

Our Savior's Voice

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

359 Leonard Street N - West Salem, WI 54669

www.oursaviorswestsalem.org

608-786-0030

May 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.***

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May 2021

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Pastor's Reflections

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn ...

Hours of work and creativity expended, and what is there to show for it ... nothing ... lost ... never to be found ... and no energy to recreate it ...

It could be any one of us, the details may be different but the scenario is the same. You put your heart and soul into something, and then you find out it was for naught ... the work, the effort, and what you were working on, is gone, not recoverable, nowhere to be found ... and you just can't do it again, you can't re-create it ... it took everything you had and you have nothing more to offer.

These last fourteen months have taken their toll. Trying to be creative and innovative; scrambling to make sure things are done; connecting and reconnecting in new ways; trying to please everyone and not succeeding; giving everything you have until you have nothing more to give; putting the needs, cares, and desires of others before your own; no matter what you do, it's not enough; wanting desperately to be in control, when nothing is in your control; trying to tactfully reign in those who are anxious to move on, pleading with them to follow the rules/guidelines just a bit longer. And now, when it's time to begin to return to some semblance of "the way it used to be", when it's time to get excited, when all of the "i's" need to be dotted and the "t's" crossed, you need to dig deeply for the energy to be creative again because it's not yet time for "normal" and "auto-pilot" ... but it's just not there ... the fight is gone ... the will is gone ...

*I am tired, I am weak,
I am worn ...*



These feelings could belong to any number of vocations ... healthcare workers, teachers, students, pastors, small business owners, front line workers, those caring for the most vulnerable ...

Jesus took the weight of the world upon his shoulders on the cross of Good Friday, so that we could be renewed and have new life in him on Easter morning. The journey to the cross was long, and wearying, and now that Easter is here, we are supposed to feel refreshed and renewed, we are supposed to feel unburdened and ready to move forward. But are we? Do we really feel unburdened and ready to move forward?

The calendar may say Easter has come, but the season of our soul is still heavy and weighed down. If the last fourteen months have taught us anything, they have taught us we can't do this on our own. We need the crucified and risen Jesus. We need forgiveness and grace. We need the Holy Spirit to swirl within us and lead us.



As we begin to set our sights on re-opening the building for worship and perhaps small group meetings/gatherings, we are eager and we are anxious. But we also need to take our time and do things properly, always keeping our sights centered on Jesus. For the sake of others, we need to be patient and thoughtful. We need to think of others and not just ourselves. The Re-opening Team and the Council have discussed and researched and come up with a plan to keep us safe while finding ways to enable us to begin gathering as a community again.

We invite you to join us on the journey to gather together, but we also caution you that we need everyone to be understanding and willing to follow the guidelines outlined (see page 8 or check out the church website). God calls us to love our neighbor and care for them.

As we move forward initially, things will still look different ... there will be things we need to do ... there will be guidelines we need to respect and follow ... there will be room for grace and conversation, but there will also be things that are non-negotiable ... together we will be the community of the faithful ... together we will worship ... together we will follow God's call.

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn ...

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are



carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."
(Matthew 11:28-30)

Resting with you in the arms of Jesus who gives us strength,
Pastor Jean



We Are Worshipping!

With in-building worship about to begin, many may still feel uncomfortable with returning to the building, while others have discovered – and appreciate – the advantages of virtual worship. So...in-building worship resumes, while virtual worship continues!

Online videos bring a message, prayers, and music, and are posted by 6 PM on Saturday on YouTube. Access them at: www.oursaviorswestsale.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 **10:00 AM** (*Note the time change!*) 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. You will be “joining” the in-person worship.



Annual Meeting

Note that the Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 13, following 10 AM worship at the Lion's Shelter. We will hear reports from the various committees, approve the 2021 budget, have elections, and hear a proposal and vote on a new technology/upgraded audio system project.

Highlights of the Technology/Audio Project



The Congregation Council is preparing a proposal for the congregation to consider at the Annual Meeting – to significantly upgrade the technology in the sanctuary!

What's included on the project?

- Adding the ability to project words, music, and images on a screen in the front, along with a smaller screen for the area under the balcony.
- Installing the equipment to livestream our worship, then post the recording online, and create quality DVDs for our shut-ins. The equipment would allow for several camera angles along with zooming in for closeups. The camera would produce an HD quality picture.
- A major overhaul of the audio system, which hasn't had a significant upgrade in over 30 years!

The cost? Around \$40,000. The good news? Thanks to the Endowment Fund and a very generous donor, we already have \$14,000! More details in the June newsletter and at the annual meeting.

INFORMATION ABOUT
RETURNING TO IN-
PERSON WORSHIP



In-Building Worship ...

In-building worship begins in May on Saturdays at 6 PM, Sundays at 10 AM, and Wednesdays at 5:30 PM. We will hear God's Word, sing quietly, and share in

Holy Communion.

There are several things **you need to know** as you make plans to join us.

- **Sign up** on SignUpGenius using the link (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F044CA5A629A7F85-worship>) or call the office (786-0030) and we will be happy to get you signed up.
- Attendance at each service will be **limited to 50** people. (When we worship at the Lion's Shelter in June, there will be no limit on numbers.)
- **Masks are REQUIRED** for those 2 years old and older. (If you forget your mask, we will have them available.)
- **Doors will be open 15 minutes** prior to the start of worship. We invite you to have your conversations outside.
- **Enter through the door off the alley/parking lot.** (If you need the elevator, please let us know that when you sign up and we will have someone greet you at the front door.)
- We will need an **usher/host team** in place or worship will be cancelled. (We will let you know in advance if worship is cancelled.) If you would like to be a part of the usher/host team check out the information about the upcoming training session on April 28th.
- **Windows** must remain **open** so dress accordingly.

You MAKE
it HAPPEN

... and you can help make
worship happen ... join the
Usher/Host Team!

As we anticipate the reopening, a second training for ushers and hosts will be held on **Wednesday, April 28, at 5:30 PM** (in the sanctuary). You can sign up for the training on SignUpGenius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F044CA5A629A7F85-usherhost> or by calling the church office. If you would like to be a part of this team, but can't make the meeting, let us know and we will get you trained. ***It will be important to have a crew ready, so we hope you can join us!***

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.

Last call ... High School Seniors ...



Scholarship Applications Due

As the school year winds down, 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 was mailed to seniors in February, or go to: www.oursaviorswestsalem.org/youth-and-family.

Applications are 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, Marking, and Piper Scholarships.

For more information, see Pastor Jon.

Senior Recognition

Again, this year we want to recognized our graduating seniors...and we have to do it differently. So, we will!

Watch the YouTube video for May 23, or join us at the "in-building" worship May 22-23-26 – and you'll get to see, celebrate, and honor our graduates. Not in person, but in spirit, and in the power of the Spirit!



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.

OUR SAVIOR'S CAMPERSHIPS AVAILABLE

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

Request forms due in the office

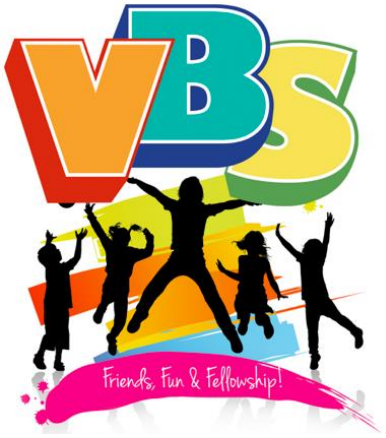
NO LATER than May 9th

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



We are part-way through our third quarter of material already. We have met some pretty interesting Bible buddies and learned something about each one. They are helping us learn our Bible verses and Bible points. Should we have a “quiz” at the end and see how many you can remember? 😊 We continue to learn new songs and the motions that go along with each one. Do you find yourself singing those songs in your head during the week? By now you should have quite a collection of coloring sheets and airplanes flying around!

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.*



Family Vacation Bible School

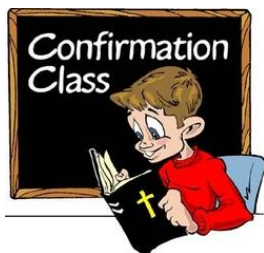
**Sundays – July 11 and 25
August 8 and 22
11:00 am – 1:00 pm
at the Lion's Shelter**

**Pack a lunch and join us
Fun, active new theme each week
Watch for sign-ups**

If you are looking for a fun way to earn National Honor Society hours or you just want to be a part of the action, let us know ... we have a job for you and would love to have you be a part of VBS!



Confirmation Schedule for May



6th graders have classes with Corey Sjoquist, resuming in-person in the building Wednesdays May 5, 12, and 19 at 6 PM. Mask required!

7th and 8th graders – no more Zoom! We will meet with Becki Murphy to learn more about “servant-leadership.” 7th graders will meet at 6 PM on May 12, and 8th graders at 6 PM on May 19. We will meet at the building and have our class outdoors. If the weather doesn’t allow, we’ll find another spot! Masks required!

9th graders will meet in-person with Pastor Jon on Wednesday, May 5th at **7 PM**. (Note the time change!)

Watch your emails for information if schedules change.

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: **Jayden Beckley** (UW-EC), **Zach Friell** (UW-SP), **Alysha Hesse** (WTC), **Aubrey Johnson** (WTC), **Madison Dutton** (UW-EC), **Courtney Koepp** (UW-M), and **Haley Dutton** (EMU).



From the Youth Director ...

Several things are in the works for the coming months, so please watch your emails for details.

8th graders will be preparing Military Care Packages in May – watch your email for date and time!

We will be looking for volunteers to help with peaches late summer. This is a great way to earn money in your “account” for Sugar Creek or the ELCA National Youth Gathering coming in 2022.

Another great way to earn some money in your “account” is selling Scrip Cards.

Wendy Kane, Youth Director

youth@oursaviorswestsalem.org



Wands for Wildlife ...

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.



They'll be back ...

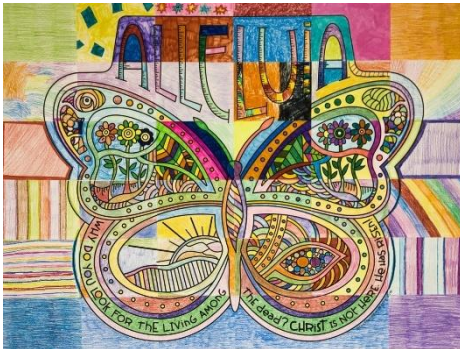
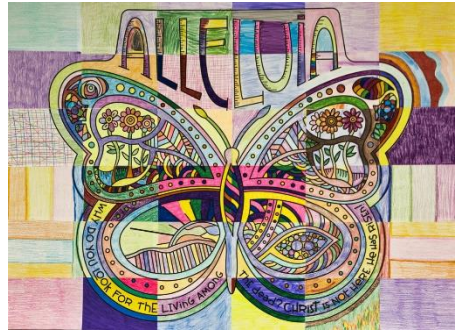
Watch for details in coming months once we get past the “freeze season” to know the status of the peach crop. If all goes well, we anticipate biting into a luscious peach in late July or early August. Stay tuned ...



Thank you ...

... to those who helped with making the Easter worship at the Lion's Shelter possible – Dean Olson, Linda Berg, Jim Michelson, Jim & Marjorie Anderson, Wendy Kane, and Rebecca Schmidt.

Thank you to all who colored tiles for our Easter mosaics. They turned out great and were a special treat for worship in the Lion's Shelter.





Congregation Council

The Congregation Council met via Zoom on Monday, April 12th, with President Steve Ahles presiding. At this meeting:

- The Council was joined by Dean Olson who shared more detailed information about the proposed technology project and additional audio upgrade.
- Heard the tech/audio project would cost approximately \$40,000.
- Approved the minutes of the March 8 Council Meeting, and received the March financial report.
- Heard an overview on what has been happening with our various ministries. Noted pastors are now back at Lakeview for worship and anticipate going to Salem Terrace.
- Heard a report and recommendations from the Re-opening Team. Council established the guidelines to be followed in order to have worship in person in the building. Heard there will be a training for those willing to be ushers/hosts during re-opening worship.
- Approved the request of the tenant in Johnson South to terminate his lease early. He will be done May 15.
- Discussed items for Annual Congregational Meeting in June including potential names for nominations. Voted to present the proposed 2021 budget prepared by the Administration Committee to the Annual Meeting.

The next meeting of the council will be held Monday, May 10th 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.



House Rental Available!

“Johnson South,” the house next door to the church, and owned by Our Savior’s, is available to rent beginning June 1. The rental rate is \$800/month, with a year lease and

a one-month security deposit. The house has two bedrooms, and includes appliances and use of the garage off the alley. The tenant is responsible for lawn mowing and snow removal.

For more information on the rental, contact Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean.

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.



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. 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



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. If you have food to drop off, please call the office to ensure that we will be able to receive your gifts. And, thank you!

May Dates for your calendar:



April 28 - Usher/Host Training @ 5:30 PM

April 30 - Scholarship Applications Due

May 1 - In-building worship @ 6 PM

May 2 - In-building worship & Zoom @ 10 AM

May 5 - In-building worship @ 5:30 PM

May 5 - Confirmation - 6th grade @ 6 PM
9th grade @ 7 PM

May 8 - In-building worship @ 6 PM

May 9 - In-building worship & Zoom @ 10 AM

May 12 - In-building worship @ 5:30 PM

May 12 - Confirmation - 6th grade & 7th grade @ 6 PM

May 15 - In-building worship @ 6 PM

May 16 - In-building worship & Zoom @ 10 AM

May 19 - In-building worship @ 5:30 PM

May 19 - Confirmation - 6th grade & 8th grade @ 6 PM

May 22 - In-building worship @ 6 PM

May 23 - In-building worship & Zoom @ 10 AM
Graduate Recognition

May 26 - In-building worship @ 5:30 PM

May 29 - In-building worship @ 6 PM

May 30 - In-building worship & Zoom @ 10 AM

June 13 - Annual Meeting @ 11 AM

Web Site: www.oursaviorswestsalem.org
OUR SAVIOR'S STAFF

Pastor Jonathan Schmidt, Senior Pastor 612-0217
Email: pastorjon@oursaviorswestsalem.org
Pastor Jean Schmidt, Associate Pastor 612-0217
Email: pastorjean@oursaviorswestsalem.org
Kris Seeger, Administrative Assistant Church Office: 786-0030
Email: office@oursaviorswestsalem.org
Wendy Kane, Director of Youth Ministry 518-9593
Email: youth@oursaviorswestsalem.org
Jill Iliff, Treasurer
Email: treasurer@oursaviorswestsalem.org
Linda Berg, Organist/Choir Accompanist/Director of Music
Email: linda@oursaviorswestsalem.org
Kathy Brisson, Organist
Eric Sorenson, Senior Choir Director
Karen DeSchepper, Financial Secretary
Josh Corning, Custodian



Check your spam



It has come to our attention that many of you – mostly those of you with **yahoo.com** email accounts – are not receiving 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 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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