

Our Savior's Voice

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

359 Leonard Street N - West Salem, WI 54669

www.oursaviorswestsalem.org

608-786-0030

November 2021



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 2021

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Pastor's Reflections

Giving Thanks ...

It's that time of year again when we are supposed to stop and think about all that we are thankful for. At first thought that isn't as easy as it used to be. It's been a long twenty months. I don't know about you, but I'm weary, at times overwhelmed, the creative juices are no longer flowing, rather, they're just trickling. As I look around at things that need to be done, things that aren't getting done, and I get discouraged and frustrated. I look back on all that I think I've been missing, all that used to be "normal" and taken for granted, and I grieve and maybe even get a bit angry.

It's really hard to think about being thankful. What could I possibly be thankful for?

Maybe before I start throwing myself a pity party, perhaps I should take another look around, take a good look around. Maybe I should listen to what I preached recently and not just spew out empty words. There was a passage in Mark that talked about Jesus healing a blind man, and we talked about how we don't have to be physically unable to see, in order to be blind. We can be blind with 20/20 vision. We can be blind to what is right there in front of us.

Maybe that's my problem with being thankful, maybe the answer is right in front of me and I'm just "blind" to it. Maybe I need to try again, ask the question again, and open my eyes, and my heart and my mind and the answer might just knock me over because it's so obvious.

So ... what am I thankful for ...

- ❖ I'm thankful for a great start to Sunday School and being able to see "my" kids again and to see how much they've grown and changed, yet they still have energy

and twinkling eyes, and they still know Jesus loves them.

- ❖ I'm thankful for teachers who stepped forward and are willing to teach and share their faith with our kids.
- ❖ I'm thankful for those people who volunteer time and again to help out because no one else will.
- ❖ I'm thankful for warm, clear nights and being able to sit around the fire looking up at the stars in the sky and savoring that "just right" s'more.
- ❖ I'm thankful for friends who were able to visit and friends who welcomed us into their space.
- ❖ I'm thankful for quick trips and being out in nature in the absence of real vacations.
- ❖ I'm thankful for the opportunity to go to Nebraska to a football game and to experience the excitement and energy that goes along with it. And, at the same time to reminisce about family and times spent there as a child.
- ❖ I'm thankful for my family who loves me, for a comfortable home, food on the table, clothes to wear.
- ❖ I'm thankful for a God who loves me and walks with me and holds me and forgives me even when I don't think there's anything to be thankful for.

I guess there really is something to be thankful for! What about you? It's your turn to take the blinders off and look around ... what are you thankful for?

Thankful for you,
Pastor Jean





Worship Updates!

Saturday @ 6 PM
Sunday @ 8 and 10:30 AM

To ensure the safety of all our worshippers, especially children, masks are required. *For our kids' sake we can wear a piece of fabric!*

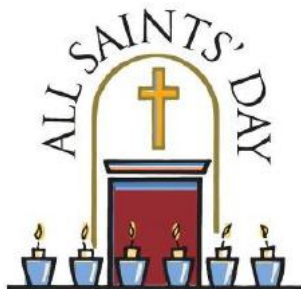


Meanwhile...

Virtual worship options

We **Zoom the later Sunday worship** (check out our home page for the link and have your communion elements handy!)

We also record the Saturday worship and post it later that evening as a YouTube. You can access this worship through our web site: www.oursaviorswestsalem.org/videos. You can watch any time, and you can even catch up on previous weeks.



All Saints Sunday

As in past years we remember on All Saints Sunday (November 7) 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:

Bonnie Ender - December 20, 2020

Leona Friske - January 1, 2021

Carol Reed - January 28, 2021

Judith Peterson - April 8, 2021

Terry Wiemerslage - October 5, 2021

Alice Pfaff - October 6, 2021

Alice Hesselberg - October 7, 2021

Russell McClintock - October 15, 2021

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



Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday, November 24
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.*

Worship will also be "Zoomed!"
See our web site home page for the link.

Pastoral Acts:



Burial – Bonnie Ender – October 9
Funeral – Alice Pfaff – October 15
Funeral – Russell McClintock – October 22
Funeral – Alice Hesselberg – October 23
Baptism – Isabella Hafner – October 24



Coming Soon...

Yes, it's coming! Coming soon...Christmas! We are already looking ahead and considering how we can safely worship together in

our building. We are aware that we ALL want to be back, celebrating the joy and wonder of the season, but we also want this to be a safe celebration.

Watch the December newsletter for details on our Christmas worship, and the steps we will take to ensure your safety and wellbeing, and the safety and wellbeing of those around you. Masks, signups, maybe even a location change are all possibilities.

Regardless, whatever we do, however we can worship, Jesus is still born in Bethlehem and born anew in our hearts. And don't forget that even our celebration has to change, one thing never changes – Jesus is the reason for the season!

Fall Stewardship Ministry



Thanks to all who have submitted "statement of intent" cards for 2022.

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 2022, so your response is very important!

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

Office and Building Hours



Please note that Kris Seeger, our Administrative Assistant, will be on a medical leave beginning November 10. As a result office and building hours will be significantly restricted, open when the pastors are present, or we can arrange temporary office presence. Please call the office before heading out to the building!

Please also keep Kris in your prayers for a quick recovery! We look forward to having her back in the office sometime around the beginning of the year.

**** Please note we require everyone in the building to wear a mask! ****



Looking for ... friendly folks to Usher at worship

As we worship in-person, we are looking for friendly folks (individuals and families!) to welcome those in attendance. We will have the doors open, all we ask is that you greet those who are here, have them sign in, and make sure they get a bulletin. Easy tasks and such an important part of our welcoming ministry. If you are able to spare a few minutes prior to worship, let Pastor Jean know, or better yet, sign up using the SignUpGenius link found here or on the website: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F044CA5A629A7F85-ushers1>

Welcome to Laurie Noelke...

We welcome Laurie Noelke as our new handbell choir director, and assistant worship musician. Laurie joins Linda Berg on our “musician team.” We are excited to have Laurie with us.



A little about Laurie...

I was born and raised in La Crosse. My family has lived in West Salem for 13 years. I have three children – Nick (20), Madeline (18), and Jack (14). I have a bachelor's degree in instrumental music and was a teacher for 12 years. I also have my masters degree in Servant Leadership. Over the years I have taught Sunday School, children's choir, participated/directed Bell choir, director of Parish Education and pianist/organist for over 20 years. Most recently I was the director of music ministries at Halfway Creek Lutheran Church.

Welcome Laurie, we're excited to have you with us!

...and Thank You to Kathy Brisson!

THANK YOU



As we welcome, Laurie Noelke, we also thank Kathy Brisson for MANY years of service as one of our worship musicians. Kathy has decided to now retire, and we are grateful for all she has shared with us. When times return to a bit more normal, and we can gather a bit more freely, we will have a formal “thank you” to Kathy, and a celebration of her many years of ministry.

Until then, ***thank you, Kathy!***



Sunday School has gotten off to a great start – *thank you teachers* – and we are so excited to have our kids back in the building. We are all getting used to the new schedule, and hopefully in November we will be comfortable with the new routine. Remember, it's never too late to join us!

Join us in November:

PreK/4K to 2nd Grade – November 7 and 21

3rd to 5th Grade – November 14 and 28

If you need offering envelopes, let Pastor Jean know. Our offering this year will be sent to Lutheran Disaster Relief.

Thank you to our kids for faithfully wearing their masks!

Bible Workshops for 3rd & 4th Graders

You are invited – *parents and students* – to attend one Bible Workshop. We have four possible dates from which to choose ...



Tuesday, November 2 from 6-7:30 PM;
Thursday, November 4 from 6:30-8 PM;
Sunday, November 7 from 1:30-3 PM;
Sunday, November 14 from 1:30-3 PM

Sign up using the SignUpGenius link
(<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F044CA5A629A7F85-3rdgrade>).



Confirmation Ministry

Confirmation ministry, i.e. “disciple making,” continues! For November...

6th graders meet Wednesday evenings (Nov 3-10-17) at 6 PM to continue their journey through the Bible, with Corey Sjoquist as their guide.

7th and 8th graders also meet on Wednesdays at 6 PM as they explore “servant leadership.”

- 7th grade – Nov 3
- 8th grade – Nov 10

9th graders meet November 3rd at 7 PM. This month they look at the gift of generations through the eyes of faith.

See Pastor Jon for more information on our “disciple making” ministry!

From the Youth Director ...

Because of the problems we have been having with church emails, please note the new email for Wendy –

youthsaviorswestsalem@gmail.com

Hopefully this will eliminate missed emails.

Wendy Amundson, Youth Director

youthsaviorswestsalem@gmail.com



As our college students are studying in challenging environments at home or on campus, we keep them in our thoughts and prayers. This month please pray for: ***Alan Campbell*** (WTC), ***Zane Langrehr*** (Northwest College, WY), ***Liam Sjoquist*** (UW-L), ***Alea Fortier*** (UW-Platteville), ***Trenton Foreman*** (UW-Stevens Point), ***Emily Steele*** (Viterbo), and ***Mahli Fleckenstein*** (Viterbo).



Adult Bible Study

Bible study, live or via Zoom, continues on **Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 11 AM**. We take time to ponder the gospel reading for the coming Sunday, so each session is “stand-alone.” NO previous Bible knowledge is needed – just come and enjoy some great conversation and “faith-deepening” discussions.



We meet in the Gathering Area. If you'd rather join via Zoom, contact the church office or Pastor Jon.



(re)Take the Lutfisk Challenge!

The bad news is...no Norwegian Dinner again this year! We are just not in a spot to be able to safely offer the meal to diners, or to feel safe with our kitchen crew. And that means no dinner, but also no support for a variety of ministries and programs supported by the dinner. Every penny of profit goes to serve people in need, and with no dinner...no profit!

But there is some good news. Last year we offered the “Lutfisk Challenge.” You stepped up and gave financial gifts replacing, and even exceeding the dollars usually raised. And all of that went to programs and ministries that change lives!

Now...this year? Several people have asked if we are going to offer the challenge again. And someone else has already promised \$300. So... guess so! We are (re)taking the Lutfisk Challenge for the sake of those in need, and for the sake of Jesus!

How about you? Can you join them? Can we replace the profits (again) so that we can turn around and share them with programs and ministries that change lives (again)?

You can (re)take the challenge by sending in your gift marked Norwegian dinner. Or just “lutfisk!” Or go to the giving page on our web site (www.oursaviorswestsalem.org/giving) and make your gift there.

For the moment we will need to dream of lutfisk, meatballs, lefse, and more. But we can do more than dream – we can change lives! And maybe next year (we hope and pray) we can return to the dinner, and continue to make a difference in the lives of people in need!

For more information, or more conversation about the challenge and the needs of people, contact one of the pastors!

Looking Ahead...

The last few years we have followed a process of “group discernment” to lift up leaders for the

congregation. Rather than ask for volunteers, or trying to “talk someone into it,” instead we’ve asked you – who do you see around you who has the gifts to be a leader in this community of faith? In the context of worship, we’ve invited your reflection...and your sharing of names.



It’s worked! We’ve received good names, people who then discerned that God has both gifted and called them to the ministry of leadership. Thank you!

But, this year ... that’s a bit tougher to do! Still, we believe that God calls us to ministry, and God gifts us. So ... we’ll ask the question ... who do you see who has the gifts and abilities to partner with us?

We invite you to share the names you discern. Send them on to Pastor Jon, Pastor Jean, or Jen Linse. Your eyes and ears might just be the way God chooses to bring new leaders into the mix!





Lakeview Caring Tree

Lakeview Health Center is once again offering an opportunity to share a gift with a resident. The caring tree with 21 tags will be available starting on November 7th. You can pick up a tag at church or call the office (786-0030) and we will get one for you. You then purchase a simple gift for the nursing home resident on your tag. The wrapped gift should be returned to church by December 5th. Please include the information from the tag on the outside of the package. Call before you come to make sure someone is here to receive your gift. Thank you for helping to make Christmas just a little brighter for our neighbors!

Wands for Wildlife ...



Thank you to all those who have turned in mascara wands. At this time, we do not have enough to send in, so we will continue collecting until we have enough to ship out.

Please bring your **clean**, used mascara wands to church. To clean them: soak in a mixture of dish soap and warm water to get the mascara out of the brush, air dry, and place in a Ziplock bag. *Our little furry friends thank you!*



Thank you ...

... to those who helped with the Reformation Fest worship and gathering ... Linda Berg, Dean Olson, Eric Ender, Wendy Amundson, Kamryn Kane, Brenda Skittone, Chad Vick, Carla Burkhardt, Bonnie Gensch, Jim Michelson, and all who brought treats.

... to those who helped get the LWR quilts and school kits to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for shipping ... the 8th grade girls' confirmation small group who helped pack 132 school kits ... to Wendy Amundson, Kamryn Kane, Bennett, Collin & Harper Fennigkoh, and Carolyn Karl for packing cars and delivering the boxes of quilts and school kits ... to the quilting ladies and others who helped with this ministry for making 302 quilts.

Scrip Cards News

Now available ... Culver's Scrip cards – \$5, \$10, \$20 and \$25! We earn 10% on the purchase of each Culver's card. Grab a card and enjoy a *Butterburger* and frozen custard!

CHECK THIS OUT!



Don't forget we continue to have Kwik Trip, Kwik Trip car wash, Woodman's, and Ship Shape car wash cards. Proceeds go to help World Hunger and Our Savior's Youth programs.

KWIK TRIP

WOODMAN'S



Scrip Cards make great stocking stuffers!



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 \$16,000.

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, November 8.

The Mission Endowment Fund began in 2004, and since then has distributed over \$200,000 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!



Congregation Council

The Congregation Council met on Monday, October 11, with President Jen Linse presiding. At this meeting the council:

- Shared in conversation and discussion about young people and their needs. Ended the time with prayer.
- Approved the minutes of the September 13 Council Meeting, and received the September financial report.
- Heard an overview on what has been happening with our various ministries.
- Heard an update on the tech project and the landscape project.
- Authorized the purchase of new communion ware.
- Authorized using the Synod School of Theology as continuing education for Wendy Amundson, with the congregation covering half her class time, and providing for the cost of classes and books.

The next meeting of the council will be held Monday, November 8th at 7 PM. If you have questions, or if you have ideas for enhancing the ministry of Our Savior's, contact Jen Linse or one of the pastors.

Financial Support Ministry



**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

THANK YOU!!! *Thank you for your continued financial support of our ministry together!* You make a difference in the lives of children and adults, in those across the globe, and those right here in our midst.

Financial gifts can be shared in a variety of ways:

- Your gift can be **shared at worship!**
- You may choose to **mail in** your envelope
- **Electronic transfer**...directly from your financial institution.
- **Mobile app**...Easily create an account to set up recurring donations and review your giving history.
- **Text**...Enter the amount and send the text.

Information on electronic giving options is on our web site at www.oursaviorswestsalem.org/giving.

However you give, give in confidence! At Our Savior's we value integrity in our financial practices. Transactions are made via a secure web portal, and are facilitated by Vanco, an industry leader in online financial products.

***Thank you for your support.
We are grateful for your partnership as
we proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ!***



Shopping Online?

Our Savior's 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.

Direct your
Thrivent Choice
Dollars
Today!



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. A number of Our Savior's folk direct their choice dollars – do you? See Thrivent's web site for more information or stop by the office and we will help you out.



Care and Share Food Pantry

The Care and Share Food Pantry is open Saturdays, 10 AM to Noon. Food can be dropped off during office hours. Thank you!



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 have your form and \$22 returned to the church office by December 10. We will acknowledge your poinsettia in the Christmas bulletins.

_____ Please purchase a poinsettia for me. Cost \$22.

_____ 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 22.

In Memory Of

In Honor Of

Given By

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

Web Site: www.oursaviorswestsalem.org
OUR SAVIOR'S STAFF

Pastor Jonathan Schmidt, Senior Pastor 612-0217

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Jill Iliff, Treasurer

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Linda Berg, Organist/Choir Accompanist/Director of Music

Email: linda@oursaviorswestsalem.org

Eric Sorenson, Senior Choir Director

Karen DeSchepper, Financial Secretary

Josh Corning, Custodian



Newsletter Deadline – November 15

**Don't forget to turn your
clocks back on November 6!**



Our Savior's Lutheran Church
359 Leonard St N
West Salem, WI 54669

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Permit #21

Change Service Requested