

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

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November 2017 Newsletter

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
WEST SALEM, WISCONSIN  
November 2017

- Reflections by Pastor Jean
- Reformation Reflection
- Sunday School/Confirmation
- Stewardship
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**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

## NOVEMBER 2017

*Pastor's Reflections ...*

*Giving thanks ...  
for abundance*

It's that time of year again, time for our Synod's clergy Fall Theological Conference up in Trego, Wisconsin. Pastor Jon and I take turns going and it was my turn. The first year I went, I drove through a nasty snowstorm (*in October?*). The second year I went, I forgot my toiletry bag at home and had to turn around in Cataract to go back to get it. For some reason I wasn't too eager to go this time, what would it be this year? I was in the midst of a cold/flu, it was a long and busy Sunday morning, it was a cold and gloomy day, and the thought of a 3+ hour drive wasn't high on my list of things to do. But I piled in the car, checked and double checked my list, and headed off. Just south of Eau Claire, the sun began to peek out from behind the clouds, and pretty soon the sun was high in the sky. And then I knew why I was supposed to be making this trip ... *abundance*.



Abundance ... the theme of our stewardship emphasis this year. Not just the abundance of money (let's face it, compared to most people in the world, we really are quite wealthy), but the abundance of God in our midst. Abundance was all around me, and I couldn't help but ponder each "thing" that was placed before me.

- The abundance of the beauty of God's creation was everywhere. The leaves on the trees across the countryside were glistening in the sunlight – the reds and yellows and oranges. What a breathtaking sight that went on for miles. Each morning when I got up, there was a hazy mist/fog hanging over the lake that created an eerie beauty; and as the morning wore on, it gave way to the sun high in the sky, the trees reflecting their colors on the rippling water. [Truth be told, fall is my favorite time of year!]
- A car with Illinois plates went whizzing passed me (yes, *I was* going the speed limit!), and I was reminded of the abundance of family and friends who fill my life that continue to live back "home" where I grew up. The abundance of people who nurtured me and helped form me into the person I am.
- A Hirschbach (South Sioux City, NE) truck passed in the oncoming traffic lane, and I was reminded of the abundance of extended family that would gather and the time spent on my grandparent's farm in northeast Nebraska. The abundance of memories that were made, the connections and closeness to relatives, who despite living from one end of the country to the other, that still exist today because of our rootedness in that place.

- There was an abundance of miles (400 round trip) that I traveled, that made me think of the thousands of miles Pastor Jon, Rebecca, and I have traveled together on our vacations over the last 14 years – having been in 44 of the 50 states and 4 providences in Canada so far.
- Deer were present in abundance along the side of the road and even near the entrance to my lodge room. My mind was taken back to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan where we lived for many years and all of the deer we saw (even in our own backyard). I thought of the congregations we served, those who filled our pews, and the friends and colleagues we treasured. And those folk in the pews, friends and colleagues here whom we now treasure.
- There was an abundance of time in the car. Quiet time, time to listen to music, time to meditate, time to just be in that space.
- At the conference there was an abundance of clergy, colleagues who share similar stories, similar passions, similar challenges. I am reminded of my journey to this vocation of ministry, the abundance of those whom God placed in my path to mentor me and nurture me, and those to whom I have been a presence over the years.
- As I write this, the abundance of Asian beetles that are flying around outside my patio door and *inside* my room are causing me much angst ... as I anticipate going to bed later, I wonder where they will be when I wake up ... not sure I am thankful for this abundance right about now?! But, I digress ...

We can find God's abundance everywhere we turn. Sometimes it is obvious and right in front of us; other times it is subtle and surprises us; but it is there. Where do you see God's abundance in your life?

My life is rich and full of *God's abundance* ... and I am *thankful*.

Basking in God's abundance together with you,  
*Pastor Jean*





## Reformation Reflections

*Another installment in a year-long reflection on the Reformation, what it was, and what it means to us today.*

Situated within the wider narrative of Christian worship, the story of Lutheran music begins with Martin Luther's own gifts as a lutenist and composer. Unlike Calvin and Zwingli, who appreciated music but distrusted its emotional appeal, Luther did not want to restrict ways in which God's gifts of language and music were used in worship. In a passage that recalls the parade of voices and instruments in Psalm 150, Luther wrote that praise should "sound forth with joy" from "organs, symphonias, virginals, regals, and whatever other beloved instruments there are."

Luther also knew that his fellow citizens would not be reading the scholarly documents explaining his disagreements with the Roman church. Along with his German translation of the Bible and catechisms, he wrote chorales that sought to praise and teach, placing the Word directly on the lips of the people in their own language and syntax. Aided by the expansion of printing technology, generations of authors and composers followed suit. The rhymed stanzas, catchy tunes, and dance-inspired rhythms of these chorales were not matters of happenstance but artfully combined to achieve maximum "memory" effect. (Think back: how did you learn your ABCs? By singing!) And like earlier plainchants, texts and melodies of these chorales served as building blocks for new compositions.

Luther instinctively understood the value of teamwork and cultivated partnerships with musical colleagues, inaugurating a rich tradition of collaboration between musically minded theologians (pastors) and theologically minded musicians (cantors). With Philipp Melanchthon, he established an educational model in which pastors and cantors were trained together in subjects such as grammar, rhetoric, and music. Many composers upheld as exemplars of Lutheran baroque music were products of this environment: Schütz, Praetorius, and the Bach family, to name a few.

The conditions that allowed Lutheran music to develop as it first did changed in the eighteenth century as Enlightenment ideals confronted the once-unchallenged authority of churches. As monarchies gave way to republics and democracies, composers moved from churches and courts toward concert halls. The nineteenth century saw the establishment of many civic choirs and orchestras, groups for which Mendelssohn and Brahms composed music that incorporated Lutheran chorales.

In the United States, voices of Lutheran immigrants blended with musical strands from other European denominations that had established colonial roots. The nineteenth century witnessed a constant process of intersection, recovery, and revision, allowing Anglican hymns, American shape note songs, African American spirituals, Roman plainchant, and chorales to mix freely across the frontier. Increasing ecumenical and global outlooks in the twentieth century only deepened the well of assembly song, adding familiar names like Taizé, Iona, and Hillsong to genres such as the Japanese gagaku and Mexican alabados—an abundance that Luther could hardly have imagined. Though physical materials have changed, Lutherans continue to mark days and seasons of the church year with songs from sisters and brothers of many times and places that praise, teach, pray, and bear us along our baptismal journey. Like Paul, we acclaim: Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift!

*Next month: The Lutheran tree in the United States*

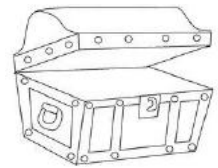


## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School is humming along as we are learning about Faith Practices and how we can be more like Jesus in our actions and our thoughts. Through their stories and antics, our friends from *Whirl* help us better understand the key words each week. Hopefully the children are bringing their lesson leaflets home and families are engaging in conversation about what they learned and how together they can incorporate the lesson into their daily lives during the coming week. We are looking forward to getting to know our “adopted grandparents” better in the weeks to come.

We invite children Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade to join us Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. It's never too late to join us!

***Don't forget about our Sunday School Treasure Box!*** Again this year we will have a “friendly competition” between our classes for attendance and offering. We always like to see your smiling faces ... and don't forget your offering when you come! It's almost time for our first peek ...



***“... place in their hands the holy scriptures ...”***

We celebrate with the following **Pre-K students** as they were gifted with a *Whirl Story Bible* in October:

Olivia Burt  
Owen Christianson  
Ethan Draxler  
Danianne Elmore  
Vivianne Elmore  
Gavin England  
Noah Evenson  
Ava Johnsrude

Lauryn Langrehr  
Bailey Miller-Siddons  
Trey Schmitz  
Mabel Sjoquist  
Ellie Tlustosch  
Maxwell Twite  
Addison Wuensch



We also celebrate with the following students who attended the Bible workshop in October and received their *Whirl NRSV Bible*.

Lauren Burt  
Will Clements  
Gunnar Eckland  
Collin England  
Charlie Fullwood  
Julia Hansen  
Keira Hazlett  
Grace Johnsrude  
Noah Johnsrude  
Briauna Mathison

Mara McNaughton  
Tula Mitchell  
Jaxen Quackenbush  
Brooke Rasmussen  
Graham Sjoquist  
Nathan Stefferud  
Lily Twite  
Riley Wuensch  
Alicia Zarecki

# Important Dates

Saturday, December 16 - Christmas Program - Grades 3-5 during 6 pm worship

Sunday, December 17 - Christmas Program - Grades 4K-2 during 10:30 am worship

## Sunday School Offering ...

Our Sunday School offerings this year are being collected for Hurricane Relief through Lutheran Disaster Relief. This season has seen some of the worst hurricanes on record. As a church, we're standing by our neighbors who have been affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. The road to recovery will be long. Our offerings will be used to help buy Bibles, hymnals, and school supplies for the children who have been affected and displaced by these hurricanes. Watch the bulletin board by Pastor Jean's office for more information and to watch our progress.



Adults can also feel free to offer their dollars for this cause as well - just mark envelopes "Hurricane Relief".

## Thank you ...

Last year our Sunday School offerings were collected for the Sembrando project in our companion synod in Peru to help kids get a healthy meal, school materials, books, and a safe place to spend part of their day. We received a letter from Bishop Arends from our La Crosse Area Synod thanking us for the offerings.



I am very grateful for your recent gift of \$1,378.54 received by the synod office from the Our Savior's Lutheran Sunday School and designated for the Sembrando program in our Companion Synod in Peru. I am very excited about how generous you are - collecting your dollars and coins over time and raising this amazing amount of money to share with your brothers and sisters in Christ whom you have never met in Peru. The people of Iglesia Luterana del Peru and, especially the children, will smile happily with the extra food and care extended to them through your gift. Thank you for being an example of God's work in the world beyond West Salem and beyond Wisconsin. In Christ, Rev. Jim Arends, Bishop

## **Hungry Jar Offering for November** **Lutheran Social Services**

For more than 100 years, Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan has supported individuals, families and communities with services and programs designed to change the world - one grace-filled life at a time. They help people all along the lifespan with services as essential as shelter and clothing, and as life-changing as trauma-informed counseling and adoption. Affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America throughout Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, LSS welcomes and serves people of all faiths and backgrounds.

### **2017 LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SCHOOL KIT REPORT**



We completed and sent 275 school kits this year! This is a record for us, as last year we sent 230 kits. Thank you to everyone who supported this project in any way. As always, thanks to the Women of the ELCA for the donation of the bags.

The Hungry Jar collection for August totaled \$94.45 in support of the school kit project. These funds were used to purchase supplies for 32 kits.

Several of our confirmation students, who were here after school, helped to organize and bundle the individual items for all 275 school kits – 5,500 items total! They also built 175 of the kits over these two Wednesday evenings.

Sixteen of Mrs. Sjoquist's and Mrs. Stefferud's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Sunday School class built 100 school kits on October 8<sup>th</sup>. They had a 100% accuracy rate!

Thanks also to Dawn Beal's confirmation group for helping load the vehicles that transported the school kits to the boxcar. The 34 boxes of school kits and 32 boxes of quilts were transported to the railroad boxcar in La Crosse on October 14 by Keith Goetzinger, Larry Blunck and Nicole Campbell. This was the final step for the year in the school kit project. The kits are bound for the LWR warehouse in Baltimore, MD.

The boxes have tracking tags attached, so we will eventually know where they were sent. Prior kits have gone to Syria and Jordan (2014), Honduras and Georgia (2015), Nicaragua (2016), and Iraq (2017).

Please be thinking if you would like to have a greater role in this fun project in 2018. We are looking for project coordinators, and Jim Michelson and Marsha Bateman have promised to assist!



### **Hospitality Ministry**

**Hospitality Team** – Greet those who enter our space, receive their offerings, shepherd them to communion, and be a welcoming presence. To join us, call the church office or check out:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f044ca5a629a7f85-ushers>.

# **What's going on in the Youth World!?**

## **Breakfast Club**



Breakfast club has officially started. We have made pancakes, planned future breakfast meals, and decided we are going to discuss the book of Genesis. Anyone grade 6 and above is welcome! Join us Sundays 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. in the Youth Room.

## **Movie night!**

We have planned a movie night for Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. If you have a movie preference, come see Cat!



## **Keep your eyes open for...**

- ...Middle school retreat in January
- ...Synod day for those going to Houston in March
- ...Youth weekend registration in January
- ...Fundraisers for students going to the Youth Gathering



## **Social Media**

Parents and other concerned adults are welcome to a workshop on social media and children, November 1 at 6 PM. We will explore the challenges of raising children in a “social media” world. Cathryn Bottem and Julie Arentz will facilitate the discussion. In an increasingly connected world, there are lots of dangers to our children. Invite your friends to join us!



As our students are either away from home or studying in challenging environments, we keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

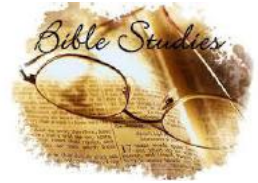
This month please pray for: **Courtney Koepp** (UW-Madison), **Emily Trautman** (UW-Eau Claire), and **Erica Rich** (UW-Milwaukee).

**college+**  
connection

## Adult Studies

*Sunday morning adult study* continues during the Sunday School hour, in the new Koinonia Room (Pastor Jon's old office), right off the Gathering Area. Grab a cup of coffee and some goodies and head to class!

*Wednesday morning Bible study* meets in the Library from 9:30 to 11 AM. We are currently exploring the gift of prayer. We will look at what prayer is (and isn't), how we pray, prayer ministries in congregations, and how prayer can be the grounding of a faithful life. You are ALWAYS welcome to join us!



## Koinonia Room



The new Koinonia Room is almost set – by the time you read this some of our new furniture should have arrived, with the rest to come within a few weeks. The Koinonia Room (Pastor Jon's old office) is a place for counseling, small group gatherings, and other times when a comfortable space is helpful. It even has a TV screen so we use videos and other AV items. Stop by and check it out!

A special thanks to the family of Blanche Knutson – the furniture was funded by the Memorial Fund, with most of it coming from memorials for Blanche. We are grateful for this gift and recognize how appropriate it is – Blanche loved to create community, and that's what this space will do.

## Prayer Around the Cross

Prayer Around the Cross returns on Sunday, November 12, at 7 PM. We gather around the cross, bathed in candlelight, to pray for the needs of the world. Our time together lasts about 25 minutes. You can be a part of this ministry of intercession! Come and join us as we pray for those in our community – and around the world who are in needs of hope and healing.

*"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone..." 1 Timothy 2:1*



## New Members



If you are new to Our Savior's, but have not joined the congregation, we welcome you to consider membership with us. While EVERYONE is welcome in worship, and our ministry involves ALL of God's children, members help us by making a commitment to this community of faith, and by taking a role in leading our ministry. Regardless of where you are coming from, we would love to have you, and to partner with you in your journey of discipleship. See Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean, and we'll get you set.

## 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](http://www.oursaviorswestsalem.org) – to see the service.



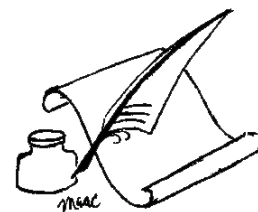
## Lutherans yesterday, today, and November 13<sup>th</sup> @Salem Terrace – 10:00 am



As we wind down the 500th year of the Protestant Reformation, we continue our study of this history of Lutherans in America. Join us as we explore what that means using the resource - "We Must Plant the Church." We meet in the small kitchenette off of the parking lot between Salem Terrace & Mill Street Manor. The coffee pot will be on and there are always yummy treats. Feel free to invite your friends.

## Cards for shut-ins

Don't forget to stop by the "Card Ministry" table (located outside of the Pre-K classroom) 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.



## So Sew ...

The quilters are looking for ladies to sew quilt tops in the comfort of your own home. Bags of squares ready for sewing can be found in the upstairs coat area. Take them home, sew them up, and then simply bring them back when you are finished. They also are in need of sheets - both flat and fitted. In order for this quilting ministry to continue, we need your help and your material.





## Stewardship corner

It's that time again – time for the Norwegian Dinner!

OK, so we have the lutefisk and the lefse, the rutabagas and the meatballs, not to mention all the dessert treats. Lots of folk pitch in to make it happen – and we gather for traditional fare, with wonderful fellowship. Doesn't get any better than this!

Well, yes, it does. Really, the meal is great – and lots of help makes it happen. But after the lutefisk is long gone, and the lefse but a memory, after the dishes are washed, the stove cleaned, and the fellowship hall is ready again for Sunday School, the dinner may seem ended, but in many ways, it's just begun.

There is a charge, of course, for the Norwegian Dinner. The planning crew works hard to set a fair price, one that is in line with other dinners in the area, but which also rewards the hard work of all who contribute. And in the end, there is a profit. Hey, the dinner makes money!

But what happens to that money? It goes out to make a difference in the world around us! From world hunger and world missions, to campus ministry and basic needs in our own community, the profits – *all of them* – go out into the world and (literally) change lives! And when lives are changed, the future is changed. And that is why the dinner goes on, long after the pots and pans have been put away.

So if you are signed up to help with the dinner, THANK YOU – you are more than just a part of the dinner crew, you are touching the lives of others. And if you are coming to the dinner, THANK YOU – your presence and your dinner ticket mean much more than just a plate of lutefisk, lefse, rutabagas, and meatballs. It means that ministry will happen in lots of places.

And if you haven't, make the commitment to work or to eat. You too can spend a few hours helping or eating, and know that when your time is over, YOUR ministry has just begun!

## Social Media

Check out the “What's Going on in the Youth World” elsewhere in this newsletter for more information on an important workshop on children and social media. November 1 – 6 PM – all parents are welcome – bring your friends!



## Shopping Online?

Our Savior's now has an account with “Amazon Smile.” If you shop with Amazon, you can support our work together by designating your “Amazon Smile” contribution to Our Savior's.



## World Hunger

Fact: you and I know where our next meal is coming from. Moreover, my biggest issue is usually which meal should I choose.

Fact: MANY people in the world do NOT know where their next meal is coming from. And forget about choices!

The La Crosse Area Synod is challenging us to fight hunger throughout the world with at least \$5 per person per year. That's less than \$0.45 per month...or around 1 ½ cents per day. Can you spring for that (or more), to literally give the gift of life to someone, somewhere who may not even have a next meal?

Saturday/Sunday, November 18/19 we will reflect on our abundance, and on Jesus' words that, "just as you (fed) the least of these...you (fed) me."

You are encouraged to bring your gifts to feed others (and Jesus) on those days, or make your gift anytime throughout the year. Put your gift in an envelope marked World Hunger – and include your name so we can properly credit you. And thank you for the difference you make in the lives of others!

## Giving and Receiving

So, how can you make a gift to an ELCA ministry, receive a stream of income, and get a tax deduction too? Read on!

Charitable Gift Annuities are the most popular way for seniors to make gifts to ELCA ministries while providing themselves with the life income. Gift annuity life income distribution rates are based largely on age. A significant income tax deduction is received, and a major portion of the annual income from the gift annuity is received tax-free. If the intent to make a gift exists, when compared with the current rates of return of fixed investments, gift annuities represent a significant improvement in life income for seniors. ELCA charitable gift annuities are thus an excellent way for seniors to enjoy the benefits of a life income gift.

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

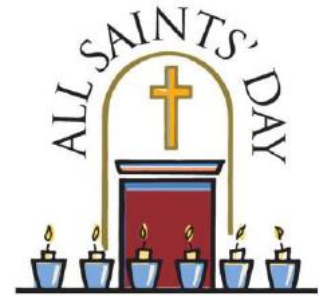
## Charitable Gift Annuities



## Thrivent Choice Dollars

Are you a member of Thrivent Financial who's eligible to direct Choice Dollars? You can direct those Choice Dollars to Our Savior's and make a big difference in the work that we do together. By directing Choice Dollars, eligible Thrivent members direct where Thrivent should distribute a portion of its charitable funds. Directing Choice Dollars is easy – simply go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to learn more and find program terms and conditions. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

## All Saints' Sunday



As in past years, we remember on All Saints' Sunday (November 5) all the saints who have gone before us. We remember in our prayers all who continue to grieve, and we thank God for the gift and witness of all who have gone before us. This year we especially remember those who have joined the church triumphant during the past year, including:

*Ralph Marking* – November 03, 2016  
*Dana Geske* – November 10, 2016  
*Richard Schomberg* – November 25, 2016  
*Deems Pelishek* – November 28, 2016  
*Daniel Dahl* – November 30, 2016  
*Delia Raffelson* – December 1, 2016  
*Peter Osiecki* – December 7, 2016  
*Mark Potaracke* – December 14, 2016  
*Carol Ann Noel* – January 8, 2017  
*Anna Isler* – January 16, 2017  
*Fern Mellor* – January 22, 2017  
*Gloria Liles* – February 11, 2017  
*Lisa Bachmann* – February 26, 2017  
*Myrtle Roraff* – June 19, 2017  
*Jerry Hauser* – July 24, 2017  
*Blanche Knutson* – August 8, 2017  
*Vincent Knudtson* – September 11, 2017  
*Harriet Skrade* – September 13, 2017

Join us on November 5<sup>th</sup> to celebrate their witness, give thanks for their presence, and pray for continued healing for all who grieve the loss of loved ones!



### Pastoral Acts:

Baptisms – Wilson Wallace Reed – October 22  
Marriages – Caralyn Bina and Ben Mulder – October 7



### ***Don't Forget ...***

There will be NO Saturday worship on November 4<sup>th</sup> as we instead indulge in the Norwegian Dinner – lutefisk, lefse, and meatballs.



### **November 5<sup>th</sup>**

As an added bonus, don't forget to set your clocks back an hour and get a bit of extra sleep. Then come, refreshed to worship as we celebrate All Saints' Day!



#### **LUTEFISK & MEATBALL**

Dinner and Bake Sale

**SATURDAY – NOVEMBER 4**

Meatballs & Gravy, Lutefisk, Potatoes, Rutabagas, Lefse, Cranberries,  
Tea Biscuits, Norwegian Baking, Milk and Coffee  
Serving from 3:30 – 8 p.m.

Tickets go on sale at 2:30 p.m.

*No advance sale of tickets by seating times*

Carry-outs Available after 4:30 p.m.

Adults: \$15 – Children under 12: \$7 – Under 5: Free

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

359 North Leonard St. – West Salem, WI

*Dinner Proceeds are Given to Missions*



...to the October newsletter mailing crew – Bev Bockenhauer, Sandra Holthaus, Vernetta Moe, Judy Morzinski, Carol Peterson, Paul and Marilyn Ranum, Velma Schmidt and Betty Whitlock.

...to Karen Tiber for making the Communion bread in October.

... Dear Our Savior's, Thank you very much for the "campership"... Every year that I've gone to Sugar Creek has been awesome, and it's great that you help kids in our congregation be able to go enjoy camp. Once again, thank you very much for the generous campership.

*Liam Sjoquist*

**Pies for Sale**  
**November 18 & 19**  
**Proceeds for the Care & Share Food Pantry**



The food pantry has an excess of pie fillings, so our confirmation students, under the supervision of the Senior Ministry Committee, will be baking pies to be sold following worship that weekend. *Get 'em while they're hot* and join our confirmation students in giving back to the food pantry.

## Thanksgiving Bags



Bags of goodies will be distributed to shut-ins from our church on Saturday and Sunday, November 18 and 19. The bags will be available in the Gathering Area. Please check the names on the bags and take a bag to deliver to a shut-in. Phone Jane Halverson (786-1067) if you have any questions.



**THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP**  
**Wednesday, November 22**  
**7 p.m.**

*Come and give thanks to a gracious God for all the gifts of life!  
Bring one or more items for the food pantry to leave up at the altar.*

## Advent Worship



Yes, it's not too early to think Advent. Advent begins on December 3, and midweek worship begins on December 6, with Hanging of the Greens. December 20 will feature a carol hymn sing.

But what about December 13? Worship will feature a drama, "Christmas in the Black Cloister," a drama about Christmas and Martin Luther. We will need several participants. No extensive drama experience necessary – more of a "readers' theater." If you would like to be a part of the drama, see Pastor Jon.

# Congregation Council Review



The Congregation Council met on Monday, October 9, with President Steve Ahles calling the meeting to order. At this meeting the council:

- Shared devotions on stewardship using Philippians 3.
- Received and approved minutes from the September meeting, and the September Treasurer's reports. Received and reviewed the pastors' reports.
- Authorized the consolidation of financial assets into the ELCA Endowment Pooled Trust.
- Heard that the building program appears to be ending under budget. Will receive a final financial report in November.
- Discussed ways to involve the congregation in a conversation regarding same gender marriages.
- Reviewed amendments to the constitution from the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Voted to recommend amendments to the annual meeting in January.
- Discussed fencing for the old playground lot. Will seek a second bid, and clarification on the first quote.
- Heard that the stained glass window repair should begin this week, and that some of the furniture for the Koinonia Room should be delivered within the next two weeks.
- Discussed a request from Tim and Bonny Goodenough to use the kitchen for a period of time in connection with their business, as they build their own commercial kitchen. Directed Steve Ahles to confer with the Goodenoughs and report back to the council.
- Received Ryan and Beth Ramsey, along with Maddie and Savannah as members via transfer from Holmen Lutheran Church.

The council meets again on Monday, November 13. See Steve Ahles or one of the pastors if you have any questions.

## It's Coming...



Yikes! SNOW will be here soon enough! We are currently looking for someone – adult or youth – to clear the sidewalks and entrances using our snowblower (and maybe an occasional shovel). The parking lot is plowed, and the sidewalks get some plowing, but we have more to do. This is a paid position, and the hours generally have some flexibility. See Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean for more information.

## Salvation Army Meals

Our Savior's takes the second Friday of the month to serve the Salvation Army dinner – upcoming date November 10. We are there from 4:15-5:15 p.m. – no preparation or clean up, just serving and being the presence of Jesus as we do "God's work with our hands." We look to have up to six servers, and families are welcome, including children as young as ten. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside the Koinonia Room.



| <b>ACOLYTES</b>         |                                     |                      |                          |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
|                         | <b>Saturday 6 p.m.</b>              | <b>Sunday 8 a.m.</b> | <b>Sunday 10:30 a.m.</b> |
| Nov 4 - 5               | Lutefisk Dinner                     | McKenna Riley        | Ellie Sloten             |
| Nov 11 - 12             | Angela Vick                         | Skylar Williams      | Adam Chandler            |
| Nov 18 - 19             | Delaney Christianson                | Madelyn England      | Kylee Gander             |
| Nov 22 Thanksgiving Eve | Wednesday – 7 PM – Justin Hennessey |                      |                          |
| Nov 25 - 26             | Madeline Janisch                    | Zachary Long         | Megan Marcou             |

| <b>BASKET HOLDERS</b> |  |                      |                          |
|-----------------------|--|----------------------|--------------------------|
|                       |  | <b>Sunday 8 a.m.</b> | <b>Sunday 10:30 a.m.</b> |
| Nov 5                 |  | Jaden Hammes         | Jacob Helgeson           |
| Nov 12                |  | Amalia Hemker        | Jacob Hickey             |
| Nov 19                |  | Kendra Hillyer       | Morgan Kammel            |
| Nov 26                |  | Brennan Kennedy      | Ben Larson               |

| <b>COMMUNION ASSISTANTS</b> |                        |                                  |                                   |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|                             | <b>Saturday 6 p.m.</b> | <b>Sunday 8 a.m.</b>             | <b>Sunday 10:30 a.m.</b>          |
| Nov 4 - 5                   | Lutefisk Dinner        | Ken Spraetz<br>Scott Friell      | Corey Sjoquist<br>Bill Jensen     |
| Nov 11 - 12                 | Judy Gilbert           | Linda Arentz<br>Shannon Wiese    | Carla / Carlie Burkhardt          |
| Nov 18 - 19                 | Jon Hetland            | Larry Blunck<br>Melody Schmitz   | Darlene Affeldt<br>Susan Giblin   |
| Nov 25 - 26                 | Char Buelow            | Sharon Olson<br>Bonny Goodenough | Stacey Sjoquist<br>Michelle Witte |

#### **HOME COMMUNION SERVERS**

Nov 4 - 5                Bev Bockenbauer  
Nov 11 - 12            Char Buelow  
Nov 18 - 19            Katie Drury  
Nov 25 - 26            Judy Gilbert

**COMMUNION BREAD**        Dana Roemhild    (Nov 18 - 19)

**ALTAR GUILD**                Marie Root

## READERS

|             | <b>Saturday 6 p.m.</b> | <b>Sunday 8 a.m.</b> | <b>Sunday 10:30 a.m.</b> |
|-------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Nov 4 - 5   | Lutefisk Dinner        | Kathy Wehrs          | Jim Kerkman              |
| Nov 11 - 12 | Lee Fernstandt         | Lynette Ender        | Carla Burkhardt          |
| Nov 18 - 19 | Kathy Brisson          | Marjorie Anderson    | Eric Iliff               |
| Nov 25 - 26 | Karen DeSchepper       | Lynette Ender        | Abbey Vick               |
|             |                        |                      |                          |

## USHERS

|                                        | <b>Saturday 6 p.m.</b> | <b>Sunday 8 a.m.</b> | <b>Sunday 10:30 a.m.</b> |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Nov 4 - 5                              | Lutefisk Dinner        |                      | Jim & Ruby Kerkman       |
| Nov 11 - 12                            |                        |                      | Eric & Jill Iliff Family |
| Nov 18 - 19                            |                        |                      |                          |
| Thanksgiving<br>Eve – Nov 22 –<br>7 PM |                        |                      |                          |
| Nov 25 - 26                            |                        |                      |                          |

Web Site: [www.oursaviorswestsalem.org](http://www.oursaviorswestsalem.org)

### OUR SAVIOR'S STAFF

|                                            |                                                                                           |                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pastor Jonathan Schmidt, Senior Pastor     | 612-0217                                                                                  | Email: <a href="mailto:pastorjon@oursaviorswestsalem.org">pastorjon@oursaviorswestsalem.org</a>   |
| Pastor Jean Schmidt, Associate Pastor      | 612-0217                                                                                  | Email: <a href="mailto:pastorjean@oursaviorswestsalem.org">pastorjean@oursaviorswestsalem.org</a> |
| Kris Seeger, Administrative Assistant      | Church Office: 786-0030                                                                   |                                                                                                   |
|                                            | Email: <a href="mailto:office@oursaviorswestsalem.org">office@oursaviorswestsalem.org</a> |                                                                                                   |
| Cathryn Bottem, Director of Youth Ministry | 518-1181                                                                                  | Email: <a href="mailto:youth@oursaviorswestsalem.org">youth@oursaviorswestsalem.org</a>           |
| Jill Iliff, Treasurer                      |                                                                                           | Email: <a href="mailto:treasurer@oursaviorswestsalem.org">treasurer@oursaviorswestsalem.org</a>   |
| Linda Berg, Organist                       |                                                                                           | Email: <a href="mailto:linda@oursaviorswestsalem.org">linda@oursaviorswestsalem.org</a>           |
| Kathy Brisson, Organist                    |                                                                                           |                                                                                                   |
| Eric Sorenson, Senior Choir Director       |                                                                                           |                                                                                                   |
| Karen DeSchepper, Financial Secretary      |                                                                                           |                                                                                                   |
| Sherri Neal, Custodian                     |                                                                                           |                                                                                                   |