

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

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NOVEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

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

- **ALL SAINTS', OCTOBER 31 & NOVEMBER 1**
- **LUTEFISK & MEATBALL DINNER, NOVEMBER 7**
- **WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**
- **NEW MEMBERS**
- **THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP, NOVEMBER 25**
- **TREE TRIMMING, NOVEMBER 29**



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

Thanksgiving and Stewardship

Traditionally November is about Thanksgiving and giving thanks. In the church, we also focus on stewardship. As I sit and think about that, giving thanks and stewardship seem to go hand in hand. You can't really have one without the other.



Stewardship is more than just money, although money is a part of it. If we think about stewardship as caring for all that God has gifted to us (our time, our talents, and our possessions – that pretty much sums up everything) we need to give God thanks. Sometimes we take for granted what we have and we don't stop to think that it is God who gifts us with all of it.

Look around you – we are surrounded by farm fields and gardens that yield crops to feed us; lakes and rivers to provide recreation, food, and transportation; forests & trees, mountains & valleys, fields & oceans, that take our breath away by their awesome beauty; homes that provide warmth and shelter; schools and teachers that educate and nurture our children, giving them opportunities to excel in academics, and through sports and fine arts; medical facilities and healthcare workers who care for our broken bodies; public servants who keep us safe; stores where we can shop to our hearts desire. Be a good steward ... stop and give God thanks.

Look around you – there are youth and adults who are homeless, who seek shelter; there are those who are hungry and in need of a meal; there are those who have no job, who seek employment and a means to provide for their family; there are those who are struggling with addictions, who seek help; there are those suffering from illness, depression, or brokenness, who seek hope, healing, and wholeness. Be a good steward ... stop and be God's hands.

Look around you – here at Our Savior's our young ones are fed and nurtured in Sunday School classes; our confirmation students learn to be disciples of Christ; our youth participate in life changing mission trips; weekly Bible studies teach us and challenge us; music fills the sanctuary when we sing as a congregation, when the choirs raise their voices in praise, when the bands of young and old lead us in worship; we are fed and forgiven in the bread and wine of Holy Communion; we are claimed as Christ's children in the waters of baptism; we are reminded of God's presence in the Word proclaimed; our shut ins continue to be fed by Christ's body & blood and remain a part of this community of faith as pastors and laity visit; seniors are cared for, share in ministry, and care for others; we find new voices, new perspectives, new energy as we welcome new members and new families; we reach out to those in need with quilts that provide warmth and shelter locally and around the world, with prayer shawls to comfort those seeking to be wrapped in Christ's love, with lunches for children who might otherwise not eat in the summer, with food collections and helpers for the food pantry. Be a good steward ... stop

and give God thanks ... stop and be God's hands.

Look around you – at your life ... stop and give God thanks ... stop and be a good steward of all that God has gifted you!

Thanking God for you,

Pastor Jean



ALL SAINTS' WEEKEND

As in past years, we remember on All Saints Weekend (October 31 and November 1) all the saints who have gone before us. We remember in our prayers all who continue to grieve, and we thank God for the gift and witness of all who have gone before us. This year we especially remember those who have joined the church triumphant during the past year, including:

Alvina E. Farnam ~ December 31, 2014

Robert O. Roraff ~ January 5, 2015

Clarence A. Larson ~ February 11, 2015

Karen J. Schermerhorn ~ February 11, 2015

Beverly J. Nelson ~ April 29, 2015

Vicki M. Olson ~ May 4, 2015

Dwight W. Smith ~ May 23, 2015

Cynthia Gaylord ~ August 16, 2013

Dorrene M. Heider ~ June 12, 2015

Wayne L. Burkhardt ~ June 13, 2015

Larry D. Wiemerslage ~ June 23, 2015

James "JJ" M. Jacobson ~ July 8, 2015

Michael A. Gunderson ~ August 9, 2015

Mary L. Gruntzel ~ October 2, 2015

Join us on October 31 or November 1 to celebrate their witness, give thanks for the presence, and pray for continued healing for all who grieve the loss of loved ones!

COMING TO OUR SAVIOR'S!

Pastor Larry Westfield, Regional Gift Planner with the ELCA Foundation, will be our guest October 31 and November 1. Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean will lead worship, while Pastor Westfield will give the message.

Pastor Westfield will share ways in which we can be wise stewards of our legacy, and can make a difference in the world through our estate planning. He will give a forum between worship services on the many ways you can make a gift that keeps giving. He is also available privately to help you determine what is best for you. *Pastor Westfield charges no fee and sells no product – he just helps you figure out what directions to consider with your charitable giving.*

Join us on October 31 or November 1 – meet Pastor Westfield, and learn more about how YOU can make a difference!

NOVEMBER 1



Remember!
Time Changes this Sunday!

As an added bonus, don't forget to set your clocks back an hour and get a bit of extra sleep. Then come, refreshed to worship as we celebrate All Saints' Day!

DON'T FORGET...

There will be NO Saturday worship on November 7 as we instead indulge in the Norwegian Dinner – lutefisk, lefse, and meatballs.



ANNUAL LUTEFISK AND MEATBALL DINNER

Saturday, November 7

Serving begins at 3:30 p.m.

Ticket sales begin at 2:30 p.m.

No advance sale of tickets by seating items.

Carryouts available after 4:30 p.m.

Plans are being finalized for our annual Lutfisk & Meatball Dinner on Saturday, November 7.

If you didn't sign up for a specific job, extra workers are always welcome ~ the 8 p.m. clean-up crew always appreciates assistance! The work schedule will be posted on the wall outside the kitchen door. Please put a check by your name when you come to work, or, if your name is not on the schedule, please write it in.

Bring your food donations to church on Friday or Saturday morning. Please check off your name on the posted donation list on the wall by the kitchen door or in the "sweet" room ~ south classroom off the dining room. Cash donations to cover the expense of the meat and fish can be sent to the church or placed in the offering plate. Please make checks out to Our Savior's WELCA: memo: lutfisk.

Bake sale items upstairs to the Gathering Area — please indicate on that sheet your name and items you bring in for the bake sale.

If you have any questions, call Lynette Ender at 786-0723, Inger Michael at 786-1707 or Bonny Goodenough at 769-0758, or the church office at 786-0030.

Profits from this annual event support various church missions. Thanks for your willingness to help! See you at the dinner!

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

There are many service opportunities here at Our Savior's.

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS
HOME COMMUNION SERVERS
USHERS
READERS
ALTAR GUILD

"So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." Galatians 6:10

Ready to sign up and help? Signup sheets will be in the Gathering Area on November 9.

Here is how you can sign up.

1. Sign up on the sheets in the Gathering Area.
2. Call the church office, 786-0030.
3. Email the church office, office@oursaviorswestsalem.org

If you haven't volunteered before, please let us know when you would want to help. If you have volunteered in the past, please indicate if you would be willing to continue serving.



"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." 1 Peter 4:10

DATE	ATTENDANCE	OFFERING	SUNDAY SCHOOL
Oct. 3 & 4	345	\$7,777	82
Oct. 10 & 11	238	\$5,135	80
Oct. 17 & 18	347	\$4,538	81
Oct. 24 & 25	309		

THANKS TO DANA!

*Thank
You*

After significant and prayerful discernment, Dana Roemhild has decided to step down as our Director of

Youth and Family Ministry. We are grateful to Dana for her ministry in our midst, and invite you to join us in our thanks. On Sunday, November 22, we will offer our thanks to Dana and to our gracious God for her ministry. Fellowship time will be in her honor, and at 10:30 a.m., we will share in an order of worship to celebrate her ministry!



Thanksgiving Eve Worship Wednesday, November 25 7 p.m.

***Come and give thanks to a gracious
God for all the gifts of life!***

YOUTH MINISTRY POSITION UPDATE

With the resignation of Dana Roemhild, the Youth Committee, Council, and Administration Committee are considering several options before us. We are not yet certain what path God calls us to take, but we will work diligently to maintain and enhance our youth ministry program. Please continue to pray for our youth ministry – YOUR support is vital to our work and makes a real difference in the lives of our young people!

CHRISTMAS IS COMING...



Christmas is coming, and with it opportunities to share the spirit with those in need:

- Lakeview Health Center will again offer an opportunity to share a gift with a resident. The giving tree should be in place by the middle of November, so watch for it in the Gathering Area!
- Salvation Army bell ringing at Hansen's IGA will be Friday and Saturday, December 4 and 5. Can we fill two days? A sign-up sheet will be posted shortly in Gathering Area.

SALVATION ARMY SERVING

Our Savior's continues to take the second Friday of the month to serve the meal at the Salvation Army in La Crosse. We are there from 4:15-5:15 p.m. – no preparation or clean up, just serving and being the presence of Jesus as we do "God's work with our hands." A sign-up sheet is on the youth bulletin board outside Pastor Jon's office.



TREE-TRIMMING



Yes, indeed...it's almost that time again! We will be trimming the Christmas tree and decorating the sanctuary on Sunday, November 29 following the 10:30 a.m. service, so all is ready for the Hanging of the Greens on December 2.

Stick around for some fellowship, and a few treats as well. See Jeff or Melissa Haldeman, or one of the pastors for more information.

MISSION DISCERNMENT

The Vision Team and Space Team will be meeting in early November to continue to explore our space needs, and how they connect with our vision for ministry. In addition to space concerns, the teams will also explore our youth ministry needs, especially as we enter a time of transition in youth ministry leadership.

One critical part of their work will be to fashion a way to expand the conversation about space and youth ministry to the congregation as a whole. We want to hear your voice, and we need to hear your discernment of what God is up to in our midst. Please keep the teams, and all of our work, in your prayers!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

New members...gifts of a gracious God! On October 24 and 25, Our Savior's recognized and rejoiced in 14 new families received over the past months. We are excited to have them with us. Their presence in our midst enables us to be more fully God's people, and for that, we give thanks.

So what are our new folk like? Meet some of them below:

Jeremy and Tiffany Janisch, along with Madeline and Ella live in Bangor, and come to us from Christ Lutheran Church. Tiffany is originally from Portage, while Jeremy is a La Crosse native. Jeremy works at Crown Cork and Seal in La Crosse, is a volunteer firefighter in Bangor, and loves hunting and fishing. Tiffany is a certified occupational therapist assistant at Onalaska Care Center, and volunteers with the school and the fire department auxiliary. They have been married since 2001.

Madeline is in 6th grade. She plays baritone sax in the band. Ella is in 4th grade and loves

snowboarding. Both girls play volleyball, basketball, soccer, and softball.

Rachel Miller and Bailey Siddons live next door to church. Rachel is from Milwaukee, but has family ties to West Salem. She attended Viterbo and WTC for nursing, and is a critical care nurse at Mayo (Franciscan). She enjoys camping, traveling, reading, art, music, gardening, sports, and a good nap! Bailey will be three next spring. She loves dancing to Gene Kelly movies, anything Mickey Mouse, horses, princesses, dresses, and sparkly nail polish.

Donald and Marion Stensven have transferred from South Beaver Creek Lutheran Church. Donnie worked for 35 years in the Melrose Mindoro school district as a mechanic, then for ten years as a fire inspector, before retiring.

Marion worked at the schools, then as a teller in Black River Falls. She also lived in California for 17 years. She currently has the best job ever – helping care for her grandchildren! Her son Kyle, and his family, have also joined Our Savior's.

Welcome to our new families – we will introduce some more of them to you next month!



WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

On October 24 and 25, Our Savior's welcomed a group of new members into the life and mission of Our Savior's.

Wayne and Donna Dolan
Zoey
304 Eagle Avenue
Rockland, WI 54653
608-317-5101

Jerry and Linda Glocke
1119 Pine Street
Onalaska, WI 54650

Tab and Debra Gunderson
W2635 Hartman Road
Mindoro, WI 54644
608-498-1644

Jeremy and Tiffany Janisch
Madeline, Ella
PO Box 45
Bangor, WI 54614
608-386-0685

Ron and Virginia (Ginny) LeJeune
N6595 Berg Road
West Salem, WI 54669
786-0813

Brenda Lounsborough
800 West Avenue N Lot 169
West Salem, WI 54669
786-1144

Rachel Miller
Bailey Siddons
PO Box 34
West Salem, WI 54669
608-498-7401

Jennifer Perz
N1641 Servais Collieran Road
La Crosse, WI 54601
608-797-6645

Andrew and Kristin Phillips
Madison, Emma
1521 Crestwood Avenue
West Salem, WI 54669
608-790-7108

Brad and Kelsey Reed
Lilly, Ella, Henry
W4153 Ceresa Drive
West Salem, WI 54669
608-397-9297

Donald and Marion Stensven
1448 Waterloo Avenue
West Salem, WI 54669
786-0972

Michael and Michelle Turnipseed
Brandon Prisk, Hannah, Bennett
751 Lewis Street
West Salem, WI 54669
608-498-2012

Kyle and Gillian Twite
Eve, Lily, Max
W2846 County Road I
La Crosse, WI 54601
786-1066

Amber Walter
McKenna Stadtler, Carter Hahn
800 West Avenue N Lot 43
West Salem, WI 54669
608-799-7988



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Usually, our Stewardship Corner has tried to take a different look at stewardship than the expected request for financial support. Sometimes, however, we have to be honest – money is still a part of stewardship.

Why is that? The fact is that YOUR financial support makes it possible for us to do what we do. Take a second look at the mailing that went out in late October, with two pages of ways we make a difference as a congregation. In case you missed it, without the added details, here's the list:

Summer Lunch Program...Mission Trips...Confirmation...After School Program...Support of College students...Norwegian Dinner proceeds going to mission work...Corn Roast and other hospitality ministries...Worship in the community...Music in many forms...Sewing group...Prayer shawls...Food Pantry location...Sunday School and VBS...Campus Ministry Support...Senior Ministries...Mission Support...Special giving opportunities...

And we could have added more – like the Mission Endowment Fund...housing the Food Pantry...sending kids to Sugar Creek...school kits sent worldwide...and just plain worship!

We really do make a difference in the lives of real people!

All that happens because Our Savior's is here. Blessed and empowered by God, we get to do "God's work with our hands." How great is that? And your financial support allows you to partner with others, and makes things happen. That's why this stewardship time is important to us. Not just to keep the lights on (though that helps!), but because we can and do make a difference, and because with your continued and increased support we can do even more.

In the October mailing (which you should have received) is an invitation to continue your financial partnership, along with an estimate of giving card. We use these cards – we really do! We ask you to join us on Sunday, November 8, and if you choose to use the card, bring it with you. Regardless, come that day and celebrate our ministry, rejoicing in our work together, as we make a difference doing "God's work with our hands!"

BEGINNING HANDBELL CHOIR



A beginning handbell group will start meeting Sunday, November 15 at 5 p.m. Now's your chance to learn handbell basics, give it a try, you can do it! Talk to Linda Berg if you have questions.

CIRCLE NEWS

RUTH CIRCLE

Monday, November 16, 9 a.m.
Leader: Caryll Loughan
Hostess: Carol Stekel

THANKSGIVING FRUIT BAGS

Fruit bags will be distributed to shut-ins from our church on Saturday and Sunday, November 21 and 22. The bags will be available in the Gathering Area. Please check the names on the bags and take a bag to deliver to a shut-in.



Phone Jane Halverson (786-1067) if you have any questions.



- We thank the **MAILING CREW** for assembling the Newsletter. The members who helped this past month were Connie Blunck, Bev Bockenbauer, Sandra Holthaus, Inger Michael, Judy Morzinski, and Betty Whitlock.
- We thank the family and friends of **Joanne Schmid** for the memorial gift to the Choir Fund.
- We thank the family and friends of **Mary Gruntzel** for the memorial gifts to the Prayer Shawl Ministry and the Library.

NURSING HOME SERVICES

Outreach at area nursing and housing facilities continues in November. Each month, this outreach connects with almost 80 people!

Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean will lead worship services on Thursday, November 19:

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

In addition, Pastor Jon will lead worship at Lakeview on Sunday, November 22, at 1:30 p.m. Come and join us as we share the good news with faithful folk around our community! See Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean for more information.

QUILTS AND KITS ON THEIR WAY!

In early October, 260 quilts began their journey to all corners of our land – and our world! Thanks to all who have been a part of this ministry, especially our Wednesday quilting ladies. This year's total is an increase of almost 50 quilts over last year!



But wait...there's more! We are excited to announce a nearly 50% increase in the number of school kits sent to Lutheran World Relief in 2015! The congregation donated enough supplies to fill 200 kits and with the Hungry Jar September offerings, we were able to assemble 67 more! Thank you to everyone who was a part of this project, from those who donated supplies and money, Vacation Bible School students and staff, the third grade Sunday School and their teachers and helpers for filling 200 kits, and the Wednesday evening sixth grade students who filled 67 kits. Thanks also to WELCA for again donating all the backpacks. A BIG thanks to Jim Michelson and Marsha Bateman for organizing the project.

Once assembled, the kits – and the quilts – were boxed and labeled for shipment. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped load the trailer following the Homecoming parade, and a big thank you to Mike Alumbaugh for again taking the kits to the boxcar. What great examples of "God's work, our hands!"



ADULT STUDIES IN NOVEMBER!

- Sunday morning adult study continues at 9:15 a.m. Grab some coffee, and join us in the classroom by the restrooms on the lower level. We watch a “Nooma” video, then take some time to “chew” on it a bit!
- Wednesday morning Bible study is beginning to read and discuss the Apostle Paul’s letter to the Philippians. Sometimes called his “happy letter,” Philippians nonetheless challenges us in our faith and life with the transforming power 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 study elsewhere in the newsletter, and the calendar for WELCA circle studies.

PASTORAL ACTS

Baptism

✝ **Bennett William Ihle**, son of Charles and Andrea Ihle was baptized October 4. His baptismal sponsors are Carrie Elsen, Erin Johnson, and Michelle Izdepski.

Memorial Service

✝ Our sympathy to the family of **Mary Gruntzel** who died October 2. Services were held October 8.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL REVIEW

The Congregation Council met on Monday, October 12, with President Char Buelow presiding. At this meeting the council:

- Opened with prayer.
- Heard that Dana Roemhild is stepping down from her youth ministry position. Met with members of the Youth Committee to consider our future directions for youth ministry.
- Received as new members: Mark and Diane Powell; Amber Walter, McKenna Stadtler, Carter Hahn; Kyle and Gillian Twite, Eve and Lily; Donald and Marion Stensven.
- Reviewed and approved the minutes of the September meeting. Also reviewed and accepted the September financial reports and pastors’ reports.
- Received an update on the removal of the Mill Street house.

The council meets again on Monday, November 9. See Char Buelow or one of the pastors if you have any questions.

MILL STREET UPDATE

The asbestos abatement and utility disconnections on the Mill Street property are close to completion, and demolition of the house will occur shortly. We still hope to have the lot graveled and available for parking this winter.



MISSION ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

The Mission Endowment Committee is asking for your suggestions as to how distributions of earnings may be made for 2015.



It is anticipated that we will be able to disburse in excess of \$12,000.00 to missions for the year 2015.

The funding for this year comes only from the interest that is earned on the invested Endowment Fund and the principal is still present.

Anyone wishing to make suggestions may obtain distribution guidelines from the church office.

Please return your suggestions to the church office by email:
office@oursaviorswestsalem.org. Other suggestions would be to put it in the offering plate, or give to one of the ushers, or to one of the Endowment Committee members.

Endowment Committee Members:
Jeanette Carlson, Lee Fernstaedt, Denise Jones, Judy Long, Paul Ranum

Please return by November 29, 2015.



Bible Study
@ Salem Terrace
Monday, November 9
at 10 a.m.

Members and friends are invited to join us for a time of study and fellowship. We meet in the small kitchenette room off the parking lot between the two buildings.

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!

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.



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. Carol Peterson graciously allowed us to share a glimpse into her story. Carol, 81 years young, grew up in West Salem and is thankful that her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren are all still in the area.

Carol’s advice to new disciples of Jesus ... without God you have absolutely nothing. How can you get up in the morning, look around and see everything, love your family, and not believe in God?

Carol’s favorite Bible passage ... because ... John 3:16 is an old, old favorite. God gave everything for us and we have to appreciate what we have, rather than always wanting more.

Carol’s earliest memories of church ... Carol grew up in one of the “other” Lutheran churches in town and always went to Sunday School. If you went out on Saturday night, you’d better be going to church on Sunday morning ... or else! ☺ Carol remembers bon fires and picnics with the youth group. When Carol married Dale, they went to his church, Trinity in Sparta. When they moved (back) to West Salem, they joined Our Savior’s.

Carol noted that our youth today are pulled in so many different directions and are faced with so many pressures; it’s hard to know which way to turn. She believes it’s important to make going to church a priority. Carol said for her, if she misses church, something feels wrong with the whole week; things are off kilter.

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



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.

As our students are either away from home or studying in challenging environments, we keep them in our thoughts and prayers. This month please pray for Trygve Anderson (Wartburg College, Waverly IA) and Cathryn Bottem (UW-La Crosse).

YOUTH CHAPEL



Youth Chapel continues in November on Sunday, November 8, at 7 p.m., in the library. Youth Chapel is a casual, contemporary worship designed by some of our high school youth. The music is upbeat, the message is personal, and you are welcome. Most of all, we trust in the presence of Jesus as we gather together. Come expecting something a bit different, but the same Jesus!

CONFIRMATION AND AFTER SCHOOL



Confirmation classes are moving right along. 6th graders continue to meet at 6 p.m. on Wednesdays, studying the Old

Testament and learning how God worked through his people.

7th & 8th grade students meet in a core class on November 4 at 6 p.m., exploring the third article of the Apostles' Creed. Several electives are set for November 11, and Small Groups meet on November 18.

9th graders meet on November 4 at 7 p.m. to ponder the power of generations. Later in the months, small groups will share a meal with seniors, connecting and building relationships.



After School continues on November 4 and 18, with a meal around 5:30 p.m. Sign in is required, and no leaving the property after signing in! No

After School on November 11 (early release day) or November 25.

There are no classes on November 25, so plan instead to join us for Thanksgiving Eve worship.



Sunday, November 15 – Kids sing in worship at 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, December 12 – Sunday School Christmas Program – 4 p.m.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday mornings are filled with children scurrying to their Sunday School classes, grabbing a yummy treat on their way through the Gathering Area. Each week we are visited by our *Whirl* friends as the week's lesson is introduced. We are learning about the church year, along with the same Bible stories that we hear in church. The sound of music can be heard coming from the sanctuary as the kids are singing their hearts out. We are always eager to welcome new students, so come join us!

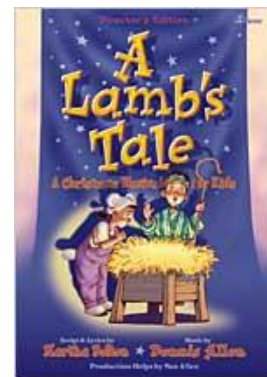
Parents, if you haven't signed up yet to spend a day in your child(ren)'s Sunday School class, please be sure to do so the next time you are here. The teachers look forward to having family members around and the children love having you hang out with them!

Sunday School Christmas Program ...

Mark your calendars and let us know if you can help ...

The leaves have turned, the air is crisp, and it's time to start thinking about Christmas! The **Sunday School Christmas Program** will be held on **Saturday, December 12th at 4 p.m.** at the Presbyterian Church (625 W. Franklin St.). Children will be rehearsing earlier that morning.

We are in need of parents (and other older youth and adults) to help us with this wonderful experience for our children. If you are able to help, please speak with Pastor Jean and watch for more details.



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.



Watch the bulletin board outside of Pastor Jean's office to see our garden begin to grow.



DOING THE
MOST GOOD™

Hungry Jar Offering for November Salvation Army

Our 5th grade Sunday School class has chosen the Salvation Army to be the recipient of the November hungry jar offering. A desire to answer Jesus' call to feed the hungry and shelter the homeless motivates all of the social services provided by the Salvation Army here in La Crosse. The shelter allows people to come in off the streets or out of their cars to find warmth and a place to rest. They serve more than 1,500 meals each week to people who are hungry. Other services available include a food pantry, a thrift store for clothing and household goods, free health care screening, rent and utility assistance, a back to school program for children that includes a new outfit and backpack, and during the summer around 300 sack lunches are provided for school aged children in low income neighborhoods. As the days get shorter and colder, the need for assistance will increase. Help us to share in answering Jesus' call to feed the hungry and shelter the homeless.



We are off to a good start with our *friendly competition* between the 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 our garden. Can you help your class?

After 5 weeks (mid-October) ...

Our **Kindergarten & 1st grade** classes are tied for the most weeks of "near perfect" attendance at 3 weeks. The really neat thing is that we have **26 children who have perfect attendance** and another **48 who only missed once!** Way to go kids!! Keep it up!

Our **4th grade (Mrs. Fortier/Ms. Witte), 2nd grade, and 5th grade** are running neck and neck for offering at \$27.50, \$26, & \$25.50 respectively!

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

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November 28, Saturday
6 p.m. Worship

November 29, Sunday
8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Study
11:45 a.m. Tree Trimming

December 2, Wednesday
7 p.m. Advent Worship –
Hanging of the Greens

December 5, Saturday
6 p.m. Worship

December 6, Sunday
8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Study

December 9, Wednesday
7 p.m. Advent Worship – Drama

December 12, Saturday
9 a.m. Sunday School Christmas
Program Rehearsal
4 p.m. Sunday School Christmas
Program at the Presbyterian Church
6 p.m. Worship

December 13, Sunday
8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Study

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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December 16, Wednesday
7 p.m. Advent Worship – Carol Sing

December 19, Saturday
6 p.m. Worship

December 20, Sunday
8 & 10:30 a.m. Senior Choir Cantata
9:15 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Study

December 24, Thursday, Christmas Eve
1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m.,
5:30 p.m. & 10 p.m.
All Services serve Holy Communion

December 25, Friday, Christmas Day
10 a.m. Worship

December 26, Saturday
6 p.m. Worship/NO COMMUNION

December 27, Sunday
8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship/NO
COMMUNION
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

January 2, Saturday
6 p.m. Worship

January 3, Sunday
8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL



H O L I D A Y



Schedule

SIMPLY GIVING WAITING? *JUST DO IT!*

Simply Giving is a way to support the work of Jesus Christ through Our Savior's using automatic withdrawal from your bank account. You determine the amount and the frequency of your gift, and it can be changed at any time. Simply Giving covers the fees. It's that simple! In fact, over 20% of our offerings here are done through Simply Giving, and all gifts are acknowledged on your giving statement for tax purposes. It's quick and easy – just contact the office, or speak with Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean.

Been waiting? Just do it!

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-COMMUNICATIONS OR PAPER COPY



Did you know that **113** 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

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.

NOVEMBER

ACOLYTES

Oct. 31	6 p.m.	Mahlivanh Fleckenstein
Nov. 1	8 a.m.	Hannah Brenengen
	10:30 a.m.	Zach Friell
Nov. 7	6 p.m.	NO WORSHIP
Nov. 8	8 a.m.	Lexi Giblin
	10:30 a.m.	Andrew Murphy
Nov. 14	6 p.m.	Hallie Halverson
Nov. 15	8 a.m.	Meghan Hansen
	10:30 a.m.	Taylor Hennessey
Nov. 21	6 p.m.	Mya Jacobson
Nov. 22	8 a.m.	Justin Kettner
	10:30 a.m.	Kirin Linse
Nov. 25	7 p.m.	THANKSGIVING EVE
		Everett Michael
Nov. 28	6 p.m.	Julia Russell
Nov. 29	8 a.m.	Rebecca Schmidt
	10:30 a.m.	Liam Sjoquist

BASKET HOLDERS

Nov. 1	8 a.m.	Zane Langrehr
	10:30 a.m.	Wesley Leren
Nov. 8	8 a.m.	Madisen Mueller
	10:30 a.m.	Katie Murphy
Nov. 15	8 a.m.	Madison Hermann
	10:30 a.m.	McKenna Riley
Nov. 22	8 a.m.	Ellie Slotten
	10:30 a.m.	Angela Vick
Nov. 29	8 a.m.	Skyler Williams
	10:30 a.m.	Kylee Gander

ALTAR GUILD

Linda Arentz

HOME COMMUNION SERVERS

Oct. 31 & Nov. 1	Marjorie Anderson
Nov. 8	Dottie Baumgartner
Nov. 14 & 15	Bev Bockenbauer
Nov. 21 & 22	Char Buelow
Nov. 28 & 29	Pam Gresens

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Oct. 31	6 p.m.	Allison Rigotti
Nov. 1	8 a.m.	Pam Gresens
	10:30 a.m.	Shannon Wiese
		Char Buelow
		Tracey Beckley
Nov. 7	6 p.m.	NO WORSHIP
Nov. 8	8 a.m.	Jim Quamme
	10:30 a.m.	Melody Schmitz
		Scott Friell
		Denise Jones
Nov. 14	6 p.m.	Judy Gilbert
Nov. 15	8 a.m.	Ken Spraetz
	10:30 a.m.	Sandi Stavlo
		Kristin Tschumper
		Steve Ahles
Nov. 21	6 p.m.	Lee Fernstaedt
Nov. 22	8 a.m.	Vernetta Moe
	10:30 a.m.	Rich Clements
		Marilyn Ranum
		Melissa Thompson
Nov. 28	6 p.m.	Tim Tiber
Nov. 29	8 a.m.	Eric Iliff
	10:30 a.m.	Marjorie Anderson
		Dana Roemhild
		Michelle Witte



READERS

Oct. 31	6 p.m.	Bev Bockenbauer
Nov. 1	8 a.m.	Marjorie Anderson
	10:30 a.m.	Gary Berg
Nov. 7	6 p.m.	NO WORSHIP
Nov. 8	8 a.m.	Carol Stekel
	10:30 a.m.	Vicky Johnson
Nov. 14	6 p.m.	Bonnie Gensch
Nov. 15	8 a.m.	Kathy Schmidt
	10:30 a.m.	Todd Michael
Nov. 21	6 p.m.	Kay Niemeier
Nov. 22	8 a.m.	Marsha Bateman
	10:30 a.m.	Kristin Tschumper
Nov. 28	6 p.m.	Kay Niemeier
Nov. 29	8 a.m.	Carla Burkhardt
	10:30 a.m.	Melissa Haldeman

OFFERINGS

Oct. 31	6 p.m.	Char Buelow
Nov. 1	8 a.m.	Carlie Burkhardt
	10:30 a.m.	Tracey Beckley
Nov. 7	6 p.m.	NO WORSHIP
Nov. 8	8 a.m.	Jim Quamme
	10:30 a.m.	Vernetta Moe
Nov. 14	6 p.m.	Kay Niemeier
Nov. 15	8 a.m.	Sandi Stavlo
	10:30 a.m.	Steve Ahles
Nov. 21	6 p.m.	Kay Niemeier
Nov. 22	8 a.m.	Rich Clements
	10:30 a.m.	Ken Spraetz
Nov. 28	6 p.m.	Kay Niemeier
Nov. 29	8 a.m.	Marjorie Anderson
	10:30 a.m.	Wendy Kane

USHERS

Oct. 31	6 p.m.	Larry Gensch & Jon Hetland
Nov. 1	8 a.m.	Paula Heilman
		Karl and Kathy Wehrs
	10:30 a.m.	Tim Jones & Gary Berg
Nov. 7	6 p.m.	NO WORSHIP
Nov. 8	8 a.m.	Scott Mitchell Family
	10:30 a.m.	Tim Jones & Gary Berg
Nov. 14	6 p.m.	Larry Gensch & Jon Hetland
Nov. 15	8 a.m.	Scott Mitchel Family
	10:30 a.m.	Tim Jones & Gary Berg
Nov. 21	6 p.m.	Larry Gensch & Jon Hetland
Nov. 22	8 a.m.	
	10:30 a.m.	Tim Jones & Gary Berg
Nov. 25	7 p.m.	Thanksgiving Eve Worship
		Larry Blunck
Nov. 28	6 p.m.	Larry Gensch & Jon Hetland
Nov. 29	8 a.m.	Karl and Kathy Wehrs
	10:30 a.m.	Tim Jones & Gary Berg

Web Site: oursaviorswestsalem.org

OUR SAVIOR'S STAFF

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