

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
October 2018

- Pastor's Reflections
- Sunday School/Confirmation
- Stewardship
- Council Review
- Lutefisk Dinner, November
- October 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

OCTOBER 2018

Pastor's Reflections ...



God's Work, Our Hands ... this is Stewardship

For weeks we heard stories about Jesus the bread of life; there was lots of bread! But after a while we run the risk that the bread begins to go stale. I mean *really*, there's only so much you can do with bread. We run out of ideas and, like the bread, we become stale. But is the bread really stale? And are we really stale? The bread of life is stale only if we let it be.

The simple point of the story all those weeks is that Jesus, the bread of life, invites us into relationship with him. How could a relationship with Jesus be stale?

It can't, if the Holy Spirit is involved!

Jesus, the bread of life is active in our lives, calling us to do God's work with our hands; our *ordinary* hands. Look at your ordinary hands ... *really, do it!* ... what is God calling those hands to do? That's where the Spirit comes in!

It's the Spirit leading us. And where is the Spirit leading your ordinary hands?

Think about what our ordinary hands can do here within these walls (that's the Spirit at work) ...

- ♥ Hands for hospitality – extending a hand in welcome to those whom we don't know, serving coffee fellowship, making treats
- ♥ Hands for directing – handing out bulletins, receiving the offering, inviting to the altar, leading the choirs
- ♥ Playing musical instruments
- ♥ Turning the pages of scripture
- ♥ Placing our gifts in the offering plate and hungry jar
- ♥ Placing the sacraments in another's hands
- ♥ Receiving the sacraments
- ♥ Baking bread for communion
- ♥ Holding an infant being washed in the waters of baptism
- ♥ Blessing others
- ♥ Making the sign of the cross

Think about what our ordinary hands can do for others out in the world ...

- ♥ Making quilts that will provide shelter and warmth
- ♥ Knitting prayer shawls to wrap around those who are hurting
- ♥ Caring for the sick
- ♥ Constructing and building
- ♥ Caring for the environment
- ♥ Tilling the soil
- ♥ Feeding the hungry
- ♥ Delivering packages or meals to the homebound
- ♥ Cleaning homes and buildings
- ♥ Opening our wallets to share our wealth

People of all ages and all abilities are called to use our hands ...

- ♥ Folded in prayer
- ♥ Helping the neighbor
- ♥ Helping the stranger
- ♥ Drawing a picture
- ♥ Holding someone who is scared or grieving
- ♥ Writing a letter
- ♥ Signing a card

What is Jesus, the bread of life, calling your ordinary hands to do?

Doing God's work with our hands together here in this place and beyond,

Pastor Jean

“Marked” To Be Faithful Disciples

During October we lift up the center of our lives as faithful disciples of Jesus – we lift up stewardship! Stewardship is about how we use all that God has entrusted to us in our faithful living – our time, our abilities, and yes, even our money. Our stewardship emphasis this year focusses on how we are “marked” in Baptism to nurture others, grow in our faithful living, lead through our service, and receive the gifts of God’s grace, using readings from the Gospel of Mark.



How will we celebrate being “marked?”

- Each Sunday in October, through the witness of different folk each week, we will hear God’s calling to be faithful disciples, stewards, and servants of Jesus.
- Towards the end of the month a mailing will be sent out with the invitation to be a part of God’s work.
- November 10/11 we rejoice in the many ways in which, through the Holy Spirit, we do “God’s work with our hands.” We will welcome Pastor Ben Morris, from Lutheran Campus Ministry-La Crosse, one of our ministry partners, to share the difference we make with young adults.

Join us in living out our “marking” as faithful disciples of Jesus!



**DISASTER
RELIEF**

Disaster Relief – *Near and Far!*

Disaster relief continues in communities near West Salem, and in places we’ve never heard of! Your gifts can help alleviate the suffering and loss in places like Coon Valley and Reedsburg, or as far away as the Carolinas.

For information on local flood relief efforts, go to <https://www.lacrosseareasynd.org/floodreliefefforts>. You can make financial gifts through Our Savior’s by placing your gift in an envelope labeled “flood relief.”

You can also choose to meet needs in the Carolinas by making a gift in a similar way, marked “Hurricane relief.” We will see that all gifts go to where you intend.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School got off to a lively start on Rally Day as we welcomed back students and their parents, our new 4K class, and families new to Our Savior's. The sanctuary was filled with enthusiastic chatter before the children were sent off to meet their teachers, get their pictures taken, and get reacquainted with their classroom grandparents. At the conclusion of Sunday School, many of our families headed over to the Lion's Shelter for Gospel on the Green worship with the SOS Band and the choir, followed by a potluck lunch, and games.

Our Sunday School offerings this year will be collected for **God's Global Barnyard**. Each week the classes will be adding to our barnyard depending on how much offering was collected the week before. We will have cows, pigs, sheep, chickens, and corn to feed them. The more that a class collects, the bigger the animal that is added. Watch our barnyard grow between the pastor's offices.

We invite children Pre-K through 5th grade to join us Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. to find out what our friends from *Whirl* will be up to this year as we learn about Jesus' life and love. Remember ... we love to have friends join us!

Important Dates

Sunday, October 7 - Grades 4K-2 sing at 10:30 am worship

Sunday, October 21 - Grades 3-5 sing at 10:30 am worship

Saturday, December 15 - Christmas Program - Grades 4K-2 during 6 pm worship

Sunday, December 16 - Christmas Program - Grades 3-5 during 10:30 am worship

"... place in their hands the holy scriptures ..."

Our **3rd graders** will continue their journey through the scriptures as they receive a *Whirl NRSV Bible* that will be used these next years of Sunday School and into Confirmation. Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean will gather with parents and students **either Sunday, October 7 OR Sunday, October 14 from 1:30 - 3:00 PM** for a time to discover your Bible. The Bibles will be presented to the students in worship the weekend of **October 20 & 21**.





Hungry Jar Offering for October Lutheran Disaster Relief – Hurricane Relief**

We move from one disaster to another ...

The 2018 hurricane season has produced strong storms with devastating impacts to the United States. Hurricane Florence barreled through the Carolinas and other Southeastern states, causing mass evacuations, strong storm surges along the coasts, and flash flooding throughout the area. As a church, we're ready to stand by our neighbors as they recover from the hurricane. Lutheran Disaster Response is assessing the situation and coordinating with synods and affiliated social ministry organizations in the areas that were in the path of the storm. Our gifts will be used entirely (100 percent) for direct response until it is complete. Together, we can help provide immediate and long-lasting support for those in the path of the hurricane.



***** Remember, the hungry jar isn't just for kids ... "adult size bills" and checks are also welcome (note on the check "hurricane relief"). Thank you for your care and concern for our brothers and sisters in need.***

Confirmation

Confirmation ministry continues in October. 6th grade have classes each week. 7/8th graders have classes, small group time, and electives. 9th graders consider Jesus and Monsters, and then prepare a Halloween party for younger kids. If you know someone who is seeking to join our ministry, see Pastor Jon!



Halloween Party Pre-K to 3rd Grade

**Wednesday, October 24
6-7 PM in the church fellowship hall**

Games, activities, stories, candy...and yes, *even Jesus!*

Come in your costume – a “best costume contest” is part of the evening.
Parents are encouraged to join us!

Sponsored by the 9th grade confirmation class.



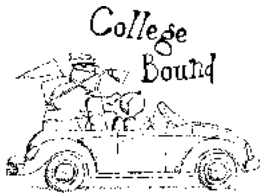
What's going on in the Youth World!?

30 Hour Famine Fund Raiser Meeting

Wednesday, October 17 during the After School Program we will be discussing fund raiser options for World Vision's 30 Hour Famine. Bring your ideas to the table to help feed children across the globe!

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

college+
connection



Last Call ... College Students

We need your **campus address** and your **email address**!
Parents, please get the information to the office or to Pastor Jean.



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: **Tayler Jones** (UW-Whitewater), **Abbey Vick** (WTC), and **Raeann Rich** (UW-Madison).

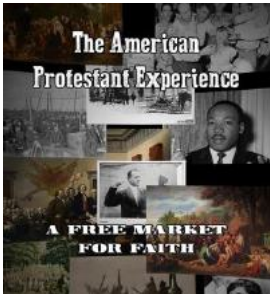
We're looking...

We're looking for a dishwasher for the After School dinners on Wednesdays. Responsibilities include doing the dishes and some light clean up after the dinner is done (around 6 PM) on most Wednesdays. In the past high school kids have done a great job – how about you? The position pays around \$20 per week, and takes about an hour to complete. See Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean for more information.



SENIOR CONNECTION

**Coffee & Conversation at Linda's Bakery
9:15 AM on Tuesday, October 9**



The American Protestant Experience October 8th @ Salem Terrace – 10:00 am Join us for coffee & study



The coffee is perking as we gather for fellowship and study. We meet in the small kitchenette off of the parking lot between Salem Terrace & Mill Street Manor. Feel free to invite your friends.

DID YOU KNOW ...

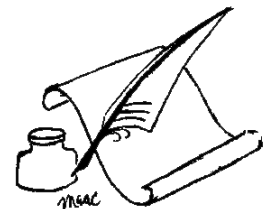
In worship ... We have large print bulletins ... and hearing assist devices.

If you missed worship ... check out the website – www.oursaviorswestsalem.org – to see the service.

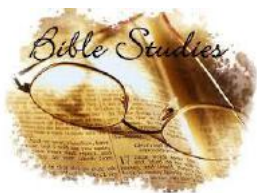


Cards for shut-ins

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.



Adult Studies



Wednesday morning Bible study meets at 9:30 in the Library. Over the past months we have been working on the “Pastoral Epistles,” three letters in the New Testament. Starting in October we will look at 2 Timothy. Come and join us as we explore these short, but very packed letters. No previous knowledge or experience required – just come and enjoy!

School Kits For Lutheran World Relief

We are well on our way to surpassing last year’s sending of 275 school kits. The sixth grade Confirmation class has helped to count and pack bags, as well as the third grade Sunday School class. At this writing, we hope to send 300 kits on the boxcar on October 13!



We will advertise the final tally as soon as we know it. A huge thank you goes to everyone who has supported this project in any way, by giving donations of money, school supplies, time, etc. Many hands have made light work!

We’ve Got Quilts and Kits... *You’ve Got Wheels???*



Our quilts and school kits, over 500 combined, are almost ready to hit the road – but we need some help. We’ve got one vehicle, but could use two more. If you have a pickup or van that can help us transport our boxes to La Crosse on Saturday morning, October 13, see Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean. This is a great way to be a part of an important ministry!



Pastoral Acts:

Baptisms – Kyler Alan Crankshaw – September 16

Marriages – Emily Ender & Nathan Pendexter – September 8

Funerals – Harold (Smokey) Dahl – August 28

Lettie Morgan – September 20



Welcome to New Members!

Recently, Our Savior's welcomed Toccara and Joe Crankshaw, and their family, as new members. Welcome to the Crankshaws...we are grateful to have you with us!

Toccara is from West Salem, and Joe from Holmen. They currently reside in West Salem, with their three children – Makynlee (excited to start 4K this year!), Kaden, and Kyler (who was baptized here at Our Savior's on September 16.) Toccara works at LHI, and Joe is a network engineer.

The Crankshaws love to spend time with family, going on walks and to the park. They enjoy time with the kids on fun adventures including the apple orchard, the zoo, and the Dells. Joe enjoys golfing and expanding his knowledge in networking. Toccara loves to shop and bake. The kids just love to be outside!

How about you? If you are interested in membership at Our Savior's, we'd love to have you. And even if you aren't ready for membership, we are still excited to have you with us. If you are interested in membership, please contact one of the pastors. We'll get you set!

Prayer Labyrinth

Our new Prayer Labyrinth is almost completed, thanks to Kessler Goodenough (and a few friends). The Labyrinth is Kessler's SEP, and is located on the back half of the lot across the street. Bricks mark the grassy path that leads to the center, where there is a place of prayer. The journey, though out in the open, symbolizes a journey away from the hectic pace of life, to a quiet place of prayer and contemplation.



The Labyrinth will be dedicated following the 10:30 worship service on Sunday, October 28. We will ask God's blessings on all who use this space in prayer, meditation, and contemplation. We encourage you to use the Labyrinth as part of your spiritual discipline and to let others know about it – the Labyrinth is open to all to walk!

Veteran's Recognition



Veterans and spouses are invited to an appreciation lunch after worship on Sunday, November 11, from noon to 1 PM. Adam Kennedy's 8th grade confirmation small group wants to thank you for your service and learn from you. Please RSVP to the church office so we are prepared to honor and thank you! See Pastor Jon for more information.

Congregation Council Review

The Congregation Council met on Monday, September 10, with President Ahles calling the meeting to order. At this meeting the council:

- Discussed the first chapter of The Agile Church, and how we see the world around us changing.
- Approved the council minutes, and received financial reports and reports from the pastors, all for August.
- Heard updates from Rental Management. Also heard an update on the ongoing Labyrinth project and Floating Gardens.
- Received Ron and Cindy Oldenburg as new members from St John's, Barre Mills. Also received Josh and Angela Laack, with Isaiah and Campbell from Trinity, Mason City, IA.



The council meets again on Monday, October 8. See one of the pastors or Steve Ahles if you have any questions.

In Loving Memory

Memorial Gifts Received ...

In Memory of Smokey Dahl for choir
From Dennis & Ann Sprain



Mission Endowment Fund Distribution



The Mission Endowment Fund will soon make its annual distribution, and it's looking for your help! We are seeking suggestions on ministries and community programs to support. Each year the fund shares approximately 4% of its value. We anticipate this year to disburse around \$13,000.

Recipients of support from the fund should be in one of three categories. You can get guidelines for suggested recipients from the office. The deadline for suggestions is Monday, October 15.

The Mission Endowment Fund began in 2004, and since then has distributed over \$170,000 to ministries here in West Salem and across the globe. The Fund receives designated gifts, and 70% of undesignated bequests. We are grateful for the generosity of those who years ago remembered Our Savior's and our ministry in their estate planning. They continue, even years later, to make a difference in the lives of people!

Ministry Update

The ministry at Our Savior's continues to move forward. Confirmation and Sunday School classes are underway, with over 200 young people learning about Jesus and the call to be disciples. At nursing homes and assisted living centers around 60 each month worship together, and study time at Salem Terrace remains a "packed house." Over the summer the lunch program fed over 100 twice a week, and the food pantry (sadly) remains quite popular. Pastoral care continues to meet the needs of people, and we have new folk joining us as a community of faith. ***Many lives are being changed through our work together.***



Moreover, Our Savior's continues to be a major supporter of Lutheran Campus Ministry-La Crosse, the World Hunger appeal, and the work of the La Crosse Area Synod. We directly impact the lives of young adults at the three schools in La Crosse, we feed people around the world, and we work together with other congregations to address the challenges we face.

As we enter the final three months of the year see all that is happening, ***in part due to you and your financial support! So...THANK YOU!***

Below is a financial update as of the end of August. We continue to be challenged with the loss of income from the day care that moved out last year. Your support in the next three months is critical...and ***thank you again*** for the partnership we share together. Together, we change lives!

2018 Ministry at Work			
	Actual – August	Actual – YTD	Budget – YTD
Income	\$24,569.71	\$211,258.17	\$240,649.32
Expense	\$28,353.13	\$235,213.69	\$240,882.66
Net	(\$3783.42)	(\$23,955.52)	

Partners in electronic giving since 1998.



Simply Giving

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.

Thrivent Choice Dollars



Remember that if you are a Thrivent member you may have "Thrivent Choice Dollars" to direct. Our Savior's is one of the many potential recipients of your choice dollars, but your direction needs to be made each time. See Thrivent's web site for more information or stop by the office and we will help you out.



ANNUAL MEATBALL AND LUTEFISK DINNER

Saturday, November 3, 2018

Serving begins at 3:30 p.m.

It's been a longtime tradition for Our Savior's Lutheran Church to share its Norwegian heritage by hosting a meatball and lutefisk dinner for our families, friends, and neighbors. All members of our congregation are encouraged to volunteer their time and donations to this event, which supports several mission projects.

We have a sign-up board in the Gathering Area. You are asked to indicate on these sheets your donations and your work time. (We do not call everyone on our membership list; so we ask you to sign up at church or call Lynette Ender at 786-0723 or Bonny Goodenough at 769-0758, or Inger Michael at 397-8944, Chairpersons.)

You have the choice of these donations:

1. Three dozen Norwegian baking or Non-Norwegian baking for the dinner plus one dozen for the bake sale.
2. Three pounds of butter plus something for the bake sale.
3. Three pounds (4-12 oz. bags) of sweetened, cooked cranberries (recipe is on the bag) and something for the bake sale.
4. Two pounds of decaffeinated coffee and something for the bake sale.
5. 50# potatoes (whites, NOT reds)
6. Cash or check donation to cover the cost of the lutefisk and meatballs.

A bake sale will be held in the Gathering Area. The most popular items are Norwegian bakings, nut breads, yeast breads, cinnamon rolls, coffee cakes, pies, brownies, and candy. Please bring your baked goods pre-packaged and labeled as to contents. Homemade craft items may be donated to be sold (a "suggested" price is helpful.) Several quilts will be available to purchase.

Your talents can also be shared by volunteering to work in one or more areas on Friday or Saturday.

1. Cook rutabagas. (Friday a.m.)
2. Peel potatoes, make meatballs, cut-up fish. (Saturday a.m.)
3. Wash cooking pots and pans. (Friday or Saturday 10:30 a.m.)
4. Set up dining room. (Saturday 8:30 a.m.)
5. Cooks --potatoes, coffee, and fish (Saturday afternoon/evening)
6. Table servers, waiters/waitresses, table bussers, ticket sellers, dishwashers, after dinner clean up, or workers in the bake sale, or in the "sweet" room. (Saturday)

Please sign up on the sheets in the Gathering Area.



Thank you ...

...to the September newsletter mailing crew – Connie & Larry Blunck, Bev Bockenbauer, Lizzie Hesse, Sandra Holthaus, Carolyn Karl, Judy Morzinski, Rich & Mary Storandt, and Betty Whitlock.

... to Jerry Willer for making the Communion bread in September.

... to the those who helped make Gospel on the Green a success ... for organizing & coordinating everything: Wendy Kane ... for helping with set up/take down/serving: Paul Fennigkoh, Ilene Pavelko, Campbell Family, Chad & Shannon Vick, Mandy & Nick Bahl, Cindy & Tim Averbek, Eric Sorenson, Kamryn Kane ... for coordinating the games: Eric Iliff ... for staffing the Frolic room: Tracy & Lizzie Hesse ... to the SOS Band for leading us in worship ... to Dean Olson for getting all of the “tech stuff” set up ... to all those who provided dishes to pass (they were yummy!).

... to those who helped get Sunday School rolling ... registration: Bonny & Elly Goodenough, Allison Hemker ... taking pictures of the students & teachers: Pastor Jon, Kamryn Kane ... to all of the Sunday school teachers and helpers!

We have a request ...



There were rave reviews of all of the food we indulged ourselves in at the Gospel on the Green potluck. There were “mystery” dishes (mystery in a good way!) that we tried to dissect and figure out what was in them. In an effort to assuage our curiosity ... and to be



able to prepare it ourselves ... we are inviting those who brought a dish to pass, to share your recipes. If you are willing to share, please send/bring them to the office or to Pastor Jean, and we will put them in future newsletters.

Being good stewards of our resources ...

Wisconsin utilities are partnering in a “Focus on Energy” campaign to provide FREE energy saving products to qualified residential customers. Bangor Municipal Utility and Xcel Energy customers are included. You have a choice of one of six individual energy saving packages that include different combinations of LED bulbs and energy saving showerheads. All necessary information is available online at: focusonenergy.com/simple.



ACOLYTES			
	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Oct 6-7	Noelle Zarecki	Adam Chandler	Madeline Janisch
Oct 13-14	Madelyn England	Kylee Gander	Justin Hennessey
Oct 20-21	Delany Christianson	Zachary Long	Megan Marcou
Oct 27-28	CJ McConkey	Ryan Nickles	Elsa Mitchell

BASKET HOLDERS			
		Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Oct 6-7		Colton Kneifl	Lauren Zarecki
Oct 13-14		Keaton Linse	Celia Mitchell
Oct 20-21		Kenzie Murphy	Sydney Niemeier
Oct 27-28		Ian Nickles	Elliott Sjoquist

USHERS			
	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Oct 6-7			
Oct 13-14		Eric Ender Karl & Kathy Wehrs	
Oct 20-21		Eric Ender	
Oct 27-28		Eric Ender Karl & Kathy Wehrs	

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Oct 6-7	Carla Burkhardt	Mark & Kim Hunter	Dottie Baumgartner Tracy Beckley
Oct 13-14	Judy Morzinski	Sharon Olson Wendy Kane	Rich Clements Marty Frank
Oct 20-21	Lee Fernstaedt	Jason Stefferud Cat Bottem	Denise Jones Carla Burkhardt
Oct 27-28	Judy Gilbert	Larry Blunck Judy Long	Bill Jensen Darlene Affeldt

READERS

	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Oct 6-7	Bonnie Gensch	Marjorie Anderson	Abbey Vick
Oct 13-14	Bonny Goodenough	Kathy Wehrs	Naoko Giblin
Oct 20-21	Lee Fernstaedt	Lynette Ender	Kristin Tschumper
Oct 27-28	Karen DeSchepper	Kathy Wehrs	Dori Jensen

HOME COMMUNION SERVERS

Oct 6-7	Betty Whitlock/Diane McClintock
Oct 13-14	Marjorie Anderson
Oct 20-21	Dottie Baumgartner
Oct 27-28	Bev Bockenhauer

COMMUNION BREAD (*October 20-21*) - Linda Arentz

ALTAR GUILD Wendy Kane / Kamryn Kane / Rebecca Schmidt

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
Kris Seeger, Administrative Assistant	Church Office: 786-0030	
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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		

What is it like to be a Christian?
"It's like being a pumpkin!"



God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off you may have gotten from the other pumpkins.

Then he cuts the top off and scoops out all the yucky stuff.

He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc.

Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see."