

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

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OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
WEST SALEM, WISCONSIN
January 2018

- Pastor's Reflections
- Baptism Recognition Worship
- Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser
- Sunday School/Confirmation
- Stewardship
- Council Review
- January Calendar



Vision Statement:

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

Our Savior's Voice

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

JANUARY 2018

Pastor's Reflections ...



It's a New Year ...

someone else can do "it"!

The Christmas tree is at the curb, the decorations have been packed away, the cookies have accumulated around my waistline, travelers have returned home safely, the cards and notes have been read and re-read, another round of Sunday School programs have warmed the hearts of those in attendance, Advent and Christmas worship services are in the books, festive gatherings are a mere memory, and I sit in my lazy-boy and sigh ... I am exhausted.

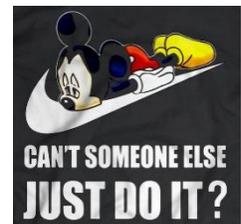
As I reflect on the past year here at church, a whirlwind of thoughts race around in my head and I am exhausted thinking about it, and amazed that we survived it - in addition to the usual activities of being the church (worship, Christian education, weddings, baptisms, funerals, visits, meetings), we hired and trained a new administrative assistant, the daycare closed and we repurposed that space, the sanctuary was painted and carpeted, the parsonage was sold, and the life-cycle of the church started again in September - I am spent ...

As I reflect on the past year of family life, a whirlwind of thoughts race around in my head and I am exhausted thinking about it, and amazed that we survived it – school activities for Rebecca, synod responsibilities, community responsibilities, a myriad of appointments, continuing education obligations, connecting with family and friends, church activities – I am spent ...

This seemingly never ending rat race probably sounds familiar to most of you. Your lives are filled with work, family, and outside activities just like mine. You are being pulled in multiple directions all at the same time. There is only so much of you, so much of your time and energy, to go around – you are spent ...

Something has to give ... but what ... work, school activities, sports, committees, appointments, family time, recreation time, church ...

Church ... I put in my time ... I think perhaps it's time to sit back and let someone else do it.



But wait ... does it have to be either/or, this or that, one or the other, all or nothing?

We have been given gifts beyond our wildest imagination ... they aren't gifts that we earned or gifts for which we are entitled or gifts that are in response to gifts given ... these are truly *gifts* – given with no strings attached, no expectations ... gifts given with hope and love. *All* we have is a gift from God – our time and talents and treasures are all gifts – our very life is a gift. What we do with these precious gifts is up to us. How we share them and who we share them with is up to

us. To use the words in Pastor Jon's sermon from December 17, when we use those gifts to serve the cause of Jesus, we display "sacred leadership." And each one of us (*really, each one*) can do just that.

Our Savior's is known for being a place of welcome, and it takes each of us to share that gift of hospitality ... why not share your smile and warmth on a Saturday night or Sunday morning greeting those who walk through our doors ... are you known for making an impression by the goodies you create in the kitchen ... does your smiling face and quick wit invite conversation ... do you have a passion for the young or old or those who are hungry or those who are hurting ... do the notes tickle your fingers or roll off your tongue ... is there room on your list to add one or two more to your prayers ... is creating with yarn or thread what warms your heart ...

Each of us is gifted beyond our wildest imagination, gifts we sometimes don't even know we have, gifts bottled up and anxiously waiting to be let out. Now is your chance, it's a new year, embrace it! Why not share these precious gifts ... here in this place or out in the world around you? Go for it!

Oh that's right, I forgot ... *someone else can do it!*

Sure they can. But no way! *I'm* gifted. *I want* to do it! After all, I'm a "sacred leader."

Waiting to embrace and share our God-given gifts together with you,

Pastor Jean

Sabbatical Leave



Pastor Jon is beginning to plan for a sabbatical leave in late spring/summer of 2019. A sabbatical leave is an extended time away from the work of the congregation, for the purpose of reflection and renewal. The sabbatical is part of the synod guidelines, and is included in the call package. During the sabbatical (usually about 3 months), the pastor remains the pastor of the congregation, but stays away from the work of the congregation, which also allows the congregation to discover new ways to do ministry.

For Pastor Jon's sabbatical Pastor Jean will remain to carry on the pastoral ministry, though we will find assistance for her. (Pastor Jean will look at a sabbatical for 2020, with Pastor Jon picking up some of the slack). For the past few years, we have set aside some dollars to help make this work. We are also exploring a grant through the Lily Foundation. If the grant is received, some of the resources will go to make the sabbatical work for Pastor Jon, and some of them will be used by Our Savior's, both to cover ministry needs, but also to provide some opportunities for the congregation to share in Pastor Jon's renewal experiences.

How will we make all this happen? Pastor Jon has a sabbatical team that he is now working with to help him plan and develop the sabbatical, and to make it happen in the context of congregational life. We will keep you posted!



Recognition of Baptism

January 6/7 is the “Baptism of Our Lord.” On that weekend, at all services, we will recognize baptisms from 2017. Those who were baptized are encouraged to join us, with baptism candle in hand! We will ask God’s continued blessing on their journey in life, relight the candle to remember what God is doing in their lives, and send them forth to continue as disciples of Jesus! See Pastor Jean for more information.

Prayer Around the Cross

Join us for Prayer Around the Cross again on Sunday, January 14, at 7 PM. We gather around the cross, bathed in candlelight, to pray for the needs of the world. Our time together lasts about 25 minutes. This is an important ministry of intercession, as we pray for the needs of people around us.



“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone...” 1 Timothy 2:1

Coming Soon to a Church Lot Near You...

Keep your eyes on the lot across the street - in November the Council approved the concept of a Prayer Labyrinth in the old playground lot. We now have a high school Junior interested in making that his Senior Exit Project.



What's a "prayer labyrinth?" Not a maze, designed to confuse you, but a path that leads you to the center, allowing you to retreat from the world, and enter a place of prayer and meditation. And when you are done, you follow the path back into the world, to continue as a faithful disciple of Jesus. Always available and open to the public, the labyrinth will be a visual way of lifting up prayer in the midst of our community - and our daily lives!

Lenten Drama



Lent begins (really, it's soon!), on February 14, with worship on Ash Wednesday, and the weeks following. Details will be in the February newsletter. For now...we are looking for drama participants! Each week a different drama will focus our attention on the personalities of the Passion story, and how their story - and witness - can make a difference in our lives! See Pastor Jon if you would like to be a part of this year's drama series.



“Simply Social”

**Sunday, January 21
Red Pines – 6 PM**

Simply Social is on again! After the hustle and bustle of the holidays, many of us desire a relaxing January. All you “chief cook and bottle washers” deserve a break. Well here’s your opportunity to have a night off. Sunday January 21st we will have our first Simply Social event of the new year. We will be meeting for dinner at Red Pines (on Brice’s Prairie) at 6 PM. If attending, please either call Melissa Haldeman @ 786-1556 or sign-up on the Kiosk.

New Members

If you are new to Our Savior’s, but have not joined the congregation, we welcome you to consider membership with us. While EVERYONE is welcome in worship, and our ministry involves ALL of God’s children, members help us by making a commitment to this community of faith, and by taking a role in leading our ministry. Regardless of where you are coming from, we would love to have you, and to partner with you in your journey of discipleship.

A new member class is set for Tuesday evenings, January 9-23-30, from 6:30 - 8 PM. Speak with Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean for more information!



Welcome!



The Congregation Council recently acted to receive Dean and Judi Ashbacher as new members, transferring from Trinity Lutheran Church in Sparta, after moving to West Salem from Rockland, where they had lived for over 30 years. Dean is originally from Waterville, Iowa, and owns Truss Specialists and a car wash in La Crescent. He likes watching sports, along with car and truck racing, and even sometimes enjoys antique shopping with Judi.

Judi is from Prairie du Chien. She retired about a year ago, and loves it. She enjoys scrapbooking, card making, and sewing. Both Judi and Dean enjoy spending time with their three grandchildren, and attending their many events.

We welcome Dean and Judi, and look forward to our partnership together in the gospel of Jesus Christ



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The children were busy in December practicing for their Christmas programs! Now in the New Year, after a couple of weeks of well-earned rest, we can get back to our routines – watching what our friends from *Whirl* have to say, singing songs, and gathering with our teachers. We begin with Jesus’ baptism and continue through the season of Epiphany – the season of new beginnings and lights.

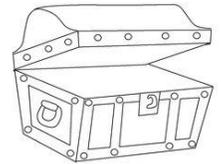
We encourage families to invite your children to share with you what they have learned in class, and follow through during the week with the activities that are suggested on the story leaflet that comes home.

The children and their “adopted grandparents” continue to create connections. We thank those “seniors” for partnering with us, helping to be the presence of Jesus in the lives of our young ones and sharing their faith stories.

We are thankful for our teachers and helpers who share from the heart their witness and love of Jesus with the children. What a gift each of them is to us!

We are always eager to welcome new students ... bring a friend and join us! And remember, for those of you with little ones, as soon as they turn 4 years old they are welcome to jump in to Sunday School at any time!

Hey kids, now that the Christmas programs are over, don't forget to keep coming to Sunday School! Let's see who will get to check out the Treasure Box in January!



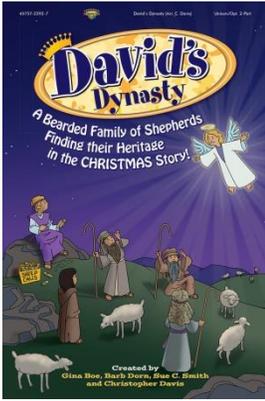
Important Dates

Sunday, January 21 - Grades 3-5 sing during 10:30 worship
Sunday, January 28 - Grades 4K-2 sing during 10:30 worship

Sunday School Offering ...

We continue to collect our Sunday School offerings for Hurricane Relief through Lutheran Disaster Relief. As a church, we're standing by our neighbors who have been affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. The road to recovery will be long. Our offerings will be used to help buy Bibles, hymnals, and school supplies for the children who have been affected and displaced by these hurricanes. Check out the bulletin board by Pastor Jean's office as we mark our progress.

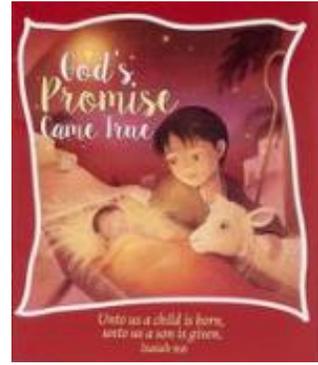




Thank you for an awesome job!

On December 16th thirty-two of our 3rd – 5th grade Sunday School children did a great job presenting their Christmas program “David’s Dynasty”! ...and ...

On December 17th fifty-two of our 4K – 2nd grade Sunday School children did a great job presenting their Christmas program “God’s Promise Came True”!



We thank our children for working so hard – singing your hearts out and learning your lines – and our parents for your support and getting your kids to Sunday School each week.

Thank you to Mike Larson, Linda Berg, Ilene Pavelko, Shannon Vick, Candice Tlustosch, and Abby Vick for providing the music and direction for the children ... Jake Iliff for working with the kids on their speaking parts ... Eric Iliff for coordinating the staging ... Abby & Angela Vick for singing the duet “God’s Promise Came True.”

Thank you to those who helped behind the scenes to make this program possible – especially Wendy Kane and Eric Iliff who worked hard to make sure everything went smoothly. Thank you to those parents who provided treats for the classes on Sunday.

We thank our Sunday School teachers for all of your work, not only with the program, but for faithfully sharing the love of Jesus Christ with our children each week.

Thank you to everyone who came to our Christmas programs in the midst of worship! If you were unable to be with us that weekend, check out the YouTube of the services on our website: www.oursaviorswestsalem.org. Follow the link ...and Enjoy!!



Introducing ... Frolic!

If you have children 0-3 years old, we have an opportunity for you!

Join us on Sunday, January 28 at 9:15
in the Frolic Room (“green” classroom downstairs)



- ❖ Parent(s) and child(ren) gather together.
- ❖ Get to know others parents experiencing the same challenges and joys that you are.
- ❖ Spend some quality, faith-filled time with your child.
- ❖ Story, music, craft, and more – all age appropriate.
- ❖ This will be our inaugural event and the plan will be to gather once a month (4th Sunday).

Confirmation and After School

6th graders

- Classes resume January 3, at 6 PM.

7/8th graders

- Core class on January 3, at 6 PM.
- Electives on January 10, 24, and 31 from 6 -7 PM.
- Small group time on January 17.

9th graders

- Class with parents on January 3 OR January 10, at 7 PM.
- Second class with parents on January 24 OR 31 at 7 PM.

After School - begins again on January 3, and meets each Wednesday during January. 6-9th graders (or older?) are welcome to hang out, do homework, play games, or just chill, with dinner served at 5:30 PM.

Remember - no Confirmation or After School whenever West Salem school is canceled!



Interested?

Looking for a home...

With the purchase of a new 65" LED TV, we are looking for some new homes for older electronics. We have a tube TV (27") and the older, large TV on wheels. Older connections, but both work well - great for a garage or other outbuilding, or ??? Come and take it, it's yours! See Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean for more information.

New Electronics

Recently, the projector we have used for many years began to "not project," which of course, is not very helpful! The council authorized the use of memorial funds to purchase a 65" LED TV and mobile stand to replace the projector and screen. The new unit also eliminates the need for the old, large TV, and allows us to use it with computers and DVD players – a BIG plus in our ministry! The new unit is easier to move around - we can even use it in worship without having to set up a screen.

Best of all...we were able to get them at a good price, and have already put them to work! In the first eight days, the unit was used for Sunday School, two confirmation classes, and a funeral visitation. A special thanks to Dan Roemhild and Clark Draxler for putting the stand together.





What's going on in the Youth World!?

Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser!

Monday, January 15th

Starting at 5 PM

Texas Roadhouse on Hwy 16 in Onalaska

Fundraising opportunity for youth going to Houston.

10% of proceeds from those supporting the event go to Our Savior's.



Must present this coupon
at Texas Roadhouse
so Proceeds will go to
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
West Salem



**ENVELOPE
FUNDRAISER**

Beginning January 1st envelopes labeled 1-100 will be displayed in the Gathering Area. Each envelope represents a specified dollar amount. Our goal is to have each envelope filled with the dollars indicated in order to raise money for the youth going to Houston.

Coming up for those attending Houston Youth Gathering:

Synod Day - March 10th 10am-4pm

Begins at First Lutheran, Onalaska (initial destination could be changed) and ends at Valley View Mall

Walk for Water and a chance for students to get to know the other youth going to Houston

Questions: Talk to Cat ☺

**SAVE THE
DATE!**



High School Retreat

Friday, January 26 7PM - Sunday, January 28 1PM

Sugar Creek Bible Camp

Cost: \$85 (includes 5 meals)

Questions: Talk to Cat ☺

Flamingos:

Insurance will be sold beginning March 1st
But first ... we need volunteers who will be willing to help
sell insurance. Sign-up sheets will be up February 1st



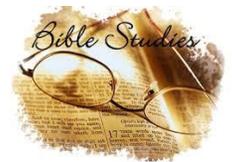
As our students are either away from home or studying in challenging environments, we keep them in our thoughts and prayers. This month please pray for: **Raeann Rich** (UW-M), **Allie Skrentny** (UW-L), **Danielle Schultz** (UW-L), **Haley Dutton** (Eastern Michigan), and **Taylor Novak** (St. Mary's - Winona).

college
connection

Adult Studies

Adult studies in January...

Wednesdays, 9:30-11 AM, in the library – We begin January looking at the Epiphany story in Matthew, and then...1 Corinthians! Come and explore with us one of Paul's most down to earth, pragmatic letters, yet filled with gems for us to ponder in our journey of life. NO prior knowledge required...just come, share, and learn!



Sundays, 9:15-10:15 AM, in the Koinonia Room – bring a cup of coffee and spend some time digging a bit deeper into the texts for that Sunday. We'll look at the gospel, and the other texts we use in worship, and listen for God's voice!



School of Theology

The La Crosse Area Synod School of Theology resumes classes January 4. Classes are held here at Our Savior's on Thursday evenings from 5:30 to 9 PM for six weeks. For more information see the synod web site at www.lacrosseareasynod.org/synod-school-of-theology, or see Pastor Jon.



Lutherans yesterday, today, and January 8th @ Salem Terrace – 10:00 am

We continue our study of the history of Lutherans in America. Join us as we explore what that means using the resource - "We Must Plant the Church." We meet in the small kitchenette off of the parking lot between Salem Terrace & Mill Street Manor. The coffee pot will be on and there are always yummy treats. Feel free to invite your friends.

CHECK IT OUT ...

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



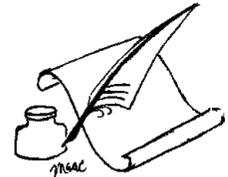
Can't hear the worship service ... we have a hearing assist device

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 Pre-K classroom) 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.



Funeral Lunch Committee



The Funeral lunch committee provides workers, and/or salads and sweets to families mourning a loved one after the funeral service. Since the committee members aren't getting any younger, additional help would be appreciated. You can be contacted via email or a phone call. Not everyone on the committee can work or provide every time, so a large group is needed. We would like to continue this service so when your family needs it, there is a group available to provide it. Contact Connie Blunck at 786-0684 / clcbunck@centurylink.net. Bev Bockenbauer @ 786-1987 or Judy Morzinski @ 786-1827. Thank you.



Stewardship Corner

Stewardship
a way of life

It was Sunday, December 10. The Library was filled with mostly women, a few men. The guys in the Gathering Area were watching intently. This was a deep, profound moment. This was stewardship in action!

What was happening? Women from Our Savior's, all (because all women are), members of WELCA (Women of the ELCA). The men were just observing...

The gathered women listened, shared, maybe debated a bit, and then acted. They acted to make a difference in the lives of many folk by distributing the over \$7000 that came from the Norwegian Dinner back in early November. From needs right here in West Salem, to the needs of people far away, these gifts will touch the lives of God's children. A stewardship event, which began long ago with planning, then preparation, then a meal and clean up, finally concluded with the sharing of the profits. And not just some of the profits – all of it – every penny – went to make a difference in other people's lives!

Kind of like the Mission Endowment Fund. In the past few weeks, the checks have gone out – over \$12,000 to a variety of ministries. Unlike the Norwegian Dinner, no one had to do dishes, and lutefisk was nowhere in sight. Instead, the Endowment Fund is our faithful stewardship of bequests and gifts, gifts that we choose to designate to the needs of people. And so, like the Norwegian Dinner, the Endowment Fund impacts ministries nearby and far away, but all ministries that do the work of Jesus Christ.

So add it up – close to \$20,000. Hey, we could sure have fun with that, couldn't we? But we don't, because there are people in need. God calls us to meet those needs, and God has blessed us over and over again. Filled with God's gifts of life, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we embrace our calling to be good stewards – and to make a difference in the lives of others!



This year's Norwegian dinner's profits were \$7,509.15. After reviewing the WELCA checkbook, it was decided by the women attending the meeting December 10 that \$8,100 would be donated to the following charities:

World Hunger	500.00	Lutheran Disaster Relief	100.00
LaCrosse Clothes Closet	100.00	Lutheran World Relief	500.00
Lutheran Social Services	500.00	Synod Seminary Scholarship	200.00
St Claire Health Mission/Sparta	200.00	Sugar Creek Bible Camp	200.00
Lutheran Campus Ministry	200.00	LaCrosse Warming Center	500.00
Quilt/School Kit Shipping	530.00	Jail Ministry	100.00
New Horizons	400.00	3 Rivers Scholar House	300.00
Tip Jar Fund-Youth decide	361.00	Salvation Army	1000.00
West Salem Community Fund	500.00	Red Cross Local	500.00
Our Saviors youth	500.00	Trinity Lutheran Clothes Closet	100.00

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Remember that if you are a Thrivent member you may have “Thrivent Choice Dollars” to direct. Our Savior’s is one of the many potential recipients of your choice dollars, but your direction needs to be made each time. A number of Our Savior’s folk direct their choice dollars – do you? See Thrivent’s web site for more information or stop by the office and we will help you out.

Creative Giving

Retirement Plans can lead to significant income taxes for heirs of a retiree. The fact is, often retirees do not draw installments (called annuitizing) from their IRAs or other retirement plans. This leads to substantial retirement plans passing at death to the named beneficiaries. These heirs will face ordinary income taxes at their frequently high income tax brackets. Changing the retirement plan beneficiary designation to make an ELCA ministry the beneficiary of a portion of the retirement plan provides the dual benefit of being a gift to ministry that also avoids income taxation on the portion of the retirement



plan proceeds given to ministry. Utilization of a remainder trust may provide income to heirs, spread out the taxable income and ultimately provide a gift to ministry. Think about the needs of your heirs and talk to a gift planner in your synod about whether a portion of your qualified retirement plan or IRA should be given to an ELCA ministry at your death.

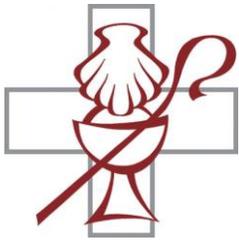
For more information: Contact Timothy Knutson, ELCA Foundation at (414) 477-9979 or timothy.knutson@elca.org, or Pastor Larry Westfield, ELCA Foundation at (262) 224-9574 or larry.westfield@elca.org.



Hungry Jar Offering for January La Crosse Warming Center

The weather outside is frigid ... this *is* Wisconsin! 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.

Pastoral Acts:



Baptism – Benson Allan Shepherd – December 2
Baptism – Theodore Christopher Bott – December 2
Baptism – Hadley Anna Hanson – December 3
Baptism – Gannon James Steinhoff – December 24
Baptism – Zade Alexander Bion – December 24
Baptism – Jameson Lane Perz – December 25
Funeral – Roger Anderson – December 5

In Loving Memory

Memorial Gifts Received ...

In Memory of Myron Pfaff for Endowment Fund
From Judy Long

In Memory of Bob Mulder for Youth Mission Trip & Sugar Creek Scholarships
From Family & Friends

In Memory of Alden Lee for Prayer Shawl Ministry
From Ingrid Eggleston

In Memory of David Easterday
From Family & Friends

In Memory of Roger Anderson
From Family & Friends

Congregation Council Review

The Congregation Council met on Monday, December 11, with President Steve Ahles calling the meeting to order. At this meeting the council:

- Received and reviewed the minutes from the November meeting, along with financial reports and the pastors' reports.
- Approved a proposal to erect fencing around the lot across East Avenue at a cost of \$4054, with funds to come from the Parsonage Fund.
- Heard an update on several building issues including the new TV and cart, printer for the office, and computer for youth work.
- Heard that the Prayer Labyrinth will be taken on as an SEP by one of our High School students.
- Heard an update on Annual Meeting plans.



After the meeting, the council and family members enjoyed a Christmas party. The council meets again on Monday, January 8. See Steve Ahles or one of the pastors if you have any questions.



2018 Annual Meeting report deadlines ...

In preparation for the annual meeting, we will once again call on folks from the various committees, teams, and ministries to write their reflections of activities that occurred during 2017 for the annual report. Please note we will need those reports in the office as follows: **Written Reports by Sunday, January 7** and **Financial Reports by Thursday, January 11.**

Annual Meeting

The 2017 Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28, at approximately 11:45 AM, following the 10:30 AM worship service. All voting members are encouraged to attend. The agenda will include a review of the ministry we share, the adoption of our mission budget for 2018, the election of leaders, and amendments to the constitution and the Endowment Fund enabling resolution. Join us as we seek to discern God's calling to us as faithful disciples of Jesus!



NOTICE

The Congregation Council recommends a series of amendments to the constitution of the congregation. These changes have been proposed by the ELCA, and require a majority vote at the annual congregational meeting for adoption. The changes involve primarily the addition of the "Ministry of Word and Service" to the rostered leadership of the church, and a number of minor editorial changes. *The amendments do not change how we as a congregation operate; they add flexibility to how we might operate in the future.* A full set of the amendments proposed is available in the office.

The Congregation Council also recommends an amendment to the Enabling Resolution of the Mission Endowment Fund. The amendment would adjust the language specifying the amount the Endowment Fund distributes each year to match our current practice. The current language specifies a disbursement of 5% of assets, while the fund distributes the earned income (generally around 4%). The amendment would mandate the distribution "of the earned income for the year, not to exceed 6% of the net asset value."

Both of these recommendations will be on the agenda for the annual meeting. Please join us as we set the direction of our mission and ministry.

Synod Assembly Voting Members

The Congregation Council will need to appoint voting members to the 2018 La Crosse Area Synod Assembly sometime in the near future. If you are interested in participating on the assembly, contact Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean. The assembly will be held June 8-10 here in La Crosse. Expenses are covered. Assemblies involve business, fellowship, worship, and a lot of learning about the work of God's people!



Thank you...

...to the December newsletter mailing crew – Connie and Larry Blunck, Bev Bockenbauer, Sandra Holthaus, Judy Morzinski, Carol Peterson, and Rich Storandt.

... to Tonya Chandler and Jerry Willer for making the Communion bread in December.

... Thank you so much for the bag of treats. I really appreciate it. Thank you for thinking of me. God's blessing to all. *Don Stensuen*

... Thank you for your kindness and "treats." God bless, *Roy Hesselberg*

... A special thank you to the ladies that filled the "Thanksgiving" baskets. It was all greatly appreciated. Each and every little packet was a treat to open and enjoy. Someone is very creative and does a nice job of decorating. Thanks again. Best wishes to all from, *Lettie Morgan*

... Thank you for the bag of treats. Like all the kids, I too really enjoyed them. *Elaine Erickson*

... Thanks for the card! It really brightened my day. I look forward to being back over Christmas break to see you and the rest of my church family soon. God Bless, *Allison Rigotti*

Another year, another great tree. Thanks again to Jon and Lynn Labus for picking out a fabulous tree. And a huge thanks to Vicky Johnson, Carla & Carlie Burkhardt, Ryan & Blain Wheeler, Max Williams, and Pastors Jon & Jean for all your assistance with decorating the tree and sanctuary. Great Job!! *Melissa Haldeman*

P.S. Thank you to Jeff & Melissa Haldeman for all of their work and coordination of this annual project.



If you have a servant's hands, perhaps you'd like to help out with Sunday morning coffee hour now and then. This is a great way to show off your talents and visit with others. Don't be nervous if you've never done it before, there are sketches, photos and printed directions in the kitchenette. Even better, Ilene Pavelko will help you get started before she helps out with

Sunday School music. Just ask. ilenepav1@aol.com or leave a message at 797-6759

Thank you to those who served since September: Bonny Goodenough, Jan Goetzinger, Vicky Johnson, Connie Blunck, Lynette Ender, Naoko Aminaka, Connie Pinske, Jim Michelson, Bill & Dori Jensen, Jane Frank, Senior Choir members, and Jamie Fortier's Confirmation Small Group.

Thank you also to these generous people who have brought baked goods, fresh fruit, and other treats: Nancy DeYoung, Jim Michelson, Helen Friell, Amber Walter, Dawn Fennigkoh, Pam Willer, Naoko Aminaka, Emily Steele, Norma Piper, Connie Blunck, Connie Pinski, Ilene Pavelko, Linda Arentz, Pam Willer, Jan Goetzinger, Tracy Skrentny, Lynette Ender, Pam Gresens, Bill & Dori Jensen, Phil & Judy Gilbert, Nancy Koepp, Abby Vick, Senior Choir members, and Jamie's Confirmation Small Group.

Thank you for your time and talents! From, *Ilene Pavelko*

P.s. Thank you to Ilene for all that she does coordinating this ministry and making sure the coffee pot is "always on."

ACOLYTES			
	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Jan 6 - 7	Zane Langrehr	Wesley Leren	Madisen Mueller
Jan 13 - 14	Katie Murphy	Autumn Pfaff	McKenna Riley
Jan 20 - 21	Delaney Christianson	Angela Vick	Skyler Williams
Jan 27 - 28	Adam Chandler	Ellie Sloten	Madelyn England

BASKET HOLDERS			
		Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Jan 6 - 7		Braden Burke	Adelyn Burt
Jan 13 - 14		Noah Campbell	Haley Chandler
Jan 20 - 21		Sophia Clements	Scarlet Fullwood
Jan 27 - 28		Megan Goede	Lizzie Hesse

HOME COMMUNION SERVERS

Jan 6 - 7 Marjorie Anderson
 Jan 13 - 14 Katie Drury
 Jan 20 - 21 Dottie Baumgartner
 Jan 27 - 28 Bev Bockenbauer

COMMUNION BREAD (*January 20-21*) – Carol Peterson

ALTAR GUILD Susan Giblin

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS			
	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Jan 6 - 7	Jane Frank	Eric Ender Mark Hunter	Char Buelow Stacey Sjoquist
Jan 13 - 14	Karen DeSchepper	Paula Heilman Wendy Kane	Jaime Fortier Vernetta Moe
Jan 20 - 21	Marjorie Anderson	Steve Ahles Justin Drury	Tracy Hesse Darlene Affeldt
Jan 27 - 28	Bonny Goodenough	Marty Frank Bill Jensen	Denise Jones Michelle Witte

