

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

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MARCH

MARCH 2015 NEWSLETTER

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

- Congregational Conversation, March 1
- Lenten Worship
- First Communion Instruction,
March 8 & 15
- Sugar Creek Camperships



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 Leonard Street N West Salem, WI 54669
www.oursaviorswestsalem.org 608-786-0030 oslcws@centurytel.net

MARCH 2015

PARSON TO PERSON

Pop Quiz

1. How many sacraments do Lutherans have?
2. What makes a sacrament a sacrament?
3. Who should receive Holy Communion?
4. What do Lutherans believe about the bread and wine and Christ's presence?
5. What does it mean to be 'in, with, and under' the bread and wine?
6. How do you hold your hands when you come up so the pastor knows you receive communion?
7. What do you say in response when the pastor says "the body of Christ given for you; the blood of Christ shed for you"?



How did you do?

These are just some of the topics that we discuss during the First Communion class for our 5th graders. Do the rest of you ever stop and think about those things when you come forward to receive Holy Communion? I'm guessing not. What *is* on your mind or in your heart when you come forward, when you hear

the words 'the body of Christ given for you; the blood of Christ shed for you'?

Why do adults think the kids need to pass a test, but the adults don't? Or, the adults don't have to remember the answers anymore? What about the person with Alzheimer's, the person with learning disabilities, the person who didn't grow up Lutheran, should they still have to pass the test?

Did Jesus say you can have communion on one condition ... if you can pass the test?

When someone comes seeking healing and forgiveness, who decides if they get it?

Holy Communion is a free GIFT from God. God, who claims us as His own. A gift that comes with no strings attached. A gift given with the words ... "broken FOR YOU" ... "shed FOR YOU" ... "For you" means specifically for you by name ... *for you Jean, for you Fred, for you Linda, for you Stacey, for you Eric, for you ...*

Traditionally Our Savior's has First Communion classes for children in 5th grade. But, what about the younger child who is curious, inquisitive; who wants to be a part of the action and not left out; what about the child who wants to receive God's gift of love and forgiveness; who looks you in the eye and says, "Why can't I have that? Doesn't God love me too?"

It's not like the children are asking for something that is harmful or dangerous, and it's not something that we have to protect

them *from*. You wouldn't deprive a child from receiving medicine that would heal them or food that would nourish and feed them if they asked for it, would you?

Isn't that what Holy Communion is? The food that nourishes us, the medicine that heals us. We *all* need to be fed and made whole.

At the recommendation of the Worship Exploration Task Force and the Worship Committee, the Congregation Council has revised the age children can receive communion for the first time. If a child younger than 5th grade seriously inquires about receiving the sacrament of Holy Communion, and together as a family, they believe it is appropriate, the family can contact a pastor for further discussion and individual instruction. Whenever a child begins to receive Holy Communion, when they reach 5th grade they will still be expected to attend 5th grade First Communion class with their peers.



And now, the answers to the questions ...

- 1) Lutherans have two sacraments ... baptism and holy communion
- 2) To be a sacrament, three things must be true:
 - a. Instituted by God ... Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them (Matthew 28:19) ... This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me. (1 Corinthians 11:24)
 - b. Use something physical ... water in baptism ... bread and wine in communion. Physical stuff reminds us that God is really connected with our lives.
 - c. A means of grace. Grace is love we don't deserve. As a means of grace, a sacrament is a way we know that we experience God's love.

- 3) Catechesis, continuing throughout the life of the believers, emphasizes the sacrament as gift, given to faith by and for participation in the community. Such faith is not simply knowledge or intellectual understanding, but trust in God's promises given in the Lord's Supper ("for you" and "for the forgiveness of sin") for the support of the baptized. There is no command from our Lord regarding the age at which people should be baptized or first communed. Our practice is defined by Christ's command ("Do this"), Christ's twin promises of his presence for us and for our need, and the importance of good order in the Church. In all communion practices congregations should strive to avoid both reducing the Lord's Supper to an act effective by its mere performance without faith and narrowing faith to intellectual understanding of Christ's presence and gifts. [*The Use of the Means of Grace – ELCA – 1997 - pp. 40-41*]
- 4) We believe in the real presence of Jesus in the blood and wine. Jesus is really present because he says so. Jesus said this IS my body, this IS my blood. Jesus is in the bread and wine because he can be wherever he wants to be, and he chooses to be in the bread and wine to give us new life.
- 5) We say the body and blood of Jesus comes to us 'in, with, and under' the form of bread and wine. Jesus chooses to come to us in simple things like bread and wine. In the form of bread, we encounter Jesus. In the form of wine, we experience him with us here and now. Jesus made a promise and we believe he will keep his promise to be with us in the bread and the wine, the body and blood. We have faith. *Elements with the Word of God* understood through *faith*.

- 6) One hand is laid on top of the other in the shape of the cross.



- 7) Amen.

Amen!

So ... did you pass the test? Aren't you glad Holy Communion really is a gift from God?

*Celebrating the sacraments with you,
Pastor Jean*



WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

12:15 p.m.

Mid-day contemplative worship

5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Holden Evening Prayer

"A Lenten Carol" featuring visits from prophets

5:45 p.m.

Supper with proceeds to the
World Hunger Appeal

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

"Lenten Dinners for World Hunger"

Ministries come and go, but God's call and God's gifts remain! Over the years, the Lenten dinners have been dedicated to supporting our youth ministries. This year, we are...making a change!

Consider the following:

- 1 in 8 people worldwide go hungry every day.
- Over 783 million people lack clean drinking water.

- The ELCA every year mobilizes over \$18 million to meet immediate needs in countries around the world.

World hunger gifts DO make a difference – the number of hunger related deaths has dropped by almost 50% in the past 30 years – but still, millions die who don't need to die.

This year, we have a chance to be a part of meeting the need and making the change, not just in how we do Lenten dinners, but a change in the lives of real people around the world.

So what's new? Our Lenten dinners take a new shape this year as a World Hunger awareness and fundraising event. Each week we feature food and stories from a selected country served through ELCA World Hunger. Taste bud friendly options will be available for children or for less adventurous adult taste buds. Buck-A-Chick coloring sheets for children to help raise more for God's Global Barnyard as well!

A free will donation is taken at each meal, with the net proceeds going to the World Hunger appeal. Come and enjoy a new meal and connect with others. Most of all, you can make a real difference as your generosity serves God's people around the world!

Each Wednesday during Lent starting February 25. Serving 5:45-6:30 p.m. Don't miss it!



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER WORSHIP

Palm Sunday

Holy Communion with the hearing of the
Passion story
Saturday at 6 p.m.
Sunday at 8 and 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday

Celebration of Holy Communion
and Stripping of the Altar
7 p.m.

Good Friday

Worship of the Word
1:30 p.m.

Service of Tenebrae
8:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday

Festive Celebration of Holy Communion
6:30 + 8:30 + 10:30 a.m.
(NO Saturday worship)

EASTER BREAKFAST

Easter breakfast needs you! Over the years many people have worked hard to make Easter breakfast happen, and we are thankful for their work. This year, however, we need some new folk willing to organize and put on the Easter breakfast. If you would like to be a part of this year's "breakfast ministry team," see Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean. Without you, *...Easter breakfast won't happen!*



"CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATION"

Come and join us on Sunday, March 1, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. for a "Congregational Conversation" to explore our ministries and the



let's talk

resources they need. We will take a look at our ministries today, what is core and crucial to who we are, and how we can continue to

support those ministries. We will also look at where we see our ministries in 10-20 years, and what will need to happen to make the ministries vibrant and effective.

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.

To do that we need...and we want...YOU to be there! 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.

Childcare and snacks will be provided. For more information, see Pastor Jon.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Don't forget to turn your clock ahead one hour on Saturday evening, March 7. Or...wake up at 2 a.m. on Sunday morning and change it! Either way, change your clock, go to bed early, and join us in worship as we thank God that while the time changes, God's love never does!





SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The flu has taken its toll on Sunday School attendance these last weeks. We pray that our young ones are now feeling back to normal, and we are anxious to have them back with us. We continue to welcome new students to our classrooms – it's great to have you with us!

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, March 8 – children sing in worship at 8 a.m. service

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. service

Sugar Creek Bible Camp Presents

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

"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.

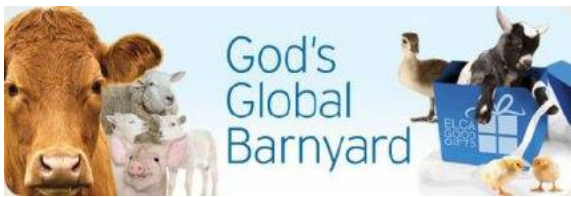


The ***friendly competition*** continues between our Sunday School classes to see which class will have the most weeks of "***near perfect***" ***attendance*** and which class can raise the ***most offerings*** to fill God's Global Barnyard.

As of the middle of February, the 4th grade class of Mrs. Schmitz & Ms. Larson has had the most weeks (3) of "near perfect" attendance.



We still have 4 children who have perfect attendance, another 9 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?



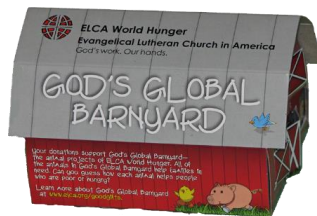
Hungry Jar Offering for March Our Savior's Quilting Ministry

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. Ms. Kane & Ms. Schmidt's 3rd grade class is close to getting their 5th pig! The congregation is on their way to a second cow to keep "Christmas" company.

Grab a barn and fill it up ...

During Lent, we invite everyone to take a Barnyard Bank (found in the Gathering Area), put it on your kitchen table, and fill it with your loose change.

As you put the money in the bank, pray for the people whose lives you will touch with your generosity. Bring the filled bank back to church 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.**



FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION

First Communion instruction for 5th graders will be on Sunday, March 8 and 15. Class runs from 1:30 to 3 p.m. each day. Parents are asked to join us. We will learn about Holy Communion, bake the bread for our first communion, and create our own communion cup. First Communion will be a part of our worship on Maundy Thursday (April 2). For more information, see Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean.

CHANGES TO SUGAR CREEK CAMBERSHIPS



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 provided us with a list of those attending and we sent 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 1st. Forms are available in the church office and also on the church website. Camperships will be presented to the students during worship the weekend of May 9-10. Students/parents will be responsible for getting the campership money to Sugar Creek by the June 1st 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.

CONFIRMATION



6-8th grade confirmation classes do not meet during Lent, including all of March. Classes resume on

Wednesday, April 8. 7/8th graders should check to see when they are helping with Lenten suppers, or ushering at Lenten worship.

9th graders are invited to gather at 7:45 p.m. on Wednesdays to work on their banners and posters. See Pastor Jon or Dana for more information.

After School also takes some time off, we resume with activities and a meal on Wednesday, April 8.

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS

We invite you to apply by Sunday, March 29, 2015. Applications received after this date will not be forwarded to the

Scholarship Committee. Awards will be announced and presented during the Senior Graduation Dinner on Wednesday, May 20 at 6:30 p.m. The recipients will also be announced to the congregation on Senior Recognition Weekend, May 23 and 24. Please mail your completed application to the church or turn it into the church office.



college connection

One important ministry is to keep in contact with our college students. We want them to know they are never far from our thoughts and are in our prayers. Along with periodic emails of encouragement, we also send a "care package" at exam time. The following is a thank you we received.

Hello! Thank you very much for the thoughtful Christmas card and Subway gift. I really appreciate the thoughts and support of you all. The Subway gift card will come in handy after some loooooong days in clinic!

I just returned to Denver from my clinical in Bend, Oregon. My clinical instructors were incredible mentors to me over the last few months, and as a result, I learned more than I could ever describe. The experiences challenged me in many different ways, but I am certainly stronger because of them.

Central Oregon also happens to be quite beautiful! It is a pretty unique area, as there is access to both the high desert and pacific rain forests. I was able to spend some time on wild single-track mountain biking trails (Phil's Trail system), light powder (Mt Bachelor and Broken Top), and quality rock walls (Smith Rock). I really enjoyed access to Portland and Seattle for weekend urban adventures.

I also found a home for the time being at Journey Church in Bend. They were very welcoming, had great worship, and got out into the community as an entire congregation. They shared incredible love with me! I am thankful for perspectives and questions that I developed while there.

Now, I find myself finishing my last clinical in Denver, with an adventure to Peru for a month March-April. I will be learning in three healthcare settings (acute care, outpatient, and pediatrics), and spending the weekends trekking around and teaching laboratory sessions for physical therapists with a couple classmates. I am stoked! It will be a great end to this recent season of my life.

I will be graduating in May and I have my sights on Alaska for a couple years! I am drawn by the unknown. I find that I grow in those spaces.

I wish I could have made it back home to Wisconsin this winter, but my plane's R engine failed on the runway before we could take off, so I stayed in Colorado. I was so excited to see my family! C'est la vie.

I think of you all often.
Do well, *Dain (Gilbert)*

Please keep Dain in your prayers these next months as he studies and works in Peru.

DATE	ATTENDANCE	OFFERING	SUNDAY SCHOOL
Jan. 31 & Feb. 1	289	\$6,093	65
Feb. 7 & 8	286	\$4,375	68
Feb. 14 & 15	317		65
Feb. 21 & 22	307		

PASTORAL ACTS

- ✝ We express our sympathy to the family of **Clarence Larson**. Services were held February 16.
- ✝ We express our sympathy to the family of **Karen Schermerhorn**. A Memorial Service was held February 17.



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

MEMORIALS

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

- ✚ In memory of Bob Roraff for New Programs/Facilities/Youth.
- ✚ In memory of Bob Roraff for the Endowment Fund.
- ✚ In memory of Anne Macek (Pastor Dave's sister) for the Endowment Fund.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR THANKS TO BAKERS AND SERVERS

Thank you to all who have baked goodies, provided fruit or beverages, and who have served treats during our Sunday fellowship hour between services. It's neat to see the combinations of friends or family or confirmation service groups who have taken part. Thanks also to some individuals who have served on their own.

Servers and/or bakers for January and February:

Pam Gresens, Nancy DeYoung, Kay Osiecki, Norma Piper, Jan Goetzinger, Carla Burkhardt, Lynette Ender, Melody Schmitz, Jim Michelson, Sandi Stavlo, Velma Schmidt, Tim and Karen Tiber and Ted and Steph, Dawn Fennigkoh, Heidi Krupicka, Michelle Witte, Stephanie and Scarlet Fullwood, Peggy Trautman, Kim Hunter, Shannon Wiese, Bonny Goodenough, Beth Clements, Scott and Zach Friell, Betty

Whitlock, Marilyn Ranum, Anne and Rich Garbers.

If you would like to help, contact Ilene Pavelko, ilenepav1@aol.com or 608-786-2360, or see the sign-up sheet outside the kitchenette.

Your generosity is appreciated by many!!!
Thank you!

ZAMBIA WATER PROJECT: Mtali-Manja

We have received news! Water282 was not able to finish the drilling at Chazwe due to the rainy season. They have assured us that Chazwe will be the first village drilled in 2015.

Since they were not able to

water²⁸²

complete the drilling, we have been paired with the village of Mtali-Manja. Last fall, a drilling rig was sent to this area to drill wells in four villages. When the drillers arrived, they were told that there were actually five villages that needed wells. Water282 made the decision to drill the fifth (Mtali-Manja) even though there wasn't funding for it, as the drillers were there with the equipment and the roads were good!

Al and Jess Bateman will be able to visit the village with a representative from Water282 once the rainy season ends and the roads are passable, probably in April or May. For those interested, cut and paste the following coordinates into Google to find the location: S13 55.182', E032 37.017'

Pictures and stories will be shared as soon as they are received!

CIRCLE NEWS

RUTH CIRCLE

Monday, March 16, 9 a.m.
Leader: Vernetta Moe
Hostess: Sandra Holthaus

REBECCA CIRCLE

Thursday, March 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!

WELCA 2015 SPRING CONVENTION

This year's convention will take place on Saturday, April 18, beginning with registration at 8 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran, Sparta. The theme for our gathering is "Of many generations - Biblical women," as we hear about our ancestors of that era. The Churchwide rep joining us will be Jody Smiley, VP of the Churchwide W-ELCA Board. This is the year for elections of president, treasurer, and North and South Conference reps to our synod board. Registration is open. See registration form in latest Crosswinds newsletter.

NURSING HOME SERVICES

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

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

Pastor Jon will also lead a service on Sunday, March 22 at 1:30 p.m. at Lakeview.

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.



WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday morning Bible study continues to explore God's word! The first two weeks we finish off chapter 6, and the next two weeks we begin to look at readings associated with Holy Week. Come and see what Mark is up to...and dig into the story of the passion of Jesus! We gather from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Sharing with each other, praying, and studying the Word – doesn't get any better than that! See Pastor Jon for more information.

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. We continue to use the Nooma videos to explore our faith in the context of real life. Come, coffee and goodies in hand, and join in sharing a bit of faith and life with others. See Pastor Jon for more information.

**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. Bonnie Ender graciously allowed us to share a glimpse into her story. Bonnie, 81 years old, lives in West Salem near her family and several members of Our Savior’s.

Bonnie’s advice to new disciples of Jesus

... Find your niche. Don’t just come to church, get involved, learn about the people, and do work. Bonnie also said we’re tested and that’s when true faith comes through. We have to have faith that things will work out, and lots of praying.

Bonnie’s favorite Bible passage ... because

... Bonnie has lots of favorite Bible passages, but the one she chose to lift up is, “The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” (Psalm 27:1) This verse (and all of Psalm 27) sees her through when she questions things, when she is frightened of things; why should she be afraid. This verse has become more special as Bonnie has gotten older.

Bonnie’s earliest memories of church ...

Bonnie remembers going to Sunday school and not wanting to miss it. They stayed home when the weather was bad because they didn’t have a car. Our Savior’s is the only church Bonnie has belonged to – she was baptized by Pastor Ottersen. She remembers going to Vacation Bible School. Bonnie was confirmed her freshman year of high school and the following year she continued to come for Bible Study even when most of the other kids quit coming to church. Bonnie started playing the organ for worship when she was in high school. Pastor Ranum asked her mother if she could do it one week, and her mother said yes

... and the rest is history! (40 years of history!) She remembers one time having to wear thin, red, leather gloves to play the piano at the church in Burns because it was so cold!

Thank you for sharing, Bonnie! Please keep Bonnie 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** 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!**

Breakfast and Bible Study @

Salem Terrace

Monday, March 9th at 9:30 a.m.



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 join us for Breakfast and Bible Study. We will meet in the small kitchenette room off the parking lot between the two buildings.



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.

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.

CELEBRATE WEST SALEM

Again, this year Our Savior’s will be represented at the “Celebrate West Salem Business Expo.” The Expo is at the high school on Sunday, March 22, from 11-3. Come and check our display, along with lots of other displays, including a number of businesses run by Our Savior’s members. We live in a great community – so come and “celebrate West Salem!”

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 needs to appoint one more voting member, so let us know of your interest soon!

GARDEN PLOTS



Wind chill temperatures of minus twenty degrees (the week February 16) don’t exactly inspire

thoughts of gardening, but arriving seed catalogs signify the time for planting will soon be here. For a seventh year a parcel of land will be available for members of the congregation interested in planting gardens. Seven families did so in 2014. The plot is located 1½ miles north of the fairgrounds off County Road M. If you are interested in reserving a parcel or have questions call Jim Michelson at 786-1236.

INSTALLATION AT CAMPUS MINISTRY

Pastor Ben Morris, the new campus pastor at Common Ground/La Crosse will be installed on Sunday, March 29, at 3 p.m., at English Lutheran Church. YOU are invited to come and celebrate this new beginning together. It will be a great day and a great opportunity to enjoy the fruits of much labor in the past few years. A reception will follow.

We also hope to have Pastor Ben here in the near future to meet the congregation and share the message. Our Savior’s is a strong supporter of campus ministry, so come and celebrate this important day!

CONGREGATION OFFICERS

At its February meeting, the Congregation Council elected officers for 2015.

President – Char Buelow
Vice President – Vernetta Moe
Secretary – Sandi Stavlo
Treasurer – Jill Iliff

Thank you to all our officers for your willingness to serve this congregation!

CONGREGATION COUNCIL REVIEW

The Congregation Council met on Monday, February 9, with Vice President Vernetta Moe presiding. At this meeting the council:

- Reviewed the tasks of the council and took a look ahead at some of the opportunities and challenges for the coming year.
- Elected Char Buelow (President), Vernetta Moe (Vice President), Sandi Stavlo (Secretary), and Jill Iliff (Treasurer).
- Reviewed and approved the January minutes and financial reports.
- Received the report of the Emergency Procedures and Child Protection task force. Agreed to review the report and consider action at the March meeting.
- Heard an update on the purchase of the Mill Street house, the Financial Procedures Review Team, and the Mission Discernment Task Force.
- Received a final report from the Worship Review Task Force.
- Approved the purchase of tables, chairs, and racks using monies from the Endowment Fund disbursement.
- Appointed Mike Larson, Cathryn Bottem, Paul Ranum and Pam Gresens as Synod Assembly voting members, with one more to be appointed.

- Reviewed committee assignments for council members.

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

NEW MEMBERS...CONTINUED...

In January, Our Savior's recognized a number of new families. We welcome them to this community of faith, and rejoice in the gifts God brings through them!

Here are two more of our new families:

Mary Gruntzel is originally from La Crosse, but now lives in Bangor. She had been a member of Our Savior's a number of years back, and has returned. She has two children, and in her working days was a taxidermist. Mary is a sister to Carol Wittenberg, and worships on Saturday evening. Welcome, Mary!

The Hannan Family includes Tim (Dad), Nicolle (Mom), Kate-Lynn (Big Sister) and Sarah (Little Sister). They moved to Bangor from central Illinois. Tim is currently an inventory manager for Echobridge Home Entertainment Company. His hobbies include spending time with family – especially his girls and he just started learning how to golf.

Nicolle has worked at Family & Children's Center for the past 14 years. She loves reading and spending time with her family.

Kate-Lynn is a senior in high school and will be attending UW-Oshkosh in the fall majoring in psychology with a minor in neuroscience. She loves to dance and play her flute.

Sarah is a freshman in high school. She has many hobbies including dance (ballet en Pointe, tap, hip-hop) piano, reading and hanging out with her dog, Etta.

Welcome to the Hannans!

SO, WHY OUR SAVIOR'S... AND WHY JESUS?

Several weeks ago, Pastor Jon asked worshipers two questions – what are we excited about at Our Savior's, and what excites us about Jesus?

Curious how others responded? Watch the Outreach Committee bulletin board by the entrance to the sanctuary. Every few weeks we will post a few more responses.

In the meantime, in a nutshell here's what makes us excited about Our Savior's:

- Our music program – choir, musicians, SOS Band, and singing.
- Our sense of community, the friendliness of the congregation, and how we are welcoming to all, even those who do not feel welcome elsewhere.
- New folk in our midst – and old friends who surround us.
- Youth programming, especially mission trips, confirmation, and Sunday School.
- Our outreach into the community.
- Our Pastors, their energy, and their sermons.
- The children's message and the vibrancy of children in our congregation.

And Jesus?

- Loves us just as we are.
- Walks with us throughout our journey in life.
- Heals us and provides for all our needs.
- Forgiveness of sins!
- Calls us to faithful service.
- Answers prayer.
- The key to everlasting life!

Thanks to everyone who shared their insights on our ministry...and on our Lord and Savior!

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.

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!

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

TAPE & DVD 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, or call the church office, 786-0030, and they can be delivered. There is a DVD player and audiocassette player available for use.



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!

HELP PROVIDE AN EASTER GARDEN

Again, this year we are inviting members of the congregation to consider providing a plant for our Easter worship. While lilies have often been used in the past, more recently we have begun using a variety of flowering spring plants to beautify our worship center and to proclaim the new life we find in Jesus Christ.

You may provide a plant or we will order plants together so that we might have a variety. We are encouraging donations of \$20 to help provide this Easter Garden. In our Easter bulletin, we will acknowledge these gifts. You may designate your gift in memory of someone or in honor of someone.

Thank you for helping to beautify our Easter worship. Please return this form by March 20.

Name_____

In Memory of_____

In Honor of_____

\$_____



MARCH

ACOLYTES

Feb.	28	6 p.m.	Alea Fortier
March	1	8 a.m.	Delayne Schomberg
	1	10:30 a.m.	Dylan Godlewski
Mar.	4	Lent—Wednesday, 5 p.m.	Collin Grosskopf
	4	Lent—Wednesday, 7 p.m.	Tucker Haag
Mar.	7	6 p.m.	Mitch Hammes
	8	8 a.m.	Sarah Hannan
	8	10:30 a.m.	Adam Helgeson
Mar.	11	Lent—Wednesday, 5 p.m.	Alysha Hesse
	11	Lent—Wednesday, 7 p.m.	Jacob Iliff
Mar.	14	6 p.m.	Aubrey Johnson
	15	8 a.m.	Tayler Jones
	15	10:30 a.m.	Rebecca Michael
Mar.	18	Lent—Wednesday, 5 p.m.	Joseph Oldendorf
	18	Lent—Wednesday, 7 p.m.	McKenah Olson
Mar.	21	6 p.m.	Drew Peterson
	22	8 a.m.	Justine Rich
	22	10:30 a.m.	Delaney Schomberg
Mar.	25	Lent—Wednesday, 5 p.m.	Nathan Selck
	25	Lent—Wednesday, 7 p.m.	Emily Steele
Mar.	28	6 p.m.	Ellie Tschumper
	29	8 a.m.	Brooke Valencia
	29	10:30 a.m.	Sophie Venner

BASKET HOLDERS

March 1	8 a.m.	Aidan Donahue
1	10:30 a.m.	Zack Friell
Mar. 8	8 a.m.	Kara Gavaghan
8	10:30 a.m.	Lexi Giblin
Mar. 15	8 a.m.	Wyndsor Goodenough
15	10:30 a.m.	Meghan Hansen
Mar. 22	8 a.m.	Hallie Halverson
22	10:30 a.m.	Mya Jacobson
Mar. 29	8 a.m.	Taylor Hennessey
29	10:30 a.m.	Kirin Linse

ALTAR GUILD Linda Arentz

HOME COMMUNION SERVERS

Feb. 28 & Mar. 1	Bonny Goodenough
Mar. 7 & 8	Ilene Pavelko
Mar. 14 & 15	Paul and Marilyn Ranum
Mar. 21 & 22	Pam Gresens
Mar. 28 & 29	Char Buelow

READERS

Feb. 28	6 p.m.	Holly Rigotti
March 1	8 a.m.	Connie Blunck
1	10:30 a.m.	Paul Ranum
Mar. 7	6 p.m.	Phil Gilbert
8	8 a.m.	Naoko Aminaka
8	10:30 a.m.	Jim Quamme
Mar. 14	6 p.m.	Michael Anderson
15	8 a.m.	Lynette Ender
15	10:30 a.m.	Marsha O'Neil
Mar. 21	6 p.m.	Bev Bockenhauer
22	8 a.m.	Carla Burkhardt
22	10:30 a.m.	Melissa Haldeman
Mar. 28	6 p.m.	Jeanne Marcou
29	8 a.m.	Char Buelow
29	10:30 a.m.	Naoko Aminaka

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Feb.	28	6 p.m.	Tracey Hesse
March	1	8 a.m.	Linda Arentz
			Mike Alumbaugh
	1	10:30 a.m.	Corey Sjoquist
			Melissa Thompson
Mar.	7	6 p.m.	Allison Rigotti
	8	8 a.m.	Lee Fernstaedt
			Jean Fernstaedt
	8	10:30 a.m.	Kristin Tschumper
			Michelle Witte
Mar.	14	6 p.m.	Eric Ender
	15	8 a.m.	Marty Frank
			Jane Frank
	15	10:30 a.m.	Rich Clements
			Jim Quamme
Mar.	21	6 p.m.	Paula Heilman
	22	8 a.m.	Vernetta Moe
			Jim Quamme
	22	10:30 a.m.	Char Buelow
			Chris Stauffer
Mar.	28	6 p.m.	Bonny Goodenough
	29	8 a.m.	Sandi Stavlo
			Carla Burkhardt
	29	10:30 a.m.	Mark Hunter
			Kim Hunter

USHERS

March	6 p.m.	Don Addington	
March	8 a.m.	Dennis Sprain	Jim Quamme
		Jim Gullickson	Wayne Burkhardt
March 1	10:30 a.m.	Wayne Affeldt	Duane Witte
March 8, 15, 22, 29	10:30 a.m.	Wayne Affeldt	
		Duane Witte	
		Paul Fortier	

OFFERINGS

Feb. 28	6 p.m.	Marjorie Anderson
March 1	8 a.m.	Rich Clements
1	10:30 a.m.	Vernetta Moe
Mar. 4	Lent—Wednesday, 5 p.m.	Marjorie Anderson
4	Lent—Wednesday, 7 p.m.	Wendy Kane
Mar. 7	6 p.m.	Steve Ahles
8	8 a.m.	Mike Alumbaugh
8	10:30 a.m.	Tracey Beckley
Mar. 11	Lent—Wednesday, 5 p.m.	Char Buelow
11	Lent—Wednesday, 7 p.m.	Vernetta Moe
Mar. 14	6 p.m.	Kay Niemeier
15	8 a.m.	Dottie Baumgartner
15	10:30 a.m.	Jim Quamme
Mar. 18	Lent—Wednesday, 5 p.m.	Mike Alumbaugh
18	Lent—Wednesday, 7 p.m.	Jim Quamme
Mar. 21	6 p.m.	Carlie Burkhardt
22	8 a.m.	Vernetta Moe
22	10:30 a.m.	Char Buelow
Mar. 25	Lent—Wednesday, 5 p.m.	Steve Ahles
25	Lent—Wednesday, 7 p.m.	Tracey Beckley
Mar. 28	6 p.m.	Kay Niemeier
29	8 a.m.	Sandi Stavlo
29	10:30 a.m.	Mark Hunter

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	