

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

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February

FEBRUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER

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

- ✻ Celebration of Hope, February 6 & 7
- ✻ Help Needed for Lenten Dramas & Dinners
- ✻ Ash Wednesday, February 10
- ✻ Lenten Schedule
- ✻ Prayer around the Cross, February 14, 7 p.m.
- ✻ Youth & Adult Education Information



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

FEBRUARY 2016

PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

January isn't even over...and it's almost Lent already! How? Didn't we just pack Christmas away, and now Lent is staring me in the face? Why? We have an early Easter this year..., which means an early Lent..., which means I'm already behind. Too quick, too soon!

On the other hand, Lent is just about here and not a moment too soon. The market has plunged, ISIS continues to threaten, winter is wearing us down, politics is politics, and the optimism of the new year has pretty much melted away. We need Lent, and we need it desperately!

So what's Lent got that we need? Three things. First, Lent calls us to reflect on a broken world, and to see where we fit in the midst of the brokenness. Lent calls us to be honest – to admit that we have been a part of the failure we see around us. To “fess up” with God, and with ourselves.

Second, Lent starts us on a journey that takes us to the foot of the cross where the crucified Jesus sacrifices himself for the sake of a broken world, for you and for me. There, in the midst of the rubble of a world that is in pain, Jesus is lifted up, and God is at work.

Third, Lent has you and me. True, Lent is about a broken world, and a Savior who comes in the midst of that world to bring life and hope through the crucifixion. It is about God at work, God doing what needs to be done, doing what only God can do.

But Lent does not let us just sit on the sidelines and watch God go at it. Lent reminds us of our baptism, where in the water and the Word, we are connected to the crucified Christ, and receive the promise that what Jesus does on the cross is for us. Baptism also, however, calls and empowers us to be agents of God's work in the world. Or, in other words, to do “God's work (with) our hands.”

So, Lent is about a broken world, redeemed by the crucified Jesus, and embraced by God using our hands. Lent has brokenness, Jesus, and us!

That is why the Lenten journey is so deeply profound as we live as disciples of Jesus. We are connected to God, but we are also called to become a connection between the broken world and the crucified Christ. Lent, in a sense, fashions us to be a bridge that brings the life and hope of God's work in Jesus to the world around us.

So what to do about that? Make Lent especially meaningful this year!

Start with worship. Sunday, of course, with the celebration of Holy Communion – each week experiencing anew the death of Jesus in the bread and the wine, the body and the blood (1 Corinthians 11:26).

But Wednesdays too, beginning with Ash Wednesday (February 10). The 11:30 a.m. worship is a brief, contemplative experience. At 5 and 7 p.m., include Holden Evening Prayer and a drama. However you choose to worship,

worship the Christ who on the cross brings you salvation, but who also sends you forth.

In between the 5 and 7 p.m. services, come and enjoy a Lenten dinner. This year the synod challenges us to raise \$500 to purchase a cow for God's Global Barnyard, a ministry that targets hunger needs. Can we top that - maybe two (or more) cows? The proceeds from our Lenten Dinners will go toward getting those cows.

Then, go forth – go out in the world and find a way (or more) to make a difference. Look for opportunities to do “God's work (with) your hands.” Look for ways to be a bridge that brings the life giving power of the crucified Christ to the broken world around you.

But always keep your eye on the cross that stands on the hill called Calvary – and as you do that, look just beyond, where you will see the empty tomb. Know that the journey that goes to the cross moves beyond to the joy of Easter.

Yes, Lent is early this year, but I can't wait. Too much in the world demanding too much life that I just don't have to give. But Jesus does, and... Jesus does! So come with me to bask in the life of the cross, and to make a difference as together we live out “God's work, our hands.”

Pastor Jon

VACATION TIME

Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean will be off in search of snowy trails the weekend of February 20-21. Thank you to Cathryn Bottem for leading worship for us on those days. They will return to the office on Monday, February 22.

Celebration of Hope

The weekend of February 6-7 is our annual Celebration of Hope – the last weekend before we head into Ash Wednesday and Lent. The SOS Band will play, and the Sounds Like Love Choir will join the Senior Choir to sing at both Sunday services. Join us!

Celebration of
HOPE

LENTEN DRAMAS

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 are still looking for several 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.

LENTEN DINNERS



Lenten Dinners begin Wednesday, February 17, at 5:45 p.m.

Dinners will feature a variety of soups with homemade bread, wonderful fellowship. To make it happen we are seeking volunteers to provide one or more loaves of homemade bread. Each week we will need 7-8 loaves. If you can help, contact Pam Gressens (608-780-7189) or sign-up in the Gathering Area. We are also looking for several pans of bars each week. Thank you for your partnership with us!

But wait...there's more! This year the synod challenges all congregations to raise \$500 to purchase a cow through God's Global Barnyard, a ministry that seeks to curb and end hunger. The proceeds from the dinner will go toward purchasing that cow. Can we do it? Or...can we do even better and get two cows? Can we do even more? YOUR gifts at the Lenten dinners will make a real difference!

ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENTEN WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Mid-day Worship 11:30 a.m.

Join us for a quiet, contemplative worship each week, including scripture and reflections, and time for prayer.
Worship will last about 20 minutes.

Ash Wednesday Worship February 10

11:30 a.m.

Mid-day worship with Ashes and Holy Communion
Quiet contemplation and reflection

5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Ashes and Holy Communion
Music with hymns



Wednesdays in Lent February 17 – March 16

11:30 a.m.

Mid-day contemplative worship

5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Holden Evening Prayer Worship
and conversations around the holidays

5:45 p.m.

Lenten dinners with proceeds to purchase cows
for God's Global Barnyard



PRAYER AROUND THE CROSS



"Prayer around the Cross" is a new Sunday evening worship we hope to offer once a month, giving us a quiet, contemplative worship opportunity. We will gather to reflect on the darkness around us, and on the light that shines through Jesus. Gathering on February 14, we will consider the love that we celebrate, but also the love that is lost – love that we never had, or love that we grieve. If you are in a good relationship, or yearn to have one, we offer our cares to a good and gracious God who, in Jesus, loves us the most!

We meet in the sanctuary on Sunday, February 14 at 7 p.m. Regardless of where you are in your life, come and share in times of silence, prayer, and music.



FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION

5th grade parents and students – mark your calendars now – First

Communion instruction will be on **Sundays, March 6 and March 13**. Class runs **from 1:30 to 3 p.m.** each day. Parents are asked to join us. We will learn about Holy Communion, bake the bread for our first communion, and create our own communion cup. First Communion will be a part of our worship on Maundy Thursday (March 24). For more information, see Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean.



SUGAR CREEK CAMPERSHIPS

The brochures have arrived (on the kiosk in the Gathering Area)! It's not too early to start thinking about summer Bible camp at Sugar Creek. "The Jesus Way" is the theme for 2016. Our Savior's provides camperships for those attending summer camp – \$100 for full week, \$50 for half week. We are asking students/parents to fill out a "campership request form" and return it to the church office NO LATER than April 28. Forms are available in the church office, on the kiosk in the Gathering Area, or on the website – www.oursaviorswestsalem.org. Camperships will be given to the students during worship the weekend of May 7-8. Students will be responsible for getting the campership money to Sugar Creek. As a congregation, we want to lift up those young people who will be spending a week experiencing "the Jesus way" at camp, sending you forth with our prayers and blessings. We will look forward to reading about your experiences in the newsletter when you return.

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 **Justin Beckley** (Hamline, St. Paul), **April**

Haldeman (UW-L), and **Taylor Novak** (St. Mary's, Winona).



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.

This month we pray for **Sam Fellom** (Navy) studying in Pensacola FL.

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY FEBRUARY UPDATE



We will only be meeting once in February due to Lenten Services

on Wednesday nights. We are still meeting for Bible Study on February 3, but will not be meeting on the February 17. I encourage you to go to the Lenten Services and have some family time.

Also we need to know who might be interested in attending a summer mission trip to Minneapolis. The weeks we are looking at are July 3-9, July 17-23, or July 31-August 6. If you are student or parent who is interested in attending, please let Tim Bowman or Pastor Jon know ASAP as there are a limited number of people we can bring and we need to make sure that they have enough space for us. The cost for the week is \$280 with a \$50 deposit. Our registration deadline is Sunday, February 21. Please let us know by then or you will not be included in the final count. The \$50 deposit will be due by Sunday, March 6.

CONFIRMATION AND AFTER SCHOOL



Confirmation classes meet once in February (on the 3rd), prior to the start of Lent. 6th grade and the 7th & 8th grade core class are at 6 p.m. There is NO

After School due to Early Release at the schools.

9th graders and parents meet at 7 p.m. (unless they attended the January 27 class). 9th graders will meet on Wednesday, February 17 after the 7 p.m. worship to get organized for making their banners. The following Wednesdays they will prepare their banners for the Affirmation of Baptism service later in April.

With Lent beginning February 10, classes for all grades will not resume until March 30. In the meantime, 7th-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!

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 or to support the Summer Lunch program. You can fill up, eat up, and gift up – and support our kids at the same time!



A sign up is outside Pastor Jon's office if you would be willing to sell cards. Kids need a parent present, and their "cut" goes into their

account for future mission trips. Adults are also welcome to sell cards – their portion will go toward the Summer Lunch account. See Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean for more information.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The cold days of January have taken their toll on our Sunday School attendance – remember it is always warm and welcoming here at church! Our teachers work hard to prepare a meaningful and fun experience for our students, and our friends from *Whirl* are full of energy as they share stories to help us learn about the seasons of the church year and about Jesus' life.



In February, we are moving from the season of Epiphany into Lent, where the color will change from green to purple. Remember that your students should be bringing home their weekly worksheets so you can talk about the lesson at home and do the project at the end together as a family. We are always eager to welcome new students - it's never too late - 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 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).



(\$79.76-\$78.75)! We are getting close to filling a second garden plot and the congregation is working on their plot, too! Watch the bulletin board outside of Pastor Jean's office to see our garden growing.



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

Sunday, March 20 – Kids sing in worship at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, March 27 (Easter) – Kids sing in worship at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, March 27 (Easter) – **NO** Sunday School class



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 17 weeks (mid-January) ...

Our **Pre-K and Kindergarten** classes are tied for the most weeks of "near perfect" attendance at 4 weeks. We also have **1 child who has perfect attendance** and another **10 who only missed once!** Way to go kids!! Keep it up!

Our **5th grade** is pulling away from the pack at \$97.25, followed by the **2nd grade** at \$83. Our **4th grade (Mrs. Fortier/Ms. Witte)**, **4th grade (Ms. Kane/Ms. Schmidt)**, **Kindergarten**, and **1st Grade** are within \$1.01 of each other



Hungry Jar Offering for February Care & Share Food Pantry

Ms. Kane & Ms. Schmidt's 4th grade Sunday School class chose our local Care & Share Food Pantry as the recipient of February's Hungry Jar monies. We are blessed to have a roof over our heads and food in our bellies. But there are those for whom that is not the case. The Care & Share Food Pantry is here to serve those who need a bit of help providing food for families and individuals to nourish and sustain them. As we throw away our "left overs", remember those who haven't eaten today. Please be generous with your "spare change" to help feed the hungry in our community.

MISSION TRIP TO THAILAND BY, CATHRYN BOTTEM

Three plane rides, a six-hour van ride, and two hours hanging on to the gate of a truck to the top of a village to find God where many wouldn't think to find him. On January 5th, 13 members of Common Ground campus ministry stepped foot on the land of Chiang Mai, Thailand where the population is 90% Buddhist.

It was quite a new experience to be in an area where my religion was a minority and many people did not know the Lord, but the ones that did were making their voices heard. Our coordinator, Andrea Hintz, lived her childhood years in Thailand as her parents did mission work until the Lord called her to America for school and to get Common Ground involved in this amazing mission.

Driving up into the Mantu mountains displayed so much of God's beautiful creation that it took your breath away, watching it pass until the sun went down. A pipe blocked the way for us to enter the village, so as a team we had to lift this pipe above our heads for two trucks so we could finish our trip up to the school that would be home for 5 days. The strength, determination, and fantastic teamwork that went into the whole group showed a whole higher power working within us to trust one another not to drop the pipe or leave anyone to do the work alone.

The next morning, we were able to meet more of the missionaries who had been working on this project long before we arrived, and will continue after we leave. This village doesn't have electricity, so we made many things by hand including cement, which consisted of 18 buckets of sand from the river, cement mix and water. God's love brought these missionaries together to build this beautiful school, but also gave them the strength to carry 100-pound bags of sand up hills multiple

times a day just so the Karen children will have a safe place to learn the good news of Jesus.

As the work continued, the children-though they couldn't speak English-would play with us, help carry sand buckets, and much more that you just wanted to stay with them and watch them grow in their faith. We took them to their school for about 3 hours for two days to teach them English words, and what was completely amazing was when one of the boys-probably 4 or 5-started singing "if you're happy and you know it;" we had barely taught that to him, and he had it already nailed!

You couldn't help but see God everywhere you looked in this beautiful village. I think where I saw God most in this village was at our church service that we had with the Karen people. Though they couldn't understand us and us them, we were still worshiping the same God, and there was a song that many of us knew that the Karen were singing so there was a beautiful duet between the English and Karen it just made you tear up. It was heartbreaking to leave that village, but I hope to continue to see it grow, see the church they're building grow, and hopefully one day return to help them once more.

There's more to tell (with pictures too), and I'm looking forward to sharing it with you on February 28, during Sunday morning coffee hour. In the meantime, thank you for all of your support. I couldn't have made this mission trip possible without all of the wonderful people at Our Savior's.

DATE	ATTENDANCE	OFFERING	SUNDAY SCHOOL
Jan. 2 & 3	229	\$5,861	
Jan. 9 & 10	242	\$7,021	64
Jan. 16 & 17	211	\$4,778	55
Jan. 23 & 24	371		56
Jan. 30 & 31			

MISSION DISCERNMENT

The Vision Team and Space Teams invite you to join them in a "Congregational Conversation" on February 28, beginning at 1:30 p.m. We have spent the past year reflecting on last year's "conversation," and exploring both our ministries and our needs. We want to engage the congregation in moving forward to consider what God is calling us to do and to be, and we need YOU to help make that happen!

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.



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 (already started, so join us on February 4), 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.

ADULT STUDIES IN FEBRUARY!

Wednesday morning Bible study dives into the magnificent stories in the Gospel of Luke. From Christmas, to parables, to miracles, to the death and resurrection stories, Luke is packed with spellbinding tales of God at work in the world through 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.

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

February 4 – "Credo, I do"

February 18 – "Of baths and banquets"

March 3 – "All together, now!"

Sunday morning adult study continues using the "Basically Fundamental" series. We meet in the downstairs classroom off the fellowship hall, at 9:15 a.m. 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 February – check the calendar for details!

THANK YOU FROM THE DORCAS SEWING CIRCLE

- ✂ Thanks to Bea Halverson and Eleanor Becker for the material that they gave us.
- ✂ Thanks to Melody Schmitz for the 6 bags of fabric she donated.

NURSING HOME SERVICES

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

Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean will lead worship services on Thursday, February 18:

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

We will also lead worship at Lakeview on Sunday, February 28, 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

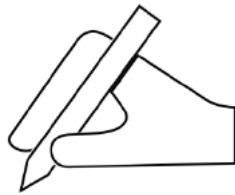
RUTH CIRCLE

Monday, February 15, 9 a.m.
Leader: Carol Stekel
Hostess: Ilene Pavelko

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 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
- ❖ for those who have a computer, the **worship service** is also available **on the church website** – www.oursaviorswestsalem.org.



We are happy to deliver! Please call the church office and let us know.



Bible Study
@ Salem Terrace
Monday, February 8 at 10 a.m.

Members – *and friends* – who live at Salem Terrace and Mill Street Manor (or whoever would like to stop by – *all are welcome*) are invited to join us for Bible Study. We will meet in the small kitchenette room off the parking lot between the two buildings. The coffee pot will be on.

**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. Doris Yeske graciously allowed us to share a glimpse into her story. Doris, 90 years

young, has written eight books on Depression glass.

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

Faith is something that carries you through the trials and tribulations of life. Faith is always with you.

Doris's favorite Bible passage ... because

... Doris likes the book of Mark in the New Testament. She said it portrays the life of Jesus and seems more realistic to her.

Doris's earliest memories of church ...

Doris grew up in a small town and went to North Beaver Creek Lutheran Church. She remembers her mother telling her she had to dress up because they were going to church, and she had to fold her hands and say her prayers. Doris' parents were very religious and they seldom missed a Sunday at church – that was how she was brought up. Doris said when she was young, the pastor asked her to write about what Lent meant to her. She was at North Beaver Creek until she went to college. As an adult here at Our Savior's, Doris said when she lived in her condo and still had her car she never missed a Sunday. She looked forward to going to church. Now that she resides at Salem Terrace, she misses coming to church. *[Although she faithfully comes to the worship service we do once a month there.]*

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

OWLS

The OWLS will meet at church, on February 25 at 1 p.m. to car pool to tour Eagle Crest South. Eagle Crest South is a retirement, assisted living facility located at 622 Bennora Lee Court which is behind Gundersen Health System and close to Green Island Ice Arena.

Eagle Crest South offers activities in their location that allow residents to maintain healthy lifestyles by encouraging movement and socializing. It provides meals along with 24 hours a day staff.

If you are interested in touring the facility please sign the sheet located on the Kiosk as we will need to know how many drivers will be needed.

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!

PASTORAL ACT

✝ Adriana Marie Hebrink, daughter of Derek and Erin Hebrink, was baptized January 24. Her sponsors are Courtney and Brandon Welke.

*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, Sandra Holthaus, Judy Morzinski, Carol Noel, Carol Peterson, Rich and Mary Storandt.

◆ Thank you to Lowell Hehl for the monetary gift in memory of his wife, Karen, to be used to purchase Bibles.

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.



NEW BOOKS & RECENT DONATIONS IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY

CHILDREN'S:

Leaf: The Story of Ferdinand
Mackall: The Treetops are Whispering
Potter: The Tale of Peter Rabbit
Sendak: Where the Wild Things Are
Slobodkina: Caps For Sale
Sully: The Baptism of Jesus
Sully: Moses in the Bulrushes

YOUTH:

Bauer: Almost Home
Blume: Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing
Kessler: The Tail of Emily Windsnap
White: Charlotte's Web

FICTION:

Byler: Wild Horses
Byler: Keeping Secrets
Byler: Hester On the Run
Elliott: Under a War-Torn Sky
Fisher: The Waiting
Hoover: The Quickening
Woodsmall: The Hope of Refuge

NONFICTION:

Conway: The Road From Coorain
Gray: Stories for the Heart
Krensky: Barack Obama
Lucado: The Christmas Candle
Stone: Amelia Earhart
Wills: Saint Augustine
Yancey: What's So Amazing About Grace?



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Norwegian Supper=Stewardship?

What do you think of when you think of the Norwegian Supper? Is it the smell in the church in worship the day after? Is it the meatballs, gravy and sweet treats?

After 10 years of organizing the dinner, the Lutfisk Ladies have started to look at the supper differently. It is about the people involved. 200 volunteers giving countless hours of their time. We have those dedicated people who year after year perform the same jobs. Errol selling the tickets, Larry making the coffee, Scott making the potatoes, Marty and Jane seating guests and Wayne always cooking fish. Eleanor setting up the bake sale and so many more. At 2015's meal, our youngest worker was 4 years old diligently bussing tables with her family with our oldest workers into their 90's.

The money made is a bonus. The fun we have is a bonus. This year \$6,680.64 was profited. Over the past 10 years, the dinner has profited \$61,170.17! Profits of which 100% were given away to those in need.

Stewardship=Time and talent + financial support. Sounds like the Norwegian Supper? Absolutely!

Lynette Ender

CONGREGATION COUNCIL REVIEW

The Congregation Council met on Monday, January 11, with President Char Buelow presiding. At this meeting the council:

- Reviewed and approved the minutes of the December meeting. Also reviewed and accepted the December financial reports and pastors' reports.
- Discussed several items in preparation for the annual meeting.
- Recommended the 2016 budget proposal to the annual meeting.
- Authorized \$200 to be sent to the Fire Department.
- Thanked Char Buelow, Sandi Stavlo, and Marjorie Anderson for their service as they end their time on the council.

The council meets again on Monday, February 8. See one of the pastors if you have any questions.

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.

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 **448** 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

E-MAIL AND WEB SITE



Our transfer to new internet and e-mail addresses is now complete. Please begin using the "@oursaviorswestsalem.org" addresses immediately.

Note too that our web site provides links to videos of our worship services. We usually have the service uploaded to YouTube and the link active by Monday evening. Check early in the week if you missed worship.

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.

FEBRUARY

ACOLYTES

Feb.	6	6 p.m.	Kirin Linse
	7	8 a.m.	Everett Michael
	7	10:30 a.m.	Julia Russell
Feb.	10	Ash Wednesday	
		5 p.m.	Rebecca Schmidt
		7 p.m.	Liam Sjoquist
Feb.	13	6 p.m.	McKenna Stadtler
	14	8 a.m.	Jade Turnipseed
	14	10:30 a.m.	Alyssa VanRiper
Feb.	17	Lent	
		5 p.m.	Samara Wheeler
		7 p.m.	Alayna Aleckson
Feb.	20	6 p.m.	Thor Anderson
	21	8 a.m.	Ashlyn Arneson
	21	10:30 a.m.	Elizabeth Averbeck
Feb.	24	Lent	
		5 p.m.	Brianna Bores
		7 p.m.	Mitch Dunham
Feb.	27	6 p.m.	Madison Dutton
	28	8 a.m.	Eli Elsen
	28	10:30 a.m.	Sydney Fitzpatrick

BASKET HOLDERS

Feb.	7	8 a.m.	Madison Hermann
	7	10:30 a.m.	Owen Johnson
Feb.	10	Ash Wednesday	
		5 p.m.	Josh Iliff
		7 p.m.	Natalie Jeranek
Feb.	14	8 a.m.	Haley Jones
	14	10:30 a.m.	Connor Koepp
Feb.	28	8 a.m.	
	28	10:30 a.m.	Madisen Mueller

ALTAR GUILD Karen Rich

HOME COMMUNION SERVERS

Feb. 6/7	Dottie Baumgartner
Feb. 13/14	Bev Bockenbauer
Feb. 27/28	Char Buelow

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Feb. 6	6 p.m.	Lee Fernstaedt
7	8 a.m.	Peggy Trautman
		Bonny Goodenough
7	10:30 a.m.	Jeff & Melissa Haldeman
Feb. 10	Ash Wednesday	
	5 p.m.	Marty and Jane Frank
	7 p.m.	Stacey Sjoquist
		Cathryn Bottem
Feb. 13	6 p.m.	Marjorie Anderson
14	8 a.m.	Shannon Wiese
		Jill Iliff
14	10:30 a.m.	Char Buelow
		Rich Clements
Feb. 27	6 p.m.	Jennifer Iliff
28	8 a.m.	Carla & Carlie Burkhardt
28	10:30 a.m.	Bill and Dori Jensen

READERS

Feb. 6	6 p.m.	Karen DeSchepper
7	8 a.m.	Sharon Olson
7	10:30 a.m.	Tim Bowman
Feb. 13	6 p.m.	Eric Iliff
14	8 a.m.	Eric Ender
14	10:30 a.m.	Char Buelow
Feb. 20	6 p.m.	Kathy Brisson
21	8 a.m.	Jim Quamme
21	10:30 a.m.	Abigail Vick
Feb. 27	6 p.m.	Phil Gilbert
28	8 a.m.	Carla Burkhardt
28	10:30 a.m.	Michelle Witte

OFFERINGS

Feb.	6	6 p.m.	Char Buelow
	7	8 a.m.	Dottie Baumgartner
	7	10:30 a.m.	Jim Quamme
Feb.	10	Ash Wednesday	
		5 p.m.	Char Buelow
		7 p.m.	Wendy Kane
Feb.	13	6 p.m.	Steve Ahles
	14	8 a.m.	Mike Alumbaugh
	14	10:30 a.m.	Rich Clements
Feb.	17	Lent	
		5 p.m.	Char Buelow
		7 p.m.	Vernetta Moe
Feb.	20	6 p.m.	Kay Niemeier
	21	8 a.m.	Jim Quamme
	21	10:30 a.m.	Mark Hunter
Feb.	24	Lent	
		5 p.m.	Steve Ahles
		7 p.m.	Wendy Kane
Feb.	27	6 p.m.	Marjorie Anderson
	28	8 a.m.	Carlie Burkhardt
	28	10:30 a.m.	Steve Ahles

USHERS

February	6 p.m.	Keith and Jan Goetzinger Tim and Bonny Goodenough Family
	8 a.m.	Mason and Julie Quackenbush Family
	10:30 a.m.	Rich and Beth Clements 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		