

# *Learn Live Share*

Fall 2020

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School  
Quarterly Newsletter



## God Is Greater Than Our Ups and Downs

by Pastor Bill Wangelin

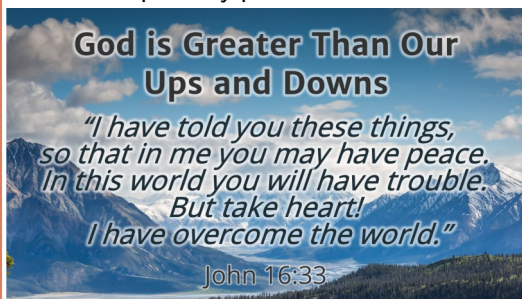


"In this world you will have trouble, but take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

With this verse, our school ministry began their year with the theme "God is greater than our Ups and Downs." As individuals, families, and a church and school, we have had many ups and downs the past six months, but God has been with us every day and in every way. He is so good.

Our world is hurting, and there is plenty of fear and frustration around us. Yet as Jesus followers and people of hope, we have an incredible calling to be the presence of Christ in the world. We have been and will continue to be a city on a hill, a light shining in the darkness, and a voice calling in the wilderness – Prepare the way for the Lord!

God has specially positioned Our Savior Lutheran Church



and School to fulfill our mission in remarkable ways during this uncertain time. We have the resources, the staff, and the

committed and talented members of our congregation who are able to share the Good News in new and powerful ways.

I want to THANK YOU for your continued prayers, participation, and support for the ministries of Our Savior. The generosity of God's people have kept us financially stable. The talents and gifts of God's people have allowed us to provide Word and Sacrament ministry in new ways. We have much to be thankful for.

You will see much of the great ministry that is happening in these pages. It is just a glimpse into all that the Lord is doing in this place, through your church family and through you! You are an important part of the body of Christ, and we can only do this together by God's grace. He is indeed greater than our ups and downs.

I am very excited about this season and how God will be at work in hearts and lives through the Gospel and the work of the Holy Spirit among us. Let's watch for God! And be ready to join Jesus in His mission as we worship the One who has overcome the world and all our troubles.

Trusting in God's Grace,

Pastor Bill Wangelin <><

## What Is The Church?

by Vicar Ian Heinze



Dear Saints, November 2020 is coming. . . and with it comes the joyous Feast of All Saints Day!

In 1539 Martin Luther wrote a stunning work: On the Councils and the Churches. In this, he confesses:

"See that you exercise and confirm your faith, so that when you are

troubled or when sin is besetting you, you go to the Sacrament and heartily desire it, and what it signifies, and do not doubt that it will be done unto you as the Sacrament declares, that Christ \*and all His saints\* will draw near to you with all their virtues, sufferings, and graces, to live, work, rest, suffer, and die with you, and be so fully yours that they have all things in common with you. If you are willing to practice this belief and confirm it, you will experience what a rich and joyful wedding-meal your God has prepared for you on the altar."

You see, if all who share the bread are one body in Christ, then the bread that is Christ's body unites us together as a whole: all the saints are there where Christ is. And so they constantly pray for us too. Dr. Luther again on the subject a few years earlier (1528, Sermon on John 17):

"For to everyone who believes through the word of the Apostles, the promise is given for Christ's



sake and by the power of this prayer [John 17], that he shall be one body and one loaf with all Christians; that what happens to him as a member for good or for ill, shall happen to the whole body for good or ill, and not only one or two saints, but all the prophets, martyrs, apostles, all Christians, both on earth and with God in Heaven, shall suffer and conquer with him, shall fight for him, help, protect, and save him, and shall undertake for him such a gracious exchange that they will all bear his sufferings, want, and afflictions and he partake of their blessings, comfort, and joy. What man could wish for anything more blessed than to come into this fellowship or brotherhood and be made a member of this body, which is called Christendom?"

Where Christ, there His saints. This is the confidence in which Christians live out their lives. When we gather for the Lord's Supper we know that the biggest part of the gathering is never seen. Hebrews 12 has opened our eyes. We can rejoice that together we [all the saints] form a single body and that all of us have our life only in Him who is the Lamb once slain.

## Small Groups and smaller groups - It's Time

by Dave Wright

It's time! It's time to connect with a small group. Our small group ministry grew immensely last year! It has been encouraging to see so many people joining a small group. It is always great to dig deeper in God's word or to discuss the sermon study guide from one of Pastor's or Vicar's sermons. During this time it is even more important than ever to connect with a small group of people and discuss scripture, discipleship, and life with others who desire a stronger faith.

This year we are going small in order to go big. As we read in many parts of Luther's small Catechism: What does this mean? Going smaller in a small group refers to a few different options:

First, we believe that close connection, trust, and encouragement can be very effective in a **"huddle."** **A huddle is a smaller group of 4-6 people who gather on a regular basis to spur one another toward discipleship.** As Christians, one of our primary responsibilities as well as one of the privileges of knowing Christ is the chance to bring others to the



knowledge of Him.

**An ideal huddle experience would be committing to meeting each week for a 6-week period.** During this time this smaller group gathers in person or via Zoom to talk about ways to minister to other people – unchurched friends, new Christians, neighbors, or just someone who may be struggling in his or her faith. It's not just talk, however. Questions such as, "Who have you been praying for lately?" or "Who could use your personal investment of time and mentoring?" will be shared, and huddle members will hold each other accountable for doing the mission of discipleship.

**A second smaller group option is triads. These groups of three are a necessary way to promote friendship, mentoring, and strengthening of faith.** Triads work in a similar way to huddles. **A triad is made up of three people of the same gender. The purpose of this is to promote closer friendship through the mentoring of a same gender friend.** So, for example, a younger man might seek out a mentor who he can learn from. Perhaps even a couple of "seasoned" Christians can meet with a new Christian for times of discussion, prayer, and even informal instruction. Or perhaps a mature Christian woman might seek out a couple of other women to mentor.

**It's up to you to seek out others who could be a part of your 6-week journey.** it's time to get to know someone at OSL better and on a deeper level. There will be a set of 5 questions for huddles and triads to discuss each week. **These will be available on our website – [oursaviorlansing.org](https://oursaviorlansing.org) under "ministries" and then "small groups" later in September.** We are excited to provide three different 6-week sets of questions focusing on *Learn, Live, and Share Christ*.

What an opportunity to connect! Step out boldly and go smaller to go big with a huddle or triad. It's time!



## Welcome Mrs. Lisa Hughes- Middle School Teacher



### ***Where did you grow up?***

I grew up in a family of nine on Willow Hwy. in Delta Township and went to Grand Ledge Schools and MSU.

### ***What are your favorite hobbies?***

I am into making music, art, clothing design, sewing, baking, biking, skating, traveling, snow and water sports.

### ***What is your favorite Bible verse and why?***

Philippians 4:19. And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. (Because He has always taken care of me!)

### ***What is your favorite food?***

I love almost any real food - not junk food.

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

I homeschooled our sons and taught Sunday school for several years, so people encouraged me to become a teacher. I earned my M.A. at the University of Memphis.

### ***One fun fact about you***

We love living closer to our bouncing baby grandson!



## The Gift of Music

by Abbey Schaedig, Member and Alumni

Music is one of those fundamental experiences shared by everyone in the world, and you don't have to be a performer to witness its powerful effects firsthand. Have you ever stumbled across a song that really resonated with you? Did the beautiful music and carefully crafted lyrics give you everything you needed in that moment, whether it be a sense of empowerment, happiness, or even joy? This is no coincidence. God created music to emotionally and spiritually strengthen us in life.

There are a number of scientific studies that have shown the positive effects music can have on a person's mental health and well being. According to the University of Central Florida, listening to and playing music activates a number of areas in the brain which are associated with enhancing memory, communication skills, comprehension, movement, emotional response, coordination, and so much more. Music has shown to be an effective treatment for a very large variety of mental and physical illnesses. This is consistent with God's intentions for music as stated in the Bible. Colossians 3:16 says, "Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts." If music wasn't so effective in promoting our spiritual and emotional well being, there's no reason for it to be so prevalent in our worship. God intends for our music to glorify Him, but also to actively take care of ourselves and maintain mental and spiritual wellness.

I am fortunate to have been surrounded by music for my entire life. My mom taught me piano lessons and the fundamentals of reading and understanding sheet music. My dad helped me as I transitioned to learning trombone and he helped me develop musicianship and the ability to pay attention to all the little details on the page. I loved singing in church and being a part of OSL's band and choir programs. In high school I was involved with marching band, concert band, and choir, while still staying connected to OSL through playing with the church brass group. Now, I'm headed to Western Michigan University to study music therapy and learn more about how God uses music to heal and strengthen the body and mind. I hope to someday help people struggling with various mental and physical illnesses by singing together, playing various instruments, and writing songs.

A number of people, myself included, feel a little awkward and shy singing in public places such as church. Singing out can be scary, and I often worry about people judging my voice or mistakes I make singing. When these thoughts emerge, I remember something Mrs. Decker said while I was in her class one day. She told us that she didn't have the greatest voice but still made sure to sing loudly and proudly during church because "God calls us to make a joyful noise to the Lord. It doesn't have to be an angelic voice, just some kind of noise. To Him, He's just happy that we're praising Him, and our voices all sound like angels to Him."

Whether you're worshipping in person or online, I encourage you to "make a joyful noise to the Lord" the next time you go to church. After all, God is judgment free and it's good for body, mind, and spirit!

*If you love to sing or play an instrument, contact John Horak at 517-882-8665 or [jhorak@oursaviorlansing.org](mailto:jhorak@oursaviorlansing.org) to learn how you can share your gift in worship.*



## WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**Sundays: 8:30 & 10:30am (In Person and Online)**

**Mondays: 7:00pm (In Person)**

**View Worship Online @ [www.oursaviorlansing.org](http://www.oursaviorlansing.org)**



## Miss Lexie Brown – Family Life Intern

### ***Where did you grow up?***

Akron, Ohio (Don't worry, I don't like Ohio State)

### ***What are your favorite hobbies?***

I'm a nerd and I love to read. Some of the best books I've read recently are "Mere Christianity" and "The Screwtape Letters" by C. S. Lewis.

### ***What is your favorite Bible verse and why?***

Recently Lamentations 3:22-23 has really stood out to me. "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." I love this portion of Scripture because it is put to music in my favorite hymn: Great is Thy Faithfulness

### ***What is your favorite food?***

Ice cream! Country Dairy in New Era, MI is the best!

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

I always enjoyed teaching Sunday School and helping with VBS. I love helping children and their families grow closer to each other and to God. What better way to do that than through family ministry?

### ***One fun fact about you***

I really like pineapples. Pineapples on clothes, pineapple decorations, etc. (you'll probably see me carrying around my pineapple tumbler)



## Mrs. Sarah Heinze – Music Teacher



### ***Where did you grow up?***

I grew up in Edwardsville, IL which is about 30 minutes from St. Louis. I attended church at Trinity Lutheran in Edwardsville.

### ***What are your favorite hobbies?***

My hobbies include singing, playing the guitar, playing the ukulele, watching and listening to musicals, and spending time outside.

### ***What is your favorite Bible verse and why?***

My favorite Bible verse comes from Matthew 11:28-30, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." There have been many uncertainties these past few months, and this verse has been a nice reminder to me that I am not going through this life alone, but with my Savior there to comfort me along the way.

### ***What is your favorite food?***

I love waffles with peanut butter!

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

I have always wanted to be a music teacher. I have seen how special and important music can be in church and school ministry the past few years. Getting to work at the daycare at church back home really got me interested in all that can be done with music at a Lutheran school.

### ***One fun fact about you***

I have a cat named Turtle Sundae!

**FAITH RESOURCES**  
**[oursaviorlansing.org/faith-resources](https://oursaviorlansing.org/faith-resources)**



# Same and Different...the Start of a New School Year

by Mr. Matthew Couser, Principal

In Corinthians, Paul writes letters about spiritual gifts. To Paul, all gifts came from God. Paul sees people challenged to use their abilities to build up and strengthen the church. Sadly, the Corinthians were misusing their spiritual gifts and destroying the city rather than building the city up. Paul spoke of gifts like teaching and hospitality that can be natural abilities and can be improved through practice. Just as we find in Romans chapter 3, the body (the church, the kingdom) has many members and we are to use our gifts for God's purpose. If it is to prophesy, prophesy. If it is to serve, serve. If it is to teach, teach. If it is to encourage, offer encouragement. In addition, Paul also recognized supernatural gifts given extraordinary and suddenly. The Lord is always at work as we apply our spiritual gifts in the same and in the different of this school year.

***There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. ~ 1 Corinthians 12:4-5***

Same and different. These are words that would describe our school experiences this year. We recently began the 2020-2021 school year at Our Savior Lutheran. Eager students and parents arrived for the first days anticipating the re-opening of our school. They were greeted with excited teachers and staff awaiting their arrival. This was the same as any past school year. The difference became apparent as students received a wellness check upon arrival. While every student had their temperature checked, a staff member or a volunteer welcomed them and briefly chatted with them. Who knew fifteen seconds could be valuable time with each and every child upon entering the school building? What a personable and spirit-filled connection with our young people on a daily basis, a face to face greeting. This new morning procedure is one of many new and different protocols set forth by the Michigan School Roadmap and our own preparedness plan. Yet what remained the same was the hallway greetings, the opening of lockers, and the students interacting and visiting with one another (six feet apart, of course). Oh...and plenty of joy and laughter, even if it was covered by a mask.

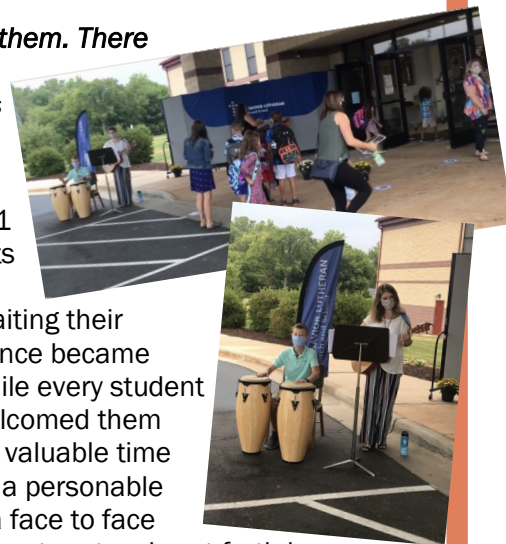
Same and different...in weekly chapel. Chapel this year begins a little later in the morning than past years (that's different). What is even more different is that we offer two chapel experiences for specific students. To practice worship guidelines in chapel, we have grades 4-8 worship at 9:10am and grades K-3 worship at 9:55am. Worship is livestreamed for our at-home learners who preferred to distance learn for the time being. We are thankful that even our parents and congregation members can participate in weekly chapel. The chapel experience is very similar to Sunday morning worship at Our Savior with students wearing masks and seated four pew cushions away and seated in every other pew row. Yet when chapel begins, the same songs are lead by our same student praise team song leaders, the same Bible shares scripture passages to guide our ways and bring us hope, the same prayers are lifted, and a children's message is conveyed to our youngest and oldest participants. Worship may look a little different but the purpose and joy in worship remains the same.

Same and different...lunch time. Hot lunch is served to the classrooms as food is prepared and plated by Mrs. Terri Shaver. In her twenty plus years of OSL, this year's menu and lunch procedures have never looked so different. The lunchroom (Commons area) is empty. This is really different. The food is delivered on multiple carts to each classroom. The preparation is the same, the procedures are systematic and different, yet the heart for providing a quality meal to the children remains hugely the same.

With the students eating at their cleaned desk space after proper hand cleaning and sanitizing, the laughter and shared conversations between students remains the same.

Student learning looks both the same and different. Objectives align with curriculum standards as in-person (85% of the K8 student body) and online (15%) students learn how to learn and apply their ideas and knowledge. Teachers are attentive to social and emotional needs of students as we return to learning this fall. What is different is that nearly every teacher has students joining their classroom from home via Google Meets or Zoom. Students reconnect with their at-home classmates and the

*continued on next page*



## Mr. Ian Heinze – Vicar



### ***Where did you grow up?***

I grew up in Quincy, IL, and lived there until moving to St. Louis to begin at Concordia Seminary. Quincy is a beautiful little town right on the edge of the Mississippi River. I have many fond memories of swimming, skiing, and fishing in the river with family and friends. I attend Quincy University from 2015-2018, originally for Computer Programming before changing to major in Theology and Philosophy. One of the great things about Quincy is that from the heart of town you can get anywhere else in the city in about seven minutes!

### ***What are your favorite hobbies?***

I am an avid reader, I love digging into theology volumes of course, but I also am extremely interested in historical books (especially on the World Wars) and Science Fiction novels. I greatly enjoy going on walks, hiking and fishing with Sarah as we take in the beauty of God's creation that He has given to us. I am also a huge fan of St. Louis Cardinals baseball (I typically watch or listen to all 162 games a season)!

### ***What is your favorite Bible verse and why?***

What a tough question! My favorite New Testament verse is John 20:31, "These things are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name". However, I think my favorite verse is from the Old Testament: Job 1:21, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." This text is a beautiful reminder that God is the Creator and Ruler of all things. Everything we possess is truly God's, we rightly own nothing, everything is a gift and blessing from the Lord. The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away, and the name of the Lord should always be blessed and hallowed in our lives. We are utterly dependent upon God, and know that He will never take away the sure and certain promises He has given in Christ to those who stand firm in the faith.

### ***What is your favorite food?***

My favorite food is either pizza or tacos!...or meat in general, I really like meat.

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

I decided to seek this path due to the wonderful presence of pastors, teachers, and camp counselors in my life. Such individuals were incredible role models for me as I was growing up. They were pillars of faith, incredible sources of help and guidance, and filled with wisdom, love, and care. I want to be able to proclaim the Gospel and help others as I have been greatly helped by those who impacted my life.

### ***One fun fact about you***

I began going to the closest LCMS camp to my hometown when I was just four years old (day and half camp with a parent)! Sarah and I met at Camp CILCA when we were young and we both worked there in various ways for seven summers!

### ***Continued: Same and Different...the Start of a New School Year***

teacher uses their document camera for demonstration and communication. It is really a sight to behold. Technology is a necessity as we seek continuous learning opportunities for all our students. Patience and grace is a necessity as we adapt to schooling during a pandemic.



Teachers have had to increase their own learning with the grown expectations. Wow, we have an amazing staff attentive to learning needs and faith formation. That is the same. We are adapting to the blended learning experience (in-person and distance learning) while holding true to the faith moments and faith integration at each and every opportunity. Our faculty has made amazing progress with implementing technology to connect, instruct, and guide our learners. Yet what remains the same is our focus on relationships as we value being in community, a school family. With our distance learners, we are revising and adapting learning and relationships. This is different and an opportunity for growth. The long absence from being with our students and parents is not taken for granted. Lutheran Schools remain loving, caring, and safe. Lutheran schools are Christ-centered and bible-based as we commit to planting and nurturing a Christian worldview in students' lives, lifestyles, and hearts. May God bless our school community as we Learn, Live, and Share Christ in same and different ways. To Him be the glory!

# *Fall at Our Savior*

## September

- 16 Wednesday Bible Study Begins
- 17 High School Youth Group Begins
- 20 New Member Sunday
- 27 Congregation Meeting at 11:30am  
In person or online

## October

- 25 Reformation and  
Confirmation Sunday
- 29 Reformation Organ Recital at 7pm

## November

- 9 Protect Young Eyes Technology  
Conference at 6-8pm
- 22 Family Service Sunday
- 23 Thanksgiving Basket Distribution
- 25 Thanksgiving Worship at 7pm

## *Learn Live Share* Quarterly Newsletter • Fall 2020



### **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**  
Monday - Friday: 8am - 4pm

### ***Worship Times***

*Sundays in Person or Online at 8:30 & 10:30am*  
*Sundays Hmong worship In Person: 10:00am*  
*Mondays in Person at 7pm*

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