



# Our Savior

LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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

## The Greatest of these is Love

“And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” 1 Corinthians 13:13

**God’s design is stunningly beautiful. God is love. From eternity the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have perfectly loved one another.**

Our broken world has a tough time making the two-in-one-flesh relationship of marriage endure, but the Lord has been Three-in-One in perfect harmony *forever*.

Near the end of this creation’s first week, the Holy Trinity said, “Let us make man in our image.” So He created man to bear His Divine image. God loved Adam: Adam loved God. And the Lord created man as male and female, causing His image to be reflected not only back to Him but from one to another. Adam loved Eve: Eve loved Adam.

In the Fall, man’s love ceased both toward God and toward his neighbor. But thanks be to God, the Lord’s love toward man never has. He immediately promised the sending of Christ Jesus to crush Satan and gain our salvation (Genesis 3:15). Through God’s promise of Christ, God has begun to rebuild His loving image in us who believe.

The 13<sup>th</sup> chapter of 1 Corinthians is one of the most famous chapters in all Scripture. It’s all about love according to God’s definition.

All of the problems at the congregation at Corinth were symptoms of the lack of love there: splintering into factions (chapters 1-4), tolerating gross sins (chapters 5-6), eating meat sacrificed to idols and so harming their weaker brothers and sisters in the faith (chapters 8-10), and their divisions at the Lord’s Supper (11:17-34). Saint Paul teaches that faith in Christ crucified is always “active in love” (Galatians 5:6). Our Lord Jesus on the night of His betrayal called us to “love one another” (John 13:34).

Dr. Gregory Lockwood, of our sister synod in Australia comments on 1 Corinthians 13:

Paul’s concept of love is not to be equated with the modern sentimental notion of love, which often becomes an excuse for various aberrations. The love romanticized and glorified by modern culture is

self-seeking. It is rooted in the self and its needs and emotions. Even in the church devilishly subtle arguments sometimes twist the concept of love in a

self-serving way. The condemnation of favorite sins is “unloving,” while a libertine accommodation of sin is “showing Christian love” (contrast that with 1 Cor. 5). A resolute insistence on biblical truth is “unloving,” while doctrinal error is tolerated “in the spirit of Christ’s love.”

The “royal road” of Christian love, on the other hand, is marked by unselfish service in fidelity to Christ and his word. “If you love me, you will keep my commandments” (John 14:15). The loving shepherd (pastor) who tends and feeds Christ’s flock (John 21:15-17) exemplifies the love of Christ. Whenever Christians follow this royal way, the Spirit manifests His presence, for love is a sign that the Spirit has liberated a person from his ego “for supreme activity in love.” (Lockwood, *1 Cor.*, CPH)

1 Corinthians 13 makes three main points: the necessity of love (verses 1-3); the character of love (verses 4-7); and the permanence of love (verses 8-13). In the next few months I intend to explore these three points in the newsletter.

Until then, I urge you to read 1 Corinthians 13 as God’s standard for our love, but especially as a description of Christ’s love for us. I pray the Lord open our eyes to see the fullness of His love as shown most clearly in the suffering, death, and resurrection of Christ Jesus to save us. As the hymn says it well:

My song is love unknown,  
My Savior’s love to me,  
**Love to the loveless shown  
That they might lovely be.**  
Oh, who am I  
That for my sake  
My Lord should take  
Frail flesh and die? (LSB 430)

Peace and Joy in Christ,  
Pastor Fleming



## Ascension Day

### May 9

Divine Service 7 PM

## Senior Saints

May 8 at noon.

Bring your own sandwich and dessert and coffee will be provided. We look forward to an "Organ Overview" with Christina!

## Mighty Mites:

**Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT) Spread God's Word Through Print and Audio - \$97,344**



Lutheran Bible Translators is a Recognized Service Organization of the Lutheran church - Missouri Synod and the only Lutheran organization whose purpose is to spread the Gospel by providing the Scriptures in the native language of every people. The LBT is working diligently to provide Bibles and literacy materials in printed and audio form that bring more people of Ghana, Botswana, Namibia, and Nigeria to faith in Jesus Christ.

## Help Out Camp Concordia

Summer is fast approaching and the camp is always in need of items to make the summer a better one. We take new items and old ones in good condition.

We always need:

Push Brooms	Plastic Trash Cans
Dustpans	Kleenex
Copy Paper	Rubber Gloves
Band-aids (Latex Free)	(Latex Free)
Canned Vegetables	Cleaners (e.g. Lysol,
Triple Antibiotic	Scrub, Bubbles)
/Neosporin	Box Fans
Brooms	

If you would be willing to donate any of the above items, simply leave them in the office in the box marked "Camp Concordia". Thanks for your support.

## LIFEWALK 2013

Get those walking shoes on and gather your family and friends to join us as we walk 2 miles around the campus of Cornerstone University on East Beltline Ave. This year's walk will be on Saturday, June 15 at 9:00 a.m., registration anytime between 8:00 and 8:45 a.m. LIFEWALK is a fun way to raise awareness and funds that support the life-saving work of the Pregnancy Resource Center, here in Grand Rapids. So please consider raising pledges for this very worthy cause. If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Rieddle.

## Lutheran Radio and Television

- \* THE LUTHERAN HOUR. 105.7 FM 6:30 AM & 1680 AM 12pm
  - \* WORSHIP FOR SHUT-INS WTLJ-TV 54 Sundays at 11:30 AM.
- KFUO Synod's radio station. You can listen on line at [www.kfuo.org](http://www.kfuo.org).

## Women in Fellowship

### April Meeting Recap

Procedures from past garage sales were reviewed to make sure we had everything covered for the 2013 sale. Ideas for encouraging and making it possible for more women to be part of WIF were also discussed.

May 1, 9:00 AM to 1:00PM

### Quilting Bee @ Fellowship Hall

Come for as long as you can. Questions? Contact Mrs. Kubala

May 14, 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM

### Women in Fellowship – Regular Meeting

Wondering why your potted plants are dying? Find out from our guest, Kathy Rome, Flowerland's plant expert.

June 11, 7:00 to 9:00 PM (Note time change)

### Women in Fellowship – regular meeting

"Fellowship, Floats, and Fun" Bring a game and/or craft supplies for Lutheran Child and Family Services "Family Fun Nights".

### No WIF meetings in July and August

## 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)

## Our Savior School News

### Important Dates

#### May 1, Chapel

May 5 - 10, Teacher Appreciation Week

May 6, SCRIP orders due

#### May 9, Ascension

May 10, "The Reluctant Dragon" Play

May 10, Grandparent Day (1/2 Day, No Preschool)

May 11, Flower Sale

May 14, NW Track Meet

May 15, School Music Concert

May 20-22, 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip

May 20, SCRIP orders Due

May 22, Preschool Picnic

#### May 27, NO SCHOOL

#### May 29, Chapel

May 31, PTL Popcorn Friday

May 31, K-4 Musical

An Open  
Invitation  
from  
Women in  
Fellowship



Come and Hear  
**Kathy Rome**  
from  
Fruit Basket Flowerland

Kathy gives an informative and fun presentation on creating container pots for porches and decks. Also, there will be time for Q&A on Spring Planting.

Join us May 14 at 9:30 AM  
in the Fellowship Hall