

# Our Savior's Voice

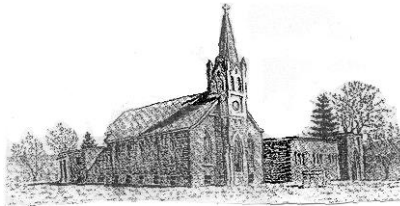
Our Savior's Lutheran Church

359 Leonard Street N - West Salem, WI 54669

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

608-786-0030

## October 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**

## **October 2021**

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## Pastor's Reflections

As I write this (September 24) I am still pondering yesterday's funeral. My 95-year-old aunt, my father's older sister, was buried in New York. We couldn't attend, but we and a few other family members joined by "Zoom." Yes, these are tough days, but couldn't do that a few years ago!

Bernice was not just an aunt. For 13 of my first 15 years, she and her family were within 30 minutes of us – and no other family was closer than 12 hours! More than that – she was also my baptismal sponsor ("godmother"). She and Paul nurtured my life and faith. Every year on my baptism day, they gifted me with a reminder of faith – I still have one in my office – stop by, I'll show it to you.

And then, October 13, 2002, they showed up, all the way from New York to Michigan, at worship, unannounced. Why? We were baptizing Rebecca that morning, and my baptismal sponsor wanted to be present as a new generation was welcomed into the family of God. What a gift!



Bernice's funeral was also a gift – a gift of a good and gracious God remembering the promise made to her 95 years ago – and a reminder that the same God will not forget the promises made to me, to Rebecca, or to you!

But Bernice is also a reminder that God works in and through community. We are never "Lone Rangers" in our faith journey. Others are there to support and nurture us. And we have a role, even a responsibility, towards others. That's how the Body of Christ works. And quite frankly, if you are going to profess to be a disciple of Jesus, a Christian, and a member of the Church, that's what you've got to do. Be responsible to and for others.

These days that's been tough. We have been told over and over again that there are things we need to do, to stay safe, in the midst of a pandemic. But again and again, we forget that this is not really about "me." It's about what we do for the sake of others.

And that puts us in a bit of a clash, because our culture prizes independence and “me.” Faith does not.

Faith is embracing God’s gifts of life, but also God’s call to discipleship and faithful living. Jesus said, *“If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”* (Mark 8:34) If we are really into Jesus, and really want to be what we are called to be, then...it’s tough stuff!

Tough stuff, as instead of “our will,” we seek “thy will be done.”

Tough stuff, as we seek to be givers, not grabbers. Not just our wealth, but our time, our talent, our wants and desires.

Tough stuff, as we embrace those who are different from us, and as we take time to listen to them and hear their stories, stories which might even make us squirm a bit.

Tough stuff, as we do that which we prefer not to do, but which is good for the sake of others around us.

Tough stuff, as we continue to work through trying times, with everything from masks to distancing to vaccines to having patience and civility even with those who disagree with us.

Tough stuff, indeed!

But we’re not the first ones to encounter tough times and tough stuff. Last summer I quoted a letter from Martin Luther, written in 1527, to a colleague, during an outbreak of the plague in Germany, which wiped out whole families, and even up to half of towns and villages. And in the midst of that crisis, what did Luther say?

*“I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence.”*

*If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me, and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others.*

*If my neighbor needs me however I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as stated above. See this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God.”*

Let's see...follow science...appropriately care for others...work to not infect others...be neither brash nor foolish...don't tempt God.

Tough stuff, but those were tough times. And that is what it means to live out our baptism. To live, not for me, but for others. To continue to meet the needs of others, but not foolishly, so others do not suffer (even death) as a result of my negligence. To be confident that God is with me, but not to tempt God by saying, “I can do what I want – God will protect me!”

I know these are difficult days for so many. We are tired of masks, distancing, and changes in our lives. We are afraid that a way of life might be slipping away, for good. But while our baptism calls us to live faithfully, it also assures us that we are never alone, and that God continues to embrace us. Or...to put it another way, God's got our back!

And so it has been, well, forever. God has given life, nurtured life, and sustained life. And even in these draining, wearying days, God is not done! Life, and the renewal of life, is still flowing. I learned that years ago, from Bernice, from parents, from the church community. And none of that has changed!

God's still got my back!

*Pastor Jon*

JOURNEY  
OF  
*Faith*



## **“Returning to Normal” News**

With the increased Covid numbers, especially due to the “Delta” variant, we continue to follow safe protocols and take the measures needed to protect those with underlying health conditions and children. Remember that it in Christian community we all bear a responsibility for the safety of others. That’s what it means to be a part of the Body of Christ!

The following safety measures continue to be in place:

- Masks are to be worn in the building at all times, including during worship. The preaching pastor may unmask, but pastors will be masked during the rest of the worship service.
- We will ask those in the building to clean hands on their way in and out, and to continue to be physically distanced. We will also continue to sign-in once you have arrived for worship.
- Sunday School and Confirmation **WILL** be in the building this year, but with a modified format and schedule – and all teachers and students will wear masks.
- Sunday School will begin October 10, and classes will meet twice a month to allow us to distance the students.
- We will continue to clean the building following worship on Saturday and then again after worship on Sunday.

- 8 AM worship resumes October 10. We will need folk to step forward to serve as ushers (believe it or not, it's easier these days!).
- We encourage you to stay home if you are not feeling well.
- All groups meeting in the building will be required to wear masks.

We know that no one is happy with measures like these, but we also know of some churches that have not taken these steps, and Covid has resulted. Moreover, as of the last week of September, all students in West Salem schools are now masked.

Remember, we are in this together, and want to be together, but we want to be safe. This is how we can do it – for the sake of others. ***That is what a church does!***



**Pastoral Acts:**

Baptism – Norah Eileen Herman – September 26



## October Worship Changes!

Beginning October 10...

Saturday @ 6 PM  
Sunday @ 8 and 10:30 AM

To ensure the safety of all our worshippers, especially children, masks are required. *For kids we can wear a piece of fabric!*

October 10<sup>th</sup>, we resume the 8 AM worship, and move 10 to 10:30 AM, while continuing worship on Saturday, and our online options.

*Meanwhile...*

## Virtual worship options

We **Zoom the later Sunday worship** (check out our home page for the link and have your communion elements handy!).

We also record the **Saturday worship and later that evening post it as a YouTube**. You can access this worship through our web site:

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





# Reformation Celebration!

Itching for something a bit different? Even in crazy days? So, let's do it – let's go back to the past (sort of!)

***October 31, Reformation Day (and yes, Halloween...)***

Let's begin (as we should) with worship...

**Worship on Saturday at 6 PM and Sunday at 8 AM.**

**Come to church in costume** – and we'll consider the good news of Jesus in the presence of monsters of all sorts. A small prize at each service for the best costume – for adults and kids (really!)

**10:30 AM - Worship at the Lion's Shelter!**

Bring your own seating...

Bring elements for Holy Communion...

Dress warmly...

**Wear a costume...**

A small prize for the best costume for adults and kids!

And then ... *we feast, in the spirit of Martin Luther...*

**Brats and Hot Dogs  
and a few other goodies too!**



Following the 10:30 service ...

Enjoy some time together (safely distanced) ...

Take outs and deliveries available (contact the church office) ...

*Can you help make this happen?  
Contact one of the pastors or the church office if you  
can help set up, grill, serve, deliver, or clean up!*



## Looking for ... friendly folks to Usher at worship

As we worship in-person, we are looking for friendly folks (individuals and families!) to welcome those in attendance. We will have the doors open, all we ask is that you greet those who are here, have them sign in, and make sure they get a bulletin. Easy tasks and such an important part of our welcoming ministry. If you are able to spare a few minutes prior to worship, let Pastor Jean know, or better yet, sign up using the SignUpGenius link found here or on the website: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F044CA5A629A7F85-ushers1>



## Office Hours

The church office and building are open! 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.

**\*\* Please note we will once again require everyone in the building to wear a mask! \*\***



All Sunday School families should have received a letter in September (let us know if you didn't) explaining how Sunday School will work this year. Highlights to note include:

- All teachers and students are required to wear a mask.
- **PreK/4K through 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade** meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of a month. **Classes begin October 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 AM.**
- **3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade** meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of a month. **Classes begin October 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 AM.**
- No classes on a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of a month (i.e. Oct 31).
- Please remember to bring your registration form or fill one out on the church website.
- The first day we will **not** have a parent's meeting ... kids will go directly to their classrooms (watch for signs).
- After class, parents **MUST** pick up students in the classroom.
- Remember to bring your backpacks for a blessing the first day of class.
- PreK/4K students will receive their Bibles during class on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Let us know if your Kindergartner did not receive their Bible last year.

We will be using the Group Publishing curriculum *Simply Loved* which will teach us about Jesus through music, Bible buddies, and a story in the Bible. Most importantly, we look forward to connecting with our kids and spending time together ... we have missed you!!

## **Backpack Blessing October 10 and 17**

We will share a blessing and a reminder of God's love and presence as we begin another year of learning. Bring your backpacks to your first day of Sunday School – 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade October 10 and PreK/4K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade October 17.



## **Halloween Party**

Pre-K to 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

Wednesday, October 27  
6-7 PM in the church fellowship hall  
*Appropriate masks required*

Games, activities, stories, candy...  
and yes, *even Jesus!*

Including ... a "best costume contest!"  
and a "best mask contest"

Parents are encouraged to join us!

*Sponsored by the 9<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation class.*



## Confirmation Ministry

Confirmation ministry for 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> graders is on. We are busy again...making disciples for Jesus!

Here's what's up for October...

**6<sup>th</sup> graders** meet every Wednesday evening at 6 PM to continue their journey through the Bible, with Corey Sjoquist as their guide.

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders** also meet on Wednesdays at 6 PM as they explore the Apostle's Creed, with Pastor Jon, along with some time to ponder what it means to be a "servant leader." They also have some fun time "outdoors."

7<sup>th</sup> grade – October 6-20-27

8<sup>th</sup> grade – October 13-20-27

**9<sup>th</sup> graders** have a busy month. They will ponder monsters of various shapes and sizes (October 6 and 20), and then share both fun and faith with younger kids through a Halloween Party (October 27).

Even in trying times, we always have room for more. See Pastor Jon for information on our Confirmation ministry, how new kids can join us, and how you can be a part of making disciples for Jesus!

## **From the Youth Director ...**



Because of the problems we have been having with church emails, please note the new email for Wendy –

youthsaviorswestsalem@gmail.com

Hopefully this will eliminate missed emails.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade small group activity for October**

Hidden Trails Corn Maze (weather permitting)

Sunday, October 10 – **meet at Corn Maze** at 1 PM

Cost: Corn Maze \$9 – Farm Park \$6 – Both \$12

**NOTE:** We will also need 4 parents to attend to ensure everyone is safe and accounted for. Speak to Wendy if you can help.

### **Stuff the backpacks**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade girls small group project

October 6<sup>th</sup> from 6 - 7 PM in the Youth room

### **ELCA Youth Gathering:**

Registration is open – the time is now to get involved!

If you are interested in a wonderful opportunity of going to the Youth Gathering next summer July 24-28, 2022, let Wendy know by e-mailing her or give her a call at 608-518-9593.

**Youth Gathering meeting – October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:15 AM.**

Meet in the Gathering Area.

*Wendy Amundson*, Youth Director

[youthsaviorswestsalem@gmail.com](mailto:youthsaviorswestsalem@gmail.com)



## Last Call ...

Our college students are back on campus and settling into yet another year in the midst of the unknown.

Whether they are at WTC and living at home or have traveled to the far ends of the country, we need their **emails and campus addresses**. Please get that information to Pastor Jean as soon as possible. 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.

## Adult Bible Study

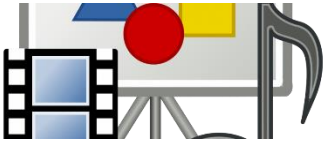
Bible study, live or via Zoom, continues on **Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 11 AM**. We take time to ponder the gospel reading for the coming Sunday, so each session is “stand-alone.” NO previous Bible knowledge is needed – just come and enjoy some great conversation and “faith-deepening” discussions.



We meet in the Gathering Area. If you'd rather join via Zoom, contact the church office or Pastor Jon.

# Project Updates

Some updates on our building projects ...



**The Tech project** is still awaiting equipment that has been delayed. As has happened throughout our world these days there are shortages – including sound

boards and mixers! We hope to have installation of our equipment by the end of November, but ... we'll see! In the meantime, we continue to produce a pre-recorded YouTube video of worship, and Zoom our worship as well as we can.

Thanks to several folk for making substantial gifts toward the project, giving us over \$16,000 toward the total of \$40,000. You can still be a part of making this happen – your gift will ensure we can install technology that will allow us to make a difference in peoples' lives. Mark your gift for "Tech Project."



And then ... the **Landscaping Project** is also proceeding. New landscaping is complete on the Leonard Street side of the building. We are awaiting some additional work on the East Avenue and parking lot sides. Again, your gift (maybe in memory of someone special?) can help our building look its best! Mark your gift for "Landscaping."



Thank you to our two teams – Tech and Landscaping – who gathered to consider the options and make recommendations. You have done a great job!





## Way to go ladies!

The quilters are going to finish the year the best year ever with shipping at least 250 quilts to Lutheran World Relief!

Special thanks to Lynette Ender, who brought four huge bags of sheets from Gundersen Lutheran Hospital, as well as a number of others who brought sheets and fabric to make the quilts and line the centers. Thanks also to those who grabbed a bag of squares and made quilt tops at home during these last many months.

Now it's back to sewing the squares to make the quilt tops for next year ... and *you, too, can be a part of this ministry!* There will be bags of squares (along with directions) in a basket in the coat room, so feel free to grab a bag (or two) the next time you're in church.

Think of the quilters the next time you're cleaning your closet or out shopping, they can always use fabric and sheets. With your help, just think what they can do for next year!

Thanks again to all for being a part of this exciting ministry!

## Lutheran World Relief School Kit Project



The school supplies will be boxed up on October 6<sup>th</sup> and taken to the box car (actually semi-trucks this year) on October 9<sup>th</sup> along with the quilts. Thank you to all who brought school supplies and to our 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls for getting them boxed up. We were able to send 100 backpacks to LWR.

## Scrip Cards News

**Now available** ... Culver's Scrip cards – \$5, \$10, \$20 and \$25! We earn 10% on the purchase of each Culver's card. Grab a card and enjoy a *Butterburger* and frozen custard!

CHECK THIS OUT!



Don't forget we continue to have Kwik Trip, Kwik Trip car wash, Woodman's, and Ship Shape car wash cards. Proceeds go to help World Hunger and Our Savior's Youth programs.

**KWIK TRIP**

**WOODMAN'S**





*Thank you ...*

*From our Bible Camp youth ...*

... I loved going to Sugar Creek first time! I went horseback riding, visited the farm, campfires, roasted smores, art, and nature time. I can't wait to go next year! From,

*Mabel Sjoquist*

... We appreciate the scholarship money to camp so much! I had so much fun! We played many games, laughed, stayed on top of the bluff one night and furthered our relationship with God. This was one of the most memorable camp experiences I've ever had. My siblings and I are still all singing a bunch of camp songs! One of the most fun things I learned from camp is a new card game! My cabinmates and I played it so much and it got very competitive. Thank you again,

*Lydia Jothen*

... Thank you for the great time at Sugar Creek. I liked creek stomping and sugar ball. I also liked the wagon group and the great friendships we made. Even though the weather wasn't perfect, we still made it work out. I enjoyed the animal farm, (even was my favorite). I had a great time at Sugar Creek. Thank you for the scholarship and helping go to that amazing valley. Thank you,

*Jesse Jothen*

... Thank you so much for all the things you give me. Hope you are doing well through these tough times. Thank you.

*Alise Jothen*



## Mission Endowment Fund

The Mission Endowment Fund will soon make its annual distribution, and it's looking for your help! We are seeking suggestions on ministries and community programs to support. Each year the fund shares approximately 4% of its value. We anticipate this year to disburse around \$16,000.

Recipients of support from the fund should be in one of three categories. You can get guidelines for suggested recipients from the office. The deadline for suggestions is Monday, November 8.

The Mission Endowment Fund began in 2004, and since then has distributed over \$200,000 to ministries here in West Salem and across the globe. The Fund receives designated gifts, and 70% of undesignated bequests. We are grateful for the generosity of those who years ago remembered Our Savior's and our ministry in their estate planning. They continue, even years later, to make a difference in the lives of people!

## Vacation



Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean will be on vacation September 30-October 5.

Pastor Kris Bjerke-Ulliman will lead

worship for the weekend. If you have pastoral care needs during these dates, contact the church office and we will work to meet your needs.



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



## Congregation Council

The Congregation Council met via Zoom on Monday, September 13, with President Jen Linse presiding. At this meeting the council:

- Shared in study and prayers based on Ephesians 4.
- Approved the minutes of the August 9 Council Meeting, and received the August financial report.
- Heard an overview on what has been happening with our various ministries.
- Discussed the Reopening Team's report and the safety protocols currently in place.
- Affirmed resuming the 8 AM worship and having a Reformation celebration at the Lion's Shelter.
- Affirmed the work on landscaping and the request to use the remaining money on the East Avenue and parking lot sides of the building.
- Appointed Michelle Witte to the vacant council seat, through the next annual meeting.
- Agreed to include a series of in-depth discussions on Youth Ministry at the next several council meetings.
- Authorized the purchase of a new lawn mower and trimmer.
- Directed the pastors and Secretary to send a letter of thanks to Pastor Libby Howe as she concludes her ministry as Assistant to the Bishop.

The next meeting of the council will be held Monday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. If you have questions, or if you have ideas for enhancing the ministry of Our Savior's, contact Jen Linse or one of the pastors.

# 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.

Moving into the fall months, *there are some changes in our giving options.* The “GivePlus” mobile app is being replaced by “Vanco Mobile.” Check out our giving page for more information, and for other options including electronic transfer and text giving. Go to [www.oursaviorswestsalem.org/giving](http://www.oursaviorswestsalem.org/giving).

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



## **Wands for Wildlife ...**

Thank you to all those who have turned in mascara wands. We continue to collect them. 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.

## **Care and Share Food Pantry**

The Care and Share Food Pantry is open Saturdays, 10 AM to Noon. Food can be dropped off during office hours. Thank you!



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

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Linda Berg, Organist/Choir Accompanist/Director of Music

Email: [linda@oursaviorswestsalem.org](mailto:linda@oursaviorswestsalem.org)

Eric Sorenson, Senior Choir Director

Karen DeSchepper, Financial Secretary

Josh Corning, Custodian



## Newsletter Deadline – October 15

### Check your spam



It continues ... many 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.



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

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