppermint OS. Cloudready is based on Google's Chromebook software and can sync with a student's Google account for schoolwork. It looks and acts just like a Chromebook so it would be very familiar for an OSL Student.

Peppermint OS is a Linux based system. Linux is a very lightweight OS and can run on very old hardware. Peppermint is designed to be very familiar, has a start menu just like windows computers and an easy file system.

So if your computer needs a boost, consider some of these options before you buy a new one! It might just save you some money and time searching for a new system.



FREE! **EASTER EGG HUNT**

April 11, 9:30-10:30am

**Crafts, prizes
and 6000 eggs!**

**Ages
3-12**



**Saturday, April 25
10am - Noon**



**Check out all kinds of
commercial vehicles,
safety vehicles,
tractors and more!**

Spring Events at Our Savior

March

- 4 Midweek Lenten Meals and Worship
Each Wednesday in Lent
- 7 2020 Auction
- 25 Service of Healing
- 29 New Member Sunday

April

- 5 Palm Sunday & Sader Meal
- 11 Easter Egg Hunt
- 12 Easter Sunday
- 25 Touch-A-Truck

May

- 3 Confirmation Sunday
- 28 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 12
8:00am • 10:45am



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