

Our Savior's Voice

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

359 Leonard Street N - West Salem, WI 54669

www.oursaviorswestsalem.org

608-786-0030

May 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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May 2022

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Worship Changes!

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

Remember that **starting Memorial Day weekend (May 29)**, through Labor Day weekend (September 4), the 10:30 AM **worship moves to 10 AM.**



Masks are NOT required, but if you feel safer with a mask, we encourage you to wear one!

Meanwhile...

Virtual worship options

We **Zoom 10:30 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.oursaviorswestsaalem.org/videos. You can watch any time, and you can even catch up on previous weeks.



Pastor's Reflections

My Cup is running over ...

In his Easter sermon, Pastor Jon talked about seeing things through the lens of our cup being half empty. We can relate to that, can't we? We are living in a broken world, there is so much violence and hatred, people are grieving the death of loved ones, we are afraid to go to the doctor for fear of what we might be told, we are tired and weary, and wondering if we can go on – the cup is half empty.

But then he turned it around and showed how our cups are really overflowing. Even in the midst of all of the emptiness, the resurrected Jesus is there filling us to overflowing. Filling us with new life, new energy, new perspectives.



The resurrected Jesus hasn't changed the world with all of its challenges, hurts, and pains, but we have been changed, and we find ourselves faced with new opportunities, new ways of doing things, and new people.

In the church, as we begin to create a new sense of "normal", now is the time for each of us to embrace these new opportunities, learn new ways of doing things, try new things, and engage with new people. If you ever wondered what it would be like to share God's love with our children, to greet and meet everyone who walks through our doors, to share God's very presence in the bread and wine of communion, now is your chance to jump in and check it out. Everyone is welcome, everyone is invited, to be a part of the ministry here in this place.

If you've been away for a while, you're not alone ... we've all been away for a while ... Now is the time to come back together, meeting and greeting each other, literally and figuratively, as if for the first time. We've gotten comfortable being away, doing things in our own time, and while there's something to be said for that, there is also something to be said for gathering together, being a part of community, feeling the support and care from those around us, not only being on the receiving end of that support and care, but also being able to be there for others.

We are blessed to have a congregation, a community of the faithful, who gather in this place, who share of themselves and their resources. Our cup is overflowing.

As I think about my sabbatical, my cup is overflowing. So many things to do, and as Pastor Jon would say, so little time to do them. The list of things that will bring me new life and new energy keeps growing. Like those of you who will be here in this place, there will be new opportunities for me, learning new ways to do things, trying new things, and reconnecting with people I haven't seen in years.

When I return, I will look forward to hearing about all of the new things and new people who have engaged in the life of the congregation while I was gone. I will look forward to getting the recipes and stories you have submitted for the new cookbook. And, I will look forward to sharing with you my new discoveries.

With our cups overflowing ...

Pastor Jean





It's hard to believe these are the last weeks of Sunday School and summer will be upon us. We **thank you** for enduring the crazy schedule and getting here on your appointed weeks. It was so much fun to be able to see our kids and their smiling faces, and to feel their energy. We are hopeful as we look ahead to fall that we can get back to a more "normal" routine.

We look forward to seeing everyone in May as we bring this year of Sunday school to a close and celebrate our awesome kids!

Our May schedule:

PreK/4K to 2nd Grade – May 1 and 15

3rd to 5th Grade – May 8

Thank you for bringing your offering envelopes to be shared with Lutheran Disaster Relief. This support is critical at this time as LDR is helping those suffering from the war in Ukraine, especially women and children.



Planning ahead ...

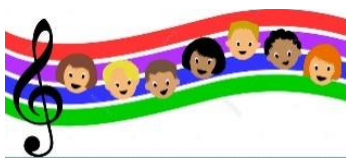
It may only be May, but it's never too early to start thinking about the fall ... *really, it's not!*

With the expectation that Sunday School will be back every week and the kids will be singing in worship again, we are in need of folks who have a love for kids and a love for Jesus! Young or old, parent/grandparent or not, you can be that caring role model for our children.



We are looking for ...

- ♥ **Team Teachers** – the lessons and activities are scripted, there will also be a time for a video and music



- ♥ **Music Leader** – even if you can't play an instrument, we will take advantage of the new tech equipment to help us with the music.

If you would like to be a part of our Sunday school ministry, we would love to have you. Talk to Pastor Jean, Eric Iliff, or Wendy Amundson for more information.



Confirmation Ministry

It's May ... and it's the final stretch!

6th graders meet Wednesday evenings at 6 PM to continue their journey through the Bible, with Corey Sjoquist as their guide. Their last class is May 18

7th and 8th graders

- Meet on Wednesdays at 6 PM as they return to exploring servant leadership (thanks to Becki Murphy for leading these sessions!).
 - ✓ 7th grade – May 4
 - ✓ 8th grade – May 11
 - ✓ Electives (if you signed up for one) – May 18

SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP - 2022

“Boundless” – *Ephesians 3:18-19*



Back in the SADDLE again, with ELEVATED excitement, this summer is sure to be a SPLASH! PADDLE along with us, and bring your FRIENDS! You'll be GAGA about camp because it's a cool place

Sugar Creek Bible Camp is excited to report “following the many ACA & CDC safety standards for accredited camps, with God’s help, Sugar Creek provided a 100% Covid-free summer in 2021” and they are ready to do the same in 2022!

All Covid-19 safety practices will be fully in place through the entire 2022 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

\$300 full week -- \$125 half week

**Request forms due in the office
NO LATER than May 5th**

(Forms are available in the church office
or on the website – www.oursaviorswestsaalem.org)

From the Youth Director ...



Reminders ...

- ❖ Get your Sugar Creek campership request forms turned in
- ❖ Get registered for confirmation camp at SCBC – contact Wendy for the special code you need to register
- ❖ Start selling those Scrip cards to add to your family account to help with Sugar Creek costs
- ❖ Watch for details to help with the June Dairy Days food booth
- ❖ Watch for details to help with peaches in August
- ❖ Keep an eye on your email over the summer for updates and news

Wendy Amundson, Youth Director
youthoursaviorswestsalem@gmail.com

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!



Don't forget we continue to have Kwik Trip, Woodman's, and Ship Shape car wash cards.

KWIK TRIP



Proceeds go to help World Hunger and Our Savior's Youth programs – ***think Sugar Creek Campership support!***

Graduate Recognition



Sunday, May 22 we take time during the 10:30 worship to honor our high school grads, lift them up in prayer, and ask God's blessings upon them. All grads are encouraged to join us, but whether you are here or not, we will pray for you!

Grads are asked to be here by 10 AM, and are invited to wear cap and gown. We are excited for you and eager to send you out into the world surrounded by our love and prayers!

See Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean for more information.



College Scholarships

The deadline for high school seniors to apply for a college scholarship is fast approaching. Members of Our Savior's have access to several one-time scholarships. Details are on the web site at: www.oursaviorswestsalem.org/forms.

Our Savior's also offers a one-time scholarship to college freshman, for the sophomore year. This year, due to Covid, we also have a scholarship for current sophomores. Information on these scholarships is also posted on the web site, or contact Pastor Jon.

The **deadline for all scholarship applications is Monday, May 2**, so get them in soon! Applications should be sent to the office, either in paper form or electronically.

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: **Connor Koepp** (UW-EC), **Anna Johnson** (Viterbo), **Aidan Donahue** (UW-L), **Lexi Giblin** (UW-EC), and **Delaney Schomberg** (UW-L).

college+
connection

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 Library. If you'd rather join via Zoom, contact the church office or Pastor Jon.



Summer Lunch – we’re back in business

After a two-year hiatus, it looks like we will once again be called into service to provide lunches for the children of our community this summer. Neither the school nor the BGC will be offering free lunches this summer.

Angie Hemker and her faithful team is meeting, making plans, taking inventory, and seeking volunteers.

June will be here before we know it and we will need to be ready to roll. Watch for information about what items will be needed and how you can help. If you already know you would like to help, please speak to Angie Hemker or one of the pastors.



They’re back ...

Watch for details coming in the mail later this month ... or ... watch the church website for updates. Note, there will be an increase in price this year due to increased transportation and production costs. If all goes well, we anticipate biting into a luscious peach in early to mid-August. Stay tuned ...

Do you like to cook?

Do you like to try new recipes?

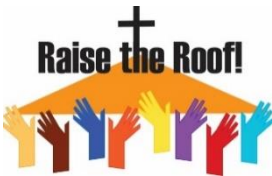
Get in on the action ...

As part of Pastor Jean's sabbatical, a new cookbook project is on the horizon, but she can't do it alone.

That's where YOU come in ... providing the necessary recipes for a new cookbook. While Pastor Jean is on sabbatical, the congregation is invited to submit your favorite recipe(s), and when Pastor Jean returns, she (along with a few helpers) will compile the recipes and create a new cookbook.



As you share your recipes, you are also invited to **share a short note/comment** about why the recipe is special to you. What's a recipe without a story!



Now, if we're doing all of this work, there should probably be a good purpose. And, we have one! Watch for details about the roof project in the coming months, and let's get a head start on the fundraising that will be necessary to pay for it. *Cookbooks!!*

We'll have fun collecting ... and testing ... and maybe even sampling ... and raising the roof!

Use the form in this newsletter or find it on the church website. Drop your submissions off in the office, send them by email, or drop them in the mailbox by the East Avenue entrance **by July 15.**

Pastor Jon needs your help ...

... why not try something new ...

Three years ago, when Pastor Jon was on Sabbatical, we had active committees that were able to help Pastor Jean survive and thrive that summer. With the pandemic these last two years, those committees have been on hiatus. But ...



now is your chance to try something new and lend a helping hand at the same time. Pastor Jon would be excited if you said *“me, me, me ... I want to make a difference ... let me help!”*

We will need your assistance with the following tasks ...

... **Altar Guild** - getting things ready for worship each week – filling candles and changing banners/paraments if needed (but truth be told, we are going to be in the ‘green season’ for a loooong time!)

www.signupgenius.com/go/20F044CA5A629A7F85-altar

... **Ushers/greeters** – be a welcoming presence to those coming to worship, handing out bulletins, counting how many are in attendance

www.signupgenius.com/go/20F044CA5A629A7F85-ushers1

... **Communion Assistants** – preparing the trays before worship (putting in the cups and filling them with wine/grape juice) and getting the wafers on the plate, helping the pastor serve communion during worship, cleaning up afterwards

www.signupgenius.com/go/20F044CA5A629A7F85-communion

Please use the appropriate SignUpGenius link above or let the pastors know you will share your time with us.

June Dairy Days



June Dairy Days is approaching quickly! The festival is June 3, 4, and 5 and we hope you can volunteer for both the Fun Run and the Food Stand.

The **Fun Run** is held Saturday, June 4.

- Volunteers are needed to help with registration, set-up, and serving as crossing guards from 6:30 - 9:30 AM. Sign up sheets will be available at church or contact Judy Gilbert to indicate your ability: (608) 797-3001



- Runners/walkers are also needed for the 5K or 5 Mile run or walk! Registration is open: www.eventbrite.com/e/315637539377 Registrations received by May 19 receive a t-shirt, but online registration is open through the morning of June 4. Spread the word!

AND ...

There are LOTS of opportunities to help at the **Food Stand** (at Village Park) which serves food all weekend. Grillers, servers, ticket workers, window workers, and shift leaders are needed. Youth and their families are especially encouraged to help out on all shifts. Sign-up sheets for helping will be available at church and online at: <https://signup.com/go/DZmNnUq>. In order to indicate you're with our group, please add "**OSLC**" after your name so we know which folks are coming from which area church. Families can sign up for several spots in the same shift.



Tech Project ... *getting closer!*

We are still waiting ... but the day is getting closer ... the tech project is soon to be! With a screen in the sanctuary, the ability to livestream and record worship, and upgraded audio capabilities, the tech work will enhance our worship. We appreciate your patience while we work to improve and enhance our ability to proclaim the good news of Jesus!

We are grateful for the gifts we have received toward the cost of the project – you can still be a part of making this happen – mark your gift “tech project!”

See Pastor Jon or Dean Olson for more information on this new resource for our ministry together.



Pastoral Acts:

Baptism – Jaxon Lee Stugen – April 2

Baptism – Benjamin Stanley Stugen – April 2

In Loving Memory

Memorial Gifts Received ...

In Memory of Alice Gums

- From Helen Friell (Quilters)
- From Skrentny Family (Tech project)
- From Phil & Judy Gilbert (Tech project)
- From Friends & Family (Tech project)
- From Nancy Huennekens (Sugar Creek Camperships)
- From Connie & Larry Blunck



In Memory of Chuck Paulson

- From Connie & Larry Blunck

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. Several families and individuals have already shared in making a difference – you can too!



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 the April newsletter mailing crew –
Velma Schmidt, and Marion Twite-
Stensven.

... to Stacy Steinke & Alana, Amanda Christianson & Paige,
and Lindsey Gilberts for organizing the Easter Egg Hunt for
our PreK-2nd grade students April 3rd.

A Season of Hope – Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits



Thank you to ...

- ... Carolyn Karl and Donna Nadeau, along with Bennett Fennikhkoh and Emelia Tlustosch for putting kits together
- ... Jim Michelson for providing the boxes, labeling them, and for the extra supplies for kits
- ... all those who donated items for the personal care kits
- ... Wendy Amundson for coordinating this event

Thanks to your generosity, 216 kits were assembled and will be shipped shortly.





Congregation Council

The Congregation Council met on Monday, April 11, with President Jen Linse presiding. At this meeting the council:

- Shared in devotions on John 19:25-27.
- Continued in conversation around Youth Ministry.
- Approved the minutes of the March 14 Council Meeting, and received the March financial reports.
- Heard an update from the pastors, including observations on recent congregational life.
- Heard an update on Pastor Jean's sabbatical planning, and the pastors' vacation schedule.
- Discussed ongoing protocol changes regarding Covid-19.
- Appointed Vernetta Moe as the final voting member for the 2022 Synod Assembly.
- Received Brian and Shan Vike, and Nolan via transfer.

The next meeting of the council will be held Monday, May 9th 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.

Here's an example ... recently, a couple from out of town connected with us. They watched our Good Friday and Easter worship – online. Important because, for health reasons, they need to stay home these days. But ... they could hear the good news of the crucified and risen Jesus. See what you did?

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!***



Check it out!

Changes have been made to our on-line and mobile giving! Current recurring gifts already set up will continue as before, but new gifts and any changes need to go through the new app. From the giving page on our website, you can link directly to Vanco. If, however, you use the mobile app, you now need to download the new “Vanco Mobile” app. All of your passwords stay the same. For more information contact the church office.

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.

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

Pastor Jonathan Schmidt, Senior Pastor 612-0217

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Jill Iliff, Treasurer

Email: treasurer@oursaviorswestsalem.org

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



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!



Newsletter Deadline – May 13

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