



Our Savior

LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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

Potpourri from Pastor

Babies & January 22nd

Hasn't it been good to see such a long list of expectant mothers in our prayer list? What a joy to hear of baby bumps and eager fathers, waiting grandparents, cheerful aunts and uncles, hopeful cousins, and excited friends! Life is so full of possibilities and joy. Babies are such a light.

These babies also draw our attention to those who want children but are unable. Or who long to adopt but face nearly endless hurdles. We mourn with them and pray with them.

Such a blessed bounty of babies also reminds us of the ugliness and heartbreak of abortion: the purposeful taking away of lives that are gifts from the Lord to so many.

January 22 is the 40th anniversary of the United States Supreme Court *Roe v. Wade* decision. About 3,200 babies are aborted every day in our country. These little ones have been denied the right to life. May the Lord have mercy on our unborn brothers and sisters and lead good government to its most basic responsibility: to protect the weak from the ruthless action of the powerful.

Join us in prayer on Saturday, January 19 from 9 to 11 AM at church and Tuesday, January 22 at Noon at Immanuel Lutheran Church downtown that this ugly violence against the unborn cease. Invite your friends to join us.

During the prayer breakfast here on Saturday from 9 to 11 AM you are free to come and go as you are able. The prayers will be divided into six, 20 minute, segments. In each segment will sing a bit, hear Scripture, and pray. Breakfast will be available in the fellowship hall.

New Website Coming

Keith Dierking, Barry Blomquist, and Amy Benjamin have been working on a new Church and School website. Plans include having audio files of the sermons and up-to-date information as well.

Excellent Lecture

Go to this link (<http://vimeo.com/27024561>) for an excellent lecture by Dr. Korey Maas. Dr. Maas, now a professor at Hillsdale College, is a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod pastor, theologian, and historian. This lecture on abortion and natural law is interesting, insightful, and helpful. You can get to this lecture by going to Our Savior Lutheran Church's facebook page, my facebook page, or by using the link above.

Adult Catechism Class Begins January 28

Pastor Fleming will be teaching this overview of the basics of the Christian faith. This class is the way to become familiar with what Lutherans believe. It's open to those who just want to learn what we believe, to those who want to become members, to those who want a refresher course on Lutheran Christianity, and for anyone. Classes will meet on Mondays from 7 PM TO 8:30 PM at Our Savior Lutheran Church.

If you have any questions about the class, please contact Pastor Fleming: (949-0710 ext 303 or pastor@oursavior-gr.org)

Redeemer Lutheran Church is Now Closed.

The Lord gave us many gifts through Redeemer Lutheran Church. Redeemer LCMS built the first portion of our parish school. It was in the school gym that Our Savior Church first gathered to receive our Lord's gifts. Redeemer and Our Savior Churches jointly supported what was then *Martin Luther School*.

On Sunday, December 30th, Redeemer Lutheran Church held its closing, but the Word of our Lord endures forever.

Thank you to Pastor Sherrill and Sharon Sherrill for their voluntary and extraordinary work to serve Redeemer Lutheran Church for a year! What kindness and love they showed to the dear saints at Redeemer Church.

Senior Saints

Wednesday, January 9 at Noon

Special program on January 9 - "Grandpa Jones from Hee Haw" (aka Uncle Charlie from the Children's Bible Hour!). A humorous presentation on the retirement years. Charlie VanderMeer started out as a young boy on the Children's Bible Hour in 1943. He literally grew up on the program reading scripts as a young boy and finishing his years on the show as Grandpa Charlie. We are looking forward to "listening" to him live! We invite everyone one to join us. We begin at noon and ask everyone to bring their own sandwich. Dessert and beverages will be served.

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!

Mighty Mites:

Gospel Outreach Through Open Arms Child Care - \$65,000

The Open Arms Institute is a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS that helps to plan, guide and assist churches in Christ centered child care ministries. Through LWML support, it is able to meet requests for assistance among churched and unchurched families develop new Christian curriculums for early childhood ministry programs available on the internet, establish new LCMS Word and Sacrament ministries in our nation's communities, and expand programs of outreach and nurture in existing congregations.



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.

Women in Fellowship

December Meeting Recap

Christmas cookies for Our Savior shut-ins and Christmas memory games were on the agenda.

January 8, 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Women in Fellowship – regular meeting

"Genealogy" with Sue

Thursday mornings, 9:30 AM. (begins Jan. 10th)

Women's Bible Study at Church

First Lesson on "Wilderness Wanderings"

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, counselor and wife of WMLH's principal, will be our guest.

February 16

LWML Retreat at St. James, Grand Rapids

Lutheran for Life Mailing

St. Mark Lutheran Church in Kentwood, January 28.

We begin at 9:30 and are through by 11:30. We welcome all volunteers to help with this mailing. There is no special talent involved - you just need to be able to attach a label or sticker on a newsletter! Please contact Norma if you have any questions.

Save The Date

Upcoming LWML women's retreat at St. James Lutheran Church on Feb. 16 from 8:30 to 2:00. Special speaker will be Heidi Floyd, author of In A Word. A wife and mother and cancer survivor, Heidi brings hope and humor through God's Word. Also represented will be Phil's Friends, a recognized LCMS service organization, reaching hospitalized cancer patients with Christian care packages. Phil's Friends has been a mite box grant recipient. More details will be in our February newsletter.

January Wedding Anniversaries

Date

Years Married

January Birthdays

Our Savior School News

Important Dates

January 6, Epiphany

January 7, Christmas Break Ends

January 7, SCRIP orders due

January 9, Chapel

January 21, NO SCHOOL, Records Day

January 23, SCRIP orders due

January 23, Chapel

January 24, George Washington's Follies

January 25, End of the 2nd Quarter

January 27, National Lutheran Schools Week begins

January 28, NO BUSSING

Spartan UPCs, Campbell Labels, And Boxtops

These are all collected year 'round! Collection boxes for all items are on the table in the narthex. The school receives cash and school supplies from redeeming them, so we APPRECIATE all of your support!

Lutheran High News

Bunco Night! Saturday, January 19 from 6:30 to 10:00 p.m. at the high school. Don't know how to play? No problem! Come and learn. Bring your favorite CrockPot masterpiece to share and the winning recipe will receive a prize. The cost is \$10.00 per person at the door. Please RSVP through our Evite at Evite.com or let the office know (secretary@wmlhs.org or 455-2200) that you would like to attend and we will send you a link to RSVP.

Open House on Thursday, January 31 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. This will be a great time to tour our school, meet our staff, check out our curriculum and find answers to your questions.

Living with Dying

This the theme that Lutherans For Life has chosen for Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, January 20, 2013AD. LFL has so designated January 20 because January 22 is the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion. In the 40 years since that decision, the lives of more than 55,000,000 babies have been taken by abortion. The Supreme Court decision said "no case could be cited that holds that a fetus is a person within the meaning of the Fourteenth Amendment." God's word says, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you," Jeremiah 1:5a NKJ.

In the Winter 2012 issue of *LifeDate*, National Lutherans For Life quarterly newsletter, Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb has an article titled "Death is Not Our Friend." He writes, "Death is your friend." Such sentiment seems quite pervasive in our culture. Assisted-suicide advocate, Jack Kevorkian, saw death as "the compassionate relief of suffering." This idea persists and finds promotion in groups like "Americans Against Human Suffering" or

If your name does not appear as it should, please contact the Church secretary at 949-0710 or churchsecretary@oursavior-gr.org

January Meeting Schedule

School Board, Tuesday, January 8 at 7:00 PM

Elders, Wednesday, January 9 at 7:00 PM

Council, Tuesday, January 15 at 7:00 PM

Voter's Meeting, Tuesday, January 22 at 7:00 PM

Homebound Members

“Compassion in Dying.” Christians can easily fall prey to this kind of thinking. Indeed, we can even bolster the idea with our knowledge of eternal life and resurrection. The Christian may readily succumb to the notion of death as our “friend” who frees us to be with Jesus. This false and dangerous thinking aligns us with the ever increasing worldview of hastening death. The biblical view of death is exactly opposite of friend—enemy! (1 Corinthians 15:26) Death came as a foreign element into God’s perfect creation, the result of sin (Genesis 2:17; 3:7; Romans 6:23). Death reveals the wrath of God against unrighteousness (Romans 1:18). Luther writes, “Christians, however, and God fearing men know that their death, together with all the other miseries of this life, is to be equated with God’s wrath” (LW, 13, 112). Death points to the wrath of God that we all deserve because of our sinful, at-enmity-with-God nature. Death is not our friend who frees us to be with Jesus. The defeat of death—our enemy—does so! (1 Corinthians 15:26) Death does not carry us into eternity. Christ and His victory over death carry us into eternity. “When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory’” (1 Corinthians 15:54).”

Dr. Lamb concludes, “The world increasingly sees death as a friend, just another part of life, a compassionate way out of suffering. We know better. We believe better. We live in victory. We endure suffering. We suffer with one another. We turn to promises, not death, in the midst of suffering. We have a better refrain to sing than touting death as friend. So sing it! “What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!” “

You can access LifeDate and other articles on life issues at the NLFL website: <http://www.lutheransforlife.org/>.

God’s word tells us to prayer for ourselves and others. There are two opportunities to pray with fellow Christians as we think of all the hurt and pain caused by abortion over the past forty years.

Please join us in prayer at one or both of these times. Please invite and encourage relatives, friends, and neighbors to come and you might offer to bring them with you.

There will be a **community prayer breakfast** on **Saturday, January 19, 2013AD from 9:00 – 11:00am**. It will be held at **Our Savior Lutheran Church, 2900 Burton St. SE, Grand Rapids**. We will pray for the church and for our nation, as we approach the 40th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion. People may come and go any time between 9 and 11am. There will be continual praying in

the sanctuary and a continental breakfast will be available in the fellowship hall during those hours. We welcome everyone to join us in prayer that hearts will be changed by the Holy Spirit to know that all life is precious to God.

There will be a **community prayer service** on **Tuesday, January 22, 2013 at 12 noon** at **Immanuel Lutheran Church, 2 Michigan St. NE, Grand Rapids**. We will pray for the church and for our nation, on the 40th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion. We welcome everyone to join us in prayer that hearts will be changed by the Holy Spirit to know that all life is precious to God.

Here are some things for which you might pray.

- for the Lord’s church that she will boldly speak the truth of God’s word regarding the protection of human life; including the unborn, disadvantaged, those with diseases, terminal illnesses, and the elderly
- for Pregnancy Resource Centers; Cradles of Grace and other organizations that help and support pregnant women, especially those with unwanted pregnancies
- for women that have had abortions and for anyone that has encouraged someone to have abortion
- for those that have participated in performing abortions;
- for our president, all elected and appointed officials, and for judges that they would use their positions to protect all life from conception until natural death
- for government leaders and their staffs that can change or influence legislation that would limit or end legalized abortions;
- for everyone that is working to inform the populous that abortion is taking of a life and is sinful;
- for all those participating in demonstrations against legalized abortion that they will conduct themselves in a manner that is pleasing to our Lord
- for unmarried people that are sexually active that they may know that what they are doing is sinful and repent;
- for those that are suffering from guilt;
- and for those that have repented that they may know that Jesus has paid the price for all of their sins and that they are forgiven.

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)

Directory Updates

Stephanie Norcross 558-5409

Seminary Family Support

Throughout the year Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregations, groups, individuals and other organizations or businesses throughout the nation contribute items and cash to the Food and Clothing Co-op at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. (The Co-op uses all cash contributions to maintain their stock of food.)

January through March each year our congregation collects non-perishable food, household paper products, cleaning supplies, infant care products, toiletries, and "like-new" clothing for the Co-op. Students and their families are the only ones allowed to shop there. They get all items free of charge. (But they are asked to help stock and maintain the Co-op.) A point system assures more equitable distribution of items limited in quantity. Points typically provide up to 65 percent of an individual or family's needs. Over more decades than Dick or Mary Groggel remember, they continuously coordinated to collect, pack, and deliver to Fort Wayne all donated items. This year Dick and Mary retired from the task. In Jesus' name, we thank them for those many years of dedicated service to this cause.

The Kneppers eagerly agreed to assume the task because they witnessed the co-op help their son and his family make ends meet while he attended seminary in 1994-1999.

Our 2013 food and clothing for the Seminary begins on January 1st and ends March 31st. Please bring food and clothing contributions as often as you can during that period. Contact Glenn or Barb if you have questions about donating to the Co-op.

Hats, Scarves, and Mittens

Thank you for again filling both the Snowflake Tree and the Fellowship Hall basket with "warmth" for Lutheran Child and Family Services, Mel Trotter Mission, and Heatside Ministries.

What is Epiphany?

The day of the Epiphany of our Lord is an important and ancient Christian holy day. Unfortunately, it is little understood and seldom celebrated by many American Christians and pales in comparison to the popularity of Christmas and Easter, for example. This is regrettable, for it is a rich and joyous day, which, along with the corresponding Epiphany season, commemorates important events from the life of our Lord Jesus Christ. The word "epiphany" comes from two Greek words, the preposition *epi* and the verb *phainen*, and can variously mean, "to shine upon," "to reveal," or "to appear, manifest." The verb *epiphainen* as well as the noun *epiphaneia* both occur in the Greek New Testament. Whereas most of the occurrences of *epiphaneia* or *epiphaino* carry the meaning "to reveal" or "to appear," in Luke 1:79 it means "to shine upon." In Luke 1, Zechariah prophesies that his newborn son John the Baptist will

give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on [*epiphaino*] those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace (Luke 1:77-79).

It is worth celebrating because every epiphany God gives us is permeated with grace and Gospel. In what sense? God took the initiative. In other words, God did not demand that we discover on our own who Jesus of Nazareth is. He condescended to us and revealed Jesus to us in ways that we could understand. He sought out the magi and revealed Jesus' Person and Mission to them through the star and Scripture. They never could have discovered this on their own if He hadn't revealed it by grace. He had mercy on John the Baptist and others at the Jordan on the day of Jesus' baptism. No one there on that day could have possibly perceived the true identity of Jesus as John baptized Him. But God condescended to them and allowed them to hear and see the testimony of the Father and the Spirit. Once again, God took the initiative by His grace and revealed Jesus as eternal God as well as man.

Remembering the Epiphany reminds us that we also have been sought out. God has come looking for us through His Word and Sacraments. Through these He has revealed His Son to us personally, so that through faith we know Jesus to be the mighty God, the Savior of the world; and we believe Him to be our God and our Savior.