

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

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FEBRUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER

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

- ➔ New Members
- ➔ Celebration of Hope, February 14 & 15
- ➔ Ash Wednesday & Lenten Worship
- ➔ Water 282
- ➔ Winter Fun Days, February 22
- ➔ Changes to Sugar Creek Camperships
- ➔ "Congregation Conversation" March 1



**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

## FEBRUARY 2015

### PARSON TO PERSON

Last summer Pastor Jean convened a broad based group of Our Savior's folk to look at worship issues, including space and style of worship. No complaints, just a time to reflect on how we worship.

At the same time Bishop Eaton of the ELCA asked congregations to revisit "The Use of the Means of Grace," a 1997 statement by the ELCA on sacramental practices. Is this document still helpful, and does it need to be revised in any way.

The statement does not dictate what we do; rather, reflecting on what the Bible and the Lutheran Confessions say about sacraments, it offers guidance and insight on how the sacraments can be a part of our lives as faithful disciples of Jesus.

Our study group saw this as an opportunity to use "The Use of the Means of Grace" in their own conversation. As they pondered the Biblical and confessional insights, they made two recommendations to the Worship Committee:

1. That we consider an option to allow younger children than 5<sup>th</sup> grade to receive Holy Communion.
2. That we try, for the season of Lent and Easter, to offer Holy Communion each weekend, rather than twice a month.

The Worship Committee considered the groups ideas, then recommended them to the Congregation Council, which, at its January

meeting, after considerable discussion, decided to implement both recommendations.

We'll talk more about the option of communion at a younger age next month, except to say that the 5<sup>th</sup> grade First Communion class still goes on! We still offer for all 5<sup>th</sup> graders the opportunity to learn about God's gift in the sacrament, and to receive "First Communion" at that time.

For now, let's address the frequency of Holy Communion...the Lutheran Confessions make it clear that Holy Communion is part of our regular, weekly worship. Weekly communion really is a "Lutheran" thing, at least it was in the beginning. In fact, for Martin Luther, it was a daily practice. That appears to be the case in the early church as well. The Book of Acts speaks of the regular gathering of God's people around a meal, which we understand to have included the Lord's Supper.

So how did we move to less than weekly Holy Communion? For the most part in this country, once a month (or even less) Holy Communion was the result of not having enough pastors to go around. My own grandfather, serving in Western North Dakota around 1920, had seven congregations to serve – he couldn't get there every week, so Holy Communion had to wait. Once a month might be the best you could do!

Still, we are a church of Word and Sacrament. We believe that the message of God's grace through Jesus comes in the words of scripture, but also in visible form, in the sacraments. In the bread and wine, we experience the body and blood of the Crucified Christ. In faith, we receive the gifts of the cross and the promise

of the resurrection each time we partake of the sacrament. And, in that faith, we experience salvation. Martin Luther said that we experience God's gift of life when we hear and trust the words, "the Body of Christ given *for you.*"

Moreover, we do this as a community. We come forward to receive God's gifts of life together with others. We are made to be the Body of Christ! It is important for us, therefore, to offer both words and sacrament on a regular basis.

Maybe even more important in a changing society. For a variety of reasons our culture, our world has changed. Once upon a time regular worship attendance was three or four times a month. That has changed. For many folk regular worship attendance is once or twice a month. Work, travel schedules, and other distractions take us from being in worship each Sunday. So, what happens then if the Sunday we can make it is NOT a communion Sunday? Offering the sacrament weekly allows those who are not able to be with us every week to still receive the gifts of grace we believe are present in the bread and the wine.

Typically, there are two concerns with weekly communion. First, it won't be special anymore. That may seem to be the case, but consider this – I love my wife, and I give her a kiss, frequently. But shouldn't that be special? Should I, therefore, kiss her less frequently, so it's "special?" Of course not. Kissing my wife is even more special, the more I do it!

Second, there are concerns about the length of worship. We are aware of that, and we will work diligently to offer worship that is meaningful, relevant, and timely.

One important note – *you are never required to partake of Holy Communion – if weekly celebration makes you personally uncomfortable, you don't have to take communion every week – yet know that it is there as a gift for those who seek it!*

The council decision is to make this part of our Lenten and Easter pilgrimage (actually, we'll start the first Sunday of March.) What a great opportunity to not just hear about the cross and the empty tomb, but in the bread and wine, the body and blood, to live it – to be connected to the crucified and risen Jesus in a way that cannot be understood – only embraced!

Toward the end of the Easter season, the council will review how this has been for us, and will consider the frequency of communion moving forward.

For now, as the journey unfolds give thanks for the gifts of God's grace, and as you come forward each week to be fed, know that this is *for you!*

Pastor Jon

## PASTORAL ACTS

### Funeral/Memorial Services

✝ We express our sympathy to the family of **Alvina Farnam**. Services were held January 6.

✝ We express our sympathy to the family of **Bob Roraff** who died January 5. Services were held January 9.

### Baptism

✝ **Henry Oliver James Kamla**, son of Adam Kamla and Jaime Kremer, was baptized January 25. His baptismal sponsors are Brad and Amie Hafner.

| DATE         | ATTENDANCE | OFFERING | SUNDAY SCHOOL |
|--------------|------------|----------|---------------|
| Jan. 3 & 4   | 255        | \$4,672  | NO Class      |
| Jan. 10 & 11 | 267        | \$7,256  | 81            |
| Jan. 17 & 18 | 318        | \$4,424  | 88            |
| Jan. 24 & 25 | 376        |          |               |

## 2015 ANNUAL MEETING

The 2015 Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, January 25, following worship, with President Mike Alumbaugh presiding. 66 voting members were in attendance. At this meeting the congregation:

- Received reports on the ministry carried out in 2014.
- Elected Council members and other ministry leaders for the coming year:

Congregation Council (3-year term)  
Steve Ahles, Tracey Beckley,  
Wendy Kane

Congregation Council (2-year term)  
Carlie Burkhardt

Sugar Creek delegates (1-year term)  
Marty Frank, Jeff Haldeman

Bethany Lutheran Home delegates  
(1-year term)  
Larry Blunck, Jim Michelson

Endowment Fund Committee  
(3-year term)  
Judy Long

- Adopted the 2015 budget.
- Approved the purchase agreement for the house located next to the parking lot.
- Authorized the Congregation Council to sell the house north of the parsonage.
- Ratified constitution changes adopted at the October 2014 special congregational meeting.
- Adopted changes recommended in the ELCA model constitution.
- Approved changes in the bylaws.
- Thanked outgoing council members for their work over the past years.

Following the meeting, a great soup lunch was hosted by the Social Committee. Thanks to all who partner with us in the work of Jesus through Our Savior's!

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

In late January Our Savior's welcomed a group of new members – we are excited to join with them in making a difference in our world! Several of our new folk are introduced below – watch the March newsletter for some more introductions.

**Pat and Heidi Krupicka**...were married this past year, and live on French Island. Pat is a carpenter, and Heidi works at US Cellular and is a cosmetologist. They enjoy gardening and canning their produce, and have two Chocolate Labs. They enjoy the outdoors including fishing and duck hunting.

**Naoko Aminaka**...was born and grew up in Japan. She came to faith in Jesus Christ through a missionary pastor she met on the street while playing with friends. Two years later, she was baptized and confirmed. Naoko is an assistant professor in athletic training at UW-La Crosse, and no surprise – she loves running and the outdoors!

## STEPHEN MINISTRY



**STEPHEN  
MINISTRY**

Stephen Ministry is a ministry of laypersons, sharing in the pastoral care of people in need.

Stephen Ministers receive training and supervision as they carry out their work.

Stephen Ministry has been around for 40 years. Pastor Jon is a trained Stephen's leader.

An introductory workshop on Stephen Ministry will be at Holmen Lutheran on Saturday, February 7, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you have an interest in this ministry and perhaps making it happen at Our Savior's, consider attending. See Pastor Jon for more information.

## CELEBRATION OF HOPE



The weekend of February 14-15 is our annual Celebration of Hope; the last weekend before we head into Ash Wednesday and Lent. The SOS Band will play, and the Sounds Like Love Choir will join the Senior Choir to sing some songs at the Sunday services. Join us!

### ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENTEN WORSHIP

New this year – worship at 12:15 p.m.! Join us for a quiet, contemplative worship each week from Ash Wednesday through the season of Lent, including scripture and reflections, and time for prayer. Worship will last about 20 minutes.



### ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP FEBRUARY 18

12:15 p.m.

Mid-day worship with Ashes and Holy Communion  
Quiet contemplation and reflection

5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Ashes and Holy Communion  
Music with hymns and the choir

### WEDNESDAYS IN LENT FEBRUARY 25-MARCH 25

12:15 p.m.

Mid-day contemplative worship

5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Worship featuring conversations with prophets

5:45 p.m.

Supper with proceeds to the World Hunger Appeal

## LENTEN DINNERS FOR WORLD HUNGER

Lenten Dinners will take a new shape this year as a World Hunger awareness and fundraising event. Each week will feature food and stories from a

selected country served through ELCA World Hunger. Come learn about the variety of cultures and people we serve through this ministry! Taste bud friendly options will be available for children or for less adventurous adult taste buds. Children will have additional opportunities to support the God's Global Barnyard ministry through the Buck-A-Chick table.



Each Wednesday during Lent starting February 25. Serving 5:45-6:30 p.m.

Dinner providers and workers needed. All recipes provided! See Youth Board for sign-up.

### BONNIE KLOS TO PREACH



February 21-22 – here's your chance, maybe your last chance, to hear Bonnie Klos preach! Bonnie is heading to the conclusion of her seminary studies, and then she will (we hope) be off to a call in a new community, probably by mid-summer. Bonnie will lead worship as Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean will be on vacation. Don't miss it!

## SUNDAY MORNING ADULT STUDY

Sunday morning adult study meets at 9:15 a.m. in the classroom off the fellowship hall in the lower level. Beginning in February we take a look at the Nooma videos, one each week, with discussion facilitated by Pastor Jon.

Nooma videos are superbly made explorations of faith and life that work with all ages, but are especially designed for young adults. Come and see...and share a bit of faith and life with others. Bring your coffee!



## WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Gospel of Mark is the oldest and shortest gospel, and the subject of our Wednesday morning Bible study. Come and join us as we gather from 9:30 to 11 a.m. to explore the good news of Jesus Christ, and how that good news makes a difference in our lives today! NO experience or knowledge necessary – just come ready to learn and to share! See Pastor Jon for more information.

## CIRCLE NEWS

### RUTH CIRCLE

Monday, February 16, 9 a.m.

Leader: Connie Blunck

Hostess: Caryll Loughan

### REBECCA CIRCLE

Thursday, February 19, 7 p.m.

Hostess:

## DORCAS SEWING CIRCLE NEEDS SHEETS



The Dorcas Sewing Circle always needs old or really used sheets. Every quilt we send needs an old sheet between the top and the bottom. Look around and see what you can find for us.

Thanks so much!

## NURSING HOME SERVICES

Outreach at area nursing and housing facilities continues in February. Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean will lead worship services on Thursday, February 19:

10:30 a.m. – Lakeview

1:00 p.m. – Salem Terrace

2:45 p.m. – Mulder's

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.

## 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.

## 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. The Congregation Council will appoint voting members in February, so let us know of your interest soon!

## THANK YOU

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

## THANK YOU

To let our college students know that we are with them in our thoughts and prayers, especially at exam time, we sent along a "care package" for them to use to take a break from studying. We received the following note ...



Thank you very much for the gift card to Kwik Trip!

*Katelyn Rigotti*

## MEMORIALS

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

- ✝ In memory of Bea Kasdorf from family.
- ✝ In memory of Bob Roraff for the Memorial Fund and Endowment Fund from family and friends.

## 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.

## MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

We did it! Back in August, we were challenged to raise \$7,000 for a new well in a small village in Zambia, partnering with Water282. Allen and Jessica Bateman shared their story, and encouraged us to make it happen. Late in January a representative group of 7/8<sup>th</sup> graders, who helped with the Norwegian Dinner, decided to put the tip money toward the well – and that put us over the top!



Thanks to ALL who contributed, from the first dollars to the final gifts. Your sharing will make a HUGE difference in the lives of those who lack clean, available water – a simple gift of life!

## 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.

## 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!

## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Ella Beal is one of our 4<sup>th</sup> graders. She attends West Salem Elementary school, really likes Math, and hopes someday to be a teacher of 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> graders because, she says, they "have fun." Ella is also a disciple of Jesus.

In early December, Ella decided she wanted to do something to make a difference in God's creation. She thought about the homeless, but wondered if her gifts matched the need. After all, she is only a 4<sup>th</sup> grader.

Yet, she knew she was gifted, so she set out to find a need she could meet. Since she loves animals, and she is pretty convinced that God does too, she decided to collect gifts for the Humane Society.

Using a technique she has seen before, she put out a tree with things that are needed for the animals at the Humane Society, and then a box to collect the gifts, and put it in the Gathering Area.

"Animals care for you when you are sad," Ella said. Doing this is a way to care for animals, and she thinks that God would say she is doing a good deed.

When others heard her story, they too became difference makers. Her Dad's employer made a financial contribution, and then when she was at the store to buy some gifts for the animals, she struck a conversation with the woman behind her, who contributed another \$10.

Of course, Ella also sees needs beyond animals. She thinks that we need to "help other people around the world, because everyone matters in the world." And in response, she says, "Jesus would say, 'thank you for helping out.'"

Thanks to you, Ella, for making a difference, but especially for helping others make a difference with you. As Ella says, "Try to make a difference."

Oh, and Ella says "Thank you" to all who contributed to her giving tree!

## JUSTIN TRAILS WINTER FUN DAY- SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22



WINTER FUN DAY

Join the families of Our Savior's for a winter fun day courtesy of Justin Trails resort in Sparta! A beautiful piece of property

with hills for tubing and sledding, groomed trails for cross-country skiing and snow shoeing, and a refurbished dairy barn for a warm place to eat lunch and enjoy each other in fellowship!

**Cost:** \$5 per person (Age 5 and under free)

**Included:** Lunch, child care in the heated lunch area, snow tubes

**Rentals:** Snowshoes \$5  
Cross Country Skies \$10

**12:00 p.m.** Lunch provided, then enjoy the afternoon of winter fun!

**Location:** Justin Trails Resort  
7452 Kathryn Avenue  
Sparta, WI 54656

## FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION



5<sup>th</sup> grade parents and students – mark your calendars now – First Communion instruction will be on Sunday, March 8 and March 15. Class runs from 1:30 to 3 p.m. each day. Parents are asked to join us! More information in the March newsletter.

## ATLANTA MISSION TRIP



July 11-19<sup>th</sup> 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!

## CONFIRMATION

Confirmation classes continue in February with 6<sup>th</sup> grade meeting February 4 and 11. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders meet on February 4, with an elective night on February 11.

9<sup>th</sup> graders and parents meet either on February 4 or 11 (your choice). Kids meet after the 7 p.m. worship on Ash Wednesday (February 18) to begin working on banners and posters for confirmation.

After School meets on February 4 and 11, then takes a break until after Easter. For more information, see Pastor Jon or Dana.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

We are off to a strong start for the second half of our Sunday School year. We are learning about Jesus' healing ministry and his teachings these next weeks. We continue to welcome new students to our classrooms – it's great to have you with us! Feel free to bring your friends, too!

**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!



## Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, February 22 – children sing in worship at 10:30 a.m. worship

Sunday, March 29 (Palm Sunday) – children sing in worship at both services

Sunday, April 5 (Easter) – children sing in worship at 10:30 a.m. worship

## E-COMMUNICATIONS



Did you know that **112** 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](http://www.oursaviorswestsalem.org)

**Sugar Creek Bible  
Camp Presents**

It's not too early to  
get it on your  
calendar now!

"Growing in Grace"  
Vacation Bible School  
August 10-13  
9 AM- 3 PM



Counselors from Sugar Creek Bible Camp will be here at Our Savior's to lead us for a week of Vacation Bible School. Watch for details and registration forms.



The *friendly competition* continues 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.

We have wiped the slate clean and begin a new term of keeping track of our class attendance ... will our 1<sup>st</sup> grade continue their streak of "near perfect" attendance, or will another class step forward and get the treats in May?



As we ended December, there were 8 children who had perfect attendance, another 13 who only missed once, and 6 who only missed twice! Way to go kids!! Can you keep it up until the end of the year?



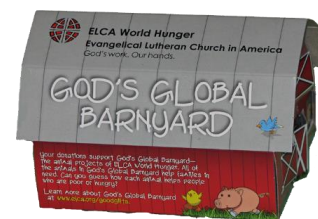
Check out the bulletin board outside of Pastor Jean's

office to see how our barnyard continues to grow. The chicks are multiplying, we have several pigs and goats, and a lamb or two are within reach.

The congregation is on their way to a second cow to keep "Christmas" company.

**During Lent, we will be encouraging everyone to take a Barnyard Bank, fill it, and bring it back on Palm Sunday.**

A cow, a couple of goats, a dozen chicks, two pigs, and farming tools, plus



agricultural training and marketing support, can help a family achieve a fresh start. With new tools and techniques, crops will grow bigger and stronger than ever before. Eggs, milk and meat from farm animals will provide enough food to eat and sell on the market, helping a family **escape the cycle of hunger and poverty — for good.**

## THE LUTHERAN

The Lutheran magazine provides news and insight into the life of the ELCA, along with special feature stories. Currently, Our Savior's provides The Lutheran to families in the congregation. *If you would like to continue to receive it, you need to contact the office prior to April 1.* We also ask those receiving The Lutheran to consider contributing toward the \$10 subscription cost. An envelope is in your envelope packet, or just put your contribution in any envelope marked The Lutheran.

If you are not receiving The Lutheran, and would like to, please contact the office.



## Hungry Jar Offering for February Lutheran Disaster Response

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Sunday School class has chosen **Lutheran Disaster Response** as the recipient of the Hungry Jar offerings for February. Lutheran Disaster Response brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, they stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need. In the past, some of the disasters that have been helped through Lutheran Disaster Response include U.S. Tornadoes, Typhoon Haiyan, Syria, and U.S. flooding. Currently their activities include Ebola outbreak response and work with unaccompanied and migrant children. To learn more about the work of Lutheran Disaster Response check out the ELCA website: [www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response](http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response).

## MOM'S GROUP



Join us as we seek to support each other on our mission as mothers. A group to encourage you as a Mom and you as a person! A genuine gathering of God-loving women that meet us where we are at. We are still working through the best times to meet to reach the majority of those interested. See the Youth and Family board for upcoming dates.

Contact Jen Timm or Dana  
[rose82mn@hotmail.com](mailto:rose82mn@hotmail.com)  
[oursaviorsyouthws@gmail.com](mailto:oursaviorsyouthws@gmail.com)

## CHANGES TO SUGAR CREEK CAMPERSHIPS



For those who are planning to attend Sugar Creek Bible Camp this summer, please note our **new procedure** for obtaining

camperships. Our Savior's provides \$100 camperships for those attending summer camp. In the past, the camp provides us with a list of those attending and we send them the camperships. We will **NO LONGER AUTOMATICALLY** send the check to camp. This year we are asking students/parents to fill out a "campership request form" and return it to the church office NO LATER than May 1<sup>st</sup>. Forms are available in the church office and on the church website. Camperships will be given to the students during worship the weekend of May 9-10. Students will be responsible for getting the campership money to Sugar Creek by the June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. As a congregation, we want to lift up those young people who will be spending a week experiencing God's grace at camp, sending you forth with our prayers and blessings.

## TAPE MINISTRY



A DVD is made of a worship service every Sunday and is available to shut-ins or anyone interested in viewing it. Also available are

audiocassettes of various types of Christian music, the Bible on tape, spiritual talks, Bible studies, past sermons of former Pastors, special events, etc. There is also the Bible on CD's. For a list or more information, contact Connie Blunck, 786-0684, or

[clcblunck@centurylink.net](mailto:clcblunck@centurylink.net), or call the church office, 786-0030, and they can be delivered. There is a DVD player and audiocassette player available for use.



**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. Shortly before Bob Roraff died, he graciously allowed us to share a glimpse into his story. Bob, 81 years old, died on January 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Bob’s advice to new disciples of Jesus ...**

Bob started as a Methodist, joined the Catholic Church because of his stepfather, and ultimately married Myrtle who was Lutheran. Bob said he was not brought up with religion and sometimes did not feel up with everyone else. Yet, he has faith knowing the Lord has done a lot for both he and Myrtle. The Lord keeps sticking by him, but he wonders why.

**Bob’s favorite Bible passage ... because ...**

Bob said he likes all of them. He couldn’t pick the best because he didn’t know what the best is. He said they read the Bible every morning.

**Bob and Myrtle’s earliest memories of church ...**

Bob remembers being 8 years old and going to the Methodist Church with a neighbor on Saturdays and doing crafts and projects. Myrtle remembers the 3-hour services on Good Friday at her Lutheran church in Viroqua – as a kid it was the “longest three hours.” Bob involved himself in the life of Our Savior’s through the years serving on the council, as a Sunday School teacher, and helping with the bulletins and newsletters.

After I met with Bob he sent an email with more of his thoughts ... *I believe that God gave each and every person the power to do; believe in and practice what they think is best for them. I also believe what is in the Bible, but there are different versions of the Bible, which one is right or is it the way each one was translated*

*through the ages? I am still trying real hard to understand religion. I BELIEVE, isn’t that what really counts?*

Thank you for sharing, Bob! His memory and his faith live on.



**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** and we have a DVD player to lend out with the DVD



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

**Bible Study @ Salem Terrace**

**Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Drive a “Senior” to Church Adopt a “church buddy”



Many of our older members who are no longer able to drive or who do not drive in the winter months would love to **get to church** periodically! We have compiled a list of volunteers who are available on an **as needed basis** to “adopt a church buddy” and bring them to church. If you would like to be a part of this ministry of caring, or if you are in need of this service, contact Pastor Jean (jean\_oslc@centurytel.net) or call the church office.

## “CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATION” RESCHEDULED

The Mission Discernment Team has rescheduled the “congregational conversation” to Sunday, March 1, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Childcare will be available, and of course, a few snacks as well!

Why reschedule? We want a good turnout, and we want YOU to be there, and alas, the Packers game got in the way!

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.

## CONGREGATION COUNCIL REVIEW

The Congregation Council met on Monday, January 12, with President Mike Alumbaugh presiding. At this meeting the council:

- Reviewed and approved the December minutes and financial reports.
- Received the audit report for 2013 for the church accounts.
- Approved a recommendation of the Worship Study Task Force and the Worship Committee to offer Holy Communion every week during Lent and Easter, and to give parents the option of considering an early communion for children in consultation with pastors.
- Recommended to the annual meeting the purchase of the house bordering the parking lot, and authorization to sell the property north of the parsonage.
- Recommended to the annual meeting the proposed 2015 budget.
- Decided to change how we subscribe to The Lutheran, by asking those interested in The Lutheran to indicate that interest in order to continue receiving the magazine.
- Thanked outgoing council members for their ministry over the past three years.

The council meets again on Monday, February 9. See one of the pastors if you have any questions.

## 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!

# *FEBRUARY*

## ACOLYTES

|       |    |                        |                    |
|-------|----|------------------------|--------------------|
| Jan.  | 31 | 6 p.m.                 | Dalton Peters      |
| Feb.  | 1  | 8 a.m.                 |                    |
|       | 1  | 10:30 a.m.             | Jordyn Schurhammer |
| Feb.  | 7  | 6 p.m.                 | Connor Strainis    |
|       | 8  | 8 a.m.                 | Samantha Thompson  |
|       | 8  | 10:30 a.m.             | Stephanie Tiber    |
| Feb.  | 14 | 6 p.m.                 | Jared Witte        |
|       | 15 | 8 a.m.                 | David Aleckson     |
|       | 15 | 10:30 a.m.             | Logan Aleckson     |
| Feb.  | 18 | Ash Wednesday, 5 p.m.  | Ethan Beal         |
|       |    | Ash Wednesday, 7 p.m.  | Jarron Beckley     |
| Feb.  | 21 | 6 p.m.                 | Ryan Beirne        |
|       | 22 | 8 a.m.                 | Matthew Bigley     |
|       | 22 | 10:30 a.m.             | Allison Burke      |
| Feb.  | 25 | Lent—Wednesday, 5 p.m. | Dana Carlson       |
|       | 25 | Lent—Wednesday, 7 p.m. | Nick Crogan        |
| Feb.  | 28 | 6 p.m.                 | Alea Fortier       |
| March | 1  | 8 a.m.                 | Alana Gavaghan     |
|       | 1  | 10:30 a.m.             | Dylan Godlewski    |

## BASKET HOLDERS

|      |    |               |                    |
|------|----|---------------|--------------------|
| Feb. | 1  | 8 a.m.        | Skylar Williams    |
|      | 1  | 10:30 a.m.    | Cody Anderson      |
| Feb. | 15 | 8 a.m.        | Allison Arentz     |
|      | 15 | 10:30 a.m.    | Cassidy Bores      |
| Feb. | 18 | Ash Wednesday |                    |
|      |    | 5 p.m.        | Hannah Brenengen   |
|      |    | 7 p.m.        | Mahli Fleckenstein |

## ALTAR GUILD

Marie Root

## HOME COMMUNION SERVERS

|      |              |                  |
|------|--------------|------------------|
| Jan. | 31 & Feb. 1  | Iliff Family     |
| Feb. | 14 & 15      | Bev Bockenbauer  |
| Feb. | 28 & March 1 | Bonny Goodenough |

## READERS

|      |    |            |                  |
|------|----|------------|------------------|
| Jan. | 31 | 6 p.m.     | Candice Stoll    |
| Feb. | 1  | 8 a.m.     | Dennis Manthei   |
|      | 1  | 10:30 a.m. | Daryl Wermedal   |
| Feb. | 7  | 6 p.m.     | Karen DeSchepper |
|      | 8  | 8 a.m.     | Ruby Kerkman     |
|      | 8  | 10:30 a.m. | Kathy Brisson    |
| Feb. | 14 | 6 p.m.     | Bonny Goodenough |
|      | 15 | 8 a.m.     | Lynette Ender    |
|      | 15 | 10:30 a.m. | Stacey Sjoquist  |
| Feb. | 21 | 6 p.m.     | Jim Anderson     |
|      | 22 | 8 a.m.     | Jim Kerkman      |
|      | 22 | 10:30 a.m. | Ilene Pavelko    |
| Feb. | 28 | 6 p.m.     | Holly Rigotti    |

## COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

|      |    |               |                           |
|------|----|---------------|---------------------------|
| 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 |
| Feb. | 14 | 6 p.m.        | Jill Iliff                |
|      | 15 | 8 a.m.        | Judy Long                 |
|      |    |               | Sharon Olson              |
|      | 15 | 10:30 a.m.    | Denise Jones              |
|      |    |               | Dana Roemhild             |
| Feb. | 18 | Ash Wednesday |                           |
|      |    | 5 p.m.        | Vernetta Moe              |
|      |    |               | Marilyn Ranum             |
|      |    | 7 p.m.        | Stacey Sjoquist           |
|      |    |               | Eric Iliff                |
| Feb. | 28 | 6 p.m.        | Tracy Hesse               |
| Mar. | 1  | 8 a.m.        |                           |
|      |    |               | Shannon Wiese             |
|      | 1  | 10:30 a.m.    | Corey Sjoquist            |
|      |    |               | Melissa Thompson          |

## OFFERINGS

|      |    |               |                   |
|------|----|---------------|-------------------|
| Jan. | 31 | 6 p.m.        | Kay Niemeier      |
| Feb. | 1  | 8 a.m.        | Ruby Kerkman      |
|      | 1  | 10:30 a.m.    | Mark Hunter       |
| Feb. | 7  | 6 p.m.        | Mike Alumbaugh    |
|      | 8  | 8 a.m.        | Sandi Stavlo      |
|      | 8  | 10:30 a.m.    | Mark Hunter       |
| Feb. | 14 | 6 p.m.        | Ruby Kerkman      |
|      | 15 | 8 a.m.        | Marjorie Anderson |
|      | 15 | 10:30 a.m.    | Rich Clements     |
| Feb. | 18 | Ash Wednesday |                   |
|      |    | 5 p.m.        | Vernetta Moe      |
|      |    | 7 p.m.        | Mike Alumbaugh    |
| Feb. | 21 | 6 p.m.        | Jim Quamme        |
|      | 22 | 8 a.m.        | Vernetta Moe      |
|      | 22 | 10:30 a.m.    | Sandi Stavlo      |
| Feb. | 25 | Lent          |                   |
|      |    | 5 p.m.        | Marjorie Anderson |
|      |    | 7 p.m.        | Vernetta Moe      |
| Feb. | 28 | 6 p.m.        | Marjorie Anderson |
| Mar. | 1  | 8 a.m.        | Rich Clements     |
|      | 1  | 10:30 a.m.    | Vernetta Moe      |

## USHERS

|      |               |               |                                                             |
|------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jan. | 31 & February | 6 p.m.        | Tim Goodenough<br>Keith Goetzinger                          |
| Feb. |               | 8 a.m.        | Jim and Ruby Kerkman<br>Scott Mitchell<br>Mason Quackenbush |
|      |               | 10:30 a.m.    | Clyde O'Neil<br>Tim Averbek Family                          |
| Feb. | 18            | Ash Wednesday |                                                             |
|      |               | 5 p.m.        | Dawn and Ella Beal                                          |
|      |               | 7 p.m.        | Paul Beckley 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: <a href="mailto:oslcws@centurytel.net">oslcws@centurytel.net</a>             |                                 |
| Dana Roemhild, Director of Youth & Family Ministry | 608-280-1200                                                                        |                                 |
|                                                    | Email: <a href="mailto:oursaviorsyouthws@gmail.com">oursaviorsyouthws@gmail.com</a> |                                 |
| Jill Iliff, Treasurer                              |                                                                                     |                                 |
| Linda Berg, Organist                               |                                                                                     |                                 |
| Eric Sorenson, Senior Choir Director               |                                                                                     |                                 |
| Dave Nelson, Custodian                             |                                                                                     |                                 |
| Karen DeSchepper, Counter                          |                                                                                     |                                 |

Web Site: [oursaviorswestsalem.org](http://oursaviorswestsalem.org)