

LEARN LIVE SHARE

Spring 2025



Our Savior Lutheran Church and School
Quarterly Newsletter

We Run on Prayer Power

By: Pastor Bill Wangelin



There are so many times when you can tell people are praying. When individuals, families, and church workers are going through a difficult time or facing a surmounting challenge with the peace that surpasses all understanding, people are praying. When students and families discover the truths of God's Word through our

school ministry and church family ministries, people are praying. When God provides more than we need to accomplish His work through our time, talents, and treasure, people are praying. When we see amazing healing of bodies, minds, and relationships, people are



praying.

Prayers of the Passion is the theme for our Wednesday Lenten Series this year. We will look at various aspects of prayer and how they

relate to the passion story. We pray our prayer life would be enhanced and strengthened through Lent, which is always a time for spiritual renewal.

One way we pray here at Our Savior is "praying on the spot." Sometimes praying out loud can be intimidating. It is something that comes more naturally with practice. I love seeing teachers and students praying in the hallways, and members praying after worship. When someone asks, "Can I pray with you?" a great response is, "Can I pray with you right now?" That's praying on the spot.

The growing, dynamic, vibrant ministry of our church and school was born out of prayer. Our members have fervently prayed through the years that God would use what we give to His glory and for the furthering of His Kingdom. The pages of this edition of Learn, Live, Share shows the results of these prayers. James 5:16 says, "The prayers of a righteous person are powerful and effective." We run on prayer power. That's because we have a God who has promised to hear our prayers when we pray in Jesus' name. Jesus taught us to pray. We can go to the Father boldly and confidently because of what Jesus has done for us. We place our lives in His hands and accept His good and gracious will for our lives with every prayer.

Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer!

In Christ,

Pastor Bill Wangelin <><



Plugged into Prayer

By: Pastor Chris Deneen



I once had a teacher in high school, who is now with the Lord, use the phrase, "Prayer is an extension cord, not a wrench." When I first heard that, I remember thinking that was a weird way to talk about prayer. But when Mr. Zill explained it, it made so much sense.

When you use a wrench for a project, you get it out of the toolbox, use it, and put it away. Have you ever had a prayer like that? "Lord, help me with this. Thanks." And then you wait until the next time you have something going on and you throw another prayer up to God.

But when you are plugged into a power source, it isn't a one and done type prayer, it is the power that you are consistently plugged into. It isn't on an as needed basis, it is a consistent, plugged in, ready to go type power. It is your power source for all that you do. Running on prayer power? That's what we do as Christians!

Two short scripture verses you can memorize, trust me, I know you can:

James 5:16, "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."

1 Thessalonians 6:16-18, "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Prayer is powerful. When we need strength, God grants us strength. When we need peace, God grants us peace. When we need to scream into a pillow and yell at God, because everything is going sideways and we don't know where to turn...take it to the Lord in prayer.



1 Peter 5:7 reads, "Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you." Psalm 55:2 reads, "Cast your cares on the LORD and He will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken."

Prayer is powerful. Throughout Lent we will take a look at prayer, different aspects, postures, ways to pray, etc.

The next time you have someone who you want to pray for or with, do it. Right there. On the spot. Many times we will say, "I'll pray for you." And often, people forget. But take the moment, take the time, and pray right there. God is at work through prayer, God is at work through you, and when you're plugged into prayer power, the Holy Spirit is going to be working!

Open your eyes, fold your hands, and pray. And see the power of prayer in action.

Pastor Chris <><



And Then There Were Three ...

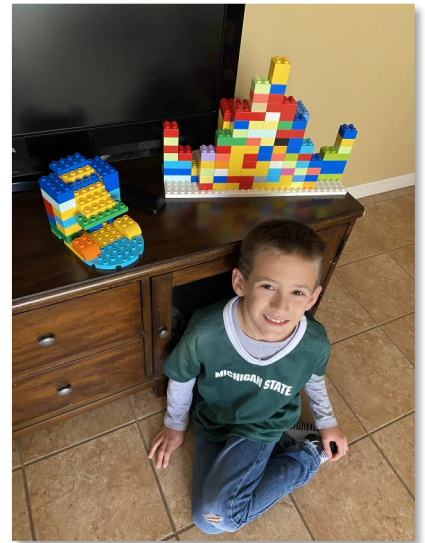
By: John Horak, Minister of Music

1972 is the year I started organ lessons with Bill Bade who was a teacher and musician at Faith Lutheran Church in Whittier, California. I can remember the first time I played a piece in a worship service. While Bill went to communion, I played "Now Thank We All Our God" by Kauffmann. That was my start.

I have been fortunate to have had two organ students here at OSL whom you all know: Timothy Nechuta and Sam Shuler. They have taken their interest in the organ from an early age to now being church musicians and recitalists as well. From the title of this article, you can tell that I believe that I have found my third student: Levi Krause a student in our school.

Back in October, our American Guild of Organists chapter here in Lansing had an organ walk that had us visiting three churches and organs in the Lansing downtown area. One of the youth attending was Levi. As you can see from the pictures, Levi is heavily into the design and music of the organ and piano.

I give Levi his organ lesson on Wednesdays after school. I had the opportunity to ask him some questions about his love for the organ and his future. His answers make me smile and tell me that we have another organist in the works.



Tell me about your lego creations.

I made a grand piano with a person playing on it. The organ is in our church and on the console I felt like

adding more manuals. (We have two and even I wish we had at least one more.)

What made you interested in the organ?

During one of my piano lessons, I got the chance to play my pieces on the organ. My favorite event was the organ crawl where I got to play five pipe organs.

What do you like most about the organ?

Getting to see and hear new stops. (On every piece Levi plays, we talk about registration and different ways to play the piece such as one or two manuals, solo and accompaniment etc. He always asks where the rank of pipes is, how tall the pipes are etc.)

Would you like to be an organist in a church someday?

Yes I would. (Levi's great uncle is an organist and his grandma is a retired teacher from our school. He also has several relatives who are pastors.)

What other interests do you have?

Legos of course. Tinkering on the piano. Math. My favorite hymn is Ode to Joy. (I received the following note from Levi's grandma which was attached with the pictures: Levi asked me to send you these pictures of the organ and Mr. Horak's Grand Piano he made with Legos. You may have created a monster. We listened to Organ Solos on Youtube during dinner the last time I fed them.)

We are fortunate, here at OSL, to have a fine pipe organ and so many people who appreciate it and the music that is played on this wonderful instrument. Pray that the Lord will continue to call pastors, teachers and musicians into the church to lead His people in worship and praise to our great God.

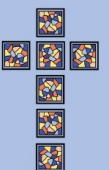


Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Friendship Sunday

Sunday, April 27

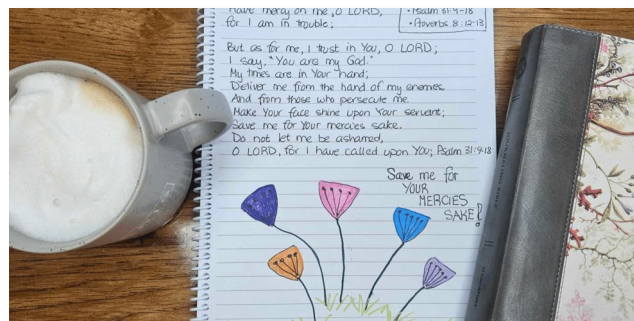
Invite your friends and neighbors to
join us for worship and fellowship!



Have You Tried Bible Journaling?

By: Dave Wright, Minster of Family Life

A few weeks ago I – like many of you – began the New Testament Bible reading plan for 2025. As I read through Matthew 4, it occurred to me that Matthew 4 was a terrific synopsis of Jesus' ministry on earth. I read it two or three times and then journaled about the immense scope of Jesus' ministry and the hectic pace at which it started. In Matthew 4, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness here He was tempted by satan. Jesus was hungry. As a human, He felt the same types of feeling that we as humans feel. He did feel hunger. He did feel thirsty at times. He was sad. He truly was tempted, but in this chapter we see that He did not give in to temptation, but rather refuted satan's attempts to lure Jesus away from His mission on earth.



Jesus then began travelling and fulfilling the prophesies that were written about Him – the Messiah that had finally come.

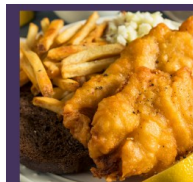
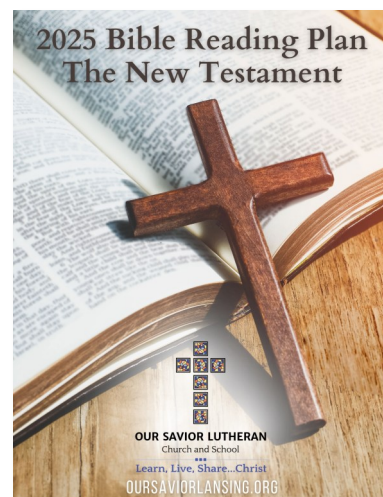
Jesus called His first disciples in Matthew 4. Jesus ministered to and spoke to crowds of people. He taught in the synagogues. He healed the sick. He performed miracles – wow! What a way to hit the ground running! And this is just one chapter in Matthew!

So I journaled about that. I wrote, “....it has never occurred to me before just how power-packed this chapter is. If I really claim to be a follower of Jesus, I should step up my game. Why isn't Jesus and His ministry at the forefront of my thoughts? Why isn't doing the work of Jesus and witnessing the main things I do? Why don't I recite more scripture – as Jesus did – when I am tempted with sins?” These are just a few of the thoughts that I was able to journal as I read this chapter. In fact, I didn't have enough room to write down all of the thoughts I had as I journaled that day.

Bible journaling is not a new concept. It might be for you, but I want to encourage you to just write – write about what you are thinking as you process the scripture that you are reading. There are no hard and fast rules for journaling. You don't have to formulate the perfect words. You don't have to be doctrinally correct. You don't have to even understand everything you are reading. Just write about it.

If you have questions about the passage, write those down and then do some research. I had a friend ask me if I had a Bible commentary on a book from the New Testament a few years ago. I didn't, but I tracked one down and loaned it to him. He kept it a few months so that he could dig into some scriptures and begin to understand more fully what the author was saying. He wanted to understand the context, the original language, and the application for his life.

So this year as you read AND journal in the OSL Bible Reading Plan Journals, study the text a little deeper. Ask questions, research, and most importantly – apply God's word to your life.



LENTEN MEALS

— Wednesdays 5:30-6:45pm —



Fish Fry
March 5

Baked Potato Bar
March 12

Taco Bar
March 19

Grilled Cheese & Tomato Soup
March 26

Spaghetti & Meatballs
April 2

Chili Cook-Off
April 9



Dinner will be available in the commons.

Table Talk

By: Vicar Joseph Bender



"Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them." – Luke 5:29

There's something special about gathering together and sharing a meal. Jesus himself often dined with people. Many of his miracles even involved

multiplying food so that the people would have enough to eat. Jesus ate with sinners and shared words of grace with them.

Maybe I'm reflecting on this topic because I'm still reminiscing on the delicious Grand Traverse piece of pie I had at the Theological conference that our volunteers organized. Perhaps it's because of the soups that the PTL generously made for the school and church staff or the funeral luncheons that graciously provided meals to those grieving. This both happens in the church but also within families. It is important for both nuclear families and church family to continue sharing meals together.



But it's not just simply sharing a meal together that makes this important. While the meals are delicious and satisfy our hunger, when we share a meal together, we also share our lives with one another. Together, whether it's in the lunchroom, the gym, or the comfort of a home, we share stories with one another. Sometimes, we even share hardships of our lives, opening a door to share Jesus with each other.

This is the very thing that Jesus did as he ate with tax collectors and sinners. Jesus shared a meal, and in doing so, showed his love and compassion for those who needed it most. Others would look on and wondered why he would do such a thing. We, as Christians look at Jesus and strive to do the same. Jesus would share words that would change lives, and He did this all at the dinner table.



So, let's continue to share meals together. Soon it will be Lent, and we will have our Lenten dinners before we worship. What a great opportunity to have fellowship with one

another. I hope to see many of you there! Because sharing meals together goes beyond eating delicious food. It's time we purposefully set aside to grow closer to one another and be in Christian fellowship, just as Jesus did with others. So, may we pray that common table prayer together, "Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest..."





Give the Gift of Sight! Join Our Eyeglass Collection Drive

By: Matthew Couser, Principal

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School is partnering with MOST Ministries to bring the gift of sight to those in need around the world! Many people in developing nations cannot afford eyeglasses—

sometimes costing more than a month's salary. For many, a single pair of glasses can be life-changing, allowing them to read, work, and learn.

How You Can Help:

-  Donate your gently used prescription or reading glasses
-  Donate your gently used sunglasses
-  Drop them off at our designated collection boxes (Located in the Church Lobby Coat Room)
-  Collection Dates: All-Year-Long

Our students at Our Savior Lutheran School have been making a difference all trimester long through their chapel offering donations to MOST Ministries. Recently, we had



the privilege of welcoming Melissa Kasper, a MOST Ministries representative, to our school. She shared powerful stories about the world-wide impact of eyeglass clinics.

Watch her interview with Principal Couser by scanning the QR Code

Each donated pair is sorted, tested, and repackaged by volunteers

before being distributed on the mission field—often becoming the only pair of glasses a person will ever own.

Our Savior is joining all Lutheran Schools in the Michigan District Hearts for Jesus Campaign. Together, we can make a difference! Help us spread the love of Christ by restoring sight and hope.

For more information, contact MOST@mostministries.org



2nd Trimester Offering

Most Ministries: Eyeglass Ministry

MOST Ministries provides recycled eyeglasses to people living in the developing nations around the world.

mostministries.org/eyeglass_ministry

Safety Initiatives at Our Savior

By: Matthew Couser & Stephanie Trapp

Faith in Jesus provides strength, hope, and guidance in every aspect of life, including school and church safety. Trusting in Him reminds us that we are never alone, even in uncertain times. While faith reassures us, wisdom calls us to take practical steps to protect our communities. Schools and churches should be places of peace and learning, where everyone feels safe to grow in faith and knowledge. Through prayer, vigilance, and unity, we can work together to create environments where love overcomes fear and where God's presence is felt in every corner.



But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. ~Matthew 6:33-34

During the past year, Our Savior has taken on safety initiatives to equip staff and lay leaders of the congregation with practical skills and strategies. We partnered with **Lion Safety Consulting** to assess and provide safety training for our church and school.

- **Staff safety trainings** were held on January 6 and February 14 for professional development, with over 40 staff from church, K-8 school, and early childhood participating.
- **A church safety training** took place on January 12, involving 40 volunteers, including elders, ushers, and musicians.
- **Written safety protocols** will be drafted as a result of these training sessions for future reference.
- **Procedural changes** have been and will continue to be implemented from these trainings.

The goal of these trainings was to equip staff with the knowledge and confidence to adapt and respond appropriately during a crisis. Lion Safety Consulting provided active, engaging, and practical training to empower our team in emergency situations.

Enhancements Through the Michigan School Safety Grant

The **Michigan School Safety Grant** has funded several improvements, including:

- **Upgrading our aging keycard system** to enhance security.
- **Enhancing security features** such as cameras, locks, and other safety measures.
- **Critical Incident Mapping** provides a digital blueprint easily assessed by law enforcement during a crisis.
- **Purchased Securly Classroom** to help teachers manage student activity and learning, monitor student progress, and share screens on Chromebooks during class.
- **Update Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)** for K-8 and Early Childhood and create an EOP for the Church in consultation with Lion Safety Consulting.
- **Trauma/Emergency kits** located in each classroom will be evaluated and upgraded with funding received with this year's grant.



AED Accessibility

Did you know Our Savior currently has two AEDs in our facility? Have you spotted their locations?



- One AED is located in the **back of the sanctuary near the sound booth**.
- Another AED is on the **east wall of the Commons/Lunchroom area**.
- A third AED will soon be added in the **gym**, donated by Farm Bureau Insurance Fuerstenau Burkett Agency and The Jadaoun Agency through the Operation AED - Community Outreach Program.

Call to Action: Stay Engaged in Safety

We encourage everyone to take an active role in maintaining a safe environment at Our Savior! Here's how you can help:

- ✓ **Familiarize yourself** with AED locations and emergency exits.
- ✓ **Stay vigilant** and report any safety concerns to church or school leadership.
- ✓ **Consider volunteering** for future safety training sessions.
- ✓ **Pray** for continued protection and wisdom as we take proactive steps toward safety.

Together, we strive for Our Savior to be a place of peace, faith, and security for all.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ~Philippians 4:6

Lent at Our Savior Lutheran Services and Events

Wednesday, March 5 - Ash Wednesday

Prayers of the Penitent
Meal: Fish Fry - 5:30-6:45pm
Worship: Imposition of Ashes - 7:00pm

Wednesday, March 12 - Posture of Prayer

Meal: Baked Potato Bar - 5:30-6:45pm
Worship: 7:00pm

Wednesday, March 19 - Prayers of Forgiveness

Meal: Taco Bar - 5:30-6:45pm
Worship: 7:00pm

Wednesday, March 26 - Prayers of Healing

Meal: Grilled Cheese & Tomato Soup - 5:30-6:45pm
Worship: Service of Healing - 7:00pm

Wednesday, April 2 - Prayers for the Persecuted

Meal: Spaghetti - 5:30-6:45pm
Worship: 7:00pm

Wednesday, April 9 - Praying the Psalms

Meal: Chili Cook-Off - 5:30-6:45pm
Worship: 7:00pm

Sunday, April 13 - Palm Sunday

Worship: 8:30 & 10:30am
Connect Worship: 10am

Thursday, April 17 - Maundy Thursday

Worship: 7:00pm

Friday, April 18 - Good Friday

Worship: 12:00 & 7:00pm

Saturday, April 19 - Easter Egg Hunt

9:30am

Sunday, April 20 - Easter Sunday

Worship: 8:30 & 10:30am



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN
Church and School

oursaviorlansing.org

7910 E. St. Joe Hwy., Lansing, MI 48917

Early Childhood Winter Fun



Spring Events

March

- 1 Auction
- 2 New Member Sunday
- 2, 9, 16 First Communion Milestone
- 5 Ash Wednesday
 - Fish Fry - 5:30-6:45pm
 - Worship - 7pm
- 9 3rd Grade Money Milestone
- 14 Daddy Daughter Dance
- 24-28 Spring Break
- 26 Service of Healing

April

- 13 Palm Sunday
- 17 Maundy Thursday - 7pm
- 18 Good Friday - 12 & 7pm
- 19 Easter Egg Hunt - 9:30am
- 20 Easter Sunday - 8:30 & 10:30am
- 21 Easter Monday
 - Offices Closed/No School
- 27 Friendship Sunday

May

- 5-9 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 11 Mother's Day
- 15 School Instrumental Concert
- 18 Early Childhood "I Love You" Tea
- 18-22 8th Grade Class Trip
- 26 Memorial Day (Offices Closed)

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

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