

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

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December 2017 Newsletter

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

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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

DECEMBER 2017

Pastor's Reflections ...

Advent(ing) All the Way to Christmas

Ad-vent.

A noun. *The season of responding to ads, spending money, and getting stressed out in preparation for Christmas.*

Ad-vent, the stressed out, not enough time, how much more crazier can it get, season, begins this year...let's see...sometime back in October???

It seems that way, doesn't it? I don't know about you, but I am daily bombarded with e-mail ads about getting my shopping done now, right away, and of course, spending my money with whomever sent me the ads. After all, they truly do have all I need to finish off my Christmas shopping list. No need to go anywhere else!

In the midst of the ad-vent season, as I ad-vent all the way to Christmas, what I really need is a break, a pause, a moment to catch my breath, and reflect on something more – anything more – than more of the “holiday spirit” that I just can't quite grasp.

So, why doesn't somebody do something about that?

They did. About 1400 years ago someone in the church said we needed some time to prepare for Christmas. No, not for the shopping. And no, not for the travel plans, or tree trimming, or even cookie baking. 1400 years ago life was more about basic survival. Like simple food and drink, clothing and shelter.

Still, while life was different (what...no online shopping?), in some critical ways, it was the same. People were afraid – *any fear out there today?* And life was uncertain – *any uncertainty these days?* And anxiety, apprehension, greed, even hatred...*seen any of that lately?* Even in the absence of the internet, things weren't all that different back then.

And then there was Christmas. A time to celebrate the coming of the Christ child into the midst of a broken world. But first, we have to get there. Not just a physical journey to Bethlehem, but our frame of mind. After all, what good is it if we are too interested in the toys under the tree to even notice the child in the manger?

And so, 1400 years someone thought, what if there was more than just showing up on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day? What if first we take the time to get ready, to get psyched up, not for mistletoe, eggnog, and Santa, but for a child. A simple, small child who changes the world, who changes me?

Advent (not ad-vent – and certainly not the definition at the beginning of this article) is that time! Time to prepare for something beyond ourselves, something we cannot imagine or ever fully grasp. Advent, the time to prepare for that which is profoundly deep, yet mystically simple. Time to prepare for Jesus.

So consider this as perhaps an early Christmas gift to yourself this year. Find the time, make it if you must, but somehow carve out of your busy life some moments to really prepare for Jesus. That includes worship, time for rest and renewal, and making an effort to reach out to those in need. Most of all, it's a change in attitude and perspective, that this is not about the things we buy, or the expectations our culture puts upon us. It's about one thing, one simple thing. It's about Jesus.

So take the time, relish the season, and let Jesus run loose in your life, that you may have real life. And a real Christmas!

Pastor Jon

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of you, from the staff at Our Savior's! We treasure the community that gathers here, and we are grateful to all of you for your support and your partnership in the gospel of Jesus. May God's blessings in the Christ Child be yours during this Holy Season, and throughout the coming New Year!

Pastor Jon, Pastor Jean, Kris and Cat



Pastoral Acts:

Baptism – Evan Robert Fullwood – November 11

Baptism – Sophia Irene Smith – November 18

Funeral – David Easterday – November 6

Funeral – Myron Pfaff – November 21

Marriage – Nicole Kendhammer & Matthew Gales – November 11



Reformation Reflections

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

Family trees and lineages aren't always the most interesting reading—just try to keep your interest up as you read the first nine chapters of 1 Chronicles. On the other hand, when looking at a church body like the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a tracing of mergers (and divisions!) can be helpful as we learn where we came from, what issues disturbed us, and thus where we may be headed.

The Lutheran (or evangelical) movement began, of course, in Wittenberg, Germany. And in European countries the church organizations remained relatively stable, thanks to the tradition of state churches. For a long time, the principle was *Cuius regio, eius religio*—meaning, roughly, the king gets to decide the religion. Even in the “old country,” though, that began to break down in the nineteenth century as some Lutheran leaders, such as Hans Nielsen Hauge in Norway and the Saxons who would form the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, chafed under rules they felt violated their consciences.

When Lutherans began to arrive in the United States, they came from several countries—early on, mostly northern European and Nordic, each group affiliating with their country of origin. But Lutherans, having foresworn strong centralized control from the outset, kept thinking for themselves. Differences of opinion formed, or were inherited, over issues such as relations with Christians of differing beliefs, membership in lodges, and slavery, and theological matters such as millennialism (whether Christ will reign on earth for a thousand years), predestination, and ordination. Nonetheless, over the years immigrant churches began to see themselves less as an extension of their homeland, and more as American. That change drove church bodies to seek new relationships with other church bodies. In the end, at least seven German groups, three Norwegian ones, and two Danish bodies, plus Swedes, Finns, Slovaks, and Icelanders, through a series of mergers, became the ELCA.

Unfortunately, divisions have continued, more recently over issues like biblical inerrancy, relationships with other church bodies, ordination of women, and ordination and marriage of homosexual members. Today, even though the great majority of Lutherans in the United States belong to the ELCA, the Missouri Synod, or the Wisconsin Synod, there are more than thirty additional groups with ties to Lutheranism. For Christians who follow the Lord who prayed that his followers might be one (John 17:11), such divisions are a cause for sorrow and repentance.

The ELCA formed in 1987, a merger of the American Lutheran Church (ALC), the Lutheran Church in America (LCA), and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (AELC). The ALC included the Evangelical Lutheran Church (Norwegian – the tradition that Our Savior's came from), the “Old” American Lutheran Church (German), and the United Evangelical Lutheran Church (Danish).

The LCA included the Augustana Synod (Swedish), the United Lutheran Church in America (German, Slovak, Icelandic), the Suomi Synod (Finnish), and the American Evangelical Lutheran Church (Danish).

The AELC was formed in 1976 by former members of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (German).

The ELCA, a product of mergers, labors and prays that unity in Christ will continue to grow closer!



Tree Trimming

There is something about Christmas decorations that get you in the mood for Christmas. We need your help putting up the tree and other sanctuary decorations. Sunday, December 3rd after 10:30 service will be our decorating party. Pizza, pop, cookies, and hot chocolate will be served for lunch.

Stewardship comes in many forms, and this is a fun one! Adults and children are welcome, but please remember, adult supervision is needed.

Choral Christmas



On Sunday, December 10 the Bells of Joy and Senior Choir will be part of the worship services, playing and singing their praises through music of the season. Join us at either service for a variety of musical styles, specifically chosen for their message. The musicians look forward to seeing you there!

Advent Drama

Our Advent worship on December 13 includes the drama, “Christmas in the Black Cloister.” We are looking for 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.



Caroling



Come and join the 7/8th grade confirmation students as they carol in the neighborhood, Wednesday, December 20, from 6-7 PM. We’ll stop at several homes, offer the gift of music, and then return for the carol sing in the sanctuary at 7 PM. Dress for the weather, and share the sounds of the season!

Prayer Around the Cross

Join us for Prayer Around the Cross again on Sunday, December 10, at 7 PM. We gather around the cross, bathed in candlelight, in a time of peace and meditation, to pray for the needs of the world, especially for those who find this holiday season to be a time of loss and sadness. As they experience a “blue Christmas,” we lift up our prayers for them. Our time together lasts about 25 minutes. This is an important ministry of intercession, as we pray for the needs of people around us.



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



Midweek Advent Worship Wednesdays, 7 PM

Come and join us as we journey to the manger...

December 6

“Hanging of the Greens”

Bring an ornament to place on the tree in the sanctuary!

December 13

“Christmas in the Black Cloister”

A drama featuring Katie Luther, bratwurst, music, and even Norway!

December 20

Carol sing

Getting ready for the greatest gift!

Worship December 23/24

Saturday – 6 PM

Sunday morning – *no worship*



Celebrating the Nativity of Our Lord! Christmas Eve Worship

1:30 PM

3:30 PM

5:30 PM

Festive Celebration of Jesus’ birth with candle lighting, special music, and Holy Communion. *The Christ Child is born for me and for you!*

10 PM

Lessons, carols, candle light, Holy Communion...and the newborn Jesus! *Come and welcome the savior of the world!*

Christmas Day

10 AM

We gather in the morning to rejoice in the newborn child of Bethlehem and to reflect on the gift of grace God gives us in Jesus.





SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Every Sunday is a buzz with activities ... opening video with our friends from *Whirl*, practicing music to sing in worship and now we are busy getting ready for the Christmas programs, and then the lesson with our teachers. This first quarter we have been learning about practicing our faith and praying about how we can *act like Jesus!* We hope our young ones are bringing their lessons home to share with family, telling what they learned in class, and doing the suggested activities together during the week. The children are also getting to know their "adopted classroom grandparents" sharing cards and pictures. We are always eager to welcome new students ... bring a friend and join us!

Those who got to check out the Sunday School Treasure Box the middle of November ...

Kids with perfect attendance - September through October:

5th: Marissa Eckland, Mallory Long

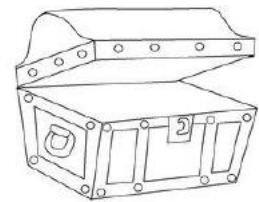
4th: Bennett Fennigkoh

3rd: Gunnar Eckland, Graham Sjoquist

2nd: Casey Mathison

K: Anna Vick

PK: Mabel Sjoquist



Kids who only missed once - September through October:

5th: Andrew Larson, Rylee Lyga, Lauren Zarecki

4th: Lydia Jothan, Dayne Langrehr, Camdyn Lyga, Emelia Tlustosch

3rd: Briauna Mathison, Drew McConkey

2nd: Henry Bakkum, Arianna Clements, Zander Clements, Jesse Jothan, Kaleb Kendhammer

1st: Paige Christianson, Max Langrehr, Alana Steinke, Addie Tlustosch, Ariel Wuensch

K: Owen Draxler, Oliver Kendhammer, Laney Kneifl, Layla Kneifl, Amy Stefferud, Camille Zarecki

PK: Owen Christianson, Ethan Draxler, Noah Evenson, Lauryn Langrehr, Ellie Tlustosch, Addison Wuensch

Keep up the good work kids! ☺ In January we will see who has had perfect attendance in November & December and which class has collected the most in offerings for the Hurricane Relief. Will *YOU* get to check out the Treasure Box next time?

Sunday School Offering ...

We continue to collect our Sunday School offerings 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. The bulletin board by Pastor Jean's office is ready to mark our progress. Check it out!



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

Important Dates

Saturday, December 16 -

8:30 AM - Christmas Program rehearsal (grades 3-5)

10:30 AM - Christmas Program rehearsal (grades PreK-2)

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

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

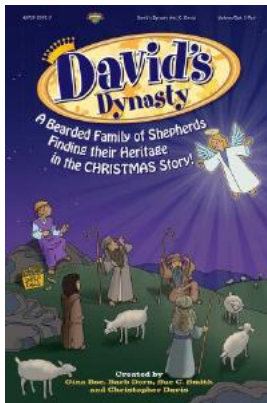
Sundays December 24 & 31 - NO Sunday School

Sunday, January 21 - Grades 3-5 sing during 10:30 worship

Sunday, January 28 - Grades PreK-2 sing during 10:30 worship

You are invited ...

Join us for our **Sunday School Christmas Programs ...**



Saturday, December 16th
During 6 pm worship
“David’s Dynasty”

Join our 3rd through 5th graders as they present “David’s Dynasty” in music and words.

Sunday, December 17th
During 10:30 am worship
“God’s Promise Came True”

Join our Pre-K through 2nd graders as they present “God’s Promise Came True” in music and words.



Confirmation Schedule

Confirmation



6th graders

- December 6 – class from 6-7 PM
- December 13 – Bethlehem exhibit at English Lutheran, leaving at 6 PM, and returning around 8 PM.
- December 20 – class from 6-7 PM

7/8th graders

- December 6 – class from 6-7 PM
- December 13 – Bethlehem exhibit at English Lutheran, leaving at 6 PM, and returning around 8 PM.
- December 20 – caroling in neighborhood from 6-7 PM – dress warmly!

9th graders

- December 6 – class with parents from 7:45-8:15, following the “Hanging of the Greens.” See Pastor Jon for more information.



Senior Exit Projects

Jake Iliff invites you to his Senior Exit Project as he plans and leads worship on December 30/31. Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean will be present to celebrate Holy Communion. Come and support Jake as he shares God’s word and leads us in our faithful response to all God has done – and at the same time gets closer to graduation!

McKenah Olson, a senior at WSHS is having an OSLC Giving Tree for her SEP project. A Christmas tree is set up in the gathering area. Choose from a tag or ornament to select your type of giving. Tags - you donate supplies that will help a non-profit daycare in a low-income community in Tampa, FL that was impacted by Hurricane Irma. Ornaments – you can purchase and take home for yourself. For more information, call McKenah 608-386-6701.



Coming in January ... FROLIC!

Frollic, a new ministry for 0-3 year olds and their parents is coming in January.

Watch for details!

What's going on in the Youth World!?

Breakfast Club



We have had around 6-10 youth coming to breakfast club on Sunday mornings to enjoy some delicious food and wonderful conversations. Haven't joined us yet? No worries! New students are always welcome! Come join in on our intriguing student-led conversations!

Houston Gathering

There are four youth who will be participating in the 2018 Youth Gathering. Please keep these students in your prayers as we prepare in the coming months for this amazing experience: Cody Anderson, Kylee Gander, Jake Iliff, and Rebecca Schmidt.



Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser!

If you enjoy eating out for special occasions, come on out to Texas Roadhouse on Monday, January 15th, 2018 to support the youth going to Houston, TX! We get 20% of the proceeds from the bills of people that are there specifically to support the youth gathering. Come on out, enjoy some food, and support youth all at the same time! Watch for details, and the coupon, in the January newsletter.



**ENVELOPE
FUNDRAISER**

.... to raise funds for the Youth Gathering, we have placed mini envelopes numbered \$1-\$100 outside of the sanctuary. We invite you to donate the dollar amount indicated on the envelope. Let's see if we can fill all of the envelopes in support of the growth of faith for these students!



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: **Carlie Burkhardt** (UW-L), **Leif Ender** (St. Cloud State), **Drew Tschumper** (UW-L), **Katelyn Rigotti** (UW-L), and **Sarah Novak** (UW- Green Bay).

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Give
something
unexpected
this
Christmas.

Hungry Jar Offering for December ELCA World Hunger/Good Gifts

Millions of Americans struggle to get enough to eat. Whether people are looking for a refuge from the streets or a little extra help to get by, a warm meal and a seat at the table can go a long way ... More than 30 million children in the United States depend on school meal programs to keep them full and focused each weekday. But on weekends, many students have no choice but to go hungry. Stockpile a child's backpack with a weekend's supply of healthy food each Friday so that children – and their entire families – don't have to worry about food ... A bag of groceries, blankets, new clothes and toiletries can be a big help to a struggling family, especially in the weeks and months after losing their home to a natural disaster. These and many others are ways ELCA World Hunger is helping to respond to the needs of those who are hungry. *Can we join them?*

Sounds like love 2017



“God is on the move” and boy was he ever! Over 250 high school kids from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota, Illinois, and Nebraska came together to spread God's word through music. Sounds Like Love has been directed by John Jacobson for 35 years. This year was his last and he went out with a bang. The songs that were chosen this year were from favorites from years past – “*At the Cross*” (“*Love Ran Red*”), “*Alive, Forever, Amen!*”, “*I Saw the Light*” ... to name a few.

The finale song was special to John – “*Be the One.*” It summarizes John's strong and consistent life message. This song has been performed five times under John's direction. We must thank John Jacobson for “*Being the One*” that has inspired all of us to use our talents, our energy and our hearts “in a world that's lost its way.”

Jarron B, Hallie H, Josie H, Kamryn K, Samantha K, and Samara W inspired me that weekend. Like the song states:

“In a world full of broken dreams,
where the truth is hard to find,
for every promise that is kept,
there are many left behind.
And though it seems that nobody cares,
it still matters what you do,
'cause there's a difference you can make,
but the choice is up to you –
Will you be the one?”

I want to thank Our Savior's Lutheran Church for allowing me to chaperone these great kids and to the parents for trusting in me. Also a big thank you to Justin for helping me all weekend.

“*God is on the move*” indeed.

Tracey Beckley

Thank you ... to Linda Berg for working with these young people and teaching them the music during the weeks leading up to the performance!

Adult Studies



Wednesdays, 9:30-11 AM, in the library – come and explore the season in a variety of ways! We'll take a look at Advent and Christmas texts, along with how the Christmas story is presented in various carols.

Sundays, 9:15-10:15 AM, in the Koinonia Room – bring a cup of coffee and spend some time learning about the history of the Lutheran church in this country. Coming across the pond, Lutherans had to learn new ways to do church in a new setting. Just how did they manage? Come and find out!

School of Theology

The La Crosse Area Synod School of Theology resumes classes January 4. Classes are held here at Our Savior's, on Thursday evenings from 5:30 to 9 PM, for six weeks. For more information see the synod web site at www.lacrosseareasyndod.org/synod-school-of-theology, or see Pastor Jon.



Lutherans yesterday, today, and December 11th

@ Salem Terrace – 9:30 am

Join us for Breakfast and “something Christmas.” We meet in the small kitchenette off of the parking lot between Salem Terrace & Mill Street Manor. Feel free to invite your friends.



CHECK IT OUT ...

Can't see the bulletin ... we have large print bulletins



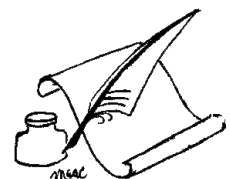
Can't hear the worship service ... we have a hearing assist device

Missed worship ... check out the website – www.oursaviorswestsalem.org – to see the service.



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.





Stewardship Corner

Good stewardship means making a difference in the lives of others, and nowhere do we make a bigger difference than when we feed the hungry! Almost 1 billion people across the world do not have enough to eat. The ELCA World Hunger Appeal seeks to make a difference by feeding those who hunger, and by helping them develop the means to feed themselves in the future.

The La Crosse Area Synod, and its Hunger Subcommittee (our former pastor, Dave Bersagel is the chair), has challenged congregations to raise \$5 per member toward the fight against hunger. For Our Savior's, that's around \$6500. Big goal, but a big payoff – life for precious children of God!

How are we doing? As of November 19, we have raised right around \$1750. Those gifts will change lives, so THANK YOU to all who shared with the hunger appeal.

But...we've still got time to go, and your gifts are welcome anytime! So, here's a gift giving idea that can solve your holiday shopping woes, and bring life at the same time. The ELCA Good Gifts Catalog is full of animals and projects to let your family and friends know they are helping someone in need. How about the school teacher gift? A \$10 gift of school supplies for a child in need? A nurse friend or Grandparent could receive a \$10 gift for a clinic visit for a child or mosquito netting for their bed. For \$40 you can send a girl to school - some families simply cannot afford the modest school fees and uniforms. *Of your gift, 90% goes directly to people in need.*

We will be out in the gathering area starting the first weekend of December with catalogs to help you select and collect for these gifts and in return, you will be handed an ornament with your gift title and a card to give as acknowledgement of this gift. For questions, go to ELCA.org/goodgifts or talk to Eric and Lynette Ender or Phil and Judy Gilbert.

And as the New Year unfolds, continue to remember the needs of those who have (literally) nothing on their table!

Giving and Receiving



How can you make a significant gift to ministry, but still preserve your estate value for your heirs? Read on!

Wealth Replacement Life Insurance is a tool used to facilitate some life income gifts to ministry. The concept is for an insurable donor to make a gift for ministry to the ELCA. The donor then receives a life income. Part of that income is used to purchase life insurance on the donor's life. This insurance policy is put into a trust for the donor's heirs. At death, this trust is paid to the heirs/beneficiaries to replace the wealth that was given to ministry. If a life income gift is for you, wealth replacement insurance may be a way for you to preserve your estate value for your heirs. Your gift planner can help you consider the use of wealth replacement life insurance.

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.

Stewardship

Estimate of Giving cards are still being accepted in the office. Your estimate of giving helps us design a realistic budget proposal, and also helps you to stay on track with your faithful stewardship. If you have misplaced your card, we have extras – stop by the office.



We enter the New Year with the challenge of reduced rental income. Yet, lives are changed through our work together, and your financial support is vital. We *thank you* for your faithful support of God's work through Our Savior's, and we look forward to our continued partnership in the work of Jesus Christ.



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 to learn more and find program terms and conditions. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.



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.



Are you retired ... stay at home mom ... work part time ... enjoy people ...

... then we need you!

We are looking for someone to be a part of our ***hospitality ministry*** ... someone who will coordinate the ushering schedule. People have volunteered to usher and now we need someone to put the pieces together and create a schedule. If you can help, talk to Pastor Jean or Pastor Jon.



Do you ...

Do you have the gift of gab ... *why not try being an usher?*

Do you have compassion for those who can't get out ... *why not try taking communion to our homebound members?*

Do you like to talk ... *why not try reading lessons in worship?*

Do you like to work behind the scenes ... *why not try helping with altar care?*

Do you like to bake bread ... *why not try making bread for communion?*

Do you like to serve others ... *why not try being a communion assistant?*

Do you have a knack with numbers ... *why not be a money counter?*

It's a new dawn

It's a new day

It's a new life

And I'm feeling good

It's a new opportunity for you to get involved ...

We would love to help you explore your passions. Call the office, send us an email, or talk to Pastor Jean or Pastor Jon and say **"YES! I can do that!"** "Job descriptions" and "on the job training" available!



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. A new member class will be set up in January, so if you are interested, see Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean, and we'll give you all the details.

Congregation Council Review



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

- ❖ Shared devotions on Amos 5.
- ❖ Received and approved minutes from the October meeting, and the October Treasurer's reports. Received and reviewed the pastors' reports.
- ❖ Discussed how best to engage the congregation in a conversation on same gender marriages.
- ❖ Authorized fencing for the playground, and if the quote exceeds council authority, to recommend the quote to the annual meeting.
- ❖ Directed Dan Roemhild to explore and act on a new computer for the youth director, printer for the office, and larger TV and mobile stand, with funds to come from the Memorial Fund.
- ❖ Heard that the building project ended under budget by over \$15,000.
- ❖ Affirmed the use of the kitchen by Floating Gardens for a limited period of time. Also heard that the kitchen passed health inspection.
- ❖ Received Dean and Judy Ashbacher as members via transfer from Trinity Lutheran Church (Sparta).
- ❖ Approved a prayer labyrinth for the vacant lot as a Senior Exit Project.
- ❖ Set the 2018 Annual Meeting for January 28.
- ❖ Recommended to the Annual Meeting a revision of the language for the Mission Endowment Fund enabling resolution.

The council meets again at Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean's home, on Monday, December 11. See Steve Ahles or one of the pastors if you have any questions.

NOTICE



The Congregation Council recommends a series of amendments to the constitution of the congregation. These changes have been proposed by the ELCA, and require a majority vote at the Annual Congregational meeting for adoption. The changes involve primarily the addition of the "Ministry of Word and Service" to the rostered leadership of the church, and a number of minor editorial changes. *The amendments do not change how we as a congregation operate; they add flexibility to how we might operate in the future.* A full set of the amendments proposed is available in the office.

The Congregation Council also recommends an amendment to the Enabling Resolution of the Mission Endowment Fund. The amendment would adjust the language specifying the amount the Endowment Fund distributes each year to match our current practice. The current language specifies a disbursement of 5% of assets, while the fund distributes the earned income (generally around 4%). The amendment would mandate the distribution "of the earned income for the year, not to exceed 6% of the net asset value."

Both of these recommendations will be on the agenda for the annual meeting. Please join us as we set the direction of our mission and ministry.



Year End Contributions

With the end of the year fast approaching, this is the time to make sure you are up to date on your financial support of our ministry at Our Savior's. *Your gifts **DO** make a difference!*

You can make gifts at worship, or you can mail them to the office, or sign up to give electronically using Simply Giving.

In order to comply with IRS requirements, gifts received through December 31, 2017 will be acknowledged on your 2017 giving statement. Any checks dated 2018, regardless of when they are received, will be acknowledged for 2018.



Thinking Ahead ...

2018 Annual Meeting report deadlines ...

It's hard to imagine, but the new year is right around the corner. And in the new year, we will meet as a congregation to share all that has happened in 2017 ... and there is lots to share! In preparation for the annual meeting, we will once again call on folks from the various committees, teams, and ministries to write their reflections for the annual report. Please note we will need those reports in the office as follows: **Written Reports by Sunday, January 7** and **Financial Reports by Thursday, January 11.**

Annual Meeting

The 2017 Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28, at approximately 11:45 AM, following the 10:30 AM worship service. All voting members are encouraged to attend. More details in the January newsletter!



Building Work Update



The building work has long since been completed, and the bills are now in...and the results? We did well! The congregation authorized an expenditure of \$133,000. The final cost was right around \$117,500. Thanks for all who helped make the project happen. We appreciate all the work that went into repurposing space, and freshening the building!



Hats off to ...

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

...to Dana Roemhild for making the Communion bread in November.

... Dear Pastors Jon & Jean, Judy Morzinski, and 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation Class – Thank you so much for cleaning up my yard & gardens & washing the windows! A great job done at a time of year when it was really needed! Thanks again -

Jackie Hartmann

... To Our Savior's Lutheran Church: Thank you! June Dairy Days is a community celebration, and your efforts help to make our annual festival possible. Without our extraordinary volunteers and the support of the community, this festival wouldn't have survived as long as it has. Every year June Dairy Days brings together different groups and organizations to contribute to the history and legacy of one of our country's longest running festivals, and every year our community turns out to support us. Thank you again for your help. With Sincerity and Gratitude,

The June Dairy Days Executive Board, 2017 Festival

... Dear Ladies of the Mary & Martha Shawl Ministry, Thank you for your thoughtfulness in giving me the beautiful prayer shawl your group made. I love the blue & green colors and I have already used it daily this past week recovering from chemo treatments. Perfect timing with the weather growing cold. Your thoughtfulness really touched me. Many blessings in the name of our wonderful Lord & Savior Jesus!

Marla



Thank you to all who helped with our annual Norwegian Dinner. Your willingness to give of your time and to donate food items is greatly appreciated. We received many compliments! Many of our guests commented on the large number of young people who provided such great service at the dinner. It is truly a gift to have a wide variety of ages and talents willing to serve at Our Saviors.

553 meals were served, which included 77 carryout meals. We prepared 300 pounds of lutefisk, 3,000 meatballs, several gallons of gravy, 250 pounds of potatoes, and 220 pounds of rutabagas. The exact total and disbursement of the money will be reported in the January newsletter. The tip jars on the tables netted \$361. The tip jar money disbursement will be decided by the youth and reported in the January newsletter as well. Thank you, everyone, for your help with another successful dinner.

Special thanks to our businesses who made donations: Family Tree Floral, Linda's Bakery, Kwik Trip, and Hansen's IGA. Eric and Lynette applied for Thrivent grants and received \$500 toward the cost of the meat. Special thanks to the Noffke's for the gift of rutabagas, and to all of those who donated.

We are also grateful to have gained another Lutefisk Lady. Jill Iliff has joined our team in planning and managing the dinner.

The Lutefisk Ladies, Lynette Ender, Bonny Goodenough, Inger Michael, Jill Iliff

In Loving Memory

Memorial Gifts Received ...

In Memory of Herb Long for Long Education Fund
From Judy & family

In Memory of Fern Mellor for video/sound system
From Rita Bussian, Leonard Mellor, Violet Dworak, Rodney Mellor



Once again, you're invited to place poinsettias in the church at Christmas. Many people have found it a special way to remember or to honor someone in this season. You may provide your own plant or we will order a plant for you through Family Tree Floral here in West Salem. Red, white or marbled poinsettias are available for \$20.00. Please let us know how we can acknowledge your poinsettia in the Christmas bulletins.

CHECK ONE:

_____ Please purchase a poinsettia for me. I understand the price is \$20.00.

_____ Red _____ White _____ Marble - Pink/White

_____ I will provide a poinsettia but prefer to purchase my own plant. I will have it at church by December 22.

IN MEMORY OF

IN HONOR OF

GIVEN BY _____

Please return this slip and \$20.00 by **December 10** to the church office or put it in an envelope and place it in the offering plate.

You may take your poinsettia home after the Christmas Day worship service.

ACOLYTES			
	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Dec 2-3	Elsa Mitchell	Ryan Nickles	Ed Schmitz
Dec 9-10	Marina Thompson	Bennett Turnipseed	Blaine Wheeler
Dec 16-17	Maxwell Williams	Alan Campbell	Mallory Farr
Dec 23 - Saturday	Audrey Godlewski		
Dec 24 - Sunday Christmas Eve	1:30 PM Sydney Hammes	3:30 PM Maddie Haun	5:30 PM Madison Hass
Dec 24 - Sunday Christmas Eve	10:00 PM Josh Iliff		
Dec 25 - Monday Christmas Day	10:00 AM Natalie Jeranek		
Dec 30-31	Owen Johnson	Haley Jones	Connor Koepp

BASKET HOLDERS			
		Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Dec 3		Tyler Leren	Jesse Logging
Dec 10		Tyler Mathison	Morgan Quackenbush
Dec 17		Brandon Riley	Dylan Wiese
Dec 24 – Sunday Christmas Eve	1:30 PM Noelle Zarecki	3:30 PM Siri Anderson	5:30 PM Mia Bahl
Dec 31		Ben Bakkum	Derek Bores

HOME COMMUNION SERVERS

Dec 2-3 Pam Gresens
Dec 9-10 Iliff Family
Dec 16-17 Ilene Pavelko
Dec 23-24 Daryl Wermedal
Dev 30-31 Betty Whitlock / Diane McClintock

COMMUNION BREAD (*Dec 24 – Christmas Eve*) – Tonya Chandler / Jerry Willer

ALTAR GUILD Kristin Tschumper / Katie Drury

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Dec 2-3	Lee Fernstaedt	Vernetta Moe Judy Long	Tracy Hesse Susan Giblin
Dec 9-10	Jon Hetland	Wendy Kane Dottie Baumgartner	Vicky Johnson Kristin Tschumper
Dec 16-17	Jane Frank	Pam Gresens Rich Clements	Denise Jones Tracey Beckley
Dec 23 - Saturday	Jim Quamme		
Dec 24 – Sunday Christmas Eve	1:30 PM Sharon Olson Marjorie Anderson Eric / Jill Iliff	3:30 PM Carla / Carlie Burkhardt Eric / Lynette Ender	5:30 PM Paula Heilman Jon Hetland Karen DeSchepper Judy Morzinski
Dec 24 – Sunday Christmas Eve	10:00 PM Jeff / Melissa Haldeman		
Dec 25 – Monday Christmas Day	10:00 AM Jason Stefferud		

READERS

	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Dec 2-3	Amy Molling	Kathy Wehrs	Naoko Aminaka
Dec 9-10	Bev Bockenhauer	Choir Cantata	Choir Cantata
Dec 16-17	Sunday School Program		Sunday School Program
Dec 23 - Saturday	Eric Iliff		
Dec 24 – Sunday Christmas Eve	1:30 PM Errol Kindschy	3:30 PM Jeanne Peterson	5:30 PM Ilene Pavelko
Dec 24 – Sunday Christmas Eve	10 PM Eric Iliff		
Dec 25 – Monday Christmas Day	10 AM Connie Blunck		
Dec 30 - 31	Eric Iliff	Eric Iliff	Vernetta Moe

USHERS

	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Dec 2-3		Karl / Kathy Wehrs	Beckley Family / Steve Noffke
Dec 9-10	Jim / Marjorie Anderson Family		Beckley Family / Steve Noffke
Dec 16-17	Eric Sorenson		Beckley Family / Steve Noffke
Dec 23 - Saturday	Eric / Josh Iliff		
Dec 24 – Sunday Christmas Eve	1:30 PM Beckley Family	3:30 PM Keith Goetzinger Goodenough Boys	5:30 PM
	10 PM Eric / Jill Iliff		
Dec 25 – Monday Christmas Day	10 AM		
Dec 30 - 31	Lee / Jean Fernstaedt	Iliff Family	Beckley Family / Steve Noffke

Web Site: www.oursaviorswestsalem.org

OUR SAVIOR'S STAFF

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