

Learn Live Share

Summer 2021

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School
Quarterly Newsletter



Living the Baptized Life

By Pastor Wangelin

God marks us as His own, and names us as His beloved child in our baptism. God puts His name on us – the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen! This has been a **season for baptisms** at Our Savior, with a baptism taking place each weekend for seven Sundays in a row. Among these baptisms are four adults, several OSL students, and a number of newborns. The adults are taking a big step of faith as they profess Christ and are baptized. As students are baptized, their teachers stand alongside parents and sponsors, to recognize their ministry to these families. At the baptism of infants, parents make promises to raise their children in the Christian faith. God welcomes people of all ages and all nations to be a part of His family and His eternal kingdom.

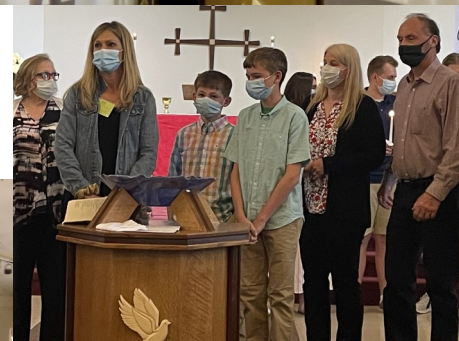
This gives us all the opportunity to **reflect on our own baptism**, however long ago that was. Where were you baptized, when did it take place, who performed the baptism? These are things we can share with family and friends as we reflect on God's claim on our life. More importantly, how does your baptism make you different in this world? God calls us to be salt and light, and to have the Spirit of Christ in us. Our baptism is our calling to live as Christian people in this dark world.

Then, as we **live the baptized life**, trusting in Jesus and living for Him, we share the Good News of God's grace and forgiveness in Christ with those around us. Our world certainly needs that Good News! It needs to hear God's Words of Law and Gospel, the call to repent and believe, and the invitation to be baptized into Christ and be born again into a living hope – one that can never perish, spoil, or fade (1 Peter 1:3-4). We are Easter people, people of hope, because of Jesus' resurrection and the free gift of salvation through faith alone.

This summer, as we enjoy the beauty of God's creation, remember God's goodness to you in Christ. When you jump in the pool or take a dip in the lake, remember your baptism. When you bask in the sun, remember God's face shines on you. Living the baptized life is about being joined to Jesus by grace and joining Jesus in His mission by the power of the Holy Spirit. That's what Our Savior Lutheran Church and School is all about.

In Him,

Pastor Wangelin <><





Welcome Pastor Chris, Lauren & Ida Deneen!

Where did you grow up?

Chris grew up in a little farm town, Hemlock, just outside of Saginaw, MI.

Lauren grew up in Jackson, MI, though a large part of her childhood was spent at her grandparents' house in Dansville, MI. Ida was born in Antigo, WI, at the end of the first week of Chris's vicarage.

What are your favorite hobbies?

Chris's favorite hobbies include watching and playing sports, listening to music, playing video games, and studying theology.

Lauren is a big film fanatic. We both love watching movies. She also enjoys anything to do with music, especially playing the piano and singing. She also enjoys sewing and reading.

What is your favorite Bible verse and why?

Chris's favorite bible verse is Psalm 46:1, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." This verse was my

confirmation verse, and also a great reminder that God is always with us. While I may face struggles and trials in this life, no matter what comes against me, God will always be there beside me, being that refuge and strength.

Lauren's favorite Bible verse is Matthew 6:25-30. I often find myself worrying about the little things, but when I spend time enjoying nature and God's creation, I remember this verse and am comforted by all the ways God cares for even the grass.

What is your favorite food?

Chris's favorite food is steak. Medium Rare. Grilled to perfection and seasoned with salt and pepper and some extra steak seasoning.

Lauren's favorite food is sushi.

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

When I was 5 years old at my kindergarten graduation, we had to say what we wanted to be when we grew up. I said that I wanted to be a pastor. At that time, I thought it would be awesome to be able to tell people about Jesus and only work one day a week! As I got older, and realized that pastor's do even more than that, it seemed like an even greater opportunity. I have a heart for people, and love telling people about Jesus and helping them strengthen their faith.

How old is Ida? What is her favorite food and thing to do?

Ida is almost 22 months old; she'll be 2 July 28th!

She loves music and reading, just like mom. She also loves playing outside and climbing anything and everything!

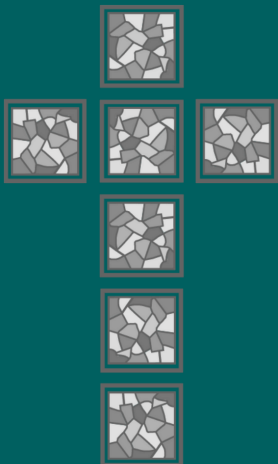
Her favorite food is fruit.

One fun fact about you

Fun fact about Chris: I have traveled to Israel, London, and Paris, and my favorite dinosaur is a Triceratops.

Fun fact about Lauren: Lauren spent a semester abroad studying in Spain and has traveled around most of Europe.

Her favorite dinosaur is the pachycephalosaur.



Dates to Remember

Ordination of Pastor Chris

Sunday, June 20, at 3pm

St. Peter Lutheran, Hemlock, Michigan

Installation

Sunday, June 27, at 3pm

Outdoor reception following the service.

Our Savior Lutheran

Treasured Family Week

Instead of a traditional VBS program this year, we are having a family gathering each night during Treasured Family Week.

It will take place Mon-Wed, July 12-14, from 6:30-7:30pm. Parents and kids are invited to attend one dynamite hour of family fellowship! All of this will take place on the south lawn each night. Bring lawn chairs or a blanket for a time of opening praise and



singing, followed by an interactive bible lesson drama, then outdoor games and a craft for kids that they can do at OSL or take home. Individually packaged snacks will be available to munch on while we enjoy our fellowship together. There is no cost.

Then on Thursday night, July 15, from 5:30-7:30pm we invite anyone in the congregation to come join us for a



community food and fellowship event – again on the south lawn and parking lot. We will have a pizza truck here with pizzas for you to purchase. The Kona Ice truck will also be here with free kona ice treats for

everyone. It will be both a great way to wrap up Treasured Family Week as well as an intergenerational fellowship event for our church families.

For more information, contact Dave Wright at 517-882-8665 ex 105 or via email at dwright@oursaviorlansing.org.



Family Faith Walks: On-the-Go Faith Activities

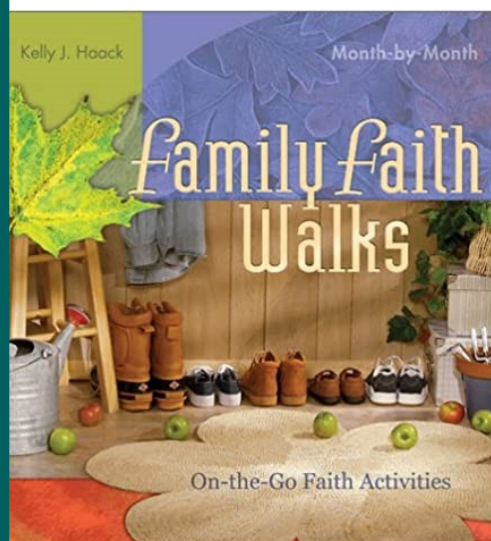
By: Lexie Brown, Family Life Intern

Is your family looking for new ideas for family devotions? Or maybe you want to do devotions with your family, but you have no idea where to start. Either way, Family Faith Walks is a great resource to utilize.



This is a book filled with family devotions based on different months and seasons throughout the year. Some key aspects of family devotions include readings from the Bible, prayer, and discussion prompts for real life application. Each devotion in Family Faith walks has all of these components! You can get a copy from the Concordia Publishing House website (cph.org), and we

hope to have a few copies available in the Resource Room for people to borrow, so stay tuned for updates.



Some other fun features in this book include ideas for crafts and activities that reinforce the main message of the

corresponding devotion. Additionally, almost every devotion encourages families to get outside and go on a family walk. Even the mundane moments of our everyday lives can become God moments when we look around and realize his presence and hand in our lives. He makes that grass in your yard grow and He created all those birds and squirrels you see running around outside. God loved the world so much that He redeemed it from sin, death and the devil. I don't know about you, but I need to be reminded of that daily and devotions are a great way to be reminded of the gospel each and every day.

May you and your family be blessed as you seek to glorify God in your everyday lives!

Imagine

Dear Saints,

Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ! With the recent birth and Baptism of our son, Gabriel Thomas Heinze, I thought it would be appropriate to have a section on Baptism. The text we will look at is Romans 6:3-4, perhaps my favorite baptismal passage in Holy Scripture.

Let's allow our imagination to go wild with this text. Baptism, St. Paul says, is dying with Christ, being buried with Christ, and being raised with Christ.

Imagine being crucified with Christ. You're there in the crowd and all of a sudden they grab you and say, "you're going with Him!" They put a cross on your back and you stumble towards Golgotha. You get there and they throw Jesus down on His cross, and they throw you down too. You watch as they hammer the nails into Jesus, the same rhythm they use to hammer the nails into you. You look over and there Jesus is, dying as you die with Him. He cries out to the Father and breathes His last; and you breath your own last. They take you both down from the crosses, wrap you up, and take you into the tomb together. The tomb is closed and sealed.

(Now we must really put imagination to use, as we have died; but, for the sake of this picture we stay aware of what is happening.) You see that you have been buried with Christ. You check a few hours later and see that you're both still dead. You look the next day and you're both still dead in darkness. Same thing the next night. Then you look on Sunday morning, and Jesus is looking back at you.

"You're alive?" you say to Jesus? "Yep," He says. "You wanna get out of here?" "Yes!" you say. And Jesus sits up, and you sit up with Him. He shakes off the dust and the grave clothes, and He walks right through the stone! He pokes His head back in and asks, "aren't you coming?" He raises you up, rolls the stone away, and you both walk out alive!

St. Paul declares that you have been buried with Christ through Baptism. That is what your Baptism is! Imagine the devil coming and saying to you, "You're going to have to die." We say, "No big deal, I've done that already. I already died with Christ! Buried with Him. Raised with Him. Never to die again."

Remember your Baptism!

Vicar Ian Heinze



THANK YOU!

THANKS TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED OUR SAVIOR AND THE MESSAGE OF HOPE SCHOLARSHIP FUND DURING THE 2021 ONLINE AUCTION WEEK.

OVER \$49,000 RAISED

Save the Date

as we gather in person next year for the Annual Our Savior Auction on
Saturday, March 5, 2022.

Get ready to dance the night away at the 80's prom!

Early Childhood Update

By: Windy Carroll, Early Childhood Director

It has been a busy year for our Early Childhood Program teachers and families. Though we have not been able to do our usual events and gatherings, we are so thankful to God for a healthy and successful school year even through the pandemic.

Our Early Childhood teachers and staff have also been working very hard this year on getting re-rated through the Great Start to Quality Program, which is an organization whose mission is to increase the quality of early childhood education through self-assessment followed by assessment from a Quality Improvement Specialist. As of this month, we have learned that we were **granted 5-star status yet again!** It is quite a feat



to have accomplished the highest possible quality rating during a pandemic which forced us to

change so much of what we do in our classrooms – to God be the glory. Early Childhood lead teachers also had the honor of being selected as presenters for the Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children (MiAEEYC) State Conference this year. The conference was held virtually instead of in-person, but it was a great experience to share our knowledge on the subjects of childhood trauma and how to create an outdoor classroom with other early childhood educators throughout the state. What a blessed year!

Panther Camp is also gearing up for a busy and exciting summer this year! We are very excited to be able to offer camp this year after canceling the program last summer due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As the first day of camp nears, camp counselors are participating in trainings and other preparations, and families continue to register their campers. Plans for fun daily activities and weekly special events or field trips are made and materials are being purchased and prepared! We expect to welcome many new families and to welcome back our returning camp families. This year's camp is nine weeks long, beginning on Monday, June 14th and ending on Friday, August 13th. If you are interested in registering a camper aged 3 years to 13 years, please visit panthercamp.weebly.com and click on the registration button on the home page. All camp-related questions can be emailed to Windy Carroll, Panther Camp Director, at wcarroll@oursaviorlansing.org.

We pray God's continued protection and blessings over all our church and school ministries and look forward to many more seasons of sharing His message of love and hope with the children in our programs.

Intern Reflections

By Lexie Brown, Family Life Intern

I was Our Savior's first Family Life Intern. I must admit it was a unique experience doing my internship during a pandemic. Coming into this internship, I was just so thankful that I had an opportunity to intern at a church in-person. I started here at the beginning of the school year (August 2020) and was originally interning for 6 months as that was the requirement for my program at CUAA. My internship ended up getting extended to the end of the school year and these last 3 bonus months have been filled with so much joy as I've been able to stay on and continue to build deeper relationships with more people. I have been extremely blessed to work with such a wonderful team of staff and lay leaders as we Learn, Live, and Share Christ here at Our Savior.



What I've learned: I have learned so much about ministry. I've learned the importance of a strong relationship between church and school. I've learned that OSL is incredibly blessed with amazing leadership on staff as well as strong lay leadership.

What's next: The call process. I went through the Family Life Program at Concordia University, Ann Arbor and graduated in December 2020. The next steps for me involve interviewing with congregations who are looking for a Family Life Director and then being extended a call and accepting. It is very similar to the teacher call process. I am trusting that the Lord will place me at the right church at the right time.



An Amazing School Year...Amazing God

By Matthew Couser, Principal

Our 2020-2021 school year theme verse was taken from John 16 verse 33:

I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble.

But take heart! I have overcome the world.

Our staff has been humbled and amazed at the wonderful joys and challenges of this past school year. With much preparation and many unknowns, Our Savior staff, students, and families were F.R.O.G.s (Fully Relying on God). Ribbit. Ribbit. We anticipated this year to be a rollercoaster of emotions, hurdles, celebrations, and full of god-sightings. Indeed the mountain top joys were high and frequent this school year. The valleys were low and disappointing...yet as the Lord reveals in His word, from Psalm 23 verse 4

*Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*

Our teachers strongly desired to teach in-person no matter the circumstances of this pandemic. Our parents and families were extremely supportive and reassuring that education was best experienced in the classroom and around the school building. Our students were eager from day one to interact with friends and teachers and share in the blessing of learning and applying themselves to grow and develop. And if anything, Our Savior seeks to provide Christian education through chapel worship gathering, daily prayers, reading in God's word, and integrating the faith in learning as frequently as possible. It has been the most challenging and rewarding school experience in ages. And through the ups and downs, we have seen how God is greater. We have taken heart...as Jesus has overcome the world.

Paul wrote to the church in Galatia to remind them to remain and abide in the Lord as the Galatians faltered and were confused. From Galatians chapter 5 verse 25:

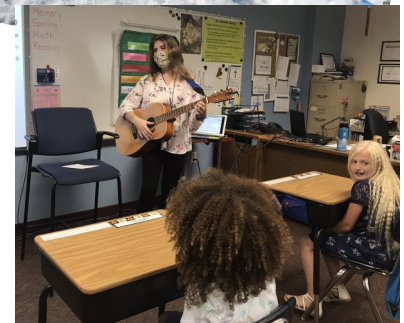
Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Our faculty and staff saw opportunity when there was uncertainty. Our school families desired community and interactions. Our students, smiling with their eyes, established trust that those in their care would love them, serve them, and encourage them while practicing the 3 Ws (wash your hands, wear your mask, watch your distance).

Together, as a school family, we saw Jesus in new and old light. Worshiping and praising the Lord, STEAM projects, sports, music, band, reading, and math...we experienced. We gained appreciation for volunteers who assisted with daily morning wellness checks, athletic antigen testing, and necessary cleaning requirements (Mr. Smelker and Mr. Dan...the MVPs of cleaning the school). Teachers taught online and in-person at the same time. Parents were cooperative and understanding as the circumstances changed and evolved. Teachers planned for inside and outside lessons and determined what was most essential for the development of their students.

And then...God provided in a pandemic! Thirty-five new K-8 students and their families. Families who never knew of or considered Christian education came to our doorstep and learned of partnership between school and home. Families often commented, "The Our Savior community was family we didn't even know we were looking for all these years. Now we don't know what life would be like without OSL." As the school filled, faith was inspired and grew.

Thanks to the welcoming and invitation of our existing school family, new families found refuge and became restored with Christian purpose. New faith has led to countless baptisms and Christian faith in the homes. We did life together this year as we learned, lived, and shared Christ. Building the kingdom in a pandemic. What an amazing school year. What an amazing God! To Him be the glory! Amen.



Spring at Our Savior

June

- 6 Retirement Reception for
Terri Shaver & Denise Spohn
- 9 Last Day of School
- 12 CityServe
- 13 Graduation Sunday
- 14 Summer Camp Open
- 21 Monday Summer Worship begins
- 27 Installation of Pastor Chris Deneen

July

- 12-15 Treasured: Family Week
- 25 Farewell to Vicar and Sarah Heinze

August

- 23 School Meet & Greet
- 25 First Day of School PreK-8
- 26 First Day of Preschool

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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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