

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

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February

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
WEST SALEM, WISCONSIN
February 2019

- Pastor's Reflections
- Sunday School/Confirmation
- Lent
- Stewardship
- Council Review
- February 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

FEBRUARY 2019

Pastor's Reflections ...

The Blessings of the Annual Meeting Really???

Earlier today (late January), Pastor Jean and I met with the new pastor at the Cashton four point parish. One pastor, four congregations. He was pretty happy. "I've already gotten past three of my four annual meetings!"

Ah yes, the annual meeting – the bane of every pastor, and he has four of them!

Annual meetings aren't all bad, but they do have their challenges – elections, budgets, and sometimes a few surprises. This year our annual meeting (which hasn't been held yet) included a tight budget, a new copier, and one more candidate for Congregation Council. How did it all come out? Beats me! But somewhere in this newsletter (actually, right after my reflections!) you can find out.

But, even with the world around us continuing to change, there are some things worth celebrating. Really, there are. I know. I've seen them. God has worked in us. We have been blessed...so that we may be a blessing to others.

How so?

1. In 2017 we shared over \$4200 to feed those who have nothing to eat. Important stuff? Jesus says so! (See Matthew 25:31-46.) But...in 2018...we shared over \$7300 to feed the hungry. Our budget is tight, but we did more ministry – we fed lots more!
2. More feeding...the summer lunch program. As the school was hoping for a grant (it didn't come through), we didn't know we needed to do the program this year until mid-May. No problem – with Angie Hemker's leadership we stepped up quickly, and supported again by great gifts from throughout the community (it really is more than us!), we were able to provide meals to over 100 children twice a week for the summer months.
3. And then there's Frolic – the new ministry for 0-3 years olds and their parents. Using the new "Frolic Room," Frolic is off and running, nurtured by several leaders. Ministry to children we hadn't done before, now happening right in our midst.
4. Average weekly worship attendance dropped slightly, but Lent and Advent were up, and the number of individual persons (members and regular "friends") worshiping with us weekends rose by 27.
5. Between the Norwegian Dinner and the Mission Endowment Fund just shy of \$20,000 was shared with ministries and organizations to touch lives, to make a difference, to give life!

2018 – blessed, that we may be a blessing to others.

And 2019? Pretty much the same! We move into a new year overflowing with God's blessings, embraced by the grace of Jesus, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. All so that we can be a blessing to others!

The big thing for 2019 is Forward: Fearless and Faithful. Pray for our team and watch for an update next month. We will engage in a process to be a more "agile" church, as we listen, then faithfully moving forward – without fear – to be what God has called us to be.

2019 will also bring my sabbatical leave this coming summer, with Pastor Jean remaining as the pastoral presence. I'll return in September, and in 2020 it will be Pastor Jean's turn.

Yet, all the while our ministry will continue. We will reach out to the hungry across town, and across the globe. We will nurture toddlers, children, teens, and young adults. At the same time we will celebrate the gifts brought to us by "more mature" generations. We will care for the sick, the dying, and the grieving. We will send quilts and school kits to needy places, and support a variety of ministries in partnership with the La Crosse Area Synod, the ELCA, Lutheran Campus Ministry, and Sugar Creek. We will cook lutefisk and send the proceeds to ministries that touch countless lives. And in the Mission Endowment Fund we will do the same with the legacy of those who have gone before us.

But most of all, we will be fed and nurtured by God's gifts of grace. And we will proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ.

So there you go...the annual meeting, and our challenges. But also our blessings. Blessed to be a blessing. All because of Jesus, the cross and the empty tomb!

Pastor Jon

Annual Meeting Review



The annual meeting was held Sunday, January 27, with over 35 voting members in attendance. Steve Ahles presided at the meeting, with Pastor Jean leading opening devotions. In addition, the congregation took several actions:

1. Heard reports about the ministry of the congregation over the past year.
2. Elected the following:
 - a. Jen Linse, Allison Hemker, and Eric Iliff for three year terms, and Rich Clements for one year to the Congregation Council (with one more person to be appointed by the Council).
 - b. Priscilla Shih and Carl Wallace to the Mission Endowment Fund.
 - c. Marty Frank and Jeff Haldeman, representatives to Sugar Creek.
 - d. Larry Blunck and Jim Michelson, representatives to Bethany Lutheran Homes.
3. Adopted the budget as recommended by the Congregation Council. Noted that the budget is a deficit budget, with reductions in mission support and no increase in salaries. Accepted a challenge to overcome the deficit, while authorizing the Council to use any surplus at the end of the year to restore mission support and provide some additional compensation to employees.
4. Adopted a recommendation to purchase a new photocopier machine.

The meeting closed with prayer led by Pastor Jon.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

We are now settling back into the routine of Sunday school, gathering together to watch the video with Pastor Jean and our friends from *Whirl*, hearing the lesson from our teachers, practicing our songs that will be shared in worship in the coming weeks, and making cards for our classroom grandparents. We are working our way through Epiphany on the way to Lent. We'd love to have you join us on our journey!

Don't forget your offering! The "friendly competition" between our classes continues as the children bring their offerings for God's Barnyard. As of late January, our **3rd grade** class is up to \$145.50 in offering, the **5th grade** class has \$122.11 and the **Kindergarten** class is closing in at \$118. The more animals in our barnyard, the more we can help to end hunger.

Important Dates

Sunday, February 3 - Grades 4K-2 sing during 10:30 am worship

Sunday, February 24 - Grades 3-5 sing during 10:30 am worship

Sunday, March 3 - Grades 4K-2 sing during 10:30 am worship

Sunday, March 17 - Grades 3-5 sing during 10:30 am worship

Frolic

Sunday, February 24 - 9:15 a.m.



Frolic has started again for our 0-3 year olds and their parents. We gather on the last Sunday of the month to listen to music, hear a story, and spend time together, parents sharing their faith with their child. Know that you are always welcome – we never seem to have the same group each time. As the year progresses, we are hoping to have a gathering for parents, with childcare for the kids ... watch for details in the coming months.

Mark your calendars ... First Communion Class

First Communion workshops will be coming in March. This will be for all those in 5th grade. If there are confirmation students who have not had the class yet, or if there are younger students who would like to receive the sacraments, please speak with one of the pastors to make special arrangements. Watch for details in the March newsletter!



Sunday School Offering

Our Sunday School offerings this year are being collected for **God's Global Barnyard**. Each week the classes are adding to our barnyard depending on how much offering was collected the week before. Our chicken pen is overflowing, but the cows and pigs are a bit lonely. The more that a class collects, the bigger the animal that is added. Can you help us increase our stock in the next couple of months? Check out the barnyard between the pastor's offices.



Shake the winter blahs and join us ...



Family Movie Afternoon
"Winn Dixie"
Sunday, February 24th at 1 PM
Popcorn and juice boxes
Bring your favorite blanket to curl
up under.



Confirmation for February



Confirmation ministry continues in February:

- After School meets on February 6, 20, and 27.
- 6th grade have classes each Wednesday.
- 7th graders have core class February 6, and small groups on February 13.
- 8th graders have small groups on February 6, and core class on February 13.
- 7th and 8th grade electives are on February 20 and 27.
- 9th graders and parents who did not attend class January 30, will meet February 6. All 9th graders have class on February 13 and 27.

Looking ahead...Confirmation Sunday is April 28. Please keep our confirmation students, parents, and guides in your prayers as they continue to explore what it means to be disciples of Jesus!

Thank You!



Thank you to Andrew Murphy, one of our high school seniors, for painting the lower level restrooms. As part of volunteering through the National Honor Society, Andrew, as of this writing has completed the men's room, and shortly will complete the women's room. Check out the new paint job – and thanks again, Andrew!



As our students are either away from home or studying in challenging environments, we keep them in our thoughts and prayers. This month please pray for: **Emily Trautman** (UW-EC), **Alana Gavaghan** (UW-EC), **Erica Rich** (UW-Milwaukee), **Molly Hunter** (U of St. Thomas, MN), **Samantha Peterson** (UW-EC), and **Jennifer Iliff** (WTC).

college
connection

And we also pray for our students in military service:
Nathan Selck (United States Marines).



So Nice!

Getting mail at all at college that's not from a landlord or the university is pretty exciting. You can imagine how happy I was to find a note from church! I just wanted to say thank you so much for the gift card. It really means a lot to me that you're thinking of me still as a community even though I can't always be there. It definitely was the surprise highlight of my day. See you all soon,

Courtney Koepf





What's going on in the Youth World!?



30 HOUR FAMINE

World Vision's 30 Hour Famine is just around the corner! It is being held on February 8-9 where we will have a potluck lunch to fill our tummies before venturing into 30 hours of having a similar experience to a child who is affected by the pangs of hunger.

Things are different this year! Instead of fasting for 30 hours, we will eat like the children we will learn about from the World Vision supply kit. This means that while we won't eat much, we will learn what it's like to ration, and we will have a better idea of what these children are going through. Please see Cat or Pastor Jon if there are any concerns, questions, or to register!



MISSION TRIP 2019

Thank you to everyone who is registered to come on our Crownpoint, NM mission trip this summer! I am eager to get to know all of you better, and to see God change all of us as we work with the Navajo Nation. Our next meeting will be **March 3 at 1pm.**

FLAMINGOS



Guess what's back!?!?!?

Starting Sunday, March 3, come get your insurance for upcoming flocking. Flocking will begin Monday, April 15. Sign-up sheets are on the youth bulletin boards for volunteer "flockers" and insurance sales representatives.



Hungry Jar Offering for February Medical Mission Trip



Bonnie Gensch will be going on a medical mission trip to the Dominican Republic with several staff members from Gundersen Health System March 16-24. There are several ways you can help support this mission:

- ❖ The cost of the trip is \$2,500 – if you would like to help Bonnie with this expense, donations can be given to Pastor Jon, Pastor Jean, or Kris. Or ...
 - ✓ **February's hungry jar offering** will be for Bonnie.
- ❖ Bonnie will be collecting the following items to take on the trip:
 - For children - gently used summer clothing, shoes, crayons, coloring books, children's books, **NO** toys.
 - Personal hygiene products – soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, hairbrushes, and sanitary napkins.
- ✓ Boxes are available in the gathering area for these donations until March 9th.
- ❖ Pray for Bonnie and all those who will travel, and also for those whose lives will be touched by their presence.

Thank you for your support of this mission!



SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP - 2019 "Creating Sacred Space"

Check out the brochures for camp on the kiosk in the gathering area!

OUR SAVIOR'S CAMPERSHIPS AVAILABLE

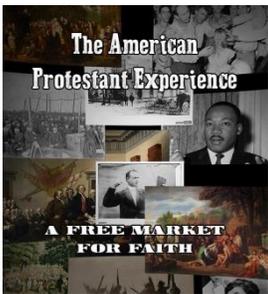
\$100 full week -- \$50 half week

Request forms due in the office NO LATER than May 1st

(Forms will be available in the church office, on the kiosk in the gathering area,
or on the website – www.oursaviorswestsalem.org)

SENIOR CONNECTION

**Coffee & Conversation at Linda's Bakery
9:15 AM on Tuesday, February 12**



**The American Protestant Experience
February 11th
@ Salem Terrace – 10:00 am
Join us for coffee & study**



The coffee is perking as we gather for fellowship and study. We meet in the small kitchenette off the parking lot between Salem Terrace & Mill Street Manor. We welcomed new friends in January and hope to see them again. All are welcome!

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.



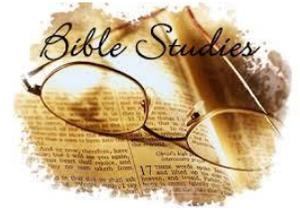
Cards for shut-ins

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.



Adult Studies

Wednesday morning Bible study meets at 9:30 in the Library. We are continuing to stroll through 2 Corinthians, a letter by the Apostle Paul, filled with deep insight and raw emotion, yet still overflowing with grace. Join us – no previous knowledge or experience required – just come and enjoy!



Forward: Fearless and Faithful!

We are off and running! The Forward: Fearless and Faithful team is assembled – Jim Kerkman, Becki Murphy, Jen Linse, Carolyn Karl, and Kyle Twite will work over the next 9-10 months to learn, listen, and share with us how we can become a more “agile” church in a rapidly changing world. Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean will meet with them, but a coach from outside the congregation will “quarterback” our work. We are thankful to the team members for their willingness to share their time and talent with us. We are also thankful to those who were unable to be on the team, but nonetheless have expressed their support and excitement for this work.

Watch coming newsletters for details, insights, and ways you can connect with the work of the “FFF” team!

Vacation



Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean will be on vacation February 8-10, hoping for a bit more snow up north to do some skiing! Since the 30 Hour Famine ends with worship and Holy Communion, Pastor Barbara Bruneau (retired pastor from La Crescent) will join us as presiding minister and will share the message. Join us as welcome Pastor Bruneau.

Lenten Dramas

Lent is late this year (Ash Wednesday is March 6), but we’re already looking ahead. Wednesday worship beginning March 13 will feature the drama “The Gospel According to Jesus’ Enemies.” The drama is a “reader’s theater,” with little or no memorization required. We will need several men and women. See one of the pastors if you are interested in sharing in our worship!



Looking ahead to Lent...



Ash Wednesday Worship March 6

11:30 a.m. Mid-day worship with Ashes and Holy Communion
Quiet contemplation and reflection

5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Ashes and Holy Communion
Music, message, and hymns



Wednesdays in Lent

March 13 through April 10

11:30 a.m.
Mid-day contemplative worship

5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Holden Evening Prayer Worship

6:15 p.m.
Soup supper with proceeds to the
World Hunger Appeal

Schedule Change!



Note that this year midweek Lenten worship will be at 5:30 and 7 PM. Soup suppers will begin at 6:15. Come and join us as we journey to the cross...and the empty grave beyond!

Lenten Dinners

Lenten dinners will be held each Wednesday from March 13 through April 10 at 6:15 PM. Proceeds will go toward the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Various groups in the congregation will be sponsoring each week's meal – the Outreach Committee has already nabbed March 13 – and our confirmands will join in serving and cleaning up. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, see Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean. Or, just join us for the meal and support an important ministry!





Our Savior's Mission in the World *God's Work...Our Hands*

Another in a series of snapshots of the ministry and mission in which we are engaged as part of our faithful stewardship and discipleship.

Nursing Home/Assisted Living Worship

The worship ministry of Our Savior's isn't limited to weekends at home. Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean lead four "offsite" worship services each month at various nursing and assisted living facilities. As many as 60 worshipers join us each month.

Our ministry reaches out into the community, both in West Salem and Bangor. On the second Wednesday of each month Pastor Jon visits Caring Hearts in Bangor, leading worship in the dining area.



In West Salem, on the third Thursday, Pastor Jon and Ilene Pavelko, our musician, begin at Lakeview (in their chapel). Pastor Jean joins them at Salem Terrace (in the community room), along with folk from Mill Street Manor. Then, later that afternoon both pastors are joined by Ann Sprain on the piano as we head over to the chapel at Mulder's.

Worship is simple - we sing some songs, we pray, we hear Scripture and receive a message, and we share in Holy Communion. The communities that gather are very different. Caring Hearts and Lakeview include a number of persons with significant challenges. Salem Terrace/Mill Street and Mulder's offer groups that sing well and express their appreciation for our presence - and for your generosity which makes this ministry happen.

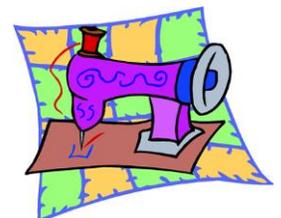
This ministry makes a difference in the lives of the residents who worship with us, in the staff, and even in families. In mid-January one of our regular worshipers died. The family asked us to carry out the funeral ministry to them, because our worship meant so much to the resident. In a sense, she "adopted us" as her own, and we had the opportunity to do God's work with her, and with her family.

So, on behalf of all we reach, thank you for your financial support that enables us to reach out, even to those who might otherwise be forgotten and overlooked!

Can you help ...

Please think about sewing a few quilt tops for the quilters. There are always a few bags of squares in the coat room outside the sanctuary. Also, if anyone has fabric they are ready to give away, we would love to have it.

Dorcas Ladies



World Hunger Ministry



We did it!!! With the help of our generous members of OSLC, we raised over \$7300 for World Hunger in 2018!

How did we get there? Little by little, with your help!

The LaCrosse Area Synod asked each congregation to raise monies for World Hunger according to their membership. We were given the target of \$6400. Where do we start to raise that kind of money? Eric and Lynette Ender and Phil and Judy Gilbert met at Hunter's over pizza to start brainstorming the end of 2017. We decided to sell ornaments from Good Gifts during the 2017 Christmas season and just like that, our shoppers helped us raise \$1800!

So, now what do we do for 2018? With a bit more planning, we collected monetary donations during our Lenten soup and sandwich meals in between services. In the spring, we raised money through church groups and individual donations to bring our small flock of 7 sheep (representing \$500 each) to Synod Assembly and join with the other 122 sheep from other congregations! What a colorful and eclectic flock... from rosemaling to soup labels! In October, we acknowledged World Hunger Sunday and collected a special offering and then a couple weeks later we had members shop for Christmas ornaments again from Good Gifts. One weekend we enjoyed cookies while "shopping" and the remaining cookies were brought to Catholic Charities Warming Shelter for their evening guests. We also asked members to consider making a monthly gift to World Hunger either through Simply Giving designation or as able throughout the year.

And on top of all that, we received a gift from the Norwegian Dinner disbursement.

What a generous community we are a part of! We thank you for every dollar you decided to share with others who have much less.

The more, the merrier! If anyone is interested in this type of ministry or has ideas for 2019, please contact the Ender's or the Gilbert's or one of the pastors...hope you like pizza!



Pastoral Acts:

Funeral – Larry Gensch – December 29

Funeral – Judy Saetre – January 19

Mission Support

Thank you for your continued support of our mission and ministry, here in West Salem and around the world! A very solid December assisted us in closing the gap in our budget, and while we ended a bit behind, we followed through on our ministry commitments – and because of you, many lives have been changed!



Entering 2019 we will need to work together to meet our goals and respond faithfully to God’s call. We have a part in God’s work in the world – and that is both challenging and exciting!

Thank you for all that you share for the sake of the world, and the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ!

Partners in electronic giving since 1998.



Simply Giving

Many of us make a variety of payments directly from our bank accounts. Simply Giving allows you to do the same with your contributions to Our Savior’s ministry! A number of our members currently use this service for their contributions. There is no charge to you, and it is a safe and efficient way for you to make your contributions. For more information see Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean, or speak with Kris in the church office. Setting up Simply Giving is easy, and you can change your contributions or end your participation at any time. Check it out!

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. See Thrivent’s web site for more information or stop by the office and we will help you out.



Shopping Online?

Our Savior’s now has an account with “Amazon Smile.” If you shop with Amazon, you can support our work together by designating your “Amazon Smile” contribution to Our Savior’s.

Our Savior’s Loves New Members!



We love to welcome new partners in our life and work as disciples of Jesus! If you, or someone you know, is interested in joining Our Savior’s, please contact one of the pastors. We’ll get you set!

In Loving Memory



Memorial Gifts Received ...

In Memory of Jackie Hartman from

Dave & Angie Hemker
Dorothy & Don Peterson
Family & Friends

Joann Eckelberg
Nancy Mengelt

In Memory of Ken Piper for Endowment Fund from

Judy Long

Eric & Lynette Ender

In Memory of Larry Gensch from

Bonnie Gensch
Barb Schomburg
Family & Friends

Arlan & Sandra Holthaus
Phil & Judy Gilbert

In Memory of Alden Lee for Prayer Shawl ministry from

Ingrid Eggliston



Newsletter Changes

We have made changes to our computer program, which includes the newsletter mailing labels. If you are receiving this newsletter in the mail and you would prefer to receive it online only, please contact Kris in the office (786-0030 or office@oursaviorswestsaalem.org). If you didn't receive the newsletter in the mail and would like to (because your kind friend shared this and that's why you're reading it now), please let Kris know. We know there will be glitches with changes, so bear with us and let us know your preference.



Building Access – Just a reminder

In response to some concerns about security, the Congregation Council took action to set building access times. **Effective January 1**, the church building will be open when the offices

are open or staff is otherwise present. The building will be **locked over the lunch hour**, and when staff is off for the day. Office hours are **generally** 9 AM to 4 PM, though staff may be in the building earlier or remain later.



Thank you ...

...to the January newsletter mailing crew - Connie & Larry Blunck, Bev Bockenbauer, Judy Morzinski, and Carol Peterson.

... to Phil & Judy Gilbert for making the Communion bread in January.

Notes from others:

... Thank you so much for displaying a caring tree for gifts for our residents this holiday season! The gifts helped to make the holidays brighter for them and we appreciate it!

Lakeview Health Center

... A huge thank you to the following people who helped decorate the church for Christmas and take down the decorations after Christmas. Your efforts were greatly appreciated. Carla and Carlie Burkhardt and Easton; Pam and Hugh Gresens; Cassie, Noelle, Lauren, Alicia, and Camille Zarecki; Eric Iliff; Phil Gilbert; Carolyn Karl; Tony and Emily Bell; Graham and Liam Sjoquist; and Pastors Jon and Jean. From,

Jeff and Melissa Haldeman

... **Thank you also** to Jeff and Melissa Haldeman for all of your work coordinating, arranging, supervising, feeding, and working to make sure the decorations went up and came down smoothly ... and for getting the beautiful tree!

From Prayer Shawl recipients:

... Dear ladies, Thank you very much for the beautiful floral arrangement sent for Jackie's funeral. It was very thoughtful. Jackie enjoyed being a part of the prayer shawl ministry. She had a good stock of yarn at home. We hope you can make good use of it. Keep up this great ministry! Thanks again!

The family of Jackie Hartmann

... I am writing you to thank you so much for the warm prayer shawl and for thinking of me during my surgery and recovery. I have truly been blessed! Thank you again for your thoughts and prayers. Sincerely,

Paulette Huber

From Mission Endowment Fund recipients:

... On behalf of the West Salem School District, it is my pleasure to thank you for your donation ... for \$300 to the Nutrition Services Jane Doe Fund. ... This investment truly makes a difference in the lives of students and the future of our community. ... Sincerely,

Troy Gunderson, Superintendent

... It is with a thankful heart that I receive your generous donation of \$1,500 to the West Salem Community Assistance Fund. And \$500 to the West Salem Emergency Fund. Your generosity allows us to meet those unexpected needs throughout our community. ... In 2018, including your recent gift, Community Assistance has received \$4,746.58 in donations and during the year we have expended \$3,748.51. ... Again, thank you for this generous donation to the Community Assistance Fund and Community Emergency Fund, blessings on your ministry for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Sincerely,

Rev. Larry A. Olson, Treasurer (WSCAF and EF)

... Thank you ... for the recent year-end giving to projects and programs within our synod and around the world. Your check of \$5,100 was designated as \$500 for the Synod Campus Ministry Endowment, \$300 for the Synod Seminarian Scholarship Endowment, \$800 for local flood relief, \$2,000 for Lutheran Disaster Response and \$1,500 for ELCA World Hunger. Your gifts will facilitate the sustenance and growth of synod programs and ministries that are made available to college and seminary students, those in our synod affected by recent flooding, as well as providing for ongoing support of Lutheran programs that enable our church to respond to crises as they arise in our world while providing long term recovery and sustainability. I appreciate your recognition and support of the work we do together as part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and being God's hands in our own communities. May God continue his good work in you. In Christ,

Rev. Jim Arends, Bishop

... Thank you for your recent donation [\$1,000], which will help the dedicated staff and more than 260 La Crosse Warming Center volunteers to continue ministering to the broken body of Christ in the suffering bodies of the poor ... The people who come to the Warming Center are vulnerable – vulnerable to the elements, to public opinion, to the consequences of life on the streets. Too often, they are not treated with dignity and respect, simply because poverty has a way of making most of us incredibly uncomfortable. ... the Warming Center provided a place of refuge for men and women from the La Crosse area who had no other place to spend the night. We could not have done this without the support of people like you who make our work possible! Thanks to you, Catholic Charities can offer meals, showers, laundry facilities and a place to sleep, resources and friendship to our struggling brothers and sisters. We greatly appreciate your joining us as we reach out in love and compassion to our brothers and sisters! God bless you. In Christ,

Rochelle Nicks, Development Director (Catholic Charities)

... Thank you so very much for your generous gift [\$600] to Sugar Creek Bible Camp! Your gifts are essential to ensure that we are able to make a difference in the lives we touch as we share the love, joy and peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ! Please pray for continued openness to the Holy Spirit, that those whom we come in contact with are able to deepen their relationship with our Lord. Again, thanks for your financial and prayer support! It is making a big difference in furthering the Kingdom of God! Shalom,

Jeff Barrow, Interim Director

... Emily, a mother to two children attributes her time spent at the New Horizons shelter as the reason she and her children are still alive. She says that during their stay they began to restructure their lives. Emily also found employment, housing, childcare, counseling, and legal advocacy thanks to the resources we offered her, which helped to bring stability and self-sufficiency back into their lives. Your very generous gift of \$1,000 ... allows survivors, like Emily to overcome the safety and financial obstacles that prevent them from leaving their abusers. Emily and her children can now discover a life without abuse and fear. Thank you for supporting our mission. Together we are saving lives! In empowerment,

Ann Kappauf, Executive Director

Congregation Council Review



The Congregation Council meeting of January 14 was “iced” out. The council met instead on Monday, January 21 to carry out essential business. President Steve Ahles called the meeting to order. The council:

- Received a Hershey’s “Kiss” as a small thank you from the pastors for their work this year. Shared in a prayer of thanks for all who have been a part of the councils work.
- Approved the council minutes for December.
- Discussed the need for a new copier, especially with the end of the maintenance agreement on the current machine. After significant discussion voted to recommend a machine from Loffler to the annual meeting. Noted that the cost of the machine is \$6700, but over five years maintenance costs should be almost \$5000 less than the current machine.
- Discussed the budget proposal at length. Voted to recommend the proposal as presented to the congregation, along with a challenge to make up the deficit and restore some of the mission support cuts included in the proposed budget.
- Approved the membership list as presented by the review team and Pastor Jean. Noted that changes to the list can be made at any time, so any revisions are easy to make. If we discover omissions, that can be resolved quickly and easily.
- Approved the Sabbatical Leave plan for Pastor Jon, for summer of 2019.
- Heard a report from Steve Ahles and Judy Gilbert on council nominations. One position is yet to be filled. Also heard that there are nominees for the Endowment Fund, Sugar Creek, and Bethany Homes. Thanked Steve and Judy for their work, and treated them to an extra Hershey’s Kiss!
- Heard that “Forward: Fearless and Faithful” is moving ahead with Kyle Twite, Carolyn Karl, Jim Kerman, Becky Murphy, and Jen Linse as team members.
- Discussed the Johnson South rental and its future. Decided to make no changes at this time.
- Noted that Synod Assembly voting members will need to be appointed in the near future.

The council meets again on February 11. See one of the pastors or Steve Ahles if you have any questions.



Congregation Council Installation

Newly elected members of the Congregation Council, along with current members, will be installed on Saturday/Sunday, February 3/4, during worship. Please lift up all our council members in your prayers as they seek to provide leadership to us in our mission and ministry.

Synod Assembly Voting Members



The Congregation Council will need to appoint voting members to the 2019 La Crosse Area Synod Assembly sometime in the near future. If you are interested in participating in the assembly, contact Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean. The assembly will be held June 14-16 in La Crosse. Expenses are covered. Assemblies involve business, fellowship, worship, and a lot of learning about the work of God’s people!

ACOLYTES			
	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Feb 2-3	Elsa Mitchell	Ryan Nickles	Ed Schmitz
Feb 9-10	Bennett Turnipseed	Blaine Wheeler	Maxwell Williams
Feb 16-17	Ella Beal	Lauren Bell	Kendall Burkhamer
Feb 23-24	Eva Clements	Zachary Long	Zachary Fitzpatrick

BASKET HOLDERS			
		Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Feb 3		Siri Anderson	Mia Bahl
Feb 10		Will Stefferud	Lizzie Hesse
Feb 17		Benjamin Bakkum	Adelyn Burt
Feb 24		Noah Campbell	Haley Chandler

HOME COMMUNION SERVERS

Feb 2-3 Daryl Wermedal
 Feb 9-10 Betty Whitlock/Diane McClintock
 Feb 16-17 Marjorie Anderson
 Feb 23-24 Dottie Baumgartner

COMMUNION BREAD (*February 16-17*) - Wendy Kane

ALTAR GUILD Nancy DeYoung

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS			
	Saturday 6 p.m.	Sunday 8 a.m.	Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Feb 2-3	Bonny Goodenough	Lee Fernstaedt Marjorie Anderson	Kristin Tschumper Michelle Witte
Feb 9-10	Bonny Goodenough	Jason Stefferud Wendy Kane Sharon Olson	Tracy Hesse Judy Morzinski
Feb 16-17	Jon Hetland	Marty & Jane Frank	Gillian Twite Darlene Affeldt
Feb 23-24	Karen DeSchepper	Melody Schmitz Eric Ender	Carla Burkhardt Jason Stefferud

