

LEARN LIVE SHARE

Summer 2024



Our Savior Lutheran Church and School
Quarterly Newsletter

Love Thy Neighborhood

By: Pastor Bill Wangelin



Each of our homes is a mission outpost for the Kingdom of God. God has you in your neighborhood (apartment, dorm, house, facility, on your street, in your part of town, or in the countryside) to be a blessing to those around you as you live in the grace and truth of Jesus. We come to church and school to be shaped, formed, empowered, and equipped to be His lights. We then take that grace and truth to our communities in the context of our daily lives.



Have you thought of your home as a mission station? God graciously invites us and empowers us to be a 'city on a hill' - or, as a friend of mine puts it, 'the brightest

house on the block.'

That doesn't mean we have perfect shiny lives and are always the best examples. The Christian life isn't about perfection or legalism. It is about truth and grace. As a family, we strive to live according to God's truth as revealed in His word. As Christians, we live by grace and practice forgiveness with ourselves and others. We try to reflect the love and mercy of God to our neighbors and anyone in need. We reflect God's compassion and care to our world, ultimately pointing to God's love and forgiveness in Jesus Christ.

Do you view your home differently when you think of it as a mission station? Is it a refuge for the weary, a foodbank, a shelter, a preaching station? You may not open your home to strangers, but remember that we are missionaries to our families, too.

As we learn, live, and share Christ at church, school, and home, the Holy Spirit is shaping us as disciples of Jesus to bring the Good News to others around us. Your church family wants to support you and your mission station, keeping Faith Active In The Home. Check out this edition of Learn Live Share and talk to your pastors about how you can love your neighborhood this summer and join Jesus on His mission. Let's see what Jesus does in our homes and families as we follow Him. He does such marvelous things!

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



Connect the Dots

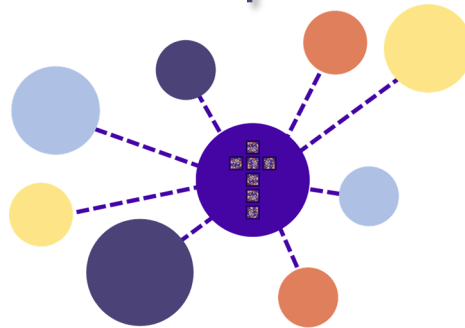
By: Pastor Chris Deneen



1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. We've all done the fun connect the dots, where you start to put the dots together, and something brilliant shows up! There's the time when you start connecting, and you wonder, "Where is this going?" But then you connect a few more dots, and the picture starts to come together. And then once all of the dots

are connected, you see an amazing picture, and looking back at your connecting and maybe even yes, a little struggle, it all comes to fruition. Then the master plan of the one who designed the connect the dot puzzle, the true beauty is realized.

So, where do you fit into the master plan of the One who designed this intricate Connect the Dot puzzle that we have in Lansing? You fit right in your neighborhood. This summer we are making a push to see how can our neighborhoods and communities, be places of 'inreach', but also outreach, but also, places where ultimately the love of Jesus is seen and known.



Inreach: This is happening with our Connect the Dot Parties. I pray that you get a moment to be with your fellow OSL members, share in unhurried time, and see how God is working in your neighborhood. There may be frustrations and struggles, but God is on the loose and working in your neighborhood. Take a look around, or you might miss Him!

Outreach: You've got neighbors you know, neighbors you love, neighbors, who you aren't sure where they stand with Jesus. Well, "How can they hear without someone preaching to them?" (Romans 10:14.) In our world today, many still believe in and know who Jesus is. But do they know Him as their Lord and Savior? You've been granted the Holy Spirit through the waters of Baptism. The Holy Spirit works through you! One thing I've had to work on, is not limiting the power of the Holy Spirit. Get out and proclaim, that the Holy Spirit may have room to work in your neighborhood!

Know this: Jesus is with you. Jesus left His disciples with this promise, "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

You don't go alone. Connect the Dots with your neighbors! Know your neighbors, and share Jesus with them. Because Jesus has changed, saved, and given you life. And let the rest of us know how it goes with reports, and pictures!

May our summers be filled of living and loving like Jesus, and living as though Christ died yesterday, rose again today, and is coming back tomorrow.

Pastor Chris <><

Spring is in the Air

By: Windy Carroll, Early Childhood Programs Director

Spring is always a busy time of year – especially in our school and Early Childhood ministries! Spring brings many events, preparations for transitions from the school year into summer, summer camp planning, and a feeling of anticipation in the air as the weather warms and the earth bursts forth with foliage and new life. What an awesome time of year to observe God's perfect creation and give thanks for the amazing place we get to call our earthly home.



In our Early Childhood ministry, staff also look forward to Spring as we attend the annual Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children (MiAEYC) Conference in Grand Rapids. Each spring, we are blessed with the opportunity to gather with other early childhood professionals to learn, converse, and share ideas. This year, some of our staff also had the opportunity to present sessions at the conference, which is always a blessing.



In the coming weeks, we look forward to rounding out the school year with our "I Love You" Tea event, and Early Childhood Portfolio Night. We are excited to celebrate these events and the culmination of the school year with our students and families, while also 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 170 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 blessings of the season.

Mission for Africa

By: Jill Endelman

A group of ladies at OSL have started a new mission to sew Sanitary Pads for Africa. Pastor Moses and Alice Dangba of Living Word Lutheran Church in Lansing will be going on a mission trip this August to South Sudan. Their ministry will include visiting migrant camps and orphanages in need of basic necessities. Alice saw a great need when she was in Africa two years ago and she is praying to take over 2,500 pads this August.

OSL ladies are working to help meet this need. It is also planned for this group to continue sewing pads after August for OSL to take on the Mission to Middelburg trips to South Africa. You do not need to sew to help, as there are various needs; including praying for the success of this ministry, donations for shipment of the pads (extra baggage costs), purchasing fabrics needed, cutting out patterns, and sewing the pads. If you are willing to help with this project, please contact Jill Endelman at endelmanj@gmail.com or cell 517-420-8448. For more information about the trip to South Sudan, you may contact Alice Dangba at aliceminisare@gmail.com or cell 517-614-4937.



Many ladies from OSL are happy for the opportunity to help and we are working all to God's Glory!

"Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress..."

James 1:27a

Overwhelmed with Gratitude

By: Vicar Noah Pieper



As we approach this summer season, I have enjoyed reflecting both on the past year and what is to come. In the last nine months, I have been blessed by all the ways you have all welcomed me as a part of your church family. It has been a joy to be here!

Some of my highlights of the last few months include the OSL auction and teaching and visiting with both students in our school and members in Wednesday Bible Study. I was certainly strengthened in faith through this Lenten season leading up to Easter, and I enjoyed planning services during the Easter season. There have been so many opportunities to both receive the love of Jesus through God-sightings in these activities, and also share the gospel in my preaching, teaching, and relationships I have been blessed by.

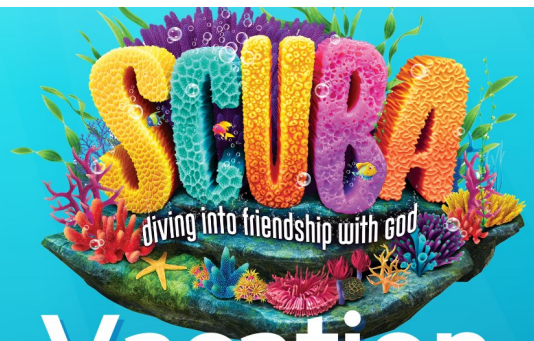
One of the things I most looked forward to was City Serve. Working with members here at OSL has been an impactful experience. Both our planning team and volunteers have shown me their hearts for service. We are all so excited to have been the hands and feet of Jesus in the Lansing community. The best part of this planning process has been the visits with people we will serve. We have met some amazing people who feel so appreciated and blessed to receive help from a willing neighbor. It was a wonderful day!



After my time in Michigan comes to an end, I have the privilege of spending the next year at the Lutheran Seminary (Lutherische Theologische Hochschule) in Oberursel, Germany. This program will add a year to my studies, and I am honored to have been chosen to represent the St. Louis seminary.

I look forward to learning the German language, building relationships with the students and their families, studying and visiting our Lutheran heritage, and learning more about God's word through a new cultural lens.

As my vicarage comes to an end, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the countless interactions of God's love and grace through his people here in Lansing, Michigan. Thank you for welcoming me into your family. Anna and I appreciate your prayers as I continue my preparation for the ministry, and I give thanks to God for the important role you have played in that preparation.



Vacation Bible School

June 17-20, 6-8pm

Dinner at 5:15pm

Ages 3 to 5th Grade

Register Today!
Scan the QR code
or go to
oursaviorlansing.org/events



American Red Cross

Save the Date!

BLOOD DRIVE

JULY 25, 2024

AT OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN

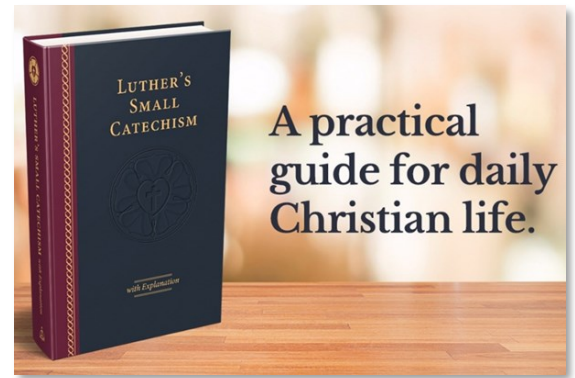
The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give Blood

Catechism in the Home

By: Dave Wright, Minister of Family Life

Did you know that each of the six important parts of Christian doctrine are clearly explained in Luther's Small Catechism? The Ten Commandments, The Apostle's Creed, The Lord's Prayer, The sacrament of Holy Baptism, Confession, and The Sacrament of the Altar – all of these important parts of what we believe and practice from scripture are there along with practical questions and answers directly from scripture.

Since the truth and relevancy of scripture never change, the teachings in the catechism do not change either. Therefore, families can learn and reinforce the truths that we proclaim and the religion that we practice – still today. Luther's Small Catechism is not outdated. It is not old fashioned. It is a wonderful instructional aid for family devotions and Christian instruction within the home.



Pastor Ian Heinze, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Havana, ILL, and former vicar at OSL, places a high value on daily family devotions. *“One thing that we simply cannot miss or diminish is the high calling of parenthood and the exceedingly weighty duties that God charges parents with carrying out; especially when it comes to raising children in the faith of the Triune God...Parents in particular have the tremendous and admirable task of training their children in the way that they should go. This task begins from the earliest of days with our little ones. Forming and shaping them into image of Jesus, teaching them what it looks like to be a member of the Body of Christ, modeling for them the habits and conduct of the family of God.”*

Forming, shaping, modeling, and teaching the faith can be overwhelming. That is why Luther's Small Catechism is a great resource for leading family devotions. However, many people tend to think that instruction from the catechism is not necessary until children reach the age of their church's confirmation program. **I encourage all families to work through the pages of the small catechism, talking about the questions and answers, and reading and discussing the scriptures that reinforce the doctrinal truths within the catechism.** This can and should be done while children are young. In fact, families of any age can start reading the catechism together. After all, faith development starts in the home.

In an article from The Lutheran Witness titled **At Home with the Catechism**, (May 12, 2023) author Charles A. Gieschen writes, *“Dr. Martin Luther... did not write the Small Catechism to be simply used by pastors as a textbook for children's instruction. He primarily intended it to be a family prayer book that is used frequently in the Christian home. One needs only read the headings of each of the six chief parts to see that Luther intended people to continue studying the catechism in the home: ‘As the head of the family should teach it in a simple way to his household.’ ”*

Matt Sternemann – husband, father, and a part of Our Savior Lutheran's Spiritual Life Team said, *“The best part about it (catechism) is applying all of it to our daily lives whether at school, church, work, or home. Particularly the Ten Commandments can be related to just about anything and is a simple concept to grasp for even a three year old...the things in the catechism are a good, simple way to discuss my faith with others, whether unchurched or a different faith background.”*

Not everyone is comfortable teaching the catechism to the rest of his or her family. If that is you, here are a few options that I encourage you to consider:

1. If you have young children (age 3-7, for example), simply read through the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, and the Apostle's Creed. By consistently reading a portion of the prayer or a commandment every evening before bed, you help your child memorize key parts of our Christian doctrine. Anyone can do this.
2. If you have slightly older children (age 8 and up) read through and discuss the questions and answers together. Write down questions of your own and ask the pastors or myself for help or clarification.
3. Attend a catechism instruction class. Perhaps that is where we need to consider partnering with parents - in an instructional setting. If you have made it this far in this article, and you would consider attending a catechism class in order to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to teach your family the catechism, please let me know. A six-week series on each of the six chief parts of Christian doctrine might be just what we all need to bring catechism instruction back into the home, taught more confidently by parents.



Our Lutheran faith and doctrine is so valuable. Consider the six main parts of Christian doctrine within Luther's Small Catechism as you pass on this faith to your children and grandchildren.

Weekly Chapel at Our Savior

By: Matthew Couser, Principal

"It's chapel day!" Each week during the school year Our Savior hosts chapel worship in commitment to God. Students, teachers, staff, parents, and family members gather together in the Lord's house for worship. Chapel IS a highlight of the week. Chapel (weekly worship) experiences intentionally designed to consciously and systematically strengthen the Christian faith of all members of the school community.

When I first began teaching at Our Savior, I remember walking my fifth grade class down the long hallways to arrive at chapel. Having not attended a Lutheran school while growing up, I trusted the purpose yet was unfamiliar with the practice. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, I began to embrace the weekly pilgrimage and participation with my class. After all, what better way to spend a mid-week morning than singing songs, listening to a children's message, and praying. Week after week we experienced Jesus and his love, both through Law and Gospel. The common practice became something I looked forward to. And through the years, I was amazed how scripture and the message shared by the chapel leader often had application to something our classroom was experiencing or doing.

Today at Our Savior Lutheran School we continue this practice of weekly chapel. Worshiping our Lord is core identity in Lutheran education. Providing time and space to gather as God's chosen and beloved people is essential to our daily living. According to Martin Luther, nothing else was important except that the Lord may speak to us through his holy Word and we respond to him through prayer and praise.

A big thank you goes to John Horak, our minister of music. Year after year he coordinates our chapel schedule with recruiting and assigning a chapel lineup of chapel leaders of not only Our Savior staff but of local Lutheran pastors, camp directors, and representatives from the Michigan District, Lutheran Special Education Ministries and Concordia University-Ann Arbor. These chapel message leaders jump at the opportunity to share the Gospel message with our school family. They serve with willing hearts. Our Savior is blessed with a plethora of ministry speakers.

From our Early Childhood Chapel on Wednesdays (immediately following K8 chapel) to their Prayer and Praise on Friday mornings, Mrs. Carroll and Mrs. Deyarmond and EC leaders plant the seeds for weekly chapel commitments. Our K-8 teachers orchestrate a classroom lead chapel each school year. It provides a public speaking opportunity and may include new experiences for memorization and drama or skit acting. Often working with a theme, students learn the ways of chapel preparation through prayer and focus on Bible Scripture. Building on the theme includes selecting not just favorite Christian music but songs or hymns connecting to the scripture passages and chapel theme. The Holy Spirit is at work through this process, both for the chapel preparer and worship participator. And, one time each month, we celebrate the waters of Baptism with monthly baptism certificates to acknowledge the Lord continuing to be at work in our lives and the spiritual guidance we receive from family, sponsors, and churchschool family.

Our chapels are open to the congregation and school families. We typically worship at 8:30am on Wednesday morning. When you feel the urge or have the need to replenish your spiritual tank, come join us. It's chapel day!



“Jesus Loves Me”

By: John Horak & the 6th Grade Christian Studies Students

A project we have worked on in 6th Grade Christian Studies is writing new verses for the hymn "Jesus Loves Me" which we know so well. Each verse is based on one of the New Testament events in the life of Jesus and has to have seven syllables in each line and have the first / second and third / fourth lines end in a rhyme. For a devotion, read the event from the Gospels, sing the verse and close with a prayer. We hope that these verses from the sixth graders are a blessing to you.



The Birth of Jesus

When an angel came to her
When there was a winter “burr”
On their way to Bethlehem
She gave birth to a cute gem

Jesus Heals a Man at Bethesda

Jesus came to pool of lame
None of them were about fame
He said to get up and walk
Picked his bed up then would talk

Jesus Walks on the Sea of Galilee

Jesus walked onto the sea
His disciples want to be
Peter did and thought he’d die
Jesus saved him from the sky

The Wise Men Worship Jesus

Three wise men saw a bright star
Leading them to travel far
There they saw a young bright boy
Then they gave Him gifts with joy

Jesus and Peter's Catch of Fish

On a small boat Jesus taught
No more fish the people caught
Jesus said the other side
Many fish came from the tide

Transfiguration of Jesus

Jesus to the mount on high
His disciples were amazed oh my
His clothing was as white as snow
Moses and Elijah show

Jesus and the Flight to Egypt

Angel of the Lord appeared
Get up quick and run they feared
Bring your wife and self and child
Stay in Egypt king’s gone wild

Jesus Stills the Storm

Jesus went inside a boat
His disciples took to float
They were scared their arms all waved
Jesus spoke and they were saved

Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

Lazarus was sick and died
Jesus mourned and cried and cried
He walked to the tomb so sad
Laz’rus rose it was not bad

The Child Jesus in the Temple

Then went home from Passover
Jesus not a follower
He stayed in the temple ye
Parents came and they found He

Jesus Raises the Daughter of Jairus

Jairus stopped the Lord on day
Told Him that his daughter lay
Jesus said that she’s asleep
She was raised no need to weep

Jesus Restores a Man’s Sight

Jesus came to a city
Blind man was all alone sadly
He said to receive your sight
By his faith he saw the light

The Baptism of Jesus

To the Jordan River came
John baptizing who had fame
From the water God is near
Jesus Son of God was here

Jesus Raises the Young Man of Nain

Jesus in the town of Nain
Young man dead he’s just been slain
Jesus put His hand on bier
Back to life he’s risen there

Jesus Helps Zacchaeus

There’s a man he’s very rich
He was short as in a ditch
Up the tree he went to see
Jesus then went home with thee

The Temptation of Jesus

Devil had a plan that’s bad
Jesus hungry but not mad
Then He spoke the Word to him
He won over Satan’s whim

Jesus Heals a Leper

Leper wants to be made clean
Jesus hears him He’s not mean
He is told that he is healed
Leper then goes to his field



Jesus and the Wedding at Cana

Jesus to a wedding came
Mary the disciples same
Wedding guests had no more wine
Jesus made some it was fine

Jesus Heals a Centurion’s Servant

When He came down from the hill
Came a man who was quite ill
Jesus said to him that he is well
Go show them be sure to tell



Jesus and the Samaritans

Jesus thirsty goes to well
Meets a woman there to tell
There her eyes are open wide
Then she knows He has not lied

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

Jesus fed five thousand men
Fish and bread He gave them
Women children fill their frame
Baskets twelve of food remain

SUMMER EVENTS CALENDAR

June

- 9 Graduation Sunday
- 10 Summer Camp Begins
- 12 Men's Cornhole Night
- 16 Summer Worship Time Begins: 9:30am
Congregation Meeting 10:30am
Father's Day
- 17 Monday Evening Worship Begins: 7pm
- 17-20 Vacation Bible School; Dinner: 5:15pm & VBS: 6-8pm
- 30 Freedom Appreciation Worship Service

July

- 1-5 Offices Closed & No Summer Camp
- 22-25 Summer Basketball Camp

August

- 9 Last Day of Summer Camp
- 15 Youth Group Kick-Off: 7pm
- 19 School Meet & Greet: 5-7pm
- 21 First Day of School

Our Savior Lansing Church & School

oursaviorlansing.org



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