

LEARN LIVE SHARE

Summer 2022



Our Savior Lutheran Church and School
Quarterly Newsletter

Walking Together

By Pastor Bill Wangelin



When people find out that Our Savior Lutheran is part of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS), they often ask, "What's a 'sy-nod'?" Good question! The word 'synod' is a Greek word that means "walking together." We are nearly 6,000 congregations across the country that are "walking together" in faith, doctrine, and mission. The organization of the LCMS was 175 years ago, and we will be sharing some stories of our forefathers later in our summer preaching series. Some may feel that is pretty inconsequential to our daily lives, yet we realize how many new members we have had recently (142 in the past two years) and how unfamiliar they might be with our Lutheran roots. Anniversaries are times to 'tell family stories' and how God has been good and faithful over the years.

Our church and school have been "walking together" since 1956, when several families from Trinity Lutheran in Lansing wanted to continue their school ministry in a new congregation on Lansing's south side. Trinity's school started in 1872, and so this year marks 150 years of continuous Lutheran education through our school ministry. The school changed locations twice (first from Saginaw Highway to Holmes Road, then to St. Joe Hwy in Delta Twp.) and changed its name once (from Trinity to Our Savior in 1956). We are the legacy of a long line of Christian families who desired to make disciples through Lutheran Education and a vibrant congregation life.



The joys of that vibrant congregation life are many, and we are blessed to walk together with you! I am so excited to see what lies ahead for our ministry in the coming months and years. These have been remarkable years of ministry for our church and school, and in Christ, as always, the best is yet to come. The conclusion of our Together Campaign is an opportunity to move ministry forward in a big way.

Our world today is having a hard time "walking together." We are divisive when it comes to politics, sex, immigration, poverty, racism, and certainly abortion. As Christians, we want to be involved as good citizens, and speak for truth and justice. As a church, we don't march to the beat of any political party or fit any earthly label. We are the Kingdom of God, and "are longing for a better country" (Hebrews 11:16). We march to the beat of the Spirit, with the Word of God as a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. When we march to the Spirit and let the Word of God light our path, then we can truly "walk together" as the body of Christ towards our heavenly country.

Getting to Know You: Carrie Austin, OSL Business Manager



In March 2022, Carrie Austin joined the Our Savior staff as Business Manager. Please say hi and welcome her to Our Savior when you see her!

1. Where did you grow up?

I grew up living in rural Laingsburg and attended Ovid-Elsie Schools.

2. What are your favorite hobbies?

My favorite hobbies are doing crafts, spending time with family and friends and going to Church.

3. What is your favorite bible verse?

John 13 Verse 34: "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."

4. What is your favorite food?

My favorite food is any desserts, especially chocolate.

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

I truly believe that God leads you to where you need to be and I'm so lucky that I found this position opening. I've always felt spiritually moved when I attend church and didn't think there would be an accounting position available at a church. I'm so blessed to have found my position here and feel so welcomed and at home.

6. Bonus question!! One fun fact about you:

When I was teaching, I had 5th grade students tell me that I should never play poker because I don't have a poker face. All the students were saying yes and nodding their head! Unbeknownst to me, they were coming up to my desk to get the answers and I thought I was asking them more questions to ponder and think about during their tests but they told me that my face gave away the answers. LOL :)

MONUMENTAL
CELEBRATING GOD'S GREATNESS

VBS 2022
July 18-21 • 6:30-8pm

REGISTER TODAY!
vbspro.events/p/oslvbs2022

Men of Courage

By Dave Wright, Minister of Family Life

Men of Courage is the name of the men's ministry at Our Savior Lutheran. It began when a new OSL member (and school dad) started having conversations with me about creating opportunities for OSL men to gather together with other Christian men and get to know each other better. We sat down with Pastor Roy Olsen, our associate pastor at the time and brainstormed an appropriate mission statement for our group:

"Christian men helping each other develop the courage to grow in our relationships with Christ, family, and friends."



Four key words from that mission statement – develop, grow, courage, relationships – are at the heart of our men's ministry. There are three key scripture verses that we spent time meditating on and discussing as we shaped this ministry:

- **Joshua 1:9** – "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."
- **Proverbs 27:17** – "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."
- **1 Corinthians 16:13** – "Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong."

Over the past 12 years, we have tried to create opportunities for men to gather in a variety of settings, doing a variety of activities and developing stronger friendships with one another – friendships centered in Christ. Some of the activities we have done over the years include:

- Camping/kayaking weekends
- Cookouts
- Winter retreats
- Bible & Catechism studies
- Service projects
- Friday morning breakfast and devotions
- Advent by Bonfire (annually)
- Home brewing demonstration night
- Shooting and target events
- Men's 10-week Challenge



One of our original "men of courage" who has helped plan and host a number of events shared his experiences in men's ministry at OSL:

"I feel blessed to be among like minded Christian men that share the common thread of faith in God while at these events. I love that I always have a number of "takeaways" that benefit the people in my life. Going to an event ALWAYS gets me back "on center" and encourages me to be more mindful of my role as a father, husband, church member, friend, coach, teacher, and overall a useful member of society. Also, the food is always amazing at these events!" ~Dan Brunk



This year we will continue to provide opportunities for fellowship and fun. If you want to be a part of the planning team for events, please contact me! I would love to have new men be a part of Men of Courage as we help each other develop the courage to grow in our relationships with Christ, family, and friends.

Dave Wright can be reached at dwright@oursaviorlansing.org.

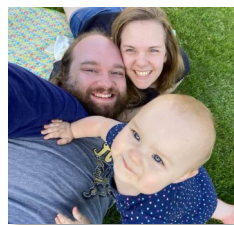
A Year of Ministry

By Pastor Chris Deneen



Every summer for the past several years, I have focused on moving. In the summer of 2017, I moved to St. Louis, MO to start Seminary. The following summer, 2018, Lauren and I got married in Michigan, and then moved back to St. Louis

for my second year of Seminary. The following summer, 2019, Lauren and I moved to Antigo, WI for my vicarage, and Ida was born. The following summer, 2020, Lauren and I moved back to St. Louis



for my fourth year of Seminary. The following summer, 2021, Lauren and I moved here to Lansing. Every summer of our marriage, Lauren and I have moved, knowing where we were going to live, but having to move each summer.

This summer, 2022, Lauren, Ida, Eleanor, and I, we don't have that thought in our mind. We're more focused on: home repairs, how to connect with our neighbors, how often to mow the lawn, and when to get the kiddie pool out for Ida. This is the first summer that we don't have to focus on moving.



As my one-year anniversary is coming up here at OSL, I thought I would share a few reflections.

1. It's weird isn't it? It's been a year! Team Deneen doesn't have to worry about moving!
2. There are no goodbyes to be said at the end of July. I won't be leaving to go back to Seminary, Team Deneen is here to stay.
3. In early May, many staff sat down to work through calendar items for the next year, and I reflected on that meeting by telling several people, "I'm going to be here for those! That's awesome!"



4. I've seen God work in so many ways over the past year.
5. I thank God each and every day that he placed me here.
6. I'm excited to see how God works through all of us here at OSL to continue to do His kingdom work and share His Gospel message.

God is working and doing some incredible things in our midst. I'm overjoyed to be a part of God's story here at OSL, and looking forward to the future. I cling to the joy that God gives, as Team Deneen is excited for another year of ministry. As Philippians 4:4 reminds us, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"

In our Risen Lord and Savior,
Pastor Chris <><

Stephen Ministry

By Stacy Boyd

Inspired by Ephesians 4:12 "to equip the saints for the work of the ministry, for building up the body of Christ," Pastor Kenneth Haugk trained nine lay leaders, two of whom encouraged him to bring the ministry to other congregations. He established Stephen Ministries St. Louis in 1975. Since then it has expanded to 13,000 congregations all over the world.

Stephen Ministry was begun at OSL as a way to extend the one-on-one pastoral ministry. Dave Wright, Sue Sundstrom, Tim Mulvaney, Christine Barnes, and Karen Shuler trained to become Stephen Leaders. They trained seven Stephen Ministers who began serving our congregation in 2020. Three more have since completed training. Each Stephen Minister commits to serving two years. Most serve longer than two years due to enjoying their roles providing care and growing spiritually in the process.



A Stephen Minister is a trained, confidential, Christian listener for adults who are hurting or going through a crisis. A minister receives fifty hours of initial training followed by ongoing continuing education. Those who have chosen to serve have spiritual gifts of listening, empathy, compassion, and mercy and a heart for caregiving. We currently have seven active Stephen Ministers.

When anyone is going through a difficult time or crisis in life they can benefit from having a Stephen Minister—e.g. experiencing the death of a loved one, divorce, loss of job or other financial difficulties, health problems, being a caregiver, and more.

The process of becoming a care receiver first involves contacting our referrals coordinator, Sue Sundstrom, who decides if a Stephen Minister is appropriate and prayerfully and confidentially assigns one of the same gender. The Stephen Minister is contacted and calls the care receiver to set up their first meeting. The Stephen Minister and their care receiver meet in person for an hour once a week. The Stephen Minister provides emotional and spiritual support by listening to and praying with and for the care receiver. The ministry relationship comes to a close by mutual agreement when the reason for needing a Stephen Minister has improved or resolved.

To assure the best confidential Christian care, all Stephen Ministers meet regularly every three weeks for confidential supervision by me, the Supervision Coordinator. After serving initially as a Stephen Minister, I trained as a Stephen Leader to take on this role. It is truly a blessing to serve in Stephen Ministry.

Refreshed, Renewed, and Thankful

By Windy Carroll, Early Childhood Director

This spring, the Early Childhood team was blessed to be able to attend the Annual Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children (MiAEEYC) Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The annual conference brings together early childhood professionals from all over the state to learn and grow in our knowledge and skills, but also to be affirmed, renewed, and refreshed in our passion for educating and caring for young children. Our full team of eleven staff members attended three days of training seminars and experienced some much-needed team-building and fellowship with each other outside of the confines and demands of our typical school day schedule. What a blessing it was to be able to be present and authentically connect with each other!



Additionally, Mrs. Sara DeYarmond, Ms. Catie Berg, and I were honored to be selected as presenters for three sessions at the conference. Our topics were early childhood trauma and how to best address trauma-related behaviors and needs in the early childhood classroom, as well as how to create and utilize an outdoor classroom for meaningful play and learning. All sessions were incredibly well-attended, with participants sitting on the floor and standing in the back (even out the door!). It was extraordinary to be able to share and discuss with so many other professional educators and to make connections with so many other schools in our state. We are so thankful for the opportunities we had through attendance at the MiAEEYC Conference and are renewed and excited to implement some of the things we learned, as well. How amazing and wonderful it is to do this work here at Our Savior Lutheran School, supported in our mission to continually grow and improve our Early Childhood ministry to the glory of God.

Playground Swings and Other Things

By Lloyd A. Conway

Swings stand idle in the sun
Awaiting children seeking freedom and fun
Laughter and carefree voices
Seven swings – so many choices
Playground at a school is a school itself
Teaching friendship, sharing and placing others before self
Take turns, no one a classmate spurns
Their joy abounds as children make the rounds
From swing to see-saw to the field where they play kickball
Every day - Winter, Spring and Fall
The playground denizens know the children one and all
They watch them grow and bear their weight as they come to know
What their Creator made them to show-
That childhood games are the first school of our community life
No king rules dispenses as each new game commences its friendly strife
Children learn to get along
And how to handle things when they go wrong
Tears there are, but between the smiles they come few and far



A thousand healing, nurturing memories for every scar
Eyes turned fondly back as they are carried away in Mom's car

A rectangle of grass and wood chips on the far side of a parking lot's black tar

But with a promise of daily return

The playground is always there to welcome – never to spurn



Alumni Spotlight: David Horak

By Matthew Couser, Principal

Mrs. Lisa Hughes, our Middle School Language Arts teacher, teaches her 8th grade English students the importance of writing. Each week students learn and apply their writing skills in various ways. This spring Mrs. Hughes went a step further to develop an interest in writing. She extended a special invitation to Our Savior alum, David Horak, reporter at WOOD TV8. Her hope to excite her students about professional writing and news reporting experiences made the desired impact.



David recently reflected on his visit to Our Savior, "Seeing the students engaged in how collaborative thinking can lead to incredible storytelling on paper and through spoken word was an absolute treat. It reminded me how interactive the lessons were when I was in their shoes 13 years ago. My hope and prayer is that my advice can help them become amazing storytellers — from class projects and individual assignments, to a possible future in writing, journalism, or public relations. I am thankful to Mrs. Hughes and Mr. Couser for allowing me to give

back to a place so special to me."

What interactive experiences was David referring to? How did God bless his journey from an Our Savior student to a reporter at WOOD TV8?

Back in 2006 David was in Mr. Couser's fifth grade class. The class was working on a technology project for School Technology Night. The students developed a plan to interview each Our Savior staff member to promote the school community and to showcase the amazing teachers and staff. David recalls taking on this special investigative assignment. "Mr. Couser helped us write specific questions for each teacher and staff member. We then scheduled a time during the school day to interview each staff member. It was such a novel idea." David stated this was his first introduction to interviewing. He and his classmates were proud of their staff profiles they presented to their parents at Tech Night.

After High School, David attended Valparaiso University, Mr. Couser's alma mater, and majored in communications with aspirations of working in broadcasting. While at Valpo,

he was involved with the school's student-run radio and television stations, WVUR-FM and VUTV, respectively. During his breaks, David made special visits back to Mr. Couser's classroom to lead Jeopardy and Family Feud review games. David was the game host and created the game questions and answers.

Soon after David's college graduation he was blessed with his first professional broadcasting experience at WVNS-Fox 59 in West Virginia. Within his first year of reporting, he won an Associated Press award for his story on a viral video that captured a coal miner singing the national anthem during a routine safety meeting. David rose the ranks to eventually become a morning and noon news anchor. This past year the Lord led David to accept a new position closer to home (Lansing) at WOOD TV8 in Kalamazoo, MI. David now works on news stories, live reports, and serves as an occasional news anchor.

It was wonderful to have one of our alums share his personal faith and learning experiences at Our Savior with our young people. The next generation of Our Savior alumni are now praying for the Lord to lead them on their path of developing their personal interests and vocation, using the gifts God has given them. May they continue to seek hope in the Lord and have trust in His plans for how they will impact the kingdom.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. Jeremiah 29:11-12



SUMMER SERMON SERIES

COLOSSIANS: THE SUPREMACY AND SUFFICIENCY OF JESUS Begins Sunday, July 10

Join us in July as we take a deep dive into Paul's letter to the Colossians. In one of his "Prison Epistles," Paul explains the relationship between Jesus and the created order more than any of his other epistles, rebukes the heresies that were present in Colossae, and reminds us that we are saved by Christ alone.

We invite you to bring your Bible for this sermon series for four weeks starting July 10.

WALKING TOGETHER Begins Sunday, August 7

OSL is part of a larger family of believers walking together in unity. This year, the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod turns 175. For five weeks starting in August, we will take a look back at the beginning of our Synod, the stories that show who we are, where we came from, and how God has been at work then and now as we walk together in faith to share Christ with the world.

What My Baptism Means To Me

By Erin McGinnis, 8th Grade OSL Student



Getting baptized was one of the best decisions I've ever made. Jesus has filled me with joy and life. I was baptized on April 3, 2022. At first I was scared to be but then, I remembered what a great thing baptism is and I felt more comforted once I knew my brother was getting baptized too. Since my baptism, I've been more involved with Jesus. I've always established Jesus as my Savior, but once I joined the church, I've seen Him more in my life. I felt a part of the church the minute I was baptized. I am grateful and blessed for what God has done in my life.



*For in Christ
Jesus you are all
sons of God,
through faith. For
as many of you as
were baptized
into Christ have
put on Christ.*

Galatians 3:26-27

FREEDOM APPRECIATION SERVICE

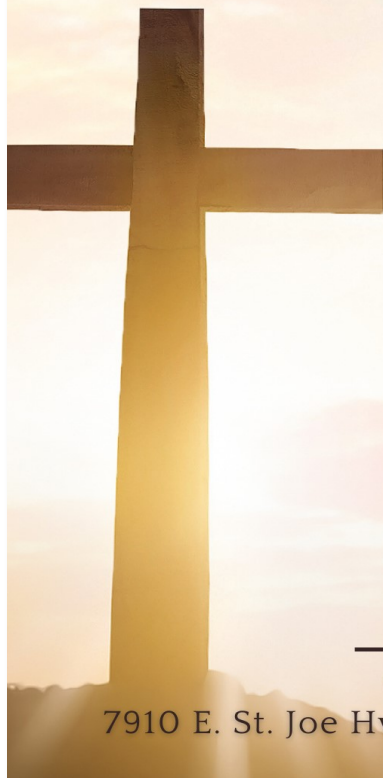
"A Prayer for Our Nation"

Sunday, July 3 • 8:30 & 10:30am

Online & In-Person



SUMMER EVENTS CALENDAR



JUNE

- 11 CityServe
- 12 Graduation Sunday
- 13 Summer Camp Begins
- 19 Father's Day, Congregation Meeting at 9:30am
- 20 Monday Evening Worship Begins - 7pm

JULY

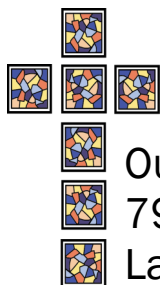
- 3 Freedom Appreciation Worship Service
- 10 "Colossians" Sermon Series Begins
- 18-21 VBS: Monumental - 6:30-8pm
- 25-28 Summer Basketball Camp - 6-8pm

AUGUST

- 7 "Walking Together" Sermon Series Begins
- 22 School Meet & Greet - 5-7pm
- 24 First Day of School

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

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