

# LEARN LIVE SHARE

Fall 2022



Our Savior Lutheran Church and School  
Quarterly Newsletter



# Conviction in a World of Confusion

By Pastor Bill Wangelin



God's Word brings us His grace, truth, and the precious promises of salvation in Jesus. Isaiah 40:8, quoted in 1 Peter 1:25, says, "the word of the Lord endures forever." This was a motto of the Lutheran Reformation. God's Word is a solid foundation on which to build our lives, especially when the world around us is chaotic, conflicted, and confused about so many things. We can hold fast to the Word of God as we reach out with the Good News of Jesus who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School is a fellowship of believers who seek to Learn, Live, and Share Christ. We pray that you will be richly blessed by participating in the faith activities of our various ministries. Our hope is that each individual and family would grow closer to the Lord and closer to each other.

Weekly worship is at the heart of our walk with Christ and is what binds us together as believers. God has good gifts for us each week in worship through His word and sacraments, and we respond with praise and thanksgiving. It is time that we dedicate to God and give to God. In addition, we get to bless our brothers and sisters in Christ with our presence, our voices, smiles, handshakes, and encouragement. Simply by attending, you are blessing others and encouraging their faith.

In this edition of Learn, Live, Share, you will see a variety of opportunities and invitations to experience the fullness of the Christian life. I am excited about our **Spiritual Growth Campaign: Serving Christ Together** and the upcoming **Ministry Fair** on October 23. We are truly blessed to be a blessing!

We pray that God would strengthen our faith, and give us a faith of conviction, rather than a faith of convenience. May our convictions and beliefs, anchored in God's Word, compel us to reach out with His love, grace, mercy, and peace to everyone He places in our path.

In joyful Service to Jesus,

Pastor Wangelin <><



## Serving Christ Together

### Spiritual Growth Campaign Fall 2022

#### Six Week Preaching & Small Group Series

*September 18:* Our S.H.A.P.E. for Service

*September 25:* Time for Service

*October 2:* Talents for Service

*October 9:* Our Treasure for Service

*October 16:* Stepping Out In Faith

*October 23:* Next Steps – Ministry Fair

For more information, check out the church lobby or  
[oursaviorlansing.org/events](https://oursaviorlansing.org/events)



# Serving Christ Together

By Pastor Chris Deneen

This fall our Spiritual Growth Campaign is called: **Serving Christ Together**. As we look at our lives, at our experiences, at the way that God has created each of us, we are all different. God made each of us with different abilities, talents, and interests. We are all made in the image of God, but we are all made different.

In 1 Corinthians 12:12, the apostle Paul writes, “There is **one body, but it has many parts**. But all its many parts make up one body. It is the same with Christ.” Later in 1 Corinthians 12:18-20, we read, “God has placed each part in the body just as he wanted it to be. If all the parts were the same, how could there be a body? As it is, there are many parts. But there is only one body.”

We are all members of the body of Christ. The beauty of the body of Christ is that there are different parts. **There are no cookie cutter Christians, and you aren’t expected to be exactly the same as others around you.** You aren’t expected to fill just any role. Each of us has been knit together by God. None of us are made the same, and that is exactly how it is meant to be!

Our Spiritual Growth Campaign will focus on how we, as the body of Christ, can serve Christ together. Throughout the 6 weeks, we are putting a focus on small group ministry, different ways that our church family can get involved here at Our Savior, and how we can through the time, talents, and treasures that God has given us, serve Christ together.

The campaign will culminate with a **ministry fair on October 23rd**, after both services. This will be a great way for us to highlight our ministries, and offer on-ramps for those who might be interested in joining a new ministry here at Our Savior.

Joining a small group, volunteering for a new ministry, and stepping out of your comfort zone can be daunting, but why not just try one new thing? What is the one new thing that you could do? What is God leading you toward, or calling you to? Where do you feel you can best serve God?

Throughout our Spiritual Growth Campaign this fall, and throughout our lives, we have opportunities to serve. But when these opportunities come up and feel intimidating, what can help make them less intimidating? Serving Together. **Serving Christ Together.**

May we be the hands and feet of our Lord Jesus to share His wonderful news of salvation for us and the entire world. I look forward to serving Christ with you!



## VBS was Monumental!

By Dave Wright, Minister of Family Life

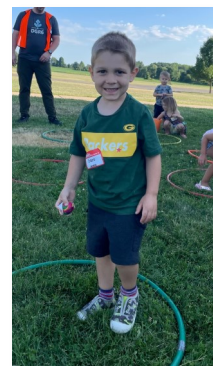
VBS! What do you think of when you hear or see those letters together? I think back to when I was a kid – running to VBS after my baseball game while still in my uniform. I think of the awesome Frisbee tag games we used to play outside. I fondly remember getting to hang out with my buddies in the middle of summer for a couple hours each night. I think about our praise team strumming their guitars and leading the singing. I



laugh when I think about how many cups of Kool-Aid we could guzzle during our snack time. I remember Bible stories coming to life as adults acted them out

and told them in animated fashion. I remember being in charge of an entire group of 7th and 8th grade students one summer during VBS about a month after I had graduated from high school – talk about being in over my head!

I also think about the terrific people at OSL that have made VBS a place where kids feel safe; a place where kids hear the gospel; a place where adults and teens put a ton of effort into making VBS a fun and positive experience for all of the kids who come. This past summer was no different. It was the first time we



did a “normal” VBS format in 3 years. It was fantastic! Over 60 kids throughout the week came to be fed with the bread of life in unique and creative ways – whether it was through imagination station crafts, outside games, Bible stories acted out by characters in full costume, opening and closing songs and praise time, Pastor Chris getting people fired up each night, or just the time with volunteer “trail guides” leading kids from one station to the next each night.

Over 30 volunteers helped make this all happen! We started each night with dinner together and finished each night singing our theme song – Monumental Love! VBS has been and will continue to be great memories and experiences for me, great opportunities for kids to hear about the love of Jesus, and a chance for people of all ages to come together and join Jesus in ministry. I hope and pray it is for you too!

Can’t wait until next year!



## Getting to Know You: Holly Kasper, LSEM Teacher

Holly Kasper joins Our Savior as a Lutheran Special Education Ministries Teacher.

### 1. Where did you grow up?

Rockford, Illinois

### 2. What are your favorite hobbies?

Reading, gardening, shopping, exploring Michigan and going on adventures with my husband and four children.

### 3. What is your favorite bible verse?

"Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near." Philippians 4:5 This verse reminds me to show God's love and gentleness to His people and that He is always with me, near me, even in the hardest days.

### 4. What is your favorite food?

Tacos!

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

I have always had a passion for education and teaching, but I thought I would teach in public education. However, that was not God's plan for me! God gently led me to Lutheran school ministry 16 years ago and continues to guide me toward His plans for me to further His kingdom through a career in school ministry. There is nowhere else I would rather be!

### 6. One fun fact about you:

I speak Spanish!



## Getting to Know You: Abbey Becker, Early Childhood Teacher

Abbey Becker joins Our Savior as an Early Childhood Teacher.

### 1. Where did you grow up?

Holt, MI

### 2. What are your favorite hobbies?

Reading, baking, playing board games and video games, musical theater, and spending time with my friends and family.

### 3. What is your favorite bible verse?

Isaiah 35:3-4: Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." This was my confirmation verse. It reminds me that even when I am feeling lost or anxious, I can cling to the hope that God gave us all when he sent Jesus to die for our sins.

### 4. What is your favorite food?

Grilled cheese!

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

I went to OSL for K-8th grade and loved the experience of getting to strengthen my faith every day in many different ways. I am excited to help provide that experience for some of the youngest students at OSL.

### 6. One fun fact about you:

OSL's technology manager Mike Bowyer and I are getting married in November!



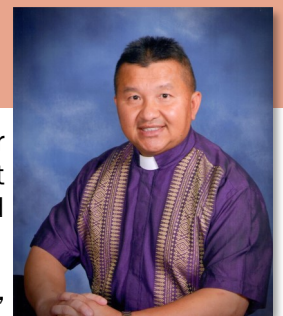
## Hmong Ministry Update: Rev. Dr. Lang Yang

On August 28th, we had the privilege to "re-install" Pastor Lang Yang as associate pastor of Our Savior. Pastor Yang has served as our Hmong Ministry pastor since 2004. This was a great occasion to give thanks to God for over 40 years of Hmong Ministry in our congregation and celebrate God's work through Pastor Yang.

Rev. Dr. Lang Yang was born in Xiengkhouang, Laos. He came to the United States in 1979, when he was 11 years old. Pastor Yang has earned many degrees including Juris Doctor Degree in Law (J.D.), Doctor of Ministry Degree (D. Min), Master of Divinity Chaplaincy (M. Div), Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice, an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Criminal Justice, and Associate Arts Degree in General Education. Pastor Yang graduated on October 22, 2008, from Concordia Seminary St. Louis and has served the North America Hmong Ministry as President Hmong Mission Society since 2012.



He also helps with the mission work in Thailand through the Hmong International Mission by teaching pastoral candidates, students, Hmong Ministry leaders, and outreach to the Hmong people. Dr. Yang is the first Hmong in the world appointed as an Officer to serve as Chaplain (1LT) with the United States Army Reserve.



The Our Savior Hmong congregation meets for Bible study on Sundays at 9:15am with worship following at 10:30am.

# Hymn Festival: From the Organist

By Kevin Hildebrand, Kantor, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana



I look forward to being with you on November 13 to share in your hymn festival. I am delighted to be able to make music with all of you, and am grateful to my friend John Horak for the invitation to lead this hymn festival. John and I served sister congregations in the metro Detroit area 25 years ago, and as a native Michigander (I grew up in southwest Michigan), I'm always glad to be back in my home state.

One of the many things we learned from the COVID restrictions is how vital it is for people to be with each other, especially when we gather together in God's house. There are many things that can be done virtually, and we all learned more than we ever anticipated about video on our computers! But it's really impossible to sing together on a Zoom call.

I hope you missed this part of our life together in the church when we were unable to easily do that a couple years ago. And now that we can gather and sing together once again, it's not just because it's enjoyable (which it is)...but it's even more significant than that. When the church sings, she sings God's truth and light in a world that needs to hear it. We sing what our faith is, and that singing forms us and our faith. We sing who God is and what He has done and what he continues to do for us in Christ. We sing about who we are and how God forgives, uplifts, and restores us. When we are called to witness to the world, this hymn festival is one way in which we do exactly that.

In addition to the singing of the congregation, I look forward to working with the talented choir, handbell choir, and other instrumentalists. These musical settings help highlight the text of each stanza of the hymn as the hymn tells a particular story about Christ and about the faith. One of my teachers told me that a hymn is like a painting that you admire that hangs in an art gallery. Sure, it's beautiful and there's things you really enjoy when you look at it. But then a guide or art teacher points out some other details about the painting that you never noticed before, and then the art takes on an even more meaningful significance. That's a bit of how we'll treat the hymns at the hymn festival, when the musical forces help point out, underscore, or highlight different things about the text and/or the music.



The hymns are a good variety of old and new: texts and tunes centuries old, and others that are just a few years old. From the hundreds or thousands of hymns that we could choose to sing, Mr. Horak and I have designed a program that contains about a dozen hymns which span the Christian Church year. The Christian Church year ends in the last few weeks of November, before the new Church year begins with Advent. So this will be an ideal time to review the life of Christ and the life of the Church that we rehearse every year in the Church calendar. We'll sing about Gabriel's announcement to Mary about Jesus' birth, then hear a familiar Christmas carol. We'll sing about the fall into sin and mankind's need for a Savior, as well as singing about Jesus' Easter victory over sin, death, and the devil. As we look to the end of the church year, we'll sing about Christ's return, and how we praise the Lord by proclaiming his word.

## A Hymn Festival

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13  
4PM

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

### Our Savior Music News

#### You Are Invited to Join the Adult Choir

All who are high school age and older are invited to join the Adult Choir as we lead worship and sing praises to God. Rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm in the Music Room. Our first rehearsal will be on Tuesday, September 6.

#### Experienced Ringer Needed for the Adult Handbell Choir

If you have experience ringing handbells, we would love to have you join us. Rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary, beginning on Tuesday, September 6

*If you have any questions or are interested in singing or ringing, please talk to John Horak (517)882-8665 ext. 107 or e-mail him at [jhorak@oursaviorlansing.org](mailto:jhorak@oursaviorlansing.org).*



## Team with OSL Students for Fall Food Bank Collection

During the first trimester of this school year, our school chapel offering will be going to the OSL Food Bank. In addition to student monetary offerings, each class will be collecting non-food items which are listed below. We understand from the food bank directors the need for these specific items as we care and love on people in the Lansing community.

Please join the students and staff in bringing in these items making it a team effort by OSL. Boxes will be placed in the church lobby marked with the grade level and item. When you go shopping or shop online consider adding the non-food items to your list.

*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

~ Ephesians 2:10

Blessed to be a blessing to others, this is a wonderful opportunity to work together and help out our neighbor. If you have any questions, please contact John Horak or email him at [jhorak@oursaviorlansing.org](mailto:jhorak@oursaviorlansing.org).



Early Childhood	Trash Bags (13 gallon size)	Fifth Grade	Toilet Paper
Kindergarten	Kleenex	Sixth Grade	Toothpaste and Toothbrushes
First Grade	Hand Soap	Seventh Grade	Bar Soap or Body Wash
Second Grade	Dish Soap	Eighth Grade	Deodorant/Disposable Shavers
Third Grade	Shampoo	Church/School Staff	Laundry Soap
Fourth Grade	Paper Towels		

## A New School Year Begins!



**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.**

**And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."**

Matthew 28:19-20

**Our Savior Lutheran School**  
2022-23 Theme





# FALL BIBLE STUDIES

## GOSPEL OF MARK

Wednesday Morning Bible Study beginning September 7  
10:30am in the Bickel room

## SERVING CHRIST TOGETHER

Spiritual Growth Campaign beginning September 18  
Sign up for a 6 week small group study at [oursaviorlansing.org](http://oursaviorlansing.org)

## FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP NIGHTS

Bible Study nights beginning September 21  
6:15pm devotion in the Sanctuary  
Bible studies available following devotion:  
Discover Our Savior Class  
Lutheran & Catholic Bible Study  
PSI Confirmation Class

## THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

Tapestry Bible Study beginning September 30  
10:00am in the Bickel room each Friday

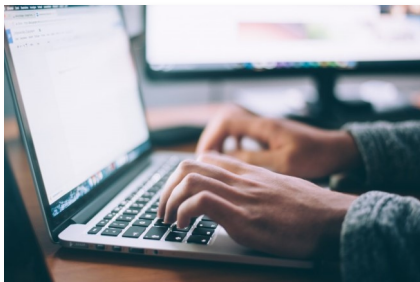
[OURSAVIORLANSING.ORG](http://OURSAVIORLANSING.ORG)

### *Tech Corner: "Phishing" Emails*

In this age of technology, Our Savior is not immune from "phishing" emails. "Phishing" is the attempt to acquire confidential information, often for malicious reasons, by impersonating a trustworthy individual in an email message. The emails often appear harmless since they look like they are being sent from Our Savior's email domain.

If you receive an email from someone on staff at Our Savior and they are asking for money, for you to click on a link, or anything that seems out of place, please look at the email address and make sure it is from an [@oursaviorlansing.org](mailto:@oursaviorlansing.org) address. Our Savior staff will not ask for money or gift cards electronically without proper verification. When in doubt, give us a call at 517-882-8665 to verify.

Technology is such a blessing in so many ways and we want to continue to use it to share God's word and grace with others. We pray for discernment as we all navigate through the many messages that we receive.



## Thanksgiving Baskets

*Our Savior Lutheran Church & School is reaching out to families for Thanksgiving.*

*Donations for a whole dinner (approx. \$25) or the following items will be accepted in the church lobby October 9 through November 16*

<i>Boxed Mashed Potatoes</i>	<i>Boxes of Jell-O</i>
<i>Boxed Stuffing</i>	<i>Cake Mix</i>
<i>Cans of Corn</i>	<i>Frosting</i>
<i>Cans of Green Beans</i>	
<i>Monetary Donations to purchase Turkeys,</i>	
<i>Gallons of Milk, Rolls, and Margarine</i>	

# FALL EVENTS CALENDAR

## SEPTEMBER

- 2-5 Labor Day Weekend-Offices Closed
- 7 Wednesday Bible Study Begins
- 18 Egg Roll Sunday - Provided by Hmong Ministry
- 21 Faith & Fellowship Nights Begins
- 25 Congregation Meeting
- 30 Tapestry Bible Study Begins

## OCTOBER

- 14-16 Confirmation Retreat
- 23 Ministry Fair
- 30 Reformation & Confirmation Sunday

## NOVEMBER

- 13 New Member Sunday  
Hymn Festival
- 20 Family Service Sunday
- 23 Thanksgiving Eve Worship

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

7910 E. St. Joe Hwy., Lansing, MI 48917 ● 517-882-8665 ● [OurSaviorLansing.org](http://OurSaviorLansing.org)



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