

LEARN LIVE SHARE

Summer 2023



Our Savior Lutheran Church and School
Quarterly Newsletter

Pave the Way!

By: Pastor Bill Wangelin



Sometimes we take for granted the things we use every day. A parking lot is one of them. The parking lot is the first step of hospitality for people who come to all the services, activities and events that we have in our church and school throughout the year. We are so thankful for the generous gifts and God's provision that

allowed us to have 80% of the total cost to completely rebuild the substructure of our parking lot and "do it right." We still need to raise a significant portion of the project, and are thankful for the over-and-above gifts to the parking lot fund. Generosity is blooming at Our Savior (see page 4 for the generosity tree God-sighting). The project should be completed before school starts in August.



The heart of our ministry is not a facility, a piece of property, or a parking lot. It is helping people to Learn, Live, and Share Christ. We want our parking lot and facility to reflect the spirit of hospitality and welcome of our congregation, and to glorify God. We have seen great increases in enrollment in our K8 school and early childhood programs. In-person worship is steadily increasing. Let's pray for the Holy Spirit to pave the way for new individuals to experience the Christian life with us.

The reason our parking lot is being rebuilt is because it



needs a stronger foundation. Think of Jesus' words about the house built on sand and the house built on the rock (Matthew 7:24-27). What is our true foundation? The Word of God is the solid rock on which we build our lives, our church, and our school.

When we build our lives on Jesus and His word, we can withstand the storms, winters, and snow plows of life. In this edition of Learn, Live, Share, you will see the ways we are helping families build a solid foundation on Christ.

We don't want to take for granted the blessings we have in our Savior, Jesus. We want to cherish them, hold fast to Him, and share the Good News with others. Our world needs Jesus! May the Holy Spirit help us pave the way to invite and welcome more and more families to Learn, Live, and Share Christ this summer and the years to come!

In Joyful Service to Jesus,

Pastor Wangelin <><

Connections Abound!

By: Pastor Chris Deneen



As we look toward the summer, and summer vacations, and time spent on vacation, and doing things all over, the connections that have been made, are being made, and will be made, still abound in our Lord and Savior Jesus.

Our Connect Service has run its pilot services, and what an experience. We are

excited to reassess over the summer, and see how often that will run in the fall. Whether new worshippers, those without a church home, or those who are working their way back to worship from COVID, the Connect service gives a relaxed, informal opportunity to worship our God and our King, and get up and move around! We've learned, we've grown, and we are excited to see where Connect can go to help fill a need for our community and church families.



Lansing CityServe continues to grow and be an amazing opportunity to connect and serve our community. This year

we've partnered with a few more area churches, to expand our reach, and be able to serve more of the Greater Lansing area. I'll never forget one of the connections from CityServe 2022. We were wrapping up a site, and I was talking with the homeowner. He was so thankful for what we did, we prayed with and for him, he prayed for and with us, and as tears were shed, we said our goodbyes. CityServe continues to be a fantastic way to share God's love with those around our area, and is helping lead us to knew ministry opportunities.

At our Men's Retreat this past winter, we had Pastor Tyler Cronkright from Family of God Lutheran Church as our speaker. As we think of more ways that we can serve our community, we are planning a mission opportunity with that church. They serve a meal to their Detroit community every evening, and we are able to connect with them to help serve a meal there in August. We will get a team together, and share the love of Christ with those people there, and see what insights we can gather to better serve the Lansing community here around us.



Connections and relationships are one of the best ways that we can share our Lord and Savior Jesus with all those around us. Those connections that we are making today, those connections that you are making through Christian community, those are the connections that can change not only lives here and now, but into eternity.

Embracing the Busy-ness of Spring

By: Windy Carroll, Early Childhood Director



Spring seems to bring with it a frenzy of activities. It is very easy to lose ourselves in the flurry of busy-ness that comes with the multiple events and transitioning between the school year and summer. But, throughout this busy season, it is so important to find moments of calm in which to quiet our minds, relax our bodies, re-focus, re-prioritize, pray, and center ourselves.

Here at Our Savior in the Early Childhood Program, we have certainly had a hectic but joyful Spring season so far. In late April, the Early Childhood staff attended the Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference in Grand Rapids over the course of three days, giving us the opportunity to learn with and



from other early childhood professionals, spend quality time reflecting as a team, and socializing together. Then, we hosted a Spring Family Service Project in which staff, children, and families worked together to repair, clean up, and make updates to our Outdoor Classroom, which was a wonderful blessing to our program.

In the coming weeks, we look forward to rounding out the school year with our "I Love You" Tea event, Early Childhood Portfolio Night, and a new event this year – an incoming families play date event! We are excited to celebrate these events and the culmination of the school year with our students and families, encouraging our peers and families to slow down and truly enjoy the blessings of Spring. We thank God for the opportunity He's given us to teach the young children in our programs and look forward with gratitude to the impending summer season.



To that end, planning for the upcoming Panther Camp season is in full swing! There are currently over 150 campers registered and we are still seeing daily enrollments. New registrations will continue to be accepted until we are at capacity.

We pray for God's continued blessings over all our ministries, events, staff, students, and families and hope that each person and family find times to unwind, decompress, spend time together, and give thanks to the Lord this Spring. Enjoy the beautiful weather and all of God's creation as we experience the busy-ness of the season.

For more information about Panther Camp, please go to www.oursaviorlansing.org/summer-day-camp

Oktoberfest

by Dave Wright, Minister of Family Life

Our Savior Lutheran Church has had the privilege of hosting community events on the west side of Lansing for several years now. From Living Nativity to the Easter Egg Hunt to the Resolution 5k run to community concerts. This year we are incredibly excited to host **OSL Oktoberfest on Saturday, September 30, from 3pm-7pm**. Join us for some great food, fun, and fellowship under the big tent. Do you want to be a part of the planning and set up? Do you want to help prep food? Or would you just like to come and sip a beer, dance, and listen to a polka band? There is something for people of all ages – kids and family activities and games, bounce house, pumpkin decorating, face painting, awesome German food, hot dogs, desserts, beverages for adults and kids, great music, and all the fun of Oktoberfest!

You can even purchase your own boot beer stein and decorate it to serve as a centerpiece for one of the tables.

For more information about this exciting event go to: oursaviorlansing.org/Oktoberfest

OKTOBERFEST

GERMAN FAMILY FESTIVAL



SEPTEMBER 30, 2023
3-7 PM

FOOD - DRINKS - MUSIC
FAMILY ACTIVITIES

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
OURSAVIORLANSING.ORG/OKTOBERFEST

Spring at School!



Students leading chapel through message and song



Middle School Spring Dance



Early Childhood I Love You Tea



Regional Track Meet



2nd Grade Duck Hatchling

Generosity is blooming at OSU



July 2022 – May 2023

The Generosity represented here is over and above the offerings given to Our Savior, and the immeasurable amount of time, talents, and unseen gestures of generosity given in grateful response to the Lord's gracious work in our lives.

Belonging

By: Sarah Felsing

Sarah graciously agreed to speak at the Annual Auction in March. Here are excerpts of her speech.

"When I was asked to speak tonight, I didn't hesitate for even a second. I have been writing this speech in my head for years. Not necessarily with the expectation that I would ever give it to a roomful of people, but because there have been so many moments in our time at OSL that I have consciously stopped and thought about how lucky we are to be part of this wonderful school. Over the years, all of my gratitude has been piling up as thoughts in my head, so I simply had to take all of those thoughts and turn them into words on a page.



In short, this is a story about belonging. After my husband Reid and I got married, we moved about a mile from here. I always expected to enroll my children in Grand Ledge schools, but as we looked for preschools, we realized OSL would be a much closer and convenient option for us. So we decided we would enroll our oldest son Luke in 3-year-old preschool, and then transfer to Grand Ledge once we got to Kindergarten.

What we didn't know is that the OSL preschool is a big trap!!! Once you start attending here, it's impossible to leave.

As we looked towards Kindergarten and with our youngest, Max, entering preschool, we figured, let's just do one more year at OSL.

What we didn't know is that Mrs. Seling and Mrs. Wagner have magical powers that make you and your children fall madly in love with them and you never want to leave. So we threw up our hands and resigned to the fact that we're never leaving.

There are no words to express our gratitude to the OSL group of educators who do such extremely DIFFICULT but important work. To every teacher and

staff member, I want to say thank you. Thank you for teaching our children. Thank you for loving our children. Thank you for always doing what's best for our children. Thank you for praying over our children and helping them grow in their faith.

From the time they were in preschool, our boys' faith has been our biggest motivation for growing in our own faith as parents. We did a lot of church hopping but never found a church that felt like home. So once we started preschool here, we decided to start attending church here as well.

I vividly remember parking in the visitor parking spot and coming in with our two small kids, usually late, feeling really out of place. At some point, we started being able to say hello to the families around us and call them

by name and we started leaving the visitor spot open for people who might be newer than us.

Reid and I have no family in town and I couldn't help but feel like we were completely alone for many years. I remember telling him that if I died the next day, I didn't think there would be one person who would stop by with a casserole. As a mom, I desperately wanted to feel a sense of belonging, not just for me, but for my whole family.

As a new mom, I also feared what would happen to my kids if I died. I reminded myself that God has called us to live in freedom, but fear lurked around every corner. Ultimately, my answer to where I would find my freedom and sense of belonging was sitting at my dinner table, playing with toys, and laying down on my shoulder at night. It was my children who pointed me right to the one who would set me free from

fear and give me and my family the sense of belonging I so desperately wanted. In their own little way, my children pointed me straight to Jesus.

Recently, I traveled out of town and Reid took my place as coach of the Pee Wee basketball team for a night. While demonstrating a layup, he tore his tendon and had to be transported to Sparrow Hospital. In this moment of great need, the woman who at one time had no friends, had countless people step in to help her family. Friends offered rides, dropped off food, took care of her children, and offered prayers and encouragement. Her family, who at one time had nowhere to belong, was lovingly wrapped up and carried by so many members of this wonderful church and school, all of whom we are lucky to call our friends. Our dear friends in our small group arranged meals, and while I know God had been working in my heart all this time, it couldn't have been a more obvious or ironic full circle moment of all that God has accomplished in our lives since joining OSL. I just wanted one casserole and he gave me a whole train of them.

To those of you who wonder if you belong, I want you to know that you do. You belong because you believe. But I also know that sometimes we need more tangible reminders that we also



belong to his church, his people. In addition to belonging to Christ, you also belong here with us. We are so glad you're here and we want you to keep showing up. Come to the school programs. Bring your kids to VBS. Volunteer at events. Come to church. Just keep showing up. As the church, we are Christ's hands and feet,

and we want to walk beside you and support you in your faith journey.

I cannot imagine what we would be missing if we never made the decision to come to OSL. Enrolling Luke in Preschool completely changed the trajectory of our life. It has truly been our family's biggest blessing."

Mission to Middelburg 2023

This summer 13 members of Our Savior will be traveling to visit our mission partners in Middelburg, South Africa, June 22–July 4. They will serve as mission ambassadors, building relationships, encouraging our partners, and witnessing to the Gospel of Jesus Christ through song, activities, and service projects. They will be serving alongside our ministry partners at St. Peter Confessional Lutheran Church and School in Middelburg, and the Christian Outreach For Africa (COFA).



The team is blessed to be a blessing as the Lord calls them to serve at this time and in this place and through this friendship with St. Peter in South Africa.

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Galatians 6:10

The team will fly into Johannesburg, then travel to Middelburg. They will be serving children and families through a variety of service projects and will be giving encouragement to our brothers and sisters in Christ. They will spend time with children at the Hannay Orphanage in Middelburg, visit Bethel Preschool, and bring donations to the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Pretoria. Each day, they will share their Christian faith in any way that they can. Please pray for my twelve team members and I as we prepare to carry out this ministry.

Deep divisions and hurts still plague South Africa, but the real problem is sin, and the real solution is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We pray that our work helps bring unity and harmony to the body of Christ as together we are the hands, feet, mouth, and heart of Christ.



Mission Trip Prayer Schedule

Please join our team by praying for their activities and interactions on the following days:

June 22 & 23

Pray for safe travels and smooth flights from Detroit to Newark and to Johannesburg, then the drive to Middelburg.

June 24

Pray for the children at the Hannay Orphanage in Middelburg where our team will host a pizza party.

June 25

Pray for all those worshipping at St. Peter Confessional Lutheran Church in Middelburg that morning and for our team's witness and participation, and Pastor Wangelin's speaking.

June 26

Pray for Grace Feeding Ministries as the team helps prepare and serve meals to kids during the school break who only get meals at school.

June 27

Pray for the students at St. Peter Christian College and Bethel Preschool who will attend the Youth Day with activities on campus, similar to a VBS day.

June 28

Pray for the Moloto Sports Clinic as our team assists Bongani Tshuma in running a basketball, net ball, and volley ball clinic and tournament.

June 29

Pray for safe travels to Witbank and the church being started there by Pastor Sam.
Pray for our team who will assist with an eyeglass clinic that day.

June 30–July 2

Pray for safe travels to Kruger Park, overnights in Skakuza and Pretoria, visiting the Lutheran Seminary in Pretoria, and seeing sights in Johannesburg.

July 3–4

Pray for safe and smooth flights to Newark, to Detroit, and home!

LOVE GOD LOVE OTHERS



SUMMER SERMON SERIES

God gave His people the Ten Commandments to show them how they ought to live as His people – life at its best. We can summarize them in a fairly simple way:

“Love God, Love Others.”

Jesus fulfilled the Ten Commandments perfectly for us, so that we could be God’s forgiven people, loving God and loving others in Christ. Join us this summer as we walk through the Ten Commandments to see how we live as Christians in our world today by loving God and loving others.

JUNE 11 - AUGUST 13



Vacation Bible School 2023

This year VBS will be held on June 19-22. Join us for a STELLAR week! It is going to be out of this world! Yes, it is a space theme this year. Join us each evening from 6:15-8:00pm Monday-Thursday here at OSL. Families are welcome to join us for dinner at 5:30 each night in the school commons before they go to VBS! *Registration is open here: <https://vbspro.events/p/events/oslvbs23> and at the table in the church lobby.*



Summer Backpack Drive



Summer Backpack Drive

Help us give back to the local community by donating school supplies for children in our area. How can you help: with donations of new school supplies or a monetary gifts, items will be given away by our food bank. For approximately \$25, we can provide all the school supplies for a student in need. We have created an amazon wish list (<https://a.co/16HZHFL>) and the supplies directly ship here for your convenience. Monetary gifts and supplies will be collected through August 5th. Items can be dropped off in the church lobby or given to the Receptionist, Kendra Waldie. You can also give online at oursaviorlansing.org/give. Supplies needed for the Backpack Drive:

Backpacks, Pocket Folders, Colored Pencils- 12pk, Crayons- 24pk., Markers, Glue Sticks, Dry Erase Markers, Highlighters, Spiral Notebooks, Pencils, Scissors (student & child), Water Bottles, Pencil Boxes, Rulers, Scientific Calculators, Erasers, and Lunchboxes

SUMMER EVENTS CALENDAR

June

- 4 Connect Worship Service: 10:30am
- 10 CityServe
- 11 Graduation Sunday
- 12 Summer Camp Begins
Men's Cornhole Night
- 18 Summer Worship Time Begins: 9:30am
Father's Day
- 19 Monday Evening Worship Begins: 7pm
- 19-22 Vacation Bible School; Dinner: 5:30pm & VBS: 6:15-8pm

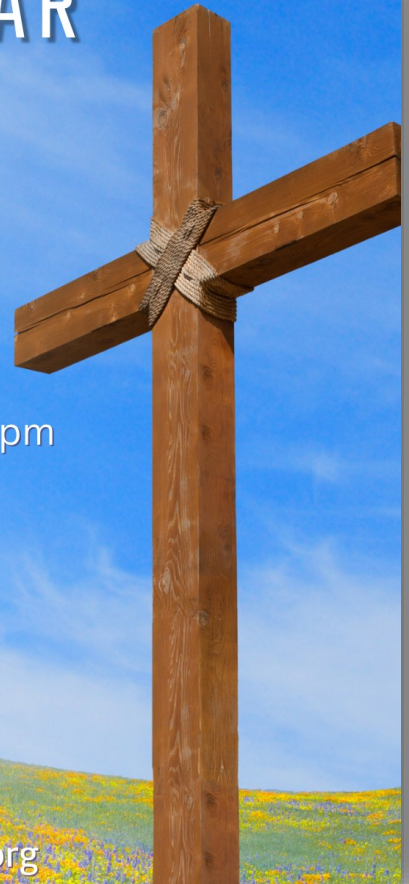
July

- 2 Freedom Appreciation Worship Service
- 24-27 Summer Basketball Camp

August

- 8-12 Pictorial Directory Pictures
- 17 Youth Group Kick-Off: 7pm
- 21 School Meet & Greet: 5-7pm
- 23 First Day of School

Our Savior Lansing Church & School oursaviorlansing.org



Our Savior Lutheran Church and School
7910 E. St. Joe Hwy
Lansing, MI 48917

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MAILED FROM ZIP CODE 48837
PERMIT NO. 3