

Our Savior's Voice

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

359 Leonard Street N - West Salem, WI 54669

www.oursaviorswestsalem.org

608-786-0030

October 2026



Vision Statement:

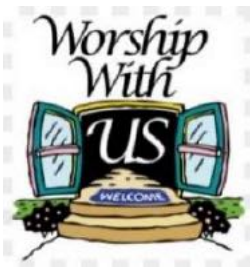
***We are a church centered in Christ,
inviting all into a community of worship,
nurturing all to be disciples of Jesus.
Together we reach out to make a difference
here and throughout the world.***

Our Savior's Voice

October 2026

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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/@techoslc/streams. Click on “live” to access the livestream.

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



YouTube

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!

Check it out ...



Facebook Page –
Our Savior’s ELCA – West Salem



Instagram Page –
[oursaviors_ws](https://www.instagram.com/oursaviors_ws)



Pastor's Reflections ...

The train has left the station

And we're off! It's time for Christian Education to get geared up, and it has!

Confirmation and Sunday School are off to a great start. The Property Committee has been busy this summer and is planning a work day to get ready for Fall. Plans are being made for the annual Norwegian Dinner. The quilters have the pedal to the metal finishing up and getting ready to get the quilts packed up and sent off, along with the school kits. Things are happening and the Spirit is swirling.



And then there's the business about the pastors retiring ... The Council met with Bishop Malpica to begin the Call Process, and the train has left the station. As we move forward, just like any journey on a train ride, the train stops along the way at each station, picking up people as it goes.



The first stop on our journey is to create a Transition Team (6 people) and a Call Committee (6 people). "Applications" are available and anyone hearing the call to be a part of either of these teams is encouraged to get your application filled out and

returned to the Church office by Sunday, October 11. The Council will appoint these teams at their October 12 meeting.

Once the teams are created, the train moves forward. As it continues on its route, the Transition Team will meet to create opportunities to get input from congregation members

regarding what you see to be the vision for this congregation moving forward, what current ministries are thriving, what



new ministries do you envision for the future, what qualities are necessary in new pastoral leadership, how can we creatively do ministry ... in other words ... you need to answer the

question - why are we here in this place, at this time, and who would miss us and what would they miss, if we ceased to exist?

This work will require making many stops along the way, bringing more people on board at each stop. The train cars will be filling up with old and young, new members and old timers, those deeply committed and active and those not involved at all.



There could be surveys, small group and/or large group listening sessions, opportunities to be creative as you invite everyone to share their hopes and dreams.



Once all of the information has been gathered, the train continues down the track picking up steam along the way. The Transition Team will then compile the information gathered, and create a Ministry Site Profile (MSP). Painting the picture of Our Savior's Lutheran Church that will be shared within the Synod and across the ELCA. The MSP is what potential pastoral candidates will use to discern their interest in coming to West Salem.

At this point in the journey, the Transition Team takes a step back and joins the rest of the congregation in the train cars. Up to the front of the train moves the Call Committee.

The next stop on our journey will be to pick up the pastoral candidates who have reviewed the MSP, been intrigued with what they read, and expressed a desire to check it out. The Call Committee reviews the Rostered Leader Profile (RLP) prepared by each candidate, discerns whose gifts and skills best fit with the congregation's, and invites the candidate(s) on board the train. The candidates will then *be interviewed* by the Call Committee, but they will also *interview* the Call Committee.

This part of the trip is when you can take a nap, enjoy the scenery, practice patience, trust the process, and don't ask too many questions. The job of the Call Committee is to do their due diligence, but to do it in strict



confidentiality. You may think it's taking a long time, you may think they're not doing anything, but rest assured, they are doing their job. It takes time to coordinate schedules, plan meetings, conduct interviews, discuss what they have learned, and discern who they believe to be the best fit for Our Savior's. So, respect the privacy of the process, understand their "bare minimum" reports, and look forward to hearing of the fruits of their labors when the time is right.



Almost to our destination now, you can begin to see the station coming into view. Just two more short stops. First, when the Call Committee is ready, the Congregation Council comes on board to learn of the candidate, meet with them, discuss the compensation package, and affirm (hopefully) who the Call Committee has recommended. Next, the Council then makes the final recommendation to the congregation.

Last stop - congregational meeting to vote. Each and every one of you climbs on board the train and



you are tasked with affirming the person who may become your next pastor.

Assuming the candidate says “yes!”, the train comes into the terminal and the adventure begins ... together ...



This is a long journey ... a journey that will take time and careful thought ... a journey that will take all of you ... You don't want to miss the ride!

All aboard!
Pastor Jean



- ♥ 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.



The stories ... *they're back!*

Last year we spent some time exploring stories from both the Old and New Testaments, looking for “God at work.” We had such a great time ...we’re doing it again!

This fall we’re going to look at some favorite “Sunday School” stories that don’t get as much attention in worship. Then (November 22-December 13), we’ll dive into some of the prophets – the “big boys” and a few smaller fish. After Christmas (January 3-31) we will consider some of Jesus’ best “soundbites.” During Lent (February 14-March 14) we will ponder prayer and the gift that it is for us. After Easter (April 4-May 9) we’ll let the Gospel of Mark take center stage with six of “Mark’s best.”

And finally, after we work through Pentecost, Holy Trinity, and a few other things, we’ll indulge in a bit of privilege by discovering one of Pastor Jean’s favorites ... and then one of Pastor Jon’s favorites.

Lots to look forward to, but for now ...

October 4 – Abraham and Sodom and Gomorrah

October 11 – Jacob’s Ladder

October 18 – Moses and water from a rock

October 25 – Joshua

So, join us as we explore some stories that sometimes get overlooked, wondering ... and then discovering where God is at work!



Faith Formation ...

Sunday School

We are off to a great start! Rally Day was filled with big smiles and lots of enthusiasm as we welcomed back familiar faces and new ones, too!

We are excited to have **returning teachers** Lindsey Gilberts (4th Grade), Eric Iliff (5th grade), Audrey Schliker (PreK/K), and Anna Vick (3rd Grade) ... and **new teachers** Alise Jothen and Riley Sullivan (PreK/K), Paige Christianson and Addy Tlustosch (1st/2nd Grade), and Amy Stefferud (3rd grade). We look forward to **music** once again with Linda Berg and Naoko Giblin, this year joined by one of our recent "Sunday School Grads," Declan Gilberts. And we thank our faithful **substitutes** Brenda Skittone and Erin Hebrink.

The kids had a great time reconnecting with several of our **classroom grandparents** who were able to join us - *Ladd DaFoe, Jerry Greeno, Jim Michelson, Ilene Pavelko, Jane Reinl* ... and getting to know our newest grandparents in PreK - *Lisa Cash and Larry Hessler*. And we thought about our grandparents who were with us in spirit and prayer - *Alice DaFoe, Brian & Corinne Hanson, Dolores Sinclair, Pat Smith, Rose Severson, Gary & Leca Wedwick, Brenda Skittone, and Ron & Dorothy Lamkin*.

Important Dates

Sunday, October 11 - 3rd graders receive Bibles in worship

Sunday, October 18 - Kids sing at 10:30AM worship

Saturday, December 12 - Program Practice - 3-5PM

Sunday, December 13 - Christmas Program - 10:30AM

**3rd Graders will receive their
Bibles during worship
*Sunday, October 11***



**Sunday School Offering
for 2026-2027
God's Global Barnyard**

An animal can make a world of difference for a family in need. Animals provide food to eat, fertilizer to grow crops, and offspring to sell at the market. With our gifts, we can help a family escape the cycle of hunger and poverty for good.

A **cow's** milk, meat, fertilizer, and calves can quickly strengthen a family's financial security. Fresh milk from a **goat** is very nutritious and can be used to make products like yogurt and cheese to sell at the market. Within months after birth, **piglets** grow to weigh over 200 pounds - bringing a big payoff at the market. **Chicks** begin laying eggs at just a few months old, offering nutritious, protein rich meals for families who are hungry. **Honeybees** pollinate plants and boost crop growth - helping the wider community. Soaps and candles can be made from their wax and sold at the local market.

With our offering, we can make a difference in the lives of hungry people. Let's see if we can fill our barnyard this year!



Faith Formation ... Confirmation Ministry

Truckin' on down the road!

Confirmation classes are off to a great start. But ... we can always add more!

6th graders meet each Wednesday at 6 PM. They are beginning to work their way through the stories of the Old Testament. Joseph, Moses, wanderings, and Ruth are all on the agenda for October.

7th graders also meet on (most) Wednesdays at 6 PM. They will have some electives and an introduction to servant leadership. They will also have a presentation on substance abuse concerns. **Wednesday, October 21 they will be leaving at 4:45 to attend Confest at Journey Lutheran Church in Onalaska.**

8th graders have a bit of a mixed-up schedule ...

- October 7 – they will join the 7th graders for the substance abuse presentation **at 6 PM.**
- October 14 – back to 7 PM – learning about gifts and stewardship
- October 21 – with the 7th graders to Confest **at 4:45.**
- October 28 – 7 PM again – and this time we explore “Jesus, Monsters, and Me.”

All the while the kids – 6th-8th graders are helping as worship assistants and learning what it means to be “disciples of Jesus” or “the Body of Christ!”

Remember that we always have room for more disciples! See Pastor Jon for more information.

Faith Formation ...

(Wendy Amundson)



7th & 8th Grade Confirmation Students ...

[All parents are invited to join us]

Wednesday, October 7 at 6 PM

Speaker: Heidi Overson, The Amara Rose Foundation

The Amara Rose Foundation (amararosefoundation.org) was founded in 2022 by Randall & Heidi Overson and Jeff Richardson. On January 7, 2022, they lost their daughter, Amara, to fentanyl poisoning. Amara died alone on a cold kitchen floor, miles from home. She was 31.

Amara had struggled with substance abuse, insecurity, and poor mental health for eight years. But fentanyl is what killed her. The foundation was started for a beautiful life lost, but also in honor of all those whose lives have been lost to substance abuse, fentanyl poisoning, and mental illness. They stand on the verse: "*... You meant evil against me, but God made it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.*" Genesis 50:20

Heidi Overson, President of the Board, is Amara's mom and lives in the Coulee Region. She is a writer and editor whose work has appeared in local and national publications. Her story about Amara's struggle went viral, appearing on websites all over the world. She and Randall raised four children and are grandparents to two grandchildren. Heidi is determined to fulfill the foundation's mission and will fight in honor of Amara and all others who lost their lives.

Confirmation Parents and anyone else with a passion for kids ...



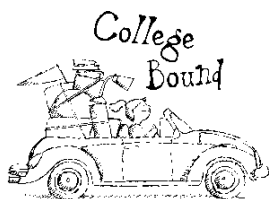
Wednesday, October 14 at 6 PM

Speaker: Al Erickson

Adults Saving Kids (ASK)

(www.adultssavingkids.org)

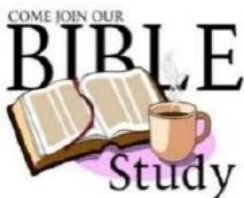
ASK works to train and equip parents and grandparents with the tools they need to build up the lives of their children. They carry out their mission with a special concern for the human trafficking of young people.



college
connection

Last call! 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*

Bible study continues to meet – and we are always digging away to find new nuggets and hear God speak anew to us. Our study is a deeper dive into one of the texts for the coming Sunday, so you have a “heads up” and what might be coming! 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.

For October...

October 7 NO CLASS!

October 14 Water from a rock - *Exodus 17:1-7*

October 21 Taking a stand - *Joshua 24:1-5, 14-18*

October 28 Just a pebble - *1 Sam 17:3-9; 41-50a*

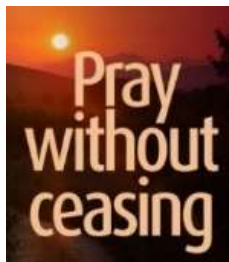
See Pastor Jon for more information.

**Coffee & Conversation
at Linda’s Bakery
9:30 AM on Tuesday, October 13**



Don't forget ... we are praying...

- ♥ Prayer time on Mondays at 6 PM ... outdoors by the prayer labyrinth or if the weather dictates, in the Koinonia Room. 35 minutes of sharing and praying.
- ♥ Use the prayer box in the Gathering Area to share your prayer concerns. We will lift up you and your concerns in our prayers!



Save the Date ...

Thursday, October 22

**Property Committee sponsored
"Indoors" Work Day**



We will put together a listing of "potential projects". Watch the weekly bulletins for the **specifics** - times and work activities. If you know of items to address, please contact the church office or one of the pastors.



Pastoral Acts:

Funeral – Diane McClintock – September 4

Baptism - Cleo Goodenough - September 19



New Members

Introducing new families at Our Savior's ...

The Pedersons... Adam and Kate, along with Garrett and Stella. The Pedersons moved from Holmen a little over a year ago and have enjoyed getting settled into the

area and becoming part of this community. They both work for Advisors Management Group in downtown La Crosse. Kate works with individuals as a Financial Advisor and Adam with small businesses throughout the state as a Consultant and Accountant. Garrett is starting 6th grade and Stella is starting 4th grade at West Salem.

The Pedersons enjoy spending time outdoors and staying active throughout the different seasons of the year. Both Garrett and Stella enjoy playing basketball and soccer, along with other activities. They are also involved with Pederson's Christmas Tree Farm in Barre. They value faith, family, and community, and are grateful for the warm welcome they have received at church.

Kenley Smith and Tony Osland are not married yet, but soon ... very soon!

Kenley recently graduated from UW-SP with a bachelors in elementary education, and is teaching 2nd grade in Tomah. She enjoys reading and exploring new places – especially coffee shops!

Tony also graduated from UW-SP, with a degree in Forest Management. He enjoys mountain biking, fishing, kayaking, and anything that gets him outside. He is employed by Stella-Jones, procuring railroad ties.

Welcome to the Pedersons and to Kenley & Tony!

Welcome, Joey!

At its September 8 meeting, the Administration Committee decided to offer the position of Choir Director to Joey Barnett ... and Joey said, "Yes!"



We are excited to welcome Joey to the team. Joey worked closely and well with Eric Sorenson, and we know that he will continue the excellence that Eric fostered with our choir and our music program.

Outside of Our Savior's Joey is a music teacher in Black River Falls, works with other church music programs, and is a member of the Coulee Chordsmen. Thank you, Joey, for joining us and for sharing your talents with us!

Young Adult/Family...

October Gathering

Watch for details...

or check with one of the pastors.





Mission Endowment Fund Disbursement for 2026

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 2026, we expect to disburse around \$20,000. The disbursement will be proposed by the Mission Endowment Fund committee and approved by the 2027 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 see one of the pastors.



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 22nd, 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.

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.



Feed Our Children Summer Lunch

From Angie Hemker

This was one of our best years for the Summer Lunch Ministry yet! We experienced an incredible outpouring of support from individuals, families, local businesses, and anonymous donors. Generous financial gifts—both large and small—alongside donations of high-need supplies helped us keep costs manageable despite rising living expenses. Local congregations and community groups also stepped up to support the effort.

Together, we served 3,399 lunches and 1,639 breakfasts, reaching a single-day peak of 161 meals. Despite summer school schedules, heat, smoke, and rain, families continued to show up. Thanks to our dedicated delivery volunteers, we were also able to reach those who couldn't make it to the church in person.

Every summer, I get a front-row seat to the very best of our community, and I am deeply blessed to be a part of it. Thank you to the members of OSLC for hosting and continuing to sustain this ministry.

*Editor's note: A **HUGE thank you to Angie** for once again spearheading this ministry of feeding the children in the community. Without her guidance, leadership, and genuine care for the kids, we could not have done this.*



Hungry Jar Offering for October – Shoe Box Christmas Project

Our confirmation students are collecting personal care items that they will then put into shoe boxes, wrap the boxes, and deliver them to the Boys & Girls Club and/or the West Salem Schools to give a young adult a little something for Christmas.

Each shoe box will include -- toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, socks, shampoo, and body wash.

If you choose to purchase these items, they can be placed in the basket in the Gathering Area.

Our Hungry Jar offering for October will be used to purchase additional items needed to complete the boxes.

Thank you to all who have already provided shoe boxes for this project. We appreciate your generosity and no longer need boxes.



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

♥August – Quilt/Kit Shipping – \$1,088.34

Norwegian Dinner & Bake Sale



**November 7, 2026
3:30 to 6:30 pm**

Ticket sales start at 3 pm

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

Pricing:

Lutefisk and Meatballs – \$25

Meatballs only – \$19

Children 4-12 – \$10

Children under 4 – free

All proceeds given to missions



Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Worship and Pie Festival

**Wednesday, November 25
7 PM at Our Savior's**

Together with our Brothers and Sisters in Christ from the West Salem Presbyterian Church and St. Teresa of Kolkata, we will come and give thanks to a gracious God for all the gifts of life! We also hope to have a joint community choir.

Bring one or more items for the food pantry to leave up at the altar.

Following worship ...

This year, and as we did three years ago, we will celebrate with PIE!!!



To make this event a huge success, we are asking members to make and donate an extra Thanksgiving pie to be served after the service. We will also have coffee, hot apple cider, and of course whipped cream for topping.

Please have the pie at church by 6:45 PM. Sign up with your name and type of pie you will be bringing. And remember, *Variety is the Spice of Life!!*



Thank you ...

... to the September newsletter mailing crew:
Connie & Larry Blunck, Bev Bockenbauer,
Corinne Hanson, Renee Herman, Carolyn Karl,
and Carol Thompson.

Received from others ...

... I am so thankful for my campership given by the church. This was probably one of my best years of Sugar Creek Bible Camp. My camp counselor was very funny and always made us laugh. Since I did night camp we would stay up during the night and sleep during the day which made everything instantly more fun. We would stay up all night laughing, playing board games, and talking about so many things. We would also sneak into the canteen for midnight snacks and go night swimming! All and all, I've been going to Sugar Creek for 5 years now and each visit is better than the last. I am so grateful for my experience and connecting with so many great people.

Kaelyn Hebrink

... Thank you so much for the campership. Some of my favorite moments were: horse riding, holding baby chick's, all-camp games, creek stomping, team bonding, my camp counselor, my friends and meeting new friends, the Christ hike, swimming, spaghetti night, singing songs, worship, stargazing, playing sugar ball, making bracelets, playing in the rain, and staying up until 11. I had so much fun at Sugar Creek!

Adriana Hebrink

... Thank you for giving me money to go to camp. I always have the best time meeting new people and learning more and more about God each day. I could not be more thankful!

Claire Gross

... Thank you for the generous scholarship to Sugar Creek. I had a blast the week I went to camp! My favorite things were creek stomping, horse rides, and the fun experiments we did in STEAM camp. Another one of my favorite things was tie-dyeing shirts! Thank you again for the generous payment for me to go to camp.

Brynnleigh Baganz

...Thank you for the kind scholarship for Sugar Creek Bible Camp. My favorite things I enjoyed was creek stomping, horseback riding, sugar ball and swimming. I got opportunities to pray. Thank you again.

Bailey Baganz

... Thank you for the campership to go to Sugar Creek! I loved meeting new people and swimming. If I had to pick my favorite thing I couldn't cause it was all AWESOME!

Adalyn Byom

Vacation Times

Pastor Jon will be on vacation October 1-8, but ... good news ...

Pastor Jean will still be here! She will be leading worship and available for pastoral needs. Or just a good, simple chat! But don't feel too bad for her, she will be taking November 10-17 off, with Pastor Jon present for all the pastoral tasks.



In Loving Memory



Memorial Gifts Received ...

In Memory of Paul Ranum from

Jeff & Melissa Haldeman

Jim Michelson

Ingrid & Thomas Brandy

Rose Olson/Pam & Greg Hutson

*In Memory of Paul Ranum for Building Fund
from*

Bonnie Gensch

Judy Long

*In Memory of Paul Ranum for Mission
Endowment Fund from*

Eric & Lynette Ender

Larry & Connie Blunck

*In Memory of Paul Ranum for Sugar Creek
Camperships from*

Larry & Linda Arentz

*In Memory of Diane McClintock for Building
Fund from*

Judy Long

*In Memory of Diane McClintock for Mission
Endowment Fund from*

Eric & Lynette Ender

In Memory of Diane McClintock from

Family & Friends

Jim Michelson

Jim & Mary Ann Hemker

Betty Whitlock

Scott & Lori Engelhart

Albert Czapski

Paul & Renee Bogie

Linda Phillips

Rose Olson/Pam & Greg Hutson

In Memory of Eric Sorenson from

**Don & Sue Carlson
Jeff & Melissa Haldeman
Charles Schams
Charles & Jean Calhoun
Charles Huth
Arthur & Sandra Melby
Rhonda & Larry Adams
Doug & Geri Patschull
Rodney & Ruth Erickson
Ronald & Patricia Pavek
Lisa Cash**

**Wilbur Johnson
Ilene Pavelko
Jan Crandall
Marla Peterson
Gabriel Hicks
Deborah Wells
Vicki & David Arndt
Jackie Meir
Margaret Kearns
Mardeana Glasel
Family & Friends**

*In Memory of Eric Sorenson for Building Fund
from*

Bonnie Gensch

*In Memory of Eric Sorenson for Mission
Endowment Fund from*

Eric & Lynette Ender

In Memory of Eric Sorenson for Choir Fund from

**Larry & Connie Blunck
Jan & Keith Goetzinger**

Jim Michelson

*In Memory of Eric Sorenson for Music Fund
from*

Larry & Linda Arentz



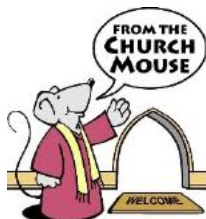
Church Council Congregation Council

The Congregation Council met on Monday, September 14, with President Brenda Skittone presiding.

At this meeting the council:

- Shared some visions for what God is doing at Our Savior's, using Proverbs 29:18 as a basis.
- Welcomed Bishop Malpica to discuss the call process.
 - Heard from the Bishop how the call process works and what the next steps are.
 - Decided to initially create both a Ministry Transition Team and a Call Committee. Authorized Trudy Drugg, Tiffany Janisch, and Mike Larson to develop an instrument for persons to share their interest in participating in either the Transition Team or the Call Committee. Noted that the pastors will be supportive of the process but not involved.
 - Heard Bishop Malpica confirm that Our Savior's is a good call, and that he expects significant interest in Our Savior's from prospective candidates.
- Approved minutes from the August meeting; received August financial reports, and the pastors' reports.
- Heard updates on visitors in worship, and the Engaging Children Initiative.
- Received into membership:
 - Adam and Kate Pederson, Garrett and Stella
 - Avery and Riley Upton
- Heard that Joey Barnett has been hired to lead the choir.
- Heard updates on a variety of building projects.
- Discussed appropriate procedures for sharing fundraising opportunities outside the congregation.

The council next meets on Monday, October 11 at 7 PM. If you have questions or ideas for enhancing the ministry of Our Savior's, contact Brenda Skittone or one of the pastors.



Call Process Update

The Call Process is ... *up and running!* After Bishop Malpica's visit with the Congregation Council, we are moving ahead.

The first task is for the Congregation Council to appoint a Ministry Transition Team and a Call Committee. To assist the council in identifying individuals who are open to being a part of either group, there is an "interest profile" available for you to complete so we know you are interested and what gifts you bring to the tasks at hand. The profile is available in the office or as a download from the homepage on our website. Profiles need to be submitted by October 11.

Just what is the task of the two groups? The **Ministry Transition Team** will work over the next few months to engage the congregation in reflection and discernment as to what God is calling into being here at Our Savior's, and what pastoral leadership is necessary to make that happen. Their job will be done probably early in 2027.

The **Call Committee** begins its work after the Ministry Transition Team and will interview candidates lifted up by the Bishop's office. They will then recommend a candidate to the Congregation Council, and then to the congregation.

We are hoping to have one or two persons who will be on both groups to provide for some continuity between the two.

So ... if you think you have the calling ... the willingness ... the time ... and the insight ... consider being available and completing the profile.

For more information, see Brenda Skittone. You can ask the pastors too, but remember, while they can share information, they need to stay out of the process!

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!

2026 Ministry at Work			
	Actual-August	Actual-YTD	Budget-YTD
Income	\$23,101.52	\$235,840.21	\$239,100.00
Prepaid		\$23,968.36	\$23,968.36
Expense	\$29,196.30	\$239,138.93	\$255,752.80
Net	(\$6,094.78)	\$20,669.64	
2026 Worship Life – Weekly average			
	In-building Actual	Online Estimate	TOTAL
August	143	41	184
Year to Date	170	51	221



**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 our support of ministries beyond West Salem, through our partnership with the La Crosse Area Synod, the ELCA, Sugar Creek, LuMin, Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and more. Lots of places and ways to change lives and bring hope. And in your gifts, you are there!

Your financial gifts make this, and all our ministries happen, and 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 3-4

6 p.m.

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

Ava Johnsrude
Jon Hetland
Bonnie Gensch

8 a.m.

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

Addyson Knebes
Amy Rasmussen
Knebes Family

10:30 a.m.

Laurn Langrehr
Kyle Hehl
J&M Haldeman

Home Communion
Altar Guild October

Mariette Stefferud
Cindy Averbeck and Jaime Fortier

October 10-11

6 p.m.

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

Brooklyn Marinelli
Judy Morzinski
Chad & Carla Long

8 a.m.

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

Bailey Miller-Siddons
Bill Jensen
R&B Clements

10:30 a.m.

Mabel Sjoquist
D Baumgartner
Sjoquist Family

Home Communion

Carol & Scott Thompson

October 17-18

6 p.m.

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

Jaxon Stugen
Dan Steele
Brady & Amanda Christianson Family

8 a.m.

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

Ellie Tlustosch
Brenda Skittone
Wendy Amundson

10:30 a.m.

Caroline Balboa
Jeff Haldeman
Brian & Jen Linse

Home Communion

Daryl Wermedal

October 24-25

6 p.m.

Worship Assistant	Adalyn Byom
Communion Assistant	Marjorie Anderson
Welcoming Team	Byom Family

8 a.m.

Worship Assistant	Maci Cooper
Communion Assistant	Melody Schmitz
Welcoming Team	Eric & Jill Iliff
Home Communion	Dottie Baumgartner

10:30 a.m.

Declan Gilberts
Carla Burkhardt
Amy Rasmussen



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 to Our Savior's – do you? 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!!

KWIK TRIP



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

WOODMAN'S

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

Care and Share Food Pantry ...



is open Saturdays, 10 AM to Noon. The food pantry could use pasta sauce, Hamburger Helper, and Spam. Money, other non-perishable food items, and personal care items are always welcome. Thank you for being so supportive of the pantry!

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

Theresa Fladhammer, Admin 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: laurienoelke@gmail.com

Joey Barnett, Senior Choir Director (715) 896-3825

Email: barnetjos@gmail.com

Karen DeSchepper, Financial Secretary

Josh Corning, Custodian



Newsletter Deadline – October 15



Fall Back – Time Change October 31 – Saturday night

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

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