**Mission of Our Savior Ev. Lutheran Church and School**

As men, women, and children united by the Word of God into the community of Christ, Our Savior Ev. Lutheran Church of Grafton, Wisconsin exists to:

…KNOW Jesus Christ as Savior,

…GROW in loving service to God and each other,

…GO into our community and the world with the good news of forgiveness.

**The Nature of Our School**

Our Savior Lutheran School is a ministry of Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and offers grades 3K-8.  As such, Our Savior Lutheran Church and School has a definite identity and heritage in the work of spreading the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our school draws its identity and support from the congregation of which it is an inseparable part.  Our congregation and school are dedicated to the teaching and spreading of the truths of salvation through God’s Word. Our school will make a vital contribution to the purpose of our Lord’s Church by serving the children of the congregation and surrounding communities with Christian education.

Our school also shares a blessed heritage with many other Lutheran elementary schools of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.  For over 100 years the Wisconsin Synod has been active in Christian education.  Through those years our schools were providing quality education based on the precious and pure Word of God.  We, at Our Savior, thank God that we are a part of that heritage.

**Scriptural Foundation**

Our Savior Lutheran School is founded on these eternal truths revealed in God’s inerrant Word, the Holy Scriptures.

1. The Holy Scriptures are God’s Word and infallible and supreme, the only standard for faith and life. (1 Peter 1:21, 2 Timothy 3:26, John 10:35, Psalm 119:05)
2. There is only one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who reveals Himself in the Holy Scriptures. (Isaiah 43:11, John 15:26, John 5:39, John 14:7-18, Deuteronomy 6:4, 1 Corinthians 8:4)
3. God created all things and created man as the crown of His creation. (Genesis 1-2)
4. Ever since the fall into sin (Genesis 3) the whole human race is corrupted by sin, making all people guilty before God and subject to damnation. (Psalm 51:5)
5. God through His grace, love, and mercy sent His only Son, Jesus, to suffer and die to pay for all people’s sins.  (John 3:16, Isaiah 3:5-6, 1 John 1:7, 1 John 2:1-2)
6. All who, through the work of the Holy Spirit, believe that Jesus is their Savior receive forgiveness of sins and everlasting life. (Ephesians 2:8-9, 1 Corinthians 12:1-3)
7. As a believer in Jesus, the Christian will seek to grow in his Christian knowledge and faith through the study of the Holy Scriptures.  The Holy Scriptures will be his source of comfort, security, guidance, encouragement, confidence, and hope for the future. (Psalm 119:105, 1 Peter 2:2-3, John 20:31, John 5:39, 2 Timothy 3:15)
8. As a believer in Jesus, the Christian will find joy and blessings in private and public worship. (Hebrews 10:25, Psalm 12:1, Romans 10:17, Colossians 3:16)
9. As a believer in Jesus, the Christian will use prayer regularly in all circumstances.  Prayer is a God-given privilege.  (Philippians 4:6, 1 Thessalonians 5:17, Psalm 50:15, James 5:16)
10. As a believer in Jesus, the Christian will strive to show His love to God by using His gifts and talents to help spread the Word of God.  He will help His fellow Christians and all people in every possible way. (John 14:15, 1 Thessalonians 2:8, Galatians 5:22-23, 1 Corinthians 10:31, Matthew 28:19-20)
11. The Lord gave parents the primary responsibility for the Christian training of their children. (Ephesians 6:4, Psalm 78:1-7, Deuteronomy 4:9-10, Deuteronomy 6:6-9)
12. The Lord also gave to His Church and to each Christian congregation the responsibility to train children according to the Scriptures. (Acts 20:28, Matthew 28:20, John 21:12-17, 1 Peter 5:2)

**Philosophy of Christian Education**

 Christian education is Christ-centered education; the Savior and His love are at the center of all we think, say, and do.  Our Savior Lutheran School is a Christian school, not simply becausereligion is taught in addition to all other subjects, but because everything is done in light of God’s Word, and in the context of our sin and God’s grace to us.  The Word of God provides the framework and serves as a source of absolute guidance and truth.

 **Role of Christian Education**

The Word of God gives parents the primary responsibility for educating and training their children.  The Bible instructs, “Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.” (Ephesians 6:4).  Our Savior Lutheran School has been established to assist parents with their God-given task of raising their children in the knowledge and influence of God and His Word.  However, under no circumstance should Our Savior Lutheran School ever replace parents or relieve them of their responsibility to train their children.  Our school is a tool parents can use in carrying out their God-given responsibility.

**Vision of Our School**

Our Savior Lutheran School (OSLS) is committed to serving families from our congregation and surrounding communities by serving the whole child – spiritually, academically, physically, socially, and emotionally.

o *Christian Faith* –Students of OSLS have a strong conviction of the Christian faith with a zeal for Christian living in an ever-changing society.

o *Christian Service* – Students of OSLS live the faith that the Holy Spirit has put in their hearts by glorifying God through their service to others**.**

o *Christian Witness*– Students of OSLS embody the commission of Jesus – to make disciples of all nations by sharing the Good News of salvation through Christ.

o *Academic Readiness*– Students of OSLS are prepared for higher education with a foundation of academic excellence to succeed in a changing world.

o *Christian Support* –OSLS provides well-managed facilities, qualified staffing, and curricular and extra-curricular materials to meet the students’ individual needs through faithful stewardship of available resources.

**Objectives of Our School**

The primary objective of our school is to lead all the children to realize that by God’s grace they are redeemed sinners through the blood of Christ.  By careful and thorough instruction in God’s Word each child will be equipped to cope with life in a sinful world, cling to the cross as a source of strength and comfort, and to have heartfelt assurance of heaven.  Having experienced the love and blessings of God, each child should thank and praise God and seek to worship and serve Him in every thought, word, and action, throughout his life.  Our prayer is that such love for God and His Word will motivate each child to share the message of salvation.

In addition to this primary spiritual objective, our school also has a definite academic objective.  Realizing that, “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (Psalm 111:10), our school seeks to instill in each child this reverence for God which serves as a foundation for all other instruction.  Our school also has the objective to educate each child in every subject area of the school’s curriculum, so that the child has a mastery of the basics and a foundation for secondary and higher education.  Each child is also taught to evaluate all education from the Christian viewpoint.

In addition to the spiritual and academic growth of each child, our school also has the physical development of each child as an objective.  Each student is led to an appreciation of the value and care of his/her body as a “temple holy to God” (1 Corinthians 3:16).

Social development is a highly significant aspect of education.  It is our purpose to give children the opportunity to express creativity, to realize their identity as uniquely created children of God, and to adapt themselves to living as Christians in their family, church, and country.  Biblical values and Christian modeling contribute to such social development.

Sin affects all of us, and Satan uses worry, anxiety, and uncertainty to affect our families and children. Our school can address our students’ emotional needs, sharing the comfort the Lord promises in his Word “[God] who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God” ( 2 Corinthians 1:4).

**Actionable Objectives**

*Disciples of Christ*

* To promote and offer Bible Studies that focus on the family (Faculty, Pastoral Staff Spiritual Growth Committee)
* To have our students and families regularly in God’s Word where the Holy Spirit will show them the love of God in Jesus Christ so that they may respond with a life of faith, service, fellowship, and love

*Education*

* To provide our staff with appropriate funding to stay current with educational trends and philosophies (Board for Christian Education - BCE)
* To continue work on written curriculum (Faculty)
* To review one curricular area annually (Faculty)

*Communication*

* To send classroom and school information to our church and school families in a timely manner (Faculty & Staff)
* To use a variety of means of communication to reach our church, school, and community families (Faculty & Staff)

*Facility*

* To develop a facility management plan that includes maintenance and identifies short and long-term needs in terms of repair, replacement, and/or refurbishment (Building and Grounds Committee - BGC)
* To develop a projected cost and funding plan for the short and long-term needs (BGC & Budget and Finance Committee - BFC)
* To have a plan to deal with emergency facility needs and expenditures as they may arise (BGC & BFC)

*Community*

* To promote our school by using various means, such as KML Schools, school community projects, and promoting school events (Faculty, Staff, Parent, PTF)
* To promote our school within our church and other local congregations by developing a harvest strategy that reaches out to prospective families in our various communities (Faculty & BCE)

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