

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

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OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
WEST SALEM, WISCONSIN
February 2018

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- Lent Schedule
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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

FEBRUARY 2018

Pastor's Reflections ...

You may have noted in last month's newsletter that I am beginning to work with a team to plan a sabbatical leave for 2019. The La Crosse Area Synod encourages pastors to make use of a "sabbatical leave" as a time for renewal and refocusing. The pastor steps back from parish work, usually for about three months. The pastor returns to continue the ministry, but with some new energy, and maybe some new insights and perspectives.



For Pastor Jean and myself, the sabbatical leave is part of the call package, and over the years the congregation has set aside some funds to make the sabbatical happen. My plan is to take my sabbatical (my first in my 32 years of ministry) in summer of 2019, returning in September. Pastor Jean will continue the ministry here, but with some assistance, such as occasional pulpit supply. She would then look at her own sabbatical a year or two later.

What really makes this exciting, however, is that we are in the process of applying for a grant from the Lily Foundation. The Lily Foundation provides grants to pastors who are taking a sabbatical leave, encouraging them to do what "makes your heart sing." Or, in other words, what will refresh and renew?

The Lily grant would provide the resources for the sabbatical to really "take flight," and do some fun stuff. We are working on it, and I'm hoping that it will happen for us.

But wait, there's more! The Lily grant is not just for me. A portion of the grant is for the congregation, to do two things – first, to assist with some of the costs for covering my absence, though with the sabbatical being over the summer, and Pastor Jean present, those costs shouldn't be too great.

More importantly, the grant is also designed to provide resources for the congregation to do some fun things related to the sabbatical. What fun things? That's one of the things which my sabbatical team is developing – a proposal for how the congregation would, in a sense, accompany me on the sabbatical. We would find out if we get the grant sometime in August.

So, what's the sabbatical going to be about? I want to explore cultural heritage. I'm German, but I grew up in "melting pot" suburbia. I don't speak German, we ate a variety of foods growing up (like all those German delicacies, you know – spaghetti, pizza, chow mein...), and I really don't know a lot about German culture. I want to learn more about it – about who I am. Part of the sabbatical, the part that happens whether or not we get the grant, is to travel to Germany in June of 2019.

But there are other cultures that are important to me. Rebecca is from Russia, and I have a foster-brother (who spent 15+ years in our family), who is part Alaskan Indian. I want to learn about those too. They also contribute to who I am. The grant would give me that opportunity.

And then there are other cultures – ones that are not me, but are an important part of the world around us. Like African American, Chinese American, and yes, even Norwegian! Taking some time during the

sabbatical, I would learn more about these cultures, and what they contribute to our American experience. And I would do so by some study, and even, yes, some fun!

Why is all this important? Because we live in a world that is rapidly changing, even right here in West Salem. We aren't all Scandinavian or even Northern European anymore!

Yet, at the same time, there seems to be increasing tension between peoples in our world. More and more we are polarized. Maybe by learning more about others, so that I don't just tolerate, but even embrace those who are different, we might just begin to more fully appreciate the gift that God gives us in the cultures around us.

That is what the sabbatical team will look at for Our Savior's. How can we come to embrace new cultural expressions, while at the same time more deeply understanding our own, all in the midst of a changing world?

And how can we do that by learning and by having a bit of fun?

So keep watching for more details. If we get the grant, hey – cool stuff will happen! And if we don't get it, hey – cool stuff will happen!

Either way, we celebrate and give thanks. God's gifts abound!

Pastor Jon



Our Savior's Loves New Members!

We love to welcome new partners in our life and work as disciples of Jesus! If you, or someone you know, is interested in joining Our Savior's, please contact one of the pastors. We'll get you set!



Ash Wednesday Worship

February 14

11:30 a.m. Mid-day worship with Ashes and Holy Communion
Quiet contemplation and reflection

5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Ashes and Holy Communion
Music, message, and hymns

Wednesdays in Lent

February 21 through March 21

11:30 a.m.

Mid-day contemplative worship

5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Holden Evening Prayer Worship

5:45 p.m.

Soup supper with proceeds to the
World Hunger Appeal



Lenten Dinners

Lenten dinners will be held each Wednesday from February 21 through March 21, at 5:45 PM. Proceeds will go toward the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Various groups in the congregation will be sponsoring each week's meal, and our confirmands will join in serving and cleaning up. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, see Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean. Or, just join us for the meal and support an important ministry!

Prayer Around the Cross

February 11, 7 PM

Quiet, meditative worship, gathered around the cross, bathed in candlelight. Come and take some time for prayer and reflection, in the midst of a busy and hectic world, in the midst of a dark and cold of winter around us, and bask in the light, life, and love of a gracious God!



Celebration OF HOPE

Celebration of Hope

The weekend of February 10-11 is our annual Celebration of Hope – the last weekend before we head into Ash Wednesday and Lent. The SOS Band will play, and the Sounds Like Love Choir will join the Senior Choir to sing at both Sunday services. Join us!



It's baaack ...

Beer & Hymns

Sunday, February 18

6-7 pm

Westview Inn

(174 Leonard Street S)

We had such fun last year, we are bringing Beer & Hymns back for an encore experience! Join us for an evening of singing and fellowship! We provide the songbooks, you provide whatever you'd like to eat and drink.



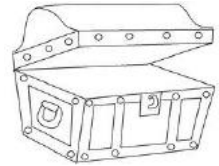
SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

We have hit the skids of winter in Sunday School – the weather has been tricky and attendance is down a bit. But, the good news is that we continue to hear about Jesus and his love for each of us. We are heading into the season of Lent (and the color will be purple) and a somber time before we get to the cross of Easter. We invite you to join us on this journey – we love having you with us and miss you when you are away. Don't forget to invite a friend to join us, too!

We are having fun connecting with our “adopted grandparents” – praying for each other and sharing notes and cards along the way.

The children continue to sing in church about once a month. It is so much fun watching them – they are enthusiastic and sound great!

It is fun to share the list of children who got to check out the Treasure Chest in late January to celebrate perfect attendance or only missing once during November and December. Plus there were five children* who have had perfect attendance since September, and another eleven++ who only missed once since then! Let's see if they can make it all the way to the end of the year!**



Perfect Attendance

Pre-K: Noah Evenson*, Allise Jothen, Maxwell Twite**

Kindergarten: Darrell Smith, Anna Vick***

1st Grade: Ariel Wuensch++

**2nd Grade: Henry Bakkum++, Jesse Jothen++, Kaleb Kendhammer++,
Casey Mathison*****

3rd Grade: Briana Mathison++, Lily Twite

4th Grade: Baylee Faucett, Bennett Fennigkoh*, Lydia Jothen++, Camdyn Lyga++**

5th Grade: Marissa Eckland*, Eve Twite**

Missed Once

Pre-K: Addyson Knebes, Bailey Siddons, Mabel Sjoquist++, Addison Wuensch

**Kindergarten: Owen Draxler, Oliver Kendhammer, Laney Kneifl, Layla Kneifl,
Alex Roemhild, Camille Zarecki++**

1st Grade: Jake Bahl, Alana Steinke, Adelyn Tlustosch

2nd Grade: Arianna Clements, Zander Clements, Aidric Schmitz

**3rd Grade: Lauren Burt, Gunnar Eckland++, Drew McConkey, Mara McNaughton,
Graham Sjoquist++, Alicia Zarecki**

4th Grade: Breanna Smith, Emelia Tlustosch

5th Grade: Andrew Larson

Important Dates

Sunday, February 18 - Grades 3-5 sing during 10:30 worship

Sunday, February 25 - Grades 4K-2 sing during 10:30 worship

Sunday, March 11 - Grades 3-5 sing during 10:30 worship

Sunday, March 25 (Palm Sunday) - Grades 4K-2 sing during 10:30 worship

Sunday School Offering ...

We continue to collect our Sunday School offerings for Hurricane Relief through Lutheran Disaster Relief to help those who were affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria last summer. The road to recovery is long. Our Pre-K class leads the pack with their offerings (\$133.35), followed by the 4th grade (\$100.50), and the 2nd grade (\$83.75). Check out the bulletin board by Pastor Jean's office to see our progress.



Frolic! –

If you missed it in January, mark your calendars and join us in February!

If you have children 0-3 years old, we have an opportunity for you!

Join us on Sunday, February 25 at 9:15

in the Frolic Room ("green" classroom downstairs)



- ❖ Parent(s) and child(ren) gather together.
- ❖ Get to know others parents experiencing the same challenges and joys that you are.
- ❖ Spend some quality, faith-filled time with your child.
- ❖ Story, music, craft, and more – all age appropriate.
- ❖ This will be our inaugural event and the initial plan will be to gather once a month (fourth Sunday).

First Communion Instruction



Mark your calendar now...First Communion instruction for 5th graders will be Sundays, March 11 and 25, from 1:30 to 3 PM. We ask parents and students to be at both sessions. More details in the March newsletter. See Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean for more information

Confirmation and After School



6-8th grade confirmation students have one class session - on February 7 at 6 PM. Then...into Lent...and off until April!

9th graders are reminded to gather at 7:45 PM, following worship on Wednesdays, beginning February 21, to work on confirmation banners.

After School meets one more time February 7 – and then off until April 4.



SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP - 2018

"This Changes Everything"

Check out the brochures for camp on the kiosk in the gathering area!

OUR SAVIOR'S CAMPERSHIPS AVAILABLE

\$100 full week -- \$50 half week

Request forms due in the office **NO LATER** than April 25th

(Forms available in the church office, on the kiosk in the gathering area, or on the website – www.oursaviorswestsalem.org)

Camperships distributed in worship May 5 & 6

(You send the campership to Sugar Creek directly.)

Dairy Queen Fundraiser!

That's right we have another fundraiser for you for the Youth Gathering to Houston, TX!



Where: Dairy Queen 4200 Mormon Coulee Rd, La Crosse, WI 54601

When: February 26 from 5-8

Enjoy a warm meal or even an ice cream cone or blizzard. Our Savior's will get 10% of all proceeds



What's going on in the Youth World!?

Souper Bowl of Caring 2018

It's that time of year again! Super Bowl 52 is February 4th, and, like last year, we'd like to participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring. Last year we raised \$69.47 and collected 21 canned goods. **Our goal this year is to collect 30 canned goods and \$75.00!** These proceeds go to charitable organizations so this weekend becomes a weekend of celebrating and giving!



"God's Not Dead, Heaven is 4 Real, Miracles from Heaven" movie afternoon at church

When: Sunday February 11th following the 10:30 service

What: Come enjoy one of these heart-warming movies where there will be popcorn, pizza, and treats!

Why: It's Transfiguration Sunday, so why not enjoy the day by witnessing movies based off of real-life events that involve people being transformed by God!

"I Can Only Imagine" movie night at Marcus Theater

When: April 21st. Time tbd.

What: See Cat to sign up, so the correct amount of tickets can be purchased.

Flamingos:

Flamingo insurance will be sold beginning March 1st. If you would like to volunteer to sell or to flock, please sign up on the sheet outside of the Koinonia Room!



30 Hour Famine will be April 13-14, to sign-up please see Cat ☺



**ENVELOPE
FUNDRAISER**

We still have envelopes on our tri-fold display in the Gathering Area. Please feel free to take an envelope, get a group together to raise the funds on the envelope, and help us in raising \$5,050 for the Youth Gathering. Thank you!!

Adult studies in February

- Wednesday mornings at 9:30 AM – *I Corinthians* – come and find out how the Apostle Paul answers a variety of concerns in light of the gospel, and how the gospel speaks to us today.
- Sunday morning at 9:15 in the Koinonia Room – bring a cup of coffee and explore the gospel reading for the day.



Lutherans yesterday, today, and February 12th @ Salem Terrace – 10:00 am



We continue our study of the 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.

OWLS

On February 22, at 1:30 p.m., the OWLS will meet to hear a presentation given by Amy from Life in Harmony Music Therapy, LLC. Everyone will get a chance to discover different ways to make music. Be sure to attend this fun afternoon. As always, there will be treats and coffee after the presentation.



CHECK IT OUT ...

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



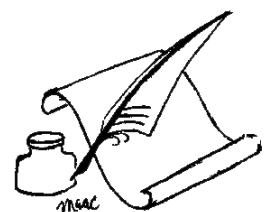
Can't hear the worship service ... we have a hearing assist device

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.



Hungry Jar Offering for February Red Cross

The recipient of our February Hungry Jar offering is the Red Cross. For more than 100 years, the American Red Cross in Wisconsin has been there to offer aid and resources to others to prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies through immediate assistance, education, outreach, and training. Today, in addition to domestic disaster relief, the American Red Cross offers educational programs that promote health and safety; support and comfort for military members and their families; the collection, processing, and distribution of lifesaving blood and blood products; and international relief and development programs. Please be generous as we support this important ministry in our community.



**American
Red Cross**



West Salem Community Blood Drive

Monday, February 5 12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Presbyterian Church

Sponsored by – Westview Inn

Simply Giving

As a new year begins, simplify your life by signing up for “Simply Giving.” Simply Giving is an electronic transfer of financial gifts to Our Savior’s. Your support of our mission and ministry can be made “simply” and faithfully. You choose the amount and the frequency of your gifts, and you can make changes at any time. Contact the office or one of the pastors for more information.



From the counters ...



My Offering

Please remember to use your offering envelopes. If you need some, let Kris know in the office and she will gladly get some for you. Also, note that **EVERYONE has a new number** this year so be sure to use your new number!



Stewardship Corner

As this newsletter is being prepared, we are in the process of sending out checks to the recipients of last year's college scholarships. Six college freshman are receiving scholarships ranging from \$350 to \$700, while one sophomore received a scholarship last September for \$700. What a great gift to encourage our young people as they nurture and develop the abilities that God gave to them. And that is stewardship – theirs to learn, ours to support them!

And soon, we will be encouraging this year's high school seniors to apply for a scholarship. Thanks to the Marking and Michelson Families, to gifts given in memory of David Lewis and Fred Meyer, and to the Pipers, for supporting last year's scholarships.

And don't forget about the Homer Moe Scholarship for non-traditional students. Two have received that scholarship in the past few years. Good stewardship all the way around!

But wait, there's more! At the end of each semester we send, to those college students of any year, for whom we have an address, a small gift – a card and a gift card (Subway or Kwik Trip). We want them to know that during finals, as they are studying hard, we are remembering them and supporting them. Again, our stewardship...encouraging their stewardship. So make sure we have college student's addresses – get them to Pastor Jean.

And one final note – students aren't the only ones learning. You really can teach an old dog new tricks. So be a good steward. Support those who are learning, but make sure you are also one of the "learners" – wherever you are in life!

Using Savings Bonds Creatively

U.S. Savings Bonds can be a great vehicle for savings, but can also be used creatively to support the work of Jesus in our world. How so? By funding a life income gift such as a gift annuity.

When U.S. bonds are cashed the recipient pays ordinary taxes on the gain in the bonds, which is why so many are never cashed in by seniors. However, by cashing bonds and using the funds to enter an ELCA gift annuity, seniors can use the charitable deduction obtained from the gift annuity to help offset the income taxes from the savings bonds. The best part is that they will then obtain a partly tax free income for life, and the net result may be far better than if they simply cashed the bonds. If you have U.S. Bonds, consider whether the cash from them may be used to make a gift that returns a life income for you.



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.



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: **Samantha Peterson** (UW-Eau Claire), **April Haldeman** (UW-Madison), **Aunna Carlson** (UW-Madison), **Jennifer Iliff** (WTC), and **Sara Frank** (UW-L).

college+
connection



Pastoral Acts:

Funeral – Harlan Oldendorf – January 6

Funeral – Arne Marking – January 13

In Loving Memory

Memorial Gifts Received ...

*In Memory of Harlan Oldendorf
for Endowment Fund from
Eric & Lynette Ender*

*for Community Assistance Fund from
Rita Sobotta
Bev Bockenhauer
Barb Schomburg*

*In Memory of Karen Hehl for Christian Education Materials from
Lowell Hehl*

*In Memory of Robert Mulder from
PCS Staff Events*

*In Memory of Arne Marking from
Fred & Elizabeth Schomberg
Karen & Harvey Wolter*



“Driftless Devotions”

Check out “Driftless Devotions” at www.Driftlessdevotions.com, or use the link on the home page of our web site (www.oursaviorswestsalem.org). Written by one of our members, these devotions are inspired by images and experiences in our driftless region. Each devotion takes an element of our surroundings and draws out the spiritual truth found in each one.

Congregation Council Review



The Congregation Council met on Monday, January 8, with President Steve Ahles calling the meeting to order. At this meeting the council:

- Began with devotions around Revelation 21:5, and the promise that God “makes all things new.”
- Approved the minutes from December, and received financial reports and reports from the pastors.
- Discussed ways to engage the congregation in conversation regarding same gender marriages. Decided to seek input at the annual meeting as a starting point.
- Heard that the annual meeting material is being assembled, and that the nominating committee was lacking one nominee (Endowment Fund); all other positions are now complete.
- Received the proposed 2018 budget from the Administration Committee, and voted to recommend the budget to the annual meeting.
- Received the resignation of Dennis Manthei from the council. Appointed Rich Clements to fill the term until the upcoming annual meeting. His name will be in nomination for that position.
- Heard an update on the Community Assistance Fund.

The council meets again on Monday, February 12. See one of the pastors or Steve Ahles if you have any questions.

Congregation Council Installation



Newly elected members of the Congregation Council, along with current members, will be installed on Saturday/Sunday, February 4/5, during worship. Please lift up all our council members in your prayers as they seek to provide leadership to us in our mission and ministry.



Synod Assembly

The La Crosse Area Synod Assembly will be held June 8-10, in La Crosse. Our Savior's will be looking for several people to join Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean as voting members at the assembly. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, and see how the church beyond us proclaims the grace of Jesus, speak with one of the pastors.

Vacation

Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean will be on vacation February 9-11, hoping for a bit more snow up north to do some skiing! Cathryn Bottem will join the SOS Band in leading worship for the Celebration of Hope. Join us for great music, a message from a “college perspective,” and the transition from Epiphany to the journey of Lent.





Thank you ...

...to the January newsletter mailing crew – Connie and Larry Blunck, Bev Bockenbauer, Sandra Holthaus, Judy Morzinski, Carol Peterson, and Rich Storandt.

... I would like to thank the ladies of the Mary & Martha Shawl Ministry for the beautiful prayer shawl I received. I love the cran color. I was so touched by such a special gift & it is a big comfort to me. I use it every day & take it with me to my treatments. Sincerely,

Marilyn

... thank you very much for the Thanksgiving bag of treats which once again was so interestingly decorated ... It was so very much appreciated especially at Thanksgiving when I have no family that is close nearby to be with. I wasn't lonesome but it was just so nice to be remembered. So, a belated thank you goes to each and everyone! I'm sorry it's six weeks late. ... Again my thanks!

Enol Kindschy

... Thank you for helping to fulfill the holiday gift tag tree for Lakeview Health Center residents! It means so much to the residents to have gifts to open during the holidays. We really appreciate it!

Lakeview Health Center

For Mission Endowment Fund Gifts ...

... Thank you for your generous gift to New Horizons. Through your support we are able to continue to provide services to our community. Warmest regards,

Sheila Connors

... Thank you once again for joining us in mission to serve the poor. Your congregation's gift of \$1,000 does a great deal. Thank you for trusting us with how you choose to invest in the community. ... In Christ,

Grant (Withrow)

THANK YOU!!!

Thank you to all who attended the fundraiser at Texas Roadhouse on January 15 for those attending the National Youth Gathering this summer. With your help, we raised \$97 and Texas Roadhouse donated \$53 to even it out to \$150! We could not have done that without your help! Thank you for being a part of this ministry and aiding our students to enrich their faith in this gathering.



ACOLYTES			
	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Feb 3-4	Kylee Gander	Justin Hennessey	Madeline Janisch
Feb 10-11	Zachary Long	Megan Marcou	CJ McConkey
Feb 14 Ash Wednesday	5 PM Elsa Mitchell	7 PM Ryan Nickles	
Feb 17-18	Ed Schimtz		Bennett Turnipseed
Feb 21 Lent	5PM Blaine Wheeler	7PM Maxwell Williams	
Feb 24-25	Alan Campbell	Mallory Farr	Audrey Godlewski
Feb 28 Lent	5PM Sydney Hammes	7PM Madison Hass	

BASKET HOLDERS			
		Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Feb 3-4		Jesse Howell	Carson Hundt
Feb 10-11	NO COMMUNION		
Feb 14 Ash Wednesday	5PM Jon Iliff	7PM Ella Janisch	
Feb 17-18		Nick Jones	Reice Kammel
Feb 24-15		Colton Kneifl	Mya Koudelka

HOME COMMUNION SERVERS

Feb 3-4 Judy Gilbert
Feb 10-11 No Communion
Feb 17-18 Pam Gresens
Feb 24-25 Iliff Family

COMMUNION BREAD (*February 17/18*) - Linda Arentz

ALTAR GUILD Wendy & Kamryn Kane and Rebecca Schmidt

USHERS

	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Feb 3-4	Keith Goetzinger & Goodenough Family		Jeff & Melissa Haldeman
Feb 10-11	Keith Goetzinger & Goodenough Family		Jeff & Melissa Haldeman
Feb 14 Ash Wednesday	5PM	7PM Adam Kennedy Confirmation Group	
Feb 17-18	Keith Goetzinger & Goodenough Family		Jeff & Melissa Haldeman
Feb 21 Lent	5PM	7PM Adam Kennedy Confirmation Group	
Feb 24-25	Keith Goetzinger & Goodenough Family		Jeff & Melissa Haldeman
Feb 28 Lent	5PM	7PM Adam Kennedy Confirmation Group	

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Feb 3-4	Bev Bockenbauer	Larry Blunck Eric Ender	Tracey Beckley Dottie Baumgartner
Feb 10-11	NO COMMUNION		
Feb 14 Ash Wednesday	5PM Naoko Aminaka Steve Ahles	7PM Paula Heilman Jim Quamme	
Feb 17-18	Karen DeSchepper	Cat Bottem Lynette Ender	Rich Clements Jaime Fortier
Feb 24-25	Judy Gilbert	Pam Gresens Wendy Kane	Scott Friell Susan Giblin

READERS

	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Feb 3-4	Phil Gilbert	Stacy Mitchell	Naoko Aminaka
Feb 10-11	Bev Bockenbauer	Lynette Ender	Jim Quamme
Feb 17-18	Jim Anderson	Lynette Ender	Jaime Fortier
Feb 24-25	Angie Hemker	Joe Stekel	Heidi Krupicka

Web Site: www.oursaviorswestsalem.org

OUR SAVIOR'S STAFF

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Eric Sorenson, Senior Choir Director		
Karen DeSchepper, Financial Secretary		
Sherri Neal, Custodian		