

# *Learn Live Share*

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Fall 2021

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School  
Quarterly Newsletter





## A Spiritual Growth Campaign

By Pastor Wangelin

Contrary to many people's assumptions, being a member of a church has deep spiritual significance. This is our spiritual home where we practice our faith. Too often we have a consumer mindset with regards to the church, and see it as another place where we get goods and services. The Bible has a very different view of what it means to be a church member. The Bible speaks of members of the body of Christ as living, active, and functioning members that live together as Christ's presence in the world.

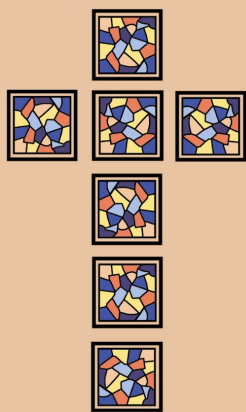
For six weeks, starting September 19, we will be studying the book, **"I am a Church Member"** by Thom Rainer. It is a compact, six-chapter book on what it means to be part of a church family. We are blessed to have a wonderful church home at Our Savior Lutheran Church and School. We are a very healthy congregation by many standards. Nevertheless, this is an important time for our congregation to reflect on what God's Word has to say about being a member of the body of Christ, and how we participate in the life of the church.

I hope that each of you, even if you are not a member of Our Savior, can join a small group for the six weeks of the campaign. It is such a wonderful way to experience Christian community and to be encouraged in our faith life. It is an opportunity for our church to come together and read the book, listen to the sermon series, and discuss it in small groups.

This spiritual growth campaign is a great complement to our **Together Capital Campaign**. Both are about bringing our church together around our Gospel mission. Both appeal to each member to build up the kingdom together. God is doing amazing things through our church and school, and it is a joy and privilege to join Jesus on His mission to the greater Lansing area and beyond! I look forward to seeing what the Lord has in store for us in the months to come as we stay focused on our mission to Learn, Live, and Share Christ.

In Joyful Service to Jesus,

Pastor Wangelin <><



*Together*  
With Christ, in Hope,  
for Future Generations



Did you know that we have made **\$400,000 in principal-only payments** on our church mortgage through the Together Campaign?

We blessed six ministry partners with a total of \$50,000 that we raised in the **mission component** of the campaign.

The **third year of the campaign** runs from October 2021 – October 2022. If you have not yet made a pledge for the campaign, pledge cards are located in the church lobby and church office. You may also give a one-time gift to the campaign to help us reach our goal of \$1 million. We currently have over \$830,000 in gifts and pledges. To God be the glory!

## A Whirlwind of Excitement

By Pastor Deneen

I **love** excitement. In an opening speech I gave at Concordia Ann Arbor one year as the student body president, one of my friends counted, and without me even knowing it, I had expressed my excitement at least 15 times. I **love** excitement.

The past two months have been full of excitement for Team Deneen, Lauren, Ida, and me. I **graduated** from Seminary in May. We **moved** to Michigan, staying with family until we found a house. I was **ordained** and **installed** into the ministry. We found out that Lauren is pregnant, due in February. Ida found out she is going to be a big sister. We bought a house. We bought a second car. We **moved** into a house. Ida turned 2 years old. I started here at Our Savior as associate pastor.

Phew. Let's catch our breath. We have been clinging to Matthew 6, where Jesus tells His disciples **not to be anxious** about anything,

because God cares for them, **He knows our needs**, and **He provides**. We cling to His promises and know that He has plans for us.

The next several months will continue to be a whirlwind of excitement. The first day of school and opening chapel is August 25th. We will be starting our **Discover Our Savior** class on September 22nd, where I will not only be teaching a few classes, but Lauren and I will be participants in the class as new members here at Our Savior. I am leading a new ministry opportunity with a **"Grief Care" class** starting on September 16th.

My schedule continues to fill up. At the end of July into the beginning of August, there's almost a calm before the storm. Some days seem almost too quiet. The next months will be a whirlwind of joy, excitement, prayer, praise, and sharing Jesus with as many people as possible.

A whirlwind of excitement has come and gone, and another one is coming soon. We need not fret, because God **knows our needs** before we ask them, and **He will provide** for us, even in the midst of the most exciting whirlwind I've ever faced. Here we go. I thank God that he has called me here to Our Savior, and I am **excited** to see how His will unfolds here at OSL.

In Christ, Our Risen Savior,

Pastor Chris <><



## Summer Camp & Early Childhood Programs

By: Windy Carroll, Early Childhood Director

As the Panther Camp 2021 season comes to a close this week, we praise the Lord for a busy, joyful, and safe summer. This year, we were very blessed to welcome 163 campers to camp, even in the midst of a pandemic. With the cancelation of camp last year, it felt great to be back up and running in an (almost) normal way. While there were some adjustments to our usual operations in order to keep our campers and staff safe and healthy, we were grateful for the time we had together to socialize – for many of our campers, it was their first structured group activities since March of 2020! Campers enjoyed worshipping together in chapel and in their groups, many exciting planned activities, special events on campus, and even a field trip per group to Hawk Island Park. Especially given the circumstances, it has been incredible to see our building so full of life and the love of Jesus all year round. Please join us in thanking God for these many blessings as well as in praying for a safe school year for all our camp children and families!

As one ministry ends, another is beginning. The Early Childhood staff are all looking forward to welcoming our new students, and also to welcoming back our returning students! Our teachers and staff have been hard at work preparing their classrooms, conducting home visits, and praying for our incoming families. As of this week, we are close to full in all three classrooms – what a blessing! We are looking forward to the faith formation and learning to come in our classrooms.





## The Mission Continues in South Africa

Our partner church and school in Middelburg, South Africa, is confident in the Lord's blessing and provision as they struggle to learn, live, and share Christ in a pandemic.

We received a beautiful thank you note from the Cedrick Hannay Children's Home (orphanage) in Middelburg, signed by the children, and including their picture. OSL sent a memorial gift in memory of Pastor Khumalo last spring (over \$10,000) which helped sustain the orphanage, St. Peter Confessional Lutheran Church, their preschool, grade school, and high school.

In mid-July, the government shut down the country for four weeks in the third wave of the pandemic. The church and school were closed during that time but have since reopened. Civil unrest broke out in August, and riots affected major cities, including Middelburg. Our African brothers and sisters have endured much hardship, but they have an unshakable resolve to follow Jesus, seek the Lord, and share the Gospel with more and more people. Whatever the real and underlying causes are of so much turmoil, the real problem is sin, and the solution is the grace and forgiveness we have in Jesus Christ.

Leaders from Middelburg will be visiting Our Savior in late September. Pastor Wangelin and three others from Lansing will be traveling to Middelburg in November to work with our partners, assess the needs of the ministry, and affirm our love and concern for them. Lord willing, we will plan a mission trip of OSL members to South Africa in June 2022.



Our Savior Lutheran  
Church and School  
Presents

THE 2022 AUCTION

80's  
Prom

March 5, 2022

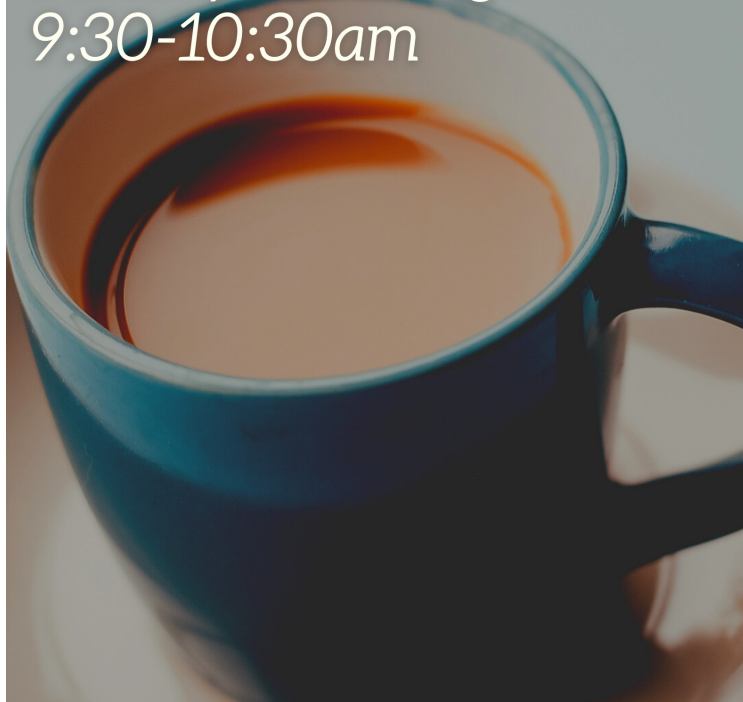
Doors open at 4:30pm

Our Savior Lutheran Gymnasium  
Lansing, MI

## OSL COFFEE HOUR

An opportunity to gather,  
converse and care for each other.

Sunday Mornings  
9:30-10:30am





# Treasured Family Week

By: Chris and Paula Manning

To some, VBS might feel like an opportunity to have an hour or two to be “child-free”. This year, it wasn’t. It was so much better. We had four nights of family fun and faith for all of us, not just our children. Instead of VBS, it was Treasured Family Week at OSL.

Every night included OSL members of all ages providing music and songs, a biblical message, skits, and family games. Instead of a “drop-off” event, it was a “drop-in” event where families could spend some time on their faith together rather than separately.

As a family, we sang the same songs, fumbled our way through the same hand gestures, shared the same snacks, and played the same games. We were out of the house, and, better yet, we were worshipping with our church family.

The pandemic tested the boundaries of our faith, but the Treasured Family Week was a reminder that trying times bring families and communities together, and that connection is a testament to how much stronger our faith grows when families and communities grow in it together.

As a family, we want to thank everyone who worked so hard to organize an opportunity to grow our faith as a family.







## Men's Work Retreat at Youth Haven Ranch

Mark your calendars now for **Saturday, October 9** for an opportunity to serve God's children and work with other Christians from Messiah, Holt.

All men (high school age and up) are welcome to come and work on projects at Youth Haven Ranch.

**This is an opportunity to serve kids who come to this camp free of charge to learn about Jesus and receive love they might not be getting at home.**

Starting at 7 a.m. with breakfast and prayer time, we will begin work at 8 a.m. on various projects at the ranch.

After a break for a lunch, we will resume work. The work day will end at 4:30 p.m. with clean up and prayer.

Projects in the past have included electrical, plumbing, building of ramps, roofing, tree cutting and constructing a bus stop shelter. All skill levels are needed.

As we get closer to the work day, we will let you know what specific jobs we will be working on and what tools and equipment will be needed (if you would like to bring your own).

Youth Haven Ranch is located at 3796 Perrine Road in Rives Junction.

If you have any questions or would like to sign up, call John Horak at (517)803-9043 or e-mail him at [jhorak@oursaviorlansing.org](mailto:jhorak@oursaviorlansing.org).

## Our Savior Basketball Camp... Children and Jesus

For over thirty years Our Savior has held an annual summer basketball camp to engage church and school children in basketball skill development, plenty of fun games and activities, and devotion to connect basketball and sport to Jesus and faith. This year we had over thirty children from grades 2 to 8 participate. Our volunteer coaches from the Our Savior Family love to interact and work with children. They share Jesus through giving of their time and sharing their love for basketball and the Lord. This basketball camp, like many Our Savior ministries, is also an opportunity to have our young people be trained in lead roles as devotion presenter and skill station helper. Together we strive to share in and build the body of Christ. Special thanks to Bill Burmeister and our athletic director, Derek Lounds, for organizing this event.



## An Amazing School Year is Ahead!

By Matthew Couser, Principal

Grace and peace from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Our Savior Lutheran is immensely blessed by an incredible school family, church family, and by a God of abundance, as we enter into the next school year. Last year was one of the most challenging years at Our Savior in its sixty-four year history. You, Our Savior, stood for Christian education and school ministry and declared it important. You, Our Savior Families, provided support when it mattered most. Our teachers and staff continued to believe in our mission and desired to lead and guide faith and learning at Our Savior. With forty-two new K8 students experiencing their first OSL experiences and thirteen newly baptized students last year...in a pandemic...God was at work. Our school is building on last year's blessings and support expressed by our school families in last year's end of year school family survey:

## How Has Our Savior Lutheran School Been A Blessing To Your Family?

*"OSL is a blessing whether in person or virtual. An education rooted in Christian principles is priceless. We cannot emphasize enough the importance and blessing this is to our family. We are very grateful to be learning and growing in our faith at OSL, especially during a tumultuous year."*

*"Absolutely a blessing to have in person learning all year and the teachers and staff have been amazing."*

*“There are not enough words. Faith over fear while taking into consideration practical and reasonable solutions.”*

*"We feel extremely blessed that our children have an almost normal school experience compared to most other kids around us. The teachers wanted to be there with our kids and we can't thank them enough!"*

*"We say the one good thing to come out of the pandemic for our family is OSL School. It has been a blessing."*

## What Our Families Say About Our Savior Lutheran School

*"We are so thankful for the great faith displayed by the teachers and staff. It has given our family a great support system for developing our young Christ followers."*

*"We have absolutely loved the school and the people...everyone is always so friendly, welcoming and eager to see the children! It was our best decision!"*

*"You all rocked. Thanks so much for being such a blessing! We see a God-sighting in you all every day!"*

*"OSL teachers are THE BEST. They embody the love of Christ by always doing what's best for kids. Their efforts do not go unnoticed and are greatly appreciated!!"*

*"The staff are amazing and caring individuals and our child loves OSL school!"*



This year's school theme is, Jesus...In ALL Things... Jesus is in our rejoicing, our praising, and in our thanksgiving. Jesus is woven through our actions and experiences as a school family. Our identity is and remains in Him. And we will praise and thank Him all school year long.



# *Fall at Our Savior*

## September

- 3-6 Labor Day Weekend-Offices Closed
- 8 Wednesday Bible Study Begins
- 9 High School Youth Group Begins
- 22 Discover Our Savior Begins
- 26 Congregation Meeting

## October

- 22-24 Confirmation Retreat
- 31 Reformation & Confirmation Sunday

## November

- 21 New Member & Family Service  
Sunday
- 22 Thanksgiving Basket Distribution
- 24 Thanksgiving Eve Worship 7pm
- 25 Thanksgiving

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### **Our Savior Lutheran Church and School**

7910 E. St. Joe Hwy, Lansing, MI 48917  
[www.oursaviorlansing.org](http://www.oursaviorlansing.org)

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**Church & School**  
517-882-8665




**Office Hours**  
Monday - Friday: 8am - 4pm

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### ***Worship Times***

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



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 Lansing, MI 48917

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