

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

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AUGUST 2017 NEWSLETTER



OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
WEST SALEM, WISCONSIN

August 2017

- ☉ Reflections from the Pastor
- ☉ Reformation Reflection
- ☉ Summer Worship Schedule thru Labor Day
- ☉ Vacation Bible School preview
- ☉ Building project update
- ☉ Mission Trip Youth reflections
- ☉ Corn Roast
- ☉ Office/Building Hours



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

AUGUST 2017

Pastor's Reflections ...

During our recent trip, we took the time to tour the Cascade Cave in eastern Kentucky. Unlike many caves, there is no elevator to a lower level, or gift shop anywhere close. Instead, we gathered in a deserted parking lot (all 8 of us), and entered through a padlocked, steel door. The guide, a young college student named Holly, switched lights on and off as we walked through the cave. We were the only ones in the cave!

As a somewhat "rustic" cave, there was a certain "uncertainty" about it. One could easily get lost, but Holly knew her stuff. She grew up only 20 miles away and loves the place, even speaking tenderly to the bats sleeping on the ceiling. We were in good hands with Holly!

But Holly is at Cascade Cave; she is not here. We are back, amidst a lot of uncertainties. Some of them have to do with our "summer of change." Never before have we sold a parsonage; it's been 35 years since we trained a secretary, 31 years since the lower level has been quiet, and 26 years since we did a major remodel of the building. Lots of change; little experience. We need Holly!

But there's more...what about our world? I've been around a while, and the world has always been a dangerous place. Still, things seem a bit more unstable and uncertain these days. Just how are we going to navigate the coming years?

And just how will I navigate my own life? I've got a teenager at home, and while my health is pretty good, I've seen it happen – your health can change in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye.

And then there's church life – not just a summer of change, but how we respond to a changing world, a

world that is changing quickly. I recently read one expert who contends that things have changed dramatically even since 2013. We need Holly! Or, a reasonable facsimile.

Well, I'm here to tell you, we don't have one. I'm not it. Neither are you, or anyone else, even those who claim to have all the answers. Holly may know the caves, but she's been there before. We haven't been HERE before.

So what do we do?

1. Close our eyes and hope it all gets better.
2. Throw up our hands in despair!
3. Plow ahead convinced we have all the answers, whatever they may be.

None of those sound very good, yet those are many times our response. Give it up, pretend it isn't happening, or respond with arrogance. Nope. None of those are going to cut it.

So, let's try something else. Let's keep our eyes open, put down our hands (for a moment), and move forward convinced the answers are not ours. Let's move ahead in confidence that the answers we do not have, we do not need to have. Only God needs the answers, and only God has them!

Instead, let's move forward confident that God is guiding us, that God is holding us, and that our future is in God's hands. Let's move with boldness in how we craft ministries that meet needs, lifting our hands to do God's work. Let's welcome and invite others to join us. And let's anchor ourselves in God's gifts of grace through the crucified and risen Jesus.

For while we may not see where we are headed, we know who is guiding us. And it's not Holly!

Pastor Jon



Reformation Reflection

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

Lutheran churches have deep roots in northern Europe and have large numbers in North America. Partner churches are flourishing in the Middle East, southern Africa, Australia, and Asia. But many Lutherans don't know that there have been Lutherans in some parts of the Caribbean for almost four hundred years.

Historically, Lutheranism came to the Caribbean as the religion of white European and, later, American settlers. But in time some of these churches opened their doors to local inhabitants, Hispanics, African Americans, and Native Americans. Some of these congregations have become truly indigenous and multicultural ministries. More recently, North Americans moved and settled in some parts of the Caribbean, beginning other congregations for expatriates and vacationers.

The oldest Lutheran congregation in the Caribbean was founded in the Virgin Islands in 1666 by Danish settlers on the island of St. Thomas, the Frederick congregation in Charlotte Amalie. They later founded other congregations on the islands of St. Croix, St. John, and St. Thomas in the eighteenth century. Although these congregations were originally intended for Danes, by the 1750s they were ministering to the enslaved Africans on the islands. When Denmark sold these islands to the United States in 1917, these congregations affiliated with American Lutheran denominations. There are also several congregations of Virgin Island Lutherans on the mainland of the United States, most notably in New York City.

Similarly, Dutch Lutherans founded congregations in the area of Guyana and Suriname in the eighteenth century, as the Europeans planted colonies there. Congregations generally consisted of white settlers and their descendants until the middle of the nineteenth century, when they began to reach out to other populations. Guyana is especially racially diverse, and the Lutheran congregations there include African Americans, Native Americans, East Indians, and some Chinese.

Though it has a long history of European colonization, Lutherans did not become established on Puerto Rico until it became a part of the United States in 1898. In that year a young student, Gustav Swenson, moved to Puerto Rico and eventually started a Lutheran congregation there. He was eventually followed by a number of different pastors and missionaries from the United States, who began to preach in Spanish to the local population.

Lutheran congregations can be found in some of the other islands of the Caribbean. There is a small Lutheran presence in Cuba. Antigua, Bermuda, and the Bahamas all have Lutheran congregations affiliated with various bodies. Even Haiti hosts a Lutheran enclave, connected with the Church of the Lutheran Confession in Alsace and Lorraine (France).

Although many of these Caribbean Lutheran congregations were begun by Europeans or Americans, either as settlers or missionaries, most of their members are now predominantly local people—Virgin Islanders, Guyanese and Surinamese, Puerto Ricans, and others. They may be Hispanic, Native American, African American, or other local populations, worshiping in Spanish, English, French, or other local languages. These congregations enrich the palate of world Lutheranism, and help spread the gospel of Christ into every corner of the world.

Next month: Lutherans connected across the globe

Building Project Update



Our building “renewal” project is nearing completion. We expect the job to be finished by August 18th. Already, the sanctuary is completed, with new paint and carpeting. Curious to see how it’s going? Check out the photo gallery on our web site (under the “Resources” tab) to see the progress.

Looking ahead, watch for details for an “open house,” and a dedication of newly repurposed space, as we seek to be faithful to God in all that we do!

Parsonage Sale

Yes, the sign says, “Sold!” The sale of the parsonage closed July 21. The offer was a very good offer, and we retained a 75’ wide lot in the back for future use in our ministry. We are grateful to all who helped get the property ready for sale, and we entrust the care of this building to its new owners.

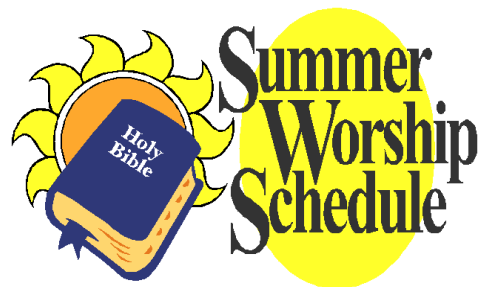


As we sell the building, we give thanks for all the ministry over the years that was facilitated by the building, and especially by the pastors and families who live in the house. The proceeds of the sale will be placed in a separate, income producing account, with the principal only accessible by congregation action, and the income used to replace the rental income, making our continuing ministries possible.

Thanks to all who have assisted in making this transition for us as a community of faith. We are grateful to all of you for your support!

Summer Worship *through September 2-3*

Saturday 6 PM
Sunday 8 and 10 AM



Office Hours - Building Hours **9 am to 4 pm**



Remember the building is open during office hours. The building *MAY* be open earlier or later, but you can “bank” on 9-4. Please be patient with us, and with yourself, as we get used to new routines.



"Water of Life" Vacation Bible School

(with Counselors from Sugar Creek Bible Camp)

August 7-10

Children entering grades 1-5:

9 AM - 3 PM

\$25/child or \$50/family*

Entering Pre-K & Kindergarten:

9 AM - Noon

\$10/child or \$15/family*

Join us for Bible stories, singing, crafts, games, snacks, service, and more. Bring a sack lunch.

Counselors from Sugar Creek Bible Camp will be here at Our Savior's to lead us for a week of Vacation Bible School. Because we are working with Sugar Creek, the registration forms are more involved and thus will need to be completed ahead of time. Registration forms are available in the church office and on the website (www.oursaviorswestsalem.org/resources).

Ways you can help ...

- ❖ People to provide food for the snacks or monetary donations to cover the cost of the snacks. See the list of needs on the kiosk in the Gathering Area.
- ❖ Volunteers to assist with the activities each day
- ❖ Adults and youth to help with the morning camp for the youngest ones.



YOU are invited ...

VBS Closing Program and ice cream social

Thursday, August 10 at 6 PM

ALL are welcome!

Sugar Creek Bible Campers

Please keep the following youth who will be attending Camp in August in your prayers:

August 6-11

Siri Anderson

Mia Bahl

Reice Kammel

Kenzie Murphy

Brandon Wiese



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

September is not that far away ...

First Time in Sunday School?

Please remember that your child needs to be 4 years of age by September 1, 2017 in order to attend the Pre-Kindergarten Sunday School class. If your child is attending Sunday School for the first time this year, please call or email the church office so that we can make sure that he/she is included on the roster. (786-0030 or office@oursaviorswestsalem.org)



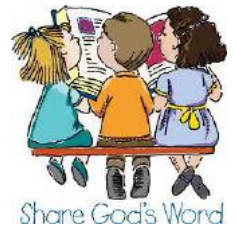
Please note: As the year progresses and the kids have their 4th birthday, feel free to join the class any time!

Sunday School Teachers and Helpers

We will have a **teacher/helper orientation** on **Sunday, August 20** following the 10 a.m. worship service.



We are **still** in **need** of **team teachers**. If you would like to be a part of this important ministry, we would love to have you! Please speak with Pastor Jean.



It's almost time ...

Rally Day!

Sunday, September 10th

We will gather at church at 9:15 AM ...
head over to the Lion's Shelter at 10:30 AM for
Gospel on the Green worship ...
partake in a potluck meal ...

followed by games and activities ...

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

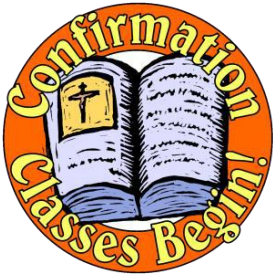


Note: Sunday School registration forms for all grades are available on the church website (www.oursaviorswestsalem.org). It's not too early to sign up!

Saturday, August 26th & Sunday, August 27th

If you are a **student (of any age!)** attending school, bring your backpacks, laptop bags, or whatever else you use. We will share a blessing and a reminder of God's love and presence as we begin another year of learning.





Confirmation

Confirmation classes for 2017-2018 are just on the horizon!

- August 30, 6 PM - Guides meeting
- September 6
 - o 6 PM - 6-8th grade parents and students' orientation
 - o 7 PM - 9th grade parent's and students' orientation
- September 13
 - o 6 PM - 6-8th grade classes begin
 - o 7 PM - 9th grade class begins

Remember, we always have room for more - invite friends to join us! See Pastor Jon for more information.

Confirmation Guides

YOU, yes YOU! You could make a huge difference in the lives of young people! We are looking for confirmation guides for the incoming 7th grade confirmation students. A confirmation guide walks with a small group (4-5 kids), serving as a witness and role model. Guides attend core classes with the group, and engage in small group activities through the year. For this coming year this will involve 20 evenings from September to May, mostly Wednesdays.



While most guides are parents of one of the kids in the group, that is not always the case. Sometimes another adult can be even better as a mentor to the group. So, why not you? Think about it...pray about it...and speak with Pastor Jon about it!

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

college
connection



College-bound students

We need your **campus address** and your **email address**!
You are important to us and we want to keep in touch –
You may be “**out of sight**”
but you are certainly not “**out of mind.**”

Please get the information to the office or to Pastor Jean.



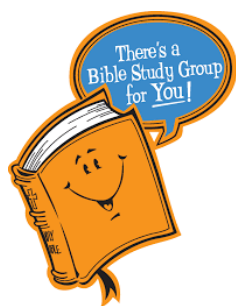
IT'S A DATE... **THE CORN IS READY TO ROAST!**

The Corn Roast is ready to go – August 9, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Lion's Shelter. The Corn Roast is our gift to the community, so invite your friends and neighbors – and join them with some great corn and other goodies.

We do need lots of hands to make this work – sign-up sheets are in the Gathering Area. Come and be a part of giving back to our community.

AND THEN THERE'S THE CAR SHOW ... If you have a vintage (or just plain really interesting) set of wheels, bring it along, and park it in the shelter parking lot for all to see ... and dream about!

For more information, see Carla Burkhardt or Pastor Jon.



Wednesday Bible Study

Wednesday morning Bible study is up and running again. We meet on Wednesdays at 9:30, with some time for conversation, then study. Currently, we are looking at a number of the Psalms, reflecting on their message long ago, and how they speak to us today. Come and join us – NO Bible knowledge required – just a desire to share and learn!

NOTE – NO class on August 2! We will, however, meet during VBS week – let the kids see adults learning too!

See Pastor Jon for more details.

School of Theology

The La Crosse Area Synod School of Theology gets rolling again in September. Classes for the fall term will be held on six consecutive Thursday evenings, from September 21 through October 26. Classes run from 5:30 to 9 PM, and are held right here at Our Savior's.



For the fall term courses will include Old Testament I (the first 5 books of the Bible), Christian Theology III (the Holy Spirit), and Care of God's People. Instructors are various pastors in our synod, with an interest and expertise in the subject. New students are asked to attend an orientation and introduction to the Bible, on September 14.

The cost of the school is \$50/term, or \$20/course. You can join at the start of any trimester, so this is a good time to jump in. The full course load can be completed in two years, and includes two retreats, along with six trimesters. Those who complete the course work will be recognized at synod assembly. For more information, see Pastor Jon.

It's Baaaaack! ... Beer and Hymns ... with a twist!

BEER & HYMNS, CAMPFIRE VERSION!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

ERIC & JILL ILIFF'S

(430 Olson Drive)

6 PM PICNIC

7 PM SINGALONG WITH GUITARS



Let's do a Campfire edition of Beer & Hymns! Eric & Jill Iliff have graciously offered their yard for a picnic, campfire, and singalong. Here's what you need to bring: a dish to pass, your own beverage, and lawn chairs. They'll provide hot dogs and hamburgers. Come for all of the evening or some of the evening, whatever works for you. **Be sure to sign up so we can plan for food.**

Men's Chorus

"Rise Up O Men of God"...



... and sing in a men's choir for church on August 13! We will rehearse Wednesday, August 9 at 7:00 in the balcony, so if you are a man who likes to sing, join us! Talk to Eric Sorenson or Linda Berg if you have questions.



Salvation Army Meals

Salvation Army dinner serving continues through the summer. Our Savior's takes the second Friday of the month – upcoming dates **August 11**. 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.

Thank You ...

... to the July newsletter mailing crew – Sandra Holthaus, Judy Morzinski, Rich & Mary Storandt, Bev Bockenbauer, Carol Peterson, Betty Whitlock, and Connie & Larry Blunck!

... to Phil & Judy Gilbert for making the Communion bread in July.



Reflections from our Youth Mission Trip participants ...

Their responses to the question ...

"What has stuck out to you the most on this trip?"...



This trip was quite the nerve wracking experience with the planning and making sure nothing was forgotten. After we arrived in Tennessee, and were on that first work site, I became calmer because the kids immediately went to work and did what they had signed up to do. They were doing God's work with their hands and changing people's lives! Yea, I'm still nervous that something could happen, but the thing that stuck out to me most was how calm you can become when you fully put your trust in the Everlasting Father and not leave Him on the bus. – **Cat Bottem**

Waffle House rocks! Our Savior's Youth have the best work ethic! – **Curt Bottem**

We work together really well. The people we are helping really appreciate it. – **Kylee Gander**

The joy on people's faces when working on their houses. The bonding experiences. – **Kami Kane**

The worship at TEAMeffort really impacted me in a positive way. I also enjoyed helping people who are in need. – **Justine Rich**

Watching everyone work together without complaining! I also enjoy the feeling after helping those in need and how much love they have. – **Abby Johnson**

The way we all come together to get a job done is amazing. Worship is always fun as well. – **Delaney Schomberg**

I've loved getting to help people this week with our youth group. Seeing all the progress we have made is so exciting! – **Emily Steele**

Seeing the homeowner's reaction when we finished their house was such a great feeling! We've all grown closer as a group this week and helping others is such a rewarding experience! – **Alana Gavaghan**

I loved seeing the happiness and smiles on their faces. It's really cool to see. – **Cody Anderson**

I love the team work. I love seeing the recipient's reactions. – **Justin Kettner**

I loved being able to try new tools for the first time. I also liked being able to socialize with the group on a different level. – **Sydney Fitzpatrick**

Watching everyone working and doing and learning things they have never done before! It is awesome to see! – *Emily Trautman*



The best experience I have had by far is seeing all of the homeowners' reactions to our work. Their gratitude means the world to me and brings me so much happiness! – *Lizzy Averbek*

During this week, the most memorable moment was speaking to the homeowner of the house we were working on. Just seeing how grateful and how much of an impact we are giving to them makes this trip worthwhile. Such an amazing feeling it is to give back to this community! – *Madison Dutton*

I loved how hard we all worked together and it was very rewarding when we saw the progress we made and the homeowner reactions. – *McKenah Olson*

I loved how much everyone worked together to get the work done I also loved the reactions of the people when they saw the work we did. – *Alayna Kennedy*

The strength and determination in all the youth is amazing to watch grow. Each team member works to maintain a positive attitude and demonstrates an exceptional work ethic to get the job done. They have worked together to accomplish God's work in this community. I couldn't be more proud to be part of something this powerful. – *Sarah Schmitz*

I enjoy the power of OSLC kids that come together and seeing the power of work ethic and feeding off each other's strengths. – *Wendy Kane*



Sunday, September 10th
10:30 AM
Gospel on the Green
@ the Lion's Shelter

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

Following worship there will be a potluck lunch and games & activities for kids of all ages.





Hungry Jar Offering for August – Lutheran World Relief School Kits



It's that time of year when we are getting things ready for school – including school supplies. There are children in the world for whom going to school may not be possible because they can't afford the school supplies. Imagine having to choose between a meal or purchasing a notebook. Lutheran World Relief School Kits are sent to places where even the few required school supplies may be more than a family can afford. Pencils and paper can help write a positive future. Money raised in the Hungry Jar will be used to purchase supplies to complete school kits.

School Kit Project

Once again, we will collect items to fill school kits for Lutheran World Relief. This is a long-standing project for us, and we encourage you to visit the website to learn more about it. www.lwr.org/getinvolved/schoolkits.

Take advantage of the sales that have begun for school supplies! Please take this list with you when you shop, as the list of needed items is quite specific. We are unable to send items that are not on the list! There will be a basket in the Gathering Area for your donations.

Each school kit contains the following:

- ★ 4 - 70 sheet notebooks (no loose leaf paper)
- ★ 1 - 30 cm ruler
- ★ 1 - pencil sharpener
- ★ 1 - blunt scissors
- ★ 5 - unsharpened pencils
- ★ 5 - blue or black ball point pens (no gel ink)
- ★ 1 - box 24 crayons
- ★ 1 - 2 1/2 inch eraser



Thank you for your involvement!

Also... Jim Michelson and Marsha Bateman have been involved with this project for a combined total of approximately 45 years! They have made the decision that this will be their last year as project leaders, and are looking for some folks to help. If interested, it would be good to follow the process this year with them. This is a great family project, even with younger children. Give either Jim (786-1236) or Marsha (786-2727) a call!

Summer Lunch

We continue serving lunch at the Village Park and Anderson Mobile Home Park through August 17th. Thank you to all who have generously donated money, food items, and their time to help serve.



Making a Difference For Years To Come!

*A series of articles on how you can support the work of Jesus Christ through planned giving.
This month – life insurance policies.*

Life Insurance Policies can make excellent gifts to ministry. By simply changing policy beneficiaries, your favorite ELCA ministry can ultimately receive all or a percentage of the death benefit of your life insurance policy. Transferring a cash value policy to a ministry avoids ordinary income tax while you receive a charitable income tax deduction. Purchasing a life insurance policy in the name of the ELCA or our Synod or your congregation will ultimately leave a substantial gift to a favorite ministry. In turn, you receive an income tax deduction for the annual premium that you pay on the new policy. Life insurance gifts are a great help to your church ministries as they seek to carry out their Christian missions.



By the way, Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean have used this strategy. It works for them...maybe for you too?

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.

And for more information on Our Savior's fund, see Pastor Jon or Lee Fernstaedt.

Congregation Council Review

The Congregation Council had no scheduled meetings in July, but continued to monitor the building project. The council meets again on Monday, August 14. See Steve Ahles or one of the pastors if you have any questions.



Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will be going to the Wegner Grotto near Cataract on Monday, August 21, meeting in Our Saviors parking lot at 8:30 am to pool rides. We will go to the Schmig campground following for Bible Study and potluck picnic lunch. Caryll Loughan is study leader. Women of the congregation are invited.

Vacation

Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean will be out of the office August 1-3. If you have need of pastoral care during their absence, please contact the church office.



ACOLYTES			
	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10 a.m.
August 5-6	Connor Koepp	Wesley Leren	Madison Mueller
August 12-13	Katie Murphy	Autumn Pfaff	McKenna Riley
August 19-20	Ellie Slotten	Maddie Haun	Skyler Williams
August 26-27	Adam Chandler	Delaney Christianson	Madelyn England

BASKET HOLDERS			
		Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10 a.m.
August 6		Jesse Loging	Nick Jones
August 13		Reice Kammel	Colton Kneifl
August 20		Mya Koudelka	Nolan Langrehr
August 27		Lizzie Hesse	Celia Mitchell

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS			
	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10 a.m.
August 5-6	Judy Gilbert	Larry Blunck Sharon Olson	Carla Burkhardt Carlie Burkhardt
August 12-13	Marjorie Anderson	Judy Long Linda Arentz	Wayne Affeldt Darlene Affeldt
August 19-20	Paula Heilman	Shannon Wiese Carolyn Herried	Wendy Kane Kristin Tschumper
August 26-27	Lee Fernstaedt	Pam Gresens Ken Spraetz	Eric Iliff Tracey Beckley

HOME COMMUNION SERVERS

Aug 5-6	Dottie Baumgartner	Aug 19-20	Char Buelow
Aug 12-13	Bev Bockenbauer	Aug 26-27	Katie Drury

COMMUNION BREAD Wendy Kane

ALTAR GUILD Cindy Averbeck and Jaime Fortier

READERS

	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10 a.m.
August 5-6		Jim Quamme	Eric Iliff
August 12-13		Lynette Ender	Dottie Baumgartner
August 19-20			Corey Sjoquist
August 26-27	Karen DeSchepper	Sharon Olson	

USHERS

	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10 a.m.
August 5-6	Phil & Judy Gilbert	Larry Blunck, Bud Ewing, Jim Michelson	Eric & Jill Iliff Family
August 12-13	Jon & Maryrose Hetland	Larry Blunck, Bud Ewing, Jim Michelson	Scott & Zach Friell, Jon Hetland
August 19-20	Dennis & Ann Sprain	Larry Blunck, Bud Ewing, Jim Michelson	Scott & Zach Friell
August 26-27	Jim & Marjorie Anderson	Larry Blunck, Bud Ewing, Jim Michelson	Eric & Jill Iliff Family

Web Site: oursaviorswestsalem.org

OUR SAVIOR'S STAFF

Pastor Jonathan Schmidt, Senior Pastor	612-0217	Email: pastorjon@oursaviorswestsalem.org
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	Email: office@oursaviorswestsalem.org	
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Jill Iliff, Treasurer		Email: treasurer@oursaviorswestsalem.org
Linda Berg, Organist & Choir Accompanist		Email: linda@oursaviorswestsalem.org
Kathy Brisson, Organist		
Eric Sorenson, Senior Choir Director		
Karen DeSchepper, Financial Secretary		
Sherri Neal, Custodian		