



Our Savior Lutheran Church & School

Congregation Meeting Agenda

2.4.24

9:30	Welcome & Call to Order	Keith Barber <i>Chairman, Board of Directors</i>
9:32	Opening Prayer	Jim Sundstrom <i>Chairman, Spiritual Life Team</i>
9:35	Ministry Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learning Christ• Living Christ• Sharing Christ• Connect Service	Pastor Wangelin
9:50	Our Savior Lutheran School Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Celebrating National Lutheran Schools Week• Enrollment & Admissions Update• Third Grade Teacher Call Committee	Matt Couser <i>School Principal</i>
10:00	Early Childhood Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early Childhood Accreditation• Summer Camp Preparations	Windy Carroll <i>Early Childhood Director</i>
10:10	Financial Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">• OSL Auction March 2	Stephanie Trapp <i>Business Manager</i>
10:15	Q & A	Staff
10:20	Closing Prayer	Pastor Chris
10:21	Meeting Adjourned	

Looking to Lent 2024 – The Colors of the Cross

Ash Wednesday is February 14, 7 p.m. with imposition of ashes & Holy Communion

The following **Wednesdays in Lent** will be a 40-minute devotion style service with a children's message and them of "Colors of the Cross." Each week, a new strip of fabric will be passed out for a home cross.

Lenten Dinners are at 5:30 p.m. starting with the Ash Wednesday Fish Fry. The Lenten Dinners are coordinated by our Family Life Minister, Dave Wright.

Fulfilling the Great Commission

God is doing great things! Our church and school continue to thrive as a Christ-centered and Gospel-motivated ministry that helps people of every age and season of life to Learn, Live, and Share Christ. Our 'one-ministry' philosophy and church-school partnership creates a dynamic and vibrant community that expresses the grace and truth of Jesus Christ in many ways.

Our Ministry at a Glance

Baptized **Membership** as of 1/1/24: 1353
Membership Increase from last year: 15 net
Median Age of membership: 39
New Members welcomed in 2023: 35
(25 adults, 10 children)

Total **baptisms** in 2023: 15
Infants baptized in 2023: 7
Adults baptized in 2023: 3
Students in our school baptized in 2023: 3

Ave Sunday in person worship Sept – Dec 2023: **380**
Ave estimated livestream attendance: **350**

(Ave Sunday in person 2022: 344, livestream 480
Ave Sunday in person 2021: 317, livestream: 559)

Confirmations in 2023 (youth): 15
Funerals or Memorial Services in 2023: 6

School Enrollment as of Jan 2024: 260
K-8 enrollment: 195
Early Childhood enrollment: 65
New students K-8 this school year: 13 (6 are fifth grade and up)

General Offerings & Contributions for six months,
July – Dec 2023: \$698,381 (+\$88,552 from 2022)

Message of Hope Goal: \$100,000
Message of Hope raised for 2023-24 ytd: \$22,189



Christmas Eve Worship Totals

2013: 507
2014: 765
2015: 830
2016: 844
2017: 876 (Includes 9:30am service)
2018: 886
2019: 815
2020: 430 (COVID)
2021: 601
2022: 497 (snowstorm)
2023: 1,002 (Includes 9:30am service)

BLESSED WITH LAY LEADERSHIP 2024

Board of Directors – Keith Barber (chairman), Jim Schleben (vice chair) Steve Mohnke (financial officer), Beth Krause (secretary), Jill Endelman (CET rep), Jim Sundstrom (SLT rep), Wendy Boyce, Mark Moeller, Jennifer Miller, Jake Kasper, and Lee Greve.

Spiritual Life Team – Jim Sundstrom (chairman), Nate Wagner (vice chair), Matt Sternemann (secretary), Mark Stahl, Bill Hall, Brett Kaschinske, Darryl Warncke, Jordan Miller, Stan Ferris, Steve Boyce, Wayne Joubert, Joel Walter, Joe Sturdevant, Bill Burmeister, and Dennis Sohn.

Christian Education Team – Simone Margraf (chair), Brooke Miller (secretary), Bob Seidel, Shelly LeFave, Jill Endelman, Zane Goucher, Nicki Judd, Chris Kuhlman, and Brian Trudell.

If You Continue In My Word...

Disciples of Jesus at Our Savior Lutheran Church and School read our Bibles. Whether it's a few verses or a few chapters a day, we encourage regular Bible reading, such as the **Bible Reading Plan 2024**.

This year we are also emphasizing Scripture memorization. We want to practice and promote Scripture memorization through the **Legacy Memory Verses 2024**, which we are reciting in worship. This is meant to be primarily a home and family activity, with a connection to worship each week.

Milestone Classes, Confirmation Ministry, Christian Studies, Wednesday Bible Study, Men's & Women's Bible Studies, and Small Group Ministry helps all of us stay **connected to God's Word** and each other.

Connect Service – 10ish on 2nd & 4th Sundays

Connect is an interactive, station-based worship experience with young families in mind. The informal setting allows kids and families to explore a new way of worship that brings the same word, same Sacrament, same Savior. For some families, this would be a great way to get back to regular worship.

Where: Commons/Cafeteria

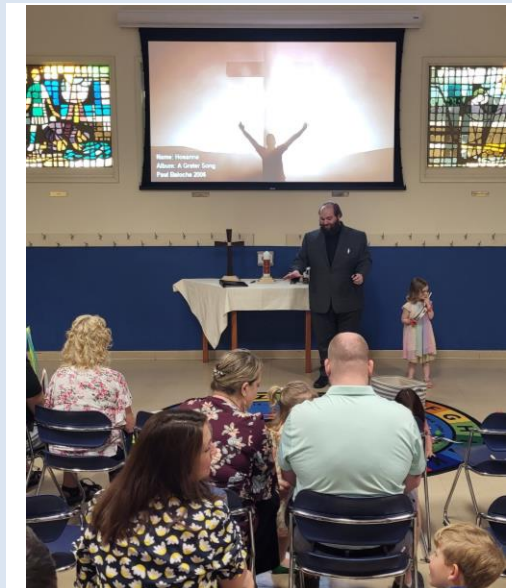
When: 10:00 a.m. overlapping the late service

Who: Anyone is welcome to attend, especially young families

The same preacher preaches at all three services on a Connect Sunday – 8:30, 10, and 10:30.

The service is prepared and supported by host families on rotation. They set up the stations and chairs, usher during the service, and help with clean up. We have 12 host families currently serving.

Christmas Eve morning was the highest attended Connect service with 78 – mostly families from our Early Childhood program.



Reconnections Ministry

The Spiritual Life Team is assisting the pastors in reaching out to people who have not been worshipping with us regularly. The goal is to lovingly encourage each member of our congregation to faithful worship and full participation in the body of Christ. Each member of our church matters! A new policy is being considered that would define “self-exclusion” as those who have not worshipped with us in five years or more, according to our **Connecting Cards**. These members would be recommended to the Spiritual Life Team for removal from our membership roster, with pastoral exceptions permitted. We would love to have them return and rejoin OS� by the Spirit's prompting. The reconnections ministry would focus on how to reconnect with those who stopped worshipping regularly in the past 4 years. The SLT would like to enlist the help of every active member in reaching out, graciously listening, and welcoming new and returning members with the love of Christ.

You be You

Embracing Your Identity in Christ

Ladies, join us as we take an inspiring journey together in the rich promises of God's Word unveiling your need to lean on Christ, your vine, as He reveals who you are as one of His branches.

- 📅 Saturday, April 13, 2024
- 🕒 At 8am - 3:30pm
- ✅ \$35/person includes lunch
- 📍 Our Savior Lutheran Church & School
7910 E. St. Joe Hwy., Lansing MI 48917
- 🌐 Reserve your spot:
oursaviorlansing.org/events



Winter Blast!

Saturday, February 24th, is the annual **junior high event** with youth from Lansing area churches gathering at OSL for a night of fun, friendship, and devotions for grades 6-8. This is organized by our Family Life Minister, Dave Wright.



Stay tuned for details on **Oktoberfest 2024** and a **OSL Sightseers trip** being planned for the fall!

ENDURE

JULY 19-23, 2025; NEW ORLEANS, LA

LCMS Youth Gathering 2025

The high school youth group is planning to attend the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA. Registration will take place September, 2024. Students currently in 7th grade – 11th grade will be eligible to attend the gathering. Youth Director Kaitlynn Mews has a great parent team to help coordinate, plan, and fund raise.



Mission Middelburg – South Africa Missions



Six members of Our Savior will be joining 25 others from Michigan traveling to Middelburg, South Africa, for the **Building Up the Kingdom Conference**, held March 5-7, and meetings with our ministry partners. They are Pastor & Kristin Wangelin, Royce & Melisa McKendry, and Bob & Linda Glenn. The conference is being planned by Rev. David P.E. Maier and his wife Pat (formerly at OSL). Pastor Wangelin will be presenting during the conference on “History of the Mission of God: The First Three Centuries” and “Mission Movements in the Lutheran Church: Frankenmuth, Hermannsburg, and South Africa.” He will be preaching at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Durban on Sunday, March 10.

Our Savior Lutheran School is raising funds for COFA (Christian Outreach for Africa) and scholarships to St. Peter Christian College, Middelburg, South Africa, through our **2nd trimester chapel offering**, candy grams, and penny wars. These funds will be matched up to \$10,000 by the OSL South Africa mission fund. The congregation is invited to contribute to the chapel offering to help reach this goal by March 1.



Friendship House MSU

On Sunday, January 28, two Chinese nationals were baptized at Our Savior as they professed their faith in Jesus Christ. They were connected to us by the Friendship House, the Lutheran International Student Ministry at MSU. Pastor Wangelin shared the amazing testimony of God’s work in their lives at the baptism, which you can view on our youtube channel (10:30 a.m. service). Our Savior Lutheran School directed their **1st trimester chapel offering** to the Friendship House (\$811), and international students visited classrooms with director Dan Winter. We are thankful to have a number of OSL members serve as teachers, conversation partners, and board members for this special ministry!

Our Savior Food Bank

The Our Savior Food Bank continues to supply food-insecure families with food, clothing, and household items. Director Sharon Miller and her team of volunteers run the food bank two days a week, serving up to 25 families each day.

Volunteer Luncheon - On December 13, we honored the 17 volunteers who run our Food Bank with a luncheon and certificates of recognition.

OSL members may donate both food and household items at the bin in the church lobby. Monetary donations may be given online or at church.



Food Bank Volunteer Luncheon

Our Savior Lutheran School School Ministry Updates

Current Enrollment 260: 65 PS/PK Students
195 K-8 students

Teaching the Christian Faith in K-8

- Daily all-school video devotions, chapel, service projects, during National Lutheran Schools Week Jan. 22-26
- Lutheran Schools Week chapel service led by Travis Grulke, Michigan District School Superintendent
- Legacy Verses memorized in various classes, in connection with our congregation memory verses
- Mrs. Brooke Miller and Mrs. Meghan Morris are long-term subs for Mrs. Lisa Hughes as she focuses on her health and cancer treatments through the end of the school year
- Trimester Chapel Offerings: (1st Trimester) Friendship House MSU, (2nd Trimester) Hearts for Jesus – South Africa Scholarships, (3rd Trimester) Hannah's House

Lutheran School Re-Accreditation

Our accreditation visit in November highlighted the quality Lutheran education OSL provides to our school families. The two best practices that the visitation team pointed out were the partnership between church and school and student services such as LSEM, resource room support, education specialist, behavior interventionist, etc. Formal approval of our accreditation will be in July.

Early Childhood Updates

- Early Childhood staff lead Wednesday chapel at 9:30am each week. 4th grade student buddies sing and worship with EC students
- Summer Camp Registration starts early February
- EC Staff will welcome an onsite visit team on March 12-14 for National Lutheran School Accreditation.



Church Extension Fund

CEF Stamps Program is a learning experience of saving money, with interest, while contributing in a meaningful way to the building of God's kingdom. These funds, invested from churches and schools throughout the Michigan District, are used to make low-cost loans to congregations for expansion projects, and ministry resources. Need info?

Email CEF@oursaviorlansing.org



New Playground Dedicated Nov. 29

Minutes of the Congregation Meeting, October 1, 2023 in the School Commons

Call to Order & Opening Prayer. Chairman Keith Barber called the meeting to order at 9:41.

In the absence of Jim Sundstrom, Nate Wagner opened the meeting with a prayer.

Pastors Report - Highlights taken from the packet

- This is a great time to be a child of God at Our Savior Lutheran, this outpost of God's Kingdom.
- Our theme of Learn, Live, Share Christ continues.
- The Discover Our Savior Class has 15 people in it. Its always interesting to find out what brought them to Our Savior.
- 1. One family has children enrolled in our school. Pastor asked, "Is God working through our school?" The people responded, "Absolutely!"
- 2. Another family has been watching through Live stream and want to become members. Pastor asked, "Is God working through our Live Stream?" The people responded, "Absolutely!"
- 3. Another family has been coming to the Connect Service. They toured the Early Childhood wing of our school, enrolled their child, and now want to become members. Pastor asked, "Is God working through our Connect Service?" The people replied, "Absolutely!"
- 4. One family desires to transfer from another LCMS congregation so their child has an opportunity to connect with other youth his/her age. Is God working through our Youth Program? Absolutely!
- 5. An older gentleman is enrolled in the Discover Our Savior Class and wants to become a member because he says, "You guys teach the Bible!" Is the Holy Spirit working in the hearts of people of all ages? Absolutely!
- 6. And finally, a teenager brought her mom with her to church. They desire to become members. Neither of them is baptized. Another example of the Holy Spirit at work in the hearts of people. To Him be the glory! And all the people said, "Amen!"
- 7. Pastor mentioned that he wouldn't be surprised if our next Discover Our Savior Class had some people who were brought to Our Savior because of Oktoberfest. God works in mysterious ways and we are ready to join Jesus on His mission.
- Spiritual Growth Campaign – 5 Practices of Spiritual Growth. The Fall Spiritual Growth Campaign is called "Five Practices of Spiritual Growth" taken from the book "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations." The Five Practices are 1. Radical Hospitality, 2. Passionate Worship, 3. Intentional Faith Development, 4. Risk Taking Mission and Service, 5. Extravagant Generosity. There are videos available to watch through our YouTube channel to go with each of the practices.
- Worship practices - Page 2 of our packet gives information on worship. It is encouraging to note that the average worship attendance has been steadily increasing since 2021. See the packet, p.2 for more information on Worship.
- Food Bank, Friendship House
- South Africa Missions – 13 members from our Savior went to South Africa in July. The team noted quite a contrast from previous years when they were really struggling after Pastor Khomalo's death.
- Connect Service – is held the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month and is put on by host families, which serve on rotation. Pastor Chris is their coordinator. There are about 70 people attending the Connect service regularly.

We are blessed to have Vicar Pieper and Anna with us this year. However, Keith reminded us it is time to have a vote of affirmation so we can start paperwork to get a vicar for next year.

Chairman Keith Barber asked for a motion to extend the vicar program to next year.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to extend the vicar program to next year.

School Report - For complete information, see p. 8 of the packet. Some highlights mentioned by Mr. Couser are as follows:

- Grand Ledge Rotary Club visited Our Savior Lutheran School to give each 4th grader a dictionary. Before the group left, a blessing was prayed to ask the Lord to bless the dictionaries, as they will be

used for the children's learning and also to bless the Rotary Club. Mr. Couser reported that Rotary Club people were touched by this prayer and said, "No one has done that for us. Thank you!"

- Students from the Friendship House came to visit the school. They came from all over the world. The Friendship House is the Chapel Offering Recipient for this Trimester.
- The visit by the Accreditation Team will be November 6 – 8th for the Elementary School. The visiting team for Early Childhood will be March 12 – 14.
- The playground transformation has begun. Already, the materials have been dropped off. Equipment will be installed the middle of October.

Stewardship Update - See pp. 10 - 12 for the complete Financial Report. Highlights include -

- Business Manager Search Update – we are thankful for all Carrie Austin could do during her time with us. Look at the box on p. 10 for a breakdown of people serving on the financial team. As you can see, a lot of people are able to help during the interim.
- The OSL Year-end Financial Statement on p. 11 shows Income, Expenses, Budget, and the Actual Difference of 16 Accounts/Departments. The Bottom Line records that Total Income equals \$3,199,048; Expenses equal \$3,149,541; Budgeted amount is \$33,280; with an actual difference of \$42,187.
- p. 12 shows Non-Budget Account, which are accounts that are restricted designated gifts that are not recorded in the income and expenses of the general fund. They can only be used for which they are given. The total Non-Budget Accounts equal \$389,163.52.
- It was reported that the paperwork for the Employee Retention Credit has been submitted. The money will most likely be awarded next year.

Q & A – Staff

- A point of concern was brought up concerning Voter's Meeting Minutes. It was acknowledged that minutes were being recorded for the Congregation Meetings. The concern was that the Voters Assembly isn't approving the minutes. It was noted that the Board of Directors approve the minutes in their meetings. Chairman Keith Barber said he would look into this.
- Question – on p. 10 of the packet, it states that Pastor Wangelin is preparing financial reports for the Board of Directors and Congregation Meeting. It was strongly recommended that the Financial Officer prepare these reports, to protect Pastor's position and keep him separated from the finances. Pastor Wangelin clarified that he works closely with the financial officer and others, does not do any actual accounting or handle any money, and only communicates the information.
- A question was asked if we have a yearly audit done? The answer was that we do not do a yearly audit. We have an external agency do a "Financial Procedures Review" every two years, and do an internal review in alternating years. It was strongly recommended that an internal and external review be done this year.
- A comment was made that it would be nice to bring back the Noisy Offering. Pastor Wangelin said that it isn't being done presently because we are not passing the offering plate. Another person mentioned that it is a tangible, hands-on way for children to give their offering.
- Pastor Wangelin mentioned that they are still looking at a new accounting system called Blackbaud, which would enable us to give better reports.
- The parking lot project is finished as of Saturday morning. It dried just in time for Oktoberfest in the evening.

10:28 Closing Prayer - Pastor Chris Deneen closed the meeting with a prayer.

Chairman Keith Barber asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 am.

A motion was made, supported, and passed to adjourn the meeting.

Respectively submitted, Beth Krause, Congregation Secretary

Long Range Planning Process

The Board of Directors is forming a committee to explore how we might grow and strengthen our ministry in the next 5-10 years, especially when we pay off our mortgage. Would we ever build an addition? How can we expand our school and early childhood? How can we better share the Gospel with the greater Lansing area and equip others to learn, live, and share Christ? A series of surveys and congregation forums will be a part of this process as the Board listens to members, staff, and the community to prayerfully discern where we are headed as a churchschool.



**Our Savior Lutheran
2024 AUCTION**

MARCH MADNESS

Proudly Presented by: Dart Investment Centers

**OSL
GYM** | **MARCH 2ND
2024** | **4:30
PM**

Are you ready for some March Madness at the annual Auction?
Get your collegiate gear ready for a fun evening of fellowship, food and of course,
bidding on your favorite items!

oursaviorlansing.org/auction

The Budget Planning Process

How do we put together a \$3 million budget each year? The annual budget for our church and school is developed March – May. We seek to use each ministry dollar for maximum Gospel impact, and to be a faithful steward of all the resources that the Lord has provided to do His work among us.

- 1) Determine actual income and expenses for the current year.** We look at this year's actual numbers to be a reference point for adjusting the budget up or down. We project income and expenses for the remaining months of the fiscal year (to June 30).
- 2) Ask Ministry Leaders for their "Wish Lists."** Staff submit a proposed budget for their ministry areas with any new items they would like to propose. These are collected and entered into a draft budget by the Business Manager and evaluated by the Admin Team.
- 3) Bring a draft budget to the Board of Directors.** The Board looks at the major components such as salary increases, changes in benefits, offering projections, debt management and missions. An unbalanced budget is brought to the Board in April for deliberation, and a balanced budget is brought to the Board in May for final discussion and approval.
- 4) A Balanced Budget is brought to the Congregation for Approval.** This takes place annually at the congregation finance meeting in May or June. The fiscal year begins July 1.

Financial Report

"God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." 2 Corinthians 9:8

6 month report July – December 2023

(report is for December 31, 2023)

General Offerings	\$698,381	<i>includes in person offering, online, and special services</i>
K8 School Income	\$472,113	
Early Childhood Income	\$334,666	
Other Income	\$49,177	
Total Income to date	\$1,554,337	(-\$88,249 from budget)
Church Expenses	\$753,324	<i>includes church staff salaries, mortgage, and facilities</i>
K8 School Expenses	\$531,607	
Early Childhood Expenses	\$348,309	
Total Expenses to date	\$1,633,240	(+\$9,268 from budget)
<i>Difference</i>	<i>-\$78,903</i>	

The *Reserve Fund Investment Account* (\$142,508) was liquidated in October and moved to our General Checking Account. The cash balance as of 12/31/23 in the general checking account is: \$271,814. The Board of Directors intend to use any rebate from the Employee Retention Tax Credit to replenish our reserve fund.

Message of Hope Scholarship raised to date: \$22,189

Monthly Mortgage Payment	\$28,110	Balance of building mortgage:	\$3,075,889
Parking Lot Loan Payment	\$1,011	Balance of parking lot loan:	\$158,878

Non-Budget Accounts

Non-Budget accounts are restricted, designated gifts that are not recorded in the income and expenses of the general fund.

Account Name	Balance on 12/31/23
Alms Fund	\$ 7,195.76
CEF Stamp Program	\$ 439.25
Chapel Money	\$ 967.03
Church Account	\$ 24,282.21
CityServe Carryover	\$ 1,448.03
Debt Reduction (Together Campaign)	\$ 43,818.75
Early Childhood Grant (playground)	\$ 7,306.00
Fall Confirmation Retreat	\$ 3,586.49
Food Bank	\$ 40,111.33
High School Youth Account	\$ 4,077.00
Memorial Garden	\$ 5,024.25
Men of Courage Scholarship	\$ 604.27
Miscellaneous Accounts	\$ 1,245.41
School Account	\$ 38,839.43
South Africa Missions	\$ 10,686.16
Student Council	\$ 3,100.62
Vicar Fund	\$ 75,371.90