

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

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April

April 2015 NEWSLETTER

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

- ✕ The Lutheran
- ✕ Holy Week and Easter
- ✕ First Communion, April 2, 7 p.m.
- ✕ Sugar Creek Camperships
- ✕ OWLS, April 23
- ✕ Grade 9 Confirmation, April 26



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

APRIL 2015

PARSON TO PERSON

Like most of us, Christmas Eve is a special night for me. The wonder, the awe, the miracle of God coming into our world in the person the Baby Jesus, makes the night sparkle. A bit of snow doesn't hurt!

But as great as Christmas is, it's not my favorite. For the sheer power of the story, nothing beats Maundy Thursday, and just where are you going to find as powerful a sequel as Good Friday and Easter? Packaged together, they become the gift of life!

As a kid, I loved the stories of Maundy Thursday:

- The Last Supper...
- Jesus predicts that all will desert him...
- Washing feet...
- Praying in the garden of Gethsemane...
- Judas betrays Jesus...
- As Jesus is arrested, Peter cuts off a man's ear...and Jesus heals the ear...
- The Jewish authorities decide to seek his execution...
- Peter denies he knows Jesus!

All between sunset and sunrise. And you thought your life was busy!

The story then continues on Good Friday with the trial before Pilate (along with a visit to Herod), the crucifixion and burial. And then, after a quiet Saturday, the victory of Easter – the resurrection and the appearances to Mary and the disciples.

A busy, packed "Triduum" – and the world would never be the same. For as much as I love the stories, this isn't about rich stories, a fast-paced plot, or a flurry of activity. This weekend is about God at work – big time!

Of course, God is at work all the time. No days off for the ruler of all creation! As I write this, in the middle of March, God is at work. The winter is receding, spring is on the horizon. Meanwhile, God continues to give me breath and life.

But God really gets down to business during the Triduum. There, in the suffering Jesus, in the passion of the crucifixion, and in the surprise of the resurrection God confronts evil, Satan and death, takes their best shot, and then shatters their power forever. All part of the mystery of the Triduum. But the greatest mystery is that it's still happening.

Let me explain. 2000 years ago God acted, as Jesus suffered, died and rose again. We profess that to be true in the creed, in our teaching and preaching, in our sharing of faith.

We also know, from our own experience, that sin, death and Satan are still hanging around, and that those powers draw us back. We are attracted to that which brings death, and give in again and again to the bad stuff in life. So the big question is, "Is God's work still making a difference, even today?"

The answer is "YES!" God's work in Jesus is still making a difference because the cross and the empty tomb are not just relics of a bygone era. They are signs that the crucified and risen

Jesus continues to bear the weight of the world on the cross, and continues to triumph in the resurrection. Or to put it another way, the crucifixion and the resurrection remain active and alive in our world today!

That's why we gather for worship on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter – not merely to remember what once happened long ago, but to re-experience what God did – and what God is doing right now in Jesus. We come together to be restored and renewed in our journey through life, by the God who is still at work in Jesus, and who, in the waters of baptism, tied us to Jesus.

And then we continue to gather in the months that follow, because God's ongoing work in Jesus doesn't end on April 5th. As our journey of life takes us to highs and lows, as we wear down and feel burdened, God works new life in us through Jesus who, though crucified and risen long ago, continues to die and rise again for you and for me.

That's why we worship during these three days – but why we also worship in the months ahead. Yes, I know summer is coming, and the delights of the season will take us far and wide, but remember that the cross and tomb are not far in the past. The vibrant power of Jesus is always right here, right now.

So go forth over the next months, but know that God is still at work, in the crucified and risen Jesus, and that the power of new life continues to fill you, renew you, and restore you!

Pastor Jon



The Triduum
*Embraced by the giving
God...
celebrating the gift of life
in Jesus!*

Maundy Thursday

Holy Communion and stripping of the altar
7 PM

Good Friday

Worship of the Word
1:30 PM

Service of Tenebrae
8 PM

Easter Sunday

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

EASTER BREAKFAST

A great part of the Easter tradition over the years has been the Easter Breakfast. This year, however, we will be without – not enough people able to make it happen! But while we don't have breakfast, we still have the resurrected Jesus, so join us for worship, and give thanks for what Easter is really about – Jesus and new life!



FIRST COMMUNION

In March, the following students and their parents participated in First Communion instruction and they will receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time on Maundy Thursday. Please keep them in your prayers.



Delaney Christianson

Kylee Gander

Ashlee Garbers

Justin Hennessey

Zachary Long

Megan Marcou

Mallory Matheny

Elsa Mitchell

Ryan Nickles

Brielle Olson

Eddie Schmitz

Marina Thompson

Blaine Wheeler

Maxwell Williams

Skylar Williams

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.



THE LUTHERAN

Last call! 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 decide at a later date that you would really like to get The Lutheran, we can add you to the list again, so don't be afraid to ask! And if you are currently not receiving The Lutheran, and would like to, please contact the office.

2015 MINISTRIES HANDBOOK



The Ministries Handbook for 2015 is available in the Gathering Area. This resource includes a listing of the Staff, Church Council, Committees, Altar Guild, Circles and WELCA information. Please take one home with you.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES

The new pictorial directories are here, and they look great! Thanks to ALL who made them possible, but special thanks to Bridget Peterson for heading up the project and keeping us on track. If you had your picture taken or submitted a picture and haven't picked up a directory, we have one waiting for you. If you did NOT have your picture taken or submit a picture, directories are available. We ask for a \$3 donation to world hunger. Directories are available in the office. See Kay or one of the pastors for assistance.

"CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATION"

Thanks to everyone who participated in the "Congregational Conversation" on March 1. We had close to 50 who joined in discerning what God is up to in our midst. With Bible study and prayer as our anchors, there was lots of sharing and listening.

In the end, the group lifted up several core areas of our ministry, including worship, music, youth ministry, youth education (confirmation, Sunday School, etc.), the food pantry, and our mission support. We also spent some time pondering how, in a changing society and culture, we continue to find ways to connect and bring the gospel to people.

We also noted that resources are needed, including space, financial support, and the many gifts that God gives us through the people in our midst.

As a result of this meeting, the Congregation Council has set up a task force to explore space needs, and a group to begin articulating our core values and our vision, which will lead to a new strategic plan.

The Mission Discernment Task Force continues to consider the responses we received from the meeting. YOUR voice is important as we ponder what God is calling us to be!

SUGAR CREEK HORSE PROJECT



The Sugar Creek Horse Project is back – check out the poster by the kiosk in the Gathering Area. For \$20, you can sign up for a square on the horse and

help support the important ministry at Sugar Creek. Sign up for one or more squares, and put your contribution in an envelope marked "horse project." Make sure your name is on the envelope. Thank you for your support!

Hungry Jar Offering for April New Horizons

Ms. Kane's & Ms. Schmidt's 3rd Grade Sunday School class has chosen **New Horizons** as the recipient of the Hungry Jar offerings for April.



New Horizons Shelter and Outreach Centers, a shelter for individuals and families who have experienced domestic violence, was organized in 1978 through the cooperative efforts of an informal group of citizens in the La Crosse area who recognized the need for services to victims of domestic abuse.

New Horizons Shelter is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year to provide emergency shelter and food to victims of domestic violence and their children. The shelter's Crisis Advocates provide support and advocacy for women and children through their shelter stay. Often, when women come into shelter, they are forced to flee their homes quickly and under great stress, leaving most of their belongings. Through community donations, New Horizons is able to provide families with clothing and personal care items.

DATE	ATTENDANCE	OFFERING	SUNDAY SCHOOL
Feb. 28 & Mar. 1	267	\$8,312	55
Lent, Mar. 4	203	\$616	
Mar. 7 & 8	269	\$5,068	44
Lent, Mar. 11	204	\$604	
Mar. 14 & 15	281	\$8,289	56
Lent, Mar. 18	205		
Mar. 21 & 22	291		

Bible Camp

Camperships

Are you going to Sugar Creek this summer?



We have \$100 Camperships available.

What do YOU need to do?

- ✂ Fill out a Campership Request Form – available on the kiosk in the Gathering Area, in the office, on the website (www.oursaviorswestsalem.org)
- ✂ **Return it** to the office by **May 1st**
- ✂ **Be in worship** the weekend of **May 9th-10th** to receive your campership check
- ✂ Get the check to Sugar Creek by June 1st
- ✂ Go have a great time ... and tell us about it when you return

What will Our Savior's do?

- ✂ Present you with a \$100 campership during worship the weekend of May 9-10
- ✂ Pray for you while you are at camp
- ✂ Look forward to hearing about your experience at camp

Have questions?

- ✂ Talk to Pastor Jean

**Sugar Creek Bible
Camp Presents**

"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.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Be sure to join us on Sunday, April 12th when we will be "test driving" a new Sunday School curriculum! We have the opportunity to participate in Sample Lesson Sunday from Sparkhouse Publishing along with over 1,000 other congregations across the country. We will be testing the *Whirl* curriculum. It is a lectionary based curriculum like we use now but presented in a new way – including DVD technology. Pastor Jean will be looking for feedback from our teachers and students to see what you think.

It's hard to believe we are heading into the home stretch of Sunday School. Why not end the year strong and be with us each week between now and May 17th!



Mark Your Calendar

- Sunday, April 5 (Easter) – children sing in worship at 10:30 AM service
- Sunday, April 5 – **No** Sunday School
- Sunday, May 3 – Teacher/Helper Appreciation
- Sunday, May 10 (Mother's Day) – children sing in worship at 10:30 AM service
- Sunday, May 17 – children sing in worship at 8 AM service
- Sunday, May 17 – last day of Sunday School ... let's party together!

COUNT ME IN!

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 March, the 4th grade class of Mrs. Schmitz & Ms. Larson has had the most weeks (4) of "near perfect" attendance, followed by our Pre-K class with 3.



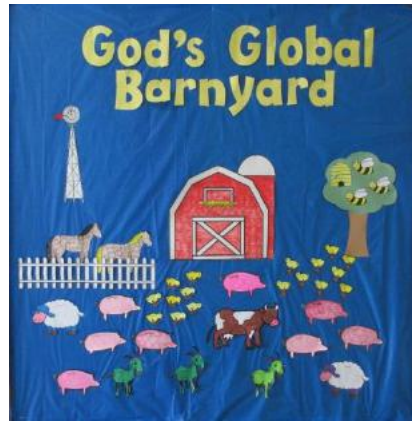
We still have **3 children** who have **perfect attendance**, another 2 who only missed once, and 6 who only missed twice! Way to go kids!! Can you keep it up until the end of the year?

Sunday School Teacher & Helper Appreciation Lunch Sunday, May 3rd following 10:30 a.m. Worship



We thank our teachers and helpers for sharing their time and faith with our Sunday School students this

year. We have been blessed by their presence among us.



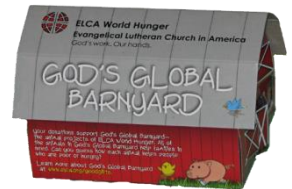
Check out the bulletin board outside of Pastor Jean's office to see how our barnyard continues to grow. The chicks and pigs are multiplying; we have several

goats, two lambs, and bees buzzing in the trees.

During Lent, we invited everyone to take a Barnyard Bank and fill it with loose change.

Watch the barnyard outside of Pastor Jean's office to see how we did!

If you didn't get a chance to fill a barnyard, we will gladly continue to take your donations – just mark them "God's Global Barnyard."



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.**

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!

June Dairy Days Float

Looking for ...

... volunteers to help build it
... kids to walk along and pass
out fliers and treats

Watch for
details in the
coming weeks to
learn how you
can be a part of
this FUN adventure.



CONFIRMATION

Confirmation classes for 6-8th graders resume on Wednesday, April 8. 6th graders continue studying the Bible, while 7th & 8th graders have core nights on April 8 and 15, an elective night on the 22nd, and a food pantry scavenger hunt on April 29 (see details on the hunt elsewhere in the newsletter.)

After School also begins again on April 8, with no programming on April 15 due to early release.

9th graders have their last class on April 15, with brunch on April 19 at noon. Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) is set for Sunday, April 26, at the 10:30 a.m. service. See Pastor Jon or Dana for more information.

SCAVENGER HUNT



Be prepared to open your doors and your pantries on April 29th for our Confirmation students!

Students will be scavenging for food to stock the local food pantry. They will have a list of highly valued items for the pantry and scavenging for the most points! The winning team has a hefty prize waiting, so keep your eyes open April 29th from 6-7 p.m.



Church Buddies

If you are no longer driving, shouldn't be driving, or can't at the moment because of health issues, but you'd like to get to worship on a Saturday night or Sunday morning ...

Call upon one of our Church Buddies

We have a list of volunteers who are available on an as needed basis who would gladly bring you to church. Call Pastor Jean or the church office for more information. If you'd like to become a Church Buddy, talk to Pastor Jean.

OWLS



The schedule below lists programs planned for the OWLS meetings through June 2015. We always meet at 1:30 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month, unless otherwise noted. Those age 55 and over are welcome, and from time to time, everyone is invited. Even if you haven't been attending, why not try us out? Coffee and munchies always served.

Thursday, April 23

What to ask the doctor?

Lynette Ender, RN

How many times has the doctor said, "Do you have any questions?" and you didn't know what to ask (or tell)? This program will help you with a list of good questions.

Thursday, May 28

Craft/Hobby Show & Tell

(Program in development at this time.)

June or July

Annual Picnic (Date to be determined)

Potluck Picnic

Need more information? Contact:

**Judy Long, 786-1142,
or Vernetta Moe, 786-1022**

LOOKING FOR CRAFTY PEOPLE

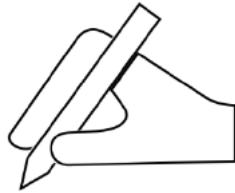
LOOKING

We are looking for people from Our Savior's, who have a hobby we aren't aware

of. Do you carve, do stained glass work, have a wood-working hobby, collect things, knit/crochet, quilt, paint, write poetry, etc., etc.? We think it would be interesting to learn about things our members do in your "other" life outside of the church building. If you, or someone you know, enjoys any craft or hobby and would be willing to show and tell about these treasures, please let Pastor Jean, Judy Long or Vernetta Moe know.

CARD MINISTRY

In case you didn't know ... we send cards to two shut-ins each week to let them know we are thinking of them and praying for them. We invite all of our members and friends to stop by the "Card Ministry" table (located outside of the Church Office) each weekend when you are at worship to sign the cards for that particular week's shut-ins. The thoughts and prayers expressed on the cards are much more meaningful when those gathered in community are the ones signing them.



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. Registration forms are on the Kiosk.

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

Senior
SPOTLIGHT

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. Rich Storandt graciously allowed us to share a glimpse into his story. Rich, 85 years old, is a lifelong member of Our Savior's.

Rich's advice to new disciples of Jesus ...

Live your beliefs and your faith because your Christianity is seven days a week. As for someone new to the congregation, Rich suggests they get involved; meet their fellow parishioners and relate to them.

Rich's favorite Bible passage ... because ...

Rich's favorite Bible passage is John 3:16 – "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." Rich said we as Christians have an obligation to be faithful. If the Lord is willing to go to that extent (giving his only son) to save us, then we better be good disciples of that belief.

Rich's earliest memories of church ... Rich remembers Our Savior's from the time he was a small child. His grandparents lived in the house next door (Johnson South) and he would go visit and then come over to the church and ring the bell. Rich's grandfather was the custodian at the church, and something he told Rich long ago has stuck with him all these years – "I (his grandfather) would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of the Lord, than to dwell in the house of iniquity". Rich and Mary are proud to say that six generations of the Storandt family have been members of Our Savior's through the years. His mother taught Sunday School here, as did his wife, and one of his daughters.

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

Senior Ministries

We have what you need ...

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!**

CIRCLE NEWS

REBECCA CIRCLE

Thursday, April 16, 7 p.m.

Hostess: Dottie Baumgartner

RUTH CIRCLE

Monday, April 20, 9 a.m.

Leader: Caryll Loughan

Hostess: Ilene Pavelko

Bible Study @ Salem Terrace

Monday, April 13th at 10:00 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

join us for Bible Study. We will meet in the small kitchenette room off the parking lot between the two buildings. The coffee pot will be on.

NURSING HOME SERVICES

Outreach at area nursing and housing facilities continues in April. Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean will lead worship services on Thursday, April 16:

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.



WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday morning Bible study begins April looking at the texts we use for Holy Week and Easter, and then returns to studying Mark. Come and join us for great fellowship, stimulating conversation, and insights into God's word to us through...God's Word! We meet Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. in the Library. 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. Note: no study on Easter. See Pastor Jon for more information.

NEW BOOKS & RECENT DONATIONS IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY

CHILDREN'S:

Russo – Birdology

YOUTH:

Wilder – By the Shores of Silver Lake

FICTION:

Bender – A Golden Sunbeam

Lewis – The Guardian

NONFICTION:

Christopher – Not Your Parents' Offering
Plate

Gbowee – Mighty Be Our Powers

Lane – Ask, Thank, Tell

Lotz – I Saw the Lord

Lutz – Stories of the Child Jesus from Many
Lands

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

Check out the bulletin board by the entrance to the sanctuary to find out..."Why Our Savior's...and why Jesus!" Responses from those questions posed in worship in February are posted. See what others are saying! Thanks to the Outreach Committee for putting up the display.

HOMER MOE SCHOLARSHIP

Our Savior's has a scholarship available for non-traditional students. If you are going back to school, obtaining a certification, need continuing education for your career, or have some other education you are pursuing, stop in and pick up an application for the Homer Moe Scholarship. There is no deadline or application schedule. Funds are available as needed. Funds are made available in honor of the late Homer Moe.

SUMMER LUNCH

The Summer Lunch Team is getting together to start planning this summer's lunch-in-the-park program. If you would like to join us or want to know more about it please join us on Tuesday, April 7th at 6:30 p.m. We are so grateful to each of you that volunteered and donated to make the program such a success last summer!



OSLC SERVES SALVATION ARMY DINNER

Come help serve the meal for the Salvation Army on **Friday, April 17th**! The Salvation Army relies solely on volunteers to make their meals happen. The meal is for all residents of the shelter and anyone in the community. We need up to 6 volunteers. Families welcome, but children should be age 8 or older.

Serving time is 4:15-5:15 p.m. Car-pooling available. Sign up at the Youth and Family board in the Gathering Area.

NEW MEMBERS

If you are new to Our Savior's, and interested in learning more about what it means to belong to our community of faith, see Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean. We continue to rejoice in the gift of new partners in the work of Jesus Christ.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

New Growth for Spring

A commercial for spring comes on the television: birds chirp, flowers bloom, babies giggle, and the sun shines. We feel connected to these images because at some point in our lives, we have had these feelings of newness. The blooming tulips could connect us to digging up the garden for a new season of growing, or the warm spring sunshine could connect us to the feeling of our skin warming and tightening for the first time in months. Whatever that connection is we feel, it is that connection that brings us comfort.

Just like the idyllic world a commercial creates for a new start and comfort, our church can give a new start to many people and families. Some of us may have noticed some new growth at our church just like the hopeful new growth of spring. These new members come to Our Savior's for different reasons. As one new member stated, "I personally have felt very connected to this church the moment I walked in the door as a visitor. My husband and I have been looking for a church for several years and have never felt welcomed at other congregations like Our Savior's has made us feel."

How wonderful for those new members and how wonderful that Our Savior's has created a new connection. This new growth in our church and in the lives of our members, new and existing, is something to build on. Our Savior's has deep roots, so the idea of growing out and up is about new connections. Just like another new member stated that the array of members, from young to old, appealed to her because that showed her growth and tradition.

New members to any church join with different ideas in mind. We are lucky to have new members at Our Savior's that show our growth outward and upward. If spring is coming, we can now put a new kind of picture in our minds

to symbolize spring; welcoming faces, established roots, and new members!

Stacy J. Mitchell



Thank You

We thank the **MAILING CREW** for assembling the Newsletter. The members who helped this past month were Connie and Larry Blunck, Bev Bockenbauer, Bonnie Ender, Sandra Holthaus, Russ and Diane McClintock, Inger Michael, Carol Noel, Carol Peterson, Paul and Marilyn Ranum, and Betty Whitlock.

MEMORIALS

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

✝ In memory of Clarence Larson for the Prayer Shawl Ministry and Senior Ministry.

✝ In memory of Esther Julia Smith for World Hunger.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The 2015 La Crosse Area Synod Assembly will be held on June 12-14, in La Crosse. The Congregation Council has appointed five persons to attend the assembly as voting members – Bev Bockenbauer, Cathryn Bottem, Pam Gresens, Mike Larson, and Paul Ranum. They will join Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean. Portions of the assembly will be geared for general visitors, including a concert by "Lost and Found" at Riverside Park on Friday evening (check out www.speedwood.com). Watch for more details!

FREEZER MEAL DAY



Calling all cooks! Come join us for our freezer meal day on April 11th starting at 8:30 a.m. Bring a freezer meal recipe of your own. Come prepared to make at least 3 batches: 1 for yourself, 1 to swap with another cook, and 1 to donate to the church freezer. Donated meals will be given to families with new babies, or wherever someone is in need of a convenient meal. This day is put on by our new Mom's group, but all cooks are welcome to come and share your gifts and find new treasures from others!

POSTAL FOOD DRIVE

Opportunity for service—Come Join the Fun!

The Postal Food Drive is May 9, 2015. The food pantry board is looking for volunteers to help mark and sort the large quantity of food that arrives. Last year we were able to process all of the food with an amazing group of volunteers. In 2014, the community donated 4000 pounds of food! Any amount of time between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. would be appreciated. We will be working in the basement of Our Savior's Lutheran Church at 359 N. Leonard Street. All ages welcome. Please call Lynette Ender 786-0723 to sign up or just stop by on May 9. Please check expiration dates, they will dispose of expired items.



TV'S AVAILABLE

We have several older TV's available to a new home for whatever contribution you want to make to World Hunger. The very large TV on a cart, currently in the lower level of the building, and two smaller, tube TV's upstairs. Make an offer by April 15 and any or all of it is yours! See Pastor Jon for more details.

E-MAIL AND WEB SITE CHANGES

As part of the changes in our web site, we also now have new e-mail addresses for the offices at church.

Pastor Jon
pastorjon@oursaviorswestsalem.org
Pastor Jean
pastorjean@oursaviorswestsalem.org
Dana
youth@oursaviorswestsalem.org
Linda Berg
linda@oursaviorswestsalem.org
Office (Kay)
office@oursaviorswestsalem.org
Treasurer
treasurer@oursaviorswestsalem.org

Note that our old e-mail addresses still work, but we will be transitioning to the new addresses in the near future, so start to make use of the new ones!

The web site has several other changes. Several forms are now downloadable, such as registration forms for Sunday School. The annual report is available, and a photo gallery has been added. We are also working to improve the use of the site to keep up to date with confirmation schedules. Finally, we hope (soon) to be able to include links to YouTube videos of our worship services.

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.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL REVIEW

The Congregation Council met on Monday, March 9, with President Char Buelow presiding. At this meeting the council:

- Began with Bible study on Ephesians 4:7-13.
- Received a report from Steve Ahles on the recent synod "GPS" workshop on how a council can best operate.
- Reviewed and approved the February minutes and financial reports.
- Discussed the "Congregation Conversation," held on March 1.
- Created a task force to examine space issues involving the church building and properties, and created a task force to explore the congregation's values and vision.
- Appointed Bev Bockenbauer as a voting member for Synod Assembly.
- Approved the minutes of the 2015 annual meeting as presented.
- Approved the disposal of three older televisions in the building.
- Approved the request of \$600 for new brochures for the Mission Endowment Fund.

The council meets again on Monday, April 13. See Char Buelow or one of the pastors if you have any questions.

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

What a difference a month makes, from wind chills of minus thirty degrees in mid-February to temperatures in the seventies in mid-March. Every year is unique but gardens will eventually be planted be they two weeks earlier or two weeks later than normal. Plots remain available 1½ miles north of the fairgrounds off County Highway M for congregation members interested in planting a garden. If you'd like to reserve a parcel or if you have questions, call Jim at 786-1236.

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!



GARDEN PLOTS

APRIL

ACOLYTES

April 2	MAUNDY THURSDAY, 7 p.m.	
	Abby Vick	
April 5	EASTER	
	6:30 a.m.	Zoey Dolan
	8:30 a.m.	Alayna Aleckson
	10:30 a.m.	Hannah Anderson
April 11	6 p.m.	Thor Anderson
12	8 a.m.	Ashlyn Arneson
	10:30 a.m.	Elizabeth Averbeck
April 18	6 p.m.	Brianna Bores
19	8 a.m.	Mitch Dunham
	10:30 a.m.	Madison Dutton
April 25	6 p.m.	Eli Elsen
26	8 a.m.	Trenton Foreman
	10:30 a.m.	Sydney Fitzpatrick

BASKET HOLDERS

April 2	MAUNDY THURSDAY, 7 p.m.	
	Justin Kettner	
April 5	EASTER	
	8:30 a.m.	Everett Michael
	10:30 a.m.	Liam Sjoquist
April 12	8 a.m.	Kitara Curran
	10:30 a.m.	Julia Russell
April 19	8 a.m.	Jade Turnipseed
	10:30 a.m.	Alyssa Van Riper
April 26	8 a.m.	Samara Wheeler
	10:30 a.m.	Rebecca Schmidt

ALTAR GUILD Stacey Sjoquist and Tracy Skrentny

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

April 2	MAUNDY THURSDAY, 7 p.m.	Lynette and Eric Ender
April 5	EASTER	
	6:30 a.m.	Carla Burkhardt Linda Arentz
	8:30 a.m.	Mike Alumbaugh Allyson Bottem Jaime Fortier
	10:30 a.m.	Rich Clements Stacey Sjoquist Kristin Tschumper
April 11 12	6 p.m. 8 a.m.	Karen DeSchepper Larry Blunck Cathryn Bottem
	10:30 a.m.	Scott Friell Wendy Kane
April 18 19	6 p.m. 8 a.m.	Judy Gilbert Pam Gresens Judy Long
	10:30 a.m.	Wayne and Darlene Affeldt
April 25 26	6 p.m. 8 a.m.	Jon Hetland Melody Schmitz Shannon Wiese
	10:30 a.m.	Denise Jones Tracey Hesse Melissa Haldeman

HOME COMMUNION SERVERS

April 11 & 12	Daryl Wermedal
April 18 & 19	Betty Whitlock & Diane McClintock
April 25 & 26	Kristy Alumbaugh

READERS

April	5	EASTER 6:30 a.m. 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Errol Kindschy Eric Iliff Kristin Tschumper
April	11 12	6 p.m. 8 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Karen DeSchepper Sharon Olson Michelle Witte
April	18 19	6 p.m. 8 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Bev Bockenbauer Joe Stekel Todd Michael
April	25 26	6 p.m. 8 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Bonnie Gensch Sharon Olson Confirmation Students

OFFERINGS

April	2	MAUNDY THURSDAY 7 p.m.	Char Buelow
April	3	GOOD FRIDAY 1:30 p.m. 8 p.m.	Steve Ahles Vernetta Moe
April	4	NO Worship	
April	5	EASTER 6:30 a.m. 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Tracey Beckley Mike Alumbaugh Rich Clements
April	11 April 12	6 p.m. 8 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Marjorie Anderson Jim Quamme Wendy Kane
April	18 April 19	6 p.m. 8 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Steve Ahles Carlie Burkhardt Mark Hunter
April	25 April 26	6 p.m. 8 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Ken Spraetz Sandi Stavlo Dottie Baumgartner

USHERS

April 2 MAUNDY THURSDAY, 7 p.m.
Corey and Liam Sjoquist

April 3 GOOD FRIDAY, 1:30 p.m.
Mike Alumbaugh

GOOD FRIDAY, 8 p.m.
Larry Blunck
Lee Fernstaedt

April 5 EASTER
6:30 a.m. Russ McClintock
Harold McClintock
Wayne Burkhardt
Lisa Lee

8:30 a.m. 8 a.m. Sunday Ushers
10:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. Sunday Ushers

SATURDAY NIGHT USHERS 6 p.m.
April Tim and Candice Stoll

USHERS	8 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
April	Tim Tiber	Dennis Baumgartner
	Leon Herried	Steve & Sue Ahles
	Eric Iliff	Mark Hunter
	Lee Fernstaedt	

OUR SAVIOR'S STAFF

Pastor Jonathan Schmidt, Senior Pastor	612-0217	Email: Jon_oslc@centurytel.net pastorjon@oursaviorswestsalem.org
Pastor Jean Schmidt, Associate Pastor	612-0217	Email: Jean_oslc@centurytel.net pastorjean@oursaviorswestsalem.org
Kay Niemeier, Parish Secretary	Church Office: 786-0030	Fax Number: 786-0951
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Linda Berg, Organist	Email: linda@oursaviorswestsalem.org	
Eric Sorenson, Senior Choir Director		
Dave Nelson, Custodian	608-780-3946	
Karen DeSchepper, Counter		Web Site: oursaviorswestsalem.org