



The Voice of Our Savior

Dear Members and Friends of OSL,



Pastor Graves

As I write this there are just 7 days before we wonderfully celebrate the greatest, most important birth the world has ever witnessed.

You look at the week and you are a bit anxious and excited all in one. Anxious about all that needs to be done. Or perhaps it is the travelling that has you unnerved. Maybe you are hoping and praying that all goes well as your family gathers together.

Often the very things that cause a bit of anxiousness are the very things that propel excitement.

What an opportunity to witness to others about Jesus. Many people have wished me a "Happy Holidays!" I use that moment to say, "I hope you have a joyous celebration of Christ's birth." Many will respond with "That's what it's all about isn't it?" It is sad because I get the impression that many businesses strive to be politically correct and mandate their employees to wish all a "Happy Holidays." I can't imagine the world not wishing the Jews a Happy Hanukah or the Muslims a Happy Ramadan. But Jesus is often pushed to the back seat on His birthday.

What would it be like if we didn't have all this gift giving? Can you imagine us Christians not buying gifts but just simply worshipping Jesus? It would devastate our economy! But how refreshing to humbly and genuinely give thanks to God for His great gift – Himself in the form of Jesus! How honoring to God to praise Him, as He desires, for His birth, life, death and eye-popping resurrection.

Wouldn't it please God to organize all Christians to give witness to Jesus' birth by putting a manger scene in their yard instead of reindeer, Santa Clause, snowmen and ice cycles? Let's all commit to doing that next year!

That said, I pray you did honor Jesus by thanking Him for coming – just dropping in; and more!

Our Living Nativity on December 17th was wonderful! Thanks to Mary Lou Krause and her precious crew of volunteer elves. I had the privilege of working the crowd. I spoke with an Assembly of God minister who works with Teen Challenge and those addicted to drugs. It was interesting to speak to members who drive all the way from Laingsburg to attend church and bring their children to our school.

What a sacrifice! How they value this church and school! There was even an older couple who came at 7:45pm wondering if this was the church that had the Living Nativity. They missed it, but I invited them to Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

When you read this, the New Year will be upon us! I hope only good for you, for us, in the coming year!

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January 2012

Volume 3 Issue 5

**Our Savior Lutheran
Church and School**

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January 8th we begin a new sermon series called "Life's Toughest Questions" based on the book of Ecclesiastes. This biblical book was written by King Solomon. He had everything he wanted except answers to tough questions:

- "What's The Point of Life?"
- "Why Should I Work So Hard?"
- "Why Isn't Life Fair?"
- "How Much Wealth Is Enough?"
- "How Can I Make the Most of My Time?"
- "What Happens When I Die?"
- "How Do I Face The Future?"

Solomon's favorite line was "Vanity, Vanity, All Is Vanity!" Is it? In his searching, Solomon finds out what is really important. You can benefit from this series. Bring someone with you – Invite!

You are all probably wondering about "When is our next call meeting?" We now have our new call list of 17 names. The Call Committee is calling all candidates now to see if they are open to a call. Then the interviews will begin. According to Rob Sweet, our Call Committee Chair, we can plan on having a call meeting January 29th, - Exciting, huh?! Continue to fervently pray!

May Christ lovingly look with favor upon us all as we journey thru 2012!

Lovingly!
Pastor Graves
Interim Senior Pastor

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR OLSEN

"Snow, snow, snow"

Snow, snow, snow. I recall as a child growing up and watching "White Christmas" with my mother each and every Christmastime. Some people like "Holiday Inn," but I prefer Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye. To this day my mother still calls to tell me it is on television. As a matter of fact, last year, Kirsten and I went to Celebration Cinema at 11:15 pm to sit in a theater with a packed house full of people and we all sang along with Bing in this classic.

Of course included with that movie is the classic song, "White Christmas." This however is an interesting song for me because I grew up in Florida! We did not have a single white Christmas. "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas, just like the ones I used to know. Where the tree tops glisten, and children listen to hear sleigh bells in the snow." Outside of the television this concept was quite foreign to me. The song should have gone like this, "I'm dreaming of a green Christmas, palm trees sway when the winds blow. Where the Disney lights glisten, and golfers listen, to hear, the ball drop in the hole."

The falling of the first snow of the season this last month reminded me about what, Isaiah 1:18 says, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;" What a beautiful message. Through the blood that Jesus Christ has shed upon the cross for your sins, you are now as white as snow. Snow, snow, snow, beautiful, white, wonderful, snow. What a clean picture that the prophet sets up for us.

As you make your way through snow this season, as you walk in it or shovel it or scrape it from the car, remember that you also are as white as snow because God loved you so much that He sent His only Son to die and rise again so that all eternity can be spent in heavenly bliss. A heavenly bliss whiter than the whitest snow imaginable. Christ has cleansed you from your sins. We are free now to live our life for Him. As the old song goes, "Jesus paid it all, all to him I owe. Sin has left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow." AMEN



Pastor Olsen

In His Service and Yours,
Pastor Olsen
Romans 15:13

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2012: Offering envelopes (YELLOW) for 2012 have been placed in your Church Mail Box. Please continue to use the blue 2011 ones until the end of the year. If you did not get the 2012 envelopes or there is a problem with yours please call the church office or Frank Carman at 485.3851.

NEWLY ELECTED & CURRENT BOARD & TEAM MEMBERS: **Board of Directors:** Pastor Graves, Lisa Keefer, Jim Landskroener, Tom Howell, Darryl Warncke, Dev Schleben, Dennis Sohn, Rob Sweet, Keith Barber, Bill Paterick, David Hughes, Phil Moldenhauer, Dave Wright, Pam Bardon; **Spiritual Life Team:** Pastor Graves, Pastor Olsen, Stan Bucrek, Bill Burmeister, Dan Giggy, Bob Hicks, Bill Skiba, Phil Trapp, David Grimm, Jay Hatz, Brad Ritter, Jim Sundstrom, Roger Troyer, Troy Becker, Bill Hall, Bob Schlueter, Darryl Warncke, Matthew Sternemann; **Christian Education Team:** Jim Landskroener, John Conner, Jeff Johnson, Tom Howell, Lisa Moldenhauer, Steve Mohnke, Jerry Monroe, Adam Heinlein, Wendy Moncada.

FOOD BANK SUNDAY: The food bank is in need of cans of soup to help warm up the community! During the month of January, please consider donating a can or two of soup. You can drop off cans in the Food Bank donation area, near the mail boxes through January 21st. Lets fill the baskets with lots of soup!! As always, any non-perishable food donation is greatly appreciated!

Future Food Bank Sundays:
February: Shampoo and Soap
March: Laundry Detergent

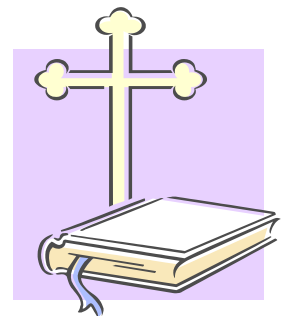
THE VOICE IS GETTING A NEW LOOK! Starting in February, The Voice will have a new and improved look and layout! We will also be emailing the voice to everyone on our email list. If you would still like a printed copy of the newsletter, please contact Becky Grocki at: communications@oursaviorchurch.org or 517-882-8665

E-MAIL ADDRESSES: OSL sends out email to members when there is important information that needs to go out and on most Thursdays. Please be sure we have your current email address by emailing it to receptionist@oursaviorchurch.org.

BIBLE AND NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class: Ecclesiastes. After the New Year, beginning January 8th our congregation will embark on a Sunday morning journey through the Old Testament Book of Ecclesiastes through a sermon series and through our Adult Bible Class. The pastor preaching will lead the discussion based class on the text presented for that day from this great wisdom book of the Bible. Come and join us for an in-depth look into our lives and into this book of the Bible filled with pessimism, realism, faith and hope.

Pastor Olsen's Midweek Class Resumes: Our midweek study continues after school begins again, with our next class on Wed. January 11th from 9:30 am to 11:00am. We have had a wonderful study looking at topics such as original sin and free will. We continue by studying topics such as The Lord's Supper, Christ's Descent into Hell, the various things we do in church which aren't in the Bible as well as other topics. Join us for our lively discussions and our journey deep into God's Word and His will for our lives.



MEMBERSHIP 101 is an in depth study to prepare people for meaningful membership at Our Savior. It is a perfect opportunity for someone to join Our Savior or to renew their understanding of the Christian Faith. This session will be held on Friday, **January 20th** at 6:30 – 8:00 pm and on Saturday **January 21st** from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm (lunch will be provided). Please call the church office to sign up or with any questions.

MUSIC MINISTRY AT OSL



John Horak
Music Director

Worship Schedule



New Year's Eve – Roll Call of Victory
Saturday, December 31
6:30 p.m. – Communion

New Year's Day
Sunday, January 1
9:30 a.m. – Communion

Epiphany
Ecclesiastes: What Is the Point of Life?
Sunday, January 8
8 a.m. – No Communion
10:45 a.m. – Communion
Monday, January 9
6:30 p.m. – Communion

2 Epiphany
Ecclesiastes: What Is the Value of Work?
Sunday, January 15
8 a.m. – Communion
10:45 a.m. – No Communion
NO MONDAY, JANUARY 16 WORSHIP

3 Epiphany
Ecclesiastes: Why Isn't Life Fair?
Sunday, January 22
8 a.m. – No Communion / Adult Handbell
Choir
10:45 a.m. – Communion
Monday, January 23
6:30 p.m. – Communion

4 Epiphany
Ecclesiastes: How Much Wealth Is Enough?
Sunday, January 29
8 a.m. – No Communion / Adult Choir
10:45 a.m. – Communion
Monday, January 30
6:30 p.m. – Communion

5 Epiphany
Ecclesiastes: How Can I Make the Most of My
Time?
Sunday, February 5
8 a.m. – Communion
10:45 a.m. – No Communion
Monday, February 6
6:30 p.m. – Communion

6 Epiphany
Ecclesiastes: What Happens When I
Die?
Sunday, February 12
8 a.m. – No Communion
10:45 a.m. – Communion
Monday, February 13
6:30 p.m. – Communion

Transfiguration
Ecclesiastes: How Do I Face the Future?
Sunday, February 19
8 a.m. – Communion
10:45 a.m. – No Communion
NO MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20 WORSHIP

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

	Jul 1 - Dec 16, 11 Actual	Jul 1 - Dec 16, 11 Budget	\$ Over/Under Budget	% of Budget
Income				
010100 · WEEKLY TITHES AND OFFERINGS	413,101.81	420,337.93	-7,236.12	98.28%
010200 · SPECIAL SERVICES INCOME	4,964.85	10,777.26	-5,812.41	46.07%
020100 · DEDICATED OFFERINGS	2,033.33	1,964.48	68.85	103.51%
020200 · OTHER INCOME	8,485.19	17,485.84	-9,000.65	48.53%
030000 · SCHOOL INCOME	294,086.09	295,871.45	-1,785.36	99.4%
040100 · MISSIONS INCOME	11,920.00	16,088.73	-4,168.73	74.09%
050100 · BLDG FUND INCOME	84,061.00	108,483.89	-24,422.89	77.49%
43500 · NON-BUDGET INTEREST INCOME	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Total Income	818,652.27	871,009.58	-52,357.31	93.99%
Expense				
6010100 · PASTORAL SUPPORT	74,778.21	104,507.48	-29,729.27	71.55%
6020300 · WORSHIP FACILITATION	6,168.28	7,975.47	-1,807.19	77.34%
6030100 · MUSIC MINISTRY	42,552.77	42,525.53	27.24	100.06%
6040100 · DAY SCHOOL	465,438.89	468,723.26	-3,284.37	99.3%
6060100 · ADMINISTRATIVE	86,849.52	85,120.86	1,728.66	102.03%
6070100 · PROPERTY / FACILITIES	131,535.98	242,719.49	-111,183.51	54.19%
6080000 · MINISTRY AND SERVICE	846.04	1,160.05	-314.01	72.93%
6090000 · CHILDREN'S MINISTRY	1,705.68	1,959.70	-254.02	87.04%
6100000 · YOUTH MINISTRY	7,226.40	9,127.42	-1,901.02	79.17%
6110000 · ADULT MINISTRY	1,008.68	3,222.51	-2,213.83	31.3%
6120000 · FAMILY MINISTRY	0.00	505.62	-505.62	0.0%
6130000 · FELLOWSHIP	386.21	959.66	-573.45	40.24%
6140000 · MISSIONS	13,474.21	14,729.85	-1,255.64	91.48%
66000 · Payroll Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Total Expense	831,970.87	983,236.90	-151,266.03	84.62%
Net Income	-13,318.60	-112,227.32	98,908.72	11.87%

Forward with Christ (FWC) Report

As of December 15, 2011:

Original Pledge Three Year Total:	\$ 709,813
Adjustments to Pledge Cards	(<u>\$ 10,920</u>)
New Pledge Amount for Three Years:	\$ 698,893
Per Month Pledge over 36 months:	\$ 19,414
Amount Pledged per month, April to Present:	\$ 165,019
Amount Contributed, April 1, 2011 to Present:	\$ 188,196
Amount Per Month Contributed, April 1, 2011 to Present:	\$ 22,141
Amount Contributed last in November:	\$ 12,304

*Monthly mortgage payment is \$ 26,800

SCHOOL NEWS



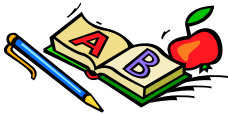
Jim Landskroener
Principal

Are you reading this?

I ask the above question because I sometimes get the feeling that any time that something dealing with the school is written about or shared in church, many people tune out if they don't have children in the school. If you have read this far, thank you. You as a member of Our Savior Lutheran Church and School play a major role in recruitment of new students. Your physical present at church when our students lead services demonstrates to families that you value our school and the church they represent. We have a number of spring events planned that are for the whole church and community. I pray that you will consider staying connected with the school by attending as many of these events as possible. The support that our school receives from the congregation is incredible and my hope is that will continue and grow.

2012-13 School Year

That's right, the next school year will be here before you know it. Next year's school calendar is already being put together and enrollment and re-enrollment begins in February. We are making some changes to make re-enrollment easier for returning students. Enrollment packets will be available the week of January 22nd. If you are interested in attending Our Savior Lutheran School, or know someone who is, please let the school office know so we can connect with you and lead you through the enrollment process.



Open House Info

Please join us on Thursday, February 9th from 5:30-7pm to participate in a Taste of Our Savior. As you visit each classroom you will be able to have a taste of Our Savior as each classroom will have food and/or drink to share. This is a great night to invite friends to come and learn about our school and learn about enrolling.

SCRIP isn't just for parents of our students

If you think buying SCRIP is just for parents of our school, think again. Every time you purchase SCRIP (gift cards to many stores, restaurants, and other businesses) our school gets a percentage of the sale as profit. Start the new year with trying it once. Most restaurants bring 9% to our school. Speedway gas gives us 4%. Land's End and LL Bean are in the 16% range. Stop by and see Barb Kaiser under the SCRIP banner in the narthex. Order forms and product lists are also available on the wall outside the school office. You may call or email me and I will give you more information at jlandskroener@oursaviorchurch.org or at 517-882-3550.

Night on the Town

April 20th will be here before we know it. My sincere hope is that we can gather 250 people together at The Country Club of Lansing for our annual night of fellowship and FUNdraising. Tickets are \$40 before February 1st and \$50 from February 1st until the auction date. Tables of 8 cost \$320 before February 1st and \$400 after that date. Consider buying a table and invite your friends or co-workers to a great night. I know many of you buy the many items that your co-workers kids sell and this is our one event that replaces all those sales. Get a whole table together or we will introduce you to new friends as we fill tables. TLCs are encouraged to consider buying a table or two and come as a group. Look for a mailing after the first of the year and pray that we can fill the room and support the great school that God has blessed us with. With your help we can reach our goal of raising \$25,000.

SCHOOL NEWS *(Continued)*

Students of Month for November:

Abigail Grocki, Andrew Konieczny, Kjersten Heinlein, Sarah Wamhoff, Madison Carter, Taylor Smelker, Michaela Donahue, Beth Wood and Trevor Mohnke.

Honor Students for 1st Trimester:

5th Grade – Corban Ferris, Dayton Galvin, Caleb Johnson, Timothy Nechuta, Lincoln Ostrander and Anna Shipman

6th Grade – Robbie DeLong and Cheryl Johnson

7th Grade – Avery Armstrong, Luke Berends, Juliana Figueiredo, Zachary Shepard, Julia Stiefel, Morgan Thomas, Noelle Wallas and Beth Wood

8th Grade – Duncan Flannery, Zoe Glass, Nicholas Matt, Baylee Smith, Gaven Smith, Seth Sturdevant and Daniel Wagner

High Honor Students for 1st Trimester:

5th Grade – Andrew Hughes, Jacob Kingsley, Fred Kulang, Avery Matt, Austin Savage, Taylor Smelker and Noah Waugh

6th Grade – Abigail Conway, Michaela Donahue, Zachary Howell, Michael Moldenhauer and Dasja Nappier

7th Grade – Alexa Kaschinske, Kirsten Olsen and Blaine Teahan

8th Grade – Abigail Becker, Mitchell Huffman, Grace Johnson and Trevor Mohnke

Perfect Church Attendance for 1st Trimester:

1st Grade – Noah Landskroener, Micah Longden, Owen Matt and Matthew Schaedig

2nd Grade – Holly Lang

3rd Grade – Abigail Landskroener

4th Grade – Leah Alfaro, Peter Hensler, Courtney Kaschinske and Elijah Stiefel

5th Grade – Corban Ferris, Christian Giggy, Caleb Johnson, Fred Kulang and Avery Matt

6th Grade – Abigail Conway, Cheryl Johnson, Michael Moldenhauer and Aaron Stiefel

7th Grade – Juliana Figueiredo, Juana Gildo, Faith Kulang, Kirsten Olsen, Julia Stiefel and Blaine Teahan

8th Grade – Abigail Becker, Rebekah Giggy, Grace Johnson, Michael Ritter, Gaven Smith and Daniel Wagner



Jim Landskroener
Principal