

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

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JANUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
WEST SALEM, WISCONSIN

JANUARY 2017

- ❄ Welcome to Cathryn "Cat" Bottem, Director of Youth Ministry
- ❄ Annual Report Articles Due, Thursday, January 5
- ❄ Education Opportunities
- ❄ Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 29



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

JANUARY 2017

Pastor's Reflections ...

What's New?

As you read this, I trust we have survived the chaos and emotion of the holidays, and now it's back to business as usual. Or is it? Not so fast ...



It is January after all. A new month, of a new year. We have new toys to play with, new clothes to wear, new foods to try, new relationships to nurture, new staff to welcome, new neighbors to greet, new bills to pay, new homes to settle into, new routines to get used to, new realities to adjust to, new classes and teachers to get to know, new diagnoses to wrap our head around ... doesn't sound like business as usual to me!

In the church, we have just celebrated the birth of the baby Jesus, and now we fast forward to the baptism of Jesus. As we celebrate Jesus' baptism, we also celebrate those who have been baptized here in this place during the last year – all 24 of them! (*See the information elsewhere in the newsletter about worship on January 7th & 8th.*) We remember being washed in the waters of the font, in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. As a child of God, we remember being sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. We celebrate new life in birth and new life in Christ.

But, did you ever stop to think about what happens after an infant is baptized? What happens to that child? It's almost as if we in the church don't pay too much attention to them until they get old enough for



Sunday School and then we start to teach them about Jesus. As if turning four is the magic age when they can be introduced to Jesus. But don't we say that at baptism God claims these precious children as his own? And don't we as a congregation say that we will support these children and pray for them in their new life in Christ? So why not start right then and there, at baptism, to make Jesus a part of their life? And that is just what we are going to start doing in the New Year.

Thanks to a generous gift in memory of Herb Long, a life-long educator and man of great faith, at their baptism, we will be gifting the newly baptized infants and young children (*0-3 years old*) with their very first Bible. A Bible just right for them. We will also be keeping in contact with parents and walking the journey with them. There will be emails with age appropriate information about the stages of a child's growth and development. There will be times to gather together with parents and children to learn about Jesus – hear stories, sing songs, play games, make crafts. Families with children 0-3 years old who have been baptized in recent years will also be included to receive the emails and will be invited to our gatherings with parents and children. We are excited to be starting this new *Frolic* ministry with our youngest "members" of God's family.

As we celebrate the baptism of our youngest ones, we also celebrate our own baptisms. Do you remember the events of your day? Do you remember the date? What do you do to continue to celebrate this gift? It's a new year ... it's not too late to start ...

As the newness of the year starts to become routine, as the new toys become well used, as the new job becomes second nature, as the new teachers become well liked and beloved, remember there is one thing that always stays new. As we are claimed as God's precious child, the new life we receive in baptism is always made new ... it never grows old or wears out ... it never becomes outdated or passé. The love of Jesus is ours forever and it is fresh and new every day of our life.

*So, what's new with you?
Pastor Jean*

DEADLINE SET FOR ANNUAL REPORT ARTICLES

If you are responsible for writing an article for the Annual Report, please have the article to the church office by January 5. Please email your article to office@oursaviorswestsalem.org if you are able.



WELCOME, CATHRYN (aka "Cat")!

As of January 1, we welcome Cat Bottem as our new Director of Youth Ministry. The position is currently a 12 hour/week position, with the potential to grow. We are excited to have Cat with us!

A bit about her...Cat has been a member at Our Savior's for 9 years. She is currently a junior at UW-L, and is looking at seminary studies and ordained ministry after she completes her college work. She has also been leading our Sunday morning Breakfast Club this past fall.

You can contact Cat at youth@oursaviorswestsalem.org, or call her at 608-518-1181. She asks for your prayer support as she begins her ministry with us. Thanks for joining us, Cat!

PRAYER AROUND THE CROSS January 8, 7 p.m.



Quiet, meditative worship, gathered around the cross, bathed in candlelight. Come and take some time for prayer and reflection, in the midst of a busy and hectic world, as the dark and cold of winter swirl around us!

BAPTISM RECOGNITION

Saturday, January 7 and
Sunday, January 8, we
celebrate the Baptism of Our
Lord, and we remember our
own baptisms. We also
recognize baptisms from 2016.



Join us as we give thanks for God's gifts of grace in baptism, and as we ask God's blessings on those who have just begun their journey as faithful disciples of Jesus. Baptisms will be recognized at all three services – and as we remember those baptized in 2016, we also remember our own baptisms!

MISSION DISCERNMENT UPDATE



Things are moving! The "vision portion" of our Vision and Space Team meets on January 10 at 6:30 p.m. to begin to put together a

proposed mission plan. We hope to share that at the annual meeting, along with ideas for repurposing our space. We are excited as we look at the possibilities of what can be done in our ministry and in the use of the building.

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, **January 13**. 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.



SYNOD SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

The La Crosse Area Synod School of Theology begins January 12, right here at Our Savior's! Classes are held each Thursday through February 23, from 5:30-9 p.m. The first trimester includes courses on the Gospels, Christian theology, and worship. Classes are taught by pastors from our synod. While there is some reading involved, there are no grades, so come and learn what you want! Cost is \$50 a term, or \$20 a course, plus books. The full program runs for two years, or you can take only the courses you wish. This is a GREAT opportunity to deepen your faith, understanding of scripture, and skills in ministry, without having to travel far!



For more information, or to register, go to www.lacrosseareasyndod.org/synod-school-of-theology, or see Pastor Jon.

ANNUAL MEETING

The 2017 Annual Meeting for Our Savior's Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday, January 29, following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Annual reports will be available the week before. The agenda will include elections, approving the mission budget for 2017, and reflecting on our work in 2016. We also hope to have an update and conversation on our use of space, and the development of a new mission plan. All voting members of the congregation are urged to attend this important meeting.



Following the meeting, we invite you to join us for lunch and fellowship. Thanks to the Social Committee for making lunch possible!

NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee has been hard at work, and has secured the following nominations for the consideration at the annual meeting:

Congregation Council

Lynette Ender (new)

Judy Gilbert (new)

Fran Noffke (new)

The Nominating Committee is still looking to fill a two-year term and a three-year term.

Endowment Committee

Lee Fernstaedt (incumbent)

Eric Ender (new)

Bethany Lutheran Home Corporation

Larry Blunck (incumbent)

Jim Michelson (incumbent)

Sugar Creek Bible Camp Corporation

Marty Frank (incumbent)

Jeff Haldeman (incumbent)

OUR SAVIOR'S LOVES NEW MEMBERS!

We love to welcome new partners in our life and work as disciples of Jesus! If you, or someone you know, is interested in joining Our Savior's, please contact one of the pastors. There are several ways people join our community of faith, and we will be eager to work with you.

NEW FLOWER CHART AVAILABLE

We have posted a flower chart for 2017 on the Kiosk in the Gathering Area. We invite you to think about an occasion you would like to mark, a person you might like to memorialize or honor. Write your name on the chart by the date you would like to have. We will send you a reminder before the date so that you can provide flowers for the weekend. You can also let us know at that time how you would like to have the flowers acknowledged.



Thank you for helping to beautify our worship.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The La Crosse Area Synod Assembly will be held June 9-11, in La Crosse. Our Savior's will be looking for several people to join Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean as voting members at the assembly. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, and see how the church beyond us proclaims the grace of Jesus, speak with one of the pastors.



REFORMATION REFLECTIONS

2017 is the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, initiated by Martin Luther. On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed 95 “theses” on the church door at Wittenberg, Germany, starting a chain of events that would change the world. In fact, one group of historians labeled Luther as the third most influential person of the last millennium, just behind Einstein and Edison.

So, just what is the Reformation about anyway? During 2017, we’ll explore the Reformation each month in the newsletter. We start with the monk who changed the world!

Martin Luther was born in 1483, in the principality of Saxony, in central Germany. His parents hoped he would become a lawyer. Instead, when he was twenty-one he became a Catholic monk. He wanted to earn God’s love but was tormented by the sense that he could never be good enough. He punished himself mercilessly until finally a wise mentor sent him to study and teach Bible at the then new University of Wittenberg.

Not long after he arrived, he became incensed by the church saying, in effect, that if people bought a certain document—an indulgence—it would provide God’s forgiveness for their (or a loved one’s) sins. Being a university professor, he wrote a list of ninety-five sentences to debate the topic. That list, the Ninety-Five Theses, stirred up a hornet’s nest in the church and began the Reformation.

Tradition says that he nailed the theses to the church door on October 31, 1517. Whether he did that or not, in short order, due in part to the recent invention of the printing press, Luther’s list became public. The list spread across Germany at the very time that German nobility yearned for more freedom from the power of the church and the emperor.

For challenging the church and refusing to back down, Luther was called before the Holy Roman emperor, Charles V, at a meeting in the imperial city of Worms. Asked to take back what he had written, he refused and was declared an outlaw. Anyone could have captured him and killed him or turned him in to authorities, in which case his death was likely. Fortunately, his own prince protected him, hiding him out in a castle where he began translating the Bible into German. In the process, he helped create the standard German language.

Luther wrote many influential books, most of which are still valued today. He created the Small Catechism to guide ordinary people in learning about God. He wrote hymns such as “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God.” He called for a return to a church that honored the work of both clergy and laity, instituted many reforms in worship, and advocated the importance of education (in the church and in the community). Luther allowed clergy to marry, and even married himself, taking in a number of orphans into his home.

Luther was very human, and “down to earth.” He was a passionate, sometimes crudely mannered man, and in later life, he wrote terrible, cruel things about the Jewish people, statements for which the Lutheran church has apologized. Yet Luther was a remarkable man, helping to create the modern notion of what it means to be an individual, not just an atom in a sea of molecules, and, of course, reviving and reforming the church.

Next month: Luther’s Bible

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

(THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!)

Stewardship is more than just a fall campaign to get members to give of the treasures that God has given them to help create a system of "Financial Well-Being" but also to develop programs to utilize all of the time and talents of our members. The real value of the fall campaign is to share with members the importance of receiving some type of "Estimate of Giving" for the upcoming year. It is almost impossible to develop an accurate budget without some idea of what people might contribute in the upcoming year. Estimate of Giving is exactly what it says, an estimate, though very similar, not necessarily a pledge.

The fall campaign this year consisted of hand delivering over 300 letters that included candy kisses and a request to return an "Estimate of Giving" card back as soon as possible. Over 50 volunteers helped personally to deliver these letters within a two or three day span. The Stewardship Committees greatest hope is that we would receive 100% of the "Estimate of Giving" cards back by the first of the year. As of January 1, we have received 91 cards with an estimate of approximately \$181,600.00.

Just a little reminder that you can still set up an Electronic Funds Transfer at any time called "Simply Giving" by contacting the church office. This makes things easier for you to budget for any contributions. Also, you can start, stop, increase or decrease just by contacting the church office.

We would like to thank every family or individual that has returned their "Estimate of Giving" card and like to thank anyone else who still plans to send it in. It is never too late.

Ken Spratz
Chairman Stewardship Committee

Communion Bread ...



We thank *Karen Tiber & Dana Roemhild* for providing the homemade bread for Holy Communion in December and *Carol Peterson* in January.

THANK YOU

- We thank the **MAILING CREW** for assembling the Newsletter. The members who helped this past month were Connie and Larry Blunck, Bonnie Ender, Sandra Holthaus, Inger Michael, Judy Morzinski, Carol Peterson, Rich and Mary Storandt and Betty Whitlock.
- **YOU MAKE WONDERFUL MUSIC!**
Thank you to ALL who contributed to the music of the season as we prepared for Christmas, then celebrated His birth! From choirs to soloists, handbells to pianists, Sunday School kids to adults, directors and singers of all kinds, we give thanks to you and to God for the gifts you have shared with us!
- **SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING**
THANK YOU to everyone who assisted in the Salvation Army Bell ringing in early December. Our two days of bells brought in \$845.83 to support the work of the Salvation Army in meeting people's needs. *YOU made a difference!* Thanks too to Hansen's IGA for hosting our ringing. God is at work in our community and our world!

PASTORAL ACTS

Funerals

We express our Christian sympathy to the following families:

- † **Richard Schomburg** died November 25. Services were held December 3.
- † **Deems Pelishek** died November 28. Services were held December 5.
- † **Daniel Dahl** died November 30. Services were held December 9.
- † **Delia Raffelson** died December 1. Services were held December 9.
- † **Peter Osiecki** died December 7. Services were held December 16.
- † **Mark Potaracke** died December 14. Services were held December 22.

MEMORIALS

* We thank the family and friends of Yolanda Craig for the memorial gifts to the Memorial Fund, the Choir Fund, and to WELCA.

* We thank the family and friends of Herb Long for the memorial gifts.

* We thank Ingrid and Ron Eggleston for the gifts in memory of Alden Lee for the Green Thumb Committee and the Prayer Shawl Group.

* We thank the family and friends of Richard Schomburg for the memorial gifts.

"DRIFTLESS DEVOTIONS"

Check out "Driftless Devotions" at www.Driftlessdevotions.com, or use the link on the home page of our web site (www.oursaviorswestsalem.org). Written by one of our members, 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.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL REVIEW

The Congregation Council met on Monday, December 12, at Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean's home, with President Jim Quamme calling the meeting to order. At this meeting the council:

- Received an update on the interviews for the youth ministry position.
- Heard an update on the work of the space and vision teams.
- Received Jason and Valerie Brockmeyer as new members.
- Designated Pastor Jon's housing allowance for 2017.
- Adjourned to share a Christmas party with families.

The council meets again on Monday, January 9. See Jim Quamme or one of the pastors if you have any questions.



Interested in getting together with other adults in our

congregation to build relationships and just have fun together?

"Simply Social"

A traditional German-fest
Authentic food, drink, and
merriment!

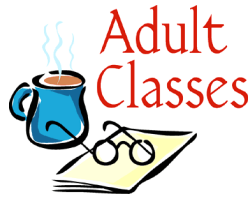
Save the first weekend in
February -

Watch for details for the
exact date, time, and location!



ADULT STUDIES IN JANUARY

- Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. – *We begin 2017 exploring Martin Luther and the Reformation. Come and learn more about the reforming of the church 500 years ago – and today!*
- Sunday mornings during Sunday School – *Starting January 8 we explore skills for healthy relationships. In the classroom off the fellowship hall – bring a cup of coffee!*
- Senior study - Monday, January 9, 10 a.m., at Salem Terrace.
- "Confirmation for Adults" – January 11 and 18, from 6-7 p.m. *See announcement elsewhere in this newsletter.*




And in February? We'll check out the Sacramento! See Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean for more information.

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.oursaviorswestsalem.org – to see the service.



ADULT CONFIRMATION

So, recently someone said, "Confirmation looks like a lot more fun than when I took it!" That's probably a true statement, though we hope our kids are learning something too! The same person also said, "I wish I could take Confirmation again."

Well, good news – you can! As part of our recognition of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, YOU can be a confirmand again! Seriously, Pastor Jon will be offering "Confirmation for adults," using the same basic material we use with our 7th & 8th graders. Here it is, a chance to learn about faith, and have some fun at the same time.

Wednesday, January 11 and 18, from 6-7 p.m., we will learn about the Apostles' Creed. Come and review all the stuff you learned years ago, and maybe learn a few new things along the way. Same faith, same God, just a little different language!



**Lutherans
yesterday, today,
&
January 9th @
Salem Terrace**

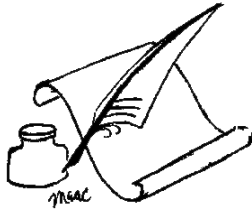
**Join us at 10 AM for coffee and
conversation**

We meet in the small kitchenette off the parking lot between Salem Terrace & Mill Street Manor.



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.



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. Harriet Slack graciously allowed us to share a glimpse into her story. Harriet, 87 years young, grew up on a farm and then raised her family on a farm as well. They had four daughters and one son. They also cared for several foster children who were abused or in trouble, teaching them life skills of canning, bread baking, gardening, and doing farm chores.

Harriet's advice to new disciples of Jesus ... Prayers always help you ... have confidence that the Lord will help you. Harriet said she feels bad that she is no longer able to get to church here (although she does attend services at Eagle Crest where she lives), and she always feels better after a visit and communion from one of our pastors or home communion ministers.

Harriet's favorite Bible passage ... because ... the book of Psalms. Harriet reads the

Psalms often as they help her get through the days and nights, especially when she is feeling down. She starts at the beginning of the chapter and reads them in order.

Harriet's earliest memories of church ... Her family was poor and they didn't go to church. She remembers being 12 years old and going to "summer study" for the first time at Powers Hills Lutheran Church (Lawrence Ridge near De Soto) with her friend Eleanor. Eleanor's father would pick up Harriet on the way to church as they lived on the ridge past her family's farm. Harriet also remembers the wonderful dinners at the little church with a cemetery. Harriet and her husband were married in Liberty Pole in the Methodist pastor's yard. They attended that church while living in Liberty Pole, and joined Our Savior's in 1991 after they moved to West Salem.

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

Thanks from our shut-ins ...

This is a belated thank you for the lovely thanksgiving goodie bag. The whole family enjoys the treats. What a nice way to begin this blessed holiday season.



Bobbi Broughton

A special thank you ... for all the lovely cards and the basket at Thanksgiving. It was all much appreciated. I'm so blessed to have you as my church people and for all the loving home care.

Lettie Morgan

college connection



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 **April Haldeman** (UW-L),

Drew Tschumper (UW-L), and **Kelsey Novak** (UW-L).

Thank you from our college students ...

Thank you for thinking of me and for the gift! It will be a big help during final week. 😊 I am excited to be back to my home church come January!



Sincerely, *Allison Rigotti*

SUNDAY MORNING "BREAKFAST CLUB" For Middle School and High School Kids



Don't miss the goodies on Sunday mornings during Sunday School in the kitchen. Cathryn Bottem facilitates

conversation about life and Jesus, along with some breakfast treats. All middle and high schoolers are welcome – friends are welcome too!

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS WINTER RETREAT!



January 26-28th - \$75.00
Come explore Sugar Creek with worship, snowshoeing, sledding and more!

Any questions please contact
Cat Bottem or Pastor Jon.

AFTER SCHOOL



After School resumes on **January 4**. Middle school and high school kids are welcome to come over on Wednesdays after school. Activities, free time, homework, and more. Wi-Fi is available. Dinner follows at 5:30 p.m., then classes for 6th-8th graders at 6 p.m. See Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean if you have any questions.



CONFIRMATION

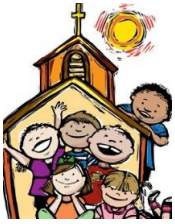
- 6th grade – Wednesdays at 6 p.m.
- 7th & 8th grade classes **January 4** at 6 p.m. Electives on **January 11 and 25**, and small groups on **January 18**.
- 9th graders meet with parents at 7 p.m. on **January 11 or January 18** (your choice!) Small groups meet on **January 25**.

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.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

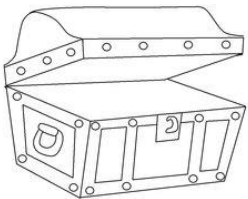
We had a great December! The kids were here every week

practicing for their Christmas programs – singing their hearts out ... and they did an awesome job! If you missed them, check out the church website link to the *YouTubes* of the December 11 and December 17 worship services (www.oursaviorswestsalem.org).

Thank you to parents for providing treats in the classrooms, getting your kids to class, and being here for the programs!

Just because the programs are done for another year doesn't mean Sunday School goes away. We look forward to learning more about Jesus' life in the New Year. Our *Whirl* friends are always eager to share their stories and adventures to help us understand what's going on! It may be cold outside, but your seat here at church is warm and waiting for you!

Sunday School Treasure Box ...



Next month we will learn who has had perfect attendance in November & December and which class has collected the most in offerings for the

Sembrando Project so far. Will *YOU* get to check out the Treasure Box next time? It's not too late to start working on January & February!

Important Dates

Sunday, January 1 - NO Sunday School

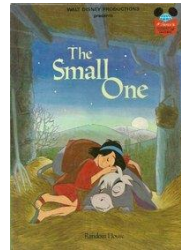
Sunday, January 29 -

Grades 3-5 sing at 10:30 worship

Sunday, February 19 -

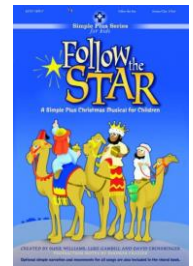
Grades 4K-2 sing at 10:30 worship

Sunday School Christmas Programs



We thank Mike Larson, Shannon Vick, Linda Berg, and Ilene Pavelko for their countless hours working with our Sunday School children on the music for this year's Christmas Programs, "The

Small One" and "Follow the Star." We also thank Eric Iliff and Wendy Kane for working on the speaking parts and "Silent Night" sign language for the programs. The place was buzzing with all of the enthusiasm and innocence of children.



We thank our teachers for their faithful service each week sharing their faith with our young ones and for their patience during the weeks of practice when schedules were chaotic and time was cut short.

We thank all of you who attended the programs to support our children and hear the Christmas story.

Last, but not least, we thank our Sunday School children! Without you, there would be no programs. You all did a GREAT JOB!! Thank you for singing your hearts out and sharing the stories!



Hungry Jar Offering for January La Crosse Warming Center

The weather outside is frightful ...frigid temperatures, blowing snow ... and since we've no place to go ... or do we? ... The La Crosse Warming Center's mission is to work with the greater La Crosse community to better serve those experiencing homelessness with dignity and respect by providing a safe and warm place for homeless adults 18 years and older to get in out of the cold during the winter months from November 1 until April 30. The Warming Center is located at 413 South Third Street in La Crosse and can accommodate up to 34 guests. Guests are able to take a shower and wash their clothes. To keep the doors open, hundreds of volunteers from area churches and the community are needed to staff the center. Please be generous as we care for our brothers and sisters who are hurting. To find out other ways you can help, check out their website: <http://cclse.org/la-crosse-warming-center/>

SOLES4SOULS THANK YOU!

*I want to thank everyone for donating shoes for my Soles4Souls shoe drive. My original goal was 350 pairs of shoes and thanks to everyone being SO generous, I went over my goal by **a lot!** At my shoe drive kick-off in September, at a 4th and 5th grade dance, I received 120 pairs of shoes! This dance was also a fundraiser for shipping costs but I never imagined I would need more than what I raised that night. Since then, I have collected a total of **765** pairs of shoes! Additional money collections from so many of you will help me send the large number of shoes to Soles4Souls. The people who will get the shoes will be very grateful!*

Ellie Slotten

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.

E-COMMUNICATIONS OR PAPER COPY



Did you know that **113** people receive the newsletter by email instead of the **455** 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

SIMPLY GIVING

As a new year begins, simplify your life by signing up for "Simply Giving."



Simply Giving is an electronic transfer of your financial gifts to Our Savior's. Your support of our mission and ministry can be made "simply" and faithfully. You choose the amount and the frequency of your gifts, and you can make changes at any time. Contact the office or one of the pastors for more information.

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.



| DATE | ATTENDANCE | OFFERING | SUNDAY SCHOOL |
|----------------------------------|------------|----------|---------------|
| Dec. 3 & 4 | 263 | \$7523 | 64 |
| Dec. 7— Hanging of the Greens | 130 | | |
| Dec. 10 & 11 | 329 | \$3878 | 73 |
| Dec. 14—Carol Sing | 45 | | |
| Dec. 17 & 18 | 402 | \$8403 | 37 |
| Dec. 24 1:30 p.m. | 170 | | |
| 3:30 p.m. | 206 | | |
| 5:30 p.m. | 162 | | |
| 10 p.m. | 70 | | |
| Dec. 25 10 a.m. | 61 | | |

WELCA DISBURSEMENTS FROM THE 2016 ANNUAL LUTEFISK DINNER

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| World Hunger | \$ 500 |
| World Mission | 500 |
| Lutheran World Relief | 500 |
| Lutheran Social Services | 500 |
| Sugar Creek Bible Camp | 200 |
| Lutheran Campus Center | 200 |
| Jail Ministry | 100 |
| Library | 300 |
| New Horizons | 400 |
| Salvation Army | 1000 |
| Red Cross (Money to be used locally) | 500 |
| Our Savior's Youth Ministry | 200 |
| Lutheran Disaster Relief | 100 |
| La Crosse Clothes Closet | 100 |
| Trinity Lutheran Clothes Closet | 100 |
| Synod Seminary Scholarships | 200 |
| St. Clair Health Mission Sparta | 200 |
| La Crosse Warming Center | 500 |
| Summer Lunch Program | 300 |
| Tip Jar | 313 |
| 3 Rivers Scholar House | 300 |
| Quilt Shipping Fund | <u>1000</u> |
| Total Disbursed | \$8013 |

ACOLYTES

| | Saturday 6 p.m. | Sunday 8 a.m. | Sunday 10:30/10 a.m. |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| December 31 - January 1 | Kirin Linse | NO 8 A.M. WORSHIP | <u>10 A.M.</u> Lexi Giblin |
| January 7 - 8 | Allison Arentz | Cassidy Bores | Hannah Brenengen |
| January 14 - 15 | Aidan Donahue | Mahlivanh Fleckenstein | Zach Friell |
| January 21 - 22 | Kara Gavaghan | Cody Anderson | WyndSOR Goodenough |
| January 28 - 29 | Hallie Halverson | Meghan Hansen | Taylor Hennessey |

BASKET HOLDERS

| | | Sunday 8 a.m. | Sunday 10:30/10 a.m. |
|------------|--|---------------------------|--|
| January 1 | | NO 8 A.M. WORSHIP | <u>10 A.M.</u> NO COMMUNION |
| January 8 | | Morgan Quackenbush | Brandon Riley |
| January 15 | | Dylan Wiese | Kylee Gander |
| January 22 | | Justin Hennessey | Adam Chandler |
| January 29 | | Madeline Janisch | Zach Long |

READERS

| | Saturday 6 p.m. | Sunday 8 a.m. | Sunday 10:30/10 a.m. |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| December 31 - January 1 | Vernetta Moe | NO SERVICE | 10 a.m. Dottie Baumgartner |
| January 7 - 8 | Kay Niemeier | Connie Blunck | Ilene Pavelko |
| January 14 - 15 | Bonnie Gensch | Jim Quamme | Corey Sjoquist |
| January 21 - 22 | Kathy Brisson | Naoko Aminaka | Marjorie Anderson |
| January 28 - 29 | Karen DeSchepper | Lynette Ender | Char Buelow |

| COMMUNION ASSISTANTS | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| | Saturday 6 p.m. | Sunday 8 a.m. | Sunday 10:30/10 a.m. |
| December 31 – January 1 | 6 P.M. WORSHIP NO COMMUNION | NO WORSHIP | 10 A.M. WORSHIP NO COMMUNION |
| January 7 - 8 | Bev Bockenbauer | Shannon Wiese Larry Blunck | Dana Roemhild Corey Sjoquist |
| January 14 – 15 | Karen DeSchepper | Cathryn Bottem Pam Gresens | Stacey Sjoquist Melissa Thompson |
| January 21 – 22 | Eric Ender | Carolyn Herried Judy Long | Kristin Tschumper Michelle Witte |
| January 28 - 29 | Lynette Ender | Mark Hunter Kim Hunter | Wayne Affeldt Darlene Affeldt |

| USHERS | | | |
|---------------|---|---|---|
| | Saturday 6 p.m. | Sunday 8 a.m. | Sunday 10:30/10 a.m. |
| January | Jan. 7 Jan. 14—Phil and Judy Gilbert Jan. 21 Jan. 28 | Jan. 8 Jan. 15 Jan. 22 Jan. 29 | Jan. 8 Jan. 15—Dan & Jan Wee Jan. 22 Jan. 29—Dan & Jan Wee |

ALTAR GUILD

Linda Arentz
Susan Giblin

HOME COMMUNION SERVERS

January 7 – 8 Betty Whitlock & Diane McClintock
 January 14 – 15 Marjorie Anderson
 January 21 – 22 Dottie Baumgartner
 January 28 – 29 Bev Bockenbauer

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
Email: office@oursaviorswestsalem.org
Cathryn Bottem, Director of Youth Ministry 608-518-1181 Email: youth@oursaviorswestsalem.org
Jill Iliff, Treasurer Email: treasurer@oursaviorswestsalem.org
Linda Berg, Organist Email: linda@oursaviorswestsalem.org
Eric Sorenson, Senior Choir Director
Karen DeSchepper, Counter
Sherri Neal, Custodian