

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
359 Leonard Street N  
West Salem, WI 54669

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May 2015 NEWSLETTER

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
WEST SALEM, WISCONSIN  
MAY 2015

- Affirmation of Baptism, April 26
- Guest Preacher, May 2 & 3, Pastor Ben Morris, Lutheran Campus Ministry
- Top Ten Choir Anthems, Sunday, May 17
- High School Senior Recognition, May 24, 8 a.m.
- Summer Worship Schedule Change



**Mission Statement:**  
**To reach toward God**  
**and to each other**  
**for the sake of the world**

# OUR SAVIOR'S VOICE

Our Savior's Lutheran Church 359 Leonard Street N West Salem, WI 54669  
www.oursaviorswestsalem.org 608-786-0030 oslcws@centurytel.net

MAY 2015

## PARSON TO PERSON



Recently I attended the synod's spring theological gathering for clergy. The theme for the day was *The Wisdom of the Elder & The Wonder of the Child*. The

presenter for the day was Rich Melheim, a Lutheran pastor and founder of Faith Inkubators, a Christian faith formation system.

From the title, you can get a good idea what we were talking about. The new "buzz word" for the concept of older generations and younger generations working together is "Cross+Gen." This replaces what we used to refer to as "intergenerational." There is intentionality about the + (cross) in the center of the word. We want faith to be central to our interactions between the generations, across the generations, among the generations. Everyone has something to offer and we need to lift up the gifts of everyone.

What if worship was a GIFT – *Generations In Faith Together*. And, what if we could take our experiences in worship home with us and live them out during the week. Did you know that 7/8 of ministry happens outside the church in the home? We need to be thinking of ways to be effective with that 7/8 of our time.

It should be of no surprise that part of the presentation was a way to get us thinking and get us moving to share faith at home. Some of you may have heard of *Faith5*. The idea has



been around for many years and it continues to be a tried and true practice, especially for families, but not exclusively for families, to engage in faith formation in the home, around the dinner table or at bedtime.

**SHARE** *your highs and lows* – give each person a chance to share their joys and hurts for the day – don't interrupt and don't judge what is being said. We share our highs and lows in the context of a loving family or a group of trusted friends.

**READ** *a Bible verse or story* – perhaps it is something from Sunday worship or together as a family you choose a Bible story. What a great way to enrich a child's faith, emotional health, and spiritual imagination.

**TALK** *about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows* – what happens when God's Word is applied to the highs and lows of each day; as you come together seeking God's wisdom and will?

**PRAY** *for one another's highs and lows* – think about what prayer can do. How does prayer change the situation? How does prayer change you? What happens to children who grow up with their highs and lows brought to God in prayer every night of their lives? What happens to children who grow up praying for their parents?

**BLESS** *one another* – what happens when a child goes to sleep every night knowing they are loved, safe, and blessed? What happens to children who bless their parents every night?

Along the same lines is the notion that the most powerful times to educate (which means 'to draw out') are when we are laying down at night and when we are rising up in the morning. More telling is the point that whoever gets the last word in when a child goes to sleep has the most power. *Let's make sure God's word is the last word they hear!* I guess that goes for the rest of us too!

Another concept that was introduced to help us share faith was "*brain meets body meets environment.*" To learn something we need to take the "content" (the material, the information), along with something "physical" that reinforces the content, and then put it in the "context" of our surroundings.

A fun example for me is Mabel, who is in church just about every Sunday. Like most two year olds, she can sometimes be wiggly and squiggly, but she is paying attention and absorbing what is going on in her surroundings. In fact, she is a perfect example of 'brain meets body meets environment.' Every week as we partake in Holy Communion, Mabel comes up for a blessing. One Sunday after worship, Mabel came running up to me, as is her routine, but when I picked her up, instead of the usual hug, she put her little hands on my head, whispered some words, and gave me a blessing – just like she gets every week during Communion. How cool is that!! Mabel gets it that Jesus loves her and she is blessed ... and she is not afraid to share God's love with others.

The rest of us can learn from our young ones ... cross+gen.

There is a lot to digest as we think about cross+gen sharing of our faith. I invite you to chew on this for a bit and maybe ... try the Faith5 experience I shared with you above for just 40 days, a mere 6 weeks, and see what happens. Find a time when you can gather as family for 5 or 10 minutes, make the commitment to do it, and really invest

yourselves ... Or ... commit to making God's Word the last word we hear at night ...

Or? Got ideas? Join me in sharing how we can do cross+gen ministry here at Our Savior's.

Sharing faith with you,  
**Pastor Jean**



## Can we talk?

At the theological conference I attended, we were given material for a four-session "cross+gen" conversation. I'd like to do that, but I need YOUR help – I'd like YOU to gather with me to have a conversation, preferably around a meal. Ideally, with a variety of generations represented, we'd have a conversation about how we connect the generations in our churches and how we can design worship that is meaningful to all. Worship that is a GIFT – *Generations In Faith Together.*

As we begin to think about sharing our faith, across generations, among families in our homes, bringing worship to life outside of the church walls ... here are a few "theses" to ponder ...

- ✂ Thesis 1: Parents have been, are, and always will be the most influential faith role models in most children's lives.
- ✂ Thesis 2: If you don't worship with your parents as a child, you are probably not going to worship on your own as an adult.
- ✂ Thesis 3: The majority of our current adult members and regular worshippers allot only one hour on Sunday mornings (or Saturday nights) for either worship or education.
- ✂ Thesis 4: If we schedule worship and education concurrently, most of our

adults will never go to education, most of our children will never go to worship, and most of our senior citizens will never interact with most of the children and parents at our church.

- ✂ Thesis 5: Most families have little to no intentional faith talk, prayer, Scripture or blessing in the home on a regular basis.
- ✂ Thesis 6: Our existing worship and education models are not engaging the hearts and minds of the post-television generation.
- ✂ Thesis 7: Most pastors today spend little time in Children's Ministry and most Christian education directors are allowed little time to impact and influence worship.
- ✂ Thesis 8: Most handouts given to children in Sunday school end up in the trash before they leave the building or on the floor of the minivan and do not spawn any regular, ongoing faith discussion between parent and child at home.
- ✂ Thesis 9: A simple model that connects parents and children with elders on Sunday's Bible theme at church and re-engages them in caring conversations during the nightly bedtime ritual at home would be more effective for teaching faith than our current model of worship and Sunday school.
- ✂ Thesis 10: The wisdom of the elder and the wonder of the child are two priceless gifts which belong together at the core of any future worship, education and faith formation strategy we design.

If any of these thoughts touch you, let's have a conversation. In the coming months, I would like to gather a group together to talk about cross+gen sharing of faith. Let me know if you would like to join me.

Blessings,  
Pastor Jean

## CONFIRMATION



Congratulations to our 9<sup>th</sup> grade confirmands for 2015. This class, which began with Pastor Roger Grow, worked through Bible, catechetical, and discipleship training, and then affirmed their

baptisms on Sunday, April 26. As they move into a new phase of faithful living, we ask you to keep them in prayer!

Our confirmands for this year are:

David Aleckson	Alysha Hesse
Logan Aleckson	Jacob Iliff
Ethan Beal	Aubrey Johnson
Jarron Beckley	Taylor Jones
Ryan Beirne	Rebecca Michael
Matthew Bigley	Joseph Oldendorf
Allison Burke	McKenah Olson
Dana Carlson	Drew Peterson
Nick Crogan	Justine Rich
Zoey Dolan	Delaney Schomberg
Alea Fortier	Nathan Selck
Alana Gavaghan	Emily Steele
Dylan Godlewski	Shaw Strangstalien
Collin Grosskopf	Ellie Tschumper
Mitchell Hammes	Brooke Valencia
Sarah Hannan	Sophie Venner
Adam Helgeson	Abigail Vick

We also thank our group guides who have shepherded this class for the past three years: Megan Collins, Mary Gavaghan, Tom Grosskopf, Karen Rich, Paula Steele, Paulette Schomberg, Kristin Tschumper, and Daryl Wermedal. You have been a gift to our confirmands – and to us. *Thank you!*

## PROPERTY UPDATES

The 2015 Annual Meeting directed the Congregation Council to complete the purchase of the property on Mill Street adjacent to the parking lot. As of April 1, the purchase is complete. The sellers will occupy the home for up to six months as they seek out new housing. The future of the property will be determined at a later date.

Meanwhile, we are beginning the process of placing the "Johnson North" property (north of the parsonage) on the market. We hope to sell that property in the next few months. If you or someone you know might have an interest in Johnson North, please contact the Rental Management Committee (Mike Alumbaugh), or one of the pastors.



## HYMN SURVEY

Join us the second and third weekends of the month to participate in a survey of our favorite hymns! The top ten will be used in worship later this summer. YOUR input makes a difference – so don't miss it!



## PASTOR BEN MORRIS

Pastor Ben Morris, from Lutheran Campus Ministry-La Crosse, joins us the first weekend of May as our preacher. Pastor Ben is a young, dynamic ministry leader, with extensive experience working with young adults. We are excited to have him at campus ministry, and to have him share with us.

## POSTAL FOOD DRIVE

Opportunity for service—Come Join the Fun!

The Postal Food Drive is May 9, 2015. The food pantry board is looking for volunteers to help mark and sort the large quantity of food that arrives. Last year we were able to process all of the food with an amazing group of volunteers. In 2014, the community donated 4,000 pounds of food! Any amount of time between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. would be appreciated. We will be working in the basement of Our Savior's Lutheran Church at 359 N. Leonard Street. All ages welcome. Please call Lynette Ender 786-0723 to sign up or just stop by on May 9. Please check expiration dates. Outdated items will be disposed.



## THIRD ANNUAL CHOIR

### TOP TEN SUNDAY!!

What have your favorite choir pieces been since September? The choir is busy casting their ballots for their Top 10, and will sing them for you at both church services May 17. Join us for the Third Annual Top Ten Sunday!



## CIRCLE NEWS

### RUTH CIRCLE

Monday, May 18, 9 a.m.  
Leader: Velma Schmidt  
Hostess: Norma Schmig at her home

### REBECCA CIRCLE

Thursday, May 21, 7 p.m.  
Hostess: Barbara Manthei

## WELCA SPRING CONVENTION 2015

Women who are members of Our Saviors—you are part of WELCA and can celebrate its mission to grow in faith and affirm our gifts. Watch for future events if you missed the spring gathering described here:

A group of Our Savior's women spent a worthwhile day with other Women of the ELCA at Trinity Lutheran in Sparta on April 18<sup>th</sup>. They were among over 80 women ages 24 to 89, experiencing uplifting worship and listening to a variety of speakers. Special guests were representatives of our larger church: Jody Smiley, Vice President of WELCA from Blacksburg, VA, and Linda Post Bushkofsky who is Executive Director of Women of the ELCA and whose name may be familiar because she writes for our church publications The Lutheran, Gather, and Café-on-line magazines. Our keynote speaker was Connie Scharlau of Arcadia who has done an extensive study of some lesser-known women of the Bible. Examples are Vashti, a woman of great self-respect in the book of Esther; Junia who is listed as an apostle in only the King James Version and the NRSV-Romans 16:7; the woman who talked back to Jesus, Matthew 15:21-28.

Our group came away from this event with new knowledge of the many missions we support such as justice initiatives to combat human trafficking and advocating for women and families who are experiencing difficult challenges throughout the world. It makes one feel proud to be a member of WELCA and happy to support it through our contributions at circle meetings and through our biggest WELCA fundraiser, the lutefisk and meatball dinner. Want to know more? See [www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org), friend us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and join in the conversation. Or visit with these attendees... Connie Blunck, Vernetta Moe, Velma Schmidt, Bev Bockenbauer and Ilene Pavelko.

## Senior Ministries

### We have what you need ...

When you're at church ... feel free to ask an Usher for ...



- ❖ a **large print bulletin** for use during worship – everything is included in the bulletin, no need to fumble with heavy hymnals

- ❖ a **hearing assist device** available for use during worship



For those who can't get to church ...

- ❖ we have large print copies of the daily devotional "**Christ In Our Home**" that comes out quarterly
- ❖ a **DVD** is made each week of the **Sunday worship service** and we have a DVD player to lend out with the DVD



If you would like to receive either of these, please call the church office and let us know. **We are happy to deliver!**



**Bible Study @  
Salem Terrace  
Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>  
at 10:00 AM**

Members – *and friends* – who live at Salem Terrace and Mill Street Manor (or whoever would like to stop by – *all are welcome*) are invited to join us for Bible Study. We will meet in the small kitchenette room off the parking lot between the two buildings. The coffee pot will be on.

## Church Buddies



If you are no longer driving, shouldn't be driving, or can't at the moment because of health issues, but you'd like to get to worship on a Saturday night or Sunday

morning ...

### **Call upon one of our Church Buddies**

We have a list of volunteers who are available on an as needed basis who would gladly bring you to church. Call Pastor Jean or the church office for more information. If you'd like to become a Church Buddy, talk to Pastor Jean.

OWLS

### **Thursday, May 28, 1:30 p.m. Craft/Hobby Show & Tell**

**Need more information?**

**Contact:**

**Judy Long, 786-1142,**

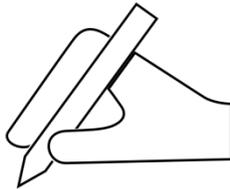
**or**

**Vernetta Moe, 608-797-1067**



## Card Ministry

In case you didn't know ... we send cards to two shut-ins each week to let them know we are thinking of them and praying for them. We invite all of our members and friends to stop by the "Card Ministry" table (located outside of the Church Office) each weekend when you are at worship to sign the cards for that particular week's shut-ins. The thoughts and prayers expressed on the cards are much more meaningful when those gathered in community are the ones signing them.



*Senior  
Spotlight!  
Celebrating  
our Resident Theologians...*



Disciples come in all shapes and sizes. We have much to learn from our "elders" as these resident theologians have insights and stories to share. Herb Long graciously allowed us to share a glimpse into his story. Herb, 75 years old, has been a member of Our Savior's since 1971.

### ***Herb's advice to new disciples of Jesus ...***

Learn to recognize what the Lord does for you in your life. Don't credit to other things, like "luck," what's going on in your life; know that it is the Lord working in you.

### ***Herb's favorite Bible passage ... because ...***

Matthew 7:7-8 – "Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened." Herb said these verses cover a lot of ground; he did a lot of it, experienced it, and has found it has taken him a long way. He feels he is very fortunate from the standpoint of this passage.

***Herb's earliest memories of church ...*** As a young child, Herb went to a Congregational Church and he remembers the classroom (like our Sunday school) where they would have roll call and you had to raise your hand and answer 'here' when they called your name. Herb said he was embarrassed having to do that because he was a bashful child and that called attention to him. Ironically, Herb became a K-5 elementary school physical education teacher, and he credits that calling, that leap of faith, to living out the Bible verse he loves.

Herb shared that his father died when he was 4 years old and his mother raised him and his brother. She had a beauty shop in their home, working six days a week, so Sunday was her

day to rest. Herb credits his grandmother, who lived one house over, as having the greatest influence on him with regard to church and faith. He said she was a regular at church. Herb shared that he became a Lutheran when he married Judy, and he has been very active in the life and leadership of the church all these years. Herb sees church as a community; a place where their closest friends are. He said young people excite him and it is fun to see all of the kids here in church.

Thank you for sharing, Herb! Please keep Herb and all of our “senior” members (and “resident theologians”) in your prayers.

## NURSING HOME SERVICES

Outreach at area nursing and housing facilities continues in May. Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean will lead worship services on Thursday, May 21:

10:30 AM – Lakeview  
1:00 PM – Salem Terrace  
2:45 PM – Mulder’s

Pastor Jon will also lead worship at Lakeview on Sunday, May 24, at 1:30 PM.

You can be a part of this ministry – your presence adds to the Body of Christ gathered at that place and at that time. See Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean for more information.

## WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday morning Bible study continues to explore the Gospel of Mark. We meet Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. in the Library, and YOU are invited! See Pastor Jon for more information.

## SUNDAY MORNING ADULT STUDY

Sunday morning adult study meets at 9:15 in the classroom off the fellowship hall in the lower level. We will meet through May 17, and then take the summer months off, as our worship schedule changes. Until then, we continue to use the Nooma videos to explore our faith in the context of real life. Come, coffee and goodies in hand, and join in sharing a bit of faith and life with others. See Pastor Jon for more information.

## THE LUTHERAN

In response to our call for those who have an interest in The Lutheran magazine, we have adjusted the subscription list. If you discover that you are no longer receiving The Lutheran, but would like to continue, please contact the office – we can put you back on the list!



## GARDEN PLOTS

As we were assured that it would, spring has arrived even though it's maybe a bit later than usual.

Garden space remains available for any church member interested in a plot of ground for the upcoming season. Call Jim at 786-1236 for details.

## SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

From Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, we use our summer worship schedule. Saturday at 6 p.m. and Sunday at 8 a.m. remain the same, but 10:30 a.m. moves to 10 a.m. Summers are busy, but make time to connect with God's gifts of life in Word, Sacrament, and the Body of Christ gathered together!





# SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

We had fun on April 12<sup>th</sup> “test driving” a new Sunday School curriculum – *Whirl* by

Sparkhouse Publishing. The kids got to meet Otto, Clara, Monty and the gang as they learned about sharing, first by watching a DVD and then talking about it in class. There are activities and crafts that also go along with the lessons to help reinforce the Bible story. The lessons follow the *lectionary* so the kids know what’s going on when they get to church. Plus there are activities for families to follow up with during the week. There’s something for everyone! Preliminary reports are that the kids (and teachers) liked it!

It’s hard to believe Sunday School will be done in just a few short weeks. It has been great having you all with us this year to learn about Jesus and share our faith stories. We look forward to celebrating our time together on May 17<sup>th</sup> with special activities and an ice cream social. Also, don’t forget to join us on Mother’s Day (May 10<sup>th</sup>) for a special project. See you in Sunday School!



## Mark Your Calendar

- Sunday, May 3 – Teacher/Helper Appreciation Lunch
- Saturday/Sunday, May 9/10 – Sugar Creek Camperships distributed during worship
- Sunday, May 10 (Mother’s Day) – children sing in worship at 10:30 a.m. service
- Sunday, May 17 – children sing in worship at 8 a.m. service
- Sunday, May 17 – last day of Sunday School ... let’s party together!

## Sugar Creek Bible Camp Presents

Plans have begun ...

“Growing in Grace”  
Vacation Bible School  
August 10-13  
9 AM- 3 PM



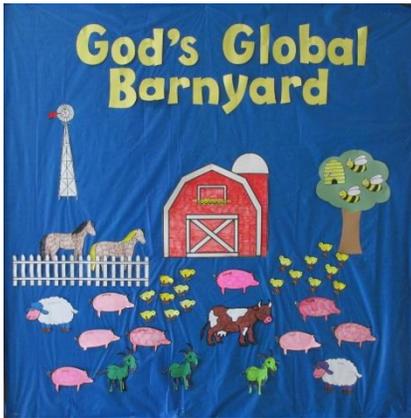
Counselors from Sugar Creek Bible Camp will be here at Our Savior’s to lead us for a week of Vacation Bible School. Watch for details and registration forms in the June newsletter and on the website ([www.oursaviorswestsalem.org](http://www.oursaviorswestsalem.org)).



Our *friendly competition* is coming to an end. Which class has had the most weeks of “near perfect” attendance? Which class raised the *most offerings* to fill God’s Global Barnyard? Join us on May 17<sup>th</sup> to find out!

As of the middle of April, the 4<sup>th</sup> grade class of Mrs. Schmitz & Ms. Larson has had the most weeks (6) of “near perfect” attendance, followed by our Pre-K class with 4.

We still have **3 children** who have *perfect attendance*, another 2 who only missed once, and 5 who only missed twice! Way to go kids!! Can you make it until the end of the year?

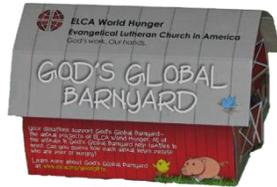


Check out the bulletin board outside of Pastor Jean's office to see how our barnyard continues to grow. The chicks and pigs

are multiplying; we have several goats, two lambs, and bees buzzing in the trees.

During Lent, we invited everyone to take a Barnyard Bank and fill it with loose change.

Watch the barnyard outside of Pastor Jean's office to see how we did! Thanks to those in the congregation for helping us get another cow for our barnyard ... what a difference we can make!



A cow, a couple of goats, a dozen chicks, two pigs, and farming tools, plus agricultural training and marketing support, can help a family achieve a fresh start. With new tools and techniques, crops will grow bigger and stronger than ever before. Eggs, milk, and meat from farm animals will provide enough food to eat and sell on the market, helping a family **escape the cycle of hunger and poverty — for good.**



## Hungry Jar Offering for May Sugar Creek Horse Project

Mrs. Fortier's & Ms. Witte's 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Sunday School class has chosen the **Sugar Creek Horse Project** as the recipient of the Hungry Jar offerings for May. Gifts to the Horse Project, collectively with hundreds of others, will help defray the cost for each camper who attends camp this summer. Camper fees only cover 73% of the cost of camp. These gifts are vital to the camp's operating budget as they help provide quality programs, a safe environment, well-maintained facilities, and a fun, memorable, Christ-centered experience for summer campers and those who attend retreats. The overall impact of the horse project in congregations makes a profound difference to the ministry of Sugar Creek.



## June Dairy Days Float

Come join us ...

Creativity abounds and we are ready to begin construction of our float that will share information about Vacation Bible School coming in August.

On May 13, several of our confirmation small groups will gather to begin construction. If families and others would like to help, talk to Pastor Jean for details. We will keep you posted in weekly bulletins after that time, as other tasks need to be completed. We will also be looking for families and young people to walk along and pass out the fliers.





**Don't Forget**  
 ...  
**Bible Camp Camperships**

**Are you going to Sugar Creek this summer?**

We have \$100 Camperships available

**On May 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> during worship,** we will be presenting the Sugar Creek Camperships to our students who have returned their request forms (due May 1<sup>st</sup>). As a congregation we will pray for our students while they are at camp, and we will look forward to hearing about their experiences at camp in future newsletters (*hint, hint, kids* ... we want to hear from you when you return ... or drop us a postcard while you're there!). For more information talk to Pastor Jean.

**PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES**

The new pictorial directories are here. If you did NOT have your picture taken, but would like a directory, we have some available. A \$3 donation to world hunger and it's all yours! See Kay in the office or one of the pastors.



*Sunday School Teacher & Helper Appreciation Lunch*  
*Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> following*  
*10:30 a.m. worship*

*We thank our teachers and helpers for sharing their time and*

*faith with our*

*Sunday School*

*students this year. We have been blessed by their presence among us.*



**Thank you to:**

- Pre-K – Michelle Witte, Kim Arentz – helpers: Jared Witte, Kirin Linse
- Kindergarten – Molly Hunter, Emily Trautman – helper: Rebecca Schmidt
- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade – Ann Donahue – helpers: Aidan Donahue, Kamryn Kane
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – Allison Rigotti, Danielle Schultz – helper: Tayler Jones
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – Stacey Sjoquist, Kara Gavaghan
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – Wendy Kane, Kim Schmidt
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade – Rita Schmitz, Megan Larson
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade – Jaime Fortier, Kim Witte – helper: Alea Fortier
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Eric Iliff
- Music – Mike Larson, Shannon Vick, Ilene Pavelko, Linda Berg
- Substitutes – Marjorie Anderson, Beth Clements, Jeanne Marcou

## FLAMINGOS FLY IN MAY!



All month long, you can find our pesky flock of Flamingos landing in the lawns of uninsured OSLC members. If you would like to make a flocking order to see the birds land in the lawn of your choice, see our table in the Gathering Area during worship services in the month of May!

## OSLC SERVES SALVATION ARMY DINNER- MONTHLY



Members of our own community need our time and care, and we are seeking to meet that need with God's love. There was quite a bit of interest to serve the Salvation Army shelter dinner, so we have decided to provide that opportunity on a monthly basis. Serving times are 4:15-5:15 p.m. each time. See the Youth Board for dates to sign-up.

## BIKE BLESSING

Join us for a new bike blessing this year-a bicycle! May 31<sup>st</sup>, at 4 p.m., meet at the entrance to the bike trail at Mill Street for a group ride out to Veteran's Memorial Park where we will share in a campfire and s'mores along with a bike blessing for the upcoming biking season! All bicycle type vehicles welcome-bikes, trikes, burleys, scooters...anything that moves for the new season!



## HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR GRADUATION

First...*congratulations to all the 2015 Graduating Seniors!* You are invited to YOUR graduation party at Dana's home on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Come as we celebrate your time with Our Savior's. Scholarships will



You're  
Invited

be announced and we will celebrate what God has in store for each of you in the coming years!

Then...*Senior Recognition Sunday is May 24<sup>th</sup> at the 8 a.m. service.*

Graduating seniors and their parents are invited to attend. Scholarship

recipients will be announced, a blessing upon our seniors will be given, and a special gift to parents will be presented. We praise God for the blessing of your presence in our community over the past 18 years, and we seek to send you out with God's blessing upon you.

Our 2015 graduates include:

Olivia Aleckson  
Michael Anderson  
Trygve Anderson  
Ashley Arndt  
Mariah Arneson  
Justin Beckley  
Josh Bruring  
Abigail Burke  
Garrett Carlson  
Ronni Clements  
Leif Ender  
Sam Fellom  
Kate-Lynn Hannan  
Treyante Hansen  
Daniel Hessler  
Ericka Higdon  
Mackenzie Higdon

Ross Holey  
Larissa Jacobson  
Adam Klos  
Brianna Miller  
Carter Mulder  
Isaac Oldendorf  
Rachael Quamme  
Megan Schneyer  
Danielle Schultz  
Allison Skrentny  
Jayda Springborn  
Brett Thompson  
Sierra Turnipseed  
Bailey Valencia  
Allison Van Riper  
Sophie Wilker  
Madelyn Wozney

## MOM'S GROUP



Mom's group continues to grow and shape as we come together to support one another in a

very important ministry. Raising Christian children is such a joy, but also a challenge. If you are looking for a group to connect with and walk the same journey, join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday or the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. Contact Dana or Jen Timm for location information.

## JUNE DAIRY DAYS FUN RUN AND FOOD STAND



June Dairy Days will be here before we know it! Our Savior's comes together again to work in the food stand and host the fun run on Saturday, June 6 of June Dairy Days. Please look for

the sign up in the Gathering Area to find a time that works for you and your family. Students age middle school and older are welcome to work in the food booth. Thanks for working together for this outreach effort!

## 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. See Thrivent's web site for more information or stop by the office and we will help you out.

## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

The Stewardship Committee Needs Your Help!

Someone once said, "A church budget is the allocation of limited resources while stewardship is the celebration of unlimited resources." One way that these unlimited resources might very well relate to, is all the hundreds of volunteer hours shared by the members of Our Savior's. The Stewardship Committee needs two new members to join our group. The current members are Pastor Jon, Kay Niemeier, Stacey Mitchell, Eric Ender and Ken Spraetz. Our committee meets once a month for an hour or so just before the Church Council meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month. Our main function is to promote, share, plan and celebrate the many ways of stewardship." Our Savior's "**Makes a Difference**" in the lives of many people. Joining our group would be a way to help us make a difference.

Please contact Ken Spraetz, Chairman of the Stewardship Committee, if you would like to join our group.

Thanks for being a Good Steward!

Ken Spraetz  
Chairman of the Stewardship Committee  
[kspraetz@hotmail.com](mailto:kspraetz@hotmail.com) or 786-0017

DATE	ATTENDANCE	OFFERING	SUNDAY SCHOOL
April 5	672	\$8,665	
April 11 & 12	259	\$6,609	63
April 18 & 19	309	\$4,703	49
April 25 & 26	617		



## CONGREGATION COUNCIL REVIEW

The Congregation Council met on Monday, April 13, with President Char Buelow presiding. At this meeting the council:

- We thank the **MAILING CREW** for assembling the Newsletter. The members who helped this past month were Connie and Larry Blunck, Russ and Diane McClintock, Carol Noel, Paul and Marilyn Ranum, Mary and Rich Storandt, and Betty Whitlock.

- As the Sunday School year winds down, it's time to thank many good people who have contributed to our recent coffee hours. Many parents of Sunday School children as well as other parishioners and visitors have enjoyed the fellowship time.

Thank you to the following March and April servers and bakers: Connie and Larry Blunck, Eleanor Lee, Jim Michelson, Naoko Aminaka (3), Jan Goetzinger (2), Cathy Selck, Marsha Bateman, Rita Schmitz, Kay Osiecki (2), Linda Arentz, Tracy Skrentny, Bonny Goodenough, Peggy Trautman, Kim Hansen, Carla Burkhardt (2), Zach and Scott Friell, Norma Piper, Judy Gilbert, Connie Pinski, Jeanne Marcou, Lynette Ender, and Karen and Tim Tiber.

There are some serving and many baking spots open in May. Check the signup sheet beside the kitchenette.

June hostesses will be the Ruth Circle and July's fellowship hour will be hosted by the Rebecca Circle members.

Thanks to all of you for your gifts from your kitchen to ours!

Please contact me if you have questions: Ilene Pavelko (786-2360) or [ilenepav1@aol.com](mailto:ilenepav1@aol.com)

- Began with conversation on the nature of "church."
- Reviewed and approved the March minutes, financial reports, and pastors' reports.
- Received a letter of thanks from Bishop James Arends for our support of Lutheran Campus Ministry.
- Received a report on the Lewis Loan Fund.
- Received a report from Pastor Jean on revisions in the financial accounting.
- Designated new signers for church accounts, and approved the application for a credit card for youth ministry needs.
- Approved with revisions a new Child Safe Policy. Tabled action on revisions to the Emergency Procedures to the May meeting.
- Heard that the Mill Street property purchase has been completed.
- Went into Executive Session to discuss the sale of the Johnson North property.
- After returning from Executive Session, directed the Rental Management Committee to begin the process of marketing the Johnson North property, bringing any offer to the council for approval.
- Received Jennifer Perz (transfer), Ronald and Virginia Le Jeune (transfer), and Wayne and Donna Dolan, and Zoey (transfer) as new members.

The council meets again on Monday, May 11. See Char Buelow or one of the pastors if you have any questions.

## MISSION DISCERNMENT UPDATE

The Mission Discernment Task Force continues to explore where God is leading us! Our "Congregation Conversation" on March 1 gave us lots to ponder, and we are moving forward in a number of directions.

The "Congregation Conversation" noted several core elements of our ministry together:

- Worship and music
- Youth ministry
- Youth education and faith formation
- Mission support
- Food pantry

The gathering also identified space, financial support, and the many gifts of people as resources and challenges to our mission and ministry together.

As a result of our work, several things are happening:

- The Mission Discernment group is engaging groups in the congregation to continue the conversation.
- A task force to consider our values and vision, and another task force to explore space needs, use, and possibilities, have already formed and have begun to meet.
- Responding to a need voiced by younger families, the TV and speakers in the Gathering Area will be on during worship for those who need a space outside of the worship area.
- Responding to a dream from our high school youth, Pastor Jon and Dana are exploring a Sunday evening youth worship for this coming fall.
- As the coming months unfold we will watch for an opportunity to gather again in a "congregation conversation."

Finally, THANK YOU to all who participated in the conversation, and all who have since shared their insights and observations.

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

We have new members! Our Savior's is excited to welcome several new families, and over the next few months, we will share a bit about them with you.

This month we welcome **Jennifer Perz**. Jennifer says:

*My husband, Jamie, and I have been married for three and a half years and have lived here our whole married life. We live up on St. Joe's ridge with our little dog, Lars, who is very much like our child. I am from Elroy, WI and went to school at UW-L. I teach second grade at West Salem Elementary full time and work part time at The Wedding Tree in La Crosse. I love being busy and working with people.*

If you are new to Our Savior's, and interested in learning more about what it means to belong to our community of faith, see Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean. We continue to rejoice in the gift of new partners in the work of Jesus Christ!

## GENTLY USED COLORING BOOKS AND CRAYONS

### COLORING BOOK



Do you know what a sign of spring is?  
Rummage sales!

While you are shopping for treasures, please look for gently used coloring books, activity books, and crayons.

These items can be used in the Peace Keeper bags that are available in the Gathering Area for children.

## E-COMMUNICATIONS



Did you know that **109** people receive the newsletter by email instead of a paper copy? Interested in helping us save paper and postage? One way we can do that is to send you an email each time we post the newsletter on our website. Give us your email address, let us know you don't want a paper copy of the newsletter, and we'll do the rest. You can find the website at [www.oursaviorswestsalem.org](http://www.oursaviorswestsalem.org)

## HOSPITAL REMINDER

Being hospitalized is never easy. Our goal is to visit each member during this difficult time.



At Gundersen, please be sure to alert the hospital of your church affiliation when they ask and they will then release your name to us when we call. At Mayo Clinic Health System/Franciscan Healthcare, it is important that you or a family member contact the church office to notify us of your stay. Mayo is no longer able to give out that information.

## EMAIL FROM PASTOR JON



Pastor Jon sends out occasional emails with announcements about happenings at Our Savior's, and a weekly reflection on God, life and faith. If you are not already on the email list from him, and would like to be, please send Pastor Jon your email address, or speak with him. We will never sell your email address, and if you want to get off the list, we'll do that too!

## WEB SITE AND E-MAIL CHANGES

New features are being added to our web site at [www.oursaviorswestsalem.org](http://www.oursaviorswestsalem.org). We are "stocking" the photo gallery, and under the "Resources" tab is a page with various forms. You will also find under "Resources" a page with videos of our worship services. Videos are generally posted by Wednesday morning (thanks to Dean Olson for making that possible!)

Please note too that we have new e-mail addresses for staff at Our Savior's:

Pastor Jon  
[pastorjon@oursaviorswestsalem.org](mailto:pastorjon@oursaviorswestsalem.org)  
Pastor Jean  
[pastorjean@oursaviorswestsalem.org](mailto:pastorjean@oursaviorswestsalem.org)  
Office (Kay Niemeier)  
[office@oursaviorswestsalem.org](mailto:office@oursaviorswestsalem.org)  
Dana  
[youth@oursaviorswestsalem.org](mailto:youth@oursaviorswestsalem.org)  
Linda Berg  
[linda@oursaviorswestsalem.org](mailto:linda@oursaviorswestsalem.org)  
Treasurer (Jill Iliff)  
[treasurer@oursaviorswestsalem.org](mailto:treasurer@oursaviorswestsalem.org)

Old e-mail addresses still work, but we will be transitioning to the new addresses in the near future, so start to make use of the new ones!

## SIMPLY GIVING

Simply Giving works! Simply Giving is an automatic payment program that allows you to support the work of Jesus through Our Saviors, easily and automatically, at the amount and timing that works for you. There is no charge to you, and it is a safe and efficient way for you to make your contributions. For more information see Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean, or speak with Kay in the church office. Setting up Simply Giving is easy, and you can change your contributions or end your participation at any time. Check it out!

# MAY

## ACOLYTES

May	2 3	6 p.m. 8 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Kessler Goodenough Olivia Haun Dagan Hemker
May	9 10	6 p.m. 8 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Anna Johnson Kamryn Kane Alayna Kennedy
May	16 17	6 p.m. 8 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Joshua Knudtson Hannah Kolve Megan Larson
May	23 24	6 p.m. 8 a.m. 10 a.m.	Ashlie Lockington Dylan Mann Tyler Marcou
May	30 31	6 p.m. 8 a.m. 10 a.m.	Andrew Murphy Dalton Peters Jordyn Schurhammer

## BASKET HOLDERS

May	3	8 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Mallory Farr Audrey Godlewski
May	10	8 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Sydney Hammes Teegan Hansen
May	17	8 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Maddie Haun Madison Hermann
May	24	8 a.m. 10 a.m.	Josh Iliff Natalie Jeranek
May	31	8 a.m. 10 a.m.	Owen Johnson Haley Jones

ALTAR GUILD Pam Gresens and Jill Iliff

## COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

May	2	6 p.m.	Judy Morzinski
	3	8 a.m.	Sharon Olson
		10:30 a.m.	Tracey Beckley
			Jeff & Melissa Haldeman
May	9	6 p.m.	Jennifer Iliff
	10	8 a.m.	Ken Spraez
		10:30 a.m.	Char Buelow
			Corey Sjoquist
			Michelle Witte
May	16	6 p.m.	Allison Rigotti
	17	8 a.m.	Marty & Jane Frank
		10:30 a.m.	Dana Roemhild
			Dottie Baumgartner
May	23	6 p.m.	Paula Heilman
	24	8 a.m.	Lee & Jean Fernstaedt
		10 a.m.	Marilyn Ranum
			Sandi Stavlo
May	30	6 p.m.	Jill Iliff
	31	8 a.m.	Bonny Goodenough
		10 a.m.	Carlie Burkhardt
			Mark & Kim Hunter

## HOME COMMUNION SERVERS

May 2 & 3	Marjorie Anderson
May 9 & 10	Dottie Baumgartner
May 16 & 17	Bev Bockenbauer
May 23 & 24	Char Buelow
May 30 & 31	Bonny Goodenough

## READERS

May	2	6 p.m.	Marjorie Anderson
	3	8 a.m.	Carol Stekel
		10:30 a.m.	Ilene Pavelko
May	9	6 p.m.	Jeff Rich
	10	8 a.m.	Marty Frank
		10:30 a.m.	Todd Michael
May	16	6 p.m.	Ann Sprain
	17	8 a.m.	Char Buelow
		10:30 a.m.	April Haldeman
May	23	6 p.m.	Candice Stoll
	24	8 a.m.	Graduation 2015
		10 a.m.	Dottie Baumgartner
May	30	6 p.m.	Jeanne Marcou
	31	8 a.m.	Mike Alumbaugh
		10 a.m.	Dori Jensen

## OFFERINGS

May	2	6 p.m.	Marjorie Anderson
	3	8 a.m.	Tracey Beckley
		10:30 a.m.	Vernetta Moe
May	9	6 p.m.	Steve Ahles
	10	8 a.m.	Ken Spraetz
		10:30 a.m.	Rich Clements
May	16	6 p.m.	Kay Niemeier
	17	8 a.m.	Char Buelow
		10:30 a.m.	Dottie Baumgartner
May	23	6 p.m.	Carlie Burkhardt
	24	8 a.m.	Wendy Kane
		10 a.m.	Sandi Stavlo
May	30	6 p.m.	Jim Quamme
	31	8 a.m.	Mike Alumbaugh
		10 a.m.	Mark Hunter

SATURDAY USHERS

May 6 p.m.  
Dennis & Ann Sprain

USHERS 8 a.m. 10:30/10 a.m.  
May Gulbrand Wee Kristen Schoenfeld  
Jerry Quackenbush Trenton Foreman  
Byron Buelow Scott Campbell  
Stuart Anderson Heather Campbell

May 10 Dale & Kathy Anderson  
Todd & Everett Michael

Web Site: [oursaviorswestsalem.org](http://oursaviorswestsalem.org)

OUR SAVIOR'S STAFF

Pastor Jonathan Schmidt, Senior Pastor 612-0217 Email: Jon\_oslc@centurytel.net  
pastorjon@oursaviorswestsalem.org  
Pastor Jean Schmidt, Associate Pastor 612-0217 Email: Jean\_oslc@centurytel.net  
pastorjean@oursaviorswestsalem.org  
Kay Niemeier, Parish Secretary Church Office: 786-0030 Fax Number: 786-0951  
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Jill Iliff, Treasurer Email: treasurer@oursaviorswestsalem.org  
Linda Berg, Organist Email: linda@oursaviorswestsalem.org  
Eric Sorenson, Senior Choir Director  
Dave Nelson, Custodian 608-780-3946  
Karen DeSchepper, Counter