



# Our Savior

LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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

## An Eroding Foundation

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.” Genesis 2:24

With beauty, simplicity, and clarity the Lord gave our first folks to each other in marriage. The Lord filled up the one thing lacking at the close of the creation. “It is not good for the man to be alone.” He created woman. He gave them to each other. He gave them a perfect universe as a wedding present. Stunningly beautiful is the love of husband and wife for each other. It is strikingly simple as the Lord joins one man and one woman. Blessed clarity appears in Eden; there’s no doubt what the Lord designed, wanted, and gave—the lifelong union of one man and one woman which at that primal hour meant forever. No death or divorce darkened the door.

Today the institution of marriage is eroding away. Not just by those who seek to redefine marriage as any union of any pair or group, but by the incessant crashing waves of broken behavior and beliefs. Overall Americans largely participate in marriage: 80% of adults get married. But much of the Lord’s foundation has been already washed away. Sex outside of marriage is considered morally acceptable by 61% of Americans. The majority of younger couples have lived together before marriage. 55% of our fellow citizens think it’s morally acceptable to have children outside of the nurturing safety of a marriage. Divorce is assumed to be a moral option by 70% of American adults.<sup>1</sup>

What’s left if marriage isn’t the place for sex, for parenting children, for living together, and if it is no longer permanent? Romance and companionship are the only lasting pillars of marriage. It then makes sense that some would see that romance

and companionship, and thus marriage, don’t require one man and one woman.

The Lord’s gift hasn’t changed. Even after sin shook the earth to its core and cracked everything, our Lord continues to give and bless marriage and family. When Jesus was asked when can we get out of our marriages, He did not suggest that marriage was only for a sinless world. Jesus instead asked them to marvel at the beautiful, simple, clear gift of marriage; a man and a woman become one flesh joined together by the living God. (Matthew 19:4-6)

Think of the abundant joys the Lord has given you through family times and true, deep, committed relationships.

Marriage isn’t always easy, but it is always important and powerful. Marriage is a beautiful gift that gives us a taste of a sinless creation.

Marriage also gives us a stunning picture of Jesus’ relationship with us. He is our true bridegroom. He takes on our debt, ties Himself to our future, thus He was damned and died. But in exchange He gives us all His assets proclaimed in His resurrection: eternity, life, peace and joy. Jesus blesses your home with forgiveness that restores. Jesus heals the deep pain that out-of-order living has inflicted. Jesus gives us a new start. And Jesus is the solid rock on which to build, which will never be washed away.

We’ve got a lot to pray about in our current society. Our Lord is always eager to hear and help. He is with us in this chaos. We’ve also got a beautiful, simple, clear gift to offer in our Lord’s never fading, never failing Word.

Peace and Joy in Christ,  
Pastor Fleming

<sup>1</sup> Gene Edward Veith Jr & Mary J. Moerbe, *Family Vocation: God’s Calling in Marriage, Parenting, and Childhood*, Crossway, 2012, p.17.

## Senior Saints –

"Summer Story in Sixty Seconds" - care to share one summer memory? - Meet at noon on September 11. Bring your own sandwich - coffee, tea and dessert will be provided.

## Women in Fellowship

### No WIF meetings in August

Sept. 4, 9:00 AM to 1:00PM

### Quilting Bee @ Fellowship Hall

Come for as long as you can. Questions?

Contact Judy Kubala 453-4767

September 10, 9:30AM – 11:30 AM

### Women in Fellowship – regular meeting

Brunch and Brainstorming. Bring your ideas and join us to plan for the 2013-2014 year.

September 12, 9:30AM

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

This fall's study is the book of Job.

Interested in joining a knitting group?

Contact Debbie.

## Office Secretaries' Schedule

Miss Benjamin

Mon & Wed until 1 pm

All Day Friday

School Secretaries

Mon & Wed Afternoons

All Day Tues & Thurs

Schedule may change depending on the new secretary, when the position is filled.

## 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).

## Women's Bible Study

will begin September 12 at 9:30 a.m. We will be studying the book of Job using Lifelight materials.

We invite all women to join us for this nine week study. Materials will be available August 25. Please have your first lesson ready on Sept. 12. If you have questions, you may contact Norma.

## Save the Date! OKTOBERFEST!

Sunday, October 27, Starting at 1:30 at Lutheran High Help support the Koina Center in Advancing Lutheran Schools!

## September Meeting Schedule

School Board, Tuesday, Sept 3 at 7:00 PM

Elders, Wednesday, Sept 4 at 7:00 PM

Voter's Meeting, Tuesday, Sept 17 at 7:00 PM

## Our Savior School News

### Back to School!

Sept. 2, Monday, NO SCHOOL (Labor Day)

Sept. 3, Tuesday, 3 year olds 1<sup>st</sup> day

Sept. 4, Wednesday, 4 and 5 year olds 1<sup>st</sup> day

Sept. 5, Thursday, K-8 Orientation Night

Sept. 11, Wednesday, Chapel

Sept. 16, Monday, Newsletter Deadline

Sept. 27, Friday, No Bussing

## Save the Date!

### Fall Blood Drive

Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday

from 12 PM - 4PM

in the Fellowship Hall

## Lutheran High News

### Bunco Doubleheader 2013 on September 7!

**Game One:** Family Friendly game. It will run from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. The cost is \$10.00 per person or \$25.00 per family (Kids 8 and up)

**Halftime:** We will be having a Crockpot potluck. Vote for your favorite dish! This will be from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

**Game Two:** This is an adults-only game. It will run from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The cost is \$10.00 per person.

\*\*Cash bar will be available during halftime and game two. Please contact the school office with any questions, 455-2200. Please RSVP by September 1 ([secretary@wmlhs.org](mailto:secretary@wmlhs.org)). You can pay the day of the event.

## Community Cholesterol Screenings

for \$30 per person. The Kent County Health Department will offer quick, informative screenings on September 5, 2012, at the North County Clinic, 4388 14 Mile Road, in Rockford, from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. 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. The next screening clinic will be held October 3 at the Fuller Clinic at 700 Fuller NE, in Grand Rapids.

## **"Love and Marriage: The Changing Landscape of American Culture"**

will be presented by Dr. Peter Scaer, a leader in the pro-life movement and an advocate for traditional marriage, he will talk about a wide range of topics including abortion, birth control, the divorce culture, and traditional marriage. He will look at these topics from a distinctly Christian point of view, with the hope of energizing and preparing people for the many challenges which face us. Dr Peter Scaer, is Associate Professor of Exegetical Theology at Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN. The seminar is sponsored by the Greater Grand Rapids Chapter of Lutherans For Life. It is open to everyone. There is no fee for the seminar. A free will offering will be taken for the Grand Rapids Pregnancy Resource Center and Cradles of Grace. It will be held on Saturday, September 28, 2013 at Grace Lutheran Church, 1505 Wyoming, MI. Registration and a continental breakfast will begin at 9:00AM. The seminar will begin at 9:30AM. Lunch will be served at 12 noon. The afternoon sessions will continue until 3:00PM. Reservations are not required but are appreciated. They may be made by contacting the Grace Lutheran Church office at 616-534-0805 or [gracelc.office@gmail.com](mailto:gracelc.office@gmail.com). Dr. Scaer will also be preaching at Grace Lutheran Church on Sunday, September 29 at the 9:00AM service, and will be leading the Bible Class at 10:45AM. Dr. Peter Scaer did his undergraduate work in the Classics at Indiana University Bloomington, graduating in 1988. From there he went on to Concordia Theological Seminary (M.Div., 1992), and to Notre Dame, where he earned his M.A. (1995), and completed his doctoral dissertation on the Lukan Passion Narrative (Ph.D., 2001). From 1996 to 2000 Dr. Scaer served as the pastor of Emanuel Lutheran Church in Arcadia, Indiana. He joined the Exegetical Department in 2000. He has also been very involved in the pro-life movement, serving as President of Allen County Right to Life in Fort Wayne. He is also one of the co-founders of "Shepherds United," an ecumenical group of pastors who have joined together in defense of life, religious liberty, and traditional marriage. Dr. Scaer met his wife on his vicarage in Norman, Oklahoma, and has been married since 1991. They have three children.