

LEARN LIVE SHARE

Winter 2025-26



Our Savior Lutheran Church and School
Quarterly Newsletter

Each One, Reach One

By: Pastor Bill Wangelin



The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod is known for its missions and evangelism. Many years ago, a synod-wide theme was “Each One, Reach One.” When we think of how many people need to hear the good news of Jesus, and how many could be welcomed into the family of faith, the numbers and work involved can be overwhelming. But God doesn’t call us to disciple everyone. He calls us to disciple someone. It is usually someone God has already put in our path. Who is your “one” (or two, or three) that you can reach with the grace and truth of Jesus?



If each of us were to pray about the “one” (or two, or three) and bring them closer to the grace and truth of Jesus, that would be far more effective than if just a few Christians were trying to evangelize everyone. It is also more effective than church programs that involve a lot of people, but with little growth in discipleship.

It has been observed that the American church is “over-programmed, under-disciplined.” That is, we have programs that include big groups of people. We like to see big numbers and lots of involvement. But that doesn’t always result in a big impact. Most of the time, reaching people with the Gospel and helping them follow Jesus happens in one-on-one situations, or in very small groups with a mentor. It is often messy, inefficient, and takes a long time. Big programs can’t handle that. But authentic relationships and intentional mentoring can. If each person were to reach one person, that would double the amount of disciples at Our Savior. The growth would be exponential!

Let’s pray about the “one” (or two, or three) that God is calling us to encourage, equip, and empower to follow Jesus. Whom has God placed in your path? Let’s pray that each one can reach one this coming year, 2026, and see what the Holy Spirit does with that. He can do more than we can imagine!

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

OSL Unscripted

By: Dave Wright, Family Life Director



What do you get when you combine co-workers who are actually close friends, some recording equipment, and some concentrated topics for discussion? You get a podcast, but not just any old podcast. You get OSL Unscripted – a relaxed conversation about a wide variety of topics.

If you haven’t had a chance, check out our newest and shiniest piece of ministry on the link below to listen to Pastor Chris and me talk about ministry, family life, and any topics that resonate with families doing life in a hectic world.

This is a new venture for us, and we are excited to invite everyone along for discussion,

questions, insights, and conversation.

We have set a goal to release a new podcast on the third Thursday of each month. We would appreciate feedback on the following questions:

How frequently would you like a new podcast to be released? Once a month? Twice a month? Weekly? (please don’t write in “never again.” ☺)

What are some Christian faith topics and family life topics that you would like to hear more about?

In the near future, we will be talking about these topics:

- How to keep ourselves and families healthy and fit
- Small group ministry
- Financial responsibility
- Our ministry partnership with St Peter’s Confessional Lutheran Church and School in Middelburg, South Africa

Send me your thoughts....

dwright@oursaviorlansing.org

<https://www.oursaviorlansing.org/osl-unscripted-podcast/>



Christmas Eve at Our Savior Lutheran

3:00pm

**Christmas Eve
Connect Service**

Station-based
young family focused
service.

5:00pm

**Contemporary
Christmas Eve
Worship Service**

Led by our worship band.

7:00pm

**Traditional Christmas
Eve Worship Service**

Includes Adult Choir,
Adult Handbell Choir
and Brass.



All services include a candlelight ceremony, 5:00 & 7:00pm will have communion.

The Advent Wreath, Faith 5, & Family Devotions

By: Pastor Chris Deneen



As the days grow colder and darker, and we look forward to when they get warmer and brighter, I think of the Advent wreath my family uses for our devotions during Advent. There are many great Advent wreaths: some for purchase in our church office, some online you can find, and I even remember growing up, drilling 5 holes into a log to make an Advent wreath!



The one my family uses is from a silent auction at my vicarage church in Antigo, WI. It reminds me of my days there on my vicarage, and it is shaped a little differently. It is more like steps than your typical circular wreath. With the blue candles and the pink candle like steps leading up to the white candle, that represents Christ and Christmas.

When we eat dinner together, after dinner, or sometimes before or during, we light our Advent wreath. Then we talk through a simple Faith 5 devotion: Sharing Highs and Lows, Reading Scripture, Talking about the Scripture, Praying for each other, and Blessing one another

This year for Advent, we have a Faith 5 devotional about the Advent wreath. Each week, as you light another candle on the wreath, you'll go onto the next week. And this is a great devotion to use throughout the year too! You don't have to only use it during Advent!

If you do family devotions, this is a great addition! If you don't do family devotions, this is a great way to start. A simple and easy devotion time as a family, going through the four candles on the Advent wreath: Hope, Peace, Joy, & Love.

Hope: That reminds us of the amazing hope we have in Christ. The hope that Jesus will make all things new when He calls us to be with Him for eternity.

Peace: John 14:27, Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you." The peace that Jesus gives is a peace that the world could never come close to.

Joy: Hebrews 12:2 says, "fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." Our Joy is in Jesus! No one can take that away!

Love: John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

These candles that bring just a bit of light into the darkness, remind us of the light that Christ brings to us. I pray the Advent devotional, and all of our Faith 5 devotions would be a blessing to you and yours, not just during Advent and Christmas, but always!

Pastor Chris <><



Thanksgiving Baskets—A Tremendous Blessing!

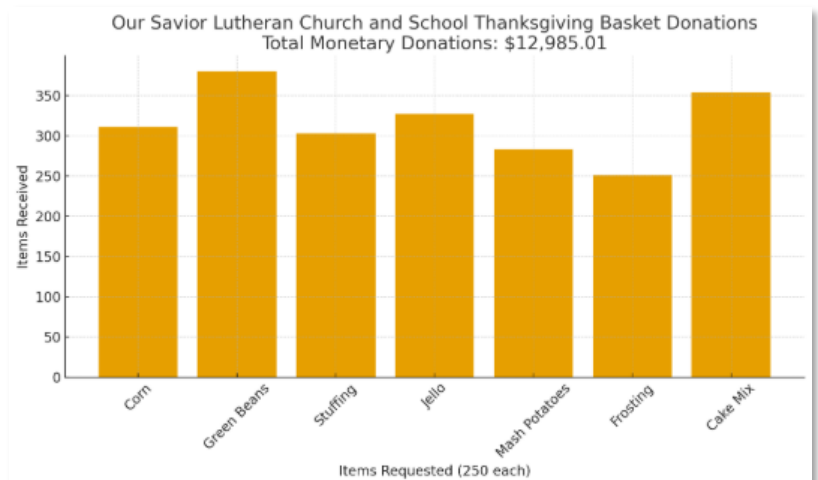


Our Savior Lutheran Church and School came together in an incredible way to support this year's Thanksgiving Basket Ministry. We set out with a goal to collect 250 of

each food item—and through the generous hearts of our church and school families, we received well over that amount in nearly every category. In addition to the items donated, we were also blessed with \$12,985.01 in monetary donations, allowing us to extend our reach even further into the community.

This overwhelming response shows the strength of our faith community and its commitment to serving others. Because of the kindness and willingness to give, many

local families will experience the love, care, and comfort of Christ through a full Thanksgiving meal.



Out-of-School Time Blessings

By: Windy Carroll, Early Childhood Programs Director



Last fall, Our Savior was blessed to be chosen as a recipient of an Out-of-School Time (OST) Grant through the State of Michigan. These grant funds, designed to build and enhance out-of-school time programming throughout the state, were received to benefit our before- and after-school and summer camp programs. Throughout the year, funds were used to assist Our Savior in staffing, food, and facilities costs, additional field trip and special event opportunities, special guest presenters and visitors (including an extra-cool visit from Sparty himself!), and many new

and exciting materials.

OST Grant funds were also utilized to offer an end-of-summer event for all enrolled families,

which included a guest comic and magician visit, a FREE catered dinner, free KONA Ice, a DJ dance party, bounce houses, and games! Families and staff had a wonderful time celebrating the end of camp together and many families expressed their gratitude to have such a great fellowship opportunity completely free of cost.

In after-school program, we are currently implementing many of the new materials that were ordered using grant funding. In early November, students had the chance to build a Bluetooth speaker kit with special guest visitor, Mr. Josh Wyatt. Children had a blast with this hands-on STEM project over the course of two days in the after-school program, then got to take home their working speaker to use themselves or gift to a family member!

Among our other new materials is a permanent fixture in our gymnasium: the Lu Interactive Playground, which

was recently installed and is being prepared for student use. The Lu Interactive Playground offers students during and outside of school time the opportunity to engage their whole body in learning through interactive video games containing a multitude of learning themes. Activities on the Lu are even aligned with grade level benchmarks, allowing students of all ages to play and learn! We are very excited to begin using this new equipment as part of our physical education during school and extended care hours.

Our Savior plans to re-apply for this year's Out-of-School Time Grant funding this month. We thank God for His provision and pray that we might once again be blessed by being selected to receive OST funds again for the coming year.



LET THE GAMES BEGIN! Our Savior Lutheran Church & School 2026 AUCTION

Proudly Presented by: Dart Bank Wealth



DATE Saturday
March 7, 2026
TIME 4:30pm
VENUE Our Savior
Gymnasium



oursaviorlansing.org/auction

Beyond the Core Class: Specials and Electives Enrich the Middle School Experience

By: Matthew Couser, Principal



At Our Savior Lutheran School, middle school students experience a well-rounded education that extends beyond core subjects. Through specials and electives, students explore new interests, develop skills, and grow in confidence—all within a Christ-centered environment. These courses, led by passionate teachers, bring creativity, joy, and variety to each day while supporting Our Savior's mission to learn, live, and share Christ.



Specials at Our Savior

Specials are required courses for all students and help them explore arts, health, technology, and physical activity. In **Art**, students express creativity through drawing, painting, crafting, and design while studying influential artists. **Physical Education** encourages fitness, team sports, and cooperative games with an emphasis on Christian sportsmanship.



Health, held once weekly, focuses on physical, emotional, and spiritual wellness, teaching students to make healthy, God-honoring choices. **STEAM**, meeting twice weekly, allows students to collaborate on hands-on projects that promote problem-solving, innovation, and creativity. Finally, **Computer Skills** develops digital confidence through typing, presentations, responsible technology use, and digital projects that support academic work.

These required specials ensure that every student experiences a balanced education grounded in Christian values and 21st-century skills.



Electives at Our Savior

Electives allow students to make choices and explore personal interests. Each trimester, students select from courses led by enthusiastic teachers. Choir helps students lift their voices in praise to God while developing vocal technique and



music reading. **Choir** is available each trimester and may be taken all year. **Band** and **Handbells**, meeting three times weekly, build musical skills, teamwork, and performance experience.

Family Consumer Science teaches practical life skills such as planting, cooking, sewing, and responsibility, while **Drama** develops confidence, communication, and creativity through acting and performance.

Students interested in innovation and leadership can explore **Business World**, which introduces stock

market experiences and financial literacy through a Junior Achievement

partnership. **Coding** challenges students to think logically and creatively while learning programming fundamentals.

Through electives, students pursue their interests, try new things, and discover how their unique gifts can be used to serve God and others.

Feedback on specials and electives has been overwhelmingly positive. Students enjoy exploring new interests, learning in different ways, and doing something unique beyond core classes. These opportunities help them discover passions that may continue into high school and beyond. Through Our Savior's middle school program, students are engaged, curious, and inspired by learning that connects to real life. Whether coding, performing, cooking, or creating, they develop confidence, enthusiasm, and joy in discovering their God-given talents.



Through both specials and electives, Our Savior's middle schoolers experience learning that is active, creative, and connected to real life. Whether designing an engineering project, performing in a concert, cooking a meal, or launching a small business idea, students discover their talents while growing in confidence, collaboration, and Christian character. These experiences enrich the middle school journey and prepare students to lead and serve with joy.

My son is absolutely loving the business (stocks/investing) elective. It's the most excited we've ever seen him about a class—he says it's his favorite and that Mr. Conway is awesome! It's so fun seeing him love a subject and want to share what he's learning."

-Parent of Business Class Student

Wednesdays at Our Savior

Wednesdays at Our Savior Lutheran Church and School are truly a blessing—an anchor point in the middle of each week where faith, learning, and community come together in meaningful ways. From the first bell of the morning to the last conversation before heading home, the campus is filled with life, purpose, and the joyful rhythm of Christ-centered ministry.

The day begins with the gift of chapel, where students, staff, and families gather to hear God's Word, sing praises, and grow together in faith. This weekly worship service sets a Christ-focused tone for the day and reminds us of the

hope, peace, joy, and love that Christ pours into our lives.

Throughout the day, the school hums with energy as classrooms engage in learning grounded in Christian values. Midweek Bible studies welcome adults into deeper conversation around Scripture, offering spiritual nourishment and fellowship for all who attend. Speaking of adults, Wednesday Crew meets to tackle projects around the building and enjoy some fellowship and donuts.

And on special Wednesdays, events like Donuts and Devos add an extra layer of connection—inviting families to share breakfast, reflect on God's Word, and enjoy a moment of togetherness before the day begins.

With so many opportunities packed into every week, Wednesdays at Our Savior remind us how blessed we are to be part of a vibrant church and school community where Christ is at the center of all we do.



Advent at Our Savior Lutheran

Sunday Worship Services

Sunday, November 30 - 8:30 & 10:30am

"The First Candle: Hope"

Sunday, December 7 - 8:30 & 10:30am (Communion)

"The Second Candle: Peace"

Sunday, December 14 - 8:30, 10:00 & 10:30am

"The Third Candle: Joy"

Sunday, December 21 - 8:30 & 10:30am (Communion)

"The Fourth Candle: Love"

Sunday, December 28 - 9:30am

"Service of Carols"

Christmas Eve Worship Services

3:00pm: Christmas Eve Connect Service

This is our station-based young family focused service.

5:00pm: Contemporary Christmas Eve Worship Service

Led by our worship band.

7:00pm: Traditional Christmas Eve Worship Service

Includes Adult Choir, Adult Handbell Choir and Brass.

All services include a candlelight ceremony,
5:00 & 7:00pm will have communion.

Events & Midweek Services

Blue Christmas Midweek Service

Wednesday, December 3, 7pm

Advent by Candlelight

Saturday, December 6, 2-4pm

Advent by Bonfire

Saturday, December 6, 5-8pm

Early Childhood & Kindergarten Christmas Program

Sunday, December 7, 4pm

Grades 5-8 Christmas Concert

Wednesday, December 10, 7pm

Living Nativity

Saturday, December 13, 5:30-7:30pm

Advent & Christmas Hymn Festival

Sunday, December 14, 3pm

Grades 1-4 Christmas Program

Wednesday, December 17, 7pm



Young Adult Group Ministry

By: Vicar Paul Engelhardt



I'm excited to shine some light on our Young Adult Group that has been going on here at Our Savior! There is about 10-12 of us that gather together to have fellowship, mingle, talk about God's word and just have a good time with one another.

The Young Adult Group has been up and running since March so we are coming up on the one year anniversary of the group which is very exciting. Check out some of the things we have done so far these last couple of months. One of the events we had was going to Lick-It Split where we spent time together to grab ice cream. We have also gathered at Horrocks Farm

Market beer garden. With the live music and fun atmosphere, this has become one of our regular hangout spots for our Young Adult Group. We went bowling in the fall, which was a blast! Pizza and good fellowship with one another always makes a great event. We had hoped to do an apple orchard picking trip but the snow rolled in fast this year so maybe that can be an event that we plan for next fall.

We are always welcoming new young adults to the group and would love to see you at our upcoming events. We are planning an ugly sweater party/white elephant gift exchange in December. Then, looking into next year, we are trying to do a DIY Pizza party here at the Church in January. Everyone will bring their favorite toppings as we will make our own pizzas. With the Super Bowl in February, we hope to gather to watch the game and hang out with one another.

If you are interested or know someone that would love to join the Young Adult Group, send them my way (pengelhardt@oursaviorlansing.org) or to Kaitlynn Mews (kmews@oursaviorlansing.org) and we will get you into the Group chat to keep you up to date.

That's a little bit of what is going on in the Young Adult Group and we can't wait to see how God continues to bless this group of believers in the months to come!



WINTER EVENTS CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- 3 Blue Christmas Service 7pm
- 6 Advent by Candlelight 2pm
Advent by Bonfire 5pm
- 13 Living Nativity 5:30pm
- 14 Hymn Festival 3pm
- 24 Christmas Eve Worship
3pm: Connect Worship
5pm: Contemporary Worship
7pm: Traditional Worship
- 28 Service of Carols Worship 9:30am

JANUARY

- 24 Jr. High Winter Blast
- 26-30 National Lutheran Schools Week

FEBRUARY

- 1 Congregation Meeting 9:30am
Discover Our Savior 12pm
- 2 Re-enrollment Begins
- 8 Learn to Pray Milestone

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School



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