

Our Savior's Voice

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

359 Leonard Street N - West Salem, WI 54669

www.oursaviorswestsalem.org

608-786-0030

January 2022



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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January 2022

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Worship Updates!

Saturday @ 6 PM

No worship January 1

Sunday @ 8 and 10:30 AM

To ensure the safety of all our worshippers, masks are required.



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 post it later that evening as a YouTube**. You can access this worship through our web site: www.oursaviorswestsalem.org/videos. You can watch any time, and you can even catch up on previous weeks.



Pastor's Reflections

New Year?

The calendar tells us we are embarking on a new year. What will this new year bring? Every January we find ourselves looking forward, anticipating “all things new”, but will things be new in 2022? The news is already warning that the Omicron variant could be worse than anything we’ve seen so far, hospitals are bursting at the seams, we have had some of the strangest weather (tornadoes in December?), doctor’s appointments are being anticipated with anxiety, politicians are still at odds with no sign of collegiality, a willingness to find common ground among all people continues to elude ... so what will be new in 2022?

As I was reviewing old newsletters in preparation for this one, I came across the article I wrote for January 2020. It talked about anticipating my sabbatical that summer, the theme of which was reconnecting with the past in order to renew for the future. Wow ... not only was there no sabbatical, but history was rewritten and life forever changed! These last two years have certainly added to “the past” and changed the kind of future for which we need to renew.

Is it even safe to think about summer? Is it safe to make plans to travel back to the past and renew for the future?

These last years have taken their toll on a lot of people. We are weary, our tanks are empty, renewal is certainly a need on the radar. Whether a sabbatical is on the horizon or not, taking time to reset, to rethink, to renew needs to be a priority, not just on my 2022 agenda, but for all of us. What will you do to renew?

It’s a Sunday evening as I write this and I’m doing what I’ve done all season, I’m multi-tasking while watching the football

game. The Honda holiday commercial just struck me. The tag line was ... *“The power of dreams.”* Think about it, dreams do have power. Power to motivate us, power to allow us to think outside the box, power to create, power to think beyond ... As we look to this new year, do we dare to dream?



What dreams do you have pent up, what dreams do you have waiting to be unleashed, what dreams are there daring you to embrace ... Do we dare to dream about worship without masks, without being distanced? Do we dare to dream about choirs making beautiful music? Do we dare to dream about full Sunday school classes every week, and after school time with a meal for our confirmation kids? Do we dare to dream about traveling once again to see family and friends? Do we dare to dream about a time when we can be impulsive and just do something on the spur of the moment? Do we dare to dream about reconnecting with the past? Do we dare to dream about being able to find time and space and place to renew and recreate?

We do. We do dare. We dare to dream because we have been to the manger and have seen the child. We know ... God is at work in our world.

As we anticipate this new year our thoughts are heavy ... oh for the “good old days” when New Year’s meant making simple resolutions that would be broken in the blink of an eye – resolutions to lose weight, exercise more, study harder, keep in touch with family and friends ...

The power of dreams ... all things new ... what will 2022 bring for you ...

Daring to dream,

Pastor Jean

Recognition of Baptism



January 8-9 is the “Baptism of Our Lord.” On that weekend, at all services, we will recognize baptisms from 2021. Those who were baptized are encouraged to join us, with baptism candle in hand! We will ask God’s continued blessing on their journey in life, relight the candle to remember what God is doing in their lives, and send them forth to continue as disciples of Jesus! Contact Pastor Jean for more information.

New Members



If you are new to Our Savior’s, but have not joined the congregation, we welcome you to consider membership with us. While EVERYONE is welcome in worship, and our ministry involves ALL of God’s children, members help us by making a commitment to this community of faith, and by taking a role in leading our ministry. Regardless of where you are coming from, we would love to have you, and to partner with you in your journey of discipleship. For more information on membership and how it can happen for you, see Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean!



Pastoral Acts:

Funeral – Larry Indahl – December 2

Funeral – Robert Knutson – December 9

Building and Office Update



Kris Seeger continues to be on her medical leave, but we are looking forward to her return (we hope) by the middle of January. In the meantime, building and office hours are somewhat limited:

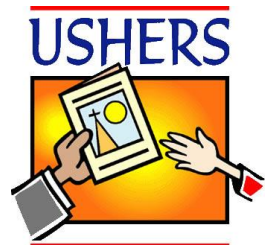
- Open Monday-Wednesday-Thursday 8:30AM-2 PM (closed over the noon hour).
- Building only open Friday 9-noon.
- Building and office may be open other times – call ahead to make sure!

Please continue to keep Kris in your prayers. We are grateful for our team of volunteers staffing the office, and for those assisting with the newsletter. And thanks to all of you for your patience and understanding!

**** Please note we require everyone in the building to wear a mask! ****

Ushers Needed at worship

If you know what service you're planning to attend, why not help out?! We are grateful to the faithful few who are here week in and week out. If you can help, please 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>



Annual Meeting

The 2022 Annual Meeting for Our Savior's Lutheran Church will be held on **Sunday, January 30, 2022 following the 10:30 AM service.** As with all events in the building, masks are required, and we will maintain safe distancing. At

this meeting we will review the ministry of the congregation over the past year, set our mission goals for the coming year, and select leaders for our work together.



ANNUAL REPORT

2022 Annual Report deadlines

The new year is upon us and that means getting an annual report together to share with the congregation all that has happened in 2021. We are looking for reflections from the various committees, teams, and ministries to be included in the report. Please note we will need those reports, preferably electronically, in the office as follows: **Written Reports by Wednesday, January 5** and **Financial Reports by Monday, January 10.**

Looking Ahead...



We are still eager to hear from you! The last few years we have followed a process of “group discernment” to lift up leaders for the congregation. We’ve asked you – who do you see around you who has the gifts to be a leader in this community of faith? That process has worked well – we’ve received good names, people who then discerned that God has both gifted and called them to the ministry of leadership. Thank you!

But, this year...that’s a bit tougher to do! Still, we believe that God is at work in our midst. So...we’ll ask the question...who do you see? Even though we can’t be together in worship, who do you see who has the gifts and abilities to partner with us?

We invite you to share the names you discern. Send them on to Pastor Jon, Pastor Jean, or Jen Linse. Your eyes and ears might just be the way God chooses to bring new leaders into the mix!



Synod Assembly Voting Members

The annual meeting will need to elect voting members to the 2022 La Crosse Area Synod Assembly sometime in the near future. If you are interested in participating in the assembly, contact Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean. The assembly will be held June 10-12. If it is in person, it will be in La Crosse. Otherwise, the assembly will be held virtually. Regardless, expenses are covered. Assemblies involve business, fellowship, worship, and a lot of learning about the work of God’s people!



We continue to welcome new families to Sunday School – how exciting is that! Even in these crazy times, it has been fun to see new “eyes” each week.

Our January schedule:

PreK/4K to 2nd Grade – January 16

3rd to 5th Grade – January 9 and 23

NO Sunday School – January 2 and 30

Thank you for bringing your offering envelopes to be shared with Lutheran Disaster Relief. Your offerings will make a difference in the lives of those who have been affected by the tornadoes in Kentucky and neighboring states in December.

Thank you, also, for faithfully wearing your masks!



THANK YOU so much to our kids and families who participated in the Christmas program *“Do Not Be Afraid”* by Illustrated Ministries. If you missed it, we invite you to go to the church website, to videos, to the mid-week Advent service on December 15, and there you will find it. The kids did a fine job of sharing the Christmas story, and we are so proud of them! We also thank Pastor Jon for all of the hours he spent recording and putting the final production together. It was a labor of love.



Confirmation Ministry

Confirmation ministry, i.e. “disciple making,” continues!
For January ...

6th graders meet Wednesday evenings (Jan 5-12-19-26) at 6 PM to continue their journey through the Bible, with Corey Sjoquist as their guide.

7th and 8th graders

- Meet on Wednesdays at 6 PM as they begin to explore the gift – and the power – of prayer!
 - ✓ 7th grade – January 5
 - ✓ 8th grade – January 12
- 7th and 8th grade electives are scheduled in January. Check to see if you are signed up for one of the classes!

9th graders meet **EITHER** January 5 or 12 (but not both) at 7 PM and **parents are asked to join us.**

See Pastor Jon for more information on our “disciple making” ministry!

From the Youth Director ...



Watch your emails for information about upcoming events ...

- ❖ Serving dinner at the Salvation Army
- ❖ Sugar Creek Bible Camp summer offerings

Wendy Amundson, Youth Director

youthsaviorswestsalem@gmail.com

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: **Maddie Haun** (UW-M), **Katie Murphy** (Viterbo), **Jake Iliff** (UW-L), **Jayden Beckley** (UW-EC), **Ashlie Lockington** (Winona State), **Abby Johnson** (UW-L), and **Ellie Tschumper** (UMN-Mankato).

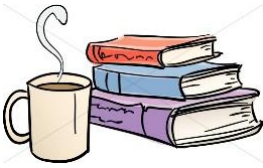


Adult Bible Study

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.



School of Theology

The La Crosse Area Synod School of Theology resumes classes January 6 with a “one-night intro to the Bible” session, in person, at Trinity Lutheran Church, in Sparta. The session runs from 5:30-9 PM and is offered without cost as a gift from the Synod.

Regular classes begin the following week and are currently via Zoom, from 6:30-8 PM. The Old Testament Writings will be offered January 13-February 17, with Pastor Mark Jolivette as the instructor. Cost is \$20, plus book costs. You can register at the La Crosse Area Synod web site (lacrosseareasyndod.org.)

Pastor Jon and Dori Jensen are on the School of Theology Board; Carolyn Karl, Lynette Ender, and Wendy Amundson are currently taking classes – check with any one of them for more insight and information!



(re)Take the Lutefisk Challenge!

Still time – time to make a difference by taking (again) the Lutefisk Challenge.

We invite you to join us in helping to restore the monies that would have been made by the Norwegian dinner, monies to support programs and ministries that meet the needs of people here and around the world.

You can (re)take the challenge by sending in your gift marked Norwegian dinner. Or just “lutefisk!” Or go to the giving page on our web site (www.oursaviorswestsalem.org/giving) and make your gift there.

For more information, or more conversation about the challenge and the needs of people, contact one of the pastors!

Salvation Army

The Salvation Army is again looking for folk to assist in the serving of their evening meals in La Crosse. They are asking Our Savior's to take the first Friday of each month. You can you help!



Teams of three are asked to come to the Salvation Army building at 223 N 8th Street at 4:15 PM. Serving lasts a bit over an hour. It's a great service and witness, but also a moment to build relationships with folk who are in need. YOU can be the presence of Jesus for them, and maybe even discover that THEY can be Jesus to you!

Sign up on SignUpGenius or call the church office.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F044CA5A629A7F85-salvation>



Thank you ...

... to Jeff & Melissa Haldeman, Carla & Carlie Burkhardt, and Wendy Amundson for getting the sanctuary ready for Christmas. It looked beautiful!

Received from others ...

... Thank you for sending me all your overwhelming prayers, cards, phone calls, and visits during my recovery. Prayers have been answered. I'm healing well. Thank you again for caring. Blessings being sent back to you.

Kris

... Thank you for keeping me in your thoughts and prayers. I appreciate the thoughtful card, and will put the gift card to good use. I'm looking forward to attending church over the holidays. Thank you so much again! Happy Holidays,

Olivia Haun

... Thank you for keeping me in your thoughts and prayers. College is certainly an adjustment, but I know I have God to turn to when times get tough. Thank you so much again for the gift and prayers. Have a happy Christmas! Sincerely,

Maddie Haun

... A big thank you for the big red bucket of goodies that I received for Thanksgiving. I am enjoying something sweet and special every day. Also, thanks to the delivery person. She stayed awhile and we had a nice conversation. May God bless this mission, and thank you. With love,

Eleanor Lee

... I want to thank you very much for remembering me at Thanksgiving for the unique “Santa bucket” which was full of Thanksgiving goodies! Especially I want to thank Tiffany Janisch and her family for planning and preparing the annual gifts for the shut-ins!! I also need to thank Bev Bockenbauer for delivering it to me. It really helped make my Thanksgiving a nicer and better time – being remembered – it is so important to all of us. Bless you all for your work,

Errol Kindschy

... Thank you so much for the lovely basket of treats. We shared it with our church group (*editor's note: the group that gathers at Salem Terrace each week to watch the video of our worship that week*)

Mary & Rick Storandt

... Thank you for the bucket of treats.

Lowell Fehl

... How can I begin to thank you for the beautiful prayer shawl! It is so beautiful and precisely what I need. I was just telling my best friend that I needed to make myself a shawl or small lap blanket, especially when I'm getting my chemo infusion. It is so cold in the room! ... With much love and appreciation! It will be well loved and well used.

Becky Meinhard (cousin of Pastor Jean)





Church Council Congregation Council

The Congregation Council met on Monday, December 13, at Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean's home, with President Jen Linse presiding. At this meeting the council:

- Approved the minutes of the November 8 Council Meeting, and received the November financial report.
- Heard an overview on what has been happening with our various ministries, and an update on office staffing.
- Discussed worship plans for Christmas.
- Designated the IRS housing allowance amounts for 2022.
- Discussed the IRS responsible party designation and tabled action to the January meeting.
- Directed the office to send extra mission support to the La Crosse Area Synod and Sugar Creek should there be an adequate surplus at the end of the year.
- Discussed several issues around the 2022 annual meeting, including setting the date (January 30, 2022), the nomination process, and several proposals that may come from the Mission Endowment Fund Committee.

The next meeting of the council will be held Monday, January 17th 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.



**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

Financial Support Ministry

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 worship, by mail, or placed in our locked mailbox. You can also make gifts electronically. Go to

www.oursaviorswestsalem.org/giving to find out more!

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



On Our Way!

Thank you to all who have submitted “statement of intent” cards for 2022. Over 50 cards have been returned, with an “intent” of over \$140,000, and representing a 4% increase from last year. Included in that are several new “intenter.” We are grateful for your partnership, and thankful for all the gifts we receive from you. YOU enable US (all of us together) to make a difference in a still very difficult world.

If you have not yet returned an intent card, we can still use it! Your intents help us to be wiser stewards as we plan our mission and ministry for 2022. Statement of Intent cards were mailed out, or contact the office.

Thank you for all your support of our work together!



2022 Offering Envelopes ...

If you haven't already received your offering envelopes for 2022 in the mail, you should be receiving them soon. As the New Year begins, if you still need envelopes, please let Kris know in the office and she will gladly get some for you. If you are new to Simply Giving or are changing your amount in 2022, please be sure to fill out a new form and get that to the office ASAP. **Also note: it is possible you will have a new number in 2022, so be sure to use the 2022 envelopes beginning in January.**

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.



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.

Direct your
Thrivent Choice Dollars
Today!



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.



Feeding the Community

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
OUR SAVIOR'S STAFF

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Linda Berg, Organist/Choir Accompanist/Director of Music

Email: linda@oursaviorswestsalem.org

Laurie Noelke, Handbell Choir Director/Assistant Worship Musician

Eric Sorenson, Senior Choir Director

Karen DeSchepper, Financial Secretary

Josh Corning, Custodian



**Newsletter Deadline –
January 15**

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Permit #21

Change Service Requested