

Learn Live Share

Summer 2020



Our Savior Lutheran Church and School
Quarterly Newsletter

Re-Building the Church

by Pastor Bill Wangelin



When Ezra and Nehemiah led the exiled Israelites back to Jerusalem, they worked to rebuild the holy city. Nehemiah recalls, "I also told them about the gracious hand of my God upon me and what the king had said to me. They replied, 'Let us start rebuilding.' So they began

this good work."

The Church is a people – the body and bride of Christ. So let's be clear. The church never "closed." When we moved worship services from our building to our homes during the Stay at Home Order, ministry continued – and in some amazing ways! From services to Bible Studies, school lessons and podcasts, the Word of God continued to be shared, and people were able to learn, live, and share Christ – albeit in new ways. Teachers were so committed to learning and faith development. Marriage counseling happened, grief booklets were mailed, prayer requests were shared. We even had two live streamed organ recitals and a Palm Sunday Parade. No, the church never "closed." We just left the building and moved off-site for a time.

Now we are re-building the church. That means, we are doing ministry back in the building. We are the church of the re-formation, and as we re-set our ministries, we want to re-tain what the Lord was teaching us, showing us, and working in us during the months of Stay at Home church.

I truly believe God has done some amazing things these past several months, and will continue to lead people to the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ as we go forward. We get to look back with gratitude on how faithful God was, how He equipped us with the staff, technology, support, and committed families to help get us through. We also get to look forward with confident faith and trust.

Our Summer Preaching series is "The Church Is..." – and I'll give it away already: It's not a building. It's a people. We are the body of Christ – and YOU are an important part of it. We look forward to growing and serving with you.

We are SO EXCITED to do ministry together again – re-building the church, and continuing the dynamic and Spirit-filled adventure of faith.

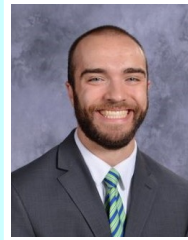
In this edition of Learn, Live, Share, you will see some of the ways God was working during our time of church at home. Stay tuned to our website and email communications for information on our re-building process and do this 'good work,' all to the glory of God.

Trusting in God's Grace,

Pastor Bill Wangelin <><

What Is The Church?

by Vicar Andrew Mussell



These past couple of months we have all been going through a wide variety of changes in our lives both at home and in church. Together we've had to change our worship circumstances from in person in our sanctuary to on our computers, TVs, or smart devices

at home. Together we've been experiencing the dramatic change in learning what the Church really is. Over the next seven weeks, June 14th through July 27th as a congregation

we will be going through the sermon series titled, "The Church Is." During this time we will look at different aspects of what the church truly is as we gather to hear the word of God proclaimed in midst be that at home or, Lord

willing, in the sanctuary of Our Savior.

What is the Church? Well I'm glad you asked.

Sometimes we are stuck with the church being a location, a building. For example, the church is Our Savior Lutheran church located at 7910 E St. Joe Hwy, Lansing, MI 48917. Now there is nothing wrong with having a joy in calling Our Savior Lutheran Church and School your Church because for many, that is where you have been worshiping our gracious Lord and Savior for many, many years. In all actuality though, the Church is much larger than that. The church is the body of believers in Christ from all corners of the world, much like what we experienced in our Pentecost service. It is the body of Christ, a broken

and forgiven people, that is united in faith as one community founded in the truth of Jesus Christ and his sacrificial love.

As we have seen in the past weeks and months the world is full of broken, sinful people that are all in need of forgiveness that is freely given through the work of Christ. The Church is

called to be a living light in the midst of that. It is united in faith that has been proclaimed for many years. As we go about our summer months, wherever we worship, in our homes, or at our church home. We worship as the Church because we are worshiping our Lord and Savior Jesus, proclaiming what he has done for us through his life, death, and resurrection.



THE CHURCH IS...

Rocky Ground—VBS 2020

by David Wright

Almost one year ago I was hiking on a trail in Colorado with my family. It was an extremely rocky trail with sections of it that had several large rocks embedded in the ground, but sticking up out of the ground so that we had to watch literally every step that we took. Other parts of this particular trail had massive boulders that we had to climb up – hopping from one to the next as we made our way up the trail.



I had done some hiking in Michigan the previous few years wearing a very sturdy pair of hiking shoes. The problem with the shoes that I had worn on the very flat and soft trails in Michigan is that the shoe was too rigid for the terrain. I didn't need that type of stiff sole and heavy duty overall shoe. So when we went to Colorado, I hiked in my Brooks running shoes. These are great shoes for many things, but they are not great for hiking the extremely rocky terrain that was on that trail in Colorado. I felt every rock on the bottom of my feet, and I wished that I had brought my sturdier hiking shoes with me.

Certainly the year 2020 has been a “rocky” year. There have been unforeseen circumstances, difficult trials, and unpleasant situations that all of us have gone through. Sometimes I feel like I don't have the right mental fortitude, abilities, or skills to deal with all that is happening. Kind of like being on a rocky trail without the correct shoes.

It is easy to become frustrated when we look at our situation, but not at our Savior. That is why this year's online VBS is so encouraging! The theme for the week is all about Jesus' power!

Day 1 – Jesus' Power Helps us do Hard Things

Day 2 – Jesus' Power gives us Hope

Day 3 – Jesus' Power Lets us Live Forever

These bible lessons couldn't be more helpful for children and families this summer.

Join us via Our Savior Live Stream on July 13-15, beginning at 6:30pm each night for a special time of songs, bible lessons, craft and games ideas, and a whole lot of energy and praise for our Savior, Jesus!

Each night we will gather for approximately 30 minutes. **On Thursday, July 16, at 6:30pm we want to gather at OSL for a vehicle parade with decorated vehicles, icy treats for everyone from the Kona Ice Truck, and a chance to celebrate VBS 2020.**

Pick up your children's free VBS packets on Thursday, July 9th, between 6:00pm and 8:00pm at Our Savior Lutheran Church (7910 E St Joe Hwy, Lansing) or arrange for a packet drop off at your house!

Please go to oursaviorlansing.org to register. Click on the VBS link at the top of the page. We cannot guarantee a VBS packet for families that do not register. For questions, contact me at dwright@oursaviorlansing.org

How Have You Seen God at Work During the Pandemic?

“God is at work all the time whether you've stayed at home or had to leave the house for your essential job. Each night I go to work I encounter situations that at times seem like glaring obstacles whether it's the emotional weight of taking care of very ill people or the physical toll that it's takes on my body to stay up all night and perform my job at 110%. God has been present in every second. Every time I've ran to my patient's side when they call and tell me they can't breathe, every tear I've cried out of pure exhaustion, the times I've held my patient's hands as they tell me how afraid they are to die, every time I've prayed “Lord, help” as I race between rooms donning and doffing the protective gear that quite literally protects my life, and in every moment in between, I see that God is there because He promised he would be. Where else would He be? God's word says that the very Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives in my heart and that He will never leave me or forsake me. I'm an extension of God's love because He is alive in me. God is here. He is the best doctor, He is a father to the fatherless, He is the hope of the world, and He says that if you seek Him with all your heart that you will find Him. Even when I've failed to seek Him during this pandemic He seeks me and He pours His love into me. If COVID-19 has taught me anything it's that God is here and that He is alive, more powerful than the grave and more jealous for you than any disease.” ~ Anna Mussell, Registered Nurse



The History of Amazing Grace

by Joshua Miller, Submitted for his 8th Grade Christian Studies Trimester Project



Amazing Grace is one of the most popular Christian hymns in the world. It is not only sung by Christians but many times you can hear it being played on the radio or by non-Christians. And whether people know the message behind it or not, it is a beautiful song, one of my grandma's favorites. The song itself was written by a British man by the name of John Newton, a former slave trader, which is strange because this song seems to be close with the African-American community and culture. Newton was born in 1725. His mother died two weeks before his seventh birthday and his father was a stern sea-captain who took Newton out on the sea at just age eleven. After a childhood of many sea trips and drinking he was enlisted into the British army. After an attempt to desert he received eight dozen lashes and was demoted to the rank of common seaman.

While Newton was later serving on the Pegasus, a slave ship, Newton was left by his crew in West Africa with another slave trader. The enterprise was taken over by John Newton's father who went to go look for him. During the voyage home the ship was caught in a horrible storm off the coast of Ireland and almost sank. Newton prayed to God and the cargo miraculously shifted to fill a hole in the ship's hull and the ship drifted to safety. Newton took this as a sign from God and marked it as his conversion to Christianity. He did not convert and change all his ways at once but it was a more gradual conversion.

Even after all this Newton continued to do slave trading unfortunately, making a total of three voyages as the captain of two different slave vessels. The Duke of Argyle and the African. He suffered a stroke in 1754 and then retired, but still continued to invest in the business. In 1764, he was ordained an Anglican priest and wrote an astonishing 280 hymns for his services. He wrote the words in 1772 of Amazing Grace, they were not put to the common tune "New Britain" we know today until 1835 by a man named William Walker.

In 1788, he published a pamphlet called "Thoughts Upon the Slave Trade." The book described the horrific conditions on slave ships and Newton apologized for not making this sooner and said: "It will always be a subject of humiliating reflection to me, that I was once an active instrument in a business at which my heart now shudders." The pamphlet was reprinted several times and sent to every member of Parliament. Under the command of MP William Wilberforce, the English civil government outlawed slavery in Great Britain in 1807, and John Newton was there to see it, but went to be with the Lord later that year.

Since the creation of the original song there have been many plays, movies and covers to the song. As I said, this is one of the most loved or most popular if not the most popular hymns ever. You could show anyone this song and I guarantee they have heard it at one time in their life or another.

The first and second line is talking about how amazing grace is, and it can save sinners and it can grant us passage into Heaven and so we can be with our fellow Christians and our Heavenly Father forever. The third line is talking about how God found us when we were lost to sin and confused and in danger. And the final line is how God gave us sight to see what we were doing wrong and how we are sinful but also to show us the right things to do.

The second verse is talking about how God promises good things to us, but not all the time. He promises that we will go to heaven and be with Him and that good things will happen with time. The second line is talking about how God has secured our faith that we have hope, that there are no forever goodbyes and that we are loved and cared for by Him. The third and fourth lines say that God will be our shield against the devil and his powers. But not against every problem in life.

This third verse is sending one message and that is that we have been through many problems, grief, loss, bad things, sinful things, betrayal, the whole enchilada. And that we have made it this far because of the grace of God, and grace will lead us to heaven.

The first and second lines of verse four is about how our earthly lives are not forever and they are temporary, but the last two lines mean that that's not the end and that we will go to heaven to be with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

Amazing Grace is an amazing hymn with an amazing message and an amazing story and I love it. It was my grandma's favorite hymn and it was played at her funeral, with the intro played with bagpipes on the organ. This song always reminds me of her and how big of an impact on my faith she was to me and everything she has done for me. I know that this song will be sung and played for years to come.



Amazing Grace

Verse One:

*Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now am found
Was blind but now I see*

Verse Two:

*The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures*

Verse Three:

*Through many dangers, toils and snares
We have already come
T'was Grace that brought us safe thus far
And Grace will lead us home
And Grace will lead us home*

Verse Four:

*Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail
And mortal life shall cease
Amazing grace shall then prevail
In heaven's joy and peace*



City Serve Update

City Serve was vastly different this year than it was in previous years. We weren't able to have a big day of service where we work hard all day visibly seeing the difference that we are making in the community of Lansing. That wasn't going to stop the City Serve team however. We changed that "usual" plan and adjusted and adapted to our ever-changing circumstances over the past couple of months. This year the City Serve lead team decided to make packages of food for various organizations like Greater Lansing Food Bank and Homeless Angels.

Our goal was to raise \$1000 in cash donations so that we could then go to stores and purchase the supplies necessary to make these care packages. It's was truly astounding, and still is, when we found out that we had been donated a grand total of \$5270 which is over 5 times our original goal. With your donations we were able to cover even more than we had originally anticipated. It truly is a God-sighting to see everyone come together as the hands and feet of Christ to continue to help and support the people of Lansing during this time of need. We thank you for all of your support and prayers. May God continually bless and keep you as we all learn, live, and share Christ together.

Distance Learning at Our Savior

With distance learning at Our Savior, we remained focused on three desired outcomes for students and families during the school building closure and Coronavirus pandemic:

- Spiritual care and support
- Building and continuing relationships
- Focusing on key essential learning (Reading, Math, Writing, and Christian Studies) to finish the school year.

Thank you so much for the many ways our School Families and community have jumped in to support Christian education at home! We know this hasn't been easy. Without your partnership, we would not have transitioned so quickly to distance learning, and your perseverance helped us to end the school year well. Our faculty is committed to learning and growing from our distance learning experience to improve the in-person instruction while remaining focused on faith and essential learning. Lutheran schools are your partner, providing best-in-class education for the children entrusted to our care.



Ms. Mazur Leading the Way Online!



Recently, Our Savior's second grade teacher, Ms. Tammy Mazur, was interviewed in the Michigan District publication, Lutheran School Teachers Leading the Way Online (<https://michigandistrict.org/healthy-workers/lutheran-school-teachers-leading-the-way-online>). In the May 18th publication, Communication Director, Jeff Heisner shared Miss Mazur's reflections,

"The classroom has changed from brick-and-mortar buildings to Zoom conferencing. Tammy Mazur, a second grade teacher at Our Savior in Lansing really didn't know much about Zoom before the pandemic, but now she's on it every day. She says, 'I am still doing what I'm called to do, but not in the way I was called to do it.'

Creating entirely new lesson plans, recording videos, and holding video conferencing sessions has increased the teachers' workload during the pandemic. Mazur puts in extra hours making sure she connects and engages her students."

Welcome Mrs. Hughes!



Our Savior Lutheran Church and School welcomes our new middle school teacher for the 2020-21 school year, Mrs. Lisa Hughes.

"I am very grateful and excited for this opportunity to serve the Lord at Our Savior Lutheran Church and School. I love working with middle school students. My husband and I have been worshipping remotely with OSL and are looking forward to meeting everyone and becoming involved in the ministry here."

Quick Facts about Mrs. Hughes

Hometown: Delta Township

Faith: Moving from Tennessee to Michigan, she will become a member of Our Savior Lutheran

Major: B.A. Interior Design at Michigan State University

Post-Graduate Studies: M.A. in Teaching K-8 at University of Memphis (TN)

Years of Teaching Experience: 20

Favorite Scripture Verse: Philippians 4:19

For my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Favorite Subjects: Currently English Language Arts, of course!

Favorite Activities: Indoors – singing, reading, playing horn, art/design, cooking, baking

Outdoors – biking, walking, hiking, skiing, skating, visiting friends and relatives around the world

Favorite Food: just about anything!

Preventing COVID-19 Related Stress from Becoming Lasting Trauma in Young Children

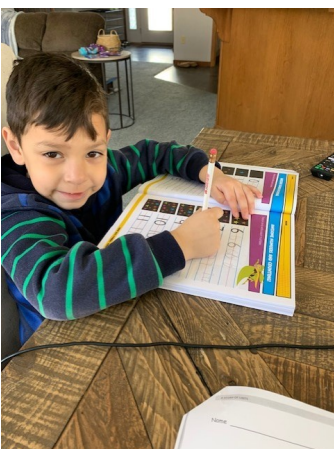
by Windy Carroll, Early Childhood Program Director

While our nation seems to be slowly returning to “normal”, what we have experienced as a collective society is something that most of us have never come close to experiencing before in our lifetime. As adults, we may have experienced various types of stress or other emotions related to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Maybe you know someone who was affected by the illness directly, or even passed away from the virus. Maybe you suffered financially or lost your job due to the government shut down. Or, maybe you experienced some other ill effects of being separated from friends and family members. Anger, sadness, confusion, anxiety, fear, and frustration are just a few of emotions that we all have faced throughout the past few months. For those with children, you may have noticed any number of emotions or changes in personality or behaviors in your children – and it may still be happening.



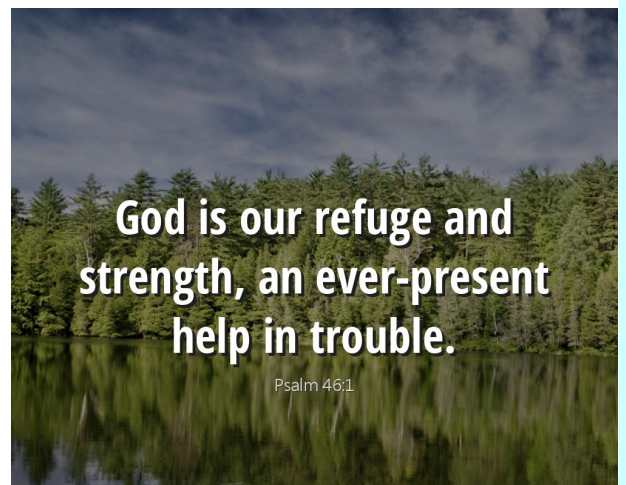
As adults, we are much better at compartmentalizing our emotions and logically thinking through the best ways to self-soothe. Children, however, are much less skilled in social-emotional wellness and self-regulation, so they lean on adult caregivers to help them process their emotional load. Many times, a young child may exhibit new or challenging behaviors due to emotional stress and have absolutely no idea how to identify and describe how they are feeling. As a parent, that may leave you feeling lost, frustrated, or even angry with your child. So how can we help children with their “big emotions” related to COVID-19, the sudden and early end to the school year, and the many disappointments they likely have faced with the loss of contact with friends, family, and cancelation of events? The most important thing we can do is to listen to them, talk to them, and reassure them.

The CDC suggests, in their article “Talking with Children about Coronavirus Disease 2019” (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/talking-with-children.html>), that parents try the following tips: 1) Remain calm with your children and avoid overreacting to children’s thoughts, questions, or behaviors. 2) Reassure children that they are safe and share with them some of your own coping mechanisms that help you to deal with stress. 3) Make yourself available to listen and talk. 4) Avoid “blame” language. 5) Pay attention to what your children see and hear via all types of media and limit the amount of information they are exposed to related to COVID-19. 6) Provide information that is truthful and age-appropriate. 7) Teach children everyday actions they can take to keep themselves safe (like proper handwashing). With these tips, parents can arm children with support, empower them to help care for themselves, and reassure them that you are there to protect them, listen to them, and answer their questions.



Here at Our Savior, we know that our students and families (along with all schools in Michigan) experienced the trauma of a sudden end to our school year and the disappointment for some of the cancelation of Panther Camp for summer 2020. For those affected, these events were likely stress-inducing for children and parents alike. But, we are blessed to be a community of believers that can lean on Jesus and the Gospel. Throughout the pandemic, teachers across our school focused on providing devotions and resources to students and families through at-home learning. This is because we know that Jesus is the ultimate healer and can be that measure of comfort for children that helps prevent toxic stress from becoming long-term trauma. Praying

with children and reading Bible verses and stories, along with some of the tips above can be an immense source of strength and solace for children experiencing stress or anxiety. Indeed, “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” Psalm 46:1.



Summer at Our Savior

June

- 21 Communion Services at 5 & 7pm
Registration link in your email
- 23 Congregation Meeting at 7pm
In person or online

July

- 12 Welcome Back Sunday
Worship in Person or Online
at 8:30 or 10:30am
- 13 Monday Worship in Person at 7pm
- 13-15 VBS Online at 6:30pm
- 16 VBS Celebration at 6:30pm
In OSL Parking Lot
- 26 Farewell to Vicar Mussell

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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

Worship Times

Sunday: 9:30am through July 5

Beginning July 12

*Sundays in Person or Online at 8:30 & 10:30am
Mondays in Person at 7pm*

WELCOME BACK SUNDAY

Sunday, July 12th

**In Person or Online: 8:30 & 10:30am
In Person only: Monday, July 13 at 7pm**

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School
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Lansing, MI 48917

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