

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
August 2018

- Pastor's Reflections
- Corn Roast
- Looking Ahead
- Council Review
- August 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

AUGUST 2018

Pastor's Reflections ...



This changes everything was the theme of the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering. As I have pondered those words these last days, so many thoughts have been swirling in my head – from comments I heard leading up to the Gathering, to thoughts that were shared during worship in mid-July when we returned.

Several months ago I heard a comment voicing an opinion that the ELCA had an agenda for this gathering and questioning what impact the event would have on the youth. So I was conscious about that as I walked among 31,000 teenagers and adults, as I listened to stories about how God's presence (and the presence of God's church) made a difference in lives that were broken and lives that had challenges, and as I listened to our kids reflect on what they heard and experienced.

Perhaps there was an "agenda." An agenda that showed us that because of God's call, God's love, God's grace, God's mercy, and God's gift of his Son, Jesus Christ, each and every one of us is a precious child of God, made in God's image, to be accepted and loved. As speakers concluded their stories, no matter how controversial the topic may have been, they were affirmed and applauded by 31,000 teenagers and adults.

As I thought about the speakers, it took courage (and guts) to stand up in front of 31,000 kids and adults, exposing their very souls, sharing their journey of darkness and brokenness, and being completely vulnerable. How many of us would be so brave? Yet, how many of us would not hesitate to judge and be vocal about it?

How horrible it must be to have to live your life in secret, to live a life in someone else's shoes. Think of the pressure to have to be perfect, to have to be who and what other's tell you they think you should be, to be afraid to reach out and cry for help, to feel that you are alone in this big world, to believe that you couldn't possibly be loved by God. Our generation and those before us have had to live that way, and because of that we expect all generations to live that way. As painful as it might be, as much as we might fight it, maybe we need to listen to this new generation of faithful (Lutheran) Christians, and maybe, just maybe we can open our minds and our hearts and learn from them.

I could imagine, once the speakers got past the fear of getting up in front of the masses, the fear of judgement, and the fear of consequences/repercussions, that it may have been almost freeing. They are now free to be whom God created them to be. And based on the reaction of the masses, their stories were affirmed, their journeys were affirmed, and they, as God's children, were affirmed.

As we sang at the Gathering, and in worship here, "... *My chains are gone, I've been set free; my God, my Savior has ransomed me; and like a flood, His mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace ... God who called me here below, will be forever mine ...*" ("Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone" by Chris Tomlin) The song tells the story, read the words, ponder them in your heart.

And, if you're wondering what our kids got out of their experience of being at the Youth Gathering, they can tell you in their own words...

I went to the gathering as someone who had wandered off the path of God a bit. I was a skeptic, although I wanted so much to believe in God. I found myself always searching for physical proof of this Divine being, but I was never satisfied. Then I heard the speakers at the gathering share their stories and I was moved in a way I'd never felt before. I realized that LOVE was all the proof I needed. Now, any time I witness an act of love, compassion, or kindness I see God. It's so much easier to have something to believe in now.

Mahli Fleckenstein

My views were changed by the speakers at the youth gathering. They talked about sensitive issues and brought me a new perspective of them.

Kylee Gander

I initially was hesitant about the trip. I had the attitude of a typical youth who was forced to go somewhere by their parents for something I did not want to do. However as the trip kept going on, I had experienced some things down there that I would never even consider if I stayed up here. Every evening at the gatherings there were speakers sharing personal stories and their avocations. And some of the personal stories I had opinions about beforehand, such as transgender and cutting. However as they were sharing their experience it gave me new insight to it, and help me set new opinions, as I did not think about it one way or another.

Jake Iliff

This changed me when I was having a seizure and people offered to help me get to the first aid station and were concerned about me. The group was from a church in Missouri. I experienced people caring about others, even those they don't know. Their example made me want to help others in the same way.

Rebecca Schmidt

The youth gathering changed me in many ways. The biggest one was realizing that I can allow myself to be human. Being the director of youth ministry, I have been nervous to show the youth that I have screwed up and have fallen away from God many times but always come back. The speakers made me realize that we are all human and it's God's grace that saves us. I can share my stories to be a witness of God's love and grace. It was an amazing experience that I look forward to being a part of again.

Cat Bottem

If you missed worship on July 14-15, I invite you to go to Our Savior's website (www.oursaviorswestsalem.org) and watch the You Tube of the worship service where we shared our experiences in word, song, pictures, and sacrament.

So ... perhaps there was an agenda and perhaps kids got nothing out of spending five days in Houston amongst 31,000 others, but if just one young person was touched by the agenda; if one person was given the courage and strength to stand up for themselves, or to cry out for help trusting they would not be judged, or to be who they really are; if the heart and mind of one person was changed to be more accepting of others, or willing to stand up for others; if one person felt empowered to champion a cause, or share an act of kindness ... then perhaps the agenda was realized ... *God does change everything!*

*Changed together with you ...
Pastor Jean*

Did you know ...

- ... 31,000+ kids brought 40,000 books for the Blast off for Books campaign. With the help of a Thrivent Action Grant and your generous donations, the 7 of us from Our Savior's brought 58 of them!
- ... 1,248 units of blood were collected from 987 donors – including Cat!
- ... 437 youth donated their hair for children with hair loss
- ... \$260,000 was collected for the ELCA World Hunger Global Farm Challenge
- ... 31,242 lives changed and making a difference! *Ya gotta love it!*



THANK YOU to everyone who helped make this Youth Gathering experience possible for our four youth and three adults ... whether you contributed financially, supported the fundraisers, or kept us in your prayers ... *This Changes Everything!*



Back by popular demand ...

BEER & HYMNS, CAMPFIRE STYLE!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5

ERIC & JILL ILIFF'S HOME

(430 Olson Drive)

5:30 PM PICNIC

6:30 PM SINGALONG



We had such a good time last year so we're doing it again – a Campfire version of Beer & Hymns! Eric & Jill Iliff have graciously offered their backyard for a picnic, campfire, and singalong. Here's what you need to bring: a dish to pass, your own beverage, and lawn chairs. They'll provide the meat. Come for all of the evening or some of the evening, whatever works for you. **Be sure to sign up if you plan to eat so we can plan for food.** And, don't forget to invite your friends!



IT'S A DATE...

THE CORN IS READY TO ROAST!

The Corn Roast is ready to go – August 8, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Lion's Shelter. The Corn Roast is our gift to the community, so invite your friends and neighbors – and join them with some great corn and other goodies.

We do need lots of hands to make this work – sign-up sheets are in the Gathering Area. Come and be a part of giving back to our community.

AND THEN THERE'S THE CAR SHOW ... If you have a vintage (or just plain really interesting) set of wheels, bring it along, and park it in the shelter parking lot for all to see ... and dream about! Talk to Wayne Affeldt for details.



For more information, see Carla Burkhardt or Pastor Jon.



Our Savior's T-Shirts

Show your church spirit!

The cost is \$12.50 – and **proceeds go to World Hunger!** Shirts are available in the office – Get yours today!

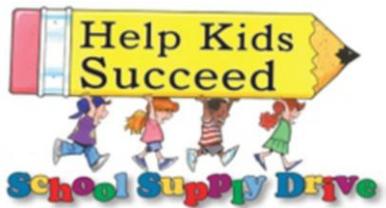
**Centered in Christ
Making a Difference**



Hungry Jar Offering for August Lutheran World Relief School Kits



It's that time of year when we are getting things ready for school – including school supplies. There are children in the world for whom going to school may not be possible because they can't afford the school supplies. Imagine having to choose between a meal or purchasing a notebook. Lutheran World Relief School Kits are sent to places where even the few required school supplies may be more than a family can afford. Pencils and paper can help write a positive future. Money raised in the Hungry Jar will be used to purchase supplies to complete school kits.



School Kit Project

Once again, we are collecting items to fill school kits for Lutheran World Relief. This is a longstanding project for us, and we encourage you to visit the website to learn more about it.
www.lwr.org/getinvolved/schoolkits.

Take advantage of the sales that have begun and also the tax free days (Aug 1-5) for purchasing school supplies! Please take this list with you when you shop, as the list of needed items is quite specific. We are unable to send items that are not on the list! There is a basket in the Gathering Area for your donations.

Each school kit contains the following:

- 4 - 70 sheet notebooks (no loose leaf paper)
- 1 - 30 cm ruler
- 1 - pencil sharpener
- 1 - blunt scissors
- 5 - unsharpened pencils
- 5 - blue or black ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- 1 - box 24 crayons
- 1 - 2 ½ inch eraser



Sugar Creek Bible Campers

Please keep the following youth who will be attending Camp in August in your prayers:

August 5-10
Mia Bahl
Reice Kammel
Kenzie Murphy





Summer Lunch Update ...

We continue serving lunch at the Village Park and Anderson Mobile Home Park through August 16th. Thank you to all who have generously donated money, food items, and their time to help serve.

How you can help ...

Still In Need Of: Rice Krispy treats, fruit cups or pudding cups, ranch dressing, sandwich & snack size Ziploc bags, brown paper lunch bags – *items can be dropped off in the box by the Nursery.*

Helpers: July 31&Aug 2 (team leader- Cheryl Lang)
August 7&9 (team leader - Connie Pinski)
August 14&16 (team leader – Angie Hemker)

Volunteers – for details on how you can help and to be on the list, email Angie Hemker (hemker.angie@wsalem.k12.wi.us) or contact a team leader.

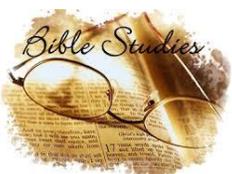


Coffee & Conversation at Linda's Bakery 9:15 AM on Tuesday, August 7

Check out the Senior Ministry bulletin board for details and other upcoming opportunities!

Adult studies

Wednesday morning Bible study is finishing 1 Corinthians, and then? We'll see! We welcome you to join us – we meet on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 in the Library. Coffee and fellowship provided – no experience necessary – just come and enjoy!



SEP Project News

Our Savior's high school seniors at work, serving others!



Kamryn Kane

Attention Youth - Grades 2-9!

We need your help!

**Mondays, August 13 and 20
from 1 pm - 4 pm**

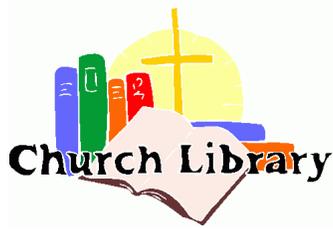
For her High School Senior Exit Project, Kamryn Kane is making tie blankets to bring to the children in the Pediatric Unit at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester MN. She would love for you to help her with this project. All materials will be provided - including snacks! Even if you've never made a tie blanket before, she will teach you. Join Kamryn for a fun afternoon of crafting ... *knowing you are making a difference in the lives of little ones who find themselves in a scary place.* Please let Kamryn know you will join her by signing up on the Sunday School bulletin board (outside the church office) or texting her at (608) 518-9402.



Anna Johnson

Anna Johnson is organizing a clothes swap. You can bring **gently used clothing items** (men's, women's, athletic wear, winter items, accessories and more) to the lower level at church **July 28 or August 1, from 10 AM to Noon.** Anna will sort and organize...and then...**August 23-24-25, from 10**

AM to Noon, come back and grab an item or two that works for you! Any clothing items not finding a new home will be shared with the Salvation Army and New Horizons. This is a great way to share gently used clothing no longer needed, add some new stuff to your own wardrobe, and even contribute for those who are in need of clothing.



Church Library...and Special Thanks to Roberta Gruen!

The Church Library Committee has recently undergone significant changes, and we are looking for some new folk to manage the library. There isn't a lot of work, just a consistent care of the library materials, and occasionally purchasing new books that are engaging and timely.

In the meantime we thank the committee and all who have put in their time to both use and manage the library. A very special thanks to Roberta Gruen who put in the bulk of the time keeping the library moving smoothly. Roberta's hard work is greatly appreciated!

West Salem Community Blood Drive

Thursday, August 16th 12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Presbyterian Church



... to the July newsletter mailing crew – Sandra Holthaus, Judy Morzinski, Rich Storandt and Betty Whitlock.

... to Stacey Sjoquist for making bread for worship in July.

Thank you so much for the support of my graduation! It means a lot!

Alysha Hesse

Thank you for awarding me the Cliff Michelson Scholarship! I will be using it for my first year at UWEC in the fall! I appreciate our church having this opportunity; it is a blessing!

Sincerely, *Emily Steele*



Pastoral Acts:

Funeral – John Anderson – July 13

In Loving Memory

Memorial Gifts Received ...

*In Memory of Gaylord Gruen for Bibles
From Gus & Jane Gostisha*



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

September is not that far away ...



First Time in Sunday School?

Please remember that your child needs to be 4 years of age by September 1, 2018 in order to attend the Pre-Kindergarten Sunday School class. If your child is attending Sunday School for the first time this year, please call or email the church office so that we can make sure that he/she is included on the roster. (786-0030 or office@oursaviorswestsalem.org)

Please note: As the year progresses and the kids have their 4th birthday, feel free to join the class any time!

Sunday School Teachers and Helpers

We will have a **teacher/helper orientation** on **Sunday, August 26** following the 10 a.m. worship service.



**You
make it
happen**

We are still in need of team teachers for our Kindergarten and 2nd grade classes. If you would like to be a part of this important ministry, we would love to have you! No previous experience necessary – and don't feel intimidated that you might not know all of the answers! The lessons are self-explanatory. And, **the most important qualification is a love for children!** The rest will come! Please speak with Pastor Jean.

It's almost time ...

Rally Day!

Sunday, September 9th

We will gather in the Sanctuary at 9:15 AM ...

We will be inviting our Sunday School Grandparents to join us, too ...

Mark your calendars ... invite a friend ... and join us!



Note: Sunday School registration forms for all grades are available on the church website (www.oursaviorswestsalem.org). It's not too early to sign up!

Planning ahead ... mark your calendars now!



**Sunday, September 9th
10:30 AM
Gospel on the Green
@ the Lion's Shelter**



The S.O.S. Band will lead us, we will hear God's Word, and receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Following worship there will be a potluck lunch and games & activities for kids of all ages.

Backpack Blessing - September 8-9

If you are a **student (of any age!)** attending school, bring your backpacks, laptop bags, or whatever else you use. We will share a blessing and a reminder of God's love and presence as we begin another year of learning.



Frolic! –

For parents and their children 0-3 years old!

Sunday, September 9th we will kick off Frolic as part of the festivities of Gospel on the Green at the Lion's Shelter. Watch for details!

College-bound students ...



We need your **campus address** and your **email address!**

You are important to us and we want to keep in touch –

You may be **“out of sight”**

but you are certainly not **“out of mind.”**

Please get the information to the office or to Pastor Jean.

college+
connection

Confirmation



Confirmation classes for 2018-2019 are just on the horizon!

- 6th graders:
 - September 5 – 6-7 PM – parents and students' orientation
 - September 12 – 6 PM – classes begin
- 7th/8th graders:
 - September 5 – 6-7 PM guides meeting
 - September 5 – 7 -8:15 PM – parents and students' orientation
 - September 12 – 6 PM – classes begin
- 9th graders:
 - September 12 – 7 PM – parents and students' orientation
 - September 19 – 7 PM – classes begin

Remember that we always have room for more, so if you have family/friends/neighbors who want in, we want them! Membership at Our Savior's is not necessary – just a desire to learn about Jesus and grow as a disciple! See Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean for more info.

School of Theology



The La Crosse Area Synod School of Theology gets rolling again in September. The Introduction to the Bible course, for all new students (and anyone else who is interested) will be on Thursday, September 27, from 5:30-9 PM at *Peace Lutheran Church in Tomah*. To register, contact Peace at peacetomah@gmail.com or 608-343-7322.

Classes for the fall term will be held at Our Savior's on six consecutive Thursday evenings, beginning October 4, from 5:30 – 9 PM. Courses this fall include Apocalyptic, Ethics, and The ELCA Experience. Instructors include Bishop Arends, Len Liptack, and Steve Minema.

The cost of the school is \$50/term, or \$20/course. You can join at the start of any trimester, so this is a good time to jump in. The full course load can be completed in a bit over two years, and includes two retreats, along with seven trimesters. Those who complete the course work will be recognized at synod assembly. For more information, see Pastor Jon.

Membership at Our Savior's

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. We'll get you set!



Congregation Council Review



The Congregation Council met on Monday, June 11, with Vice President Dan Roemhild calling the meeting to order. At this meeting the council:

- Shared in devotions based on 2 Timothy 1:3-9a, with thoughts from the recent Synod Assembly.
- Approved the council minutes from May, and received financial reports and reports from the pastors.
- Heard about vacation and continuing education schedule for the pastors.
- Heard that the membership review had been completed, and that Pastor Jean and Kris Seeger would move on to the next step of entering and recording membership status.
- Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean discussed the “Agile Church” process being developed by the synod, and asked the council to consider participating in the process. Further conversation will be held in coming months.
- Heard a report on Johnson South and the new tenant.
- Heard from both Dan Roemhild and Pastor Jon on incorporating a new Bible translation into the confirmation curriculum.
- Received Kimberly Thompson as a new member.
- Heard a report from the pastors, Wendy Kane, and Judy Gilbert on the recent La Crosse Area Synod Assembly.
- Decided not to meet in July, and to explore an August meeting at Steve Ahles’ home.
- Heard a report on the June Dairy Days Fun Run and on the fellowship hour between services.

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



Looking for Service Members

We are currently looking to develop a list of Our Savior’s folk who are veterans, or currently serving in one of the branches of the military. If you or someone you know is a vet or currently serving, please let us know. Thank you for helping us out!

Office Staffing

Kris Seeger, our Administrative Assistant, will be on vacation August 22-27, and will be taking a few days earlier in the month as she plans for her daughter’s wedding (yeah!). While we will try to staff as much as possible, there will be some times that there will be no one present. Please leave a message – we will get back to you!



BASKET HOLDERS			
		Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10 a.m.
August 4-5		Siri Anderson	Mia Bahl
August 11-12		Benjamin Bakkum	Derek Bores
August 18-19		Braden Burke	Adelyn Burt
August 25-26		Noah Campbell	Haley Chandler

ACOLYTES			
	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10 a.m.
August 4-5	Kendall Burkhamer	CJ McConkey	Alena Donahue
August 11-12	Zachary Fitzpatrick	Ben Fleckenstein	Emma Fortier
August 18-19	Elly Goodenough	Madeline Giblin	Jaden Hammes
August 25-26	Jacob Helgeson	Amalia Hemker	Jacob Hickey

HOME COMMUNION SERVERS

August 4-5 Betty Whitlock/Diane McClintock
August 11-12 Marjorie Anderson
August 18-19 Dottie Baumgartner
August 25-26 Bev Bockenbauer

COMMUNION BREAD (*August 18/19*) – Karen Tiber

ALTAR GUILD Kristin Tschumper/Susan Giblin

USHERS

	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10 a.m.
August 4-5	Mitchell Family	Bud Ewing Larry Blunck	
August 11-12	Mitchell Family	Larry Blunck	Jim & Ruby Kerkman
August 18-19		Bud Ewing Larry Blunck Karl & Kathy Wehrs	
August 25-26	Mitchell Family	Larry Blunck	

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10 a.m.
August 4-5	Judy Gilbert	Judy Long Bill Jensen	Stacey Sjoquist Michelle Witte
August 11-12	Lee Fernstaedt	Scott Friell Lynette Ender	Steve Ahles Susan Giblin
August 18-19	Bonny Goodenough	Eric Iliff Dori Jensen	Pam Gresens Tracy Hesse
August 25-26	Jim Quamme	Jason Stefferud Carla Burkhardt	Darlene Affeldt Corey Sjoquist

