



Our Savior

LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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

The following essay was written after the death and burial of his mother by Rev. Harold Senkbeil, a LCMS pastor who has led one of our Winter Bible Study retreats. He wrote this essay to pastors, but I think the point he makes is still wonderfully applicable to us all.
DCF

In the Midst of Life

To a culture obsessed with happiness, Lent seems like one long downer. Repentance is, after all, radically counter-cultural. When you're intent on self fulfillment, self denial feels downright sinful. When you begin to believe you're immortal, a reminder of your mortality rubs you the wrong way.

And so Lent brings a cold splash of reality for us all. They don't call it Ash Wednesday for nothing. Whether you wear the smudge of ashes on your forehead or not, the day gets right to the heart of the matter: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." Ash Wednesday sets us straight: in the very midst of life we are in death. That's the way it goes in this world until the end of time, when sorrow and sighing shall flee away and death itself will die-vanquished for all eternity by the Lord of Life. Until then, repentance and ashes is our lot.

One cold, snowy day [in January A+D 2010] I stood with my family in the cemetery of the little country church in western Minnesota where I grew up. There I had been baptized, confirmed, ordained and married. But that Thursday afternoon all those happy memories were on hold. For we came to the churchyard that particular day, my family and I, to bury my mother-my beautiful, generous, gentle, tirelessly loving mom. The mortician was skillful; she wore the lovely lace dress dad bought her for their golden wedding day. Decked in such finery, she looked for all the world to be at peace. But out there at the grave there was no denying death. Death stings, there's no getting around it. St. Paul wrote it, but we all felt it in our bones that blustery winter's day: "The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law." That's the bitter truth, for sure.

But there is another truth. The pastor's words wrapped up all our pain in hope: "We now commit to the earth the remains of our sister; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust, in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection of the dead."

That's where you come in. Pastors are good news men in the midst of all the horrifically bad news in this world. You proclaim the astonishing intervention of God in Christ, Who reconciled the whole rebellious world unto Himself, not counting their trespasses against them. From your mouth comes the Word that alone brings life

to dying people, with your hands you rescue young and old from death and the devil, baptizing them down into Christ's death and grave and then up again into His never-ending resurrection. You feed penitent sinners with the flesh and blood of Jesus, the living Bread from heaven that bestows forgiveness for sin and life for death. You bring real and lasting hope, in other words, substantial and eternal hope. You bring peace such as the world cannot give.

In the midst of life that week in January my family and I were in death. Yet there in the very midst of death we were also in life. The words the pastor read at my mom's grave echo still in mind and heart: "The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven." (1 Cor. 15:47-48) Adam's sin is now undone, in other words, and all who are joined with Christ by faith will likewise share in His resurrection from the dead.

Look in the mirror this Ash Wednesday and all forty days of the Lenten fast. Even if you don't see the smudge of ashes there you can still trace the cross on which your Savior died. Remember then that you, too, are dust, just like all the children and adults you serve in Jesus' Name. But what's true for them is also true for you: just as you bear the image of the man of dust, so you also bear the image of the Crucified. Death bites the dust in Christ. Even in the midst of death you are in Life. As freely then as you have received from Him, now freely give.

Lent 2010 Midweek Lenten Services

Vespers
Wednesday Evenings
at 7:00 pm

March 3, 10, 17 & 24

*Suppers precede each service at 6:00 PM
in the Fellowship Hall*

OSLC March Meeting Schedule

School Board, Tuesday, March 2, 7:00 PM
Church Council, Tuesday, March 9, 7:00 PM
Elders, Wednesday, March 10, 8:00 PM
Voters' Meeting Tuesday, March 16, at 7:00 PM
Everyone is encouraged to attend the Voters' Meeting!

West Michigan Lutheran High

WMLHS presents, **The Legend of Sleepy Hollow** on March 19 and 20 at St. Mark Lutheran Church. Call the School office for ticket information. 455-2200.

Mustang Boosters meet Monday March 1 at 7:00 at the High School.

Check out the West Michigan Lutheran High School website at www.wmlhs.org and follow the links for more information on all things WMLHS!

Our Savior Senior Saints

In February our program was canceled due to the weather. So the program on "Cold Cases" will be presented at our March 10 fellowship beginning at noon. Seniors are asked to bring their own sandwiches. Drinks and dessert will be provided.

Donate Your Old Glasses!

If you're cleaning out the drawers and closets and find old glasses, put them in the basket in the Fellowship Hall.



Lutheran Radio and Television

- * The Lutheran Hour. 105.7 FM at 6:30 AM and 1680 AM at noon.
- * Issues, Etc. You can listen to what you want when you want at www.issuesetc.org.
- * Worship for Shut-Ins WTLJ-TV 54 in Grand Rapids, Sundays at 11:30 AM . Also on DirecTV channel 377, Comcast channel 21.

Fort Wayne Seminary Ingathering

A van load of food and clothing was delivered to Fort Wayne at the end of January. We have a willing driver to deliver our final gifts right after Palm Sunday. So March 28 will be your last opportunity to bring food, paper products, personal care items and clothing to church. Let's fill the van for this last trip! Many families are helped by our gifts of love to them. Thanks for your help!



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!

March Anniversaries

We're sorry, this information is not available online.

March Birthdays

We're sorry, this information is not available online.

Lutheran Schools Open House

Your Child's Education: Lutheran Schools, A Great Place to Grow Many of our LCMS schools, including West Michigan Lutheran High School, will be hosting an Open House on Thursday, March 18 from 6:30 until 8:00 PM. Each of our schools provide a doctrinally sound Christ centered education and the Lutheran Schools are rated among the highest academically nationwide. A full list of our School locations hosting an Open House can be found at www.thekoinacenter.org

Sui Baby Gift Card

Thanks to all the Our Savior women who donated \$480. to the Sam's Club gift card for our seminary family's new baby, Margaret. Women in Fellowship rounded the amount up to \$500., and the card has been sent to them.

Knit-Wits

Knit Wits will meet on the first Monday of the month 7:30 PM in the fellowship hall. All are welcome, experienced or beginners! If you have questions, please call Deb or Joanne.



Nursery Help is Still Needed

Many of our nursery helpers are going off to college and we need additional helpers in the nursery during the 11:00 AM service. Please contact Michelle Rader if you are able and willing to help. Call the office 949-0710.

Homebound Members

We're sorry, this information is not available online.

Daylight Saving Time Begins 3/14



Don't forget to set your clock
AHEAD 1 hour prior to retiring on
Saturday, March 13

Blood Drives in 2010

Two blood drives are scheduled for this year -
Thursday, April 29 from 3:00PM until 7:00PM and
Thursday, September 30 - 3:00PM until 7:00PM. Mark
your calendar

Women in Fellowship

February 9 - Meeting Recap

\$480 was the total of the baby gift so generously
donated by Our Savior women. WIF rounded up that
amount to \$500 and mailed the Sam's Club gift card that
same day.

WIF will sponsor the February 24 Soup Supper. This
will enable the Our Savior Youth, who are hosting the
supper, to use all the proceeds for the Higher Things
Youth Conference.

Fifteen College Care boxes were packed with
homemade and store-bought goodies to send to Our
Savior Church's College students. Six were given to the
Calvin and Grand Valley students who regularly attend
Our Savior services.

March 1 7:30 PM

Knit Wits in the Fellowship Hall

Knitters meet once a month on the first Monday of the
month. Questions? Call Debbie or Jo.

March 3 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Quilting Bee - Church Fellowship Hall

Bring a sandwich, if you're staying through lunch. For
more information, call Judy.

March 9 9:30 to 11:30 AM

Women in Fellowship - regular meeting

Scott Liggett from Lutheran Child and Family Services
will give us an insight into what this arm of our LCMS
does.

April 13 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Women in Fellowship - regular meeting

A speaker from the Pregnancy Resource Center will
bring us up-to-date on this local agency.

Save the Date:

April 18 LWML Spring Rally at Our Savior Church

"A first Century Jewish Woman" by Suzanne Hall. She
is a board member for Lutherans for Jewish Evangelism.

Holy Week and Easter Services

April 1 - Maundy Thursday Divine Service 7:00 PM
April 2 - Good Friday Chief Service 7:00 PM
April 3 - Easter Vigil 8:00 PM
April 4 - Easter Sunday Sunrise Matins 6:30 AM
Easter Divine Service 8:00 AM
Easter Divine Service 11:00 AM

Serving in the Armed Forces

We're sorry, this information is not available online.

Mighty Mites at Work

Lutheran World Relief: \$80,000.

A goal of \$80,000 was set to help
defray the costs of shipping quilts
through LWR. Lutherans all over the
United States work hard to make
quilts, layettes, and school health kits,
packaging them and shipping them to Lutheran World
Relief warehouses. This is done out of love for our
neighbors and for our Lord Jesus. Materials are sent
globally, wherever there is need, especially to those who
face chronic poverty or refugee situations.



In 2008, LWR sent 1,455 tons of quilts and kits worth
\$13 million to more than 740,000 people in 27 different
countries. A grant of \$80,000 will help LWR with
shipping expenses, allowing them to ship more than
100,000 Lutheran assembled quilts around the world.

Thrivent Challenge Goal MET!

We have received a one-time challenge grant of
\$2490.00 to meet this challenge grant we needed to
raise \$4980.00 by June 1, **We have met the challenge
and received over \$5000.** We have received a check
for \$2490. from Thrivent. **A BIG thank you** to all who
contributed. Watch for information regarding the new
Thrivent Choice program.

Vacation Bible School 2010

Mark your calendar now for VBS!
VBS will be held July 19 to 23 at Our Savior School.
Don't miss out on the fun!

Alms Fund Envelopes

On the bulletin board ledge there are envelopes
available for contributions to Our Savior Church's Alms
Fund. This fund is used to help congregation members
in financial need. These envelopes can be deposited in
the offering plate, simply write your regular offering
envelope number on the outside of the envelope.

In Case of Inclement Weather

It is Our Savior Church's policy NOT to cancel any scheduled service.

Our members live in many different areas and conditions can vary greatly from one area to another. We encourage members to stay home and stay safe if weather conditions appear to be too treacherous in their area to venture out.



Join Hands Day at Camp Concordia

Be part of a National Volunteer Day at Camp Concordia on Friday, April 23 and Saturday, April 24. Join Hands Day is a national volunteer effort that brings youth and adults together to improve communities and have fun while helping others.

Join with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans members of all ages as we make a difference on this special day.



Annual Thrivent Whitecaps Game

Join us for the Thrivent Whitecaps baseball game on Sunday, June 6. Gates open at 1:15 PM and the game starts at 2:00. The primary reason for this event is to express our thanks to all members who Mark your calendar! Plan to attend this great event – lots of sunshine, warm weather, free food (compliments of Thrivent), lots of friends and fellow Lutherans, and a good old fashioned baseball game. Tickets cost \$12 per Adult and \$5 per child. Registration forms are on the counter in the narthex. Only 350 tickets are available and we have sold out this event for five years in a row!

After Dinner Music

Our congregation is filled with skilled musicians that enrich our worship with their gifts, but on Friday, April 16 you are invited to hear them perform in styles from jazz to classical, art songs to folk songs as they show off their wide array of talent. Please join us at 7:00 in the fellowship hall for a desert bar and cozy evening of music and conversation. If you are interested in performing at this event please contact Christina. We are interested in showcasing all styles of music.

Our Savior School News



A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court

will be presented by the 7th and 8th grade class at Our Savior School on March 26 at 7:00 PM. On March 27, dinner will be served by the students at 6:00 PM, followed by another presentation of the play at 7:00 PM. We are serving the Hamburger Dinner at \$5.00, and the Ham Dinner at \$8.00. See any 7th or 8th grade student for tickets or call the school at 949-0710.

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!

Lenten Daily Matins

Matins take place weekdays at School at 8:35 AM through the month of March.

Chapel is every Wednesday at 8:35. Please join us!

⚡ DATES TO REMEMBER

March 8-12: School Spirit Week
March 8: All School Skating Party
March 8: PTL Fundraiser begins
March 18: Learning Fair 7:00pm-8:30pm
March 18: ALL SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE
March 26: PTL Fundraiser ends
April 23: Daddy-Daughter Dance
April 24: Mother-Son Bowling

All School Open House

Invite your friends and neighbors to check out Our Savior Lutheran School on March 18, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. Tell them about our wonderful school!

Outdoor Education

Every year, the fifth and sixth graders join with the fifth and sixth graders from the five area LCMS schools for three days of Outdoor Education at Camp Pandalouan located on Blue Lake just north of Muskegon.

We enjoy three-hour sessions of cross-country skiing, outdoor survival, and high ropes. The main goals in survival are to build a shelter when given a rope and tarp, build a fire and melt enough snow to boil an egg. The high ropes is a self-challenging, self-belaying activity where the students – in safety harnesses – challenge themselves to cross ropes and wires.

There are four hour-and-a-half activities – Life in the Woods (understanding the food chain in the woods) , Fur Trade (finding 'animal skins' and bargaining for the best price with the "Company Man", Winter Wonders (enjoying different aspects of the winter season), and Common Sense (using our senses to help understand things around us).

This is our year for an Indian theme, so we will have a Native American life Fair. We will experience throwing a tomahawk, Indian games, learn sign language, and learn about Indian life in the wigwam. We will also have a descendant from the Metis Indians give a talk on the Metis Indians and take part in a Treaty Council.

Thursday night we will enjoy a night hike, and Friday evening the students will decide the best way to use a 'gift' of about eighty acres of land.

Each morning and evening we have devotions led by Pastor Fleming.


When we return Friday night the students and parents are usually very tired, but have also experienced a different kind of education.

March 2010



Our Savior Lutheran Church and School



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 5:45 PM Junior High Catechism Class 6:15 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Adult Choir 7:30 PM Knit Wits 8:35 AM Lenten Daily Matins @ School	2 7:00 PM School Board	3 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:35 AM School Chapel 4 th grade sings 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM Quilt Group 6:00 PM Soup Supper 7:00 PM Lenten Vespers 8:00 PM Elders	4 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study @ Church 3:45 PM Jr. Choir and Schola @ Church 7:00 PM Adult Catechism 8:35 AM Lenten Daily Matins @ School	5	6 Sunday's Readings: Exodus 8:16–24 Ephesians 5:1–9 Luke 11:14–28 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM Bible Study Retreat with Dr. Francisco
7 The Third Sunday in Lent 8:00 AM Divine Service 9:40 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 11:00 AM Divine Service	8 6:15 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Adult Choir Our Savior School Skating Party	9 9:30 AM Women in Fellowship 7:00 PM Council	10 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:35 AM School Chapel 5 th & 6 th grades sing 12:00 PM Senior Saints 6:00 PM Soup Supper 7:00 PM Lenten Vespers	11 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study @ Church 3:45 PM Jr. Choir and Schola @ Church 7:00 PM Adult Catechism	12	13 Sunday's Readings: Exodus 16:2–21 Galatians 4:21–31 John 6:1–15  Daylight Saving time begins, set your clock 1 hour ahead before retiring
Lutheran Schools Week and Our Savior School Spirit Week						
	8:35 AM Lenten Daily Matins @ School			8:35 AM Lenten Daily Matins @ School		
14 The Fourth Sunday in Lent 8:00 AM Divine Service 9:40 AM Blood Pressure Screenings 9:40 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 11:00 AM Divine Service	15 5:45 PM Junior High Catechism Class 6:15 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Adult Choir	16 9:30 AM Women in Fellowship 7:00 PM Voters' Meeting	17 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:35 AM School Chapel 7 th & 8 th grades sing 6:00 PM Soup Supper 7:00 PM Lenten Vespers	18 3:45 PM Jr. Choir and Schola @ Church 7:00 PM Adult Catechism 7:30 PM CCM in Fellowship Hall 6:30 – 8:00 PM Open House at Our Savior School and Lutheran High School Learning Fair @ OSLS	19 Joseph, Guardian of Our Lord 7:00 PM WMLHS Play "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow"	20 Sunday's Readings: Genesis 22:1–14 Hebrews 9:11–15 John 8:42–59 7:00 PM WMLHS Play "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow"
Standardized Testing Week						
	8:35 AM Lenten Daily Matins @ School			8:35 AM Lenten Daily Matins @ School		
21 The Fifth Sunday in Lent 8:00 AM Divine Service 9:40 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 11:00 AM Divine Service	22 6:15 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Adult Choir	23 9:30 AM 5 th & 6 th Grades to Symphony 6:00 PM Envirotrol -AEI Board Meeting Deadline for Calendar and Newsletter Items	24 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:35 AM School Chapel 1 st grade sings 6:00 PM Soup Supper 7:00 PM Lenten Vespers	25 The Annunciation of Our Lord 3:45 PM Jr. Choir and Schola @ Church 7:00 PM Adult Catechism	26 7:00 PM 7 th & 8 th Grade Play "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court"	27 Sunday's Readings: Zechariah 9:9–12 Philippians 2:5–11 Matthew 26:1–27:66 9:00 AM Make Palm Crosses @ Church 6:00 PM 7 th & 8 th Grade Dinner Theater 7:00 PM Play only "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court"
	8:35 AM Lenten Daily Matins @ School			8:35 AM Lenten Daily Matins @ School		
28 Palm Sunday 8:00 AM Divine Service 9:40 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:40 AM Blood Pressure Screenings 11:00 AM Divine Service	29 6:15 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Adult Choir	30	31 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:35 AM School Chapel Kindergarten sings 6:00 PM Soup Supper 7:00 PM Lenten Vespers	HOLY WEEK April 1 Maundy Thursday Divine Service 7:00 PM April 2 TreOre Service 12:00 – 3:00 PM Good Friday Chief Service 7:00 PM April 3 Easter Vigil 8:00 PM April 4 Easter Sunday Sunrise Matins 6:30 AM Easter Divine Service 8:00 AM Easter Breakfast 9:45 AM Easter Divine Service 11:00 AM		
	8:35 AM Lenten Daily Matins @ School					

Office Phone: 949-0710

Church Building: 949-8890