

## Congregational Update

*Our Savior Lutheran Church update for July A&D 2020*

### Thanks to our Triune God!

Great triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, our creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, with reverent awe and adoration we join the Church in the song of the angels: "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of Sabaoth. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"

### Update

Since we cannot meet in person for Bible Study, I write another letter to the congregation to update the Our Savior Lutheran Church family on happenings and the current situation. I kept finding myself writing, "I wish we could..." and, "I hope we can..." Indeed, I need to learn, "in whatever situation I am to be content." (Phil. 4: 11) May God grant us peace as we learn to, "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer." (Romans 12:12) May He grant us relief from this pandemic soon.

### Budget

We thank you for your continued generous support. We finished last fiscal year about \$7,700 in the black. Although offerings were slightly below the plan, expenses were a little more below plan.

For the next fiscal year, Voters approved a 2.5% increase in base salaries for Church and School staff. Due to this and other necessary increases, this will require approximately \$40,000 (or almost 6%) in increased offerings this year to balance the budget. I ask that you prayerfully consider how you can increase your giving.

### Organ Fund

Voters also approved an extension to the gathering of funds toward replacing our organ. We currently have just under \$100,000 in the fund. The goal is to raise \$800,000 in funds and pledges by Dec. 2023. Any contract to build the organ will require separate approval by the Voters. The Acoustic and Organ Committee will be providing more information. Again, due to current circumstances we are not able to have a luncheon or potluck to have a presentation and discussion.

### Newsletter Items

Hopefully you read about these things in the newsletter, but to reiterate a few points.

Our principal, Kara, the faculty, staff, and school board have been working diligently to prepare for the coming school year. We have been working with the Michigan Association of Non-public Schools (MANS), the LMCS- Michigan District, Kent Count Health Department and others on plans and procedures. Pray for our school that everyone in and around our school may remain safe and that the children may continue to learn and grow in God's grace.

Emilyann Wert has started her Deaconess internship at Our Savior. Due to current circumstances, we have not been able to have a meet and greet with her. We pray for her work and that we will be able to have a gathering at some point in the future.

Pastor Fleming was installed as the Executive Director for Spiritual Care of Doxology on Aug. 2. We pray for his work at Doxology.

### **Next Voters' Meeting**

The next Voters' Meeting is scheduled for September 15. We will make announcements about the meeting as it gets closer.

### **Prayers**

Continue to pray for our congregation and our staff. Pray for all who are in need and are suffering.

"The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." Phil. 4: 5b-7

In Christ,

Andy Mueller, President, Our Savior Lutheran Church

Psalm 86, Romans 8:18-39, Phil. 4:10-13, 1 Peter 2, Eph. 6:10-18

<https://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/health-ministry/pandemic>

#### *Collects for the Present Pandemic*

Almighty God, You alone are worthy of our fear and our trust and, by Your Son, You have given us peace. Turn us from every anxiety toward Your Fatherly heart made known in Christ crucified. Do not let our faith rest on the shifting sand of this world's comforts and securities, but only on You. Help us to seek first Your kingdom and righteousness, confident that You will add every needful thing and work every circumstance together for our good; through the same Jesus Christ. Amen.

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