

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

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February

FEBRUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
WEST SALEM, WISCONSIN

FEBRUARY 2017

- ❄ Annual Meeting, January 29
- ❄ Souper Bowl of Caring
- ❄ Mission Trip News
- ❄ Celebration of Hope
- ❄ Beer & Hymns



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 2017

PASTOR'S PAGE

What happens when schedules, deadlines and Jesus all collide at once? Read on to find out!

Here's the dilemma: the annual meeting is set for January 29, too late to get a report in the February newsletter. Still, the meeting is important – significant stuff is on the agenda (more on that in a moment.)

The deadline for February, however, is before the meeting. You might even be reading this before January 29. So, if there's important stuff going on, what to do? Ignore? Fake it? Guess?

What if I told you that, in good, Lutheran fashion, there is a paradox here. On the one hand, I have no idea what will happen. Prophecy, at least as it regards the future, is not my gift.

On the other hand, I know exactly what will happen. And at the end of the meeting, I know where we will be. So there's the paradox. I know, and yet I don't know. Intrigued? Keep reading!

I know for sure where the meeting will begin. We will begin with prayer. We will begin with a confidence that the hand of God guides us, that the Holy Spirit fills us, and that Jesus Christ is in our midst. Then, and only then, will we get to our business.

The business will include the usual. We will review the past year, hold elections, and approve a budget. The budget conversation will be a bit uncomfortable. We have a proposed budget that is not balanced. As Red Balloon, the daycare in our lower level, seeks a new facility in West Salem, and anticipates moving out by mid-summer, that will leave us short in our income. Not a lot short, but enough. So, what do we do about it? Or more importantly, what does God call us to do about it (*remember – this church belongs to Jesus!*)

But there is more. The loss of Red Balloon will cause financial challenges, but it will also bring opportunities. We will have more space! Space to improve and strengthen our ministries – youth, music, education, sewing, food pantry – just to name a few! So while we are grappling with income, there is good news – our ministries will benefit. What we hope to do at the meeting is share a concept for our space, get some feedback, and then begin to look at what it will take. We'll come back to the congregation to get final approval. A challenge, but at the same time God opens up some new doors. So again, what does God call us to do with new space, because *remember, this church belongs to Jesus.*

And then the parsonage. The Congregation Council suggests that it is time to begin discussing the future of the parsonage – not to make a decision yet, but to begin to talk. What role do we see the parsonage playing in our future ministry and life as a congregation?

Do we continue to use it as a rental? Do we have a direct use for it in our ministry? Do we sell it? But, *remember, this church belongs to Jesus*. What does God call us to do? I don't know the answer. I do know it's time to start talking – and listening.

So there you have it. I know what we will discuss. And while I have no idea where our conversations will take us, I do know – *remember, this church belongs to Jesus!*

But I also know something else. I know that the meeting will end the way it began. We will begin – and we will end – in confidence that the hand of God guides us, that the Holy Spirit fills us, and that Jesus Christ is in our midst. That does not change!

Regardless of where the business of the meeting goes, and no matter what the decisions are made, and even despite any conflicts that may arise, we remain confident that God is at work in us. Even more, we remain confident that God has a role for us in the mission of the gospel of Jesus.

And there is the paradox – I have no idea what will, or if you are reading this after January 29, what has already happened. Yet, at the same time I am confident because I know all I need to know – God is at work in us, and through us, God is at work in the world.

In the words of Martin Luther, "This is most certainly true!"

Pastor Jon

DATE	ATTENDANCE	OFFERING	SUNDAY SCHOOL
Jan. 1	52	\$1,055	
Jan. 7 & 8	258	\$5,673	54
Jan. 14 & 15	254	\$7,642	55
Jan. 18 & 19	266		



Interested in getting together with other adults in our congregation to

build relationships and just have fun together?

“Simply Social”

German Night
Saturday, February 4th
Dinner starting at 7 PM
At the home of Jeff &
Melissa Haldeman



A traditional Deutsche Mahlzeit (meal) featuring Rouladen, Knockwurst, Rothohl, Getratene Kartoffeln, and much more. Due to meal costs, please contribute \$15 per person. Sign up on the kiosk in the Gathering Area by Wednesday, February 1st. Questions, call 786-1556.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING!



The super bowl is right around the corner! Here at Our Savior's instead of cheering on our favorite team, we

are going to cheer on raising money for those who are suffering in poverty! Join us Saturday, February 4th or Sunday, February 5th as we raise money and collect non-perishable food items to be donated to an organization that will be voted on by the youth! We will have two pots: one for each team. Let's see which team will win at Our Savior's Souper Bowl of Caring!

CONGREGATION COUNCIL INSTALLATION

Newly elected members of the Congregation Council, along with current members, will be installed on Saturday, February 11 or Sunday, February 12, during worship. Please lift up all our council members in your prayers as they seek to provide leadership to us in our mission and ministry.



ADULT STUDIES IN FEBRUARY

- Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. – *It's the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and we are checking out the reformers' views. Come and join us as we study documents like the Small Catechism, Augsburg Confession, and more!*
- Senior study - Monday, February 13, 10 a.m. at Salem Terrace.
- "Confirmation for Adults" – February 15 and 22, from 6-7 p.m. *See announcement elsewhere in this newsletter.*
- Sunday mornings *is taking a break until September. Check out one of our other studies!*



ADULT CONFIRMATION

Don't miss a chance to have some fun while experiencing confirmation classes a little bit differently. Pastor Jon will lead two sessions in February, using the material we use with our confirmands (or pretty close to it!)

Wednesday, February 15 and 22, from 6-7 p.m. we will learn about the Sacraments.

Come and review all the stuff you learned years ago, and maybe learn a few new things along the way. Same faith, same God, just a little different language! See Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean for more information.

CONFIRMATION

- Grade 6 – Wednesdays at 6 p.m.
- Grades 7 & 8 classes meet February 1 at 6 p.m. Electives on February 8 and 22, and small groups on February 15.
- Grade 9 meet with parents at 7 p.m. on February 1 or 8 (your choice!)



AFTER SCHOOL

After School continues! Middle school and high school kids are welcome to come over on Wednesdays after school. Activities, free time, homework, and more. Wi-Fi is available. Dinner follows at 5:30, then classes for 6-8th graders at 6 p.m. See Pastor Jon, Pastor Jean, or Cathryn Bottem if you have any questions.



**Mark your calendar
and save the dates ...
FIRST COMMUNION
INSTRUCTION**

5th grade parents and students – First Communion instruction will be on **Sundays, March 26 and April 9**. 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 (April 13). For more information, see Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean.

PRAYER AROUND THE CROSS FEBRUARY 12, 7 P.M.



Quiet, meditative worship, gathered around the cross, bathed in candlelight. In February, we ponder relationships. As the world around us

celebrates Valentine's, for many this is a source of emptiness and pain. Come and take some time for prayer and reflection, in the midst of a busy and hectic world, in the midst of a dark and cold winter around us, and bask in the light, life, and love of a gracious God!

OUR SAVIOR'S LOVES NEW MEMBERS!



We love to welcome new partners in our life and work as disciples of Jesus! If you, or someone you know, is interested in joining Our Savior's, please contact one of the pastors. A new member class starts in early February for those coming from another tradition. If you are coming from a Lutheran background, we can help you secure a transfer. See Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean for more information.

SALVATION ARMY MEALS

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, **February 10**. 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 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.



LOOKING FOR...YOU???



Our Savior's needs you – we need your talents and abilities, your thoughts and insights. Why? Because we have a big part in God's work in West Salem and YOU can be a difference

maker! We do that through committees, which help direct our ministries. Education, stewardship, property, youth, worship, outreach, social events – all ministries that make a difference. Can you offer yourself to make a difference? See Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean, and we will find a place for YOU!



Beer & Hymns

Sunday, February 26
Sunday, March 19
6~7 pm
Westview Inn
(174 Leonard Street S)

We all know Martin Luther loved music and wrote countless hymns for the church. But he also loved his beer. So let's combine the two to celebrate Reformation 500! Join us in the back room for Beer & Hymns. We will provide songbooks of our favorite hymns; you order and pay for whatever you'd like from Westview. If you play an instrument and would like to be part of the band, bring it along!

HEALING THROUGH GRIEF GROUP

Franciscan Healthcare is offering a "Healing through Grief Group" on alternating Mondays beginning February 20. You are welcome to attend any or all of the sessions, and registration is not required. The group meets from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., through July 3rd. For more information, see the info sheet on the kiosk in the Gathering Area, or speak with one of the pastors.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The La Crosse Area Synod Assembly will be held June 9-11, in La Crosse. Our Savior's will be looking for several people to join Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean as voting members at the assembly. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, and see how the church beyond us proclaims the grace of Jesus, speak with one of the pastors.



SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP - 2017 "The Water of Life"

Check out the brochures for camp on the kiosk in the Gathering Area!

OUR SAVIOR'S CAMPERSHIPS AVAILABLE

\$100 full week -- \$50 half week

Request forms due in the office NO LATER than April 27.

(Forms available in the church office, on the kiosk in the Gathering Area, or on the website – www.oursaviorswestsalem.org)

**Camperships distributed in worship
May 6 & 7**

(You send the campership to Sugar Creek directly.)

SCRIP CARDS

Scrip Cards are available for Kwik Trip, Woodman's, and Festival. And check it out ...



NEW ...

we now have Kwik Trip Car Washes! 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. You can fill up, eat up, and gift up – and support our kids at the same time!



EMPLOYEE OWNED

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. *And speaking of mission trips – don't forget we have one coming up the end of June!* (See information elsewhere in the newsletter.) See Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean for more information.

FLAMINGOES!!!!



Between the months of April 23rd and May 21st, the flamingoes will be flying through West Salem and flocking yards.

Beginning March 1st, we will be selling name your price and comprehensive insurance to protect your yard from the flying flamingoes! Insurance will be sold in between services up until the first flight takes off on the 23rd. Let's have a fun year and see who will be FLAMINGOED!!!

MISSION TRIP TO GATLINBURG, TN!



Have you been interested in helping others in amazing ways or increasing your relationship with God? Then this mission trip is perfect for you! On June 24th, we will drive

to Mammoth Cave National Park in Kentucky for a resting point, and June 25th we will arrive in Gatlinburg to work alongside TeamEffort Youth Missions to help individuals who are impoverished and have suffered the effects of natural disasters. We will be on sites for 3.5 days and have 2.5 days to have free time and explore the beautiful area we will be in. Every night there will be a worship service and a debriefing so that everyone can reflect on the activities they completed and where God is at work in every act they do. Who can go?? Anyone who is entering 8th grade and above! I encourage youth and adults to go on this trip because it gives us the opportunity to see that people of any age can make a beautiful difference in the world. Please see Cat if this sounds like a trip you would be interested in!

When: June 24th-July 2nd

How Much: Between \$600-650 when you include the money needed for food on our free and travel days

Some of the activities: Touring caves, hiking the Great Smoky Mountains, white water rafting, and Dollywood!

Remember that fundraising is also for individuals of all ages that can help go toward your trip to make it affordable!

Celebration OF HOPE

Celebration of Hope

The weekend of February 25-26 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!

LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT...



Ash Wednesday Worship March 1

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

Lenten Dinners

Lenten dinners will be held each Wednesday from March 8 through April 5, at 5:45 p.m. Proceeds will go toward the ELCA World

Hunger Appeal. Various groups in the congregation will be sponsoring each week's meal, and our confirmands will join in serving and cleaning up. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, see Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean. Or, just join us for the meal and support an important ministry!



REFORMATION REFLECTIONS

Another installment in a yearlong reflection on the Reformation, what it was, and what it means to us today.

What version of the Bible do you hear and read? Just in English, we have many to choose from. They range from translations that aim to be as accurate as possible (such as the New Revised Standard Version) to others whose main objective is to be easy to understand, even if certain details get lost.

Imagine, though, if there were no Bibles available in English—if such a thing didn't exist. What if the only Bible was in a language most didn't know and we had to rely on priests and scholars to tell us what was in the Bible? That was the situation in the Germany of Martin Luther's time. The Bible was most commonly found in Latin, though scholars could read it in the original languages of Hebrew and Greek. An important part of Luther's reforms was recognizing that a German Bible was needed—and then actually creating it!

Sometimes things happen because it's the right time, and that seems to be the case with Luther's Bible. Johannes Gutenberg's invention of printing with movable type had come along a few decades earlier and was coming into widespread use. Luther recognized the need to provide a Bible that ordinary, literate people could read.

The many dialects of the German people were beginning to coalesce into a form that was widely understandable. Luther even had an artist friend, Lucas Cranach, who could provide illustrations for the Bible, aiding people's understanding. And finally, Luther had the time to devote to the project.

The dispute with the Roman Catholic hierarchy that had begun with indulgences and Luther's Ninety-Five Theses had expanded and now came to a head with the imperial council (or

"diet") held at Worms. Luther strongly defended his writings but still was condemned as an outlaw (in addition to already being named a heretic). He could have been arrested and executed, but his prince, Frederick the Wise, "kidnapped" him in April 1521 and hid him away in the Wartburg Castle. There the reformer had little to do, so he set out to begin his translation of the Bible.

Luther started with the New Testament. He had learned New Testament Greek, the original language, and so began with that, not Latin. Since the German language was still evolving, Luther would make trips into nearby towns to hear how people actually spoke. Luther returned to his home in Wittenberg in 1522, and within six months, his New Testament was published.

After that, he worked with other pastors and scholars to prepare the Old Testament. The complete Bible, with 117 woodcut illustrations, was first published in 1534. He revised it several times up until his death.

Luther's work on a German Bible was a landmark achievement. It influenced others in many countries, including England, to do the same. He brought the scriptures into the language of his people, and in so doing spread the gospel.

Next month: The Small Catechism

"DRIFTLESS DEVOTIONS"

Check out "Driftless Devotions" at www.Driftlessdevotions.com, or use the link on the home page of our web site (www.oursaviorswestsalem.org). Written by one of our members, these devotions are inspired by images and experiences in our driftless region. Each devotion takes an element of our surroundings and draws out the spiritual truth found in each one.

PASTORAL ACTS

Baptisms

✝ Cody William Anderson, child of Dale and Kathy Anderson, and Jill and Lee Roberge, received the Recognition of Emergency Baptism on January 7. His baptismal sponsors are Kim and Pete Arentz, Kadee Brown, and Jenny Roberge.

✝ Arianna Renae Clements, daughter of Philip and Susan Clements was baptized January 14. Her baptismal sponsors are Adam and Melinda Wickland, and Amanda Clements.

✝ Zander James Clements, son of Philip and Susan Clements was baptized January 14. His baptismal sponsors are Tyler Clements, Becky Wollersheim, and Amanda Clements.

Memorial Service

✝ We express our Christian sympathy to the family of Anna Isler who died January 16. Services were held January 23.



● A gift has been given in memory of Delia Raffelson from Nancy Brown and Beverly Bockenbauer to the Endowment Fund.

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

CONGREGATION COUNCIL REVIEW

The Congregation Council met on Monday, January 9, with President Jim Quamme calling the meeting to order. At this meeting the council:

- Began with devotions, and shared some treats as a thank you to council members who have completed their time on the council.
- Approved the minutes from December, and received financial reports and reports from the pastor.
- Reviewed the progress of the Space and Vision teams.
- Designated a portion of the Clyde Pierce bequest for youth ministry needs as space is repurposed in the future.
- Decided to include a conversation on space repurposing at the annual meeting.
- Reviewed the budget proposal and voted to recommend it to the annual meeting.
- Received as members Jerry and Tonya Chandler, with Adam and Haley.
- Appointed Jim Kerkman to the Scholarship Committee.
- Appointed Corey Sjoquist and Wendy Kane as check signers for church and youth accounts, with Kay Niemeier as emergency backup for church accounts, and Cathryn Bottem as backup for youth accounts.
- Decided to reduce the Fair Trade Coffee Fund to \$1,000, and to send the balance to the world hunger appeal.

The council meets again on Monday, February 13. See one of the pastors if you have any questions.

Communion Bread ...



We thank *Carol Peterson* for providing the homemade bread for Holy Communion in January and *Tonya Chandler* in February.



My Offering

*From the
counters ...*

Please remember to use your offering envelopes if you have them. If you need some, let Kay know in the office.

college+
connection



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 Katelyn **Rigotti** (UW-L), **Raeann Rich** (UW-Madison), and **Mikaela Hunter** (Drake-Des Moines IA).

Thank you from our college students ...

Thank you so much for the Scrip card and amazing letter! It warms my heart to hear from you guys and to know that you're praying and thinking of me. Thank you for always thinking of us!

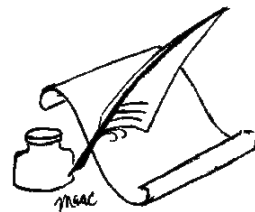
God bless, *Cat Bottem*



Thank You

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.



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.



**Lutherans
yesterday, today,
&
February 13th @
Salem Terrace**

**Join us at 10 A.M. for
coffee and
conversation**

We meet in the small kitchenette off the parking lot between Salem Terrace & Mill Street Manor.



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. Kay Osiecki

graciously allowed us to share a glimpse into her story. Kay, our newest octogenarian, turned 80 on January 18th. She is well known for her cooking and baking – those attending the Norwegian Dinner know to arrive early to check out the bake sale so they can get some of Kay’s specialties!

Kay’s advice to new disciples of Jesus ... It is a warm, comforting feeling knowing you’re being watched over. Kay finds comfort as she listens to the hymns and the beautiful music. She is touched by the sermons as they get their point across. Kay said there are a lot of good Bible passages, but she can’t always remember them by name, until she hears them and then she remembers.

Kay’s favorite Bible passage ... because ... John 14:3 “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you will be also.” Kay finds comfort in knowing that someone up there in heaven is preparing a place for her. Kay noted that she highlighted this verse in her grandson’s Bible that he received in 5th grade. Kay also likes the Psalms.

Kay’s earliest memories of church ... As a child, Kay remembers going to an old Lutheran church out in the country down the road from their home in Bruce, WI. She said the Sunday School lessons were not as much fun as they are now and they had homework every week. Kay said she worshiped with a lot of her extended family because they all lived in the same community and went to the same church. Kay was married in the Catholic Church and her children were baptized and raised Catholic. Following her daughter’s wedding here at Our Savior’s and interacting with the pastors at the time, Kay and her husband, Ray, joined Our Savior’s. Kay never forgot her Lutheran heritage.

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

CIRCLE NEWS

RUTH CIRCLE

Monday, February 20, 9 a.m.

Leader: Carol Stekel

Hostess: Carol Stekel

Thanks from our shut-ins ...

It is such a good feeling to be remembered by all! I miss everyone so much but I have to be here (in Madison), as I can’t live alone any more. If anyone has a chance to come this way, I hope you would consider stopping to see me. I have both rotator cuffs that are damaged, plus a tear in my right knee (torn meniscus) so I’m limited to what I can do. I’m so thankful that I have family who are willing to take me in & care for me. May God Bless you all & I love you all.



Ella Mae Johnson

I want to thank you very much for the bag of goodies that Bev Bockenhauer dropped off at my home the weekend before Thanksgiving. It's hard to put into words how meaningful that delivery was - to be remembered at this time of the year with my family in Florida and the loss of my cat, Snuggles, after having him as a part of my family for over 18 years. By the way, the decorations on the bag were terrific - my company loved it whenever they stopped by to say Hi. Thanks again!

Frrrol Kindschy

Thanks to all of you for the Christmas card and for the treat at Thanksgiving. Enjoyed all of it. Now I know how little kids feel at trick & treat time. God bless all of you.

Flaine Frickson

Sunday School Offering ...

Our Sunday School offerings are being collected for the Sembrando project in our companion synod in Peru. Let's help these kids get a healthy meal, school materials, books, and a safe place to spend part of their day. Your offerings will make a difference in the lives of children just like you! Check out the bulletin board by Pastor Jean's office for more information and to watch our progress.

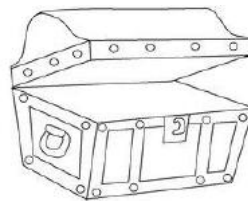


SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

January's unusually cold and icy weather took its toll on Sunday School attendance. But those who braved the elements heard stories about Jesus' life and ministry and shared God's love with each other. They also began learning new songs to share with us in worship in the coming months. We look forward to a more "normal" February and seeing everyone's smiling faces back with us.

We are halfway through the year ... 17 weeks done and another 16 to go ... as of January 15 we have 4 children who still have *perfect* attendance and another 6 have only *missed once*, while another 11 have only *missed twice*! How long will it last? Keep up the good work! **WOW!!**

Our offerings for the Sembrando Project continue to grow – the 5th grade class has collected the most (\$138.55), followed by the 3rd grade (\$85.25) and the 1st grade (\$77.45). The children in Peru thank you for your generosity!



Sunday School Treasure Box

...

Those who got to check out the Sunday School Treasure Box during January ...

Kids with perfect attendance – November 6 – January 15:

- 5th: Jon Iliff
- 4th: Rylee Lyga
- 3rd: Lydia Jothen, Camdyn Lyga
- 2nd: Briauna Mathison
- 1st: Jesse Jothen, Casey Mathison

The class that has collected the most offering for the Sembrando Project – 5th grade

Important Dates

Sunday, February 19 - Grades 4K-2 sing at 10:30 worship

Sunday, March 19 - Grades 3-5 sing at 10:30 worship

Sundays, March 26 **AND** April 9 - First Communion Instruction - 1:30 - 3 PM

Hungry Jar Offering for February Sembrando para el Futuro



“Sowing seeds for the future” is a program that La Iglesia Luterana del Perú maintains in response to the incredible need faced daily by families in Peru. With one in three families living in poverty, one in five children malnourished, and nearly half of the toddlers under three suffering anemia, the need is great.

Sembrando was designed to provide children with:

- a healthy daily meal in a clean space
- school materials, tutoring and space for studying
- access to books and other printed materials
- a safe and healthy recreational environment
- support and counseling by pastors for faith education and family dynamics
- support and family education for the children's parents



We invite the congregation to join with our Sunday School children in supporting this ministry of the Lutheran Church of Peru – the companion church of our La Crosse Area Synod.

SIMPLY GIVING

As a new year begins, simplify your life by signing up for “Simply Giving.” Simply Giving is an electronic transfer of your financial gifts to Our Savior's. Your support of our mission and ministry can be made “simply” and faithfully. You choose the amount and the frequency of your gifts, and you can make changes at any time. Contact the office or one of the pastors 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.



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Stewardship is sometimes tinged with stereotypes: it's all about money, and it's an adult thing.

Well, yes, money is big – I can't be a good steward – or disciple of Jesus – hanging on to my wealth. But stewardship is also about the whole me – my time, talent, and my money. And yes, stewardship is a lifestyle for adults, but also for younger people.

Which brings us to the Stewardship Corner. Over the past few months some extraordinary stewardship moments have occurred, courtesy of our young people. True, most have been senior exit projects, but that's how we learn – by doing. And in developing a project that is stewardship and service, the kids are learning – and as we watch them, maybe we are learning too!

So here they are – four really cool stewardship projects in the last four months...

Zach Ihle – built a haunted house in his garage for Halloween, and charged a donation of \$ or canned goods, with the proceeds to the food pantry.

Ellie Slotten – on her own, carried out Soles for Souls, collecting over 700 pairs of shoes to send to places all around the globe.

Austin Kennedy – spent 24 hours in a tent in our parking lot, on what so far has been the coldest night of the year (-15 degrees), to bring awareness to homelessness. Contributions of cash and clothing went to the warming center; food items went to the food pantry here.

Abby Johnson – had a soup lunch, with ceramic bowls. Buy a bowl, get your lunch, and the proceeds to the food pantry.

Of course, they aren't the only ones. Other kids are doing things too. Lots of them. So sit back and watch them learn as they do. But sit back too, and learn from them.

Stewardship is alive and well. Not just money. And not just adults!

HOSPITAL REMINDER

Being hospitalized is never easy. Our goal is to visit each member during this difficult time.



At Gundersen, please be sure to alert the hospital of your church affiliation when they ask and they will then release your name to us when we call. At Mayo Clinic Health System/Franciscan Healthcare, it is important that you or a family member contact the church office to notify us of your stay. Mayo is no longer able to give out that information.

E-COMMUNICATIONS OR PAPER COPY



Did you know that **113** people receive the newsletter by email instead of the **455** 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

ACOLYTES

	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30/10 a.m.
February 4 & 5	Mya Jacobson	Justin Kettner	Kirin Linse
February 11 & 12	Everett Michael	Julia Russell	Rebecca Schmidt
February 18 & 19	McKenna Stadtler	Jade Turnipseed	Liam Sjoquist
February 25 & 26	Samara Wheeler	Alan Campbell	Mallory Farr

BASKET HOLDERS

		Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30/10 a.m.
February 4 & 5		Elsa Mitchell	Megan Marcou
February 11 & 12		Mallory Matheny	Ryan Nickles
February 25 & 26		Ed Schmitz	Marina Thompson

READERS

	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30/10 a.m.
February 4 & 5	Phil Gilbert	Kathy Wehrs	Marjorie Anderson
February 11 & 12	Katie Drury	Jim Kerkman	Naoko Aminaka
February 18 & 19	Sharon Olson	Lynette Ender	Michelle Witte
February 25 & 26	Karen DeSchepper	Tonya Chandler	Ilene Pavelko

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS			
	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30/10 a.m.
February 4 & 5	Judy Gilbert	Sandy Novak Sharon Olson	Dottie Baumgartner Tracey Beckley
February 11 & 12	Judy Gilbert	Melody Schmitz Vicky Johnson	Jaime Fortier Scott Friell
February 25 & 26	Judy Morzinski	Peggy Trautman Shannon Wiese	_____ Tracy Hesse

USHERS			
	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30/10 a.m.
February	Feb. 4 _____ Feb. 11 Marcus Schmitz & Justin Kettner Feb. 18 _____ Feb. 25 Ryan & Jennifer Wheeler	Feb. 5 Kathy, Dale, & Cody Anderson Feb. 12 _____ Feb. 19 Kathy, Dale & Cody Anderson Feb. 26 _____	Feb. 5 Steve & Sue Ahles Feb. 12 _____ Feb. 19 Steve & Sue Ahles Feb. 26 _____

Marie Root

February 4 & 5	Char Buelow
February 11 & 12	Katie Drury
February 25 & 26	Judy Gilbert

OUR SAVIOR'S STAFF

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