

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

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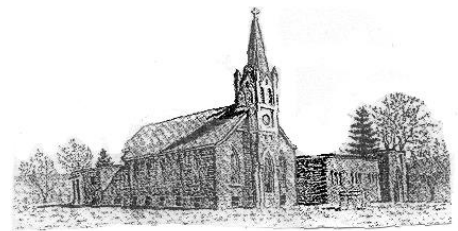
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NOVEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
WEST SALEM, WISCONSIN
NOVEMBER 2016

- ▷ Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner, November 5
- ▷ All Saints' & LSS Sunday, November 6
- ▷ Pies For Sale, November 12 & 13
- ▷ Stewardship Weekend, November 12 & 13
- ▷ Thanksgiving Eve Worship, November 23
- ▷ Advent & Christmas Schedules



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

NOVEMBER 2016

PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

Outside our Comfort Zone



At the end of last year, I was invited to be a community

member of the Gundersen Health System Institutional Review Board (IRB). Having spent 17 years of my working life at a university medical center, and missing the hospital setting, I was intrigued with this possibility. After I attended my first meeting and experienced the absolute power that this committee commands, I began to have second thoughts. What do I really know about all of this high-powered medical stuff? Give me a complaint, ask me to talk to a department head or a physician or a department chairman, allow me to advocate for the patient's rights, and I feel right at home. Somehow, this is different. But I stepped outside of my comfort zone and I accepted their invitation. It's been almost a year now and I continue to feel very inadequate, surrounded by these MDs and PhDs and JDs, this closed group that has been together for many years. ***But something was tugging at me to do it. I wonder ... does God have a purpose for this lowly outsider?***

If you would have asked any one of the 450 kids in my high school graduating class, who the *least* likely person would be to get up in front of a group of people (especially a

significantly large group of people) and say something, it would be me. I agonized over English speeches, losing sleep thinking about them; I wouldn't raise my hand in any class to answer a question, for fear the answer would be wrong and everyone would stare at me. So when my friend, the Assistant to the Bishop in our previous synod, told me I should be a pastor, I practically laughed in her face. You expect me to get up in front of lots of people and preach a sermon and lead worship? Are you serious? But I stepped outside of my comfort zone and I accepted her challenge. It will be seven years this month that I have been ordained, and I'm still thinking about that high school girl. ***But something was tugging at me to do it. I wonder ... does God have a purpose for this lowly preacher?***

It's that time of year on the calendar when the church year comes to an end and a new year begins. With a new year comes new challenges and new opportunities. We are no different here at Our Savior's. As we look to the new year we anticipate Red Balloon leaving our building for another location here in West Salem, and we have mixed feelings about this change. After all, it's been over 30 years that we have shared our space with others; it's been over 30 years since we have had to think about the mission and ministry that could be done here in this place. There is excitement to reclaim our space, there is excitement over all the possibilities, there is excitement about making changes. And ... there is apprehension to reclaim our space because it will come with a cost, there is apprehension that all of the

possibilities can be overwhelming, there is apprehension about making changes because we've always done it this way.

In these last 30 years, we have gotten used to having the income in our budget. It's become comfortable for us. The move of Red Balloon, while opening up new opportunities, and maybe even generating some excitement, also challenges us to think a little differently about our stewardship. It might even stretch us a bit to think about how each one of us personally can make a difference here in this place. We haven't had the opportunity to dream about the possibilities of where the Holy Spirit might be leading us. But it's a new day ... and now we are being invited to step outside of our comfort zones – to share our time, our talents, and our treasures (yes, even our dollars) – to make mission and ministry happen here at Our Savior's. ***But something was tugging at us to do it. I wonder ... does God have a purpose for the ministries of this congregation?***



As we celebrate this time of Thanksgiving, I give thanks to God for the something that was tugging at me to do it. I no longer wonder ... does God have a purpose for me ... I know he does! I

just have to step outside of my comfort zone and let the Holy Spirit work within me. What about you? Will you join me?

*Stepping outside of our comfort zone together,
Pastor Jean*

ANNUAL LUTEFISK AND MEATBALL DINNER

Saturday, November 5

Serving begins at 3:30 p.m.

Ticket sales begin at 2:30 p.m.

No advance sale of tickets by seating items.

Carryouts available after 4:30 p.m.

Plans are being finalized for our annual Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner on Saturday, November 5.

If you didn't sign up for a specific job, extra workers are always welcome ~ the 8 p.m. clean-up crew always appreciates assistance! The work schedule will be posted on the wall outside the kitchen door. Please put a check by your name when you come to work, or, if your name is not on the schedule, please write it in.

Bring your food donations to church on Friday or Saturday morning. Please check off your name on the posted donation list on the wall by the kitchen door or in the "sweet" room ~ south classroom off the dining room. Cash donations to cover the expense of the meat and fish can be sent to the church or placed in the offering plate. Please make checks out to Our Saviors WELCA: memo: lutefisk.

Bake sale items upstairs to the Gathering Area – please indicate on that sheet your name and items you bring in for the bake sale.

If you have any questions, call Lynette Ender at 786-0723, Inger Michael at 786-1707 or Bonny Goodenough at 769-0758, or the church office at 786-0030.

Profits from this annual event support various church missions. Thanks for your willingness to help! See you at the dinner!

DON'T FORGET...

There will be NO Saturday worship on November 5 as we instead indulge in the Norwegian Dinner – lutefisk, lefse, and meatballs.



NOVEMBER 6



As an added bonus, don't forget to set your clocks back an hour and get a bit of extra sleep. Then come, refreshed to worship as we celebrate All Saints' Day!

LSS SUNDAY



Sunday, November 6, we celebrate All Saints' Sunday, giving thanks for all who have gone before us. We also, however, give thanks for the ways in which God's saints touch the lives of other saints, especially through our partnership with Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. Pastor Jim Holmberg of LSS will join us, sharing the message in worship and in a forum in the library between services.

Pastor Holmberg is the Director of Church Relations for Lutheran Social Services Foundation. He served parishes in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and Southern Wisconsin before accepting a call with LSS in 2011. Jim and his wife Marion live in Waukesha with three of their seven children. Join us in welcoming Pastor Holmberg and learning more about our ministry through LSS. You can also check out the Stewardship Corner for more on LSS and our ministry.

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

As in past years, we remember on All Saints' Sunday (November 6) all the saints who have gone before us. We remember in our prayers all who continue to grieve, and we thank God for the gift and witness of all who have gone before us. This year we especially remember those who have joined the church triumphant during the past year, including:



- Irene J. Fisher ~ February 26, 2016*
- Dorothy M. Bahan ~ March 14, 2016*
- Leona M. Gilbertson ~ March 18, 2016*
- Robert L. Gullickson ~ April 3, 2016*
- Judith K. Hulberg ~ April 22, 2016*
- Carolyn A. Haldeman ~ June 2, 2016*
- Elwin F. Craig ~ June 4, 2016*
- Gertrude E. Johnson ~ June 7, 2016*
- Nathaniel W. Crogan ~ June 20, 2016*
- Arvel M. Raffelson ~ July 4, 2016*
- Clyde O. Pierce ~ July 9, 2016*
- Joanne M. Nelson ~ July 26, 2016*
- Fred P. Meyer ~ August 19, 2016*
- Yolanda A. Craig ~ October 5, 2016*

Join us on November 6 to celebrate their witness, give thanks for the presence, and pray for continued healing for all who grieve the loss of loved ones!

MIDWEEK REFLECTIONS

Pastor Jon shares an occasional "midweek reflection," sent out by e-mail, and posted on the "pastor's blog" on the web site (<http://www.oursaviorswestsalem.org/category/pastors-blog/>). You can always check the site, but if you'd like to get the e-mail version just let him know, or send him an e-mail at pastorjon@oursaviorswestsalem.org. Over 200 folk are on the list – you can be too!

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

One of the many ministries which we support at Our Savior's, is Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. Your regular offerings make that support possible, and because of you, lives are changed. Pastor Jim Holmberg of LSS will be with us on November 6 (and maybe for lutefisk on November 5!) We asked Pastor Jim to share a bit about the work we make possible through LSS.

Dedicated to representing God's love through programs and services that help people in need, LSS traces its origin to 1882 when Pastor E. J. Homme opened a home for orphaned children in Wittenberg, Wisconsin. Now, our services extend across Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, helping people all along the lifespan with services as essential as housing and life changing as adoption.

We change lives in many different ways: with a meal for someone who hasn't eaten lately; a course of treatment for someone struggling with addiction; or a comprehensive set of services for an individual, family or community.

Affiliated with congregations of the ELCA throughout Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, LSS welcomes and serves people of all faiths and backgrounds. We thank the ELCA churches that support our ministry of social service; we're also grateful to the United Way, county and state governments, corporations, foundations and thousands of caring individuals.

LSS has a strong ministry presence in the La Crosse Area Synod. Programs in the Synod include:

- Services for families with children who have autism
- Domestic, international, and special needs adoption
- Foster care services

- Family preservation programs for families at risk of having their children placed in foster care
- RAYS – Runaway and Youth Services
- Coordination of services for those living in subsidized housing with LSS
- Disaster preparedness and recover with Lutheran Disaster Response
- Jackson County Transitional Living for offenders reentering the community
- Community Supported Living for adults with disabilities needing support in living independently

LSS is grateful for the support of the congregation and members of West Salem Lutheran Church. We could not do this work without you.

SOUNDS LIKE LOVE



The "Sounds Like Love" weekend is in Mahtomedi, MN, November 11-13.

Sounds Like Love is a great weekend of music and fun, with hundreds of kids from around the Midwest.

SALVATION ARMY MEALS

The Salvation Army continues to provide an evening meal for the hungry in La Crosse, and you can join in that ministry by serving the meal. Our Savior's takes the second Friday of the month, November 11. We are there from 4:15-5:15 p.m. – no preparation or clean up, just serving and being the presence of Jesus as we do "God's work with our hands." We look to have up to six servers, and families are welcome, including children as young as ten. A sign-up sheet is on the youth bulletin board outside Pastor Jon's office.



Pies for Sale



November 12 & 13 Proceeds for the Care & Share Food Pantry

The food pantry has an excess of pie fillings, so our confirmation students, under the supervision of the Senior Ministry Committee, will be baking pies to be sold following worship that weekend. *Get 'em while they're hot* and join our confirmation students in giving back to the food pantry.

NEW MEMBER CLASS

A new member class is ready to go! If you are interested in membership at Our Savior's, and come from a non-Lutheran background, we invite you to join our membership classes in November. We will meet on Sunday, November 13, 20, and 27 from 9:15-10:15 a.m., in the classroom next to the washrooms on the lower level. We will explore the faith we share from several different angles, and discuss what it means to live life faithfully.



If you come from a Lutheran background, and wish to join Our Savior's, you are still welcome to the class! We will help you with the transition from your former congregation via a transfer.

Either way, see Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean for more information. And if you are worshipping with us, but just not ready to take the plunge, that's OK – we love having you in our midst!

KISSES FROM HEAVEN

The fall stewardship ministry emphasis is underway! We celebrate this year the many ways we have been "kissed" by a gracious God, challenged to share God's kiss with the world, and empowered to make a difference! YOU TOO can change the world, or at least a small corner of it.



Kisses and our stewardship challenge have been sent out, and we are looking forward to a faithful response. We invite you to bring your estimate of giving card to worship on Saturday or Sunday, November 12 or 13. As God has kissed us with blessings, so we share generously of that which God first gave to us!

If you did not receive a card, or if you can't find yours, we have more. And as always, we thank you for your faithful partnership in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

PRAYER AROUND THE CROSS NOVEMBER 13, 7 p.m.

"Prayer around the Cross" provides a quiet, contemplative worship opportunity, lasting about 25 minutes. We gather to reflect on the darkness around us, and on the light that shines through Jesus, with each month having a different theme.



Our next "prayer around the cross" will be on November 13, at 7 p.m. Worship is simple, with times of silence. We meet in the sanctuary. Come as you are – you don't need your "Sunday best!" Just yourself!



Interested in getting together with other adults in our congregation to

build relationships and just have fun together?

“Simply Social”

Save the date for Thursday, December 8.
Watch for details for a December event!

THANKSGIVING FRUIT BAGS



Fruit bags will be distributed to shut-ins from our church on Saturday and Sunday, November 19 and 20.

The bags will be available in the Gathering Area. Please check the names on the bags and take a bag to deliver to a shut-in.

Phone Jane Halverson (786-1067) if you have any questions.



THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP

Wednesday, November 23
7 p.m.

Come and give thanks to a gracious God for all the gifts of life!

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

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING



It's almost time for Salvation Army bell ringing. Our Savior's will

provide the ringers at Hansen's IGA on December 2 from 4-7 PM, and again on December 3 from 9 AM – 6 PM. A signup sheet will be posted on the kiosk in the Gathering Area. Make this a family event, sharing some time with those who struggle to make ends meet! See Pastor Jon for more information.

LOOKING AHEAD...

Tree trimming is set for Sunday, December 4, following the 10:30 a.m. service. Watch for more details in the December newsletter.



SYNOD SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY is a new ministry of the La Crosse Area Synod intended for laypeople who are interested in learning about Bible, theology and ministries of all sorts. Classes will be held over two years on Thursday evenings, in six trimesters of six weeks each, and will be taught by a variety of pastors from the synod. Students can take the full curriculum, or only the courses they want to take. Graduates will be acknowledged at synod assembly.

Best of all - classes are held right here at Our Savior's! The School begins this January, and includes a minimal cost, along with the cost of books. This is a great opportunity to dive more deeply into our faith, the work of the church, and how we are called to be faithful. To learn more about the School of Theology, and what it can be for you, see one of the pastors.

PASTORAL ACTS

Baptism

† **Easton Robert McClintock**, son of Dillon McClintock and Madeline Smith was baptized October 8. His baptismal sponsors are Gavin McClintock and Paige Griswold.

Memorial Service

† **Yolanda A. Craig** died October 5. Services were held October 10 with burial in Neshonoc Cemetery.

WELCOME...TO SUSAN GIBLIN!



Our Savior's welcomes Susan Giblin as a new member. Susan is originally from Harmony, MN, and is a retired

nurse, having worked for 30 years at Gundersen, then with the Red Cross. She currently does occasional work at Villa St. Joseph. She has two sons (including Sean), and three granddaughters. She is an avid gardener, loves to knit and weave, and is learning to spin wool. She also loves reading, biking, and snowshoeing.

Welcome, Susan! It's great to have you with us!



✿ We thank the **MAILING CREW** for assembling the Newsletter. The members who helped this past month were Connie and Larry Blunck, Bev Bockenbauer, Bonnie Ender, Sandra Holthaus, Inger Michael, Carol Peterson, and Rich Storandt.

✿ Thank you to Lee Friell for the gift to the Endowment Fund in honor of his mother, Helen Friell.



FLOOD AND STORM RELIEF

Flood relief remains a concern in our area, and across the Caribbean and southeast United States. You can help by making your gift to "flood relief" or "storm relief." Through the La Crosse Area Synod, or through Lutheran Disaster Response, we partner with people on the ground, in those areas, to meet the most critical needs. Thank you for your care and concern for those in need!

SCHOOL KITS - 230!!!

A huge thank you to everyone who helped to surpass our goal of 200 school kits for Lutheran World Relief! The final push with monies from the Hungry Jar enabled us to fill an extra 30 kits.



Special thanks go to the third grade Sunday School students and their teachers for filling the bags, to the confirmation students who helped with packing the boxes, and to those who transported the boxes to the boxcar. We are thankful to our WELCA for donating the bags. And to each and every one of you who donated supplies or gave money to the Hungry Jar - THANK YOU!

QUILTS ARE ON THEIR WAY!

Despite some glitches with the boxcar, quilts and school kits from Our Savior's are on their way. Close to 230 quilts and school kits will make a difference in many lives.



Thanks to all our sewing ladies and kit suppliers, but a special thanks to Norma Piper, Jim Michelson, Marsha Bateman, and Mike Alumbaugh for making it all work!

By the way...last year's quilts went to India, Georgia (the country), and Thailand. School kits went to Honduras, Nicaragua, and Georgia (the country again!) *God's work, our hands!*

CONGREGATION COUNCIL REVIEW

The Congregation Council met on Monday, October 10, with President Jim Quamme calling the meeting to order. At this meeting the council:

- Shared in devotions and prayer.
- Approved minutes from the September council meeting. Also received and reviewed financial reports and pastors' reports.
- Discussed the youth ministry position. Decided to post the position, seeking applicants for a part time position, with interviews in early December. Decided to finalize the job description at the November council meeting.
- Received Susan Giblin, formerly of First Lutheran, Onalaska, as a new member.
- Noted that the December meeting will be at the Schmidt home.
- Decided to participate in an MBTI assessment at the February council meeting.
- Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The council meets again on Monday, November 14. See Jim Quamme or one of the pastors if you have any questions.

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

We're Looking!



Our Savior's is now seeking a new Director of Youth Ministry. The Congregation Council

hopes to interview candidates for the position in early December. This position is currently set to be a part time position, with an expectation of 20-25 hours per week. A job description will be available November 15. A cover letter and a resume should be submitted to the church office no later than 9 a.m., Monday, December 5. We hope to have a new person in place by January 1, 2017. For more information, see Pastor Jon or Jim Quamme.

Communion Bread ...

We thank *Linda Arentz* for providing the homemade bread for Holy Communion in October and *Stacey Sjoquist* in November.



If you would like to be a part of this important ministry, please speak with Pastor Jean. Recipes are available.



Do you have the gift of gab ... *why not try being an usher?*

Do you have compassion for those who can't get out ... *why not try taking communion to our homebound members?*

Do you like to talk ... *why not try reading lessons in worship?*

Do you like to work behind the scenes ... *why not try helping with altar care?*

Do you like to bake bread ... *why not try making bread for communion?*

Do you like to serve others ... *why not try being a communion assistant?*

Do you have a knack with numbers ... *why not be a money counter?*

It's a new dawn
It's a new day
It's a new life
...And I'm feeling good

It's a new opportunity for you to get involved ...

We would love to help you explore your passions. Check out the sign-up sheets in the Gathering Area, call the office, send us an email, or talk to Pastor Jean. "Job descriptions" and "on the job training" available!

DON'T FORGET...

**SOLES
4
SOULS**

Ellie Slotten is collecting new and gently used shoes for Soles 4 Souls. Your gift of shoes can be huge in the life of someone who has to work and live without shoes. Shoes go to spots in the U.S. and around the world. She is also fundraising to collect for the shipping costs. The shoe drive will run from September 21st through December 8th. A box will be located in the Gathering Area during the duration of the shoe drive. Your old shoes could change a life!

**college
connection**

We are intentional about keeping in contact with our college students – sending emails periodically, as well as remembering them during final exam week. We are also interested in hearing about life away from home and encourage them to share with us.



As our students are either away from home or studying in challenging environments, we keep them in our thoughts and prayers. This month please pray

for **Emily Ender** (UW-River Falls), **Taylor Novak** (studying abroad in London through St. Mary's University, MN), and **Allison Skrentny** (UW-L).

YOUTH MINISTRY FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH



Sunday morning "Breakfast Club" – continues to meet on Sunday mornings, during Sunday School, in the kitchen

for a few breakfast goodies, good talk about God and life, and time to be kids. Cathryn Bottem and Ariel Behnke (UW-L juniors) facilitate the conversation and the treats!

Wednesday Early Release for High School – high school kids are encouraged to join us on Wednesday, November 16 right after school lets out, here at church. We will have lunch waiting, then off to be difference makers in someone's life. See Pastor Jon or Tayler Jones for more information!

AFTER SCHOOL

Confirmation students – don't forget to come "after school" on Wednesdays! Activities, free time, homework, and more. We have WiFi in the building so you can get your work done! Dinner is at 5:30 p.m., and classes follow at 6 p.m. for 6th grade and grades 7 & 8 (make sure you have class that night!) Note that we do NOT have After School on November 16 (Early Release) or November 23 (no school). See Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean if you have any questions.



E-COMMUNICATIONS OR PAPER COPY



Did you know that **112** people receive the newsletter by email instead of the **456** people who receive 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

DATE	ATTENDANCE	OFFERING	SUNDAY SCHOOL
Oct. 1 & 2	297	\$7,331	80
Oct. 8 & 9	264	\$3,727	79
Oct. 15 & 16	314	\$9,508	69
Oct. 22 & 23	312		

"... place in their hands
the holy scriptures ..."

We celebrate with the
following **Pre-K
students** as they were
gifted with a *Whirl Story*

Bible in October:

Shiloh Gullickson

Oliver Kendhammer

Addyson Knebes

Laney Kneifl

Layla Kneifl

Chase Koudelka

Easton Massman



Alex Roemhild

Alexis Schulz

Darrell Smith

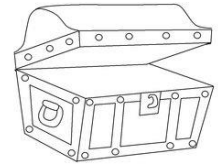
Amy Stefferud

Anna Vick

Camille Zarecki

Want to know what's in the Sunday School Treasure Box?

Again this year we will
have a "friendly
competition" between our
classes for attendance and
offering. We are off to a *great* start ... 26
children have *perfect* attendance and another
25 have *only missed once!* **WOW!!** Let's see
how long we can keep that up! Our
kindergarten class has had the most weeks of
"near perfect" attendance at 5. And the 5th
grade is leading the pack with offerings,
followed by the 3rd grade. The children in Peru
thank you for your generosity!



We also celebrate with the following **3rd
graders** who attended the Bible workshop in
October and received their *Whirl NRSV Bible*.

Danielle Christianson

Cade Donahue

Madison Elsen

Baylee Faucett

Bennett Fennigkoh

Aidan Hillyer

Parker Hundt

Erin Jones

Lydia Jothan

Spencer Kammel

Dayne Langrehr

Autumn Loging

Camdyn Lyga

Hayden Massman

Sydni Schulz

Breanna Smith

Emelia Tlustosch

Important Dates

Sunday, November 13 – Grades Pre-K-2 sing at
10:30 a.m. worship

Sunday, December 11 – Christmas Program –
Grades Pre-K-2 during 10:30 a.m. worship

Saturday, December 17 – Christmas Program –
Grades 3-5 during 6 p.m. worship



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday mornings are filled
with children scurrying to their
Sunday School classes. Each
week we are visited by our *Whirl* friends as the
week's lesson is introduced. We are learning
about the church year, along with the same
Bible stories that we hear in church. The
sound of music can be heard coming from the
sanctuary as the kids are singing their hearts
out. If you listen carefully, you may even hear
some familiar Christmas hymns as the children
are already working on their programs. We
are always eager to welcome new students, so
come join us!

SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING ...

Our Sunday School offerings are being
collected for the
Sembrando project
in our companion
synod in Peru. Let's
help these kids get
a healthy meal,
school materials,
books, and a safe
place to spend part
of their day. Your offerings will make a
difference in the lives of children just like you!
Check out the bulletin board by Pastor Jean's
office for more information and to watch our
progress.

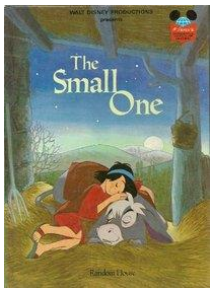


HUNGRY JAR OFFERING
FOR NOVEMBER
LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES

For more than 100 years, Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan has supported individuals, families and communities with services and programs designed to change the world - one grace-filled life at a time. They help people all along the lifespan with services as essential as shelter and clothing, and as life changing as trauma-informed counseling and adoption. Affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America throughout Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, LSS welcomes and serves people of all faiths and backgrounds.

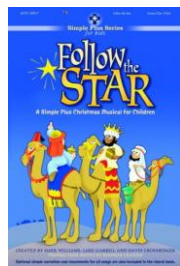
CHECK IT OUT ... SOMETHING NEW ...

We are going to have our **Sunday School Christmas Program** here at Our Savior's this year. The good news about that is that everyone can be a part of the program. The bad news is that we don't have enough space



for everyone at one time. So ... we are not only going to have *one* Christmas Program ... we are going to have TWO! The Pre-K through 2nd graders will share the story of "*The Small One*" during the 10:30

a.m. worship on Sunday, December 11th ... and ... the 3rd through 5th graders will present the musical "*Follow the Star*" during the 6 p.m. worship on Saturday, December 17th.



We are always looking for parents, family members, and anyone else who would like to

help with this wonderful experience for our children. If you can help, please speak with Pastor Jean and watch for more details.

CHECK IT OUT ...

Can't see the bulletin ...
we have large print bulletins



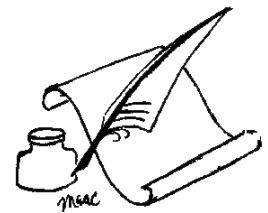
Can't hear the worship service ... we have a hearing assist device

Missed worship ...
check out the website – www.oursaviorswestsaalem.org – to see the service.



CARDS FOR SHUT-INS

Don't forget 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 our shut-ins. You really do make a difference in the lives of those who cannot be with us.



**WEST SALEM BLOOD DRIVE
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21,
12:30 to 5:30 p.m.**

West Salem Presbyterian Church,
625 W Franklin Street
Call Connie at 786-0684 to schedule an appointment.

ADULT STUDIES

- Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. – *we're finishing Luke, but you can still come and join us!*
- Sunday mornings during Sunday School – *we explore skills for building healthy relationships.*
- Senior study - Monday, November 14, at Salem Terrace, at 10 a.m.

Bible Trivia @Salem Terrace Monday, November 14 at 10 a.m.



Join us in the small kitchenette room off the parking lot between the two buildings. The coffee pot will be on and there are always yummy treats!

“DRIFTLESS DEVOTIONS”

A new devotional resource written by one of our members is available! These devotions are inspired by images and experiences in our driftless region. Each devotion takes an element of our surroundings and draws out the spiritual truth found in each one. All of creation is made by God, so everything we see and experience is a witness to our creator or the human condition we live in. Here are the recent postings. Go to www.DriftlessDevotions.com to read the full devotions.

Separated for Good

He made the sun, made the heat, made the light, and he set it at 92.96 million miles away...so that it was GOOD. Let's not burn ourselves, by trying to hold the sun.

Beauty Rest

Let's take this lesson from nature on how beautiful it can be to rest.

CIRCLE NEWS

RUTH CIRCLE

Monday, November 21, 9 a.m.

Leader: Vernetta Moe

Hostess: Connie Blunck

(Meet at Connie's house)

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.

**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. Alice Gums graciously allowed us to

share a glimpse into her story. Alice, 86 years young, has roots in Norway. Her family came to this country on the ship “Island.” They came to Coon Valley, and eventually settled on Fish Creek Ridge.

Alice’s advice to new disciples of Jesus ...

Faith is important because it brings us to more people who have faith and we learn from them. We find serenity and peace from others through faith, and that helps us living in this world of ours. Alice said she believes that we need God and we need to ‘fully rely on God’ ... FROG! *(Someone paid attention to the backpack blessing! ☺)*

Alice’s favorite Bible passage ... because ...

Psalms 23 because she learned it (and had to memorize it) as a young child and she will never forget it. Alice also likes the verse from Psalm 118:24: “This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” Alice reflected that there is so much history and so many stories in the Bible.

Alice’s earliest memories of church ...

Alice grew up on the Fish Creek Ridge and went to the Norwegian Evangelical Church of America, which was part of a four-point parish that worshipped every other weekend. She remembers sitting with her mother and the other women on the left side of the church, while her dad and the other men sat on the right side. Alice was glad around the time of

her Confirmation when families were beginning to be able to sit together in the same pew. Back then, the pastor gave the sermon in Norwegian. Alice remembers the Pastor singing the liturgy and she liked it so much, she memorized it. One day she found herself singing along with the pastor, and she was embarrassed. Alice also remembers Christmas as a child at church when they received a box of special candy, along with an orange and apple. Alice said to get ready for Confirmation, they met with the pastor once a week and had to recite their memory work in front of the whole congregation. Alice said she gets emotional in church now, especially when we sing her favorite hymn “Amazing Grace.”

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

SIMPLY GIVING

Simply Giving is an electronic transfer that makes your offerings to the work of Jesus through Our Savior’s automatically at the amount and frequency you desire. It’s easy to set up, easy to change, and can be discontinued at any time. See Kay in the office or one of the pastors to learn more.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

If you are a Thrivent Financial for Lutherans member, you may have “Thrivent Choice Dollars” to direct. You can direct these dollars to Our Savior’s (or any other registered ministry) by going online, or contacting Thrivent. We have information in the office to assist you – see Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean.



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

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- November 26, Saturday
6 p.m. Worship
- November 27, Sunday
8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Christian Education
- November 30, Wednesday
7 p.m. Advent Worship – Drama
- December 3, Saturday
6 p.m. Worship
- December 4, Sunday
8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Christian Education
11:45 a.m. Tree Trimming
- December 7, Wednesday
7 p.m. Advent Worship –
Hanging of the Greens
- December 10, Saturday
6 p.m. Worship
- December 11, Sunday
8 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Christian Education
10:30 a.m. Worship & Sunday School
Christmas Program
(Pre-K, K, Grades 1, 2)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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- December 14, Wednesday
7 p.m. Advent Worship – Carol Sing
- December 17, Saturday
6 p.m. Worship & Sunday School
Christmas Program (Grades 3, 4, 5)
- December 18, Sunday
8 & 10:30 a.m. Senior Choir Cantata
9:15 a.m. Christian Education
- December 24, Saturday, Christmas Eve
1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m.,
5:30 p.m. & 10 p.m.
All Services serve Holy Communion
- December 25, Sunday, Christmas Day
10 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion
NO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
- December 31, Saturday
6 p.m. Worship
NO COMMUNION
- January 1, Sunday
10 a.m. Worship
NO COMMUNION
NO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



HOLIDAY



Schedule

ACOLYTES

	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30/10 a.m.
Nov. 6	NO WORSHIP	Wyndsor Goodenough	Hallie Halverson
Nov 12 – 13	Meghan Hansen	Taylor Hennessey	Samara Wheeler
Nov. 19 – 20	Justin Kettner	Kirin Linse	Maddie Haun
Nov. 26 - 27	Julia Russell	Rebecca Schmidt	Liam Sjoquist

BASKET HOLDERS

		Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30/10 a.m.
Nov. 6		Ben Fleckenstein	Emma Fortier
Nov. 13		Elly Goodenough	Madeline Giblin
Nov. 20		Jaden Hammes	Jacob Helgeson
Nov. 27		Amalia Hemker	Jacob Hickey

READERS

	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30/10 a.m.
Nov. 6	NO WORSHIP	Eric Iliff	Michelle Witte
Nov. 12 – 13	Vernetta Moe	Jake Iliff	Naoko Aminaka
Nov. 19 – 20	Kathy Brisson	Lee Fernstaedt	Kristin Tschumper
Nov. 26 - 27	Bonny Goodenough	Connie Blunck	Dottie Baumgartner



COMMUNION ASSISTANTS			
	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30/10 a.m.
Nov. 5 – 6	NO WORSHIP	Jim Quamme Jason Stefferud	Jaime Fortier Vicky Johnson
Nov. 12 – 13	Paula Heilman	Sandy Novak Marjorie Anderson	Bill Jensen Dori Jensen
Nov. 19 – 20	Bev Bockenbauer	Cathryn Bottem Larry Blunck	_____ Vernetta Moe
Nov. 26 – 27	Karen DeSchepper	Cathryn Bottem Pam Gresens	Mark Hunter Kim Hunter

USHERS			
	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30/10 a.m.
NOVEMBER	November 5 NO WORSHIP November 12 Jason & Michelle Witte Family November 19 Phil & Judy Gilbert November 26 _____	November 6 Karl & Kathy Wehrs November 13 Wendy & Kamryn Kane Bennett Fennigkoh November 20 Melissa Thompson Family November 27 Rob & Shannon Wiese Family	November 6 Everett Michael Dan & Jan Wee November 13 Jeff Haldeman Dan & Jan Wee November 20 Dan & Jan Wee November 27 Dan & Jan Wee

ALTAR GUILD

Cindy Averbeck and Jaime Fortier

HOME COMMUNION SERVERS

Nov. 6	Bev Bockenbauer
Nov. 12-13	Char Buelow
Nov. 19-20	Judy Gilbert
Nov. 26-27	Pam Gresens



Web Site: oursaviorswestsalem.org

OUR SAVIOR'S STAFF

Pastor Jonathan Schmidt, Senior Pastor 612-0217 Email: pastorjon@oursaviorswestsalem.org
Pastor Jean Schmidt, Associate Pastor 612-0217 Email: pastorjean@oursaviorswestsalem.org
Kay Niemeier, Parish Secretary Church Office: 786-0030 Fax Number: 786-0951
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Linda Berg, Organist Email: linda@oursaviorswestsalem.org
Eric Sorenson, Senior Choir Director
Karen DeSchepper, Counter
Sherri Neal and Garrett Hazlett, Custodians