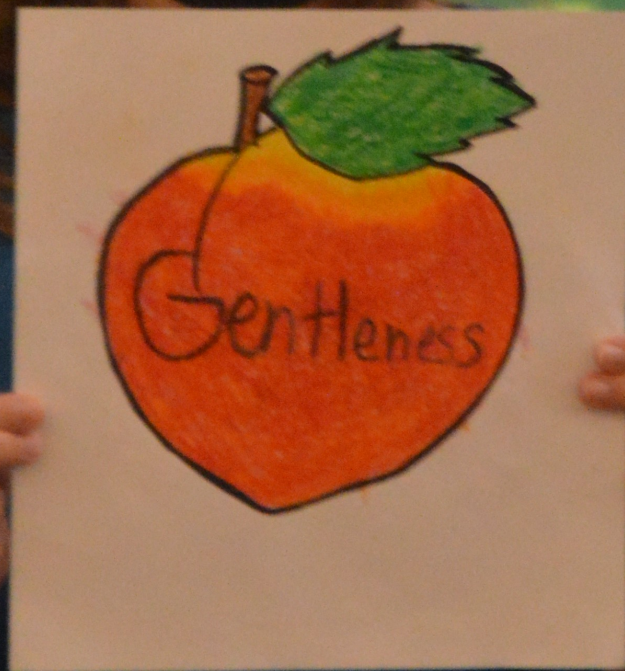


Learn Live Share

Spring 2021



**Our Savior Lutheran Church and School
Quarterly Newsletter**

Blessed to Be a Blessing



Dear Friends in Christ,

I continually thank God when I remember you all in my prayers, for all the blessings that God has shown our congregation as we have gone through this difficult time in our nation. We have suffered the loss of dear members, navigated the landmines of political and social unrest, and grappled with the changes and challenges of pandemic ministry. Yet God is faithful. God is so good.

His promises remain for all of us, and He has blessed us first and foremost with the Gospel and the Means of Grace, which bring us life, hope, and salvation in Christ. We have exactly what the world

needs! And we have it in spades.

The Lord has also blessed our church and school with amazing and dedicated staff, faithful families and members, financial resources and mission focus. What does God want us to do with all this? We are blessed to be a blessing. We want to position our ministries to reach more people with the grace and truth of Jesus Christ, and the life-transforming power of the Gospel. Let's pray that God will show our church and school and each of us how we can bring the blessings of God into the lives of those around us.



You are each a blessing to your church family. We are thankful for you. We hope we can be more connected to each other in coming weeks and months. God's blessings as you Learn, Live, and Share Christ.

In Him,

Pastor Wangelin <><

40th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Organ

by John Horak, Minister of Music

Our pipe organ was constructed in 1980 by the Schlicker Organ Company in Buffalo, New York. It was dedicated on April 12, 1981 at a morning worship service with music for congregation, choirs and instruments. Members of the organ committee were Harold McAttee (chairman), Doris Berg, Clarence Berndt Jr., Paul Dombroske, Mary Patenge and Authur Walter.

When it was decided to move to our new location and build a new school and church, it was decided to bring our pipe organ with us. In addition to cleaning it and modernizing the console, the remainder of the pipes were added to complete the organ. The work was done by the Fowler Organ Company of Lansing, Michigan. The organ was rededicated on November 14, 2010 also in a morning worship service with music for congregation, choirs, handbells and instruments. Members of the organ committee were John Horak, Gary Knippenberg, Jennifer Miller, Joann Olsen and Chris Tiedje.

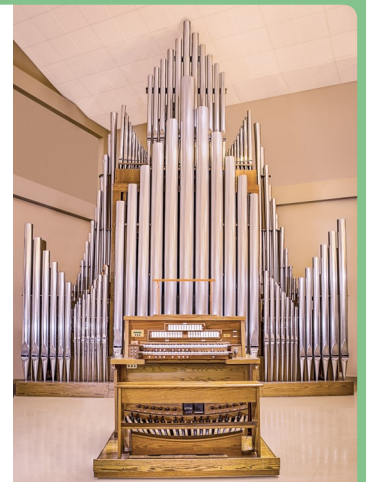
The organ has 25 stops, 31 ranks, 1,630 pipes with two manuals and pedal. It has served the congregation well and will do so for many years to come. Besides leading our worship services, weddings, funerals and hymn festivals, it is also used for teaching new organists who can continue to lead worship in churches now and in the future.

On Sunday, April 25, at the 8:30 a.m. worship service, I will play for the postlude one of the pieces that was played at the 1981 organ dedication service. It is "All Glory Be to God on High" by J. S. Bach. After the postlude, you are invited to remain in the sanctuary for a brief presentation to share some of the unique things about the organ and also to answer any questions that you might have.

We give thanks to God for the gift of this instrument. We also are thankful for:

- the workers of both the Schlicker Organ Company and the Fowler Organ Company
- the organists past, present and future who share the bench in playing the organ
- the members of both organ committees
- the choir members, handbell ringers and instrumentalists who have joined forces with it
- The many people who have sung praises to God being led by this organ

We are grateful and thankful to have this beautiful instrument. May we always use it for the glory of God and that His saving Word may be sung so that all may know the saving love of God.



Return to the Lord, your God!

by Vicar Ian Heinze

We are now entering into the penitential season of Lent. Lent itself is the journey to the Paschal Mystery: to our Lord's lifting up the Cross, Descent into Hell, and Resurrection from the Dead. It is a journey to the new life into which Baptism placed us, and which our own lives continually betray and ignore. The continued cry of Lent is, "Return to the Lord, your God!" Lent calls for us to do this, for we have no strength in ourselves to live as God's children in a way that pleases Him. Our strength always comes from the Word of God.

God alone is the One who creates, sustains, and strengthens faith. To accomplish His purposes of creating and sustaining faith, God works through means: primarily, the Word and the Sacraments. As St. Paul beautifully proclaims in Romans 10:17, "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." God is always at work wherever the Word is read, heard, proclaimed, etc.

The Triune God has also attached His Word to physical means through which He delivers the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, His divine grace, and life eternal. These physical means are what we call the Sacraments; namely, Baptism and the Lord's Supper. During this season of Lent, we will be preaching through a sermon series on the Lord's Supper titled: Hungry Hearts.

While Baptism is the Sacrament which typically brings an individual into the Church, the Lord's Supper is the Sacrament that continues to provide forgiveness and strength to sustain us till our death. There in the Lord's Supper we receive the true Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Christians have sometimes been confused about an important distinction: the difference between how salvation was won and how salvation is bestowed/given/applied. Salvation was won by the Savior on Golgotha, but how is that salvation accessible to us now? Some of our Protestant friends like to sing a hymn that says: "There is power, power, wonder-working power in the blood of the Lamb." We'd agree. There is! But we'd also ask: "And where would I happen to find that blood?" In the Lord's Supper, at His Altar, the Crucified and Risen Savior imparts the salvation that He won by His once-for-all sacrifice on the cross. So come! Return to the Lord and receive the good gifts He delights to give to you!



"You Satisfy the Hungry Hearts" – Lord's Supper Theme for Lent

During the pandemic, many of us have 'fasted' from the Lord's Supper, and gone without the sacrament for a long time. Opportunities to commune at Our Savior include 1. In-person worship on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, 2. Home communion brought



by our staff (contact the church office to set up the appointment), 3. April 18 Parking Lot Service at 10:30 including Holy Communion distributed to your vehicle. Our Sunday morning

preaching series during Lent will be on the blessings of the Lord's Supper.

To help us grow in our understanding of the Lord's Supper, we are introducing a **new blog** on the Our Savior website that will share various articles of faith and Lutheran theology, starting with Holy Communion. Pastor Wangelin and Vicar Heinze will take turns writing short and informative pieces that highlight the blessings of this meal that Jesus Himself gave to us. Blog posts can be found on our Facebook page and at www.oursaviorlansing.org. Check it out!

Palm Sunday Parade

Join us on Palm Sunday (March 28) at 9:45am as we hold a vehicle parade through our parking lot and the surrounding neighborhoods.



Joyfully wave palm branches outside of your car window as we celebrate, commemorate and witness to our neighbors the fact that Jesus – our prophet, priest, and king – arrived peacefully in Jerusalem for you and me. Parking lot and street attendants will assist everyone and keep us all on the right path during this fun parade!

Here We Stand – 500 Years Later

by Pastor Wangelin

Do you remember the 500th anniversary of the Reformation that we celebrated in 2017, and the worship service at the Breslin Center with 14,000 fellow Lutherans? Martin Luther nailed the 95 theses on October 31, 1517, and sparked a reformation of the Christian Church. Three years later, Luther was summoned before the congress (called a “diet”) of the Holy Roman Empire and Emperor Charles V to recant his teachings of the Gospel and his attacks on the abuses and corruption in the church. On April 18, 1521, Luther was ushered into a packed room filled with princes, counts, noblemen, the emperor, and papal delegates, and asked if he would recant, or take back what he had written. Luther was firm and resolute. He said,



“Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not retract anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. Here I stand. I can do no other. God help me. Amen.”

For Luther, the Scriptures were the absolute awesome authority of faith and life, and nothing could sway, bully, or threaten him from that solid conviction. We stand in the legacy of the great Reformer who held tenaciously to the Holy Scriptures and the Gospel truths of the Christian faith. This is what it means for us to be Lutheran Christians.

On Sunday, April 18, 2021, 500 years after Luther took his stand, we will gather for worship at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion will be offered at both services. Early service will be “normal” held in the church, and via livestream. The late service will be a PARKING LOT SERVICE, with an outdoor stage set up for the altar and a radio tuner broadcasting the service and music into your vehicles. The late service will not be livestreamed. We pray that it is a great opportunity for those who have been worshipping from home to gather in vehicles for a festive celebration and to receive the Lord’s Supper.

LCMS Michigan District President David Maier (also former pastor at Our Savior) will be the guest preacher that day at both services. He will be preaching on the conviction and courage of the early disciples after Jesus’ resurrection, of Martin Luther in 1521, and that we can have today as we boldly take our stand on the Word of God. We hope you can join us!



Spring is on the Way!

By: Windy Carroll, Early Childhood & Panther Camp Director

Though the weather has been blustery and the ground is still covered in snow, we are looking forward to springtime with hope and gratitude. In our Early Childhood programs, teachers help the children to see the beauty in all seasons and weather. As we enjoy playing in the snow and marveling at frost and ice, we also begin planting seedlings in our classrooms, nurturing the tiny sprouts that will hopefully be transplanted to our outdoor classroom garden in warmer weather. We thank God for his perfect creation and that we are able to learn about our earthly home through all seasons.



Our Early Childhood program staff

are also working this Spring on renewing our Great Start to Quality star rating. We are currently rated as a 5-star program (out of a possible 5 stars), so our goal is to maintain that rating. Being quality rated during a pandemic has proven to be a major challenge, but we are lucky to have a gifted staff who are dedicated to providing a high quality Christian education. We expect our re-rating process to conclude sometime in April.

Spring is also enrollment season! In an exciting parallel, we look forward to welcoming new students and planning for another new school year as the seasons change and the weather begins to warm. So far, we are incredibly blessed to have received many inquiries, new enrollments, and tour opportunities for new (and returning!) families for the Fall in Early Childhood. How exciting it is to meet these new families and introduce them to our ministries. It is a great time of thanksgiving and intense planning for the future.

Enrollment has also begun for Panther Camp 2021. We are thrilled to be able to host this program this year at Our Savior, with the proper



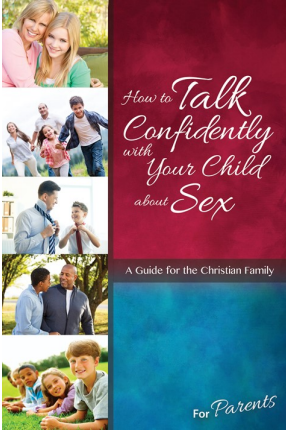
precautions in place, of course. Just as we were able to navigate face-to-face school through the pandemic this year, we are confident that we can offer a bit of normalcy and socialization to local children through our camp program this summer. Currently, camp is about half full, and we expect to be completely full prior to June. God has certainly blessed our church and school community, and we continue to pray for His divine guidance and protection as we make plans for the future.

Family Life Resource

by Lexie Brown, Family Life Intern

The Learning about Sex Series from Concordia Publishing House.

Parents are the primary sex educators! (not the internet, not the school, not even the church) That's not to say that church and school don't have a very important role. However, parents are primary. The leadership at Our Savior Lutheran Church and School continues to work towards having a more supplemental role in supporting parents in this matter. While it might seem impossible to have these conversations with your children, it may be helpful to know that there are resources available to you in the Resource Room at Our Savior!



What is the Learning about Sex Series?

Here is the description CPH (Concordia Publishing House) provides on their website for this series: "An honest, Christian approach to the body, relationships, and sex. This series teaches preschoolers through adults about God's great gifts to us as males and females and how we are uniquely made to love Him and serve others. The parent guide, *How to Talk Confidently with Your Child about Sex*, takes you through all the stages of your child's development to assist you in providing biological facts; establishing behaviors, values, and attitudes of a growing Christian; and affirming the love and forgiveness of Jesus for each of us."

This series includes a parent guide (7 copies of this are available to borrow from the Resource Room). Books in the series are also categorized by age group and gender. Age groups include: 3-5, 6-8, 9-11, 12-14, and 14+. The blue books would be ideally for dads to read and discuss with their sons and the pink books would be great for moms to read and discuss with their daughters. The series we currently have on-hand at OSL is updated and revised (the last version of the series was a little outdated) in order to be more useful and relevant to parents who utilize them.

What is the Resource Room?

The Resource Room is located in the Boardroom (right behind where the coffee station usually is in the church lobby). The Resource Room/Book Nook is kind of like a library in the sense that books are available to borrow. When you go into the Resource Room, You'll find more information about how it all works! You'll also find the complete Learning about Sex series accessible and individual books available to borrow on the "Children & Parenting" shelf.

When asked for her perspective on the role of parents in shaping their children's views of sexuality, Kristin Wangelin shared the following: "As parents, we need to have ongoing conversations with our kids (at an age-appropriate level) about faith and life issues. It may be awkward sometimes, but that shouldn't scare us. We get to share with our kids God's design for life, marriage, and family. What a great thing to talk about! One sentence starter that has helped us describe things to our kids through the years is "God's plan is..." This little phrase has helped us talk about faith, about dating and marriage, about sex, about identity, about so many things. The world changes all the time, but God's plan stays the same." For more information, contact Lexie Brown at abrown@oursaviorlansing.org.

Easter Story Walk

Saturday, April 3 • 10am-12pm

Families are invited to join us for an Easter Story walk! Take the journey of Holy week on our outdoor interactive story walk and read about Jesus and His journey to the cross and the good news of His Resurrection! Have fun with an Easter scavenger hunt along the way and many other fun surprises! Check out oursaviorlansing.org/events for more information



End of School Day Prayer, Equipping our Young Leaders

by Mr. Matthew Couser, Principal

At the conclusion of every school day, Our Savior Lutheran School has a custom of students saying a written prayer over the intercom. This custom began at the old Our Savior Lutheran School on Holmes Road. It was a wonderful idea shared by a staff member who had seen the prayer practice at another Lutheran School. Over the years, every K-8 student in every grade has at least one opportunity to participate in this daily prayer practice with either a scripture verse or a personal written prayer. Teachers work with their students to find a scripture verse and write their prayer using a provided template. Each week a new grade takes their turn at this departing faith experience. All who are in the building, from staff to students to visitors, pause for that moment to listen and join in on the prayer time. Visitors to the building often comment how moving it is to hear the voices of our students actively involved in prayer life at Our Savior. Many Christian educators who witness the prayer practice often implement the idea in their own schools.



Our Savior strives to equip our students on their faith journey. Prayer is an important component to emerging spirituality. May the Lord continue to fill our community with prayer opportunities as we connect with Him as he is revealed to the forming faith of our school community.

"Thus says the Lord who made the earth, the Lord who formed it to establish it—the Lord is his name: Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known."

Jeremiah 33:2-3

Trimester Chapel Offering: Bible Stories for Indonesia

Joining Jesus on His mission, our school chapel offering is designated each trimester to support a Christian mission. The second trimester designee is through the Lutheran Heritage Foundation and their efforts to provide Bible stories for children in Indonesia. Back in December, Pastor Terry Hoese led chapel and spoke about the Indonesia Project. He excited the students to be beacons of light in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ around the world. He encouraged students to bring an offering and if they forget one chapel, to bring double the offering the next chapel. For \$5 a new Bible Story book would be purchased to share Jesus with children excited to learn about their Savior.

Our Savior students and staff have responded with over \$500 in chapel offerings to date. The Our Savior Student Council joined in on the contributions by designating 40% of their Candy Cane Sales to the Indonesia Project. Student Council members, with the help of advisors Mrs. Kate List and Mrs. Kristi Sohn, designed a display in the hallway to highlight the contributions and blessings of this offering. Together we gather daily to know Jesus Christ and together we make Jesus Christ known. May the Lord continue to instill in our young people the blessing and joy of generosity so that Jesus may be shared around the world.



COMING SOON
2021 AUCTION
DRIVE-IN

JUNE 5
FAMILY FRIENDLY

ENTERTAINMENT,
FUN, FOOD!

Jesus Loves Me

by John Horak & the OSL 6th Grade Class

In Christian Studies we learn of God's saving work in the New Testament through Jesus Christ. Each week we talk about the Gospel reading that is read in our Sunday worship services. We also have talked about singing which gives us the opportunity to thank and praise God for all that He has done for us.

One project we worked on was writing new verses for the hymn "Jesus Loves Me" which we know so well. Each verse has to have seven syllables in each line and have the first / second and third / fourth lines end in a rhyme.

You are welcome to try your hand at writing a verse.

We hope that these verses from the sixth graders are a blessing to you.



Jesus loves me when it snows
When it falls upon my toes
When we have a winter storm
Jesus keeps me safe and warm

Jesus loves me when I'm wrong
Loves me when I sing this song
Jesus always will love me
Leave me never you will see

Jesus took away our sin
Even when we're mad at Him
He will love us all the same
Jesus takes away our pain

Jesus loves the world so much
He has us in His firm clutch
He is with me ev'ryday
He will guide me on my way

My mom loves me this I know
For her caring tells me so
Jesus' love in hearts belong
We were weak but now we're strong

Jesus loves me when He died
When I sin and try to hide
Takes the sin away from me
And one day He'll make me free

Jesus loves me though I sin
In my book that it is a win
He will help me through the fight
Against Satan's evil plight

Jesus Christ was born tonight
In a stable at midnight
He has come to save the world
Come and see the angels twirl

Let the Word of Christ get out
And then let it get around
He was laid down in a trough
His new life was now made rough

Jesus loves me when I'm mad
I've hurt someone and feel sad
I sorry then feel glad
That my fate is not so bad

Jesus loves me when I speak
I misspoke and now I'm weak
Jesus knows when I've done wrong
Now with Jesus' help I'm strong

He loves me He gave His life
Jesus died we have no strife
We love Him serve Him above
Now we know eternal love

Jesus died for ev'ryone
Now we know that Jesus won
When He rose up from the dead
Now we need not fear death's bed

Jesus gave His life for me
So that one day I will see
His salvation for us all
When we are in heaven's hall

Jesus loves me ev'ryday
Even when I am away
And when I don't think He's here
He is always somewhere near

Even though we're far apart
Jesus is within my heart
He is with me all the day
That is why I always pray

Jesus died upon a cross
Sadder than the death of Ross
But then He was raised again
Joy with Jesus' mighty reign

Jesus is the Prince of Peace
And His love will never cease
His protection will increase
Don't be scared for He brings peace

When the nights are dark and long
In my heart He puts a song
Telling me in words so clear
"Have no fear, for I am near"

Jesus loves me this I say
For He hears me when I pray
He forgives my sin always
For He does just what He says

Jesus through His Word does speak
Tells His saving work each week
Jesus has forgiven us
We know 'cause He died for us

Spring at Our Savior

March

- 3 - 24 Midweek Lenten Worship
Each Wednesday in Lent
- 26 Fish Fry To-Go
- 28 Palm Sunday Worship & Parade

April

- 1 Maundy Thursday Worship 7pm
- 2 Good Friday Worship 7pm
- 3 Easter Story Walk 10am
- 4 Easter Sunday
- 18 Here We Still Stand Parking Lot
Worship Service 10:30am

May

- 13 School Instrumental Concert
- 20 Ascension Organ Recital
- 23 New Member Sunday

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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
Monday - Friday: 8am - 4pm

Worship Times

Sundays in Person or Online at 8:30 & 10:30am
Sundays Hmong worship In Person: 10:30am



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