

Our Savior's Voice

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

359 Leonard Street N - West Salem, WI 54669

www.oursaviorswestsalem.org

608-786-0030

August/September 2024



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

August/September 2024

Table of Contents

Worship Opportunities	Page 3
YouTube Changes	Page 3
Pastor's Page	Pages 4-5
Sabbatical Invitation	Page 6
Gospel on the Green	Page 7
October Events	Page 7
Sunday School	Pages 8-9
Sunday School Teachers Needed	Page 10
Feed Our Children	Page 10
Confirmation	Page 11
College Connection	Page 12
Bible Study	Page 12
Senior Connections	Page 12
Hungry Jar	Page 13
School Kits	Page 14
Fall Music Invites	Page 15
Building Projects Update/Capital Campaign	Page 16
New Members	Page 17
Thank You	Pages 18-20
Council Review	Page 21
Worship Leaders Schedule	Pages 22-23
Financial Support Ministry	Page 24
Guiding Principles	Page 25
Facebook/Instagram	Page 25
Blood Drive	Page 25
Thrivent/Food Pantry/Scrip Cards	Page 26
Life at Our Savior's	Page 27



Worship Opportunities

Saturday 6 PM
Sunday 8 & 10/10:30 AM

**Starting September 8th, we
return to 10:30 AM**

***Livestreaming of 10 /10:30AM
worship!***



Find the Livestreaming link on the home page of our web site
(www.oursaviorswestsalem.org) or at youtube.com/@techoslcl.
Click on “live” to access the livestream.

Livestreams remain on the YouTube page for later viewing.



YouTube Changes!

Videos are posted each week to our new
YouTube channel. You can access the channel
at: youtube.com/@techoslcl

Click on “live” to see the recordings of past worship services.

This is the same channel as the Livestream – each week’s
Livestream is automatically recorded and posted there.

We invite you to subscribe to the new channel to keep up to date
with our online worship. Thank you for your support of our virtual
ministry!



Pastor's Reflections ...

Finding God in big and small ways ...

Summer is winding down ... I'm not sure I'm ready for that quite yet. We have returned from vacation – *4,676 miles* – having experienced awesome, breathtaking scenery – God's handiwork – across the country. The grandeur of the mountains, reflections on calm waters and crashing waves, rain forests and deserts, waterfalls and trees, the tiniest of insects and the massive bison, sunrises and sunsets that could take your breath away, flowers growing in lava fields and lush gardens, sunshine and torrential, blinding rain, family and friends. God at work!



While Pastor Jon has been focusing on God at work in the small and the insignificant on his sabbatical, vacation showed us God at work on the big stage.

But God is not at work only in nature and creation, God has been at work here in this place all summer. Lest you think the church takes a break during the summer months, and God is at rest, think again. God's work is never done, and it takes a community, it takes a church, to accomplish what he is calling us to do.

Children have been fed twice a week by a team of folks from Our Savior's, and from the Presbyterian Church and St. Teresa's, under the careful watch and coordination of Angie Hemker. But they were not alone ... students helped, businesses and community members (along with many of you, too) provided donations of money and food to make sure this ministry happened. God at work!

If you haven't been around the church physically lately, you might not notice the changes, but look carefully. Outside a

new flat roof, pitched roof, and siding on the steeple, as well as new gravel in the parking lot – lots of contractors banging and pounding! Then, check out the new ceiling tiles in the Gathering Area (you may need sunglasses to shade the brightness!) – a hardworking group knocked off the big part of the project in a day, while a couple of other faithful folks spent many days ahead of time getting things ready. God at work!

Five brave souls – *the Spirit was clearly at work in this one!* – worked with Pastor Jon prior to his sabbatical preparing a sermon to be preached in worship. They learned what goes into preparing a sermon, and then experienced actually preaching it. This was truly a blessing for me, as I just had to lead worship. I not only didn't have to prepare a sermon for several weeks, but I got to be fed by their words just like everyone else. And, the best part, seeds were planted and who knows what fruit will be born in the future. God at work!

We continue to get comfortable with our new tech equipment and expand our knowledge, experimenting to see what its capable of doing. We continue to be fed by the music of our new organ and are having fun discovering new possibilities for what it can do. The sidewalks and parking lot have been edged. Work is being done to restore the prayer labyrinth so it can be used. God at work!

Along with the obvious “big” projects, lots of “little” projects have been accomplished ... how many can you find? Thank you to all those who have had a hand in caring for this place we call church; this place God has entrusted to us. Your enthusiasm, energy, thoughtfulness, and work are greatly appreciated. God at work!

As we prepare for Fall, where will you find God at work? Where will we find God at work in you?

Pastor Jean



Sabbatical Update

Pastor Jon's sabbatical is done and he is now back among us. During his time away, he was faithful at finding the many ways and places that God is at work in our world and capturing them in pictures. He shared those photos every day on our new Facebook page: **Our Savior's ELCA – West Salem**. If you haven't already done so, check them out!



And, for those who don't have Facebook ... *and even if you do* ... we have an opportunity for you!

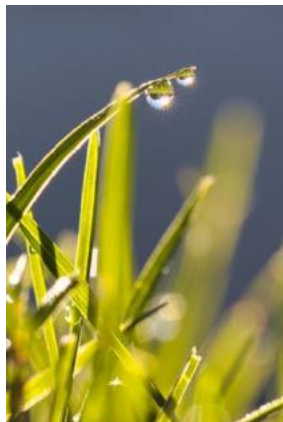
God is at work ... really!



Part of Pastor Jon's sabbatical was exploring through the lens of a camera. 90 pictures in 90 days, posted on Facebook. But ... if you are wondering just where he found God at work, join us to see the pictures and hear the stories.

Sunday, September 29
9:15 am – Library

Grab a goodie and a cup of coffee and explore God at work in the obvious, the not so obvious, and the downright hidden!



Gospel on the Green Worship & Potluck Picnic Sunday, August 25th at 10:00 AM @ the Lion's Shelter

Join us as the S.O.S. Band leads us in worship, we hear God's Word, and receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion in the great outdoors! Bring your own seating!



Following worship, you are invited to join us for a potluck lunch. And even if you can't bring a dish (or if you forget), join us anyway ... there is always plenty and you are always welcome!

Coming in October ...



*When in Our Music God is
Glorified Concert
Sunday, October 13 at 3:30 PM*

Worship with the Bishop

LaCrosse Area Synod Bishop Felix Malpica will join us for worship on October 19-20.



Faith Formation ...

Join us ...

September 8

Gather in the Sanctuary
at 9:15 AM



Our Sunday School Classroom Grandparents have
been invited to join us, too ...

**Mark your calendars ... invite a friend ...
and join us!**



Note: Sunday School registration forms for all
grades have been mailed home and are also
available on the church website
(www.oursaviorswestsalem.org).

Backpack Blessing - September 8

If you are a **student (of any age!)**
attending school, bring your
backpacks, laptop bags, or whatever else you use. We will
share a blessing and a reminder of God's love and presence
as we begin another year of learning.



Important Dates

Sunday, September 15 - PreK children receive Bibles in worship

Sunday, October 6 - 1:00-2:30 PM - 3rd Grade Bible Workshop

Sunday, October 20 - Kids sing at 10:30AM worship & 3rd graders receive Bibles in worship

Sunday, December 15 - Christmas Program - 10:30AM



Sunday School Offering for 2024-2025

Generation Zero-Hunger

Together we can be the generation that ends hunger

More than 2 billion people around the world aren't sure where their next meal will come from, and for as many as 828 million people, that next meal won't come at all.

The story of God at work through us and ELCA World Hunger around the world is a story that has been unfolding for the last 50 years through our church as we work together to create sustainable, lasting change. It is a story of caring for the environment, new fields being planted with crops, and wells bubbling with clean water.

The Sunday school children will be working to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of ELCA World Hunger with our offerings this year to help eliminate hunger in our world.

Share your gifts with our children ...

Sunday School Teachers needed



We need folks who have a love for kids and a love for Jesus! Young or old, parent/grandparent or not, you can be that caring role model for our children.

We are looking for ...

- ♥ **3rd Grade Teacher** – the lessons and activities are scripted, there will also be a time for a video and music.
- ♥ Ideally our goal is to have **two teachers** for each grade or enough **substitutes** to make scheduling easier.



If you would like to be a part of our Sunday School ministry, ***we would love to have you***. Talk to Pastor Jean for more information.



Feed Our Children Summer Lunch Program

Summer Lunch 2024 is done for another year!

Check the Feed Our Children Facebook page and the October newsletter for a recap of the season. Thank you to all who made this ministry possible and for helping to feed the children in the community.



Faith Formation ...

Confirmation Ministry

Confirmation ministry is getting ready for a new year of “disciple making.” We are excited to gather again with kids and help them discover both the call and the giftedness of being a disciple of Jesus.

Corey Sjoquist will lead 6th graders through the Bible from Genesis to the building of the Church in the Book of the Acts of the Apostles. Classes meet on Wednesdays at 6 PM.

Pastor Jon meets with the 7th graders at 6 PM and the 8th graders at 7 PM each week, exploring our faith and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

For starters ... **Wednesday, September 4 ...**

6 PM – 6th and 7th grade parent student meeting

7 PM – 8th grade parent student meeting

Then, **September 11 ...**

6 PM – 6th Grade – classes begin

6 PM – 7th & 8th Grade – Scavenger Hunt for Food Pantry

Things get back to normal on **September 18 ...**

6 PM – 6th Grade class

6 PM – 7th Grade class

7 PM – 8th Grade class

See Pastor Jon for more information – and remember, there is always room for new students!



college
connection

It's that time of year again ... already!
Whether you're going to WTC and
living at home or traveling to the far ends of the country, we
need your **Campus address** and your **email address**!
You are important to us and we want to keep in touch –
Please get the information to the office or to Pastor Jean.



Adult Bible Study is Back!

Wednesday morning Bible study will resume
on **August 28**. Pastor Jon is excited to
reconnect with this group! There is always
room for more ... now is the time to jump in!

*Wednesdays 9:30-11 AM
In the Library – or join us by Zoom*

We are still studying ... so much to learn ... and, yes, really,
fun to be had! Come and join us as we study the coming
Sunday's gospel reading, ponder God's message to us, and
have some time for good conversation and fellowship.

See Pastor Jon for more information, or to get the Zoom link

**Coffee & Conversation
at Linda's Bakery
9:30 AM on Tuesday, September 10**



Hungry Jar Offering for September – LWR Quilt & School Kit Shipping

Our ladies have been hard at work this past year creating quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Their goal is to have 300 quilts ready for shipping in early October! We will be putting the school kits together in early October as well.

The quilts and kits will be taken to Good Shepherd in LaCrosse on October 12 to be loaded on the truck headed to Minneapolis and then shipped across the country and across the globe.

Did you know that it costs \$2.80 to ship each quilt? And, \$1.50 to ship each school kit? The Hungry Jar offering for September will be used to help with the cost of shipping these items.



Also ... Join us in worship October 5/6 as we bless the quilts and kits before they are sent on.



Thank you for your generous donations to the Hungry Jar ...

♥ June – Sugar Creek - \$693.00

♥ July – LaCrosse Area Synod Peru Mission - \$368.63

Speaking of School Kits ...

We are collecting school supplies through September 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/12 inch
- 1 – pencil sharpener
- 1 – **BLUNT** scissors
- 5 – **UN**sharpened 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)



Place your items in the basket in the gathering area.

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of children!

We've Got Quilts and Kits... You've Got Wheels???



Our quilts and school kits are almost ready to hit the road – but we need some help. If you have a pickup or van that can help us transport our boxes to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in La Crosse on Saturday morning, **October 12**, see Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean. This is a great way to be a part of an important ministry!

Senior Choir



The Senior Choir invites you to be a member of our group! We have a great time and love making music together. New members are always welcome. We usually sing for church services three times a month, and fall rehearsals will begin Wednesday, September 4 at 7:00, in the balcony. Come and join us!

Thank You ...

... to the musicians that provided summer music for our services! The music you provide enhances our worship, and we appreciate your time and dedication. These musicians include: Carla Burkhardt, Bonny Goodenough, Melissa Haldeman, Ruby Kerkman, Jen Linse, Brooke Rasmussen, and Eric Sorenson & the Coulee Chordsmen. We are blessed with many talented people!



Thank you also to Linda Berg for coordinating our musicians and for accompanying them.



Handbells

Whether you're "new" or "seasoned", we'd love to have you join us! Practices begin

September 18 at 5:30 PM in the Music Room (downstairs off of the Fellowship Hall). Speak to Laurie Noelke or one of the pastors for more information – or just show up!!



Building Projects Update

Check it out ... work has been ongoing and we are happy to report it is almost completed!

Leonard Street entrance lighting ... *completed last fall!*

Tuckpointing and caulking ... *completed in April!*

Flat roof ... *completed in June!*

Pitched roof and steeple siding storm damage ... *completed in July!*

New organ ... *completed in May!*

Ceiling tiles ... *completed in August!*

Re-gravel parking lot ... *completed in July!*

Your continued support ...

of our **Capital Campaign** is vital – the work may be done, but we still have to “pay the bills.” Gifts actually received are about \$50,000 shy of the total needed. So ... if you have pledged or not, your continued gifts are critical.

Meanwhile, **thank you** for the support you have already shared with us! We are grateful for your gifts. Your gifts, with those of many others, is making a difference in our building and in our ministry in the world as we “renew this place for the sake of all God’s people!”



For more information on these projects, or our Capital Campaign, see Jeff Haldeman or one of the pastors.

Welcome our New Members ...



We welcome Joan Wachter. Joan is a retired nurse, who worked in home health and as a medical lab technologist. Joan was born and raised in Wisconsin; and has spent much of that time in Sparta. She and her husband, Howard, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in July and have two daughters. She enjoys being outside, gardening, hiking, and spending lots of time with their grandsons. Her daughter and grandsons are members of Our Savior's and she feels she belongs here to support and guide them in their religious formation. Joan was active in her former church, and being a member of a church is important to her. She has found Our Savior's to be very open, welcoming, and community oriented.

We also welcome Annie Labus. Annie happens to be Joan's daughter. Annie and her husband, Andy, live in West Salem on Andy's family farm raising Christmas trees and cattle. They have three sons, Tyson, Landon, and Gram. Tyson and Landon have been confirmed at Our Savior's. Annie teaches in the Melrose School District.

Please welcome Joan and Annie when you see them!



Thank you ...

... to the July/August newsletter mailing crew – Connie & Larry Blunck, Bev Bockenbauer, Renee Herman, Carolyn Karl, and Carol Thompson.

... to all those who helped with the National Night Out event – Jen Linse, Brenda Skittone, Bonnie Gensch, Carolyn Karl, Jane Brenengen Reinl, Carla Burkhardt, Judy Gilbert, Ilene Pavelko, Jaime Fortier, and Jan Wee. We also thank members of the WSHS Football Team, including Drew McConkey, Nate Stefferud, and Spencer Kammel, for helping take down the displays and getting them to our cars.

... to all those who helped with the Corn Roast – too many to name! – thank you for all of your work, preparation, clean up, grilling, baking, and greeting our guests! And, thank you to those who came to eat!

... to Eric & Jill Iliff for hosting Beer & Hymns Campfire Edition, the band – Linda Berg, Dean Olson, Carla Burkhardt, Kyle Gresens, Rich Westpfahl – for providing the music, those who brought treats for the potluck, and those who came to sing!

... to all those who helped with the Ceiling Tile Installation – Rich Westpfahl, Jeff Haldeman, Dean Olson, Dan & Jan Wee, Larry Blunck, Carolyn Karl, Jim & Ruby Kerkman, Todd Michael, Carla Burkhardt, Maryrose Hetland, and Josh Corning

Received from others ...

... Funeral Luncheon Crew – Bringing back the funeral lunch at church was special to our family. Thank you so much!

The Family of Mary Storandt

...Thank you for supporting me at Sugar Creek for one week. I enjoyed growing my faith, camping out, hammock sleeping, cooking food over an open fire, and spending time with friends. Sincerely,

Zuinn Maki

... Thank you so much for the campership! The opportunity to go to Sugar Creek was very special to me! I made memories that will last a lifetime! At Sugar Creek I enjoyed creek stomping, horseback riding, pool parties, and more! Thank you once again for the campership! From,

Mabel Spquist

... Thank you so much for the campership to help me attend camp this summer. It was my first year at Sugar Creek. My favorite thing was creek stomping. I had fun learning new songs at the campfire and meeting new friends. I plan on going back next year and I can't wait. Thank you,

Ava Johnsrude

...Pastor Jon & Jean, I am so grateful that you guys gave me this opportunity for the 4th time to learn more about what faith means to me and reflect. This camp impacts me in so many ways through my faith. I greatly appreciate both of you! Through this year's camp I was so grateful for all the people that I got to meet that eventually became really important to me throughout my week there. Another thing I was grateful for was actually getting to experience what Jesus did to create human kind. Pretty cool if I do say so myself. The list could go on and on about what things I am grateful for, but that would take a lot of cards! I really want to talk about camp next time I come to church. Just to show how much this camp impacted me and how much you guys did too! Can't wait to talk about it! John 5:17-24

Chloe Drury

In Loving Memory

Memorial Gifts Received ...

*In Memory of Mary Storandt for
Building Fund from*

**Gib & Sandy Wee
Dan & Jan Wee
Jim Michelson**

**Judy Long
Family & Friends**



*In Memory of Gurine Eggen for Mission
Endowment Fund from*

Eric & Lynette Ender

In Memory of Gurine Eggen for Quilters from

Betty Whitlock

Paul & Marilyn Ranum

*In Memory of Karl Friedline & in Honor of
Carolyn Karl for Building Fund from*

Marty & Jane Frank



Pastoral Acts:

Funeral – Bill Martell – August 17



Congregation Council

The Congregation Council met on Monday, July 8, with President Jeff Haldeman presiding.

At this meeting the council:

- Shared in devotions/conversation based on a poem by Joe Davis.
- Approved minutes from the June meeting, and received financial reports for June and pastor's report.
- Heard that Pastors Mark Bartusch and Karyn Bodenschatz will cover for emergencies when Pastor Jean is on vacation. Council members will also help when needed.
- Heard the updated membership list is almost done, and discussed the concept of membership vs. involvement in a changing world.
- Heard the Property Committee is working on several projects around the church under the leadership of Rich Westpfahl.
- Heard updates on the various building projects – flat and pitched roofs completed, waiting for steeple work to be done, quote received for parking lot re-gravel, ceiling tiles purchased, waiting for quote for new sandwich boards and inserts.
- Learned Graham and Corey Sjoquist have been working on edging sidewalks, etc., in addition to mowing.
- Reminded of upcoming worship and other events – Beer & Hymns, Gospel on the Green, National Night Out, Corn Roast.
- Received the final Audit Committee report for 2023.
- Consensus to not have a meeting in August.

The council next meets on Monday, September 9 at 7 PM. If you have questions, or if you have ideas for enhancing the ministry of Our Savior's, contact Jeff Haldeman or one of the pastors.

Worship Leaders - September



Aug 31/Sept 1

6 p.m.

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

Claire Gross
Carla Burkhardt
Gross Family

8 a.m.

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

Sophia Johnson
Bonnie Gensch
R & B Clements

10 a.m.

Altar Guild September

Wendy Amundson

A Kendhammer
Carolyn Karl
W & D Affeldt

September 7-8

6 p.m.

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

Maxwell Langrehr
Judy Morzinski
Keith & Jan Goetzinger

8 a.m.

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

Olivia Sprehn
Eric Ender
T & D Jones

10:30 a.m.

Home Communion

Dottie Baumgartner

Alana Steinke
Rich Clements
M & J Larson

September 14-15

6 p.m.

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

Addy Tlustosch
Jon Hetland
Todd & Inger Michael

8 a.m.

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

Ariel Wuensch
Bill Jensen
J & B Quamme

10:30 a.m.

Home Communion

Bev Bockenbauer

Beau Baganz
M Haldeman
Baganz Family

September 21-22

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

6 p.m.
Ryland Byom
Allison Boudry
Chad & Carla Long

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

Home Communion

8 a.m.
Shiloh Gullickson
Scott Gilbertson
Steve & Sue Ahles

Judy Gilbert

10:30 a.m.
Bennet Ihle
Denise Jones
Brenda Skittone

September 28-29

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

6 p.m.
Laney Kneifl
Chad Vick
Phil & Judy Gilbert

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

Home Communion

8 a.m.
Chase Koudelka
Brenda Skittone
J & R Kerkman

Carolyn Karl

10:30 a.m.
Lyriq Kumbier
Eric Iliff
Brian & Jen Linse



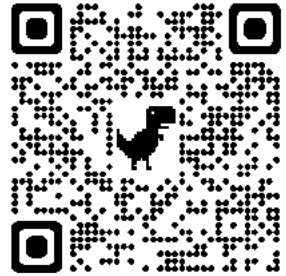


**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

Financial Support Ministry

THANK YOU!!! *Thank you for your continued financial support of our ministry together!*

Like ... our support of children's ministries gearing up in September – Sunday School, confirmation and more ... Your support helps make those ministries happen!



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 or use our QR code.

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



Guiding principles

- ♥ Jesus is Lord and Savior.
- ♥ All are welcome, and we are intentional about that welcome.
- ♥ God gifts and calls every one of every age to be a difference maker in the world.
- ♥ We treasure the gift of creation and embrace the call to protect God's world.
- ♥ We value the gathering of God's people in worship and all our ministries.
- ♥ We seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in a world that has changed dramatically.

Check us out ...



New Facebook Page –
Our Savior's ELCA – West Salem

New Instagram Page –
oursaviors_ws



Blood Drive



Tuesday, September 24
12:30 – 5:30 p.m.
Presbyterian Church

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. We are thankful for all the donations we have recently received. Many local families have benefited from your generosity. Monetary, food, and personal items are always appreciated.

Scrip Cards Available

Scrip cards make great gifts and help support Our Savior’s Sugar Creek Bible Camp Camperships and World Hunger! You can’t beat that!!

KWIK TRIP

WOODMAN'S



Culver’s, Kwik Trip, Kwik Trip car wash, Woodman’s.

Available after worship services and in the office during the week.

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

Pastor Jonathan Schmidt, Senior Pastor (608) 612-0217

Email: pastorjon@oursaviorswestsalem.org

Pastor Jean Schmidt, Associate Pastor (608) 612-0217

Email: pastorjean@oursaviorswestsalem.org

Kris Seeger, Administrative Assistant Church Office: (608) 786-0030

Email: office@oursaviorswestsalem.org

Jill Iliff, Treasurer

Email: treasurer@oursaviorswestsalem.org

Linda Berg, Organist/Choir Accompanist/Director of Music

Email: linda@oursaviorswestsalem.org

Laurie Noelke, Handbell Choir Director/Assistant Worship Musician

Eric Sorenson, Senior Choir Director

Karen DeSchepper, Financial Secretary

Josh Corning, Custodian



Newsletter Deadline – September 15

Keeping up with life at Our Savior's

Check out the photo gallery on our website (www.oursaviorswestsalem.org/photo-galleries/) to see what's been happening, including:

- ♥ Building project work



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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
West Salem, WI
Permit #21

Change Service Requested