

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

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APRIL 2017 NEWSLETTER

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
WEST SALEM, WISCONSIN

APRIL 2017

- Lent and Holy Week Schedules
- WELCA Spring Convention
- Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation)
- June Dairy Days
- VBS—August 7-10



Vision Statement:

***We are a church centered in Christ,
inviting all into a community of worship,
nurturing all to be disciples of Jesus.
Together we reach out to make a difference
here and throughout 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

APRIL 2017

PASTOR'S PAGE

Over the past 18 months, two teams have been working on future planning for Our Savior's. The one team considered our building use. Their plan was affirmed by the annual meeting, and a specific proposal will come to the congregation shortly for final approval.

The other team spent a lot of time listening to different groups within the congregation. How do we see God at work in our midst? What do we discern God's calling to be?

At the council meeting in March, they presented a new vision statement:

*We are a church centered in Christ,
inviting all into a community of worship,
nurturing all to be disciples of Jesus.
Together we reach out to make a difference
here and throughout the world.*

The council really liked it! So there it is – our new vision statement. And what better time to ponder our vision, then looking ahead and seeing the cross and the empty tomb beckoning!

We are a church centered in Christ...

Of course we are, right? Look, Good Friday and Easter (the "Triduum") are (or should be) our focal point. To be honest, that's not always true. Frequently we get sidetracked and diverted. Like the color of the carpet, or

how balanced our budget looks, or whether or not the thermostat is set right. But while we pay some necessary attention to those matters, they are not what we are about. We are about Jesus, the crucified and risen Christ. That is our core. Nothing more, nothing less.

...inviting all into a community of worship...

We worship. That's what we do. On Saturday, Sunday, special days, we worship. But we also worship in our daily lives. In our thoughts and our prayers, but also in our words and our actions. What we say and do, every day, is a part of our worship. And what are we worshiping? The crucified and risen Christ, of course! The one of Good Friday and Easter.

The one who died for me...and for all people. That's why invite all. And "all" means "ALL!" We are a place for all of God's children, even those who might not be welcome in other places. And we don't just welcome – we invite – we reach out intentionally to let all know that this is a place for them!

...nurturing all to be disciples of Jesus.

Moreover, we seek to "make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19) – and of all ages. This congregation has a special ministry to families, children, and teens. God gifts us with them, that we make of them disciples of Jesus. But we also treasure other generations, who also seek to be faithful, and who have much to share. We want to make multiple generations

disciples of the crucified and risen Jesus who makes the decisive difference between life and death! Why? Because the people of God, the Body of Christ, is made up of ALL of God's children, young and old alike!

Together we reach out to make a difference here and throughout the world.

But we're not done yet. We – you and I, young and old, all of God's people, have a calling. We are to be disciples. Disciples here in the midst of this congregation, and in what this congregation does inside our walls, in the community around us, and throughout the world. Together, we make a difference. Together we change the world. Together, we impact the lives of people!

But also as we go out, each one of us, in our journeys of life. Seven days a week, with our friends and families, even with strangers, we are called by God to proclaim in what we say and what we do that the crucified and risen Jesus makes the difference in our lives – and in theirs too. We are called to bring good news to broken people in a very complicated and fearful world.

So, that's our vision. Or maybe better yet, God's vision for us! In the new life we have in Jesus, we go out and proclaim that new life to a hurting world. Centered in Christ...inviting all...nurturing disciples...making a difference.

The call of a faithful God, to be anchored in what God has done for us, that we may proclaim what God is doing for others. Good Friday and Easter at work in me, in you, and in all those whom we encounter.

I like it!

Pastor Jon

LENT and HOLY WEEK WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

April 5

11:30 a.m. Contemplative Worship
5 and 7 p.m. Holden Worship
5:45 p.m. Soup supper

Maundy Thursday

April 13

7 p.m. Holy Communion with
Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday

April 14

1:30 p.m. Service of the Word
8 p.m. Service of Tenebrae

Easter Sunday

April 16

Festive Celebration of Holy Communion
6:30 + 8:30 + 10:30 a.m.
(NO Saturday worship)

PRAYER AROUND THE CROSS APRIL 9, 7 P.M.



Meditative worship, gathered around the cross, bathed in candlelight. In the midst of a hectic, rushed, and stressed world, start Holy Week by making some time for quiet reflection.

2017 MINISTRIES HANDBOOK

The Ministries Handbook for 2017 is available in the Gathering Area. The resource includes a listing of the Staff, Church Council, Committees, Altar Guild, Circles and WELCA information.



CHANGES AFOOT!

There are several significant changes at Our Savior's, coming down in the next few months...

- Red Balloon, the day care provider in the lower level, has announced plans to close their West Salem operation, due to space and staffing issues. We knew they would be seeking a new location, leaving our building, but we had hoped they would remain in the community. Red Balloon's last day will be June 9, with the rest of the month for moving out. After 32 years, that's a big change for Our Savior's! We will seek to find a way to acknowledge and give thanks for the ministry that has taken place over those years.
- We continue to move forward with plans to repurpose the space in our building. We hope to have a special congregational meeting before summer sets in to approve the expenditure necessary to prepare our building for our future ministry needs.
- The Rental Management Committee, in response to the annual meeting, is exploring the possibility of selling the parsonage. *Any decision to sell the parsonage will require congregational approval at a special congregational meeting.* We will keep you posted!

CONGREGATION COUNCIL REVIEW

The Congregation Council met on Monday, March 13, with President Steve Ahles calling the meeting to order. At this meeting the council:

- Appointed Jake Iliff to fill the open three-year council position for one year,

with a special election at the 2018 annual meeting.

- Began with devotions and discussion around the proposed new vision statement.
- Approved the minutes from the February council meeting. Received and reviewed financial reports and reports from the pastors.
- Continued to discuss same gender marriages and how to listen with care to all sides. Decided to explore the process other congregations have used.
- Voted to adopt the new vision statement for the congregation.
- Heard a report from the task force on building space. Authorized up to \$500 for expenses in preparing a proposal for the congregation.
- Authorized the liquidation of assets in the Carol Ann Noel bequest, in order to disburse to the Mission Endowment Fund and other ministries.
- Appointed Cathryn Bottem, Lynette Ender and Judy Gilbert as delegates to the Synod Assembly. Two more will be needed.
- Heard that Dennis Manthei, Linda Berg and Jim Michelson will be reviewing the financial assets of the congregation.
- Heard an updated on Red Balloon and their plans to leave the building by the end of June.

The council meets again on Monday, April 10. See Steve Ahles or one of the pastors if you have any questions.

DATE	ATTENDANCE	OFFERING	SUNDAY SCHOOL
March 1—Ash Wednesday	215		
March 4 & 5	171	\$7,444	55
March 8—Lent	214		
March 11 & 12	217	\$5,706	51
March 15—Lent	160		
March 18 & 19	278	\$7,184	63
March 22—Lent	166		
March 25 & 26	266		

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 **Haley Dutton** (Eastern Michigan University), **Asher**

Carlson (U of MN-Duluth), **Samantha Peterson** (UW-Eau Claire), and **Cathryn Bottem** (UW-L).

SCHOLARSHIPS



Our Savior's has a variety of student scholarships available, thanks to gifts from the families of Clifford Michelson, Adolph and Esther Marking, and David

Lewis, and from Norma and Ken Piper. Graduating high school seniors can apply for one of several scholarships. Deadline is May 1.

A new scholarship this year is for college freshman who have been active in a faith community while in school. That deadline is also May 1.

Finally, at any time during the year non-traditional students can apply for a scholarship from the Homer Moe Scholarship.

Information forms and applications for all three scholarship programs are available on the youth display outside Pastor Jon's office. See Pastor Jon if you have any questions.

SCRIP CARDS ...

Scrip Cards for Kwik Trip, Woodman's, and Festival



are 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!



Here's your chance to earn funds to help pay for the mission trip to Gatlinburg this summer and the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston in 2018 ...



Middle School and High School students, who would like to sell Scrip cards, check out the sign-up

outside Pastor Jon's office. Kids need a parent present. See Pastor Jon, Pastor Jean, or Cat Bottem for more information.



CONFIRMATION AND AFTER SCHOOL



After School begins again on Wednesday, April 19. Come and get homework done, or just hang out, with dinner provided.

Grades 6-8 classes meet at 6 p.m.; Grade 9 at 7 p.m. See separate articles on the Grades 7 & 8 scavenger hunt for the food pantry, and Grade 9 and Affirmation of Baptism.

SCAVENGER HUNT

The Grades 7 & 8 confirmation class will be off on a scavenger hunt to benefit the food pantry on Wednesday, April 19. We will head out shortly after 6 p.m., going door-to-door, seeking items for the pantry, so if you are in the church neighborhood, be ready! If you are not in the area, but want to be a part of this ministry, you can bring contributions over any time that week.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Movie Night!

- o When: April 2nd at 4:30 pm
- o Who: Middle schoolers and up!
- o What: Meet at the church to enjoy watching a film and some pizza, popcorn, chips, candy, etc.
- o Open to movie ideas—bring your favorite (appropriate) film for a vote to watch!

Flamingoes!

- o The flamingoes will fly out on April 23rd. You can buy your insurance up until April 22nd.
- o On Sunday, April 23, you can begin to order flocking's for friends or family.
- o The last day to order a flocking is Sunday, May 14.
- o The flamingoes will fly their last time on May 21.

30 Hour Famine

- o When: April 28-29
- o Why: 7,000 children die every day due to hunger/malnutrition
- o What: Our Savior's has set a goal of \$1,500 to feed four children for a whole year!
- o Who: Anyone middle school aged and up!
- o How to help: Go to 30hourfamine.org and search under RAISE FUNDS go to the

bottom option to search for the fundraiser and type in Cathryn Bottem where you will find Our Savior's Lutheran Church's fundraising team.

- o OR you can camp out and fast for 30 hours. We will have a potluck before it begins; go to the Children's Hospital, do a car wash and fun learning activities.
- o This is a great opportunity to see how you can make a difference in the world around you.

Mission Trip Gatlinburg, TN!

- o There are two available spots to attend the mission trip to Gatlinburg! If you'd like to be a part of the trip and do some mission work, white water rafting, go to Dollywood, then please see Cat Bottem!



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.)

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM



Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) will be on Sunday, April 30, at 10:30 a.m. Bishop Jim Arends will join us as we ask God's blessings on our ninth graders. Parents are reminded to take only one pew per family,

with extra seating in the balcony and the Gathering Area.

Ninth graders will meet on April 23 after 10:30 worship for a brunch and rehearsal for Confirmation.

We are excited to see these young people move forward as disciples of Jesus, and to support them in their faith journey. Please keep them in your prayers!

This year's class includes:

Cody Anderson	Taylor Hennessey
Allison Arentz	Mya Jacobson
Cassidy Bores	Justin Kettner
Hannah Brenengen	Kirin Linse
Aidan Donahue	Everett Michael
Mahlivanh Fleckenstein	Julia Russell
Zachary Friell	Rebecca Schmidt
Kara Gavaghan	Liam Sjoquist
Lexi Giblin	McKenna Stadler
Wyndor Goodenough	Jade Turnipseed
Hallie Halverson	Samara Wheeler
Meghan Hansen	



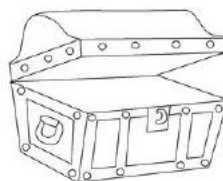
SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

It's hard to believe we are already three-fourths of the way through our Sunday School year – as of this writing, only eight more classes! Where has the time gone? This continues to be a fun group of children who gather each week to watch our *Whirl* friends introduce us to the “theme” of the day, sing songs, and hear about Jesus' life and his love for us.

We continue on our Lenten journey, but look forward to Easter Sunday when we will unbury the Alleluia's that have been packed away for the last six weeks and celebrate the empty tomb and Jesus' resurrection.

The children are continuing to get to know their “adopted grandparents” and look forward to having them follow the class on their faith journey.

Sunday School Treasure Box ...



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

Kids with perfect attendance – January 22 – March 12:

5th: Derek Bores, Jon Iliff, Elliott Sjoquist, Amanda Vick

4th: Marissa Eckland

3rd: Bennett Fennigkoh, Lydia Jothan

2nd: Graham Sjoquist

1st: Jesse Jothan, Casey Mathison

4K: Addyson Knebes, Laney Kneifl, Layla Kneifl, Anna Vick

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

We are ¾ of the way through our Sunday School year and there are still three children with perfect attendance and another six who have only missed one time! Way to go kids!!

ROLLER SKATING PARTY



Lace up your skates—the Family Ministry Team is sponsoring an afternoon at High Rollers Skating Rink, Sunday, April 2. Gather at High Rollers (3624 East Avenue S, La Crosse), from 1-3 p.m. to enjoy some time skating. All kids, 4K through Grade 5 are welcome to skate and parents need to stay with their children. See Pastor Jon for more information.

Important Dates

- ➔ Sunday, April 9 - First Communion Instruction - 1:30 - 3 PM
- ➔ Palm Sunday, April 9 - Grades 3-5 kids sing at 10:30 worship
- ➔ Maundy Thursday, April 13 - First Communion for our 5th graders during 7 PM worship
- ➔ Easter Sunday, April 16 - Grades 4K-2 kids sing at 10:30 worship
- ➔ Easter Sunday, April 16 - NO Sunday School classes
- ➔ April 27 - Last day to turn in Sugar Creek Campership requests
- ➔ May 6-7 - Sugar Creek Camperships distributed in worship
- ➔ Sunday, May 14 (Mother's Day) - Children sing at 10:30 worship
- ➔ Sunday, May 14 - Last day of Sunday School

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.



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 PM** 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.



Hungry Jar Offering for April Sugar Creek Bible Camp

"Where all generations encounter Christ through God's people and creation"

Faith formation at camp is a way of life lived out in holy play, caring conversations, and intentional time in God's beautiful creation. Faith expressions go beyond worship and Bible study to permeate every aspect of the camp experience. No matter your age, race, or income level, Sugar Creek has a program designed for you, with programming available year-round! Your generous contributions will help provide a camping experience for all who want to attend - no one is turned away.



June Dairy Days



Once again we will have a **float** in the June Dairy Days Parade on June 3rd, but we can't do it alone ... we need **YOU** to help us create the float and to walk in the parade ... a float without **walkers** is lifeless ... we need your energy, enthusiasm, and ear-to-ear smiles! This is a great way for families – of all ages – to be a part of the action! Let Pastor Jean know if you can join us!



"horse project" on your check or envelope, and include your name.

Thank you for your support of ministries that change many lives in many ways!

GARDEN PLOTS

Seed catalogs are arriving in the mail, the weather is warming and garden plots remain available for any congregation members interested in growing flowers or vegetables this summer. The land is easily accessible off highway M two miles north of the village. Call Jim at 786-1236 for details.



I ♥ VBS

It's not too early to mark your calendars ...

The Water of Life
Vacation Bible School
with staff from Sugar
Creek Bible Camp.

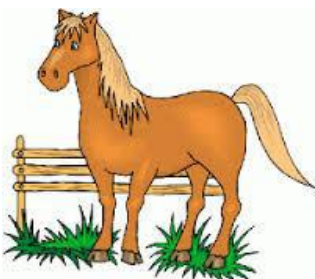


August 7-10

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. for children entering grades 1-5
9 a.m. – noon for children entering grades 4K
and Kindergarten

SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP HORSE PROJECT

Sugar Creek Bible Camp again seeks our support through their "horse" project. A horse poster is in the Gathering Area, with the request that we mark off the squares for \$20 apiece. Put your name in a square, and make your gift – make sure you note



Summer is coming ... really it is!



And with summer comes the new life of trees budding, grass growing, and flowers blooming. Here at church we have a dedicated group of three "not as young as they used to be" ladies who make sure the flowers are planted to make our

building inviting. But once the flowers are planted, they need to be watered. **Can you spare a few minutes to help water our flowers?** If we have enough able bodies, we can schedule a week at a time, and before you know it, the summer will be over! If you are able to help, please speak with Pastor Jean or Eleanor Lee.

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, **April 14**. 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.



It's a simple thing ... but carries a great impact ...
Anyone can do it ... there is no age requirement ...
All it takes is a smiling face and an outstretched hand ...



What is it?

Ushering in worship!

Why not share a few minutes of your time on a Saturday night or Sunday morning to be a welcoming presence, hand out bulletins, collect the offering, shepherd people up for communion, and count noses ...

On the job training is available!

It's easy to sign up ...

Choose the day/week/month and time you would like to serve ... sign up on line by going to
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20fo44ca5a629a7f85-ushers> or call the church office.

JUNE DAIRY DAYS

Yes, it's true – June Dairy Days are fast approaching! Our Savior's has two responsibilities – the Fun Run, and sharing the food booth with St. Leo's. We need your help – our share of the proceeds supports and strengthens our youth ministry. Sign-up sheets will be out following Easter, so watch for them!

OWLS

Paul and Matilda Wegner were German immigrants, who, after a visit to a grotto, decided they would build their own grotto on their farm.



Please join the OWLS on April 27 at 1:30 p.m. for Norma Schmig's presentation on the grotto located north of Sparta and learn of Norma's relationship to the Wagner's.

PASTORAL ACTS

Funeral

✝ We express our Christian sympathy to the family of **Lisa Bachmann** who died February 26. Services were held March 4 with burial in Hamilton Cemetery.

Baptism

✝ **Eleanor Jo Krupicka**, daughter of Patrick and Heidi Krupicka, was baptized March 26. Her baptismal sponsors are Benton Krupicka, Andrea Knutson and Ebelio Cuamacateco Cruceno.



* We thank the **MAILING CREW** for assembling the Newsletter. The members who helped this past month were Connie and Larry Blunck, Bev Bockenhauer, Judy Morzinski, Rich Storandt and Betty Whitlock.

* We thank the family and friends of Anna Isler for the memorial gifts.

* We thank the family and friends of Fern Mellor for the memorial gifts.



Communion Bread

... We thank *Jerry Willer* for providing the homemade bread for Holy Communion in March and *Lynette Ender & Sharon Olson* in April.

NEW MEMBERS!

Recently, Jason and Valerie Brockmeyer joined Our Savior's. Jason works for Mike's Draft Service in Onalaska, servicing and cleaning draft systems in restaurants and bars. Originally from New Berlin, Jason came to UW-L in 1991 and has lived in the La Crosse area since then. In his spare time, Jason enjoys playing golf and working on small building and home improvement projects around the house.



Valerie has been with Hartland Fuel Products in Onalaska for three years, as a billing specialist. She's from Melrose, and graduated from UW-L with a finance degree. In her spare time, Valerie enjoys doing small crafts and puzzles.

Jason and Valerie were married in June of 2013, and have been in West Salem the past two years. They have a 12-year-old Chihuahua named Paco. Together they enjoy going to rummage sales, watching movies, playing cards, and spending time with family and friends.

REFORMATION REFLECTIONS

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

The Augsburg Confession, written in the midst of the Reformation tumult, is the core statement of what Lutherans believe. It was produced in 1530, thirteen years after young professor Martin Luther posted the Ninety-Five Theses in Wittenberg. A lot had happened in those thirteen years. Thanks to Luther's creative exploration of the gospel and its implications, his colorful personality (opponents had other adjectives), and the availability of the printing press, his views on religious matters as well as the politics of the day had been widely distributed. In many parts of central Europe, people were responding favorably, to the consternation of the Church of Rome, which had been accustomed to being the single expression of the Christian church in that region.

In the sixteenth century there was no nation called Germany. Rather, the various duchies and electorates made up a key part of the Holy Roman Empire, a remnant of the European territory once governed by ancient Rome. For much of Reformation times, Charles V governed as Holy Roman Emperor. He had watched his empire become increasingly fractured by divisions among princes favorable to Luther and other reformers, and those who kept their loyalty to Rome and the pope. The emperor needed the princes to be unified, not least because a Turkish invasion of Europe had reached the gates of Vienna. And so, in January 1530, the emperor called for a diet, or general assembly, in the German city of Augsburg. He asked the German princes and imperial cities to explain their religious convictions.

And so, reforming theologians and the rulers who supported them headed for Augsburg—among them, Luther's colleague Philipp

Melanchthon and his pastor, Johannes Bugenhagen. Luther himself could not accompany them because he had been named an outlaw at a previous diet. He had also been excommunicated by the pope. He was, however, consulted on the final text via mail.

Upon their arrival in Augsburg, Melanchthon, consulting with previous preliminary documents, composed the final text of the confession. The German princes who favored the Reformation viewpoint agreed to it and signed it. On June 25, 1530, the Augsburg Confession was read aloud in German before the emperor and presented in written form in both German and Latin.

The Augsburg Confession (sometimes called Augustana from its Latin title) is now found in a larger collection of Lutheran confessional writings called The Book of Concord. It contains twenty-eight parts, or articles. The first twenty-one of these stress points of agreement with the Roman Church of the time, though sometimes with crucial differences. In the last seven, the writers lay out what they see as abuses committed by the church.

The Augsburg Confession continues to guide the teachings of Lutheran churches to this day. Though a product of troubled times, it is filled with optimism and hope as it bears witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Next month: Women of the Reformation

LA CROSSE AREA SYNOD W-ELCA
SPRING CONVENTION AT
OUR SAVIOR'S
SATURDAY, APRIL 29

Women of Our Savior's—Do you know you are a part of the Women of the ELCA? Here's a chance to experience that by attending the Synod Women's Convention right here at Our Savior's.

The theme will be "Celebrate God's Work Through Us," focusing on the ministry of all current generations with a panel discussion led by Pr. Karyn Bodenschatz.

A Churchwide representative will be here to speak. Michael Johnson, a representative from LWR, will be talking about "the other side of the LWR trail." In kind gift of money to cover shipping costs.

8-9 a.m. Registration & Coffee
Cost \$12.00

9 a.m. Worship

10 a.m. Program

Noon – Salad Luncheon

Afternoon Business Meeting, etc., concluding at 3:30 p.m.

Registration form is on kiosk

Another way you can participate is by furnishing salads or desserts for the lunch or muffins or quick breads for the early morning coffee, and/or helping with set up, serving, and cleanup. Sign-up sheets will be available on the table in the Gathering Area.

Thank you for your consideration.

Contact: Connie Blunck 786-0684
Email: clcblunck@centurylink.net



MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

This life-changing event will never get closer for us. Featured speakers, preachers, and workshop leaders will bring the gathering themes to life. Meet women from across the church and hear inspirational and lively music.

A registration booklet is on the kiosk in the Gathering Area. The registration fee is \$350 for July 13-16 or \$175 for 1 day. Hotel reservations are separate. A bus will be going up on Thursday, July 13, and returning July 16 following closing worship. Cost of the bus is \$50. A bus for one day, July 14 only, may go if there is enough interest. Contact Sue Staples, 788-8249, or email: stap@centurytel.net for more information, or see the Crosswinds, the La Crosse Area Synod WELCA newsletter.

Ilene Pavelko, 786-2360 or ilenepav1@aol.com and Connie Blunck, 786-0684 or clcblunck@centurylink.net, are registered to go and will be happy to share information.

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.

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, &
April 10th**

@ Salem Terrace

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

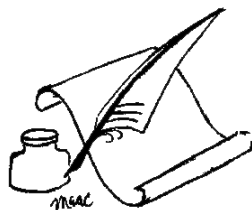


RUTH CIRCLE

Monday, April 17, 9 a.m.
Leader: Ilene Pavelko
Hostess: Caryll Loughan
(at Mill Street Manor)

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.



Thank you to the prayer shawl ladies ...



... convey to the group
our heartfelt thanks
for these shawls. I am typing through
tears as it becomes more and more
apparent that angels do not necessarily
float around in gowns and wings - they
are sitting in chairs with crochet hook or
knitting needles, not always realizing the
impact their work will have on the
recipient. You can just "feel" the love
when you touch them. It's almost as if
the lace-like texture was designed to let
sunshine in and sorrow to leave. ... thank
you good ladies of Our Savior's prayer
shawl ministry. May God bless you all.

Jim & Diane

Thank you so much for the shawl that
you made for me to help protect and love
me thru my battle with Lymphoma
cancer. ... The shawl is absolutely
beautiful and my favorite color. ☺ May
God guide me and protect me thru this
battle. Thank you.

Angela



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. Alice Pfaff graciously allowed us to share a glimpse into her story. Alice, 88 years young, has been making baby quilts for baptisms since 2004 – what a gift that ministry is to our littlest ones.

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

God sees us through hard times and heartaches. Alice has always gone to church, because that’s what you do. Church has always been an important part of her family’s life – from her own growing up, to raising her children.

Alice’s favorite Bible passage ... because ...

John 3:16 (“*For God so loved the world ...*”) and Psalm 23 (“*The Lord is my shepherd ...*”). These were passages Alice had to memorize during confirmation and they have stuck with her all these years. As she recites the words, they speak to her and bring comfort.

Alice’s earliest memories of church ... As a very young child, Alice went to the Norwegian Lutheran Church in Barre Milles. When she was a little older, the family went to Trinity in La Crosse and that is where she was confirmed, and she and Myron were married. Alice and Myron live in Bangor and came to Our Savior’s just before their children were born. Alice didn’t drive when her children were young and Vicky Johnson’s in-laws would pick up Alice’s children and bring them to Sunday School here at Our Savior’s. Alice remembers as a young child walking over the hills from her family farm in Russlan Coulee to her cousin’s farm in Irish

Coulee (which was several miles) and then they would be driven into La Crosse to Trinity for confirmation classes. Now that was dedication to class!

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

REFUGEES: A WORLDWIDE CRISIS

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (La Crescent, MN), in conjunction with La Crescent Community Education is offering a course on the refugee crisis, on four consecutive Tuesdays beginning April 4, at 7 p.m. Each week will feature a speaker and time for conversation. Speakers will include an immigration attorney, a Somalian refugee, and Ethiopian refugees. You are welcome to participate in any or all of these sessions. Contact La Crescent Community Education at 507-895-5150 to register.

BETHANY LUTHERAN HOMES

Bethany Lutheran Homes is having an on-site job fair April 5, from noon to 6:30 p.m., at Bethany Riverside. If you have an interest in employment at Bethany (servers, cooks, housekeeping, CNA, RN, etc.), you are encouraged to attend.

E-COMMUNICATIONS OR PAPER COPY



Sign up for our
e-NEWSLETTER

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

SYNOD SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

The spring trimester of the Synod School of Theology begins April 20, with an introduction for new students on April 6. Classes are held here at Our Savior's on Thursdays, from 5:30-9 p.m., and run through May 25. This term includes courses on Paul, the second article of the Apostles' Creed, and Early Church History. You can take any one, or all of the classes. Cost is \$50 or \$20 per course. No exams or grades, but some reading and writing. Register online at the synod web site (www.lacrosseareasynd.org), or see Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean for more information.

MAKING YOUR LEGACY WORK FOR YEARS TO COME!

A series of articles on how you can support the work of Jesus Christ through planned giving. This month – Your Will.

The primary way (though not the only way) we can make gifts is to name ELCA ministries as beneficiaries in our wills or living trusts. BUT, these gifts cannot be made if you do not have a will or living trust. The federal government says that 70% of the Americans that die each year do not have a will. You may have many reasons why you have not made a will – we have all either heard or used, "I am too busy," "They are too expensive" or "I do not need a will yet," as an excuse to put off making a will. If you do not have an up-to-date will or living trust, your estate may not go to the persons in your life who need your continued financial support after your death. Further, the ministries you have supported in your life may not receive your money in death. Ask yourself if a will or living trust is an important way to both witness and carry out



your faith. As you think about your life and your estate, like so many other Christians, you will surely answer that question "yes." Be a willing witness to your faith – make or update your will or living trust today.

For more information: Contact Timothy Knutson, ELCA Foundation at (414) 477-9979 or timothy.knutson@elca.org, or Pastor Larry Westfield, ELCA Foundation at (262) 224-9574 or larry.westfield@elca.org.

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.



ACOLYTES

	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30/10 a.m.
April 1 - 2	Mahlivanh Fleckenstein	Zach Friell	Kara Gavaghan
April 5 Lent	(5 p.m.) Lexi Giblin (7 p.m.) Cody Anderson		
April 8 - 9	Hallie Halverson	Meghan Hansen	Taylor Hennessey
April 13 Maundy Thursday	(7 p.m.) Mya Jacobson		
April 14 Good Friday	(8 p.m.) Justin Kettner		
April 16 Easter Sunday	(6:30 a.m.) Kirin Linse (8:30 a.m.) Everett Michael (10:30 a.m.) Aidan Donahue		
April 22 - 23	Alan Campbell	Mallory Farr	Audrey Godlewski
April 29 - 30	Sydney Hammes	Madison Hass	Maddie Haun

BASKET HOLDERS

		Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30/10 a.m.
April 2		Elly Goodenough	Madeline Giblin
April 9		Jaden Hammes	Jacob Helgeson
April 13 Maundy Thursday	7 p.m. Amalia Hemker		
April 16 Easter Sunday		8:30 a.m. Jacob Hickey	10:30 a.m. Kendra Hillyer
April 23		Morgan Kammel	Brennan Kennedy
April 30		Ben Larson	Tyler Leren

READERS

	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30/10 a.m.
April 1 - 2	Connie Pinski	Jim Quamme	Eric Iliff
Palm Sunday April 8 - 9	Bev Bockenhauer	Jeanne Peterson	Jeff Haldeman
Easter Sunday April 16	6:30 a.m. Errol Kindschy	8:30 a.m. Bonny Goodenough	10:30 a.m. Lisa Lee
April 22 - 23	Amy Molling	Kathy Wehrs	Naoko Aminaka
April 29 - 30	Karen DeSchepper	Jim Quamme	Confirmands

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30/10 a.m.
April 1 - 2	Carla Burkhardt	Vicky Johnson Jason Stefferud	Bill Jensen Dori Jensen
April 8 - 9	Eric Ender	Larry Blunck Cathryn Bottem	Dana Roemhild Melissa Thompson
April 13 Maundy Thursday	7 p.m. Mark & Kim Hunter Bonny Goodenough		
April 16 Easter Sunday	6:30 a.m. Linda Arentz Carla Burkhardt	8:30 a.m. Pam Gresens Cathryn Bottem Bonny Goodenough Sharon Olson	10:30 a.m. Wendy Kane Kristin Tschumper Wayne Affeldt Darlene Affeldt
April 22 - 23	Lynette Ender	Judy Long Sandy Novak	Michelle Witte Eric Iliff
April 29 - 30	Jon Hetland	Peggy Trautman Char Buelow	Marty Frank Jane Frank Carla Burkhardt Carlie Burkhardt

ALTAR GUILD

Kristin Tschumper
Tracy Skrentny

HOME COMMUNION SERVERS

April 1/2	Betty Whitlock & Diane McClintock
April 8/9	Marjorie Anderson
April 16	Linda Arentz
April 22/23	Dottie Baumgartner
April 29/30	Bev Bockenhauer

USHERS

	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30/10 a.m.
April	April 1, 8, & 22— Keith & Jan Goetzinger April 29—Beckley Family	8 a.m. Lee Fernstaedt Leon Herried Eric Iliff Tim Tiber	April 2, 9, 16, 23— Averbeck Family April 30—Wendy Kane
April 13, Maundy Thursday, 7 p.m.— Beckley Family Linda Arentz			
April 14, Good Friday 1:30 p.m.—Beckley Family 8 p.m.—Dennis Baumgartner			
April 16, Easter	6:30 a.m. Steve & Sue Ahles	8:30 a.m. Lee Fernstaedt Leon Herried Eric Iliff Tim Tiber	10:30 a.m. Averbeck 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	
Cathryn Bottem, Director of Youth Ministry	608-518-1181	Email: youth@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, Custodian		