

LEARN LIVE SHARE

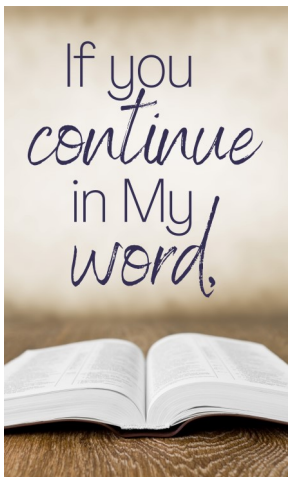
Spring 2023



Our Savior Lutheran Church and School
Quarterly Newsletter

To be continued...

Jesus said, "If you continue in My word, you are truly My disciples." (John 8:31 RSV) Perhaps you noticed the banners in our chancel with this verse. Jesus intends for His disciples to continually be reading, studying, and discussing His word so that it can shape us as His disciples. It is meant to be an ongoing practice, not a 'one and done' event. Maybe you picked up the Bible Reading plan and



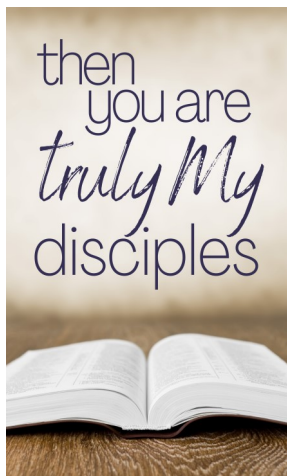
got through Genesis and Exodus. Maybe you read the Gospel of Matthew, or skimmed the red letters of Jesus' words. When Michigan District President Dave Davis encouraged OSL in our Bible reading emphasis, he said, "Don't stop starting." If you stopped reading your Bible for a while, start again! We continue in the word by starting again, over and over. God always has more to say to us.

We hear the word in worship. We sing it too. We discuss the word in small groups. We teach it in Christian Studies and Confirmation classes. We dramatize it in Living Nativity and Easter Egg Hunt. We quote it in our communications. We let ourselves be shaped by the Word of God as He continues to form us as His disciples so that we can reflect the Good News of Jesus to the world.

In the seasons of Lent and Easter, we especially focus in on the words of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, and the power in the message of the cross and empty tomb. This is a great season to invite others to come and hear the word!

Let's continue in the word. God has a lot to say to us, and we have a lot to learn. In this word, we hear the voice of Jesus who forgives us, comforts us, and restores us. "All Scripture is God-breathed, and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the child of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16.

In Joyful Service to Jesus,
Pastor Wangelin <><



Introducing – the Connect Service

By: Pastor Chris Deneen

At the end of our 10:30am service, we invite children to come up by our praise band, and play instruments, throw streamers in the air, make a joyful noise to the Lord, and move and groove. For me, it is one of my favorite parts of our 10:30 service.

Now what if we had an entire service like that?

This Spring, we are launching a new worship opportunity called, "Connect." It will take place in the School Commons, starting at 10:30ish, running at the same time as our 10:30 worship service in the sanctuary. We are planning three pilot services this spring. Our three services will be on April 16th, May 7th, and June 4th. After those three services, we will evaluate the response and see how often we will run this service starting in September 2023.

Our vision for the Connect service is: To provide young families, and others, with an informal, interactive and connecting worship experience.

This service, held in the School Commons, will be designed for young families, and involve various areas for participation for all ages. This service will have a balance of celebration, reverence, and a relaxed worship where families can worship and receive Word and Sacrament in a meaningful and powerful way.

Here at Our Savior, we love having children in all our worship services. We won't stop the instruments at the end of the 10:30 service in the sanctuary, and we won't make all children go to the School Commons during worship. This new Connect service will be a new and different worship opportunity. While it may be geared toward a young family demographic, that does not mean it is only for young families.

We and other churches have noticed that following the pandemic, young families have had the hardest time returning to worship. Whether it is because of health concerns, parents unsure of how children will act in a large group, or whatever it may be, we want to help young families have an opportunity to have meaningful worship together. We also have a great mission opportunity with the young families connected to our Early Childhood and Summer Camp programs. Is there a young family you could invite to connect with God and fellow Christians in this service?

Any and all ages are welcome to Connect with us this spring!



Jesus Loves Me - by 6th Grade

By: John Horak, Minister of Music

One project we have worked on in 6th grade Christian Studies class, is writing new verses for the hymn "Jesus Loves Me" which we know so well. The verses are based on one of the New Testament events in the life of Jesus. Each verse has to have seven syllables in each line and have the first / second and third / fourth lines end in a rhyme. For a devotion, read the event from the Gospels, sing the verse and close with a prayer. We hope that these verses from the sixth graders are a blessing to you.

The Birth of Jesus

Jesus in a stable born
With the animals forlorn
Jesus laying on the hay
Came to Bethlehem that day

The Wise Men and Flight to Egypt

Jesus was on earth a child
Father Joseph Mary mild
To give gifts the wise men sped
By the star the magi led

The Wise Men and Flight to Egypt

Up to Bethlehem they go
Give the King gifts as He grows
Herod kills those in the land
But they leave for Egypt's sand

The Child Jesus in the Temple

Child Jesus came from straw
Wowed the teachers of the law
Temple in Jerusalem
Parents worried without Him

The Baptism of Jesus

Jesus to the Jordan came
Baptized like us just the same
Holy Spirit as a dove
This My Son yes whom I love

The Temptation of Jesus

Jesus wandered in the sand
Stones to bread just raise Your hand
Up a mountain He was led
Then the tempter really fled

Jesus tested by Satan
This was his first temptation
Jesus said don't test the Word
This is what the devil heard

The Wedding at Cana

To a wedding Jesus went
All the wine was gone they sent
He said it was not His time
Water then He turned to wine

Jesus and the Samaritans

Jesus went to Jacob's town
There he met a woman's frown
Jesus told her of God's grace
Then she got the Lord's embrace

The Healing of the Man at Bethesda

Sick man helpless it's no fun
Then in came the Holy One
Healed the pool called Bethesda
Walked home singing Gloria

Peter's Catch of Fish

Peter Andrew fish at night
But there were no fish in sight
Jesus told them cast the net
Caught the most that they had yet

Jesus Stills the Storm

Jesus on the boat did lay
On the sea in water's bay
Twelve men thought that they
would die
Jesus saved the day don't cry

The Young Man of Nain

Jesus came the town of Nain
There a widow was in pain
Here a dead boy carried out
He was raised without a doubt

The Healing of the Leper

Jesus down a mountain came
There a leper was ashamed
Then He cleansed the leper's skin
Tell the priest and then your kin

The Healing of the Centurion's

Servant
Jesus came to heal the man
Roman soldier had a plan
Jesus found a faith so strong
Then He healed him before long

The Feeding of the Five Thousand

People followed Jesus led
Little boy had fish and bread
Jesus broke and blessed the meal
They're amazed that this was real

The Feeding of the Five Thousand

Little boy he had some bread
Jesus blessed it overhead
After Jesus blessed the fish
Full were people from the dish

Jesus Walks on the Sea of Galilee

Jesus walked on water done
'Cause He was the Father's Son
Peter tried to walk on it
He was saved became more fit

Christ's Transfiguration

Jesus climbed a mountain tall
Took disciples but not all
Jesus shone bright as the sun
Showed He was the Holy One

Christ's Transfiguration

Jesus went up to the high hill
Brought disciples with Him still
Moses 'Lijah they appeared
Jesus shone disciples feared

The Raising of Lazarus

Lazarus was a good friend
That was 'til he met his end
Jesus raised him from the grave
That tells us He came to save

The Raising of Lazarus

Jesus to Judea came
No one calls upon His name
Lazarus had passed away
Jesus rolled the stone away

A Man's Sight Is Restored

Jesus went to Jericho
There he saw a blind man go
Begging Jesus mercy me
Jesus healed him he can see

Zacchaeus Is Helped by Jesus

Jesus to the town He came
Here Zacchaeus felt such shame
So he climbed up in a tree
Jesus saved him just like me

JESUS
 **ME**

Spring Blessings

By: Windy Carroll, Early Childhood Director



Even though we recently experienced some significant snowfall, we are also beginning to observe some early signs of spring! The children in the Early Childhood classrooms are enjoying their time outside in the natural elements and are immersed in learning through play in our outdoor classroom. They are watching and waiting, looking forward to spotting those first sprouts of new plant life and are enjoying the return of many birds to our birdhouses and outdoor space. What joy and wonder they express as they create, explore, plan, and play in God's classroom!

This time of year, as Valentine's Day approaches, our Early Childhood classes are hard at work indoors as well – creating Valentines cards and art for each other and for loved ones. Our art centers are full of interesting items like stickers, ribbons, gems, and colorful paper to inspire children's creations. As we celebrate our friendships and families during these



days and share tokens of our love for one another through art, classes also learn about Jesus' love for us and how He shows us His love every day. Children participate in Bible stories, "Praise Thursday" (worship through song and dance), and in our Early Childhood Chapel with our First Grade chapel buddies each week and it is such a blessing to our staff to be a part of the formation of faith in our youngest students.

Springtime also brings with it the excitement of re-enrollment season here at school. And, to that end, we are delighted to see many of our current families re-enrolling for Panther Camp, Early Childhood classes, and/or enrolling in OSL's Kindergarten class for the fall. Praise be to

God for His continued blessings on our school.

We look forward to another year of incredible ministry with classrooms full of children with whom we get to share the love of Jesus.



Lutherans for Life

by Deb Kamm

The little boy walked up to our Lutherans for Life display on Life Sunday. What he did next touched our hearts and I'm guessing it will touch yours, too. He picked up the tiny 10-week fetal model and kissed it. He then proceeded to kiss each of the developmental models, ranging from 12 - 26 weeks gestation. Talk about little children and their special place in God's Kingdom!

So, what is Lutherans For Life? LFL applies the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to sanctity of life issues, making Jesus known as the Son of God and Savior of all who can help and make a difference in people's lives. LFL educates on surprise pregnancy, fetal development, adoption, abortion recovery, doubting salvation, sexuality, bioethics, physician-assisted suicide, creation, fatherhood, family living and more. We offer counsel to moms in crisis and to those who have experienced abortion. LFL also serves youth through its Y4Life program! Building awareness is key, as is support for moms and babies – "Love them Both" - through our local pregnancy resource centers and through our congregation.



Nearly twenty people attended a recent informational meeting, and Life Sunday involved many of the new volunteers. Plans are underway for a congregation-wide project to support our local Shared Pregnancy Women's Center this coming spring. Watch for more information as the date gets closer.

The next OSL Life Team meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 11 at 6:30 pm in the Board room. All are welcome to attend. If you have questions, you may contact Deb Kamm at d.kamm@comcast.net or 517-927-3076.

Memories from a Lutheran Basketball Tournament Experience

By: Mr. Matthew Couser, principal and basketball coach

In January our 7th and 8th grade boys basketball players traveled to Frankenmuth, Michigan to play in a Lutheran School Basketball Tournament. This event is an annual tournament and historically, Our Savior has participated dating back to the OSL basketball era of Coach Don Engler, Coach Chuck Walter, Coach Joel Walter and other past OSL coaches. This is always a fun get-away weekend for OSL families to experience multiple games over a Saturday and Sunday tournament. Players and families bond with meals, shopping, and pool time at the hotel. Sunday morning provides an opportunity to worship at St. Lorenz Lutheran Church. Both St. Lorenz School and Church are hospitable to all 14 participating teams and schools. At the opening tournament game, there is a definite Lutheran vibe felt with a call for Christian sportsmanship and reminder to the participants of the importance of Christian witness. Then the ball is tipped and the competition permeates as players strive to give their best while giving the glory to God.



For many years I have coached at Our Savior and this tournament is often bittersweet as it also means the conclusion to our basketball season. We started basketball practice in late October after cross country season and conclude our regular season in December. It's a season journey filled with 11 games and 20 practices. Prayer is part of our practice and game routine. There highs and lows that provide opportunities for growth and the sharing of wisdom about life priorities, working through slumps, injuries, and developing team chemistry while sharing school pride. I can't remember our win-loss records other than the current year. Through the years I do recall special memories that live on with players and alumni and parents. This past tournament produced another one of those memories.



Our Savior is blessed by a wonderful school faculty that leads, teaches, counsels, and loves on students. This was on display at our tournament as three teachers chose to spend their full Saturday driving to Frankenmuth and cheering on the boys team for three games (Thank you Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. Conway, & Miss Mews). They definitely brought their enthusiasm too. In fact, they took after-school time to make O-S-L signs that brought good cheer and excitement to the large contingent of Our Savior spectators.



Throughout each game teachers and later, player siblings, would lead cheers of encouragement. In our final game during a 4th quarter comeback, our team was huddled during a timeout. As I attempted to share points of emphasis to the team, we could overhear the "O-S-L" chant. I paused in the timeout and looked at the faces of the boys. They were in amazement at how loud and awesome the chant was. At that moment I told the boys how special this moment was. I still get chills sharing this experience. What a Godsighting of encouragement and joy. Our Savior is an amazing place as there are countless moments like this every school year. To God be thanks and praise!

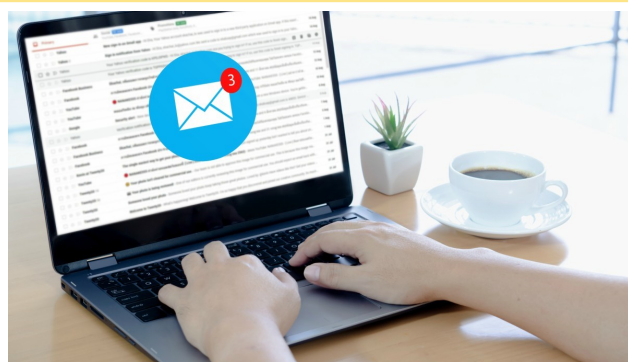
National Lutheran Schools Week gave us double vision



Tech Corner: Email Updates

We are finding that our congregation wide emails are ending up in the spam/junk folder of many people's email accounts. If you had already signed up for our weekly emails and have found that you are not receiving them, please check your spam/junk folder and add our email address to your contacts or mark our email safe and add us to your contacts so that future emails arrive in your inbox. Please make sure that you don't unsubscribe unless you do not want to receive any emails in the future. If you have any questions, please contact bgrocki@oursaviorlansing.org.

Additionally, several times a year, scammers try to impersonate OSL staff with fake emails to solicit money or gift cards from unsuspecting members. Recently, another batch of scam emails went out from what appeared to be Pastor Wangelin's email address asking about Amazon gift cards. If you receive an email like that, please disregard the email and say a prayer for the scammers, that God would thwart their plans, protect the vulnerable, and change hearts and lives. Our Savior Staff will never ask for money or gift cards via email. Always verify with them in person or on the phone. We are thankful for our technology manager Mike Bowyer for keeping our systems secure, and the assistance of other members who are knowledgeable about cyber security.



Family Life Ministry at Our Savior

By Dave Wright, Minister of Family Life

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in all. Ephesians 4:4-6

It is amazing how many ministry opportunities I have the privilege of being a part of at OSL. From pre-marriage conversations to children's VBS, confirmation instruction, men's ministry, church special events, small groups, Lenten fellowship dinners, and family milestone classes – all of these bring many different people from a variety of life stages, outlooks, and experiences. But the things that draw us all together in these seemingly unconnected areas of ministry are what the apostle Paul mentions in Ephesians, “...one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all...”

So actually these various ministries are ALL closely connected. All of them give opportunities, resources, and instruction that point directly to the one true God and the one true faith that we all share through the waters of the one true baptism. We are well into 2023. What areas of family life ministry is God calling you to this year? Could it be as a trail guide leader taking kids from one station to the next during VBS week? Could it be being an active part of Family Service Sunday? Could it be coming to Lenten dinners and worship for conversation and fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ? Could it be as a part of a team planning the next men's or women's ministry opportunity? The opportunities to be united in our one true faith are plentiful.

Though we are all unique in our interests, strengths, and abilities, we all are sanctified by the same Holy Spirit. The areas of family life ministry at OSL give opportunities for Christians to be sanctified through fun, impactful, and, important avenues of participation. Paul also writes in 1 Corinthians 12:4-6, “**There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.**”



Men of Courage Advent by Bonfire



Family Service Sunday



Vacation Bible School



First Bible Milestone

RED LETTER CHALLENGE



Sunday, February 26: 8:30am & 10:30am – "Being"

Sunday, March 5: 8:30am & 10:30am (Communion) – "Forgiving"

Sunday, March 12: 8:30am & 10:30am – "Serving"

Sunday, March 19: 8:30am & 10:30am (Communion) – "Giving"

Sunday, March 26: 8:30am & 10:30am – "Going"

In-person & Online

Live Stream: oursaviorlansing.org/livestream



OUR SAVIOR SPRING CONCERT SERIES

Saturday, March 11 – 7 pm

Mason Symphony Orchestra
Concert

Thursday, April 20 – 7:30 pm

Grand Ledge High School
Masterworks Concert

Sunday, May 7 – 3 pm

Delta Community Choir Concert

Saturday, May 13 – 7 pm

Mason Symphony Orchestra
Concert

Sunday, May 14 – 3 pm

Timothy Nechuta Organ Recital

Thursday, May 18 – 7 pm

Our Savior Spring Instrumental
Concert

Sunday, May 21 – 3 pm

Sam Shuler Organ Recital

Thursday, May 25 – 7 pm

John Horak Organ Recital

All concerts are free & everyone is welcome

Lenten Services & Events

Ash Wednesday

Return to the Lord
February 22 - 7:00pm
Imposition of Ashes

Lenten Midweek Meals

Weekly Meal and Fellowship
Wednesdays - 5:30- 6:45pm
February 22 - March 29

Lenten Midweek Worship

Red Letter Challenge
Wednesdays - 7:00pm
March 1 - March 29

Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 2 - 8:30am & 10:30am

Maundy Thursday

April 6 - 7:00pm (Communion)

Good Friday

April 7 - 12:00 & 7:00pm
The Crucifixion, Death and
Burial of Jesus

Easter Egg Hunt

April 8 - 9:30 - 10:30am

Easter Sunday

April 9 - 8:30 & 10:30am (Communion)

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

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