

Our Savior's Voice

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

359 Leonard Street N - West Salem, WI 54669

www.oursaviorswestsalem.org

608-786-0030

August 2022



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.***

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August 2022

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Memorial Day weekend (May 29)
through Labor Day weekend (September 4)

Saturday – 6 PM
Sunday – 8 & 10 AM

Masks are NOT currently required, but if you feel safer with a mask, we encourage you to wear one!

Meanwhile...

Virtual worship options

We **Zoom 10:00 AM 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.

Pastor's Reflections

I am a numbers person. I watch numbers for lots of things, and while sometimes it becomes a bit of an obsession (just ask my wife about that!), it's usually a helpful way to get a handle on where life is at these days.

Last month I gave you a taste of that as I considered what it means that God is always "making things new," even in our worship experience. That reality continues. As I write this (mid-July), this week has been a good example. Last Sunday we had 95 in worship. But we had another 14 watching DVDs we distributed, and as of this moment (Saturday morning) the YouTube worship has 44 views – the experts say about 80 viewers. So, as I write this, we have almost 200 from last weekend – and that is great!

But...the pews were still a bit empty, and we are still wondering where the pandemic is taking us. Moreover, as Lynette Ender shared in her recent sermon (great job, Lynette!), a lot of our "Martha type" ministries are on hold, or even "are no more." So...what does this all mean?

At our recent Synod assembly, we watched a video. The Synod had requested each congregation send a picture of a ministry, with a one sentence description. I sent in a picture of our summer lunch ministry. As the video played, I saw lots of ministry around our synod – really good ones. Some were food ministries, some were about clothing. Others involved service – cleaning projects, caring for those in need, and reaching out to parents and children. I watched them all because they were engaging and inspiring – and because ours was the last one! The point of the video was to remind us that even in disrupted, challenging times, we are still doing "God's work with our hands."

That got me thinking.
What if we did the same



thing here? At Our Savior's? What would our video look like?

Well, of course, we'd start with summer lunch. Did you know...other than the three weeks where the school has a grant to provide lunches to all the kids in summer school...we have been providing almost 400 meals a week? And even better than that, its not just been us alone...we have brought together people from other churches, from businesses, and from organizations...brought together to do mission...to do God's work? Sure, it sounds nice to say we did it all, but we did better – we provided an opportunity for the community to come together. That is awesome...and that is God's work!

By the way, I don't know who all is a part of summer lunch...I know Angie Hemker and Connie Pinski, but I also know there are even more involved. You know who you are, and so does God...so, thank you!

But what else would be in our video? Maybe...

- Food Pantry – more food, more community, more of “God’s work.” Lots of folk in this congregation and from the community. And again, God knows who you are!
- The quilting ladies – still working hard, even in the summer months. A group that gathers on Wednesdays, but also hands at work at home. Maybe that’s why they are setting new records. I remember when 200 quilts were a big deal. Now we’re shooting for 300. 300 people around the world, gifted with warmth and color. God’s work...
- Musicians of all kinds enhancing the various ways we worship – in person, DVD, YouTube, and even our worship once a month at Lakeview, Salem Terrace, and Mulder’s. God’s work, your hands, your fingers, and your voices!



- People soon to bring in supplies for school kits. I don't know who will do that, I just know we will see the pile begin to grow. God's work...even in crayons and erasers!
- Prayer shawls makers. They used to meet together, but while that is not happening, the prayer shawls keep arriving. A shawl to wrap someone in need, reminding them they are wrapped both in prayer and in God's embrace. Again...God's work...
- Teachers and others who love kids beginning to think about the fall and sharing faith with kids and teens. God's work through their time, energy, and talent – and hands too!
- The financial giving that provides resources to fight hunger around the world, and meet the needs in Ukraine. People putting their money where their mouth is, not just saying a good line, but giving for the sake of "God's work."



- Kids off to Sugar Creek...learning about a God of love, and the call to be disciples of Jesus...and doing that with significantly greater financial assistance from Our Savior's, as we partner with Sugar Creek to do God's work.

That's a list...but wait! There's more!

Like all the stuff we do outside of church. Like all those who are in health care, sharing gifts of healing and wholeness. Or teachers and others in education, getting ready for another year of nurturing young lives. Or retail workers (like grocery stores) ... service providers (like restaurants and auto mechanics and more) ... and volunteers of all sorts...all of them, in a variety of ways, serving others, and all in subtle ways, doing God's work with their hands. We've got a lot of them in this congregation!

And then...my favorite recent example...the individual (you know who you are) who visited several of our residents at Onalaska Care Center (my mother was one of them) ...bringing flowers and a treat from Linda's. Nice, very nice. Then I visited someone in

another nursing facility, this time in La Crosse. They had been there too! A treat from Linda's to brighten a day. God's work...yet again!

Hey, that would be quite the video, don't you think? Let's see...I started with summer lunch...went through quilts, erasers, music, prayer, kids and teens, dollars and cents, health, wholeness, groceries, car repairs, and ended with Linda's. And all of it... God's work!

So, no more numbers to share, and maybe the numbers we see aren't what we'd like to see quite yet, but the video would be full and rich. And it would remind us of two things:

1. God is at work in our lives. No doubt about that!
2. God's work is happening with our hands. No doubt about that, either!

So, I'll tell you what I am trying to tell myself. Don't worry about the numbers. Just be faithful, and be what we have been gathered to be – BE the church, wherever you are.

That's how God's work happens – with our hands!

Pastor Jon

Vacation

Pastor Jon returns to the office on August 4 after his time away. If you have need of pastoral care prior to that, please contact the office. Thanks to Pastor Kris Bjerke-Ulliman for leading worship in his absence!

What time is it?

It's School Kit Time!

Start watching for school supplies for the school kits we assemble and send, literally around the world, through Lutheran World Relief!

Each School kit contains the following:

- 1 – 30 cm ruler
- 1 – pencil sharpener
- 1 – BLUNT scissors
- 5 – unsharpened pencils
- 1 – box 24 crayons
- 1 – 2-1/2-inch eraser
- 4 – 70 sheet notebooks (no loose-leaf paper)
- 5 – blue or black ball point pens (no gel ink)



Watch for a collection site in the gathering area. Start the shopping and make a difference in the lives of children!

Bible Study



Bible study, live or via Zoom, resumes on August 10, 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 Library. If you'd rather join via Zoom, contact the church office or Pastor Jon. We can make that happen!

Corn Roast

Our Savior's annual Corn Roast isn't just a great tradition – it's a great gift to the community. **EVERYONE** in our community is welcome to a free meal of corn and other goodies. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us!



For 2022 the Corn Roast date has been set for Wednesday, August 10, serving from 4:30 - 6:30 pm.

To make it happen...we will need folks to help with preparations, serving, and bar-making, so look for the signups at church. The corn roast is a great gift to the community around us, so come and join us as we serve the people with a small gift of life! Contact Carla Burkhardt or Judy Gilbert with questions.

Chancel Choir

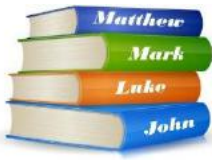
It's back! The Chancel Choir returns this fall, sharing in the ministry of music during worship.

Watch for the rehearsal schedule, starting in late August or early September. Never sang in the choir? We've got a spot for you – see Eric Sorenson, or contact Pastor Jon or the office, and we'll make sure you get connected.



Synod School of Theology

The La Crosse Area Synod School of Theology resumes in-person learning this fall! Classes are held Thursday evenings from 5:30-9:00 pm, September 22-October 27, and are held here at Our Savior's. Two classes are offered each trimester, with a cost of \$25/class, along with any books needed. There are no exams! You learn what you want to learn, at your speed, and you take the classes you want to take.



This fall the classes offered are “Gospels,” taught by Pastor Mark Kvale, and “The ELCA Experience,” taught by Bishop Malpica and Pastor Dionne Stepanek.

For more information see Pastor Jon, or check the synod web site at lacrosseareasynod.org/school-of-theology.

College Student Connections

Staying at home...or going far away...if you or your child is heading to college this fall, please let us know. We'd like to know school, year, e-mail, and campus address so we can keep in touch and remind them that they are prayed and cared for by Our Savior's. Information can be sent to Pastor Jean or the church office. Happy studying!

Norwegian Dinner

People have asked...*are we having a Norwegian Dinner this year?* We don't know yet. But if you want to see this ministry continue, we invite you to be a part of the conversation on how we can do that. We hope to gather a small group in the near future to consider how best to have the dinner. We'd love to have your input. And remember that this is more than a meal – the Norwegian Dinner becomes part of our outreach into the community as all the proceeds go to programs that meet human needs. See Pastor Jon if you are willing to be a part of the conversation about this ministry!

Mission Endowment Fund

Each year the Mission Endowment Fund distributes around \$15,000 to agencies and programs in our community and around the world that meet human needs. We are looking for your suggestions for appropriate disbursements for the endowment in early 2023. Guidelines on what can be funded are available from the church office, but most agencies and programs that meet human needs qualify.



This year the fund disbursement will be recommended by the committee, but approved by the annual meeting. Your suggestions are the first step in that process. Suggestions will be received through October, and can be submitted to the office.

For more information contact Melody Schmitz, or see one of the pastors.

Gospel on the Green

Worship at the Lion's Shelter!

Sunday, August 28 – 10 AM

Across from the church parking lot

SOS Band leads worship
Holy Communion celebrated
Bring your own seating

Come and join us as we
worship together
outdoors, celebrating the
gifts of God's grace
as summer nears its end!

*Saturday and Sunday 8 AM
worship remain in the
building.*



Pastoral Acts:



Funeral – Kathy Iverson – July 9

Baptism - Archie Bungartz – July 31

Faith Formation for Kids

Faith formation – and discipleship training – for children and teens (usually called “Sunday School” and “Confirmation”) starts up again in September. Watch for the details. A big year is on the horizon – and remember, friends and new participants are ALWAYS welcome!

Are You Ready? Make a Difference!

Our “faith formation” for children makes a real difference in the lives of our young people, and folk come to Our Savior’s because we care about kids. YOU can be a part of this exciting and life-changing ministry! How? Share some of your time as a “Sunday School teacher,” or a in support of a teacher. Teachers can teach “solo,” or work in a team. Either way, you are making a difference!



As we look ahead to this coming year we have some spots open – *maybe open just for you?* Pray about where God is calling you to “make a difference,” and contact Pastor Jon if you hear God’s voice on this one!



Sabbatical Update

Pastor Jean's sabbatical continues...but while she's been gone she's been reconnecting with important people from her past...she's engaged in some long lost loves (cooking and sewing)...and she has worshiped in some different ways and places. She's also been working on the cookbook.

There is still time to get your recipes in. You can submit them to the office, or online (you can find the link on our home page – www.oursaviorswestsalem.org – and scroll down to the bottom of the page).

Pastor Jean will return to the office on Tuesday, August 23rd, working half days that week as she transitions back to full speed ministry. Thanks to all of you for your support as she had the opportunity to refresh and renew.

Welcome!

We have new members...and one of them is Katrina Lewis. Katrina comes to us as a transfer from the Madison area, but...she's really just coming back!



Katrina is from West Salem originally, and after stops in Minneapolis, La Crosse, and Madison, she is back with her two children. She enjoys gardening, hiking, and fishing in her free time. She works full time at Festival Foods, and loves being a Mom – which means supporting her kids in their softball and wrestling. Welcome, Katrina!

Youth Ministry Changes

With some changes in her career, Wendy Amundson has stepped back from serving as our Director of Youth Ministry. We thank Wendy for her service, and ask God's blessings on her work (she works with special needs individuals – a ministry in and of itself!) Please keep Wendy in your prayers in her daily life!

But that also means...



Youth Ministry Position Available

We will be seeking a new individual to take on the youth ministry duties at Our Savior's.

This is a position of up to 20 hours/week, with a special emphasis on the Wednesday After School ministry. The position requires an ability to work as a team, a love of children, and the flexibility to “go with the flow” and be creative. If you have an interest, or know someone who might, see Pastor Jon or Jen Linse.

Hospital Visitation

With the changes in hospital visitation protocols it is more difficult for the pastors to “just drop by” and visit. Still, we want to be there for you! If you are anticipating a hospital stay, or find yourself there unexpectedly, and want a pastoral call, please contact the church office. We will be happy to visit!

Tech Project Delays

It's coming...it really is. We continue to have some small delays in getting the equipment we need, but we are hopeful that the install will happen during the month of August.

We also thank those who have contributed towards this project – over \$15,000 has been received. And remember – you can make a gift towards covering the cost of the project. This project will enhance the audio in the building and add a screen for projection, and also allow high quality livestream of our worship and recording for online use. You can be a part of this new ministry outreach.

For more information on the project see Pastor Jon or Dean Olson.

Congregation Council Review



The Congregation Council did not meet in July – a month off for good behavior...and some summer down time!

The council will meet again Monday, August 8 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.



Thank you ...

...to the July newsletter mailing crew – Connie & Larry Blunck, Bev Bockenbauer and Carolyn Karl.

Received from others ...

Dear Our Savior's, thank you for contributing to me to go to Sugar Creek. Night camp was so fun. One night we stayed up until 5 am! We went horseback riding and swimming. I made a lot of new friends and really enjoyed worshipping with them. I can't wait to go next year.

Anna Gross

Dear Our Savior's, thank you for helping me get to Sugar Creek. I had a great time making new friends and getting to learn more about God.

Amy Stefferud

In Loving Memory

Memorial Gifts Received ...

In Memory of Kathy Iverson
From Arlan & Sandra Holthaus

In Memory of Kathy Iverson
From Family & Friends





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.

As we approach the fall months ministries continue and will increase. Your financial support makes that possible!

Financial gifts can be shared in worship, by mail, or placed in our locked mailbox. You can also make gifts electronically. Go to www.oursaviorswestsalem.org/giving to find out more!

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

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!



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 – ***think Sugar Creek Campership support!***

Web Site: www.oursaviorswestsalem.org
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Eric Sorenson, Senior Choir Director
Karen DeSchepper, Financial Secretary
Josh Corning, Custodian



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!



Newsletter Deadlines – August 15

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
359 Leonard St N
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Change Service Requested