

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
359 North Leonard Street
West Salem, WI 54669

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 21

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

JANUARY

JANUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
WEST SALEM, WISCONSIN
JANUARY 2015

- ❖ Annual Report Articles Due, January 5
- ❖ ABC's of Faith
- ❖ Congregational Conversation, January 11
- ❖ Education News
- ❖ Web Site Updated
- ❖ Annual Meeting, January 25



Mission Statement:
To reach toward God
and to each other
for the sake of the world

OUR SAVIOR'S VOICE

Our Savior's Lutheran Church 359 N. Leonard St. West Salem, WI 54669
www.oursaviorswestsalem.org 608-786-0030 oslcws@centurytel.net

JANUARY 2015

PARSON TO PERSON

SAVOR THE MOMENT

As I write this, the presents haven't been bought yet ... as you read this, they have all been exchanged ...

As I write this, it is a hectic time of year, things get pushed to the side, priorities get rearranged ... as you read this, we are pausing to take a breath, regrouping, discovering things that were buried, and moving forward to face a new year ...

As I write this, we are anticipating the birth of Jesus ... as you read this, that is old news and we have already pushed Him aside ...

As you reflect on the last month, did you take time to soak in what Christmas is really about? Did you linger at the manger, taking in the full meaning of that baby lying there?

Sure, we decorated the tree, made the cookies, sent the cards, gathered with family, went to church (hopefully).

But, what did it mean to you? Was it simply doing, making, singing, gathering ... going through the motions because the calendar says it's that time of year to do all of those things? What happens when the calendar says it's over? Will you still remember the warmth, the love, that mystical, magical "something" in the air?

Christmas is a time to reconnect with family and friends that we haven't seen or heard from in a year. As I address each Christmas card I stop and think about the person, wonder where life has taken them since we last heard from them, and remember times spent together in the past. I look forward to receiving those annual Christmas letters to get caught up on their lives. We were talking about that recently with the Salem Terrace Bible Study group and one woman made the comment that she was disappointed if she received a card with only a signature on it. She, too, looked forward to that sense of connection, that personal touch that comes with a simple note.

As I write this, we have received far fewer cards than normal. It's almost as if sending Christmas cards has become a lost art. I guess it takes too long to wait for the mail when you can get instant gratification by sending a text, or commenting on Facebook, or sending a picture on Instagram. And, then it's over, the moment is gone, and you are on to something else. But there is something to be said about having to wait – the anticipation, the wonder, the mystery, the excitement. And then it comes, and you rejoice in the news, in the connection. You savor the time; you hold on to the memories and take them with you in your heart.

Just like Christmas.

We wait and anticipate the birth of the baby in the manger. The miracle of God's son, the baby Jesus, who comes to give us life, who comes to have a relationship with each one of

us. Are you able to hang on to that moment and take Jesus with you in your heart and make Him part of your very being ... or is it one of those disposable moments that once it's over, you move on to other things, you leave the baby in the manger rather than taking Him with you on your journey of life?

Praying that you will savor the moment and take the baby with you as you begin a new year.

Pastor Jean

HELP TAKE THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS DOWN

Christmas decorations will be taken down on Sunday, January 4, after the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Your help would be appreciated, and really – it's a great time to share with others. See Pastor Jon for more information, or just join us!



Undecorating
the Church

DEADLINE SET FOR ANNUAL REPORT ARTICLES

If you are responsible for writing an article for the Annual Report, please have the article to the church office by noon on January 5. Please email your article to oslcws@centurytel.net if you are able.



If you received a form in the mail from the church office because the Nominating Committee contacted you, please fill out the form and return it to church by January 5.

BEGINNING HANDBELL GROUP

It's not too late to get in on the beginning handbell group starting Wednesday, January 7 at 6 p.m. Here's your chance to give them a try, what a great way to challenge yourself and learn something new this winter! Talk to Linda Berg or just come January 7!



CONFIRMATION

Confirmation classes resume on January 7. The 6th grade continues to move through the Bible. Thanks to Corey Sjoquist and Sarah Hennessey for leading the discovery.



7th and 8th graders will begin with a core night looking at the Ten Commandments on January 7. January 14 and 28 are elective nights, with small group time on January 21.

9th graders and parents will choose to attend ONE of the first three weeks in January – 7, 14, or 21, and will look at the stewardship of finances. They will then meet again on ONE of the weeks between January 28, February 4 or 11, completing the section on financial stewardship.

"After School" begins again on January 7 as well, with time for games, homework, and a meal. Note that there will be NO "After School" on January 28 (early release day).

For more information, see Pastor Jon or Dana.

PASTORAL ACT

✝ Congratulations to Tim Tiber and Karen Wozney who were married December 13.

RECOGNITION OF BAPTISM



Recognition
of
Baptism

January 11 is the "Baptism of Our Lord." On that weekend, at all services, we will recognize baptisms from 2014. Those who were baptized are encouraged to join us, with baptism candle in hand! We will ask God's continued blessing on their journey in life, relight the candle to remember what God is doing in their lives, and send them forth to continue as disciples of Jesus! See Pastor Jean for more information.

YOUR INVITATION TO A "CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATION"

The Mission Discernment Team invites you to a "congregational conversation" on Sunday, January 11. We will begin at 1:30 p.m., and seek to be done around 3:30. Childcare will be available, and of course, a few snacks as well!



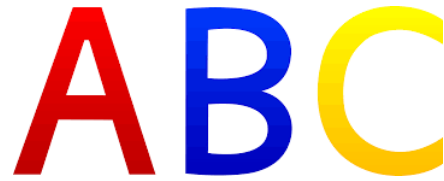
CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATION

What will we do? We seek to listen to each other, and to discern what God calls us to be and to do. Our time together will not make any decisions, but we hope it will give us some direction and help us understand how our resources, including our properties, fit in to God's plan for us.

Come prepared to explore God's call and God's direction – YOU are an important voice through which God will speak. We need your insight and your discernment as we pray, study, ponder, and share God's work in our midst.

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT STUDY

A Sunday morning adult study begins on January 11! We'll begin with the "ABC's" of faith (see the announcement elsewhere in the newsletter), and then in February move on to the Nooma series of videos. Nooma videos are superbly made explorations of faith and life. We will meet during the Sunday School hour in the classroom off the fellowship hall in the lower level. Bring your coffee!



THE "ABC'S" OF FAITH

We've had some requests for some "ABC's" of faith! So, time to get to work! What are the "ABC's" of faith?

- A- Apostles' Creed
- B- Baptism
- C- (Holy) Communion

Join us as we search and explore the basic "catechetics" of our faith learning about the creed and the sacraments.

Two opportunities...

- Sundays, starting January 11, for three weeks, during Sunday School. We'll meet in the classroom off the fellowship hall in the lower level. The basics in three weeks!
- Thursdays, at 6:30 p.m., January 8 through February 12. Six weeks to learn (almost) it all!

See Pastor Jon for more information. Come and discover the riches of our faith and God's gifts of life to us!

CALLING ALL NEW MEMBERS...

A new member recognition is set for Sunday, January 25. If you are interested in joining Our Savior's and being a part of our community of faith, see Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean. We are always excited to have new partners in our ministry!



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

Persons coming from a non-Lutheran background are invited to use the "ABC's" on Sunday morning or Thursday evening (see the announcement elsewhere in the newsletter) as a new member class.

HIGH SCHOOL PRAISE BAND



Be sure and be at services early January 24 and 25; the High School Praise Band is going to play the prelude! We're very excited about adding handbells to our group, and we think you'll find it creates an interesting sound. Then the S.O.S. Band takes over for the service, and the Sunday School sings too.....great music for a Festive Fourth!

WEB SITE ENHANCEMENTS



Check out our web site – www.oursaviorswestsalem.org – change is happening! The web site now has two versions of the newsletter – one for printing, and the other for use on a mobile device. We are

also hoping to add video of our worship and a photo gallery in the near future, so keep an eye on the site!

2015 ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 25, 11:45 A.M.



The 2015 Annual Meeting will be on January 25, following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. A light lunch will be served following the meeting. Reports from 2014, elections, and adoption of the budget will be on the agenda. In addition, the meeting will consider ratifying the constitution changes adopted in October.

The Congregation Council also proposes a series of revisions to the constitution to bring it in line with the ELCA model constitution for congregations, along with some changes to the bylaws. These changes will require a two-thirds affirmative vote, but only at this meeting. The changes primarily clean up language, remove some redundant provisions, and make other minor modifications. The changes of significance include:

- Allowing notification of congregational meetings by electronic means.
- Designating the annual meeting to be on a date between the second Sunday of December and the second Sunday of February.
- Assigning the Congregation Council the task of reviewing and approving minutes of congregation meetings.
- Clarifying the responsibility of financial accounts to be subject to an audit when requested.

A complete copy of the proposed constitution and bylaw changes is available in the office. See Pastor Jon or Mike Alumbaugh for more information.

NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee has been hard at work, and has secured the following nominations for the consideration at the annual meeting:

Congregation Council (3 years)
Steve Ahles
Tracey Beckley
Wendy Kane

Congregation Council (1 year)
Carlie Burkhardt

Endowment Committee
Judy Long

Bethany Lutheran Home Corporation
Larry Blunck
Jim Michelson

Sugar Creek Bible Camp Corporation
Marty Frank
Jeff Haldeman

CONGRATULATIONS!!!



Congratulations to Bonnie Klos, our seminary student. Bonnie was recently approved for ordination by the Candidacy Committee of the La Crosse Area Synod. Bonnie now looks to complete her studies this winter/spring, and then await a call. After she receives and accepts a call, Bonnie will be ordained and begin her ministry as a pastor in the ELCA. We are excited for Bonnie as she takes this very significant step toward service as an ordained pastor. Please continue to keep Bonnie in your prayers as she completes her course work.

CAMPUS MINISTRY UPDATE

Pastor Ben Morris begins his work as campus pastor in La Crosse, beginning January 5. He will be installed in February – watch for details! We hope to have Pastor Morris here to preach in the near future. Our support – through your regular offerings – has helped make campus ministry possible at UW-L, Viterbo, and Western. THANK YOU for your partnership in this ministry!

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The La Crosse Area Synod Assembly for 2015 will be held June 12-14, 2015, in La Crosse. If you would like to be considered for appointment as a voting member of the assembly, please contact Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean, or speak with Mike Alumbaugh. The Congregation Council will appoint voting members in February, so let us know of your interest soon!



ATLANTA MISSION TRIP



July 11-19th our High School Youth will travel to Atlanta, GA to immerse themselves in inner-city mission work. Working through 7 Bridges Ministry they will serve in homeless shelters, soup kitchens, children's programs and so much more. For registration and additional information see the Youth and Family Board or visit the youth page online!

NEW FLOWER CHART AVAILABLE



We have posted a flower chart for 2015 on the Kiosk in the Gathering Area. We invite you to think about an occasion you would like to mark, a person you might like to memorialize or honor. Write your name on the chart by the date you would like to have. We will send you a reminder before the date so that you can provide flowers for the weekend. You can also let us know at that time how you would like to have the flowers acknowledged.

Thank you for helping to beautify our worship.

THANK YOU

We thank the **MAILING CREW** for assembling the Newsletter. The members who helped this past month were Connie Blunck, Bonnie Ender, Sandra Holthaus, Russ and Diane McClintock, Inger Michael, Judy Morzinski, Carol Peterson, Paul Ranum, Rich and Mary Storandt.



Merry Christmas to all at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. A special thank you for the birthday card and the Christmas card & the lovely food bag I received at Thanksgiving. I appreciate the visits from congregation members who bring me communion and prayers and visit my home. Thanks & love to all,

Lettie Morgan

MEMORIALS

We offer our thanks for the gifts that have been received.

- ✝ In memory of Alden Lee for the Green Thumb Committee from Ingrid and Ron Eggleston.
- ✝ In memory of Joanne Schmid from Gordie and Mary Romskog.
- ✝ The Christ Candle stand in memory of Mary Lou Meyer from Fred Meyer.
- ✝ In memory of Karen Hehl for the purchase of Bibles for confirmation students.
- ✝ The Endowment Committee received money in memory of Clara Johnson from Mary and Bob Schoenknecht and Joe and Mary Porter.



SALVATION ARMY THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who rang bells for the Salvation Army in December! We raised \$447.09. If you are looking for a service idea for the family next Holiday season, consider ringing bells! It's great for kids of ALL ages.

DATE	ATTENDANCE	OFFERING	SUNDAY SCHOOL
Dec. 3, Advent	124		
Dec. 6 & 7	301	\$5,549	80
Dec. 10, Advent	61		
Dec. 13 & 14	234	\$7,098	50
Dec. 17, Advent	53		
Dec. 20 & 21	349	\$3,679	48

THANK YOU, MUSICIANS!



We thank all the musicians who provided us with very special music in the Advent and Christmas season!

Thank you to the Sunday School for presenting a very special and meaningful Christmas program. Thank you to the Senior Choir for their songs of the season. Thank you to the Christmas Eve musicians: Tricia Aleckson, Dean Olson, Abigail Vick, Melissa & April Haldeman, Marty Frank, and Eric Sorenson. And thank you to all the directors, leaders, accompanists, organists, Sunday School teachers, community Christmas carolers, the congregation who sang with heart at the Hanging of the Greens and Carol Sing, and anyone who helped in any way.

The music of the season holds a special place in our hearts, and we are grateful for those who are willing to give of their time and talent.

2015 STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

Thank you to everyone who submitted a 2015 estimate of giving card. We use that information, and are grateful for your assistance.



To all who support our ministries financially, thank you for your partnership with us. Your giving through Our Savior's makes a difference in the lives of people in West Salem, Bangor, La Crosse County, and around the world!

CONGREGATION COUNCIL REVIEW

The Congregation Council met on Monday, December 8, at Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean's home, with President Mike Alumbaugh presiding. At this meeting the council:

- Reviewed and approved the November minutes and financial reports.
- Received a letter of thanks from Lutheran Campus Ministry for our strong support.
- Heard about planned upgrades to the web site.
- Designated housing allowances for the pastors for tax purposes.
- Received a report from the financial review team and authorized a change in check signing procedures.
- Adjourned to share in a Christmas party with spouses and families.

The council meets again on Monday, January 12. See Mike Alumbaugh or one of the pastors if you have any questions.

NURSING HOME SERVICES

Outreach at area nursing and housing facilities continues in January. Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean will lead worship services on Thursday, January 15:

10:30 a.m. – Lakeview
1:00 p.m. – Salem Terrace
2:45 p.m. – Mulder's

Pastor Jon will also lead a service at Lakeview on Sunday, January 25, at 1:30 p.m.

You can be a part of this ministry – your presence adds to the Body of Christ gathered at that place and at that time. See Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean for more information.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

When is a corner not a corner? When it's too big – and it becomes a wall!

The recent Mission Fair was a big hit. Lots of folk saw ministries they hadn't seen before. Meanwhile, those presenting the ministries took the opportunity to reflect on their ministry and discovered that their ministries are more than even they imagined. Win-win – can't beat that!

Unless...unless you just don't stop! And that's when a corner becomes a wall!

Recently, the Stewardship Committee decided to keep the Mission Fair going by setting up "Mission Central" in the center of the wall in the Gathering Area. Each month another ministry will be highlighted, with a display and place for handouts and other materials.

Each month we will see how our time, energy, talents, and our financial support of ministries all work to make ministry happen. In a variety of ways, we will see how "God's work" happens with "our hands," and we are making a difference in the world around us.

So keep your eyes open – see what God is up to with our hands – and look for ways for you to join in making a difference!

E-COMMUNICATIONS



Did you know that **109** people receive the newsletter by email instead of a paper copy?

Interested in helping us save paper and postage? One way we can do that is to send you an email each time we post the newsletter on our website. Give us your email address, let us know you don't want a paper copy of the newsletter, and we'll do the rest. You can find the website at www.oursaviorswestsalem.org

CIRCLE NEWS

REBECCA CIRCLE

Thursday, January 15, 7 p.m.
Hostess: Sandi Stavlo

RUTH CIRCLE

Monday, January 19, 9 a.m.
Leader: Ilene Pavelko
Hostess: Connie Blunck

WELCA DISBURSEMENTS FROM THE 2014 ANNUAL LUTEFISK DINNER

World Hunger	\$ 500
World Mission	500
Lutheran World Relief	500
Lutheran Social Services	500
Sugar Creek Bible Camp	100
Lutheran Campus Center	100
Jail Ministry	100
Library	100
New Horizons	400
Salvation Army	1000
Red Cross (Money to be used locally)	500
Lutheran Disaster Relief	100
La Crosse Clothes Closet	100
Trinity Lutheran Clothes Closet	100
Synod Seminary Scholarships	400
St. Clair Health Mission Sparta	200
Zambia Well Project	600
La Crosse Warming Center	500
Quilt Shipping Fund	<u>200</u>
	\$6500

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Recently I visited a Milwaukee church and had a peek at the coffee hour prep area. Before the instructions were listed, this sentence stood out: "You will be one of the people who help a first timer decide if they will ever return to this church. Please be welcoming, joyful, and encouraging."



It's not just about coffee, Kool-Aid, and cookies, is it? It's about the connections we make with new folks among us. This is a reminder to all of us, whether you are serving food or not, to step out of our comfort zone and welcome new people to Our Savior's.

Thank you to the following servers/bakers for mid-November through December: Bonny Goodenough, Jan Goetzinger, Melody Schmitz (2), Sandi Stavlo (2), Scott and Zach Friell, and members of the Senior Choir and their families. Thank you also to treat providers: Rita Schmitz, Judy Morzinski, Roberta Gruen, Kay Osiecki, Marsha Bateman, Bonny Goodenough, Jan Goetzinger, Betty Whitlock, Marilyn Ranum, and Lee Friell (in honor of his mother's birthday).

There are many spots to sign up for on the chart outside the kitchenette. It's okay to bring baked goods or fruit in early and store it in the refrigerator. Just put a note on it so servers can see it. If you happen to have left over Christmas baking in your freezer, we will enjoy whatever you wish to share.

Thank you.

Ilene Pavelko, 786-2360, ilenepav1@aol.com

MISSION ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

It was with great pleasure that the Endowment Committee was able to disburse \$11,800.00 to missions this year. The funding for this comes only from the interest that is earned on the Endowment Fund that is invested. Donations are often given from memorials, bequests, wills, honoring birthdays, anniversaries, and holiday gifts. This year the money was disbursed as follows:



Category 1 Outreach in Community Synod

La Crosse Area Synod Endowment Fund	\$1,000
Salvation Army	\$1,000
Lakeview Health Center	\$ 100
La Crosse Warming Center	\$1,000
New Horizons	\$1,250
St. Clare Health Mission-La Crosse	\$1,500
Sugar Creek Bible Camp	\$ 490
Our Savior's Lutheran Church Lunch Program	\$ 500
Total Disbursed Category 1	\$6,840

Category 2 Missions of the ELCA

Global Barnyard Program	\$ 200
ELCA Disaster Response	\$1,000
ELCA Well Project	\$ 250
Malaria Campaign	\$ 250
ELCA World Hunger	\$ 400
La Crosse Area Synod ELCA Fund for Leaders	\$ 500
Total Disbursed Category 2	\$2,600

Category 3 Local Capital Improvement

Our Savior's Lutheran for property needs	\$2,360
Total Disbursed Category 3	\$2,360

TOTAL DISBURSED FOR 2014: \$11,800

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette Carlson



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

We had a busy December getting ready for the

Sunday School Christmas Program "*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.*" Everyone did a great job and we had fun sharing it with our family and friends.



As the New Year is here on the calendars, so too is the "new year" of Sunday School materials. Our teachers and helpers look forward to continuing to share the good news of Jesus with our young ones. We are always eager to welcome new students and invite you to join us anytime!

Parents and other family members, if you haven't signed up yet to spend a day in your child(ren)'s Sunday School class, please be sure to do so the next time you drop your child off. Our children learn by example – if it's important to parents, the kids know it's important to them too! The teachers look forward to having family members around and the children love having you hang out with them!



We continue to have a *friendly competition* between our Sunday School classes to see which class will have the most weeks of "*near perfect*" attendance and which class can raise the *most offerings* to fill God's Global Barnyard. Our 1st grade class got to celebrate the most weeks of "near perfect" attendance for this first half of the year with treats just before Christmas.

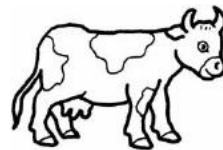
After 14 weeks (mid-December) ...

our 1st grade class continues to have the most weeks of "near perfect" attendance at 8 weeks. Mrs. Sjoquist's 3rd grade and Mrs. Schmitz & Ms. Larson's 4th grade are tied for second with 7 weeks. The really neat thing is that we have 11 children who have perfect attendance and another 10 who only missed once! Way to go kids!!



our 1st grade continues to lead the way in offering with \$76, but moving into 2nd place is the 3rd grade class of Ms. Kane & Ms. Schmidt with \$74.10. Watch the bulletin board outside of Pastor Jean's office to see our barnyard continuing to grow.

Thank you to all who gave generously at the Sunday School Christmas Program. We received \$441 for "*Christmas*" Cow.



Together with what was received in the Hungry Jar and miscellaneous offerings so far this year we have \$646, which means we can add "Christmas" to our barnyard and we are on our way to "*Easter*" cow!

If you don't have your Barnyard Bank yet, stop by Pastor Jean's office to get one – that goes for you adults, too!



Mark Your Calendar

- ✓ Sunday, January 4 – NO Sunday School – Christmas break
- ✓ Sunday, January 25 – children sing in worship with S.O.S. Band

Hungry Jar Offering for January ELCA Malaria Nets

Our 1st Grade Sunday School class has chosen the ELCA's Malaria Net campaign as the recipient of the Hungry Jar offerings for January. A child dies from malaria every 60 seconds. We can be a part of the solution to turn this around. Our gifts to the ELCA Malaria Campaign help provide mosquito netting, insecticides, medication, health care, and education to help eliminate deaths from this disease – for good!



Sunday School Christmas Program

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

We thank Mike Larson, Shannon Vick, Linda Berg, and Ilene Pavelko for their countless hours working with our Sunday School children to present this year's Christmas Program, "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing." The place was buzzing with all of the enthusiasm and innocence of children.



It takes many hands to make something this big a success and we thank all who were a part of it – those who provided special music (Everett & Rebecca Michael, Abby Vick), those who coordinated the fellowship time (Rita Schmitz), those who helped serve and clean up (Candice Tlustosch, Paul Fennigkoh, Julie Quackenbush, Mike & Joyce Larson), those who baked the goodies, those who made sure our costumes were set and ready to go (Mariette Stefferud & Jac Lyga), our teachers and helpers who worked with the students in the weeks leading up to the program and on that day (a special thank you to Stacey

Sjoquist for keeping the kids on track and helping them with their lines during the program), Mr. Friell's confirmation small group who ushered (Zach Friell, Wyndson Goodenough, Justin Kettner, Liam Sjoquist).

We especially thank all of you who attended the program to support our children and hear the Christmas story, and for your generous donations of canned goods for the Care & Share Food Pantry and your monetary donations for our "Christmas" cow for God's Global Barnyard.

A special thank you to our brothers and sisters at the Presbyterian Church for allowing us to use their beautiful worship space and fellowship hall. We are grateful for their partnership in the gospel.

Last, but not least, we thank our Sunday School children! Without you there would be no program. You all did a GREAT JOB!! Thank you for singing your hearts out and sharing the story of the baby Jesus! Check out our website and see the pictures from the program (www.oursaviorswestsalem.org)

6TH GRADE SPRING RETREAT

Come hang out at camp with your favorite camp friends and staff for 3 days of games, hiking, Bible study, worship, campfires and all your favorite camp activities!



5:30 p.m. Friday, March 20th –
3:00 p.m. Sunday, March 22nd

Cost: \$75 (includes 5 meals)

Registration Due: January 14th

**Senior
Spotlight!
Celebrating
our Resident Theologians...**



Disciples come in all shapes and sizes. We have much to learn from our “elders” as these resident theologians have insights and stories to share. Lettie Morgan graciously allowed us to share a glimpse into her story. Lettie, 91 years old, still lives in her own home in West Salem.

Lettie’s advice to new disciples of Jesus ...

Life would be too short if we didn’t have faith in God and all things set before us. Faith brings/keeps families together. Lettie said it is good to have a church or a place to pray, and she thinks that anyone who has not tried to be part of a faith community is really missing something special. Lettie believes God provided her with a good life, and she is thankful for all of the years at Our Savior’s, where children and grandchildren have been confirmed and married.

Lettie’s favorite Bible passage ... because

... the Lord is my Shepherd (Psalm 23) is Lettie’s favorite because she can remember it! ☺ She also said the psalm speaks to her ... “he makes me lie down in green pastures ... he restores my soul ...”

Lettie’s earliest memories of church ...

Lettie remembers growing up in the old church up in Burns (across from the Hoth’s farm). She was baptized, confirmed, and married there by Pastor Ottersen (who served 3 churches at the time so they didn’t have worship every week, one of the other churches was Our Savior’s). The church in Burns no longer exists. Lettie remembers that the women sat on one side of the church, and the men on the other. She remembers the Christmas programs – the live tree in the front of the sanctuary, all decorated, including real candles – during the singing of *Silent Night* the candles were lit. She said there was someone standing in the back with

water in case the tree caught on fire (but it never did)! Lettie lived a mile from the church (walking distance), but she remembers taking the horse and sleigh when the weather was too bad to walk. *[Can’t you just picture the horse and sleigh pulling up in front of the church?!]*

Thank you for sharing, Lettie! Please keep Lettie and all of our “senior” members (and “resident theologians”) in your prayers.

Senior Ministries



Just a reminder ... When you’re at church ... feel free to ask an Usher for ...

❖ a **large print bulletin** for use during

worship – everything is included in the bulletin, no need to fumble with heavy hymnals

❖ a **hearing assist device** available for use during worship

For those who can’t get to church ...

❖ we have large print copies of the daily devotional “**Christ In Our Home**” that comes out quarterly

❖ a **DVD** is made each week of the **Sunday worship service**



If you would like to receive either of these, please call the church office and let us know. ***We are happy to deliver!***

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY



Bible study continues, and YOU are welcome to join us! After looking at the Epiphany texts on January 7, we return to the Gospel of Mark. Study is on Wednesday mornings at 9:30. NO experience or knowledge necessary – just come ready to learn and to share! See Pastor Jon for more information.

Bible Study @ Salem Terrace

Monday, January 12th at 10 AM



Members – *and friends* – who live at Salem Terrace and Mill Street Manor (or whoever would like to stop by – *all are welcome*) are invited to Bible Study and a

time of fellowship on the second Monday of each month. We will meet in the small kitchenette room off the parking lot between the two buildings. The coffee pot will be on.

ZAMBIA WATER PROJECT

It is estimated that 345 million people on the continent of Africa do not have access to clean water. Unbelievable!

Our Savior's has been working with water282.org in order to drill a well in Chazwe, Zambia. Early in December, we heard that water282 attempted drilling 40 wells this year. Thirty-eight were successfully dug, and clean water has been provided to these villages! In one village, they were unable to dig deeply enough to find water. And then there is Chazwe! They have had hurdle after hurdle (land cave-ins, farmer changed his mind about giving up his land, getting the drilling rig stuck in the mud on the way to the village...) with the drilling. They were hoping to try one more time, but the weather does not seem to be cooperating. We have been assured that if the well is not dug this year that they will continue there in 2015. We are awaiting their thoughts on whether we stay with Chazwe or are partnered with a different village.

Watch a video on water282 well digging in a different community:

<https://vimeo.com/111598417>

We are within about \$600 of our goal! God is good!

SIMPLY GIVING

Many of us make a variety of payments directly from our bank accounts. Simply Giving allows you to do the same with your contributions to Our Savior's ministry! A number of our members currently use this service for their contributions. There is no charge to you, and it is a safe and efficient way for you to make your contributions. For more information see Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean, or speak with Kay in the church office. Setting up Simply Giving is easy, and you can change your contributions or end your participation at any time. Check it out!

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Remember that if you are a Thrivent member you may have "Thrivent Choice Dollars" to direct. Our Savior's is one of the many potential recipients of your choice dollars, but your direction needs to be made each time. See Thrivent's web site for more information or stop by the office and we will help you out.

EMAIL FROM PASTOR JON



Pastor Jon sends out occasional emails with announcements about happenings at Our Savior's, and a weekly reflection on God, life and faith. If you are not already on the email list from him, and would like to be, please send Pastor Jon your email address, or speak with him. We will never sell your email address, and if you want to get off the list, we'll do that too!

HOSPITAL REMINDER

Being hospitalized is never easy. Our goal is to visit each member during this



difficult time. At Gundersen, please be sure to alert the hospital of your church affiliation when they ask and they will then release your room number to us when we call. At Mayo Clinic Health System/Franciscan Healthcare, it is important that you or a family member contact the church office to notify us of your stay. Mayo is no longer able to give out that information.

JANUARY

ACOLYTES

Jan.	3	6 p.m.	Olivia Haun
	4	8 a.m.	Dagan Hemker
	4	10:30 a.m.	Anna Johnson
Jan.	10	6 p.m.	Kamryn Kane
	11	8 a.m.	Alayna Kennedy
	11	10:30 a.m.	Josh Knudtson
Jan.	17	6 p.m.	Hannah Kolve
	18	8 a.m.	Megan Larson
	18	10:30 a.m.	Ashlie Lockington
Jan.	24	6 p.m.	Dylan Mann
	25	8 a.m.	Tyler Marcou
	25	10:30 a.m.	Andrew Murphy
Jan.	31	6 p.m.	Dalton Peters
Feb.	1	8 a.m.	
	1	10:30 a.m.	Jordyn Schurhammer

BASKET HOLDERS

Jan.	4	8 a.m.	Autumn Pfaff
	4	10:30 a.m.	McKenna Riley
Jan.	18	8 a.m.	Ben Tracey
	18	10:30 a.m.	Angela Vick
Feb.	1	8 a.m.	Skylar Williams
	1	10:30 a.m.	Cody Anderson

ALTAR GUILD

Cindy Averbek
Jaime Fortier

READERS

Jan.	3	6 p.m.	Ann Sprain
	4	8 a.m.	Carol Stekel
	4	10:30 a.m.	Dottie Baumgartner
Jan.	10	6 p.m.	Jeff Rich
	11	8 a.m.	Lynette Ender
	11	10:30 a.m.	Inger Michael
Jan.	17	6 p.m.	Connie Pinski
	18	8 a.m.	Connie Blunck
	18	10:30 a.m.	Corey Sjoquist
Jan.	24	6 p.m.	Angie Hemker
	25	8 a.m.	Jim Quamme
	25	10:30 a.m.	Michelle Witte
Jan.	31	6 p.m.	Candice Stoll
Feb.	1	8 a.m.	Barbara Manthei
	1	10:30 a.m.	Daryl Wermedal

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Jan.	3	6 p.m.	Karen DeSchepper
	4	8 a.m.	Mike Alumbaugh
			Linda Arentz
	4	10:30 a.m.	Dottie Baumgartner
			Jaime Fortier
Jan.	17	6 p.m.	Judy Gilbert
	18	8 a.m.	Larry Blunck
			Cathryn Bottem
	18	10:30 a.m.	Scott Friell
			Tracy Hesse
Jan.	31	6 p.m.	Jon Hetland
Feb.	1	8 a.m.	Pam Gresens
			Ruby Kerkman
	1	10:30 a.m.	Jeff and Melissa Haldeman

HOME COMMUNION SERVERS

Jan.	3 & 4	Daryl Wermedal, Betty Whitlock, Diane McClintock
Jan.	17 & 18	Kristy Alumbaugh, Marjorie Anderson
Jan.	31 & Feb. 1	Iloff Family

OFFERINGS

Jan.	3	6 p.m.	Marjorie Anderson
	4	8 a.m.	Mike Alumbaugh
	4	10:30 a.m.	Dottie Baumgartner
Jan.	10	6 p.m.	Rich Clements
	11	8 a.m.	Mark Hunter
	11	10:30 a.m.	Ruby Kerkman
Jan.	17	6 p.m.	Jim Quamme
	18	8 a.m.	Vernetta Moe
	18	10:30 a.m.	Ken Spraetz
Jan.	24	6 p.m.	Sandi Stavlo
	25	8 a.m.	Mike Alumbaugh
	25	10:30 a.m.	Marjorie Anderson
Jan.	31	6 p.m.	Dottie Baumgartner
Feb.	1	8 a.m.	Ruby Kerkman
	1	10:30 a.m.	Mark Hunter

USHERS

Jan.		6 p.m.	Tim and Candice Stoll
		8 a.m.	Rob and Cody Kneifl
			Joe and Carol Stekel
		10:30 a.m.	Kennedy Family
Jan.	31	6 p.m.	Tim Goodenough
			Keith Goetzinger
Feb.	1	8 a.m.	Jim and Ruby Kerkman
			Scott Mitchell
			Mason Quackenbush
	1	10:30 a.m.	Clyde O'Neil
			Tim Averbek Family

OUR SAVIOR'S STAFF

Pastor Jonathan Schmidt, Senior Pastor	612-0217	Email: Jon_oslc@centurytel.net
Pastor Jean Schmidt, Associate Pastor	612-0217	Email: Jean_oslc@centurytel.net
Kay Niemeier, Parish Secretary	Church Office: 786-0030	Fax Number: 786-0951
	Email: oslcws@centurytel.net	
Dana Roemhild, Director of Youth & Family Ministry	608-280-1200	
	Email: oursaviorsyouthws@gmail.com	
Jill Iliff, Treasurer		
Linda Berg, Organist		
Eric Sorenson, Senior Choir Director		
Dave Nelson, Custodian		
Karen DeSchepper, Counter		
	Web Site: oursaviorswestsalem.org	