

Our Savior's Voice

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

359 Leonard Street N - West Salem, WI 54669

www.oursaviorswestsalem.org

608-786-0030

November 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.***

Our Savior's Voice

November 2022

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Pastor's Reflections

“Thanks-giving” ...

All Saints... Norwegian Dinner...

Thanksgiving... turkey... lefse... and yes, even lutefisk...all November moments that touch on blessings. And all reasons for November to be a month of “thanks-giving.” (But...spoiler alert...there are even more!)

Now, to be sure, there are reasons for “thanks-giving” all the time. The gift of Christmas and the coming of the Christ Child...the death and resurrection of that Christ Child...the renewal of life in spring and the growing of crops and produce during the summer...

Lots of reasons for “thanks-giving” year ‘round. And if nothing else, every morning I wake up, every day I have, is reason for giving thanks. So, November, yes, but thanks-giving is also about the other 335 days of the year.

But back to November. November seems to be just a bit above the rest. Maybe because “thanks-giving” is so evident in a month with “Thanksgiving.” And not just because it’s the thing to do, to once a year pause and intentionally give thanks. No, there is more to this “thanks giving” thing.



Although we usually associate Thanksgiving Day with the Pilgrims, it wasn’t until 1863 that President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national holiday at the end of November. Think about that for a moment – 1863 – in the depths of the Civil War. Death, war, hopelessness, fear, uncertainty. And yet in the midst of it all, we were called to “give thanks!” Thanks not just because we’ve got a turkey in the oven, and all the

fixings ready for the feast, but thanks that even in the most difficult of times, there are countless reasons to offer thanks to a good and gracious God.

Even today, as political tensions are high, the economy is hurting, climate change is getting worse, war in Ukraine includes nuclear threats, and Covid is still out there. Today. A time to give thanks!



And that is what we shall do – give thanks! “Thanks-giving,” all the way from lutefisk to Advent wreaths.

How so? Let’s start with the lutefisk! OK, I’m into the meatballs myself, but the **Norwegian Dinner** starts our month. *Thanks to be offered for the goodies, the opportunity to work together (it really is a lot of fun!), the celebration of heritage, and the many ways in which the proceeds of the dinner change lives as we support the work of a variety of agencies and ministries.*

And then, the next day – **All Saint’s Sunday** we remember those who have died over the past year, who have joined the saints around the throne of God. *Thanks, offered as we celebrate the gift of their lives, and the gift of all those who have gone before us.*

That’s a lot of thanks-giving, and we’re only through the first six days of the month. What more could there be? Read on!

The second weekend of November is **Stewardship Weekend**. Ugh! Time to talk money! What’s this got to do with giving thanks? Consider this...your financial gifts enable our many life changing ministries. Or, to put it another way, your stewardship is your opportunity to be a part of (are you ready for this?) God’s work in our world!

How awesome is that? *So...thanks offered for the gift of being able to change lives as we work together in the ministry God places before us.*

Which then brings us to the third weekend...and in worship we will take the time to recognize and be thankful for the **funeral lunch ministry**, which has touched the lives of so many. And so, *thanks to be offered for the hard work of so many on the funeral lunch teams, for their dedication, their providing a meal and space for the grieving and support to take place.*

Now, time for a “mid-week” pause.

Thanksgiving Eve, and we do the traditional thing – give thanks! *Thanks, offered to a gracious God for uncountable blessings, even in the difficult times.* From 1863 to 2022 (and beyond) God blesses us even when it looks the bleakest, the hardest, and the darkest. Thanks be to God!



Back to a weekend...Advent begins November 26/27, we light a candle on the wreath, begin the days of preparation for the coming of the Christ Child, and...give thanks! We celebrate that day, the many years of ministry provided by **Kathy Brisson** as one of our musicians. Worship, funerals, working with children – she’s done it all! *Thanks, offered to Kathy, but even more, thanks offered to God for the gift of Kathy, her music, and the many ways she has impacted and changed the lives of God’s people!*

And then...we make it to the end of the month, and back to a Wednesday as we gather for the **Hanging of the Greens** and ponder the many ways the Christmas message is proclaimed – words, music, symbols, and more! And once more...*thanks offered for the Christ Child who is to come, and for the ways we can celebrate and rejoice in God’s presence in our midst.*



Loads of blessings, and lots of “thanks-giving.” From the fixings of a dinner, steeped in tradition and ministry, to the fixing of the “greens” that set our eyes ahead to the manger. From the lives of saints who have gone before us, to the ministries of the saints among us. From the opportunity to be a part of God’s work, to the thanks we can

offer for all of what God has done for us. Thanks abound, because blessings surround. God is good, God is gracious, God is generous. And for all these things and more, just what can we do but...give thanks?

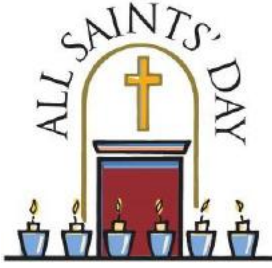
So, I invite you to join us in giving thanks. Be with us for worship, for dinners, for rejoicing the past, and eagerly anticipating the future. And if you cannot be with us, don’t just talk about, but do it – *give thanks* – wherever you are!

But most of all know that even though little has changed from 1863 – the world remains broken, hurting, stressed, and fearful – we are still blessed in ways that we see, and even more, ways which we cannot see – by a gracious God, who in the person of Jesus and through the power of the Holy Spirit – renews and restores us, again and again and again.

And for that, *thanks are offered again, and again, and again!*

Pastor Jon





All Saints Sunday

As in past years we remember on All Saints Sunday (November 6) 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:

Larry Indahl – November 22, 2021

Robert Knutson – December 3, 2021

Alice Gums – March 18, 2022

Judith Romskog – February 18, 2022

Charles Paulson – March 24, 2022

William Nehls – April 10, 2022

James Johnson – May 18, 2022

Gregory Craig – May 24, 2022

Larry Larson – May 29, 2022

Carol Pederson – June 10, 2022

Kathy Iverson – June 16, 2022

Norma Marking – June 16, 2022

David Witte Sr. – June 19, 2022

Dale Anderson Sr. – August 21, 2022

Levi Beckstrom – August 26, 2022

Barbara Zitzner – September 21, 2022

Evelyn Anderson – September 22, 2022

Bob Olson – October 16, 2022

Marvin Iverson – October 20, 2022

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!



Stewardship Ministry November 12/13

Blessings...hopes...prayers...and making a difference! That's our stewardship ministry for this year.

In late October you received a mailing (if yours didn't arrive – let us know!) with the invitation to join in our mission to “make a difference” in the world. We do that in our many ministries, and those ministries happen because of YOUR financial support! For that reason, we are bold to invite your continued support of the ministry we carry out together.

But wait! There's more! We make a difference, but we also celebrate blessings, live in hope, and offer our prayers. And so we invite you to share an estimate of giving, but to also share your blessings, hopes, and prayers. Two cards, one for the estimate, and one for the blessings-hopes-prayers were included in your mailing.



We invite you to join us in worship on November 12/13, as we ponder our calling to be faithful stewards in light of Jesus' promise that “not a hair of your head will perish” (Luke 21:18). Empowered by God's gifts of life, we will go forth to be faithful disciples of Jesus!

If you are not able to join us, we still welcome your responses – both the estimate of giving and blessings-hopes-prayers.

Either way, we thank you for your partnership in the gospel of Jesus, and we ask God's blessings on the ministry you carry out every day.



Funeral Lunch Thank You!

November 19/20

For so many years, our Funeral Lunch team has provided a meal – and the space – for families and friends to share and support one another after the funeral of a loved one. Coming out of the pandemic, however, our world has changed, and, for the foreseeable future, the ministry is being placed on hold. *Our building, however, does remain available for catered meals.*

But...that does not diminish the value of the ministry that has been shared so many times over the past years. We are so grateful to the members of the Funeral Lunch team, those who had been recently serving, and those who served over the years. They have made a difference in the lives of others, especially at a difficult time in life. So, join us on November 19/20 as we thank them for their work, and as we thank God for them!

Kathy Brisson Thank You!

November 27

Coffee Hour and 10:30 Worship

THANK YOU



After many years of music ministry Kathy Brisson has stepped back from her role as Assistant Worship Musician. We are grateful to Kathy for all she has shared through the years, her faithful weekend worship music, and her partnership in the ministry of grief as she played for many funerals over the years. Although rarely seen (she was up in the balcony!), we heard her music, and were blessed with the gifts of God she shared with us.

Join us on Sunday, November 27, for some special coffee hour treats, and then at the 10:30 worship, as we thank her for all her ministry, and as we thank God for her presence over so many years.



Thanksgiving Eve Worship

**Wednesday, November 23
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.



Hanging of the Greens

**Wednesday, November 30
7 PM**

*Getting the house ready!
We sing...and decorate...and celebrate...*



Worship Update

Saturday 6 PM

Sunday 8 & 10:30 AM

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

Meanwhile...

Virtual worship options
remain...



We **Zoom 10:30 AM Sunday worship** (check out our home page for the link and have your Communion elements handy!)

We also record worship and post it as a YouTube by 10:30 am on Sunday. You can access this worship at any time through our web site: www.oursaviorswestsalem.org/videos ... You can even catch up on previous weeks!



Pastoral Acts:

Funeral - Barbara Zitzner - September 24

Funeral - Evelyn Anderson - October 4

Funeral - Bob Olson - October 29

Baptism - Adalyn Peterson - October 2

Marriage - Allison Rigotti & Tyler Boudry - October 22

Faith Formation ...



We are having fun in Sunday school hanging out with our friends in class, learning about Jesus from our teachers and our buddies in the *Whirl* videos.

It's hard to believe, but we are beginning to practice the songs for our Christmas program. Remember, if you want a speaking part, please tell your teacher or Pastor Jean ASAP.

Thank you for your Sunday school offerings for Lutheran World Relief personal care kits. The contents of each kit costs about \$13. Our offerings will "purchase" the needed items. Let's see how many kits we can "assemble" this year! (If you still need envelopes, talk to Pastor Jean.)



Important Dates

Saturday, December 10 - Christmas
Program practice - 9-11 AM

Sunday, December 11 - Christmas
Program - during 10:30 AM worship





Faith Formation ... Confirmation Ministry

Confirmation instruction for 6-9th grade continues in November, with no classes on November 23 (Thanksgiving Eve).

6th grade ... every Wednesday from 6-7 PM

7th and 8th grade ... 6-7 PM

- 7th grade – Core class – November 2
- 8th grade – Core class – November 9
- Electives – November 16 and 30

9th grade ... class November 2 at 7 PM ... followed by a “senior” project.

And don't forget ... **After School each week** starting ... after school ... and ending ... with dinner at 5:30 PM ... then off to class!

Hungry Jar Offering for November – LaCrosse Warming Center



The La Crosse Warming Center's mission is to work with the greater La Crosse community to better serve those experiencing homelessness with dignity and respect by providing a safe and warm place for homeless adults 18 years and older to get in out of the cold during the winter months from November 1 until April 30. The Warming Center is located downtown at 413 South Third Street in La Crosse. Guests are able to take a shower and wash their clothes.

As our college students are studying in challenging

college
connection



environments at home or on campus, we keep them in our thoughts and prayers. This month please pray for: **Adam Chandler** (Carroll University), **Delaney Christianson** (Viterbo), **Connor Koepp** (UW-Eau Claire), and **Bailee Peterson** (UW-Madison).

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. We can make that happen!



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Update

We are excited to report that we sent out 300 quilts, 218 personal care kits, and 101 school kits!!

Great job quilters ... those who are here on Wednesdays and those who work at home!!



Thank you to all who provided fabric, sheets, and thread. Thank you also to all who provided items for the school kits and personal care kits.

Funding for the school kit bags was provided by Thrivent. Thanks to Jim Michelson for making sure there were enough supplies for 101 kits and organizing their filling.

Thank you to the Confirmation After School students who helped sort, count, organize, and pack LWR School Kits, and who also helped repack 120 LWR Personal Care Kits.



Thanks also to Mrs. Stefferud's and Mrs. Sjoquist's 3rd and 4th grade Sunday school students for the final packing of over half the LWR School Kits. These activities were interrupted the past two years by the pandemic.

Thank you to Eric Sorenson, Carla Burkhardt, Carolyn Karl, and Josh Corning for loading cars and getting the quilts and kits to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for shipping

Welcome...

At the September Congregation Council meeting we received Trudy Drugg as a new member.



Trudy transferred here from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Wells, MN. She works at City Brewery in purchasing and production scheduling. She enjoys DIY projects, quilting, reading and exercise, especially playing with her grandchildren.

Trudy has been a widow since 2015. She has two daughters and three grandchildren. Her daughter, Leslie Vike, is one of our newer members, and she is a sister to Dori Jensen.

Welcome, Trudy!



*Thank you ...*to the October newsletter mailing crew: Larry & Connie Blunck, Bev Bockenhauer, Carolyn Karl, Marion Twite-Stensven



Blood Drive

November 7

12:30 – 5:30 pm

West Salem Presbyterian Church



Norwegian Dinner & Bake Sale Saturday - November 5 3:30-6:30 PM

Meal with both Lutefisk & Meatballs - \$18
Meal with Meatballs only - \$16

All meals carry-out. No wait staff, but feel free to eat with friends in the fellowship hall.

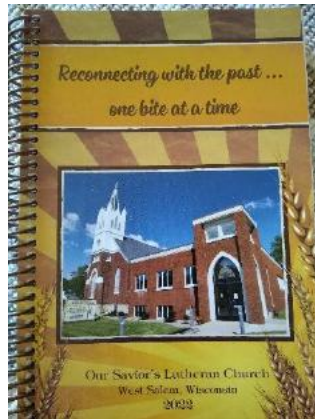
Meatballs & Gravy, Lutefisk, Potatoes, Rutabagas,
Lefse, Cranberries, Tea Biscuits, Norwegian Bakery

All dinner proceeds are given to Missions.



Lakeview Caring Tree

Lakeview Health Center is once again offering an opportunity to share a gift with a resident. The caring tree will be available starting on November 15th. You can pick up a tag at church or call the office (608-786-0030) and we will get one for you. You then purchase a simple gift for the nursing home resident on your tag. The wrapped gift, along with the tag on the outside of the package, should be returned to church by December 9th. Thank you for helping to make Christmas just a little brighter for our neighbors!



Hot Off the Press ...

The Cookbooks have arrived!

Check out Pastor Jean's sabbatical project ...

*"Reconnecting with the past ...
one bite at a time"*

\$15

(Proceeds go toward the roof fund.)

Thank you to all who provided recipes and stories for this project. Everyone was entered into a drawing to receive a free cookbook ... our confirmation-after-school-kids pulled the winning names. Congratulations to:

Emily Steele, Sawyer Kerkman, Dawn Fennigkoh,
Brenda Skittone, Gloria Fennigkoh, Sue Easterday,
Saundra Holthaus, Norma Piper, and Marcia Schoeneck.

If you pre-ordered a book(s), Pastor Jean has them set aside for you.



Mission Endowment Fund

The Mission Endowment Fund will soon be preparing its recommendations for the 2023 distribution. The recommendations will be

presented to the annual meeting for approval. Each year the distribution of the fund makes a difference in many ways through a variety of community and worldwide ministries and programs. Thank you for your part in making this ministry happen, and changing lives.

Looking ahead ... you can be a life changer too. Consider including Our Savior's in your estate planning – 70% of any undesignated gifts – and 100% of any designated gifts – go to the fund, making a difference for years to come!

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

Help Wanted ...

In-home caregiver starting in January. If you or someone you know may be interested, please speak with one of the pastors for more information.

Caretaker Position





Nominations

As we approach the end of the year, we are looking forward to January and a new year of mission and ministry. One of the important roles in shaping our response to God's call is the work of the Congregation Council, the Mission Endowment Fund, and the La Crosse Area Synod Assembly. We will be looking for people who have the gifts to be leaders in these roles – maybe you? Or someone you know?

Give some time to ponder and pray about these ministries, and watch for the call in the next few weeks to share your name – or that of someone you know – and nominate them for one of these important ministries. Or...see one of the pastors or Jen Linse to share your insight!



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!





Congregation Council

The Congregation Council met on Monday, October 10, with President Jen Linse presiding. The meeting met via Zoom due to Covid at the pastors' home! At this meeting the council:

- Shared in devotions and prayer.
- Discussed the ongoing "Vital Congregations" training.
- Asked Pastor Jon to provide a revision of the guiding principles.
- Decided to engage Rachael Holthaus as interim youth director. Heard that she will focus on building off of the "Servant Leadership" training that is provided as part of 7/8th grade confirmation.
- Asked the Administration Committee to meet with Rachael to consider her for the position on a permanent basis, and to revise the job description to more accurately describe where the ministry is heading.
- Received an update on how ministries are "rebooting" this fall, and what the needs of our ministries are.
- Approved the minutes of the September 12 council meeting, and received the September financial reports.
- Heard that the tech project is proceeding with a new provider, and that we are awaiting a new proposal.
- Decided to schedule "thank-yous" for Kathy Brisson and the funeral lunch team during November.
- Was reminded that the December meeting will be at Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean's home.

The next meeting of the council will be held Monday, November 14th 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
FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

Financial Support Ministry

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.

Like the quilts, school kits, and health kits that went out in October to places of need around the globe. We make a difference ... thanks to you!

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!***



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!

Worship Leaders

November 5-6



6 p.m.
NO WORSHIP

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

8 a.m.
Campbell Laack
Naoko Giblin
T. Langrehr Family

10:30 a.m.
Landon Labus
Jaime Fortier
Labus Family

Altar Guild for November Jill Iliff and Susan Giblin

November 12-13

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

6 p.m.
Leah Langrehr
Judy Gilbert
Massman Family

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

8 a.m.
Casey Mathison
Eric Iliff
Janisch Family

10:30 a.m.
Lilly Muellenberg
Jeff Haldeman
Premo Family

November 19-20

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

6 p.m.
Mya Peterson
Chad Vick
Maki Family

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

8 a.m.
Madison Phillips
Eric Ender
S. Schultz Family

10:30 a.m.
Ethan Quackenbush
Tracy Hesse
D. Smith Family

November 26-27

6 p.m.

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

Anya Tenner
Judy Morzinski
Jim Anderson Family

8 a.m.

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

Anna Witte
Bonny Goodenough
Tlustosch Family

10:30 a.m.

Lauren Burt
Denise Jones
Faucett Family

Scrip Cards Available

It's getting to be that time of year ... Christmas gift giving is right around the corner ... for the person who has everything, why not give them a gift card!



Culver's, Kwik Trip,
Kwik Trip car wash,
Woodman's, and Ship
Shape car wash.



And, remember the proceeds go to help World Hunger and Our Savior's Sugar Creek Bible Camp Camperships!

Scrip Cards make great stocking stuffers!



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

Please have your form and \$30 returned to the church office by December 5. We will acknowledge your poinsettia in the Christmas bulletins.

_____ Please purchase a poinsettia for me. Cost \$30.

_____ Red _____ Pink _____ White

_____ Marbled _____ Jingle Bell

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

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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 5!**



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

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Change Service Requested