

WELCOME TO

✠ **Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church and School, Hartland, Michigan** ✠

Fourth Sunday in Advent – 19 December A.D. 2010

VISITORS

Welcome!

We give thanks to the Lord that you are here with us today! Please be sure to introduce yourself to the Pastor and to other church members. Take a moment to sign the “Record of Fellowship” booklet as it is passed to you (during the service while the offering is being collected) as well as the guest register in the lobby after the Divine Service. *If you don't have a church home, please leave us with the appropriate information and we will contact you.* We would be delighted to serve you at Our Savior! The Holy Spirit bless you and your faith in Christ through the Word and Sacraments.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood (the Lord's Supper) is celebrated in the Divine Service. Participation in the Sacrament of the Altar indicates unity in confession and faith (1 Corinthians 10:16-21). Visitors desiring to commune are asked to speak with the Pastor before approaching the altar. An usher would be happy to arrange a meeting prior to the service. For parents who bring children to the altar to be blessed during the Lord's Supper, *to avoid spillage, please refrain from giving them the individual communion cup (if you use the same) after you have received Christ's blood.*

PARENTS WITH CHILDREN

“Let the little children come to me and do not forbid them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” Mark 10:14

We believe it is our Lord's desire that children, no matter the age, be included in holy worship. Children learn to speak their native language quite naturally through regular interaction with those who speak and teach it. Likewise, children learn the language of faith through continual immersion in the elements and language of worship. If your little one does become restless and it becomes necessary to take him/her out of the service, please come back as soon as you are able! A nursery room is available for your use if needed during the Divine Services. The staffed nursery is in the Daycare Room. The parlor adjacent to the Narthex is also available for your use and has a speaker for you to hear the Service.

ASSISTANCE WITH WORSHIP

SERMONS ARE BEING RECORDED and made available to you in audio format on our website (www.oursaviorhartland.org) and in video format at www.youtube.com. You may locate the video by searching according to the following example: "OS Sermon 8-22-10".

A VIDEO EXPLANATION OF THE DIVINE SERVICE IS AVAILABLE on the table in the narthex. Please speak with an elder or usher if you need assistance.

WIRELESS FM TRANSMITTERS FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED ARE AVAILABLE for use during the Divine Service. Simply ask any of the elders on duty and they will be happy to assist you. If you desire to purchase a device of your own, contact the church office for more information.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE FLOWERS ADORNING OUR LORD'S ALTAR this Sunday are placed to the glory of our Triune God by the Annas family in honor of Michelle Annas' Birthday.

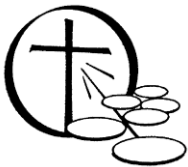
FIRST FRUITS SUNDAY IS CELEBRATED TODAY for the Faithful God—Steadfast Hope campaign. For your convenience, special campaign envelopes are provided in the pew racks.

DECEMBER 2010 - DID YOU KNOW...?

Did you know that the administrative staff has been meeting together each Monday morning at 9:15 a.m. in order to better communicate, coordinate, and facilitate! The gathering [which includes Pastor Thoma, Principal Judy Thompson, Georgine Shelton (Church Office Administrator), Lisa Lang, (School Office Administrator), and Nicole Spangler (Parish Administrator)] begins with a brief word of prayer and then the group works together to be sure that both the Church and the School are moving forward together in steady timing. Thanks be to God for the opportunity to be together as Church and School staff leadership, seeking faithfulness to the faithful One in our forward momentum toward the extension of the Kingdom of Christ.


“DO NOT FORGET TO ENTERTAIN STRANGERS, FOR BY SO DOING SOME HAVE ENTERTAINED ANGELS WITHOUT KNOWING IT.” HEBREWS 13:2

If you see someone new around the church, be sure to greet them. *ASK* them about their lives. *TELL* them about the blessings you receive here in God's house in the Divine Service. *SHARE* with them the hope that is within you, your faith in Jesus Christ as the Savior, a faith given and strengthened by the Holy Spirit through the Gospel in Word and Sacrament. Christian hospitality is a noble tradition and a reflection of Christian joy!



TODAY IS FIRST FRUITS SUNDAY. Today we joyfully begin our three years of sacrificial giving. In keeping with the biblical example of first fruit offerings, *we ask those who are able, to consider an initial gift equal to 10% of your 3 year commitment.* God grant you wisdom and peace by faith in the Savior, Jesus Christ, the anchor and foundation of this church!

CELEBRATION SUNDAY we received 88 commitments totaling \$442,400. Thanks be to God! If you were unable to be with us last Sunday, commitments may still be made through the church office.

 **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, AT 6:30 P.M. there WILL BE an Advent Service of Evening Prayer.**

 **THE INCARNATION AND NATIVITY OF THE SON OF GOD AND SAVIOR OF THE WORLD** will be celebrated this Christmas at the following Divine Services:

Friday, 24 December, at 4:30 p.m. - Christmas Eve Candlelight Divine Service – Sunday School/Day School Children's Service;

Friday, 24 December, at 7:00 and 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Divine Services .

Saturday, 25 December, Christmas Day Festival Divine Service at 10:00 a.m. Our English District Bishop Stechholtz will be our preacher at this most Holy Festival. *“O Come, Let Us Adore Him, Christ the Lord”*

+ SUNDAY SCHOOL, YOUTH/ADULT BIBLE STUDY, AND DAY SCHOOL +

TODAY

IN SUNDAY SCHOOL Our children will study about Jacob's dream (Genesis 27:41–28:22), a story that shows God renewing His promise to bless all people through Jacob's family. Since God kept His promise by giving Jesus to be our Savior, this week during your devotion time, say the First Article of the Apostles' Creed and its explanation in LSB page 322 and review the many blessings God has given you. Thank God for the faithful service of our teachers as they have taught our children during this first quarter of Sunday School, helping them to Grow in Christ.

ADULT MEMBER CLASS AT 12:30 P.M., directly following the 11:00 Divine Service. This class teaches the chief doctrines of the Christian Faith and leads toward membership.

THIS WEEK

MONDAY– 20 DECEMBER – 8:15 A.M. – THE OFFICE OF MATINS followed by Bible Study.

WEDNESDAY –22 DECEMBER – 6:30 P.M. – OFFICE OF EVENING PRAYER. Please note the 6-8 Grade Catechesis study is on break for the Christmas festival.

+ GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS +



GOD HAS SO MERCIFULLY ANSWERED OUR PRAYERS AND PROVIDED RELIEF IN OUR TIME OF NEED!!!! A 5-year lease/purchase agreement has been established, signed, and entered into with Overflow Tabernacle International, a church currently based in Highland, Michigan. The basics of the agreement are: 1) The purchase price is \$750,000.00 ; 2) \$2,000.00 per month (to begin February 1, with January being rent-free in order to give them time to move in and get established); 3) each year of the lease, the monthly rent goes up \$750.00; 4) after \$48,000, 50% of the over-and-above goes toward the purchase price; 5) they are responsible for 100% of the current liabilities associated with the property (upkeep, insurance, everything!), relieving Our Savior of a significant financial burden. If you have questions, please speak with Jim Faught. *GOD BE PRAISED FOR HIS WONDERFUL AND DELIVERING HAND!*

PRAYER VIGIL BOOKLETS AVAILABLE. Many requests have come for copies of the Prayer Vigil booklet for personal use. Copies are now available on the shelf in the entranceway. If you would like a digital copy, please speak with Pastor Thoma and He will send it to you via email.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PARENTS! As you may remember, the Children's' Christmas Eve service is fast approaching. If you wish for your child to be involved, please contact Kantor Macheimer as soon as possible. Children will be taught the music for the service in Sunday School between now and Christmas Eve as well as in midweek catechesis class (for those children in grades 6 through 8). In the next week or so, more information will be sent to you regarding meeting times for the service. God's blessings to you this Advent season.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS will once again be placed near the altar to draw attention to the place where our Lord first came in the flesh and where he comes for us now in his Body and Blood. The red leaves of this flower also remind us why our Lord first came and even now comes – to forgive, rescue and renew us by his shed blood. If you wish to purchase one or more poinsettias this year, please sign up on the list next to the flower chart by **19 December AD 2010**. **Cost is \$13.00**. Poinsettias may be picked up after Monday January 3, 2011. Thank you.

LCFS AUXILIARY CHRISTMAS CARDS are now available in packages of 10 for \$8.00. Through the sale of these cards the Auxiliary donates all proceeds to support programs and services for children and families served by Lutheran Child and Family Services. To place and order call Ruth Brock at 248-529-3297.

2011 OFFERING ENVELOPES -- Council has decided to try a different approach this year for offering envelopes. Instead of picking them up in late December, envelopes will be mailed directly to you on a quarterly basis. The 2011 envelopes will be arriving shortly in your mailbox. We hope you find this beneficial and convenient. Additionally, Council has decided that each confirmed member (married couples will share envelopes) will be given their own envelopes to encourage good financial stewardship. If you have any questions, please contact Mark Elling or Nikki Spangler.

DISCIPLE'S CORNER BOOKSTORE: It's Advent! If you haven't stopped in the bookstore recently, please do so and check out the many new gift ideas that are now available to you. If you need a small gift for a loved one, friend, a new baby, for someone in the hospital, or even a little something for yourself, why not see if the bookstore has something that would work for you. The gift items have all been **donated** and the proceeds from their sales will be used to fund the purchase of new books and Bibles for the bookstore. Gift items are individually priced and books are either priced in pencil on the inside cover or tagged on the back. We have just received our 2nd order of new books and Bibles. We now have new books available for children, teens, and adults. When purchasing an item from the bookstore, please fill out one of the pre-printed envelopes (available in the bookstore) and leave it in the office. I have also placed a black notebook in the bookstore which contains a brief description of the newly added books and a place for you to let me know if there is something special that you would like us to order for you. ***Why not consider the gift of a personal hymnal, study Bible, or a special book from the bookstore for someone on your Christmas list.*** Books and bookmarks also make great stocking stuffers. *Please remember that the purchase of a gift item from the bookstore will help to fund the purchase of another book or Bible for the bookstore and therefore help to put the word of God in another person's life...truly, a GIFT that continues to give!* Blessings to each of you as we prepare our hearts and our homes to CELEBRATE the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *In His Love, Darlene Allen*

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE – Our congregation will host a blood drive on Friday, January 14, 2011 from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Many of you already signed up to show your interest. You can register online and select your own time by going to www.redcrossblood.org and using the sponsor code OurSaviorHartland. If you have any questions, or if you would like to offer to help, please call Donna Hay at 810-227-5849 or 810-599-9674. We are anxious to help our community have live-saving blood available for all needs.

IT IS TIME ONCE AGAIN TO RENEW LUTHERAN WITNESS SUBSCRIPTIONS. The subscription rate for 2011-2012 is \$8.40. Please submit your subscription payment to the church office or with your Sunday offering. All payments must be received in the office by tomorrow **10 January AD 2011**. Thank You.

+ **OUR STEWARDSHIP IN CHRIST** +

THANKS BE TO GOD for His rich benediction upon our stewardship flowing from faith in the Savior. Please note that the full financial details may be found in the main hallway on the bulletin board across from the cloak rack.

Attendance:

8 December A.D. 2010, Wednesday Office of Evening Prayer: 120

12 December A.D. 2010, 10 am Celebration Divine Service Total: 257

+++ What a snow storm that was, and yet thanks be to God for His careful eye upon those who ventured out in order to be present for celebration and fellowship! +++

Financials: General Fund Receipts:

Wednesday Office of Evening Prayer, 8 December A.D. 2010:

\$ _____

Sunday, 12 December A.D. 2010:

\$ _____

THOUGHTS ON GENEROSITY – DECEMBER 2010

The New Year is not far off. As most folks know, no matter what kind of resolution is made, most often it is a commitment to self to be better, no matter what form the “better” takes. Some will exercise to be healthier while others will vow to eat less junk food. Most often it seems that folks are concerned with healthier living. *Have you ever thought about healthier “giving”?*

Listen to Saint Paul’s words to the church at Corinth, a church that was seemingly getting better and better in so many areas: “But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving” (2 Corinthians 8:7). Paul is happy that they are doing so well, but note that this text follows right after his commendation of the Macedonian Christians, who in their poverty, gave zealously to the work of the Gospel. Paul wants the church at Corinth to consciously calculate better giving into their lives of faith, so much so that he uses the words “see that you also excel”.

With the New Year on the approach, we give thanks for all of the wonderful blessings our God has bestowed upon us, especially the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. In the joy of this faith, may it be for you that you are enabled to be healthier in your giving, trusting that the Lord will provide precisely for all needs of body and soul according to His good and gracious will.

+ **PRAYERS** +

THE SICK, THE SHUT-INS, THOSE IN ADVERSITY: Susan Brandt, Sylvia Cole, Susan Diroff, Bruce Gibbs, Roy Glass, John Haas, David Helmreich, Diane Hiles, Jessica Himstedt, Harry House and family, Denise Kaufman, Omar Kistler, Rosella LaFayette, Marty Martens, Jeanette McCready, Sondra McKelvy, Shirley Meyer, Ella Miller, Valerie Miller, Kent Nelson, Cindy Pushman, Bea Raisinen, Dick Renhack, Shirley Rhodes, Ron Rinkinen, Lauren Serra, Donna Talsma, Dominic Tyner Sr., Dominic Tyner Jr., Glenn Williams Sr., and Frances Wyckoff.

MILITARY and MISSIONARIES: Derrick Annas, Fletcher Armstrong, Jennifer Baca, Ramone Baca, Brandy Bates, Robert Bell, Chris Buzeau, Brian Chapman, Mark Ciero, Jonathan Cross, Eric Cupp, Michael Ellichman, Kenneth Eyer, Darrel Fenbert Jr., Derek Goring, Tim Griffin, Paul Harrison, Drew Helmreich, Randy Horst, Sarah Johnson, Gabrielle Leece, Chad Libby, Kirk Matlock, Meighan Mills, Robert Neuroth, Matthew Niendorf, Max Ramirez, Chris and Daniel Robosky, Samantha Russell, Jake Simkins, Evan Spence, Kyle Turcott, and Reverend Chaplain Gary Williams.

+ CALENDAR THIS WEEK +

19 December to 26 December A.D. 2010, GOD WILLING

TODAY	Divine Services	8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.
	Sunday School Classes	10:00 A.M.
	Adult Bible Study.....	10:00 A.M.
MONDAY	Office of Matins followed by Bible Study	8:15 A.M.
TUESDAY	Cantate Choir Rehearsal	7:00 P.M.
	Adult Volleyball	7:30 P.M.
WEDNESDAY ...	Office of the Morning Prayer	8:05 A.M.
	Office of Evening Prayer	6:30 P.M.
THURSDAY	Adult Basketball	7:30 P.M.
FRIDAY.....	Christmas Eve Candlelight Divine Services	4:30 P.M., 7:00 P.M. and 11:00 P.M.
SATURDAY	Christmas Day Festival Divine Service	10:00 A.M.
SUN. 26 Dec. ..	Divine Services	8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.
	Sunday School (no regular classes) - Movie	10:00 A.M.
	Adult Bible Study.....	10:00 A.M.

OUR SAVIOR EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

13667 W. Highland Road (M-59), Hartland, Michigan 48353

Phone (248) 887-4300 www.oursaviorhartland.org Fax (248) 887-3596

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Reverend Christopher I. Thoma, Pastor; Reverend Dr. Jakob K. Heckert, Assistant Pastor

Reverend Dr. Frank J. Pies, Pastor Emeritus; Mr. Matthew Macheimer, Kantor

Mrs. Judy Thompson, Pre-School – 8th Grade School Principal

Mrs. Michelle Annas, Early Childhood Center Director