

LEARN LIVE SHARE

Fall 2024



Our Savior Lutheran Church and School
Quarterly Newsletter

A Non-Anxious Presence

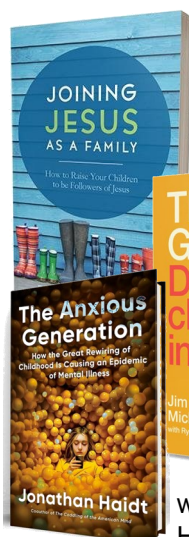
By: Pastor Bill Wangelin



One of our recent memory verses was 1 Peter 5:7, “Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.” I remember liking the older translation that said “cast all your cares upon Him, for He cares for you.” But anxiety is an apt word for today’s generation. There are many worries, cares, anxieties, and fears that weigh heavy on people’s minds and hearts. Believers in Christ bring an important element into society. We can be a ‘non-anxious presence’ in the world. How?

Jesus is our peace. He is our present power and strength, and He is our future hope and promise. When Jesus is at the center of our lives, we know whose we are, what we are to do, and where we are going (identity, purpose, and hope). Our lost world is confused about identity, feels no sense of purpose, and is desperate for hope. We have this all in spades because of our Savior, Jesus! In fact, we have plenty to go around for everyone in the whole world.

Christians are still in this world, and we still face struggles, hardships, and have concerns. But when we turn to God and place all these in His hands, we can find peace and assurance in His goodness and faithfulness. We can then serve our families, our communities, and our society by being a ‘non-anxious presence’ in the world, pointing others to the Prince of Peace.



Three books that are shaping our ministry in these months include one titled “The Anxious Generation” by Jonathan Haidt. It looks at how the Great Rewiring of Childhood is causing an epidemic of mental illness in young people today. While not a Christian, Haidt provides important research that underscores the importance of a resilient faith in Christ and loving Christian family. The second book is

titled “The Great DeChurching” by Jim Davis and Michael Graham. Their research shows why some people have left the church and what might, hopefully, bring them back (spoiler: it’s a personal invitation by a trusted friend or family member!). They also underscore the importance of a resilient faith and encouragement from fellow disciples. The third book is “Joining Jesus as a Family” by Greg Finke, which lays out the purpose of parenting for Christian families, and has application beyond the nuclear family to show how we disciple each other in our church family. This book most of all gives us identity, purpose, and hope as we follow Jesus and raise up the next generation of disciples.

God’s got this! And it is a great time to be the church. Our mission is clear and the need is great. The harvest is plentiful but the laborers few. Let’s be a non-anxious presence in the world that is wringing its hands and fretting. We want to point everyone to our Savior, the Prince of Peace. He is the One who said, “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33. Thank you Jesus!

In Joyful Service to Jesus,
Pastor Bill Wangelin <><



OKTOBERFEST

GERMAN FAMILY FESTIVAL

FOOD - DRINKS - MUSIC - FAMILY ACTIVITIES



SEPTEMBER 14, 2024 - 3-7PM

Tickets available at oursaviorlansing.org/oktoberfest or the front desk

Dots Connected!

By: Pastor Chris Deneen



When someone asks what you did this summer, I hope that you have some great stories, cool God-sightings, and fun adventures.

As we look back on summer, forward to the Fall and beyond, there are many great ways to be connected at Our Savior, and this summer was an example of that.

This Summer, we had our Connect the Dot parties. Opportunity for our members to connect with each other in their neighborhood. People who lived right around the corner for years, finally realized they were

neighbors! Others, had great parties with friends and family they've known for years. Most importantly, the parties let neighbors know that they have teammates on Team Jesus, who are willing to help them and want to share Jesus with their neighborhood.

From desserts and barbeque to an Olympic watch party, our Connect the Dot parties have been a success in bringing together the body of Christ, and reminding us of the unity that we have.

In Ephesians 4, Paul encourages us to be in unity, unity in the Spirit. We are all united through the waters of Baptism, we are united through our Savior, and we are united in the hope of the resurrection and the life of the world to come. We are united in our common goal of bringing others to know Jesus. Our Connect the Dot parties, they did just that.



So now what?

Now that you've hopefully met those around you, and seen your teammates, what do we do? Do we just now casually wave, and have a few more pleasantries?

No!! The beautiful part of the Connect the Dot parties, is that these are simply the springboard into the work of Team Jesus in Lansing and beyond.

Whether it is a Connect the Dot party, worship on Sunday, Oktoberfest, or other events, we have been united in Christ, and we have a message to share. We've had great God-sightings from this past summer, and we should be looking forward to the way that God will work through those parties, through our neighborhoods, and through us as a unified church body.

Jesus is on the loose in your neighborhood. You've got neighbors who need to hear about Jesus. Will you join Jesus on His mission? You've got a team, a church, friends that have your back. Go for it! Team Jesus already has the ultimate victory in Christ, now it is time to share that unity! Team Jesus, let's go!

Pastor Chris <><



It's all about Lutheran Women in Mission

By: Bonnie Laeder

The last two years MI District LWML raised \$289,500 for grants to faith organizations like Orphan Grain Train, Scholarships for Deaf Students, female student Deaconesses, professional church workers, Multi - Ethnic groups, People of the Book Lutheran Outreach (POBLO) ministries, and more. The district LWML just voted to support \$300,000 in grants over the next two years.



Locally, our group made up 30 Health Kits for the Food Bank, supported Friendship House students with bags filled with fruit and snacks, gave bags of food to Living Word ministry, collected Thanksgiving and Christmas stuffs for the Friendship House, contributed \$650 to LWML District grants, supported Hands of Mercy with \$200 to Africa for wheelchairs and other mobility items for children.

Thankful for your support of LWML! For more information, contact Bonnie Laeder at bklaeder@gmail.com.



Getting to Know You:

Faith Korte, 3rd Grade Teacher

Faith joined the Our Savior staff as 3rd Grade Teacher in August.

1. Where did you grow up? I have lived all over the Midwest, but I grew up in Saginaw, Michigan, for most of my life!

2. What are your favorite hobbies? My favorite hobbies include finding local coffee shops, reading new books, baking, and spending time with family, friends, and my cat, Leah.

3. What is your favorite bible verse? Right now my favorite Bible verse is 2 Corinthians 4:6-8. I love the visual of jars of clay, that God forms us and shines in our hearts, despite what else can happen in the world.

4. What is your favorite food? Nothing beats mac and cheese! But I also love chocolate and coffee!

5. What led you to seek a career in church/school ministry? Working with kids from an early age, from babysitting to going on mission trips in high school to Alaska and Guatemala, made me realize how much I loved the joy of teaching God's little ones. God led me to teach in Lutheran schools so that each day I can share

His love for us to my students.

6. One fun fact about you: My favorite animal is a capybara, the world's largest rodent.



Getting to Know You:

Joseph Bender, Vicar

Joseph joined the Our Savior staff as Vicar in August.

1. Where did you grow up? I was born in Quincy, Illinois but moved to West Allis (outside Milwaukee) Wisconsin when I was in 8th grade. I consider West Allis my hometown.

2. What are your favorite hobbies? My favorite hobbies include watching the Denver Broncos, playing basketball, and hiking.

3. What is your favorite bible verse? Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek." It was my confirmation verse, and it encourages me to not be ashamed of the saving Gospel that reveals God's salvation for all people.

4. What is your favorite food? My favorite food is Tacos!

5. What led you to seek a career in church/school ministry? My dad is a pastor and growing up in the church played a big role in my life. I also had a theology teacher in high school who was passionate about sharing the Gospel with everyone, and he encouraged me to consider full-time church work!

6. One fun fact about you: I met Giannis Antetokounmpo (a famous basketball player on the Milwaukee Bucks) while working at Chick-fil-A!



Meet Onyx, the Our Savior Ministry Dog

Introducing the newest partner of our ministry to students from early childhood to 8th grade. Onyx is a black doodle, a facility dog, who came to us from Canines For Change, a local non-profit organization. We are grateful for this opportunity and for the generosity of the Farm Bureau Insurance Agency for the donation to make this possible. Facility dogs differ from service animals and are trained with their handler to provide emotional support for staff and students alike. Research has shown that facility dogs support psychological and academic growth while increasing social skills and self-esteem. Studies show the benefits of having a dog at school to include (but not limited to):

- Increase levels of dopamine and serotonin
- Decrease anxiety
- Dramatically increase positive mood
- Ease social isolation and increase social skills
- Help young readers gain confidence
- Improve physical well-being



Onyx received extensive training by Canines For Change to prepare to be our facility dog. He is hypoallergenic, up-to-date on all shots, and will stay with his handler the entire time he is on campus. Mr. Dave Wright and Mrs. Sara Deyarmond are Onyx's main handlers. He is a working member of our facility and will serve our church and school community for years to come.

"Onyx will be able to provide comfort when someone needs it, or learn in a fun way, there's endless opportunities for Onyx to be a part of our team," said Sara Deyarmond, Education Specialist at Our Savior Lutheran School.

We know that all good things come from God and thus, we acknowledge that God created animals to glorify Him and be a blessing to us. We thank and praise God for this blessing to our churchschool ministry as we serve the Lord and one another, together.



Finding Joy in the Work

By: Windy Carroll, Early Childhood Programs Director

Late summer always brings with it a flurry of activity – just as we are wrapping up another busy camp season, we are also preparing for the school year in both our Early Childhood and K-8th Grade classrooms. That means that within a week and a half, we say goodbye to our seasonal campers, “tear down” and clean up all camp materials, move furniture back into classrooms, reset materials and décor, host new family orientation and a meet and greet event for all school families, participate in multiple staff training meetings, and finally, welcome or welcome back all our school-year students. WHEW! The list of tasks can sure be daunting! But, we are blessed with a talented, capable staff team and best of all – the promise of a faithful and loving God to see us through.



Certainly, when we find our peace in God, we have everything we need to complete any task and take on any challenge! Just last week, I had the opportunity to attend the LCMS Michigan District Early Childhood Director's Day and Conference, which always promises to be a faith-filled break as I find myself inevitably weary at the end of a hectic summer season. While there, Travis Grulke, District Superintendent, shared a presentation on this very topic, and he highlighted a quote from Ann Voskamp, author of the book *One Thousand Gifts*:



“When service is unto people, the bones can grow weary, the frustration deep. Because, agreed Dorothy Sayers, ‘Whenever man is made the centre of things, he becomes the storm-centre of trouble. The moment you think of serving people, you begin to have a notion that other people owe you something for your pains. You will begin to bargain for reward, to angle for applause.’ When the laundry is for the dozen arms of children or the dozen legs, it's true, I think I'm due some appreciation. So comes a storm of trouble and lightning strikes joy. But when Christ is at the center, when dishes, laundry, work is my song of thanks to Him, joy rains. Passionately serving Christ alone makes us the loving servant to all. When the eyes of the heart focus on God, and the hands on always washing the feet of Jesus alone—the bones, they sing joy, and the work returns to its purest state: eucharisteo. The work becomes worship, a liturgy of thankfulness. ‘The work we do is only our love for Jesus in action,’ wrote Mother Teresa. ‘If we pray the work... if we do it to Jesus, if we do it for Jesus, if we do it with Jesus... that's what makes us content.’ That is what makes us content - the contented, deep joy always in the touching of Christ - in whatever skin He comes to us.”

This quote really inspired me – how true it is that Jesus comes to us in many “skins”! He might come to us in the form of our families, our friends, or, as is the case for parents and teachers, children. Our work may be in service to many different people or things, but when we focus on the work as a reflection of our love for Jesus, we surely find contentment, peace, and joy.

And so, as we transition from Panther Camp into the school year, it is the perfect time to re-center, give praise and glory to God for a safe and successful camp season (with nearly 200 campers!), and truly set our hearts and minds to the work that He has for us.

Work Day at Youth Haven Ranch

By: John Horak, Minister of Music

Youth Haven Ranch is a camp for kids in Rives Junction. These kids are from all over Michigan and come from very rough and tough situations. They enter a safe place where they learn about Jesus for a weekend or a week. The kids attend camp for free.



Mark your calendars now for Saturday, October 5. All (high school age and up) are welcome to come and work on projects at Youth Haven Ranch. Join us for a great day of fellowship, food and sweat to help the camp who helps these kids.



Starting at 7 a.m. with breakfast and prayer time, we will begin work at 8 a.m. on various projects at the ranch. After a break for a lunch, we will resume work. The work day will end at 4:30 p.m. with clean up and prayer.

An email will be sent to all working which will include the list of projects to be worked on and what to bring. Youth Haven Ranch is located at 3796 Perrine Road in Rives Junction. Check out their web site: www.youthhaven.org to find out more about their ministry. If you have any questions or would like to sign up, call me at (517)882-8665 ext. 107, e-mail me at jhorak@oursaviorlansing.org or talk to me before or after worship.

Upcoming Family Life Events at Our Savior Lutheran

By: Dave Wright, Minister of Family Life

A goal of family life ministry at Our Savior is to connect all family members with God, other family members, and other Christians. We do this through special events and practical resources.

As we enter the “school year” calendar for 2024-25, don’t miss out on opportunities to enrich your faith, learn new things, and participate in great social gatherings and events at Our Savior. There are opportunities for people of every age group!

Here are some of the upcoming events this year:

- August 28 – Women of Worth Summer Fun Night – A hike along the ledges trail in Grand Ledge, gathering at Brickhaven Brewing Company, and a devotion.
- September 14 – Oktoberfest 3-7pm at OSL – Family event with games, contests, food, beverages, music, and dancing.
- November 24 – Family Service Sunday – In between worship services, this is a time for families and friends to gather in our gym and lobby to serve the community with outreach projects.
- December 7 – Advent by Candlelight – Women of OSL gathering to share in the expectation and hope of the Advent season.
- December 14 – Advent by Bonfire – Men of OSL gathering to also share in the expectation and hope of the Advent season.
- January 25 – Winterblast - A gathering of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students to celebrate the faith we have in Jesus, be reminded of what life as a Christian is all about, and enjoy fun and games together.
- February 21-23 – Man Camp Weekend – Guys gathering to strengthen our faith, grow closer with one another, and enjoy the winter outdoors up north in Michigan.
- March 14 – Daddy-Daughter Dance – A great evening for dads and daughters to bond, dance, enjoy some snacks, converse with friends, and hear how much Jesus, our heavenly Father, loves them.

In addition to these events, there are several Milestone Ministry classes for parents and children – each of them aimed at enriching and improving our Christian faith walk with Jesus.

Finally, each month look for interesting family resources that we will share on our website and social media. The intent is to provide everyone with helpful ideas to use in the home to improve relationships and develop stronger faith. For example, for parents of young children who may be looking for something quick and effective for a back to school devotion, check out the link below. It has several easy object lesson devotions for heading back to school.

<https://happyhomefairy.com/2-minute-back-school-devotions-kids/>



10:00AM
in the School Commons
2nd & 4th Sundays of the month

Join us for an informal, interactive, and connecting worship experience at 10am in the School Commons on the 2nd and 4th Sunday each month. This worship service includes movement, kids, noise, and the Gospel.
oursaviorlansing.org/events



OSL Purchase Priority List Fall 2024

The following items were not included in the 2024-2025 budget and require special gifts outside the general fund. Designated gifts will go towards the intended item.

Please let the church office know of any special gifts and make sure contributions are clearly marked.

- **Seam Sealing for Parking Lot** – sealing up the seams and any cracks in our new parking lot to keep it looking its best - \$500
- **Chromebook Replacement** – replacing currently old or damaged chromebooks - \$600 - \$6,000
- **Chimes Octave** – replacing a set of chimes for our school music ministry. \$1,150
- **Teacher Computers** – new computers for teachers - \$2,500
- **Furnace Maintenance** – maintaining our current units (one per classroom) for longer life - \$3,000 each
- **Tables for Kindergarten** – replacing old tables for kindergarten students - \$4,000
- **Classroom Chairs** – replacement tables and chairs for upper grade classrooms - \$4,000
- **Chancel Floor Refinishing** – refinish the floor in the front of the church on praise band and organ sides - \$4,000
- **Gym Floor Refinishing** – refinishing the gym floor on a two-year cycle - \$4,500
- **Classroom Flooring** – three classroom floors need to be replaced at \$6,000 each
- **Sanctuary Carpet** – replacing carpet in the sanctuary - \$25,000

For more information or questions, please contact Stephanie Bogard Trapp, Business Manager, at 517-882-8665 or strapp@oursaviorlansing.org



We are excited for a new school year!



FALL EVENTS CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- 2 Labor Day - Offices Closed
- 4 Wednesday Morning Bible Study Begins
- 5 Youth Group Begins
- 8 Back to Regular Worship Times & Connect Service Begins
- 14 Oktoberfest
- 18 Discover Our Savior & Lifelight Bible Study Begins
- 29 Congregation Meeting

OCTOBER

- 14 Fourth Grade Technology Milestone
- 18-20 Confirmation Retreat
- 27 Reformation & Confirmation Sunday

NOVEMBER

- 17 New Member Sunday
- 24 Family Service Sunday
- 27 Thanksgiving Eve Worship

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