

# *Learn Live Share*

Winter 2020-21



Our Savior Lutheran Church and School  
Quarterly Newsletter



Dear Friends in Christ,

The Advent and Christmas season provide us with opportunities every year to proclaim the Good News of great joy that is for all people – We have a Savior in Jesus Christ, who was born for us in Bethlehem! This year, our opportunities are all affected by the coronavirus pandemic, and we cannot simply “just do what we did last year.” Yet the opportunities may be even greater than ever this year as God continues to empower us and direct us to learn, live and share Christ in new ways.

Our church and school are committed to providing both online and in person ministry to equip you as a disciple of Jesus to learn, live and share Christ. So many things will be the same this year – decorations, devotions, carols and candles. Many things will be different because of our circumstances – fewer and smaller gatherings, no big events, distancing and masks. Yet nothing can stop us from continuing the mission and joining Jesus this Advent and Christmas season.

We are thankful for the blessing of technology that helps us communicate the Gospel in new ways. Please continue to explore and share the online resources that we have to connect with our church family and encourage others in faith. That is the new version of “inviting someone to church.” Simply share, forward, and personally recommend. We are also blessed to have people worshipping in their homes, filling them with God’s Word and worship. We will continue to support at home worship via Live Stream. Our Wednesday Advent Services will be exclusively via Live Stream. We will offer both in person and live stream worship on Christmas Eve – and Christmas Eve Eve!

Your home and family life may be different this year too over the holidays. Maybe it has nothing to do with the coronavirus. You may be facing insurmountable challenges or heartache. There is hope. There is a light shining in the darkness. Jesus is the reason for the season – and He will never let us down. Check out this edition of Learn Live Share to see how God is at work in us in new and old ways.

This year, our world needs the message of Christmas more than ever. You carry the light of Christ as you share the good news in word and deed. Keep connecting with people, either on the phone, through cards, or online. Keep serving others with acts of kindness, compassion, and generosity. Keep worshipping God and reading His word. And let’s find ways to bring a personal touch to the Gospel as we encourage those around us with Christian hope. I am confident that the Lord will use this time like never before to bring His love and grace to many people through the great message we get to share.



In Joyful Service to Jesus,

Pastor Bill Wangelin <><



## 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)

## FAITH RESOURCES

[oursaviorlansing.org/faith-resources](http://oursaviorlansing.org/faith-resources)

## Family Life Advent Resources

by Lexie Brown, Family Life Intern

This year has been quite crazy to say the least. One unexpected blessing that has come out of the pandemic and how we do church differently is the fact that families have been able to worship together in their homes. During Advent, we look forward to the coming of our Savior Jesus as we celebrate his birth each Christmas. Visual Faith Ministry has many wonderful resources for individuals and families to help them focus on Christ during Advent. One



of them is a project called ADVENTurous Tags. This project includes a question for each day of Advent to spark some faith-forming discussion with your family at home. Your family will have the opportunity to discuss questions like: "Which person in the Christmas story would you like to have been? Why?"

These questions can be adapted for different ages and stages. This project also gives families the chance to get crafty with it if they choose by providing a list of materials and instructions for putting these questions on number eight tags. Watch OSL's website and Young Families Facebook page for links to this resource!

Check out the Visual Faith Ministry website too: <https://www.visualfaithmin.org/seasonal?category=Christmas>



## Protect Young Eyes: an Event for Families

by Lexie Brown, Family Life Intern

Protect Young Eyes (PYE for short) is an organization that specializes in internet safety for families, schools, and churches. Chris McKenna, founder and CEO of PYE, came to OSL on Monday, November 9, and shared a presentation with parents and students in 6th-12th grade about the Digital Culture of Kids.



What Chris shared with parents and families was extremely relevant, research-based, and most importantly, it was faith-based. We all need help using the internet well, not just kids. Protect Young Eyes seeks to give parents tools to teach their kids to use technology well.

Becky Grocki, who live-streamed the event with her family said, *"As a parent, my biggest fear is that my child will encounter things online that are not healthy for them spiritually and mentally. The idea of coaching and working with my children instead of an us vs. them scenario is what I want for our family. Instead of being nervous about my kids and technology, I feel ready to build on our relationship with each other and technology that is based on knowledge instead of fear."*



The presentation concluded by covering two very important topics: pornography and online predators. We might be tempted to think "not my child" because we are part of a wonderful Christian community here at OSL. Chris made it very clear that we should assume our children will encounter these things and that parents can prepare them and give them the tools to handle these situations appropriately.

When asked about what he hopes families take away from this event, Chris McKenna said, *"my hope is that parents who hear this information will then sit down and have awesome conversations about technology. We can't avoid it, we can't expect our kids to figure it out on their own, so we want to be parents who show them the way"*

Additionally, McKenna hopes that, *"when parents have questions that they're not afraid to look for answers."* The Protect Young Eyes website (<https://protectyoungeyes.com/>) is

an awesome place for parents to start looking for answers and resources to guide them.

If you missed this event, you can watch it on Our Savior's YouTube channel and see the events page of our website for additional information.

As Pastor Wangelin put it, God has raised up guides for us as we navigate this digital age and Chris McKenna has definitely provided guidance to us here at Our Savior as families seek to work together as a team to use technology well.



## What is the Hmong Ministry?



By: Pastor Lang Yang

### Who are the Hmong?

The Hmong is a distinct group of people who originated from China dating back to the 14th Century. After many civil wars with the Chinese during the 18th Century, many Hmong migrated to Southeast Asia. Eventually, they made their homes on the mountain tops of North Vietnam, Laos, and Thailand. The Hmong value freedom and democracy; and supported the French during their colonization of Southeast Asia in the late 19th Century. Later, they supported the United States' effort to prevent the communists from taking Laos' control in the 1960s. In this capacity, the Hmong became an alliance of the United States in a Secret War against the North Vietnamese communist. After the Vietnam war ended in 1975, the Hmong were targeted by the communists for persecution. They had limited choices and many of them fled to the refugee camps in Thailand and eventually resettled in other areas like the US, Canada, Australia, France, and South America.

### What is the traditional Hmong religion?

The majority of the Hmong people practice the religion of worshiping the spirits. Sociologists and anthropologists labeled the Hmong religion as "Animism – The Ways of the Spirits." Some of the spirits are good, while others are bad. The core belief of the Hmong religion is reincarnation. Ninety percent of the Hmong in North America still believe in their traditional religion. We must pray for them and work together to bring them the Good News that Christ is the Ultimate sacrifice. Through Christ, they have eternal life with the Creator of the Universe.

### Settled in Lansing

Many of the Hmong families have settled in the Lansing area. Some of the families became members of Our Savior over forty years ago. After former Hmong Pastor Zong Houa Yang move to Florida, the Michigan District approved Pastor Lang Yang in 2004 to serve St. Michael's Hmong ministry with the partnership of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Lansing– Hmong Ministry and the Michigan District. Through the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology, he continued his education to be ordained and called in 2008 as Associate Pastor for St. Michael's while serving Our Savior.



### Hmong Ministry Today

The Hmong Ministry continues to worship at St. Michael's on the second and fourth Saturday of each month and Our Savior every Sunday. Pastor Yang also serves as President of the Hmong Mission Society, networking with all LCMS Hmong Ministries in North America and Southeast Asia. He helped plant the Hmong Ministry at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Chugiak, Alaska, in 2013. He continues to serve the community, state, and nation through his effort as Chaplain for Denmark Township, Tuscola County Sheriff Department, and the Civil Air Patrol – United States Air Force Auxiliary. During Pastor Yang's tenure, he helped the Hmong Ministry publishing the new Hmong Lutheran Hymnal "Phoo Ntawv Hawm Hab Qhua Vaajtswv" with liturgical music notes; it took eleven years in the making.

Pastor Yang and his wife, Phoua, also translated Pastor Bob Smith's prayer book "Keep Me and Keep All – Ceev Kuv Hab Ceev Txhua Tug" into the Hmong Blue Dialect. He just finished the translation of Luther Small Catechism and is in the process of having it printed.

During Pastor Yang's sixteen years of pastoral ministry, he continued to pursue higher education receiving his Master of Divinity, Doctor of Ministry, and the army appointed him as Chaplain (1Lt) with the United States Army Reserve. Pastor Yang continues to serve God's people at Our Savior and St. Michaels, and worldwide.

Soli Deo gloria – Glory to God.

## Kids in the Divine Service

by Lexie Brown, Family Life Intern

Kids in the Divine Service is a helpful resource for parents in explaining the different parts of the worship service to their children. Each page concludes with a suggestion for what parents can discuss with their children or point out to them in the worship space. You can find this resource in booklet form or as a free digital download (available on OSL's website). Each week, I post one page of the booklet on the Children's Ministry page of the website. As we move into Advent, it's a great time to talk with your kids about the Advent wreath and Kids in the Divine Service offers parents a great starting point!

For more Children's Ministry Resources, head to [www.oursaviorlansing.org/childrens-ministries](http://www.oursaviorlansing.org/childrens-ministries)





## Is Your Family Fire-Safe?

by Windy Carroll, Early Childhood Director

October was fire-safety month. With everything else going on in the world, it is easy to forget about anything not related to COVID-19 or elections. But, especially for families with young children, fire safety is an extremely important topic. Is your home equipped with proper fire safety equipment and is your family prepared for a fire-related emergency? Children and families have endured quite a lot of stress lately, so parents may be hesitant to talk to their children about topics that could potentially cause more stress. However, being prepared for emergencies can be stress-less and may even prevent the stress related to not having a family safety plan.

The Red Cross ([redcross.org](http://redcross.org)) has many tips on how to prepare your home and family for a fire-related emergency. Among them, having a working smoke detector on every level of your home and in each bedroom/sleeping area is paramount. Check the batteries each month and replace batteries once a year (or more often, if needed).

Create a fire escape plan and family meeting place outside of the home and practice the plan with your children at least twice a year. Teach your children what the smoke alarm sounds like and show them how to get low and crawl out following the escape plan to avoid smoke inhalation. Emphasize “get out and stay out” with children, making sure they know never to re-enter the house even for other family members or prized possessions. Finally, practice “stop, drop, and roll” to put out fire on clothing.



Other considerations for home fire-safety include purchasing a fire extinguisher and keeping it in an area near fire-prone spots, like in a kitchen pantry. If your home has multiple levels or you live in an upper-level apartment, consider purchasing fire escape ladders for sleeping areas on second or third floors, learn how to use them, and store them near windows. And, if your home has security devices on windows or doors like bars on windows, consider utilizing quick-release devices which allow for easy removal from inside the home to ensure your family is not trapped inside.

Especially in this COVID-era, our homes are truly our sanctuaries. Many people have spent more time at home than ever before this year, so protecting our families at home is more important than ever. Please check out [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) for more tips on creating a family emergency preparedness plan, talking to your children about fire safety, fire prevention in the home, pet fire safety, and more!

**You can keep your family safe with 2 simple steps.**

Step 1



Practice your 2-minute drill.

Step 2



Test your smoke alarms monthly.



**American Red Cross**

## 3D Printers

by Josh Wyatt, Technology Manager

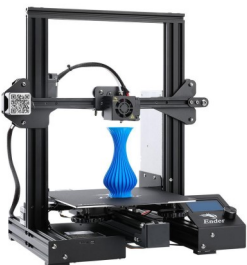
The future or just a hobby? 3D printing has been used to make things from simple little figures to houses and bridges. These devices are awesome pieces of tech that are becoming more affordable.

3D printers can be used to teach someone new skills and then be used to make toys, game pieces, kitchen utensils, and so much more. 3D printing can be a very in depth hobby. There are printers available that need to be put together which teaches the ins and outs of how these machines work and can be upgraded by printing parts for it (ex. Creality Ender 3).

There are also printers that are simple and require little setup (Monoprice Select Mini 3D

printer). 3D printers have varied print areas, some allow for very large prints while others have a smaller footprint.

The real fun of 3D printers is the printing. Many 3D printable files can be found free online on sites like thingiverse, myminifactory and yeggi. Search for something that is an interest and start printing. Print a little ship, a marble machine, Rubik's cube or Marvel's Groot. Learning to model 3D objects with software like Sketchup and tinkercad, enables the ability to turn our imagination into a tangible thing. Have an idea? Bring it to life!



# Each School Day is a Gift

by Mr. Matthew Couser, Principal

We are so grateful for the opportunity to offer both online and in-person learning during these circumstances. We are in week thirteen of the school year and are grateful for each day of learning and activities that engage our students. Thank you for your prayers and extraordinary patience and adaptability this school year. The parent and staff cooperation and understanding during this pandemic has been critical in keeping our school open and safe.

We marvel at God's handiwork as he guides His people, and in particular, our school ministry. Each day in school is truly a gift. Sure, this comment was commonly made in prior school years. Yet the challenges of this current school year have caused us to be thankful and grateful for our school family and community. This past week I witnessed the following blessings that we see day to day while providing Christian education within a pandemic.

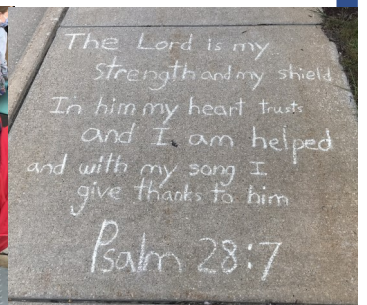
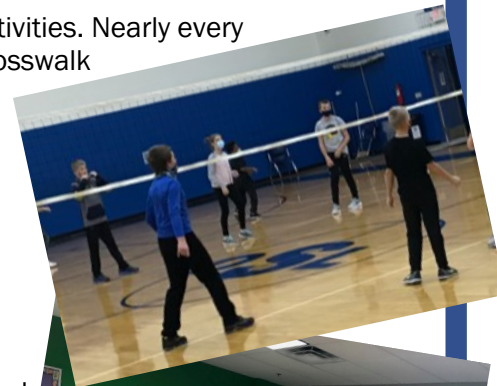
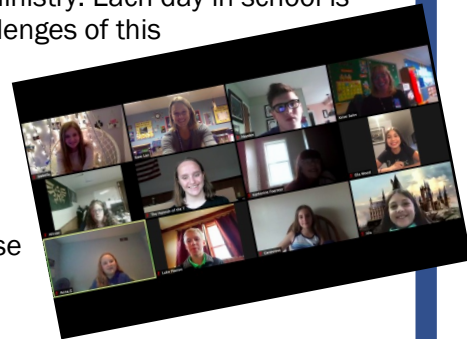
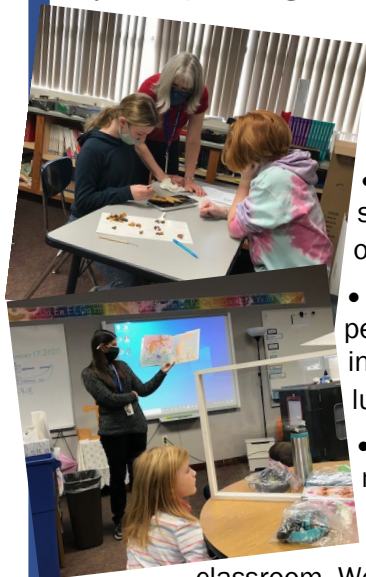
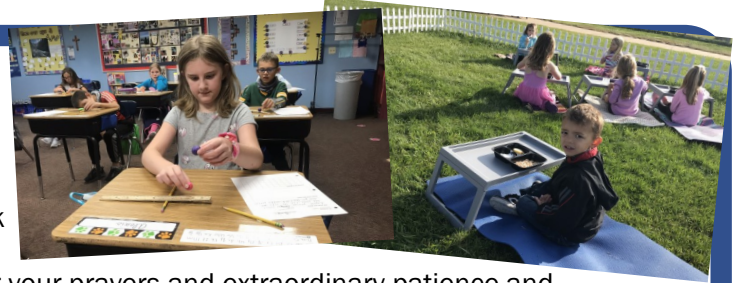
- Walking the hallways we hear the classroom noise and laughter, we see the playground interactions of classmates, and we see the miles of smiles from students each day. Praise be to God for our school and in-person learning
- Our church staff has been much involved in the day-to-day school activities with teaching Catechism, eating lunch with students, and supervising an occasional recess or lunch period. Jointly school and church serve as one.
- With 179 K-8 students including 30 new students this school year, close to 90% are in-person learning. 11% are using our distance learning platform that includes virtual participation in classroom devotions, course work, and live classrooms. Nearly each day includes a virtual lunch with an in-person and online learner.
- We have found ways for volunteers to assist with daily activities. Nearly every morning we have four volunteers welcoming students as Crosswalk Guards and wellness check greeters. Students arrive to multiple face-to-face greetings before even arriving to their classroom. We are thankful for parents and church members who volunteer their time in warmly greeting students each day.
- OSL parents have been encouragers and our biggest supporters. They realize the blessing of in-person and the sacrifice our teachers are making professionally for hybrid instruction and personally for health in the classroom.
- OSL teachers...they strive...they adapt...they are giving their best...they know the risks, they know the great rewards of teaching and sharing the faith with online and in-person learners.

We truly take heart in the Lord as God is greater than our ups and downs. We stay united in faith and committed to relationships and learning as our school journey continues.

**"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us."**

Ephesians 5:1-2

On behalf of the students and communities we serve, we thank you for your continued support and the privilege of partnering with you in Christian Education.





# The Advent Wreath

## Sundays In Advent at Our Savior Lutheran

**Sunday, November 29** "The Advent Wreath: Hope"

8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. In-person & Online

Monday, November 30: 7:00pm In-person Only

**Sunday, December 6** "The Advent Wreath: Peace" (Communion)

8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. In-person & Online

Monday, December 7: 7:00pm In-person Only

**Sunday, December 13** "The Advent Wreath: Joy"

8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. In-person & Online

Monday, December 14: 7:00pm In-person Only

**Sunday, December 20** "The Advent Wreath: Love" (Communion)

8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. In-person & Online



### School Chapel Livestream...Spreading the Faith

by Mr. Matthew Couser, Principal

The chapel experience at Our Savior has always been a blessing for the students and staff. This year we implemented the same worship guidelines for chapel as we have for Sunday worship (pew spacing, mask wearing, etc.). The students have responded well to this adaptation. Chapel still has it's consistencies with student acolytes, student singers, student powerpoint manager, and baptism birthday recognitions.



New this year is the Livestream of Chapel. Each week Mr. Josh shares the 9:10am chapel service on our Our Savior YouTube channel with online learners, our school parents and grandparents, and even members of the congregation. This adaptation syncs our community of faith with a mid-week short service. It is such a blessing to share in praise and scripture with our online friends in what is typically the highlight of the week!



I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ. -Philemon 1:6

In the past few weeks we had chapel messages and orders of worship led by our students in the fourth, fifth, and seventh grade classrooms. This December, the sixth grade will take their turn. As is our custom, each classroom takes a turn to lead chapel. It is in these leading experiences our students work on public speaking. Their faith is on display as they share the Gospel through a skit or hand-motions to a song. And this year, 2020, we are newly spreading our worship encounter by spreading faith around our community and even around the world.

Visit our Our Savior YouTube Channel at  
[www.youtube.com/c/OurSaviorLutheranLansing](https://www.youtube.com/c/OurSaviorLutheranLansing), to watch any and all chapel messages.  
Catch us live at 9:10 each Wednesday.



# Advent Services & Events

## Online Only Advent Midweek Worship

Wednesday, December 2 • 7pm - Live Stream

*"The Jesse Tree"*

is the story of God's promises through the prophets of old of a coming Messiah, and the fulfillment in Jesus.

Wednesday, December 9 • 7pm - Live Stream

*"Waiting for the King"*

The people of God were awaiting a "Son of David" who would rule in justice and righteousness. These promises all pointed to Jesus – the King of Kings!

Wednesday, December 16 • 7pm - Live Stream

*"O Come O Come Emmanuel"*

The "O Antiphons" are ancient prayers of the church based on descriptions of the Messiah from the Old Testament. They express our longing for a Savior and for God to redeem and deliver us.

## Advent Instrumental Concert

*Glory to God on High!*

Thursday, December 10, 7 p.m. Live Stream Only

## Virtual Living Nativity

Saturday, December 19 - Online Only

Spend the evening with your family in the comfort of your own home while participating in the Living Nativity. There will be a video of the journey, craft project and more!

## Christmas Eve Eve Worship

Wednesday, December 23 • 5pm - In-person & Online

This service is especially for families with young children.

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

(Communion at each service)

Thursday, December 24

4pm - in-person

7pm - in-person & online

10pm - in-person

**Our Savior Lutheran Church and School**

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