

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

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SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

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



Worship Time Change



**Sunday School & Confirmation
Information**



Music Opportunities



Youth Ministries Positions



Bishop Arends to visit OSLC



Mission Trip Reflections



**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

PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

Happy New Year!



Really? I know ... the snow isn't flying, yet ... the church calendar hasn't hit Christ the King Sunday

yet ... and it's only September ... so how do I figure its new year's?

Well, when it comes to education, the new year is just beginning! Vacations are done and its back to work for real; school is starting, and with that comes new classes and new teachers, new experiences, new seasons for sports and music; and here in the church we are poised for a new year of Christian education – Sunday School, confirmation, adult Bible studies, women's circles, and assisted living Bible study. It can't get much better than that!

In Sunday School, we are using a new curriculum from Spark House called *Whirl – Welcome, Hear, Respond, Launch*. There is a page that will come home each week with the children that encourages a time for families to reflect on what the kids learned and to live those lessons out in the “real world.” We will have a new batch of 6th graders beginning their catechetical studies, and new small group guides for our 7th grade. Adult Bible study on Wednesdays will begin a new book this fall, Sunday mornings continue with new *Nooma* videos, and the monthly women's circles will begin a new *Gather* study.

But wait, there's more ... it's not just education that is ready for the “new year” –

- the S.O.S. Band and choir are learning a new setting for worship and adding more parts of Setting 8 to their repertoire
- the Sunday School kids are learning new music
- new quilts and prayer shawls are always being created
- we now celebrate the gift of God's forgiveness each week in the bread and wine of Holy Communion
- we welcome new faces in our pews and in our classrooms
- new faces are taking on new projects and responsibilities
- a new Men's Group for retired “handy-men” is making its debut
- we celebrate new life in the waters of baptism
- new communications with our college students are in the works

The ebb and flow of life is always creating something new. Sometimes the word “new” is scary and overwhelming and we may be tempted to plant ourselves where we are thinking it is safer and more comfortable to maintain the status quo, do things the way we have always done them, figuring why rock the boat?

But think of the adventure, the excitement, the satisfaction, the possibilities in thinking outside the box, in taking that first step outside of our comfort zone.

With a new year comes new energy, new life.

Jesus says, “See, I am making all things new.” “And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Now those are words of invitation, they give us courage to try

something new, yet they bring comfort and confidence, knowing that Jesus is always with us, and through him all things are made new.

We are invited to step outside of our comfort zone and try something “new” this year ...

- ☑ share your time and presence and be a part of our confirmation after school program – get to know our middle-schoolers and let them know they are valued
- ☑ provide a simple meal for the confirmation students
- ☑ help us make a joyful noise to the Lord – join the choir, handbells, high school praise band, play an instrument
- ☑ share your skills and enjoy a cup of coffee with the Men’s Group
- ☑ check out a Bible study or two, study the Word, share in the fellowship
- ☑ make treats and help serve a Sunday morning coffee fellowship time
- ☑ read lessons, usher, assist with communion, visit our shut-ins, read prayer petitions, quilt, knit, count money
- ☑ if there is something you’ve had an interest in but never took that first step, now is the time to “go for it”!

So here's a thought. Embrace this “new year” with energy and confidence as you try new things. Take another look, and see old things through new lenses. But first remember Jesus. You are not alone. Not today, not tomorrow, not ever.

And remember, YOU are always made new. Whether you like it or not.

Celebrating the new year with you,

Pastor Jean

LABOR DAY WORSHIP



Want to find a bit more meaning in your everyday work, both outside the home, and at home? Labor Day allows us to honor our work and our ministry in our daily lives. September 5 and 6 we encourage you to come to worship dressed as you do for your daily work – uniform, “civvies,” or whatever. We will hear God’s word, and ponder God’s calling to good, honest work, but also to our work as disciples of Jesus.

WORSHIP TIMES

Effective Saturday/Sunday, September 12 & 13

Saturday
Worship 6 p.m.

Sunday
Worship 8 & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School & Adult Study 9:15 a.m.



HOLY COMMUNION



At its August meeting, the Congregation Council received a recommendation from the Worship Committee to continue to offer Holy Communion on a weekly basis. After considering some concerns, but also hearing a number of voices in favor of weekly communion and the reasons for offering communion each week, those present voted unanimously in favor of continuing weekly communion. We will continue to seek to offer worship that is vibrant, relevant, and engaging, while including the weekly celebration of the presence of Jesus Christ in bread and wine. We continue to be sensitive to the concerns raised, and the pastors are always available for sharing and discussion.

YOUTH MINISTRY POSITIONS

Our Savior's is seeking someone to assist with the Wednesday After School program. The work involves organizing and overseeing our after school ministry, working with the pastors as we create a place for kids prior to confirmation classes. The expectation is about four hours a week, for the weeks that after school is held, and some



remuneration is included. See Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean if you are interested in this ministry.

We are also looking for someone to take on the "dishwasher" role on Wednesdays. This involves about one to two hours of cleanup most Wednesdays, beginning at 6 p.m. Again, remuneration is included.

See Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean if you are interested in these ministries.

NEW MEMBER CLASS

Pastor Jon will be setting up a new member class shortly. New members join Our Savior's via transfer from other Lutheran congregations, or through a new member class. We hope to recognize new members in late October.



If you, or someone you know, is interested in membership, please contact Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean. We don't want to miss anyone!

BISHOP TO VISIT



Welcome, Bishop Arends! Bishop Jim Arends, of the La Crosse Area Synod, will visit on Saturday and Sunday, September 26 and 27. Bishop Jim will preach,

while Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean lead worship. Before and after worship you will be able to meet and chat with our bishop.

Bishop Arends has served as bishop for seven years, and prior to that served Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in La Crescent. He knows Our Savior's, and a lot of Our Savior's people. We are excited to welcome Bishop Jim with us, and we hope you can be present to connect with him!

SCHOOL KITS FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

As of this writing, we have enough items to complete 104 school kits. Thank you so much for your generosity! A special thanks to the VBS students who brought school supplies for this project.



We will continue to accept donations through the end of September, and will then package the kits and send them onto the Lutheran World Relief boxcar on October 10.

The most needed items are pencil sharpeners! This is followed (in order of need) by notebooks (70-count spiral), pens (no gel ink), blunt scissors, crayons, rulers, pencils (unsharpened) and erasers. Thanks for your continued involvement with this project.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

"Let us touch the dying, the poor, the lonely and the unwanted according to the graces we have received and let us not be ashamed or slow to do the humble work." Mother Teresa

I have served others in one way or another for most of my life. As a sibling, daughter, granddaughter, friend, childcare provider, mother and wife. Whatever was needed, a smile or a helping hand, I was willing to provide what was needed.

My educational journey began as a traditional college student at Viterbo University in 1996 where I received a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. My grandmother always said that education would never be a waste, because what I had learned could not be taken away. In so many ways, this is true, as my life journey took many twist and turns. I knew that I wanted to pursue more in my education, and nursing was always at the forefront. In time, life expectations of marriage and children took precedence over my dreams of becoming a nurse.

I remember clearly, the moment that I registered for my first classes. It was for a fall 2012 class. My nerves were heightened, and I wasn't sure if I would find success or not. Trying to find balance with work, home, school and life was helped by maintaining a positive attitude and achieving good communication skills. Many of the same feelings that students feel as they go off to school, no matter what age, were present in my mind as I started back on this educational journey as an adult.

My faith community reminds me of the importance of spiritual growth for family and for my own spiritual needs as an individual. It certainly contributes to my positive attitude and my need to serve those people in the Long Term Care Facility in which I work.

I am honored to have entered this sacred trust of the healer's art. It is with great honor that I am able to serve with great compassion others who are in a time of need.

I'm so thankful and blessed for being able to pursue this wonderful career of nursing. Never underestimate your power and perseverance when it comes to pursuing your dreams.

Beth Clements



**Annual Quilt and
Antique Auction,
Trail Run/Walk 5k,
and Crafters' Fair**

Saturday, September 12, 2015 10 a.m.

Come on down to Sugar Creek for great food, delightful fellowship, and various auction items such as sports memorabilia, furniture, fascinating antiques, and, of course, beautiful quilts! You never know what you might find on a Sugar Creek auction! Help support the ministry of Sugar Creek via this annual fundraiser; your support is what allows Sugar Creek to be the valuable ministry and beautiful place you know and love. Come early for our trail run/walk 5k and enjoy exploring the beautiful trails that run through our valley! This year we will again host the Crafters' Fair featuring the finest of our local artisans. We hope to see you there!

MUSIC, MUSIC, AND MORE MUSIC!



We thank everyone who provided special music during the summer months: Eric Ender, Carla Burkhardt, Melissa Haldeman, Ruby Kerkman, Bonny Goodenough,

Andrew and Ben Bakkum, Dean Olson, Eric Sorenson, Marty Frank, Jennifer Perz, and all the men who sang in the Men's Choir. We appreciate your dedication and your willingness to give of your time during the summer to enhance our worship services!

Senior Choir will begin fall rehearsals Wednesday, September 9 at 7 p.m., and we invite anyone interested to join us! We sing praises to the Lord and have a lot of fun doing it. Talk to Eric Sorenson or any choir member if you have questions.

The guitar group will resume meeting on Sunday, September 13 at 6 p.m. Join us regardless of your skill level! Talk to Dean Olson or Marty Frank for more information.

Bells of Joy will meet on Wednesday nights at 6 p.m. beginning Wednesday, September 16. If you have experience playing handbells and would like to be a part of the group, talk to Linda Berg.

Rehearsals for the **Sounds Like Love** weekend will begin Sunday, October 11 at 6 p.m. They have some great music picked out for this year; it's a powerful experience for any high schooler that enjoys music. Talk to Linda or one of the pastors if you're interested.

Keep watching for start dates for a **beginning handbell group** and **High School Praise Band**. If you want to become a ding-a-ling and learn how to play handbells, or are a high schooler and want to become part of the High School Praise Band, talk to Linda Berg.

SOUNDS LIKE LOVE



The Sounds Like Love music festival registration is fast approaching! This is a three-day Christian Music Festival available for all high schools students in Mahtomedi, MN November 13-15. Imagine being a part of a Christin Show Choir the size of our high school! Practices begin Sunday evenings in October to practice the music. Cost is \$85 and includes meals, lodging and all programing. See the youth board or contact Dana for registration information.

YOUTH CHAPEL STARTING SEPTEMBER 20TH!



A new worship experience is on the horizon! Music and messages will focus on bringing the gospel into a context relevant to the experiences of our youth. ALL are welcome and families are welcome to attend together, but don't expect mortgages and mother-in-laws to be on the list of topics covered! Our Lord has so much love and lessons to give His children of all ages. This worship experience will seek to meet youth where they are at, and open their eyes to Christ.

Youth Chapel will begin on September 20 at 6:30 p.m. and continue every third Sunday of the month. (You will be out in time for the Packer Game.) Chapel still counts for worship notes!

HEARING GOD'S VOICE: YOUTH STUDY

You know Christ died for you. You desire to have a relationship with Him, but what does that look like? How does that work? What do you DO now? During the month of October, we will spend four weeks diving into the act of seeking God's voice in our lives. Will you know his voice at the end of four weeks? I don't know! But we will take a look at how to recognize Him and be open to His presence in our life.



We will meet each Wednesday in October, 6:30 p.m. at Dana's home. If you can't make every week, no problem! Just come to the ones you can and we will fill you in if you need to miss a week. Contact Dana if you plan on attending any or all evenings!

on Wednesday, September 2, at 6 p.m. to get ready for the year.

9th graders will meet with parents on Wednesday, September 2 at 7 p.m. Classes will be held on September 16 and 23, with small group night on September 30.

After School begins on September 9. Kids are welcome to hang out at church after school, with a meal around 5:30. Sign in is required, and no leaving the property after signing in! As the year progresses we will have occasional organized activities (art projects, ping-pong, etc.) *There is no after school on early release days!*

We always have room for more, so if you know someone interested in our confirmation ministry, send them our way! See Pastor Jon for more information.



CONFIRMATION AND AFTER SCHOOL

Confirmation classes begin in earnest during September, as does the After School programming. We will be looking for volunteers to provide the meals during after school – if you can help, please contact Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean.

6th graders have a parent/student meeting on Wednesday, September 2 at 6 p.m., with classes beginning September 9, from 6 to 7 p.m.

7th & 8th grade students and parents meet on Wednesday, September 9 at 6 p.m. The first core class is September 16 at 6 p.m., looking at the Apostles' Creed. Small groups meet on September 23, and the first electives are on September 30. 7th & 8th grade guides will meet

college+ connection

We are intentional about keeping in contact with our college students – sending emails periodically, as well as remembering them during final exam week. We are also interested in hearing about life away from home and encourage them to share with us.



College-bound students

We need your **campus address** and your **email address**! You are important to us and we want to keep in touch –

You may be **"out of sight"** but you are certainly not **"out of mind"** Please get the information to the office or to Pastor Jean.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



Rally Day is September 13!

Come join us for Sunday
School!

We are excited to begin a new year of Christian Education on Sunday mornings here at Our Savior's. We will be using a new curriculum for Sunday School that we hope will be engaging and inviting for our young learners (*Whirl* from Spark House Publishers). With the help of Leo, Ruby, Gabe, Monty, Mimi and their friends, we will hear stories the kids can relate to and learn how those stories can be found in the Bible, too. The lessons are lectionary based, which means we will hear the same scripture that is used in worship each week. We invite you to come learn about Jesus' life and sharing his love with others.

On Rally Day, September 13, we gather at 9:15 a.m. in the sanctuary. Parents are encouraged to accompany their children for a brief opening and singing, and then head off to their classrooms to meet their teachers and get to know each other. Don't forget to bring your registration forms, pictures, and calendars with you!

September is here ...

First Time in Sunday School?

Please remember that your child needs to be 4 years of age by September 1, 2015 in order to attend the Pre-Kindergarten Sunday School class. If your child is attending Sunday School for the first time this year, please call or email the church office so that we can make sure that



Sunday School
Registration

he/she is included on the roster. (786-0030 or office@oursaviorswestsalem.org)

Registration forms ...

... have been sent to those children whose names were on our roster last year. If you did not receive a Sunday School Registration Form or have misplaced it, they are available on our website (www.oursaviorswestsalem.org) under the *Resources* tab.



Saturday, September 12 – 3rd Grade Bible Workshop – 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Sunday, September 20 – 3rd Grade Bible Workshop – 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Saturday/Sunday, September 19/20 – Pre-K Bibles received in worship

Sunday, September 27 – Kids sing in worship at 10:30 a.m.

Saturday/Sunday, October 3/4 – 3rd Grade Bibles received in worship



Thank you for your generous gift! Your leadership in

this work of our church is making such a difference for families and communities in need.

In Christ, *Robin Brown, ELCA World*

Hunger Congregation Support

(for the **\$2,818.40** in 2014-2015 Sunday School offerings for God's Global Barnyard)

Sunday School Offering

This year our Sunday School offerings will be collected for **God's Global Garden** through the work of the ELCA. Start with a large plot of land, add special drought-resistant



seeds, and top it off with tools and training for all. The result – plenty of fruits and vegetables to go around! Extra produce and seeds are shared with neighbors in need. We will see how many garden plots we can get by filling them with carrots, cabbage, beans, and melons; then add fruit tree saplings; as well as the tools needed to tend the garden (rake, hoe, and shovel). Keep an eye on the bulletin board outside of Pastor Jean's office and watch our garden grow!

Offering Envelopes



If you are in need of Sunday School offering envelopes, please speak to Pastor Jean.

“... place in their hands the holy scriptures ...”



As we welcome our **Pre-K class** to discover the stories of Jesus, we will be gifting them with a Story Bible to help them begin their journey. We invite parents and students to join us in worship the weekend of **September 19 & 20** when these young children will receive their Bibles.

Our **3rd graders** will continue their journey through the scriptures as they receive an NRSV Bible that will be used these next years of Sunday



School and into Confirmation. Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean will gather with parents and students either **Saturday, September 12 from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.** or **Sunday, September 20 from 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.** for a time to discover your Bible. The Bibles will be presented to the students in worship the weekend of **October 3 & 4.**



Hungry Jar Offering for September Lutheran World Relief School Kits

Why school supplies? To the children who receive School Kits, these supplies mean the difference between getting an education or not. Public school is usually free, but in the places where LWR works, even a few required supplies, like pens and paper, may be more than many families can afford.

You can help us provide much needed school supplies for children around the world. Our third grade Sunday School class will be packing up the kits next month. Your monetary donations will help us purchase the necessary items to complete the kits.

DATE	ATTENDANCE	OFFERING	SUNDAY SCHOOL
Aug. 1 & 2	199	\$6,522	
Aug. 8 & 9	198	\$4,005	
Aug. 15 & 16	199	\$5,047	
Aug. 22 & 23	201		

**Vacation Bible School
Wrap Up**

If you were anywhere near 359 N. Leonard Street the week of August 10-13, you couldn't help but hear and see the energy and enthusiasm of 30 first through fifth grade children participating in Vacation Bible School led by counselors from Sugar Creek Bible Camp. And, another 3 pre-k and kindergarten children led by our own young people. The sanctuary was full of life and music and God's Holy Spirit! The counselors renamed our VBS week "*songfest*" as the children really raised the roof as they sang their hearts out and they asked to sing on many occasions.



We tried something new this year – a full day of VBS led by counselors from the bible camp for the older kids and a half-day session for the littler ones. The children made crafts one day and shared them with the residents at Mulder's nursing home. They also treated the residents to a "concert." Thursday evening the children shared their program with family, friends, and members here at church, followed by an ice cream social. If you weren't here to experience it, check out our website (www.oursaviorswestsalem.org) to see the videos.

We thank the following for all of their work and support – we couldn't have done it without you!

- ❖ Congregation members who contributed to the hungry jar in August for VBS camperships
- ❖ Those who provided snacks for the week: Jeanne Peterson, Shannon Wiese, Judy Gilbert, Marjorie Anderson, Marsha Bateman, Dawn Beal, Kay Niemeier, Bev Bockenbauer, Rita Schmitz, Tamie Batzel, Kay Osiecki, Jim Michelson, Beth Bakkum

- ❖ Those young people & adults who helped with various tasks throughout the week: Ashlyn Arneson, Hannah Anderson, Sarah Hannan, Kamryn Kane, Rebecca Schmidt, Ed Schmitz, Carlie Burkhardt, Carla Burkhardt, Naoko Aminaka, Wendy Kane, Jen Wheeler, Lee Fernstaedt, Sherry Kneifl
- ❖ Those who taught Pre-K/K and stayed to help in the afternoon: Aunna Carlson, Emily Trautman
- ❖ Those who provided meals for the counselors: Rita & Jim Schmitz, Shannon & Rob Weise, Judy Gilbert, Pastors Jon & Jean
- ❖ Those who hosted the counselors in their home for the week: Judy (and Phil) Gilbert

We especially thank the counselors from Sugar Creek who spent the week with us: Kat Enevold, Kylie Holub, and Kristie Fischer. What an awesome group of spirit-filled, caring young women who shared the love of Jesus with our children!

CIRCLE NEWS

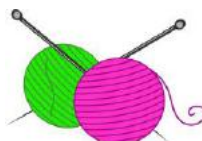
REBECCA CIRCLE

Thursday, September 17, 7 p.m.
Hostess: Dori Jensen

RUTH CIRCLE

Monday, September 21, 9 a.m.
Leader: Carol Stekel
Hostess:

KNITTERS & CROCHETERS NEEDED!



Easy patterns—your choice.
Instruction as needed.

Mary and Martha Prayer Shawl Ministry meets monthly on the first and third Tuesdays from 1-3 p.m. Please join us!

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP HOUR



We are in need of servers and bakers. If you haven't served in a while, please give it a try. There are directions posted for using the percolators or the Bunn system, whichever you choose. See the signup sheet by the kitchenette or call Ilene Pavelko: 786-2360. Thank you!!

OWLS

Isaiah 64:8 "But you are our father, Lord. We are like clay, and you are like the potter. You created us."

Local potter, Darrel Bowman, will be creating pottery while he's giving us his view of the gospel. After his presentation, he will also have some of his pottery for sale. Everyone is invited to this interesting program on September 24, at 1:30 p.m. in the Gathering Area.



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!**

Breakfast & Bible Study

@ Salem Terrace

Monday, September 14 at 9:30 a.m.



We are cranking up the ovens, dusting off the books, and getting ready for a new year of feasting on goodies and God's Word at Salem Terrace. We meet in the small kitchenette room off the parking lot between the two buildings.

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.



NURSING HOME SERVICES

Outreach at area nursing and housing facilities continues in September. Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean will lead worship services on Thursday, September 17:

10:30 a.m. – Lakeview
1 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.



ADULT STUDY IN SEPTEMBER

- Sunday morning adult study begins September 20, at 9:15. Check out the goodies after 8 a.m. worship, grab a cup of coffee, and join us in the classroom by the restrooms on the lower level. Come and share in the NOOMA series videos, with some great conversation about faith and life!
- Wednesday morning Bible study continues through September, as our study of the Gospel of Mark moves into the passion and death of Jesus. We meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Library, and YOU are invited! No experience or insight required – just come and enjoy the fellowship and exploration of God's word.
- Check out information on the Salem Terrace studies elsewhere in the newsletter, and the calendar for WELCA circle studies.

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. Lois Willinger graciously allowed us to share a glimpse into her story. Lois, 89 years old, is a resident of Mulder's Healthcare.

Lois' advice to new disciples of Jesus ... if you don't have faith, you don't have anything.

Lois' favorite Bible passage ... because ... Lois didn't have a particular favorite, but she said that Psalm 23 is important because it helps you.

Lois' earliest memories of church ... Lois' family lived in Irish Coulee and she was baptized at Bostwick Valley Lutheran Church in Barre Mills. The church has since been torn down. Lois doesn't recall being at church during the winter. She didn't go to Sunday School (which was actually held on Saturdays) until they moved to the ridge between Holmen and West Salem. Lois said when she got too old to be a student in class, they asked her to teach it. She said she was “terrible” because she couldn't keep control of the kids so she doesn't think they learned anything! 😊 Lois also remembers the janitor at church who was a very “harsh” person, always swearing at people, including the pastor! 😊

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

Calling all RETIRED Men ...

RETIRED

Do you have time on your hands? Are you handy around the

house? Do you enjoy a good cup of coffee and donuts, sharing stories, and getting your hands dirty?



Join us on **Wednesday, September 16 at 9 a.m.** as we undertake the much-needed project of *repairing the chairs in the library and gathering area*. Bring your clamps, drills, and stories to share. The coffee and donuts will be waiting! If we don't get them all done on Wednesday, we will reconvene on Thursday to finish the job.



▪ We thank the **MAILING CREW** for assembling the Newsletter. The members who helped this past month were Bev Bockenbauer, Bonnie Ender, Sandra Holthaus, Inger Michael, Carol Noel, Paul and Marilyn Ranum, Mary and Rich Storandt, and Betty Whitlock.

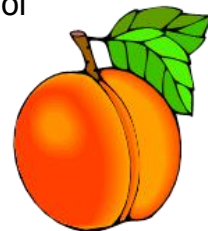
▪ We thank the family and friends of **Wayne Burkhardt** for the gifts to the Choir Fund and Summer Lunch Program.

▪ Our thanks to Daniel and Kristine Ames for the gift in memory of **Fred Baumgartner**.

PEACHES THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone that made our Peach fundraiser such a success again this year! A HUGE thank you goes out to Linda's Bakery for

allowing us to camp out in front of their building the entire week to sell the peaches! We were grateful to sell an additional pallet (72 cases) of peaches because of their generosity.



We also want to thank Carl Wallace and Mike Alumbaugh for their efforts in unloading all 12 pallets into our sanctuary. Their efforts saved us a lot of time and muscles to unload all 864 cases! If you are interested in receiving an order form for peaches coming in next year, but did not receive one this year, please contact Dana.

SUMMER LUNCH CLOSES ITS SECOND YEAR!

Summer Lunch Program grew so much this year! On average, we served 150 lunches each day adding up to 300 lunches a week! We are so grateful to the generosity of our congregation and our large donation partners to make this program possible. We have, however, come up short financially at the end of our program. With the addition of another day, and another location, our resources have been stretched to the max. If you feel called to help us bridge the gap, please indicate on your offering "Summer Lunch" to help us make ends meet.



Thank you to our team that helped lead each week of the summer: Cindy Averbeck, Angie Hemker, Char Buelow, Connie Pinski, Kathy Brisson, Allie Skrentny, and Tracy Skrentny. Thank you to our corporate sponsors: Linda's Bakery, Hansen's IGA, and La Crosse County Dairy Producers, and Alforex Seeds.

If you are interested in being part of the team to make this program happen in future summers, please contact Pastor Jon!

COMMUNITY CORN ROAST THANK YOU!



THANK YOU to all who helped plan, roast corn, bake bars, and serve at the 2015 Corn Roast. We estimate that over 500 guests dined on Wednesday, August 5.

We were blessed with great weather and delicious corn. The 3rd Annual car show was a draw and people seemed to not be in a hurry and rather lingered and conversed with their neighbors. There were approximately 20 cars on display, most of them owned by Our Savior's members.

With gratitude,
The Outreach Committee

PASTORAL ACTS

Baptisms

✝ **Isaiah William Bauer and Jackson**

Lee Bauer, children of Isaac and Linse Bauer, were baptized August 16. Their baptismal sponsors are Andy Bauer, Emily Bauer, and Bill and Debbie Kremer.

Memorial Service

✝ We express our sympathy to the family of **Michael Gunderson** who died August 9. A Celebration of Life was held August 15. Michael's parents are Tab and Deb Gunderson. His grandfather is Del Horstman.

THE WATER IS FLOWING!

Last year we were challenged to provide funding for a well in a village in Zambia – and we delivered! Thanks to your gifts, we have made a huge difference in the lives of people around the world. That's what the people of God do – they make a difference, and they do it for Jesus!

Allen and Jessica Bateman host a video of the new well. To see it go to our web site (www.oursaviorswestsalem.org) and scroll down to "hot news" on the home page. Or...click on the "resources" tab along the top, then down to "videos." The video is included in "August 16." Thanks again to ALL who supported this ministry!

water282

CONGREGATION COUNCIL REVIEW

The Congregation Council met on Monday, August 10, with President Char Buelow presiding. At this meeting the council:

- Began with devotions based on John 6.
- Toured the building and the adjacent properties.
- Reviewed and approved the June minutes, and the June and July financial reports and pastors' reports.
- Approved the job description for the secretary's position.
- Received the recommendation for continued weekly celebration of Holy Communion from the Worship Committee. Voted to adopt the recommendation.
- Received Jerry and Linda Glocke as members, transferring from English Lutheran in La Crosse.
- Discussed changes in youth ministry, and how best to structure our staffing to be the most effective in our ministry.

The council meets again on Monday, September 14. See Char Buelow or one of the pastors if you have any questions.

MISSION DISCERNMENT UPDATE

We continue to work on discerning our mission, and considering what that means for our building and space. At its September meeting, the Congregation Council, along with the vision team and the space team, will meet with a consultant from the ELCA to continue our conversation and hear other ideas. Please continue to pray for the council, our teams, and the work of this congregation!

LUTEFISK & MEATBALL DINNER



Our Savior's Annual Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner and Bake Sale is scheduled for Saturday, November 7, 2015. Reserve this date on

your calendar, watch for sign-up sheets at church coming later, and say "YES" when asked to help with this event.

SIMPLY GIVING – *MAKING GIVING SIMPLE!*

Many people – maybe most – make regular payments online, or by direct payment. You can do the same thing with your support of God's work through Our Savior's. Simply Giving is an automated payment program that allows you to ensure that your support is regular and consistent. You can decide how much, and how often (weekly, bi-weekly, monthly).

Simply Giving is "simple" to set up, does not cost you anything, and can be changed at any time. Currently close to 20% of our envelope giving is made using Simply Giving. For more information see Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean, or speak with Kay in the church office.

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. A number of Our Savior's folk direct their choice dollars – do you? See Thrivent's web site for more information or stop by the office and we will help you out.



E-MAIL CHANGES



We expect to make changes in our e-mail addresses early in September, so please begin to use the new e-mail addresses for staff. You can find them on the last page of this newsletter. When the change is made the old addresses will not work, and we will not receive your e-mail!

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 name 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.

E-COMMUNICATIONS OR PAPER COPY



Did you know that **110** people receive the newsletter by email instead of the **437** people who receive 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

MISSION TRIP REFLECTIONS

When we were on our way back from the first bridge Taylor, Justin and I were stopped in the middle of the street and this man named Tim said "I want lunch, but more importantly I want prayer right here, right now." When we asked him what he wanted us to pray for he gave us a name. I just thought it was so cool for him to approach us and how he wanted us to not only pray for him, but for one of his friends too.

Allie Skrentny

The worst part of the trip was leaving. This is the first trip ever that I haven't gotten homesick. These people that I hardly even knew at the beginning of the trip are now people I have an unbelievable amount of trust in. They have made my faith grow so much. I balled in front of these people, more than anyone has ever seen me cry. They are amazing because we could have serious talks and worship together, but also play sandman until 2 in the morning. I love them with all my heart.

Taylor Jones

There are three people that stood out to me on the trip. They were all people that I met during our mission work. The first was a little boy named Dalante. He was at Walton the

first day when they took a field trip with us to Stone Mountain. We split into groups of about 6 kids and 3 leaders. Dalante was in my group. When our group decided what we wanted to do there, most everyone wanted to ride the gondola up to the top of the mountain. Dalante was afraid to go because he was afraid of heights. I told him that I was also and that I would hold his hand the whole way. After the ride, he was glued to my side. The other two were kids at an apartment complex we went to when we were handing out food. As we pulled up, kids came running to meet us. One girl came up to me and asked for a piggyback ride. She climbed on and we ran around and played with her friends. Later a little boy came up and asked to get on my shoulders. I picked him up and he stayed while we sang, danced, and prayed as a group. All of these kids were so open and willing to hear the word of God. It was inspiring to watch them.

Allison Rigotti

My lovely Morgan was telling me on the bus that her parents got divorced when she was very young. She was telling me how sad she was that they were not together anymore. I told her that it was going to be ok and that God loved her.

Abby Johnson

Everyday memories were made that I will never forget. Having this group become so close made my trip. We bonded over the kids we met. The children at Walton Village come from hard pasts and needed us to love them. At nighttime, all of us from Our Savior's would spend that time getting to know each other and just having a laugh. Spending time with this group really made this trip worth it. We would talk about our day. Talk about the people we met while walking the Atlanta streets and joke around with each other. The van ride home we spent it sad that the week was almost over. Knowing that I am the only one leaving the La Crosse area this fall makes me already miss all of my group. I hope we all

get together to play Sandman and get "Superhero Dana" to hold back the waterfall and raise the roof with her dance moves! ☺

Justin Beckley

The most memorable part of the trip was on the third day of missionary work. For that day, we were handing out lunches to the homeless and highly underprivileged families in the Atlanta area. Most of these families were only single parent families who had everyday struggles many of us couldn't even begin to understand. At the beginning of this day, the first stop we made was at an apartment complex that was completely run down, garbage everywhere, and you could see struggle in the faces of these people occupying it. When we first got out of the van, everybody circled up so we could worship and sing songs. Immediately after circling up a man who had clearly been through a lot in his life walked up to the circle and joined in. Despite the troubles or problems this man was probably going through he had an immense amount of joy in his eyes. It was very moving to see God shine his light and his love through this man in a place that clearly had a shortage of it.

Taylor Trapp

This trip was the best week of my life. I was nervous going into the trip, but once I started doing the work it felt so good and the worries faded into pride. I met many people that I would never expect to meet. Even walking through some of the most dangerous streets in the country, I felt safe around the leaders and my friends. Walking up to doors and seeing smiles walking towards me felt so good. I knew what I was doing was making a difference and I was filling their stomachs. Not only was I giving them food, they needed the prayer and it felt so good to hold their hand and pray for them. It was so cool to give someone a lunch and ask for a prayer and hear them say they wanted to pray for me instead. This made me realize how people who may not look like they are clean or in a good home are

still believers. You can't just assume people don't know Jesus. Deep down inside everyone is Jesus somewhere. I saw Jesus so much in every kid I bonded with. Nobody I met was ungrateful for the service we were doing, and it was really cool to see. I saw so many things I would have never expected to and it was such a great thing to experience.

Alysha Hesse

There really isn't a single memory that could shine brighter than the rest. I knew I was solid in my faith, but I also knew that there was work that I could do. However, I didn't know that I could be as solid in my faith to the level I was shown during this mission. My eyes were opened even further through my experiences, both physical and spiritual (especially).

Julian Grosskopf

The most memorable person that I met was Alex. She is a little girl at Walton that I met the first day! On the way to Stone Mountain, she taught me how to make bracelets. She gave me every bracelet she had on saying she trusted me to keep them safe while we were at the park. During our adventure at the park, she was constantly at my side and she was the cutest!

Delaney Schomberg

The worst part of my whole trip was definitely leaving. I never want to leave that place. It is so hard not to feel anything. It was so hard trying not to cry in front of the kids and all of the people on the streets. There was trash all over the highway, and I knew that I couldn't pick it up and I just had to leave it all on the side and keep walking past it. The most memorable person on this trip was Makaya. At first she a shy person. All it took was one look and a smile, and she opened up to me so fast and ran to me, and held my hand for the whole trip of going to the amusement park, and playing games. She definitely made my trip 10 times better.

Jarron Beckley

SEPTEMBER

ACOLYTES

Sept. 5	6 p.m.	Olivia Haun
6	8 a.m.	Joshua Knudtson
	10 a.m.	Kami Kane
Sept. 12	6 p.m.	Anna Johnson
13	8 a.m.	Megan Larson
	10:30 a.m.	Dagan Hemker
Sept. 19	6 p.m.	Hannah Kolve
20	8 a.m.	Alayna Kennedy
	10:30 a.m.	Ashlie Lockington
Sept. 26	6 p.m.	Dylan Mann
27	8 a.m.	Tyler Marcou
	10:30 a.m.	Andrew Murphy

BASKET HOLDERS

Sept. 6	8 a.m.	Eddie Schmitz
	10 a.m.	Marina Thompson
Sept. 13	8 a.m.	Blaine Wheeler
	10:30 a.m.	Maxwell Williams
Sept. 20	8 a.m.	Kitara Curran
	10:30 a.m.	Mallory Farr
Sept. 27	8 a.m.	Audrey Godlewski
	10:30 a.m.	Sydney Hammes

ALTAR GUILD Cindy Averbek and Jaime Fortier

HOME COMMUNION SERVERS

Sept. 5/6	Char Buelow
Sept. 12/13	Pam Gresens
Sept. 19/20	Iliff Family
Sept. 26/27	Ilene Pavelko

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Sept. 5	6 p.m.	Ken Spraetz
6	8 a.m.	Eric Iliff
		Dori Jensen
	10 a.m.	Marilyn Ranum
		Steve Ahles
Sept. 12	6 p.m.	Karen DeSchepper
13	8 a.m.	Marty and Jane Frank
	10:30 a.m.	Corey Sjoquist
		Wendy Kane
Sept. 19	6 p.m.	Karen DeSchepper
20	8 a.m.	Lee and Jean Fernstaedt
	10:30 a.m.	Mark and Kim Hunter
Sept. 26	6 p.m.	Bishop Arends
27	8 a.m.	Bishop Arends
		Bonny Goodenough
	10:30 a.m.	Bishop Arends
		Stacey Sjoquist

READERS

Sept. 5	6 p.m.	Bev Bockenbauer
6	8 a.m.	Jim Kerkman
	10 a.m.	Dottie Baumgartner
Sept. 12	6 p.m.	Kathy Brisson
13	8 a.m.	Eric Ender
	10:30 a.m.	Michelle Witte
Sept. 19	6 p.m.	Bonnie Gensch
20	8 a.m.	Stacy Mitchell
	10:30 a.m.	Jim Quamme
Sept. 26	6 p.m.	Karen DeSchepper
27	8 a.m.	Sharon Olson
	10:30 a.m.	Jeff Haldeman

OFFERINGS

Sept. 5	6 p.m.	Ken Spraetz
6	8 a.m.	Carlie Burkhardt
	10 a.m.	Rich Clements
Sept. 12	6 p.m.	Marjorie Anderson
13	8 a.m.	Wendy Kane
	10:30 a.m.	Steve Ahles
Sept. 19	6 p.m.	Tracey Beckley
20	8 a.m.	Vernetta Moe
	10:30 a.m.	Jim Quamme
Sept. 26	6 p.m.	Kay Niemeier
27	8 a.m.	Mike Alumbaugh
	10:30 a.m.	Sandi Stavlo

USHERS

Sept. 5	6 p.m.	David and Bea Halvorson
6	8 a.m.	Scott and Stacy Mitchell Family
	10 a.m.	Dan and Jan Wee
		Lisa Lee
		Wendy Kane
Sept. 12	6 p.m.	Tony and Jennifer Bell Family
13	8 a.m.	Tracy Hesse Family
	10:30 a.m.	Dan and Jan Wee
		Lisa Lee
		Jackie Hartmann
Sept. 19	6 p.m.	Tony and Ami Fullwood
20	8 a.m.	Adam and Jessica Kennedy Family
	10:30 a.m.	Dan and Jan Wee
		Lisa Lee
		Jackie Hartmann
Sept. 26	6 p.m.	Scott and Laura Jessie
27	8 a.m.	Lance and Tricia Aleckson Family
	10:30 a.m.	Dan and Jan Wee
		Lisa Lee

Web Site: oursaviorswestsalem.org

OUR SAVIOR'S STAFF

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Eric Sorenson, Senior Choir Director		
Dave Nelson, Custodian	608-780-3946	
Karen DeSchepper, Counter		