

Our Savior's Voice

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

359 Leonard Street N - West Salem, WI 54669

www.oursaviorswestsalem.org

608-786-0030

August 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

August 2021

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Pastor's Reflections

July 10, 1921. I wasn't there. I missed it.

July 10, 2021. I was there. I still missed it.

On July 10, 1921 a large crowd gathered inside Our Savior's Lutheran Church in West Salem. They gathered in the midst of new construction, maybe still bearing the scents and aromas of fresh wood and paint. Maybe a few unfinished details, a few items yet to be "nailed down." But done enough for the people of God to worship. It was time to dedicate this new building.



In thanks to a gracious God, they did just that. Just a few years earlier two congregations – one worshipping at Leonard Street and East Avenue, the other out on County M by the Michelson farm, took the bold step to come together, to set aside both their different congregational cultures and their buildings, and to become one. To become ... Our Savior's!

I'm pretty certain it wasn't always easy. Coming together like that never is. But Spirit led, it happened. And in the fullness of time, it happened successfully. Two congregations literally building a future together. In fact, the building itself represented the meshing and melding of God's people. Materials from the two buildings, one in town, the other on M, were used on the new building. I'll bet you never knew that we have a recycled sanctuary!

We missed all that. We missed it 100 years ago, and we missed it just a few weeks ago.

Several years ago, I took note of that anniversary, and put it on my calendar. As the years unfolded I transferred the

date to the newer calendar, until this past December when I placed it on my calendar for 2021 – and it was even a Saturday, a time of worship!

Alas, Covid continued to get in the way. As did a root canal. No, not mine, but Pastor Jean's. While we couldn't do some kind of celebration like I thought a few years ago, I did think we could lift it up, at least mention it. But when July 10 rolled around Pastor Jean was suffering from an infection connected to a root canal, and loving husband that I am, that was on my mind, not the anniversary. And no, it's not her fault!

So, I'm bummed that I missed it. Of course, I can keep placing it on my calendar ... and transferring it from year to year ... Google says July 10, 2121 will be a Thursday. Mark it down – big 200th anniversary party! Maybe Covid will be gone by then ...

On the other hand, however, maybe it's not so bad. After all, what's a building? Now, don't get me wrong – I love our building. But it is just that – a building. A building that has stood on this corner for now over 100 years. It really is a big deal ... and it really isn't.

It's a big deal because the building is our presence in this community. We aren't going anywhere. We are staying put. We have made a commitment here – and we continue that commitment. Moreover, this building is a resource for us as we carry out our ministries. Think for a moment of all the worship, classes, gatherings, counseling sessions, funerals, weddings, and all other ministries that occurred in the midst of torrential rains, blinding snows, or frozen temps. Not moments for the great outdoors, at least not for church work. And all possible because the building stood firm.

But ... it's still just a building.

So now, think about the last 100 years, and all that has happened since July 10, 1921. Economic turmoil, war, political uncertainty, terrorism ... and in the lives of individuals...hurt, pain, and illness, the loss of loved ones, the growing up, and sometimes the breaking up of families, the hard times and really tight budgets.

Through all of that the building was here, but hardly much help. It was not the building, but in the ministries that proclaimed hope through the crucified and risen Jesus. There, in the gospel, for 100 years has been the message of life. Life, not because of a building, but because of Jesus, and made known by people, the people who happened to gather in this building.

But even more – think of how this gathered community faithfully proclaimed that message despite all that has gone on around us for 100 years – despite wars, hot and cold ... despite depressions and recessions ... even in the midst of uncertain times ... and even in the face of Covid ... the message has been shared. And again, not because of the building – because of the Holy Spirit moving us to share the good news of Jesus!

So, let's think about this building, after 100 years, in two ways. First, as a resource. As our world continues to change, but also as we hope to resume a more normal life, how do we use this resource, provided to us by a gracious God through the hands of those who have gone before us? How do we faithfully embrace, protect, but also use this resource wisely to change lives and proclaim God at work?



And second, let's use it as a reminder that even in the toughest of times, God is still with us. That even 100 years of challenge cannot keep the gospel from bringing life and

hope to us ... and to a troubled world around us. The next time you see the building, whether it's driving by, or stepping inside, ponder for a moment the sign that this building shares – the sign that even now, in a still uncertain world, God – Jesus – the good news – still remains, still brings life, and still overcomes all fear!

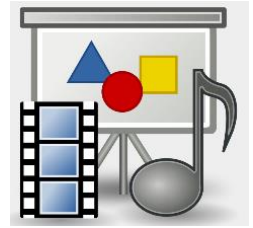
And empowered by all of that – let's continue to move forward into the next 100 years, doing what the folks at Our Savior's have always done – proclaiming life and hope, making a difference and changing lives, living faithfully inside the building – and out!

Pastor Jon



Remembering...

We've got some big projects happening – the new tech project in the sanctuary, which, among other things, will allow us to touch lives in West Salem and around the world by live-streaming our worship.



And then we are re-landscaping the front side of the building, replacing old and no-longer-viable bushes, and “re-rocking” the ground cover, to make our building more vibrant and inviting.

So, here's a way for you to be a part of these exciting changes ... your gifts will help make them happen, and your gifts could be even more of a “gift.”

You can “gift” a bush or plant, or even an electronic piece of the puzzle in memory (or honor) of a loved one or someone else who has been very special to you.



Contact the office for more information on how you can use a memorial – or honorary – gift to re-energize our ministries and make a difference in the lives of others!



“Returning to Normal” News

Some recent changes in our worship life mean that masks are no longer required for those who are vaccinated. If you are not yet vaccinated we urge you to do so, and to also remember that children and persons with certain underlying health conditions cannot yet be vaccinated, so please be sensitive to them.

Sign-ups are also no longer required, though we will continue to practice distancing. We ask worshipers to sign in upon arrival should there be a need for contact tracing.

At this writing (mid-July) there are growing concerns about another surge of Covid related to the Delta variant. Will that force us to change our practices? Maybe...but the best way to avoid that is to increase the vaccination rate. And if we need to, we will return to safer practices.

We are also looking forward to the fall and considering how education and faith formation, through Sunday School and Confirmation, can best take place. We will continue to monitor the pandemic and ALWAYS place the safety of our children at the top of our list!



August Worship

We continue to offer a variety of worship opportunities during August, including both “in-building” and virtual options.

- **In-building worship** is held on Saturdays at 6 PM and Sundays at 10 AM. Following CDC guidelines, vaccinated individuals need not mask. We will, however, continue to distance in the building, with a limit of 60 worshipers.
- Watch a recording of the Saturday worship, posted on **YouTube late Saturday evening**. Link on our video page.

And then...



August 8 & 22
August 29 (Gospel on the Green)
10 AM worship
Lion's Shelter

Bring your own seating and elements for Holy Communion.
(Pre-packaged elements will also be available.)

Please sit distanced in family groups



USHERS & GREETERS

Join the Hospitality Team

Now that we are continuing to get back to some sense of normalcy for worship, we are looking for folks who could share a few minutes of your time prior to worship to be a part of our Hospitality Team – greeting those who join us, getting people signed in, and passing out bulletins. It's a great task for the whole family! Sign up to join us using the link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F044CA5A629A7F85-ushers1> or by going to the church website and getting the link there. If you have questions feel free to talk with one of the pastors.

Office Hours

The church office and building have reopened!

Hours are Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 2 PM. Use the East Avenue entrance. Remember that we now have a locked and secure mail box outside the East Avenue entrance if you need to drop off an envelope or other similar material.



Corn Roast

Wednesday, August 11

4:30 - 6:30 PM

at the Lion's Shelter



We are once again looking forward to gathering with the West Salem community for our annual Corn Roast. 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 are looking for ***all-hands-on-deck*** to help make this work! Sign-up sheets in the Gathering Area or on-line at:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mC5d70dO6Luhkh8ADJFcPHTXCvbljaaMZzR2P7oQizc/edit>

Come be a part of giving back to our community.



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 and wear it for the Corn Roast!

Christian Education Update



Our thoughts are looking to the fall, and with that, the start of Sunday School. We will continue to take our cues from the School and Health Department.

The safety of our children is our most important consideration. We are currently developing protocols to ensure our children are as safe as possible for their sake and to reassure parents. We can do what we need to do for the sake of our children!

Families – watch for a Survey Monkey questionnaire to help us get a pulse of what families will be comfortable with as we move forward. Due to the large number of children and lack of space in the building, at this time we are looking at the possibility of alternating classes that are in the building at one time.

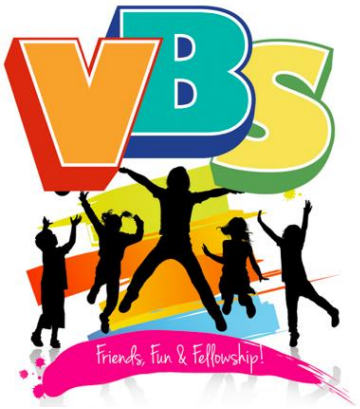
Let's get energized ...

As we begin to look to the fall, it's time to be thinking about assembling our **teachers** in hopes of having in-person Sunday school. It's been over a year since we could gather together with our children, and we are looking forward to connecting with them. If you enjoy being with children and learning from them, we invite you to join us on Sunday mornings to share your faith and get energized.



If you are able to share your gifts of time and self, or would like more information, please contact Pastor Jean.

We are excited to invite you to join us for ...



**Family Vacation
Bible School**

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

**Pack a lunch and join us
We will have lots of fun and adventures
learning about Bible stories
Sign-up on the church website or just
come when you can!**

Confirmation and NHS Students ...

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!



Adult Bible Study Back in the Building



Wednesday Bible study has resumed in the building, from 9:30 to 11 AM. Or ... you can participate via Zoom! We take a look each week at the Gospel reading for the upcoming Sunday. Join us as we share our insights and discover what God is saying to us ... today! For information on the Zoom connection, contact the office.



From the Youth Director ...

8th and 9th graders – watch your emails for information about an upcoming **Work Day** where you can help someone in need, while also putting money in your family accounts.

Wendy Kane, Youth Director
youth@oursaviorswestsalem.org

Save the Dates: July 24-28, 2022

Youth in 8th – 12th grade



ELCA Youth Gathering Minneapolis

Join 30,000 youth from across the country for
the ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis
(Yes! All 30,000 together in one place!)

Music ... worship ... change lives – make a
difference ... discover yourself ... meet
others who believe in Jesus and share your
faith

Come learn more about it ...
(Parents and Youth)

August 22 at 1 PM at the Lion's Shelter

If you can't make the meeting, contact Wendy Kane or one
of the pastors for more information.

Check out the Gathering website for the latest information:
www.elca.org/youthgathering/updates



Helping Hands Ready to Work ...

Do you have a small project around the house that needs to be tackled, but you just aren't up for the job? We have youth eager to be of assistance, *for a small fee* that will help them fund future mission opportunities. Contact Wendy Kane, Youth Director, to make arrangements – youth@oursaviorswestsalem.org or call the church office and leave her a message.

Wands for Wildlife ...



Thank you to all those who have turned in mascara wands. At this time, we do not have enough to send in, so we will continue collecting until we have enough to ship out.

Please bring your **clean**, used mascara wands to church. To clean them: soak in a mixture of dish soap and warm water to get the mascara out of the brush, air dry, and place in a Ziplock bag. *Our little furry friends thank you!*



We have received word, there may be a change in the date that the Peaches will arrive ... possibly earlier in August than initially thought – watch the front page of the website for updates and details. Once the peaches have arrived, those who pre-ordered will be notified by text or phone indicating when they can be picked up.

... and if you didn't get your pre-order in, don't worry, we have ordered some extra – but they won't last long, so come on over when you know they're here!



Calling all Youth ...

We could use some help unloading the semi-trailer and distributing the peaches. This is a great way to put funds in your youth family accounts for the ELCA Youth Gathering, Sugar Creek Camp, and other trips. Call Wendy (608-518-9593) to let her know you can help.

Planning ahead ...

Lutheran World Relief School Kit Project



Imagine having to choose between a meal or purchasing a notebook. 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.

Once again, we will collect items to fill school bags for this ministry. As the summer rolls along, sales will begin for 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!

Each School kit contains the following:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1 – 30 cm ruler | 1 – pencil sharpener |
| 1 – BLUNT scissors | 5 – unsharpened pencils |
| 1 – box 24 crayons | 1 – 2-1/2 inch eraser |
| 4 – 70 sheet notebooks (no loose-leaf paper) | |
| 5 – blue or black ball point pens (no gel ink) | |

In past years we have been able to fill 100 backpacks and we are confident we can do that again. Have fun shopping!

There is a collection box in the Gathering Area.

If you have any questions, please call Wendy Kane at 608-518-9593.

Thank you in advance for your support



Off They Go ...

It's hard to believe but the summer is winding down and we are beginning to look to the fall and the activities that may be happening. One event will be our college students heading off to campus (hopefully). Now is the time to help them on their journey ... why not get a (some) Kwik Trip card(s) to help with their travel expenses ... *that's one way to make sure they have gas money to come home and visit!*



Also ... whether they are going to WTC and living at home or traveling to the far ends of the country, we need our college **students' emails and campus addresses**. Please get that information to Pastor Jean when you know it. We like to keep in touch during the year and let our students know we are thinking about them and keeping them in our prayers.





The Prayer Shawl ladies are heading back to the building for a time of knitting and fellowship on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month (August 3 and 17) from 1-3 PM.

Join us in the Gathering Area where we can be socially distanced. If you have been vaccinated, you will not need to wear a mask.

Quilting
MINISTRY



The quilting ladies continue to be hard at work on Wednesdays. They already have **200+ quilts** ready to be shipped to LWR in October! *Way to go ladies!!*

But ... they aren't ready to stop there! In order to help them achieve greater numbers, they are asking the rest of us to check out our closets and find those **old sheets** we no longer need. They will gladly take them off your hands to be used in the middle of each quilt.

Feel free to drop off your old sheets in the fellowship hall – or in the church office – they'll find them!

Thank you so much for being a part of this ministry!

From our Bible Camp youth ...



... Thank you for helping me out with the cost of Sugar Creek. My favorite part of camp was horseback riding. I learned lots of stories about God. We also learned new songs. Thanks again!

Laney Kucifl

... Thank you for helping me pay for Sugar Creek. My favorite things were worship, horseback riding, and Bible study, and having fun and the canteen. I met many new friends and new relationships through camp. Love,

Layla Kucifl

... Thank you for your gift of money for me to go to Sugar Creek. I had a great time and my favorite part was horseback riding. Thank you. From,

Amy Stefferud

... Thank you for the money towards Sugar Creek. I had lots of fun at Sugar Creek this year. I went canoeing, slept in tents, rode horses, and had campfires through the Adventures Program. Thanks. From,

Graham Sjoquist

... Thank you so much for giving me money towards Sugar Creek. I had a great time at camp. I participated in the Riverboaters Program. I was on a riverboat for a whole week on the Mississippi. Thanks again! From,

Elliott Sjoquist

... My time at SCBC was amazing. ... going to camp made me feel closer to God. We did bible study every day and focused on "I am" statements (I am the bread of life) and more. We also did campfire worship every day and a Christ hike. ... thank you from the bottom of my heart. ... Sending love,

Candace Drury

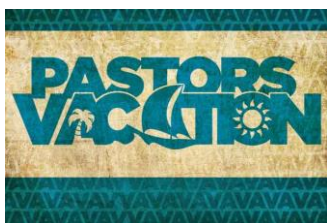


Congregation Council

The Congregation Council met on Monday, July 12, in “hybrid” fashion, with most gathering in person at church, while two members (for reasons other than Covid!) joined via Zoom. In the absence of elected officers, Pastor Jon called the meeting to order. At this meeting:

- Joined in discussion and devotions on our experiences of church that have been affirming, and experiences that have reflected our brokenness and failure.
- Participated in an orientation to the tasks and responsibilities of the council.
- Elected officers for 2021-2022 – President (Jen Linse), Vice President (Jaime Fortier), Secretary (Carolyn Karl).
- Approved the minutes from the May meeting, and the annual meeting in June, and received the May and June financial reports.
- Heard that Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean will be taking vacation time in August.
- Heard updates on ministries in the congregation.
- Discussed the ongoing re-opening of the building and worship.
- Heard that the tech project is underway, but due to global supply issues, may not be complete until November.
- Approved a re-landscaping of the Leonard Street side of the building at a cost not to exceed \$5,000.
- Heard that the church rental property (“Johnson South”) is now rented, but that a new water heater needed to be installed.
- Received 2021 Confirmands as voting members.
- Discussed some ongoing ministry needs and initiatives, including youth ministry support, property ministry, and a new ministry exploration team.

The next council meeting will be Monday, August 9, at 7 PM, at the church building. If you have ideas to advance the ministry of Our Savior’s, contact Jen Linse or one of the pastors.



Vacation

Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean will be taking some vacation time in August. Along with a few individual days, they will be on vacation August 12-15, and again August 20-26. If you have pastoral care needs during these dates, contact the church office and we will work to meet your needs.

We thank those who will lead our worship:

- August 14/15 – Carolyn Karl and Lynette Ender
- August 21/22 – Pastor Kris Bjerke-Ulliman

Come and worship, hear God's word in different voices, and continue to be fed and nourished even in wearying times!



August Dates for your calendar:

August 3 - Prayer Shawl - 1-3 PM

August 8 - Worship @ Lion's Shelter @ 10 AM
Family VBS @ 11 AM

August 10 - Set up for Corn Roast

August 11 - Corn Roast - 4:30-6:30 PM

August 17 - Prayer Shawl - 1-3 PM

August 22 - Worship at Lion's Shelter @ 10 AM
Family VBS @ 11 AM
Youth Gathering meeting @ 1 PM

August 29 - Gospel on the Green-Lion's Shelter @ 10AM

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!***

Scrip Cards Available

KWIK TRIP

Scrip cards available for purchase in the office

during the day and at worship services on the weekend. Watch for changes in the coming weeks!

WOODMAN'S



They make great gifts, or use them for yourself. Proceeds go to help World Hunger and Our Savior's Youth programs.

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



Shape car washes.



Care and Share Food Pantry

The Care and Share Food Pantry is open Saturdays, 10 AM to Noon. Food can be dropped off during the week when the office is open. Thank you for your support of this ministry to feed the hungry!

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

Pastor Jonathan Schmidt, Senior Pastor 612-0217
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Linda Berg, Organist/Choir Accompanist/Director of Music
Email: linda@oursaviorswestsalem.org
Eric Sorenson, Senior Choir Director
Karen DeSchepper, Financial Secretary
Josh Corning, Custodian



Check your spam



It continues ... spam we have been, and spam we continue to be! Many of you, especially 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.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
359 Leonard St N
West Salem, WI 54669

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