

Learn Live Share

Spring 2022



Our Savior Lutheran Church and School
Quarterly Newsletter

Reconnections Ministry

Dear Saints in the Lord!

Through our baptism, we are connected to Christ and to each other. What a blessing to be united in faith, hope, and love through Christ. We are also blessed by a loving church family that makes this unity concrete in our lives, as together we learn, live, and share Christ.

The past two years have brought a fragmenting of society. The pandemic and its effects have put distance between neighbors, family members, and church family as well. We are thankful for the technology that allows us to stay connected in some ways, but we know that there are other important ways that we are to be connected as church family. Sadly, some people have become disconnected from our church, and disconnected from the regular proclamation of God's word.



The Spiritual Life Team has been praying about and deliberating ways to help people reconnect with our church and most of all, to reconnect with the Savior. Throughout the year 2022, our Elders on the Spiritual Life Team will be reaching out to church families that may be disconnected from our ministries and ask how we can be a spiritual

encouragement and spiritual support for them to reconnect with the Lord and fellow Christians. We pray that all these actions are given and received in love, as our deep concern for the spiritual wellbeing of each individual moves us to reach out, listen, and love.

Lent is a time of repentance and spiritual renewal. It is a season where Christians take a closer look at our lives and our connection with God, and even more so at God's love for us in Christ's sacrifice on the cross. We pray that this Lent, each of us will strengthen our connection to the Lord and with our church family. Opportunities about at Our Savior to get involved, be fed by the Word, and live out our Christian faith in love and service to others. The pages of this issue of Learn, Live, Share highlight just a few.

May we all be strengthened in our connection with Christ and our church family this Lenten Season!

In Joyful Service to Jesus,

Pastor Wangelin <><

Getting to Know You:

Mike Bowyer

In November 2021, Mike Bowyer joined the Our Savior staff as Technology Manager. Please say hi and welcome him to Our Savior when you see him!



Where did you grow up?

Perry, MI

What are your favorite hobbies?

Video games (PC and Nintendo Switch), watching TV shows, and reading.

What is your favorite bible verse and why?

1 Peter 5:6-7 "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on Him because he cares for you" It is very comforting to know that we can give all of our worries to God and count on Him in our most trying times.

What is your favorite food?

Pizza or Mexican food.

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

I wanted to use my talents to serve God. I knew that at OSL I would be able to use my passion for technology to help others.

Bonus question!!

One fun fact about you:

My favorite book series is "The Stormlight Archives" by Brandon Sanderson.



This Unexpected Blessings

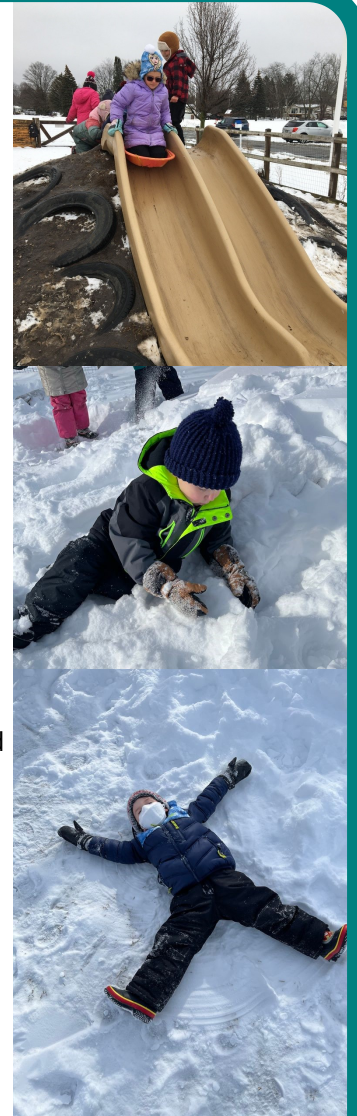
By: Windy Carroll, Early Childhood & Extended Care Programs Director

We've probably all had our share of unexpected blessings throughout our lives – something we could have never planned for or guessed would be in store for us. We know that God has a plan for all things and as Christians, we strive to trust in that plan and seek clarity and peace through Jesus in the challenging times as well as in seasons of abundance. It is one of the great joys of following Jesus that we are able to hand over all our worries to Him and have confidence that He is in control. And when we receive one of those unexpected blessings, it is a wonderful feeling to accept that blessing with thankfulness to God.

Recently, our Early Childhood and Extended Care programs were abundantly blessed by the receiving of a large grant. This grant, called the Childcare Stabilization Grant, came from a very unexpected source: the United States government! Typically, as a faith-based organization, Christian schools are notably not eligible to receive government funding. However, as part of the American Rescue Plan Act, states were given federal dollars with the intention of disseminating those funds to childcare providers. This money is intended to strengthen the childcare industry, in recognition of the incredibly challenging times we've all experienced through the COVID-19 pandemic. Approved usage of the funds include staff bonuses to assist in retaining current staff, hiring bonuses to attract new staff, standard operating costs for the program, materials costs, and quality improvement initiatives. Because Our Savior's Early Childhood and Extended Care programs are licensed through the State of Michigan as a childcare facility, we are eligible to receive the grant, applied, and have received that funding.

Our staff and administrators have since been diligently planning for the best use of this grant money. We are excited to be able to pay back some deficits in the Extended Care budget that we were facing due to lower enrollment (last year) and higher materials costs throughout the pandemic, give our current staff a bonus to their salaries, and plan for some major improvements to our classrooms and grounds. Currently, we are in the early stages of planning for a new Early Childhood playground, to be located in the space south of the building and adjacent to the Early Childhood Outdoor Classroom. This space would vastly improve our programming by offering more age-appropriate equipment in a fenced perimeter for our youngest students. Additionally, it will free up the existing playground for more time and space for our Kindergarten through Eighth grades during the school day, as our Preschool classrooms will no longer need allocated times on the larger playground. There are many other ideas and plans for the usage of any money left over after these projects, and we feel very blessed to be in the position of planning for large-scale improvements!

Certainly, we know Jesus is in everything – there are no coincidences – and we pray thanksgiving to Him for this very unexpected blessing. We pray also for discernment, guidance, and wisdom as we seek to be good stewards of these funds, that we may use this money to glorify Him through our staffing, programming, and grounds. God has definitely been beside our church and school leaders, staff, congregation, students, and families throughout this pandemic, and through some very challenging times He has sustained us for the continuation of our work in this place. May we continue to see Him in all things, looking forward with hope, faith and thanksgiving for the unexpected blessings we receive, both large and small.



LEADING THE PANDEMIC GENERATION

equipping and encouraging leaders
of the pandemic generation

MARCH 19, 2022 8AM-12PM

\$50 – General Admission, \$20 – Students

*eligible for Title 2 reimbursement & continuing education credits for teachers



WITH TIM ELMORE

OURSAVIORLANSING.ORG/ELMORE

Eyes to the Cross

By: Pastor Chris Deneen



This year in Lent, our theme for Wednesday worship is “Eyes to the Cross.” We will take a look at the cross through the eyes of different people or groups of people in the time of Jesus and what the cross meant to them. While we today may look at the cross and think of our own baptisms on the atoning sacrifice that Christ made for us, that wasn’t what the people in Jesus’ time would have thought of.

In ancient times, the cross wasn’t a sign of hope or peace, it was almost the exact opposite. The cross was where governments would crucify those that broke the law. It was a sign of criminals, sinners, and despair. People would not want to be associated with a cross. They would want nothing to do with it!

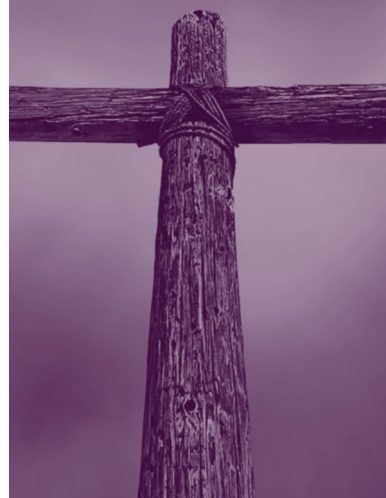
God has always had His eyes to the cross, even in the Garden of Eden. After Adam and Eve sinned and fell out of His righteousness, God promised a Savior, His Son, Jesus. The multitudes that came through Jerusalem would have seen crosses as a custom during the Passover festival. The chief priests saw the crucifixion of Jesus as a victory, finally getting Jesus, the one causing them so much trouble. The centurion would have been there for crucifixions before, but this one was different. Mary knew that her son was the Son of God, but this is still a mother before the cross looking up at her son. The criminals on either side of Jesus had quite differing views of this Jesus that was on a cross between them.

When we look to the cross, we have our own ways of viewing it. We may view it as a humble reminder of our sinfulness or a physical reminder of what Jesus endured for our sins. We may view it as a too real reminder of our mortality or a blessed reminder of our baptisms. Ultimately, we look to the cross for our hope and joy in the future.

As we turn our eyes to the cross, we can be reminded of the words of Paul in Romans chapter 6:5, “If we have been united with him like this in His death, we will certainly also be united with Him in His resurrection.” As the weather goes from cold, gloomy, and grey and we start to see the warm, bright, colorful days of spring around the corner, we are reminded of our resurrection hope. While we are united with Christ in His death, the story doesn’t end on Friday. The cross isn’t the final word. Because of Easter, rebirth, and new life are awaiting us around the corner.

While we reflect on our sinful nature, Christ’s passion, and what He did on the cross, we also reflect on Easter Sunday. When death couldn’t hold Christ in the grave. When Christ burst forth triumphantly from the grave. Whether it is gloomy and grey or sunny and seventy-five, we look to the cross. We look to the cross with hope, anticipation, and joy, that the best is yet to come.

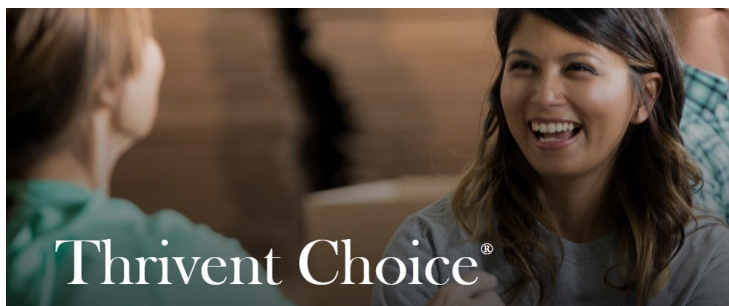
EYES TO THE CROSS



Thrivent Choice Dollars Benefit Our Savior Lutheran

by Darryl Warncke

Thrivent Choice is a program of Thrivent Financial that makes funds available to participating organizations. Thrivent members have the opportunity to designate their generated “choice” dollars to an organization of their choosing. “Choice” dollars are generated based on the Thrivent products one owns, such as life insurance or investment options. Once or twice each year Thrivent will notify you, if you have a qualifying product, that you have “choice” dollars available to be directed to an organization of your choosing. Our Savior Lutheran School is one of the participating organizations. When you receive an email or phone notification it is very easy to direct your dollars. If you haven’t received a notification contact Thrivent to see if you have “Choice” dollars available. The “Choice” dollars do not carry over from year to year. It is important to “direct” your dollars each year. Do it right after you receive a notification so as not to forget. Don’t let money go unused. The amount you have to direct may seem small, but when many people direct their “Choice” dollars it can add up to a significant amount. Over the years Our Savior Lutheran School has benefited greatly from these Thrivent “Choice” dollars. *For more information, go to www.thrivent.com. Choice Dollars should be designated by March 31, 2022.*



Jesus in All Things!

Athletics at OSL help us learn, live, and share Christ in great ways. January 22-23 was the boys basketball tournament at St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth, which is always a highlight of the season. Lutheran schools from around the state and northern Ohio compete at a high level. At the start of the tournament, the athletic director from St. Lorenz spoke to the fans and players about letting the light of Christ shine in our lives, and how that is more important than any game or trophy.

Our boys played hard, finishing with 2-2, coached by Principal Couser. Our school had perhaps the largest number of fans, with grandparents, relatives, and teachers cheering on our panthers.

At one point during a game, one of our players, 7th grader Christopher Smith, collided with an opponent, knocking him to the ground. As the others raced to the end of the court, our player stayed to help up his opponent and ask if he was OK. This was right in front of the stands, and a parent from the opposing team captured the moment in pictures. She shared these on Facebook with the following comment:



"This series of photos is what I will always remember most about our weekend at the Frankenmuth Tournament- not the trophy, not the laughs, not the drama. This guy. #5.

As you can see, our guy was on the ground and the rest of the players from both teams were already down the court. But not this kid; he stayed back to make sure Jacob was ok. And it wasn't a cursory inquiry- he really wanted to be sure Jacob was ok and was willing to vacate his position to be sure.

In that instant I learned many things-kindness, generosity, faith, truth, goodness, grace, hope, joy and LOVE. In that instant, my heart was truly touched. And by the response of the crowd, I wasn't the only one.

Now, I know this happens all the time, guys help each other up and players check on one another, but this was a little different and I believe those that were there that day know exactly what I mean. And this wasn't the only time this young man stepped up to be kind. It happened throughout this game and its likely a usual occurrence for him. I believe it's just who he is.

So today, a shout out to dear sweet #5. I pray God continues to use you as a vessel of kindness and joy. You are a credit to your family and to your school. You are a giant among men! #oursaviorlansing

(PS- We ended up winning that game by more than double but in their final huddle after the game, the name they yelled on the break was not their own, but ours- St. John Fraser)

Our Savior, you really are something special"

Lutheran Schools Week

That weekend kicked off National Lutheran Schools Week, where we celebrated what God is doing through the 1,800 Lutheran schools and early childhood centers, and the 21,000 Lutheran educators in the US who share Jesus in their teaching every day. We are so blessed to have wonderful teachers, parents, coaches, and students who show Jesus in all things! Our Savior is truly something special.



Happy New Year – Nyob Zoo Xyoo Tshab

by Pastor Lang Yang

I thank God for serving the Hmong ministry at Our Savior Lutheran Church and School for the past seventeen years. As I reflect on my years as Director of Hmong Ministry and the time that I have served the church, God has blessed the Hmong Ministry tremendously, a ministry that preaches the Gospel to the Hmong people in Michigan and throughout North America. We also have Hmong churches in Southeast Asia (Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam). The ministry at Our Savior is part of the Hmong Mission Society, where I serve as President. It became a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod in 2017. I have had the opportunity and honor to work with other Hmong Ministries to publish the Hmong Lutheran Hymnal (published in 2015), the Hmong translation of the Prayer Book, “Keep Me and Keep All” (Ceev Kuv hab Ceev Txhuatug (Published in 2018), and the Luther Small Catechism (published in 2020). These resources are a helpful tool to train Hmong pastors and leaders to take the Gospel to the highest parts of the mountains, where the remote villages are hard to reach so that they learn about God's grace and His salvation to all.

In 2020, I was commissioned into the United States Army Reserve as a Chaplain (1LT). I'm the first Hmong ordained pastor in the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod to serve both the United States Army Reserve and the Civil Air Patrol – United States Air Force Auxiliary (Lt Col) as Chaplain. I also believe that I am the first Hmong in the world to serve as a United States military Chaplain. I will be on leave for active duty attending the Chaplain Basic Officer Leadership Course at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina, the Chaplain School for the Army until April 2022.

As Chaplain, my duties are: conducting worship and administering the sacraments, performing religious ceremonies and services, visiting with service members, developing religious education programs and religious youth activities, conducting seminars and retreats, accompanying service members into combat, providing combat stress support, advising commanders on religious and morals matters, and counseling service members and their families. Chaplains cooperate without compromising their faith traditions or ecclesiastical endorsement requirements to ensure the most comprehensive religious support opportunities possible within the unique Army Reserves environment. It will be a joy to use my gifts to help the men and women in the military to render service to the community, state, and nation.

I pray that God will keep each one of you in His care as you use your time, talents, and treasure to serve God faithfully.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY - Pro Deo et Patria



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN MEALS MINISTRY

Do you need a meal or have a friend that does? The Meals Ministry at OSL wants to serve you! We reach out to the individual and set up a customized food plan. This includes food allergies, sensitivities, likes and dislikes, best time/way for delivery and more!

2021 brought the Meals Ministry a number of requests. The organization was able to connect eight families with volunteers. These volunteers supplied a total of 34 meals. Many blessings for recipients and volunteers!

Serving on Meals Ministry

- Serve on the Meal Ministry Organization Team
- Provide a meal
- Provide donations for pre-made frozen meals.

“My husband and I really appreciated meals ministry and it came in very handy when I was recovering and had to be off my feet. It was such a nice feeling knowing that your church family was there for you. I don't know what we would have done without our OSL family.”

1 Corinthians 10:31

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

Contact Us

517-882-8665

oslmealsministry@gmail.com

Facebook: OSL Meals Ministry

Sundays in Lent

In-person & Online

Sunday, March 6: 8:30am & 10:30am (Communion):
"Man Does Not Live on Bread Alone"

Sunday, March 13: 8:30am & 10:30am: "Stand Firm in the Lord"

Sunday, March 20: 8:30am & 10:30am (Communion): "The Watchman's Warning"

Sunday, March 27: 8:30am & 10:30am: "Our Strength and Song"

Sunday, April 3: 8:30am & 10:30am (Communion): "Jesus is our Cornerstone"

Lenten Devotions are available in the church lobby and online. Devotions will also be emailed daily. If you would like to receive these emails, please send a message to contact@oursaviorlansing.org.

Live Stream

To join worship online, go to: www.oursaviorlansing.org/livestream



Prayerfully Consider being a Conversation Partner for the Friendship House MSU

By Dan Winter, Executive Director of Friendship House MSU

What is a Conversation Partnership? The opportunity for international students to meet one-on-one each week with an American English speaker for individualized help.

How often do these partnerships meet? Typically, the partners meet once a week for about 60 - 90 minutes.



Where do the partnerships meet? Partnerships can start out at Friendship House MSU (929 server Drive, East Lansing, MI 48823, on the west edge of the MSU campus) if you both are vaccinated and willing to "mask up" since it is a safe and comfortable environment for the students. In light of the ongoing pandemic, meetings can begin virtually and once the environment allows and a rapport and mutual trust have been established, partnerships can shift to meeting at the Friendship House, a coffeehouse, or over lunch, or at the American partner's home or church. We ask if that the partners let us know where and when they are meeting, for safety's sake.

What do you need to know to be a Conversation Partner? You already know it: English. You also have the motivation to want to help someone from another country who often feels homesick, isolated, and culturally shocked.

What is it that International partners are looking for? No matter what is discussed whether English is approached from a formal or informal teaching style, the Internationals are looking for friendship.

What do I do if I am interested? You can complete an application found on our website friendshiphousemsu.global under the "Get Involved" tab or you can contact Dan Winter, the Executive Director at 517-657-7778 or friendshiphousemsu@gmail.com.



Lenten Services & Events

Ash Wednesday

Eyes to the Cross: God
March 2 • 7:00pm
Imposition of Ashes

Lenten Midweek Meals

Weekly Meal and Fellowship
Wednesdays • 5:30- 6:45pm
March 2 - April 6

Lenten Midweek Worship

Eyes to the Cross
Wednesdays • 7:00pm
March 9 - April 6

Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 10 • 8:30am & 10:30am

Maundy Thursday

April 14 • 7:00pm (Communion)

Good Friday

April 15 • 7:00pm
Nailing of the Cross

Easter Egg Hunt

April 16 • 9:30 - 10:30am

Easter Sunday

April 17 • 8:30 & 10:30am
(Communion)

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