



# Our Savior

LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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

## Just Agree to Disagree?

*“...that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ...”*

Ephesians 4:14-15

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, can't we just agree to disagree? Have you ever heard that before? Tossed up as a hopeful attempt at finding a compromise between two people who passionately disagree about something? Or maybe offered as a sign of weary concession – not that you have changed your mind, but that you're simply tired of the discussion? This certainly seems to be an attitude for many Christians when it comes to the issue of same-sex attraction and same-sex marriage. After all, each state appears to be endorsing it, and it is promoted tirelessly on television, in music, at the movies, and even in the news. Is it worth standing up for a different point of view – the biblical point of view?

In short; yes. As appealing as it may be to simply shut-down disagreements and discussion by 'agreeing to disagree' about same-sex marriage and same-sex attraction issues, they will not disappear. It is a debate fraught with all sorts of baggage, and there are countless points at which proponents of same-sex marriage and attraction attempt to distract people who express the biblical position. You may be called names, accused of hate-speech, or told that Jesus Christ never had anything to say about same-sex marriage or same-sex attraction (which is simply untrue; see Matthew 19:4-6).

Regardless of accusations that may be leveled at Christians confessing what they believe to be true, our response to people must be salted with biblical wisdom that faithfully speaks to what we believe to be true, and why we believe it to be important. We believe that all sin is forgiven by Jesus' death on the cross, and that Jesus' triumph over death is demonstrated by his resurrection from the dead. This forgiveness won by Jesus is for all people who ever have lived and who ever will live, but it is of no benefit apart from faith. We also believe that faith is a gift from God (Eph. 2:8-9); that faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Rom. 10:17), and that this happens when the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin in our conscience, and gives us hope and trust that Jesus has forgiven us all our sin (Law and Gospel, Heb. 4:12).

When evil is reclassified by the world and called 'good', as is happening now with regards to same-sex attraction, it not only encourages and emboldens people in sinful behavior; it tragically hardens hearts against hearing the Word of God

and the teachings of hope and forgiveness. As Jesus said in Matthew 9, 'those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.' Who would seek out the care and help that only a doctor can give if they believe themselves to be fully healthy and without sickness? It is the ill and infirm who recognize their need for medical assistance, and it is the same for all people when it comes to sinfulness and the Savior. Those who believe themselves to be without sin in any part of their life will have no use for a Savior, and are thus bolstered in their unbelief. On the other hand, those who learn of their sin and cry out to God for salvation already possess that which they hope for – forgiveness, life, and salvation.

So is it worth it to stand up and speak the truth? Yes, of course it is worth speaking the truth – in love. The reason the church exists is to speak and proclaim the truth of Holy Scripture – the truth that calls a thing what it is; the truth that calls all humans to repentance for all their sin; and most important, the truth that speaks the promises of the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and salvation for all who believe. There can be no 'agreeing to disagree' when it comes to God's Word and our hope and salvation, because we care about God and we care about people; both in and out of the church.

There is much more to say, but there isn't room for it here. More will follow in the future. The implications of what is happening in the world impacts marriage, the education of children, adoption, the family, and more. If you haven't already, please consider becoming a subscriber to the LCMS' official publication, *Lutheran Witness*. Talk to our secretary for more details. Recent *Lutheran Witness* issues have been proactive in speaking directly and with clarity from the Word of God to the issues facing Christians and the church in this day. The October issue is full of articles that speak specifically to this issue, the goal of which is to enable all Christians to, 'learn to speak compassionately yet faithfully regarding sexuality and same-sex attraction in our vocations as pastors, educators, parents, and grandparents.' Those words come from our synodical president, Rev. Matthew Harrison, and I pray that as same-sex attraction continues to occupy the spotlight in society, all of you will likewise be compassionate and faithful in your words and actions with everyone, especially anyone caught directly in the struggle. After all, when it comes down to it, this issue is not about one sin being no better or worse than others – it is about faithfulness to God who loved the world in such a way that he sent his one and only Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to take the sin of the world upon himself and die for it in place of each person. All who believe in Christ have this hope, and we continue to pray and speak this hope always.

To Christ alone be all the glory, forever and ever, amen.

## Senior Saints – Oct. 9, 12PM

Table Talk with Pastor Fleming in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring your own sandwich. Dessert and drinks are provided. We welcome all of our members, 55 and over. Come join us!

## Women in Fellowship

### September Meeting Recap

It was good to get "caught up" on the summer's news and activities. The possibility of meeting only four or five times a year was discussed, but all agreed that we needed to give that decision more thought. We also voted to make a financial contribution to help Lutheran World Relief ship quilts to those in need.

**October 2, 9:00 AM to 1:00PM**

### Quilting Bee @ Fellowship Hall

Come for as long as you can. Questions?

Contact Judy Kubala 453-4767

**October 8, 9:30AM – 11:30 AM**

### Women in Fellowship – regular meeting

"Brain Therapy" Bring a game or a puzzle. It's a great way to have some fun while we're exercising our brains.

**Thursday Mornings, 9:30AM**

### Women's Bible Study @ Church

This fall's study is the book of Job.

**October 20, 4:00PM**

### LWML Fall Rally @ St. Mark's

Check out the Fall Rally article on the next page for more information. Contact Norma Carey with questions.

**November 12, 9:30AM**

### Women's Thursday Morning Bible Study @ Church

This fall's study is the book of Job.

**Mark your calendar - March 20**

The Basement Church Ladies Musical

## Office Secretaries' Schedule

Miss Benjamin	Mon & Wed until 1 pm All Day Friday
Mrs. Mueller	Wed Afternoons All Day Tues & Thurs

## Lutheran Radio and Television

- \* **THE LUTHERAN HOUR.** 105.7 FM at 6:30 AM & 1680 AM at noon.
- \* **WORSHIP FOR SHUT-INS** WTLJ-TV 54 in Grand Rapids, Sundays at 11:30 AM. Also on DirecTV channel 377
- \* **KFUO** Synod's radio station. You can listen on line at [www.kfuo.org](http://www.kfuo.org).

## Community Cholesterol Screenings

for \$30 per person. The Kent County Health Department will offer quick, informative screenings on Oct 3 at the Fuller Clinic at 700 Fuller NE, in Grand Rapids Receive a full lipid profile including blood pressure, total cholesterol, HDL, LDL, triglycerides, and BMI, followed up with an immediate explanation of results. The screenings are by appointment only. Please call (616) 632-7290 to make your appointment.

## Ladies: Plan Ahead!

LWML Rally will be October 20 beginning at 4:00 p.m. Our rally will be hosted by the women at St. Mark Lutheran Church. Guest speaker will be Mrs. Robert Patrick (counselor at Lutheran High and wife of the principal). Cost is \$5 (includes supper). Contact Norma for more info.

## OKTOBERFEST INVITATION!

The date is **Sunday, 27 October** starting at 1:30 pm at **West Michigan Lutheran High School (WMLHS)** at 601 36<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Wyoming, MI (just west of Hwy 131 on north side of 36<sup>th</sup> St).

The **Oktoberfest** is a fundraiser for the purpose of providing support to **The Koina Center – Advancing Lutheran Schools**. Their effort centers on supporting our Lutheran schools who teach our children and youth the saving knowledge of Christ Jesus.

Cost: \$10 Adult, \$5 Students 5-17 (4 and under, Free), \$30 Family

We look forward to the South and North Kent Chapters of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans' support for this event.

We will have German food and special entertainment consisting of the Immanuel Youth Band, Singing Pastors, WMLHS Choir & the German band. Mark your calendar. We look forward to seeing you at the **OKTOBERFEST!**"

## October Meeting Schedule

School Board, Tuesday, Oct 1 at 7:00 PM  
Elders, Wednesday, Oct 9 at 7:00 PM  
Church Council, Tuesday, Oct 15 at 7:00 PM

## Mighty Mites at Work:

**Lutheran Children's Books, Southeast Asia - \$72,000.**

In many of the Buddhist nations of Southeast Asia, Lutheranism did not even exist a generation ago, and now Christian parents want to teach their children about Jesus Christ. This grant will enable Lutheran missionaries to have Lutheran materials printed in the native languages of the people they serve, so they may better share the Christian faith with the families in their care.

## The Basement Church Ladies are back!

Presenting "A Mighty Fortress is Our Basement" at Van Singel Center on March 20 (2014) at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30 and must be purchased and paid for by Oct 15. Norma Carey has reserved a block of tickets and needs to confirm the number of reservations. What's this season's story about?

The year is 1960 and a reformation is underway and the Church Basement Ladies are once again required to face change head-on. Great new songs and more lessons are learned in this fourth installment of these mini-musicals. These ladies always sell out the auditorium so it is necessary to make early reservations to obtain good seats. A sign-up and brochure is on the narthex bulletin board through Oct. 6.

## Our Savior School News

Oct. 1, Tuesday, PTL Entertainment Book Sale Ends

Oct. 1, Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip to Lansing

### Oct. 2, Wednesday, Chapel

Oct. 2, Wednesday, Picture Day

Oct. 3, Thursday, Picture Day

Oct. 4, Friday, Popcorn Friday

Oct. 4, Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Field Trip

Oct. 4, Friday, Hot Lunch

Oct. 7-11, Monday-Friday, Spirit Week (See Schedule)

### Oct. 10, Thursday, Chapel

Oct. 11, Friday, PTL Potluck and Chili CookOff!

Oct. 16, Wednesday, Chapel

Oct. 18, Friday, Hot Lunch

Oct. 20-27, Cash for Class Week @ Family Fare and D&W

Oct. 22, Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade to Ford Museum

### Oct. 23, Wednesday, Chapel

Oct. 25, Friday, NO SCHOOL!

Oct. 28, Monday, No School P/T Conferences All Day

Oct. 29, Tuesday, Evening P/T Conferences

### Oct. 30, Wednesday, Chapel

Oct. 31, Thursday, Reformation Day!

## Spirit Week!

Monday: Hat Day!

Tuesday: Mix and Match Day

Wednesday: OSLS School Spirit

International Walk to School Day (Meeting at Breton Village)

Thursday: Dress Up Day (Chapel moved due to Walk to School Day)

Friday: Gear Day (PTL Potluck Friday Night!)

## Lutheran High News

November 1st is Science Day here at Lutheran High.

Students look forward to another lively day of egg dropping, pumpkin flying, robot shuffling science fun and more.

WMLHS needs a long-term substitute teacher from mid Nov to the first of Feb. If interested, please contact Mr. Robert Patrick at [rpatrick@wmlhs.org](mailto:rpatrick@wmlhs.org) or call (616) 455-2200.

Join us for Lutheran High's first Auction Dinner Gala. It will take place on Friday Nov 1, 2013 at 5:15 PM at Branns Distinctive Catering, 4945 S. Division Ave, Wyoming, MI 49548. Details and reservation forms are in the narthex. Contact [ctoering@wmlhs.org](mailto:ctoering@wmlhs.org) for more information.