

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
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West Salem, WI 54669

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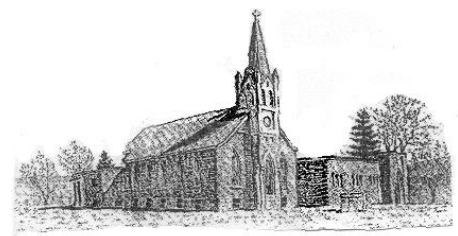
MARCH

MARCH 2017 NEWSLETTER

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
WEST SALEM, WISCONSIN

MARCH 2017

- ☀️ Ash Wednesday & Lenten Worship
- ☀️ Annual Meeting Review
- ☀️ New Officers of the Congregation
- ☀️ First Communion Instruction
- ☀️ Easter Garden



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

MARCH 2017

PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

Beware of Frostbite!

It was a Monday early in January. The kids got up for school; the parents dropped them off and went to work. It was a gloomy morning, cold and damp. Shortly after the kids had been safely deposited at school, it began to drizzle. The weather forecast left much to be desired as the day progressed. By late morning, the rain had changed to snow and the wet, heavy flakes were falling fast and furious, and they were sticking to the roads and grass, and piling up. We got word from the school that they would be closing by 12:30 p.m. We cleaned off the car, picked Rebecca up from school, and went out to lunch. Already the car was piled with snow and the roads were dicey at best since the plows hadn't been out yet. After lunch, we had to unbury the car once again and we went back to the office to finish up some loose ends. We cancelled all but one meeting for that night. Pastor Jon and Rebecca went home late afternoon, but I stayed. As it got to be twilight, the snow had stopped, but the temperature had plummeted and the wind was howling as it swirled the snow about at will. By the time I finished my meeting, my car had been at church, unmoved for 11 hours. Beneath the crusted layer of snow was another couple of inches of wet, heavy snow, and beneath that was the rain that had turned to ice.

I had planned ahead when I parked the car early in the morning, bringing my snowbrush into the office so I could begin the process of

unburying the car before I opened the doors and got snow on the seats.

At some point during my meeting, we heard the sound of the snow blower and the shovel trying to find the sidewalk outside of my window. The sounds lasted a couple of hours. When I was ready to leave, I gathered my belongings, headed outside, and then stopped to talk to Corey and Liam who were covered in snow that was crystalizing on their faces.

I went to my car and started the process of unburying it. It was bitterly cold and it appeared the project was going to take longer than I had planned, so I decided to put my gloves on. I scraped and pushed and chopped at the layers of snow and ice. I began to get very tired and lose the feeling in my fingers. The longer I went the less feeling I had and the more exhausted I became. Just a little bit more, only a little bit more, I can do this. By the time I finally got in the car, I couldn't get the seatbelt fastened because I couldn't hold it and I couldn't wrap my fingers around the steering wheel to drive.



I drove home very carefully. There was no one on the road, the snow had stopped, and it was quite beautiful and peaceful. I collapsed when I walked in the house and I'm sure at first my husband thought I was being melodramatic. After I was done writhing in pain as the feeling eventually came back into my hands, I told him

my story. And then his questions flew ... why didn't you ask Corey and Liam to help you ... why didn't you call me and I would have come to get you ...

Stop and think about those questions. Corey and Liam had been outside in the cold fighting the elements for several hours, I had been out for 20 minutes, what would they think if I said can you please unlock the church door for me because I can't get the key in the lock, or can you please help me unbury my car. What a wimp! And if I had managed to get in and dial the phone to call home, what would my husband think? He had been out for the last hour removing the snow from our driveway and sidewalks and had just gotten in the house, changed into comfy clothes, and was settled in for the evening. What a bother! They would all wonder just how helpless I really was.

Nope! I was going to do it myself. I didn't need anyone's help. I could do it – even if it killed me!

Isn't that how we view our lives? We are self-sufficient, self-motivated, self-directed, self-centered. I'm not going to let someone else see me as weak or incompetent or vulnerable.

But, when we insist on doing things ourselves, we get frostbite! I know Corey and Liam and Pastor Jon would have gladly helped me if I had asked, but I didn't want to have to rely on anyone else. And I got frostbite.

We begin our Lenten journey this month with the imposition of ashes. When you come forward to have the cross of ashes placed on your forehead with the words 'you are dust and to dust you shall return', remember you can't do 'it' alone, you can't take this journey of life by yourself. It is Jesus, who looks to the cross, who gave his life for each one of us, who walks with us, who gives us our very life.



Take the time this Lent to reflect, to admit, to humble yourself, to acknowledge that we can't do it alone. We need Jesus and we need what Jesus gives us.

Looking in the mirror at the ashen cross on my forehead, together with you,

Pastor Jean

ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENTEN WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Mid-day Worship 11:30 a.m.

Join us for a quiet, contemplative worship each week, including scripture and reflections, and time for prayer. Worship will last about 20 minutes.

Ash Wednesday Worship March 1

11:30 a.m.

Mid-day worship with Ashes and
Holy Communion
Quiet contemplation and reflection

5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Ashes and Holy Communion
Music with hymns

Wednesdays in Lent March 8 – April 5

11:30 a.m.

Mid-day contemplative worship

5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Holden Evening Prayer Worship
and conversations around the holidays

5:45 p.m.

Soup supper with proceeds to the
World Hunger Appeal

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

As you read this, we should (we better!) have the Lenten suppers arranged. As I write this, it's not done yet.

It will get done, I know. It will because I am confident, not in my ability to get it organized, but in God's desire to stir in our midst and get us moving. Why? Because the dinners are a fabulous stewardship exercise. And God's Holy Spirit specializes in stewardship!

Consider this...at Lenten dinners one or more persons use their gifts and abilities to put together a really great meal. Food that nourishes and sustains life. Isn't that stewardship at work?

But then, a group of confirmation students step forward, each week, to set up, serve, and clean up. (On a personal note, my daughter, who rarely volunteers to do any dishes at home, will claim the dishwashing duties every week, and fend off any competition!) Hey, stewardship at work – again!

And then the proceeds. We ask a free will offering, from which we pay some of our expenses. And the "profits?" Off to feed the hungry around the world. We eat...they eat...sounds like stewardship to me!

But remember something else – we do this during Lent, as we journey along a road that leads up a hill, to a place called Calvary. We do this dinner thing in the shadow of the cross that stands on that hill. We do our stewardship in the light of the crucified Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

So, join us as we dine, on Wednesdays, from March 8 through April 5, beginning at 5:45 PM. Enjoy the food, make your gift to feed others. Worship first, or after the meal. Be a part of a stewardship exercise.

But keep your eyes on the cross ahead, and let the Holy Spirit roll within you. Because in the end, that's the real gift of stewardship – God's Holy Spirit working in you the gift of life through the crucified (and soon to be risen) Christ!

Pastor Jon

ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

The 2017 Annual Meeting was held on January 29, with 49 members in attendance. At this meeting we prayed, we sang, and we gave thanks to God for the blessings we have as a community of faith! We also did the usual business – we reviewed reports on our ministry, elected new leaders, and adopted a budget for 2017.

With all that, however, we also considered three significant issues:

1. We have a deficit budget for 2017! With the expected departure of Red Balloon later in the year, we will have over \$13,000 in less rental income, and while we have made up some of that with some increased giving and a budget that has virtually no increases in salaries, programming, or mission support, we are still short of a balanced budget. Your increased financial support is critical for us to continue our mission in the world.
2. The congregation considered and unanimously affirmed a plan for the repurposing of space in the building. The plan calls for some moving around of offices for greater efficiency and security, a youth room and music room, increased space for the food pantry, and some new classroom space. The Congregation Council, at its February meeting, appointed a task force to

explore the options and costs. A firm proposal will be brought back to the congregation later this spring for final approval. If you haven't seen the proposed building plan, check in at the office – we'll be happy to show it to you!

3. The meeting discussed the future of the parsonage, from a continued to rental, to using the space, to selling the building. In the end, the meeting directed the Congregation Council to explore selling the parsonage.

Remember, however, that no action can be taken without approval of the congregation. We expect to bring a proposal back to the congregation later this spring.

Thank you to all who were a part of our conversations and discernment. God is good, and we are blessed by you!

CONGREGATION COUNCIL REVIEW

The Congregation Council met on Monday, February 13, with Vice President Steve Ahles calling the meeting to order. At this meeting the council:

- Welcomed new council members – Dennis Manthei, Lynette Ender, Judy Gilbert, and Fran Noffke.
- Began with devotions, prayer time, and a council orientation.
- Elected officers – Steve Ahles (President), Jason Stefferud (Vice President), Dan Roemhild (Secretary), Jill Iliff (Treasurer)
- Approved the minutes from January, and the minutes from the annual meeting. Received and reviewed financial reports and reports from the pastors.
- Heard of an invitation to the upcoming Synod "GPS" on council work.
- Discussed same gender marriages and a way to listen to thoughts from the

congregation. Will pursue this more at the March meeting.

- Appointed a task force to prepare a detailed proposal for repurposing of space in the building, including costs.
- Directed the Rental Management Committee to explore the sale of the parsonage, and authorized an appraisal and market analysis of the property.
- Discussed appointment of a new council member to fill the empty position. Will pursue several persons, with the hope of appointing someone at the March meeting.
- Reviewed committee assignments and made several appointments to committees.
- Heard that Carol Ann Noel included the congregation in her estate planning.
- Approved moving Cathryn Bottem, Director of Youth Ministry to 15 hrs./week, in line with the budget for her position.

The council meets again on Monday, March 13. See Steve Ahles or one of the pastors if you have any questions.

NEW COUNCIL AND OFFICERS

The new Congregation Council met on Monday, February 13. Welcome to Dennis Manthei, Judy Gilbert, Lynette Ender, and Fran Noffke, recently elected. The council needs to appoint one more person, and is currently seeking out a qualified candidate.

At the meeting, the council elected officers for 2017:

President	Steve Ahles
Vice President	Jason Stefferud
Secretary	Dan Roemhild
Treasurer	Jill Iliff

Thank you to ALL who are a part of our leadership, and who take the time to share their gifts with us!

GOT ART?



We are looking for artists - children or adults - who are willing to share their gift. Beginning in March, each week our bulletin covers will feature a sketch drawing by one of our members, based on the text. Nothing fancy, just your interpretation of one of that Sunday's readings. We need YOU to be one of those artists. Your gift can add to our worship experience. See Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean for more information.

FLAMINGOES!

As of March 1, we will be selling insurance to protect your yard from being flocked by the flamingoes. There will be comprehensive and total coverage where comprehensive can only protect your yard to the price that you pay whereas total coverage means that no one can flock your yard. I am in desperate need of volunteers to help me move the flamingoes from house to house each night, and also volunteers to help run the table to sell insurance and take flocking requests. The flamingoes will fly out April 23 and will return May 21. Let's get pumped this year and see all of the places our flamingoes will go!



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, **March 10**. 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.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Don't forget to turn your clock ahead one hour on Saturday evening, March 12. Or...wake up at 2 a.m. on Sunday morning and change it! Either way, change your clock, go to bed early, and join us in worship as we thank God that while the time changes, God's love never does!



PRAYER AROUND THE CROSS MARCH 12, 7 PM



Quiet, meditative worship, gathered around the cross, bathed in candlelight. In March, we ponder birth and renewal. Come and take some time for prayer and reflection, in the midst of a busy and hectic world, as winter is waning, and the renewal of spring beckons.

NEW MEMBERS, ANYONE?

Pastor Jon will be having a new member class on Sunday mornings, March 19-26, and April 2-9, during the Sunday School hour. If you are interested in joining Our Savior's, come and learn more about our faith, and how we seek to be faithful disciples of Jesus. Or, if you are coming from a Lutheran background, we can transfer your membership. Either way, see Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean for more information.

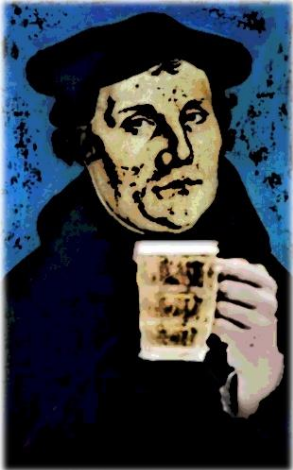




CELEBRATE WEST SALEM BUSINESS EXPO

The annual Celebrate West Salem Business Expo will be held on Sunday, March 19 at the West Salem High School gymnasium from 11:00-2:00. This impressive event features a wide variety of businesses and organizations from the area. Look for fellow church members at a number of the booths and be sure to stop by the Our Savior's Lutheran Church table to sample the best lutefisk and meatballs you can fit in a 3 oz. cup!

Beer & Hymns



Sunday, March 19
6~7 pm
Westview Inn
(174 Leonard Street S)

We all know Martin Luther loved music and wrote countless hymns for the church. But he also loved his beer. So let's combine the two to celebrate Reformation 500! Join us in the back

room for Beer & Hymns. We will provide songbooks of our favorite hymns; you order and pay for whatever you'd like from Westview. If you play an instrument and would like to be part of the band, bring it along!

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.

LOST AND FOUND

If you have been missing an item, check the "lost and found" stash here. We have a growing collection of lonely items, and really want them to find a home! But do it soon...Sunday, March 19 and 26 "lost and found" items will be on display, and after that – they will be given to new homes. So, act soon!



30 HOUR FAMINE



This is a great event put on by The World Vision that will be held here at Our Savior's on April 28th-29th. That may seem far away now, but we

are aiming to raise a total of \$1,500! Every \$35 feeds a child for an entire month and \$425 feeds that child for a year! With \$1,500, we can feed almost four children for a year!! I am asking for donations, but also volunteers who will go 30 hours with me to fast and experience what it is like to experience hunger. We will start with a potluck lunch at 11 a.m., the food will go away at 12:30 p.m., and our fast will begin. There is going to be fun activities and lots of juice to keep us hydrated. There will also be prizes for the activities and also prizes for certain amounts of money raised. Some of the activities include a scavenger hunt, going to the Children's Hospital, bible studies, and we will end the fast by taking communion at the 6 p.m. Saturday night worship service. If you have any questions, please talk to Cat.

DATE	ATTENDANCE	OFFERING	SUNDAY SCHOOL
Feb. 4 & 5	232	\$6,796	49
Feb. 11 & 12	229	\$6,652	52
Feb. 18 & 19	240		



HOUSTON WE HAVE A GATHERING!

The youth gathering will be held in Houston, TX from June 27-July 1 of 2018. So we have over a year to plan and get ready! There is an early-bird registration that will open up in July where you can also apply for financial assistance. The price in July is \$290, so if this is an opportunity you would enjoy I encourage you to sign up before September. The actual registration will open September 15, 2017 and will go until May 15, BUT the price is \$350 September 15-November 15 and will increase to \$390 on November 16-February 15. On February 16 the cost will rise to \$440, so if this is something you would be interested in please see Cat or Pastor Jean to get your information down.

SCRIP CARDS ... to buy ...

Scrip Cards are available for Kwik Trip, Woodman's, and Festival. And check it out ... **NEW**



... we now have Kwik Trip **Car**



Washes! (\$36 for 5 ultimate washes) Cards are generally available before and after Saturday worship and between services on Sunday. Cards make great gifts, and at the same time, a percentage goes to our youth ministry.



You can fill up, eat up, and gift up – and support our kids at the same time!



... and to sell ...

Middle School and High School students, who would like to sell Scrip cards, check out the sign-up outside Pastor Jon's office. Kids need

a parent present, and their "cut" goes into their account for future mission trips. *And speaking of mission trips* – don't forget we have one coming up the end of June to Gatlinburg, TN and the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston, TX in 2018!* (*Check out the details elsewhere in the newsletter.) See Pastor Jon, Pastor Jean, or Cat Bottem for more information.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Thank you so much to everyone that donated to the Souper Bowl of Caring on February 5! We were able to raise \$69.47 that will be donated to the ELCA World Hunger and collected 21 canned goods that were donated to the food pantry. We appreciate all of the help you gave us that weekend - thank you!



SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP - 2017 "The Water of Life"

Check out the brochures for camp on the kiosk in the Gathering Area!

OUR SAVIOR'S CAMPERSHIPS AVAILABLE

\$100 full week -- \$50 half week

Request forms due in the office NO LATER than April 27.

(Forms available in the church office, on the kiosk in the Gathering Area, or on the website – www.oursaviorswestsalem.org)

Camperships distributed in worship May 6 & 7

(You send the campership to Sugar Creek directly.)



GARDEN PLOTS

As I drafted this notice in mid-February last year, we were experiencing temperatures 20 degrees BELOW normal. As I write this in 2017, the mid-February 7 day forecast has temperatures reaching up to 25 degrees ABOVE normal. Though winter isn't over it's time to again consider a summer garden plot if you are interested. The plot is located 1½ miles from West Salem with direct access off County Road M. Last year's gardeners included a Senior Exit Project garden. If you are interested in reserving a parcel or have questions call Jim Michelson, 786-1236.

NEW MEMBERS!

Recently, Jerry and Tonya Chandler, and family, transferred to Our Savior's from English Lutheran in La Crosse.

Jerry and Tonya Chandler both grew up in this area, and have lived in West Salem since 2000. Tonya is the national sales manager for Veolia Water Technologies, while Jerry is a stay-at-home Dad. Both of their kids attend West Salem schools – Adam in 7th grade, Haley in 5th. They both enjoy Odyssey of the Mind. Haley loves dance; Adam enjoys math, Legos and friends. The whole family enjoys travel. Welcome, Chandlers!



PASTORAL ACTS

Funerals

✝ We express our Christian sympathy to the family of Fern Mellor who died January 22. Services were held January 28 with burial in Neshonoc Cemetery.

✝ We express our Christian sympathy to the family of Gloria Liles who died February 11. Services were held February 16 with burial in Neshonoc Cemetery.

Thank you!

* We thank the **MAILING CREW** for assembling the Newsletter. The members who helped this past month were Connie and Larry Blunck, Judy Morzinski, and Rich Storandt.

* Thank you to all who sent cards/letters or who visited or called Doris during her 100th birthday celebration in January. Special thanks to the choir and the Sunday school students for their group cards and to the nearly 100 individuals who signed the displayed birthday cards. You each helped to make Doris' birthday a truly special event.

The Michelson Family

* Thank you to Todd Michael and his Confirmation group of Aidan, Cody, Everett, and Kirin for their January Wednesday evening visit, conversation and lunch.

* Thank you to many generous folks who gave of their time to provide treats for Sunday fellowship hour and to serve them. (Mid-November through February '17)

Servers: Shannon Wiese, Naoko Aminaka, Connie Blunck and Melody Schmitz (2), Choir Members/Larry Blunck, the Tiber family (2), the Michelson family, Pam Gresens (2), the Kane and Fennigkoh families.

Treats: Lynette Ender (2), Tracy Skrentny, Linda Arentz, Michelle Witte, Mary Gavaghan, Bonny Goodenough, Melody Schmitz (2), Connie Blunck, Choir Members, the Tiber family, the Michelson family, Rita Schmitz, Dori Jensen, Pam Willer, Dana Roemhild, the Kane and Fennigkoh families, the Tiber family, Harriet Hessler, Maureen Wermedal. A special Thank You to Nicole Campbell who filled our freezer with treats to be used when needed!

Please help us out. Serving refreshments is a fun youth or family activity, and a chance to practice hospitality to members and visitors. Thank you!

Ilene Pavelko

Communion Bread ...



We thank *Tonya Chandler* for providing the homemade bread for Holy Communion in February and *Jerry Willer* in March.

REFORMATION REFLECTIONS

Another installment in a yearlong reflection on the Reformation, what it was, and what it means to us today.

Of all the things Martin Luther wrote, he is probably best known for two things: the hymn “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” and the Small Catechism. Interestingly, Luther himself was ambivalent about the lasting value of most of his writings, with two exceptions—and one of them was this little pamphlet, the Small Catechism. And this from someone whose writings changed the whole landscape of the Western religious world.

Most of us know the Small Catechism well. Many spent hours memorizing it as teens. But how did it come to be, and what is it that makes it so helpful?

In 2017, we are observing the 500th anniversary of the Reformation’s start, when Luther posted the Ninety-Five Theses. If that was the act of a passionate young man, a decade later he was facing the needs of the church he was reforming. If it was no longer enough just to go through the motions, following the lead of a Latin-rite priest, then what was at the heart of what people needed to know—and how were they to learn that? To meet that need, Luther the pastor and teacher created two catechisms—the Large (primarily intended for pastors) and the Small (for use in the home).

A catechism is a document that lays out the basic ideas of religion in a simple question-and-answer format. For the Small Catechism, Luther chose to open up some of the basics of Christian faith: the Ten Commandments, the Apostles’ Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion, and the Office of the Keys and Confession. It’s worth noticing that he based this teaching document on what already existed rather than starting from scratch and inventing a whole new system. Luther was committed to the church catholic.

His genius is shown in the way he opened up these statements of faith. The famous question in each case was, in German, “Was ist das?” In English, most of us know this as “What does this mean?” but a literal translation would be “What is that?” And then he proceeded to tell, in beautifully simple language, what each commandment, each part of the creed, each petition of the Lord’s Prayer, tells us about God and about us as God’s children. These explanations set out a God who is not the stern judge of Luther’s own childhood, but a loving parent who offers us unconditional grace and only then invites us to live accordingly.

How profound was Luther’s achievement in writing the Small Catechism? A mark of it can be seen in the simple fact that nearly five hundred years after its first publication in 1529, and after being translated into hundreds of languages, it is still one of the most effective tools for learning and teaching what the Christian faith is all about.

Next month: The Augsburg Confession

"DRIFTLESS DEVOTIONS"

Looking for some good, inspirational reflections? "Driftless Devotions" are now online at www.Driftlessdevotions.com, or use the link on the home page of our web site (www.oursaviorswestsalem.org). Best of all – they are written by one of us! Read, reflect, and be renewed as you ponder God's work in our world!

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.



**Lutherans
yesterday, today,
&
March 13th**

@ Salem Terrace

**Join us at 9:30 A.M.
for breakfast,
followed by
conversation**

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



RUTH CIRCLE

Monday, March 20, 9 a.m.
Leader: Caryll Loughan
Hostess: Sandra Holthaus

Thank you to the prayer shawl ladies ...

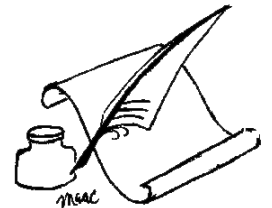
Mother (Eleanor Lee) arrived safely on Wednesday. She presented me with those beautiful shawls. I'm sure that she told you that I gave the last one to my daughter's dearest friend, who died in December, leaving behind her husband and three young boys. I could knit or crochet shawls or lap robes but mine only give comfort from the outside, whereas yours warms both the body and soul. I already have a recipient for the rectangular one. Sadly, it will go to my father-in-law. Thank you again for the work you do. God Bless You!



Ingrid Fggleston

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.





*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. Blanche Knutson graciously allowed us to share a glimpse into her story. Blanche, 92 years young, lived on several farms and attended nine different schools growing up. She has 4 sons, 11 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-great-grandchildren. Blanche’s first husband died after 47 years of marriage; eight years later, she remarried, and her second husband died after 16 years of marriage.

Blanche’s advice to new disciples of Jesus

... Without faith, what would our world be like? Blanche is a firm believer in prayer, noting so many times in her life that she relied on the power of prayer to get her through the challenges. Blanche said through prayer, her questions are answered.

Blanche’s favorite Bible passage ...

because ... Psalm 23. Blanche said she gets a special feeling when she reads this Psalm; it gets to her. The Psalm is printed on a decoration that is in her kitchen so she is reminded of those words every day.

Blanche’s earliest memories of church ...

Blanche said when she was a child living in Coon Valley, her father bought horses that had been used by the mail carrier. Her father would take Blanche to Sunday School at Coon Valley Lutheran Church in a buggy pulled by these horses. She smiled remembering that the horses would stop frequently on the way when they passed mailboxes! Blanche liked to sing and when she was five years old, she had

to sing a solo for a program at the community theater in Timber Coulee. A neighbor made a special dress for Blanche to wear for the program. The song she sang was “Beautiful Savior.” This song will forever hold a special place in Blanche’s heart. As a member here at Our Savior’s for several decades, Blanche remembers being in a group with Pastor Mitzi that crafted things, including a banner for the church.

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

LA CROSSE ARE SYNOD W-ELCA
SPRING CONFERENCE
Saturday, April 29
at
Our Savior’s in West Salem

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 ***Sara Frank*** (UW-L),

Trygve Anderson (Wartburg College, Waverly IA), and ***Erica Rich*** (UW-Milwaukee).



FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION

5th grade parents and students – First Communion instruction will be on **Sundays, March 26 *and* April 9.** Class runs **from 1:30 to 3 PM** each day. Parents are asked to join us. We will learn about Holy Communion, bake the bread for our first communion, and create our own communion cup. First Communion will be a part of our worship on Maundy Thursday (April 13). For more information, see Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean.

CONFIRMATION

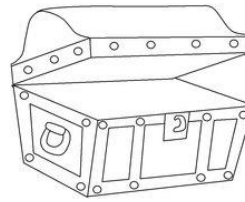
A reminder – grades 6-8 confirmation classes do not meet during Lent, nor is the After School program meeting. Grades 7 & 8 will be assisting with worship and Lenten dinners. Ninth graders will be working on their banners. Classes resume after Easter.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Sunday School children had fun in February making Valentines for their “adopted grandparents.” Those cards were quite the works of art! Based on the feedback we have been receiving, the grandparents really liked their cards and will look forward to getting to know the children in the coming months! Way to go kids!!

The kids decorated their Alleluia’s, paraded them around the sanctuary, and then buried them on Celebration of Hope Sunday as the congregation sang “Hallelu, Hallelujah!” for the last time. With the coming of March, we enter into the season of Lent and a more somber time of the year. We will walk the journey to the cross together. See you in Sunday School!



Sunday School Treasure Box

... Will you get to check out what’s new in the Sunday School Treasure Box in the coming weeks? Treasures earned for perfect attendance and offerings for our friends in Peru.

Important Dates

Sunday, March 19 - Grades 3-5 sing at 10:30 a.m. worship

Sundays, March 26 **AND** April 9 - First Communion Instruction - 1:30 - 3 p.m.

Palm Sunday, April 9 - All kids sing at 10:30 a.m. worship

Easter Sunday, April 16 - All kids sing at 10:30 a.m. worship

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 March Care & Share Food Pantry

Our local Care & Share Food Pantry (that is housed here at Our Savior's) is the recipient of March's Hungry Jar monies. We are blessed to have a roof over our heads and food in our bellies. But there are those for whom that is not the case. The Care & Share Food Pantry is here to serve those who need a bit of help providing food for families and individuals to nourish and sustain them. As we throw away our "left overs", remember those who haven't eaten today. Please be generous with your "spare change" to help feed the hungry in our local communities. (You can also bring non-perishable food items to church and place them in the basket in the Gathering Area. Check-out the list of needed items on the mini board by the kiosk.)

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.

HELP PROVIDE AN EASTER GARDEN

Again, this year we are inviting members of the congregation to consider providing a plant for our Easter worship. While lilies have often been used in the past, more recently we have begun using a variety of flowering spring plants to beautify our worship center and to proclaim the new life we find in Jesus Christ.

You may provide a plant or we will order plants together so that we might have a variety. We are encouraging donations of \$20 to help provide this Easter Garden. In our Easter bulletin, we will acknowledge these gifts. You may designate your gift in memory of someone or in honor of someone.

Thank you for helping to beautify our Easter worship. Please return this form by April 1.

Name _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

\$ _____



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.



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

ACOLYTES

	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30/10 a.m.
March 1—Ash Wednesday	WEDNESDAY 5 p.m. Audrey Godlewski 7 p.m. Sydney Hammes		
March 4 - 5	Madison Hass	Maddie Haun	Josh Iliff
Wednesday, March 8, Lenten Services	WEDNESDAY 5 p.m. Natalie Jeranek 7 p.m. Owen Johnson		
March 11 - 12	Haley Jones	Connor Koepf	Wesley Leren
March 15, Lenten Services	WEDNESDAY 5 p.m. Madisen Mueller 7 p.m. Katie Murphy		
March 18 - 19	Autumn Pfaff	McKenna Riley	Ellie Slotten
March 22, Lenten Services	WEDNESDAY 5 p.m. Angela Vick 7 p.m. Skyler Williams		
March 25 - 26	Cody Anderson	Allison Arentz	Cassidy Bores
March 29, Lenten Services	WEDNESDAY 5 p.m. Hannah Brenengen 7 p.m. Aidan Donahue		

BASKET HOLDERS

		Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30/10 a.m.
March 1—Ash Wednesday	WEDNESDAY 5 p.m. Bennett Turnipseed 7 p.m. Blaine Wheeler		
March 5		Maxwell Williams	Ella Beal
March 12		Lauren Bell	Eva Clements
March 19		Alena Donahue	Zach Fitzpatrick
March 26		Ben Fleckenstein	Emma Fortier

READERS

	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30/10 a.m.
March 4 - 5	Amy Molling	Marjorie Anderson	Eric Iliff
March 11 - 12	Kay Niemeier	Jim Kerkman	Jim Quamme
March 18 - 19	Kathy Brisson	Carol Stekel	Michelle Witte
March 25 - 26	Karen DeSchepper	Connie Blunck	Carla Burkhardt

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30/10 a.m.
March 1—Ash Wednesday	Wednesday 5 p.m. Marty & Jane Frank 7 p.m. Jeff & Melissa Haldeman		
March 4 - 5	Lee Fernstaedt	Marjorie Anderson Steve Ahles	Justin Drury Paula Heilman
March 11 - 12	Bonny Goodenough	Rich Clements Char Buelow	Denise Jones Eric Iliff
March 18 - 19	Jill Iliff	Wendy Kane Vernetta Moe	Carla Burkhardt Carlie Burkhardt
March 25 - 26	Bev Bockenbauer	Linda Arentz Carolyn Herried	Naoko Aminaka Susan Giblin

USHERS

	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30/10 a.m.
March	March 4 _____ March 11 Ryan & Jennifer Wheeler March 18 _____ March 25 Marcus Schmitz & Justin Kettner	8 a.m. Dennis & Ann Sprain	10:30 a.m. March 5, 12, & 26 Rich & Beth Clements & Family March 19 _____

ALTAR GUILD

Kristin Tschumper
Katie Drury

HOME COMMUNION SERVERS

March 4 - 5

Pam Gresens

March 18 - 19

Ilene Pavelko

March 11 - 12

Iliff Family

March 25 - 26

Daryl Wermedal

Web Site: oursaviorswestsalem.org

OUR SAVIOR'S STAFF

Pastor Jonathan Schmidt, Senior Pastor 612-0217 Email: pastorjon@oursaviorswestsalem.org
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Linda Berg, Organist Email: linda@oursaviorswestsalem.org
Eric Sorenson, Senior Choir Director
Karen DeSchepper, Counter
Sherri Neal, Custodian