

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

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 21

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



JANUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
WEST SALEM, WISCONSIN
JANUARY 2016

- ❄ Annual Report articles due January 4
- ❄ Welcome to our new custodians
- ❄ Hospitality Ministry
- ❄ Recognition of Baptisms, January 9 & 10
- ❄ Adult Study Opportunities
- ❄ Coats 4 Kids—Stewardship Corner
- ❄ Annual Meeting, January 31, 11:45 a.m.



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

JANUARY 2016

PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS



Can we go home?

The baby in the manger has been born and two short days later (at least by the church calendar) we read about the adventures of a twelve year old boy. The boy and his parents, along with other family and friends, made the long trip from Nazareth to Jerusalem for the festival of Passover. When the festival was over, they all embarked on the long journey home. After they had traveled for a day, they discovered the boy was not with them. But where could he be? Surely he knew the way home, surely home is where he needed to be. His parents searched in all the familiar places, checked with others who knew their child. But he wasn't at home. Or was he? Days later Jesus was found still in the temple in Jerusalem sitting among the teachers. As far as he was concerned, he was at home. For him, the temple was the place that gave him life, the place he was supposed to be.

Just what is home? Is home a place or a feeling? Is it real or is it something in our minds?

Home to me was Riverside, Illinois. The place I received life, where I was educated, where I worshiped, where my friends and family were; the place where I felt safe and comfortable; the place that was familiar, where I had

history; the place that "just was." Everything I associated with "home" was there. I couldn't even begin to imagine anyplace else being home.

Until ... I got married and established my own family – my family with a husband and a precious child. Then Gladstone, Michigan was home. The place where I found new life, new friends, a new place to worship, new things to make me comfortable and safe; the place where a new history was created; the place that "just was." Everything I associated with "home" was there.

Until ... together as a family, the three of us embarked on a new adventure, found a new place to hang our hats, to learn, to worship. And now West Salem is home. Together in this place, we have found new life, explored new surroundings, and experienced new activities; together in this place, we are comfortable, and it has become familiar; together in this place a new history is being forged; together this place "just is." Everything we associate with "home" is here.

As I write this, I am anticipating going "back home" to preach in my home congregation, the place where I was nurtured and encouraged, where I found my love of church. I remember how it was, how things were done, who was there, how I felt when I was in that place ... and it was all good (at least as I remember it in my mind) ... As excited as I am, I am also scared. Can you really go back home and find everything the same as you remember? I'm guessing not. New people are now a part of

the life of that place, and with new people come new ideas and new ways of doing things, and that is a good thing, even if it does mess with my "home."

And then, after all that, after a few days in a hotel, living out of a suitcase, eating in restaurants, and sleeping in a strange bed, we will look forward, again, to going "home," to coming back to West Salem.

Home is where you are welcomed unconditionally, where you feel free to experience new things and express new ideas, where you are safe and comfortable with your beliefs, where you are surrounded by those you love and who love you, where you find Jesus in the midst of it all.

May you know "home" here in this place.

Pastor Jean

Welcome
HOME

WHAT GOES UP...



**Undecorating
the Church**

After a wonderful Advent and Christmas season, it will be time to take down the tree and the trimmings in the sanctuary. Join us on Sunday, January 3, after the 10:30 a.m. service to remove the tree, and pack away the decorations for another year. Thanks to all who helped put up...and to those who will help take down. A special thanks to Jeff and Melissa Haldeman for coordinating our work!

DEADLINE SET FOR ANNUAL REPORT ARTICLES

If you are responsible for writing an article for the Annual Report, please have the article to the church office by noon on January 4. Please email your article to office@oursaviorswestsalem.org if you are able.



WELCOME,
SHERRI NEAL
AND
GARRETT HAZLETT!

WELCOME

Welcome to Sherri and Garrett, our new custodians! A mother-son team, they have been working on an interim basis, and are now in the position on a regular basis. Sherri also works with ChildFirst as their "kitchen lady." We are thankful to them and to the others who applied for the position – we had some very good candidates!

FINALLY...

Our transfer to new internet and e-mail addresses will be complete by Tuesday, January 5. After that date, we will no longer use the "@centurytel" addresses. Please begin using the "@oursaviorswestsalem.org" addresses immediately.



HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

Hospitality ministry is an important, Biblical ministry – welcoming



others into the gathered community. "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." (Hebrews 13:2)

That's what ushers do! *More than just handing out bulletins and collecting the offering, ushers are the first face we meet, and they make a real difference in the lives of those who come to worship.*

Our Savior's is looking for someone, or perhaps a team, to schedule and coordinate this important ministry of hospitality. Who knows how many angels will visit, welcomed by this ministry? We have a list of folk willing to serve; we just need to get them lined up. Can you make a difference? See Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean, or contact Kay in the office, for more information.

RECOGNITION OF BAPTISM

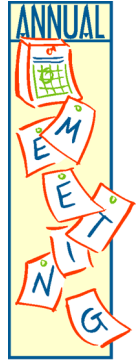


Recognition
of
Baptism

January 10 is the "Baptism of Our Lord." On that weekend, at all services, we will recognize baptisms from 2015. Those who were baptized are encouraged to join us, with baptism candle in hand! We will ask God's continued blessing on their journey in life, relight the candle to remember what God is doing in their lives, and send them forth to continue as disciples of Jesus! See Pastor Jean for more information.

2016 ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 31, 11:45 a.m.

The 2016 Annual Meeting will be on January 31, following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. A light lunch will be served following the meeting. Reports from 2015, elections, and adoption of the budget will be on the agenda. We need you to be a part of our celebration of ministry, our discernment of where God is leading us, and our planning to use the resources God entrusts to us!



YOU ASKED FOR IT ...



As we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion each week, several people have voiced their appreciation for the homemade communion bread. For many years,

Norma Piper has graciously made bread for communion for our special services on Christmas and Easter. Our First Communion students make the bread for Maundy Thursday as they partake in the sacrament for the first time. Our hope is to expand this ministry and have homemade bread once a month (on the third weekend) in the coming year. If baking is your passion, you, too, can become a part of this important ministry in the life of our congregation. Please speak with Pastor Jean for more information. Recipes are available.

PASTORAL ACT

✝ William Frederick Heider, son of Henry (Fred) and Dana Heider, was baptized December 13. His sponsors are Russell June and Kristina Johnson.

MISSION DISCERNMENT

The Vision Team and Space Team meet again January 19 to continue preparing for the next "Congregational Conversation."

Make plans to join us on Sunday, February 28, during the afternoon. We will take some time to

reflect on our vision for ministry, our dreams for our congregational life, and what it will take to get there! Most of all, we will continue to discern what God is up to in our midst. Your input is valuable – we treasure your thoughts and your insights.



KEEP WATCHING!



Remember that worship services are recorded and links posted on the web site. Several folk, including some of our shut-ins, have been making regular use of the

videos to stay connected. If you can't be in worship, check out the video page. Videos are usually posted by the middle of the week. Thanks to Dean Olson for making our videos each week!

LENTEN DRAMAS

Looking ahead...Lent begins February 10, and on Wednesdays in

Lent, we will have a series of dramas. The dramas involve minimal props and costuming, and no memorization. We need men and women, and we need folk at both 5 and 7 p.m. worship, so let Pastor Jon know if you would be willing to share your gifts.



NEW MEMBER CLASS



Interested in membership at Our Savior's? We would LOVE to have you join with us in community, as we seek to be faithful to God's call together as a church, and individually in our everyday lives.

If you come from a Lutheran background, it takes a transfer or, if a transfer cannot be obtained, a "reactivation" by the Congregation Council (really, it's not as bad as it sounds!)

If you come from a non-Lutheran background, we ask you to attend a new member class. This winter we will use the "Basically Fundamental" course on Thursday evenings, beginning January 21, or on Sunday mornings in February. More information on the course is listed under the "Adult Studies," elsewhere in this newsletter. Check it out!

For more information, contact Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBERS

The Congregation Council will need to appoint voting members to the 2016 La Crosse Area Synod Assembly sometime in the near future. If you are interested in participating in the assembly, contact Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean. The 2016 assembly is in Decorah June 10-12. Expenses are covered. Assemblies involve business, fellowship, worship, and a lot of learning about the work of God's people!



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, Inger Michael, Judy Morzinski, Carol Noel, Carol Peterson, Rich and Mary Storandt.

◆ Thank you to the Confirmation students for their Christmas Caroling. I truly enjoyed them! *Betty Whitlock*

◆ The Dorcas Sewing Circle wishes to thank Bea Halvorson and her sister for bringing all the beautiful fabric from their Indian friend. A day like that feels just like Christmas!

We always need ladies to sew 60 x 80 quilt tops. Perhaps now after Christmas you will find some time. You can always go to the quilting room and pick out your own squares (boxes are marked) or grab a bag from the basket in the Gathering Area. Your work is greatly appreciated. Thanks!

THANK YOU, MUSICIANS!

We thank all the musicians who provided us with very special music in the Advent and Christmas season!

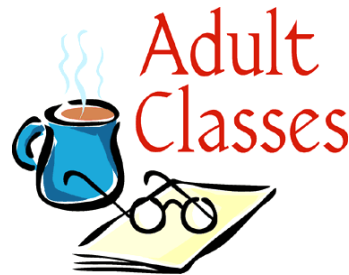


Thank you to the Sunday School for presenting a very special and meaningful Christmas program. Thank you to the Senior Choir for their songs of the season. Thank you to the Bells of Joy for playing for an Advent service and at Lakeview Healthcare Center. Thank you to the Christmas Eve musicians: Tricia Aleckson, Dean Olson, Melissa Haldeman and Molly Jensen. And thank you to all the directors, leaders, accompanists, organists, Sunday School teachers, community Christmas carolers, the congregation who sang with heart at the Hanging of the Greens and Carol Sing, and anyone who helped in any way.

The music of the season holds a special place in our hearts, and we are grateful for those who are willing to give of their time and talent.

ADULT STUDIES IN JANUARY!

Wednesday morning Bible study has an exciting January planned! Tim Bowman joins us on January 13, 20 and 27 to share a tour of the Holy Land, and the connection between places and Biblical stories. Prior to that, on January 6 (The Festival of the Epiphany), we will take a look at the Epiphany story from Matthew. 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



Evening study – “Basically Fundamental” – come and explore the basics of our Christian faith. We meet on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m., beginning January 21. Childcare is available! See Pastor Jon for more information.

January 21 – “Word, Word, and words”

February 4 – “Credo, I do”

February 18 – “Of baths and banquets”

March 3 – “All together, now!”

Sunday morning adult study begins again on January 10, at 9:15 a.m. We continue to use the “Nooma” series of videos to get us talking and challenge our view of life and faith. Looking ahead...in February we will use the “Basically Fundamental” study offered on Thursday evenings. Grab some coffee, and join us in the classroom by the restrooms on the lower level.

The Salem Terrace study and **WELCA Circle studies** continue in January – check the calendar for details!

NURSING HOME SERVICES

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

Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean will lead worship services on Thursday, January 21:

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

Pastor Jon will also lead worship at Lakeview on Sunday, January 24, 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.

CIRCLE NEWS

RUTH CIRCLE

Monday, January 18, 9 a.m.
Leader: Ilene Pavelko
Hostess: Connie Blunck

THANK YOU FOR THE MEMORIALS

✝ Thank you to Ingrid and Ron Eggleston for the gift to the Green Thumb Committee in memory of Alden Lee.

✝ Thank you to Tracey Skrentny, family and friends for the gift to the Summer Lunch Fund in memory of Tracey's mother, Arlene Brandt.

WELCA DISBURSEMENTS FROM THE 2015 ANNUAL LUTEFISK DINNER

World Hunger	\$ 500
World Mission	500
Lutheran World Relief	500
Lutheran Social Services	500
Sugar Creek Bible Camp	200
Lutheran Campus Center	200
Jail Ministry	100
Library	300
New Horizons	400
Salvation Army	1000
Red Cross (Money to be used locally)	500
Our Savior's Youth Ministry	200
Lutheran Disaster Relief	100
La Crosse Clothes Closet	100
Trinity Lutheran Clothes Closet	100
Synod Seminary Scholarships	400
St. Clair Health Mission Sparta	200
La Crosse Warming Center	500
Summer Lunch Program	500
Quilt Shipping Fund	<u>200</u>
Total Disbursed	\$7000

THANK YOU—BETHANY RIVERSIDE BIRTHDAY PARTY



Thank you so much for helping to entertain the residents of Bethany Riverside Nursing Home at their monthly birthday party on November 19. Nell Martell at the piano, and Lisa Lee, Judy Morzinski and Bev Bockenbauer for baking the cupcakes and birthday cake and serving the residents.

OWLS
THURSDAY, JANUARY 28
1:30 p.m.

The Moravian Church is the oldest protestant denomination. It is one of six churches with whom the ELCA shares communion. Ilene Pavelko has experienced Moravian worship and music festivals for many summers at Ephraim Moravian Church. Her sister is the organist and music director at this Door County parish. Ilene will share what she has learned about these brothers and sisters in Christ. Come to the OWLS meeting, January 28 at 1:30 p.m.



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!**

Bible Study

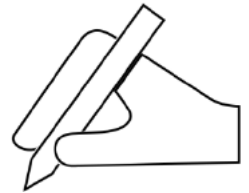
@ **Salem Terrace**
Monday, January 11th
at 10 AM



Members – *and friends* – who live at Salem Terrace and Mill Street Manor (or whoever would like to stop by – *all are welcome*) are invited to 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.

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.



REMEMBERING
THOSE WHO
SERVE IN THE
MILITARY ...

As our high school students move on to continuing education and work, some also enlist in the military. We would like to keep in contact with those individuals as well. If you have a child serving in the military, please share their contact information with Pastor Jean.

**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. Elaine Erickson graciously allowed us to share a glimpse into her story. Elaine, 91 years young, was once asked why she goes to church, and her answer was not because she was told she *had to go*, but because she *wanted to go* ever since she was a young girl.

Elaine’s advice to new disciples of Jesus ...

Faith is different than just being a church-going person. Elaine believes you need to be able to talk to God in prayer. Sometimes it doesn’t feel like prayer, but more like just talking; and sometimes it’s even hollering at God, but God doesn’t holler back. Elaine said you need somebody to give you courage, to make you feel better, and God has been her courage since she was a young girl.

Elaine’s favorite Bible passage ... because

... Psalm 23 because she knows it. Elaine finds comfort in this psalm. Every time she has had surgery, Elaine has recited this psalm on her way to the operating room. It makes her feel good.

Elaine’s earliest memories of church ...

Elaine’s dad did not go to church, but she went to Sunday School in Blair at the Norwegian church where she grew up. She always wanted to be confirmed, but she couldn’t be because she wasn’t baptized. Elaine moved to West Salem in 1943. She married Dale when she was 18 years old in Pastor Ottersen’s (Our Savior’s) home in front of the fireplace. Elaine remembers Pastor Ottersen as being a nice person but very strict, not allowing dancing, and not allowing fundraisers like rummage sales in the church because that was “selling junk for the Lord.” Elaine was baptized and

confirmed at the age of 22 at Our Savior’s by Pastor Haaland. Her mother was also baptized and confirmed at the same time. In more recent years, Elaine was part of the sewing circle, making 80 quilt tops in one year.

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



To Our Savior’s WELCA: A special thank you for the lovely Thanksgiving bag. It was greatly appreciated.

From Lettie Morgan

To the Ladies of WELCA: Thank you for the Thanksgiving goodie bag. What a nice treat in a clever decorated bag. The whole family enjoyed the food. Thank you for your time & thoughtfulness.

From Bobbi Broughton

Thank you to those who put together the Thanksgiving bags for us older folks, and “thank you” to those who sent and signed other cards, they are so nice to receive. “Merry Christmas” we can’t forget the meaning of that wonderful day.

From Yolanda Craig

A Merry Christmas and a thank you for the Thanksgiving basket.

From Carol Noel

Thank you for the Thanksgiving treats – I enjoyed them – the decorated bag they were in was so cute – I have it out for my kids to see.

From Elaine Erickson

SALVATION ARMY DINNER 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." We look to have six servers, and families are welcome, including children as young as ten. A number of confirmation students are already signed up, so fill in the slots and serve Jesus! A sign-up sheet is on the youth bulletin board outside Pastor Jon's office.



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.

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 **Sara Frank** (UW-L), **Emily Ender** (UW-River Falls), and **Mikaela Hunter** (Drake, Iowa).

SCRIP CARDS

Scrip Cards are now available for Kwik Trip, Woodman's, and Festival. Cards are generally available before and after



Saturday worship, and between services on Sunday. Cards make great gifts, and at the same time, a percentage goes to our youth ministry program. You can fill up, eat up, and gift up – and support our kids at the same time!

A sign up is now posted on the youth bulletin board for those who would like to help with the selling of cards. Remember that kids who sell get credit to their account for future mission trips (a parent should also be present). If adults would like to sell the cards, we will put that share towards the Summer Lunch Program – a great way to support that ministry!

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING



Thanks to everyone who helped make the Salvation Army Bell ringing at Hansen's IGA a huge success – we even made the Coulee News! Special thanks to Judy Morzinski, Jan and Keith Goetzinger, Larry Blunck, Carrie Johnson's small group, the Thompsons, Marjorie and Thor Anderson, Velma and Rebecca Schmidt, Heather Campbell, Kristen Schoenfeld, Trenton Foreman, Wiese, Hemker, Clements, Drury, and Leren Families. Wow – lots of help and lots of good work for a great cause. Thank you all!

CONFIRMATION AND AFTER SCHOOL



Confirmation classes and After School resume Wednesday, January 6. 6th graders continue to meet at 6 p.m. on

Wednesdays, and begin to explore the New Testament.

7th & 8th grade students meet at 6 p.m., looking at prayer and especially the Lord's Prayer. Several electives are set for January 13 and 27, and small groups meet on January 20.

9th graders *and their parents* meet several times in January and February to explore financial stewardship.

- January 6 OR January 20 - Stewardship, part one
- January 27 OR February 3 – Stewardship, part two

7-9th graders should be keeping up with worship notes – you don't want to fall too far behind!

Finally, thanks to all the parents who have stepped forward with the meal during After School. We appreciate your support!



WEDNESDAY NIGHT HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY January 6th and 20th



To start the New Year we will be starting a new High School program for 10th-12th graders! For the Winter/Spring semester

we will be meeting every other week for community time, Bible Study, and to do life together. Starting on January 6th 7-8:30 p.m., we will begin meeting twice a month to hang out and spend quality time together studying

the Scriptures, supporting each other, and generally having fun. There are also some other high school outings that are in the works!



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

We are into our second trimester with our friends from *Whirl* as we continue to learn about the

seasons of the church year and hear the stories about Jesus' life. In January, we



are moving from the season of Christmas, to the Baptism of Our Lord, ending up in Epiphany, where the color will change from white to green. 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.

Sunday School Christmas Program

"Stars! Angels! Shepherds! Kings!"

On December 12, seventy-seven of our Sunday School children did a great job presenting their Christmas program *"Stars! Angels! Shepherds! Kings!"*



We thank our children for working so hard and singing your hearts out, and our parents for your support and getting your kids to Sunday School each week.

Thank you to Mike Larson, Ilene Pavelko, Shannon Vick, Courtney Koepp, and Linda Berg for providing the music and direction for the children.

We thank our Sunday School teachers for all of your work, not only with the program, but for faithfully sharing the love of Jesus Christ with our children each week.

Thank you to those who helped behind the scenes to make this program possible –those who prepared the costumes and got the kids ready; Wendy Kane & her kitchen crew who organized the snacks, served, and cleaned up, and those family members who brought the snacks.

Thank you to everyone who came to enjoy our Christmas program, and for your generous offering of \$426 for the Care & Share Food Pantry.

We especially thank our brothers and sisters in Christ at the Presbyterian Church for sharing their worship space with us once again this year.

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).



Our *friendly competition* continues 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 14 weeks (mid December) ...

Our **Pre-K** class has the most weeks of "near perfect" attendance at 4 weeks.

We also have **5 children who have perfect attendance** and another **12 who only missed once!** Way to go kids!! Keep it up!

Our **5th grade, 1st grade, and 4th grade (Ms. Kane/Ms. Schmidt)** are running neck and neck for offering at \$91.50, \$72.75, & \$72.70 respectively! Watch the bulletin board outside of Pastor Jean's office to see our garden growing.



Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, January 3, 2016 – NO Sunday

School – Christmas vacation

Sunday, January 24 – Kids sing in worship at 10:30 a.m. with S.O.S. Band

Sunday, February 21 – Kids sing in worship at 10:30 a.m.

Hungry Jar Offering for January La Crosse Warming Center



The weather outside isn't quite frightful yet, but it will come ... this is Wisconsin! The La Crosse Warming Center's mission is to work with the greater La Crosse community to

better serve those experiencing homelessness with dignity and respect by providing a safe and warm place for homeless adults 18 years and older to get in out of the cold during the winter months from November 1 until April 30. The Warming Center is located at 413 South Third Street in La Crosse and can accommodate up to 34 guests. Guests are able to take a shower and wash their clothes. To keep the doors open, hundreds of volunteers from area churches and the community are needed to staff the center. Please be generous as we care for our brothers and sisters who are hurting.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL REVIEW

The Congregation Council met on Monday, December 14, at Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean's home, with President Char Buelow presiding. At this meeting the council:

- Reviewed and approved the minutes of the November meeting. Also reviewed and accepted the November financial reports and pastors' reports.
- Approved the transfer of Eva Farris to Our Savior's.
- Heard that Sherri Neal and Garrett Hazlett have been hired as custodial staff.
- Reorganized several funds in our accounting system to reflect the sale of "Johnson North," and the removal of the Mill Street house.
- Discussed some budget issues in preparation for a new budget year.

The council meets again on Monday, January 11. See Char Buelow or one of the pastors if you have any questions.

2016 STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY



Thank you to everyone who submitted a 2016 estimate of giving card. To date 84 estimates have been submitted, giving us a base of over \$170,000 to begin our 2016 budget building.

Thank you to all who submitted estimates, to our "simply giving" folk, and to all who are partners with us in the work of Jesus. We are grateful for your assistance. Your giving through Our Savior's makes a difference in the lives of people in West Salem, Bangor, La Crosse County, and around the world!

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

A cold wind blows straight into my face, and I look down to prevent my breath from being taken away, I take another step closer to my car. Man this winter is brutal. I wish I had a garage or at least one of those remote starts. I take another breath and let the warm exhale heat my face for just a short while. "Hurry up girls. It is freezing out here." My verbal prompting doesn't do much except make me feel better because it still takes forever to get everyone loaded into the icy car.

"It's cold in here Mom!" all three of them say in various tones and methods.

"I know just wait for the heat."

I really want to preach to them how happy they should be to have a car, a mom and a healthy life. I don't and just decide to fight that battle another day. After all, I was just having the same thought.

As we head down Highway 16, the girls start talking about the animals that hibernate and the animals that have to be out in the winter weather. "I would hate to be a deer in the winter."

I see my window of opportunity and dive wholeheartedly through it!" Girls, think about if you had to live outside most of your day and didn't have the warm coat of fur or hair those animals have. Can you imagine that your thoughts all day would be about finding ways to stay warm? You three are sure lucky to have jackets, hats, gloves and boots. Think about kids you go to school with who aren't as fortunate. What do you think they do?"

There was my quick speech about gratefulness but hopefully a message to get them thinking about being empathetic and about helping their neighbors, classmates, friends, and community.

Coats 4 Kids has been around for many years and each year the demand seems to outweigh the supply. Can you do your part? Clean out those closets, baskets and bins of coats, hats, scarves and gloves/mittens. Donate them to our bin in the coat area and feel good about helping our community. We can and do make a difference.

Stacy J. Mitchell

MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND DISBURSEMENT FOR 2016

The Mission Endowment Fund Committee has announced the disbursements for 2016. A total of \$12,400 is being disbursed to enhance and strengthen the ministry we do in partnership with other organizations.

Category 1 Outreach in Community and Synod

La Crosse Area Synod Endowment Fund
Campus Ministry \$500
Seminary Scholarships \$500
Salvation Army \$1,000
Sunshine On The Trail \$120
La Crosse Warming Center \$1,000
New Horizons \$1,250
St. Clare Health Mission-La Crosse \$1,500
Sugar Creek Bible Camp \$600
Our Savior's Lutheran Church Lunch
Program \$700

Category 2 Missions of the ELCA

Global Barnyard Program \$200
ELCA Disaster Response \$1,350
ELCA Well Project \$250
ELCA World Hunger \$750
Prison Ministry of St. Dysmas of South
Dakota \$200

Category 3 Local Capital Improvement

Our Savior's Lutheran for property needs
\$2,480

The Mission Endowment Fund is grateful for your support, and is excited to share these gifts to support the work of Jesus Christ!

DATE	ATTENDANCE	OFFERING	SUNDAY SCHOOL
Dec. 2, Hanging of the Greens	117		
Dec. 5 & 6	284	\$4,610	77
Dec. 9— Advent Drama	52		
Dec. 12 & 13	304	\$6,378	49
Dec. 16—Carol Sing	79		
Dec. 19 & 20	329	\$3,348	70
Christmas Eve 1:30 p.m.	277		
3:30 p.m.	282		
5:30 p.m.	152		
10 p.m.	53		
Christmas Day	39		
Dec. 26 & 27	103		

SIMPLY GIVING

Don't forget about Simply Giving, a direct payment service facilitated by Thrivent. At no cost to you (and you don't have to be a Thrivent member either), you can have your support for our ministry made automatically when you desire, and for the amount you desire. Signing up...changing your giving...or discontinuing is easy. For more information, contact the office or speak with one of the pastors.



NEW FLOWER CHART AVAILABLE

We have posted a flower chart for 2016 on the Kiosk in the Gathering Area. We invite you to think about an occasion you would like to mark, a person you might like to memorialize or honor. Write your name on the chart by the date you would like to have. We will send you a reminder before the date so that you can provide flowers for the weekend. You can also let us know at that time how you would like to have the flowers acknowledged.

Thank you for helping to beautify our worship.

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 **112** people receive the newsletter by email instead of the **447** 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.

JANUARY

ACOLYTES

Jan.	2	6 p.m.	Cody Anderson
	3	8 a.m.	Allison Arentz
	3	10:30 a.m.	Cassidy Bores
Jan.	9	6 p.m.	Hannah Brenengen
	10	8 a.m.	Aidan Donahue
	10	10:30 a.m.	Mahlivanh Fleckenstein
Jan.	16	6 p.m.	Kara Gavaghan
	17	8 a.m.	Zach Friell
	17	10:30 a.m.	Lexi Giblin
Jan.	23	6 p.m.	Wyndsor Goodenough
	24	8 a.m.	Hallie Halverson
	24	10:30 a.m.	Meghan Hansen
Jan.	30	6 p.m.	Taylor Hennessey
	31	8 a.m.	Mya Jacobson
	31	10:30 a.m.	Justin Kettner

BASKET HOLDERS

Jan.	3	8 a.m.	Ryan Nickles
	3	10:30 a.m.	Marina Thompson
Jan.	10	8 a.m.	Bennett Turnipseed
	10	10:30 a.m.	Blaine Wheeler
Jan.	17	8 a.m.	Maxwell Williams
	17	10:30 a.m.	Mallory Farr
Jan.	24	8 a.m.	Audrey Godlewski
	24	10:30 a.m.	Sydney Hammes
Jan.	31	8 a.m.	Teegan Hansen
	31	10:30 a.m.	Maddie Haun

ALTAR GUILD

Pam Gresens
Jill Iliff

HOME COMMUNION SERVERS

Jan. 2/3 Daryl Wermedal
Jan. 9/10 Betty Whitlock/Diane McClintock
Jan. 16/17 Kristy Alumbaugh
Jan. 23/24 Marjorie Anderson
Jan. 30/31 Linda Arentz

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Jan.	2	6 p.m.	Jon Hetland
	3	8 a.m.	Linda Arentz
			Larry Blunck
	3	10:30 a.m.	Dottie Baumgartner
			Steve Ahles
Jan.	9	6 p.m.	Judy Morzinski
	10	8 a.m.	Eric Ender & Lynette Ender
	10	10:30 a.m.	Tracey Beckley
			Jaime Fortier
Jan.	16	6 p.m.	Allison Rigotti
	17	8 a.m.	Pam Gresens
			Judy Long
	17	10:30 a.m.	Scott Friell
			Tracy Hesse
Jan.	23	6 p.m.	Bev Bockenhauer
	24	8 a.m.	Sandy Novak
			Sharon Olson
	24	10:30 a.m.	Jeff & Melissa Haldeman
Jan.	30	6 p.m.	Karen DeSchepper
	31	8 a.m.	Melody Schmitz
			Char Buelow
	31	10:30 a.m.	Denise Jones
			Corey Sjoquist

READERS

Jan.	2	6 p.m.	Ann Sprain
	3	8 a.m.	Jim Quamme
	3	10:30 a.m.	Corey Sjoquist
Jan.	9	6 p.m.	Connie Pinski
	10	8 a.m.	Jenny Leren
	10	10:30 a.m.	Jaime Fortier
Jan.	16	6 p.m.	Karen DeSchepper
	17	8 a.m.	Dennis Manthei
	17	10:30 a.m.	Inger Michael
Jan.	23	6 p.m.	Jim Anderson
	24	8 a.m.	Jim Kerkman
	24	10:30 a.m.	Ilene Pavelko
Jan.	30	6 p.m.	Connie Pinski
	31	8 a.m.	Kathy Wehrs
	31	10:30 a.m.	Marjorie Anderson

OFFERINGS

Jan.	2	6 p.m.	Carlie Burkhardt
	3	8 a.m.	Jim Quamme
	3	10:30 a.m.	Dottie Baumgartner
Jan.	9	6 p.m.	Marjorie Anderson
	10	8 a.m.	Wendy Kane
	10	10:30 a.m.	Tracey Beckley
Jan.	16	6 p.m.	Ken Spraetz
	17	8 a.m.	Char Buelow
	17	10:30 a.m.	Jim Quamme
Jan.	23	6 p.m.	Steve Ahles
	24	8 a.m.	Mike Alumbaugh
	24	10:30 a.m.	Rich Clements
Jan.	30	6 p.m.	Kay Niemeier
	31	8 a.m.	Char Buelow
	31	10:30 a.m.	Vernetta Moe

USHERS

Jan.	2	6 p.m.	<u>USHERS NEEDED</u>
	3	8 a.m.	Larry Blunck
			Jim Quamme
	3	10:30 a.m.	Adam & Jessica Kennedy Family
Jan.	9	6 p.m.	Jim and Marjorie Anderson Family
	10	8 a.m.	Larry Blunck
			Wendy Kane
	10	10:30 a.m.	Adam & Jessica Kennedy Family
Jan.	16	6 p.m.	Ken Spraetz
	17	8 a.m.	Larry Blunck
			Char Buelow
	17	10:30 a.m.	Adam & Jessica Kennedy Family
Jan.	23	6 p.m.	Tim and Candice Stoll
	24	8 a.m.	Larry Blunck
			Jim and Ruby Kerkman
	24	10:30 a.m.	Adam & Jessica Kennedy Family
Jan.	30	6 p.m.	Tim and Candice Stoll
	31	8 a.m.	Larry Blunck
			Char Buelow
	31	10:30 a.m.	Adam & Jessica Kennedy Family

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
Karen DeSchepper, Counter
Tim Bowman, Interim Director of Youth & Family Ministry Email: youth@oursaviorswestsalem.org
Sherri Neal and Garrett Hazlett, Custodians