

Our Savior's Voice

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

359 Leonard Street N - West Salem, WI 54669

www.oursaviorswestsalem.org

608-786-0030

November 2019



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

November 2019

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Two simple words ... *Thank you*



It was stewardship Sunday, we celebrated the occasion with cake between services and upbeat music. As folks were invited to bring up their intent cards and place them in the baptismal font, we sang “We are marching in the light of God”, but changing the words to “we are *giving* in the light of God.” Pastor Jon then continued with his sermon, talking about how God is like an apple – there are many things one can do with an apple and there are many things that God does in our lives. As we sang “we are *basking* in the light of God”, the children gave everyone in the congregation an apple. In the silence that followed the end of the song, one could hear a still, small voice say with clarity, confidence, and boldness - “THANK YOU!”

We may have smiled as we heard those words, but it should have also made us stop and think. Two simple words ... thank you... but words that were heartfelt, sincere, and unexpected in that moment. Perhaps it takes an innocent child to teach the rest of us.

How often do we stop and say thank you? How often do we take the time to acknowledge an act of kindness, a gift, words of comfort and care, the mere presence of another? How often do we thank God for all that he has gifted to us, not the least of which is our very life?

Thank you - There is power in those two simple words. Power to create relationship, power to let someone know how special they are, power to affirm an action, power to be faithful.

As I sat in worship these last week’s listening to the various voices sharing their stewardship stories, I couldn’t help but think of a time in my life – long ago when I was single, living

I remember sharing how I would look in my wallet on a Sunday morning, find a couple of dollars that I thought I could spare, and put them in the offering plate. I figured that was good enough, I was doing my part. But the more involved I became in the life of my church, the more I saw what we were doing, the more I knew we could do more, the more I wanted to be a part of making those things happen. I also realized I wasn't stopping to say thank you to God for all that he had given me. I wasn't giving out of gratitude, I was just going through the motions. So, I decided to do things differently, I would increase my giving and I would write the check to church first – first fruits, if you will. It was a bold decision and it took courage to do it – it took faith. But in all the years that followed, I never lacked for anything, my bills always got paid, I wasn't deprived of doing things with my friends or traveling with my family, and it felt really good! And I was thankful.

Thankful to be walking
with you,
Pastor Jean





Lutefisk & Meatball
Dinner and Bake Sale
Saturday - November 2

Meatballs & Gravy, Lutefisk, Potatoes, Rutabagas,
Lefse, Cranberries, Tea Biscuits, Norwegian Baking,
Milk and Coffee

Serving from 3:30 - 8 p.m.

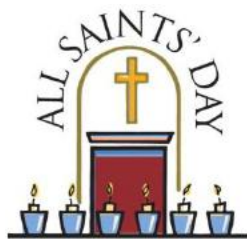
Tickets go on sale at 2:30 p.m.

No advance sale of tickets by seating times

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

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

Dinner Proceeds are Given to Missions



All Saints' Sunday

As in past years, we remember on All Saints' Sunday (November 3) all the saints who have gone before us. We remember in our prayers all who continue to grieve, and we thank God for the gift and witness of all who have gone before us. This year we especially remember those who have joined the church triumphant during the past year, including:

Jackie Hartman ~ November 16, 2018

Kenneth Piper ~ December 12, 2018

Larry Gensch ~ December 22, 2018

Judy Saetre ~ January 16, 2019

Lois Willinger ~ February 4, 2019

Charity "Dawn" Andres ~ March 7, 2019

Diane Pfaff ~ March 7, 2019

Dorothy Romskog ~ March 24, 2019

Joan Houser-Marker ~ April 16, 2019

Roy Hesselberg ~ April 23, 2019

Elaine Erickson ~ August 4, 2019

Wendy Knudtson ~ September 7, 2019

Join us on November 3rd to celebrate their witness, give thanks for their presence, and pray for continued healing for all who grieve the loss of loved ones!



Pastoral Acts:

Baptisms – Daniel Staal – October 12

Alvin Krupicka – October 27



Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday, November 27
7 PM

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



Our Savior's Loves New Members!

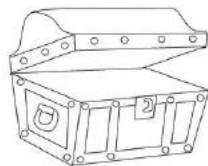
We love new members! If you, or someone you know, is interested in membership, please contact Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean. Membership happens in several ways, so let's connect and see what works best for you. And if you are not ready to join, that's OK – we still welcome you to be a part of our ministries, and are grateful to God for your presence with us!



Sunday School News

Sunday School is rolling along as the children are learning about the stories of Jesus' teachings in the Gospel of Luke. They are an enthusiastic group who don't like to miss being introduced to our story by our *Whirl* friends. Each group sang once in church already and did a great job! They are now preparing for the Christmas programs coming up in mid-December.

We are doing things differently this year with our trips to the treasure box. Everyone is able to participate no matter how many times the children have attended Sunday school. We recently celebrated with 18 students who attended 6 times; 25 who attended 5 times; 19 who attended 4 times; 16 who attended 3 times; and 5 who attended once or twice. It's never too late to join us ...



And remember ... we love to have friends come too!



Our Sunday School offerings this year are being collected for **Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR)**. In the aftermath of the devastation of Hurricane Dorian in August, LDR is on site with people and resources to help with the clean-up process and the rebuilding of lives. And we want to help, too! First comes the removal of the garbage and rubble left behind from the storm. Then the rebuilding. Once the debris is cleaned up, we will be adding bricks, windows, and doors to our house as we help to rebuild shelter for those who have become homeless. Check out our progress in the weeks to come.

Through late October we have collected \$277.

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



Please keep the following 3rd graders in your prayers as they received their *Whirl NRSV Bible* in October after completing a workshop with the pastors:

Jake Bahl
Traenor Campbell
Paige Christianson
Brayden Gander
Sophia Johnson

Addison Kendhammer
Maxwell Langrehr
Olivia Sprehn
Alana Steinke
Addy Tlustosch

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

Adalyn Byom
Collin Fennigkoh
Declan Gilberts
Weston Haldeman
Aubrey Johnson
Brinley Kendhammer

Alma Krupicka
Oakley Mueller
Macy Peterson
Emma Phillips
Trenton Stellick
Peter White

Important Dates

Saturday, December 14 - Christmas Program - Grades
4K-2 during 6 pm worship

Sunday, December 15 - Christmas Program - Grades 3-5
during 10:30 am worship

Confirmation

Confirmation ministry continues in November. 6th grade have classes each week. 7/8th graders have a variety of classes, small group time, Bible studies, and electives. 9th graders ponder the gift of generations, and then spend some time connecting with another generation. If you know someone who is seeking to join our ministry, see Pastor Jon!



Hungry Jar Offering for November - Lutheran Campus Ministry

Lutheran Campus Ministry – LaCrosse (LCM) serves the campuses of UW-L, Western Technical College, and Viterbo University. Partnering with United Campus Ministry, and sharing the facilities of Common Ground, and under the leadership of Pastor Ben Morris, LCM seeks to engage young adults in the midst of some of the most challenging and chaotic years they will encounter – college life! Some are life-long Lutherans, some come from other traditions, and some come without any background. For all, LCM is a place of both challenge and safety. They discover God’s call to faithful living, but also God’s gifts of grace in Jesus Christ. All of this is experienced in the context of a community that seeks to nurture and grow faith and faithful living. Students at LCM worship together, gather for Bible study and reflection, reach out to other students who are searching and sometimes hurting. Most of all they seek to be a voice of welcome and healing in a broken world! Through our support we can make a difference in the lives of young adults.



“Youth and Family Ministry We Stand Together”

Written by Wendy Kane, Interim Youth Director

Breakfast Club

A reminder that Breakfast Club is Sunday mornings from 9:15 -10:15 a.m. in the downstairs kitchen for grades 6 -12.



Breakfast club is growing in numbers of wonderful kids who share a meal and have great conversations. The format has changed a little – we have a menu for each Sunday and each student gets to be involved in the whole process from making the breakfast to cleanup. It is such a great joy to see everyone come together for an hour to grow as individuals each week.

Come and join us ... and remember friends are welcome!

As our students are either away from home or studying in challenging environments,

college
connection



we keep them in our thoughts and prayers. This month please pray for: **Dagan Hemker** (UW-Madison), **Emily Steele** (UW-Eau Claire), **Danielle Schultz** (UW-L), **Jarron Beckley** (Viterbo), and **Tayler Jones** (UW-Whitewater).



SCHOOL KITS FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Thanks to everyone who helped insure the success of the 2019 LWR school kit project. We completed and shipped 161 kits. A

special thank you to all who took time to shop for and donate supplies, without which we'd have nothing to pack and ship. Thanks also to the Wednesday confirmation students for sorting, counting and organizing all the supplies; to the third grade Sunday school students for building 100 kits; and to Krystal Gander, Donald Miller and Eric Sorenson for transporting the school kits (and 248 quilts) to the boxcar in La Crosse for shipment to Maryland. A thank you also to WELCA for once again donating the kit backpacks. Tracking tags will again trace the kits to their eventual destinations. Over the past five years our kits have gone to Honduras, Nicaragua (2), Iraq, Mauritania, Rwanda and Georgia (2). Thanks to all!



“Time to Start Prayin’!”

As we approach the end of the year – and the start of a new one – we will be seeking new persons to share in the leadership *and the ministry* of Our Savior’s. Congregation Council, Mission Endowment, and voting members for the 2020 La Crosse Area Synod Assembly all need to be elected. On November 10 and 17, during worship, we will have some time to *prayerfully* consider those who among us have the gifts to share in these rolls.

But...don’t wait – time to start praying, right now! Pray that God will help you to see who might be gifted and guided to these ministries.



**Prayer and travels
November 11th
@ Salem Terrace –
10:00 am**

**Join us for coffee,
treats & a tour of some
churches in Germany**



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.



**Coffee & Conversation at Linda's Bakery
9:15 AM on Tuesday, November 12**



Adult studies

Wednesday morning Bible study meets at 9:30 in the Library. We continue to explore the Apocrypha. No previous knowledge or experience required – just come and enjoy!



New Church Directory

It's been almost 7 years since our last directory and we have many new families that we would like to get to know. We have scheduled times in late December in hopes of catching our college students while they're home on break, as well as getting the snowbirds before they fly south! Lifetouch will be photographing all of our families for a new church directory. In addition to the directory, we will also have access to an electronic version.

Photography dates

December 19-20 from 2pm to 9pm

December 21 from 9am to 4pm

January 15-17 from 2pm to 9pm

January 18 from 9am to 4pm

Sign up for photography

Visit www.oursaviorswestsalem.org

Call Lifetouch at 866.756.0281 Mon-Fri 8-4

Visit sign up table after service starting November 2

Lakeview Caring Tree

If you able, please choose a tag and buy a gift for someone residing in a nursing home. The gift need not be expensive. Please attach the identification tag to the outside of the wrapped gift and return to the church by December 8. Any questions, please call Kari Coaty 608-612-583. Thank you for caring!



Shop Early ... change lives ...



The average American plans to spend over \$600 on Christmas gifts this year. Yet many of us admit that the tradition of gift-giving leaves us with too much stuff and too few meaningful memories. With ELCA Good Gifts, you can find more than 50 life-changing, charitable gifts – such as a pair of goats, school fees, or a water well – gifts that make a difference in the lives of those who have little or nothing - and give a gift the world truly needs. Each gift can be given in honor of a friend or loved one, and you can send or download a personalized card to let them know about it. Shop now: ELCA.org/goodgifts or we will have our market up and running during the lutefisk dinner and the few weekends following Thanksgiving weekend.

Last year, Our Savior's gave about \$1800 to these life changing gifts! Let's do it again! Could anyone on your Christmas list use baby chicks?

Fall Stewardship Ministry

Thanks to all who have submitted “statement of intent” cards for 2020. If you have not done that yet, we would love to hear from you! You should have received a card in the mail; if not, or if you can’t locate it, contact the office.



We are using statements of intent to determine our ministry goals and objectives for 2020, so your response is very important!

Thank you again – and thank you for all your support of our work together!



Lighting Project

At a special meeting on October 13, the congregation decided to move forward with a proposal to replace our current fluorescent lights with LED lamps. This move will save money, both in electrical use and in maintenance, and will also reduce our impact on the environment. Or, in other words, being “green” will save some “green!”

We are currently working with Upper90 Energy to finalize the details of the project. New lights should be with us soon!



Thank you ...

... to the October newsletter mailing crew - Bev Bockenbauer, Sandra Holthaus, Carolyn Karl, Judy Morzinski, Carol Peterson, Velma Schmidt, and Betty Whitlock.

...to Phil & Judy Gilbert for making the communion bread for October.

From others ...

Dear Ladies of the Mary & Martha Prayer Shawl Ministry Group, Thank you so much for the beautiful prayer shawl that you made and sent to Chris. The colors are beautiful and warm. Chris uses it on her lap when she's sitting and when she takes a nap it's open fully the length of her body. The prayer of Blessing is beautiful and I read it to Chris every day. Please continue to pray for Chris as she continues in rehab.

Peggy Cullnan (Chris' mom)

Hi Folks, Enclosed is a donation in memory of my dad, Robert (Bob) Sr. who died this past Thursday (9/26) at the WI Veterans Home in King. It was just a week ago (9/22) that I visited my dad and we agreed to send a donation in thanks for all your kind attention and fine ministries. As a pastor (UCC) myself, I deeply appreciate when anyone (especially a church) goes "the second mile." Thanks again for your ministry and encouragement(s) to my late mom and dad, likewise to the Pavelko's for bringing Dad to worship! I could say more, but "love" says it all. May your love increase in Christ's name, amen! Gratefully,

(Rev.) Robert Koepke, Jr.

In Loving Memory

Memorial Gifts

Received ...

In Memory of Robert Koepke, Sr.
Family & Friends





Our Savior's Mission in the World *Handbell Choirs*

Another in a series of ministries in which we are engaged as part of our faithful stewardship and discipleship.

Bell ringing is one of the oldest forms of musical art. It is widely believed that the earliest “bells” were large slabs of stone suspended by leather straps and struck with wooden clubs. We’ve come a long way since then!



Our handbell choirs meet weekly from September through May and play for services about every six weeks. We have a three-octave set of Malmark handbells and a two-octave set of Suzuki hand chimes.

One of the challenges a handbell choir faces is the fact that each note is assigned to a specific person. If that person is not there, no one plays that note, which influences the group as a whole. As you can imagine, the level of commitment required by a player is considerable.



Handbells certainly add another dimension to the music of the church. There are so many techniques to master, so many new things to try, so much fun to be had. A group of individuals, working together to make music praising the Lord!

The next time you hear the bells, remember that this ministry happens because of you and your financial gifts. ***Thank you for your support that allows us to make beautiful music - together!***



Congregation Council Review

The Congregation Council met on Monday, October 14, with President Ender calling the meeting to order. At this meeting the council:

- Engaged in discussion and prayer around the story of Jacob in Genesis 32:22-31.
- Approved the council minutes, and received financial reports and reports from the pastors, all for September. Also approved the minutes from the special congregational meeting.
- Discussed the LED lighting project in the building. Appointed Jeff Rich, Eric Iliff, and Carl Wallace to consider choices for fixtures.
- Heard an update on “Forward: Fearless and Faithful” and “Stewardship for All Seasons.”
- Decided to have the pastors assemble a team to review the Child Safe Policy. Heard that the Audit Committee will need to begin work shortly, and that a sample Sexual Harassment Policy will be sent out prior to the November meeting for review.
- Received into membership Scott and Sandra Horstman (transfer from Coon Valley), and Brenda Skittone (reactivation). Also received Jim Tocko as an Associate Member.
- Directed Judy Gilbert to explore some options for refurbishing vacuum cleaners or purchasing new units.
- Heard that synod assembly voting members should be selected sooner this year due to the election of a new bishop. Noted that since the constitution calls for them to be selected by the congregation, they should be elected at the 2020 annual meeting.
- Directed the pastors to develop a process for lifting up candidates for elected offices that involves the entire congregation, and to engage in that process during November.

The council meets again on Monday, November 11. See one of the pastors or Lynette Ender if you have any questions.



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.



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.



Powered By Vanco Payment Solutions

Electronic giving options!

Giving via electronic transfer...

At oursaviorswestsalem.org,

click the “Give” tab at the top.

- Click *Give Online*.
- Your contribution is made directly from your financial institution, and is protected by secure software.
- When making your first gift, set up a GivePlus account.
- You can make a one-time gift, or set up recurring gifts.
- Recurring gifts can be changed at any time.
- Bank transfers have the lowest fees for Our Savior’s, allowing for the greatest amount of your gift to go toward the ministries of Jesus Christ!

Giving via mobile app...

- Visit the App Store or Google Play and search for “GivePlus Church” to download the app for free.
- Select Our Savior’s as your default church.
- Tap *Donate Now*.
- Enter your payment information.
- Review & complete your donation.
- Easily create an account to set up recurring donations and review your giving history.

Giving via text...

- Text to 608-471-7267
- Enter amount
- Send
- The first time you use texting, you will be asked to register your payment information; after that, enter the amount and send the text.

Give in confidence!

At Our Savior’s we take seriously the need for integrity in our financial practices, and we strive to make certain that our resources make a difference in the world. Periodic audits and public reports ensure that we are good stewards of your gifts! And ***thank you for your support!***

Mission Support

As we begin to head toward the close of 2019 we are thankful to all for your faithful support of our work together. A strong finish to the year will be important, and will put us in good shape to complete the ministry God has called us to carry out. So, thank you...and thanks be to God for all the blessings which we have received!



2019 Ministry at Work			
	Actual – Sep	Actual - YTD	Budget - YTD
Income	\$31,650.14	\$229,405.78	\$243,935.24
Prepaid 2018		\$25,547.07	\$25,547.07
Expense	\$27,127.40	\$265,546.65	\$268,786.49
Net	\$4522.74	(\$3816.50)	



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 loved one(s) in this season. You may provide your own plant or we will order a plant for you through Stems Floral Design here in West Salem.

Please fill out this form and \$20 by December 8 to the church office or place it in the offering plate. We will acknowledge your poinsettia in the Christmas bulletins.

_____ Please purchase a poinsettia for me. Cost \$20.

____Red ____ Pink ____ White ____ Marbled - Pink/White

_____ I will provide a poinsettia, but prefer to purchase my own plant. I will have it at church by December 23.

In Memory Of

In Honor Of

Given By

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

WORSHIP LEADERS November 3



8 a.m.

Acolytes Brandon Riley
Readers Kathy Wehrs
Communion Assistants
 Shannon Wiese
 Dori Jensen
Baskets Emma Haun
Ushers Karl & Kathy Wehrs

10:30 a.m.

Sophia Taylor
Fran Noffke

Naoko Giblin
Rich Clements
Jessalyn Hickey
Dale Anderson Family

Home Communion Marjorie Anderson

Altar Guild Kristin Tschumper / Susan Giblin

WORSHIP LEADERS November 9-10

6 p.m.

Acolyte Mali Hemker
Reader Phil Gilbert
Communion Assistant Judy Gilbert
Ushers Phil & Judy Gilbert

8 a.m.

Acolytes Noelle Zarecki
Readers Melody Schmitz
Communion Assistants
 Jason Stefferud
 Pam Gresens
Baskets Makena Ihle
Ushers Pete Arentz Family

10:30 a.m.

Siri Anderson
Gary Berg

Jaimie Fortier
Stacey Sjoquist
Hailey Ives
Andy Bakkum Family

Home Communion Judy Gilbert

Altar Guild Kristin Tschumper / Susan Giblin

WORSHIP LEADERS November 16-17

6 p.m.

Acolyte Mia Bahl
Reader Connie Pinski
Communion Assistant Paula Heilman
Ushers Lee Fernstaedt
 Sarah Hennessey

8 a.m.

Acolytes Mali Hemker
Readers Joe Stekel
Communion Assistants
 Steve & Sue Ahles

Baskets Own Kendhammer
Ushers Eric Ender
 Paul & Tracey Beckley

Home Communion Bev Bockenbauer

Communion Bread Eric Sorenson

Altar Guild Kristin Tschumper / Susan Giblin

10:30 a.m.

Derek Bores
Marty Frank

Tracy Hesse
Denise Jones
Aubrey Langrehr
Ron Bores Family

WORSHIP LEADERS November 23-24

6 p.m.

Acolyte Adelyn Burt
Reader Bonny Goodenough
Communion Assistant Lee Fernstaedt
Ushers Tony Bell Family

8 a.m.

Acolytes Noah Campbell
Readers Eric Ender
Communion Assistants
 Kyle Twite
 Lynette Ender

Baskets Andrew Larson
Ushers Tom Campbell Family

Home Communion Dottie Baumgartner

Altar Guild Kristin Tschumper / Susan Giblin

10:30 a.m.

Haley Chandler
Inger Michael

Jessica Kennedy
Eric Iliff
Leah Leren
Jore Faucett Family

WORSHIP LEADERS November 27 Thanksgiving Eve 7 p.m.

Acolyte	Sophia Clements
Reader	Corey Sjoquist
Usher	Rich Clements Family



WORSHIP LEADERS November 30-December 1

6 p.m.

Acolyte	Brett McConkey
Reader	Bonnie Gensch
Communion Assistant	Judy Morzinski
Ushers	Paul Fortier Family

8 a.m.

Acolytes	Regan Peterson
Readers	Stacy Mitchell
Communion Assistants	
	Jim Quamme
	Kim Arentz
Baskets	Mallory Long
Ushers	Karl & Kathy Wehrs

10:30 a.m.

Morgan Quackenbush
Michelle Witte
Jeff & Melissa Haldeman
Rylee Lyga
Jeff & Melissa Haldeman

Home Communion Pam Gresens

Altar Guild Kristin Tschumper / Susan Giblin

Web Site: www.oursaviorswestsalem.org

OUR SAVIOR'S STAFF

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Eric Sorenson, Senior Choir Director

Karen DeSchepper, Financial Secretary

Josh Corning, Custodian

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