

Our Savior's Voice

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

359 Leonard Street N - West Salem, WI 54669

www.oursaviorswestsalem.org

608-786-0030

October 2025



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

October 2025

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Worship Opportunities

Saturday 6 PM
Sunday 8 & 10:30 AM

10:30 AM worship livestreamed!

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

Livestreams remain on the YouTube page as recordings for later viewing.



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

YouTube

Check it out ...



Facebook Page –
Our Savior’s ELCA – West Salem



Instagram Page –
[oursaviors_ws](#)



The Stories

It's the stories! The stories that share the Biblical message, stories from creation to "church building." And those stories are speaking to us, even thousands of years later.

Through May 24 (Pentecost), worship will feature a new story, in order, from beginning to new beginnings. The sermon each week will introduce another treasured story of God at work in our world as recorded in Holy Scripture ... and then help us to see how that story is *still* "God at work in our world," even after thousands of years.

Each week will be a different "unit," so you can stay on track even if you happen to miss a week, but remember that there is always livestream or the YouTube video to "catchup."

What's coming in October?

- October 4/5 – Abraham and Isaac
- October 11/12 – Joseph
- October 18/19 – Exodus
- October 25/26 – Gideon

Join us as we hear the story of the ages ... in the stories that have aged so well!



Pastor's Reflections ...

Overwhelmed and full

Fall is upon us, although as I write this the weather is a balmy 82 degrees, but the sun now sets around 7:10 PM and the leaves are beginning to change colors. Admittedly, fall is my favorite time of year with the crisp days and beautiful leaves. But, to be honest, I can do without the early onset of darkness!



With fall comes the beginning of activities, the church is alive with kids swarming around on Sunday mornings for Sunday School and Wednesday afternoons and evenings for After School and Confirmation. As I sit in my office, I am secretly serenaded by the choir as they practice in the sanctuary. Earlier this evening the bell choir melodies could be heard in the background of Pastor Jon's 7th grade confirmation class.

The quilting ladies are furiously scrambling to get last minute quilts finished to be sent off to Lutheran World Relief in early October. We will be blessing the fruits of their labors, along with the School Kits, in worship on October 4/5.



The prayer shawl ladies faithfully gather to knit their shawls and pray over them before tucking them in the bins to be shared with others in their time of need or celebration.

Bible study conversations take on a new twist this year as they talk about the stories from the Old Testament that we will hear about in worship each week.

We are looking back on the gift of 19 baptisms so far this year, with a couple more hanging out there. (Just think about that PreK Sunday School class four years from now! Yikes!) And on the other end of life's spectrum, we have been privileged to walk with 17 families whose loved ones have joined the Church Triumphant.

We continue to welcome new folks to our pews and classrooms, as they worship with us, learn with us, and share the gift of their presence with us.

The Property Committee (aka the church mice) are hard at work behind the scenes finding new projects to tackle to spruce up the building or repair things that have broken in the moment or over time.



Of course, some things haven't changed. We continue to worship, as the community in this place has for over 100 years. But ... did you ever stop to think about what goes into an ordinary worship service? For over 100 years?



In case you haven't, I'll tell you ... the altar guild has prepared the worship space ... the communion assistants prepare and serve the elements ... the worship assistants (aka acolytes) light the candles and help serve communion ... you are greeted by folks with a smile on

their face and a bulletin in their hands ... people sitting in the pew share the prayer petitions ... we greet each other with the "peace of Christ" ... the "kids" shake you down as they gather dollars to fill the hungry jar for missions ... music surrounds us by our musicians, with our singing, the choir, the SOS band, the handbells ... faithful volunteers prepare the coffee and treats for fellowship between services ... oh, and don't forget God's Word is shared ...

As we begin this work of a new season, we are grateful for the stewardship of so many people, not only with their gifts of money, but by their gifts of presence and participation. Some new, and some new activities. Others, around for ... well, over 100 years (the activities, not the people!).

If you feel the Spirit tugging at your heart or hands or feet, we would love for you to join us in whatever way the Spirit is leading you. Many hands make light work, and there is always some kind of work to be done in the community of church. But this isn't really about making the job a bit easier. It's really about your opportunity to be a part of the work that God is doing in this place.



So, keep your eyes and ears open for opportunities to plug into. You are never too old or too young to be part of the life of this congregation. And never too old (or young) to be a part of what God is doing!



And that – God at work in YOU – is why, as I look ahead to the next few months, even though I am sometimes overwhelmed, I am always full ... blessed ... hopeful ... my cup overflowing with all that is going on ... in the name of Jesus!

Pastor Jean



Faith Formation ...

Sunday School



Sunday School got off to a lively start with Rally Day on September 7th. Students and parents gathered to meet their teachers, reconnect with friends, and spend time with those classroom grandparents who were able to join us.

We will once again be using the lectionary-based *Whirl* curriculum from *1517 Media*. Our *Whirl* friends introduce us to the theme of the lesson each week. The kids are already working on their music to share in worship on Sundays, September 28 and October 19. Be sure to join us as the kids share their music with you.

Our classes are having a friendly “competition” to see which class can bring in the most offering for the “stock a backpack campaign.” So, don’t forget your offerings kids!

Important Dates

Sunday, September 28 - 3rd graders Bible workshop

Sunday, October 12 - 3rd graders receive Bibles in
worship

Sunday, October 19 - Sing at 10:30 worship w/choir

Saturday, December 13 - Program rehearsal - 3-5 PM

Sunday, December 14 - Christmas Program - 10:30AM

**3rd Graders will receive their
Bibles during worship
*Sunday, October 12***



Sunday School Offering for 2025-2026

Stock a backpack with food

More than 30 million children in the United States depend on federal school meal programs to stay well-nourished and ready to learn. But many children struggle to receive the same level of nutrition at home. Backpack programs across the country help students at risk of hunger by discreetly stocking their backpacks with food or distributing pre-packed bags to bridge the gap. That way, children and their families have healthy meals all week long.

Our Sunday School offering this year will fill backpacks. Watch the bulletin board by Pastor Jean's office to see how many backpacks we can fill – each backpack is worth \$10.





Faith Formation ...

Confirmation Ministry

We are off and running! Confirmation ministry has begun, and disciples are being made.

During October we are learning, connecting, and even traveling. All for the sake of kids, Jesus, and the gospel!

6th graders meet on Wednesdays at 6 PM and are working through the stories of the Old Testament, from Abraham and Sarah to Joseph, Moses, and Ruth.

7th graders also meet on Wednesdays at 6 PM. They are continuing to learn about the Sacraments, diving into Servant Leadership, working with Wendy Amundson, taking in an elective, and ... on October 15, a road trip to Sparta to attend the La Crosse Area Synod's "ConFest."

8th graders meet on Wednesdays at 7 PM. They will finish off the Apostle's Creed, begin exploring gifts and stewardship, ponder Jesus versus the monsters of our world, work with Wendy Amundson, and, along with the 7th graders, take a road trip on October 15 to Sparta and "ConFest."

Remember that there is always room for new students, and this is a great time to join! See Pastor Jon for more information.



Join Wendy for time around the firepit during class on Wednesday, October 8 – 7th graders at 6 PM and 8th graders at 7 PM.

Hungry Jar Offering for October – Lutheran Disaster Relief - Flooding



In the face of disaster, the ELCA, through Lutheran Disaster Response, shares relief today and builds resilience for tomorrow. Flooding is one of the most common natural disasters in the United States. Across the country, LDR supports communities as they recover from devastating floodwaters. LDR works with synods and partners to respond to urgent needs, give emotional and spiritual care, and support long-term recovery (including disaster case management and meeting unmet needs). Your gifts to LDR support our church's work to share healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disaster.



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

♥August – LWR School Kit Supplies – \$873.81

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 11**, see Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean. This is a great way to be a part of an important ministry!



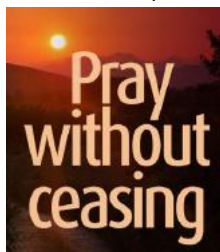


We are praying...

And we invite YOU to join us!

Our new prayer worship time is off to a great start! Each Monday we meet at 6 PM. In good weather, and until it gets too cold, at the prayer labyrinth across from the parking lot. Otherwise, in the building. We share our prayer concerns, hear God's word, and then ... we pray!

Join us for some quiet time of sharing and praying – takes about 25 minutes. And then we are on our way back into the world around us!



And remember ... no matter who joins us, we are praying ... and we might just be praying for you!



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

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

Bible study continues to meet – and we are always digging a way to find new nuggets and hear God speak anew to us. YOU are always welcome. NO prior knowledge expected, just a bit of curiosity and excitement to encounter God's word ... and live as faithful disciples.

Through next May we are looking at the primary text for the coming Sunday – so lots of Old Testament, and then New Testament stories to explore!

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

Coffee & Conversation
at Linda's Bakery
9:30 AM on Tuesday, October 14



If you had your picture taken and haven't picked up your new church directory, it's here waiting for you. And, if you weren't able to get your picture taken, a few directories are available for a gift of \$5.



New Member Class

Anyone and everyone are welcome to the ministries we share at Our Savior's. But for some people, a deeper sense of belonging is important. And that means being a member! Persons coming from a Lutheran background can "transfer" into the congregation; persons from other faith backgrounds can be received as members following a new member class.

So ... Pastor Jon will be offering a new member class in October and November. The class will look at some of the important ways in which Lutherans understand the Christian faith. If you are interested in membership ... or if you just want a bit of a "refresher," come and join us!

Classes will meet on Tuesday evenings, October 21-November 11, from 6:30-8 PM. A significant portion of class time will be devoted to your questions, your concerns, and your direction. So, come and let's chat about life and faith in the shadow of the cross of Jesus!

See Pastor Jon for more information.



Grief Ministry

Griefwork – *learning to live with a loved one in our hearts instead of our arms* – is a process of reconciliation, and the hardest work we'll ever do. It can strip our soul bare and leave us struggling for hope.

The **iCare** Program is carefully and thoughtfully designed to lead you through a compassionate 8-week program that will fuel you with comfort, understanding, and hope by pairing Bible scriptures, self-care strategies, Bible journaling, and group time with others who speak a loss language. Based on balance, the program provides nourishment for your spiritual, physical, and emotional selves, along with strategies to help strengthen your natural, God-given resilience.

Our Savior's is providing this 8-week workshop starting Thursday, October 9th, from 6-7:30 PM in the library. Trudy Drugg, who has experienced the loss of a close loved one, and also facilitated similar groups, will guide us on the journey.

Registration forms are on the table in the Gathering Area. Please return it to the church office to reserve your spot.

Love, support, God's work, and nurturing of our emotional, physical, and spiritual selves can make all the difference between surviving and thriving. That is what the **iCare** Program is all about!

See Trudy or one of the pastors for more information.



Cookies for LuMin

Lutheran Campus Ministry of the LaCrosse Area Synod traditionally shares cookies in the square on the campus of UW-L every Wednesday during the school year. Congregations of the Synod are asked to sign up for a week to provide these cookies – 350 (30 dozen)!!

We are signed up for **November 5**. We are inviting members of the congregation to:

- ♥ bake a batch (or two) of your favorite cookies
- ♥ put them in plastic bags with a dozen in each bag
- ♥ label the bags with the cookie type, *especially if they are gluten free or contain nuts*
- ♥ put the bags in plastic ice cream buckets/containers you don't want back.
- ♥ label the bucket for "LuMin"
- ♥ bring them to church (there's a box in the Gathering Area) the week of October 26 and ***no later than Sunday, November 2.***

We will make sure the cookies get to their destination.

Norwegian Dinner & Bake Sale



November 1, 2025

3:30-6:30 pm

Ticket sales start at 3:00 pm

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

359 N. Leonard St.

West Salem, WI 54669

Plated meal serving lutefisk, meatballs, lefse, boiled potatoes, rutabagas, cranberry sauce, sweet treats, coffee, milk, and water

Pricing:

Lutefisk & Meatballs - \$22

Meatballs Only - \$18

Children ages 4-12 - \$10

Under 4 - Free

All proceeds given to missions

Music Ministry



Senior Choir

The Senior Choir invites you to join their group! They have a great time and love making music together. New members are always welcome! They usually sing for church services three times a month, and practice on Wednesdays at 7 PM in the balcony.



Handbells

Whether you're "new" or "seasoned", they'd love to have you join them! Practices are on Wednesdays at 5:45 PM in the Music Room (downstairs off of the Fellowship Hall). Contact Laurie Noelke (laurienoeke@gmail.com) or one of the pastors for more information – or just show up!!



History Lovers Needed

Recently, Jon Hetland has gathered many items dealing with the history of Our Savior's. He has started the process of organizing and sorting this material. There are a great deal of documents and photographs, and he is wondering if some other people in the congregation would like to assist with this project. Help is needed to identify people in photographs and see where this information should be displayed and how it is curated. If you are interested, please give Jon a call at 608-780-4125 or email him at jhetland405@gmail.com.

Opportunities for Faithful Living!

It is a hurting world out there...God is generous...and YOU can change lives! Each month we highlight an opportunity for you to connect with people in need outside of Our Savior's, out on the world around us! See something that kindles your passion and uses the gifts you have? Check it out!

Aging and Disability Resource Center



Help support an ADRC program or service by sharing your time and talent. The ADRC is a valuable source of information and support for older adults and their families. Meal delivery drivers deliver lunch and a smile to homebound folk, while meal site volunteers assist in packaging meals and serving meals to older adults. Meals are served Monday-Friday 11:30 AM to noon.

Find out how you can help ... contact Kelly Sotkke, social service specialist, at 608-789-8574, or via email at adrc@lacrossecounty.org.

Generously Blessed, Called, and Sent

We're going to go "off script" a bit this month and consider another "generously blessed, called, and sent" disciple of Jesus, but with a bit of a twist. Berit Gilbertson is beginning her second year at Augustana University, and this past summer didn't just tell the story, she lived out "generously blessed, called, and sent" as she served on the staff at Sugar Creek. So ... how did that work for her?



What was it like for you at the start of the summer? At the beginning of the summer, staff were asked, 'Why were we at camp?' And my answer in the beginning was along the lines of being a person or guide to the campers, that I wished I had when I was younger, and to show them that you can still be connected to your faith as a young adult.

As the summer went on, how did you change? In the middle of the summer, we were asked to reevaluate our "why", and I realized my 'why' had become to show the campers that there is beauty and light in the world, and that they are the light.

What kind of difference did you make? I had no idea how much of an impact these campers would have on me. I was so scared in the beginning. I never really worked with kids, but I somehow had been given patience and love that I never knew I had.

Where did you see God at work? Whenever I thought my well of energy or love was empty, I was somehow given more, and I knew that was God answering my calls for assistance and help. This summer was phenomenal, and I would do it again in a heartbeat. I am so thankful for every single moment and blessing I got to witness.

Watch for next month's story of a disciple of Jesus "generously blessed, called, and sent."

Mission Endowment Fund Disbursement for 2025



Each year the Mission Endowment Fund distributes the earnings of the fund to support agencies and programs in our community and around the world that meet human needs. Through our support we are part of changing lives!

For 2025, we expect to disburse close to \$20,000. The disbursement will be proposed by the Mission Endowment Fund Committee and approved by the 2026 annual meeting.

But first ... we are looking for your suggestions for appropriate disbursements for the endowment. Guidelines on what can be funded are available from the church office, but most agencies and programs that meet human needs qualify. Suggestions will be received through October, and can be submitted to the office.

For more information contact Jeff Rich, or one of the pastors.



Bequest from Ken and Norma Piper

The Mission Endowment Fund recently received a \$50,000 bequest from the estate of Ken and Norma Piper, designated for the Endowment Fund. As per the endowment guidelines, the earnings of this fund (approximately \$2,000 each year) will be used to support ministries and programs that meet human needs. What a great witness of faith from these two saints – we thank God for all they shared over many years here at Our Savior's, and now how they will continue to witness and share for years – even decades – to come!

A reminder – all designated bequests (such as the Piper bequest) are used as directed; undesignated bequests are split 70% to the Endowment Fund, and 30% designated by the Congregation Council.

Capital Fund Appeal

Well, like they say, “There’s good news ... and there’s bad news!”



The good news first – we are just a few dollars short of completing the Capital Fund Appeal! Thank you for all the gifts you have shared with us!

With the approval of the Congregation, a new A/C unit will soon be installed to serve the Gathering Area and Fellowship Hall. The old unit lasted “only” 34 years! Can’t complain about that!

The new unit is just over \$10,000, but we have already received a gift of \$500 toward the cost. Your continued support of the Capital Fund Appeal will help us cover the cost – and we’ll appreciate that next summer when temps soar!



If you haven’t had the chance to contribute to the Capital Fund Appeal, now is the time to do it so we will be ready in spring. Use the QR code or go to our giving page at oursaviorswestsalem.org/giving... or just drop it off at the office.

For the moment, however, ***thank you all for your support and your sharing with us.*** For more information contact the office or speak with one of the pastors.



Thank you ...

... to the September newsletter mailing crew – Renee Herman and Carolyn Karl.

... a big thank you to Rich Westpfahl. I couldn't have accomplished the rummage sale without him! Also, to Carolyn Karl, Carol & Scott Thompson, Kamryn Amundson, and Amy

Rasmussen for their extra help. The money earned to help with Sugar Creek camperships was a great success! From,

Wendy Amundson

Received from others ...

... Thank you for letting us celebrate our 65th anniversary between services with Marilyn & Paul Ranum on September 7. We are truly blessed to be part of Our Savior's family.

Larry & Connie Blunck

... Thank you so much for the donation for me to go to Sugar Creek this summer! I had a blast and I cannot wait to go next year and the years after that. I really thank you!

Claire Gross

... Thank you so much for helping me get to go to Sugar Creek. That camp has helped me grow so much in my faith. Being able to go to camp let me meet so many amazing people I'm still friends with today. I get to learn so much about myself, others, and my faith. So thank you for helping me go to camp every year. Love,

Anna Gross

... Thank you for the money you gave for Sugar Creek. I had so much fun there. My favorite thing was cookouts. I grew my faith in God a lot. I learned so many new church songs. I can't wait to go next year!

Leah Gross

In Loving Memory

Memorial Gifts Received ...



*In Memory of Norma Piper for Quilting
from*

Michael Faust

In Memory of Jim Tocko for Building Fund from

Karen & Dave DeSchepper

*In Memory of Jim Tocko for Mission Endowment
Fund from*

Eric & Lynette Ender

In Memory of Jim Tocko from

Western Technical College

In Memory of Barb Solberg for Music Fund from

Bill & Dori Jensen

Family & Friends

In Memory of Ted Ledman from

Carol Hanson

In Memory of Virgil Mikkelsen from

Jim Michelson

In Memory of Helen Friell for WELCA from

Larry & Connie Blunck

*In Memory of Helen Friell for Building Fund
from*

Todd & Inger Michael

Bonnie Gensch

In Memory of Helen Friell for Food Pantry from
Steven & Debbie Nuttleman

In Memory of Helen Friell for Mission
Endowment Fund from

Bill & Dori Jensen	Dennis & Ann Sprain
Richard & Linda Warren	Sandra Elmore
William & Susan Weigel	William & Elizabeth Rusch
Jim Michelson	Jay Ochanpaugh
Sue Stellick & Gus Zabel	Marta & Matthew Ford
Edmund & Mary Ann Ford	Steve & Merry Heilmann
Arnie Degenhardt	Judy Hunter
Jeff & Melissa Haldeman	Kenneth & Lisa Chasten
Ilene Pavelko	James & Maureen Anderson
Stanley & Sue Dwyer	James & Lynda Everson
Bill & Marsha Bateman	Eric & Lynette Ender
Wayne & Darlene Affeldt	Barbara Schomberg
Kristine Brown	Steven & Ellen Elmore
Ricky & Barbara Mikshowsky	Judy & Phil Gilbert

Pastoral Acts:



Funeral – Helen Friell – August 29

Funeral – Jim Tocko – August 30

Wedding – Dillon McClintock & Maddie Smith –
September 6

Baptism – Adell Holicky – September 7

Graveside Funeral – Randina Clements – September 12

Baptism – Cooper Meyer – September 14

Baptism – Ralph Upton – September 28

By the numbers...



Ministry is not a numbers game, but numbers can help us get a feel for what is happening as we carry out our part of God's work in the world! Numbers help us

measure our faithful response to God's call, both in our financial support and our worship life. So ... here is a snapshot of our ministry ... by the numbers!

2025 Ministry at Work			
	Actual-August	Actual-YTD	Budget-YTD
Income	\$28,177.11	\$206,919.46	\$246,433.32
Prepaid		\$17,500.00	\$17,500.00
Expense	\$25,218.56	\$256,646.88	\$259,096.66
Net	\$2,958.55	(\$32,227.42)	
2025 Worship Life – Weekly average			
	In-building Actual	Online Estimate	TOTAL
August	132	49	181
Year to Date	160	40	200



**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.

As we move into the fall months we will have the opportunity to ponder our faithful stewarding of all that God entrusts to us ... and yes, that includes our money – a sign of God's blessings, and an instrument for faithful living!

Watch your mail for information on this fall's "stewardship emphasis" as we give thanks to you for your gifts, and look forward to our continued partnership in Jesus.

Meanwhile ... 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!***

Worship Leaders - October



October 4-5

6 p.m.

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

Beau Baganz
Judy Gilbert
Baganz Family

8 a.m.

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

Ryland Byom
Bill Jensen
R & B Clements

10:30 a.m.

Shiloh Gullickson
Corey Sjoquist
Sjoquist Family

Home Communion
October Altar Guild

Rasmussen Family
Cindy Averbeck/ Jaime Fortier

October 11-12

6 p.m.

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

Bennett Ihle
Judy Morzinski
Todd & Inger Michael

8 a.m.

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

Addyson Knebes
Lynette Ender
K & G Twite

10:30 a.m.

Chase Koudelka
Tracey Beckley
B & A Christianson

Home Communion

Mariette Stefferud

October 18-19

6 p.m.

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

Layla Kneifl
Bonnie Gensch
T & I Michael

8 a.m.

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

Lyriq Kumbier
Amy Rasmussen
Eric & Jill Iliff

10:30 a.m.

Quinn Maki
D Baumgartner
S & C Thompson

Home Communion

Scott & Carol Thompson

October 25-26

6 p.m.

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

Easton Massman
Chad Vick
Dennis & Ann Sprain

8 a.m.

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

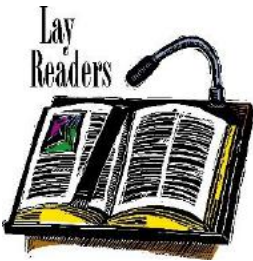
Cole McNaughton
Brenda Skittone
J & R Kerkman

10:30 a.m.

Kylie Nelson
Jaime Fortier
Wendy Amundson

Home Communion

Daryl Wermedal



**You are invited ...
... to read the lesson
during worship**

- Choose your date and service time
- Use the SignUpGenius link to sign-up –
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F044CA5A629A7F85-reader>
- We'll send you the reading one week prior to your chosen date



Congregation Council Review

The Congregation Council met on Monday, August 11, with President Brenda Skittone presiding.

At this meeting the council:

- Discussed our mission passion, what we are good at, and what drives our mission engine.
- Approved the minutes from the June meeting, and received financials for June and the pastors' reports.
- Received reports on the recently completed synod assembly.
- Heard reports on a number of congregational ministries including worship.
- Received an update on the planned grief workshop.
- Received Alice and Ladd Defoe as members from Good Shepherd, La Crosse, and Emma DaFoe and Rebekah DaFoe as associate members, also from Good Shepherd.
- Appointed Dori Jensen to another three-year term on the Audit Committee.
- Authorized the purchase of new computers for the office, with funding from the Memorial Fund.
- Received an update on work on the rental home.
- Discussed the proposals received to replace the A/C unit in the Gathering Area. Voted to recommend the Schneider proposal and call a congregational meeting for September 14 to act on the recommendation.
- Directed the pastors and property committee to clean out the lower furnace room and dispose of unneeded items.

The next meeting of the Congregation Council is scheduled for Monday, September 8.



Congregation Council Review

The Congregation Council met on Monday, September 8, with President Brenda Skittone presiding.

At this meeting the council:

- Discussed the mission priorities of the congregation, both in funding and in time and energy.
- Approved the minutes from the August meeting, and received financials for August and the pastors' reports.
- Heard that the synod is exploring options for congregations to purchase services or other items as a group, potentially reducing costs.
- Heard reports on a number of congregational ministries including worship, new member class, and a new grief workshop.
- Heard that the Piper bequest had been received and directed to the Endowment Fund as designated by the Pipers.
- Selected "Co-pay 2000" as the health care option for the pastors' benefits package.
- Received an update on the computer project and the repairs being made to the rental home (Johnson South).
- Noted that the congregational meeting on September 14 will consider the A/C needs in the Gathering Area and fellowship hall.
- Discussed the upkeep work in the Library, and refurbishing the basketball hoop.

The Council next meets on Monday, October 13 at 7 PM. If you have questions, or if you have ideas for enhancing the ministry of Our Savior's, contact Brenda Skittone or one of the pastors.

Special Congregational Meeting



At a special congregational meeting, September 14, a voting quorum of 25 approved the recommendation of the Congregation Council to accept a bid from Schneider Heating and Air Conditioning for the installation of a new air conditioning unit in the

Gathering Area and Fellowship Hall. The new unit replaces a 34-year-old unit that is beginning to fail. The cost of the new unit is \$10,631, and will be paid from the Building Fund. That fund will be in the deficit for a period of time, but already a \$500 gift has been received.

Tech System Invite



We continue to look for folk who are interested in “working the system” during worship, enabling us to use video resources and livestream the service. If you might be one of them, Dean Olson

invites you to join him during worship and see how it all comes together – and maybe discover that it isn’t as overwhelming as it looks! See Dean or Pastor Jon for more information.



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? So far, through March, Thrivent Choice Dollars have totaled \$3400 – they make a difference! See Thrivent’s web site for more information or stop by the office and we will help you out.

Scrip Cards

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



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



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



Feeding the Community

Care and Share Food Pantry

is open Saturdays, 10 AM to Noon. Thank you so much for your contribution to the food pantry via the “Hungry Jar”. We will use it to buy much needed personal care items (shampoo, bodywash, tooth paste, laundry detergent, dish soap, and toilet paper. This is a wonderful community!



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.



FALL BACK

Fall Back – Time Change November 1 – Saturday night

Vacation Times

Like last year, Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean will each take a vacation break during October, but at different times. Pastor Jon will be out of the office October 4-10, and Pastor Jean October 25-31. As always, contact the office for pastoral care!



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

Wendy Amundson, Youth Director (608) 518-9593

Email: youthoursaviorswestsalem@gmail.com

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

Email: laurienoeke@gmail.com

Eric Sorenson, Senior Choir Director (608) 397-1832

Karen DeSchepper, Financial Secretary

Josh Corning, Custodian



Newsletter Deadline – October 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.



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

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