

# Our Savior's Good News

May – June 2019



Dearly Loved – of God, our Father and me, His servant and your shepherd for almost 16 years (unless you have come to Our Savior's since I came in July of 2003!)

One of my Mom's memorable posted Bible verse from my growing up days was Isaiah 55:8-9 about God's ways and thoughts being above and beyond (and better!) than ours. O, that we could have God's perspective on all of life – ours individually, our family, our church, our nation, and the world! He is in control. He is sovereign. He is good. The Lord delights to bring delights to His children – to us!

So the Lord is moving and moving His people and moving me to Michigan. So that leads me to underscore three things (I hope to say them as well as communicate them through these words!): 1) When a man/woman of God leaves, nothing of God leaves. His power and presence remain among His people – think of when Moses finished and Joshua picked things up; when Elijah left and Elisha had the same or even greater power. 2) The acceptance of the call to St. Paul, Albion, MI is not about my "choice" or "decision", it is about my obedience to God's leading. There is no "advantage" to where I am going and I will greatly miss so many things, people and experiences that I relish at Our Savior's. I imagined things differently as to timing and location but am filled with awe that the Lord made His will 100% clear to me (who is sometimes "hard of hearing"! ). 3) Don't "throw in the towel"! Take up the towel and serve! I understand it can be hard on the flock to be without a shepherd but the Good Shepherd is still guiding and He doesn't want His sheep scattering. Please don't leave because I am leaving. Resist that temptation to look on things negatively and with harsh criticism. Ask yourself, "What more or what else can I do to nurture the family of faith at our Savior's?" Pray for wisdom and support the leadership as they wrestle with decisions about congregational life and coverage of ministry, vision and direction and the calling of another pastor.

While we probably all have a mix of emotions, let's not act on our feelings but follow in footsteps of faith, walking things out with Jesus, Whom we trust and Who never fails us, leaves or forsakes us.

Jesus didn't feel like going to the cross, suffering and all but He trusted His Father. Though the road was difficult and painful, the conclusion was great and glorious! He is the same One Who promises us His presence, His power, protection and provision! That is the way and the thinking that will cause us/you/me to thrive!

Peace and love in Jesus + Pastor Paul Koehn

**MEN'S BREAKFAST** All Our Savior's men (and their guests) are invited to a Men's Breakfast on Saturday, May 11, beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Room. Our speaker for this event will be our own Pastor Paul who will give a challenging message and exhortation to the men of Our Savior's. This may be the last time that Pastor Paul will address the men directly prior to leaving Our Savior's for his new church in Michigan. Come to hear these parting words from our Pastor and also enjoy the good food and fellowship. You may sign up for the breakfast in the breezeway or contact Tom Roemke ([troemke@nycap.rr.com](mailto:troemke@nycap.rr.com)) to make reservations.

**SUNDAY'S ADULT BIBLE CLASS** during the month of May will continue to study *TACTICS* for witnessing, a DVD teaching by Greg Keukl and facilitated by Ray Hoffman, one of our Elders. This series gives practical approaches to relational evangelism. In June, the Sunday morning Bible Class will focus on Discipleship and Spiritual Maturity. This series will be taught by Peter and Lori Whitehouse. Please take advantage of these opportunities to grow in God's grace, equipped for ministry and witness.

## "GREETINGS TO OUR SAVIOR'S CHURCH FAMILY"

Certainly the long-standing congregational members at Our Savior's remember more than one instance of the "passing of the torch" in pastoral leadership that has occurred over nine decades. We realize that each era looks different, however, the one constant that remains the same always is the Lord we serve. As the Israelites marched into the Promised Land with fear and trepidation, no doubt they drew comfort from Our Lord. The same Lord we serve today! As Pastor Paul and Lori Renee are Called to Michigan at this time, we who remain have a call as well. A call as a church family to walk together in unity and with prayer and thanksgiving. It is sad to say good-bye, yet is an exciting time for all of us, knowing Our Lord does the amazing.

Over the past few weeks, I have met with Bishop Lecakes to discuss the transition process and I continue to remain in contact with him. Bishop Lecakes encourages us to keep our eyes focused on Jesus, remain prayerful as individuals as well as corporately, and to remember Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

During this transition with that mind-set, the Elders and Church Council are in the prayerful process of:

Appointing a Call Committee.

Preparing a preaching schedule along with worship leadership, as well as planning for pastoral care, including visits to hospitals, nursing homes, etc.

Planning for special services including funerals, weddings, and baptisms.

Additionally, there will be a brunch for Pastor Paul and Lori Renee on June 23rd following a combined 9:00am service. Please mark this day on your calendar, and also contact Shirley Coon if you are able to contribute to the event on that day.

As we approach an end of a pastoral era at Our Savior's and begin the transition that comes with it, we can reflect on the opportunities it brings. As Bishop Lecakes has reminded and encouraged us to do, please continue to lift this entire process in consistent prayer.

In His Service,

### TRAIL LIFE USA

is a Christ-centered outdoor adventure, leadership, and character development ministry for boys in grades K-8 at Our Savior's Church. Here are our upcoming events.

Troop Meeting, Sunday 5/5 4:00-5:30 at Our Savior's Church, Open to all.

Bird Watching, Saturday 5/11. Contact [osltroop7committee@emailedo.com](mailto:osltroop7committee@emailedo.com) for information.

Spring Campout, 5/17-19. Contact [osltroop7committee@emailedo.com](mailto:osltroop7committee@emailedo.com) for information.

Troop Meeting, Sunday 6/2 4:00-5:30 at Our Savior's Church, Open to all.

**OUR SAVIOR: THEN, NOW, FOREVER** is the theme for this 90th Anniversary Year of Our Savior's Lutheran Church. We will recall with gratitude God's grace and faithfulness over the past nine decades as we hear testimonies from some of our long time members and read "90<sup>th</sup> Nuggets" gathered from booklets of previous celebrations at Our Savior's. A published biography of Walter Litke, pastor at Our Savior's for 35 years, will be available for purchase. Members and friends of Our Savior's will also be encouraged to participate in an Anniversary Thank offering that will be used to refurbish and air condition the Fellowship Room, and help defray the cost of an Anniversary Banquet. A tithe (10%) of this offering will be given to the Alpha Pregnancy Center. The Anniversary Year will culminate with a Celebratory Service on Sunday, November 3, (the actual date of the founding of Our Savior's in 1929). Our guest speaker will be Bishop Derek Lecakes, the president of our Atlantic District and a son of our congregation. Rev Lecakes will also be the speaker at an Anniversary Banquet held later that day at the Century House. May we spend this year in thanksgiving with a renewed commitment to our Savior and filled with anticipation of what God will continue to do in and through His people at Our Savior's.

### FINANCIAL UPDATE

Through January 2019 (month 6 of current fiscal budget) Income through Month 6 of the 2018-2019 fiscal year:

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YTD income: \$320,579  
Stewardship Challenge income: \$16,380  
Target for YTD is: \$19,500  
TOTAL income: \$336,959  
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Expenses through Month 6 of the 2018-2019 fiscal year:

YTD operating expenses : \$314,391  
Stewardship Challenge: \$16,380  
TOTAL expenses: \$330,771

**Notes:** We will be in the process of preparing the budget which will be presented the next Voter's Assembly Meeting.



## VBS 2019: *Miraculous Mission!*

July 29-August 2, 2019

9:00am-12:00pm

**STUDENT AND VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION IS  
OPEN**

Register today at [www.oslalbany.com/vbs](http://www.oslalbany.com/vbs)

At VBS 2019: ***Miraculous Mission*** we will look into the Bible, God's Holy Word, and discover God's miraculous mission to save you, me, and the whole world! The Bible accounts of God's mission for us share how God made the universe; His promise of a Savior to Abram; the birth of Jesus, our Savior; Jesus' death and resurrection; and Jesus' ascension.

Each VBS session starts at *Miraculous Mission Opening*, where the children will gather with their Team Commanders and the other kids in their Team (small groups). They sing, hear God's Word, pray, see the *Opening Theme Video*, review the memory verse, and learn the day's Take-Home Point. After the Opening, the Teams head off to six rotating sites for Storytelling, Bible Challenge, Games, Crafts, Music, and Prayer. Finally, everyone comes back together at *Miraculous Mission Closing*, for music, prayer, and a wrap-up. Before kids are dismissed, they get a *God's Mission Collectible* to help them share the day's theme and Bible verse with their friends and family.

All VBS programs are not alike! *Miraculous Mission* stands out because of our approach to the Word of God! Every VBS lesson clearly distinguishes between God's Law and His Gospel. Children learn God's will for their lives and how the Law has been fulfilled for them in the person and work of Jesus Christ. At the center of every lesson is the Gospel: God's gracious gift of Jesus as the Savior from sin, death, and the devil. *Miraculous Mission* engages children with the Gospel in every station they experience, and in every volunteer they encounter. This is a wonderful ministry and we need you to be a part of it! Whether you love children, love to serve the Lord, need some service hours for school, or just want to make a positive impact, VBS is for you! We need Team Commanders (small group leaders), site leaders for the various stations listed above, support staff in decorating, planning, and registration. If you are willing to serve, volunteer today at [www.oslalbany.com/vbs](http://www.oslalbany.com/vbs)! If you have any questions, please call Jon Belschwinder at the church office or e-mail [jon@oursaviors.com](mailto:jon@oursaviors.com).

### Sermon/Service Schedule for May and June – **Foundations of the Church/90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

May 5, Sunday – “Self-Acceptance and the Ten Unchangeables” Text: Isaiah 64:8  
(1<sup>st</sup> Article of the Apostles' Creed)

May 12, Sunday – **Mother's Day** “Mary, Jesus, and Children” Text: Mark 3:32; 6:3; 10:16  
(1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Articles of the Apostles' Creed)

May 19, Sunday – (2<sup>nd</sup> Article of the Apostles' Creed) – Jon Belschwinder

May 26, Sunday – “Jesus Heals” Text: John 5:6,8 (2<sup>nd</sup> Article of the Apostles' Creed)

May 30, Thursday – **Ascension Day**

June 2, Sunday – “The Unity of the Spirit” Text: Ephesians 4:3 (2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Articles of the Apostles' Creed)

June 5, Wednesday - 10am Mid-Day Mid Week Chapel - “Blessed be the Tie” Text: Acts 20:36-37

June 9, Sunday – **Pentecost** “Taught of the Spirit”

Text: John 14:26 (3<sup>rd</sup> Article of the Apostles' Creed)

June 16, Sunday – “First Farewell”

June 23, Sunday – Joint Service 9am “Second Farewell” –

Final Sunday for Pastor Paul and Family at Our Savior's

June 30, Sunday – Tom Roemke preaching

# Our Savior's Christian School

## Reaching Hearts. Teaching minds, Building Futures

Education always **transforms** us, it changes us. Ideally, it is more than the sum of the parts. Education is what prepares us for life: careers, marriage and family, parenthood.

It means God has great plans for us! This is His school, why do you think we call it Our Savior's? Let us never forget the apostrophe. I love the heritage of OSL – it will always be there.

This has been a year of transition and transformation (Romans 12:2). I have been your school Principal for the past 10 months. When I arrived here I sensed that God was up to something great! So far He has not disappointed us. We have had a great heritage of 62 years as Our Savior's Lutheran School, which has included a great Christian education. God has made it clear that now is time to enlarge our area of influence in the community. For the past 7 months, we have been working through a process of clearly articulating a **Mission statement**, a **Motto**, and a **Vision statement**. I am very happy to report to you that we have all three! Regarding our Mission, **"To build a solid foundation in each child by reaching hearts with Biblical truth, teaching minds through strong academics, and partnering with families to build a future with a Christian worldview."** It's being printed in all printed matter. Therefore our tagline or motto is 6 simple words:

### Reaching Hearts. Teaching Minds, Building Futures.

#### Where do we see OSCS going in the future?

Where are we – Capitol Region

What type of school are we? – Christian, Multi-denominational

Specifically what ages do we focus on? – PreK to 8<sup>th</sup> grade

Who do we serve? – Ethnically and economically diverse community

What will be recognized for – distinctive family atmosphere and culture, innovative academic programs, and extraordinary and nurturing faculty

What will our graduates look like? – Christian leaders, fully prepared for high school and able to make a strong impact on the world for Christ.

**"We will be known throughout the Capital Region as a premier multi-denominational Christian school, Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, committed to serving an ethnically and economically diverse community. We will be recognized for our distinctive family atmosphere and culture, innovative academic programs, and extraordinary and nurturing faculty. Our graduates will be Christian leaders fully prepared for high school and to impact the world for Christ."**



Rest is not idleness and to lie sometimes on the grass on a summer day listening to the murmur of water or watching the clouds float across the sky is hardly a waste of time."

Most of us need more, not less, rest built into our daily routine. Only when we are quiet can we hear God's whisper.

Summer is a great time to find a peaceful, outdoor spot to read, rest and pray — even if only for a few minutes. God is eagerly waiting for us to make space for him.

John Richardson  
Principal

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Pastor - Paul Koehn

Elders

Marlow Olson Don Child,  
Chris Schleede, Al Fijal, Ray Hoffman  
Youth Minister - Jon Belschwinder,  
Administrator: Lynn Greenwalt  
Prayer Leader - Judy Alvis  
Church Secretary - Linda Swartz