

# Our Savior's Voice

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

359 Leonard Street N - West Salem, WI 54669

[www.oursaviorswestsalem.org](http://www.oursaviorswestsalem.org)

608-786-0030

## April 2021



**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**

## **April 2021**

### **Table of Contents**

Pastor's Page	Pages 3-5
Easter Greeting	Page 6
Holy Week & Easter Opportunities	Page 7
Worship Opportunities	Page 8
In Person Worship Information & Request	Page 9
Wands for Wildlife	Page 10
Adult Bible Study	Page 10
Sunday School	Page 11
Confirmation Classes	Page 12
College Student Prayers	Page 12
Youth News	Page 13
Scholarship Information	Page 14
Sugar Creek Campership Information	Page 15
"Note" of Thanks	Page 16
Annual Meeting Notice	Page 16
Quilting Thanks & Request	Page 17
Thank You	Page 17
Council Review	Page 18
Scrip Cards	Page 19
Pictorial Directory	Page 19
Financial Support Ministry	Page 20
Giving Opportunities	Page 21
Food Pantry	Page 21
Dates to Note at a Glance	Page 22
Check Your Spam	Page 23



## Pastor's Reflections

### *The Lenten Journey and More*

As I write this it is Holy Week and we are on our way to the cross of Good Friday and the resurrection of Easter. We have been on our Lenten journey. A Lenten journey like no other. In some respects, this whole last year was a kind of Lenten journey.

As we journeyed this year, the path was far from straight, there were rocks and ruts along the way, there were forks in the road that gave us pause while decisions had to be made, there was nothing fast about our journey, each step was taken very deliberately. One minute the path was clear, the sun was shining and we could see where we were headed; and the next minute we were plunged into the denseness, the dampness, the darkness of the forest, where we could see no light. Life in 2020 ...



Our Lenten journey takes those same twists and turns, moving from light into darkness and back to the light.



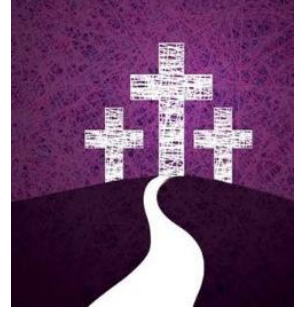
Lent is a time of reflection. We take time to reflect on our lives, to reflect on where we are, what we're doing, what we're thinking. And, hopefully, we are reflecting on a life that is centered in Christ Jesus.

Centered in Christ we are reminded to love our neighbors our ourselves; we are reminded Christ died on the cross to

forgive the sins of all; we are reminded of the story of the Good Samaritan putting his life on the line to help one who was not like him; we are reminded of healing and restoration to wholeness; we are reminded that Jesus ate with tax collectors and those who were marginalized; we are reminded no matter how much one says they love Jesus, in the midst of fear and uncertainty, in the midst of danger, denying Jesus becomes the way out of the heat of the moment; we are reminded we are weary and can't stay awake. Centered in Christ ...

JESUS REPLIED:  
LORD YOUR GOD  
AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL  
YOUR MIND, ' THIS IS THE  
GREATEST COMMANDMENT.  
SECOND IS LIKE IT:  
' LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR  
AS YOURSELF.'  
MATTHEW  
22:37-39

As we continue to reflect on our journey, we find ourselves face to face with the crucified Jesus hanging on a cross between two criminals, between two sinners. One criminal is defiant, self-centered, telling Jesus to save himself, and while Jesus is at it, to save him too. The other knows he has sinned and asks for forgiveness, knows that he deserves to be there, knows that Jesus has done nothing wrong, and he turns to Jesus asking to be remembered when Jesus comes into his kingdom. Jesus tells that sinner, "today you will be with me in paradise."



Perhaps we can relate to the sinner who knows he deserves what he is getting, but who also seeks forgiveness in the crucified Jesus. How often in our lives do we stray down the 'wrong' path, stray into self-centeredness, stray away from that which gives us life believing we can find life on our own. But there is hope for that sinner ... there is hope for us.

Lent is also a time of repentance. Repentance means to turn around, to change direction, to say you're sorry, mean it deep within your soul, and do something about it. It's not too late for us ... to reflect and to repent ... and to find hope. In the crucified Jesus our sins are forgiven, and in the resurrected Jesus we are given new life.

Where have you seen new life? There is new life all around us ...

- ♥ in newborn babies and families
- ♥ in infants who learn to roll over, opening a new world for them to explore
- ♥ in children who are baptized into the family of God
- ♥ in the adventure of moving from one community to another, or the adventure of changing jobs
- ♥ in the eyes of the marginalized and vulnerable as they are accepted and welcomed
- ♥ in the greening grass
- ♥ in the day lilies and rhubarb that are peeking through the ground
- ♥ in the budding trees
- ♥ in the brilliant sunrise of a new day

Our Lenten journey, our reflection and repentance, has been bathed in the light of Christ. Even in the midst of the darkness, the light of Christ has shown through and we now bask in the new life won for us in the resurrected Jesus. Alleluia!

Celebrating Easter with you,  
*Pastor Jean*





CHRIST  
IS RISEN

Alleluia

# Holy Week/Easter



## Maundy Thursday

### **Zoom worship with Holy Communion at 7 PM**

- Have bread and wine available
- Zoom link on home page of web site
- video posted later to YouTube with link on web site home page

## Good Friday

### **YouTube video posted by late afternoon**

- link on web site home page

## Easter Sunday

### **YouTube video posted by 9 AM**

- link on web site home page

### **Worship at Lion's Shelter at 10 AM**

- Wafer and juice cups will be available, or feel free to bring your own bread/wine/juice!
- Bring your own seating and sit distanced
- ***Masks required!***
- Invite friends/neighbors to join us
- Service will be shared live via Zoom (link on web site home page)
- **We'll need help to set up** – how about you?  
Contact the office!



## We Are Worshipping!

Worship continues, even though we are not together in the building, and some new worship opportunities are being planned!

**Online videos** bring a message, prayers, and music, and are posted by 6 PM on Saturday on YouTube. Access them through our web site:

[www.oursaviorswestsalem.org/videos](http://www.oursaviorswestsalem.org/videos). You can watch any time, and you can even catch up on previous weeks.

**DVDs** are also available of our online service. Let us know if you or someone else can use a DVD. A bunch go out every week!

**Zoom Communion** ... join us on Sundays at 10:30 AM in virtual worship, using the Zoom platform. Easy to do – just head to our home page, and click on the link. Have bread and wine/juice available as we take 25 minutes to hear God’s Word and celebrate the sacrament.

For more information and updated details, check out the Covid-19 Response page on the web site.



INFORMATION ABOUT  
RETURNING TO IN-  
PERSON WORSHIP



## In-Building Worship ...

We are hopeful that in-building worship will return very soon! The Reopening Team and the Congregation Council meet in

early April and will consider reopening and how that can be done safely. Watch the home page of the web site – we will keep that updated.

Note that while the Council has not yet set the expectations for reopening, most likely it will include limited numbers (with sign ups ahead of time), masks required in the building, and a need for ushers and “hosts” to assist in making our worship work well.

*You MAKE  
it HAPPEN*

**... and you can help make it happen!**

As we await the reopening, a training for ushers and hosts will be held on Thursday, April 15, at 7 PM (in the building). You can sign up for the training on SignUpGenius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F044CA5A629A7F85-usherhost>

or by calling the church office. ***It will be important to have a crew ready, so we hope you can join us!***

## Collecting Mascara Wands ...



If you know anyone who uses mascara ... we are collecting the used wands for the **Wands for Wildlife** project – where they are used to help keep wildlife animals clean. Be sure to clean your used wands thoroughly when you're done with them!

- Clean them by soaking in a mixture of dish soap and warm water to get the mascara out of the brush.
- Air dry and put the clean wands in a bag.
- Drop the bag off at church.

## Adult Bible Study

Bible study, via Zoom (or dial in as a conference call)

continues on **Wednesdays**

**from 9:30 to 11 AM.** Some great conversation and probing discussion – all from the comfort of your home!



Not sure how to do it? Contact Pastor Jon or the church office and we'll help you get connected.



## **Sunday School**

Sunday School keeps rolling along. We have started a new quarter of material which means we are learning more new songs and meeting new Bible buddies. Would you believe you have already met eight buddies and learned eight Bible verses!? Great job, friends!!

Can you name all of our Buddies? Who is your favorite? Do you remember the Bible verses or the Bible points?

*God Guides Us! Follow God!*

The Sunday School lessons (videos) can be found on the church website ([www.oursaviorswestsalem.org --resources/videos](http://www.oursaviorswestsalem.org--resources/videos)). You should also receive an email from Pastor Jean each week with the worksheet that goes with the lesson. *If you aren't getting the emails (check your spam file), please call the church office (786-0030) and we'll get them to you.*

# Confirmation Schedule for April



Confirmation starts up again in April!

**6<sup>th</sup> graders** resume classes with Corey Sjoquist via Zoom on April 7, at 6 PM.

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders** have a video posted by Wednesday, April 7. 7<sup>th</sup> graders meet via Zoom on April 14, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders on April 21.

**9<sup>th</sup> graders** have a video posted by March 31, and a Zoom class on April 7.

We are hoping to have some small group meetings in late April to early May for 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> graders. Pastor Jon will contact you!

college  
connection



As our college students are studying in challenging environments at home or on campus, we keep them in our thoughts and prayers. This month please pray for: **Meghan Hansen** (Winona State), **Ellie Tschumper** (UMN-Mankato), **Molly Hunter** (U of St Thomas MN), **Ashlie Lockington** (Winona State), **Austin Kennedy** (WTC), and **Lizzie Averbeck** (UW-EC).



## From the Youth Director ...

During the month of March, I held a “worship note night” for each class and it was a success. Each group was so excited to be able to be together in Church and work on worship notes, along with having great conversations about each service we watched. It is exciting to watch the young minds grow.

For the month of April, I am starting the outdoor gatherings again. The schedule will be:

- April 7 - 8<sup>th</sup> graders 4-5:30 PM
- April 14 - 7<sup>th</sup> graders 4-5:30 PM
- April 21 - 9<sup>th</sup> graders **5:30-6:30 PM**

This will include a great fire, smores, hot dogs and good conversation. I have had many requests to start this again, and I am greatly looking forward to it. Each class will receive an e-mail reminder, so please look for that.



I have been receiving mascara wands for our Wilderness project and that is wonderful. I have a box started so when July rolls around I will be sending them out. **KEEP THEM A COMING!**

*Wendy Kane*, Youth Director

[youth@oursaviorswestsalem.org](mailto:youth@oursaviorswestsalem.org)



## Scholarships

As the school year continues, time to be thinking about high school graduate scholarships! Current high school seniors at Our Savior's are eligible to receive a one-time scholarship, which can be as high as \$750. Information will be mailed shortly to seniors, or check out the web page at [www.oursaviorswestsalem.org/youth-and-family](http://www.oursaviorswestsalem.org/youth-and-family). **Applications will be due April 30**, with awards announced later in May.

Emphasis in the scholarships will be on involvement in the work of the church, and how students have lived out their faith. Scholarships come from a variety of sources, including the Michelson and Marking Scholarships.

A change this year is with the Lewis-Meyer Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to a current college freshman who has connected with a faith community, or maintained active connections with Our Savior's. Due to the difficulties with the pandemic, that scholarship will be delayed for one year.

Finally, a reminder that there are some scholarship funds available for non-traditional students, such as second career, or courses taken to enhance one's career. There is no set deadline on applying for this scholarship.

For more information on any of these scholarships, see Pastor Jon.



# **SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP - 2021**

**“Come and See” – John 1**

Sugar Creek Bible Camp is excited to be back with world-class summer camp programs for youth this summer. As vaccines are delivered nationwide, safety practices are honed, medical knowledge increases, and the camp program and facilities are adapted, they are confident in moving forward with plans for summer Bible camp.

Wherever vaccinations are in the coming months, all Covid-19 safety practices will be fully in place through the entire summer season. Campers will receive detailed information on prevention, preparations, and camp expectations before arriving for summer camp.

There will be exciting new programs as well as beloved favorites. Check out the Summer Brochure on their website - [www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org](http://www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org).

## **OUR SAVIOR'S CAMPERSHIPS AVAILABLE**

\$150 full week -- \$75 half week

**Request forms due in the office NO LATER than  
May 9<sup>th</sup>**

(Forms will be available in the church office,  
or on the website – [www.oursaviorswestsalem.org](http://www.oursaviorswestsalem.org))

## **“Notes” of Thanks**



Thank you so much to the vocalists that have been recording music for our on-line services. Their willingness to sign up and come to church prepared to record is truly a gift to us all. Looking into a camera and singing all by yourself is much different than singing with a choir, and we have a great group of singers that participate without hesitation. We so appreciate them! Thank you!

Andrew Bakkum  
Carla Burkhardt  
Lynette Ender  
Marty Frank  
Naoko Giblin  
Bonny Goodenough

Melissa Haldeman  
Dori Jensen  
Ruby Kerkman  
Jen Linse  
Dean Olson  
Eric Sorenson



## **Annual Meeting**

Note that the Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 13, following 10 AM worship at the Lion's Shelter. More details will be announced in coming months, but for now, mark down that date!





## Thanks “sew” much!

The Quilters, after not meeting for a year, have now met three times. Last October we were able to send 71 quilts to Lutheran World Relief thanks to all of the hard work by Ruby Kerkman and Maryrose Hetland. Eva Farris also helped by giving us two totes of material.

**You can be a part of this exciting ministry, too.** As you are doing your spring cleaning, we would love to have your old sheets to go in the middle of the quilts. Thanks so much!



*Thank you ...*

*Wrapped in Love* 

Prayer Shawl Group,  
Thank you for the prayer shawl. While I was in the hospital, I felt like my church family was there with me.

*Tom Niemeier*



## Congregation Council

The Congregation Council met via Zoom on Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, with President Steve Ahles presiding. At this meeting:

- The Council was joined by Dean Olson who shared detailed information about the proposed technology project and audio upgrade.
- Heard the tech/audio project would cost approximately \$33,000.
- The Council affirmed further conversation with Commercial AV Systems of LaCrosse.
- The Council was then joined by members of the Re-opening Team to discuss thoughts and plans for re-opening.
- Discussed plans for in-person Easter worship at the Lion's Shelter – one service, masked, sitting in family groups, limited singing, bring own bread & wine/juice for communion.
- No further plans for in-person worship beyond Easter.
- Approved the minutes of the February 8 Council Meeting, and received the February financial report.
- Heard an overview on what has been happening with our various ministries.
- Discussed items for Annual Congregational Meeting in June.
- Incorporated devotions with the closing prayer, meditating on personal joys and challenges of the last year.

The next meeting of the council will be held Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM via Zoom. If you have questions, or if you have ideas for enhancing the ministry of Our Savior's, contact Steve Ahles or one of the pastors.

# Scrip Cards Available



We continue to have Scrip cards available for purchase in the office during the day. We ask that you call

ahead to make sure someone will be there to get the cards for you.



Just a reminder ... we have Kwik Trip, Kwik Trip car washes, Woodman's, Festival, and Ship Shape car washes.



Proceeds go to help World Hunger and Our Savior's Youth programs.



## Pictorial directories



If you had your picture taken, there is a directory waiting for you. If you chose not to have your picture taken, but would like to have a directory, they are available for \$5 to cover the cost. The directories are available in the church office (call before you come to make sure we are here).

# Financial Support Ministry



**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

**THANK YOU!!!** Thank you for your continued financial support of our ministry together! You make a difference in the lives of children and adults, in those across the globe, and those right here in our midst.

Financial gifts can be shared in a variety of ways. You may choose to mail in your envelope, or use one or more of the electronic giving options which we have available. You can find more information, and directions on starting your electronic giving, on our web site at [www.oursaviorswestsalem.org/giving](http://www.oursaviorswestsalem.org/giving). Among the giving options:

- Electronic transfer...directly from your financial institution.
- Mobile app...Easily create an account to set up recurring donations and review your giving history.
- Text...The first time you use texting, you will be asked to register your payment information; after that, enter the amount and send the text.

***However you give, give in confidence!*** At Our Savior's we value integrity in our financial practices. Transactions are made via a secure web portal, and are facilitated by Vanco, an industry leader in online financial products.

***Thank you for your support.  
We are grateful for your partnership as  
we proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ!***



## Shopping Online?

Our Savior's 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.

## Thrivent Choice Dollars

Direct your  
Thrivent Choice  
Dollars  
Today!



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.



## Care and Share Food Pantry

The Care and Share Food Pantry remains open, Saturdays, 10 AM to Noon. As the building is still locked, please call the office to ensure that we will be able to receive your gifts. And, thank you!

## April Dates for your calendar:



March 31 - 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation video posted

April 1 - **Maundy Thursday** Zoom worship at 7 PM

April 2 - **Good Friday** worship video posted

April 4 - **Easter** - 10 AM worship at the Lion's Shelter  
(worship will also be available via Zoom)

Video will be posted by 9 AM

April 7 - Confirmation

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders - Video posted

4 PM - 8<sup>th</sup> grade outdoor gathering

6 PM - 6<sup>th</sup> grade class via Zoom

6 PM - 9<sup>th</sup> grade class via Zoom

April 11 - *Zoom Communion at 10:30 AM*

April 14 - Confirmation

4 PM - 7<sup>th</sup> grade outdoor gathering

6 PM - 7<sup>th</sup> grade class via Zoom

6 PM - 6<sup>th</sup> grade class via Zoom

April 15 - Usher/Host Training at 7 PM

April 18 - *Zoom Communion at 10:30 AM*

April 21 - Confirmation

5:30 PM - 9<sup>th</sup> grade outdoor gathering

6 PM - 6<sup>th</sup> grade class via Zoom

6 PM - 8<sup>th</sup> grade class via Zoom

April 25 - *Zoom Communion at 10:30 AM*

April 28 - Confirmation

6 PM - 6<sup>th</sup> grade class via Zoom

Web Site: [www.oursaviorswestsalem.org](http://www.oursaviorswestsalem.org)  
OUR SAVIOR'S STAFF

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Kathy Brisson, Organist  
Eric Sorenson, Senior Choir Director  
Karen DeSchepper, Financial Secretary  
Josh Corning, Custodian



## Check your spam



We have been sending out more emails to share information or keep in touch lately. It has come to our attention that many of you – mostly those of you with **yahoo.com** email accounts – have not received our communications because the emails have gone to your spam file. So ... please take a minute to check your spam files and see if you have any communications from church/pastors that you may have missed over the last several weeks (and maybe even months!). This is especially critical for those of you with confirmation and Sunday School aged children. Please let us know if you have missed dates, deadlines, and information so we can get you up to speed and make sure everyone has the information needed.

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