

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

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MAY 2017 NEWSLETTER

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
WEST SALEM, WISCONSIN

MAY 2017

- First Communion Participants, April 13
- Parish Secretary, Kay Niemeier, is Retiring
- Special Congregational Meeting, May 7
- Summer Worship Schedule, May 27 & 28
- June Dairy Days
- Feed Our Children—Summer Lunch



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

MAY 2017

Pastor's Reflections ...



Confirmation

I have been thinking a lot about Confirmation these days – I guess it's that time of year. My mother was confirmed on Palm Sunday, March 17, 1940 (yes, it was St. Patrick's Day), I was confirmed on May 19, 1974, and our daughter will be confirmed on April 30th – yes, it's that time of year!

My Mom was confirmed with one of her best friends, Joan. The two of them remained friends all through the years, sharing in each other's lives and celebrating each other's families. The one thing that stands out most for me about that relationship is that every March 17th my mother would send Joan a St. Patrick's Day card – and they would reconnect, if it had been awhile since they last spoke, and they would remember that very special day in 1940, they would remember that very special bond they had, they would remember that what grounded their relationship was their faith in Jesus Christ and the promises made to them in their baptisms and reaffirmed on their Confirmation. My mom died in February (2004) and on March 17th, I sent Joan a St. Patrick's Day card to remember that special bond between them. And every year (almost) since then, I have sent Joan a card to remember that day and to honor that relationship. In April Joan celebrated her 90th birthday (Mom would have done the same last November), and I am reminded of their Confirmation day.

As one of a class of 24, at a time when you had tests and memorized things in Confirmation (or at least you were supposed to), and only a select few of the "good kids" "got to" share that memory work during the Confirmation worship service, I remember my Confirmation very clearly. As one who was petrified to speak in front of people, I still remember being told that I would be reciting Luther's explanation of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed from the Small Catechism during the Confirmation worship service. *I'm surprised I even showed up!* The morning of Confirmation, my mother gifted me with the gold cross that she had been gifted with by her grandmother on her Confirmation. On the back it was engraved – CMJ 3-17-40 and JRB 5-19-74. I put that cross around my neck and we headed to church. When it was time for me to stand up in front of a church full of people and recite my words, I spoke out loud and clear, never missing a beat, and even my hard-of-hearing grandmother who was sitting back several pews in the large sanctuary, could hear me. The Spirit was swirling around that day, giving me the courage and confidence that I needed. That cross has been worn and treasured all through the years. It is my connection to my mother and the faith we both share. And some day it will be gifted to my daughter, with the addition of RJS 4-30-17, so she too will share the faith with her mother and grandmother.

On April 30th Rebecca will be confirmed, along with 22 of her classmates. It's hard to believe it's been four years already! Going to confirmation class on Wednesdays has been a part of her routine pretty much the whole time we have been here at Our Savior's. It was just

part of the rhythm of life ... and now that rhythm will be changed.

Confirmation will be a time of gathering family and friends together, a time to celebrate Rebecca's faith as she affirms the promises we made for her at her baptism 15 years ago. It will be a time to celebrate and remember that baptism on October 13, 2002. In Russia, the priest would come to the government-run orphanage once a year to baptize the children. For the other three families in the group from Wisconsin and Upper Michigan who traveled with us, they all received certificates of baptism into the Orthodox Church for their children. In Rebecca's case, she was in the hospital with pneumonia at the time the priest came, and so she was never baptized. Which meant that her Dad would have the honor of baptizing her once we came home.

It was the Sunday in October the week before the quilts were boxed up and sent off to Lutheran World Relief, which meant that every pew was draped in quilts. The sanctuary was filled to capacity with members and friends and family, some who had traveled great distances to be there. Baptisms were done at the beginning of the service, so the baptismal party processed in behind the cross as the congregation sang, and we gathered around the font. Pastor Jon did most of the liturgy and the actual baptizing, but our Youth Director was the one who asked the questions directed to the parents, so Pastor Jon could be the parent at that moment, and as the parent, could make the promises parents make for their child. As the Pastor/Dad continued with the baptism, emotions overwhelmed him and tears were shed (by all of us) – the room was filled with silence, the Spirit swirled within each of us. What a holy time, what a sacred time.

Now Rebecca affirms those promises, and once again we will step down and be the parents as Bishop Arends confirms her, and tears will be shed, and once again the Spirit will swirl, and it will be a holy time, a sacred time. And I will remember three generations of Confirmations.

My prayer for Rebecca and all of her class is that they remember whose they are (*God's*) and what grounds them (*their faith in Jesus*). And no matter where life takes them when they walk out of the sanctuary door on April 30th, may they know that God walks with them, and so do we.

Confirmed in faith,
remember you are a
precious child of God,
Pastor Jean



SCHOLARSHIPS



Time is tight! Scholarship applications for graduating high school seniors and current college freshman are due May 1. Applications are available online at the church web site (see the Youth Ministry page) or on the youth display outside Pastor Jon's office. Scholarships range from \$500 to \$750. Don't miss out!

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

WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS...

With VERY grateful hearts, we announce the retirement of Kay Niemeier, our church secretary. Kay has served God's people for over 35 years. She has been faithful, consistent, and dependable, and she is a wealth of important information. Kay's last day in the office is April 28, though she will continue to do some tasks at various times until we have completed our transition to new staffing. Kay will be missed!

The Congregation Council invites you to join us at worship on May 27 and 28 to thank Kay for her work and service with us. A special team is working to plan a great thank you to her. Watch the bulletin for further details.

POSITION OPEN

Our Savior's is seeking a new administrative assistant, who works with the pastors and other staff members. This person is the public face of the office on a day-to-day basis, and needs to have strong interpersonal skills, along with secretarial abilities, and needs to be a self-starter. The position is salaried, and is generally a weekday position, amounting to about 35 hours/week, though some extra hours are required from time to time. The job description is currently being reviewed and revised, and will be available shortly. Applications are due by May 15. See Steve Ahles, Corey Sjoquist, or Pastor Jon for more information.



FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION

We celebrate with the following young people who received the Sacrament of Holy Communion in worship on Maundy Thursday (April 13):

*Siri Anderson
Mia Bahl
Ben Bakum
Derek Bores
Braden Burke
Noah Campbell
Haley Chandler
Sophia Clements
Megan Goede
Elizabeth Hesse
Jesse Howell
Carson Hundt
Jon Iliff
Ella Janisch
Nick Jones
Reice Kammel*

*Colton Kneifl
Mya Koudelka
Nolan Langrehr
Keaton Linse
Celia Mitchell
Kenzie Murphy
Ian Nickles
Abigail Rudrud
Nicholas Rudrud
Elliott Sjoquist
Amanda Vick
Carter Walter
Brandon Wiese
Sam Williams
Jack Witte*

Thank you – to the students for baking the bread we used for communion.



Thank you – to Angie Hemker for working with the students to make the cups their families used to receive communion.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Congregation Council has called a special congregational meeting for Sunday, May 7, following the 10:30 a.m. worship service (approximately 11:45 a.m.), to act on three proposals from the Council.

- Proposal 1 is to authorize the expenditure of no more than \$125,000 to remodel portions of the church building (see details in separate article).
- Proposal 2 is to authorize the Congregation Council to negotiate and execute the sale of the parsonage property.
- Proposal 3 is to direct the investment of the proceeds of the parsonage sale in a restricted fund, using the earnings for general congregational ministry, while retaining the principal.

These are the only three items that will be in order at this meeting. See Steve Ahles or Pastor Jon for more information.

PROPOSED BUILDING CHANGES

At the special congregational meeting on May 7, the Congregation Council will propose a project to remodel portions of the church building following the departure of Red Balloon (see separate article announcing this meeting). You should have received a mailing the last week of April detailing these changes. The proposal seeks to accomplish the following:

1. Creation of a new youth room.
2. Designating a specific room for music and instruments.
3. Creation of several new classrooms, with some permanent walls, and some movable partitions, to ensure flexibility for both education and fellowship needs, such as dinners and other large group gatherings.
4. Designation of space for a new ministry to toddlers.

5. Moving the nursery/cry room closer to the sanctuary.
6. Creation of a new "adult study" room.
7. New space for worship materials, including banners.
8. New carpeting in the sanctuary.
9. Painting the fellowship hall and former day care space, along with the kitchen.
10. Collecting the offices in closer proximity, while providing increased security.
11. Creation of office space for the Director of Youth Ministry.

Funds for this project are currently available in the New Programs and Facilities Fund, and construction would take place over the coming summer months.

For more details see the mailing previously sent out, or contact Steve Ahles or Pastor Jon.



CHOIR CELEBRATION SUNDAY

The Senior Choir has cast their votes for their favorite anthems from the past year, and will sing them for you at both worship services May 7! Join us as we offer praise and prayer through music, lifting our voices in a variety of musical styles. Don't miss it!

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, **May 12**. 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.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER POSTAL FOOD DRIVE

Each year the US Postal Service holds a nationwide food drive the second Saturday of May. This year it will be held May 13.

Each year, our postal service works diligently to retrieve approximately 5,000 pounds of food in our area for the West Salem Community Care and Share Food Pantry housed at Our Savior's.

Each year, each of us receives a post card in our mail asking that we participate in the food drive by placing nonperishable food items near our mailbox.

Each year 75-100 volunteers sort, label and stock the food, which provides enough food for our pantry customers for the summer.

Whether you participate as a postal service employee, a donator of food, or volunteer sorting food, you are participating in stewardship. The West Salem Community Care and Share Food Pantry board and its customers are grateful to each of you for your stewardship!

POSTAL FOOD DRIVE



Volunteers are needed for the United States Postal Food Drive. All ages welcome.

Saturday, May 13, 2017 ~ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Stop in and help as long as you like at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 359 North Leonard, St., West Salem. "Many hands make little work." Come join in the fun of sorting 5,000 pounds of food! Questions, call Lynette Ender 786-0723.

PRAYER AROUND THE CROSS MAY 14, 7 P.M.



Meditative worship, gathered around the cross, bathed in candlelight. As we give thanks for "Moms," come and

give God thanks for all who have nurtured our lives!



Interested in getting together with other adults in our congregation to build relationships and just have fun together?

Friday, May 19th

Dinner

**Save the date ... watch for details
in the bulletin**

GRADUATE RECOGNITION



High School graduates from Our Savior's will be recognized and honored at our 10:30 a.m. worship on Sunday, May 21. All

graduates are encouraged to join us, in cap and gown, if possible, and to be honored. But more than honored – we will ask God's blessings on you as you move forward to new adventures in life! Following worship, we will share in cake and refreshments as we celebrate your achievements, and send you on to make even more of a difference in the world around you. See Pastor Jon for more information.

Summer Worship

*Beginning May 27-28
through September 2-3*

**Saturday 6 PM
Sunday 8 and
10 AM**



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!

June Dairy Days



JUNE DAIRY DAYS



June Dairy Days is June 2, 3 and 4. OSLC is particularly active in two areas and we need your help! The Fun Run is held Saturday, June 3, and volunteers are needed to help with registration and set-up from 6:30 - 8:30 on Saturday morning.

AND, there are LOTS of opportunities to help at the Food Stand at the Village Park which serves food all weekend. We share the food booth with St. Leo's. Grillers, servers, ticket workers, window workers, and shift leaders are needed.

Youth and their families are especially encouraged to help out on all shifts. Signup sheets for helping will be available at church and online at signup.com/go/hSNm1r. [A note about using the online link - it requires each person to insert an email address. If you are a family signing up for several spots on the same shift but don't have separate emails, go ahead and let it look like one person is in all of the spots at the same time - we'll understand that more of you are working.]



DATE	ATTENDANCE	OFFERING	SUNDAY SCHOOL
April 1 & 2	212	\$5,523	50
Lent-April 5	119		
April 8 & 9	340		62
Maundy Thursday- April 13	241	\$915	
Good Friday- April 14-1:30 p.m.	62		
Good Friday- April 14-8 p.m.	72	\$831	
Easter Sunday- April 16	652	\$27,118	
April 22 & 23	277		

FEED OUR CHILDREN-WEST SALEM



The Summer Lunch program will be starting on June 13 and running through August 17. With Team Leaders and numerous volunteers, 2,500 lunches were served over an 11-week

period in 2016. This year, our local sponsors have once again agreed to provide enough core meal components to serve lunches two days a week. We will be serving at two sites this year, the Village Park and Anderson Mobile Home Park. With some potential changes at Our Savior's and at the Boys and Girls Club, we may find some location challenges, but are always eager to "just make it happen." We are so grateful for the generosity provided to make this program run smoothly. You can get involved in the summer lunch program in the following ways:

Volunteer: We need volunteers to help package, transport, and serve the lunches. Team Leaders have volunteered to be responsible for the 11 weeks. They will be listed in the upcoming newsletter and near the donation bins in the Gathering Area. Please look at your summer calendar and see if you can help them out by calling or emailing to see if they need help on their designated week.

Food Donations: We have a list of items we will need to fill in our lunches. See the list below, and in the Gathering Area and your weekly bulletin. It changes throughout the summer, so please check it out and bring it along when you do your family's grocery shopping. All donations accepted!

Monetary Donations: Each week we supplement the donated items to complete the lunches with money from cash donations. You can write checks out to Our Savior's with "Summer Lunch" in the memo line. Drop it in

the offering plate on Sunday, or turn it into the office anytime.

Thank you so much for your incredible generosity to make this program happen!

Startup items needed:

Creamy peanut butter, jelly, Ranch dressing, applesauce cups, fruit cups, small snack bags

GARDEN PLOTS



Last call. Land remains available for any congregation members interested in a garden plot for the summer.

The plot can be sized to your needs. The land is easily accessible off highway M less than two miles north of the village. Call Jim at 786-1236 for details.

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.



college+ connection

As our students are finishing their year of college, we keep them in our prayers during these days of studying and exams. We pray for those who are graduating, that they find jobs that will bring them fulfillment and enjoyment. We look forward to seeing them all when they are home this summer and hope they will join us in worship.

YOUTH NEWS

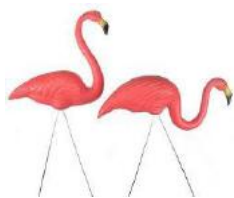
GATLINBURG, TN MISSION TRIP ~



The mission trip is now full with nineteen members of Our Savior's going down south on June 24-July 2. Wendy Kane and I are the leaders for the trip with Sarah

Schmitz and Curt Bottem being our eager chaperones, and we are so excited to get to know the fifteen youth that are coming on our trip! Besides doing mission work in Marysville, TN, we are staying a night going down and coming back at Mammoth Cave National Park where we will get to camp and tour some of the caves. We are going to explore the Smoky Mountains, go white water rafting and have some thrills at Dollywood Theme Park.

FLAMINGOES



The flamingoes have taken flight, and are flying until May 21. If you are interested in flocking someone in the congregation or someone in your neighborhood, come and visit the youth in the Gathering Area to buy a flocking. All proceeds will go into the youth accounts. Please help the youth raise funds for upcoming mission trips ☺

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

Confirmation and After School are heading down the home stretch! Confirmation for Grades 7 & 8 continues with core classes and acolyte training on May 3 and 10, and concludes with small groups on May 17.

Sixth graders finish up on May 10. After School also ends that day.

Thanks to group guides, parents, and Corey Sjoquist for all the work they have put in to help our young people grow in their discipleship. You are gifts of God to us and to lots of kids!



Giving
Hope
Today

Hungry Jar Offering for May Salvation Army

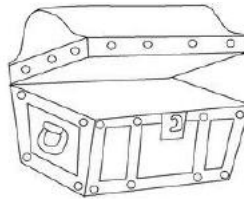
A desire to answer Jesus' call to feed the hungry and shelter the homeless motivates all of the social services provided by the Salvation Army here in La Crosse. The shelter allows people to come in off the streets or out of their cars to find a place to rest. They serve more than 1,500 meals each week to people who are hungry. Other services available include a food pantry, a thrift store for clothing and household goods, free health care screening, rent and utility assistance, a back to school program for children that includes a new outfit and backpack, and during the summer around 300 sack lunches are provided for school aged children in low income neighborhoods. Help us to share in answering Jesus' call to feed the hungry and shelter the homeless.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

We finish our Sunday School year on Mother's Day, May 14th. We will gather that day to celebrate milestones for our young people and thank our teachers. It has been a fun year with this group of kids as we explored the church year and stories of Jesus with our *Whirl* friends. Join us in church at 10:30 a.m. that day as the kids sing one last time until fall.

We have had fun getting to know our "adopted grandparents" this spring and look forward to reconnecting with them in the fall as they continue to follow the children on their faith journey.



Sunday School Treasure Box ...

*One last time to check out
the treasure box this year
... who will it be??*



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

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



May 6-7 - Sugar Creek Camperships distributed in worship

Sunday, May 14 (Mother's Day) - All Children sing at 10:30 a.m. worship

Sunday, May 14 - Last day of Sunday School

Sunday School Offering ...

Our Sunday School offerings this school year were collected for the Sembrando project in our companion synod in Peru. Our offerings helped these kids get a healthy meal, school materials, books, and a safe place to spend part of their day. We were able to make a difference in the lives of children just like us! Check out the bulletin board by Pastor Jean's office to see the final tally!



Sunday School Teacher & Helper



Appreciation

Recognition

Sunday, May 14th

We thank our teachers and helpers for sharing their time

and faith with our

Sunday School

students this year. We have been blessed by their presence among us.



Thank you to:

Pre-K – Michelle Witte, Heidi Krupicka

– helper: Kamryn Kane

Kindergarten – Molly Hunter,

Emily Trautman

1st Grade – Katie Drury, Mandy Bahl

– helper: Rebecca Schmidt

2nd Grade – Tayler Jones, Kim Foglia

3rd Grade – Stacey Sjoquist,

Mariette Stefferud

4th Grade – Rita Schmitz,

Megan Larson

5th Grade – Eric Iliff, Wendy Kane

Music – Mike Larson, Shannon Vick,

Ilene Pavelko, Linda Berg

Substitutes – Marjorie Anderson,

Beth Clements,

Ann Donahue

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

THANK YOU



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

* We give thanks for the **GIFTS** that have been received in memory of Fern Mellor, Anna Isler, Fred Meyer, and Carol Ann Noel.

* **THANKS FOR LENTEN MEALS!**
A HUGE thank you to all who helped with Lenten meals. We feasted on great soup from the Social Committee (twice!), the Youth Committee, the Outreach Committee, Rita Schmitz, and the Iliff clan. We also had lots of kids helping, from confirmation groups, to NHS kids, to the 9th grader who ran the dishwasher every week. And of course, thanks to all who ate and shared...close to \$500 was raised to fight hunger in the world. YOU are making a difference!



Communion Bread

... We thank our *First Communion students* for providing home-made bread for Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday, *Lynette Ender & Sharon Olson* on Easter, and *Linda Arentz* in May.

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/20f044ca5a629a7f85-ushers> or call the church office.

CHANGES ARE COMING FOR FAIR TRADE



Starting this summer, Lutherans in the US will be able to purchase Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Farmers Market Coffee – a new line of coffee sourced directly from farmers participating in LWR projects. They will be producing this line of coffee in partnership with "THRIVE Farmers Coffee," coffee roaster that shares LWR's passion for helping farmers lift themselves out of poverty and become self-sufficient.

For the past 20 years, LWR has worked with Equal Exchange cooperative, and that partnership will be coming to a close at the end of May 2017. We give thanks for the work

that Equal Exchange has done to help our church with its social justice mission.

Here at Our Savior's, we will be using up what is offered on the Fair Trade cart. The LWR Farmers Market Coffee will be made available for us to order this summer. Cocoa products will not be offered "yet," so if you want chocolate, now is the time to purchase some from our fair trade cart. Thank you to those of you who have helped to support this ministry. Please be patient as we make the changes ahead.

Ilene Pavelko
Judy Gilbert



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.

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, &
May 8th**

@ 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.



RUTH CIRCLE

Monday, May 15, 9 a.m.
Leader: Connie Blunck
Hostess: Dottie Baumgartner
(at her house)



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. Marie Seibert graciously allowed us to share a glimpse into her story. Marie, 88 years young, was born, raised, and married in Pennsylvania. She relocated to this area to be near family and medical care. Marie was the last of seven children, and she had a brother who died when he was eight years old, before she was born. Marie is a lifelong Lutheran.

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

Faith and church are important. It helps you know what is right to do. Having faith and going to church was important to Marie’s family from day one. It was the way they were brought up. Faith is imbedded in all of her thoughts.

Marie’s favorite Bible passage ... because

... Psalm 23. This passage was read at Marie’s mother’s funeral, and many years later the pastor, unbeknownst to Marie, chose this passage to preach on at her husband, Carl’s, funeral. Marie keeps a bookmark with this passage in her special Bible – the Bible she received for her confirmation on April 6, 1941. (Marie shared that it was mandatory for the girls to wear a white dress and the boys to wear a suit for confirmation.)

Marie’s earliest memories of church ...

Marie was baptized at home when she was one month old. Her daughter, Marsha Bateman, still has the bowl that was used for the baptism. Marie said that her father never missed church. Even if he couldn’t physically

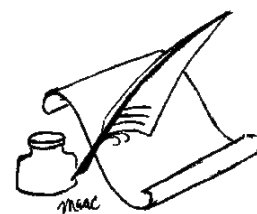
get to church, he would watch the service on TV and would sing along. No matter who came to visit, he wouldn’t get up until the service was over. Marie remembers going to Sunday School for what seemed like “forever.” When she was a teenager, Marie’s cousin taught Sunday School and would have Marie substitute for her when she wasn’t there. Pretty soon all the other teachers asked Marie to sub for them, too.

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

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. The pastors hear from many of our shut-ins how much they appreciate receiving these cards with your notes. You really do make a difference in the lives of those who cannot be with us.



Thank you for the cards ...

How great a feeling it was to be

remembered by so many! ... October 2016, I had a knee replacement and was in rehab when I got “Staph infection.” It went to my kidneys and shut them down. Now I am on dialysis three times a week in Onalaska. As life goes on, my Christian faith remains strong. Thanks to all that signed my card and may each of you be blessed. *Chuck Paulson*



Hi to Our Savior's, Just a note to thank you for all the thinking of you cards I've received. I'm doing quite a bit better but I miss everyone back home. But I do enjoy the cards. If I get a chance sometime to come there, so I can go to church, I sure will. Thank you! Love you!

Ellie Mae Johnson (now lives in Madison)

NEW MEMBERS!

Over the past months, Our Savior's received over 20 new members. We will acknowledge the gifts they bring on Sunday, May 14, as we formally receive them into membership. Please join us to celebrate these new gifts of God's grace.

So, what are our new members like? Here's a sample...

Jason, Amy and Mya Peterson live in West Salem. Jason is originally from Richland Center, and Amy from Onalaska. Jason is a sales rep, while Amy is a dental hygienist. Mya is a first grader. The Petersons have two other daughters, Bailee and Regan. Jason is an avid football fan, and Amy enjoys gardening. Together they enjoy golf and watching their daughters' sporting events.

Lynda Granstrom is married to Tom, and has one daughter, Emily (an RN in Milwaukee). Lynda is a sister to Bob Miller, and grew up in West Salem, and has worked at TJ Maxx for 11 years. She enjoys crocheting, needlepoint, and pretty much anything crafty. She especially enjoys her flower garden and loves to be outside.

Ron and Dorothy Lamkin are retired, but not really – they work part time at the La Crosse Center, and manage a big family including 12 great grandchildren (and another on the way!) They enjoy golfing and are avid Vikings fans.

Ron is a Shriner, and they travel to many parades – and of course, to family too!

Monika Loging is married to Barry, and both are West Salem grads. Monika works in the Mayo system as a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant, while Barry works at Crown Cork and Seal. *Autumn* (3rd grade) and *Jesse* (6th grade) are in West Salem Schools. Autumn enjoys art, singing, music, soccer, and basketball, while Jesse is into football and baseball. As a family, they enjoy the outdoors, especially hunting, fishing, hiking, and shooting trap.

Jamie Faucett and Jore have lived in West Salem for 11 years. Jamie is from Red Wing, and is Membership and Marketing Coordinator at the La Crosse Country Club, while Jore drives a semi. All three of their children attend West Salem schools. Ethan is a senior, and works a lot! Emilee is in 8th grade, and spends time with friends. *Baylee* is in 3rd grade, and loves sports. She enjoyed her first year of Sunday School, and looks forward to Sugar Creek this summer.

Welcome to these new members, and to all whom we will celebrate on May 14. What a gracious and generous God we have!

CONGREGATION COUNCIL REVIEW

The Congregation Council met on Monday, April 10, with President Steve Ahles calling the meeting to order. At this meeting the council:

- Began with devotions and reflection on Holy Week.
- Approved the minutes from the March council meeting. Received and reviewed financial reports and reports from the pastors.
- Heard an update on the task force on building space. Decided to meet in special meeting later in the month when a final report was prepared.

- Directed that a portion of the Carol Ann Noel bequest (\$1000) be made available as a special gift to the La Crosse Area Synod, and that the balance of the congregation portion of the bequest be set aside for carpeting in the sanctuary.
- Appointed Eric Ender and Eric Iliff as the final two voting members at Synod Assembly.
- Decided to redeem the term investment with the Mission Investment Fund when it comes due in early May, to allow for a review of all the congregation's holdings and investments.
- Heard that Red Balloon's last day of operation in the building will be June 9. Discussed some ways to acknowledge and honor the ministry that has taken place in the day care over 30 years.
- Voted to receive the following members of the 9th grade confirmation class as voting members of the congregation: Cody Anderson, Allison Arentz, Cassidy Bores, Hannah Brenengen, Aidan Donahue, Mahlivanh Fleckenstein, Zachary Friell, Kara Gavaghan, Lexi Giblin, Wyndsor Goodenough, Hallie Halverson, Meghan Hansen, Taylor Hennessey, Mya Jacobson, Justin Kettner, Kirin Linse, Everett Michael, Julia Russell, Rebecca Schmidt, Liam Sjoquist, McKenna Stadtler, Jade Turnipseed, Samara Wheeler.
- Voted to receive as new members Jamie Faucett, and Baylee; Ronald and Dorothy Lamkin; Amy and Jason Peterson, and Mya; Lynda Granstrom; Monika Logging, and Jesse and Autumn.

The council meets again on Monday, May 8. See Steve Ahles or one of the pastors if you have any questions.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Over the past few years, we have shared how stewardship is a central part of our lives, even outside of the church building. Over the next few months we'll look at how at Our Savior's we work together to make a difference in lives.

This month we will start with Lutheran Campus Ministry at La Crosse (LCM). LCM operates at Common Ground, across from the UW-L campus, but also serves Viterbo and Western. Pastor Ben Morris works with Anna Lisa Hunter, from United Campus Ministry, and the two ministries share a building and most of their programming as well.

Why is that important to us? We are one of five congregations that have become the "backbone" of LCM's work. We support them with significant financial gifts, but also with our time. Pastor Jon chairs the LCM board and the Common Ground board (kind of a "property committee"), and a number of others have volunteered their time to support LCM ministries.

So, does it make a difference? You tell me. Four years ago, the LCM board was on the verge of canceling the Sunday evening worship. Students seemed to have little interest. Ah, but how things have changed! At a recent meeting, the board wondered about taking out a wall because worship now has "standing room only!" OK, so the wall isn't coming down, and other options are being considered (another worship service), but you get the idea...

But there's more – a recent trip to Pine Ridge, with members of the Native American Student Associate, to build relationships, was hugely successful, while nightly small groups continue, as do other activities providing for learning, worship, and service.

And then there are the cookies – thousands of cookies, shared each week, out on campus,

with hungry students, as a gift, a treat in the midst of a busy, stressful life.

So, what's happening here? Successful ministry with young adults – and we are a big part in making it happen. Our financial gifts, beginning with your weekly offering, makes it possible for young adults, in the midst of a very changing time, to be supported and nurtured in their faith journey. Together, we help make young adults, who aren't always very regular in our church, disciples of Jesus!

REFORMATION REFLECTIONS

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

"I am prepared to lose everything, even life or limb. May God stand by me." So wrote Argula von Grumbach (1492–1563/68?) from Bavaria, who found Martin Luther's message of Christian freedom and equality empowering. This noble woman challenged an entire Catholic university in Ingolstadt in defense of Lutheran faith and a student persecuted for "Lutheran heresy." This best-selling lay author with her letter-treatises eventually disappeared under pressure from male authorities. Luther considered her a valiant hero of faith.

The Protestant principles "scripture alone," "grace alone," and "priesthood of all believers" inspired women just like men to re-engage Christian faith and find renewed spiritual meaning in their daily vocations. With the newly written catechisms and hymns, women were equipped to teach the revived faith to their households, where they exercised significant leadership in matters of religious practice. Women lost the monastic option as convents were closed in Protestant areas, but they benefited significantly from the education provided even for peasant girls. Whereas the Reformation theology proclaimed equality in Christian love and freedom from human-made

bonds, women were forbidden to preach or teach in public. Motherhood was presented to women as the holiest of callings, on a par with that of apostles and bishops. So women used creativity in embracing their domestic calling and the authority it brought along.

Katharine Schütz Zell (1498–1562), a widely published lay author who had no children of her own, identified herself with a calling of a "church mother." In this role, she exercised pastoral authority by the side of her pastor-husband in Strasbourg, even daring to preach at funerals. Her scintillating writings in defense of marriage may have caused an uproar, yet her pastoral texts and a hymnbook demonstrate her desire to promote ecumenical unity and to empower Christians to sing the gospel with new voices. Like von Grumbach, she also corresponded with Luther.

Another associate of Luther was Duchess Elisabeth von Braunschweig (1485–1555), who used her authority as the "mother of the people in her land" to implement Lutheran faith through legislation. Like her own mother earlier, Elisabeth had suffered exile from her Catholic husband and children once she confessed her faith in public by receiving the sacrament in a Lutheran rite. Her advice to her son, whom she groomed as a Lutheran ruler, was that he should obey God, the emperor—and his mother.

Of all the Reformation mothers, the most famous is Luther's beloved Katharina von Bora (1499–1552). She won the heart and admiration of Luther, who had orchestrated the escape of Katharina and eleven other nuns from their convent. As his equal "partner in calamity," Katharina mothered their six children and managed the intricate finances and other affairs of their bustling household. Luther admitted that next to the Holy Spirit, he obeyed his wife—"lord," Katharina.

These and other mothers of faith took significant risks and endured criticism if not

even persecution for their choices. Their involvement was crucial for the new faith to take root.

Next month: The Reformation spreads throughout Northern Europe

SIMPLY GIVING



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.



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.

ACOLYTES			
	Saturday 6 PM	Sunday 8 AM	Sunday 10:30/10 AM
May 6-7	Josh Iliff	Natalie Jeranek	Owen Johnson
May 13-14	Haley Jones	Connor Koepp	Wesley Leren
May 20-21	Madisen Mueller	Katie Murphy	Autumn Pfaff
May 27-28	McKenna Riley	Ellie Slotten	Angela Vick

BASKET HOLDERS			
		Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30/10 a.m.
May 7		Jesse Loging	Tyler Mathison
May 14		Morgan Quackenbush	Brandon Riley
May 21		Dylan Wiese	Noelle Zarecki
May 28		Siri Anderson	Mia Bahl

READERS			
	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30/10 a.m.
May 6-7	Bev Bockenhauer	Kathy Wehrs	Michelle Witte
May 13-14	Phil Gilbert	Naoko Aminaka	Naoko Aminaka
May 20-21	Kathy Brisson	Kathy Wehrs	Honor High School Graduates
May 27-28	Karen DeSchepper	Kathy Wehrs	Heidi Krupicka

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30/10 a.m.
May 6-7	Judy Morzinski	Shannon Wiese Ken Spraetz	Dottie Baumgartner Tracey Beckley
May 13-14	Bev Bockenhauer	Linda Arentz Cathryn Bottem	Jaime Fortier Scott Friell
May 20-21	Karen DeSchepper	Carolyn Herried Pam Gresens	Susan Giblin Eric Iliff
May 27-28	Judy Gilbert	Marjorie Anderson Jill Iliff	Jeff & Melissa Haldeman

ALTAR GUILD

Wendy Kane, Kamryn Kane, Rebecca Schmidt

HOME COMMUNION SERVERS

May 6-7	Judy Gilbert
May 13-14	Katie Drury
May 20-21	Char Buelow
May 27-28	Pam Gresens

USHERS

	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30/10 a.m.
May		8 a.m. Byron Buelow Gulbrand Wee	

Web Site: oursaviorswestsalem.org

OUR SAVIOR'S STAFF

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Pastor Jean Schmidt, Associate Pastor	612-0217	Email: pastorjean@oursaviorswestsalem.org
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Linda Berg, Organist	Email: linda@oursaviorswestsalem.org	
Eric Sorenson, Senior Choir Director		
Karen DeSchepper, Counter		
Sherri Neal, Custodian		