

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

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SEPTEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

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

- ✕ Confirmation, Sunday School & Adult Education News
- ✕ Rally Day—Gospel on the Green—Worship Time Change
- ✕ Lutheran World Relief School Kits
- ✕ Financial Peace University
- ✕ Congregation Conversation
- ✕ OWLS—Roger Fish, speaker



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

SEPTEMBER 2016

Pastor's Reflections

Ready ... set ... go ...

We have been enjoying watching the Olympics these last weeks. The strength and stamina of the swimmers and runners, the precision of the gymnasts, the timing of the volleyball players ... it is just amazing. Think about all of the hours and years of practicing these athletes have done to get where they are. Think about all of the sweat and tears they have endured. Just to hear the words 'ready, set, go!' And in the blink of an eye, the race is over, the routine completed, the game concluded ... and there are winners and there are losers. We cheer for the home team, we cheer for the underdog; we grieve for those who have worked so hard, given so much, and come away empty. We marvel at the skills and the nerves of steel of these athletes. We hold our breath, sit on the edge of our seats, ooh and aah when things go well, and gasp when things go wrong.

As the people of God we hear the words 'ready, set, go'. In the waters of baptism, we are claimed as God's precious children. We have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. We are at the starting line ... we are ready ...

During the baptismal service, our parents and the community of the faithful promise to bring us to the Lord's house, to teach us the Creeds and the Ten Commandments, to place the Holy



Scripture in our hands, to live among God's faithful people, to proclaim Christ through word and deed, to care for others and the world God made, and to work for justice and peace. We are prepared, the groundwork is laid ... we are set ...

The buzzer sounds and we find ourselves in the midst of the race, in the midst of the journey we call life. What we do on that journey is up to us. Life is not always easy ... we spend hours and years practicing, sometimes we shine and sometimes we fall short, we are willing to take risks, we overcome heartache and hardship, opportunities are placed before us, sometimes we are the hands helping, and sometimes we are on the receiving end of those hands. We are on the journey ... we go ...

As we go forth on the journey, we remember that we are not alone on the path. Jesus is there with us every step of the way – we received that promise at our baptism. The community of the faithful are also there to support us, encourage us, coach us, cheer us on, and grieve when we falter.

We, the people of God, are like the Olympic athletes, **ready** to take our place in the light, the light of Christ. **Set** with all that we need to be faithful to God's calling. So **go** and be the hands of Christ, reaching out to those in need, taking risks to do the ministry we are called to do, all the while knowing we are not alone.

Ready ... Set ... GO!

Going together with you,

Pastor Jean

YOUTH MINISTRY POSITION



The Congregation Council, in consultation with the Youth Committee, has decided to wait with filling the vacant youth ministry position while we discern what shape and size that

position should be. Watch for more information in the future – and join us on September 18, from 1:30 to 3:30, as we consider both youth ministry and our space needs in a “congregational conversation.” YOUR input is important as we seek to discern God’s call to us!

AND STILL LOOKING...

As of “press time” for the newsletter, we are seeking one or two confirmation guides for our 7th grade class. A love for kids and Jesus is pretty much all it takes. See Pastor Jon for more information on how YOU can be a difference maker!



CONFIRMATION BEGINS!



Confirmation gets underway in September...

- 6th graders begin classes September 7, at 6 PM. Corey Sjoquist leads them on a journey from Genesis to the building of the church in Acts. We’ve got lots of room – bring your friends!
- 7th/8th grade parents and students meet on Wednesday, September 7, at 6 PM to get the year rolling. Classes begin September 14, at 6 PM.
- 9th grade parents and students will meet on Wednesday, September 7, at 7 PM to

get started, with their classes beginning September 14 (7 PM) as well.

After School is also ready to roll – we begin September 14, right after school, with time to relax, get some homework done, or just hang out. Dinner too! See Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean if you have any questions!

WHAT? *A clothes shelf at Our Savior’s?* You bet – check out the “Youth Ministry Updates” for more information!



Dear Our Savior’s,

Thank you for the wonderful scholarship to attend Sugar Creek Bible Camp. It was very fun. On Friday during worship, everyone made tie-blankets for Lutheran World Relief. My group’s blanket had little frogs all over it. We did a lot of fun stuff throughout the week. One of my favorite things was going horseback riding. I got to ride Bugz. I also enjoyed swimming and art. Again thank you for this wonderful opportunity.

Sincerely,
Siri Anderson

Dear Our Savior’s Church,

Thank you for giving me a scholarship. I loved going to Sugar Creek!! My favorite part was the pool. I learned new soccer skills. I also went horseback riding, did art, played warewolves, played nucome. Thank you SO much!

Love,
Ella Janisch



YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATES

Ministry opportunities for middle and high school youth

Sunday morning "Breakfast Club" – Sunday mornings, beginning September 11, join us in the kitchen for a few breakfast goodies, good talk about God and life, and time to be kids. Cathryn Bottem (UW-L junior) will facilitate the conversation and the treats!

Early Release Wednesdays for High School kids – starting September 21 – come for lunch, and then we'll go out and change someone's life! We're working on getting a project lined up – don't miss it!

Sounds Like Love rehearsals begin in October. The "Sounds Like Love" weekend is in Mahtomedi, MN, November 11-13. The cost is \$100. Sounds Like Love is a great weekend of music and fun, with hundreds of kids from around the Midwest. See Pastor Jon, Pastor Jean or Linda Berg for info on this very special opportunity!

AND THEN... Our Savior's is going to be starting a *clothes shelf* run by the church's youth very soon! We will be looking for donations that match the season (sunscreen and baseball caps in the spring/summer and hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves in the fall/winter.) The clothes shelf will be open during food pantry hours in the near future. If you have any questions, please contact Tayler Jones at (608) 790-8264, or speak with Pastor Jon.

LABOR DAY WORSHIP

Labor Day is more than a day off from work – it's a time to reflect on the value of work and labor, and to give thanks for the opportunity to contribute using the gifts God has given to us. We encourage you to worship on Labor Day weekend wearing your "work-place best," whatever that is. Come and give thanks for God's gift of labor!



WORSHIP TIME CHANGE *Beginning September 10/11*

Saturday – 6 PM
Sunday – 8 and 10:30 AM

Sunday School
Youth Breakfast Club
Adult Studies
9:15 AM



NEW MEMBERS



Thinking of joining Our Savior's? We would love to have you! EVERYONE is welcome in worship, and our ministries seek to involve all of God's children, so even if you are not a member you are welcome to be a part of our activities.

But...if you would like to be a formal part of this community...for those from a Lutheran background, we will seek a transfer. If you are from a non-Lutheran background, we hold a periodic "new member class" (really, it's more fun than work!) Regardless of where you are coming from, if you have an interest in membership at Our Savior's, see Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean, and we'll get you set.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Rally Day!

Sunday, September 11th

We will gather at church at 9:15 AM ...
head over to the Lion's Shelter at 10:30 for
Gospel on the Green worship ...
partake in a potluck meal ...
followed by games and activities ...
... including a *Bounce House!* ...



Mark your calendars ... invite a friend ... and join us!



Note: Sunday School registration forms for all grades are available on the church website (www.oursaviorswestsalem.org). It's not too early to sign up!

First Time in Sunday School?

Please remember that your child needs to be 4 years of age by September 1, 2016 in order to attend the Pre-Kindergarten Sunday School class. If your child is attending Sunday School for the first time this year, please call or email the church office so that we can make sure that he/she is included on the roster. (786-0030 or office@oursaviorswestsalem.org)



Please note: As the year progresses and the kids have their 4th birthday, feel free to join the class any time!

"... place in their hands the holy scriptures ..."



As we welcome our **Pre-K class** to discover the stories of Jesus, we will be gifting them with a *Whirl Story Bible* to help them begin their journey. We invite parents and students to join us in worship the weekend of **October 1 & 2** when these young children will receive their Bibles.

Our **3rd graders** will continue their journey through the scriptures as they receive a *Whirl NRSV Bible* that will be used these next years of Sunday School and into Confirmation. Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean will gather with parents and students **either Sunday, October 2 OR Sunday, October 9 from 1:30 - 3:00 PM** for a time to discover your Bible. The Bibles will be presented to the students in worship the weekend of **October 15 & 16**.



INVITE A FRIEND to Church



Sunday, September 11th **10:30 AM** **Gospel on the Green**

The S.O.S. Band will lead us, the Sunday School children will sing, we will hear God's Word and receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Following worship there will be a potluck lunch and games & activities for kids of all ages – including a Bounce House!

For the potluck, you are invited to bring a dish to pass based on the first letter of your last name – A-K – dessert; L-P – salad; Q-Z – fruit.



Hey Kids ...

It's also Rally Day for Sunday School ... why not invite your friends to join you at 9:15 AM!



Sunday School Teacher/Helper Installation

Sunday, September 18
8 AM and 10:30 AM

We thank the following individuals who will be sharing their love of Jesus with our children this coming year in Sunday School:



Pre K - Heidi Krupicka & Michelle Witte - along with Kirin Linse & Jared Witte

Kindergarten - Molly Hunter & Emily Trautman

1st Grade - Mandy Bahl & Katie Drury - along with Rebecca Schmidt

2nd Grade - Kim Foglia & Tayler Jones - along with Lily Berg & Kamryn Kane

3rd Grade - Stacey Sjoquist & Mariette Stefferud

4th Grade - Megan Larson & Rita Schmitz

5th Grade - Eric Iliff & Wendy Kane

Substitutes - Marjorie Anderson, Beth Clements, Ann Donahue

Music - Linda Berg, Mike Larson, Ilene Pavelko, Shannon Vick

Hungry Jar Offering for September Lutheran World Relief School Kits



It's that time of year when we are getting things ready for school –

including school supplies. There are children in the world for whom going to school may not be possible because they can't afford the school supplies. Imagine having to choose between a meal or purchasing a notebook. Lutheran World Relief School Kits are sent to places where even the few required school supplies may be more than a family can afford. Pencils and paper can help write a positive future. Money raised in the Hungry Jar will be used to purchase supplies to complete 200 school kits. If you would like to purchase supplies, see the information elsewhere in this newsletter for what is needed.



SCHOOL KITS FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

We have received word that the 200 school kits from 2015 have been sent to Nicaragua. LWR in-country staff and partners are distributing 40,000 school kits to communities associated with Lutheran World Relief's long-term agricultural work there. The kits will help keep all children in school, ensuring that they have the best possible chance of breaking out of the crippling cycle of poverty. Thank you!



Last year at this time, we had collected enough items to fill over 100 school kits. This year we are not yet at 50! Won't you please help?

The most needed items are pencil sharpeners, followed by notebooks (70 count), crayons (box of 24), blunt scissors, rulers, pens, pencils, and erasers. Please check the weekly bulletin for the most current updates!

Thank you so much for bringing hope to our neighbors in need around the world!

INVITATION TO JOIN CHOIR/HANDBELLS

Choir and handbells begin for the fall on Wednesday, September 7! Consider this your personal invitation to join choir; we meet at 7 p.m. in the balcony for about an hour, sing a great variety of music, have a lot of fun doing it, and always welcome new members. Talk to any choir member if you have questions. We also welcome your interest in handbells! We meet at 6 p.m. If you are interested, please talk to Linda Berg.



SALVATION ARMY MEALS

The summer has passed on, but hungry people remain, even right here in our own area. The Salvation Army continues to provide an evening meal for the hungry in La Crosse, and you can join in that ministry by serving the meal. Our Savior's takes the second Friday of the month. We are there from 4:15-5:15 – 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 up to six servers, and families are welcome, including children as young as ten. A sign-up sheet is on the youth bulletin board outside Pastor Jon's office.



ANNUAL QUILT AND ANTIQUE AUCTION

Saturday, September 10, 2016 starting at 10 a.m.



Come on down to Sugar Creek for great food, delightful fellowship, and various auction items such as sports memorabilia,

furniture, fascinating antiques, and, of course, beautiful quilts! You never know what you might find on a Sugar Creek auction! Help support the ministry of Sugar Creek via this annual fundraiser.

Your support is what allows Sugar Creek to be the valuable ministry and beautiful place you know and love.

TRAIL RUN/WALK 5K, AND CRAFTERS' FAIR

Come early for our trail run/walk 5k and enjoy exploring the beautiful trails that run through our valley! This year we will again host the Crafters' Fair featuring the finest of our local artisans. We hope to see you there!

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY... *IS BACK!*

Financial Peace University is a great way to get control of your money and your finances. Using Biblical principles, and some common sense, FPU helps you develop a plan that works to get out of debt, and then to stay there! FPU has helped many folk become better stewards of all God has entrusted to them, and has allowed them to be even more generous in sharing God's gifts.

Financial Peace begins again on Sunday, September 11, and continues through November 6. Class will run from 6 PM to 7:30 PM. Cost is \$100 for materials, but scholarships are available if you have a need.

In our world today, good, sound financial practices are a MUST! This is your opportunity to take a step forward, so just do it! To reserve your spot in the class, speak with Pastor Jon or Eric Ender TODAY!



PRAYER AROUND THE CROSS

September 11, 7 PM

Quiet, contemplative worship, with lots of time for prayer and silent meditation. This month we focus on pain and tragedy, as we remember the victims of terror on September 11, and everywhere. Join us – worship lasts about 30 minutes – no sermon, just a few simple songs, scripture, and prayer. All around the cross, bathed in candlelight!



BUILDING LIFE SKILLS

*Tuesday, September 13
6:30 PM*

Begin a journey of strengthening your skills in relating to others. Learn how to deal with grief, understand emotions, listen to others, and using Bible and prayer effectively. Future class times will be determined with the class. See Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean for more information.



“Simply Social”

~~Date and time and place to be determined -~~
~~Watch for details!~~

Interested in getting together with other adults in our congregation to build relationships and just have fun together? Join us for Simply Social!

CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATION

*Sunday, September 18
1:30-3:30 PM*



The past twelve months have brought some new challenges and opportunities to Our Savior's. We have some new possibilities with the use of space in our building, and we are continuing to discern our youth ministry calling.

What does this all mean for us? We need you and your insights to help us see where God is leading us! We'd like to gather again for a "congregational conversation." No motions or minutes, just an opportunity to listen and to share, and maybe to leave with a fuller and richer understanding of what God is up to – and what God is calling us to do.

On our agenda is how we can use our space, and what our youth ministry should look like. We are aware that not everyone will be able to be there (Applefest gets in the way, for one thing!), so we will look for other opportunities in the coming months to engage others in the conversation as well.

Refreshments and childcare will be available, and we WILL be done by 3:30! Oh, and by the way, the Packers play a night game. So join us in our conversations – we need you!

ADULT STUDIES

*Lots to pick from...
including some new opportunities!*

Wednesday morning Bible study continues to explore stories from the gospel of Luke. We meet at 9:30 in the Library, and YOU are welcome to join us! Jump in anytime, and even if you can't be here every week, join us when you can!



Sunday morning study resumes on September 18 in the classroom off the fellowship hall in the lower level. We meet during fellowship hour – bring your coffee and goodies and join us! We'll begin with some "Bible basics," and have some fun too!

Senior study meets on Monday, September 12, at Salem Terrace, at 9:30 AM. Pastor Jean meets with the crew in the community room near the entrance by Mill Street Manor. And don't worry...you can never be too young!

*Starting Tuesday, September 13, at 6:30 PM...*Building "Life Skills," a learning opportunity to build healthier relationships. Learn listening skills, how to deal with grief, understanding emotions, and more. This "course" will have five sessions, and will help your relationships with family, friends, coworkers, and more. See Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean for more information.

DATE	ATTENDANCE	OFFERING	SUNDAY SCHOOL
Aug. 6 & 7	196	\$6,157	
Aug. 13 & 14	226	\$6,086	
Aug. 20 & 21	194	\$4,582	
Aug. 27 & 28	290		

OWLS

The OWLS will meet on September 22 at 1:30 p.m. to hear Roger Fish do a humorous presentation entitled "It's Your Attitude, It's Your Day, Make It a Good One."

Roger Fish is an energetic and humorous speaker who melds more than 30 years of teaching, administration and leadership experience in the field of public professional speaking.

Roger's enthusiastic style challenges the audience to pursue a positive outlook on life and its many challenges.



More about Roger...

- *Educational Leader (34 years)
- *State conferences keynote speaker
- *Past President of the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators
- *Award winning educator and administrator
- *Graduate adjunct professor at Viterbo University
- *Strategic Educational Leadership Coach
- *Facilitator for Love and Logic effective parenting classes

If you are not "humor impaired," you will definitely leave with a smile on your face.

As usual, there will be coffee and sweets following the presentation. So please mark the date on your calendar!

OCTOBER OWLS—La Verne Paulson and Cindy Jacobson will display some of their talents!

CIRCLE NEWS

RUTH CIRCLE

Monday, September 19, 9 a.m.

Leader:

Hostess: Connie Blunck

PASTORAL ACTS

Baptisms

✠ Harper Marie Fennigkoh, daughter of Paul and Dawn Fennigkoh, was baptized August 7. Her baptismal sponsors are Bonnie Borchardt and Terry Buege.

✠ Luke Lee Edmison, son of Jonross and Marissa Edmison was baptized August 13. His baptismal sponsors are Jeremy and Peggy Cole, and John Christopherson.

✠ Rowan Allen Faas, son of Kallen Faas and Brittany Mosher was baptized August 14. His baptismal sponsors are Jared Mosher, Renee Sanz and Justin Miller.

✠ Lainey Natasha Heyroth, daughter of Kurt and Jessica Heyroth, was baptized August 21. Her baptismal sponsors are Kristin Youngren and Tim Degenhardt.

✠ Ryan Allen Karl Cornish, son of Breana Jones and Joshua Cornish, was baptized August 27. His baptismal sponsors are Crystal Jones and Jacob Phillips.

✠ Ethan Frances Hollermann, son of Jason and Kimberly Hollermann, was baptized August 28. His baptismal sponsors are Matt Lien and Katrina Rykal.

✠ Isabella Louise Heath, daughter of Dan Heath and Samantha Jones, was baptized August 28. Her baptismal sponsors are Kristin Schomberg, Olivia Schomberg and Michael Heath.

Marriages

✠ Congratulations to Kimberly Witte and Aaron Foglia who were married August 12.

✠ Congratulations to Brandon Kendhammer and Jessica Selberg who were married August 20.

✠ Congratulations to Gabe Reamer and Jenna Wolf who were married August 27.

Funeral

✠ We express our Christian sympathy to the family of Fred Meyer who died August 19. Services were held at Prince of Peace Church in La Crescent.

**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. Chuck Paulson graciously allowed us to share a glimpse into his story. Chuck, 84 years young, and his wife LaVerne

have been avid fans of West Salem girls’ sports for many years, conveniently living across the street from the high school. Three years ago, they downsized and moved to Holmen. Chuck was also very involved at Our Savior’s during the building addition of 1991.

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

Prayer is the right start for each day. It makes you want to do what is expected of you for that day. Every morning Chuck and LaVerne sit at their kitchen table, holding hands, and pray. They thank God for the new day and for the blessings they received the day before. They confess that they will abide by the Ten Commandments as best as they can and they close their prayer saying that they will show respect and kindness to all whom they come in contact with that day.

Chuck’s favorite Bible passage ... because

... John 3:16-21. The year before Chuck was born, when the family was living in South Dakota, his 7-year-old brother, John, died from a ruptured appendix. Chuck finds comfort from this scripture passage knowing that his brother has life eternal. These words give Chuck hope and he looks forward to eternal life and brotherly love.

Chuck’s earliest memories of church ...

Chuck was born in Roberts County, South

Dakota, but his parents were from Holmen, and the family moved back to rural Holmen when he was two. Chuck attended Sunday School at New Amsterdam Presbyterian Church; but was confirmed at Holmen Lutheran Church in 1946. He remembers riding his bicycle from their farm into Holmen (3 miles) for catechism classes on Saturdays.

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



Thanks to all the friends that signed the card. I enjoy reading the names. Also thank you for the birthday card. My family was here to help me cut the cake. When you’re 90ish (sounds better than 92) it wears a person out. I think of all of you and wish I could be there. God bless you all.

Elaine Erickson

CHECK IT OUT ...

Can’t see the bulletin ...

we have large print bulletins



Can’t hear the worship service ...

we have a hearing assist device

Missed worship ...

check out the website – www.oursaviorswestsalem.org – to see the service.



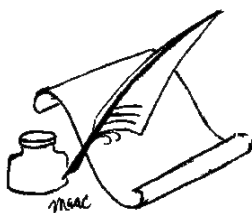


Breakfast & Bible Study @ Salem Terrace

The coffee is perking and breakfast is being dished up. Join us on Monday, September 12 at 9:30 AM as we begin another year of study and fellowship. Put on your thinking caps and try your hand at Bible trivia. We meet in the small kitchenette off the parking lot between Salem Terrace & Mill Street Manor. Feel free to invite your friends.

Cards for shut-ins

Don't forget 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 our shut-ins. You really do make a difference in the lives of those who cannot be with us.



LUTEFISK & MEATBALL DINNER



Our Savior's Annual Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner and Bake Sale are scheduled for Saturday, November 5, 2016.

Reserve this date on your calendar, watch for sign-up sheets at church coming later, and please say yes when asked to help with this event.

THANK YOU

We thank the **MAILING CREW** for assembling the Newsletter. The members who helped this past month were Connie and Larry Blunck, Bev Bockenbauer, Bonnie Ender, Sandra Holthaus, Judy Morzinski, Carol Peterson, and Betty Whitlock.

THANK YOU TO SUMMER MUSICIANS



Thank you to everyone who provided special music during the summer services: Naoko Aminaka, Jen Linse, Carla Burkhardt,

Melissa Haldeman, Ruby Kerkman, Eric Ender, Marty Frank, Molly Hunter, Andrew Bakkum, Dean Olson, Alison Hemker, Bonny Goodenough, and Abbey and Angela Vick. Singing or playing during the summer months requires extra effort, and these musicians made time in their busy schedules to prepare and rehearse music that enhanced the worship services. We appreciate them and their dedication!

CORN ROAST 2016

Hot, Hot, Hot!! It was a warm day for the corn roast, but the ears were huge and delicious! We estimate that 425 people attended, a bit down from last year, yet a nice turnout considering it was 90 degrees and humid. A huge thank you to the crew for the hard work cooking corn, preparing the watermelon, butter, and hot dogs. Another thank you to the Tuesday night workers, the servers, the bakers, and the cleanup crew. Special thanks to Errol Kindschy for his role in making the Lions Shelter available and to Steve Noffke for his dedicated work with the corn. Also, the 4th Annual car show was enjoyable and included a vintage fire truck!



FEED OUR CHILDREN WEST SALEM

WOW, WE DID IT. Averaging approximately 120 children per day, two days per week, we were able to provide lunches for 11 weeks this summer. On a given day in August, our count was as high as 200!!! We are so very thankful to all the Team Leaders, donors, and volunteers who helped to make this possible.



Without you, it would not have happened. Once again, a huge thank you to Hansen's IGA, Linda's Bakery, La Crosse Co. Dairy Producers, Subway, and Alforex Seeds. Also, thank you to our Team Leaders, Connie Pinski and Kathy Brisson who also helped most weeks at one of our sites, Angie Hemker, Cindy Averbeck, Cheryl Lang and her crew from St. Leo's, Wayne and Darlene Affeldt and Jim Michelson, Tracy Skrentny and her daughter Ali who had the initial brain storm for this wonderful program, Tracy Hesse, Mandy Bahl, Bridget Peterson and Julie Arentz. A special thank you to Kay Osiecki for providing us space at Anderson Mobile Home Park, and to Cindy Innes who came most weeks to help make sandwiches and clean up the kitchen. Also to Mandy Bahl who arranged for car wash coupons for all of our volunteers.

Just when we think it can't be done, we realize that it can. We are very blessed.

Thank you again,
Char Buelow

THANKS FOR SERVING!

We appreciate the fellowship hour servers and treat providers. They help to create a friendly atmosphere here at Our Savior's for both members and visitors.



The following groups and individuals provided for us Mid-May through Mid-August: Members of the Ruth, Rebecca, and "retired" Miriam Circle; Carla Burkhardt and Tracy Skrentny; the Drury family for gluten free snacks. We especially thank Jim Michelson for his generosity SEVERAL Sundays this summer!

Please consider helping out with this ministry. What would a Sunday be like without it?

Sign-up sheets are by the kitchenette door.

Ilene Pavelko
ilenepav1@aol.com

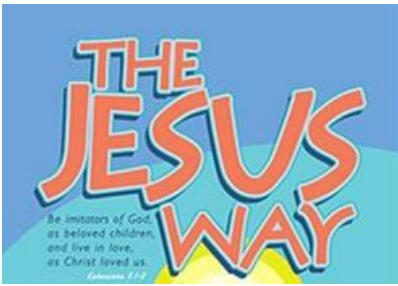
Communion

Bread ...

We thank *Jerry Willer* for providing the homemade bread for Holy Communion in August and *Sharon Olson* in September.



If you would like to be a part of this important ministry, please speak with Pastor Jean. Recipes are available.



Vacation Bible School

August 8-11, ten pre-K and kindergarten children and twenty-four 1st to

6th graders gathered at Our Savior's along with a team from Sugar Creek Bible Camp for Vacation Bible School. Our time was filled with learning about Jesus' way ... forgiveness, service, and care for others. The team from Sugar Creek – Alicia, Berit, and Austin – worked with our 1st through 6th graders sharing Bible stories, singing, playing games, and making crafts. The kids sang their hearts out on Thursday afternoon at Mulders and again that evening at the closing program. They were full of energy and enthusiasm all week.

Our Pre-K and Kindergarten class was lovingly and faithfully taught by Emily Trautman, Molly Hunter, and Aunna Carlson. The youngest ones couldn't wait to arrive each morning to give their teachers hugs and share stories.

Special guests shared with us during the week, too – Deb & her four-legged friend, Lucy, from the Humane Society; our own Beth Clements, nurse and First Responder; and Carlie & crew led us in making bookmarks to be gifted to the residents at Mulders.

We couldn't have done this without our group helpers – Hannah Anderson, Ashlyn Arneson, Madelyn England, Alea Fortier, Madeline Janisch, Kamryn Kane, and Rebecca Schmidt.

There are many to thank for making this week such a success – those who brought snacks for our campers, Jen and Blaine Wheeler for helping to serve them on Wednesday, Wendy Kane and Eric Iliff for serving the goodies at the ice cream social Thursday evening, Carla & Carlie Burkhardt and Dan & Dana Roemhild for housing our Sugar Creek Team, and Jane & Marty Frank, Wendy & Kamryn Kane, Burkhardt's, Roemhild's, and Pastors Jon &

Jean for feeding the team. We appreciate all that you did!

A special thank you to Carlie Burkhardt who did it all – from getting the snacks ready and serving them, to cleaning up the mess after the kids ate, to being there for a couple of our campers who needed a little extra TLC, and for keeping the Associate Pastor in line when things got crazy! 😊

We are already looking forward to next year!

PEACHES



First of all, thanks to everyone who was a part of our peach sale this year. Thanks to all who purchased, and to all who helped distribute our peaches. We

especially thank Tamie Batzel, Carl Wallace, Mike Alumbaugh, Dan Roemhild, and Corey Sjoquist for the variety of ways in which they made the sale work.

We are aware of some quality issues with the peaches this year. We are in conversation with the orchard about that. If you are very dissatisfied with the peaches you received, or if you know someone who was, please see Pastor Jon. We can't "fix" the peaches, but we can try to make it right in some fashion.

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.

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



College-bound students

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

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

CONGREGATION COUNCIL REVIEW

The Congregation Council met on Monday, August 8, with President Jim Quamme calling the meeting to order. At this meeting the council:

- Shared in devotions and prayer.
- Approved minutes from the June council meeting and the special congregational meeting. Also received and reviewed financial reports and pastors' reports.
- Heard a report on youth ministry in the absence of a Director of Youth Ministry. Discussed the position and the upcoming "Congregational Conversation."
- Discussed changes in overtime required by the Fair Labor Standards Act.
- Discussed changes to handling the offering following worship.
- Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The council meets again on Monday, September 12. See Jim Quamme or one of the pastors if you have any questions.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Or

What I did on my summer vacation
Leif Ender

From the time I was nine years old to 17, I spent a week camping at the Wisconsin Lions Camp while my mom worked as the camp nurse. It is a camp that for 60 years has provided camping free of charge for 1,400 special needs children per summer. The camp is financially supported by the Lions Clubs of Wisconsin. I learned during that time what a special place Lions camp is.

When thinking about a job for the summer, I decided that it was time to give back by working as a counselor.

What I experienced this summer where groups of children who for one week of the year were in paradise. They were in a place that they were seen as God sees them "perfect." Disabilities weren't discussed, only abilities. These children were accepted unconditionally and the goal was to provide them with fun.

The benefit for me was seeing the smiles on the faces of children knowing that I could be part of their special week. Nothing feels better than being of service to others.

SIMPLY GIVING

Simply Giving is an electronic transfer that makes your offerings to the work of Jesus through Our Savior's automatically at the amount and frequency you desire. It's easy to set up, easy to change, and can be discontinued at any time. See Kay in the office or one of the pastors to learn more.

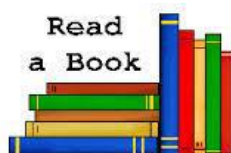
NEW BOOKS IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY

CHILDREN'S:

David: Bible Animals
Moser: Chester the Rooster
Moser: Just Like Daddy

FICTION:

Blum: A Mighty Fortress
Blum: Be Thou My Vision



NONFICTION:

Graham: Peace With God
Larson: A Witness: The Haiti
Earthquake, A Song,
Death, & Resurrection
Yancey: Where is God When It Hurts?

SCRIP CARDS



Scrip Cards
continue to be
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 support our ministries. You can fill up, eat up, and gift up – and make ministry happen all 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 can put their share to the summer lunch program. See Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean for more information.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

If you are a Thrivent Financial for Lutherans member, you may have "Thrivent Choice Dollars" to direct. You can direct these dollars to Our Savior's (or any other registered ministry) by going online, or contacting Thrivent. We have information in the office to assist you – see Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean.



E-COMMUNICATIONS OR PAPER COPY



Did you know that **111** people receive the newsletter by email instead of the **435** 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

MIDWEEK REFLECTIONS

Pastor Jon shares an occasional "midweek reflection," sent out by e-mail, and posted on the "pastor's blog" on the web site (<http://www.oursaviorswestsalem.org/category/pastors-blog/>). You can always check the site, but if you'd like to get the e-mail version just let him know, or send him an e-mail at pastorjon@oursaviorswestsalem.org. Over 200 folk are on the list – you can be too!

ELCA CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

Cathryn Bottem, a junior at UW-L and a longtime member of Our Savior's, attended the recent ELCA Churchwide Assembly in New Orleans as a voting member from the La Crosse Area Synod. She shares her experience with us.

I don't even know how to begin to describe the experience I had attending the Churchwide assembly in New Orleans. There were many nerves flowing through me as I had to fly by myself for the first time, and I flew Delta so my gate changed about three times at opposite ends of the terminal! I was praying to God to see if I was really meant to be there because I was having doubts at that moment.

I landed in New Orleans and made it the convention center about three hours late. Feeling incredibly embarrassed for going into worship late, I hid in the back until I was able to find my synod members after worship. I didn't really know what to expect—I was slightly nervous that it was going to be a lot of budgets and business stuff like at regional synod assemblies—but as soon as I walked into the main room for the plenary sessions, I knew that more was going to happen in this place.

A very heated topic concerning providing financial support to Israel came up, and I was shocked at how driven these Lutherans were to go to the microphone to state their feelings on this matter. I used to see Lutherans—myself included—as very timid and waiting for someone else to solve a serious problem. That was certainly not the case for any of the topics that came up to be voted on.

There was a bit of debate on the 32 Statements Agreement—an agreement that the walls between Catholics and Lutherans might come down so we could become one as children of God. I could see God shining light on that assembly when that passed, and the

Archbishop held up the communion cup saying, "I look forward to the day that we will share the body and blood of Christ from the same cup!" The cheering, hugging, and clapping showed how much people really wanted this resolution to pass.

We learned about the continuing hunger problem going on within our country and countries around the world, and the calling we have to continue to support that mission. The assembly alone raised \$40,000 in that short time we were there!! What an incredible experience to see what we can do when we come together in Christ.

Our theme was "Freed and Renewed in Christ," and "God's Work, Our Hands," and I saw that we are hearing the call of God and doing his work to help others. There was the AMMPARO Strategy (Accompanying Minor Migrants with Protections, Representation, and Opportunity) that passed and soon many children who are witnessing the violence of gangs in El Salvador will have a place of refuge and can be safe!

Everywhere I turned, I saw God acting in so many different ways to call others to service, and I felt callings myself to continue the work of others up here in the La Crosse area. This was truly an experience I will never forget, nor will I forget the indignant situations that are going on and that we, as Christians, cannot be silent or sit back to let someone else solve these problems. God is calling us to serve, and it can even be done up north in the La Crosse area.

Thank you for allowing me to represent the young adults of the La Crosse Area Synod, and I hope you will join me in starting programs to see a change in this world that God created.

Thanks be to God for He is good!

ACOLYTES

	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30/10 a.m.
Sept. 3 - 4	Mallory Farr	Josh Iliff	Sydney Hammes
Sept. 10 - 11	Madison Hass	Maddie Haun	Audrey Godlewski
Sept. 17 - 18	Natalie Jeranek	Owen Johnson	Haley Jones
Sept. 24 - 25	Connor Koepp	Wesley Leren	Madisen Mueller

BASKET HOLDERS

		Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30/10 a.m.
Sept. 4		Kylee Gander	Justin Hennessy
Sept. 11		Madeline Janisch	Zachary Long
Sept. 18		Megan Marcou	Mallory Matheny
Sept. 25		Elsa Mitchell	Ryan Nickles

READERS

	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30/10 a.m.
Sept. 3 - 4	Bev Bockenbauer	Connie Blunck	Dottie Baumgartner
Sept. 10 - 11	Karen DeSchepper	Ilene Pavelko	Michelle Witte
Sept. 17 - 18	Kay Niemeier	Kathy Wehrs	Melissa Haldeman
Sept. 24 - 25	Karen DeSchepper	Jim Quamme	Corey Sjoquist

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30/10 a.m.
Sept. 3 - 4	Bev Bockenbauer	Larry Blunck Judy Long	Dana Roemhild Corey Sjoquist
Sept. 10 - 11	Karen DeSchepper	Mark Hunter Kim Hunter	Melissa Thompson Kristin Tschumper
Sept. 17 - 18	Jon Hetland	Marty Frank Jane Frank	Dottie Baumgartner Michelle Witte
Sept. 24 - 25	Judy Gilbert	Linda Arentz Cathryn Bottem	Wayne Affeldt Darlene Affeldt

USHERS

	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30/10 a.m.
SEPTEMBER	September 3 Beal Family September 10 Lee & Jean Fernstaedt September 17 Jeranek Family September 24 Fitzpatrick Family	September 4 Wayne & Darlene Affeldt September 11 Dawn & Ella Beal September 18 Dawn & Ella Beal September 25 Dale & Kathy Anderson Family	September 4 John & Lori Hammes Family September 11 Iliff Family Sue Sebranek & Jack Zahn September 18 Stefferdud Family September 25 Dennis Baumgartner Stephanie, Scarlet & Charlie Fullwood

ALTAR GUILD

Pam Gresens and Jill Iliff

HOME COMMUNION SERVERS

Sept. 3 - 4	Judy Gilbert
Sept. 10 - 11	Pam Gresens
Sept. 17 - 18	Iliff Family
Sept. 24 - 25	Linda Arentz

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		
Sherri Neal and Garrett Hazlett, Custodians		