



Our Savior

LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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

A Happy Thaw

I found it rather nice that the thaw of late January cleared the driveways, sidewalks, roads, and many of the snow piles so that when the late January and early February snows came it was much easier to shovel. There were none of those uneven, frozen, packed-down tracks where the tires had pressed down the snow into ice before it was scraped away.

Then, I thought like a pastor (what did you expect?). Of course that's how it is with sin and life, isn't it? The old encrusted, frozen, packed down guilt, hurts, and shame make it much more difficult to deal with the troubles that arrive every day. How much easier it is to deal with life's challenges when our conscience has been cleaned up from all that's gone before.

Confession of sins and forgiveness in Christ are a thaw for our souls. The ruts and scars, prideful lumps and embarrassing slip ups, painful shame and faithless thoughts are all melted away by the authorized word of Christ: I forgive you.

No wonder the liturgy has taught us Sunday after Sunday, year after year, let's first let the Lord get things cleared up. Fess up. State the facts. We are, after all, poor, miserable sinners. There's plenty of evidence to prove it. Don't defend yourself. Don't hide away. Just come into Christ's light and let Him clear it all away. Jesus, who died in darkness, carried the world's rebellion on His back, and rose unburdened, declares you forgiven, pure, whole, and new.

With your conscience unburdened, that terrible weight off your back, you are free again. Free to delight that the Lord goes with you to face the real challenges, burdens, and heartbreaks of the day. Free to delight that the Lord goes with you as you comfort and encourage your brothers and sisters who are also trudging through the blizzard of burdens. Free to delight that the Lord blesses us every moment of every day with true, eternal joy.

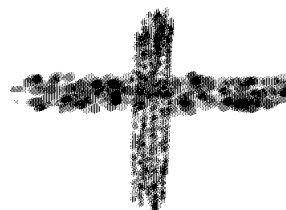
You are the Father's child. He is working everything together for your good as you trust in Him. He gives you wonderful, simple blessings every day. He hears your every concern and fear. And He can't take His eyes

off of you—you're the apple of His eye. His love for you never fails. How glad He always is to welcome you home.

Ash Wednesday—February 13 this year—begins Lent, an old word that means "spring". What a blessed opportunity at the confessional services at 6:30 am and 5:30 pm to kneel at the Lord's altar and receive forgiveness one person at a time from the Lord as He directs His servants. It will be a beautiful thaw! And dark, frozen pain and guilt will happily melt away in peace and rest.

Such a clearing is always available to you in private confession and absolution, too. Pastor Sherrill and I are always delighted to pronounce the Lord's forgiveness after hearing (and burying away) your confession. And it's all completely paid for by Jesus, God's eternal son who bought it for you and for all.

Peace and Joy in Christ,
Pastor Fleming



Ash Wednesday

13 February A+D 2013

6:30 AM Confessional Service
with Imposition of Ashes

8:35 AM Chapel Service
with Imposition of Ashes

5:30 PM Confessional Service
with Imposition of Ashes

6:00pm Soup Supper

7:00pm Divine Service

Midweek Lenten Services on Feb 20 – Mar 20, 7 PM

Senior Saints

February 13 at noon.

Bring a sandwich, beverage and dessert provided.

"Table Talk with the Pastors" (bring your questions/concerns/compliments).

Perpetual Paper Drive

Feed the Gator - ANYTIME! The Paper Gator is in the parking lot at Our Savior School. Don't forget that we take catalogs, magazines, junk mail, phone books, office and school paper in addition to newsprint!



Please, no plastic, metal, trash, glass or cardboard!

Women's Retreat

February 16 from 8:30 to 2:00.

\$10.00 registration fee.

Heidi Floyd, author of *In A Word*, is our special speaker. She is a wife, mother and cancer survivor. Heidi brings a unique Christian perspective to this issue. As a young mom, battling cancer, she also has had to develop a sense of humor! If you or a friend is battling cancer, Heidi brings a comforting, as well as, realistic message. She truly is a delight!

You can also check out her web site - just type in her name.

Along with Heidi will also be Phil's Friends, a recognized LCMS service organization. Recently Pastor Blain was visited by them in Grand Rapids. They have been a mite box recipient as they reach out to cancer patients with Christian care packages. Phil himself will be with us and so we are collecting items for this project.

Warm men's socks or women's socks, stuffed animals or playing cards would be welcome.

Make plans now to attend and bring a friend!

Sponsored by the Grand Rapids Zone LWML.

Please call Grace Rosema ([616-822-3625](tel:616-822-3625)) or Linda Blain ([616-361-0808](tel:616-361-0808))

Mighty Mites:

Support for Lutheran Orphanages - Haiti - \$70,000



Non-Christians and former Voodoo priests in record numbers are among new groups being baptized in Haiti, where the LCMS partners with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti (ELCH) in bringing Haitians to Christ. In the LCMS World Relief and Human Care Lutheran Village, God's mercy and love are shown to Haitian Lutherans and all unchurched citizens. Long-term support of a least four orphanages in the Village enables our Lutheran Haitian partners to provide housing, food, medical care, and education services to children who hunger for the necessities of life and for the Word of God.

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.kfu.org.

Women in Fellowship

January Meeting Recap

We enjoyed Sue Wallace's presentation on family genealogy. Her personal stories were delightful. She also gave us websites we could investigate.

February 6, 9:00 AM to 1:00PM

Quilting Bee @ Church

Come for as long as you can. Questions? Contact Judy

Thursday mornings, 9:30 AM.

Women's Bible Study at Church

"Wilderness Wanderings" is the study topic.

February 12, 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Women in Fellowship - Regular Meeting

We'll be packing "goodie boxes" for our college students, so bring snacks, soup packets, energy bars, etc. Sharon Patrick, counselor and wife of WMLH's principal, will be our guest.

February 16, 8:30 AM to 2:00PM

LWML Zone Winter Retreat at St. James, Grand Rapids

Check posters at church for details.

College Addresses Needed for Valentine Boxes

Parents who have children away at college, please give their address to the church office or to Debra

so that Women in

Fellowship may get a goodie box out to them for Valentine's

Day. We like to fill the boxes with candy, snacks, and a Lenten devotional if possible. Thank you!

Sauerkraut Dinner – Sunday, Feb. 10

Messiah Lutheran Church

2727 5 Mile Road NE

Begins at Noon

Price: Adult \$7, Kids (4-12) \$3, 3 and Under Free

Back by popular demand is Schnitzelbank recipe red cabbage.

The menu: roast pork, red cabbage, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, applesauce, assorted breads, desserts and drinks.

Call the office for reservations: 363-2553.

Lutheran Summer Camp Jobs

Summer Jobs Available at NLOMA Summer Camps. Spend an exciting & challenging summer at one of many Lutheran Camps across the country as a cabin counselor, cook, lifeguard, program leader, maintenance worker, wrangler, guitar player, craft leader, etc! It's a GREAT ADVENTURE!

Apply online at www.nloma.org. Or contact: Paul Golke, paul@campconcordia.org.

Wanted: Part-time Organist

Mount Olive, Grand Rapids is seeking a part-time organist to play at its weekly Sunday worship service and for occasional midweek and special services. Qualified candidates should be competent on both organ and piano, familiar with all hymns and liturgies in The Lutheran Service Book, and comfortable accompanying soloists, instrumentalists, choral anthems, and congregational singing. Interested individuals should contact Rev. Kenneth Bomberger

at [616.453.0803](tel:616.453.0803) or pastorbomberger@gmail.com.

“Woven Together in Christ “

Dinner and Auction

Proceeds go to support Immanuel St. James Lutheran School February 23, 2013 at 6:30 pm at New Community Church Tickets are \$30, enjoy a 3 course meal plus CJ playing the piano like never before, auction follows.

Please call our school office at 363-0505 for more information and to purchase tickets.

Office Secretaries' Schedule

Day Morning / Afternoon

Mon. C Miss Benjamin/ S Mrs. VanEck

Tues. S Mrs. Mueller/ S Mrs. VanEck

Wed. S/C Mrs. M. & (Miss B.)/ S Mrs. VanEck

Thurs. S Mrs. Mueller/ S Mrs. VanEck

Fri. C Miss Benjamin (All Day)

February Meeting Schedule

School Board, Tuesday, February 5 at 7:00 PM

Elders, Wednesday, February 13 (after service)

Council, Tuesday, February 12 at 7:00 PM

Thank You

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We thank God for the kind, considerate, and compassionate support and prayers you provided Violet during her declining years and us at her death in Christ. How the love of Christ has shown through you!

Pastor Sherrill, the Adult Choir, luncheon workers, and all who surrounded us during these days—thank you!

The meals, cards, prayers, hugs, fun stories, flowers, and shared tears all have been very comforting and encouraging as we join you in looking for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come prepared by our Savior.

Love in Christ,
Fleming Family

Our Savior School News

Important Dates

February 4, NO SCHOOL Parent Teacher Conferences

February 5, Parent Teacher Conferences (evening)

February 6, SCRIP orders due

February 6, Chapel

February 12-14, Outdoor Education (5th and 6th)

February 13, Ash Wednesday

February 13, Chapel with ashes

February 15, Ski Day @ Cannonsburg Ski Lodge

February 18, NO BUSSING

February 18, SCRIP orders due

February 20, Chapel

February 21, Hearing and Vision Screening

February 22, Hearing and Vision Screening

February 22, Cookie Dough Delivery

February 22, PTL Popcorn Friday

February 26, "Freedom Train" Play (5th-8th)

February 27, Chapel

2nd OSLS Open House!

6:30-8 PM, Feb. 6th

Due to bad weather conditions, the school will host another open house. Invite your friends, family, and neighbors to come tour the school and meet the teachers.

Lutheran High News

Celebrate Lutheran High, our annual dinner fundraiser will be March 15. We are excited to share our love for this school by giving you a night of great food and wonderful entertainment. More information will be available soon.

Join us for food and a good time at Quaker Steak and Lube located at 4515 28th St. Grand Rapids on Saturday February 9. Anytime during the day, 15% of proceeds will be donated to Lutheran High. You do need to turn our fundraiser slip into the wait staff so please contact the office so we can get the information to you, secretary@wmlhs.org. We hope to see you there!

Teacher of the Year Nominations

Deadline: March 15, 2013



The Michigan District is blessed with faithful teachers who provide children an academic foundation for successful living. More importantly, they support parents in the faith development of children and model a lifestyle that reflects the positive

characteristics described in Scripture. This award seeks to Glorify God by recognizing servants who use their talents and abilities to further the Kingdom and promote academic success. Nominations are open until Friday, March 15, 2013.

Go to the link below for more information.

<http://www.michigandistrict.org/schools/services/Teacheroftheyear>

Picture Your Pastor Coloring Contest

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo. | Deadline:

April 1, 2013



If you're in grades K-8, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo. (CSL) wants to know what makes your pastor wonderful! You can let them know by entering CSL's Coloring Contest. Anyone who is in grades K-8, lives in the USA, and is involved in the life of a congregation of The Lutheran Church-Missouri

Synod can enter. Submit your artwork by April 1, 2013. If you're even thinking of entering, you already have a great prize -- a pastor who shows you God's grace. In addition, 45 young artists will be chosen for special recognition and prizes.

Family Bible Study, Friday, Feb. 15th

We had a great turnout in January. There's still room for more! Now is a great time to give Family Bible Study a try. We're just starting a new study and it's a blessed opportunity to join in. It's really open to everyone—single or married, young or old, kids or no-kids.

Family Bible Study meets on Friday evenings once a month. We gather at 5:30 pm for a potluck supper (if you're late, it's no problem). Everybody brings a dish to share. It's pretty casual. Kids and adults eat together. Then the kids go off with sitters and the adults study scripture for about an hour--usually a little less. Then the kids come back (usually for more dessert :)) and everyone visits until they want to go home. It's a delightful time together in the Lord's Word and in good Christian friendship.

For the remainder of this school year we'll be studying the book *Grace Upon Grace* by John Kleinig (the Australian pastor and professor who was here in September). We'll study one chapter a month. Copies of the book will be available at church for \$17 per copy. (If that's too pricey for you, let Pastor Fleming know and we'll work it out). It is a wonderfully practical and deeply insightful book about Christian spirituality that can have a major impact on you and your family's life together.

Friday, February 15, 5:30 pm, @ School,
***Grace Upon Grace*, Chapter 1, The Mystery of Christ**

March 15, Chapter 2, The Mystery of Meditation

April 19, Chapter 3, The Mystery of Prayer

May 17, Chapter 4, The Hidden Battle

June 28, Chapter 5, Hidden Holiness