

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
May 2018

- Pastor's Reflections
- Sunday School/Confirmation
- Stewardship
- Council Review
- May Calendar



Vision Statement:

***We are a church centered in Christ,
inviting all into a community of worship,
nurturing all to be disciples of Jesus.
Together we reach out to make a difference
here and throughout the world.***

Our Savior's Voice

Our Savior's Lutheran Church 359 Leonard Street N West Salem, WI 54669
www.oursaviorswestsalem.org 608-786-0030

May 2018

Pastor's Reflections ...

Wondering and Waiting



As I write this the snow is flying and piling up fast ... but the calendar says it's been spring for almost a whole month already ... really? ... where? I don't know about you, but I find myself wondering and waiting ... *wondering* when spring will really come ... and *waiting* for it to show up. I seem to be in a "wondering and waiting" season of my life right now. *And, I think Kris (our Administrative Assistant) is also in a wondering and waiting time ... wondering if the pastor will ever get her article done and waiting to be able to finish this newsletter!* ☺

Wondering and waiting ...

- ... *wondering* if the health of a loved one will ever get figured out ... and *waiting* for answers
- ... *wondering* how a relative's surgery went ... and *waiting* for news
- ... *wondering* if I can stick to the diet I have put myself on ... and *waiting* to see the numbers on the scale go down
- ... *wondering* how our youth will be changed by attending the ELCA National Youth Gathering ... and *waiting* to see them blossom and share their faith with us when they get back
- ... *wondering* what will happen to our confirmation students once they have been confirmed ... and *waiting* to see how often they will be in church now and if they will choose to be involved in the life of the congregation
- ... *wondering* what will happen to our Sunday school children over the summer ... and *waiting* to see their smiling faces in the fall
- ... *wondering* what will happen to our young people as they graduate ... and *waiting* to see how the next chapter in their lives unfolds
- ... *wondering* how the summer will unfold here in this place ... and *waiting* to see if we can accomplish something during the "slower" time this year
- ... *wondering* if Pastor Jon's sabbatical grant will be approved ... and *waiting* to get excited about the plans that could become reality for us and for the congregation if he gets it
- ... *wondering* if the rat-race pace of life will ever slow down ... and *waiting* to be able to stop and smell the roses or read a book

Wondering and waiting ... we all have those seasons in our lives. We live in a world that is broken and needs healing, hurts and pains are a part of life, challenges and struggles are placed before us, we get weighed down with all that swirls around us, with all that can overwhelm us.

At a recent nursing home service, Pastor Jon talked about Noah and his family. How they *wondered* if the rain would ever stop ... and *waited* for God to show up. "But God remembered Noah." (Genesis 8:1) God remembered Noah, and God remembers us. Even in the midst of our seasons of "*wondering and waiting*," God is there. God is there *wondering* how long it will take us to stop thinking we can do it all by ourselves ... and *waiting* for us to let go and put our trust in God. God sent his son, Jesus, to die on the cross for each one of us. It is in Jesus' death and resurrection that we receive the fulfillment of the promises made to us in our baptism. The promise of new life – new life here and now, and new life for eternity. Now that is worth the *wondering and waiting*!

Wondering and waiting with you,
Pastor Jean



Summer Worship
Beginning May 26-27 through September 1-2
Saturday 6 PM
Sunday 8 and 10 AM



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!

Choir Celebration Sunday



The Senior Choir has cast their votes for their favorite anthems from the past year, and will sing them for you at both worship services on Sunday, May 6! They will be joined by the 3rd-5th Grade Sunday School choir on one of the pieces. Join us as we offer praise and prayer through music, lifting our voices in a variety of musical styles. Don't miss it!

After being snowed out on April 18 (it couldn't happen again, could it???), the 7/8th grade confirmation class will try again on Wednesday, May 2. We will head out shortly after 6 PM, going door to door, seeking items for the pantry, so if you are in the church neighborhood, be ready! If you are not in the area, but want to be a part of this ministry, you can bring contributions over any time that week.





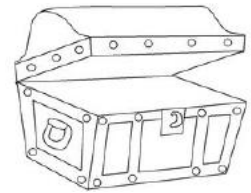
SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

It's hard to believe that our Sunday School year is coming to a close. We have spent the last year learning about Jesus' life and ministry as our friends from *Whirl* shared the stories from the gospels of Matthew and Mark. **Join us on May 13th** as we celebrate the year, thank our teachers and helpers, and take one last trip to the treasure box ... oh, and did I mention the ice cream? ... Can't forget the ice cream!

We are also looking forward to **partying with our "adopted grandparents" on May 6**. They have supported us and prayed for us all year and now we can thank them in person.

Sunday School Treasure Box ...

We will make one more trip to the Treasure Box in May. We'll see who had perfect attendance or only missed once these last two months. And there will be special prizes for those who still have perfect attendance or only missed once for the whole year! Will it be you?!



Sunday School Offering ...

Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria seem like such a long time ago for us - and it is - summer is almost here again. But for those who live in the southern states that were directly

affected by these storms, it seems like only yesterday - they are still trying to clean up and get their lives back in order. Thanks to our Sunday School children, we will have much needed dollars to send to be used for the ongoing recovery effort. Check out the bulletin board outside of Pastor Jean's office to see our final total. Congratulations to our Pre-K Sunday School class who have blown the roof off of their giving!



Sunday, May 6 (Choir Top 5) - Grades 3-5 sing with Senior Choir during 8:00 and 10:30 worship

Sunday, May 6 - Sugar Creek Camperships distributed - all worship services

Sunday, May 13 (Mother's Day) - All grades sing during 10:30 worship



Sunday School Teachers & Helpers

We thank our teachers and helpers for



sharing their time and faith with our Sunday School students this year. We have been blessed by their presence among us.

Thank you to:

Pre-K – Heidi Krupicka and Kamryn Kane

Kindergarten – Danielle Schultz, Candice Tlustosch, and Abbey Vick

1st Grade – Katie Drury and Mandy Bahl, helpers: Mia Bahl and Ben Bakkum

2nd Grade – Tayler Jones and Kim Foglia

3rd Grade – Stacey Sjoquist and Mariette Stefferud

4th Grade – Wendy Kane

5th Grade – Eric Iliff

Music – Mike Larson, Shannon Vick, Ilene Pavelko, Linda Berg

Substitutes – Marjorie Anderson, Beth Clements, Ann Donahue, and Rita Schmitz



Frolic! –

For parents and their children 0-3 years old!

We will take May through August off and start up again in September with our monthly gatherings – watch for details.

In the meantime ...

A suggestion has been made to gather periodically during the summer months to connect after worship and go to the park – parents and children together. More to come!

Monday, July 23

Students entering Grades 1 through 5

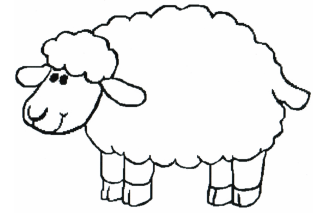
**We will head down to Sugar Creek Bible Camp
for an Explorer Day Camp experience**

Bible study. singing. horseback riding. and swimming



Cost is \$20 which includes lunch
Watch for more details this summer

Hungry Jar Offering for May Synod Sheep Project to benefit World Hunger



Jesus says, "Feed my sheep, feed my lambs, feed my sheep."

Once again, the La Crosse Area Synod will be decorating the space for Synod Assembly with animals representing \$500 donations for World Hunger. This year fluffy sheep will be grazing the grounds of Western Technical College telling us that "Hunger is Baaaaaad". As faithful disciples, we listen and respond to Jesus' words to "feed my sheep" in many ways. Helping rid the world of hunger and poverty is one way to do that. Let's see how many sheep we can raise - *we already have one* - can we get another one (or two ...)? Two years ago we took 6 cows to Assembly ... how many sheep can we send?

Confirmation and After School



Confirmation classes for this year come to an end in May.

- 6th graders meet May 2 and 9.
- 7/8th graders have class on May 2 and 9, and one last small group time on May 16.
- After School meets ONLY on May 2.
- See separate articles on the 7/8th grade scavenger hunt for the food pantry, and 9th graders and Affirmation of Baptism.

Graduate Recognition

High School graduate recognition will be on Sunday, May 20, during the 10:30 service. We encourage all graduates and families to join us as we ask God's blessings on them – and on families! Following worship the Youth Committee will sponsor cake and punch, as we honor these young people. Please also keep them in prayer as they move on to new opportunities for discipleship.



HOUSTON MEETING: May 6th following the 10:30 service. We will go over schedules, rooming assignments, etc.



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

college+
connection



ELCA YOUTH GATHERING in HOUSTON – In less than two months, over 30,000 youth from across the country will converge on Houston under the theme “**This Changes Everything.**” We will worship, go out into the local community and help with the continued clean-up efforts from last summer’s hurricanes, meet new people, gather with others from our synod, have time for fun activities, hear the faith stories of speakers, and dig deeper into our own personal faith stories.

We are inviting the congregation to be a part of our fundraising opportunities to collect funds for the **Global Farm Challenge**

BLAST OFF FOR BOOKS

The 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering
Houston Literacy Campaign



(agriculture related programs of ELCA World Hunger) and **Houston Literacy Campaign** (the goal is to collect 100,000 books for the children in Houston).



Ongoing opportunities that you can be a part of:



ENVELOPE FUNDRAISER – Check out the board in the gathering area to track the progress of our youth heading to Houston for the ELCA National Youth Gathering. The bus is slowly making its way south, *collecting books and funds* along the way that will be shared with children in Houston and hungry people around the globe. Please grab an envelope, fill it with the dollar amount indicated on the envelope, and drop it in the offering plate or in the office. Let’s fill the bus and keep it moving!



FLAMINGOS FUNDRAISER – Due to the unexpected weather in April – *that would be snow!* – our Norwegian flamingos were grounded for a week. They have taken back to the skies, and their flight will continue into early May to make up for lost time. Your donations will help with Youth Gathering projects.

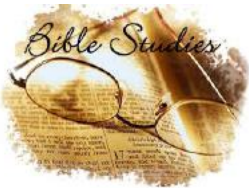


PRAY – We ask that you begin to pray, not only for our students and adults who will be traveling to Houston, but for all 30,000 who will be traveling and gathering to worship God and do his work with our hands.

THANK YOU – to all who came out on April 9th for dinner at Features. With your help, we raised funds for National Youth Gathering projects.



Adult studies



Wednesday morning Bible study continues to explore 1 Corinthians. Paul applies the gospel to real issues troubling a real community of faith. We welcome you to join us – we meet on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 in the Library. Coffee and fellowship provided – no experience necessary – just come and enjoy!

Prayer Around the Cross

May 13, 7 PM

Quiet, meditative worship, gathered around the cross, bathed in candlelight. This month we will pray especially for those whose work is to nurture and sustain life. That means both Moms and farmers, for both, in their own way, provide the gift of life. We will pray for them, for their ministry, and for their faithfulness. Come and take some time for prayer and reflection, in the midst of a busy and hectic world, gathering around the cross.



Lutherans yesterday, today, and May 14th

@ Salem Terrace – 10:00 am

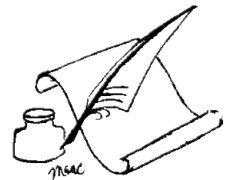
Join us for coffee & study



We continue our study of the history of Lutherans in America 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. 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.



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.



SENIOR CONNECTION



Are you interested in going to a movie, out to eat for breakfast, lunch or supper, getting a cup of coffee and a sweet treat at Linda's Bakery? How about going to a play, playing cards, fishing, golf? Or for whatever reason, just having a friend to do things with?

At the March meeting of OWLS and after a lengthy discussion, those present thought it would be a good idea to see if senior members of the congregation would be interested in finding other members with similar likes to get together once in a while.

They even came up with a name for this new group: ***Senior Connection***. So, if you think you might be interested in something like this, please check out the sign-up sheet on the kiosk. *This is only an indication* that you might be interested and nothing more at this time.

If you have any questions, please talk to Bev Bockenhauer, Judy Morzinski, Caryll Loughan, Vernetta Moe, or Judy Long.



Postal Food Drive Saturday, May 12 11 am – 5 pm

Volunteers of all ages are needed. Come join in the fun of sorting 5,000 pounds of food! Stop in and help as long as you like. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall. *Many hands make little work!* Questions, call Lynette Ender 786-0723.



Benefit for Wendy Knudtson Saturday, June 16 Lion's Shelter 2-10 PM

For more information, see the poster on the kiosk in the Gathering Area.
Wendy's Warriors bracelets available in the church office for \$5.
You are invited to make treats for the bake sale.



Stewardship Corner

Lots of our stewardship involves dollars, and with good reason. In our society dollars are the way we “store” our time and effort. We convert our work into money, and then use that money to acquire the things we want and need. That’s why stewardship always includes our financial resources.

But stewardship is not really the money – it’s the time and energy behind the money. And sometimes our time and energy are given in other ways. Many times we discover that the givers get more than they gave!

Case in point – the Salvation Army meals that we assist with on Fridays. Each second Friday of the month folk from Our Savior’s travel to the Salvation Army in La Crosse to assist in serving the evening meal. We don’t cook, we don’t even do dishes. We serve, we chat, we interact. And, believe it or not, WE grow!

For most of the school year confirmation kids take the lead, as this is one opportunity for learning and their service. Summer months, however, need YOU to step forward. Serving is from 4:15-5:15. A sign-up sheet is on the Youth bulletin board outside the (new) Koinonia Room. We look to have up to six servers, and families are welcome, including children as young as ten.

Come and serve. Come and see the face of Jesus in those whom you serve. Come...and leave a changed person. Or in other words, just come and be a disciple of Jesus!

So Just What Will Your Legacy Be?

Leaving a Legacy. We may think that our legacy is set before our death – and typically that is true. However, consider Alfred Nobel. He is remembered as the philanthropist whose foundation promotes world peace through the Nobel Peace Prize. Did you know that Alfred Nobel made his fortune by inventing dynamite? Alfred Nobel was able to shape a legacy much different than what would have normally followed from his invention by planning to use his wealth to benefit future generations.

By planning through your will, trust, qualified retirement plan or life insurance policy to leave money to Our Savior’s or to your favorite ELCA ministry, you can help define your legacy of Christian stewardship. Consider particularly the future impact that you can have by giving a portion of your wealth to an endowment fund that will allow your witness to stretch far into the future. These perpetual funds assure that your money will live on to do God’s work for generations not yet born! What you do today does shape your legacy, and what your money does after your death can enhance and define that legacy.

What’s your legacy?

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.



June Dairy Days

June Dairy Days is June 1, 2 and 3. OSLC is particularly active in two areas and we need your help! The Fun Run is held Saturday, June 2, and volunteers are needed to help with registration, set-up, and serving as crossing guards from 6:30 - 9:30 on Saturday morning. Sign-ups are in the Gathering Area.

AND, there are LOTS of opportunities to help at the Food Stand (at Village Park) which serves food all weekend. Grillers, servers, ticket workers, window workers, and shift leaders are needed. Youth and their families are especially encouraged to help out on all shifts. Signup sheets for helping will be available at church and online at signup.com/go/ESPSZPO. *[A note about using the online link - it requires each person to insert an email address. If you are a family signing up for several spots on the same shift but don't have separate emails, you can add a comment with the family member's name.]*

Garden Plots

Space remains available for any members of the congregation interested in establishing a garden for the coming year. The plot size can be tailored to your needs. Last year's gardeners are all planning to return so you'll have some experienced neighbors to provide you guidance. The plot is located 1½ miles north of West Salem directly off County Road M. If you are interested in reserving a parcel or have questions call Jim at 786-1236.



Thank you ...

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

... Phil & Judy Gilbert for making the Communion bread in April.

... First Communion students for making bread for Maundy Thursday worship.

The congregation is invited ...

to the wedding of Naoko Aminaka and Shawn Giblin

Saturday, May 19th

2 PM

Our Savior's Lutheran Church



Please keep Naoko and Shawn in your prayers as they begin their married life together.

In Loving Memory

Memorial Gifts Received ...

In Memory of Marie Seibert
From Family & Friends

In Memory of Jerry Hoth from ...

Larry & Connie Blunck
Bev Bockenbauer
Larry & Bonnie Gensch

Jean Hauser
Sue Strauss
Family & Friends



Pastoral Acts:

Funeral – Don Stensven – April 5
Funeral – Adrienne Hagen – April 10

Sabbatical Plans

Pastor Jon and his sabbatical team have completed their work on a grant proposal to the Lily Foundation for support of his sabbatical in 2019. We will find out if the grant is received in late August. In the meantime, thanks to the team for their work (Corey Sjoquist, Angie Hemker, Jeff Rich, Candice Tlustosch, Stacey Mitchell, Carla Burkhart, Brian Linse).

The grant proposal includes financial support for Pastor Jon to explore a variety of cultures, including ones that are close to him (German, Russian, Native Alaskan), and some that are not as close (African-American, Chinese-American, Norwegian). The grant would permit several trips and excursions to learn about these cultures in a variety of ways.



At the same time the grant would provide support for congregational ministries, including assistance for Pastor Jean, as she “holds down the fort.” The grant would, however, also allow for some congregational exploration of cultures in our area, including Amish, Jewish, Hmong and Native American. A Sabbatical Passport would invite congregation members to make their own “journey” of discovery.

Regardless of the grant, the sabbatical will happen, Pastor Jon will learn a few things, and the congregation...will have some fun! Watch for details later this year.

Congregation Council Review



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

- Began with devotions based on 1 John 1:1-2:2.
- Approved the minutes from the March council meeting. Received and reviewed financial reports and reports from the pastors.
- Heard an update on ongoing Congregational Conversations on same gender marriages. Discussion was held on the next steps, and on possible resources to use in council deliberation.
- Received a report on Pastor Jon's sabbatical planning. Approved the submission of a grant request to the Lily Foundation for 2019.
- Heard that there may be a change in tenants in the Johnson South rental.
- Discussed the Library Fund. Decided to close the separate bank account and create a Library Fund in the general church bank account.
- Appointed Wendy Kane and Karen DeSchepper as voting members of the 2018 La Crosse Area Synod Assembly.
- Discussed Bibles that could be gifted to incoming confirmation students.

The council meets again on Monday, May 14. See Steve Ahles or one of the pastors if you have any questions.



Same Gender Marriage Conversation

Thank you to all who participated in the after worship conversations on the issue of same gender marriage. Along with the "congregational pulse" these conversations are very helpful to the Congregation Council, and to the congregation as a whole. We are particularly pleased with the care and concern that the conversations have had for all who hold beliefs on this issue. The Congregation Council will continue to consider the advice and counsel we have received, and most of all, will continue to pray for God's guidance. In the meantime, if you would like to share your thoughts, you can still do so – both Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean remain ready and willing to sit, converse, and pray with you.

Synod Assembly

The La Crosse Area Synod Assembly will be held June 8-10, in La Crosse. Wendy Kane and Karen DeSchepper have been appointed as voting members to the assembly, along with Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean. BUT – we are still looking for two more! How about you? This is a great opportunity to see how Our Savior's partners with congregations near and far, to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ beyond West Salem. For more info, see one of the pastors.



BASKET HOLDERS			
		Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30 a.m. / **10 a.m.
May 5-6		Ben Fleckenstein	Emma Fortier
May 12-13		Trevor Arentz	Emily Bell
May 19-20		Turner Campbell	Marissa Eckland
May 26-27		Brooke Gander	** Brandon Goede
June 2-3		Jayden Hansen	** Emma Haun

ACOLYTES			
	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30 a.m. / **10 a.m.
May 5-6	Justin Hennessey	Madeline Janisch	Bennett Turnipseed
May 12-13	Madeline Giblin	Elly Goodenough	Jaden Hammes
May 19-20	Jacob Helgeson	Amalia Hemker	Jacob Hickey
May 26-27	Kendra Hillyer	Morgan Kammel	**Brennan Kennedy
June 2-3	Ben Larson	Tyler Leren	** Dylan Wiese

HOME COMMUNION SERVERS

May 6	Ilene Pavelko
May 13	Daryl Wermedal
May 20	Betty Whitlock/Diane McClintock
May 27	Marjorie Anderson
June 3	Dottie Baumgartner

COMMUNION BREAD (May 19/20) – Sharon Olson

ALTAR GUILD Cindy Averbek & Jaime Fortier

USHERS			
	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30 a.m. / **10 a.m.
May 5-6		Dale Anderson Family	
May 12-13		Karl & Kathy Wehrs	Mike Larson Confirmation Group
May 19-20		Dale Anderson Family	
May 26-27			**
June 2-3		Eric Ender Karl & Kathy Wehrs	**Sjoquist Family

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS			
	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30 a.m. / **10 a.m.
May 5-6	Jon Hetland	Melody Schmitz Shannon Wiese	Jeff & Melissa Haldeman
May 12-13	Judy Gilbert	Paula Heilman Carla Burkhardt	Tracey Beckley Tracy Hesse
May 19-20	Marjorie Anderson	Marty & Jane Frank	Vicky Johnson Wendy Kane
May 26-27	Lee Fernstaedt	Bill & Dori Jensen	** Jim Quamme ** Jason Stefferud
June 2-3	Bonny Goodenough	Mark & Kim Hunter	**Stacey Sjoquist **Dottie Baumgartner

READERS			
	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30 a.m. / ** 10 a.m.
May 5-6	Jeanne Marcou	Melody Schmitz	Jaime Fortier
May 12-13	Kay Niemeier	Kathy Wehrs	Melissa Haldeman
May 19-20	Jim Anderson	Sharon Olson	Class of 2018
May 26-27	Karen DeSchepper	Ann Sprain	**Carla Burkhardt
June 2-3	Marjorie Anderson	Kathy Wehrs	**Jeff Haldeman

Web Site: www.oursaviorswestsalem.org

OUR SAVIOR'S STAFF

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