



# Our Savior

LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

2900 Burton Street SE + Grand Rapids, MI 49546 + 616.949.0710 + www.oursavior-gr.org

## Lessons from Meli

Meli, our dog, is not the brightest bulb in the scoreboard. She can be thrilled to be cuddled up in my lap one moment and a couple minutes later after I've gone outside to get something she will not greet me as I re-enter. No, she will sound the full intruder alarm. Doesn't she know who buys her food?

Most of the time on walks she gets along with me, but during her first half year with us she was frightened of me even when I took her on walks. She'd stay as far away from me as possible. But when we walked along Burton Street and a big bus came whooshing by or a semi truck rumbled down, then Meli would humble herself. She'd move close to me and position herself so that my legs were between her and the larger monsters.

Sometimes we're not so different than Meli. We can delight in the good gifts our Heavenly Father gives, but then when things aren't exactly the way we'd like we act as if God were the cause of all our troubles--as if *He* were the one who invented sin and sin's awful results!.

On our walk through life, there have been times when we haven't been eager to hear the voice of our Master, to pray, to gather in our Lord's house, to joyfully stay close to our Savior. We've acted like we could go it alone. We've acted as if our leash is too short. We've let our mind roam thinking that fun would be far away from where our Lord and Master has put us. But when frightening things are headed our way, we humble ourselves and put our Lord between these frightening monsters and ourselves.

I'm always glad when Meli trusts me and lets me protect her. The Lord delights in you whenever you return to Him and find your refuge in Him. He is a very present help in trouble. He urges us, "Call on me in the day of trouble."

Thanks be to God, Jesus did interpose Himself between us and the greatest monsters of all. On skull hill He bore our sin and so was cursed in our place. On Calvary's tree He placed Himself



## Holy Week Services

**PALM SUNDAY** 5 April A+D 2009  
8:00 am & 11:00 am Divine Services

**MONDAY** through **FRIDAY** 8:35 am  
Matins at Church

**MAUNDY THURSDAY** 9 April  
7:00 pm Divine Service

**GOOD FRIDAY** 10 April  
Noon – 3:00 pm Tre Ore at Immanuel Church  
7:00 pm Tenebrae

**EASTER VIGIL** Saturday, 11 April  
Divine Service 8:00 pm

### **EASTER SUNDAY**

12 April A+D 2009  
6:30 am Sunrise Matins  
8:00 am Divine Service  
9:30 am Easter Breakfast  
11:00 am Divine Service

between death and us, so that we need never face death alone. In his hymn "Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice" Luther put fitting words in Christ's mouth:

*To me He said: "Stay close to Me,  
I am your rock and castle.  
Your ransom I Myself will be;  
For you I strive and wrestle.  
For I am yours, and you are Mine,  
And where I am you may remain;  
The foe shall not divide us.'*

Peace and Joy in Christ,

Pastor Fleming

## Family Bible Study

April 4, at 6:30 PM at School. We'll study Exodus 25-28. Everyone is welcome for the study and fellowship. Babysitting is available for children.

## Continuing Education Opportunity from Concordia Theological Seminary

### Preaching the Gospel with Martin Luther

Cameron A. MacKenzie, Ph.D.

Students will study the preaching of Martin Luther, both what he had to say about the preacher's task and how he carried it out. After developing criteria for "Lutheran" preaching from the Reformer's own works, students will consider their relevance for reaching people with the Gospel today.

Class is in Grand Rapids June 15-19. Registration forms for this class are on the table in the narthex.

## Worship for Shut-Ins

Watch locally on WTLJ-TV 54 in Grand Rapids, Sundays at 11:30 AM . Also on DirecTV channel 377. For more information, visit [www.worshipforshutins.org](http://www.worshipforshutins.org)

## Easter Lilies

If you wish to place an Easter lily at the Lord's altar for Easter, please see the sign-up sheet on the narthex bulletin board. Deadline for sign-up is Palm Sunday, April 5. Plants are \$6.75 each. Please make checks to Our Savior Church.



## OSLC Meeting Schedule - April

Elders, Wednesday, April 1, 8:00 PM  
School Board, Tuesday, April 7, 7:00 PM  
Church Council, Tuesday, April 14, 7:00 PM

## West Michigan Lutheran High

Check out the NEW West Michigan Lutheran High School website at [www.wmlhs.org](http://www.wmlhs.org) and follow the links for more information on all things WMLHS!

## April Anniversaries

## April Birthdays

We're sorry, this information is not available online

## Serving in the Armed Forces

We're sorry, this information is not available online

## Join the Knit-Wits

A group of knitters, crocheters & crafters meets every Monday from 7:30 to 9:00 PM in the Church Fellowship Hall. Whether you are interested in learning or are an expert, you're invited!



## Donate Your Old Glasses!

While you're cleaning out the drawers and closets for the WIF garage sale, when you find old glasses, put them in the basket in the Fellowship Hall.



## Coffee and Snack Time

### VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS NEEDED!

We need volunteers every week who are willing to either set up the gym on Saturday night, or provide and set up the snacks and turn on the coffee pot on Sunday morning. **A sign up sheet is on the counter in the office at school. Many Thanks!** to all those who take down chairs and tables each week!



## Requests to use the Church or School Building

Our facilities are utilized by many individuals and groups for meetings, functions and activities especially in the spring and summer months. Please let the church and school office (949-0710) know of all requests to use the building in order to coordinate use with all parties and ensure that space is available.

## *Our Savior School News*

### **MEIJER COMMUNITY REWARDS, SPARTAN UPCS, CAMPBELL'S LABELS FOR EDUCATION, AND BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION**

These are all collected year 'round! Collection boxes for all items are on the table in the narthex. Please call the office if you have questions about any of these programs. We APPRECIATE your support!

### **⚡ DATES TO REMEMBER**

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| April 3       | NO GRPS Bussing  |
| April 6 to 11 | NO SCHOOL – Spring Break                                       |
| April 13      | NO SCHOOL – Easter Monday                                      |
| April 23      | Kindergarten Information Night                                 |
| April 24      | Kindergarten Round – up<br>No School for Kindergarten students |
| April 24      | Daddy-Daughter Dance   |
| April 25      | Mother-Son bowling   |
| April 29      | Music Concert  |

### **CHAPEL SINGING SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY**

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| April 1 | 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grades |
|---------|--|

**See the Every Friday Note for details on all School happenings!**

## *1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Classroom News*

In a room with 24 active students there is never a dull moment. We are constantly moving and learning. When I asked the class what their favorite thing about the school year is thus far, all hands sprung into the air. Of course the number one activity is the classroom parties. They always want to have a party for some reason or another. In the first and second grade classroom we have been really working hard on proper behavior. The class can earn stars for days that are exceptionally fabulous. At the beginning of the year they voted on the best way to be rewarded for 5 star days. They chose an ice cream party, a pizza party and a popcorn party. After their first 5 star day they earned an ice cream party. We had vanilla ice cream, with chocolate and caramel sauce; sprinkles too! Just recently they earned 5 more star days, so they had a pizza party. Needless to say they really strive to be the best they can be in everything they do.

Other activities that were on the top of their list were Science and Math activities. We have gone on fossil hunts using homemade dough. We have played Science Jeopardy to prepare for up coming tests. We have also made a thunder storm using only our hands and took a trip to Calvin College where we learned about "Critters in the Cold." For math, they love to play games with the pretend money in the classroom. They draw a card with an amount on it and then they discover how many different ways they can show that amount. They also love Money BINGO! At the end of March we will be taking a trip to the Children's Museum where they have many more math and science activities for them to try.

It wouldn't be a normal classroom if they didn't say another of their favorite activities is recess and free time. When there is time they enjoy going outside and playing kick ball. This is not the normal kick ball you or I grew up with. There are zero outs. The goal is to kick the ball and run around as many bases as possible while the defense passes the ball over their heads and under their legs until everyone has touched the ball. Then finally the person who kicked the ball can stop running. It really helps with coordination and keeps them moving. During free time they love to play board games and put puzzles together. If I let them they would leave out every puzzle they ever put together, they are so proud of their work.

In all it has been a wonderful year and I look forward to the last couple months of the school year.

## *Vacation Bible School*

VBS is scheduled for the mornings of June 22-26, 2009. Mark your calendar NOW!

## Thrivent Whitecaps Game



Thrivent - Whitecaps baseball game on Sunday, June 14, 2009. This is the date the Whitecaps celebrate Father's Day at home. Order your tickets now! Free food (bratwurst, hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad, soft drinks, etc) courtesy of Thrivent Financial. Gates open at 1:15pm and the game starts at 2:00pm. Our group will be located in the Miller Lite Patio, above the Stadium Club in center field. It is the best patio deck in the stadium. Ticket cost is \$12 per adult and \$5 per child, ages 3 to 12. Please complete the "Thrivent Registration Form" with names of those attending the Whitecaps game. Pick up your tickets on the day of the game. Look for the Thrivent table located at the entrance to the center field area. See you at the ballgame.

## Our Savior Church's College Students

Our congregation has several college students who are far from home, some for the first time. A card or a note might just make their day!

We're sorry, this information is not available online

## Bake Sales for the Sem

Just one more Wednesday (April 1) to stop at the table and pick out something to tantalize your taste buds. Thanks to all the bakers and buyers who have supported this gift card project for our Fort Wayne Seminary students.



## Women in Fellowship

### April 1 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Quilting Bee – Church Fellowship Hall  
Bring your favorite scissors, and stay for as much time as you can. Bring a sandwich, if you're staying through lunch.

### April 14 9:30 to 11:30 AM

**Women in Fellowship – regular meeting**  
"Games and Garage Sale preparation"

### April 15

Sign up sheet for Garage Sale workers will be posted in the center narthex.

### April 25 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

#### **LWML Spring Rally**

Saint Mark's Lutheran Church – Kentwood.

### April 29 8:30 to 11:00 AM and 3:00 to 5:00 PM

#### **Garage Sale Drop-Off**

Church Fellowship Hall

### April 30 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM

#### **Garage Sale Drop-Off**

Church Fellowship Hall

### May 1 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM

#### **GARAGE SALE**

### May 2 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

#### **GARAGE SALE**

#### **LWR School Kit Bags**

Thanks to all who have been busy sewing these bags. There are a few left to be done.

## Thank You From the Seminararians and Their Families



The actual thank you notes are posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
We want to express our deep appreciation for your continued support of those whom the Lord is preparing for service as shepherds in His Church. Your donations are greatly appreciated and we thank the Lord for His continued provision through your hand. May the Lord continue to bless you as you journey with Him to Calvary and then to His empty tomb.

Blessings in Christ,  
(Master of Sacred Theology student)

## Sunday School News

Sunday School Schedule: No SS on Easter Sunday, April 12 or on Memorial Day weekend, May 24. Spring SS will complete on Sunday, May 31. Summer SS will start on June 7 and complete the end of August. Our fall and spring teachers will take a break over the summer months. Hence, we will need new teachers over the summer months. Please consider teaching a class.

Thanks and blessings to our fall and spring SS teachers for their work:

#### **SS Class Schedules**

CPH "Growing in Christ"

- Lesson 3, "The Widow's Mite" on 3/22/09
- Lesson 4, "Jesus & Zacchaeus" on 3/29/09,
- Lesson 5, "Peter Denies Jesus" on 4/5/09,
- No Sunday School on 4/12/09
- Lesson 7, "Jesus Reinstates Peter" on 4/19/09
- Lesson 8, "Paul's First Missionary Journey" on 4/26/09
- Lesson 9, "Paul and Timothy" on 5/3/09
- Lesson 10, "Lydia" on 5/10/09
- Lesson 11, "Paul and Silas in Prison" on 5/17/09
- No Sunday School on 5/24/09
- Lesson 13, "John's Vision of Heaven" on 5/31/09

## *New Photo Directory*

### **It's Time to Find Your Favorite Family Photo!**

OSLC will be publishing a photo directory in 2009. Unlike past directories, this directory will be published in-house to reduce costs. Member families will simply submit a family photo in digital (JPEG) format. Please note that photo *prints cannot be accepted*. Digital photo files may be delivered to the church office on a CD or USB thumb drive - or may be submitted via email. If you do not have a digital photo of you or your family (this should be a close-up not a scenery shot), you may sign up to have your photo taken by one of our member photographers between the services on Sunday April 19 or Sunday April 26. A sign up sheet for each Sunday is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

## *Our Savior Senior Saints*

Senior Saints will meet at noon on April 8. Bring a sandwich and dessert will be provided.

## *Red Envelope Campaign*

The idea is simple. Bombard the White House with red envelopes to remind President Obama that the majority of Americans do not support his abortion policy; he has signed executive orders releasing funds to pay for abortions, permission to fund embryonic stem cell research, and federal funding for contraception.

It's easy to participate. You may participate often! Just send an empty red envelope to the address below. Don't have a red envelope? Make one out of construction paper or you can buy them at Kinko's, or at party supply stores. Address the envelope to:

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington DC 20500

Seal it and write this message on the back:

*This envelope represents one child who died in abortion. It is empty because that life was not allowed to offer anything to the world.*

*Life begins with conception.*

Stamp it, mail it, and invite others to do the same.

## *Indoor Garage Sale*

May 1 and 2 - sponsored by Women in Fellowship  
It is getting close to spring cleaning time! Clean out your basement, attic and any other room that is over crowded with "stuff!" Items can be brought to church, Sunday, April 26, Wed. April 29, and Thursday a.m. April 30. Remember, one man's trash is another man's treasure! Opportunities to work at the sale will be posted on the

narthex bulletin board beginning April 5. Sign up soon so you can be first to pick your hours!

## *Issues, Etc*

SMARTEST LISTENERS IN RADIO...Listen to in-depth discussions on subjects like Sexting, Scripture Alone, Good Works, The Dalai Lama, Preaching Christ and more. Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Lutheran Public Radio. You can listen to what you want when you want at [www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org).

## *Mighty Mites*

One of the new Michigan projects approved at the District Convention in Lansing was summer was : Kingdom Literacy for Kingdom Children - Lutheran Cities Ministries - Detroit. The amount was for \$10,500. The money for this grant will be used to start up and operate three Lutheran City Ministries - (LCM) Children's Christian Learning and Resource Centers for at-risk boys and girls in Detroit. The tutoring program, based on Bible story reading, will not only help the children become more literate but, more importantly, provide an opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus with these children and their families who may then share the gospel with others.

## *Mystery Dinner at Trinity Conklin*

The youth of Trinity Lutheran Church, Conklin, are hosting a Mystery Dinner on May 6th at 6:00 pm. Reservations are necessary by April 19th in order to make final preparations for this exciting event. Guests attending this Spaghetti dinner will be actual participants in the mystery itself. The tickets are \$20 each, or a "house" (a table of 8) can be purchased for \$140. We are looking forward to a great event, the proceeds of which will benefit our youth summer mission trip to the Ozark Mountains.

## *Changes of Address*

Please let the office know if you have a change of address, phone number or email address. Please place information in Michelle's mailbox. Thank you!

## *LWML Zone Rally*

Pastor will talk about various urban ministries now operating out of Redeemer Lutheran Church. will be there on behalf of the Blind Ministry as well as others including the Nepalese Fellowship and Hispanic Ministries. This exciting program is being sponsored by the Grand Rapids Zone LWML and will be held at St. Mark's Lutheran Church at 1934 52nd Street on April 25. Time is 9:00 - 1:00 and a donation of \$4.00 includes a mid-morning brunch.

## *Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity*

**We need You. Yes, you!** Did you hear about our success? We're excited and thankful to announce that Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity of Kent County will build four houses in 2009. That's right, four houses...a \$303,704 grant from Thrivent!

**Details -- Details!** The four homes will be adjoining condominiums on Dawes Court SE (near 28t Street and Kalamazoo SE) where our two most recent Thrivent Builds homes are located. There are a couple of differences from past year's partnership. First, this will be a mostly Saturday build, and second, the schedule is stretched out over 8 months rather than the normal four months. Hopefully this is super volunteer friendly and accommodates your busy schedule. We need 60 volunteers each day (15 people per house)! YIKES! This is asking a lot, but we ask that you make Thrivent Builds a priority this year – a big, one year push.

**New Opportunity – Wall Building!** Every Saturday through April 25 we will be building walls INSIDE in a HEATED warehouse, so you can swing a hammer and not worry about the weather. Youth as young as age 14 can also participate. The build/construction site is limited to students ages 16 and older, for safety and insurance liability reasons, but because a warehouse is a controlled environment, 14 year olds can help. All skill levels are welcome. Grandparents, grandchildren, moms, dads, nieces, nephews – make it a fun family event!

**Want to Sign Up?** Construction schedules and signup forms are on the church bulletin board. If groups of 8 or more want to build on a day or time not listed on the schedule – call Colleen. She will be happy to try to accommodate your schedule and will even add an evening shift if you can guarantee 8 volunteers.

**Kiss the Cook?** Well, maybe not a kiss, but you will get lots of thank yous from the workers if you provide a lunch. Lunches are usually provided on Saturdays, and since we are mainly working Saturdays, there are plenty of opportunities to serve other than swinging a hammer. Lunches can be sandwiches, soup, chili, Sloppy Joes, pizza....whatever you enjoy making. Please also contact Colleen (information above) to schedule lunches.





April 2009

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School



| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday   |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|--|
|  |   |  | <b>1</b><br>6:30 AM Men's Bible Study<br>8:35 AM School Chapel<br>9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Quilt Group<br>6:00 PM Soup Supper<br>7:00 PM Lenten Vespers<br>8:00 PM Elders<br>8:35 AM Lenten Daily Matins @ School | <b>2</b><br>9:30 AM Women's Bible Study @ Church<br>3:45 PM Jr. Choir and Schola Cantorum @ Church<br>7:00 PM Adult Catechism Class           | <b>3</b><br>NO GRPS BUSSING<br>6:30 PM Family Bible Study<br>Exodus 25-28   | <b>4</b><br><b>Sunday's Readings:</b><br><b>Zechariah 9:9-12</b><br><b>Philippians 2:5-11</b><br><b>Matthew 26:1-27:66</b><br><b>or Matthew 27:11-54</b><br>9:00 AM Making Palm Crosses @ Church                                   |
| <b>5</b><br><b>Palm Sunday</b><br><br>8:00 AM Divine Service<br>9:40 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Study<br>11:00 AM Divine Service   | <b>6</b><br>6:00 PM 2 <sup>nd</sup> year Catechism Class<br>6:15 PM Bell Choir<br>7:00 PM 1 <sup>st</sup> year Catechism Class<br>7:30 PM Adult Choir<br>7:30 PM Knit Wits  | <b>7</b>   | <b>8</b><br>12:00 PM Senior Saints   | <b>9</b><br><b>Maundy Thursday</b><br>9:30 AM Women's Bible Study @ Church<br>7:00 PM Divine Service  | <b>10</b><br><b>Good Friday</b><br><br>12-3:00 PM Tre Ore Service @ Immanuel<br>7:00 PM Chief Service   | <b>11</b><br><br>8:00 PM Easter Vigil  |
| 8:35 AM Lenten Daily Matins @ CHURCH   |   |  |  |   |   |  |
| N o S c h o o l - S p r i n g B r e a k  |   |  |  |   |   |  |
| <b>12</b><br><b>The Resurrection of Our Lord</b><br><br>6:30 AM Easter Sunrise Matins<br>8:00 AM Divine Service<br>9:45 AM Easter Breakfast<br>9:40 AM Blood Pressure Screenings<br>11:00 AM Divine Service  | <b>13</b><br>NO SCHOOL<br>Easter Monday<br><br>7:30 PM Knit Wits  | <b>14</b><br>9:30 AM Women in Fellowship<br>7:00 PM Council                                      | <b>15</b><br>6:30 AM Men's Bible Study<br>8:35 AM School Chapel  | <b>16</b><br>9:30 AM Women's Bible Study @ Church<br>3:45 PM Jr. Choir & Schola Cantorum @ Church<br>7:30 PM CCM in Fellowship Hall           | <b>17</b>   | <b>18</b><br><b>Sunday's Readings:</b><br><b>Ezekiel 37:1-14</b><br><b>1 John 5:4-10</b><br><b>John 20:19-31</b><br><br>5:30 PM Bach Cantata Presentation and Concert @ Calvin<br>Fellowship Hall reserved                         |
| <b>19</b><br><b>The Second Sunday of Easter</b><br><br>8:00 AM Divine Service<br>9:40 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Study<br>Photos Taken for Directory<br>11:00 AM Divine Service  | <b>20</b><br>6:15 PM Bell Choir<br>7:30 PM Adult Choir<br>7:30 PM Knit Wits   | <b>21</b><br>Deadline for Calendar and Newsletter Items<br><br>7:00 PM Envirotrol Board @ Church | <b>22</b><br>6:30 AM Men's Bible Study<br>8:35 AM School Chapel  | <b>23</b><br>9:30 AM Women's Bible Study @ Church<br>3:45 PM Jr. Choir and Schola Cantorum @ Church<br>7:00 PM Kindergarten Information Night | <b>24</b><br>Kindergarten Round-Up<br>NO School for Kindergarten Students<br>6:30 PM Family Bible Study   | <b>25</b><br><b>St. Mark, Evangelist</b><br><br><b>Sunday's Readings:</b><br><b>Ezekiel 34:11-16</b><br><b>1 Peter 2:21-25</b><br><b>John 10:11-16</b><br><br>9:00 AM to 1:00 PM LWML Rally @ St. Mark<br>Fellowship Hall reserved |
| <b>26</b><br><b>The Third Sunday of Easter</b><br><br>8:00 AM Divine Service<br>9:40 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Study<br>Photos Taken for Directory<br>9:40 AM Blood Pressure Screenings<br>11:00 AM Divine Service<br>Garage Sale donation Drop Off | <b>27</b><br>6:00 PM 2 <sup>nd</sup> year Catechism Class<br>6:15 PM Bell Choir<br>7:00 PM 1 <sup>st</sup> year Catechism Class<br>7:30 PM Adult Choir<br>7:30 PM Knit Wits | <b>28</b>  | <b>29</b><br>6:30 AM Men's Bible Study<br>8:35 AM School Chapel<br>7:00 PM Music Concert @ School<br>Garage Sale Set-up and Item Drop Off  | <b>30</b><br>9:30 AM Women's Bible Study @ Church<br>3:45 PM Jr. Choir and Schola Cantorum @ Church<br>Garage Sale Set-up and Item Drop Off   | <b>Sunday's Readings:</b><br><b>Isaiah 40:25-31</b> or <b>Lamentations 3:22-33</b><br><b>1 Peter 2:11-20</b> or <b>1 John 3:1-3</b><br><b>John 16:16-22</b> |  |