



Serving Christ *Together*

Spiritual Growth Campaign
Small Group Workbook
Fall 2022

2022 Spiritual Growth Campaign: Serving Christ Together



Brothers and sisters in Christ,

What a joy it is to embark on the journey of our Spiritual Growth Campaign: Serving Christ Together. We thank God that you are a part of our church family. This year we are focusing on how the body of Christ works together, and how you fit into the body of Christ here at Our Savior. Hopefully you have found a small group, but if not, you are still able to go through this study. Our studies will focus on the sermons from Sunday, the videos available on YouTube, and through this study guide. May God bless you as you walk through this Spiritual Growth Campaign and as we grow and serve Christ together. Our Spiritual Growth Campaign will conclude with a ministry fair on October 23rd, after both services. We look forward to highlighting our ministries.

God's Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Pastor Wangelin".

Pastor Bill Wangelin

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Pastor Chris".

Pastor Chris Deneen

How to Access the Weekly Videos:

There are a few ways you can access our videos for the Spiritual Growth Campaign.

The first is on oursaviorlansing.org. On our homepage there is a button that says, "Spiritual Growth Campaign Videos." When you click on that it will take you to a YouTube playlist with the videos.

The second is through our Facebook page. We will post the videos on YouTube each Sunday around noon. Those will then be posted on our Facebook page on Monday.

Finally, you can always go to YouTube and search "Our Savior Lutheran Lansing," and under the playlist tab find the Spiritual Growth Campaign Videos playlist.

Spiritual Growth Campaign Week 1: S.H.A.P.E. for Service

We are all different. We may have similar likes, we may have similar interests and experiences, but you are uniquely you. That is something worth celebrating! God has made you who you are and loves you. How can the way God has shaped you be used to serve others?

WATCH VIDEO 1

S _____

H _____

A _____

P _____

E _____

S.H.A.P.E FOR SERVICE

Has there ever been a time where you felt like the piece duct taped into the hole, where it wasn't a good fit, but you felt like you had to keep doing it? What are ways you can grow from that experience?

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11.

What a list of spiritual gifts! Here's another list:

Administration, Discernment, Encouragement, Evangelism, Faith, Giving, Help, Hospitality, Intercession, Knowledge, Leadership, Mercy, Prophecy, Shepherding, Teaching, Wisdom

- This is not an extensive list, but it gives us a good idea of the different gifts that the Spirit can bestow upon us. Circle the gifts you think you have or think that you have.
- Whatever spiritual gifts you have, they can be used for God's Kingdom Work! What are different ways that you can use the Spiritual gifts that you've been given?

HEART

In our world we are often told to follow our hearts. We are told the heart wants what the heart wants. While those thoughts of love may be misleading, there are definitely things that we love to do and are passionate about.

- What are things you LOVE to do?
- Now that you've thought about the things that you love to do, how might your passions fit with serving others?

ABILITIES

Read 1 Corinthians 12:21-31.

Spiritual gifts are one part of the equation. Your heart is another. But another part of the equation is your abilities.

- What are things you are good at? What abilities or talents do you have?
- How did you discover your talents, and what did it take to develop them?

When we think of abilities, we don't necessarily think of service. We may think of wood carving, or sewing, or making food, or playing a sport, or gardening. Those abilities are all unique and wonderful.

- How can the abilities that you have (whatever they may be!) be used to glorify God and to serve your neighbor?

PERSONALITIES

There are many different types of personalities. Maybe you've taken one of the hundreds of personality tests that are out there. We are all created differently, with different ways that we go about things or ways that respond to challenges in our lives.

- Are you introverted or extroverted? outgoing or reserved? nervous or confident? curious or cautious? How would you describe your personality?

When we see personalities, they tend to lean towards specific skills, gifts, or careers. But our personalities are not what define us. At times people can put you in a category because of your personality.

- Have you ever been selected for something because someone thought you would love it because of your personality, and you didn't?
- How does your personality lend itself to your spiritual gifts and abilities?

EXPERIENCES

Your life is uniquely yours. You have experiences that no one else has. You probably have many shared experiences, but altogether, you have faced certain troubles in your life, you have faced certain joys in your life, and you have faced things no one else has.

- What are some experiences that have shaped your life; both good and bad, positive and negative?

While you may have experiences that only you have gone through, there is One who knows everything you have ever gone through, and One who has experienced everything you've experienced. Jesus. When Jesus came into this world, He came and experienced everything as one of us. In one of the shortest verses in the bible, John 11:35, we read, "Jesus wept." Jesus knows your experiences as God and as man.

- What comfort do you feel knowing that Jesus has gone through similar experiences as you? How can that help you when you're working through your own experiences?

While you have your own experiences, and Jesus knows your experiences, you do have shared experiences. You may have experiences that others have and that can help you serve them.

- What experiences do you have that could help others with their own experiences?

CONCLUSION

You have been SHAPED for service. Your spiritual gifts, heart, abilities, personality, and experiences have made you unique for serving Christ. Over the next 5 weeks, we will take a deeper look at how we can serve through our time, talents, and treasures. We will also focus on how you can step out in faith, and the next steps to serve Christ together. May God bless your discussions over the next several weeks, as we focus on how we can all serve Christ together.

CLOSING PRAYER

As you end in prayer this week, take some time to take some prayer requests, and finish with our prayer for week 1 below:

Father in heaven, we thank You for making us your children and calling us to serve in Your kingdom. Show us how we may proclaim Your name and how we may speak of Your glorious majesty and wonderful works. You have shaped each of us in different and various ways. Help us to use our uniqueness to best serve you and our neighbors. Open ways of service for us, encourage us to not sit back and wait, but grant us the courage and willingness to serve you together. Through Jesus Christ, Our Savior. AMEN.

Spiritual Growth Campaign Week 2: Time for Service

There are 24 hours in a day. There are 1,440 minutes in a day. There are 86,400 seconds in a day. In Psalm 139, the psalmist writes, “Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.” God knows how many days we have on this world. He knows the days, the hours, the minutes that we have. How will we use that time, and how do you prioritize the different activities and commitments in your life?

WATCH VIDEO 2

When talking about use of time, the biggest question is priorities. It can be a challenge to juggle priorities in our busy lives.

- What are your “big rocks/golf balls” that take priority over everything else?
- What big rocks have you seen in your life, or in the lives of others, or in society, that many people make a big rock, but it should really be a smaller rock or salt?

Now that you’ve got your big rocks or golf balls figured out, you’ve got the biggest priorities in your life. There are big things that will always take priority. Those big rocks are what we default to if there is a scheduling conflict. That can be a good thing, or it can be troublesome. After those big rocks, next come the small rocks, the things that fit in around the big rocks.

- What are your “small rocks?”
- Are there any small rocks that you wish were moved up to golf balls or moved down to salt?

We have to have fun, right? We need those extra things that spice up life. These are most likely the small things in life, that probably don’t take up too much time. Or if they do take up a bunch of time, they are usually last on the priority list.

- What is your “salt?” What are those extra little things that you love to do?

- What are those things that are your “salt,” that should be left out of the tub all together?

If Pastor Wangelin had put the salt in first, the big rocks may have still fit, but then the small rocks might not have fit. If the small pebbles went in first, then the salt, it is possible that the big rocks wouldn't have fit, or you would have had to decide which to leave out.

- What happens when your priorities get flipped or out of order?
- Who helps you prioritize your life, or what do you use as a guide?

A Deeper Look at God's Word

Throughout scripture, there are many times that time and priorities are mentioned. As we work through some scripture readings, take some time to read through the passages, meditate on them, and then go through the questions that follow. God knows your days, and the plans for your life.

Read Mark 1:29-39

In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus is almost always doing something. Things are happening quickly, and Mark moves from one thought to the next. Here in verses 1:29-39, we see quite a bit happening. Jesus is healing many. He heals Simon's mother-in-law. He goes out and heals many sick and demon possessed. In verse 35, we see Jesus go out, as it is still dark, and he prays.

- Jesus makes prayer a priority. Why do you think it is so important for Jesus to go off to pray before anyone else is awake?
- Jesus was in the midst of a healing spree, healing many, casting out many demons. When the disciples find Jesus, they exclaim, “Everyone is looking for you!” Jesus knew He could continue to heal people and cast out demons, and He would do plenty of that. What can we learn from Jesus in this situation?
- What does Jesus show us about spending time with God?

Read Luke 13:1-9

Jesus tells a parable about a fig tree. This fig tree had been around for three years, and now the owner of the vineyard is sick of it. He wants it gone since it hasn't done anything. It hasn't yielded any figs, and the question arises, "Why should it use up the soil?" But the man who tends the vineyard pleads on behalf of the tree. "Leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine. If not, then cut it down."

- What does this parable show us about God's patience with us, and how we ought to use our time?
- God takes the long view when it comes to time. "With the Lord a thousand years is like a day, and a day is like a thousand years." We too often live in the moment. How does our faith in Jesus help us take the long view of time in our lives?

CONCLUSION

There is only so much time in a day. By the time you add up time to sleep, time to get ready, time to drive where you need to, and all the other necessities, you've got even less time. How can you fully utilize the time that you've been given, and serve both Christ and your neighbors with your time? As you think about that through the week, remember that God is always with you and walking beside you. His will and work are often much simpler and much closer than we realize.

CLOSING PRAYER

As you end in prayer this week, take some time to take some prayer requests, and finish with our prayer for week 2 below:

Father in heaven, we thank You for making us your children and calling us to serve in Your kingdom. Show us how we may proclaim Your name and how we may speak of Your glorious majesty and wonderful works. You know the number of days that we have here on this earth. Help us to use the time you have allotted to us to serve you and our neighbors. Open ways of service for us, encourage us to not sit back and wait, but grant us the courage and willingness to serve you together. Through Jesus Christ, Our Savior. AMEN.

Spiritual Growth Campaign Week 3: Talents for Service

You are talented! Yes you! God has given you unique talents and abilities. Are you the next NBA superstar? Probably not. Are you the next face of a fortune 500 company and winning a Nobel Prize? Maybe! But again, probably not. God has made you uniquely you, and has given you gifts, talents, and abilities that can be used to serve Him and your neighbor right here, right now.

Watch Video 3

We don't all have the same talents. Some are good at singing and music, others are not. Some are good at baking and cooking, others are not. Some are good at playing sports, others are not. Just because you may be in the "others" category and may not be a superstar at one thing or another, you have talents and abilities to serve Christ.

- What are your talents? Review your list of abilities on page (Insert page number here) If you were going on a talent show, no judges, no concern for winning, what would your talent be?
- What ministry opportunities are there (currently or that we could start) where you could use your talents to serve God and others?
- Do you have a "hidden talent?" What is something that you are good at, but not many people know about?

A Deeper Look at God's Word

As we take a look at God's Word, we're going to look at a parable of Jesus. As we look at this parable of the talents, we need to understand what Jesus is saying. When Jesus refers to "talents", He is referring to a large sum of money, probably about 20 years' worth of wages. But for today, we are going to take it at face value, and read it as if it is referring directly to actual talents, rather than money.

Read Matthew 25:14-30

In this parable, a man goes out on a journey. He has three servants, and gives them each "talents" according to their abilities. The first received five, the second two, and the last one, one. The first servant goes out, trades the talents, and blossoms and has five more. The second goes out, does the same, and doubles his. The one with the one talent doesn't. He goes out and hides it so no one can take it.

The master returns, and he is overjoyed with his first two servants. He praises them and gives them a blessing, saying, "Well done, good and faithful servant." But then the third one arrives. He goes before the master, and the master answers with a frightening response. "You wicked and slothful servant!" The third servant is then thrown out into the darkness, to the place where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.

- The first two servants used their talents wisely. They traded them and found a way to multiply their talents. What motivates us to make good use of our talents?
- The first two servants were freely using the talents given them. They used them to make more and more. How does using out talents multiply blessings, and inspire others to use their talents?
- Sometimes we can put our talents in a box and think that they can only be used in a certain situation, and maybe even restrict our talents and how they could be used to the glory of God. What are some ways that you've restrained your talents or neglected them?
- Our talents are given to us by God. How does knowing who God is, motivate us to use them for His glory?

Read James 2:14-24

These verses in James have been a little controversial throughout time. Some thought these verses advocated works righteousness, which means that we have to do something to earn our salvation. But what James is saying here is not that we have to do something to earn our salvation, but that our faith and what Jesus has done for us is going to lead us to care for our neighbors, and do the work that God has prepared for us.

Faith and deeds are not completely different. The faith that we have been granted from the Holy Spirit isn't a faith that is stagnant. It is a faith that is going! It is a faith that works. It is a faith that makes us move and be the hands and feet of God.

- How does knowing that our talents don't earn us salvation, but flow from our faith, free us and take the pressure of us when using them to serve God?
- How else do you see your faith producing good deeds and works of love in your life?
- James says, "Even the demons believe God exists." What is the difference in between knowing God exists and believing in God or "saving faith?"

CLOSING PRAYER

As you end in prayer this week, take some time to take some prayer requests, and finish with our prayer for week 3 below:

Father in heaven, we thank You for making us your children and calling us to serve in Your kingdom. Show us how we may proclaim Your name and how we may speak of Your glorious majesty and wonderful works. You have given us distinct talents and abilities. Help us to use the talents that you have blessed us with to serve you and our neighbors. Open ways of service for us, encourage us to not sit back and wait, but grant us the courage and willingness to serve you together. Through Jesus Christ, Our Savior. AMEN.

Spiritual Growth Campaign Week 4: Treasure for Service

Nothing we have, not one single thing, is truly ours. Every gift that we've been given, any wealth that we have, is not truly ours. Everything that we have in our possession belongs to God. We are simply stewards of the things God has given us. Often, the conversation of money, stewardship, and generosity can be a little tough. This week, let's take a look into what God has to say about generosity, being stewards, and sharing the gifts He has given to us.

WATCH VIDEO 4

Our world today makes us think that we are running the race of life to get as much stuff as possible. We know that is not the goal, and that our lives are meant for service to God, His kingdom, and our neighbors. But in our lives, we do have stuff, but also treasure. There is quite the distinction between the two.

- What is your “stuff” in life?
- What is your treasure in life?
- What difference does it make when we know that God is the owner of everything, and not us?
- How is it often true that, “The more stuff you own, the more your stuff owns you?”

When we think of stewardship, treasure, and stuff, the word that should come to mind is generosity. When we think of stewardship and generosity, we must first look to God. God is more generous than we deserve. He gives us not just stuff, but His goodness and mercy. He is the One who gave His one and only Son to die for us. Jesus was given freely with nothing needed in return on our part.

- When you think of generosity, who are role models of generosity that come to mind?

- How do you (and your family) practice generosity? (It is okay to be honest here. It is not boasting if it is done in faith!)
- Why are people often uncomfortable talking about personal money and financial matters?

A Deeper Look

Read Deuteronomy 26:1-15

Tithes and offerings. It is a part of worship. It isn't a side activity, but it is worship. We take the time to give back to God a portion of what He has given to us. This is an opportunity to give God the first fruits of what He has blessed us with. God is a gracious and loving God, and we ought to return a portion to Him of what He has granted us to be stewards over.

- Now that you have read Deuteronomy 26, what exactly is a tithe? Where does it come from, and why was it important to the Ancient Israelites?
- People gave the first fruit of their grains and their flocks. We don't bring wheat and sheep to church. How might our tithes include more than just money?

Read Malachi 3:8-12

- God challenges us -even dares His people here. What is God's promise to those who will bring their tithes to Him?
- What is the significance here of giving tithes to God?

Read Luke 12:13-21

This parable from Jesus shows how we should worry or not worry about possessions. In verse 15, Jesus even tells the man who asked Him the question to Watch out!! Why? Because we should be on guard against all kinds of greed. Life does not consist in an abundance of possessions. Jesus tells this parable, and then follows it up by a deeper teaching to His disciples, ending with the verse that we must heed every day, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

- What does this parable show about the rich fool? Why was he so adamant about building the bigger barns?
- Have you ever had thoughts or acted like the rich fool? In our world we are always told to get as much money and stuff as possible. How does our world try to use wealth, possessions or stuff as a marker of status?
- Jesus ends this parable by saying, “This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.” We don’t want to be like the rich fool. How then can we turn this around and be rich towards God?

Read Colossians 3:1-4

Paul reminds us that we have been raised with Christ, and we are to set our hearts and minds on the things above, not on earthly things. Often our world focuses on anything other than the things of God. The world tends to look very individually at the big three of me, myself, and I.

- What does it mean to set our hearts and minds on things above?
- As we look around our world, there is always a huge emphasis on personal wealth. We see professional athletes getting contracts worth more money than we could ever imagine. There are often lists of the wealthiest people in the world on the internet or in news articles. How can we protect ourselves from those things, focus on the treasures God has given us, and know our true wealth comes from the death and resurrection of Christ?

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

This is one of the biggest verses when it comes to being stewards and giving back to God. As you read through these verses, describe how our tithes and offerings that we give are in harmony with Paul’s words.

CONCLUSION

We have many different ministries that we support here at Our Savior. Our first priority in generosity is to our church family. We have ministry partners here in Lansing, many in Michigan, and even partners throughout the world. It is important that we support not only our own ministries with our tithes and offerings, but support others that are able to share Jesus with those we might not be able to reach.

As we go throughout life, as you are talking with your family, as you are making decisions about finances, or generosity, or stewardship, remember the words of Paul, “God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”

CLOSING PRAYER

As you end in prayer this week, take some time to take some prayer requests, and finish with our prayer for week 4 below:

Father in heaven, we thank You for making us your children and calling us to serve in Your kingdom. Show us how we may proclaim Your name and how we may speak of Your glorious majesty and wonderful works. You have made us stewards of your creation and blessed us. Help us to use the gifts and treasures that you have given us to serve you and our neighbors. Open ways of service for us, encourage us to not sit back and wait, but grant us the courage and willingness to serve you together. Through Jesus Christ, Our Savior. AMEN.

Spiritual Growth Campaign Week 5: Stepping out in Faith

New things can be scary. New things can be intimidating. Even things you've done forever, can still cause you to worry. Especially when it comes time to share your faith, or to serve in a new way it can be daunting. What about it makes it so scary? The unknown. Maybe you'll try something and it won't go well. Maybe you'll try something and it will go great! But the only way to know, is to do it. This week, we're focusing on stepping out in faith. What does that mean for you and your faith, and what does it mean for service to Christ together?

WATCH VIDEO 5

Mark your calendar!!

Ministry Fair October 23rd after both services, at 9:30 and 11:30.

Are you planning on coming to the ministry fair? It is going to be a time of fellowship as we celebrate our various ministries. This is an opportunity for you to see all of the different ministries that we have here at Our Savior. Maybe you're involved with one or more, maybe you aren't! This is a great time to get information and to sign up for one new thing!

- What is a ministry that you are a part of here at Our Savior? What was the driving force for you joining that ministry?
- What is a ministry that you are interested in? Is there an opportunity for that ministry at Our Savior?
- Where do you see a need at Our Savior that might be overlooked that you would like to start or be a part of?
- What concerns you or is holding you back from joining a new ministry?

A Deeper Look

Our main scripture for this week is Matthew 14:22-33. When it comes to stepping out in faith, one story tends to come to mind: Peter walking on water. As you read through this scripture, think about what Peter says, what Jesus says, and how it can relate to your life, and to stepping out onto the choppy waters of ministry.

Read Matthew 14:22-33

Thinking back to week 2, on page 8 what was the first thing that Jesus did? He went by himself to pray. He made sure that He had time to talk to His Father. We then see Jesus at dawn, walking out to the disciples as they are out on the lake.

- What were the disciples' first reactions to seeing Jesus walking on the water? Do you think you would have the same reaction?
- What is the first thing that Jesus said to his disciples?

Now that the disciples have seen Jesus and he has comforted them, the next part of the reading may not be exactly how you remember it. We tend to think that Jesus tells Peter to come out onto the water and trust him. But take a closer look at verses 27-33.

- Why does Peter ask Jesus to invite him out onto the water? What does it show about the faith of Peter by asking this?
- Jesus says one word to us as we are waffling back and forth about whether we should step out on the water, "Come." How does this correlate to stepping out in faith into a new ministry?

Peter steps out, and walks on the water out to Jesus. It is an incredible moment. We can only imagine what the other disciples are thinking! They must have been flabbergasted at this. But then all of a sudden, what does Peter do? He takes his eyes off of Jesus.

- As Peter is looking at Jesus and walking out on the water, what happens as soon as Peter looks away from Jesus and sees the wind and the waves?

- Have you ever had that moment? Has there ever been a time that you were stepping out in faith, trusting in Jesus, but then all of a sudden, the winds, and the waves came crashing around you, and you were more worried than you originally thought?
- Why is it so important to keep your eyes on Jesus? What can happen to a ministry when you start to be more worried about the waves and the storm around you rather than on Jesus?

Peter calls out to Jesus. He's terrified, he's afraid, and he's not sure what is going to happen. He calls out to Jesus and what does Jesus do? He does what Jesus does, and He reaches out and saves him. But what is Jesus' initial reaction? "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" Yikes. I'm guessing none of us ever want to have that said to us.

- Though we don't want it said to us, how often could Jesus say to us, "You of little faith?"
- Discuss how having too much confidence in yourself, or too little confidence in yourself can take your eyes off Jesus?
- What about being a part of a ministry team? How can being a part of a team help you in those instances of worry, doubt, or trusting in yourself over God?

Read 1 Samuel 23:1-5

In a quick and interesting story from David's life, we see how the Lord's plans can be so different from our own. This is to the point where we can even be terrified to do something, yet God urges us to do it for His purpose. In this reading, it is through David's courage in what God instructs him to do that the people of Keilah are saved.

- Think of a time when you or others around you were afraid to do something that you felt God was calling you to do. Did you end up doing it? Did you go a different way?
- How does knowing that God is in charge, and that He has a plan comfort us in the midst of a world filled with uncertainty, especially when it comes to living out your faith?

CONCLUSION

For our conclusion this week, let's look at Isaiah 55:10-11.

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

When we begin to worry about sharing our faith, about stepping out in faith, or about how God can use us, we need to remember these words from God. What He sends His word out to do, it will accomplish. His Word does the work! It will do exactly what He sends it out to do. May that comfort bless you as you contemplate the different ways that you can step out in faith, and Serve Christ Together with eyes on Jesus!

CLOSING PRAYER

As you end in prayer this week, take some time to take some prayer requests, and finish with our prayer for week 5 below:

Father in heaven, we thank You for making us your children and calling us to serve in Your kingdom. Show us how we may proclaim Your name and how we may speak of Your glorious majesty and wonderful works. You walk alongside us through each step of our lives. Help us to share boldly your gospel message with our neighbors. Open ways of service for us, encourage us to not sit back and wait, but grant us the courage and willingness to serve you together. Through Jesus Christ, Our Savior. AMEN.

Spiritual Growth Campaign Week 6: Next Steps

As we come to the end of our Spiritual Growth Campaign, hopefully you have been able to reflect on your gifts and find a new ministry opportunity to try out! Over the past six weeks we have looked at how we have a different S.H.A.P.E. for service to Christ and one another. We looked at how we each have time, talent, and treasure that we can use to serve Christ together. Last week, we covered that even though it can be scary to step out in faith, we know that God goes with us. This week, we focus in on those next steps that we can take to serve Christ together.

WATCH VIDEO 6

The 23rd was our ministry fair. Hopefully you were able to attend! If you were not able to attend, we had all of our different ministries at Our Savior and information available, and an opportunity to sign up. If you would like any more information on any of our ministries, check out the list on page 24, there you will find all our different ministries and the people to contact to join them or get more information.

Now that the ministry fair has come and gone, and we've come to the end of the spiritual growth campaign, let's focus on one phrase, **the one thing**. As we look at scripture this week, and as we heard through the sermon and in the video, **the one thing** is going to be a major factor moving forward.

- What is **the one thing**, or the one new thing that you are hoping to do or join because of the ministry fair and the spiritual growth campaign?
- Sometimes we try to wear too many hats. We end up juggling them around, and something comes crashing down. In order to say "yes" to one thing, we need to say "no" to another. If you're planning to add **that one thing**, what is another thing that you may need to set aside?

A Deeper Look

As we've gone through our spiritual growth campaign, and hopefully you've found **that one thing** that you want to do or join, let's take another look at the body of Christ, and where you fit in. Sometimes we can feel isolated, or maybe our part isn't as important as others. But hear this, that no matter what you are involved in, you are an important part of the body of Christ.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-20

This is one of the best sections of scripture that deals with the body of Christ. Paul looks at very distinct parts, and makes it clear that we need every part of the body to be a full and functioning body. The beauty of the comparison between the body and the body of Christ, is that we are all in the family of God. We are all in the body of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit through the waters of Baptism.

- What comfort can we take in knowing that we are all one body in Christ through the waters of baptism?
- How does the unity that we share in baptism shape the unity that we have in our congregation, in our relationships, and in our communities?

In verse 15 and following, Paul shares how important each part of the body is. He makes the analogy that if one part says it isn't part of the body, it doesn't stop being part of the body. Paul also says if the body were all one body part, what about the rest of the senses? Where would they be? Paul reminds us that God has placed the parts in the body just as He wanted them to be.

- You are an important part of the body of Christ. How have you felt uplifted by being a part of the body of Christ?
- Just as the different parts of the body cannot say, "I don't need you," so also the body of Christ cannot say, "I don't need you." Have you ever felt disconnected as a part of the body? How can these words from Paul remind you of your importance?

Read Matthew 28:16-20

Our school theme this year is "Go & Grow." It is based off of the Great Commission. The message that Jesus gave to His disciples before He ascended to take His place at the right hand of God, is a message that comes to us today. While we are to serve our church family here at Our Savior, we are also meant to serve our neighbors around us, and share the Gospel message with them. Just like last week, know that God goes with you, and find comfort in the Lord of all walking beside you in all things.

- Jesus lays out to His disciples how they are to make disciples: baptize and teach. How can you share Christ and lead others to these two disciple making activities?
- What hope and peace does the final verse of Matthew 28 give you as you share the Gospel of Christ?
- What are ways that you can serve not just Our Savior, but out in your community?

We don't have to earn our way into the body of Christ, and we don't have to earn our salvation. We are working to serve our neighbors and our community. Martin Luther once said, "God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does." And how true this is! In Isaiah 64: 6, we read, "All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away."

- If God doesn't need our good works, but our neighbor does, how does that shape the way we serve?
- Other religions put all of the work on us to be saved. Christianity is the one religion in the world that puts all the work for salvation on Christ. How does that help to share Christ?

CLOSING PRAYER

As you end in prayer this week, take some time to take some prayer requests, and finish with our prayer for week 6 below:

Father in heaven, we thank You for making us your children and calling us to serve in Your kingdom. Show us how we may proclaim Your name and how we may speak of Your glorious majesty and wonderful works. You send us out into the world to spread Your message of hope. Help us to confidently serve you and our neighbors. Open ways of service for us, encourage us to not sit back and wait, but grant us the courage and willingness to serve you together. Through Jesus Christ, Our Savior. AMEN.

Ministry Fair

**Sunday, October 23rd
after each Worship Service!**

After each service, we will process to the gym, where we will have food, fellowship, and an opportunity to see all of our ministries.

This is a great chance to sign up to volunteer or join a ministry at Our Savior!



MINISTRY LIST

Adult Choir: John Horak

Adult Handbells Choir: John Horak

Altar Guild: Lisa Moldenhauer

CityServe: Pastor Chris

Easter Egg Hunt: Paula Manning

Friendship House: Mary Lou Krause

Funeral Committee: Claudia Carter

Greeters & Welcome Center: Wendy Greve and Pastor Chris

High School Youth: Kaitlynn Mews

Instrumentalists: John Horak

Live Stream Volunteers: Pastor Chris

Living Nativity: Chris Manning

Lutherans for Life: Deb Kamm

Meals Ministry: Tina Ferris

Men of Courage: Dave Wright

Mission Middelburg: Melisa McKendry

Office Volunteers: Sue Sundstrom

OSL Food Bank: Jill Berends

Prayer Warriors: Bill Skiba

School Ministry: Matthew Couser

Small Groups: Dave Wright

Stephen Ministry: Sue Sundstrom

Ushers & Worship Assistants: Nate Wagner

Vacation Bible School: Dave Wright

Wednesday Crew: Jeremy Smelker

Women of Worth: Tina Ferris

Worship Praise Band: John Horak

For questions or more information about any of the ministries at Our Savior,
please email contact@oursaviorlansing.org